

RUN TO THE REZ VII



The 2010 "Run to the Rez" held over the weekend of October 22-23, was special beyond words; uniquely spiritual in essence. From the beginning, it was a Biker "Meet and Greet" like no other I've run across since I've been reporting for this Rag. All of the fine folks we met up there at the Apache Gold Casino, outside of Globe, were gracious and hospitable; welcoming all who showed up with open arms and hugs of recognition. Brothers and Sisters, riding for the "Pride of the Nations" and the "Greater Good", are what this ride and event were truly about. A lot of the Tribes were represented from New Mexico, California, Arizona, and Nevada.

Friday night after registration, the band Grey Wolf started jammin' and the fun began. Philippe Dawes and Frank Lewis, both PGR riders, were among those we met and had a great time with that night and throughout the entire event. Also, "Big Mike" from Gallup, New Mexico, whom I call "Buffalo Head". He gave me a special gift; a "Challenge Coin" from the Legion Riders. I wish to thank everybody who was involved with this, because now we know some awsum new friends and fellow riders.

Dr. John Bush was the Master of Ceremonies thru the whole deal and did a bang-up job of it all. Helping him were Nikki Duncan, Rod Kulstad, Vikki Ross, Michelle Lewis, and all of the coordinators. Cash prizes, special edition Rez Rider jackets with a picture of Geronimo on the back, and a real nice \$450 leather jacket were all raffled off that night. We won 2 of the Rez Rider jackets in blue jean denim, and that was just the first night. Way cool, guys. Thanks.

The next morning was bright, clear and cool, to

begin the Run to the Rez, taking us to the "Tribute to the Vets" at Burdette Hall on the Apache Reservation in San Carlos. When we all took off, there were just under 500 bikes ridin' thru town; and the folks there loved the Police escort, with sirens wailin' etc.

At that ceremony, the Apache Color Guard presented the Flag and a touching rendition of the National Anthem. After that "Dr. John" Bush introduced speaker Carol Slin, a local female Apache Veteran; and 88-year old WWII Apache Veteran, Melvin Mull, was presented with a Warriors/Memory Blanket. Several other guest speakers, including another Viet Nam Vet, Leonard Reeder, were introduced. He gave a moving explanation of why we were all there, and paid a special tribute to those who led the way for him. This included another decorated Viet Nam Veteran who was there, sitting next to Leonard; who was also part of the Honor Guard. One especially well-spoken speaker, Valleri Williams, is the local VA Native American Vet-Rep. She talked about how the Viet Nam Vet has led the way to the healing process that's in place for all those coming home NOW.

At the conclusion of this moving Tribute in San Carlos, we all headed to Seneca Lake, about 30 miles away thru the rollin' hills of the Apache Reservation. It was kind of cool that day, but the hot chili, menudo, and Indian Fry Bread warmed everybody up; along with some hot licks from the band First Born. Again, "Dr. John" was there to help raffle off a leather jacket, Run to the Rez jackets, cash, and a mountain bike; all given away in high spirits, and contributing to the local Veterans Programs. This beautiful little girl was there and must have been enamored by me and Ross,

as she kept coming up to the both of us and gave us little yellow flowers. She was so cute, I had to take her picture; the epitome of a beautiful Apache child. From the lake, everybody was careful to get back to the Casino Hotel, so they could get ready to watch "Grand Funk Railroad" at the pavilion later in the evening.

At 8pm Grand Funk Railroad began to play all of their hits; including "American Band", which truly rocked the house. There was one little boy on his father's shoulders who jammed so much he impressed everyone around. The lead singer from the band gave him some drumsticks from onstage. You should have seen the kid "light-up" then! At the end of the concert, more cash prizes were given out and the 2010 Harley Dyna-Glide was raffled off. The winner was Mike Madron, from Avondale, AZ. This Army Veteran was one happy, lucky dude.

This was the most fun and spiritual rides I've ever been on. If you ever get the chance, you should make it to this one, as it is getting bigger every year. It's the kick-off for the Veterans Day Season, to which all the Native American Tribes have become deeply, spiritually, honestly, and faithfully, devoted. Theirs is a Reverence and Patriotism that have become legendary thru time. For as we all know (or should) the Apache and all other tribes, were the first line of self-defense in America, and the leaders in "Gorilla Warfare".

As always, ride hard, be safe, and UHRAH to all the Veterans this month, "Well Done" and "Welcome Home".

Beaux

