

WOUNDED WARRIORS SUPER SNAKE



High Five Tour brings "Super Snake" Mustang to Berge Ford, raises funds for Wounded Warriors Family Support

By Jennifer Johnson
Photos by Penny McDivitt / Berge Ford

Arguably, there's nothing more American than Mustangs and the military. The two came together on October 22, when the Wounded Warriors Family Support Mustang stopped in Mesa as part of the High Five Tour 2013, in partnership with Berge Ford, the Copperstate Mustang Club, Rural/Metro and Sport Clips Haircuts. Approximately \$3,000 was raised for Wounded Warriors Family Support, a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for members of the military who were wounded serving our country.

Wounded Warriors Family Support invited event attendees to show their support for military families by signing a red, white and blue, 850-horsepower 2013 Mustang GT500 "Super Snake" with a message of gratitude to our country's veterans and their families. During the five-month 2013 tour, the Wounded Warriors Family Support Mustang covered more than 21,000 miles, traveling to more than 60 cities and making stops in 48 states.

"Our High Five Tour rallied communities across the country to say 'thank you' and show their appreciation to our country's military families for their sacrifices," said Col. John Folsom, founder and president of Wounded Warriors Family Support. "It's very powerful to see the show of support from across the nation for our country's military families and to see the direct impact the tour will have on the lives of two deserving wounded warriors and their families."

The High Five Tour 2013's mission was to raise funds to build two "smart homes" for two wounded warriors and their families—SFC John Masson of

Fayetteville, NC, and Sgt. Rusty Dunagan of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Wounded Warriors Family Support partnered with the Gary Sinise Foundation to build the smart homes, and 100 percent of all donations to the High Five Tour are directly funding the construction of the homes. The specially designed homes are custom-built to provide severely wounded veterans quality of life and independence that otherwise would not be possible.

"We were honored to support this event and raise money for a deserving cause," said David Jacobelli, a member of the Copperstate Mustang Club who helped organize the event. "Every donation makes a difference, and we hope the Arizona tour stops raised awareness for this important cause."

At the Berge Ford event, Sport Clips hair stylists were on hand to offer free haircuts to anyone who made a donation to Wounded Warriors Family Support, and



they also gave free haircuts to veterans and current members of the military.

In celebration of the Mustang's 50th anniversary in 2014, Berge Ford and Ford Motor Company offered a limited supply of 50th anniversary Mustang duffle bags and sport bottles for donations. Berge Ford also made a financial donation.

Rural/Metro, which gave \$2,500 to the nonprofit, escorted the Wounded Warriors Family Support Mustang to the event with two of its popular wrapped ambulances, the Stars and Stripes Unit (wrapped in a giant American flag) and the Support Our Troops Unit (wrapped in camouflage with a flag, fighter jet and yellow ribbon on it).

For more information about Wounded Warriors Family Support and its High Five Tour, visit www.wwfs.org or www.HighFiveTour.com. ■

