



Blue Pants Racing recently had the honor and privilege of completing the Arizona section of Run for the Fallen. This is a summer-long, 4,000+ mile relay in honor of the service members who have given their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It began on June 14th, at Ft. Irwin California and will culminate on August 24th in Arlington National Cemetery. The run is apolitical, seeking to honor the memory of fallen soldiers and raise money to support wounded veterans and their families.

The Blue Pants team of six runners joined Run for the Fallen on June 23rd, 2008 near the Arizona/California border and embarked on a seven-day journey through the state, reaching the Utah/ Arizona border amid the grandeur of Monument Valley. Each mile was run in the memory of a specific soldier and marked with a flag and memorial card denoting each soldiers name, age, rank, military branch, and date of death.

The relay was grueling both physically and emotionally as the runners encountered the challenges of logistics, hills, elevation, heat, and traffic. However, like every run, the rewards of tackling the terrain and the elements amidst the scenery of Prescott, Jerome, Sedona, and Flagstaff far surpassed any challenges. More importantly, each step was taken not in pursuit of a P.R. or award, but was run in honor of the men and women who sacrificed everything.

We are proud that we were able to run a mile for the nephew of one of our team members as well.

Special thanks to the national organizers of Run for the Fallen for this incredible running and service opportunity.

Additional thanks to Mark and Dede Bowman, Beau and Gayle Bowman, Nana and Popop Davis, Natalie Wasmundt, Sharon Finefrock, Camilla Morrison, Keylugh Maxwell, Bob Crowell, Bill Wilder, Bob Pohlman, Sandy UMBER, Sharon Menendez, Jeanne Woodward, Lorrie Luellig, Robert's step-aunt, Jeff's friends from Sedona, Wenden Elementary School, Nimbus Brewery, Davis-Monthan AFB Company Grade Officers' Council, KVOA News at 4, Fry's, Albertson's, WalMart, Summit Hut, Barking Frog, Wickenburg Inn and the following team members: Marty Wiger, Jack Shafer, Robert Rodriguez, Krista Germeroth, Jeff Stevens, Michael Senigo (running for us in Iraq), Lauren Bowman, Tammy McClain, Dan Sanchez, Andrea Hanover, Amanda Amoros and Laszlo Otvos.

Without their support, kindness and generosity, the relay would not have been possible. Most importantly, many thanks to the families of fallen service members for persevering and living with strength and dignity.