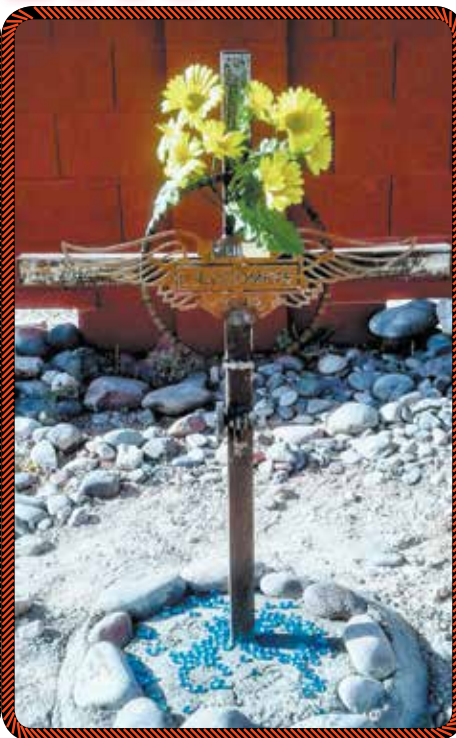


# AZ Rider *In Remembrance - Louis Charles LeCompte Jr.* <sup>7</sup>

## *December 21, 1952 - April 3, 2018*



We did not know Louis, but what we've learned about him while preparing this remembrance makes us wish we did. Many thanks to his sister Mary LeCompte, long-time friend George Diaz, and family friend Carla, for sharing their memories with all of us.

A native of Tucson, he was a graduate of Sunnyside High School and a retired electrician. He's described as a 'true 24/7 bikers biker'. He was active in community fundraisers for underprivileged children and families.

Carla shared, "I don't believe anyone referred to him as 'Louis'. His close family members called him 'Louito' (as in Little Lou) when he was very young. Other than that, he was Louie. His most common nickname was 'Southside Louie'.

"Tucson used to be pretty spread out, and people tended to spend most of their time in whatever patch of Tucson they were living in. They socialized with others in their area, patronized businesses in their area, and attended schools in their area.

"Once Louie bought his motorcycle, he was all over Tucson and the surrounding areas. Although he primarily rode with the south side guys he had grown up with, he also never hesitated to ride alone, and in no time he became acquainted with everyone, everywhere. I imagine that's how he came to be known as 'Southside Louie'.

"The original south side friends formed 'Los Vatos Southsiders', of which Louie was a long-time member. Los Vatos hosts a yearly 'Christmas in July' fundraiser and accepts toy donations. The toys are then distributed to needy children in the community."

Later he would become a founding member of Los Hermanos MC; and was a member until his

death. In a sad set of circumstances, Louie was one of 3 LHMC brothers to pass on within weeks of each other; Monkey before & Cheech after.

Louie was a teenager who George met in 1968 or '69, before he left for Viet Nam to serve in the Army. When George got back from 'Nam in '72, he & Louie started hanging around together & have been very close old friends ever since. He said Louie was "a wild man with a big heart who was a straight shooter" noting that they "went through a lot of crazy adventures together."

George called Louie 'Historian' because he had a very good memory. He could accurately tell you about people, places, & events from years before. If you needed to know about something about someone, Louie was who to ask. Carla agreed, "One of the most amazing and unique things about Louie, in my opinion, was his careful attention to detail and his unfailing memory. While the rest of us forget details during our lifetimes, Louie could describe with shocking accuracy every bit of life he ever experienced. He could describe the geography of Tucson right down to where each saguaro had stood, prior to development. He could recall in intimate detail every interaction or shared experience he had had with any of his numerous friends."

George described Louie as "old school to the bone." He had just been awarded a pin by his Club to recognize his 50 years of continuous riding. He took no breaks for the various reasons that people sometimes have for parking their bikes for years and then later returning to the road.

Carla recalled, "He loved that old pan/shovel and was loyal to that bike for over forty years. He always kept it immaculately clean and running well. Best of all, he was always riding. The weather in

Arizona can reach some grueling extremes, but not enough to keep Louie off his bike."

She added, "Louie was very generous with his time, knowledge, and genuine friendship. If someone needed help moving, he could be counted on to help. If they needed help working on a car or motorcycle, he was right there. And if they just needed someone to talk to, Louie would lend an ear. He was never too busy for a friend."

Mary reminisced, "Louie had a knack for gift-giving and a mischievous sense of humor." One time he gave a girl friend, a woman in her 20s, a jar of deep-wrinkle cream. ☺

On the night of April 3, Louie was delivering flyers to announce a benefit for the family of Monkey who had died the week before. A stop at the home of his friend George would be his last before the wreck.

On a dark section of road that was under construction Louie was in a single-vehicle wreck that claimed his life. Without going into a lot of details; this is another example of a *very* experienced rider getting caught up in road hazards and being unable to maneuver to safety. Please take this as a reminder to BE AWARE as you ride that shit can happen ... *regardless* of your experience level.

Family & friends recently held a ride in Louie's honor; placing a cross at the location where he died. Louie was part of a large & loving family; with a wide circle of friends. His Spirit lives on, in the hearts of those who remain.

We respectfully add our condolences to those being extended to Louie's loved ones.

*Betsy & Bruce*