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Coast-To-Coast Amputee Cyclists Arrive in Montgomery Tomorrow!

On Saturday, July 19th, three amputee cyclists who left Seattle, WA on May 31st, will arrive in Montgomery for a stopover before continuing their coast-to-coast journey to Jacksonville, FL. They are scheduled to arrive at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. for a welcome reception.

The threesome calls themselves the Amputees Across America 2003 and they are riding cross-country to increase public awareness of amputees as active participants in high-intensity activities such as cycling and skydiving. (They have scheduled several skydives along the route to commemorate other notable amputees that they meet while traveling.) The group will travel a total of over 4,500 miles along the route and are scheduled to visit 15 different rehabilitation facilities and 12 amputee support groups.

Montgomery represents a special place for this group because Joe Sapere and John Keating, two of the three cyclists who participated in Amputees Across America 2002 are from the Montgomery area. Although none of this year's three official riders are from Montgomery, Sapere is acting as the navigator, support vehicle driver and official organizer of this year's journey. And, Keating joined the group as a guest rider in Little Rock, AR and rode with them for several days.

In addition, Alabama Artificial Limb & Orthopedic Service, Inc., one of the corporate sponsors of Amputees Across America 2003, is based in Montgomery. The company has had two of their employees participate as guest riders along the route. Keith Uuro, one of the company's prosthetists, rode from Salt Lake City, UT to Kit Carson, CO, and Glenn Crumpton, the company's vice president, rode from Little Rock, AR to Nashville, TN.

The Amputees Across America 2003 cyclists are scheduled to arrive in Montgomery on Saturday morning, July 19th. A welcoming event will be held at 10:00 in the morning at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Montgomery located at 4465 Narrow Lane Road. The event is open to the public. There is no charge.