

Modock's Ride for Christmas with the Elders



On Saturday December 14, the Rez Riders IMC- AZ Chapter hosted the 10th Annual Christmas with the Elders. Modock is a former President of the Rez Riders. He passed several years back and so the Club named this Holiday Stocking Ride in his honor.

Thank you Wildcat, RRIMC-AZ Secretary, for sharing news of this event.

At 10:30am, riders gathered in the parking lot of Vee Quiva Casino in Laveen, AZ. There were about 20 participants on this group ride, including those who 'caged' it.

Wildcat described the route, "The ride started at the Vee Quiva Casino,

owned by the Gila River tribal community. The road guards led the riders through the Gila River community and the village of Komatke. First stop was at the Casa Blanca Road exit, off of the I-10 South, where riders met up with a larger group. One of our spiritual advisors, 'Pastor Bill' from Reztoration Ministries in Flagstaff lead the group in prayer." There was a blessing of the bikes and the riders with a traditional Native prayer and burning of sage; then kick stands up to continue to Sacaton.

Their destination was the Gila River Tribe's Caring House in Sacaton, to deliver stocking stuffers to the patients & residents there. The Caring House is a Gila River Tribal Health Care facility with over 90 residents. It offers complete healthcare residency to individuals who require full time care. Most of the residents are seniors or elderly tribal members.

Wildcat continued, "The riders visited with all the residents and delivered Holiday Stockings and gifts. Several people brought their young children which was a delight to the Elders. The kids helped hand out treats, gifts and hugs. Elders received warm lap blankets and cozy socks, nice creamy hand lotion and knitted caps. They also got sugar free candy treats and other stocking stuffers. One of the Rez Riders named 'Wheelz' gave the facility director a blessed Eagle Feather for the residents to keep. Eagle Feathers are used for protection and it will be hung and displayed in a protected area."

To close, "Rez Riders AZ Chapter would like to thank all the riders, volunteers, donors and members of the Gila River community for allowing us to do this annual event. We got a tremendous amount of support and donation from the community and plan on doing this again. We hope next year is bigger and better than ever."

