

TOUR OF HONOR 2022 - ARIZONA

The Tour of Honor Ride is one of the American Motorcyclist Association's Grand Tours. The flyer explains it in a nutshell.... 50 States, 500 Memorials, You, Your Motorcycle, and a Good Reason to Ride. The ride window is from April 1 to September 30... so you have 6 months to hit as many memorials, and even as many states, as you want. 1133 riders signed up for this year's Tour of Honor Ride.

There is a competitive aspect to the ride. A trophy is awarded to the first 3 riders who complete a 7 memorial tour within a State. There is also a trophy for the first 3 riders who visit all of the memorials within a Region. {You can see how this ride lends itself to those who wish to rack up Iron Butt miles.}

Riders photograph their ToH rally flag, motorcycle, and memorial together & then forward those pix to the rally

judges to receive credit for each stop.

The ride fee for this self-paced tour includes a donation to the charity of your choice to benefit Veteran and First Responder Charities. This year's options are Fisher House Foundation, Gold Star Family Memorial Foundation, and the Gary Sinise Foundation's First Responders Outreach.

This event is a means to pay respect to the people & events being honored at each memorial site; while learning about history, exploring new roads, and challenging oneself as a rider. There is no specified or required ToH route. Riders can select any route they want to reach the designated memorials. As the tour runs from 1 April to 30 September; riders also have the freedom to select the best time, based upon weather & other conditions of the state in which they'll be traveling.

Rick Ferguson, a rider based out of Queen Creek, took up the ToH challenge for the first time this year. "I have always wanted to participate and now can." He rode his HD Road King S.

Rick is one of those riders who will easily do 400 miles before breakfast. His favorite day rolls in at around 600 miles.

Asked what inspired him to participate, he replied, "I like to explore and I love history. This tour allows me to do both. I have the freedom to plot the ride and the timing to allow me to explore our wonderful state and nation while learning about the history associated with each site." As he mapped his trip he found lodgings that are biker-friendly to stay at each night. He completed the Arizona tour of 7 sites in 3 days ... August 3rd-5th. He shares some of his ride here, noting that he'd often "meet

continues on page 20



Marana



St John



Eagar



Mayer

TOUR OF HONOR 2022 - ARIZONA

continues from page 19

groundskeepers and people who frequent the memorial sites. They share some great stories.”

Ride Journal Day 1, 8-3-22 ... Arizona Tour of Honor trip. Started in Queen Creek AZ.

First stop was in Marana at the Carillon Memorial in the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Luckett Road. From there, rode to the Douglas Veterans Memorial on 16th Street, to Eagar’s Veterans Memorial on 2nd St, and then to the St Johns Veterans Memorial on South Street; before parking for the night in Pinetop. 587 miles, 12 hours.

Ride Journal Day 2, 8-4-22 ... morning 6:35am... "It’s with mixed emotions that I start today's ride. It’s a rare sight in AZ for the state to be covered in rain, however, we are blessed this year with a good monsoon. I should clear the east-

ern half of the state by 10 am. I am off to Kingman by way of Prescott. Another great day in the AZ mountains."

Day 2, evening 7:20pm... "I really didn't think yesterday's route from the Mexican border to Northeast AZ through the White Mountains could be beat. To-day rivaled it in every way. Chasing the rain all day provided me with clean, dry roads and cool weather. I started in Pine-top, through Payson, Campe Verde, then Mayer for the first stop, the 'Freedom is Not Free' statue at Henry Cordes Park. Took a fortuitous detour over Mingus Pass on 89A from Payson to Sedona. It is absolutely one of the craziest riding roads in the state! No pics on that section as the road was open and the twisties were calling me. Some pics through Sedona and Oak Creek and then to Kingman for my stop at the Doxol Disaster Memorial on Detroit Avenue. Made an additional stop

in Kingman at the 'Spirit of the American Doughboy' WWI Memorial. Each state’s ride has K9 and Doughboy stops that participants can visit, as additions to the main route."

Ride Journal Day 3, 8-5-22 ... Traveled Kingman to Oatman on Rte 66. Rode through Lake Havasu City and Yuma. Final checkpoint of the run was the Long Ranger B-50 Memorial in Dateland {between Yuma & Gila Bend}.

Then HOME.... after 1467 miles in 3 Days.

Rick is currently planning his next Tour of Honor Ride, through New Mexico, as part of this season’s run. We look forward to sharing that story in a future edition of *AZ Rider*.

Thank you Rick for sharing your travels with our Readers!

Betsy

