



'Walking Man' to pound pavement once again



'Walking Man' to pound pavement once again



'Walking Man' to pound pavement once again

Posted: Friday, August 16, 2013 9:58 am | Updated: 11:34 am, Mon Aug 19, 2013.

'Walking Man' to pound pavement once again

For drivers along Highway 4 who miss waving at the man in an orange construction vest, Ric Ryan – “The Walking Man of Murphys” – will hit the street again.

Decked out in his orange vest and trucker hat, Ryan has walked the road between Murphys and Angels Camp for more than five years. In total, he has logged 5,163 miles to raise funds for Operation Mend, an organization that funds reconstructive surgery for veterans injured during military service. For every wave he gets from passers-by, Ryan donates 25 cents. To date, he has raised about \$40,000 through waves and donations, Ryan said.

Not long ago, Ryan underwent a total right knee replacement at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Sacramento. He is still recuperating, but in a couple of weeks, he will be on the road again, walking six to 10 miles a day.

During the Big & Rich concert at Ironstone in Murphys Saturday, Ryan was honored for his work with Operation Mend. The band announced Ryan’s service with the U.S. Marines in Vietnam – 13 months and 15 days during one tour, Ryan said.

“Everybody stood and cheered,” Ryan said. “... I had tears in my eyes, because I was proud of being a Marine. Thank you all, and please keep supporting our veterans, for they are the future of this great country.”

To watch the announcement at the concert, click [here](#).