

Rolling Thunder[®]

Indiana Chapter 6



May 2018

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Letter from the President...

Hello Everyone,

I want to thank everyone for showing up at USI for our meeting in May; we had a very good turnout. We did have a little incident at the end with somebody pulling a fire alarm but everything came out ok. The University Security personnel were on scene and took care of everything.

I also want to thank everyone that showed up for Honor Flight, we had a good time and hopefully in November with the airport being done, we will have a little easier time getting the parade and busses where they need to be.

It looks like we are finally into summer so we should be having a lot of events going on the next few months so please keep an eye on the website and your emails to keep up with what's going on and as usual, if you need to talk to me, please contact me at 812-453-0799.

Thank you everyone for what they do not only for Rolling Thunder but for our local community.

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,
June 2nd
6:00 pm

Chaplain's Corner

WHAT A HONOR, HONOR FLIGHT IS

If you have never been to a Welcome Home Honor Flight, please go. Not only do these Veterans returning appreciate your being there, it's a huge blessing to see the smiles on their faces.

Many of these people are in there 80's and 90's and have been up since 4:00 AM in the morning if not earlier, and they are smiling from ear to ear thanking you for being there.

They have been a part of seeing, touching and enjoying things they never thought they would get to see and to be with fellow Veterans and family sharing this day. Although they saw Memorial's and enjoyed this trip, there was also sadness in remembering those who did not come home with them.

This was the Welcome Home they never received. It is such an honor to be able to be there and shake their hands and Thank them for their service.

This should also bring remembrance to all of us that Jesus died for us on the cross for our sins.

John 15:13 NIV

Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 10:11 NIV

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (We are the sheep)

John 6:40 NIV

For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

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 RT6 Members,

Honor Flight EVV 8 is in the books and from what I gathered in talking with Lauren Artino (WFIE 14), Veterans, and some of the Honor Flight Staff, it was a great trip, and of course it was another awesome "Welcome Home" for these heroes. Of course, none of this would be possible without countless people and organizations, who volunteer their time. I would like to ask you all to keep the 3 members of Illinois Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 who were involved in an accident while enroute to the airport. Tony Schmidt reported that 1 member had 3 fractured Ribs and a broken bone in the foot, 1 was treated and released, and 1 was shaken up. Please keep these injured members in your prayers and thoughts.

We also have a couple of our members who have some health issues going on, Please keep Eric Blakeman and Bob Hayes in your prayers.

The "Ride for Freedom" is fast approaching, if you are planning on going, there will be a safety meeting on May 21st at 6:00 pm at the VFW, it looks like there will not be a group ride as some of members will be leaving on different days and times. If you do not make the meeting, make sure that you leave contact information with MJ so that a list can be generated and we can all meet up in DC at the hotel. May you all have a safe trip!!!

At the May meeting, Tim informed the membership that there are going to be two other events going on, we need to try to get all of the advertisement out in forms of flyers, and yard signs as possible. There is still raffle tickets available for sale for the drawing from Meeks Guns, if you are planning on donating some articles for the door prizes or auction, please get them to Sylvia Holder.

WD Buckner forwarded a poem to me, and thought that the membership would enjoy it.

*Now I lay me down to sleep...
One less terrorist this world does keep...
With all my heart I give my thanks...
To those in uniform regardless of ranks...
You serve our country and you serve it well...
With humble hearts your stories tell...
So as I rest my weary eyes...
While freedom rings our flag still flies...
You give your all, do what you must...
With God we live and God we trust... Amen!*

Ride / Drive Safe!!!

Thank you

Warren Montgomery

(812) 205-8383

rtnewsletter6@gmail.com



www.the Ride Home.com



www.mission22.com



www.newfreedomfarm.net



www.honorflightSI.org



www.esgr.mil



Soldierdogs.org



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
	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
August	3	Board Meeting (6:00 pm)	
	4	Membership Meeting (6:00 pm)	
	TBA	Vet Center Cookout (VFW 1114)	Volunteers Needed

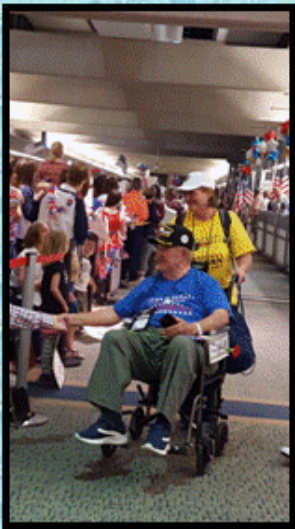
For anyone wanting to share pictures or events please send information to
RTnewsletter6@gmail.com.

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](#)

HONOR FLIGHT EVV8 MAY 2018

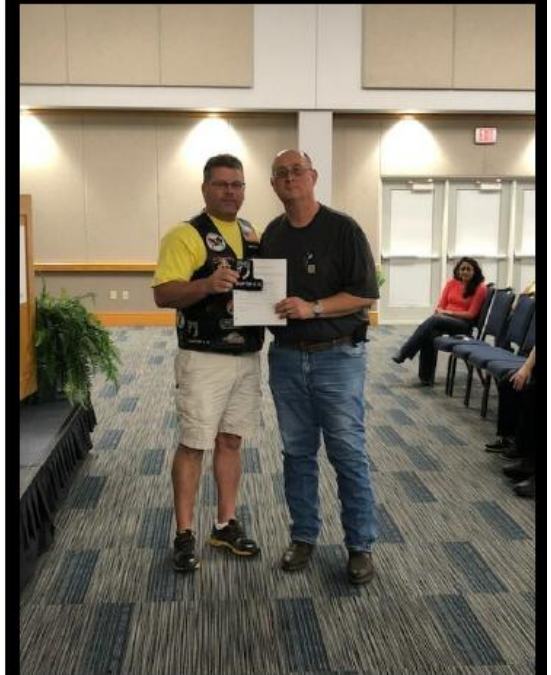




April Patch Recipients Congratulations!!



Erica Mason
Boot Patch



Douglas Hodges
Boot Patch



Dennis Knight
Boot Patch



Terri Warren
Eagle / Rocker

April Patch Recipients Con't Congratulations!!



Tom Ford
Eagle / Rocker



Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

April 2018 Accounted for MIA's

Rank	Name	Branch	Unit	Lost	Location	Identified
PFC	Oscar E. Sappington	U.S. Army	3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion 309th Infantry Regiment, 78th Infantry Division	1/11/1945	Germany	4/27/2018
CPL	Terrell J. Fuller	U.S. Army	Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division	2/12/1951	South Korea	4/27/2018
SFC	Rufus L. Ketchum	U.S. Army	Medical Detachment, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division	12/6/1950	North Korea	4/24/2018
Water Tender 1st Class	Stephen Pepe	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/23/2018
Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class	Durell Wade	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/20/2018
SSG	Vincent L. Politte	U.S. Army Air Forces	345th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 9th Air Force	8/1/1943	Romania	4/16/2018
Seaman 2nd Class	Joe M. Kelley	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/13/2018
PFC	John H. Walker	U.S. Army	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division	11/24/1944	Germany	4/13/2018
Steward Mate 1st Class	Ignacio C. Farfan	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/10/2018
Chief Machinist's Mate	Dean S. Sanders	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/9/2018
PFC	Clarence E. Drumheiser	U.S. Marine Corps	Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force	11/22/1943	Tarawa	4/6/2018
CPL	Thomas W. Reagan	U.S. Army	Company A, 14th Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division	8/12/1950	South Korea	4/3/2018



POW / MIA Accounting Latest Update

Last Update: April 5, 2018

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, we search for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Our research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.

As this map shows, at present, more than 82,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the 82,000 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific,



and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

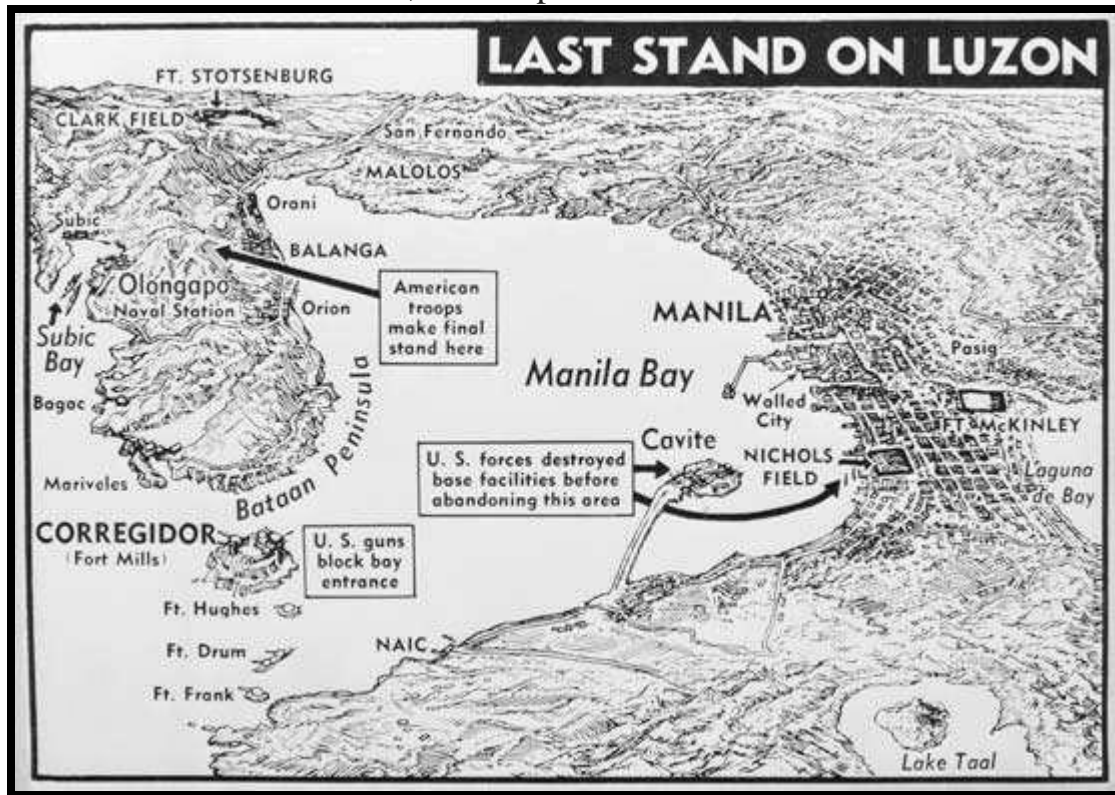
* Reflects actual number still unaccounted-for. PMKOR database count is slightly higher due to several entries pending administrative review.

* As part of DPAA's data consolidation effort we have validated the number of missing from WWII. This new figure reflects the elimination of duplicative records, erroneous entries, and information that demonstrates the individual was properly accounted for by the appropriate authorities before our Agency inherited those responsibilities.

History of The Bataan Death March

Lead-Up To The March

Within hours of their December 7, 1941, attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Japanese military began its assault on the Philippines, bombing airfields and bases, harbors and shipyards. Manila, the capital of the Philippines, sits on Manila Bay, one of the best deepwater ports in the Pacific Ocean, and it was, for the Japanese, a perfect resupply point for their planned conquest of the southern Pacific. After the initial air attacks, 43,000 men of the Imperial Japanese 14th Army went ashore on December 22 at two points on the main Philippine island of Luzon. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the supreme commander of all Allied forces in the Pacific, cabled Washington, D.C., that he was ready to repel this main invasion force with 130,000 troops of his own.



MacArthur's claim was a fiction. In fact, his force consisted of tens of thousands of ill-trained and ill-equipped Filipino reservists and some 22,000 American troops who were, in effect, an amalgam of "spit-and-polish" garrison soldiers with no combat experience, artillerymen, a small group of plane less pilots and ground crews, and sailors whose ships happened to be in port when Japanese forces bombed Manila and its naval yards. At the landing beaches, the Japanese soldiers quickly overcame these defenders and pushed them back and back again until MacArthur was forced to execute a planned withdrawal to the jungle redoubt of the Bataan Peninsula. This thumb like piece of land on the west-central coast of Luzon, across the bay from Manila, measured some 30 miles (48 km) long and 15 miles (24 km) wide, with a range of mountains down the middle.

MacArthur had planned badly for the withdrawal and had left tons of rice, ammunition, and other stores behind him. The Battle of Bataan began on January 1, 1942, and almost immediately the defenders were on half rations. Sick with malaria, dengue fever, and other diseases, living on monkey meat and a few grains of rice, and without air cover or naval support, the Allied force of Filipinos and Americans held

out for 99 days. Though they ultimately surrendered, their stubborn defense of the peninsula was a significant propaganda victory for the United States and proved that the Imperial Japanese Army was not the invincible force that had rolled over so many other colonial possessions in the Pacific.

It was against this backdrop that the Bataan Death March—a name conferred upon it by the men who had endured it—began. The forced march took place over some two weeks after Gen. Edward (“Ned”) King, U.S. commander of all ground troops on Bataan, surrendered his thousands of sick, enervated, and starving troops on April 9, 1942. The siege of Bataan was the first major land battle for the Americans in World War II and one of the most-devastating military defeats in American history. The force on Bataan, numbering some 76,000 Filipino and American troops, is the largest army under American command ever to surrender.

The March And Imprisonment At Camp O'Donnell

Japanese military leaders had severely underestimated the number of prisoners that they were likely to capture and were therefore unprepared, logistically and materially, for the tens of thousands taken into captivity. As word spread of King's decision, Allied troops surrendered in groups large and small. It was at this time that the first atrocity occurred, when Japanese soldiers summarily executed 350–400 Filipino officers. With prisoners of war scattered across the peninsula, the Japanese finally ordered them to Bataan's east coast and the main road there, where they were marshaled into columns and force-marched north to a rail head in San Fernando.

Most of the prisoners began the long walk in Mariveles, at the tip of Bataan, and had to march the full 66 miles to the rail head; others joined along the way. One constant was the attitude of the Japanese soldiers, who considered surrender a base act and prisoners of war little more than chattel: they were spoils of war that were good for little but forced labor. The Japanese brutalized their captives during the march north to the trains that would take them to a prison camp. They beat them incessantly, sometimes to move them along, sometimes just for sport. Many of the prisoners were battle worn and incapable of keeping up the grueling pace of the march, especially in the tropical heat and with little water. Those who dropped from exhaustion or sickness, fell behind, broke ranks to fetch water, or tried to escape were bayoneted, shot, or beheaded. Men who could not rise the next morning to continue were often buried alive or beaten to death with the shovels of the ditch diggers, other prisoners who were forced to carve out graves along the way.

At the rail head at San Fernando, prisoners were jammed into small prewar boxcars, 100 men or more into a conveyance meant for 40. There was little air in the oven like cars, and hundreds of men died standing up. Finally, after an additional march, the sick, starving, and brutalized captives were herded into prison camps, one for Filipino soldiers and another for Americans, across the road from each other at a former Philippine army training ground called Camp O'Donnell. Here, from April to October 1942, thousands of men died of sickness and starvation. During that time, the American prisoners were divided into forced-labor gangs and trucked throughout the Philippines to build airfields and roads. In October the Filipino prisoners were released.

No one knows the exact number of deaths that occurred during the March and subsequent internment. Along the route of the main march, perhaps as many as 500 Americans and perhaps 2,500 Filipino soldiers were killed. In Camp O'Donnell, perhaps some 26,000 Filipino soldiers and some 1,500 Americans died of starvation and disease. In all, of the some 22,000 Americans (soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines) captured by Japanese forces on the Bataan Peninsula, only about 15,000 returned to the United States, a death rate of some 40 percent. By comparison, the Allied POWs held by the Nazis and other Axis powers during World War II suffered a death rate of about 3 percent.



Aftermath

The story of the Bataan Death March has come to dominate the role that the Philippines played in World War II. The Japanese military had forced marches in other places it had conquered, and it worked to death thousands of British, Dutch, and Australian prisoners of war, but those atrocities did not make headlines until later. Even the Bataan Death March was something of a secret for several years. At first, the American government, fearing that Japanese forces would retaliate against their captives, embargoed news and details of the march. Then, in January 1944, in part to launch a war-bond drive but also to rekindle the fighting spirit of a war-weary United States, the administration of Franklin D.

Roosevelt released details of the march that had been provided by a handful of captives who had escaped and made their way to Australia. It was in this manner that what quickly became known as the Bataan Death March became a legend of the evils of war.

After the end of World War II, the Japanese commander of the invasion forces in the Philippines, Lieut. Gen. Homma Masaharu, was charged with responsibility for the March and widespread abuses at Camp O'Donnell. He was tried and convicted by a U.S. military commission in Manila in January–February 1946 and was executed by firing squad on April 3, 1946.

In the years that followed, the men who fought in the Philippines formed a veterans' organization, the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, to press for reparations from Japan and better treatment by the American government of the veterans of these campaigns. In the 1980s, the U.S. officially recognized the suffering and sacrifice of these veterans, awarding them the Bronze Star and eventually classifying them as 100 percent disabled for government pensions.

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,