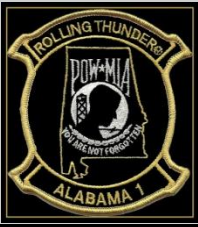


Rolling Thunder® , Inc. Chapter 1 Alabama

11963 Balsam Ct. - Spanish Fort, AL 36527 - PRESIDENT: Don Westwood EDITOR: Fran Barber, V-PRESIDENT



NEWS LETTER:

DECEMBER 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW-MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. 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. Revised: July 27, 2009

The Holiday Season has come and gone...all too fast for some. As we reflect on the past year we are indebted to those who gave, some gave all, so that we may live in a free country. We will continue to publicize the POW/MIA issues, and stand by our commitment to help American Veterans from all wars. We, Rolling Thunder®, Chapter 1 Alabama, have made a commitment to reach out to the families of MIA's in our area to offer our assistance wherever possible and let them know "We shall not forget".

The 1165th Military Police Company (Alabama National Guard Company) will be leaving for duty in Afghanistan on Monday, January 3rd 2011. There will be a ceremony at the Fairhope Civic Center at 12 NOON, Followed by a parade. Rolling Thunder has been asked to provide an escort out of Fairhope through Daphne to I-10. Let's

show our support for these soldiers going in harm's way. If you don't have a motorcycle or cannot ride that day, please come to the ceremony at the Civic Center. For those wanting to participate in the escort, we will stage at the BP Station (address 22772 Hwy 98, Fairhope) on east side of Hwy 98 just before you get to Fairhope. It is located between Retro Cycles and Publix. I have contacted the LA (Lower Alabama) PGR and Pensacola PGR to participate in this event. We will be staging with them at 10:30 with KSU at 10:45. Our Prayers go with them that they all return home safe to their love ones.

Fifteen Members of the 946th Forward Surgical Team will deploy on 6 January for duty in Afghanistan. A ceremony will be held at 10 AM on Tuesday, January 4th, 2011 at Fort Whiting, 1630 South Broad St, Mobile, AL. Let's show our support for these soldiers going in harm's way

by attending the ceremony at Fort Whiting. Our prayers go with them that they all return home safe to their loved ones.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: Richard Phelps has accepted the position of Chairman of the Board. Our thanks to Dick for his dedication to RTAL1.

TICKETS ARE HERE - ROLLING THUNDER®, Inc. Will raffle off a Harley Davidson Ultra Classic at the event next year. We have tickets for sale, \$10.00 each. Drawing on Memorial Day at 3:00 p.m., May 30th, 2011 at the event in D.C. Money raised from the sale of the raffle tickets is used to host (Page 1 of 5)

the Rolling Thunder FIRST AMENDMENT, MOTORCYCLE RALLY in Washington, D.C.

which is held the day before Memorial Day. Pick up your tickets from Dick Phelps...the more we sell, the more we earn.

RUN FOR THE WALL:

We are looking forward to a good representation in D.C. Mike Eells is busy mapping out a route for us to take. Now is the time to make those reservations. Better to have a reservation now, and cancel later if you have to, than to wait too long and not get in a good location.

ANDERSONVILLE, GA.: We are waiting for a confirmation from our State Director. Those of you who went to Andersonville, Ga. last year know how quickly the hotels fill up.

GUEST AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING: Daphne, Mike Eells wife and Bennie Thompson's grandson, Josh.

Bill Koupeny gave an update on Col. Frazier who suffered a bout with pneumonia and was hospitalized in the VA Hospital in Biloxi. We are pleased to report that at the time of this newsletter Col. Glenn Frazier's illness was brief, and he and Terri spent the Holidays in balmy Southern Fl.

Here we are, Jan – 2011 and road blocks are coming. More details to follow from Steve Baker/Jim Jeffries(AL), and Weldon Allen(FL).

VISA GIFT CARD – TAX DAY RAFFLE. drawing to be held April 15, 2010 at American Legion post 199, Fairhope, AL. Tickets will be available soon.

As you well know from your email inbox, Jim Jeffries makes a point to bring recognition to others in any way he sees possible.

Recently, Jim was the winner of the Benelli Shotgun which was raffled off by Honor Flight South Alabama with the help of Aaron Daniels. After a day of pondering, Jim and his wife decided to donate the shotgun to be raffled again so another WWII Veteran's fare could be paid on the coming flight. Jim was more interested in helping someone and serving another, than adding an awesome gun to his possessions.

Six days later, after a quick raffle and another \$1000 added to the profit, we had a second winner. The local Newspaper, the Independant, published a small article with a picture of the second winner as well as noting Jim's very gracious donation. Thanks for the information Aaron.

Skelton Praises House-Senate Approval of FY11 Defense Authorization

Washington, D.C. – House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) praised today's House approval of the Senate amendment to H.R. 6523, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. H.R. 6523 was approved by unanimous consent.

“For 48 consecutive years, the Congress has carried out its duty to the men and women of the military by passing a defense authorization act. I am very proud that Congress continued the tradition by approving this defense authorization bill, which will help protect America and take care of our men and women in uniform and their families. I hope that the President will sign the bill into law without delay,” said Skelton.

H.R. 6523, which the House approved on December 17 by a vote of 341 to 48, was amended by the Senate by striking Title XVII, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. With House approval of the amended version of the defense authorization, the bill may now be sent to the President to be signed into law. (Page 2 of 5)

VA URGES VETERANS TO SIGN UP FOR DIRECT DEPOSITS

Treasury Publishes Final Regulation to Phase Out Paper Checks by 2013

WASHINGTON (Dec. 21, 2010)- The Department of the Treasury announced a new rule that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by March 1, 2013. Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urge Veterans to sign up for electronic payment of their benefits.

For more information about VA benefits and programs, go to: www.va.gov or call toll free 1-800-827-1000.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Jim Linesberry, President Chapter 11, Florida. His wife suffered a massive stroke and departed this life on December 19, 2010. You and your family are in our prayers Jim.

ELISEO LOPEZ, 1918-2010:
Bataan Death March survivor
Eliseo Lopez, a Springer native who survived the Bataan Death March during World War II, died in Atlanta on Thursday. He was 92. He died on Veterans Day, which was very appropriate.

TO ALL ROLLING THUNDER
CHAPTER MEMBERS

Just wanted to inform the chapter that Staff Sgt. Samuel E. Hewitt USMC from

Walkerton, Indiana has been brought home. He was lost March 1966 in South Vietnam. He was repatriated June 2010 and Identified in September 2010. Please remember SSGT. Hewitt and keep he and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Regards, Scooby

Edward "Scooby" Rutledge
President
Rolling Thunder Indiana
Chapter 1



http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/visitor_information/tomb_of_the_unknowns.html

THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE POW/MISSING
PERSONNEL OFFICE

announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from World War I, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Private Henry A. Weikel, 28, of Mt. Carmel, Pa., was buried on Dec. 9 in Annville, Pa. On Sept. 16, 1918, as part of the 60th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, his unit encountered heavy enemy artillery barrage and machine gun fire near Jaulny, France, in a wooded area known as Bois de Bonvaux. Weikel was killed during the battle and his remains were buried with two other

soldiers in a wooded area between Bois de Bonvaux and Bois de Grand Fontaine. Attempts to locate his remains by U.S. Army Graves Registration personnel following the war were unsuccessful. In September 2006, French nationals hunting for metal in the area found human remains and World War I artifacts. A Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command team, operating near the location, was notified of the discovery and recovered human remains upon excavating the site. Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the JPAC laboratory also used dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.

WARNING TO ALL
VETERANS

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>
(Page 3 of 5)

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of

affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

This is an awesome website. It's a place for veterans to record their war stories and service events. These stories become part of the Library of Congress and a part of history that will remain when our heroes are no longer here to tell their stories.
<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>



**ROLLING THUNDER
CHAPTER 1 ALABAMA**

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
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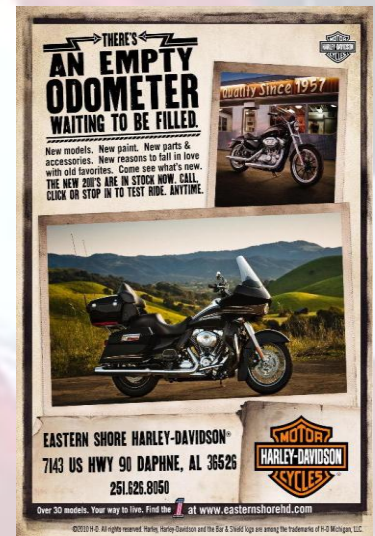
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WILLIAM KOUPENY
VINCENT SPINOSA

**FEBRUARY 15TH DEADLINE
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The deadline for membership dues is quickly approaching. Rolling Thunder Alabama Chapter 1 has gone far beyond our expectations. We would like to thank you for your support of our mission and the efforts that you give to the POW/MIA and veteran's issues.

As stated in the Constitution, membership dues shall be paid in full to the Treasurer no later than February 15th of every year. Members joining from September through February of any year will have paid membership for 6-12 months accordingly. (For example, a member joining between September 2009 and February 2010 would pay their first renewal dues in February 2011.) Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is not a motor cycle club. Our organization has certain requirements that some find it difficult to fulfill. We value your membership,

and need your support, but if you find it difficult to meet the requirements of the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. constitution, we can certainly understand, and in no way fault you for that. Renew your commitment to Rolling Thunder Alabama Chapter 1, help us make 2011 the year for POW/MIA awareness.



(Page 4 of 5)

Our thanks to ES Harley Davidson for the use of their meeting room.



Motorcycle Leather & Accessories, 124 E Nine Mile Rd. Pensacola, FL. Custom patches and embroidery.



CHUCK STEVENS AUTOMOTIVE

PATCHES ARE AVAILABLE:

**“I WAS NOT THERE BUT I STILL
CARE”**

**“PROUD WIFE OF A VIETNAM
VETERAN”**

See Doris to place an order for
patches, and T-Shirts. All
proceeds goes to RT AL-1.

MONTHLY MEETING – 2ND SAT. OF EACH MONTH EASTERN SHORE HARLEY DAVIDSON

Our thanks to ES Harley
Davidson for the use of
their meeting room.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

01/08/2010

10:00 am

