



## Defenders of Freedom Veterans Recognition Ride

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Dear Veteran Supporter:

I write more earnestly than ever to humbly request your support for the **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Defenders of Freedom: Veterans Recognition Ride** to take place as in past on Armed Forces Weekend, **Sunday, 22 May 2022** with all proceeds again to benefit **The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition** (an IRC § 501(c)(3) charitable organization, ID# 84-1560800).

Despite the great challenges of 2020 & 2021, thanks to the tremendous & ongoing support of past Supporters & Sponsors we were successful in collecting **\$7,500** to directly assist our Fallen, Severely Wounded, Homeless & At Risk Military Veterans and their Families in the Pikes Peak Region. This brings the total generated **since 2008 to OVER \$91,300 in Donations.**

This **ALL VOLUNTEER, NO PROFIT EFFORT**, the **"The Longest Law Enforcement Escorted Motorcycle Charity Procession in Colorado"**, is proud to have been the event that helped bring organizations such as the Special Operations Warrior Foundation to prominence in Colorado and since 2015 we are very pleased to be focused on directly assisting our local homeless Veterans and their families.

As the result of lingering COVID-19 restrictions, The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition will hold a modified **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Homeless Veterans "Stand Down" OUTSIDE** on 21 September 2021 to provide **needed services to nearly 150 local homeless and at risk veterans.**

Unfortunately the EPCHVC **Transitional Housing Initiative** that seeks to assist situationally homeless veterans and their family into stable living & working conditions had to be cancelled in 2020 & 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

However, the **EPCHVC's Homeless Veteran PREVENTION Program** went into overdrive in 2020 & 2021 having assisted **over 100 Front Range Colorado Veterans & their Families** since 2018 with emergency financial assistance for critical needs like Rent/Mortgage, Utilities & Medical Bill Assistance that has saved them from situations where they would most likely have become homeless.

I, as this 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.

As in years past and **ESPECIALLY** this year, 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 the drastic ongoing challenges, I remain as committed as ever to helping my fellow Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country because their needs continue. I hope that we can count on your support and I look forward to hearing from you soon



Best Regards

*Brian L. A. Wess*

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