



Run to the Rez IV- Tribute to American Vietnam Veterans

passed between flags that honored every Armed Service as well as the Red, White, and Blue. It was a sight to see. We rolled on, to the San Carlos Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Because this event took place before Veterans Day, there were no flags flying this day. The following weekend the San Carlos Native Tribe was to honor those fallen with their own ceremony, dance and spiritual awakening with flags at every grave site.

Arriving at the Tribal Council Hall around 11am, the honorary ceremony took place with the following program: Emcee Hubert Martin-USMC Vietnam Veteran; Invocation by Raymus Edwards, Korean War Veteran; Presentation of Colors-San Carlos Apache Veterans Association; National Anthem-Hubert Martin; Warrior Song-Harold Kenton, Vietnam Veteran; Posting of Colors-San Carlos Apache Veterans Association; Welcome-Wendler Nosie, Sr., San Carlos Apache Tribal Chairman; Speaker-Vernon James, Sr., Vietnam Veteran; Speaker-Lawrence T. Morgan, Navajo Nation Speaker of the House; and the San Carlos Vietnam Veterans Roll Call (This really was awesome to see and an honor being a part of when those that served our country were all up front to shake hands with. How humbling and spiritual it was to be a part of a tribute to those who still do not get the recognition that they really deserve.) This was followed by the Recognition of all Vietnam Veterans; Recognition of all Veterans; Recognition of Sannie Russell; Honor/Social Songs (2) for all Veterans; and then the Closing Prayer-San Carlos Apache Veteran.

The next part of the agenda was a treat, traveling with the RezRiderz to the Point of Pines, approximately 150 miles up to a 3,340 foot elevation of nothing but tall, big pines in the middle of nowhere. It was absolutely breath taking. It was a part of Arizona I had never been to; with incredible beauty that changed from desert to pines in a matter of seconds.

The ride was more than spectacular; with no other vehicles in sight the whole way there. I spotted prong horn antelope and rabbit along the way; and some round-tailed ground squirrels in their hurried suicide attempts to get across the road before we might run over them.

Arriving at a house of a RezRiderz supporter, we parked and had some refreshments from the support

trucks carrying beer, soda, and water; while raffle prizes were drawn for. After much laughter and enjoyment visiting with each other, it was time to go back to the Apache Gold Pavilion. A group of us stopped to enjoy a splendid view of the San Carlos Indian Reservation; a stretch of land that no camera, even with a panoramic lens, could capture.

Continuing to the casino, a brother had a flat. The group of us waited with him; then helped load the bike onto the trailer of a chase truck. Then it was back into the wind.

Arriving at the pavilion, we were almost the last in line. We grabbed dinner, being served from 4:30p on, then headed up front for the best seat in the place, to hear the band JADED play some (bad ass!) rock 'n roll.

More prizes were announced plus the drawing for the '08 Harley Davidson. I didn't get the gentleman's name but congratulation is due to him for winning such a nice prize.

After all was said and done and John Bush made his speech of appreciating all that attended and that rode to the Point of the Pines it was time to enjoy more of the band Jaded and dance with the tunes. Not long after that, things started to wind down.

A big thanks goes to John Bush from the RezRiderz and Judy Ferreira for again asking me and all the others to be a part of this and especially Jimmy Kniffin for allowing me to ride with him. I was humbled

and honored at the same time in getting to know the people that make this great territory of Arizona.

There were around 300+ riders that participated in this run. Most of them were a mix of veterans from all military services. Thank you to all that came and showed their respects.

The rest of the evening was spent with the Vietnam Vets and the RezRiderz, as well as getting to know the Rez Riders IM/C of California. It was after midnight before I knew it.

This was a weekend I will never forget. Thanks to Apache Gold Casino/Resort for having their establishment for the event and all those that participated and donated their time and efforts to make this event a successful one. Till next time keep safe, healthy, and happy. Catch you next wind. ~~~~ Sidekick



On Saturday November 3, 2007, the San Carlos Apache Veterans Memorial Motorcycle Run and the "Apache Honor Run" hosted by the San Carlos RezRiderz took place at the Apache Gold Casino/Resort.

I was anticipating this run, as I had experienced and enjoyed last year's. But there was a glitch in my transportation, of the two-wheeled kind. Planning to head up the day before, I hadn't got 1/16 of a mile away from home when my bike locked up in first gear; the clutch decided to strip and drop beyond being able to shift into ANY gear. So 'Smiley Bill', (Member to the Loners M/C) came to the rescue and lent me his vehicle, (a large cage) so that I could get to the event.

Thanks to Judy Ferreira who made sure I had a place to lay my head so I could stay and party. Additional thanks to Norma, who also assists in the events at the casino. I mentioned needing a ride so that pics could be taken of the parade. She put me in touch with Jimmy Kniffin, with whom I rode last year. He graciously agreed to my request again this year.

Arriving late afternoon on Friday at the Casino, I checked into my room and then commenced to try a little luck at gambling. Needless to say this white chick doesn't know how to gamble, because I dropped \$40 bucks in 30 secs. That was the extent of my luck.

Saturday morning's weather was perfect for the occasion. Registration was open between 6-8pm on Friday and on Saturday between 8-10am. The fee of \$25/person and \$20/passenger included the meal, T-Shirt, and raffle tickets.

The lineup of bikes commenced around 9:30am. At 10a, RezRiderz Leader John Bush welcomed everyone and introduced speaker Hubert Martin. The Blessing of the Bikes followed, offered by Harold Kenton, to keep all of us safe and sound for the trip ahead.

Departing from the casino a little after 10, the parade of bikes