

THE BUSHMASTER

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www.desertwarriorsofarizona.com

Mar 2015

Desert Warriors, LLC Founders Corner

Dear Warriors and Friends,

The last quarter of 2014 involved several requests for Desert Warriors participation. In October we started out supporting the traveling Vietnam War wall of fallen service members that lasted for four days. There were several thousand visitors at this moving exhibit that once started, stayed open to visitors 24 hours a day. The Sunday evening event with a candlelight ceremony had most of us in tears. I would highly recommend visiting this exhibit when it comes to town again.

Cruise on Central is always a crowd pleaser and we had all the "big boy" trucks from Matt's HET to Dr. Smith's Charlie Chopper that is always a big hit with aviation buffs. Alexia Grace is our official singer of our National Anthem and performed in an outstanding manner. She is a permanent Desert Warrior and her mom and sister attended to support her efforts. The last event was at the first ADOT Car show by the capitol and another competing event at Westgate hosted by Nancy Perry. Our October meeting of Desert Warriors at Staybridge Inn was hosted by Leo Gomez. Leo brought four of his Vietnam brothers in combat to help us understand their tribulations under fire. Unfortunately the time could not accommodate all four of their presentations so we will enjoy this group again in the future.

November is also one of our very busy months with two Veterans Day Parades. The Mesa parade has become a very big parade for the East Valley and we had 13 vehicles participating including two helicopters. The crowds loved our entry and we were awarded the "Grand Marshall's" plaque. The Phoenix Veterans Day parade is a little different since we have numerous Vietnam veterans actually riding on Dave Barron's Huey under the banner of Light Horse Legacy. The veterans are always saluting our entry. We were also fortunate to have the Veteran's Pride Battalion Sea Cadet who personally escorted our Fallen Soldier cross along the entire route. We were also blessed to be awarded First Place as the best Military Vehicle entry. We were the largest entry in the Phoenix parade so that does say something. Our last event was with SRP at their recreation center in Scottsdale. These folks are so appreciative of our efforts and reward us with a free lunch and special recognition.

December slowed down some with only one event at the Litchfield Park Christmas Parade. This was almost washed out due to the rain, but God cleared the skies and let Santa do his thing. As always we are the only military vehicle display and my wife asks me why military vehicles are in this parade and my answer is we still have troops serving overseas and this is our way of reminding all the "freedom is not free". Sandi still gets a kick out of firing up the 24 volt siren as we slowly move past the crowd in the tank.

On a very sad note, we suddenly lost Perry Sartain on December 7, 2014. His sudden death has left a large hole in our organization and support of the USS Arizona. Please remember Wanda in your prayers and support since she has decided to carry on the tradition of continuing to display and educate the public on its history. God speed Perry and may you always have calm seas.

The 1st Lt. Frank Luke Memorial Museum has passed several milestones. We received our IRS recognition on December 12th as a 501c3 charity organization/museum. This opens many doors. I have also assigned my property that includes a warehouse and 450 sq. ft. office as our official site. I am now looking for a 40 hour a week full time position that pays \$1.00 yearly to occupy the office for the museum. This person must be at the museum for at least 4 hours daily, five days a week for visitors and we will print the sign accordingly. This will qualify us for GSA access to all surplus property.

My intentions are to eventually enclose the vacant property to the north and store the large vehicles we pick up plus maybe a Cobra, Blackhawk, Apache, up-armored Hummer, HET, MRAP, Tactical off-road forklift, field kitchen (complete), 15 K field generator, Gama Goat, Towed artillery piece, a tank of WWII vintage or later from a closing base museum and trailers for all the aircraft to be permanently mounted on. I know Christmas has passed but at least I still have a wish list. Our museum board is working on various contacts to get the property at the permanent location tied up ASAP. If you know of someone looking for a legacy project and family naming rights, please have them see me!!!

Until our next show.....

Lt. Col. Bill Simon, U.S. Army (retired)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11– Cruise on Central

April 16– Desert Warriors quarterly meeting at Staybridge Inn
6:30 PM until 8:30 PM

May 16– Vietnam Veterans car show at Westgate

June 4– Az Freedom Celebration in Mesa

Contact Jim Monroe

On November 15, 2014, members Albert and Lynn Turner and Mark Daily represented Desert Warriors at a Vietnam Veterans tribute held at Arrowhead Harley Davidson in Peoria



THE BUSHMASTER



Your editor caught on spy cam stuffing his pie hole



Sandy Simon checks on PFC "Bones"



Naval Sea Cadets with the Colors



Dr. Baron Smith points out the features of the M-60

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Westgate Car Show



SRP Veterans Appreciation Event



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East Valley Veterans Day Parade



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**Phoenix Veterans
Day Parade**



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Tale Of Two Cities Parade February 21, 2015



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In Memoriam

Perry Sartain



"God speed Perry and may you have calm seas"



The Bushmaster is the quarterly newsletter of **Desert Warriors, LLC.**

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