

AMERICAN SHOOTING JOURNAL

LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Arizona 'Rock Star' Sheriff Mark Lamb

SALUTE TO VETS

Medal Of Honor Stories
The Histories Of Veterans Day, 'Taps'

RULE THE RUT!

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GRADING MATCH BULLETS

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INSIDE



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SEAL 1:
Keeping You In The Fight



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"Rock star" Sheriff Mark Lamb is a hero of the modern West. Paul Pawela profiles the top lawman of Pinal County, Arizona, and joins him on a desert ride-along in search of smugglers.



(MARK LAMB)

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LEADING FROM THE FRONT

‘Rock star’ Arizona Sheriff Mark Lamb is a modern Western hero.

STORY BY PAUL PAWELA

It cannot be said enough: If ever this great country of ours needed heroes, it is now. Too many people idolize movie stars, athletes and singers, but do you want to know who the real stars of America are?

You, the badass Americans, that is who! You are God-fearing, family-loving, constitutional believers with a live-free-or-die attitude and an unequivocal *molon labe* stance on your guns. This is what gets our juices flowing; this is our tribe!

And the cream of the crop amongst the populace is our military and law enforcement personnel who protect this great country, as well as its Constitution. One of America’s brightest rock stars is Sheriff Mark Lamb of Pinal County, Arizona.



Mark Lamb is the elected sheriff of Pinal County, Arizona, a rugged swath of countryside that sits between the state’s largest cities, Phoenix and Tucson. (SAM SALZWEDEL)



SHERIFF MARK LAMB is the real-life embodiment of Gary Cooper's marshal character in the movie *High Noon*, the story of one brave man who must stand alone against several outlaws and do battle with them. Meanwhile, he is protecting a town whose people cowardly turn their backs on him when he asks for their help. Sounds exactly like what law enforcement officers are faced with each and every day in this country.

Sheriff Lamb is one of those true-grit men who lead from the front, embodying the true lifestyle of the Old West sheriffs of days gone by. His uniform consists of jeans, boots, and nothing says "good guy" more than an American cowboy hat! Just thinking about that – a sheriff who has Old West standards and values – should get the blood pumping in every American reading this magazine.

Lamb started his career for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, located 15 miles northeast of Phoenix. This was far from a daily desk job; quite the opposite. It is a tough and rough job that requires an equally tough and rough person for the job. For six years, Lamb volunteered for every dirty job that came along, while smiling all the way through the dangers and hardships.



Sheriff Lamb and his second in command, Chief Deputy Matthew Thomas. According to Pinal County, they lead a department of 650 that provides an array of services for almost half a million people in this Connecticut-sized jurisdiction. (MARK LAMB)



Lamb on the set of *Live PD: Wanted*, A&E Studios. (MARK LAMB)

In 2012, Lamb joined the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. Then in 2017, with an afflatus inspiration and full support and blessings from his family, he ran for sheriff and won, becoming the 24th sheriff of Pinal County.

American Shooting Journal readers may have also caught Lamb on episodes of the action-packed TV series *Live PD* in recent years.

IN THE WEST, people, especially cowboys like Sheriff Lamb, live by a code. In my opinion, all Americans should adopt it.

- Live each day with courage.
- Take pride in your work.
- Always finish what you start.
- Do what has to be done.
- Be tough, but fair.

- If you make a promise, keep it.
 - Ride for the brand.
 - Talk less and say more.
 - Remember that some things aren't for sale.
 - Know where to draw the line.
- Ask Lamb's staff how they feel about

him, and they will tell you the man lives and probably will die by this code.

As mentioned before, Lamb leads from the front; he is not one to always sit behind a desk and be bogged down by the politics of the job. No, he can be found making routine traffic stops,

showing up at crime scenes backing his deputies, and doing regular patrols throughout the week.

In setting a high bar for himself and his department, Lamb has seen his department's morale jump and the overall work environment improve tremendously.

In addition to his work, Lamb is grounded in his faith and in his love for his family. Lamb has been married to his beautiful wife Janel for over 24 years, and the couple has five children together. This love also extends to the community that he serves.

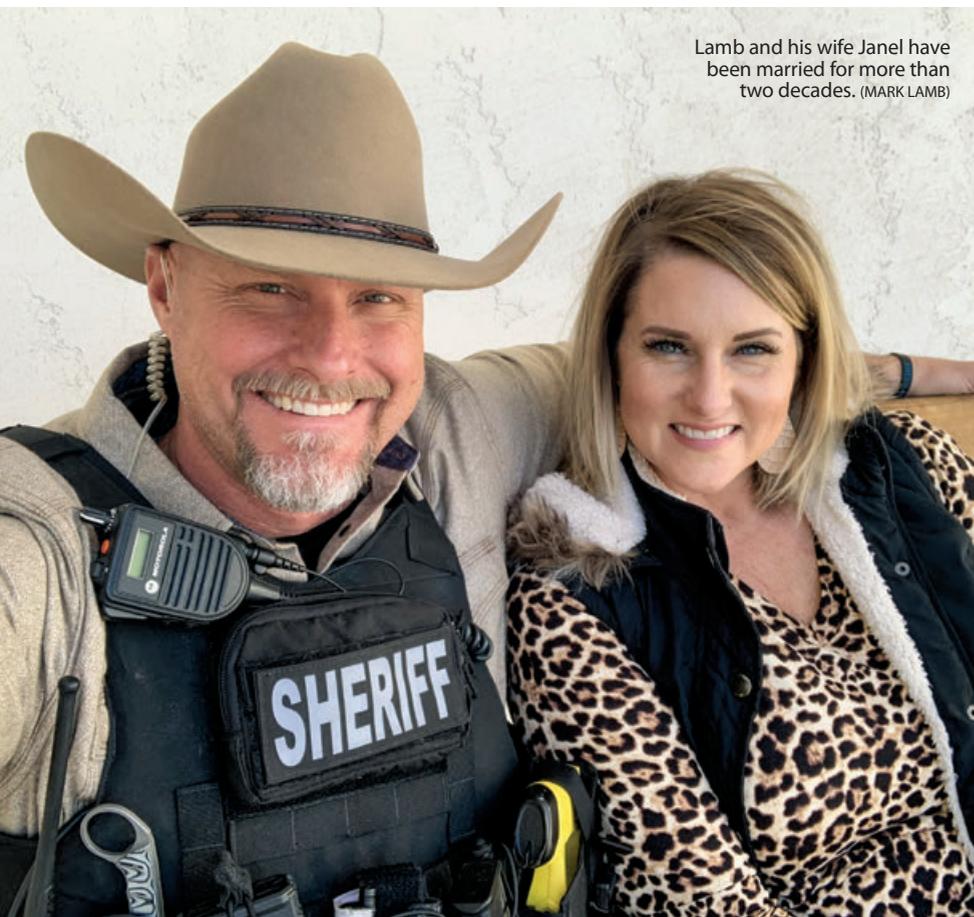
Due to his involvement in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Lamb is not quick to judge or condemn people who he says made bad judgment decisions when faced with critical and emotional struggling times. Lamb does not feel misdemeanor crimes should follow human beings for the rest of their lives. He gives his deputies the discretion power to arrest or not, especially when counseling an individual would be far more productive and helpful.

WITH HEINOUS CRIMINAL

felonies, such as illegal drug smuggling and human trafficking, Lamb has been one of the leaders in the country on that front. In November 2019, he called for increased security along the United States/Mexico border to combat drug cartels from harming our country's national parks. As this article goes to print, the PCSO just busted a drug smuggler during a recent traffic stop. The officers found methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyl, taking \$1.8 million worth of drugs off the American streets.

As Lamb states, "These drugs represent a clear and continuing battle against the cartels and against drug addiction; without a doubt, lives were saved by stopping these drugs from being scattered across our communities."

It may be hard to imagine that this epidemic is happening 70 miles from Mexico within the borders of the United States, but this reporter experienced it firsthand on a well-



Lamb and his wife Janel have been married for more than two decades. (MARK LAMB)



The Lamb family. (MARK LAMB)



Lamb and author Paul Pawela during a ride-along in western Pinal County's Vekol Valley. (BRIAN KOVACS)



Lamb holds a bale of marijuana seized by law enforcement. (BRIAN KOVACS)



The sheriff shows evidence of smuggling. "All throughout the desert, we found a plethora of backpacks, water bottles and medicine," Pawela writes. (BRIAN KOVACS)

armed ride-along with the sheriff in the Sicario badlands. All throughout the desert, we found a plethora of backpacks, water bottles and medicine. Oftentimes cartels have their "mules" transport drugs, food and supplies in these backpacks.

It was truly a heartbreaking sight

that most of America is oblivious to. As author Henry Miller succinctly put it, "Everything we shut our eyes to, everything we run away from, everything we deny, denigrate or despise, serves to defeat us in the end."

Does Sheriff Lamb wear a cape? The answer is no, but you can take to the

bank his core values: courage, honor and self-reliance. There is no question he is a modern American sheriff, rock star and hero, and America needs more men like him. ★

Editor's note: Be on the lookout for Lamb's new book, America's Sheriff.