

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

July, 2018

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

V.F.W. POST #6768
8584 Olde Eight Rd.
Northfield, OH

SUNDAY, July 8, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

Our veterans need white socks. We will be collecting white socks at each meeting.

To be a member in good standing, one must:

- a. Attend at least 3 meetings & 3 events per year;
- b. Pay the annual membership dues of \$30/yr;
- c. Abide by the Membership Patch rules;
- d. Remain loyal to Rolling Thunder® in word, deed and action;
- e. Conduct him/herself in a professional and courteous manner at all times.

Nominations will begin this month at the membership meeting for the positions of president, secretary, and 3 board positions (Mike Neilan, Ted Pilny & Chuck Kettler are the 3 board members whose positions are up for nominations). Nominations will again be taken at the August meeting.

To be eligible for the position of chapter president, a member must have held a chapter executive officer position or been a member of the Board of Directors for 12 months prior to being nominated. To be nominated and/or elected for any other officer position, a Chapter member must be a member in good standing for a period of one (1) year or longer. The person must be a full member at the time of the nomination and have earned their patches. The

member must also have attended six (6) meetings prior to nominations in the past twelve (12) months. You must be present at time of nomination to accept the nomination. Elections will be held at the September membership meeting. If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 6, 2018 - Chair of Honor at Sprenger Stadium 2009 Baseball Blvd, Avon, Home of the Lake Erie Crushers - Arrive at the stadium by 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 7, 2018 - Breakfast at Concord Family Restaurant - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 8, 2018 - Board/Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m. - Northfield VFW

Wednesday, July 18, 2018 - TR Home 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 22, 2018 - Chapter picnic - Roundup Lake Campground, Rt. 82, Mantua, OH - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, potato salad, baked beans and soft drinks. Feel free to bring any other dish to pass or a dessert. Bring your swimming gear, fishing gear and have a good time all amenities are available to you.

Saturday, July 28 & Sunday, July 29, 2018 - Macedonia Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 9, 2018 (?) - Elvis Night

Saturday, August 11 & Sunday, August 12, 2018 - Aurora Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 19, 2018 - Board/Chapter Meeting

Saturday, August 25, 2018 - Wade Park VA Picnic

**CHAPTER OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS
AND PLATOON LEADERS**

PRESIDENT WINSTON BAILEY 440-639-2222

VICE-PRES DAVE BUSH 216-408-2639

SECRETARY CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

TREASURER ANDY KLUSH 330-620-6047

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

BOARD MEMBERS

TED PILNY 216-346-6407

JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

HANK LANGOWSKI 216-513-5712

CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914

CHAPLAIN DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

RUN COORDINATOR OPEN

MEMBERSHIP SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

QUARTERMASTER

FRANK FOX 440-494-7165

GERI PHILLIPS 440-494-7165

ASST. QUARTERMASTER

LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

SARGENT AT ARMS OPEN

NEWSLETTER STAFF

CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

PLATOON LEADERS:

#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

#2 RONNIE DINGER 216-799-5539

#3 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#5 TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744

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arphersfolks@windstream.net

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OPEN

COORDINATOR FOR WADE PARK VISITS

VICKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

EVENTS CHAIR JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

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Web Site Address: www.rollingthunder1ohio.org
Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER 330-472-0871
Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at
ckettler6480@yahoo.com

**Check us out on Facebook: Rolling Thunder
Chapter1 Ohio**

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.

EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL DONATES HIS OR HER TIME BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN THE ISSUES AT HAND.

Our Adopted MIA/POW – Gregory Harris



Update on Greg!!!

From Mary Ann Reitano

Boy, do I have good news!! We met with the new case analyst this weekend and the excavation proposal has been submitted!!! It will take 8-10 months to get it approved but our case analyst feels confident that it will be accepted. Then it gets put on the Master Excavation List and then it will be another 8-10 months, possibly a little more, before the excavation takes place. So, it will be about 18 months but, we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel!!!

Now, we were warned that lots of things could go wrong and slow things down, etc. But, he said he is confident that it will happen!!

Please share this info with your member at your meeting on the 8th - I am sure they'll be happy to hear our news!

Also, please send them our best and our deepest thanks for not forgetting about our Marine!

Love, *Mary Ann*

Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Cpl. Joseph Akers
U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Alfonso O. Duran
U.S. Navy Musician 1st Class Henri C. Mason
USMC Reserve Pfc. Paul D. Gilman
U.S. Naval Reserve Fireman 1st Class
Walter F. Schleiter
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Daniel L. Guisinger, Jr.
U.S. Army Sgt. James K. Park
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Raymond R. Camery
U.S. Army Pvt. Donald E. Brown

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Cpl. DeMaret M. Kirtley
U.S. Army Sgt. John W. Hall
U.S. Army Sgt. Meredith F. Keirn
U.S. Army Cpl. Morris Meshulam
USMC Reserve Pfc. Roger Gonzales

Viet Nam War Remains Identified:

U.S. Naval Reserve Lt. Cmdr. Larry R. Kilpatrick

Government Affairs by Ed Rutledge (Federal Legislative & Government Affairs for National chapter) - UPDATE

Report submitted by Gus Dante Part (1) ASKING FOR COSPONSORS: H.R.504 - To amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property. With 7 cosponsors and a few more to be added at the end of the month I urge all Rolling Thunder Inc. Chapters Presidents and other veteran organizations to have their members call, email, or visit members of Congress while they are in their district offices or the DC offices. Ask them to cosponsor this bill H.R. 504. This is a bipartisan issue. No CBO (Congressional Budget Office) involved. Both the POW/MIA Chair of Honor that Rolling Thunder Inc. National placed in the Emancipation Hall on Nov. 8, 2017 in the U.S. Capitol, and the POW/MIA flag flying on ALL DAYS that the American flag is displayed, will be a reminder to the families of our missing and to the public that our government has not forgotten those that did not come home. Tell your representative to Contact John Byers at Rep. Lance office 202-225-5361 to sign on as a co-sponsor.

Part (2) CONTINUING TO CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Action on H.R. 504: Held up in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. I would appreciate Rolling Thunder Inc. Presidents, and members that are constituents of Members of the Subcommittee to continue to follow up with their House members, who are part of the Judiciary Subcommittee of Constitution and Civil Justice to move this piece of legislation out of committee and to the House floor for a vote. Committee Members: Rep. Steve King Chair of the Subcommittee Iowa 4th District Rep. Ron Desantis Florida 6th Rep. Louie Gohmert Texas 1st Rep. Karen Handel Georgia 6th Rep. Steven Cohen Tennessee 9th Rep. Jamie Raskin Maryland 8th Rep. Ted Deutch Florida 22nd Thank You all for your continuing help in this matter Gus Dante

I understand that getting a hold of your Members of Congress (MOC), communicating with your MOC's is not only challenging and difficult at times, but we must continue to "press" forward by doing our part to keep our concerns/issues on the "doorstep" of our

MOC's as well as continue to seek support with getting the Bills/Legislation we support to the "floor" for a vote! This is very important for our American POW/MIA's, Veterans' and our organization! Please keep in mind that these Bills/Legislation will "die" at the conclusion of the 115th Congress which will cause these Bills/Legislation to have to be reintroduced during the 116th Congress! Please continue to make contact with your MOC's by visiting their offices and writing letter requesting for the support (if they are not already a cosponsor), or request they request that the Bills/Legislation are taken to the "floor" for a vote! If you need "sample" letters or information in reference to Bills/Legislation, please send me an e-mail and I will help you and or send you information and or help you the best I can! Might I suggest that you contact and or send letters to Representative Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, Senator Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader as well as members (preferable Ranking, Majority and Minority Leaders) whom "sit" on a Committee where these Bills/Legislation current "sit" stagnate! Please continue to follow the Bills/Legislation that we currently support and check for any updates.

We are continuing to "push" the following pieces of legislation:

H. Res. 129 (120 co-sponsors)/S. Res. 61 (8 co-sponsors) - Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

H. Res. 219 (8 co-sponsors) - Establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs.

H. R. 299 (328 co-sponsors)/S. 422 (49 co-sponsors) - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017

H. R. 504 - To amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property. NOTE: For information in reference to these and other POW/MIA and Veterans' legislation as well as current cosponsors and bill status, committee assignments, etc. please visit <https://www.congress.gov> or <https://www.govtrack.us/accounts/login/?next=/accounts/lists> These websites are very good resources and extremely user-friendly. Information in reference to talking points for our current bills of top priority can be found on the "Government

Affairs" page on the National website. Please feel free to use any of this information when speaking, corresponding and or meeting with your MOC's

To take action: Go to <http://www.govtrack.us/>. Search and review a bill or bills of interest, go to the website listed for your US Representatives or US Senators and send letters, e-mails and or faxes requesting an action (preferably in writing) to be taken such as to cosponsor the bill or support getting the bill/resolution to the floor for a vote. Or, call their DC office and ask to speak to their Military or Veteran Affairs staffer and request that an action be taken.

Remember: You are the voice of our POW and MIAs.

H.R.504 - To amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

To date there are only EIGHT co-sponsors to this bill—none from OHIO.

Get those letters sent!

Below is a listing of the Ohio representatives.

District	Name	Room	Phone
1	Chabot, Steve	2371 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2216
2	Wenstrup, Brad	2419 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-3164
3	Beatty, Joyce	133 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-4324
4	Jordan, Jim	2056 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2676
5	Latta, Robert E.	2448 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6405
6	<u>Johnson, Bill</u>	1710 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5705
7	Gibbs, Bob	2446 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6265
8	Davidson, Warren	1004 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6205
9	Kaptur, Marcy	2186 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-4146
10	Turner, Michael	2368 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6465
11	Fudge, Marcia L.	2344 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-7032
12	Tiberi, Pat	1203 Longworth House Office Building,	202-225-5355

District	Name	Room	Phone
		Washington, DC 20515	
13	Ryan, Tim	1126 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5261
14	Joyce, David	1124 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5731
15	Stivers, Steve	1022 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2015
16	Renacci, Jim	328 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-3876

More information may be found on the Rolling Thunder, Inc. National's website under the heading "Government Affairs" www.rollingthunder1.com

Dogs on Deployment

I came across this website the other day, and I wanted to share this. It's called Dogs on Deployment, and it's a site that helps to find foster homes for pets of those in the military who are deployed.

Their mission is to give military members peace of mind concerning their pets during their service commitments by providing them with the ability to find people and resources able to help them.

Dogs on Deployment is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit providing a central network for military members to find volunteers willing to board their pets while they are deployed or have other service commitments, making them unable to temporarily care for their pets. No pet should ever be surrendered to a shelter due to a military commitment. DoD exists to help military members keep their pets by alleviating the need for pet relinquishment from military members due to the hardships of deployments.

Check them out at
<https://www.dogsondeployment.org/search>

Most Americans Do Not Know About The Last 41 Names On The Vietnam Memorial...

(Article from TheVeteransSite.com)

Most Americans do not know that the last 41 names on the Vietnam Memorial, "The Wall," are from a battle that took place barely two weeks after the fall of Saigon to the North Vietnamese in 1975. It is called the Mayaguez Operation and is often a forgotten part of the Vietnam War. But we will do what we can here to keep the memory of this event and those who took part in it alive.

It was May of 1975. The last Americans, including the U.S. Ambassador, had left in the chaotic evacuation from Saigon only a few days before, bringing an end to the Vietnam war for American troops.

But it was not over yet.

A rogue element of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian Navy boarded an American Merchant Vessel, the Mayaguez, and took it and everyone aboard hostage. It was an act of high seas piracy. The boat was seized in international waters and was taken to a small Cambodian island called Koh Tang. There was fear that the ship and its crew would be taken to mainland Cambodia. A poorly planned rescue operation was hastily put together by the U.S.

The only ground forces that were available at the time were United States Marines stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Those Marines were part of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, an infantry battalion which had distinguished itself earlier in the Vietnam War in the defense of Khe Sanh during the 1968 Tet Offensive. They were flown immediately from their base in Okinawa to the American air base at Utapao, Thailand. Because of the chaos of U.S. forces leaving Vietnam only two weeks earlier, the only helicopters that were available for inserting and extracting these Marines were Air Force HH53s, otherwise known as, "Jolly Green Giants." This combined effort of the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Air Force took place long before we began the modern habit of joint military training.

They would have to go into this attack without really knowing each other's methods.

The Air Force HH53s were not originally designed for this purpose either. They are huge helicopters

designed to do heavy work. They are nothing like the smaller Hueys that were built to be quick and agile, as well as heavily armed. These American Marines and airmen would have to draw upon their natural capacities for independence and ingenuity to get this job done.

The Marines were told that they would be going up against lightly armed and ill-trained fishermen and pirates. They soon found out that they were really up against a Khmer Rouge Battalion of about 400 well-armed and highly experienced men. This became apparent in the early moments of the attack. In the first wave, four of the Jolly Green Giants were shot down with significant loss of life. Quite quickly, the original attack force of HH53 Jolly Green Giants would be reduced to only three operable platforms. It was these three that would have to go in again and again, under heavy and concentrated enemy fire, to extricate the Marines of 2/9.

This would prove to be a harrowing task. It would give us a true hero as well.

The Story of 1st Lieutenant Robert Blough
At dusk, the first two Air Force HH53s came in taking very heavy fire from the Khmer Rouge force that had pinned the Marines on the beach. They loaded as many Marines as they could and lifted off to take them out to the aircraft carrier, USS Coral Sea, which was steaming toward the battle, but was still a 30 minute flight away. The HH53 Air Force pilots, despite the incredibly heavy weapons fire that greeted them each time they came in, would do everything necessary to get those Marines out of harm's way.

One of the HH53 pilots was Air Force 1st Lieutenant, Robert Blough. He was flying the HH53 with the call sign "Jolly44." He came in taking heavy machine gun fire as 36 of the Marines rushed aboard his craft, part of which was in the water. Many of the Marines were wounded. The helicopter was designed to carry a maximum of 25. It was severely overloaded, but Lt. Blough lifted off and headed out to sea to the USS Coral Sea. It was dark by now and overcast. Lt. Blough spotted the USS Harold E. Holt, a small Destroyer Escort, which had a small helipad on its aft deck. He decided to utilize that helipad to

unload his Marines and head back to the island to pick up more.

The problem was that the helipad was not made for a helicopter the size of a Jolly Green Giant. Lt. Blough had to "fit" that helicopter onto that small helipad with absolute precision. He put his nose wheel down at one corner of the square helipad, then he gently settled the two large wheels of the craft into opposite corners. He really didn't land the big helicopter. He had to keep 50% power keeping the craft steady.

He was literally flying forward keeping pace with the moving ship, but at a 45 degree angle from the direction the ship was headed in.

He also had to keep his big rotary blade from striking any part of the Holt or there would be a disaster and tremendous loss of life. He did this all with determination and great skill. When the Marines were all offloaded, he took off and headed back to Koh Tang Island to pick up more Marines. For his actions that day, Lt. Blough was awarded the Silver Star, but the almost 80 Marines whose lives were saved that day felt that he deserved a much higher decoration.

The Marines and the Air Force personnel who were killed in action that day would become the last 41 names to be carved into the Vietnam Memorial. The cost of that battle was great, but those Marines of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines and their Air Force brothers that took part in the Mayaguez Operation have become true brothers in arms. They have formed an association that meets regularly and it has become a valuable part of the healing that these men needed over the decades that have passed since their return home.

We are honored to keep alive the memory of what those United States Marines and Air Force heroes did that day on behalf of the crew of the American Merchant Vessel, Mayaguez. When called upon in a moment of crisis, they came through with courage and honor. They fulfilled their mission. We offer our gratitude for their uncommon courage and dedication to duty. For those who fell on that mission, we offer our prayers and we promise to never forget their sacrifice and that of their families.

Semper Fi and Aim High. Fly, Fight, Win!

The names as they appear on The Wall:

DARWIN L. JUDGE, CHARLES M. MATHIAS JR., WILLIAM C. RYSHIE, MICHAEL J. AHEA, JIMMY D. BLACK, JOHN G. STROH, ROBERT G. COLLUMS, GERALD A. COYLE, THOMAS D. DWYER, BOB W. FORD, GERALD W. FRITZ, LAURENCE E. FROHLICH, JACKIE D. GLENN, DANIEL L. HAMLIN, GREGORY L. HANKAMER, DAVID A. HIGGS, PATRICK J. ILADA, JAMES G. KAYS, MICHAEL D. LANE, DENNIS W. LONDON, ROBERT P. MATHIAS, EDGAR C. MORAN II, WILLIAM R. MCKELVEY, GEORGE E. MCMULLEN III, TOMMY R. NEALIS, PAUL J. RABER, ROBERT W. ROSS, ROBERT P. WELDON, DANIEL A. BENEDETT, LYNN B. BLESSING, ANTONIO R. SANDOVALL, GREGORY S. COPENHAVER, BERNARD GAUSE, JR., GARY L. HALL, JOSEPH L. HARGROVE, KELLON R. TURNER, JAMES J. JACQUES, ASHTON N. LONEY, RONALD J. MANNING, DANNY G. MAXWELL, JAMES R. MAXWELL, WALTER BOYD, ANDRÉS GARCÍA, RICHARD W. RIVENBURGH, ELWOOD E. RUMBUGH, RICHARD VANDEGEER

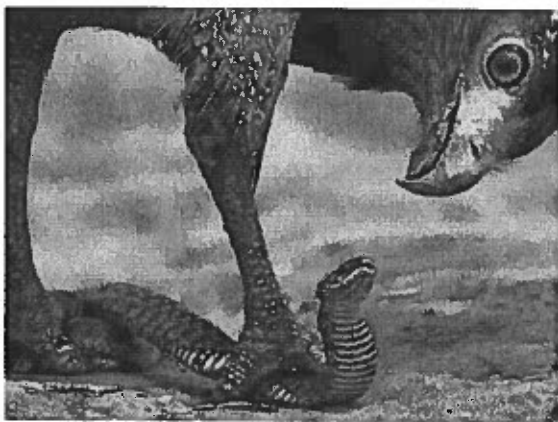
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(Black, Collums, Coyle, Dwyer, Ford, Fritz, Froehlich, Glenn, Hamlin, Hankamer, Higgs, Ilada, Kays, Lane, London, Mathias, Moran, McKelvey, McMullen, Nealis, Raber, Ross, Weldon, Benedett, Blessing, Sandovall, Copenhaver, Gause, Turner, Jazques, Loney, Manning, Maxwell, Boyd, Garcia, Rivenburgh, Rumbaugh, Vandegear)

I was prepared to fight, prepared to die. But I was not prepared for my country to leave me behind.

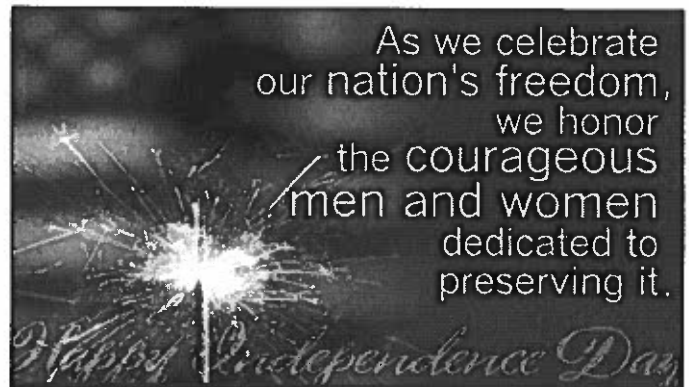
Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)



The Eagle does not fight the snake on the ground. It picks it up into the sky and changes the battle ground, and then it releases the snake into the sky. The snake has no stamina, no power and no balance in the air. It is useless, weak and vulnerable unlike on the ground where it is powerful wise and deadly. Take your fight into the spiritual realm by praying and when you are in the spiritual realm God takes over your battles.

Don't fight the enemy in his comfort zone, change the battle grounds like the Eagle and let God take charge through your earnest prayer. You'll be assured of clean victory.



President's Letter

Dear Members:

Now that Rolling Thunder® Inc. XXXI "Ride for Freedom" is in the books, we can look back and see what we need to fix. Where does the list begin with regard to getting the cooperation from the Pentagon and various Police Departments to get this annual event moving in the right direction? After thirty-one years wouldn't you think that this demonstration would be down to a science? Endless planning, meetings, and expensive permit costs with the Pentagon and various Police Departments result in a complete derailment of our demonstration arrangements. We know the Pentagon Police diverted our supporters away from the overflow South Pentagon parking lot, effecting our product sales greatly – without the proceeds from our product sales this event cannot happen. We have a Mission but without funding we cannot keep the Mission going. Sounds like a conspiracy against Rolling Thunder, what Memorial Weekend would be like in Washington, DC without the Thunder!

National's headquarters, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, VA was sold out and had been for a while. I like to thank everyone that helped in the parking lot with sells, parking, security and escorts. It takes everyone to make this work and we need the help of all chapters and members. We need to keep pushing the Government and bring awareness to the general public about POW/MIA issue and help for our Veterans. Everyone needs to remember Rolling Thunder® Inc. is a 504 (c) (4) so that we can be involved politically, especially lobbying for Veterans Issues and POW/MIA Issue.

National is starting to plan for the 2018 conference in November and for the "Ride for Freedom XXXII". I have been offered some help from some of the Chapters leadership.

Please keep our Veterans and the POW/MIA's in your hearts and in your prayers.

"Thank you, Veterans and Welcome Home"
"God Bless America"

Yours truly

Joe Bean

Joe Bean
National President
Rolling Thunder® Inc.