

In Loving Memory of DEBORAH BUTITTA

March 1, 1951 ~ June 4, 2022

ABATE of Arizona's Tribute

By Mary K. Donnay

ABATE of Arizona's long-standing Yavapai Chapter Board member DEBORAH BUTITTA died on June 4th, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident the day before, when a flatbed truck made a left turn in front of her. While small in stature, Deborah was a pillar of strength and had a positive impact on many lives, including my own. I'm proud to say she was my mentor and friend for over 25 years and I, like many others, attribute my success in life and ABATE to her advice, encouragement and support. Both of us attended many Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) Meeting of the Minds conferences over the years from coast-to-coast, where I'd assist her in coordinating the fund-raising auctions.

We respectfully honored her accomplishments and life-long dedication to motorcycle rights during our annual event "Too Broke For Sturgis" June 9th thru 11th, by having a framed picture at event registration of Deborah receiving the MRF 2020 Lifetime Achievement award and a picture board made by her chapter officers. I spoke to the large assembled crowd in the arena on Saturday, June 11th, read the MRF death announcement and added my personal reflection. All of the Yavapai Chapter officers attended and were recognized. Redbone, charter member of ABATE East Valley Chapter, made a wooden laser etched tribute plaque, with the poem he penned called "Toast to a Fallen Sister". Jim Butsback, ABATE of AZ State President, presented it to her chapter on stage. Many of us were in tears, and lots of hugs were shared.

We were surprised when Tyson, a co-worker of Deborah's, showed up on a blue H-D V-Rod she sold him. We placed that motorcycle in first position, in front of the bike show. The framed picture I brought fit perfectly in between the windshield mount brackets. I was honored and privileged to sit on her former bike, hold the grips Deborah held for many miles, and give that bike a big hug, feeling her presence. The national anthem was sung a-cappella, a bike blessing given, then I rev'd up that bad ass V-Rod first, before being joined by hundreds of other bikes in the thunderous arena.

Deborah's legacy will live on in our hearts and minds forever. I keep thinking that in the future, I'll have to ask



myself "What would Deborah do?" Stand up tall and hold your ground for what you believe in! That's what she'd do. Ride Free Freedom Fighter. Thank you for your life-long service to the biker community. We will never forget you.

Respectfully,

Mary K. Donnay
ABATE of Arizona, Inc.,
State Chairman

*From the MRF-AE
'Meet the Board' web page*

Deborah Butitta, Arizona

MRFA&E Board Chair

Current positions held:

MRFA&E Founding Chairman

MRF Ex-Officio Board Member

ABATE of AZ Board Member

ABATE-AZ Yavapai Chapter PAC Officer

In Deb's words, "In 1990 I attended an ABATE of AZ Yavapai Chapter meeting in downtown Prescott, AZ and I was hooked on the train to express my passion for riding and freedom for a life style.

"Since 1990, I became a member of various organizations such as MMA of Arizona (MMA), ABATE of Colorado, Freedom of the Road Riders in Missouri, American Motorcycle Association (AMA) Lifetime Member and Motorcycle Rider Foundation, Inc. (MRF); remaining a member of my home Yavapai

Chapter of ABATE of AZ. In ABATE of AZ I held various positions at chapter and state level such as Chapter PAC Officer for 11 years, Chapter Coordinator and a seat on the ABATE of AZ Board of Directors. An ABATE of AZ event called "Too Broke for Sturgis" was in Prescott in 1994-98 which I set up the location and permits for the event each year.

"In 2001-2002, I served as the first Designated Lobbyist for Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs (AZCMC).

"In 1994, I joined MRF as a member but before I knew, I was the AZ MRF State Representative for 14 years, which led my journey to the MRF Board of Directors seat in 1997. During my tenure at MRF, I held 3 different position including Corporate Secretary for 8 years.

"In 1998, my brother Chuck Butitta and I opened an aftermarket motorcycle shop that helped educate me in the world of the aftermarket business owners.

"Currently I am on the MRF Board of Directors and the founding Chairperson for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Awareness and Education, Inc. (MRFA&E) Board of Directors. I still belong to various State Organizations. I serve as a volunteer still with passion for freedom and riding. My job to make money to support my passion is a Commercial Real Estate Broker in the business since 1983. I bring some of my professional skills to the table for MRF & MRFA&E wherever I can to help all motorcycle riders globally.

"Like many of you, I have owned a few motorcycles over time. Currently my garage houses my 2005 VRSCA, 2009 XL1200N, 2018 FXLR (107ci. Milwaukee-Eight engine) and 2021 Polaris RXR PRO XP.

"My passion is still strong and my extended family is all of you who go down the road with the wind in your face."

AWARDS:

2003 MRF President's Cup
2017 MRF Founder's Award
2020 MRF

Lifetime Achievement
2020 AMA Life Member
2021 Sturgis Hall of Fame,
Freedom Fighter Award

