

2016 Legion of the Silver Rose Induction Ceremony

On April 16, 2016 American Legion Rider (ALR) Chapter 58 and Post 58 Fountain Hills, AZ hosted their Third Annual Spring Legion of the Silver Rose (LSR) Induction Ceremony. This ceremony recognizes and honors the courage, heroism, and contributions of American Service personnel found to have been exposed to Agent Orange. These Viet Nam Veterans are now wounded and enduring the debilitating internal, invisible wounds and effects of Agent Orange exposure, which are revealed only by the passage of time.

Several AZ ALR Chapters participated and attended. We were also honored, to once again have riders from CA ALR Chapters present to participate in the ceremony. Rick "Big Rick" Guerrero, LSR Director for Cal. Area 5 was here visiting and it was a pleasure to have him as our guest.

The Ceremony kicked off with a motorcade of 10 cars, all provided by the Arizona Classic Thunderbird Club and approximately 90 bikes, lead by the AZ Patriot Guard Riders and AZALR Chairman John Moffitt. The motorcade traveled around our unique and beautifully stunning Fountain, then past our Veterans Memorial before returning to Post 58.

This ceremony inducted 10 Veterans, 3 posthumously. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio (a Post 58 member) and Fountain Hills Mayor Linda Kavanagh

were the guest speakers. Live music was provided by The Aging Hipsters.

The awards were presented by LSR National Director K.S. Thorp and LSR District 12 Director Lew Payne. Post 58 Commander Robert Putnam and ALR Chapter 58 President John Weedo co-emceed the ceremony. The ceremony was attended by approximately 300 people, many of which were past LSR recipients.

The current Legion of the Silver Rose Foundation was founded in 2011 and is administered by LSR National Director and ALR Chapter 24, Tombstone, AZ member K.S. Thorp. The Legion of the Silver Rose was founded to call attention to, recognize, and honor Viet Nam War Veterans suffering the effects of Agent Orange that were denied eligibility to receive The Purple Heart. The Legion of the Silver Rose hopes to see every Viet Nam War Veteran exposed to Agent Orange given the honor and recognition they deserve. We are continuing that fine tradition on a daily basis and are reaching out in all directions so these deserving men and women and their families may be properly recognized.

This very moving Ceremony honoring our Veterans afflicted with the dreadful consequences of exposure to Agent Orange is held twice a year. The Spring ceremony is in April at American Legion Post 58, Fountain Hills and the Fall ceremony is hosted in October at American Legion Post 24, Tombstone.

Event Co-Chairs Ken and Pam Couture wish to once again thank all the wonderful people that volunteered their time and energy and also those that attended and made this a truly wonderful event. Additional recognition goes out to Academy Mortgage for the photos and drone coverage and to the Arizona Classic Thunderbird Car Club for the motorcade convertibles and drivers.

Special thanks go out to all those organizations that contributed funding to help sponsor and support this event. A \$2,100.00 donation was presented to the Legion of the Silver Rose Foundation to assist with the development and performance of future LSR ceremonies. American Legion Post 58, Sons of the American Legion Post 58, American Legion Post 4 in Globe, and ALR Chapters 5 and 41 of Phoenix all contributed to this presentation. Thank you also to Desert Wind Harley Davidson and Harley Davidson of Scottsdale for their support of this event.

More photos of the day can be viewed via this link. See a video presentation here: <https://vimeo.com/academymortgagemarketing/review/164271197/f07a-9573da>

Ken Couture
AZALR District 12 Rep
AZALR Chapter 8 Past President
AZ PGR Member

