

In Memory of Jeremy Bebout

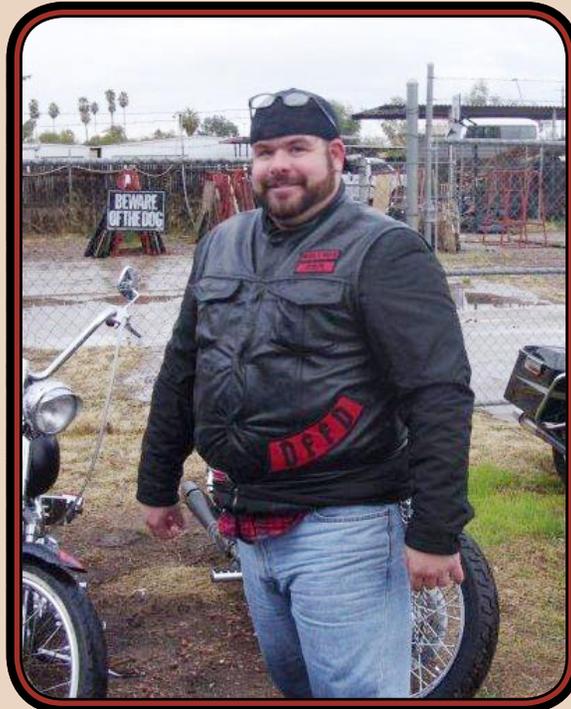
Hi Bruce & Betsy

Every month I pick up a copy of your paper and enjoy looking at the great pics and reading the articles. From time to time I have read about riders passing on, benefits being held for their families, and also notation about bikers not being seen until it's too late. Awareness is everything! Unfortunately, that's what I'm writing to you about.

Back on March 24, 2010 my friend Jeremy Bebout was riding southbound on Signal Butte Road when an elderly driver turned right in front of him. Jeremy couldn't stop in time. It wasn't pretty. Jeremy passed away just a few hours later at Scottsdale Osborn. Please understand, I do understand that accidents do happen, thus the name 'accident'; but what I don't understand is how it never made the evening news or even the local papers, not to mention azcentral.com.

Every time I turned to azcentral.com before Jeremy's death, I saw weekly (at least) headlines about a motorcycle accident or fatality involving motorcyclists. But never for Jeremy! I guess it may have something to do with the fact that he was in a motorcycle club. Unfortunately, the general public has been lead to believe that 'clubs' are bad, outlaws, or common criminals. You can thank your local law enforcement agencies for that misconception. Motorcycle clubs are friends, family members who enjoy going out to ride together and hang out with others. They open their doors and their hearts to the public with a smile.

Unfortunately, Jeremy wasn't news worthy. Less than 1 week after his accident, 10 bikers were hit from behind in the west valley. Several died on scene. News, ground and helicopter, showed the scene –



it was horrifying and tragic. God Bless those poor riders and their families.

But there was never anything about Jeremy. No news, no papers, no online articles, nothing. He wasn't important I guess, because he wasn't a government employee, a law enforcement agent, or an independent rider. Because he was a 'club' member, he wasn't anybody.

Well, let me tell you, he was SOMEONE! He was my friend. He was a hard working, honest man, a new father to a beautiful little girl named Elva Lynn. He was a man who loved his fiancée Kristina; who loved his mother, father, brothers and sisters. He was a person!

A person who didn't matter enough to have his life or death put in print, stating "another motorcyclist killed by drivers who don't look out for motorcycles."

So, I ask that Jeremy's death not get ignored because of a patch on his back. I ask that our general public know that regardless of what one wears; they are a person, with people that love them. And I feel like 'club members' are being singled out by the 'Joe Public' as 'bad guys'.

Let's take a moment to remember those who have lost their lives while riding because people don't pay attention while driving. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Deb Pierce, Mesa, AZ

On Sunday, March 28 a benefit was held at Moe's on the Green (formerly Benchwarmers) in Mesa; on Power Rd. between Southern and Broadway on the east side of the street. The beneficiary was the young family of 32-year old Jeremy Bebout, a member of the Devil's Own MC. As Deb's letter explains, he had been killed earlier in the week by a vehicle turning in front of him. By talking to people at the event, we heard reports that the vehicle cut him off so close that there was no chance to even hit the brakes.

It was heartwarming to see such a strong showing of support on such short notice; with at least 18 clubs and organizations coming out to pay their respects.

The death of Jeremy was a great loss to everyone that knew him. We thank Deb for sending along her heartfelt words. Thanks also to Jeremy's brother and friend Moonshine for sending photos.

B&B