

Marines Toys for Tots 2017



Supporting the Marines Toys for Tots Toy Run has been a passion of Sue 'Brat' Ashe for decades. 2017 is no different. This event gathered at sponsor Harley-Davidson of Scottsdale on the morning of November 25; a fine way to kick off the Holiday Season. Thank you Sue for sharing your day with our readers.

Sue noted that 290 riders participated in the ride, which is a turnout consistent with prior years' events.

She described the day's route. "Riders registered, enjoyed lots of hugs, a fantastic breakfast donated by HDoS, a visit with Santa (many thanks to Rick Black for volunteering his time) and then hit the road when they felt it was time to ride! A scenic route of \approx 125 miles included stops at Gremlin Garage in New River then VFW Post 1796 in Black Canyon City; ending at Lucie's Sage & Sand Bar & Grill 13831 West Glendale Ave, Glendale, AZ." Riders rolled dice at each stop with prizes for high and low roll.

About the end party ... "Nearly all of the riders visited all of the stops and ended up at Lucie's for a great end party. The patio and outdoor space at Lucie's was a great place for people to visit, relax and enjoy some good food, music and friendly conversation. The 74th Street Band was the main attraction at Lucie's and a one-man band JD Madrid did a very impressive warm up for a few hours prior to 74th taking the main stage. The 74th Street Band was amazing as always! Love those guys – great band, great music and most of all great friends over the years!"

The donation to Maricopa County Marine's Toys for Tots Program was a combination of cash and goods. "The ride collected approximately 40 boxes of toys. A large donation was done by Chuck Franklin and his wife and daughter who went shopping on Thanksgiving evening. Chuck and his daughter were on hand to give the toys directly to the Marines at the event. In the week leading up to the ride I got a call from a gentleman who said he and his wife wanted to bring their daughter to the event to drop off a small donation. He said it was a good way to show his

daughter the meaning of giving to others. When the wife and daughter found me that morning I was shocked to see their definition of 'small donation' was vastly different than mine. Their donation filled 3 of the 40 toy boxes. A check was sent to the Maricopa Marines Toys for Tots Program for \$4,318.43 which was appreciated as always."

In regard to the event supporters Sue sent along, "As always much heartfelt love and respect to H-D of Scottsdale and Shelley Martin / HDoS Senior Event Coordinator along with Chuck Franklin Law for their continuous friendship and support for this event. I welcomed Desert Rose Dispensary as a new sponsor along with Gremlin Garage and too many others to list. Lucie's crew did a terrific job with the setup & the food really looked amazing! I look forward to working with all of the sponsors again in 2018 and Desert Rose has already expressed interest to be more involved... Who knows what the future holds? And I also want to personally thank Bruce & Betsy of AZ Rider for always supporting me for the Marines Toys for Tots Event.

And for 2018? "It has been my honor, pleasure and passion to be the Chair of this ride event for 8 years. I totally enjoy working directly with the civilian group who heads up the county program. And of course the handsome young men who serve our country all dressed in blues is a welcome added bonus. I am not sure what direction my efforts will be taking during 2018 but I will be involved with the Marines Toys for Tots Program in Maricopa County in some capacity without a shadow of a doubt."

In closing, "As I have said in the past many times – when it comes to the riding community we simply cannot be beat for support for all things charity related... Grinch who? Not here in Maricopa County!"

Sue 'Brat' Ashe
Chairperson,

Annual Marine Toys for Tots Ride Event

