



## Defenders of Freedom Veterans Recognition Ride

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Greetings:

I'm writing to eagerly request your support for the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Defenders of Freedom: Veterans Recognition Ride** to take place once again on Armed Forces Weekend, **Sunday, 21 May 2017** with all proceeds this year to benefit **The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition** (an IRC § 501(c)(3) charitable organization, ID# 84-1560800).

This **ALL VOLUNTEER EFFORT** is proud to have been the premier event that helped bring both the Wounded Warrior Project and Special Operations Warrior Foundation to such prominence in Colorado and since 2015 we are very pleased to be focused on assisting our local homeless Veterans and their families.

Since 2008 **"The Longest Law Enforcement Escorted Motorcycle Charity Ride in Colorado"** has a strong history of success in raising awareness and generating donations for organizations that directly assist America's Fallen, Severely Wounded and At Risk Warriors, Veterans and their Families with **well over \$55,000 in donations raised to date.**

**The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition**, through their **Annual "Stand Down" Event**, continues to provide direct assistance to our local homeless veteran community by serving about 200 Homeless Veterans at the event while also identifying about **14 Homeless Veterans** for their **Transitional Housing Initiative** that seeks to assist situationally homeless veterans and their family into a more stable living situation.

I'm VERY pleased and excited to announce that the **City of Fountain** has stepped forward to very actively assist and support the relocation of our event from the City of Colorado Springs, where increasingly burdensome and time consuming bureaucratic and, more importantly, costly requirements took monies from the Veterans our event seeks to serve and forced us to relocate. Through their active support, The City of Fountain has demonstrated by their actions that they are truly dedicated to supporting our local Military and Veteran community.

I, as the event founder/organizer, the volunteers who assist with this event and the Board members of the El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition receive **NO COMPENSATION** for our **ALL VOLUNTEER** efforts. Your sponsorship assistance is **CRUCIAL** to offsetting the costs and ensuring the success of this event, so that **ALL** donations collected the day of the event go directly to the programs and the service member/veterans they help.

Our ride continues in recognition and honor of American service members and Veterans who serve, have served, have been wounded or lost their lives in service to the United States, as well as in recognition of the major military bases in our community (Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base, Fort Carson, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station and the U.S. Air Force Academy).

Despite economic & bureaucratic challenges, I remain committed to continue helping my fellow Service Members who have sacrificed so much for our country because their needs remain. I hope that we can count on your support and I look forward to hearing from you soon.



Regards

*Brian L. A. Wess*

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