

ROLLING THUNDER® TIMES

May 2020

National

Volume 25 Issue 5



Rolling Thunder® Charities, Inc.
Thanks to the following Sponsor
For their Donation

Harley Davidson Corporation

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. XXXIII
"Ride for Freedom"
Nation-Wide Demonstration
Sunday, May 25, 2020

Upcoming New Jersey Events

All Events For May & June & July Cancelled

Check our website for updates!!

Membership Dues

Have you paid your 2020 Membership?

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. 23rd Annual Conference

November 5-7, 2020

Hyatt Regency Crystal City VA

703-418-1234

Rate \$113.00/Parking \$14.00 Per Night

As for the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Rate

**The cut-off date to make reservations is
October 14, 2020**

RT National Laying a Wreath at The NJ Vietnam Memorial, Holmdel, NJ Saturday, May 24, 2020



**When one American is not
worth the effort to be
found, we as Americans
have lost.**

In Memory - Page 4

Chapter Events – Page 5

Biographies POW/MIA – Page 6

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Pages 7-9

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

Mission Statement

The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize the POW/MIA issue: To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars, and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War –Missing In Action. We are also committed to helping American veterans from all wars.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a non –profit organization and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW-MIA issue. All meetings must be orderly and every member must be heard. Everyone is as important as the next. Everyone has different views and we must all work together in an orderly manner.

Every Chapter must have an agenda to run a meeting. Everyone must get their turn to talk about any issue that concerns Rolling Thunder®, Inc. and its members

The Constitution and By-Laws of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. will not be changed or altered by any Chapter and everyone must abide by this constitution.

Meetings are held on:

3rd Sunday of every month at **1:00PM**

Meeting Location: VFW 600 Washington St. Manville, NJ
(unless otherwise indicated in the events section)

ARTICLES IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OR OPINIONS OF ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.

To offer information to the newsletter it must be submitted by the 15th of the month to get in the next month's newsletter.

Newsletter Editor: National Office

P.O. Box 216, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853

Phone : 908-369-5439 Fax : 908-369-2072

Email : rtnj1@att.net

Website: www.rollingthunder1.com

Come Check us out on Facebook and Like Us!

Officers:		
Executive Director	Artie Muller	908-369-5439
President	Joe Bean	610-792-3626
Vice President	Edward Crabtree	908-930-1920
Secretary	Elaine Martin	908-442-4491
Treasurer	Nancy Bottrel	908-996-0081
Chairman of the Board	Ted Zabohonski	215-778-3606

Board of Directors:

Gus Dante	908-240-3201
Jay Horne	908-752-5309
Tom McAtee	908-797-4200
Dan Heulitt	732-740-1645
Andy Kerr	908-380-9116
Mike Wolff	732-278-5722

Alt. Board Members:	Nancy Regg	908-310-3268
Alt. Board Members:	Joe Kotch	732-688-2935

POW/MIA Chair of Honor Coordinator	Elaine Martin	908-442-4491
------------------------------------	---------------	--------------

National Veteran Rights Officer	Dan Heulitt	732-740-1645
Head of Security & Sergeant-at-Arms		

Quartermaster	Rob Stroka	908-797-2312
	Bob Piscopo	732-926-8331

Federal Legislative & Government Affairs

Gus Dante	908-240-3201
Mike Wolff	732-278-5722

Government Links	www.house.gov	www.senate.gov
------------------	--	--

Congress Operator	202-224-3121
-------------------	--------------

Membership Committee/Junior Membership/Roster:	
Mike Bottrel	Foxyzz28@aol.com 609-306-5248

Media & Public Relations	Nancy Regg	908-310-3268
nregg2@comcast.net		

Run Coordinator	Gerry Franke	609-577-8898
Jackdaniels729@msn.com		

Sunshine Committee	Kate Barna	
katebarna@gmail.com	Cell	570-242-7998

Packages for the Troops	Frank Fentzlaff-Cell	908-246-3567
fentz77@gmail.com	Home	610-381-4361

Chapter Reports/Relations	Elaine Muller	908-730-6711
---------------------------	---------------	--------------

Chapters Activity Report	Elaine Muller	908-730-6711
--------------------------	---------------	--------------

Education Committee	Gary Domanski	908-369-4785
---------------------	---------------	--------------

WWII/Korea War

Gulf War Affairs	Gus Dante	908-240-3201
------------------	-----------	--------------

Gold Star Mothers Committee	Mike Matelski	732-512-8786
-----------------------------	---------------	--------------

NJ Mission of Honor for Cremains of American Veterans	Al Gashler	908-783-9836
---	------------	--------------

VA Hospital Visits	Tom McAtee	908-797-4200
--------------------	------------	--------------

Color Guard	Jay Horne	908-752-5309
-------------	-----------	--------------

KIA Service & Remembrance	Deb Teall	908-917-3990
---------------------------	-----------	--------------

Junior Members Comm.	Pat Kerr	732-388-0864
----------------------	----------	--------------

Flame of Freedom		
www.rtfameoffreedom.com	John McKendree	662-607-0611

“When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost”

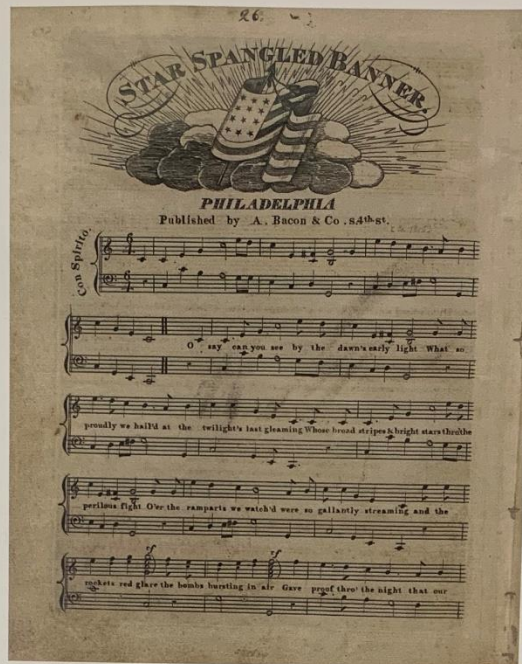
History of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

Jo Ann Maitland, 2nd Vice President, Americanism Chairman

The wheels of legislation in most cases move slowly. It should be no surprise that the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the official national anthem to the United States was no exception.

Our national anthem was born out the Naval battle that took place September 13, 1814 when the British unsuccessfully attempted a takeover of Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, MD. Francis Scott Key was witness to the battle when watching aboard a ship in the harbor where he penned a poem named "Defence of Fort M'Henry." This poem was put to music and named "The Star-Spangled Banner." Shrouded by controversy from the beginning because the melody was a popular British drinking song named "To Anacreon in Heaven."

The first proposed effort for the designation of "The Star-Spangled Banner" to national status was from the Daughters of the American Revolution at their convention in 1895 but the song was considered too political. Further support was brought forward in the early 1900's by Maryland native Ella V. Holloway. She was supported by Maryland Representative John C. Linthicum. He presented a petition signed by many citizens along with civic and hereditary societies from Maryland, only to be considered too provincial because the supporters were all based in Maryland. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson by executive order authorized, for the armed forces only, the



singing of the anthem. It was not a song for civilians.

Once WWI ended there was a great patriotic push which included the 1923 legislation outlining the U.S flag code. Originally the song was contained in this code but dropped because the song was not considered a vital matter of Congress.

Then, starting in 1928 Walter Joyce, the Americanism Chairman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars began an anthem drive recruiting bipartisan support of legislatures from New York. "America the Beautiful" was a popular option with the argument against "The Star-Spangled Banner" because it glorified militarism. According to Marc Ferris the author of *Star-Spangled Banner: The Unlikely Story of America's National Anthem*, "America the Beautiful"

was favored to be the national anthem but Katherine Lee Bates, the author of "America the Beautiful", preferred "The Star-Spangled Banner."

A gathering of supporting organizations met January 1930 at the Daughters of the American Revolution Headquarters in Washington, DC. United States Representatives John C. Linthicum and Walter Joyce then delivered a petition with 5 million signatures from the entire Country to the House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 31, 1930. The resolution to make "The Star-Spangled Banner" the nation's official anthem was finally signed into law by President Herbert Hoover March 3, 1931.

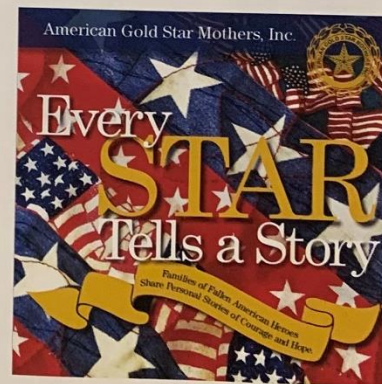
Dear Gold Star Sisters,

We have exciting news, our book "Every Star Tells a Story" is almost ready. The book looks terrific and the stories about our special sons are wonderful.

Did you ever expect to be a published author, with a book in the Library of Congress? I know I didn't!!!

Authors, in the next week or so you will be hearing from us to verify your mailing address for your Complimentary Authors Copy, which will be mailed to you in June. You will also receive an order form to order additional copies that you might like to use as gifts.

As this is a Limited Edition book, authors will receive "first dibs" in having their orders satisfied; but please return your order to us immediately, as it will be "first come first served". Please email us if you have any questions @ shareyourgoldstarstory@gmail.com



May-June 2020 ★ The Gold Star Mother ★ 3

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

IN MEMORY OF

Lawrence F. Pearly 76, Vietnam Veteran, U.S.A., Middlesex

Joseph Dusenberry 71, passed away September 29, 2019. Joe was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S.A. for 3 years. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 New York for over 10 years. Joe was a good member and will be missed by all. May he rest in peace and may he ride free in the Heavens above.

Michael P. O'Brien 72, passed away February 8, 2020. Mike was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S. Navy for 6 years. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 New York for over 11 years. He had major health issues for some years and stayed involved when and where he could. He will be missed by all. May he ride free in the Heavens above and may he rest in peace.

Michael J. O'Neill 63, passed away March 5, 2020. Mike was a U.S.M.C. Veteran serving 5 years. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 Florida and before moving to Florida he was a member of Chapter 1 Wisconsin. He was President of Chapter 1 Wisconsin and President of Chapter 4 Florida. He has been a member of Rolling Thunder for over 9 years. He was an active member and will be missed by all. May he rest in peace and ride free in the Heavens above.

Joseph J. Dall Vechia 69, passed away March 23, 2020. Joe was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 New York for over 20 years. Joe helped where and whenever he could. Joe was not in the best of health thru the years. Joe will be missed by all. May he ride free in the Heavens above and may he rest in peace.

Patricia Egan 59 passed away March 23, 2020. Pat has been a member of Chapter 3 New York for over 13 years. She was not in the best standing as a member. She will be missed by those who knew her. May she rest in peace and may she ride free in the Heavens above.

Mario A. Esposito 73, passed away March 25, 2020. Mario was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S.N. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Florida for 9 months. He was at all events, meetings, flag raisings and could be counted on to help. He will be missed by all. May he ride free in the Heavens above and may he rest in peace.

Frank Polidore 72, passed away April 3, 2020. Frank was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S.A. He was a former member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 New Jersey and held various officers positions. He was the Chapter President of Rolling Thunder Chapter 5 New Jersey and was a Rolling Thunder member for over 10 years. He was always there and was always very dedicated. Frank will be missed by all. May he ride free in the Heavens above and may he rest in peace.

William A. Mc Call 70, passed away April 11, 2020. Will was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S.A. for 16 years. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 South Carolina for over 17 years. Bill had many medical issues and still volunteered when the Chapter needed his help. He will be missed by all. May he ride free in the Heavens above and may he rest in peace.

Michael B. Patterson 73, passed away April 21, 2020. Mike was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S.M.C. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Texas for over 5 years. He was an active member and helped wherever he could help. Mike will be missed by all. May he ride free in the Heavens above and may he rest in peace.

Our respect to all family and friends. May our Brothers and Sisters be at Peace with the Lord. May those who served Honorably Rest in Peace in the soil they fought for Freedom for all. Those who remain Prisoners of War/Missing in Action, body not recoverable, We will "Never Forget You."

Let us remember those who have given their lives for our freedom in the War against Terrorist and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Gulf War II). May God keep our troops safe.

WHEN ONE AMERICAN IS NOT WORTH THE EFFORT TO BE FOUND,
WE AS AMERICAN'S HAVE LOST.
Remember our troops killed in action and those serving

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC. NEWSLETTER PAGE 4

MAY
~~APRIL~~ 2020

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"



ROLLING THUNDER® INC. 2020 EVENTS SCHEDULE

REVISED 5/28/20

Monthly	National: Membership meeting 3 rd Sunday monthly, Manville, NJ VFW, 1 PM	908-369-5439
Monthly	National: Lyons VA Hospital, 3 rd Thursday each month (except May, Aug, Dec)	908-369-5439
Monthly	NJ3: Lyons PTSD, 2 nd Thursday every odd month - Pizza Party 7:00PM	Diane Malanga 908-343-9836
Monthly	NJ3: Veteran Haven North, 2 nd Tuesday every month-Dinner with Vets 6:30PM	Diane Malanga 908-343-9836
Monthly	IN2: Membership meeting 3 rd Thursday each month, Honkers Restaurant	574-206-5023
Monthly	MS1: MS Vets Home Visit, Oxford MS, 3 rd Sunday monthly	662-234-1084
Monthly	NC2: Bingo at Salisbury VA Hospital, Bldg 10, 1 st Friday, monthly, 6:30 pm	704-929-0477
Monthly	MS1: meets 1st Monday of each month @ 112 Quail Creek Dr. Oxford, Ms @ 6:00pm.	
Monthly	MS1: MS State Veterans Home in Oxford, Ms @ 2:00pm for Bingo every 3rd Sunday. For more information contact John McKendree@ 662-607-0611.	
Monthly	NC2: Bingo at NC State Retirement home, Salisbury, Nc Bldg 6, 2 nd Friday, monthly, 6:30 pm Sonny Deal 704-929-0477	

10/13/2020	US NAVY BIRTHDAY (10/13/1775)
11/10/2020	US MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY (11/10/1775)
11/11/2020	VETERANS DAY

2020 Chapter Events Calendar Form

Publication in the National Newsletter, please allow at least Three (3) months prior notice to the event and/or flyer. The following information is require, either by Form, E-mail or to be Faxed to Joe Bean, Rolling Thunder® Inc., P.O. Box 216 Neshanic Station, NJ 08853. If you prefer this form to be e-mailed to you for completion, contact rtnj1@att.net

Chapter State & #: _____

Event Contact Person: _____

Telephone #: _____

Event Name: _____

Day/Date of Event: _____ Time of Event: _____

Event Location: _____

Other Pertinent Information: _____

“When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost”

POW Biography

FINNEY, CHARLES ELBERT

REMAINS RETURNED 03/15/00

Name: Charles Elbert Finney
Rank/Branch: O3/US Marine Corps
Unit: VMA 533, Marine Air Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing
Date of Birth: 05 August 1944
Home City of Record: Saltville MS
Date of Loss: 17 March 1969
Country of Loss: Laos
Loss Coordinates: 161900N 1063300E (XD530190)
Status (in 1973): Missing In Action
Category: 2
Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: A6A
Refno: 1409

Source: Compiled by Homecoming II Project 15 June 1990 from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews.

SYNOPSIS: The Grumman A6 Intruder is a two-man all weather, low-altitude, carrier based attack plane, with versions adapted as aerial tanker and electronic warfare platform. The A6A primarily flew close-air-support, all weather and night attacks on enemy troop concentrations, and night interdiction missions. Its advanced navigation and attack system, known as DIANE (Digital Integrated Attack navigation Equipment) allowed small precision targets, such as bridges, barracks and fuel depots to be located and attacked in all weather conditions, day or night. The planes were credited with some of the most difficult single-plane strikes in the war, including the destruction of the Hai Duong bridge between Hanoi and Haiphong by a single A6. Their missions were tough, but their crews among the most talented and most courageous to serve the United States.

1LT Steven R. Armistead was the pilot and Capt. Charles E. Finney was the bombardier/navigator on board an A6A Intruder aircraft sent on a night mission over Laos on March 17, 1969. The mission was in support of air activity being conducted by the 7th Air Force.

When the aircraft had completed its target strike, it was hit by enemy fire and went down near the city of Muong Nong, located southwest of the demilitarized zone (DMZ), in Savannakhet Province, Laos. Air searches proved unsuccessful, and both men were listed as Missing In Action.

The Defense Intelligence Agency further expanded Armistead's and Finney's classifications to include an enemy knowledge ranking of 2. Category 2 indicates "suspect knowledge" and includes personnel who may have been involved in loss incidents with individuals reported in Category 1 (confirmed knowledge), or who were lost in areas or under conditions that they may reasonably be expected to be known by the enemy; who were connected with an incident which was discussed but not identified by names in enemy news media; or identified (by elimination, but not 100% positively) through analysis of all-source intelligence.

Finney and Armistead are among nearly 600 Americans lost in the country of Laos during the Vietnam War. Although the numbers of men actually termed "prisoner of war" are quite low, this can be explained in understanding the blanket of security surrounding the "secret war" the U.S. waged in Laos. To protect the public perception that we "were not in Laos," details of many loss incidents were "rearranged" to show a loss or casualty in South Vietnam. Only a handful of publicly-exposed cases were ever acknowledged POW, even though scores of pilots and ground personnel were known to have been alive and well at last contact (thus increasing the chance they were captured alive).

The Lao communist faction, the Pathet Lao, stated on several occasions they held "tens of tens" of American prisoners, but the Pathet Lao were not included in the Paris Peace agreements ending American involvement in the war. Consequently, no American POWs held in Laos were negotiated for. Not one American held in Laos has ever been released. They were abandoned to the enemy. Steven R. Armistead was promoted to the rank of Major during the period he was missing.

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

ROLLING THUNDER®, INCORPORATED

NATIONAL MEETING MINUTES – March 15, 2020

The Rolling Thunder® National meeting of March 15, 2020 was called to order at 1:00pm at the VFW in Manville, New Jersey. The invocation was given by National Chaplain Ed Crabtree. The membership had a moment of silence for those still Missing in Action and for those who gave their lives for our Country. The membership pledged allegiance to the American Flag. All officers and board members were in attendance with the exception of officer Elaine Martin, National Secretary and Jay Horne, Board of Directors. There were 76 adult members, and 7 guests present.

TED ZABOHONSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: Ted read the Mission Statement of Rolling Thunder®, Inc.

FEBRUARY, 2020 MINUTES: The abbreviated minutes for the February, 2020 meeting was read by Al Gashler in Elaine Martin's absence. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Joe Fellion and seconded by Cliff Johnson. None opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nancy Bottrel, National Treasurer read the balances in the accounts. Anyone wishing to review account activity may see Nancy during the break.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Dave Gilliam, seconded by Tom McAtee. None opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Affairs:

Mike Wolff

There has been little movement on most of what we are tracking this legislative cycle. Given that this is an election year, I do not expect much movement. Keep up the pressure to move these out of committee, but most likely we will have to take up the fight to have these re-introduced in the 117th Congress.

Bills we are tracking:

H.R.712/S.179-VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2019

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S.785-Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019

A bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Related Bills: HR5024 To amend Title 38, US Code, to expand health care coverage provided by DVA during transition of members of the Armed Forces from active duty to civilian status.

HR 5030 VA Suicide Prevention Services Accountability Act

HR 2201 To modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who are exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam Era.

Related News:

January 6th Military Times article stating "Study results on new Agent Orange diseases not expected until 'late 2020'VA Secretary"

The day President Trump signed a funding bill including a provision ordering VA to announce its plans to add four conditions to the list of Agent Orange-linked diseases within 30 days, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said the decision wasn't likely to come until at least "late 2020".

S.1673/H.R.2819 Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act

This bill extends through January 2, 2027, the authority of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star families. Bill passed House of Representatives 2/28/20

Public Relations/Media, Nancy Regg:

Very quiet due to coronavirus pandemic coupled with there not being a Rolling Thunder National event in Washington, DC. The Washington Post called requesting to interview Artie Muller.

VA Hospital Committee, Lucy Walsh & Tom McAtee:

All visits are cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.:

KIA Report, Deb Teall:

Reported by Brenda Einhorn in Deb's absence

For the month from February 15 through March 13, 2020, I am said to report the deaths of four American soldiers:

Two marines supporting Operation Inherent Resolve died March 8 while supporting Iraqi Security Forces in north central Iraq. They are: Gunnery Sgt. Diego D. Pongo, 34, Simi Valley, California

Captain Moises A. Navas, 34, of Germantown, Maryland

Two service members also supporting Operation Inherent Resolve were killed three days later on March 11 when their units were engaged by enemy indirect fire at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad. They are:

Army Specialist Juan Miguel Mendez Covarrubias, 27, of Hanford, California

Air Force Staff Sgt. Marshal D. Roberts, 28, of Owasso, Oklahoma

POW/MIA Chair of Honor Committee, Elaine Martin: Absent

Membership, Mike Bottrel: Membership Dues are due for 2020. Please see Mike at the break to pay your dues and to sign in for attendance.

Gerry Franke, Ride Coordinator:

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

APRIL 4TH FREEDOM FEST, NEW FREEDOM FARM in BUCHANAN, VA CANCELLED!!!!!!!!!!

Sunday, March 22nd RTNY2, "Pasta with a Purpose", 3pm-7pm at Moonlight Caterers, 3948 Amboy Rd, Staten Island, NY. \$20 per person, includes dinner and pin. Proceeds to benefit Father Capodanno Memorial Statue Fund. 50/50's, Music, Cash Bar.

Saturday, April 18th RTNJ2, "Vigil/Celebration of Life Honoring NJ's Fallen Heroes & Their Families". 2pm at the Bordentown Armory, 1048 US RT 206, Bordentown, NJ.-**CANCELLED 3/16/20220-Charlie Amiano RTNJ2 President.**

Saturday, April 25th, Asbury Park-Wall Elks Poker Run, 3409 Bangs Ave. Neptune, NJ 07753, Registration from 0830-1030, \$25 Rider/\$20 Passenger Party starts at 1:00 p.m.

June 11th, Veterans Flag Day 5K Run & Fun Walk, Lyons VA Campus at 7:00 p.m.

Gary Domanski, Education: Absent

Dan Heulitt, Sergeant at Arms: There will be an ALL HANDS SECURITY GROUP MEETING at 12 noon prior to our April 19th RTN monthly meeting. It is suggested that ALL Security Group members visit the fairgrounds prior to our event in order to familiarize themselves with the venue.

Andy Kerr, Food Drive and Junior Members:

Food Drive: Thank you for your donations and for loading the truck. We will be doing another food drive in August.

Wegman's and the Knights of Columbus-Rahway made monetary contributions to the food drive.

Junior Members: Key chains have been made for the PTSD ward.

Gold Star Mothers, Mike Matelski:

Ted Z and I met for 2 hours with Eileen Daile and Patti ?. Presently, there will be 7-14 Gold Star Mothers from NJ attending our event and 10-12 from NY. There are 0 attendees from PA to date.

NJ Mission of Honor, Al Gashler:

The next projected interment ceremony of abandoned veteran cremains by NJ Mission of Honor will be in the April-May time-frame. Exact dates and times are still to be determined. Two ceremonies are planned for this year.

Also, thanks to RTN for their efforts to help with locating abandoned veteran cremains.

Flags, Street Signs, Travel POW Chair by Mike Maloney: No report, full report at next month's meeting.

Patches & Awards presented by Exec. Director Artie Muller, Pres. Joe Bean. & V.P. Ed Crabtree:

Boot Patch:

Kimberly Baumann

Daniel Rosamilia

Eagle and Rocker:

Patrick "G-Man" Gongora

Kathryn Maloney

Serge Sabo

Congratulations all!

Break: 1:45 to 2:05 p.m.

PRESIDENT JOE BEAN:

All the planning, arranging and scheduling is proceeding well for our Memorial Day event, the State of NJ being the exception. I will take care of those questions this coming week. President Trump has been invited to our event: acceptance pending. Everything at the 4H Fairgrounds is good. There will be golf carts to move around the Fairgrounds. The ride will NOT be going through New Hope, PA this year but discussions and arrangements are being made to go through New Hope next year.

Harley -Davidson Corporate will be there. In fact, they are staying in the RTN hotel.

I am currently working to obtain NJ state politician and/or mayors of Flemington and Lambertville as guest speakers at our event.

We will be leaving our hotel at 0700, Sunday, May 24th and down Route 31 to the 4H Fairgrounds escorted by the Blue Knights or the NJ State Police. I do not want Security to have to juggle motorcycle placement at the Fairgrounds so leave with the group at 0700 or take your chances for placement in the demonstration ride. Likewise, for Saturday's wreath placing at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, NJ I would prefer not to have a cavalcade of 300-400 motorcycles going down 195 and up the Garden State Parkway.

Remember, this is an "ALL HANDS-ON DECK" event. This is the first time in NJ but our 33rd demonstration ride. There will be new situations. There always are. They will be handled with diplomacy and dispatch!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ARTIE MULLER:

WWII Remains Identified

Fireman 1st Class Rex E. Wise, USN

Korean War Remains Identified

Cpl. Arthur C. Ramirez, USA

Rocky Lynn and CC Collette are the bands for our Memorial Day event.

Sunday, May 24th is an all members in attendance event. This is our signature event and we need everyone's help to make it successful. Thank

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

you for coming today. VA Hospital events are cancelled until further notice due to coronavirus precautions.

VICE PRESIDENT ED CRABTREE:

All vendors are required to complete our application form to be at our event. There is a fixed price of \$100.00 per vendor.

Sunshine Committee Kate Barna: Absent

CORE JAR DONATIONS = \$151.00

Elaine Muller, Newsletter, Raffle, & Office:

Four chapters have returned motorcycle raffle proceeds totaling \$5500.00. RT NY2 is doing a great job at raffle ticket sales. Elaine has approximately 100 tickets available for sale. There will be raffle tickets sold at our event.

We will have three sales tables for shirts, pins and patches as well as a membership table. All vendors will be in the pavilion.

If you have articles for the newsletter email them to our office, which is open.

ADDITIONAL/NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Chirichio reported that Rolling Thunder National member Steffany Raimondo was in a motorcycle accident and is in Jersey Shore Medical Center. She suffered ten broken bones and has undergone six surgeries. She is expected to go to a rehabilitation facility in two weeks. Please keep Steffany in your thoughts and prayers.

Steffany Raimondo

Jersey Shore University Medical Center

1945 Route 33,

Neptune, NJ 07752

732-775-5500

CC representing Spring Reins of Life spoke regarding the need to fill next group in order to continue the Equine Assisted Psychotherapy program for veterans and active duty personnel suffering from trauma. Next session is for eight Tuesday evenings for 90 minutes starting March 17th. Located at Three Bridges, NJ call 347.886.2798 or info@springreinsoflife.org There is no cost to veterans. Ray "Frenchy" Quesnel gave an emotional endorsement of the program's personal benefit to him.

The 50/50 was \$247.00 and \$124.00 was awarded to this month's winning ticket holder, Becky Wierenski. A motion to adjourn the meeting at pm was made by Joe Fellion, seconded by Mike Wolff, none opposed.

2020-2021 Rolling Thunder Bike Raffle Update New Drawing Date - June 1, 2021

Greetings to All the Rolling Thunder Chapters and Members:

Considering all, I hope that you are doing as well as possible during these very trying times of the pandemic in all parts of our country.

As a result of the National shut down, quarantine and cancelation of events in our Country and much consideration the 2020 Rolling Thunder Bike Raffle drawing date was changed to Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm. The drawing will take place at the Harley-Davidson Washington dealership where the bike is currently being shown and hosted.

To date, 14 Chapters have sent National sold bike raffle ticket stubs and the money proceeds for their sold tickets. 7 Chapters have sold all their tickets, 2 Chapters have sold all their tickets, requested addition tickets which have been issued to them, 4 Chapters have sent in partial tickets sales and money proceeds and are still selling their remaining tickets. National will also pay the State Sales Tax for the winner. We have almost a year to sell tickets until the drawing in 2021. I hope that all the chapters that have tickets issued to them will be able to sell them as our Country gets back to a more normal. God Bless and Heal our Country! Elaine Muller

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

ROLLING THUNDER[®], INC.

presents the
2020 ROLLING THUNDER XXXIII RAFFLE BIKE

**2020 HARLEY DAVIDSON
FLHTK ELECTRA GLIDE ULTRA LIMITED**

*TWIN-COOLED MILWAUKEE-EIGHT 114 CI ENGINE
*NEW SHOWA® DUAL BENDING VALVE FRONT SUSPENSION
*ROOMY™ BOX 6.5 GT RADIO TOUCHSCREEN INFOTAINMENT/NAVIGATION SYSTEM
*HEATED HAND GRIPS
*DAYMAKER™ LED HEADLIGHT AND FOG LAMPS
*REFLEX BREMBO® BRAKES W/ABS
*ONE-TOUCH TOUR-PAK® CASE AND SADDLEBAGS
*NEW HAND ADJUSTABLE EMULSION REAR SHOCKS
*CONTRAST CHROME IMPELLER CAST ALUMINUM WHEELS
*CUSTOM PAINT BY ARTISTIC CREATIONS
*AND MUCH MORE!



Due to the Pandemic
The Rolling Thunder 2020 Bike Raffle
Drawing Date has been changed to
June 1, 2021
Harley-Davidson Washington, DC



1 TICKET A \$10 DONATION
100% BENEFITS AMERICAN VETERANS,
OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

History of Taps

A Brief History of the Bugle Call Taps

by Jari Villanueva

24 NOTES THAT TAP DEEP EMOTIONS – A SUMMARY

Of all the military bugle calls, none is more easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than Taps. The melody is both eloquent and haunting. The use and history of Taps is unique to the United States military, as the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services. There is great interest in the history of Taps.

The Creation of Taps

Taps began as a revision to the signal for Lights Out at the end of the day. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for Lights Out was the one set down in [Silas Casey's Tactics](#), which had been borrowed from the French. The music for Taps was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield for his brigade (Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, and Army of the Potomac) in July, 1862.

General Butterfield was not pleased with the call for Lights Out, feeling that it was too formal to signal the day's end. With the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, Butterfield created Taps to honor his men while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia following the Seven Days' battle, which took place during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The new call, sounded that night in July, 1862, soon spread to other units of the Union Army and was even used by the Confederates. Taps was made an official bugle call after the war.

Butterfield did not compose Taps but actually revised an earlier bugle call. The 24 note sequence we know today as Taps existed in an early version of the call Tattoo, which had gone out of use by the Civil War. As a signal for the end of the day, armies have used Tattoo to alert troops to prepare for bedtime roll call. General Butterfield knew this call from his days before the war as a colonel for the 12th New York Militia.

The origin of the word Taps is thought by some to have come from the Dutch word for Tattoo, or "Taptoe."

History of Taps at Funerals

How did Taps become associated with funerals? The earliest official reference to the mandatory use of Taps at military funeral ceremonies is found in the US Army Infantry Drill Regulations for 1891, although it had doubtless been used unofficially long before that time, under its former designation, Extinguish Lights.

Other stories of the origin of Taps exist. A popular myth is that of a Northern boy who was killed fighting for the South. His father, Robert Ellicombe, a captain in the Union Army, came upon his son's body on the battlefield and found the notes to Taps in a pocket of the dead boy's Confederate uniform. There is no evidence to back up the story or the existence of a Captain Ellicombe.

"There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air." – Oliver Willcox Norton

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

Coronavirus pandemic does not slow the mission of Rolling Thunder



By [Jennifer Harper](#) - *The Washington Times* - Sunday, May 24, 2020

The roar of motorcycles on a mission continues. Even the coronavirus has not stopped [Rolling Thunder's](#) "Ride for Freedom," an annual demonstration to draw attention to veterans issues and honor prisoners of war and those missing in action. It's just a little different this year.

For more than three decades, this charitable nonprofit has staged massive patriotic rides through the nation's capital each Memorial Day, drawing as many as a half-million motorcycles. The group now has opted for a grassroots approach that emphasizes local and regional rides rather than a single blockbuster event.

"Our mission is never going away. We were there in Washington for 32 years, and we're now continuing our efforts on a nationwide level. It's actually increased support for us. But we will not put our membership and supporters at risk because of this virus," Artie Muller, an Army veteran who co-founded the first ride in 1988, told *The Washington Times*.

In a letter to the group's 90 chapters, Mr. Muller cancelled Memorial Day plans, which included sizable rides and events in multiple states.

"We look forward to the future and will continue our memorial 'Ride for Freedom' nationwide demonstration in 2021. We must keep the faith. Better times are ahead," Mr. Muller advised.

[AMVETS](#), which had organized its own commemorative ride titled "Rolling to Remember" on D.C. streets this Memorial Day, also was forced to cancel its event because of the pandemic.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE....

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

The veterans advocacy group has gone virtual, however, asking participants to select their own symbolic 22-mile route, then register the trip online.

Why 22? That is the number of veterans who take their own lives each day, according to numbers from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Meanwhile, Rolling Thunder members have stepped up to carry on their organization's long-standing traditions.

"We have enjoyed going to Washington in the past, of course. The experience has an effect on you which you never forget. It meant a lot to me," Jerry Blake, president of a Rolling Thunder chapter in Evansville, Indiana, told The Washington Times. "We're concentrating on our own local ride to make sure we pay homage to POWs, vets and the missing here in our community," said Mr. Blake, a 30-year Army veteran.

He expects there will be some 50 similar Rolling Thunder demonstrations around the country to mark Memorial Day while heeding social distancing.

"We'll stay with what was normally done in the past, within limits," said Tim Centers, president of the Rolling Thunder chapter in Frankfort, Kentucky, and a 25-year Army veteran and paratrooper. "We plan a low-key event — laying a wreath at the veterans' memorial here, with particular recognition for Col. Charles Shelton."

Charles Ervin Shelton was an Air Force pilot who was shot down over Laos during the Vietnam War in 1965 and was the last man to be listed as missing in action in that conflict.

"Though our circumstances changed this year, we'll continue the mission to draw attention to issues Rolling Thunder stands for. And I personally think it's not a bad idea to remember all those big rides in D.C.," Mr. Centers said.

The Rolling Thunder mission has global appeal, drawing riders from Australia, Germany, Britain, France and other countries. "All of those people cared. They also know the U.S. military has risked a lot to help their own nations gain freedom," Mr. Muller noted.

"There's a global side of the Rolling Thunder mission. Americans are not the only one with service members left behind during times of war, missing in action, or veterans who need some help once they're home," Mr. Centers said.

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"



POW-MIA
"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.



ROLLING THUNDER®, INC
NATIONAL
P.O. BOX 216
NESHANIC STATION, N.J. 08853
908-369-5439 FAX 908-369-2072

April 10, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and being safe during this pandemic in our county and the world. This has been a very trying time for all of us and a decision had to be made for the health and safety of our members and our supporters that attend our events.

Due to the epidemic all over our country, we are following Federal and State mandates to cancel our Memorial Day "Ride for Freedom" May 24th demonstration run in New Jersey. The next few weeks and months are uncertain and one thing our organization will not do is put our membership and supporters at risk for this virus. I hope everyone keeps their distance, makes safe decisions and follow Federal, State and local health mandates. We are looking forward to the future and will continue our Memorial "Ride for Freedom" Nationwide demonstration in 2021. We must keep the Faith, better times are ahead.

We will be getting out information about the 2020 Rolling Thunder® Bike Raffle. Do not return your bike tickets. We are discussing the bike raffle with our Attorney and will be notifying the Chapters.

Thank you for your understanding. Remember our POWs/MIAs, our Troops serving and God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Artie Muller
Nat'l Executive Dir.

Joe Bean
Nat'l President

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

**ROLLING THUNDER[®] XXXIII
ORDER FORM
POW-MIA**

**MAY 24, 2020
"OFFICIAL" COMMEMORATIVE PATCH AND PIN
MAIL TO: ROLLING THUNDER[®] INC.
PO BOX 216
NESHANIC STATION, NJ 08853
908-369-5439**

**ALL MONEY RAISED IS USED ON THE POW-MIA ISSUE AND TO
HELP VETERANS IN NEED.**

-----CUT-----

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

PHONE # _____ ZIP _____

RUN PATCHES # _____ X \$6.00 EA. = \$ _____

RUN PINS # _____ X \$6.00 EA. = \$ _____

FLAME OF FREEDOM PATCH # _____ X \$11.50 EA. = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Because of U.S. Post Office fee changes all Canadian orders please add \$6.00 to
your order for pins & patches.

**ARE YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION ON OUR MAILING LIST? Y ___ N ___
DO YOU WANT TO BE ON IT? Y ___ N ___**

**ROLLING THUNDER XXXIII 2020
CHECKS AND MONEY ORDER ONLY
FROM CANADA U.S. MONEY ORDERS IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE WILL NO LONGER CASH CANADIAN MONEY ORDERS**

NATION WIDE

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC. NEWSLETTER



POW/MIA

"We Will Never Forget"

WWI	3,343
WWII	72,784
Cold War	126
Korea	7,676
Vietnam	1,592

POW/MIA "WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

2020

Rolling Thunder ® National Inc.

Lyons VA Hospital Visits

~~~~~  
**7:00pm~ Community Living Center ~2nd Fl.**

January 16

March 19

May 21

July 16

September 17

November 19

~~~~~

7:00pm ~ PTSD Ward

Bldg. 143BE - 1st Fl. All-Purpose Room

(Please bring a dessert)

February 20

April 16

June 18

August 23, Sunday (VA Picnic) 11:00am

October 15

December 2, Weds. (Holiday Party)

Recreation Dept. (908)-604-5810 or (908)-647-0180 Ext. 4327 (Days)

Please obey speed limits on VA grounds

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"