



ROLLING THUNDER

CHAPTER 1 COLORADO

Quarterly Newsletter * June 2017



Mission Statement

The major function of Rolling Thunder, Inc. is to publicize POW-MIA issues; To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars and to help to protect future Prisoners of War-Missing In Action. We are also 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 Issues that we are working on.

President's Commentary...

Hello Chapter 1...



Again we say goodbye.....

It was a year ago on Memorial Day we lost a good friend and founding member of our chapter, Gary Newkirk. Gary has been gone but *never forgotten*. He lent his wisdom and guidance to our chapter since 2004 and his legacy lives on today.

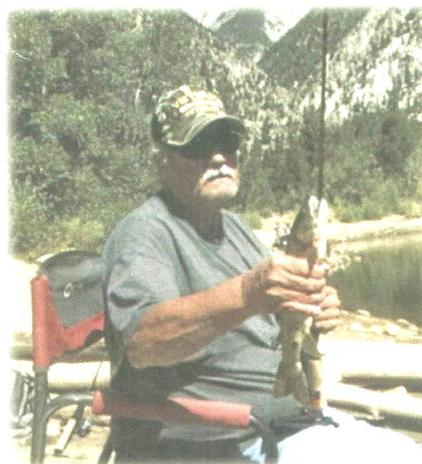
Now we have to say goodbye to another friend, brother and member of our chapter who passed away on May 13, 2017. Allen Brown and his wife Dorothy joined our chapter in March of 2014. They were new to Colorado but not Rolling Thunder. They transferred here from Oklahoma Chapter 1 and left many good friends and family behind.

When we first met Allen and Dorothy they expressed how passionate they were about RT, the Mission and riding motorcycles. We were excited to have them as part of our group. They lived 125 miles away in Pueblo but still made every attempt to catch a meeting or event. Allen started to struggle with one illness' after another and although he was under VA and Medical care, this Vietnam Vet succumbed to his final bout..

Rest In Peace my friend. and look for Gary.. he probably started another chapter..

Mike

In Loving Memory
Allen Leon Brown
Sunrise *Sunset*
October 17, 1947 May 13, 2017



CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President

Mike Messenger

Vice-President

Randy Taylor

Secretary

Cathie Nickell

Treasurer

Terry Newkirk

Board of Directors

COB * Pat Taylor

Ralph Vigil

Dan Taylor

Linda Messenger

Gary Teiken

Mark Nickell

Gary Meyers

Sgt-At-Arms

Ralph Vigil

Membership Chair

Randy Taylor

Quartermaster

Pat Taylor

Newsletter Editor

Mike Messenger

Road Captain

Dan Taylor

Web Master

Pat Taylor

Frenchie Fransua

Chaplain

We are connected....

After a few month's of traveling back and forth to Colorado Springs for meetings with executives of the Colorado Springs Sky Sox organization and Security Service Field (Baseball), local live radio interviews, diverse military motorcycle group meetings, we achieved our goal of placing a Honor Chair in the stadium on May 26th 2017.

The day of the Chair of Honor presentation, we started with a motorcycle Honor Ride from Pike Peak's Harley Davidson led by the John Anderson and the Green Knights MC, followed by Rolling Thunder CO Chapter 1 and Special Forces motorcycle MC.

When the time came for the Chair of Honor to be uncovered by Mike Messenger, Karen and Gary Meyers, myself , we over looked the section where people who supported us were sitting and when the unveiling arrived, everyone stood up. There appeared to be at least 200 supporters standing.

Members of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Co. are proud and honored to have donated the Honor Chair as it represents Honor to all our Military services of our Nation's Veterans and POW-MIA's.

We are now working on another goal of placing a POW*MIA Chair Honor in South Denver VFW Post 2461. This will be the first Chair of Honor placed in a VFW in Colorado that we know of.

“Heavenly Father, as our nation pauses today to remember those in the military who have given their lives for freedoms we enjoy, we pray you would have us all look to you for strength, comfort and guidance. Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them and their families. Grant your loving protection. Let peace prevail among all the nations, O God. Especially let your mercy rest upon our land, even as we acknowledge with thanksgiving your past goodness on this country. If it is your will, preserve the lives of the men and women in uniform as they defend our citizenry. Most of all, we pray that you would turn the hearts of all – military and civilian – to your holy Word where we find the true peace for our sinful souls that surpasses all understanding. Keep us repentant of sin. Move us to know, take hold and treasure your saving grace. In the name of Jesus, our Savior and Your beloved Son, who alone gives this peace and hope for eternity, we pray. Amen.” — [Evangelical Lutheran Synod](#)

Regards

Randy Taylor

VP and Membership Chairman.



The COB Web...

Wow, we have had a very busy last week for the month of May; POW/ MIA Chair Dedicated and a MMT Ceremony at Englewood High school.

Here are Eight things you may not know about Memorial Day



Pat Taylor

www.history.com

This day began as an informal commemoration for those that lost their lives in the Civil War over 150 years ago. This started out as "Decoration Day" and now is known as Memorial Day, here are a few history facts of this day.

There were no Memorial Day events held in the States until late 1900's , but the practice of honoring those that had fallen in the battles goes back thousands of years to the Greeks and Romans that had a annual day of remembrance by placing flowers on graves of their loved ones including soldiers.

One of the earliest memorials was organized by recently freed slaves. Near the end of the Civil War when thousands of union soldiers were held as prisoners' of war were sent to several camps in South Carolina. One camp had 250 prisoners buried in a mass grave from disease or exposure, this gravesite is behind the grandstand of a formed Race-track near the City of Citadel, S.C. More than a thousand recently freed slaves and U.S. Colored Troops, Massachusetts 54th Infantry and a handful of white citizens consecrated a proper burial site for these Union Soldiers. They distributed flowers around the cemetery and dedicated to the "Martyrs of the Race Course

General John A Logan a commander in chief of the Union veterans group issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day to commemoration for more than 620,00 soldiers killed in the Civil War in May 1868. This day was chosen because it did not fall on an anniversary of a Civil War Battle, Logan dubbed it as Americans should lay flowers and decorations on the graves of the soldiers killed in war.

The Ladies Memorial Association in April 1886 , across the south were gathering to decorate the graves of the Confederate soldiers. There was not one standard day chosen with this observation but was spread out though Spring and early summer.

It did not become a federal holiday until 1971. More than 27 states held a ceremony or event, at Arlington National Cemetery there were over 5000 people in attendance for Decoration Day. For over 50 years Memorial Day commemorate those killed in Civil War and no other American conflict until WWI that it expanded to include those killed in all Wars.

It was a long road from Decoration Day to an official Memorial Day. When Changed by the federal law the Uniformed Monday Holiday Act of 1968 went in to effect placing Memorial Day from its traditional observance of May 30th to the last Monday in May. This was not accepted by all, Veterans Groups were concerned that Americans would use this day as the first long week of the summer and not to honor our nations war dead.

There has been rivalry as to who celebrated this day first, Boalsburg, Penn claims in 1864 there was a gathering of women that mourned the ones killed in the Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Ill they are certain they held a parade in 1866 lead by John Logan who years later lead the charge for the holiday. Mississippi and Georgia have battled out for Memorial Day supremacy for decades.

Memorial Days have evolved over the years despite the increasing celebrations of holidays in the summer. On Memorial day the flag should be at half staff until noon , then raised to the top and encourage all to pause for a National Moment of Remembrance at 3PM local time. The government has also used this day to recognize non-veterans - Lincoln Memorial was dedicated Memorial Day 1922 and the Indy 500 has also become a tradition of its own on memorial day marking this the 102nd race to coincide with this holiday.



Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Chapter 1 Colorado

<http://rollingthunderchapter1co.com>



A Special Thank You... The generosity of our chapter members never ceases to surprise me. All members donate time and dig deep into their wallets to support the many functions we take part in and I do not want to put more importance on one than another. But I do need to thank **Ed & Cheryl Bradley** and **Rod & Dorothy Sidener** for their contributions to purchase our first POW*MIA Chairs of Honor. I also want to thank **Dave and Vicki Pine** for their continuous support from their personal account as well as donations from Swingle. I could list every member of our Chapter with their many contributions and fill this page but there are times when we must recognize those who raise the bar.



PATCHED

Congratulations to...



Flanked by VP Randy Taylor and President Mike Messenger, Cheryl & Ed Bradley, Rod & Dorothy Sidener & Jon Davidson



The POW*MIA Chair of Honor...

The Journey from North Berwick, Maine to Colorado Springs.

By Karen Myers, Honor Chair Committee

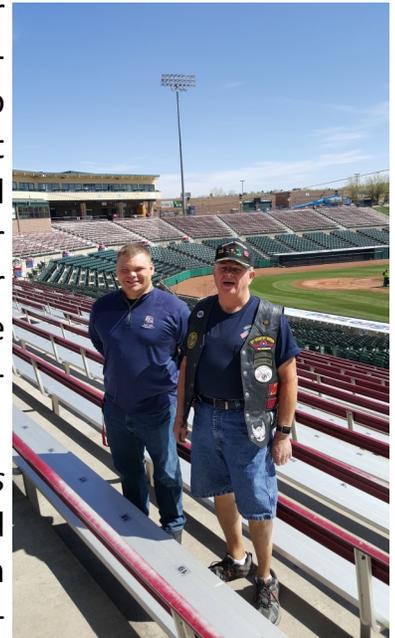
What a journey we've had so far from conception to taking receipt of our first POW*MIA Chair of Honor. On Friday, May 26th, we will complete, what we hope to be, is the first of a longer journey that will begin with the installation and dedication of our first POW*MIA Chair of Honor at Security Service Field in Colorado Springs.

We have been working diligently since last November to find a home for our first Chair of Honor in Colorado and after many letters to our local sports teams and parks, the Sky Sox stepped up to the plate. *Please pardon the pun!!*

Some of us may remember the Sky Sox were once the Triple A farm team for the Colorado Rockies. And as nothing stands still in the MLB, in recent years they became the Triple A farm team for the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Sky Sox administration and staff have been very gracious and are excited to have this Chair of Honor installed in their facility. Colorado Springs is a great "military" town and it will be an honor and privilege for our group to have our first Chair installed there.

The final leg of *this* journey will end with a dedication ceremony and formal installation of our first Chair on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. I can't think of a better way to begin a weekend that remembers those who serve and have served. This event exemplifies everything Rolling Thunder is about.

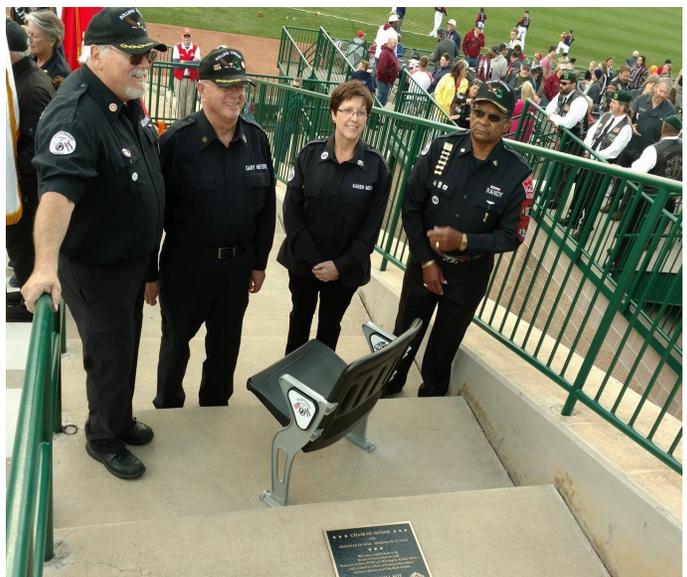


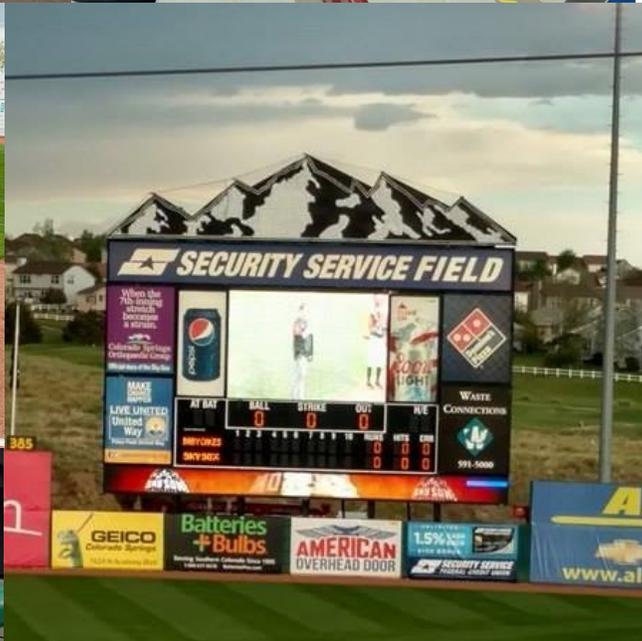
Jon Basil, Sales mgr with the Sky Sox and RT Member Gary Meyers



Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Colorado

First POW*MIA Chair of Honor in Colorado dedicated on May 26th at Security Services Field, home of Colorado Springs Sky Sox and Milwaukee Brewers.





Welcome Home...

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of U.S. servicemen, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors;

Marine Corps Reserve 1st Lt. **William C. Ryan, Jr.**, 25, of Hoboken, New Jersey, was buried May 10 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. On May 11, 1969, Ryan was the radar intercept officer of an F-4B aircraft, assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Force 115, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, on a combat mission over



Savannakhet Province, Laos. While pulling out of a bombing pass, the aircraft was hit by enemy fire. The pilot lost control and called several times for Ryan, but received no response. The pilot ejected before the aircraft crashed, and other members of the flight only witnessed one parachute leave the aircraft. The location of the crash site precluded a search and recovery effort, but the pilot was rescued. Ryan was declared deceased as of May 11, 1969.

Navy Fireman 1st Class **William H. Kennedy**, 24, of Titonka, Iowa, was buried May 12 in his hometown. On Dec. 7, 1941, Kennedy was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Kennedy. No single vessel at Pearl Harbor, with the exception of the USS Arizona, suffered as many fatalities.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Army Cpl. **Louis A. Damewood**, 21, of Carroll County, Maryland, was buried May 12 in Suffolk, Virginia. On February 13, 1951, Damewood was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when he was reported missing in action. The unit was attacking a road block set up by opposing forces near Hoengsong, South Korea, when he was declared missing. In 1953, a returning American prisoner of war reported that Damewood had died in Changsong prisoner of war camp in June 1951. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of June 13, 1951

Army Cpl. **George A. Perreault**, 20, of Burlington, Vermont, was buried May 13 in his hometown. On Feb. 5, 1951, Perreault was a part of Support Force 21 and assigned to Headquarters Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was supporting Republic of Korean Army (ROKA) attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea. On the evening of February 11, the CPVF launched a massive counterattack against the ROKA regiment. The ROKA withdrew, leaving American units to fight alone at Changbong-ni, until they were forced to withdraw too. After enduring a sustained enemy attack, the Support Force abandoned Hoengsong and moved toward Wonju. Perreault never reported to Wonju and he was reported missing in action on Feb. 13, 1951..



ETCHINGS from THE WALL

"Thank you for the sacrifices you and your families are making. Our Vietnam Veterans have taught us that no matter what are positions may be on policy, as Americans and patriots, we must support all of our soldiers with our thoughts and our prayers." Jack Wamp, American Politician



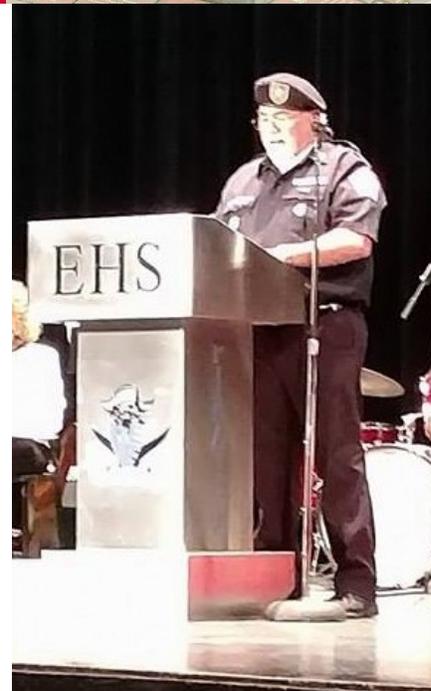
WELCOME HOME...



For the 3rd straight year Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 CO performed the Missing Man Table Ceremony for the Englewood Veterans Memorial Day Program. The Flag and Cover bearers were lead by **Gary Teiken**. **Pat Taylor** (above) narrates the MMT ceremony as **Dan Taylor** assisted by Granddaughter **Ashlynn** tends the Missing Man Table.

This is one of many events in which our chapter is asked to perform this ceremony. We have performed the MMT Ceremony throughout Colorado and New Mexico.

Thank you Chapter 1 for another excellent performance.



This year's theme Honored and Welcomed Home Vietnam Veterans. Rolling Thunder Chapter President **Mike Messenger** was asked to be a guest speaker reflecting on his experiences in Vietnam and upon his return to the "world".

In his speech, Mike also spoke to the Vietnam Memorial Wall and the healing that continues to help Vietnam Veterans to this day.

Rolling Thunder wishes to thank **Kay and Wix Howard**, Monument Founders, for allowing our chapter to be a part of this exceptional program.

Robin's Plaque at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC



Volunteering at the Wall are Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 CO members Neal Stanley, Suzanne Sigona and joining them this year is chapter member Mark Nickell. THANK YOU ALL!!!

Colorado 1 at the Wall

And keeping the home fires burning are (left to right); Gary Teiken, Diamond Dave Pine, Terry Newkirk, Dorothy Sidener (front), Suzanne Sigona, Mike Messenger, Rod Sidener, Dan Taylor, Randy Taylor, Pat Taylor, Ralph Vigil, Gary Meyers, Cathie Nickell (hiding), Cheryl Bradley, Ed Bradley and Jon Davidson.



South Denver VFW Post 2461



NATIONAL NEWS

Joe Bean

Nat'l President

Tom D'Alessio

Nat'l Vice President

National Alliance of Families
For the Return of America's Missing Servicemen
+ World War II + Korean War + Cold War +
Vietnam ++ Gulf War I + Gulf War II +
Website: www.nationalalliance.org

[American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.](#)

[Agent Orange Environmental Agents Service](#)

[Agent Orange Herbicide Exposure](#)

[Financial Guide for the Military Members](#)

[Gold Star Wives Of America, Inc.](#)

mesotheliomasymptoms.com

[Military Connection](#)

[PTSD "Make the Connection"
Shared Experiences and Support for Veterans](#)

[Run For The Wall](#)

[The Cold War Museum](#)

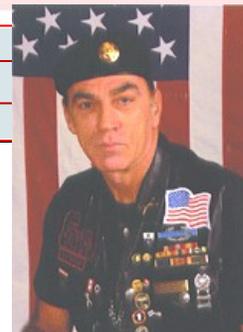
[The National Gulf War Resource Center](#)

[The VA National Center for PTSD Website](#)

[The Virtual Wall® Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#)

[United States Military V.A. Loan](#)

Artie Muller,
Nat'l Director



Artie's Message...

http://media.wix.com/ugd/41f266_a148d5bd127e43039a9c897eb22bd69f.pdf

2017 Rolling Thunder XXX
Bike Raffle winner is
Sean Brasfield, Nokesville, VA
Ticket #03296 sold by RT Chap 3
VA
Congratulations Sean!



<http://www.rtfameoffreedom.com/>

Rolling Thunder®, Inc., Chapter 3 VA



VISIT

<http://rollingthunderva3.com/html/home.html>

Vietnam War Veterans: This is a good resource to reference dates, times and locations of events that occurred in country. An amazing web site with more information at one place.

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html>

**It is written on
the wall...**

REMEMBER



SPEC 4 RODNEY LOUIS HOFFMAN

Home of Record: Denver, Colorado

Date of birth: Thursday, 05/06/1948

MILITARY DATA

Service: Army (Regular)

Grade at loss: E4

Rank: Specialist Four

ID No: 17751385

MOS: 11B20 Infantryman

Len Svc: Between 1 and 2 years

Unit: A CO, 1ST BN, 35TH INF RGT, 3RD BDE, 4
INF DIV

CASUALTY DATA

Start Tour: Sunday, 09/04/1966

Cas Date: Sunday, 08/13/1967

Age at Loss: 19

Remains: Body Recovered

Location: Quang Ngai, South Vietnam

Type: Hostile, Died Of Wounds

Reason: Other Explosive Device - Ground Casualty

ON THE WALL Panel 24E Line 106

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

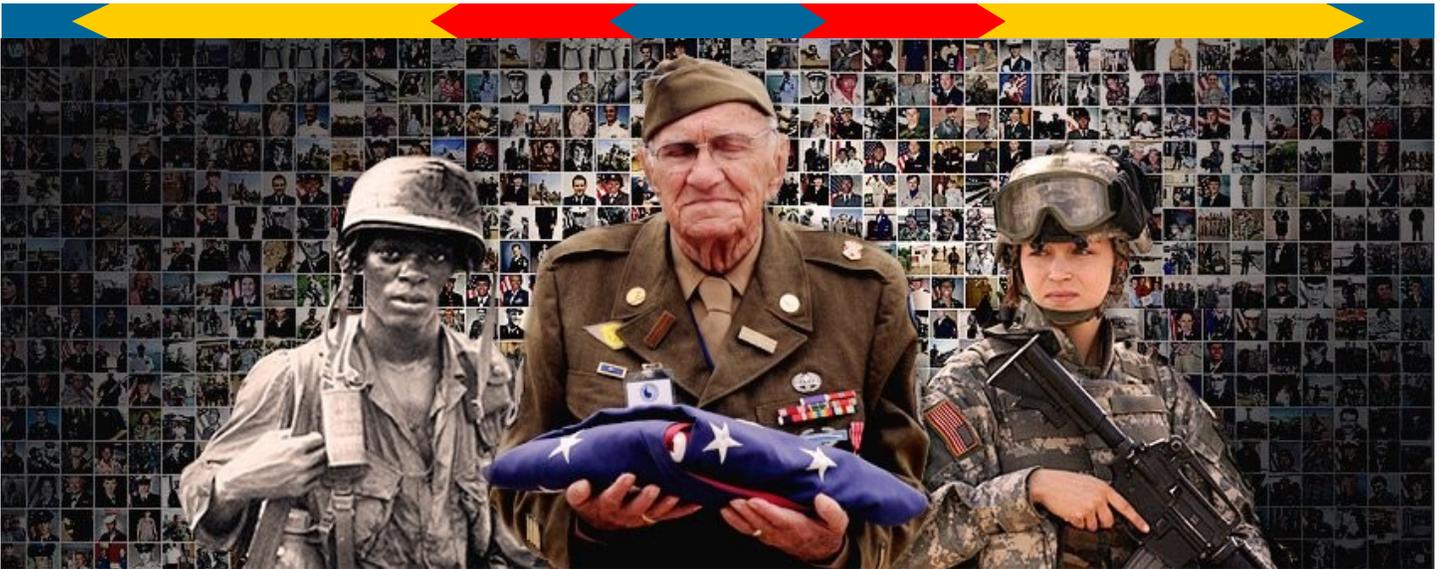
RODNEY LOUIS HOFFMAN



**A CO, 1ST BN, 35TH INF
RGT, 3RD BDE, 4 INF DIV
Army of the United States
06 May 1948 - 13 August
1967**



www.VirtualWall.org



COMMANDERS CALL

Chapter 1 and Family members currently serving our country



Rolling Thunder CO1 Active Duty Family Members

Family of Mike & Linda Messenger -

Alex Lane * USAF * Missouri

Brian Hagan * USAF * Italy

Family of Dan Taylor -

Elizabeth Beck * US Marine Corp * Japan

Family of Randy & Pat Taylor -

Brenda Jo Simmons * US Army * Indiana

James Simmons * US Army * Indiana

John Perry * US Army * Missouri

Dan Perry * US Army * Georgia

Family of Gary & Karen Teiken -

Spencer Teiken * US Air Force * Texas



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

ROLLING THUNDER CO CHAPTER 1: MISSING MAN TABLE CEREMONY



Click here

https://youtu.be/_k7smL9fmP4

Listen to Allen McCabe's "Wall Talk"

Allen is a Volunteer at The Vietnam Memorial Wall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWJyjHEKfcE>



BIKER PRAYER

Holy Spirit be my guide, as I prepare to take this ride

Holy Spirit guide my way, and keep me safe from harm today

Let your breath provide the air and let it blow all through my hair

Keep the clouds and rain at bay and keep me dry throughout the day

Watch over my brothers who ride with me, Keep them safe and close to thee

Keep my wheels upon the ground, so I may return both safe and sound

But should disaster be my fate, guide me through to heaven's gate

If I must join my fellow Brethren , please Lord show me the way to Biker Heaven.



Extended Prayers for our departed Chapter Member and brother Allen Brown and family.



And for all those family and friends that need God's hand

CHAPTER C01 EVENT CALENDAR 2017

NOTE: This is a "living" document and all dates, times and activities are subject to change.

JUNE

6-17-17 - Chapter Meeting - 10:00 am @ VFW Post 2461 * Exec's Meeting – 0915

6-18-17 - VAMC BBQ Sunday – Father's Day (TBD)

6-24-17 - Annual Car Wash – 9:00 am

BEGIN ELECTIONS PROCESS – COMMITTEE SELECTION

JULY

7-04-17 - Highlands Ranch Parade—Dave Pine Chairing

7-15-17 - Chapter Picnic – Cherry Creek State Park—The Meyers Chairing

7-22-17 - Chapter Meeting – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461 * Exec's Meeting – 0915 / ***Board Meeting - 0915***

ELECTIONS PROCESS - NOMINATIONS

AUGUST

8-18/20-17 - Salute to Americas Veterans – Cripple Creek - Chair: Randy & Pat Taylor

8-26-17 – Chapter Meeting – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461 (4th Saturday) * Exec's Meeting - 0915

ELECTIONS CONTINUE – NOMINATIONS

SEPTEMBER

9-15-17 – POW/MIA Day - TBD

9-16-17 - Chapter Meeting – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461 * Exec's Meeting - 0915

ELECTIONS

OCTOBER

10-14-17 – Oktoberfest VA Hospital - Chair: Ralph Vigil (TBD)

10-21-17 – Chapter Meeting – 10am @ VFW Post 2461* Exec's Meeting – 0915 / ***Board Meeting - 0915***

***“ENTHUSIASM IS EXCITEMENT WITH INSPIRATION,
MOTIVATION AND A PINCH OF CREATIVITY”***





June 24, 2017
At
The Big Ben Car Wash
9809 W. Coalmine Ave
Littleton, Colorado
9 AM to 3 PM



Big Ben's Car Wash helps Rolling Thunder, Inc. with hosting a donation car wash with proceeds to help benefit Veterans and in support of the POW/MIA cause.

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Contact : Randy Taylor or
Pat Taylor
At immadco@aol.com for information



Save
the
Date

Save
the
Date

Save
the
Date

the CITY OF CRIPPLE CREEK & LAW TIGERS Present...

THE SALUTE TO AMERICAN VETERANS RALLY AND FESTIVAL

AUGUST 18-20, 2017

- ★ Vietnam Memorial Traveling WALL
- ★ Veterans Remembrance Ceremony
- ★ Veteran's Parade ★ Beer Garden
- ★ VIP Guest Speakers ★ Vendors
- ★ Wild West Gun Fighters
- ★ Sat Night Street Dance
- ★ Veteran's Poker Run
- ★ Aircraft Flyovers
- ★ FREE Concerts

Official Sponsors:

25th Anniversary

★ POW/MIA Recognition Ride
Saturday August 19, 2017
All Riders meet in Woodland Park, Colorado at Woodland Park High School
All bikes must be registered by 10:00 a.m.!
ENTRY FEE: \$8.00 PER RIDER
\$12.00 PER COUPLE
FREE 30th Anniversary Ride Pin for all POW/MIA ride participants!

THEVETERANSRALLY.ORG or call (719) 487-8005

Wings-And-Warriors

3rd Annual Recognition Ride

August 12th, 2017

*Remembering Our Veterans of Past, Present, and Future
to Support Those with Hidden Injuries of PTSD and TBI.*

All Proceeds will go to help veterans receive service dogs through Wings-And-Warriors

Come on out and meet some of the Veterans and their Wingmen!



**5 Card Fun Run, Door Prizes,
Food, Drink, Lots of Free Parking!**



FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1 CO



Olinger



Olinger Hampden and Eastlawn
Cemeteries and Mortuary
8600 East Hampden Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80231
(303) 771-4636



South Denver VFW Post 2461
1350 S Broadway, Denver CO



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13978 West Bowles Ave * Bldg B, Ste 100
Littleton CO 80127
800-952-0305 or local 303-979-9103
info@qualitylapelpins.com



Colorado HorsePower, Inc.

Therapeutic Riding Center



DENVER FISHER HOUSE

SERVING CO, WY, MT, KS, NE, NV, ID, ND



CO CHAPTER 1106

PRO PROMOTIONS INC

COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO

COLORADO SPRINGS SKY SOX BASEBALL

