

MIA Totals: WWI (3,344), WWII (71,943), Korean (7,424), Cold War (126), Vietnam (1,572), OEF, OIF (6)

Indiana WWI (104) WWII (1,497), Korean (169), Vietnam (51)

INCOMING!

June Newsletter

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.



Indiana Chapter #1

“POW-MIA – You are not Forgotten”

<http://indianarollingthunder.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/RTINCh1>

Chapter Officers

President: Michael Clark

Vice President: Darryle Swartzlander

Secretary: Jessica Clark

Treasurer: Terry “Flash” Sanderson

President News

I hope everyone is doing well and in good health. Page 2 of the newsletter list our June birthdays. I wish all of the birthday members a happy birthday and hope you all have many more.

Our XXXVII Ride for Freedom was a successful event for the Chapter. I want to thank Darryle Swartzlander for coordinating the event, the Chapter Event Planning Committee, and all of the Chapter members for planning and helping to put this event together. The dedication of the POW/MIA Bench of Remembrance was the highlight of the event and will bring awareness to the thousands of people that will visit the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne Indiana. Thanks to everyone for your hard work and dedication to the Chapter. See pages 21-24 for details on the event.

Our June guest speaker Stan Hunt, unfortunately got sick and wasn't able to make our June Chapter meeting. However, Stan has rescheduled for our July Chapter meeting. Information on Stan is located on page 4 of the newsletter. Please feel free to pass this information on to your friends and invite them to attend the meeting.

June is the start of the Chapter Election cycle. In accordance with the National Constitution, all members will be duly notified of elections by an announcement in the Chapter Newsletter and the June, July and August Chapter meeting. Nominations will be taken at our July and August Chapter meetings only with the elections being held at the September Chapter meeting. The positions that will be up for election is the **President, Secretary, (4) Board Members, and Alternate Board Member**. See pages 5 – 10 for more details on the election.

The Chapter awarded 2 \$1,000 scholarships this year. The Linda J. Cope-Smith scholarship and the Chapter scholarship. The recipient of the Linda J. Cope-Smith scholarship was Makali Akers and the recipient of the Chapter scholarship was Marissa Pouge. See pages 11-17 for more details.

We had two families that lost loved ones this month and need your prayers to help them through these difficult times. Norman Crawford lost his wife Brenda, of 31 years. Former member David Franklin lost his wife Laura.

Please keep the Crawford and Franklin families in your prayers.

June 2025

Birthday's



Gregory Jones (01)

Lindsey Smith (14)

Don Leasure (20)

William J. Bailey (22)

Randen Miller (26)

Carla Henderson (28)

Hope you have many more

ACTIVE MEMBERS WITH 20 YEARS OR MORE OF SERVICE

First Name	Last Name	Date Joined	Remarks
Judy	Brinkley	September 1, 1998	
Sammy	Davis	September 1, 1998	Honorary
Carol	McFarland	September 1, 1998	
Don	McFarland	September 1, 1998	
Mark	Smith	September 1, 1998	Honorary
Bill	Reisa	November 19, 1998	
Terry	Sanderson	June 28, 1999	
Roger	Roe	November 19, 2000	
Donna	Ransdell	April 21, 2002	
Tom	Ransdell	April 21, 2002	
Ken	White	January 18, 2003	
David	Begala	June 1, 2003	
Alex	Barile	February 2, 2004	
Tony	Palmiero	March 1, 2004	
Larry	Paynter	March 21, 2004	
Michael	Clark	February 2, 2005	
Barbara	Clark	May 15, 2005	
Linda	Harrington	July 5, 2005	

The above members are still active members in the Chapter and have 20 or more years of service starting in 2025. Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter #1 was chartered in September 1, 1998. The above members with Joined Date of September 1, 1998 are Charter Members.

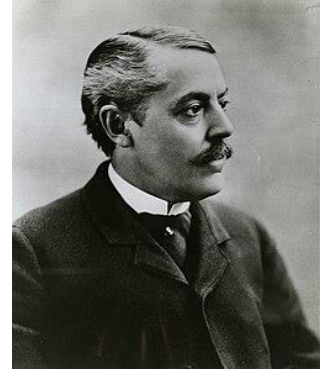
The Chapter is fortunate to have dedicated members such as these and I thank them for their service to the Chapter. I hope all of you will continue your service for many more years. Thank You.

Rolling Thunder Inc.
Indiana Chapter #1
Chapter Meeting
July 20, 2025

Visitors are invited to attend our meeting either in person at 1:00 pm, at the Ft. Harrison Veterans Center, 9450, E. 59th, Lawrence, IN. or on Zoom ⁽¹⁾

Visitors will hear about Chapter activities promoting awareness of the POW-MIA issue and assistance being provided to our veterans.

Our featured speaker for July will be Stan Hurt. Stan is a retired Lt. Cmdr. from the Navy. Then at 59 he became a 2nd Lieutenant in the 18th Indiana Light Artillery, known as Eli Lilly's Battery. Serving 17 years with fellow Civil War reenactors. He retired as a Major serving as Chief of Staff of the Union Regiments in Indiana. Stan is a Trustee for the Indiana Historic Society. His talk will focus on the Civil War and Eli Lilly's service and capture during the Civil War. Lilly was held as a POW from September 1864 to January 1865.



Lilly 1885

⁽¹⁾ Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89915506643>

Meeting ID: 899 1550 6643

Passcode: POW

Dial in: 312-626-6799 or 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 899 1550 6643

Passcode: 208540

Our Mission: 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 the future Veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War-Missing In Action. We are 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 that we are working on.

Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter 1

Elections

June is the start of our 2025 election cycle. In accordance with the National Constitution, all members will be duly notified of elections in the June Chapter Newsletter, and by an announcement at the June, July and August Chapter meeting. **Nominations will be taken at our July and August Chapter meetings only.**

You **MUST** be present to accept the Nomination.

To be nominated and/or elected for any officer position, a member must be in good standing for a period of (1) year or longer.

The member must have their Rocker/Eagle patches and have attended six (6) Chapter meetings in the past (12) months prior to nomination.

The election will be held at our September 17th Chapter Meeting.

The positions that will be up for election is the President, Secretary, (4) Board Members, and Alternate Board Member.

In accordance with the National Constitution, to be eligible for 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 of a Chapter prior to being nominated.

The Officer position that are open for the 2025 election are listed below.



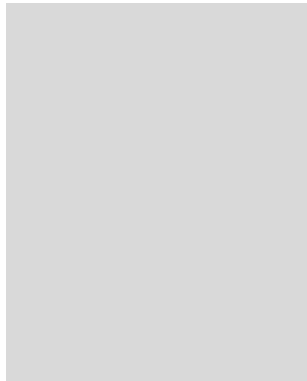
Mike Clark
President



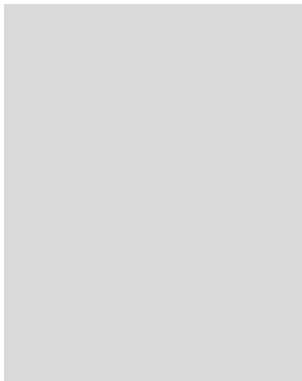
Jessica Clark
Secretary



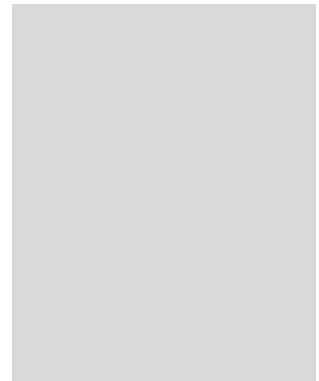
David Brewer
Board Member



Board Member
Vacant



Board Member
Vacant



Board Member
Vacant



William Smither
Alternate Board Member

Chapter President Duties and Responsibilities Description

The Chapter President is an elected official with a (2) year term and is the Chief Executive Officer in charge of the daily operation of the Chapter. The Chapter President enhances the organization's public standing by clearly articulating the Rolling Thunder® mission statement, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garners support from the community.

The duties of the Chapter President will include, but not limited to the following duties.

- a. Responsible for the overall day-to-day operation, safety, management and financial order of the organization.
- b. The Chapter President ensures that all officers, board members and members follow the Constitution.
- c. The Chapter President sets the agenda and runs the monthly membership meetings and ensures all meetings are run according to the Constitution and Roberts Rules when applicable.
- d. The Chapter President gives agenda ideas for discussion to the Chairman of the Board for the Board Meetings. (The Chairman of the Board runs the Board Meeting).
- e. Must have held another office, i.e.: Treasure, Secretary, or Board member, for a full term with Indiana Chapter #1.
- f. Must not miss (3) consecutive meetings without legitimate excuse.
- g. The President is responsible to the Vice President of Rolling Thunder® Inc. National. In some cases, through the State.

Chapter Secretary Duties and Responsibilities Description

The Chapter Secretary is an elected official with a (2) year term. The Chapter Secretary attends and records the minutes of all meetings and is the records officer for the Chapter. The Chapter Secretary enhances the organization's public standing by clearly articulating the Rolling Thunder mission statement, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garners support from the community.

The duties of the Chapter Secretary will include, but not limited to the following duties.

- a. Recording, editing and maintaining all meeting minutes
- b. Maintains custody of all records, reports on behalf of the executive officers.
- c. Prepares and distributes all incoming/outgoing correspondences, memorandums etc.
- d. Assist in the preparation of the Organizational Activities Reports.
- e. Provides monthly minutes to the Chapter for review.
- f. Must not miss (3) consecutive meetings without legitimate excuse submitted to the Chapter President.
- g. The Secretary is responsible to the President of the Chapter.
- h. Have a working knowledge of the National Constitution and Chapter Rules found on the Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter 1 website.

Chapter Board Member Duties and Responsibilities Description

The Chapter Board Member is an elected official with a (2) year term. The Chapter Board Member enhances the organization's public standing by clearly articulating the Rolling Thunder® mission statement, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garners support from the community.

The duties of the Chapter Board Member will include, but not limited to the following duties.

- a. Reports to the Chairman of the Board.
- b. Must attend all scheduled Board meetings and special Board meetings as determined by the Chairman of the Board or Chapter President.
- c. Must not miss (3) consecutive meetings without legitimate excuse submitted to the Chairman of the Board or Chapter President.
- d. Makes recommendations to the Board that will help promote the Chapter's mission and goals.
- e. Participates in Board discussions as presented by the Chairman of the Board or other Board Members.
- f. Votes on subject matters as directed by the Chairman of the Board.
- g. Must abide by the Rolling Thunder® National Constitution Rules of Conduct at all times.
- h. Have a working knowledge of the National Constitution and Chapter Rules found on the Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter 1 website.

Chapter Alternate Board Member Duties and Responsibilities Description

The Chapter Alternate Board Member is an elected official with a (2) year term. The Alternate Board Member enhances the organization's public standing by clearly articulating the Rolling Thunder® mission statement, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garners support from the community.

The duties of the Alternate Board Member will include, but not limited to the following duties.

- a. Reports to the Chairman of the Board.
- b. Must attend all scheduled Board meetings and special Board meetings as determined by the Chairman of the Board or Chapter President.
- c. Must not miss (3) consecutive meetings without legitimate excuse submitted to the Chairman of the Board or Chapter President.
- d. Makes recommendations to the Board that will help promote the Chapter's mission and goals.
- e. Participates in Board discussions as presented by the Chairman of the Board or other Board Members.
- f. Votes in the absents of a Board Member on subject matters as directed by the Chairman of the Board.
- g. Must abide by the Rolling Thunder® National Constitution Rules of Conduct at all times.
- h. Have a working knowledge of the National Constitution and Chapter Rules found on the Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter 1 website.

Linda J. Smith-Cope Scholarship Award
Makali Akers
Fountain Central High School

The Linda J. Smith-Cope POW-MIA scholarship is to honor Linda's spirit, and not only remember her brother Ronald E. Smith, but all those that have yet to come home to family and friends from all past wars. A \$1,000 scholarship is to be awarded annually to a Covington or Fountain Central High School graduating senior seeking a higher education at an accredited College, University, or Trade School.

Makali Akers is the receiptent of the Linda J. Smith-Cope scholarship for 2025, and will continue her edcuation at Purdue University. Makali wrote her essay on Camp Atterbury located on pages 12 and 13.



Makali Akers



Jim and Crystal presents the Scholarship award to Makali during the Senior Awards night at the Fountain Center High School.



Makali's report was on Camp Atterbury

As an 18 year old, I'm getting ready for a summer job and about to head off to college. But during WWII, this normalcy that I experienced would be a far off dream for many young Italian and German soldiers interned at Camp Atterbury, Indiana as prisoners of war. From April 1943 to June 1946, this massive Army base housed 12,000–15,000 POWs, many of which were young adults, navigating life in a strange land. The way they were treated and the environment they lived in shaped a unique experience—surprisingly humane, sometimes boring, but often filled with small moments of connection and purpose.

Camp Atterbury was a 45-acre piece of land. It was fenced off with double barbed wire and guard towers were scattered across the grounds. It was composed of around 60 barracks. As described, it sounds like Camp Atterbury was prison-like, seemingly gloomy and inhumane. However, on the inside, it was a decent environment. In the barracks, each POW got their own space, they received sufficient meals, they got snacks, and they even had sports teams. It wasn't fancy, but it was better than the war zones they left behind or the other POW camps they heard about.

For an 18-year-old POW, waking up in rural Indiana was like stepping into a different universe. Surrounded by endless cornfields and sleepy towns, the camp felt worlds away from the crowded cities or rugged villages of their homelands. The flat, open landscape could feel isolating, but it was a relief compared to urban camps packed with tension. Guards enforced rules firmly but rarely with cruelty, and escape attempts were nonexistent. The POWs didn't really have anywhere to go outside of the camp. This secure yet oddly open setting gave young POWs room to adjust from being on the battleground to being in a calmer, quieter environment.

Mornings began with the sharp routine of roll call and breakfast, grounding these POWs in structure. Work followed, and while the Geneva Convention barred dangerous tasks, most signed up eagerly for something to do. Inside the camp, they mowed lawns or scrubbed kitchens, while outside, they rode trucks to nearby farms, picking vegetables or detasseling corn under the summer sun. For a city kid from Naples or Berlin, this was a crash course in rural life, the fresh air a stark contrast to the smoke of war. Earning camp currency for their labor meant small joys like candy or cigarettes, a taste of independence that mattered deeply to POWs.

Work doubled as a bridge to the outside world. Local Farmers needed farmhands due to American workers being at war overseas. Most civilians welcomed the POWs for their help and kindness. Some would even give them snacks or stick up a conversation. The local hoosiers understood that the POWs were just defending their countries and didn't choose to become prisoners of war. They knew that the POWs were kind and wouldn't do any harm. However, that wasn't always the case. Some civilians believed that the POWs were being treated too much like civilians while our men were fighting in harsh conditions overseas. Nevertheless, the POWs were being treated fairly by most people, like they were hoosiers themselves.

In the afternoons, the camp transformed into a surprising playground. Young POWs poured energy into soccer games or volleyball, their shouts and laughter echoing across the barracks. Singing contests brought out old folk tunes, while the creative POWs sketched or

played music with supplies bought from the canteen. For an 18-year-old, these were moments of pure freedom. They could show off, joke with friends, and feel like a kid again. Books and language classes offered escape or growth, letting the POWs take advantage of their time at Camp Atterbury by leaning.

Religion was important to many, especially the Italians, who embraced their Catholic faith. In 1943, a group of them built the "Chapel in the Meadow," a tiny sanctuary, from scrap brick and stucco that they dyed with berries. Stepping inside for Mass was like an escape from reality, the church reminding them of home. Germans later used it too, and the camp ensured faith was respected, giving these men a space to feel whole. That chapel, even though it was small, was a way to ensure they would not deviate from their faith.

Friendships forged in the barracks became lifelines. Late teens and early twenties, these guys naturally gravitated to each other, swapping tales of home, poking fun at their situation, or imagining the future. These bonds and small acts of creation turned captivity into something shared, even purposeful. For a young POW, having a friend to lean on made the days feel less like imprisonment and more like an odd, shared journey.

The camp's strict but fair atmosphere, guided by the Geneva Convention, set it apart. Decent food, medical care, and respect were standard, with only 17 deaths over three years. This was a major contrast to the other camps worldwide, the deaths mostly being caused by illness. For an 18-year-old, Atterbury might have felt like a weird dream. It wasn't fully free, but it also wasn't truly trapped. Some might have felt guilty knowing that American POWs faced worse, but their guilt couldn't change how the American POWs were treated.

The memory of Camp Atterbury lingers today. The Chapel in the Meadow still stands in Johnson County Park, a quiet tribute to the young men who built it. Stories like Puccini's, who later became a U.S. citizen and whose son joined the U.S. military, reveal how some turned a traumatizing time in their life to a new beginning. For locals, the POWs were the enemy made human as they sang, worked, and helped in times of need. For the POWs themselves, Camp Atterbury was a strange haven where, even at 18, they laughed, labored, and dared to hope, proving that even in the shadow of war, youth could find a way to live.

Chapter Scholarship Award
Marissa Pouge
Center Grove High School

Marissa Pouge was the recipient of the Chapter Scholarship award. Marissa is the Great Granddaughter of former WWII POW 2Lt. Jack M. Humbrecht. 2Lt Humbrecht served in the Army Air Corps as a B17 Bomber Pilot and was shot down in August 1944, and captured by the Germans. 2Lt Humbrecht served 8 months as a POW before being liberated. Marissa will major in nursing at Wesleyan University.

The Chapter Scholarship is a way for the Chapter to give back to the family members who have suffered so much with the loss of a loved one who is Missing in Action or was captured and taken as a Prisoner of War.

Marissa wrote her essay on the Massacre at Palawan located on pages 15-17



The Massacre at Palawan

While events like the Holocaust, the attack on Pearl Harbor, or the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are extremely tragic, resulting in the death of millions of innocent civilians, their rightfully claimed significance when talking of World War II has overshadowed lesser-known atrocities such as the Massacre at Palawan. Shedding light on the cruelties and inhumanities that occurred at the Palawan massacre is not meant to underscore the casualties and hardships of the millions of individuals who died due to fighting and war efforts, but instead to honor the individuals who fought for their nation and their people throughout their time as prisoners of war.

Throughout the fighting of World War II, Japanese-run prisoner of war (POW) camps were located near Puerto Princesa City on Palawan Island. These camps held both American and Filipino soldiers. Still, they consisted of the majority of American troops who had survived the Bataan Death March, lasting from April 9 to April 17th, 1942, where thousands of American and Filipino soldiers died due to starvation, dehydration, beatings, and executions. Individuals who believed they were lucky enough to have survived these severely harsh conditions were met with having to surrender to stronger Japanese forces. These soldiers were captured and were to be imprisoned until the end of hostilities, but some were not as lucky as others.

Those who were imprisoned and sent to camps on Palawan Island were used for cheap labor, helping to make the Japanese military an even stronger entity. They were forced to build airfields, roads, and fortifications. The conditions that these prisoners of war were held in were especially cruel compared to the treatment of prisoners of war in more Western camps.

Japanese military culture, which viewed surrender as an extremely dishonorable act, prompted the harsh treatment of American soldiers in these Palawan camps. The extreme cruelty used by the Japanese served as both a punishment for soldiers as well as an intimidation tactic against enemies. In these camps, POWs suffered from frequent occurrences of beatings and abuse. Many died from starvation or dehydration as they were offered the bare minimum of food and

lacked water. These POW camps also denied many prisoners treatment for diseases, illnesses, and injuries. While an attempt was made in January of 1944 by the Red Cross to deliver aid packages to those imprisoned, the Japanese removed anything that could be used for drugs or medical supplies. Conditions for prisoners of war only continued to worsen, leading to an increasing number of escape attempts. Out of all the attempts for individuals to regain their freedom, few were successful and most resulted in the deaths of many. As time went on cruelties only continued to grow.

In December of 1944, approximately 150 American prisoners of war were brutally murdered and executed by Japanese soldiers following the orders of a higher command. Prior, American forces had been becoming increasingly close to advancing through the Philippines and the Japanese feared that this meant liberation for American and Filipino prisoners of war. In the eyes of the Japanese military liberation was seen as a failure and unacceptable, as a result, secret orders had been issued stating that if a camp was under threat of liberation all prisoners were to be executed, these orders were known as "kill-all" orders. The strict Japanese attitudes and military ideology allowed many Japanese soldiers to believe there was nothing wrong with killing them.

At Camp 10-A, the commanding general of the Japanese 2nd Air Division, Lieutenant General Seeiichi Terada, believed an allied invasion with the attempt at liberation was about to occur. He ordered all 150 remaining American POWs to be annihilated immediately, issuing each soldier 30 rounds of ammunition. At 11 am on December 14, 1944, Japanese soldiers signaled for all POWs to conclude their work immediately. They were then forced into air raid trenches, fitting 40-50 men in each, Some refused to enter into the air raids and were executed. When the air raid trenches became filled, Japanese soldiers poured gasoline on the American POWs and set them on fire. Anyone who tried to escape the tragedy was shot, bayoneted, or otherwise hunted down by soldiers. Of the approximately 150 Americans, only 11 individuals managed to escape and ultimately survive by hiding underneath the bodies of their fellow

prisoners or by later swimming across Puerto Princesa Bay. Due to the courage of the 11 individuals who were able to escape from the Palawa camp, we can honor those who died for their nation due to their detailed firsthand accounts. Beyond just honoring those who lost their lives, the accounts told of what happened at the Massacre at Palawan helped inspire the Raid of Cabanatuan on January 30, 1945. These individuals helped liberate over 500 American POWs who were facing the same fate as those at Palawan. This rescue mission is now considered one of the most successful rescue missions in the history of the U.S. military, showing the commitment that the United States has made to bring home its soldiers, even if they seem too far behind enemy lines.

We can't be able to understand and comprehend the conditions and attitudes that American prisoners of war were treated with during their time in these camps. The best we can do is to continue to honor them for their service, which has allowed us to keep the freedoms we have today.

Upcoming Events

June 28 th	Veterans Memorial Ride to Madison Indiana
July 2 nd	Chapter Event Planning Meeting
July 20 th	Board and Chapter Meeting
July 30 th	9 th Annual USS Indianapolis Honor Watch
August 6 th	Chapter Event Planning Meeting
August 17 th	Board and Chapter Meeting

Veterans Memorial Ride to Madison Indiana

This is our annual ride to the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Madison Indiana to honor our Veterans and our members that have passed on.

Chapter Event Planning Meeting

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Chapter Event Planning Meetings. The meetings start at 18:00 using the same Zoom information as our monthly Chapter meetings. The main focus of this meeting will be on Chapter Committees.

Board and Chapter Meeting

This will be the Chapters monthly meeting at the Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Board meeting is for Board Members only and the Chapter meeting is for everyone. This will also be the **first opportunity** to make nominations for Chapter Officers. The Board meeting will be from 11:00 - 12:45. The Chapter meeting starts at 1:00PM. The positions that will be up for election is the **President, Secretary, (4) Board Members, and Alternate Board Member.**

9th Annual USS Indianapolis Honor Watch

The Chapter has been invited to perform the Roll Call ceremony for the 31 Indiana Hoosier heroes, who served on the USS Indianapolis, and gave the ultimate sacrifice on July 30th, 1945 when the USS Indianapolis was sunk by the Japanese Navy. We'll need Chapter Members to help with the Roll Call ceremony by reading the names of the 31 that lost their lives on that terrible day. Everyone is encouraged to attend this special ceremony on Sunday July 30th at the USS Indianapolis Memorial.

Chapter Event Planning Meeting

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Chapter Event Planning Meetings. The meetings start at 18:00 using the same Zoom information as our monthly Chapter meetings.

Board and Chapter Meeting

This will be the Chapters monthly meeting at the Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Board meeting is for Board Members only and the Chapter meeting is for everyone. This will be the **last opportunity** to make nominations for Chapter Officers. The Board meeting will be from 11:00 - 12:45. The Chapter meeting starts at 1:00PM. The positions that will be up for election is the **President, Secretary, (4) Board Members, and Alternate Board Member.**

Future Events to Remember Save the Dates

The Chapter has some important events coming up throughout the year that we need members to mark on their calendar and support.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan on attending.

August 23rd – Veterans Center Support Event (**Subject to change to a later date**).

September 12th – Project Recovery (Indiana War Memorial)

September 18th – Watch Fire Ceremony.

September 19th - POW/MIA Recognition Day Escort and Ceremony.

September 13th – Indy Honor Flight #47

October 25th – Indy Honor Flight #48 (Last Honor Flight for 2025)

Indy 1500 Gun & Blade Show



The June 6th - 8th show wrapped up the 2025 Gun Raffle for the Chapter. All 1,000 tickets were sold before the end of the show on June 8th. **The winner of the Gun Raffle was Nickolas Rensing.**

I thank Darryle for managing the raffle and all of the members who worked the booths at the shows, and sold raffle tickets. You all did a great job and raised a lot of money for the Chapter. More details on the Gun Raffle will be provided in the July Newsletter.



June 6th – 8th Gun and Blade Show at the Indiana State Fair Grounds

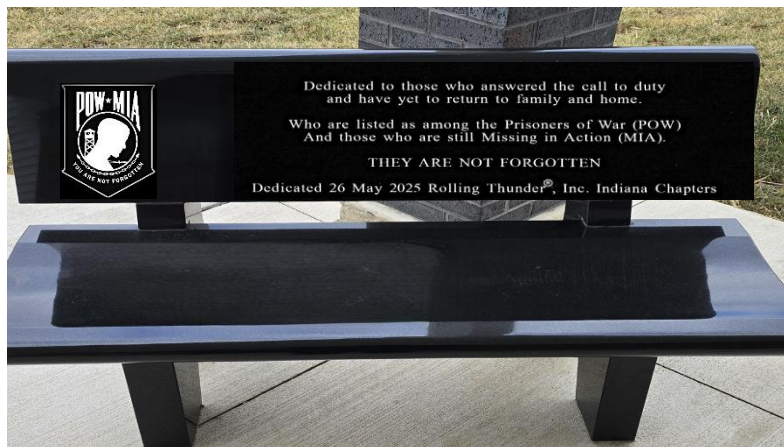
Rolling Thunder® XXXVII Ride for Freedom May 26, 2025

The 37th annual Ride for Freedom for Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 was on Monday May 26th. The event started at the Fort Harrison Veterans and end up at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne Indiana

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum has a ¾ replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memoria Wall like the one in Washington DC. They also have a Korean War Memorial that was dedicated in 2024. The Korean War Memorial is similar to the one in Washington DC with the exception that the faces on the on the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum Korean War Memorial are ones from Allen County.

They have the Merci 40 & 8 Box Car given to Indiana by the French Government in 1949 after World War II. The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum dedicated Global War on Terror Memorial in June 2024 which Honors all those Gold Star family members killed in combat. New monuments scheduled to be dedicated in 2025 are a World War I Monument; a World War II monument and the Global War on terrorism monuments made of Indiana limestone.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 dedicated a POW/MIA Remembrance Bench at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum on May 26th as part of the event. The bench is to honor those who answered the call to duty and have yet to return to family and home, our Prisoners of War (POW) and those that are still Missing in Action (MIA).



Dedicated to those who answered the call to duty
And have yet to return to family and home.

Who are listed as among the Prisoners of War (POW)
And those who are still Missing in Action (MIA)

THEY ARE NOT GORGOTTEN

Dedicated 26 May 2025 Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapters

The program included the presentation of the Nation's Colors by the Marine Color Guard; singing of the National Anthem by Lisa McDaniel and the pledge of Allegiance by all. The Honorable Sharon Tucker, Mayor of Fort Wayne and Chapter President Mike Clark, presented a single wreath representing those that gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country, and those that are still Missing in Action from all wars.



Marine CORPS League Detachment #1435
Color Guard



Mayor Sharon Tucker and Chapter President Mike Clark
presenting wreath.



Amazing Grace was played
by Retired MSgt Wayne
Huffman.



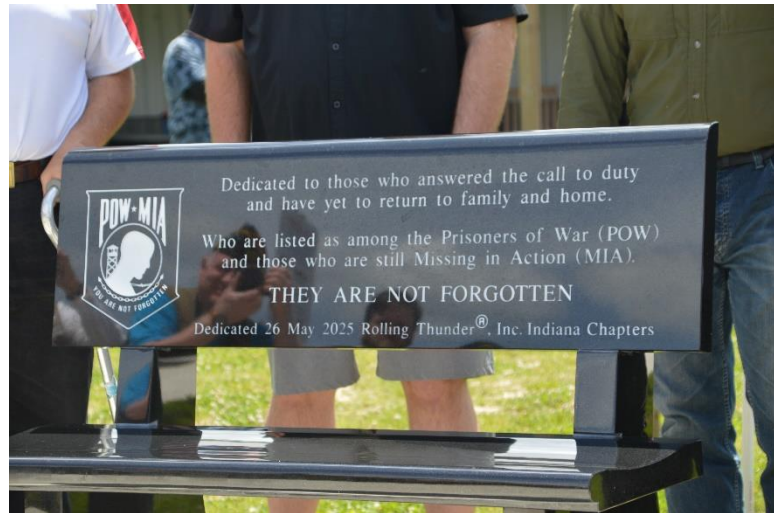
After the program, Mission BBQ of Fort Wayne
Indiana hosted a great BBQ meal for the
participants. We thank Mission BBQ for their
sponsorship of our Ride for Freedom event.



Unveiling of the POW/MIA Remembrance Bench

The unveiling of the POW/MIA Remembrance Bench was done by Mayor Tucker, Senator Busch, Brad McDaniel and Robert Thomas (Shrine Director). John Ley Monuments Sales Inc. of Avilla Indiana did an outstanding job on the bench.

The POW/MIA Remembrance Bench was a great addition to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum and will be seen by thousands of the guests who visit the shrine for many years



Rolling Thunder® XXXVII Ride for Freedom Ride to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum

The Ride for Freedom started from the Fort Harrison Veterans Center with a rest stop at the McClure Station in Gas City. The group made its next stop at the Harley Davidson of Fort Wayne to pick up the Fort Wayne riders.

The total number of registrations was 105. There were 57 FNG's, 54 2-Wheelers, and 16 3-Wheelers for a total of 70 motorcycles.



Rolling Thunder® has a tradition to issue a FNG badge to our first time riders. This is a special badge that the rider is required to wear for a full year. If you know a Vietnam Veteran, ask them the real meaning of FNG.



The group makes a rest stop at the McClure Gas Station before heading to the Fort Wayne Harley Davidson shop. The Gas City Police provided traffic light support to get the group back on the Interstate safely.



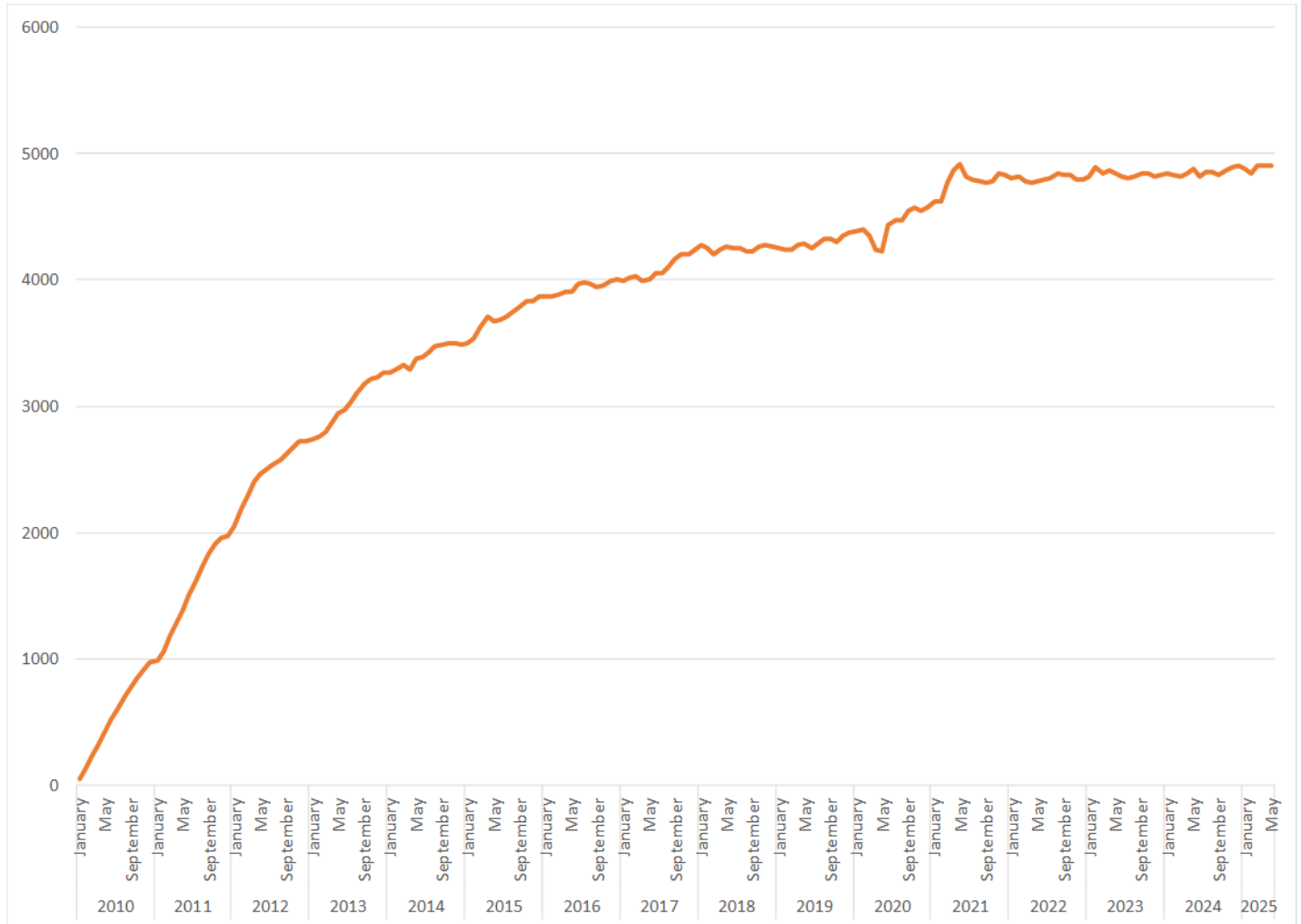
After departing Gas City, the group traveled to the Harley Davidson of Fort Wayne to meet up with an additional 51 Fort Wayne riders. At approximately 12:30, the group departed the Harley Davidson of Fort Wayne parking lot and traveled to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum escorted by the Allen County Sheriff Department. We thank Harley Davidson of Fort Wayne and the Allen County Sheriff Department for supporting our Ride for Freedom events over the past 3 years. Thank You.



Brad McDaniel, District Director for Congressman Marlin Stutzman Indiana State Senate, District 3.

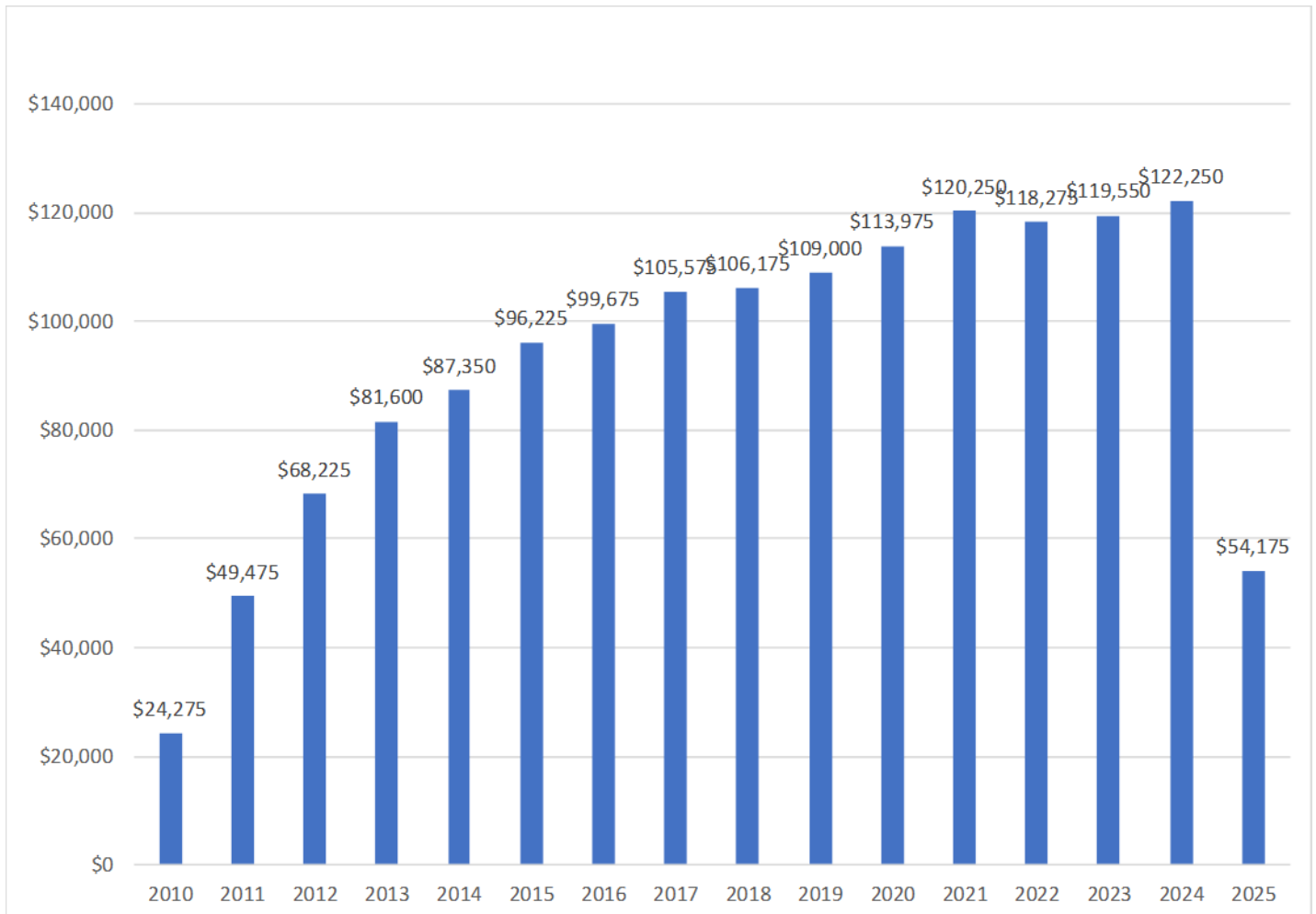
Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plates on the Streets As of May, 2025

As of May 31, 2025, we have 4,909 POW/MIA specialty plates on the streets of Indiana helping to bring awareness to the public about our POWs, and MIAs. The funds generated from the sale of the POW/MIA Specialty plate goes towards helping our Indiana Veterans in need through the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF). 467 plates were Renewed/Sold in May 2025.



The June plate sales will be briefed at the July Chapter meeting.

Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate Fund From 2010 to 2025



Since the introduction of the Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate in January 2010, the plate has generated an estimated **\$1,476,050**. 100% of the proceeds generated from the sales of the POW/MIA specialty plate goes to the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) to help our Indiana Veterans in need.

If you don't have an Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate on your vehicle, please let the Bureau Motor Vehicle (BMV) know that you would like to purchase a Rolling Thunder® sponsored POW/MIA specialty plate on your next renewal or new purchase.

With the purchase of an Indiana POW/MIA specialty plate, not only will you be instrumental in helping to bring awareness to the public about our POWs and MIAs, you will be helping our Indiana Veterans in need.

Total Accounted for in FY 2025: 144

Accounted For by War

WWII (102)

Korean (39)

Cold War (0)

Vietnam/Laos (3)

Indiana Heroes that have been Identified

Name	DOL	Identified	Returned	County	HOR
F3C Alferd E. Livingston	12-7-1941	2-1-2007	7-21-2007	USS Oklahoma	Worthington
1st Class Paul A. Nash	12-7-1941	4-15-2015	6-30-2016	USS Oklahoma	Carlisle
1LT Robert L. McIntosh	5-12-1944	8-1-2015	8-13-2016	Italy	Tipton
3rd Class Francis L. Hannon	12-7-1941	10-24-2017		USS Oklahoma	Indianapolis
PVT USMC Fred Freet	11-20-1943	8-6-2018	4-18-2019	Tarawa Atoll	Marion
PFC Marvin E. Dickson	11-13-1944	9-27-2018	6-8-2019	Germany	Indianapolis
MSG Charles H. McDaniel	11-1-1950	9-12-2018	10-27-2018	Korea	Greenwood
PFC Army Clifford M. Mills	9-18-1944	1-29-2019	3-30-2019	Germany	Troy
SEA1 Oris V. Brandt	12-7-1941	2-20-2019		USS Oklahoma	Kentland
TSGT Charles G. Ruble	9-17-1944	5-31-2019	3-2-2020	Netherlands	Parker City
PVT USMC William E. Ramboo	11-20-1943	7-13-2019		Betio Island	LaPorte
F3C Alferd E. Livingston	12-7-1941	2-1-2007	7-21-2007	USS Oklahoma	Worthington
1st Class Paul A. Nash	12-7-1941	4-15-2015	6-30-2016	USS Oklahoma	Carlisle
PFC USMC Marley R. Arthurholtz	12-7-1941	9-18-2019	12-7-2019	USS Oklahoma	South Bend
PFC USMC Louis Wiesshan	11-21-1943	9-23-2019	6-11-2020	Tarawa Atoll	Richmond
SEA1 Maurice V. Spangler	12-7-1941	3-27-2020		USS Oklahoma	Ft. Wayne
CPO B. James Booe	12-7-1941	9-29-2020	6-1-2021	USS Oklahoma	Veedersburg
2nd Class Harold F. Trapp	12-7-1941	11-24-2020		USS Oklahoma	LaPorte
3Rd Class Willaim H. Trapp	12-7-1941	11-24-2020		USS Oklahoma	LaPorte
PFC USMC Charles D. Miller	11-22-1943	5-19-2020		Tarawa Atoll	Albany
SGT Stanley Lee Dewitt	11-1-1950	6-5-2020	10-19-2021	Chosen Reservoir	Royal City
George Gilbert	12-7-941	8-24-2020	6-6-2022	USS Oklahoma	Indianapolis

Indiana Heroes that have been identified
Continued

Name	DOL	Identified	Returned	County	HOR
PFC Leonard E. Adams	1-21-1945	7-20-2022	6-13-2023	France	Dana
2LT Gene F. Walker	11-24-1944	7-21-2023		Germany	Richmond
PFC Clossie D. Brown	1-21-1945	4-25-2024		France	Kirkin
MSG Wallace Simmons JR	12-6-1950	6-20-2024		Chosin Reservoir	Marion, CO
PVT Charles W. Smalley JR	8-25-1944	1-14-2025		France	Porter, CO
CPL Lester William Bauer	7-27-1950	3-4-2025		South Korea	Clinton County
SGT Sidney Burke	8-3-1943	4-18-2025		Burma	Crown Point

WWII MIA
SGT Sidney Burke
UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES
Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana
Accounted For 04/18/2025

On April 18, 2025, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Sgt. Sidney Burke, missing from World War II.

Burke entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from Indiana and served in the 22nd Bombardment Squadron, 341st Bombardment Group.

On August 3, 1943, he was the armorer gunner aboard a B-25C Mitchell (serial number 42-53417) which took off from Kurmitola Air Base, India, with a crew of six for a low altitude attack on the Meiktila Dam in Burma.

The bomber crashed near the dam during the mission. Two crew members survived the crash; one man returned to allied control, and the other died as a Japanese POW in Rangoon, Burma. The other four members of the crew, including Burke, were killed in the crash and their remains were not recovered after the war.

All were declared missing in action. In 1947 the American Grave Registration Service (AGRS) recovered four sets of remains from a common grave near the village of Kyunpobin, Burma.

According to local witnesses, the remains came from an "American crash". The remains could not be identified at the time and were interred as Unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

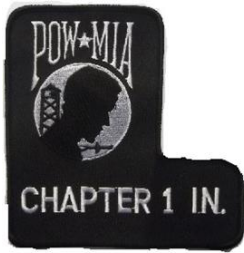
In January 2022, after the Department of Defense approved DPAA's disinterment request, all four sets of remains were exhumed and accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for scientific analysis. Based on the laboratory analysis and the totality of circumstantial evidence, one of sets of remains was identified as belonging to Burke.

More details on SGT Burke's return will be provided once known.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Membership Patches and Obligations

National Constitution

The Rolling Thunder® patches are items that members strive to obtain. The Boot patch represents the members Chapter, and the Rocker and Eagle represents Rolling Thunder® National. These patches should be worn proudly and with respect. When a member is issued these patches, they have an obligation to take care of them and turn them in if they decide to quit Rolling Thunder® for whatever reason. Below is an abstract from the National Constitution on the members obligations that they agree to when they receive these patches.



The Chapter Boot Patch. All members will receive a Rolling Thunder® Membership Boot patch when they become a full member at the end of a 120-day period. If a member meets his/her obligations before the 120 days are up they are entitled to receive their Boot patch no earlier than 90 days, provided they meet all other (loyalty and conduct) requirements. A new member must make 3 meetings or events, or a combination thereof, during the 120-day trial period to become a full member. **A \$50.00 patch deposit is required**



The Rocker and Eagle Patches. After a member completes his/her first year (from the day they receive their boot patch) as a member in good standing, they will be issued the Eagle & Rocker patches, **which is the property of National.** **A \$100.00 patch deposit is required before National will issue the Rocker and Eagle Patches.**

Membership Obligations

Retrieve Patches: It's the Chapters responsibility to retrieve all patches. If a member does not renew dues in a reasonable time, thirty days from the end of February the Chapter President or his appointed representative will collect their patches. Any Chapter that does not retrieve the members patches will be held liable for their cost. Any problems from a delinquent member to collect our property, if needed have a lawyer send a letter and take them to court (quote the constitution) that a member will pay all court and lawyers fees. **The Chapter will pay National \$150.00 per set lost and members deposit will not be refunded.**

If you mail your patches to the Chapter, make sure you send the package CERTIFIED or PRIORITY mail for tracking purposes and insure the package for \$150.00.

Please DO NOT Glue your patches on your vest. National will NOT accept damaged patches and you may lose your patch refund.

POW/MIA Educational Reading And Websites

Recommended Books

Title	Author
Leave No Man Behind	Bill Bell
Why Didn't You Get Me Out	Frank Aton
Kiss The Boys Goodbye	Monika Jensen-Stevenson & William Stevenson
Betrayed	Joseph D. Douglass, Jr
Still Waiting	Linda Cope
An Enormous Crime	Bill Hendon and Elizabeth A Stewart
Scars and Strips	Captain Eugene "RED" McDaniel USN Retired
Reflections on Captivity	Porter Alexander Halyburton

Note: Books marked in RED are highly recommended reads.

Recommended Web Sites

Title	URL
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)	http://www.dpaa.mil/
Biographies on Prisoners of War and Missing in Action	http://www.pownetwork.org/bios.htm
Rolling Thunder National	http://www.rollingthunder1.com/
National League of POW/MIA Families	http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/
Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 1	http://www.indianarollingthunder.com/
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	http://esgr.mil/in
Veterans Support Council of Marion County	http://www.vscmc.com/
Veterans Events	http://www.veteranevents.org/
American Ex-Prisoners of War	http://www.axpow.org/default.htm

The Coachman Restaurant and Lounge



Mr. Paynter with his wife
Becky. Hard to believe that a
Marine could make such a catch

Larry Paynter is a proud Marine, Chapter Member, and along with his wife Becky, own and operate the Coachman Restaurant & Lounge in Plainfield, IN. The Coachman is famous for mouthwatering Prime Rib, Fresh cut steaks, large seafood selection, and the best Pork Tenderloin sandwich anywhere.

The Coachman offers daily lunch, and dinner food specials, with discount on appetizers, desserts, wine, liquor, and beer.

Join us for great food, and service along with our beautiful Patio for outside dining and entertainment (weather permitting). The Coachman is located at 6112 Cambridge Way, Plainfield, IN 46168

Visit the Coachman at <http://www.thecoachmanrestaurant.com>



The Coachman Restaurant and Lounge

10% discount with this coupon

Not available with any other discounts

Always remember our American POWs and MIAs





Ed Duam is a long time Rolling Thunder Chapter Member, and owner of the Do it Best Hardware store in Plainfield, IN. Ed has a great selection of hardware products for you do-it-yourselfers. If you are in a need of an American, POW-MIA, or State flag, see Ed. His flags are top American quality at a reasonable price.

Ed offers 10% discount to Veterans.

Web site: <http://www.plainfielddoitbest.com/>

Store Address: 1001 East Main Street, Plainfield, IN 46168 (317) 839-2353

Ed will love to see yea



This page is dedicated to our brothers and sisters hat have gone on to ride the heavens

NEVER FORGET

Tookolo, Allen, Member, November 2002	Booth, Frank, Member, 2004
Walker, Bruce, Member, October 2004	Parish, Bruce “Buz”, Past President, Sept 2008
Brinkley, Jon Past President, January 2009	Leck, Lou, Member, September 2009
Hall, Bruce, Member, March 2010	Gigle, Gene, Member, August 2011
Jolly, Ron Past Vice President, December 2011	Kaler, Steve, Past President, June 2012
Wilson, John, US Army WWII POW, July 2012	Loffredo, Nicholas, Member, August 2012
Freeman, James, Past Board, August 2012	Fulmer, Kenneth, Member, August 2012
Huelskamp, Glenn, Member, February 2013	Hillis, George “Sam”, May 2013
Winters, Steve, Member, September 2013	Meyerrose, Timothy, Member, May 2014
Richard (Dick) Forrey, Member June 2015	Hutchinson, James Alt Board Member, Dec 2015
Mary Brodrick, Member April 2016	Van Brunt, Craig, May 2016
Gary Stanley, Member October 2017	Jimmie Earl Brown , Member August 2018
Ruth Smith, Member September 2018	Damon Gastineau , Member December 2018
Joseph Smith, Member April 2018	Linda Cope, Past Secretary June 2019
Walter “Wally” J. Dudek, Member November 2019	Joe Kernan, USN Vietnam War POW, July 2020
Melanie Bailey, Member November 25, 2021	Katherina Bean, Member December 14, 2021
Donald Leffler, Member December 20, 2021	Richard Harrington, Past COB, January 17, 2022
John Byers, Member August 27, 2022	Kaler, Shirley, Member October 13, 2022
James “Jim” Weaver, Member December 14, 2022	Joseph B. Stuart, Member July 20, 2023
Gary L. Porter, Charter Member, June 7, 2024	Ralph Coulter, Member July 6, 2024