

MACKINAW BRIDGE WALK

BY: *Peggy Gunter Mohr*

The alarm clock buzzes at 4:00 am, time to head to the Mac Daddy – the Big Mac, Mackinaw Bridge that is. How appropriate to walk 5 miles in celebration of 5 years cancer free!! I can do this. Drive 2 hours north and what do I see? A very well organized event. School buses from Traverse City and other districts. You see this could be a logistical nightmare with tens of thousands hoofing it across the bridge. I first see the governors group and the runners coming across the finish line. As we head across the bridge to the starting line in St. Ignace, there is a steady stream of walkers heading south in the North bound lane where cars normally travel. Finally get dropped off by my chauffeur, just for him to head South again to Mackinaw City to be prepared for our pick up at the end of our journey. As we head across on our walk there are National Guard members posted every 20 – 30 feet on both sides of our walking lane. There are happy family's walking together and every age group and ability you can imagine. Boats in the water, Bridge authorities on the top bridge tower and a few planes flying overhead. In the distance you can see the beauty and splendor of Mackinaw Island, the lighthouses in the Islands's Harbor, a Para Sailor and the Mackinaw Point Lighthouse. I say out loud "this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get these photos", then I correct myself – "it's actually a once a year opportunity". My brother in law repeats the chant – "this is a cake walk" and then corrects it to "I wonder if the guards are going to eat their cookie out of their box lunch, I want a cookie!!!" Hey there is the finish line and wow here is my certificate – time for a photo opp!!! Let's do this again next year!!! After all it's a "cake walk" or is it a cookie????

