



ROLLING THUNDER

CHAPTER 1 COLORADO

Quarterly Newsletter * December 2016



Mission Statement

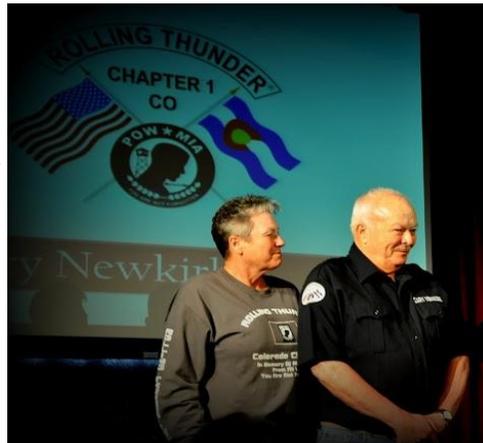
The major function of Rolling Thunder, Inc. is to publicize POW-MIA issues; To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars and to help to protect future Prisoners of War-Missing In Action. We are also committed to helping American Veterans from all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



As we close out 2016 I think back on this year and I can't help but to think of Gary Newkirk... our last CO 1 founding member, the contributions he's made over the years and of the huge void he has left behind. As a chapter we can celebrate the many successes and special occasions we've shared this year. The renewing partnerships, the making of new, and achieving the goals set forth last December.



Terry & Gary Newkirk

The one thing we didn't count on in 2016 was losing a great friend and leader. On Memorial Day of this year and without warning, we lost Gary Newkirk, a US Air Force and Vietnam Veteran. Gary's last Chapter Mission was participating in the Missing Man Table Ceremony at Englewood High School two days prior. He will now be that Missing Man. His dedication to the chapter, our mission, his wife Terry, his family and the Veteran Community was exceptional. Rest in peace Gary.

I want to take a moment to thank each one of you for your hard work in 2016 and your dedication to our chapter and Rolling Thunder Inc. I am very proud of this chapter, our accomplishments and our service in this community I am looking forward to another great year with all of you. And, ***I WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND EXCEPTIONAL NEW YEAR.***

Mike

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

(A) Becky Mikalson

Ralph Vigil

Sgt-At-Arms

Randy Taylor

Membership Chair

Pat Taylor

Quartermaster

Mike Messenger

Newsletter Editor

Dan Taylor

Road Captain

Pat Taylor

Web Master

Frenchie Fransua

Chaplain

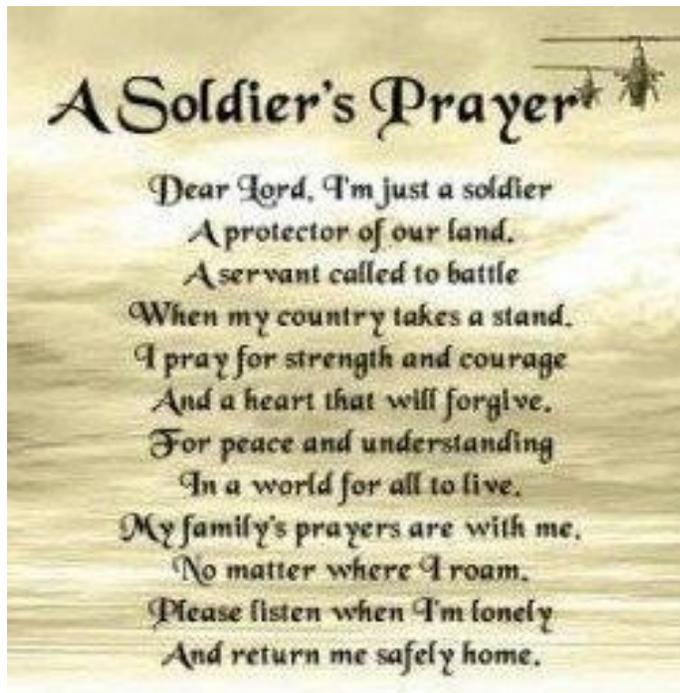
Randy Taylor, Vice President

As a long time member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Colorado, I want to say this organization, the members we have now is the best there has ever been in this chapter.

Every event has been a success, rain or shine with the members we have now. We hope to make our events in 2017 greater than what we had in 2016.

Our Chapter had a great loss this year, one of the founding members and (Father) of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Colorado, Gary Newkirk.

I want to close with this soldier's prayer...



The COB Pat Taylor

I Would like to thank the members for electing me once again as the Chairperson for our Chapter. I am hoping for great events and veteran support from our Board to help in the continued efforts of fulfilling our mission statement this upcoming year.

Our board members for this year are:

Dan Taylor

Gary Teiken

Linda Messenger

Gary Meyers

Mark Nickell

Ralph Vigil

We are off to a great start with a trip to Washington DC to represent us in full with the Chapter Officers. Then to return and visit our VA Community Living Center for Veterans Day to visit and hand out Ditty Bags. I met a new patient at this visit, he and I sat and talked quite awhile about fishing in the Arkansas river above Sedalia. Even shared with me a secret in the spinners to use



along with a spray of lubricant to help attract the fish to the lure. As we talked he saw the yellow ribbon pin I was wearing on my RT jacket and commented he was the only person on the floor that had a POW/MIA hat and how nice my pin looked . I gave him my pin with the stipulation that it was to be worn on his hat. He was so excited that I removed it and handed it to him, he stood up and told me he had to get more coffee and walk some. I had to leave for another appointment but was told he returned a bit later looking for me cause he want to show me he had put it on his hat! What a good feeling to know I made the day even better for a Veteran on his day of celebration.



Rolling Thunder meets Miss Colorado 2017 and Miss Front Range 2017 (Dave Pine was there too but was enjoying his time with a Vet as well)



Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Chapter 1 Colorado

To all VETERANS, past and present, we say...



"Welcome Home and Thank You

<http://rollingthunderchapter1co.com>

Rolling Thunder
Chapter 1 CO
Salutes...

PATCHED



Congratulations to...

Mr. Lloyd Swint and Dignity Memorial

On behalf of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Colorado I wish to personally thank Mr. Lloyd Swint and Dignity Memorial for their contributions and support at our Veteran BBQ at the VA Medical Center in Denver on October 8th. The event was a huge success and the patients and staff of the VA Medical Center greatly appreciated the lunched donated by Dignity Memorial and cooked and served by Chapter 1 CO. *Our Chapter Members and Veterans thank and SALUTE you and*



GETTING THE BOOT....



Every now and then you meet people who immediately put a smile on your face and *Ed and Cheryl Bradley* are those people. Cheryl's infectious laugh and Ed's straight-man humor

bring a lot of laughter to our Chapter. They are dedicated to the RT Mission and we are very fortunate to have them as members of chapter CO 1



OKTOBERFEST AT THE DENVER VA MEDICAL CENTER

Oct 8, 2016 — Mike Messenger

There are four events a year that bring our chapter together with our Brothers and Sisters at the Denver VA Medical Center. First is a our Father's Day BBQ. Members of our chapter man the BBQ Grill and cook up a 'summer time' meal that is followed by down-home conversation. This is followed by a Mother's Day visit to those women who proudly served, a 'flower shower' is shared with them and I can tell you they were overwhelmed. The ladies of Chapter 1 get together and create a flower Pot along with goodies and present each lady resident with a thanks for their ser-



Kelly Spicer & Mike Messenger entertaining the troops

vice and well wishes. Our third event is our fall Oktoberfest (my personal favorite). This year we were fortunate to have *Lloyd Swint and Dignity Memorial* provide the brats and burgers. We provided the skill on the grill and we also add another element for this event.... live music.

Kelly Spicer and myself take time out from playing at South Denver Post 2461 and put together a set of classic C/W, R & R and throw in some current and traditional tunes. The thanks we receive by patients and staff is truly heartfelt.



Linda Messenger "hash'n it out" with the VAMC staff...

Our forth and final event each year is our "ditty bags". Throughout the year we collect personal size items (i.e. toothbrush, paste, soaps, etc.) and hand them out to the

residents on Veterans Day. These items along with a Veterans Day card brighten up a day for the confined residents.

Chapter Member Ralph Vigil has been chairing this event for many years and is the "key to the front door" for our chapter. He has been instrumental in putting this event together every year and continually adds components that humble each and every one of us.



Left to Right: Ralph Vigil, Vicki Pine and Randy Taylor

5 WAYS TO SUPPORT VETERANS ALL YEAR LONG...

Source: Military.Com



Each year over Veterans Day we witness a wonderful outpouring of love for our veteran community. “Happy Veterans Day,” parades, free meals, “thank yous,” and vet-centric events are par for the course over the holiday and the weekends that proceed and follow it. But what about the other 51 weeks of the year?

While some of you are veterans yourselves, most of our SpouseBuzz readers are in a relationship of some kind with a currently serving veteran or a veteran of past conflict. We know how to support the veterans in our own homes.

But I believe we also have a responsibility to support the other veterans around us, and help our civilian neighbors do the same. ***We can lead by example.***

So how do we do that? Here are five ideas.

1. Listen. Over Veterans Day weekend this year I worked with our community and the local Team Red, White & Blue chapter to run a [Veterans Town Hall](#). Inspired by an idea in [Sebastian Junger’s book “Tribe,”](#) the town hall had a simple goal: give veterans a space to talk about their service, and the community a space to listen. While we did not have a huge turnout — only around 50 people — we were able to light a fire on what I hope will be a long-term movement of saying “happy Veterans Day” by listening. Through the simple act of listening we extended grace and understanding to our veteran neighbors. We can do more of that, and we can do it beyond Veterans Day weekend.

2. “Thank a Vet” in a video. [Disabled American Veterans \(DAV\)](#) has an awesome way to create a keepsake to #ThankaVet. You can upload a customized message and a few photos, and the site will turn them into a tribute video. The videos are something you can create and share year round.

3. Serve all year long. Veterans don’t just exist on [Veterans Day](#). The Veterans Home in my little town’s downtown is there every day of the year. Veterans are homeless in our nearest major city. My veteran neighbor will always need his driveway shoveled after it snows. Not every act of service to our community takes a big effort. But every act matters.

4. Tell your civilian friends. When you get ready to help your community’s veterans, invite your civilian friends to come along. I find that my civilian friends don’t ignore veterans on purpose — they just don’t really know any. We can be the people who can help make that connection.

5. Join a veteran organization. Your local [VFW](#) and [American Legion](#) both have auxiliary memberships for non-veterans. [Team Red, White & Blue](#) exists purely to connect veterans with their communities, and getting involved is incredibly easy. [Team Rubicon](#) is constantly seeking volunteers for the important work they do with disaster relief. Military spouses often focus their volunteer efforts on the currently serving population — and maybe you just flat out don’t have time to add something else to your plate. But if you do, consider even just showing up for one of these groups’ (or countless others’) events. You won’t be sorry.

There’s nothing wrong with wishing anyone a “happy Veterans Day” or using Veterans Day to shine the spotlight on veterans in our community. But let’s keep the momentum going all year long.





Colorado HorsePower, Inc.

Therapeutic Riding Center * Meadowbrook Farms

Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 was cordially invited to spend an afternoon with the staff and students at the Colorado Horse Power TRC in Castle Rock by Lynette Roff, President of the Board of Directors.



Colorado HorsePower, Inc. is a therapeutic riding center which began in 1984 with a vision of supporting elementary children in the Castle Rock schools. Since then HorsePower has grown to work with children and adults with disabilities, and offers therapeutic riding, and hippo-therapy.

Therapeutic riding and hippotherapy both recognize the power of a horse to change lives, they simply approach this from different perspectives. A certified therapeutic riding instructor will incorporate rider goals, stretching, specific movements for different disabilities, all while teaching the student various riding skills. These skills



may include, but aren't limited to: aids for the walk, aids for the trot, posting trot, sitting trot, 2-point/half seat positions, aids for the whoa, aids for steering, and many more. These skills can challenge and work on the rider's

processing (both auditory and visual), dexterity, flexibility, communication, core strength, balance and much more, all while teaching riding skills.

So why was this interesting to Rolling Thunder? The vision of Colorado HorsePower is to reach out to Veterans with PTSD and TBI. Returning Veterans as well as Vietnam Veterans are excellent candidates for the TRC program. There are many programs available to Veterans where healing through animals is highly successful and is recognized by HorsePower.

Meeting the staff, some of which are Veterans, was the first part of understanding the physical and mental healing process. The second part was meeting some of the students. The smile and excitement by each rider is contagious and you can instantly see how effective this program is.

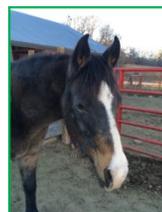


The dedication and patience by the staff members says a lot to the success of the program.

Thirdly, we are formally introduced to the horses!!

HorsePower, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) Organization and PATH Certified and committed to meeting the needs of mentally, emotionally, and physically challenged children and young adults by bringing the therapeutic power of horses and horsemanship to our students. Their mission is to provide a place for students where they gain a sense of freedom and independence, experience accomplishments, interact socially and learn new skills in a pleasurable environment. This is empowering not only the life of the rider, but the entire family.

Chapter 1 looks forward to supporting this organization as it moves towards it's vision of helping PTSD and TBI veterans.



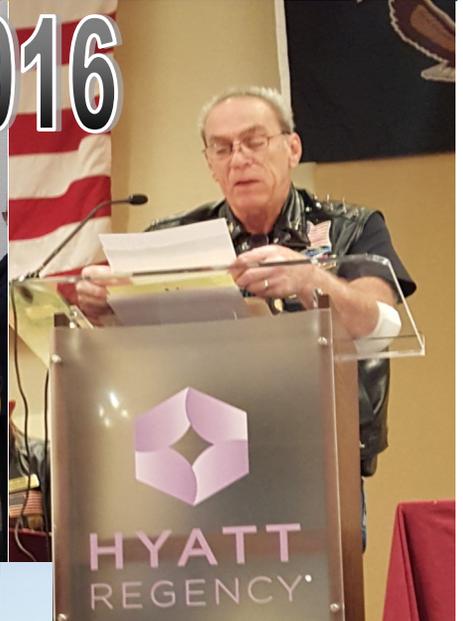
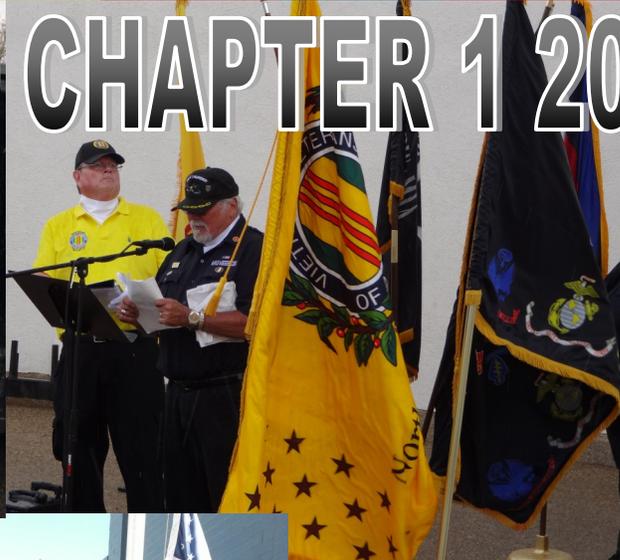
Laredo



Whiskey

<https://www.coloradohorsepower.org/newsletters.html>

CO CHAPTER 1 2016



Coming 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;

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. **Frederick W. Langhorst**, 24, of Yonkers, New York, was buried Nov. 26 in Battle Creek, Michigan. On July 17, 1945, Langhorst was assigned to the 1330 Army Air Force Base Unit, Air Transport Command, and was the co-pilot of a C-109 aircraft with three other crew members on a routine cargo transport mission from Jorhat, India, to Hsinching, China, when it crashed in a remote area. An extensive search of the area failed to identify the crash site and the crew was declared deceased on July 18, 1946, and their remains designated non-recoverable.



Marine Corps Pfc. **Wilbur C. Mattern**, 23, of Oelwein, Iowa, was buried Nov. 21, in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. In November 1943, Mattern was assigned to Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, but the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Mattern died on the second day of the battle, Nov. 21, 1943.



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

ETCHINGS from THE WALL

Let us understand: North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that.
– Richard M. Nixon, 1969

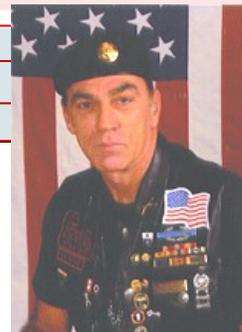


You Are Not Forgotten

A Chair of Honor is very simple yet POWERFUL, it's a single back chair with the POW/MIA Logo on it which is then flanked by the American Flag and the POW/MIA Flag. Along with the Chair is a plaque that states since WWI over 91 thousand servicemen remain unaccounted for. This chair is in their honor until they come home. They will not be FORGOTTEN. These chairs of Honor are currently in Gillette Stadium, TD Garden & Fenway Park along with over 100 cities and town spread throughout Massachusetts and now across the Country. Please contact us and find out how you to can Honor our Missing Servicemen



NATIONAL NEWS



Joe Bean

Nat'l 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

Artie Muller,
Nat'l Director

Artie's Message...

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

[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](#)

ROLLING THUNDER, INC.



FLAME OF FREEDOM®

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

MILITARY & VETERAN DISCOUNTS

<http://www.military.com/discounts>

New Mexico

Chapter 1

VISIT



<http://www.rollingthundernm1.com/default.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



PFC JEFFRY ARTHUR LARSON

PERSONAL DATA:

Home of Record: Denver, CO
Date of birth: 03/15/1947

MILITARY DATA:

Service Branch: Army of the United States
Grade at loss: E3
Rank: Posthumous Promotion as indicated
Promotion Note: None
ID No: 16914622
MOS or Specialty: 12A10: Pioneer
Length Service: 01
Unit: C CO, 8TH ENG BN, 1ST CAV DIV,
USARV

CASUALTY DATA:

Start Tour: 10/17/1967
Incident Date: 01/02/1968
Casualty Date: 01/02/1968
Age at Loss: 20
Location: Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam
Remains: Body recovered
Casualty Type: Hostile, died outright
Casualty Reason: Ground casualty
Casualty Detail: Gun or small arms fire
Status Date: Not Applicable; was not MIA
Status Change: Not Applicable; was not MIA
Repatriated: Not Applicable; was not MIA
Identified: Not Applicable; was not MIA



www.VirtualWall.org



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

JEFFRY A. LARSON

"Camaraderie. Teamwork. Pride. Service. Sign up for the Bell Guard Today"

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Honor Bell has been operating on a daily basis, [Monday through Friday](#), at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, and has been tolled an average of more than twice a day since its dedication into service this past Memorial Day. Military artifacts from twelve deceased Colorado veterans, representing every branch of service and every conflict from World War II through the Global War on Terror were melted down and cast into the Bell when it was cast this Spring. The inclusion of these artifacts make the Honor Bell "Forged From Honor", and it is treated accordingly as a sacred instrument, to be used only in honoring those who have served and sacrificed.



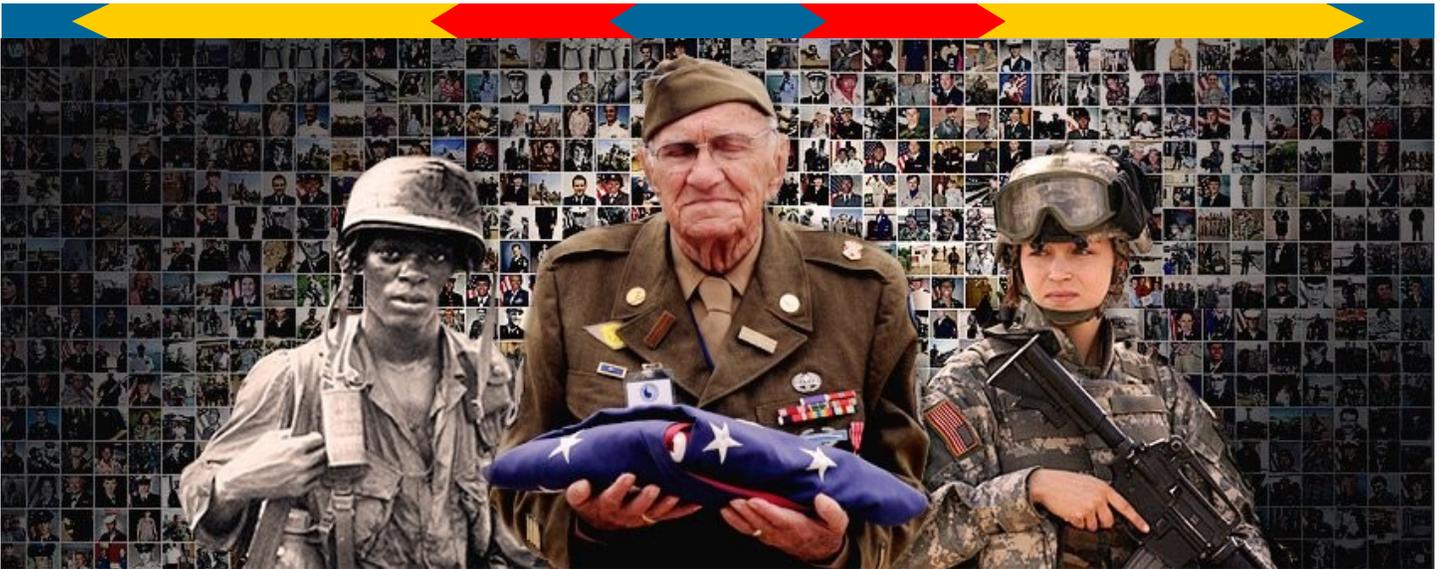
The Bell Guard protects, maintains, and operates the Honor Bell at veteran funerals and memorials. The Guard also participates at education venues and other military related community events. A Tolling Party, made up of three Guard members, comprises the escort and operational detail for Bell Honors missions.

Why join the Bell Guard? As one bell guard put it, "the veterans that are being buried today are made up of that small portion of the population who served their country with commitment and dedication. The Bell Guard affords me the opportunity to recognize and honor their service." Another states: "since leaving the Army 25 years ago, I realize I feel best when I'm interacting with fellow veterans. That camaraderie is felt again when I work as a team to honor those that served as I did."

The Honor Bell tolls nearly every weekday, between one and three times daily, exclusively at Fort Logan National Cemetery in South Denver. It is expected the number of Bell Honors to increase as more veterans' families hear about the Bell Honors program and ask for the bell to be tolled at their veteran's service. The Honor Bell is also tolled at group memorial service events on the weekends, usually once a month or less. Scheduling is done online with an easy-to-use tool, where you can view and sign up for service on upcoming missions. You can expect to serve in a Tolling Party one time, or choose several times a month, depending on your availability and the bell's schedule.

Consider becoming a member of the Honor Bell Guard and help to honor your fellow veterans. Learn more and fill out this short form to take part in this honorable endeavor with your fellow veterans. To learn more head over to (<http://www.honorbell.org>, or signup at:

<http://www.honorbell.org/bell-honor-guard-form>)



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 * New Mexico

Brian Hagan * USAF * Korea

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>



FREEDOM ISN'T FREE...

Engraved upon that granite stone, I touch his name and feel, the tears are streaming down my face, his memory is so real.

His name is there with many more who sacrificed their lives, to bring freedom to a world that is filled with war and strife.

In wars we've fought around the world, we've lost many brave young women and men, freedom costs the greatest price, and those payments will not end.

Until the day that Jesus comes to take his children home, we'll hear him say all the wars have ceased, then peace at last is won.

But until that day we will remember those who gave their lives that we might enjoy this thing called freedom, and we'll know that it is not free.

And to those who served in Vietnam and were able to come back home, just know that no matter where you are, you will never be alone.

Taken from a plaque at the Vietnam Memorial, Angel Fire NM



Extended Prayers for All Veterans and their Families during this holiday season



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

CHAPTER C01 EVENT CALENDAR 2016

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

JUNE

6-4-16 – Annual Car Wash – 9:00 am -

Chair: Pat & Randy Taylor

Committee: Dan Taylor, David & Vicki Pine,

6-11-16 Angel Fire / Taos

Chair: Mike Messenger

Committee: Gary & Karen Teiken, Al Baxter, Dan Taylor, Randy Taylor and Dave & Vicki Pine.

6-18-16 – Flag Change – Ft. Logan -- 9:00 am

6-18-16 - Chapter @ VFW Post 2461

6-19-16 – VAMC BBQ Sunday – Father’s Day
Chair: Ralph Vigil & Randy Taylor

Committee: Dave and Vicki Pine, Mark and Cathie Nickell

JULY

7-04-16 – Highlands Ranch Parade - Dave Pine

7-09-16 – Chapter Meeting – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461

7-16-16 - Chapter Picnic – Chery Creek State Park. Chair: Trevor Thorne.

ELECTIONS START

AUGUST

8-13-16—Wings & Warriors Run—Chair: Mike Messenger

8-19/21-16 - Salute to Veterans – Cripple Creek
Chair: Randy & Pat Taylor

8-27-16 - Chapter Meeting - 10 am – Location TBD

ELECTIONS CONTINUE

SEPTEMBER

9-16-16 – POW/MIA Day - MMT at VFW Post 2461

9-17-16 - Flag Change – Fort Logan (*Chapter Participation*) – 9 am

9-17-16 - Chapter Meeting – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

OCTOBER

10-15-16 – Chapter Meeting – 10am @ VFW Post 2461

10-22-16 – Oktoberfest VA Hospital

NOVEMBER

11-3-5 16 - National Convention – Washington, DC Officers to attend

11-5-16 - Cemetery –Fairmount Place Flags

11-11-16 – Coors Brewery - Chair: Randy Taylor

11-12-16 -- Fairmount Cemetery –Pick up Flags

11-19-16 – Chapter Meeting – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461

11-xx-16 – Gift Bags-VA – Chair: Ralph Vigil

DECEMBER

12-17-16 - Flag Change – Fort Logan – (*WILL ADVISE*)

12-17-16 – Chapter Meeting – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461

12-17-16 – Chapter Holiday Party at VFW Post 2461

coming soon

Meeting - 10:00 am

2017



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



FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1 CO



Olinger

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

Dignity
MEMORIAL

South Denver VFW Post 2461
1350 S Broadway, Denver CO



QUALITYLAPELPINS.com™
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

BIKER BRAD'S

PARKER, COLORADO

DENVER FISHER HOUSE
SERVING CO, WY, MT, KS, NE, NV, ID, ND

CO CHAPTER 1106

PRO PROMOTIONS INC
COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO

Support your VFW Post - Post 2461 — Hamburger Night... every 3rd
Weds * 5:pm to 7:pm ** Thursday Night Darts...join in the fun, NO PRO'S HERE!