



ROLLING THUNDER

CHAPTER 1 COLORADO



Quarterly Newsletter * September 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...



I am honored and privileged to have been a member of Chapter 1 CO since 2009. The changes since joining this chapter have been astonishing and yup, we've had a dip or two along the way. However, **WE** maintained focus, stayed the course and have enjoyed many accomplishments and successes for which we should all be proud of. The visibility and recognition we've gained in the community is due to the hard work and dedication put forth by this Chapter.

I have been the President of Chapter 1 Colorado for two terms (4 years) and elected to a 3rd. I truly thank you, our Chapter members, for your confidence in myself to again lead and represent our chapter. However, as I stated in our last meeting, my 3rd term as President will be short lived as Linda and I are planning a move to Arizona. Our move date is TBD and we will turn in our Boot Patches and terminate our membership in CO 1 at that time. The good news is, we will retain our membership in Rolling Thunder as Members-at-Large. **And** we will always have a dotted line connection to Chapter 1 CO. In addition, I've asked Randy to keep us on the "dist list" for the newsletter and other great activities you will be having in the future.

Four years ago I saw many opportunities for our chapter to grow and gain a bigger presence within our Veteran community. After retirement I was allotted more time to attend community functions and events bringing attention to our chapter, our mission and our programs such as the Missing Man Table Ceremony and the POW/MIA Chair of Honor. In that quest, I've relied heavily on our VP Randy Taylor, the BOD and all of **YOU** for guidance and help to meet our commitments. By **working together and through the generosity of our members**, we have more than achieved the goals we had set for our chapter. I have said this many times and I truly mean it, **I am very proud of this chapter and our members**. We proudly represent Rolling Thunder!!!

When I pass the gavel to Randy Taylor, I know he will continue to lead this chapter forward and to much success. Linda and I will truly miss our brothers and sisters of Chapter 1 Colorado... *we will meet again.*

Mike

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President

Mike Messenger

Vice-President

Randy Taylor

Secretary

Terry Newkirk

Treasurer

Terry Newkirk

Board of Directors

COB * Pat Taylor

David Pine

Mark Nickell

Dan Taylor

Karen Teiken

Gary Meyers

Alt Cherie Taylor

Sgt-At-Arms

Ralph Vigil

Membership Chair

Randy Taylor

Quartermaster

Pat Taylor

Newsletter Editor

Mark Nickells / Cheryl Bradley

Web Master

Pat Taylor

Chaplain

Frenchie Fransua



Chapter 1 CO Installs it's 2nd POW*MIA Chair of Honor....

Randy Taylor, VP Chapter 1 CO.

Another **great day** for Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Colorado. On July 29th, 2017, and in partnership with South Denver VFW Post 2461, we installed and dedicated a POW-MIA Chair of Honor in the Post. As part of this dedication, Chapter 1 CO preformed the Missing Man Table Ceremony.

I'm really grateful for our Rolling Thunder members who helped make this event a special day for us all. I want to thank VFW Post 2461 with their help in making this event most memorable as this, we believe, is the first POW*MIA Chair of Honor to be displayed in any VFW in Colorado.

A *Special Thank You* goes to the Missing Man Table detail for doing a fabulous job under the direction of Narrator Terry Newkirk and detail lead, Gary Teiken. Well done!!!

I would also like to thank Mike Messenger and Gray Meyers for helping in the construction of the Chair of Honor platform. In addition and for his part in the ceremony, I want to thank Gary Meyers for presenting the POW-MIA flag to the Commander of VFW Post 2461. This flag flew over the graves of our brothers and sisters at Fort Logan Cemetery. Post Commander Gary Edington ceremoniously received and placed the POW*MIA Flag in the Chair.

While standing at the podium, I noticed there was a hundred or more spectators in attendance for this great event. In addition we received a number of compliments for our presentations. As I always say... **WE ARE CONNECTED.**

And to note, I have spoken with the officers of VFW Post 5061 in regards to the Chair of Honor and they too, would like to install a chair in their Post.

A Soldier Prayer

I saw a soldier kneeling down,
for this was the first quiet place he had found.
He had traveled through jungles, rivers and mud.
His hands were scared and toil-worned.

He folded his hands and looked to the sky...
I saw his tears, as they welled in his eyes.
He spoke to God, and this is what he said.
God Bless my men, who now lie dead;

I know not what You have in mind,
but when You judge, please be kind....
when they come before You, they will be poorly dressed
but will walk proudly, for they have done their best.

Their boots will be muddy and their clothes all torn,
but these clothes they have so proudly worn.
Their hearts will be still and cold inside,
for they have fought their best and did so with pride.

So please take care of them as they pass Your way...
the price of freedom they've already paid.



The COB Web...



Pat Taylor

We have once again met our mission of educating and publicizing the POW/MIA issues these past months by performing the ceremony to many that have never witnessed this moving presentation at VFW 2461 and Cripple Creek Salute to American Soldiers. And the year is still moving forward with even more opportunities for RTCO 1 to perform the MMT ceremonies to others, as National POW/MIA day in September.

New POW/MIA Documentary to be Unveiled on Sep 15, 2017

Posted on 08/15/2017 by Leon Proctor — No Comments ↓

Richard Jellerson's completed documentary film, *A Solemn Promise, America's Missing in Action*, will be Premiered at a large POW/MIA event at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia on September 15, 2017 in honor of **America's National POW/MIA Recognition Day**.

Richard will be presenting the film at *The Heroes Banquet* that Friday night which is part of an annual 3-day event entitled **The Ride Home**. This event was started in 2002 by Florida and Georgia Chapters of **Rolling Thunder** and it hosts one of the largest gathering of former POWs and MIA family members in the nation. As a part of this years ceremonies at their Heroes Banquet, Richard will be "unveiling" his new documentary, *A Solemn Promise*, in a presentation before which will have several hundred former POWs and MIA family members in attendance as well as many other VIPs and guests.

The website for *The Ride Home* has a very well placed Film Logo and comments about the Film including the comment that: "**This will be the NATIONAL Premiere of this film**".

Here is the link to their website: <http://www.theridehome.com>

Would you please distribute this information to your many connections so as to inform them about the film's completion and presentation in September.

For more information, contact:

Bill Fortier

bfortier@usamedia.tv





Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Chapter 1 Colorado



How to Build a Chair of Honor



Step # 1

Get into your work!
And Chapter VP Randy Taylor jumped into it... *with both feet*. He received capable assistance from Gary Meyers and Mike Messenger who took a break. (and the photo).



Step # 2

Add the finishing touches while the designated assistants cut a rug and find more nails located next to the beer fridge.



Step # 3

Lay the carpet, bolt the chair to the floor, insert the flags into the pre-drilled holes, assemble the stanchions, and carefully mount the plaque.

Step # 4

Contact local TV Channel News and Promote the POW*MIA Chair of Honor Dedication. Many thanks to Sally Mamdooh and Denver's Channel 7 for the TV coverage and South Denver VFW Post 2461 for allowing us the opportunity to place this Chair of Honor in the Post.

Left to right: Mike Messenger, Gary Teiken, Sally Mamdooh and Randy Taylor.



VOICES IN THE COMMUNITY

WINGS & WARRIORS FUN RUN

Chapter 1 Member Jon Davidson and his awesome wife Debbie put on another great "fun run" in August. The proceeds went to support their "Service Dog Training" and to offset the expense of feeding and care.



Chapter 1 members show up in support and in hopes of taking home one of the many door prizes donated by the Wings & Warriors Sponsors.

Thank you Jon & Debbie!!!

<http://www.wings-and-warriors.org/>



Salute to Americas Veterans 2017

Cripple Creek Colorado



Pictured above is this year's Missing Man Table Team.

Chapter 1 CO performed the Missing Man Table Ceremony at the Salute to Americas Veterans in Cripple Creek Colorado. We have become a tradition at this celebration and we want to thank Jim and Pam Wear, Pro Promotions and their staff for this inspiring opportunity. We consistently get "thank you's" and positive feedback after each performance and throughout the weekend. This year we had many visitors to our RT booth and one Veteran in particular who thanked Rolling Thunder for the visit at Walter Reed. Cripple Creek is a small mountain town that opens it's doors every August for this event. See you all there next year!



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;

Air Force Col. Martin R. Scott, 34, of Jenks, Oklahoma, will be buried September 22 in Claremore, Oklahoma. On March 15, 1966, Scott was a member of Headquarters, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, as the aircraft commander and wingman of a two-seater F-4C aircraft in a flight of two on an armed reconnaissance mission over northern Vietnam. The lead aircraft spotted two vehicles as the flight approached the target area and the pilot of Scott's aircraft responded that he was going to strafe the trucks. The flight leader observed an explosion in the area of the target and immediately attempted to contact Scott's aircraft. No parachutes or emergency signals were seen, and all attempts to contact Scott and his pilot were unsuccessful. An organized search was not possible due to hostilities in the area. Scott was subsequently declared missing in action.

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Thomas M. McGraw, 26, of Lakewood, Ohio, will be buried September 22 in Seville, Ohio. On February 28, 1945, McGraw was a member of the 716th Bomber Squadron, 449th Bombardment Group, along with ten other crewmen of a B-24J Liberator aircraft, which departed Grottaglie Army Air Base, Italy, for a combat mission. The mission targeted the Isarco-Albes railroad bridge in northern Italy, which was part of Brennan Route, used by Germans to move personnel and equipment into and out of Italy. Following the bombing run, participating aircraft headed in the direction of their rally point, where the planes would reform and return to their originating base. When leaving the Isarco-Albes area, an aircraft was seen heading in the direction of the rally point, but skimmed the mountain tops with at least two damaged engines. The plane was last seen near Lake Wiezen in Austria. No parachutes were seen exiting the aircraft. Based on this information, McGraw was reported missing in action.

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



Army Pfc. Gerald F. Wipfli, 23, of Nekoosa, Wisconsin, will be buried September 23 in his hometown. In early November 1944, Wipfli was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 112th Infantry, when his unit was engaged in intense combat against German forces in the town of Schmidt, Germany, within the Hürtgen Forest. Due to chaotic fighting, 112th Infantry officers were not able to accurately report the status of each soldier, and it took several days for Company I to gain accountability of their casualties. Wipfli was among 33 soldiers listed as missing in action from his company. No surviving members of his unit had information on his fate, and he was reported missing in action on Nov. 4, 1944.

Army Cpl. Daniel F. Kelly, 18, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will be buried September 27 in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. In late November 1950, Kelly was a member of C Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was ordered to advance as part of preparations for an offensive to push the North Koreans to the Yalu River along the border of North Korea and China

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



PATCHED

Congratulations to...



PASTOR FRENCHIE FRANSUA

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 /2018 ELECTED OFFICERS AND CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT - PRO TEM: MIKE MESSENGER

SECRETARY / TREASURER: TERRY NEWKIRK

BOARD MEMBER: DAVE PINE

BOARD MEMBER: KAREN TEIKEN

BOARD MEMBER: CHERIE TAYLOR

Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Colorado THANKS our newly elected Officers and Board members for stepping up and accepting an important and respected leadership role. It will be through your wisdom and life experiences that will ensure our Chapter will prosper in the future.

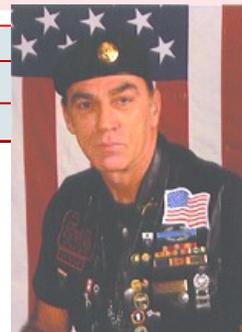
Also stepping up to assume our Chapter's Quarterly Newsletter and Calendar is Mark Nickell and Cheryl Bradley. Thank you!

“Today is another valuable opportunity; not to alter the past, but to help shape the future.”

Quote by Alvin Conway



NATIONAL NEWS



Joe Bean

Nat'l President

Tom D'Alessio

Nat'l Vice President

Artie Muller,
Nat'l Director

Artie's Message...

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

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](#)

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 NC 5



<http://www.rollingthundernc5.com/>

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



GERALD D GRAY

Panel W11 Line 27

This page Copyright© 1997-2015 www.VirtualWall.org Ltd.

PERSONAL DATA:

Home of Record: Commerce City, CO

Date of birth: 04/09/1951

MILITARY DATA:

Service Branch: Army of the United States

Grade at loss: E4

Rank: Specialist Four

Promotion Note: None

ID No: 523766465

MOS or Specialty: 67N20: UH-1 Helicopter Repairer

Length Service: 01

Unit: 170TH AHC, 52ND AVN BN, 17TH AVN
GROUP, 1ST AVIATION BDE, USARV

CASUALTY DATA:

Start Tour: 08/03/1969

Incident Date: 04/19/1970

Casualty Date: 04/20/1970

Age at Loss: 19 (based on date declared dead)

Location: Kontum Province, South Vietnam

Remains: Body recovered

Casualty Type: Hostile, died of wounds

Casualty Reason: Ground casualty

Casualty Detail: Burns

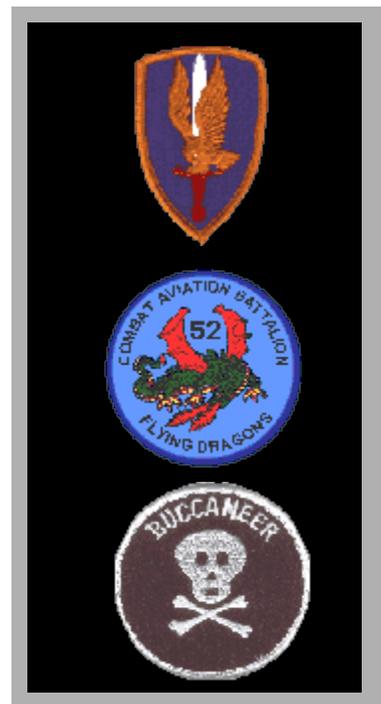
Status Date: Not Applicable; was not MIA

Status Change: Not Applicable; was not MIA

Repatriated: Not Applicable; was not MIA

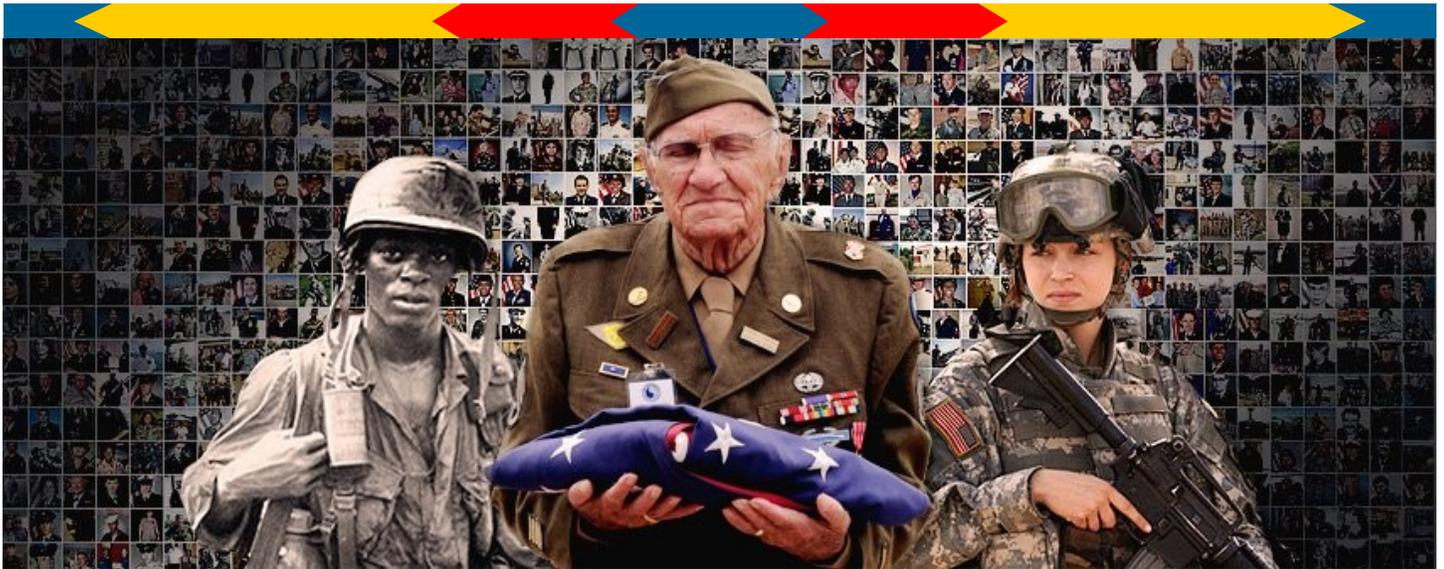
Identified: Not Applicable; was not MIA

URL: www.VirtualWall.org/ds/GrayGD01a.htm



GERALD D GRAY

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/Afghanistan

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>



Extended Prayers for our departed Chapter
Members and our Homeless Veterans



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.

SEPTEMBER

9-15-17 – **POW/MIA Day** - MMT at Life Care Center in Greely - Randy

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

ELECTIONS

OCTOBER

10-14-17 – **Healing Warriors MMT at DU** - Mike Messenger/Randy Taylor

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

10 -28-17 - **Bus Trip to Black Hawk** - Pat Taylor

November

11 - 2 thru 5th - **National Convention** – Washington, DC Officers to attend

11-10–17 – Englewood High School

11-10—17– **Coors Brewery (Vet's Day)** - Chair: Randy Taylor

11- 11 – 17 - **Veterans Day at VFW Post 2461**

11-18 – **Chapter Meeting** – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461 * Exec's Meeting - 0915

December

12-16-17 – **Chapter Meeting** – 10 am @ VFW Post 2461 * Exec's Meeting - 0915

12-16-17 – **Chapter Christmas Party** – Chair: Terry Newkirk - Committee: TBD

COMING SOON

2018

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





FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1 CO



HONOR BELL
FOUNDATION



South Denver VFW Post 2461
1350 S Broadway, Denver CO



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Littleton CO 80127
800-952-0305 or local 303-979-9103
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VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA

CO CHAPTER 1106

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