



## Defenders of Freedom Veterans Recognition Ride

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To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing to eagerly request your support for the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Defenders of Freedom: Veterans Recognition Ride** to take place once again on Armed Forces Weekend, **Sunday, 19 May 2019** with all proceeds this year again 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; El Paso County Sheriff's Office; The City of Fountain & Fountain PD, the "**The Longest Law Enforcement Escorted Motorcycle Charity Ride in Colorado**" has been very successful generating **nearly \$75,000 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 directly assisting our local homeless Veterans and their families.

The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition **Annual Homeless Veterans "Stand Down"**, held on 16 October 2018, served a total of **176 local homeless veterans** as well as identifying **12 Homeless Veteran Families** that included a total of **14 children and 29 persons total** 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"** **11** of these Homeless Veteran families had been successfully 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.

Additionally, throughout 2018 the **EPCHVC's NEW Homeless Veteran PREVENTION Program** has assisted **18 Veterans** with emergency financial & medical costs that has saved them from situations where they most likely have become homeless.

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

*Brian L. A. Wess*

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