

Rolling Thunder®

Indiana Chapter 6



March 2018

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Letter from the President...

Hello Everyone,

I am going to make this short, because we have another meeting on March 31st at 6:00PM at the VFW.

I want to thank everyone who worked at the Logan's Promise run/walk. The weather was not very good but all of you hung in there and everything came out ok.

Tim, Marie, and Susan are still looking for help and donations for the Benefit Ride in June, so please contact one of the above people if you want to work on the committee or if you have donations.

Just another reminder, if you are going on the New Freedom Farm ride in April and have not made your room reservations, please do so.

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). Thank you for being a part of Rolling Thunder IN Chap 6

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,
Mar 31st
6:00 pm**

Chaplain's Corner

" NEVER GIVE UP "

I read a story this week on prayer. It was about two older ladies who asked for the same prayer every week in their Church Bulletin. For two years these ladies were asking God to bring back the 287 girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria. Although some had been released, many were still missing.

One day one of the ladies got a call that 82 of the girls had been released. People wondered how these ladies kept their faith and keep their prayers going?

Deuteronomy 31: 8 NIV

8. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

We have several things to keep praying for. The return of all MIA's, and if there are POW's that they be released and brought home.

Pray also for their families that they get answers to their prayers.

In 2019 Rolling Thunder is bringing the Wall's back to Evansville. Pray for the men, women and children who will come to see it. That it can give comfort to those that need it, and pray that if they need someone to talk to, we will be there. Pray for our Country and our leaders that they will listen to God and bring us peace. Pray for the families hurting from the school shootings, and the families of people being run over in groups by cars being driven by people out of control.

Pray that God helps us through whatever is to come, and that we keep our eyes on him and have a thankful heart for what we have.

John 16:33 KJV

33. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Psalms 27: 1 KJV

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

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

Rolling Thunder Members,

MJ forward this poem to me, it was written by Ruth Martin Rowley, Ruth's husband is Major Arden A. Rowley, his bio is below the poem.



MIA

Where are you my friend?
Long ago we parted in that savage wind,
But still your face I see in the blowing sands.
Soldiers we were as we freed captive lands.

From our country's dawn our sons have marched
And built the pathway to freedom's arch.
Many returned to family's embrace,
But some were lost in time and space.

Do you sleep with heroes of long ago,
In Flander's Field where the poppies grow,
Or once again when Europe burned,
Then next to frozen Korea we turned?

Perhaps in the jungles of Viet Nam
Or to the Middle East you've gone.
Your presence there has brought new life
To nations born of struggles and strife.

Are you in the smiles of children free
To be what they can be
Or the shuffling steps of the old ones
Who remember what you've done?

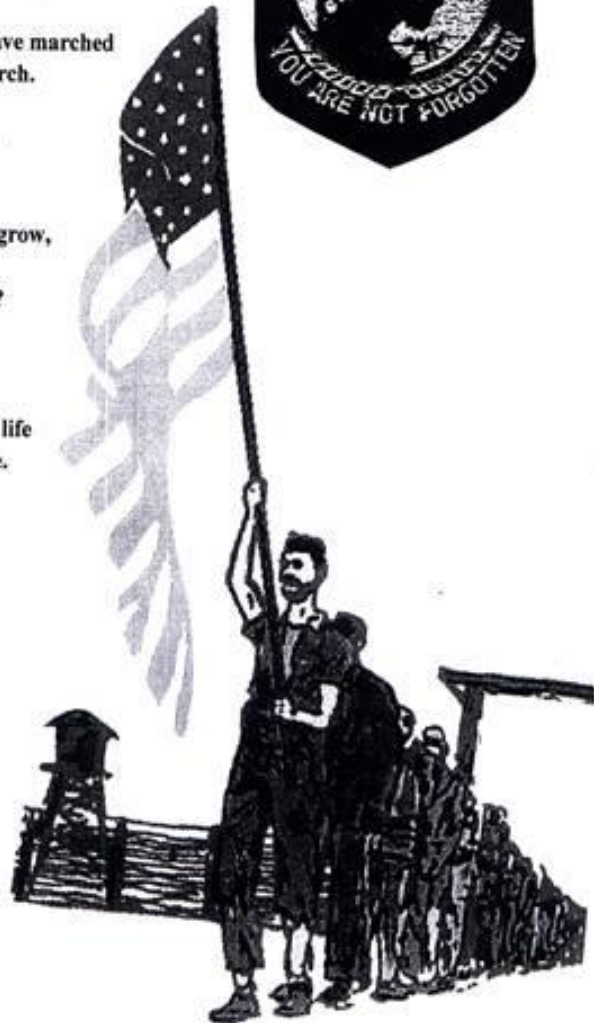
Can you see the bustling places
With a thousand smiling faces
Full of hope and so much more
That you were fighting for?

But still they wait, your mom and dad
And others too are very sad.
Rest in peace your work is done,
But how we wish that you were home.

I salute you my friend.

Ruth Martin Rowley

Arden A. Rowley, POW KOREA



Arden Rowley



A moment of hesitation led to Arden Rowley's capture.

A soldier with the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, he'd been at the front three times already. With Chinese troops blocking the 2nd Infantry Division's retreat south through a mountain pass, Rowley's unit was caught in the rear guard, and on the morning of Dec. 1, 1950, he and two others found themselves alone.

"We heard jabbering and saw eight armed soldiers coming up the hill toward us," he says. "We thought they were South Koreans. They were friendly, and so it threw me off guard. When one of them reached for my weapon and pulled it toward him, I knew."

For 24 nights, Rowley and other U.S. military personnel were forced to march northward. On Christmas, they stopped at a temporary camp that became known as Death Valley. In the following weeks, hundreds of men died from dysentery, beriberi, severe malnutrition and other diseases.

The group walked six more days to Pyoktong, where more died, including two in the room where Rowley slept.

"A fellow next to me named Tuttle had gotten pneumonia," he recalls. "In a few days he was so weak I knew it was just about the end. I was leaning on my elbow next to him, and he was lying on his back with his eyes closed. I said a prayer: 'Father in heaven, help Tuttle not have to suffer any longer.' When I opened my eyes, Tuttle was looking at me, and he said, 'Thanks, Rowley,' and died.

"It was a real challenge to bury those men," he continues. "The ice on the Yalu River was thick, so you can bet the ground was frozen that deep as well. We could dig a grave only large enough to place the body in and throw whatever rocks, dirt, ice and snow we could over it.

"We didn't have to go on burial details every day because the bodies were essentially in cold storage. Every two or three days we'd go out and try our best to give decent burials to those men."

As peace negotiations dragged on, the Chinese lectured the POWs on the glories of communism, praising Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong. The food got better, though. "They couldn't afford the bad publicity the communists would get if they sent home a bunch of men whose ribs were showing."

Rowley's 33 months of captivity ended Aug. 18, 1953, and he returned home to Mesa, Ariz., on Sept. 7. Not even two weeks later, he met Ruth Martin at a Friday night dance, and they married that November. Starting in 1983, they attended every Korean War Ex-POW reunion until Ruth's death in 2011.

"In a way, it's hard to come without her," he says. "She was a marvelous partner and companion."

Using the GI Bill, Rowley became a teacher, working 31 years for Mesa Public Schools. In 1974, he retired from the National Guard as a major. He's also an author; as the Korean War Ex-POW Association's historian, Rowley has self-published five books about U.S. prisoners of war in Korea.

I encourage each of you, while you are a member of Rolling Thunder, that you make at least one trip down to Georgia for The Ride Home! This is by far my favorite event that Rolling Thunder is a part of. Meeting, talking and hearing these EX POW's tell their stories, seeing the National Prisoner of War Museum at the Andersonville National Cemetery, and unfortunately, you will witness the anguish of the families of soldiers who are still missing and unaccounted, for this war has not ended for them. This just reaffirms why organizations like Rolling Thunder and others need to keep this issue in the forefront of our elected officials agendas. **until they ALL come home!!!!**

Thanks to those members who braved the nasty weather to serve as traffic marshal's during the Logan's Promise 5K Run/Walk to Remember.

For our members who are going to New Freedom Farm next month, the average high is 71° with lows in the 40's; dress accordingly, have a fun & safe trip!!! Post lots of pictures.



www.theridehome.com



www.mission22.com



www.newfreedomfarm.net



www.honorflightsi.org



www.esgr.mil

Ride / Drive Safe!!!

Thank you

Warren Montgomery
(812) 205-8383
rtnewsletter6@gmail.com





Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Indiana Chapter 6



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

Month	Dates	Event	Notes
Mar	30	Board Meeting (For April) 6:00pm	VFW 1114
	31	Membership Meeting (For April) 6:00pm	VFW 1114
Apr	5,6,7,8,9	New Freedom Farm Trip	Buchanan, VA
	7	Bake Sale @ VFW 1114	Volunteers Needed
	23	Bandana's Fundraiser	
	TBA	Vet Center Cookout	Volunteers Needed
May	3	Honor Flight (Meet & Greet)	Volunteers Needed
	4	Board Meeting (6:00 pm)	VFW 1114
	5	Membership Meeting (9:00 am)	VFW 1114
	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 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

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

We will do our best to include all information.

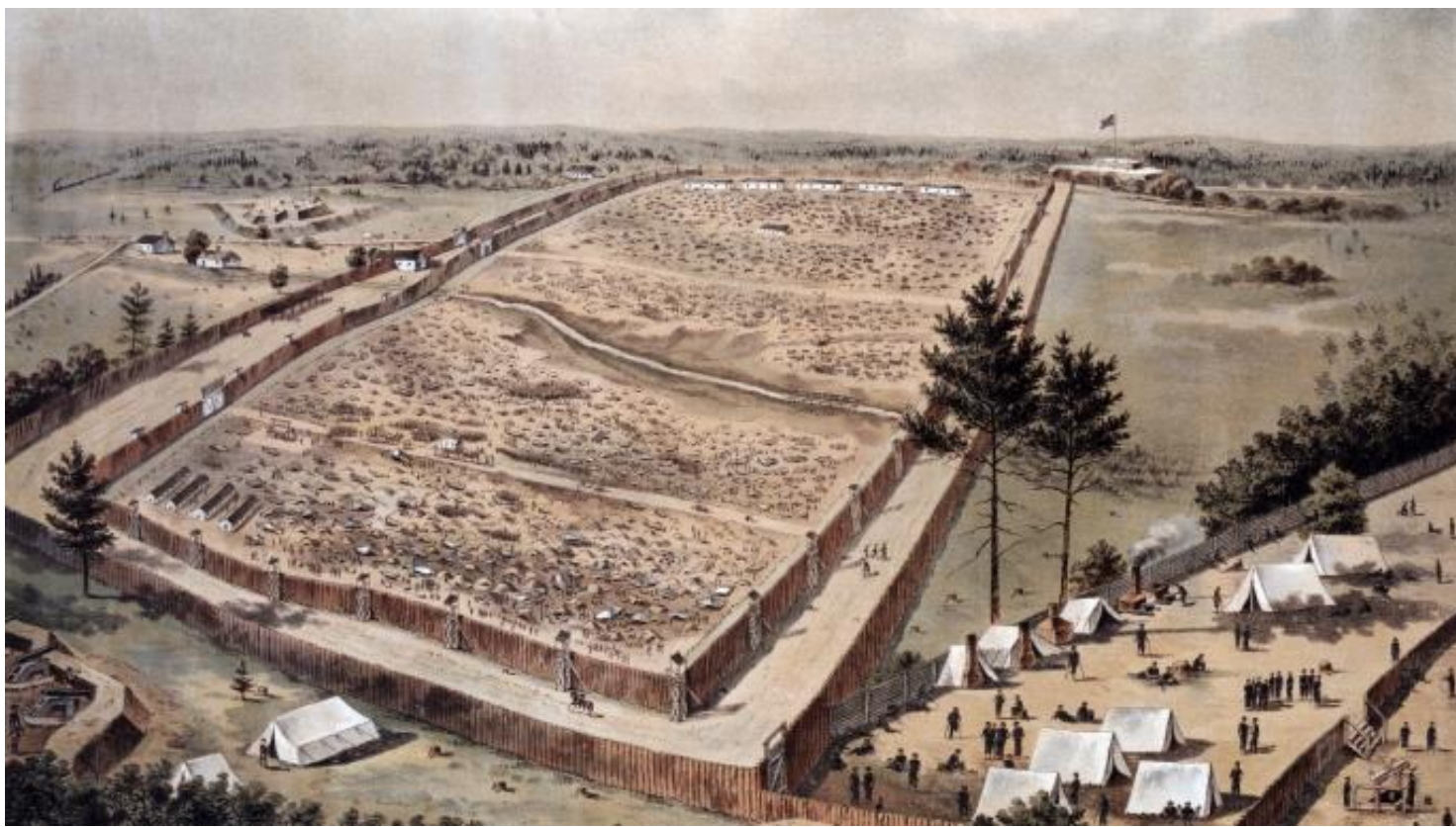
Don't forget to check out the Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 6 Website as well,
www.rollingthunderin6.com and find us on Facebook at [Rolling Thunder Chapter 6](#)

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

February 2018 Accounted for MIA's

Rank	Name	Branch	Unit	Lost	Location	Identified
PFC	Herman W. Mulligan, Jr.	U.S. Marine Corps Reserve	Company L, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division	5/30/1945	Japan	2/28/2018
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class	George H. Gibson	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/23/2018
Machinist's Mate 2nd Class	Lorentz E. Hultgren	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/21/2018
Seaman 1st Class	Henry G. Tipton	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/20/2018
Gunner's Mate 2nd Class	William F. Hellstern	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/20/2018
2LT	Harvel L. Moore	U.S. Marine Corps	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force	11/22/1943	Tarawa	2/20/2018
CPL	Leonard V. Purkapile	U.S. Army	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment	11/28/1950	North Korea	2/20/2018
PFC	Joe Lukie	U.S. Marine Corps Reserve	Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa	2/16/2018
SSG	Leo J. Husak	U.S. Army	Company A, 1st Battalion, 309th Infantry Regiment, 78th Infantry Division	1/30/1945	Germany	2/14/2018
Machinist's Mate 1st Class	Arthur Glenn	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/13/2018
Molder 1st Class	Kenneth B. Armstrong	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/8/2018
PFC	David Baker	U.S. Army	Company I, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division	11/28/1950	North Korea	2/8/2018
LTC	Robert G. Nopp	U.S. Army	131st Aviation Company	7/13/1966	Laos	2/2/2018
Seaman 1st Class	Eugene W. Wicker	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/1/2018
Seaman 1st Class	Leon Arickx	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/1/2018

HISTORY OF ANDERSONVILLE PRISON



In February 1864, during the Civil War (1861-65), a Confederate prison was established in Macon County, in southwest Georgia, to provide relief for the large number of Union prisoners concentrated in and around Richmond, Virginia. The new camp, officially named Camp Sumter, quickly became known as Andersonville, after the railroad station in neighboring Sumter County beside which the camp was located. By the summer of 1864, the camp held the largest prison population of its time, with numbers that would have made it the fifth-largest city in the Confederacy. By the time it closed in early May 1865, those numbers, along with the sanitation, health, and mortality problems stemming from its overcrowding, had earned Andersonville a reputation as the most notorious of Confederate atrocities inflicted on Union troops.

Andersonville Station, the third of three sites considered by Confederate officials for the prison, lacked ready access to supplies. It was chosen, in fact, for its inland remoteness and safe distance from coastal raids and because there was little opposition from the inhabitants of this sparsely populated area. Local black labor—slave and free—was impressed into service to build the camp, which consisted of a stockade and trench enclosing more than sixteen acres. A small creek, Stockade Branch, ran through the middle of the enclosed area.

The camp was planned for a capacity of 10,000 prisoners, but with the breakdown in prisoner exchanges, which would have removed much of its prison population, its numbers swelled to more than 30,000. As the number of imprisoned men increased, it became increasingly hard for them to find space to lie down within the vast pen. The prisoners, nearly naked, suffered from swarms of insects, filth, and disease, much of which was generated by the contaminated water supply of the creek.

Andersonville had the highest mortality rate of any Civil War prison. Nearly 13,000 of the 45,000 men who entered the stockade died there, chiefly of malnutrition. Guards were also issued poor rations but had the option of foraging for food elsewhere. Critics charged that though the Confederate government could find the resources to move prisoners hundreds of miles and to build a facility in which to incarcerate them, it failed to provide adequate supplies or living conditions for the inmates or even for the staff.

In the summer of 1864 camp administrators, using the labor of Union prisoners and slaves, expanded the prison's size and facilities by constructing a hospital, a bakery, and some barracks. They also extended the stockade walls, adding an additional ten acres to the original site. Yet the overwhelming number of prisoners rendered their efforts hopelessly inadequate.

Prison Life

Prisoners did little to improve the miserable conditions under which they lived. Firewood details were curtailed when prisoners seized the opportunity to escape. The small stream that served as the camp's primary water supply, both for drinking and bathing, was polluted by the unsanitary habits of some inmates and by sewage and other garbage dumped into the swampy area that fed the stream. Wells were covered over and made inaccessible after prisoners used them to hide escape tunnels.

Camp inmates often preyed upon each other. Gambling tents and "stores," operated mainly by prisoners from Union general William T. Sherman's western troops, fleeced new arrivals. Roving gangs of raiders, chiefly from eastern regiments, robbed fellow inmates, despite efforts by guards to stop them. The prisoners hanged six of the raider leaders on July 11, 1864. After that, a new police force made up of prisoners sought to impose discipline on their fellow inmates. They tried to enforce sanitation practices, curtail robberies, and force captive officers to take care of the men under them. Their strong-arm tactics led some inmates to see these new "regulators" as no better than the raiders. Men detailed to take care of the sick often robbed the hospital of food and supplies.

In late March 1864 Captain Hartmann Heinrich "Henry" Wirz took charge of the prison. The Swiss-born commander, a physician in Louisiana when the war broke out, tried to impose order and security, but his lack of authority over the guards and supply officers limited his effectiveness. He quickly became the primary target of prisoners' resentment and hostility. By August the prison population reached its greatest number, with more than 33,000 men incarcerated in the camp. But as Sherman's troops moved deeper into Georgia, the threat of attacks on Andersonville led to the transfer of most prisoners to other camps, particularly Camp Lawton, near Millen, and Camp Sorghum, in Columbia, South Carolina. By November the prison population was a mere 1,500 men. Transfers back to Andersonville in December brought the number back up to 5,000 prisoners, where it remained until the war's end five months later.

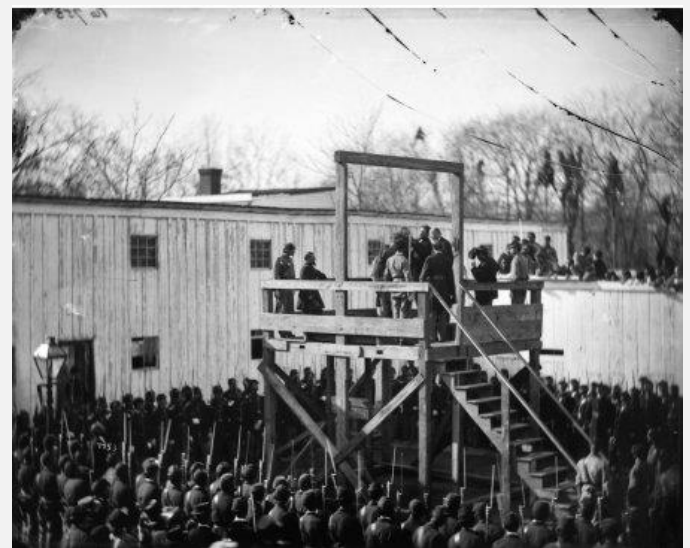
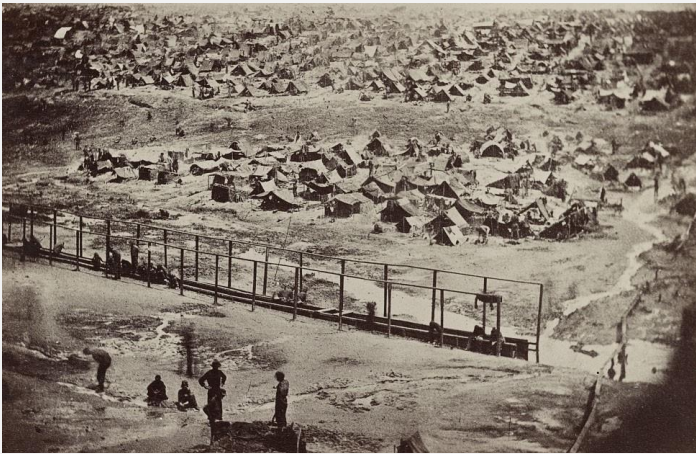
Prison Security

Andersonville's garrison consisted of troops from various units over the course of its fourteen months in operation. These included the Fifty-fifth Georgia Infantry, the Twenty-sixth Alabama Infantry, and a battery from Florida. As these troops were called away for combat duty elsewhere, Georgia state reserves and militia from Georgia and Florida replaced them. These grossly outnumbered and poorly armed guards, many of them old men and boys, kept their charges at bay with a "dead line." A feature of other prisons as well, North and South, this marked strip of ground bordering the stockade walls served as a killing zone for any prisoner who stepped into it. Cannons, guard towers, dog packs, and a second wall also served to foil escapes.

Most of the prisoners who did escape Andersonville fled from work details on duties that took them outside the camp walls. Inmates also attempted to dig at least eighty tunnels, nearly all of which were exposed by informants. Compared with other Confederate prisons, very few of those incarcerated at Andersonville made successful escapes. Those who did escape received help from sympathetic or war-weary white Southerners but found slaves to be their greatest allies. Winslow Homer's famous painting *Near Andersonville* portrays the irony of the imprisonment of Union soldiers who had come south to free slaves.

After the War

On May 7, 1865, just after the war's end, Captain Wirz and another officer, James W. Duncan, were arrested and tried separately for war crimes by federal military courts in Washington, D.C. Both the defense and the prosecution tried to prove that the defendants were following orders. The prosecutors hoped to prove that Duncan and Wirz were receiving orders from Confederate superiors, including President Jefferson Davis, and the defense attorneys hoped to absolve their clients of responsibility by passing it up the chain of command. After two and a half months, Duncan received a fifteen-year sentence, and Wirz was sentenced to death. Duncan escaped after serving only one year at Fort Pulaski. On November 10, 1865, Wirz was hanged in the courtyard of the Old Capitol prison, just behind the Capitol in Washington.



Captain Henry Wirz's Hanging

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,