

Wreaths Across America ~ Arizona 'Christmas in July' Fundraiser



Wreaths Across America is a nationwide effort to honor our deceased Veterans during the Holidays by placing a wreath at each of their graves. Their goal for 2015 is to place a wreath on the graves of 750,000 Veterans.

Jubel Dean of WolfSkin Tattoo in Phoenix headed up this particular fundraising effort ~ on behalf of The Old Guard Riders of Phoenix and as his own personal Conquest of Honor. The Old Guard Riders coordinates the wreaths at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix.

Jubel devised a fundraiser this summer for 2015 Wreaths Across America ~ Arizona that was like no other we've observed. What was the difference? This fundraiser spanned 5 weeks, with 5 different events, at 5 different locations. On the front line of this undertaking, Jubel & his crew coordinated locations, bands, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, food, you name it...

What moved Jubel to commit so much to making this fundraiser happen? "There are 58,000 grave markers in our local Arizona National Cemetery. They should be honored always and this is a great way to do so. The WAA mission is Remember, Honor, Teach! Cemeteries are for the living. Every stone tells a story. Hail the glorious dead!!"

The event schedule went this way... July 11 was at the Maverick Saloon in Phoenix. July 18 was a Christmas in July campout hosted by & at the Outsiders MC Clubhouse in Seligman. July 25 was a night ride that started & ended at Steel Horse Saloon in Phoenix. August 1 was held at American Legion Post 107 in Phoenix. August 8 was the final event, at Jubel's annual WolfStock event; this year held at Deer Valley Eagles Club, Aerie #3871. Jubel clarified, "All of the events were family-friendly gatherings. We must teach our children!"

In following up with Jubel afterwards, I learned that, with the exception of WolfStock 2015, each event had roughly 100-150 people, with more than 75% newcomers to each party. WolfStock had roughly 500 attendees. Wolfstock is an annual block

party to celebrate local music and the end of summer. Each location where a fundraiser was held made a net donation after expenses; with some covering their own expenses.

Bands that participated at the different gatherings included 'Durdy Jones and Sounds Like Murder', 'Throw the Switch', 'Full Moon Mojo', 'Hillbilly Barbeque Band', 'No Regrets', 'Absolute Adversary', 'Return To Zero', 'Sunset Strip' and 'Mojo Rats'. The organized rides were poker runs for prizes. All had stops at the other event locations; with about 20 riders participating each time. Each event hosted their own raffles & auctions ~ with prizes being donated by friends, sponsors, and local artisans. Wolfskin Mobile Tattoo was at every event with the exception of the Steel Horse Saloon (which is located in same parking lot as their actual tattoo shop). There was even a giant water slide at the Maverick! Comments like 'epic', 'amazing', 'great', & 'awesome' were posted to Facebook by those who attended these gatherings.

Jubel acknowledges all the support he received for this task and shared this message of Thanks to, "... all the bands that played at these fundraisers. Amici Catering and all the vendors that followed us to every event! All the 100+ local Arizona sponsors of our shirt program and all the contributors to make the raffles possible. To my mother Teresa Perkins and all my family here at Wolfskin who are always willing to do whatever it takes and to all of Wolfskin Nation for the continuously unwavered support! HAIL!" He added, "As an organizer I'd like to thank Sue and Stan from the Maverick, Dave, Cindy, and Tarra and all the Old Guard Riders who host the Arizona Wreath ceremony, the ODO MC, Joanna and Rick from the Steel Horse Saloon, Jerry and Terry and everyone at the American Legion Post #107, and Pirate and the trustees at the Deer Valley Eagles #3871 for allowing us to host Wolfstock at their Aerie."

How did it go? According to Jubel, "Last year there were 4,000 Wreaths laid. Our goal was to see

10,000 Wreaths laid. Hopefully we'll reach 6,000 this year."

THERE IS STILL TIME TO PARTICIPATE. You can still donate to this honorable and educational cause. Donations for 2015 Wreaths Across America can be sent in until December 1. Donations can be made online via the www.wreathscrossamerica.org/ website. It costs just \$15 to have a wreath placed. Choose the 'Sponsor Locally' option and then select the cemetery where you want your wreath{s} to be placed. Shirts are also still available to purchase at the WolfSkin Tattoo Shop. The cost is \$20 each and 100% goes to purchase Wreaths for the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix.

Wreath ceremonies will be held December 12th at 10am. According to Wreaths Across America, they'll take place at Arlington, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Learn more about Wreaths Across America by visiting their website at wreathscrossamerica.org

Still have any questions, contact Jubel at 602-677-1751, wolfskinink12@gmail.com or Tarra Matyas at 602.487.0970, Tarramatyas2@gmail.com.

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!"
— Maya Angelou

AMEN to that!

Betsy

