

## WEST COAST THUNDER XX

We would like to introduce West Coast Thunder to you and ask that you join us in bringing this annual Memorial Day tribute parade and concert to the City of Lake Elsinore on Monday, May 27, 2019. This will be our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and we want to make it special with all of your help.



We do not know how much you know about West Coast Thunder's history, but we are the largest single day motorcycle event west of the Mississippi River. The West Coast Thunder motorcycle parade is in honor of Memorial Day with over 5,000 motorcycles and twice as many participants. As a host sponsor of this event you would be involved in our planning immediately and along the way to making this event history.

In the last nineteen years, West Coast Thunder is proud to announce that we have given our benefactor, the Riverside National Cemetery over one million dollars. WCT funds provide so many things for the Cemetery, Veterans and their families, including the construction of the National POW/MIA Memorial which was dedicated in 2005, repairs to the National Medal of Honor Memorial, and financial support to the RNC Memorial Honor Detail and funding of the Concert of Heroes each July at the Cemetery. In recent years WCT funds were used to replace the fountains at the cemetery which not only add aesthetic value to these beautiful grounds but these fountains actually are the filtering systems for the lakes. Most recently, WCT funds were helpful in the cost of five golf carts to be used to transport visitors to the magnificent memorials and to their loved ones personal gravesites.

WCT's annual financial gifts also continue to help fund the Cemetery's everyday projects including the purchasing of flower cones and the honor of placing flowers and an American flag on the final resting place for indigent and unaccompanied, homeless Veterans buried each month at our Riverside National Cemetery. And did you know the reason for these on-going needs is that the Riverside National Cemetery is the third largest National Cemetery in the United States, is the busiest by far, averaging 37 burials per day? Your support is greatly appreciated throughout the year.

In the wee hours of Memorial Day Monday, which will be May 27<sup>th</sup> of next year, motorcycles will begin staging at the Riverside Harley-Davidson. These thousands of motorcycles will be staged on Indiana Avenue for over a mile long, in lines from 6 to 8 bikes across. (See picture above which is the bikes departing from the staging area). At precisely 9:11 a.m. in honor of the tragedies of 2011 the parade departs and is fully escorted by the CHP, City Police and Sheriff departments to the tribute concert venue. We hope that venue for West Coast Thunder's 20th year, will be the Lake Elsinore Storm Stadium.

Before we can make a final decision on the concert venue, we must be able to agree upon a route for our parade that is actually over an hour long. To better determine this, if you are familiar with where the Riverside Harley-Davidson is located, we will depart the parade when the first bikes reach the main gate of the Riverside National Cemetery the last of the bikes will still be leaving the dealership.

We will soon be announcing the live entertainment sponsored by KFRG Radio. There will also be vendors and plenty of food and beverages served at the concert. Along with our generous sponsors, thousands of parade participants, and well over 800 volunteers has made this event a household name in the Riverside communities. This huge, annual Memorial Day motorcycle parade honoring our veterans each year is covered by the local newspaper and National television stations.

Just to provide a quick history of West Coast Thunder and our mission, West Coast Thunder came into existence due to the inspiration of a documentary about a World War I, entitled, "*Letters from the Trenches*", that was viewed by Pat Delahunty, an Inland Empire Harley Owners Group Chapter Member. Pat contacted fellow chapter members, Steve Cifelli, Steve Aragon, George Helton, DJ Quinn, Rich Greenberg and Lucky and Theresa Delaney and along with the support of dealer principal, Jay Dabney, planned the first ride from Skip Fordyce Harley-Davidson, which has since become Riverside Harley-Davidson, to the Riverside National Cemetery and patterned it to the annual *Rolling Thunder* event held in Washington D.C. since 1988. WCT is truly a Riverside grass roots charity benefit.

These visionaries collectively had the forethought to make this an annual Memorial Day motorcycle tribute ride on the West Coast which has been recognized in Washington DC by senator and community leaders. What began as less than a fifty bikes has grown to thousands in just 19 short years. What's even more exciting is the community participation that grows larger each year. Families and friends gathering on the parade route streets waiting patiently to cheer, salute the veterans and wave their service flags as the motorcade past complete with Riverside Motorcycle Police, Sheriffs and CHP Escorts

We hope to make this amazing event part of the City of Lake Elsinore in 2019.

For more information, please go to [www.westcoastthunder.com](http://www.westcoastthunder.com) and take a moment to check out this video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/qsmkgx6w8bansv6/WCT-2018-Extended-Cut.mp4?dl=0>

Sincere regards,



***Mitch Lavine, President***

***Sharon Shannon Bridges, Executive Director***

**West Coast Thunder®**

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**[www.westcoastthunder.com](http://www.westcoastthunder.com)**

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