

Rolling Thunder®

Indiana Chapter 6



April 2018

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Letter from the President...

Hello Everyone,

If we could ever get rid of the rain hopefully we can do some riding, don't forget the May meeting will be at USI MJ will be sending out notices and directions on how to get out to where we're going to meet. Looks like the weather hopefully will clear up in a few weeks and we should have a lot of events coming up in the next month or two with the Ride to The Wall at the end of May. I just want to thank everyone for being a part of Rolling Thunder and thank you for what you do with helping our local veterans and our local community

If you have any questions or ideas, you can talk to any officer and you can also call me at [812-453-0799](tel:812-453-0799).

Thanks,
Jerry Blake

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.

Membership Meeting

**Saturday,
May 5th
9:00 am**

Chaplain's Corner

“God’s Creation”

Many of you may not believe it, but summer is coming. The trees are leafing out, bushes are blooming, many have already mowed their lawns, and as I write this, it's snowing?

We recently took a driving vacation to visit our grandchildren and it was nice to slow down and look at the fields, trees and nature.

We enjoyed seeing cotton growing in field's, setting in a swing watching a stream run over rocks, and squirrels running around and not afraid of anyone.

Take the time to look around at the beauty God has given us..Get out of the house and go for a long drive, or go for a picnic. Enjoy nature with your family and friends.

It doesn't have to be expensive to enjoy what God created, we just have to slow down and look at what he's blessed us with.

Psalms 19:1 NIV

1. The heavens declare the Glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psalms 24:1-2 NIV

1. The earth is the Lords and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it,
2. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Job 12:7-9 NIV

7. But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
8. Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you.
9. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

If you have a spiritual need or someone to talk to, call Chapter 6 Chaplain Steve Suter at [812-573-8924](tel:812-573-8924) or e-mail him at kspl69@wowway.com.



From the Editor

Hello RT Members,

Just a reminder that the May 5th Meeting (9:00am) will be at **USI's Carter Hall**, MJ will be sending out more information on this as the date draws closer. Some of our members went out to the New Freedom Farm earlier this month for the 1st Freedom Rock's Festival, Louis and Billie Wheaton provided some photos and thoughts.

We met Rolling Thunder members from New York, New Jersey, TN, and North Carolina. Most of them were staying at our hotel. We visited the farm on Friday and met the owner, Lois. The farm is very nice and clean. Being a cowboy himself, Louis was impressed with the layout of the big barn and other buildings. Most of the horses if not all are rescue horses with one mule. The vendors came in full support of the event regardless of the weather Saturday. At the beginning of the concert Saturday Lois shared her personal experience of losing her first husband to suicide and her mission to help our veterans with PTSD. Indiana Chapter 6 volunteered to help with parking along with a group of 4-5 other volunteers. One of the volunteers was the young man that is featured on the Freedom Farm pamphlet, Sergeant Lynn. He told me he was one of the first ones to come to the farm. We also met up with my brother, Charlie, and his wife, Donna, from Ohio. They asked to wear our yellow shirts and be an honorary member for the day. Both are impressed with our Rolling Thunder Chapter as we always talk about our events. Their plans are to join Rolling Thunder in Ohio. They looked up where the nearest chapter is to them while we were in Virginia. Charlie discovered he knows Jerry Blake. Jerry was his NCO while he was with the 380th in Evansville. Small world!



Honor Flight (Meet & Greet) will be May 3rd, Volunteers are needed, and then The Welcome Home will be on May 5th at the airport, would like to see as many members as possible to come out and welcome these heroes back home. I had the honor of escorting my father on Honor Flight last May and I can assure you that this is a trip that they will never forget, He still talks about it, and his photo album sits on their coffee table, plus he found an old friend that he knew in their younger days and they had both served in Korea.

Ride / Drive Safe!!!

Thank you

Warren Montgomery

(812) 205-8383

rtnewsletter6@gmail.com



www.theridehome.com



www.mission22.com



www.newfreedomfarm.net



www.honorflighti.org



www.esgr.mil



Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Indiana Chapter 6



Rolling Thunder[®] IN Chapter 6 Calendar of Events 2018

Month	Dates	Event	Notes
May	3	Honor Flight Meet and Greet	Volunteers Needed
	4	Board Meeting (6:00 pm)	VFW 1114
	5	Membership Meeting 9:00am	USI
	5	Honor Flight Welcome Home	Volunteers Needed
	5	CMA Run for The Son	Not an Event
	6	Abate Bike Blessing	Not an Event
	24-25-26-27-28	Ride for Freedom (Ride to the Wall in DC)	
June	1	Board Meeting (6:00 pm)	VFW 1114
	2	Membership Meeting (6:00 pm)	VFW 1114
	10	Chapter 6 Benefit Ride	Volunteers needed
	23-24	Hadi Shriner's "Shriner's Fest"	TBD
	28	IMSC-ESGR Golf Outing Setup	Volunteers Needed
	29	IMSC-ESGR Golf Outing	Volunteers Needed
	TBA	Vet Center Cookout	Volunteers Needed
July	4	Patriot's 5K Sponsored by the VA Clinic	
	4	Mt Carmel Parade	
	6	Board Meeting (6:00 pm)	VFW 1114
	7	Membership Meeting (9:00 am)	VFW 1114

For anyone wanting to share pictures or events please send information to
RTnewsletter6@gmail.com.

We will do our best to include all information.

Don't forget to check out the Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 6 Website as well,
www.rollingthunderin6.com and find us on Facebook at [Rolling Thunder Chapter 6](#)

March Patch Recipients

Congratulations!!



Cora Davis
Boot Patch



Daniel Marion
Eagle / Rocker



Brian Davis Sr
Eagle / Rocker



Tasha Davis
Eagle / Rocker

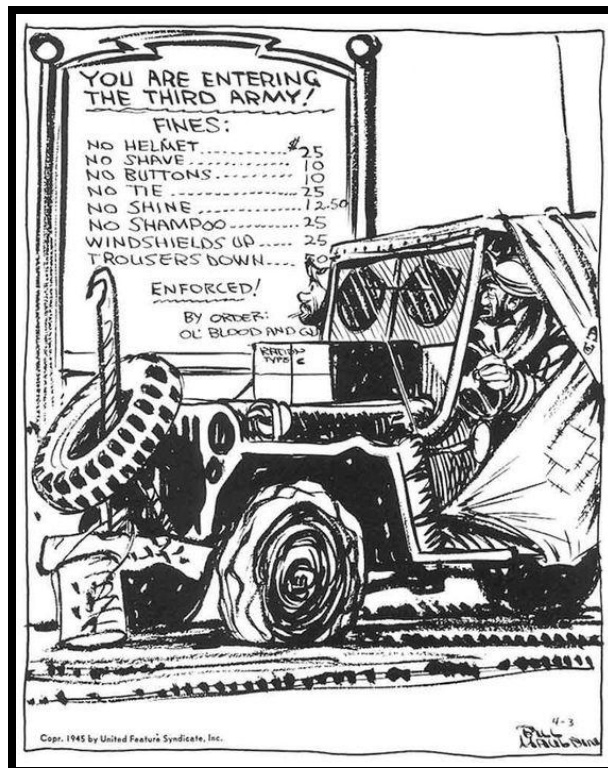
Nicknames Awarded Congratulations!!



Dave Stigall
"Chigger"



Sam Richey
"Kookie"



Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

March 2018 Accounted for MIA's

Rank	Name	Branch	Unit	Lost	Location	Identified
Seaman 1st Class	Robert V. Young	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/28/2018
Seaman 1st Class	William G. Bruesewitz	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/28/2018
SSG	Percy C. Mathews	U.S. Army Air Forces	422nd Bombardment Squadron, 305th Bombardment Group, 8th U.S. Air Force	5/29/1943	France	3/28/2018
SSG	Marshall F. Kipina	U.S. Army	131st Aviation Company	7/13/1966	Laos	3/28/2018
Seaman 1st Class	Walter C. Foley	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/27/2018
Seaman 2nd Class	Bernard V. Doyle	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/27/2018
Radioman 3rd Class	Jack R. Goldwater	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/26/2018
CAPT	George Van Vleet	U.S. Army Air Forces	38th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 30th Bombardment Group	1/21/1944	Tarawa	3/22/2018
SGT	Donald L. Baker	U.S. Army	Company H, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division	9/6/1950	South Korea	3/20/2018
COL	Peter J. Stewart	U.S. Air Force	Headquarters, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing	3/15/1966	Vietnam	3/19/2018
Fireman 1st Class	Jarvis G. Outland	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/16/2018
Cpl.	James I. Jubb	U.S. Army	Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Division	8/10/1950	South Korea	3/14/2018
Sgt.	Julius E. McKinney	U.S. Army	Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division	12/2/1950	North Korea	3/14/2018
Staff Sgt.	David Rosenkrantz	U.S. Army	Company H, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division	9/28/1944	Netherlands	3/14/2018
Radioman 3rd Class	Howard V. Keffer	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/6/2018
1LT	William W. Shank	U.S. Army Air Forces	338th Fighter Squadron 55th Fighter Group, 66th Fighter Wing, 8th Fighter Command, 8th Air Force	11/13/1943	Germany	3/6/2018

HANOI HILTON PRISON



Hỏa Lò Prison (Vietnamese: [hwāː lō̌]) was a prison used by the French colonists in Vietnam for political prisoners, and later by North Vietnam for U.S. Prisoners of War during the Vietnam War. During this later period it was ironically known to American POWs as the **Hanoi Hilton**. The prison was demolished during the 1990s, though the gatehouse remains as a museum.

The name Hoa Lo, commonly translated as "fiery furnace" or even "Hell's hole", also means "stove". The name originated from the street name phố Hỏa Lò, due to the concentration of stores selling wood stoves and coal-fire stoves along the street from pre-colonial times.

The prison was built in Hanoi by the French, in dates ranging from 1886–1889 to 1898 to 1901, when Vietnam was still part of French Indochina. The French called the prison *Maison Centrale*—literally, Central House, a traditional euphemism to denote prisons in France. It was located near Hanoi's French Quarter. It was intended to hold Vietnamese prisoners, particularly political prisoners agitating for independence who were often subject to torture and execution. A 1913 renovation expanded its capacity from 460 inmates to 600. It was nevertheless often overcrowded, holding some 730 prisoners on a given day in 1916, a figure which would rise to 895 in 1922 and 1,430 in 1933. By 1954 it held more than 2000 people; with its inmates held in subhuman conditions, it had become a symbol of colonialist exploitation and of the bitterness of the Vietnamese towards the French.

The central urban location of the prison also became part of its early character. During the 1910s through 1930s, street peddlers made an occupation of passing outside messages in through the jail's windows and tossing tobacco and opium over the walls; letters and packets would be thrown out to the street in the opposite direction. Within the prison itself, communication and ideas passed. Indeed, many of the future leading figures in Communist North Vietnam spent time in *Maison Centrale* during the 1930s and 1940s.

Following the defeat at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu and the 1954 Geneva Accords the French left Hanoi and the prison came under the authority of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Thereafter the prison served as an education center

for revolutionary doctrine and activity, and it was kept around after the French left to mark its historical significance to the North Vietnamese.

During the Vietnam War, the first U.S. prisoner to be sent to Hỏa Lò was Lieutenant, Junior Grade Everett Alvarez Jr., who was shot down on August 5, 1964. From the beginning, U.S. POWs endured miserable conditions, including poor food and unsanitary conditions. The prison complex was sarcastically nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton" by the American POWs, in reference to the well-known Hilton Hotel chain. There is some disagreement among the first group of POWs who coined the name but F8D pilot Bob Shumaker was the first to write it down, carving "Welcome to the Hanoi Hilton" on the handle of a pail to greet the arrival of Air Force Lieutenant Robert Peel.

Beginning in early 1967, a new area of the prison was opened for incoming American POWs; it was dubbed "Little Vegas", and its individual buildings and areas were named after Las Vegas Strip landmarks, such as "Golden Nugget", "Thunderbird", "Stardust", "Riviera", and the "Desert Inn". These names were chosen because many pilots had trained at Nellis Air Force Base, located in proximity to Las Vegas. American pilots were frequently already in bad shape by the time they were captured, injured either during their ejection or in landing on the ground.

The Hanoi Hilton was one site used by the North Vietnamese Army to house, torture and interrogate captured servicemen, mostly American pilots shot down during bombing raids. Although North Vietnam was a signatory of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, which demanded "decent and humane treatment" of prisoners of war, severe torture methods were employed, such as rope bindings, irons, beatings, and prolonged solitary confinement. When prisoners of war began to be released from this and other North Vietnamese prisons during the Johnson administration, their testimonies revealed widespread and systematic abuse of prisoners of war.

Regarding treatment at Hỏa Lò and other prisons, the communists countered by stating that prisoners were treated well and in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. During 1969, they broadcast a series of coerced statements from American prisoners that purported to support this notion. The North Vietnamese would also maintain that their prisons were no worse than prisons for POWs and political prisoners in South Vietnam, such as the one on Côn Sơn Island. Mistreatment of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese prisoners and South Vietnamese dissidents in South Vietnam's prisons was indeed frequent, as was North Vietnamese abuse of South Vietnamese prisoners and their own dissidents.

Beginning in late 1969, treatment of the prisoners at Hỏa Lò and other camps became less severe and generally more tolerable. Following the late 1970 attempted rescue operation at Sơn Tây prison camp, most of the POWs at the outlying camps were moved to Hỏa Lò, so that the North Vietnamese had fewer camps to protect. This created the "Camp Unity" communal living area at Hỏa Lò, which greatly reduced the isolation of the POWs and improved their morale.

NOTABLE INMATES

- **John L. Borling**, USAF pilot, POW for 6 ½ years, retired Major General
- **Charles G. Boyd**, USAF pilot, POW for almost 7 years, retired General; the only Vietnam-era POW to reach the four star rank.
- **George Thomas Coker**, US Navy pilot
- **Bud Day**, USAF pilot, Medal of Honor and Air Force Cross recipient, political activist, was cellmates with McCain
- **Jeremiah Denton**, US Navy pilot, Senator (R-AL)
- **Leon F. "Lee" Ellis**, USAF fighter pilot, motivational speaker and author
- **Norman C. Gaddis**, USAF pilot, POW for almost 7 years, retired Brigadier General
- **Lawrence N. Guarino**, U.S. Air Force officer, veteran of three wars and author.
- **Doug Hegdahl**, Inmate who played a fool to memorize all the names, personal information and capture dates of the prisoners there.
- **Sam Johnson**, USAF fighter pilot, Representative (R-TX)
- **Lance Sijan**, USAF fighter pilot, Medal of Honor recipient.
- **Joseph Kittinger**, USAF pilot, record-breaking parachutist
- **William P. Lawrence**, US Navy pilot, Chief of Naval Personnel and Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy
- **John McCain**, US Navy pilot, Senator (R-AZ) and 2008 Republican presidential nominee, spent parts of his five and a half years as a POW there.
- **Robinson Risner**, USAF fighter pilot, POW from 1965 to 1973. A Lieutenant Colonel when shot down and captured, he was the senior ranking POW, responsible for maintaining chain of command among his fellow prisoners.
- **Howard Rutledge**, US Navy pilot, held there for part of his 7 ½ years of captivity, co-author of *In the Presence of Mine Enemies: 1965–1973 – A Prisoner of War* with his wife
- **James Stockdale**, US Navy pilot, Medal of Honor recipient, 1992 Vice Presidential candidate. He and Lawrence were the most senior-ranking US Navy POWs.

After the implementation of the 1973 Paris Peace Accords, neither the United States nor its allies ever formally charged North Vietnam with the war crimes revealed to have been committed there. In the 2000s, the Vietnamese government has held the position that claims that prisoners were tortured at Hoa Lo and other sites during the war are fabricated, but that Vietnam wants to move past the issue as part of establishing better relations with the U.S. Tran Trong Duyet, a jailer at Hoa Lo beginning in 1968 and its commandant for the last three years of the war, maintained in 2008 that no prisoners were tortured. However, eyewitness accounts by American servicemen present a different account of their captivity.

After the war, Risner wrote the book *Passing of the Night* detailing his 7 years at the Hanoi Hilton. Indeed, a considerable literature emerged from released POWs after repatriation, depicting Hoa Lo and the other prisons as places where such atrocities as murder; beatings; broken bones, teeth and eardrums; dislocated limbs; starvation; serving of food contaminated with human and animal feces; and medical neglect of infections and tropical disease occurred. These details are revealed in famous accounts by McCain (*Faith of My Fathers*), Denton, Alvarez, Day, Risner, Stockdale and dozens of others



Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana
Veterans Fund & POW/MIA License Plate



[THE FUND](#) | [THE PLATE](#)

THE FUND

MFRF is open to all honorably discharged Veterans, effective July 1, 2015. Financial assistance may be used by the veteran/family for needs such as housing, utilities, medical services, transportation, and other essential family support expenses which have become difficult to manage. Assistance may be requested once per running year, with a maximum of up to \$2,500.00 may be approved. (Exclusions, auto loans, cable, satellite, cell, internet services, all insurance, dental care, credit cards, child support, attorneys, debt collectors, storage fees, and funeral expenses, some others may apply) Assistance will be considered by the MFRF State Committee, and the applicant will be notified of their decision.

There may be an emergency waiver granted in some cases, only upon written request indicating the circumstances justifying such a waiver.

Assistance will also be considered by the MFRF State Committee for Group Housing, Veterans Homeless Shelters etc.

Requirements:

- The applicant must have received an “Honorable Discharge”. (DD 214, DD 256, NGB-22)
- The applicant must have served a minimum of 30 continuous days of active duty.
- The applicant must currently be a permanent resident of Indiana for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years.
- The applicant must sign & date their application, provide all required proofs, and documentation requested.
- Documentation of need is required to apply for the needed assistance.

Disbursement:

All disbursements will be made directly to the vender, and not to the applicant.

Completed Forms:

Forms must be Typed or Printed (hand written forms will not be considered).

- [Application](#) (PDF)

POW/MIA Awareness Plate Facts & History

Prior to January 2015, funds generated from the sale of the POW/MIA Awareness Plate went toward the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF). This period saw **12,456** plates sold which equated to **\$311,400** being added to the MFRF.

In 2015, **3,866** license plates were sold, resulting in **\$96,650** being deposited into the MFRF. For 2016, **158** POW/MIA plates were sold in January and **391** in February totaling **\$13,725** deposited into the MFRF (*March plate sales pending*). From January to March of 2016, **\$17,439.37** has been paid out to assist our Indiana Veterans.

The POW/MIA specialty plate started as an idea of **former Rolling Thunder®, Inc Indiana Chapter 1 President, Jon Brinkley**. Brinkley wanted to find a way to raise awareness for those left behind in all wars and conflicts, and at the same time raise funds for struggling military families. The dream came to pass in May 2009 when the plate was first announced at the [North Side Harley-Davidson](#) store on 96th street with **Mayor Greg Ballard, State Senators Tom Wyss and Jim Merritt, Commissioner of the [Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles](#), Andy Miller, and Tom Applegate, Director of the [Indiana Office of Veterans Affairs](#)** in attendance. Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s application was one of many received and reviewed. The plate was accepted, in part, **due to an uncommon level of distinction that sets the organization and its purpose for the plate apart from others.**

There are several military specialty plates, **but this one is different in several ways.** There is **no application process** to purchase a license plate; it is available to anyone with a valid registration, and it directly offers support to veterans in need.

The cost of the POW/MIA license plate includes vehicle registration fees and taxes, a group fee of \$25, and an Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles administrative fee of \$15. **The \$25 group fee will go towards the MFRF.**

Plates are available for cars, trucks (up to 11,000 lbs), and motorcycles. RV Motor Homes as well as RV pull trailers may also be plated with the POW/MIA plate. Requests can be made for a special numbered POW/MIA plate.

Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Andy Miller, summed up the purpose and motivation behind this plate saying,

"As motorists everywhere see this Indiana license plate,