

# US Military Vets MC Chili Cook-off

On December 11, 2022 the Wild West Chapter of the US Military Vets MC hosted a Chili Cook-off at The Monastery Bar & Grill on McKellips Road in Mesa. This is the 5th year for this event.

This is the annual fundraiser for their Chapter's charity, Flagpoles For Veterans. The Club purchases and installs flagpoles at the homes of disabled or elderly Veterans who, for one reason or another, are unable to do it for themselves. Sadly, it can happen that the accomplishments & sacrifices of these Vets become forgotten. These flagpoles are a way to let them know that their Service is remembered and honored. The USMVMC gets referrals from the VFW. They are frequently Korea or Viet Nam Veterans. The Club covers 100% of the cost and labor.

Organizations coming out to support the cause included ABATE-AZ's East Valley Chapter, American Infidels MC, Axmen MC, Freedom Biker Outreach, Old Koots on Scoots, Leathernecks MC, and Marines MC.

There were 7 competitors in the Chili Cook-off. First place winner T-Pot {entry #3} received a \$50 prize and 2nd place winner Jean {entry #5} collected \$25.

Raffles items included movie tickets, adult beverages, knives, flasks, ammunition, various gift baskets, a Daisy Red Ryder rifle, & more. Thanks go out to all the raffle donors.

The drawing for a separate gun raffle as a fund raiser took place as well. The initial winner donated the weapon back to the cause. On the next draw, the President of the Marines MC won the prize. Congratulations!

In addition to members of AZ's Wild West Chapter of the U S. Military Vets MC; Brothers from their Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas Chapters were in attendance. I learned from Upgrade, USMVMC's AZ State President, that this Club has Chapters in 35 states. It was founded in 1987 and is one of the largest all Veteran MCs in the country. If anyone would like to learn more about the U S Military Vets MC, they can visit the AZ State chapter website at <http://usmvmc.us>

Upgrade noted that this was the event's biggest year yet; explaining that their Flagpoles For Veterans Charity was created in 2020. Their Club Brother, Mizzou, passed in 2020 from complications of cancer. He wanted to start a flagpole charity so they created this in honor of him. *{It is his photo in the group pic shown here.}* Upgrade went on to say, "Our goal for 2023 is to be able to install at least one flagpole per month. If you or someone you know is interested in helping us or want a flagpole installed, they can contact us via our website."

Thank you to T-Pot for additional photos. My thanks also to Upgrade, USMVMC's AZ President, for his additional information toward this article.

*Fallout*

