ROLLING THUNDER® TIMES

Volume 26 Issue 1 January 2021 National



Rolling Thunder National's next Monthly Meetings ...

January Meeting is **PENDING** **Joe Bean will send an email out regarding the Monthly Meeting**

We will be in compliance with social distancing requirements and safety procedures.

Please wear a face mask and if you are not feeling well please stay home!



January 2021

1/17 National: Regular monthly meeting, Manville, VFW, 1PM - Pending

February 2021

President's Day!!!

2/21 National: Regular monthly meeting, Manville, VFW, 1PM – Pending

Check Facebook, Twitter or Website for updates!



Have you paid your 2020 Membership?

Rolling Thunder® XXXIII NATIONWIDE "Ride for Freedom" Sunday, May 23, 2021

Information will be posted in January 2021 on Rolling Thunder® Inc. National Website www.rollingthunder1.com





Volunteers Made Wreaths Project Success Again!!!

On Saturday, December 19, 2020 Rolling Thunder® Inc. National members participated in the Eighth Annual "Wreaths Across America" project, placed wreaths on 1,600 graves at the Somerset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery and Mausoleum in Basking Ridge, NJ.

Most of all, Rolling Thunder® Charities, Inc. would like to thank all the people, businesses, and organizations that helped us meet our financial goals for this great event. Thank you to the volunteers from All Over!

We deeply appreciate everyone's help.

Mike Steinwand & Gus Dante Rolling Thunder® Inc.



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

In Memory - Page 3 Chapter Events - Page 4 Biographies POW/MIA – Page 5 Monthly Meeting Minutes - No Meeting

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

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Come Check us out on Facebook and Like Us!

Officers: Executive Director President	Artie Muller Joe Bean	908-369-5439 610-792-3626	Media & Public Relations rollingthundernationalmedia @gmail.com	Mike Maloney	609-434-3400
Vice President Secretary Treasurer Chairman of the Board	Edward Crabtree Brenda Einhorn Nancy Bottrel Ted Zabohonski	908-930-1920 609-330-0040 908-996-0081 215-778-3606	Run Coordinator Jackdaniels729@msn.com	Gerry Franke	609-577-8898
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	Gus Dante Tim Charous Joe McIIvaine III Dan Heulitt	908-240-3201 908-892-0322 732-685-7054 732-740-1645	Packages for the Troops fentz77@gmail.com	Frank Fentzlaffl	610-381-4361
	Andy Kerr Mike Wolff	908-380-9116 732-278-5722	Chapter Reports/ Relations	Elaine Muller	908-730-6711
Alt. Board Members: Alt. Board Members:	Tom McAtee Joe Kotch	908-797-4200 732-688-2935	Chapters Activity Report	Elaine Muller	908-730-6711
POW/MIA Chair of Honor Coordinator	Elaine Martin	908-442-4491	Education Committee WWII/Korea War	Gary Domanski	908-369-4785
National Veteran Rights Officer Head of Security &	Dan Heulitt	732-740-1645	Gulf War Affairs	Gus Dante	908-240-3201
Sergeant-at-Arms			Gold Star Mothers Committee	Mike Matelski	732-512-8786
Quartermaster	Rob Stroka Bob Piscopo	908-797-2312 732-926-8331	NJ Mission of Honor for Cremains of American Veterans	Al Gashler	908-783-9836
Federal Legislative & Go	overnment Affairs		VA Hospital Visits	Tom McAtee	908-797-4200
	Gus Dante	908-240-3201	Color Guard	Gary Stansbury	732-256-4124
	Mike Wolff	732-278-5722	KIA Service & Remembrar	nce Deb Teall	908-917-3990
Government Links	www.house.gov	www.senate.gov			
Congress Operator	202-224-3121		Junior Members Comm.	Pat Kerr	732-388-0864
Membership Committee/Junior Membership/Roster: Mike Bottrel Foxyzz28@aol.com 609-306-5248			Flame of Freedom www.rtflameoffreedom.com	John McKendree	662-607-0611

[&]quot;When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"

IN MEMORY OF

Robert Roy Gaut 80, passed away October 29, 2020. He served in the U.S.A.F. for 4 years. He was a member of rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Arkansas for over 6 years. He served on the Chapter Board and worked on the event Thunder Across the River. He was also on the committee to feed the Vets. He was very active and will be missed by all. May he rest in peace and may he ride free in the Heavens above.

Frederick W. Del Buono Jr. 80, passed away 11/17/2020. Fred was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S.N. for 30 years. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 SC for over 13 years. He was Chairman of the Board for over 13 years. He organized our Chapters Ceremony table. He was always organizing at the Dorn VA Hospital. He was always their to do his part. He will be missed by all. May he rest in peace and may he ride free in the Heavens above.

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

JANUARY 2021



ROLLING THUNDER® INC. 2020 EVENTS SCHEDULE

	REVISED 1/7/21					
Monthly Monthly Monthly Monthly Monthly Monthly	National: Membership meeting 3 rd Sunday monthly, Manville, NJ VFW, 1 PM National: Lyons VA Hospital, 3 rd Thursday each month (except May,Aug,Dec) NJ3: Lyons PTSD, 2 nd Thursday every odd month - Pizza Party 7:00PM NJ3: Veteran Haven North, 2 nd Tuesday every month-Dinner with Vets 6:30PM IN2: Membership meeting 3 rd Thursday each month, Honkers Restaurant MS1: MS Vets Home Visit, Oxford MS, 3 rd Sunday monthly NC2: Bingo at Salisbury VA Hospital, Bldg 10, 1 st Friday, monthly, 6:30 pm	908-369-5439 908-369-5439 Diane Malanga Diane Malanga 574-206-5023 662-234-1084 704-929-0477	908-343-9836 908-343-9836			
Monthly Monthly	MS1: meets 1st Monday of each month @ 112 Quail Creek Dr. Oxford, Ms @ 6:00pm. 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					
10/13/2021 11/10/2021 11/11/2021	US NAVY BIRTHDAY (10/13/1775) US MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY (11/10/1775) VETERANS DAY					
12/7/2021	Pearl Harbor					
2021 Chapter Events Calendar Form						
	ational Newsletter, please allow at least Three (3) months prior notice to the event and/or flyer. The Faxed to Joe Bean, Rolling Thunder® Inc., P.O. Box 216 Neshanic Station, NJ 08853. If you prefer the The property of the state of the					
Chapter State & #	t:					
Event Contact Pe	rson:					
Telephone #:						
Event Name:						
Day/Date of Event: Time of Event:						
Frank Lasatian.						

Other Pertinent Information:_

POW Biography

EVANCHO, RICHARD

Name: Richard Evancho

Rank/Branch: E4/US Marine Corps Unit: MAB 536, Marine Air Group 36 Date of Birth: 18 March 1948 Home City of Record: Freeland PA Date of Loss: 26 March 1968

Country of Loss: South Vietnam/Over Water Loss Coordinates: 161408N 1080740E (AU930130) Status (in 1973): Killed/Body Not Recovered

Category: 5

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: UH34D

Refno: 1130

Other Personnel In Incident: Glenn W. Mowrey; Larry E. Green; Frankie E. Allgood; Ernest C. Kerr (all missing)

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. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK 2020.

REMARKS: PIL/COP RES - ALL SEARCH FAIL - J

SYNOPSIS: The Sikorsky UH34D Seahorse was a vital aircraft in Vietnam, serving as transport of both personnel and materiel. The Seahorse and its pilots particularly distinguished themselves throughout the spring of 1968 during one of the most crucial and bitterly contested struggles of the Vietnam War -- the Tet Offensive.

On March 26, 1968, a UH34D was serving as a medevac helicopter in South Vietnam. The crew consisted of the pilot and copilot, as well as CPL Larry E. Green, crew chief; and LCPL Ernest C. Kerr Jr., gunner. They were transported wounded Marines for medical treatment.

LTC Frankie E. Allgood had been wounded in the temple by shrapnel; LCPL Richard Evancho and CPL Glenn W. Mowrey were also injured. These three were being medevaced onboard the UH34D. The helicopter crossed a stretch of the South China Sea during adverse weather conditions. The helicopter crashed into the sea about three miles from its destination, Da Nang, South Vietnam.

Search teams were dispatched at once, and the pilot and co-pilot were rescued. Crew members Kerr and Green were not rescued, nor were the other occupants of the helicopter, including the badly wounded Frankie Allgood All were presumed drowned and were classified Killed, Body Not Recovered. Because the medevac was apparently not struck by hostile fire, the incident was deemed non-battle related.

For the men aboard the Seahorse lost on March 26, 1968, death seems a certainty. For hundreds of others, however, simple answers are not possible. Adding to the torment of nearly 10,000 reports relating to Americans missing in Southeast Asia is the certain knowledge that some Americans who were known to be prisoners of war were not released at the end of the war. Others were suspected to be prisoners, and still others were in radio contact with would-be rescuers when last seen alive. Many were known to have survived their loss incidents, only to disappear without a trace.

The problem of Americans still missing torments not only the families of those who are missing, but the men who fought by their sides, and those in the general public who realize the full implication of leaving men unaccounted for at the end of a war.

Tragically, many authorities believe there are hundreds of Americans still alive in captivity in Southeast Asia today. What must they be thinking of us? What will our next generation say if called to fight if we are unable to bring these men home from Southeast Asia?

VA, American Lung Association partner to help Veterans diagnosed with lung disease

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced its partnering with the <u>American Lung Association</u> to help Veterans, diagnosed with lung disease, live healthier lives.

The partnership will increase Veterans' access to <u>information about lung disease</u> and resources.

"This collaboration will promote effective coping strategies designed to slow the progression of lung disease and offer support networks to help Veterans and their caregivers," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VA researchers are dedicated to learning more about diseases that impact both Veterans and humankind to help with prevention and treatment."

VA and the Lung Association will also join forces on training and educational opportunities for their health care professionals to share best practices for the delivery of health care services and treatment for Veterans.

In 2018, there were more than 36 million people in the United States living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and other chronic lung diseases. A <u>2016</u> study led by VA found an increase in lung disease among Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. VA and the Lung Association are working to develop state of the art, evidence-based treatment for the diseases.

Learn more about <u>VA's research on respiratory diseases</u>.

Contact the <u>Veterans Health Administration's Office of Community Engagement</u> for more information on this or other partnerships.

VA publishes federal government's first Employee Experience journey map

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the creation of a new, first-of-its-kind tool that supports VA's public servants in providing the highest level of service to Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors they serve. The Employee Experience (EX) journey map identifies moments that are significant during an employee's career, using the same human-centered design process VA applied in the development of 45 customer journey maps to improve the experience for Veterans and their families.

"As we strive to give our Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors every reason to Choose VA for their care, benefits and services, we also want our employees to remain a part of the VA family," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Our more than 400,000 VA employees know serving Veterans is one of the most rewarding careers in federal service, and the EX journey map helps empower our workers to better serve VA customers."

The journey map is based on 11,000 insights collected from a diverse set of VA employees across 33 geographic areas. VA will use employee insights acquired from the EX journey map to also make improvements that will help the department attract top-talent, and continue to rise in "Best Places to Work" rankings among federal agencies.

VA pioneered customer journey mapping among government agencies in 2015 and leverages the human-centered design expertise to understand the pain points and bright spots for improvements to the customer experience.

Like the previously <u>released Customer Experience Cookbook</u>, the VA EX journey map is being shared government-wide as an example to help other agencies meet their employee and customer experience goals.

Learn more about VA's <u>customer experience accomplishments</u> or visit the <u>Veterans</u> <u>Experience Office</u> for more information.

Suicide prevention efforts usher promise of help for all Americans

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the completion of all 2020 priorities established under the <u>President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide</u> (PREVENTS) to end suicide through seamless access to care, a connected research ecosystem and robust community engagement aimed at changing the culture around mental health care and ultimately preventing suicide among Veterans and all Americans.

President Trump released the PREVENTS <u>roadmap</u> in June 2020 and to date, PREVENTS has accomplished <u>all nine</u> <u>priorities for the year</u>, including:

- Launching <u>REACH</u> as a national public health campaign aimed at empowering all Americans to play a critical role in preventing suicide.
- Garnering signatures from 42 States and one U.S. Territory on a PREVENTS State Proclamation outlining agreedupon practices and steps to engage their citizens in suicide prevention.
- Partnering with VA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes to create a Wellbeing in the Workplace Pledge and Guide to encourage companies to prioritize the mental health and wellness of their employees. More than 50 major U.S. companies and organizations have already signed the pledge.

"We have adopted a public-health approach to suicide prevention that enlists all Americans to recognize the signs of those who are vulnerable and connect them to resources that can help," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "I want every Veteran to know that VA is here for you, and we will not relent in our efforts to reach those who are struggling and connect them with lifesaving support."

Achieving the 2020 milestones is fulfilled by the launch of the Suicide Prevention Grand Challenge under a partnership among PREVENTS and the VA Innovation Center in collaboration with the VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention — who will host a summit in February 2021 with experts in technology, mental health, suicide prevention and related fields to help guide the planning and implementation for the challenge.

The summit will build upon success and lessons learned from <u>The White House Summit on Veterans Suicide</u> held in September 2019, and guide efforts for launching, running, judging, and selecting winners of individual competitions in the Suicide Prevention Grand Challenge. For inquiries on the summit, please contact VASPGChallenge@va.gov.

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If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

Media covering this issue can download VA's Safe Messaging Best Practices fact sheet or visit www.ReportingOnSuicide.org for important guidance on how to communicate about suicide.

VA administers over 55,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses in two weeks

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it has administered initial COVID-19 vaccine doses to more than 5,000 Veterans residing in its Community Living Centers and Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Centers and more than 50,000 health care employees in its first two weeks (Dec. 14-Dec. 27) of providing COVID-19 vaccines.

VA began vaccinating Veterans and frontline employees at <u>37 initial</u> VA medical centers according to its <u>COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan</u>, following the <u>Food and Drug Administration's Dec. 11</u> <u>decision</u> to issue an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

The 37 initial sites to first receive the vaccine were selected based on several factors, including having the capacity to store the vaccine at extremely cold temperatures and the ability to offer high-throughput vaccination. Last week, VA announced it began COVID-19 vaccinations at <u>128 additional sites</u> using the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Both vaccines require two doses for maximum efficacy.

"I couldn't be happier with the work VA employees are doing in taking this important first step toward the end of the pandemic," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Successfully implementing a plan like this in the nation's largest health care system takes planning, collaboration and teamwork. As vaccines become more widely available, we will continue to implement our plan to offer them to any Veteran or employee who wants one at no cost."

Per recommendations from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, VA will continue to vaccinate health care personnel, as well as community living center and spinal cord unit residents.

VA's ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated. As vaccine supplies increase, VA care teams will reach out to eligible Veterans to schedule vaccinations. There is no need to preregister or come to a facility to sign up.

Veterans can get up-to-date information and sign up to receive updates on VA's <u>COVID Vaccine</u> <u>webpage.</u>

ROLLING THUNDER® INC. "Thanksgiving"

IN

MARCH FOOD DRIVE

PLEASE BRING FOOD ITEMS TO THE March 21, 2021 MEETING (at THE VFW MANVILLE, NEW JERSEY)

THE FOOD BANK NEEDS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

CANNED MEATS (stews, corned beef, spam, chicken, turkey)
PARMALAT MILK, CEREAL (hot & cold), PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP
CANNED FRUIT (regular & no sugar)
CANNED VEGETABLES (regular & no salt)
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTIOS, PASTA (boxes, mixes)
TUNA, MACARONI & CHEESE, WHITE or BROWN RICE (regular & mixes)
CANNED SOUP, CANNED TOMATOES, CANNED GRAVY
CEREAL (hot & cold), SNACKS (bars, pudding, Jello)
Also needed is hand soap, diapers/wipes, dish & laundry detergent
Paper towels, shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant

ALSO NEEDED IS - "BACK PACK FOOD"

BEEF STEW (small cans), VIENNA SAUAGES (small cans)
TUNA (3 oz. pull-top cans & bags), CHEF BOYARDEE CANNED PASTA (7 oz.)
JUICE BOXES, PUDDING CUPS, FRUIT CUPS, JELLO CUPS
RAMEN NOODLES, CEREAL (small boxes)
SNACKS – (individual packs, pretzels, cookies, bars)
MAC & CHEESE (microwaveable packets)
"Please no glass containers"

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE MARCH MEETING ASK YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS, LOCAL FOOD MARKETS TO HELP

All items collected will be donated to the Community Food Banks of New Jersey

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

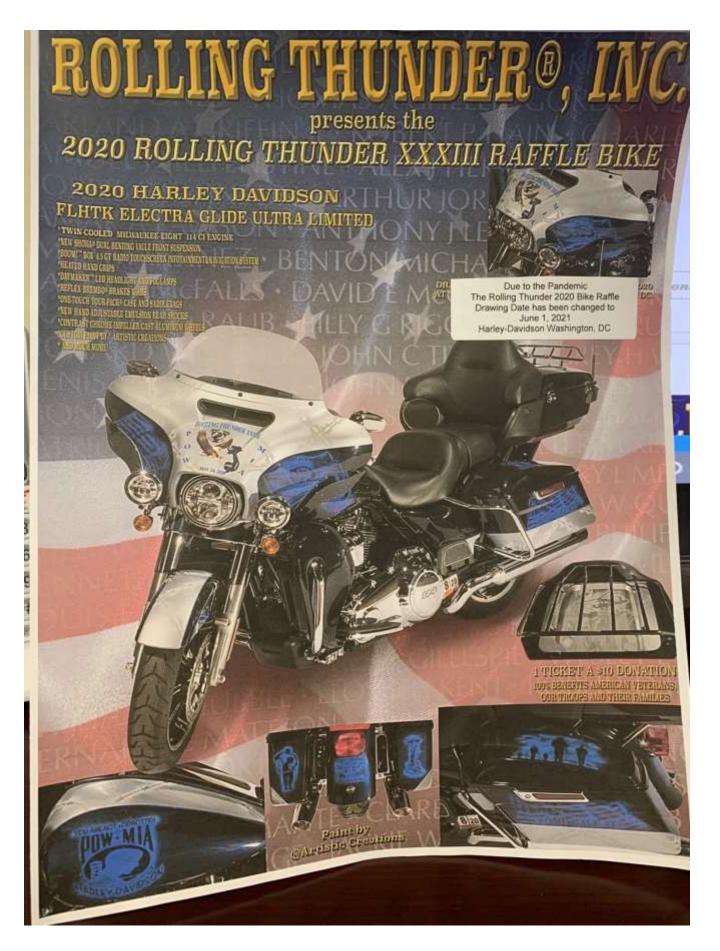
Greetings to All the Rolling Thunder Chapters and Members:

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, 19 Chapters have sent National sold bike raffle ticket stubs and the money proceeds for their sold tickets. 14 Chapters have sold all their 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"



MEDIA CORNER YOU Matters. You Matter.

New Years Eve & Auld Lang Syne

The song begins by posing a rhetorical question: Is it right that old times be forgotten? The answer is generally interpreted as <u>A Call To Remember Long-Standing Friendships...</u>

On 31 December 1775, General Richard Montgomery was Killed-In-Action in the Battle of Quebec while fighting for a Country yet to be formed – for a Flag that had yet to ever fly. General Montgomery is considered our Country's First National Hero and his Monument at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City is our Country's First Memorial. His remains would not be returned and interred for 42+ years.

Upon learning of Montgomery's death – General George Washington would pen the following:

"In the death of this gentleman America has sustained a heavy loss having approved himself a steady friend to her rights & of ability to render her the most essential service."

Montgomery Township is now flying the POW/MIA FLAG at numerous locations and proudly displays the dedicated POW/MIA CHAIR OF HONOR at the Municipal Building. The School District is the first in the state to have the three – Flying the POW/MIA FLAG, POW/MIA CHAIR OF HONOR, and STREET SIGN. Rolling Thunder National is well regarded there and as the New Year is upon us – perhaps we can expand this effort in 2021 to other Municipalities and Schools Districts (?!) for the grounds of schools are the gateway to our Country's Future...

Press On! Move forward forcefully and steadily.

God Bless & Godspeed. 20/20 RTN Media Committee

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" 2021

Rolling Thunder ® National Inc.

Lyons VA Hospital Visits – *CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*

Community Living Center ~2nd Fl.

January

March

May

July

September

November

PTSD Ward

Bldg. 143BE - 1st Fl. All-Purpose Room (Please bring a dessert)

February

April

June

August, Sunday (VA Picnic)

October

December 2, Weds. (Holiday Party)

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

Please obey speed limits on VA grounds

[&]quot;When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"