

Run to the Guns 2 AZ Rider



The second 'Run to the Guns' event, hosted by American Legion Riders of Post 138 took place on December 10, 2016. {The first 'Run to the Guns' was held Saturday December 7, 2013 when the WW2 Memorial in Phoenix was dedicated.} Post 138 invited their fellow Posts plus various other Veterans Organizations to participate. My thanks to Jim "Boomer" Bourassa for your help with this report.

This was a run to Salute the Fallen of World War II. Riders gathered at Eagleriders on McClintock Drive in Tempe. The self-paced ride went downtown to Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix via Route 202.

The ceremony, held at the Big Guns, included a preacher who lead a prayer, and speakers who shared historic information, spoke about the inaugural Run to the Guns ride, & about the dedication of the WW2 Memorial itself.

After departing from Wesley Bolin Plaza, riders returned to Eagleriders for an afternoon party with music, raffles, a vendor poker walk, and refreshments.

Music was provided by the 74th Street Band.

Vendors included Evapeology Vape Lounge, chair massages by Healing Hands, M&M Cycles Phoenix, Riderz Gear; there was military memorabilia for sale, plus information booths for BACA {Bikers Against Child Abuse} and Vets & Their Pets ~ Valley Dog Rescue. 'What the Hell' BBQ was set up as well.

Deano was the emcee, announcing raffle and poker winners...High hand winner Mike L. received \$100 for his 2 pair - Aces & Queens. Gwen's low hand earned her \$25.

There were a lot of raffle items ~ including gift certificates for restaurants & flowers for a year, plus Christmas items, bottles of wine, tools, apparel, & more. Most people who bought raffle tickets walked away with something ~ including us... a beautiful Christmas wreath made by Post 138 member Kitty. It's great & we received numerous compliments on it during the Holidays. Thank you for sharing your talent ☺

Additional raffle donors included D&D Motorcycles, Tempe; Carlsbad Cavern Restaurant ~ dinners for 2; Eagle Riders - Rick & Julie Hatch; Costco; and Home Depot.

A 49" big-screen HDTV ~ valued at \$450 ~ was put up for auction. The 50/50 winner turned their prize around & made the winning bid on the HDTV ... taking it home for \$325.

In addition to the businesses already mentioned, thanks go out to sponsor 'All in One Home Repairs' for their support. Boomer also acknowledged What the Hell BBQ who sponsored both breakfast AND lunch. He extended a 'hats off to them' and really appreciates their help & support.

Proceeds of the event benefit Veterans causes ~ through American Legion Charities. While ALC supports larger causes as well... such as scholarships for children of fallen GIs, etc sometimes a smaller-scale assist is all that's needed... Among the numerous things that they accomplish through their fundraisers, they help out their fellow Vets who are going through a rough patch... needing some groceries, a power bill paid, etc... Monies raised for American Legion Charities are put to good use.

Boomer sent along a closing message, "Thank you to all the people who attended. Thank you for helping support Veterans in need. Thank you to those who came out to help. You know who you are. We couldn't do it without you."

Visit & learn more about the James Witkowski American Legion Post 138 on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AZPost138/>

Betsy