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FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Miami man cycles 1,400 miles to honor best friend

BY BEA L. HINES

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A heartfelt salute to Marty Perlmutter, 61, who on Father's Day embarked on a 1,400-mile bike journey to honor his best friend, Roy Gross, who lost his battle with multiple myeloma earlier this year.

The 17-day bike trip is being done to raise funds for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

By the time you read this, Perlmutter, who is from Miami will have covered 750 miles of the trip and will be on his eighth day on the road.

Perlmutter called his friend everyday while he was in the hospital and thought of what he could to make a difference in the lives of myeloma patients. He knew he wanted to do something big, and decided to plan an epic cycling trip from Jacksonville to Kittery, Me.

When Gross died on March 9, he left instructions for friends and family to donate to Perlmutter's ride for the MMRF. When Perlmutter learned of his friend's wish, he was more committed than ever to

carry through with his plans, said Alicia O'Neill of MMRF's Endurance Events Program.

"This guy is no spring chicken and is doing an amazing feat," O'Neill said. "I thought it was pretty inspiring."

Perlmutter has set a goal to raise \$20,000 dollars and has a web page and blog for those interested in donating to this worthy cause.

He said the MMF is helping him with connections along the route, because he wants to do the entire trip on a shoestring budget.

To make a donation, you can find Perlmutter at

2012rideforcancer.blogspot.com. His web page is

www.active.com/donate/2012mmrfYOR/MartyCure. Your Miami

friends want to thank you for what you are doing, Marty. We wish you

Godspeed.

Read more here:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/06/24/2859588/miami-man-cycles-1400-miles-to.html#storylink=cpy>