



# Defenders LE/MC

## Diamond Lakes Chapter

### Hot Springs, AR

**August 19, 2022**

[Hot Springs Village POA](#)

895 Desoto Blvd  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909  
(501) 922-5556

**Dear Charlie Brown,**

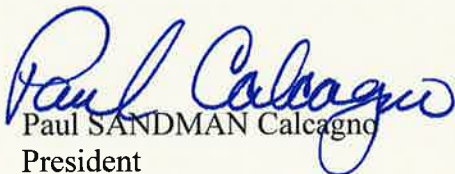
**On behalf of the members of the Diamond Lakes Chapter and the entire Defenders Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, our most sincere thanks allowing our club to conduct the annual President's Ride through the scenic Hot Springs Village. When the President's Ride was in the early stages of planning, you graciously received our request to be allowed to conduct a motorcycle "ride" through Hot Springs Village. The concept then transitioned into what would be called a "parade", and was subsequently approved by the membership of the HSV POA.**

**What was not expected was the level of support and adoration from the HSV POA and the residents of Hot Springs Village. Understand, that only the Rally Board and National Executive Board members were aware of the ride route and that the portion going through the Hot Springs Village was approved by the POA as a "parade". That said, the only thing the membership was expecting, was a ride from Hot Springs to Little Rock. As the first motorcycle approached the West Gate, we were immediately received by a HSV Police unit to provide an escort as expected, but then the last motorcycle was followed by a HSV Fire Truck. As soon as we approached the first intersection,**

everyone became aware that this was not going to be an ordinary ride through the countryside. Small pockets of residents were standing along the roadside waving and cheering us as we rode by.

Then, as the first "big" intersection came into view, the reality check hit us hard. We were being greeted by hundreds of patriotic residents, gathered in mass, some waving American flags, others using just their hands. People of all ages were proudly holding Thin Blue Line American Flags while others were waving Armed Forces flags, representing the branch of military in which they served. Intersection after intersection, the crowds seemed to get larger and the cheering could be heard over the sound of the rumbling motorcycles. Every member of this organization was deeply moved, many to tears, as we rode through the seemingly endless crowds that were present, just to honor and salute us. This same scenario played out for the next 13 miles as intersections were blocked off using fire trucks, police units and other First Responder vehicles, all with their emergency lights activated, and allowing us safe passage along De Soto Blvd.

Following the ride, and during the remainder of the rally, many members could be overheard talking about what they had just experienced. It was a proud moment in all our lives as we were being paid tribute to. Words cannot explain the true emotions that were felt that day. And to memorialize the event, the entire Defenders MC was videoed and posted on the Hot Springs Village Facebook site. We greatly appreciate you and the Hot Springs Village POA for supporting our club, our veterans, active duty service members, first responders and the countless men and women who serve in law enforcement. The 2022 Defenders President's Ride is one that will be remembered forever!



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***\*Brotherhood of One\****