



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **265 Snowmobile Riders Geared Up to Battle Lou Gehrig's Disease February 8-11, 2023**

*The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Woods Blizzard Tour shatters another fundraising record.  
Over \$1,825,000 has been raised for Never Surrender, Inc.*

**Duluth, MN** – The Black Woods Blizzard Tour raised a record number of dollars in the fight against ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, after the baseball great.

The dollars are still flowing in, and organizers announced that the amount has exceeded \$1,900,000. These funds will be used to support various ALS programs. Including the Healey Platform Trials at Essentia Health in Duluth, MN and Massachusetts General Hospital, as well as directly supporting individuals with ALS and their caregivers.

The three-day snowmobile ride started in Carlton, MN at Black Bear Casino Resort, traveled to Fortune Bay Resort & Casino, continued to TimberLake Lodge in Grand Rapids with riders ending the fundraiser back at Black Bear Casino Resort.

Former Minnesota Twins alumni Terry Steinbach, Kent Hrbek, and Ron Gardenhire were among the over 265 snowmobilers who participated in the ride, and who helped put the event fundraising total over the million-dollar mark for the seventh year in a row.

“If you happen to get this terrible disease of ALS, you now have the best chance of beating this because we are changing the projection of ALS.” States, David Kolquist, President of Never Surrender, Inc. “Everyone in this organization from sponsors, donors, riders, volunteers have made an impact on our success, ultimately helping those who live with ALS and their caregivers”.

This will put the total amount raised by the riders and donors of Black Woods Blizzard Tour at \$17,000,000 since the inception 24 years ago. Never Surrender, Inc. will be celebrating 25 years of the ride in 2024, planning for this milestone is already under way.

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## **Information on the Black Woods Blizzard Tour**

Four riders started the idea of an annual fundraising snowmobile ride when they rode their sleds around Lake Superior in 1999. Randy Bannor, Larry Bannor, Greg Sorenson and Dennis Nelson received \$15,000 in monetary contributions, which were used to help those fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). A year later, a group of dedicated people banded together to form what is now the *Black Woods Blizzard Tour*. That same year, *Black Woods Bar & Grill* jumped on board as title sponsor of the annual event. In its first year, 38 riders raised \$46,000.

Each year, the *Black Woods Blizzard Tour* brings people together in the fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease. Though they participate for various reasons, all are united in a quest to help those with ALS, find treatments and ultimately, a cure for ALS. For additional information on the event visit [www.blackwoodsblizzardtour.com](http://www.blackwoodsblizzardtour.com).

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