

ALR Post 58 Bike Blessing

American Legion Post 58 is located at 16837 E. Parkview Avenue in Fountain Hills. They have an active Post with a lot of good people. This past April 26, they hosted their first Bike Blessing; with the Mission of promoting a Safe Riding Season. Organizer Pauline, aka Brass, sent some great observations & photos of the day for us to share with you. *B&B*

Despite weather that deterred many from attending, there was still great attendance. Several riders came in from Post 39's Robbie's Run. When they were riding to Post 58 from Florence they ran into heavy winds, rain, and hail. One rider said that the hail felt like someone throwing nails or knives at him. But you know us Riders...we'll cruise thru anything when we are on a mission.

The intention for the day was to have the entire event held outside; but with the negative weather conditions, the program was moved inside the Post until the actual Blessing took place.

There was a Welcome Table for the gathering where Welcome Attendants greeted all with a Most ALR Post 58 Cheerful Welcome. They passed out American Flags, Bike Blessing Stickers, Guardian Angel Medallions with a purple ribbon attached, and 15% off coupon for Phil's Filling Station that was valid for that day only ~ for those who did not want to eat the food offered at the event.

Post 58's Music Man ALR Member/Road Captain Mike Browne "BrownDog" provided music for the day. He is a one-man band who graciously shared his music talent of singing, guitar playing, and harmonica for all to enjoy. He is a super-talented dude playing anything from Classic Rock, Blues, Country, and some Jazz. It was his first time playing at the Post and really did a Bravo job.

ALR Member Pauline Fortier played her Bugle; playing Taps after the moment of silence for our Fellow Riders we have lost along the way. It really touched many hearts; not only because we have all lost so many riders; but especially because our Beloved ALR Brother Dade "Tader" Sisneros passed a week before this event.

There was food for those attending, including sub



sandwiches, chips, etc... Everyone enjoyed socializing over their beverages of choice before and after the event.

All of the Event Speakers were excellent and spoke from the heart. Special Guest Speaker MCSO Sheriff Joe Arpaio took the crowd by storm sharing his stories of his first encounter with a Motorcyclist in Las Vegas when he did a traffic stop on a guy going 100 mph with a good looking blond on the back... It was none other than Elvis Presley! He really impressed the crowd when talking about his MCSO programs in place for our incarcerated Veteran Brothers & Sisters and certainly all enjoyed hearing of his hiring of over 100 returning Veterans in the past 12 months.

The Big Moment came when Deacon Phil LaCasio of the Church of the Accession got to the Podium; addressing all with heartfelt prayer, reading of scripture related to Motorcyclists, and a few stories of his own. He then asked everyone to go outside by their rides. He went to each person and bike, blessing each with holy water. It

was really awesome to receive such a powerful and meaningful blessing for a safe riding season. The weather was not that pleasant that day, with cloud cover, wind, etc....So it was pretty wild when the Deacon and all walked outside, the clouds separated, and the Sun Came Out!!! Awesome, Hey!?!? It was so kind of

the Deacon to also stay after the event, where he gave a special blessing to those who came after the main public blessing.

Overall the Event was great and we received 100% plus Positive Feedback. We had numerous spectators. This is an approximate account of those who received the Blessing.... 63+ Motorcycles, 1 Scooter, 1 Motorized Wheel Chair, 1 Lady with her New Walker, 1 un-marked Sheriff Car, 1 Fire Truck, and 1 Little Red Wagon from a Fellow 58 Rider who sold her Motorcycle and planned on passing the wagon on to a young child in need.

In closing, the Post 58 ALR Blessing of the Bikes proved to be a success. There will most likely be another similar event in the future, but earlier in the year. We are grateful the event turned out to be a most memorable one with much camaraderie felt by all.

Pauline "Brass" Fortier
Blessing of The Bikes Event Chair
American Legion Riders Post 58