

NEW MEXICO

Bataan Memorial Death March

Sunday, March 17, 2013 • White Sands, NM

Marathon/Ultra number:	178
State (first in state):	15 (yes)
Finish Time:	3:56:18
Overall Place:	34 of 2693
Gender Place:	30 of 1862
Age Group Place:	29th
Age on race day:	32



This is a special event. It's a run that commemorates the soldiers we suffered and died in the Bataan Death March in the Philippines during World War II. Most of the soldiers who suffered were from nearby Las Cruces, NM.

The event is held at the White Sands military base. I took the time to learn about the death march and even met a few of the living survivors. I also stopped by the White Sands National Monument. The fields of pure white sand was amazing!

I stayed in nearby Las Cruces and drove to the base on race morning. Hundreds if not thousands of runners are doing the marathon in 30 pound packs, many are in the military. Doing this as a tribute to the original death march.

The course is very challenging. It's at high altitude, has a lot of climbing and the last few miles are run in loose sand. I figured this was going to be a slow run.

I started out and I got into a good pace and despite the heat, hills and trail surface, I managed to keep the pace under 9:00/mile. Finishing in 3:56:18.

It was a special experience. I'd highly recommend it.

