



2019 Insignia Management

It's needless to say out that when a club has existed 55 years, a few backpatches go missing from time to time. Sometimes it's a member dying and being buried in their colours or perhaps a member resigning and not returning their colours for whatever reason. Once in a while, we hear of someone showing up in a city and behaving badly whilst wearing "Empire City MC" colours – let it be known that the persons photographed below are the only persons authorised to wear ECMC patches and/or cheesegraters (our studded leather jacket cover). Of course, this does not include *promotional items* such as friendship pins, t-shirts, hats and so on – just our official insignia, as shown below.

Below are examples of our official colours (patches and our cheesegrater). Only full members in good standing are allowed to wear back patches, the small ECMC front patch, AMCC patch and/or cheesegraters. Associate members are allowed to wear only our small ECMC front patch. AMCC patches may only be worn by full members of [AMCC sanctioned clubs](#).



So, what do you do if you see someone wearing our colours whom you feel shouldn't be? Please take a picture of the person wearing our colours (but do not put yourself in jeopardy) and e-mail it to ecmc@EmpireCityMC.com with your name and contact information, as well as any information you have about your encounter with the impostor and we'll take it from there. Do not put yourself at risk by attempting to confiscate their colours yourself!

Dwindling Membership

You might recall the "2018 Insignia Management" article from last year had fourteen full members of ECMC, and in just twelve months, we're down to eight full members. This is just as alarming for you as it is for us, and I fear that if this continues, we might end up vanishing into history the same way the Rochester Rams did just a few months ago.

No one said being a member of an M.C. was easy – there is a lot of work to do to make all the fun things happen.

So, before the riding season is over, if you're on the fence about joining Empire City MC, speak with a member today! It's a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun and we need fresh blood and new leadership quickly. Check out our webpage about becoming a member of Empire City MC, which includes links to our membership application, bylaws and our promotional brochure. You can find the webpage at <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> – come to one of our open meetings and check us out!

2019 Members of Empire City MC



2019 Associate Members



How AIDS Killed “America’s Favourite Dad,” Actor Robert Reed

Written by Kevin Phinney

Actor Robert Reed shocked the nation when he died suddenly on 12th May 1992 from AIDS-related colon cancer. He lived his entire life in the closet, although those closest to him knew he was gay.

But his death told America something important. If AIDS could take America’s favourite Dad from *The Brady Bunch*, the disease was everywhere — and could take anyone.

It was an ignominious end for a man who, despite five seasons of cheesy scripts, was an accomplished Shakespearean actor who received numerous accolades after the sitcom was cancelled in 1974. His work on such miniseries as *Rich Man, Poor Man* and *Roots* — in which he played a slave owner — both received Emmy nods.

Here’s the Story...



Born in the Highland Park suburb of Chicago as Robert Rietz Jr., Reed grew up in Navasota, Texas and Shawnee, Oklahoma, before the family moving to Muskogee, Oklahoma. Reed took an early interest in acting and music and began performing in high school plays. His rich baritone also got him early work as a radio announcer at local radio stations where he wrote and produced radio dramas. In 1950, he started undergrad work at one of the country’s most prestigious drama schools, Northwestern University. He quickly found himself in leading man’s roles.

All that attention was not lost on the women around him, and Reed dated several. He married fellow student Marilyn Rosenberger in 1954, and they had a daughter named Karen. The marriage ended in divorce in 1959.

The actor studied abroad at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London for a single term. He then returned to the states, where he joined the off-Broadway theatre group “The Shakespearewrights.” As a part of that troupe, he played the leads in *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. By the late ’50s, he had relocated to L.A. and on the advice of industry professionals, changed his name to Robert Reed.

By the early ’60s, his career was in high gear — a fact which fuelled his determination to remain closeted. He appeared for four seasons playing E.G. Marshall’s attorney son in a series called *The Defenders*, and still managed to collect rave reviews when he replaced Robert Redford in the Broadway production of Neil Simon’s *Barefoot in the Park*.

A Man Named Brady

Under contract to Paramount, Reed reluctantly agreed to film the pilot for a merged family called *The Brady Bunch*. He considered it too fluffy to ever make the air. He was wrong. The sitcom was nearly universally reviled by critics and never landed anywhere near the top of the ratings. But it also came to symbolize a collective fantasy of life as simple and straightforward as the series.

In fact, *The Brady Bunch* was counter-programming against the harsh realities of American life. The series aired from 1969-1974, an era marked by urban unrest, the Vietnam War and Watergate. For millions of viewers, Mike Brady and his wife Carol became their wish-fulfilment parents.



Because Reed was a serious actor and a perfectionist, he had constant rows with the show’s writers and producers. But his affection for the cast was genuine. During the show’s heyday, he took them all on a trip to New York and London at his own expense. He also bought them each movie cameras to record what they experienced. And although he truly loathed the scripts, he said yes to every reunion special or series because he knew that the other performers would suffer financially if he declined to participate.

When Reed came to accept that he was dying, he called *Brady Bunch* co-star Florence Henderson (Carol Brady) and asked her to “tell the kids.” She agreed, and said making those phone calls was “the hardest thing I ever had to do.” He was 59.

This article first appeared in Metrosource – July 2019



Become a member of Empire City MC

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Fri 16th – Mon 19th August: RIDE: Montréal Gay Pride Weekend! ECMC has been going to this event for the past four years and we always have some fun! Montréal is hopping during their gay pride and if you don't have any fun, you didn't try! Contact ChazAntonelli@gmail.com for more details and to register.

Wed 4th September, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

Sun 15th September, 9:00 – 17:00: RIDE: Hogs 4 Hope Run. This is the rain date from April! This is a straight motorcycle run which is a fund-raiser for Ronald McDonald house. At the end of the ride, there is a huge pig roast and live music at JFK Marina.

Sun 19th – 22nd September: RIDE: Cycle for the Cause. Looking to go riding and have your hotel, fuel and meals paid for whilst doing a good deed? Cycle for the Cause (The Northeast AIDS Ride) is a BICYCLE trip from Framingham, MA to New York City. Along the way, the bicyclists need folks on MOTORCYCLES to "leap-frog" ahead of them to act as traffic guards at dangerous intersections. As a crew member, everything is provided from fuel to food to your hotel room! Want to come along? Find out more at <https://cycleforthecause.org/>

Sun 28th September: RIDE: Bike Hospital for Special Surgery Benefit. A moto crew is needed for a one-day bicycle ride to perform safety crossings and sweeps. If you're interested, register at <https://bikehss.org/> as a volunteer and mention Empire City MC.

Sun 29th September: RIDE: The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. This is a huge ride – tens of thousands of distinguished gentlefolk in hundreds of cities worldwide will don their cravats, tweak their moustaches, press their tweed and sit astride their classic and vintage styled motorcycles to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and men's mental health.

Wed 2nd October, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

Sun 5th October: RIDE: Long Island Chicken Run and classic bikes! We depart Manhattan for lunch on Long Island at Zorn's of Bethpage, then it's up to Oyster Bay to visit Billy Joel's Motorcycle Garage (20th Century Cycle). Meet in front of NYC Bagel at 714 2nd Ave, kickstands up at 11am prompt! Bring your E-Z Pass and leave your radioactive materials at home as we will go through the Midtown Tunnel to get to Long Island.

Sat 12th October, 18:00-23:00: EVENT: Empire City MC's 55th Anniversary Dinner at Elmo, 156 7th Ave, New York, NY 10011. More information will be coming for this event shortly, but we have the entire restaurant to ourselves, so this should be fun!

Wed 6th November, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

Fri 8th – 10th November: EVENT: Harbour Masters of Maine - 37th Sailaway in Portland, Maine.

Wed 4th December, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

Sat 7th December, 18:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's 56th Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive at Stonewall Inn

Tue 31st December, 18:00 – 02:00: Happy New Year: 2020!

Wed 8th January 2020, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting.

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Bookmark our official calendar at calendar.EmpireCityMC.com and come along with us on some great rides!

Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.** Empire City MC is a member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council. For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com> Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org