

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Chapter 1 Alabama

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



NEWS LETTER:

October 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 RIDE HOME:

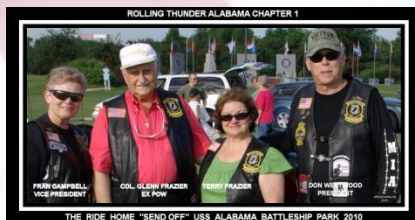
Rolling Thunder®, Inc. would first like to thank all those who came out to the "Send Off" for Col. Frazier. The media, South Al. Veterans Council, Vietnam Veterans of America. Southern Cruisers: Antony Jerkins, Cliff Wright, and Billy Skiles, Bill Atkeison; SAVC, Tom Schwarz; VVA, just to mention a few. Thanks to all.

The Gulf Coast Alabama Chapter of Rolling Thunder is the only chapter of the national organization in the state. We gathered at Battleship Park on Thursday, 9/16/2010 to form a caravan to escort former POW and Bataan death march survivor Col. Glenn Frazier to The Ride Home in Andersonville, Ga. That is the site of the infamous Camp Sumter, a civil war era prison camp, and now home to the National POW Museum. Some two hundred former POW's were honored during special ceremonies beginning

on Friday, 9/17/2010 which is national POW/MIA Day.

To view all the images click on the link below:
http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/13894274_ZDXuX#1019449342_Tl8aN

At our October meeting, Col. Frazier spoke briefly about his impression of The Ride Home and what the event means to him.



"Send Off" to The Ride Home"



Arite Muller-Founder/Exec Director
Don Westwood-President RTAC1



Heroes Dinner Banquet – 800 + in attendance.

The Ride Home was a huge success. We had the opportunity to honor our Veterans past and present as well as sharing our love with The Gold Star Mothers. To all who helped make this event happen – you did an excellent job...pat yourself on the back.



Jim "Moe" Moyer –Chairman, The Ride Home and Terry Frazier RTAC1 is looking forward to a visit from our Director "Moe". He will be the guest speaker at our next full board meeting in October.



Some Gave All Moving Tribute

Eight engraved panels list over 4,000 names of fallen soldiers from Berit, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom.



This 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC, stands six feet tall at the center and covers almost 300 feet from end to end. The traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War.

ROLLING THUNDER ALABAMA CHAPTER 1 MEMBERS:
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

OPEN HOUSE - EASTERN SHORE HARLEY DAVIDSON:
 Saturday, October 16th - RTAC1 will have a booth at the event.
ANGEL RIDE - NOV. 5 - 6:
 We will have a booth at the event for a membership drive. Thank you Col. Frazier and Terry for donating ice and water for the workers. Thanks to Vincent Spinoso for providing the tent. Please contact Fran if you would like to work this event.
 (251-605-1290)

HOMELESS VETERAN STAND DOWN: Thurs, Nov 18-Watch for e-mail from Don on dates and times we will be needed. Spring Hill Avenue Community

Center, 1151 Spring Hill Avenue, Mobile, Al. Our thanks to Bill Kilgore.

2010 PENSACOLA HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN:

Friday, October 22, 8:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. JACC Pensacola Veteran Outpatient Clinic, 790 Veterans Way, Pensacola, Fl. For more info contact: Jay Irby: 850-449-1832

FYI: FREE FOR VETERANS 2nd ANNUAL PIZZAS 4 PATRIOTS PIZZA PARTY: PATRIOTS GROUP TROOP SUPPORT NETWORK "OPERATION PIZZA"

October 14, 2010.
LOCATION: Homestead Village, 924 Plantation Blvd., Fairhope, Al.
TIME: 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.
 Baldwin County Sheriff – Hoss - Mack - Master of Ceremonies. Daphne High School ROTE – Presentation of Colors, Celebrated Alabama Veterans * Exciting Live Entertainment and Rediscovering of our Constitution.

VETERANS FREE

Couple - \$30.00
 Individual - \$20.00
 12 – 18 yrs. - \$10.00
 12yrs and under – FREE
 To reserve your tickets call: Barbara Robinson – 251-510-7161

RILEIGH RAYLEE ANGEL RIDE November 5 – 6, Oak Hollow Farm, Fairhope, Al.



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERAN'S DAY PARADE OF FLAGS:

TIME: Thursday, November 11 10:00a.m. – 9:00p.m.
LOCATION: Downtown Mobile, Al.

100+ unit parade through downtown Mobile, followed by noontime banquet honoring the "Patriot of the Year," then to USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park for a Friends of Freedom Foundation celebration, followed by patriotic music evening concert by the Mobile Symphonic Pops Band. Parade, 10:00a.m., Mobile, Al. banquet at noon, Freedom event, 3:00p.m., concert at 7:00p.m.

CHUCK STEVENS AUTOMOTIVE

will provide a convertible for Col. Frazier's escort in the Mobile Veteran's Day Parade. After the luncheon, Col. Frazier will be escorted to the W.F. Green Veterans Home where he will be guest speaker at their Veteran's day services.

Aaron Daniels – committee chairman for the Veterans Day events gave an update on the events RTAC1 will participate in.

Vincent Spinoso – reported on the cost of purchasing the Alabama Chapter Flag for cars and motorcycles.

And the possibility of visiting other nursing homes where Veterans reside.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:

Chairperson, Terri Frazier, will be looking into different avenues of support for our veterans and/or needy families. This year, RTC1A, wants to help a deserving/needy family or group have a Merry Christmas
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Board Members: Terry Frazier, Robert Couture, and Richard Phelps, as alternate - were

appointed to serve as board members until September 2011.

ROLLING THUNDER FIRST AMENDMENT DEMONSTRATION RUN, WASHINGTON, D.C. Will raffle off a Harley Davidson Street Glide at the event next year. We have requested 50 tickets to be sold for \$10.00 each. The drawing will be held at the event in D.C. May, 2011

WELCOME VISITORS:

Vietnam/Legacy Vets: Keith, Buddy and Harley visited in October.

THANK YOU:

The Vietnam/Legacy Vets have invited us to sell the Street Glide raffle tickets at their 6th Annual Veterans Day Run – Nov. 14, 2010.

Also visiting were Welton Allen's wife Jean and Richard Phelps' wife Cathy.

NEW MEMBER: Judy Carlin



This chapter of Rolling Thunder will not use this newsletter as a means of "Bashing" politicians, or "Politician" but Rush nailed this one:

By Rush Limbaugh:

I think the vast differences in compensation between victims of the September 11 casualty and those who die serving our country in Uniform are profound. No one is really talking about it either, because you just don't criticize anything having to do with September 11. Well, I can't let the numbers pass by because it says something really disturbing about the entitlement mentality of this country. If you lost a family member in the September 11 attack, you're going to get an average of \$1,185,000. The range is a minimum guarantee of \$250,000, all the way up to \$4.7 million.

If you are a surviving family member of an American soldier killed in action, the first check you get is a \$6,000 direct death benefit, half of which is taxable. Next, you get \$1,750 for burial costs. If you are the surviving spouse, you get \$833 a month until you remarry. And there's a payment of \$211 per month for each child under 18. When the child hits 18, those payments come to a screeching halt.

Keep in mind that some of the people who are getting an average of \$1.185 million up to \$4.7 million are complaining that it's not enough.

Their deaths were tragic, but for most, they were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Soldiers put themselves in harms way FOR ALL OF US, and they and their families know the dangers...

(Actually, soldiers are put in harms way by politicians and commanding officers.) We also learned over the weekend that some of the victims from the Oklahoma City bombing have started an organization asking for the same deal that the September 11 families are getting.

In addition to that, some of the families of those bombed in the embassies are now asking for compensation as well. You see where this is going, don't you? Folks, this is part and parcel of over 50 years of entitlement politics in this country. It's just really sad. Every

time a pay raise comes up for the military, they usually receive next to nothing of a raise. **Now the green machine is in combat in the Middle East while their families have to survive on food stamps and live in low-rent housing. Make sense?**

However, our own US Congress voted themselves a raise. Many of you don't know that they only have to be in Congress one time to receive a pension that is more than \$15,000 per month. And most are now equal to being millionaires plus. They do not receive Social Security on retirement because they didn't have to pay into the system. **If some of the military people stay in for 20 years and get out as an E-7, they may receive a pension of \$1,000 per month, and the very people who placed them in harm's way receives a pension of \$15,000 per month.**

AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED:

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds." I bought her a bathroom scale. And then the fight started.....

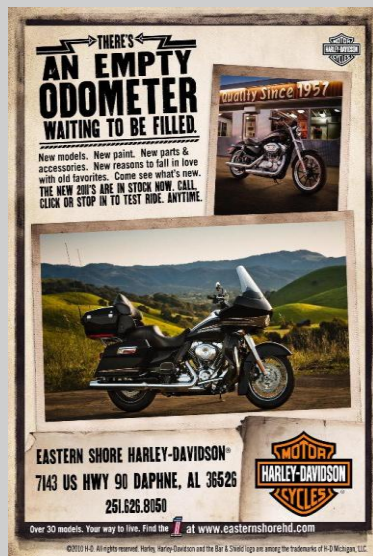
My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have Sex?' 'No,' she answered. I then said, 'Is that your final answer?' She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, 'Yes..' So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend." And that's when the fight started...

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT
ROLLING THUNDER ALABAMA
CHAPTER 1

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



EASTERN SHORE HARLEY DAVIDSON

“The children of today have bad manners; contempt for authority; show disrespect for their elders; love to chatter in place of exercise; are now tyrants and not the servants of their household; no longer rise when elders enter the room; contradict their parents; chatter before company; gobble their food and tyrannize their teachers.” Socrates -400 BC”

Alabama Gold Star Family
Now Available to Members
Only.

Who may purchase license
plates in this category? All
residents of Alabama who are
vehicle owners and members of
the immediate family of a person
who has died while on active
duty in any branch of the U.S.
military.



Is there any documentation
required to be presented by the
registrant prior to purchasing
this plate? Yes. to request an
affidavit:

contact@alabamagoldstarfamily.org

WE ARE HONORED TO
MENTION THAT GOLD STAR
MOTHERS CAN BECOME
“HONORARY MEMBERS” OF
ROLLING THUNDER®, INC---



Richard and Monica Groh



ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 1
ALABAMA

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ROBERT COUTURE

TERRY FRAZIER

WILLIAM KOUPENY

Alternate

RICHARD PHELPS

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 MEETING:

11/13/2010

10:00 am (4 of 6)

HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA

WELCOME HOME MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPORT – SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

What a rewarding experience to see the expressions on our Greatest Generation's faces when they arrived at the terminal.

Margaret Coley and Tina Goodyear quickly recruited RTAC1 to assist our WWII Veterans through the Airport to the safety of their loved ones.



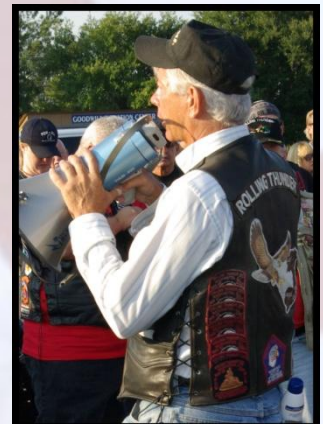
So. Cruisers: Billy Skiles and Anthony Jerkins. Rolling Thunder: Col. Glenn Frazier and Fran Barber Campbell.



So. Cruisers: Cliff Wright and RTAC1 President - Don Westwood

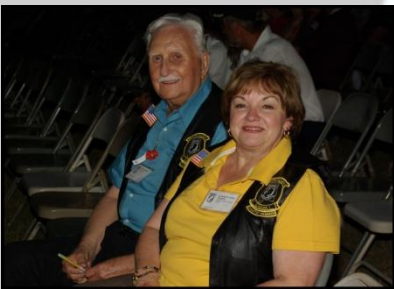


Lorie Southerland-Gold Star Mother



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TO VIEW IMAGES OF "THE RIDE HOME" SUBMITTED BY OTHER MEMBERS FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW:

<http://theridehome.com/2010Photos.htm>



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP PARK
MOBILE, AL.



* If you have any information related to Rolling Thunder or, members, friends or sponsors of RTC1A that you would like to announce in the newsletter please contact our President: Don Westwood or me: Fran Barber, Vice Pres. – RTC1A 251-605-1290. We are only seven months old but a few have accomplished much in those few months. The next six months will be even better.

NOW: All of us have good intentions, and before we know it a week, month, and year has gone by before we realize it. Members, get motivated for Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Alabama – I CHALLENGE YOU!