Raider Foundation Spring / Summer 2019 Wrap Up

Day with Marine Raider Foundation - Community Rallies to Create Awesome Event!



Z's House of Thai in Cave Creek, Arizona was the perfect venue for A Day with Marine Raider Foundation on April 7th. Josh Aylesworth and restaurant owner Sirikorn Rungboonkong, lovingly known as "Z," were gracious hosts, offering delectable Thai cuisine, live music from the incredibly talented Mark DeMaio, and some amazing auction items thanks to the generous and patriotic folks who call Cave Creek and the surrounding area home! Josh has been a longtime supporter of Raiders and their families, helping to raise funds and awareness since the Foundation stood up back in 2012. Josh, you and Z are amazing and we are honored to call you friends!



From Josh:

"So today was amazing, it beat all expectations by miles. Sirikorn "Z" and I are so proud of how the day came together with so much time and help offered by others. The results - around \$40,000 raised by our amazing community for M2A and The Marine Raider Foundation. Those dollars will go to great use and will have great impact. Thank you to our donors, our bidders and our helpers throughout the day and the week!!! From David and Lori with baskets and inputting items...Denise staying with us late last night to help!!! And then an army of help this morning! Some not on Facebook but appreciated all the same!!! Extra special thanks to my sister Bekah who helped at Z's last night, late into the night and all day today...rock star!!!

And huge thanks again to Mark DeMaio for keeping the event rocking and the bids flowing, with an amazing kickoff from Estee singing the National Anthem!!! Wow, just wow!!!"





From May 1st to May 4th, 22 cyclists and their support team embarked on a 430plus mile journey from Cave Creek, Arizona to San Diego, California, pedaling for a purpose as they raised funds for Mission2Alpha, a nonprofit that supports the military and first responder communities. The ride mirrored the Ride for Semper Fi, a charity bike ride that John Greenway started back in 2008 after watching his nephew graduate from boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California.

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The team kicked off their travels with a send- off at Brix Wines, the host of numerous charity events thanks to owners Bryan and Nancy Franks. The dog tags of WWII Raider Jack Christensen were carried by one of the cyclists, and Jack's wife Gloria was there for the start and end of this epic adventure honoring our country's heroes in uniform. The team endured triple digit temperatures, major gains in elevation, and worked together as they traveled through the desert and mountains, stopping in Blythe, Brawley, and Ramona before making an epic finish at the USS Midway in San Diego. Team work and the Raider "Gung Ho!" spirit led to a safe and successful trek, with the team raising over \$180,000 in their efforts. The Marine Raider Foundation was honored to work with this "exceptionally uncommon" group of current and former military service members, first responders, and civilians who make miracles as they log miles!

From Mission 2 Alpha Founder John Greenway:

"We had an amazing ride this year as we once again rolled across the desert and into the mountains of California. We took 30 riders of all levels and ages on one of the most epic rides we have ever done. The weather was perfect, the route epic, and the support staff was incredible. Our destination this year was the USS Midway. The Midway folks really rolled out the red carpet for us and the experience of having closing ceremonies on the deck of a historic aircraft carrier was humbling and incredibly exciting."

John Greenway once again pulled together an all-star team of selfless Americans with miraculous results! Thank you, John, for your support of the Foundation since day one, and for continuing to encourage and compel others to join you in making a difference in the lives of others when help is needed! To the Mission2Alpha California Challenge Team, we applaud you on a job well done and thank you for believing in a cause bigger than yourselves!

3rd Annual Rucking for Raiders Event

On May 7th, a dedicated and amazing group of Ruckers began a 209-mile journey on foot from Auburn, Alabama to the Blackhawk 11 Memorial in Navarre, Florida, honoring MARSOC's 44 fallen heroes with each step they took. This was the third year of the ruck, initiated by Daniel Campbell back in 2016. Daniel explains the "why" of this event in his own words. "As I drove home one day in October 2016, I thought of these men. I thought of their families. I realized just how fortunate I was to be heading home to spend time with my wife and five children. See, I returned from Afghanistan with the men of the 8231 Blackhawk crash just months before that tragic day. That could have been me. That could have been any one of



our fellow Marines. I would hope that if it were me, someone would be there for my family. This is why we will ruck. This is why we will endure over 209 miles of pain. We will humanize that tragic loss of true patriots and we will support the families left behind! I feel like it is the absolute least that we can do. They have all sacrificed so much for us."

After the ruck, Daniel stated on the Rucking for Raiders Facebook page:

"We did it! Our goal for 2019 was \$14,000 and we crushed it. As of tonight, Rucking for Raiders was able to raise \$21,811.29 for the Marine Raider Foundation! Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this year such a success. We have grown so much in 3 years and I am really looking forward to seeing what Brandon, Miko, and the Ruckers are able to do next year! As always, we understand that no amount of money could ever repay those who have lost so much, but we do hope that our efforts to

keep the legacies of their loved ones alive provides some sense of comfort. Never Above You, Never Below You, Always Beside You!"

Daniel, thank you for embracing your desire to honor MARSOC's heroes and building an event that continues to make a lasting impact in the lives of MARSOC's Gold Star Families! To the entire Rucking for Raiders crew, we are grateful for your devotion to the families of MARSOC's fallen heroes and for keeping the memories of MARSOC's fallen alive.

2nd Annual NYC Salute to Raiders





 $2nd\ Annual\ Raider\ Invasion\ Golf\ Tournament$





5th Annual Gold Star Family Resiliency and Remembrance Event





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Upcoming Raider Foundation Events



September 14, 2019

6th Annual Seaside Semper Five 5K & 1 Mile Run, Seaside Heights, NJ A great family event on the Jersey Shore! Register today at www.seasidesemperfive.org

October 5, 2019

Valley of the Sun Gala with Marine Raider Foundation, Chateau Luxe, Scottsdale, AZ Cocktails, dinner, Special Guest Kirstie Ennis (2019 Pat Tillman Award Winner), musical entertainment by Phoenix fave Sapphire Sky, live and silent auction! Please email schristian@marineraiderfoundation.org for event info, including sponsorship levels, auction donations and table sales!

October 11, 2019

RQ-DPR Construction Marine Raider Foundation West Coast Golf Tournament at The Crossings, Carlsbad, CA Hit the links in support of the Raider community!

October 23, 2019

Philadelphia Marine Raider Foundation Benefit, Union League of Philadelphia, PA

October 27, 2019

Marine Corps Marathon, Ultra & 10K Charity Partner Team, Washington, DC #Run4Raiders with the Marine Raider Foundation in the 2019 Marine Corps Marathon. We still have Marine Corps Marathon and 10K slots available! Join our team and earn a custom race t-shirt, be in the "running" for fundraising incentives, attend our team celebration dinner the night before the race, and know you are making a difference in the Raider community with each and every mile you train and race! Please visit https://www.firstgiving.com/event/marsoc/2019-MCM-10K-Ultra-Charity-Partner-Team Race slots are limited and available on a first-come/first-serve basis!

November 2, 2019

Tideland 24 Ultra, Cedar Point, NC

Lace up those trail shoes and embark on a 24-hour journey through the Croatan Forest as you attempt to reach that 100-mile distance and earn the Tideland 24 100-Mile Belt Buckle! Please visit www.tideland24.com to learn more!

November 2, 2019

Manheim Swing for Heroes Golf Tournament, Westin Kierland Golf Club, Scottsdale, AZ

November, 2019

Mimosa Bay Turkey Trot, Mimosa Bay Community, Sneads Ferry, NC