

TOUR OF DUTY RIDE

The Tour of Duty Ride is a fundraiser for the Military Assistance Mission {MAM}. This inaugural event took place on Saturday April 2. Sign-in was at Chandler Harley-Davidson – 6895 W. Chandler Blvd. Thank you to Margy Bons, MAM CEO and Founder, for her help with this report.

130 riders signed in for the ride. Chandler HD provided a fantastic breakfast to get the day started.

The game was a poker run, but cards were collected in a unique way. There were costumes at each stop. The riders would don costume items... boas, big sunglasses, hats, etc. They'd have a photo taken {camera, cell phone} and show the photos at the end to get their cards. The first photo op was at Chandler HD with Skully. He was dressed in a MAM shirt and hat.

It was a self-paced ride. Additional stops included: Dos Gringos, offering a wonderful Bloody Mary buffet bar. Ventura Grill had great food options. There was also a photo booth here,

so the riders could have a commemorative photo strip. Bourbon Jacks welcomed MAM riders with a stage for photos and many delicious specials of drink and food.

Last stop was at the Road House. The band 'Cover Story' provided toe tapping rock music. 98KUPD's Fitz Madrid and John Holmberg attended. Fitz emceed the raffles. The Hi & Low Hand winners were announced, but the names were not available at the time of this writing. Congratulations to each of you.

There were many styles of support shirts to choose from. Examples, long sleeve slate colored, baseball with either blue or red sleeves, olive drab (military colors), brilliant blue and gray. A web store is in process of being set up. Check their website periodically to see when you'll be able to purchase MAM support items online.

Military Assistance Mission wants to thank SW Trikes, American Heroes Contracting, Concerned Veterans of America {CVA}, and Monkey Butt Garage. Margy added, "They were

amazing supporters, going above and beyond."

Approximately \$5000 was made this day, to help MAM in their mission. "The Military Assistance Program provides financial and morale aid to our current Arizona active duty military, their families, and to wounded warriors regardless of overseas deployment status." *[from their website]*

Margy shared, "MAM is named after my son Sgt. Michael A. Marzano. We lost him in Iraq. He was a proud Marine and would have loved a motorcycle ride and definitely loved having his name used to support his fellow brothers and sisters in arms." She continued, "Next year's Tour of Duty Ride will start at Sanderson Ford." She noted that a date nearer to Memorial Day is in the plan for the 2017 event. "We are all about remembering our military."

Learn more about MAM by visiting their website at www.azmam.org

Betsy

