



Defenders of Freedom Veterans Recognition Ride

Brian L. A. Wess – Founder/Organizer
2910 N. Powers Boulevard, #174
Colorado Springs, CO 80922
Phone: 719-528-6672
E-mail: VetsRide@gmail.com
Web: www.VeteransRide.org



Facebook: www.Facebook.com/VeteransRide

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To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing to eagerly request your continued support for the **11th Annual Defenders of Freedom: Veterans Recognition Ride** to take place once again on Armed Forces Weekend, **Sunday, 20 May 2018** with all proceeds this year to benefit **The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition** (an IRC § 501(c)(3) charitable organization, ID# 84-1560800).

Thanks to the tremendous & ongoing support of past Supporters & Sponsors; The El Paso County BOCC; El Paso County Sheriff's Office; The City of Fountain & Fountain PD, the **10th Anniversary of the "The Longest Law Enforcement Escorted Motorcycle Charity Ride in Colorado"** was again very successful generating **\$7,600 in donations in 2017** and **over \$65,000 in Donations since 2008** toward charities that directly assist our Fallen, Severely Wounded, Homeless & At Risk Military Veterans and their Families in the Pikes Peak Region.

This **ALL VOLUNTEER, NO PROFIT 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.

The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition **Annual Homeless Veterans "Stand Down"**, held on 17 October 2017, served **198 local homeless veterans** and identified **10 Homeless Veteran Families** that included a total of 7 children for the EPCHVC Transitional Housing Initiative that seeks to assist situationally homeless veterans and their family into a more stable living conditions. Within **45 Days of the "Stand Down" ALL 10** of these families had been transitioned into stable housing and work situations where they remain after receiving the connections to services, training and support that El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition provides.

The 2018 Ride will again be in the City of Fountain who, through their active support & sponsorship, has demonstrated that they are truly committed 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 continued challenges, I remain committed to continue helping my fellow Veterans 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

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