

# THE CRUISER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

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**FUTURE EVENTS**

*Next Meeting: Jan 18 2011*

*Springfield Motorcycle Show  
Jan 21-23*

*VT1 Pancake Breakfast  
TBD*

*VT1 Annual Ride  
May TBD*

*Ride for the Wall  
Washington, DC  
May  
More information coming*

## VERMONT 1 CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

Members of Vermont 1 celebrated the Christmas season with a dinner party at Eddie's Restaurant on Friday, Dec 3rd. Members and families enjoyed an early cocktail hour followed by a sit down meal. After the meal was finished, President Rick Jess welcomed everyone for coming and thanked all for their support through out the year. He then turned it over to Vice President Joe Young. At this time, Joe had Irene Cordio come forward and presented her with her VT1 Boot Patch. This was followed by presenting Martha Cole with her VT 1 Boot Patch. The final presentation of patches was to Bob McGuirk. Bob came forward and received his Rocker and Eagle. Congratulations to all the recipients. The final presentation of the evening was the presentation of a gavel to outgoing Rolling Thunder VT1 president, John, "the Hammer", Laughton. John had been president of VT1 from 2005 to 2010. John did a great job leading the chapter and heading us into the fu-



ture issues of MIA's/POW and helping all veterans of all wars. Joe Young made the presentation to the Hammer, giving a brief talk about how the Hammer had helped Joe out upon his return from Iraq. John then spoke a few words about his past experiences as president and his commitment to future of the chapter and his dedication to helping all veterans of all wars and to continue to push for the government to account for all MIA's/POW's.

The evening then continued on with a Yankee Swap. Lynn Laughton ran the swap and there was many a laugh shed with the entire group. In the end, everyone had either swapped or kept a gift and everyone went home with something. The evening then concluded and everyone wished all A Merry Christmas.

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## PEARL HARBOR DAY CEREMONY

On Dec 7, at 1200hrs, members of Rolling Thunder VT1 and Athol and Turners Fall Marine Corp League celebrated the 64th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Paul Seamans, a WWII veteran was the guest speaker. He addressed the gathering in

a short speech about his early days as a civilian and then entered the military for duty in WWII. His main remark and closing remark was from a memorial at a school he was in and the words "Do Your Best" was the message he wanted to get across. Next

came the presentation of the multi services, MIA/POW wreath followed by Taps, played by George Willard. This concluded the ceremony. Everyone was invited to the French King Restaurant for coffee and a light lunch .

## VETERANS HOME VISIT IN BENNINGTON VERMONT

Members of the chapter paid a visit to the Veterans Home in Bennington Vermont on Dec 11th. The chapter conducted a "Wreaths Across America" ceremony along with local veterans and employees of the home. The wreaths were donated by the "Worcester Wreath Company" from Harrington Maine. Wreaths were presented for all branches of the military, to include "Merchant Marine", a MIA/POW Wreath, and a "Gold Star Mother Wreath". The colors were presented and posted by the Bennington VFW. COB John Laughton opened the ceremony and welcomed everyone and

thanked them for coming. He then turned it over to chapter president Rick Jess to say a few words. Then John started the ceremony and the wreaths were presented by chapter members and local veterans. After the formal ceremony, veterans were asked to lay wreaths at the grave sites of seven veterans in the home cemetery. The chapter was invited inside the home and was given a tour of the facility. While being given the tour, several questions were asked by the members about different things and functions that go on at the home. Members then talked about different

things and how the chapter can get involved with and help out. Some of the things talked about were BBQ's, running bingo functions, helping out with a fishing day with the veterans and other subjects. We had a chance to visit with some of the veterans as they sat and ate lunch in the cafeteria. We had the honor of meeting a member of the famed "Tuskegee Airman". (a group of all black fighter pilots during WWII). We also chatted with several other veterans from WWII and Korea. And "NO" we didn't move any tables in the cafeteria this year.

*It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of press. It is the soldier not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It is the soldier not the organizer who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, and who allows the protestor to burn the flag.*

Charles M Province

Some of our members at our Christmas Party receiving awards and others just having a good time





## PRESIDENTS CORNER

Welcome everyone to your first issue of Rolling Thunder Vermont Chapter 1 ( The Cruiser ). First let me start by thanking the person responsible for starting this newsletter and committing to all of you to keep it cruising, Joe Young your Vice President took this task to hand on his own and we should all have input to help him with whatever news he may need.

It is with great pride and honor for me to work with everyone of you supporting our past, present and future Veterans needs as well as supporting our mission statement. In the past few years I have met some of the most tremendous people who have served our country and plan to continue meeting more.

Pearl Harbor Day was my first time with Rolling Thunder where I was not working and had the chance to attend and what a crowd we had. John Laughton did our Chapter proud and I can not think of anyone who could fill his shoes in this role. Thanks John.

The trip to Bennington, VT soldiers home for the Wreaths Across America where John did another outstanding job as well as our members placing the wreaths. I watched every member of Rolling Thunder who traveled with us spending time with the veterans in the cafeteria. It was truly inspiring to see their faces as we listened to them and had conversations with them.

A big thanks to the Bennington VFW for lunch, we were pretty hungry by the time we got there.

2010 has come and gone and we all worked very hard and hopefully everyone went home with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction as a reward.

2011 plans to be a big year with everything we have planned, remember someone was kind enough to introduce you to Rolling Thunder return the favor and introduce someone you know to Rolling Thunder.

Respectfully

Rick Jess

*The Marines I have seen around the world have the cleanest bodies, the filthiest minds, the highest morale, and the lowest morals of any group of animals I have ever seen. Thank God for the United States Marine Corps!*



## EDITOR'S CORNER



Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States, 1945

I hope everyone will enjoy our newsletter. I ask you all to just be patient with me as I stumble through the program and learn how to build a better paper as time goes on. Course the bottom line is, if I don't get it right, I just gonna kick the hell out of the laptop. But, I just want to take a minute to thank all our members for their hard work and commitment to making this the best chapter in Rolling Thunder. I am looking forward to a

exciting year and lots of help and support for all out veterans, continued pressure on the current administration for the accountability of all our MIA/POW's. Also I am looking forward to many good miles of riding together in the coming year. Keep in mind that while we ride for the different rides that we do to support other groups, we are planning a couple of fun rides for ourselves and friends this year. And finally, if anyone has

anything they want printed in the monthly news letter, drop me an e mail. We can make it happen.

I wish for all of our members and families a very "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year". And please remember our MIA/POW's and their families, and all of our service people and families who will not be together this Holiday Season.

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## The Springfield Motorcycle Show

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[dougoseg@gogtt.net](mailto:dougoseg@gogtt.net)