### INCOMING!



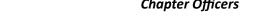
December 2023 Newsletter

### ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.

Indiana Chapter #1 "POW-MIA - You are not Forgotten"

http://indianarollingthunder.com https://www.facebook.com/RTINCh1

**Chapter Officers** 



Secretary: Jessica Clark Treasurer: Terry "Flash" Sanderson



Vice President: David Craig

#### **President News**

President: Michael Clark

I hope everyone is doing well and in good health. Page 2 of the newsletter list our November birthday members and page 3 list the December birthday members. I wish all of you a happy birthday and hope you have many more.

November was a pretty busy month for the Chapter with several events. The December Newsletter is a combination of November and December.

I'm happy to announce that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has identified one of our WWII Indiana heroes from Richmond Indiana. On July 21, 2023, the DPAA identified the remains of Second Lieutenant Gene F. Walker. Please see page 4 of the newsletter for 2nd LT Walker announcement.

November 10th was a busy day with the Veterans Day Parade, Tom and Donna Ransdell visit to the Anderson Christian School, and to finish off the day, a few Chapter members and their families took advantage of the complimentary tickets to the INDY Fuel Military Appreciation Night.

The next day, November 11th, a few members rode to the Veterans National Shrine and Museum located in Fort Wayne Indiana for the dedication of the Korean War Memorial. The memorial consist of (12) seven-foot statues made from fiberglass resin molds depicting a patrol returning from combat. The statues are similar to the Korean War Memorial statues in Washington DC. See page 9.

December 17th is our Chapter meeting and Christmas Luncheon. The Honor Guard team will perform the Flame of Freedom and Missing Man Table ceremonies along with some other special ceremonies. We will have a short Chapter meeting followed by a great meal catered by the Coachman Restaurant. I encourage members to bring family members and friends to the meeting so they can learn more about Rolling Thunder® and our mission. We'll have some guest from HVAF to join us for lunch. The Chapter meeting will start at 13:00 with lunch being served shortly after the Chapter meeting. If you have not RSVP, please do so ASAP. We need to know how many people will be in your party and if it includes any kids. Santa won't be making a visit to the meeting and we want to make sure we have something to give to the kids.

# November 2023 Birthday's



Julie Craig 11-4

Judy Brinkley 11-5

Barbara 11-12

Steve Fulford 11-22

Leonard Enterkin 11-24

Randall Cope 11-29

Brenda Stanley 11-30

# Happy Belated Birthday Hope you have many more

# December 2023 Birthday's



Debbie Bailey 12-2

Norman Crawford 12-3

Gene Byers 12-8

Darryle Swartzlander 12-23

Carol McFarland 12-25

### Hope you have many more

### WWII MIA 2nd Lieutenant Gene F. Walker Richmond Indiana



On July 21, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Second Lieutenant Gene F. Walker, missing from World War II.

Second Lieutenant Walker entered the U.S. Army from Indiana and served in Company H, 3rd Battalion, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division. This unit fought in Battle of the Hürtgen Forest, one of the bloodiest engagements of World War II. Between September 1944 and February 1945, the battle grew to involve approximately 200,000 troops, with tens of thousands of casualties on both sides. On November 24, 1944, 2LT Walker was killed when his tank was hit by enemy fire at Hücheln, Germany. According to witnesses, the vehicle caught fire, preventing recovery of his remains during the ongoing combat in the area. On December 3, an unknown set of remains was buried in an American military cemetery. Records from the time indicated that the remains belonged to a member of 2LT Walker's unit, but no recovery location was recorded. In August 2021, the Department of Defense and the American battle Monuments Commission exhumed these remains and sent them to a DPAA laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established that the remains were those of 2LT Walker. 2LT Walker is expected to be buried in San Diego in early 2024.

With the identification of 2LT Walker, Indiana still has 1,499 missing from WWII.

### Veterans Day Parade November 10, 2023

We had a butiful day for the Veterans Day Parade this year. Unfortunately, the Parade was on a workday and the Chapter turnout wasn't as good as we hoped. However, we had seven motorcycles in the parade to represent the Chapter. This year, we showed off our 2-Many trailer that Darryle upgraded for the Parade. The trailer looked great and I think it got some attention. Thank you Darryle for a job well done.

I thank the Chapter Members that took the time to represent the Chapter in the Veterans Day Parade.











### Anderson Christian School November 10, 2023

Tom was invited by Beth Jones to come to the Anderson Christian School for Veterans Day to speak to the kids about Veterans and his service in the Air Force. Beth is the sister of Michael Lautzenheiser who is one of our Indiana MIAs from the Vietnam War.

The below picture on the left is Tom with the RF-4C aircraft that he use to work on while stationed in Thailand. The picture to the right is Tom in uniform in 1967. I don't know, but I think Tom may have gained some weight since 1967.

Thanks Tom for taken the time to go to the Anderson Christian School to help educate the kids about our POW/MIA Mission and what our Veterans have done for our Country.







### Missing Man Table Ceremony November 10, 2023

Chapter Members Greg and Diana Jones currently reside at the Indian Waters RV Resort in Indio, California. As part of their Veterans Day program, Greg and Diana performed the Missing Man Table Ceremony. Greg mentioned that the owner of the resort also owns resorts in Virginia. He was touched by their Missing Man ceremony and wanted the contact information for the Rolling Thunder Chapter in Virginia to see if they would do the Missing Man Table ceremony at the Virginia resort.

Thanks to Greg and Diana for performing the Missing Man Table Ceremony and bringing more awareness to the public about our POWs and MIAs. Great Job!!!





Greg and Diana Jones performing the POW/MIA Missing Man Table Ceremony at the Indian Waters RV Resort in Indio, California.

**Bringing Awareness to the Public** 

## Indy Fuel Military Appreciation Night November 10th

November 10th was a busy day with the Veterans Day Parade, the Anderson Christian School visit, and to finish off the day, the INDY Fuel Military Appreciation Night. A few of the Chapter members and their families took advantage of the complimentary tickets that the Indy Fuel President & CEO offered the Chapter. The Fuel team unfortunately lost to the Cincinnati Cyclones in overtime, but it was still a great game.

The picture to the right is the POW\*MIA Chair of Honor that the Chapter dedicated on November 19, 2016. The INDY Fuel will be moving to a new facility in Fishers Indiana in the near future. We'll be working with the Fuel team to design a new POW\*MIA Chair of Honor display for the new facility.





### Korean War Memorial Dedication Fort Wayne, IN November 11th

On Saturday November 11th, a few Chapter Members rode to the Veterans National Shrine and Museum located in Fort Wayne Indiana for the dedication of the Korean War Memorial. The memorial consist of (12) seven-foot statues made from fiberglass resin molds depicting a patrol returning from combat.

The statues are similar to the ones in Korean War Memorial in Washington DC. The biggest difference is the faces on the statues are the faces of the local Korean War Veterans from Fort Wayne and northeast Indiana who served during the Korean war.

The Korean War has been referred to as "The Forgotten War". Over 54,246 American lives were lost and over 103,000 soldiers were wounded. Of the 7,000 men who were held in prisoner of war camps 3,450 returned alive. 51% died in prison camps. 389 P.O.W.'s are still unaccounted for.

#### Indiana still has 170 unaccounted for from the Korean War.



### Indiana Veterans Home BINGO December 2, 2023

Saturday December 2nd was our annual trip to the Indiana Veterans Home to play BINGO with our Veterans. We had a pretty decent crowd with Veterans from all branches of service. This year, Carla ran the BINGO board and did a great job. She interacted with the Veterans as she was calling the numbers, and I think they liked her. I guarantee you, they will let you know if you mess-up.

We played several games with the Veterans and ended up paying out \$1,910. There were several comments form the Veterans stating that this was the best game of the year and really appreciated us being there.











98 year old Leighton Wilhite, who is a IWO Jima Survivor tells his story of how he was pulled out of school to serve in WWII when he was only 18 years old.

### Blue Light Ceremony December 5, 2023

Tuesday December 5th was the annual Blue Light Ceremony at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy located in Plainfield Indiana. The purpose of this annual event is to honor the Indiana Officers and their families that lost their lives while serving to keep us safe. Watching this ceremony reminds me of our POW/MIA Mission and the way we honor our POWs, MIAs and their families. You can feel the camaraderie that the officers have for their fallen comrades and their surviving family members.

The weather wasn't the greatest, but we have attended in worst conditions. The event is defiantly worthwhile to attend and I encourage everyone to do so next year. The group met at the Coachman Restaurant for dinner before heading over to the ceremony.



There were six Officers and one K9 that lost their lives in 2023 and was honored at the ceremony.

Listed below are their names and End Of Watch (EOW)

Timothy J. Guyer, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, EOW 08/01/2023.

John Durm, Marion County Sheriff's Office, EOW 07/10/2023.

Heather Glenn, Tell City Police Department, EOW 07/03/2023.

Aaron N Smith, Indiana State Police, EOW 05/28/2023.

James R. Bailey, Indiana State Police, EOW 03/03/2023.

Asson Hacker, Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, EOW, 03/02/2023.

**K9** Falco, Gary Police Department, EOW 07/13/2023.

### **Upcoming Events for December**

December 16th	Wreath Across America	
December 17th	Chapter Meeting and Luncheon	
January 1st	New Years Day Brunch at MCL	
January 3rd	Chapter Event Planning Meeting	
January 16th	Indiana Military Veterans Legislative Day (State House)	
January 21st	Chapter Meeting and Annual Budget	

#### **Wreath Across America**

The mission of the Wreath Across America is Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. This is a National event that happens every year in December. People throughout the States will visit a Veterans Cemetery to place wreaths on the headstone of the fallen. Take some time and visit your local Veterans Cemetery and participate in the Wreaths Across America program.

### **Chapter Meeting and Luncheon**

This year, our Chapter meeting will include our Christmas Luncheon and will be at the Veterans Center. The Honor Guard team will perform the Flame of Freedom and Missing Man Table ceremonies along with some other special ceremonies. We will have a short Chapter meeting followed by a great meal catered by the Coachman Restaurant. The planning committee is finalizing the menu and will provided the details when we get closer to the 17th. This would be a great opportunity to bring family members and friends to the meeting so they can learn more about Rolling Thunder® and our mission. We will have some guest from the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation (HVAF) at the Chapter meeting and will join us for lunch. The Chapter meeting will start at 13:00 with lunch being served shortly after the Chapter meeting. If you have not RSVP, please do so ASAP.

### **New Years Day Brunch**

This is our annual New Years Day brunch at the MCL located at Castleton Square. The address is 5520 Castleton Corner Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46250. Please be at the Restaurant by 10:55. The food line starts at 11:00.

### **Chapter Event Planning Meeting**

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Chapter Event Planning Meetings. The meetings start at 18:00 using the same Zoom information as our monthly Chapter Meetings.

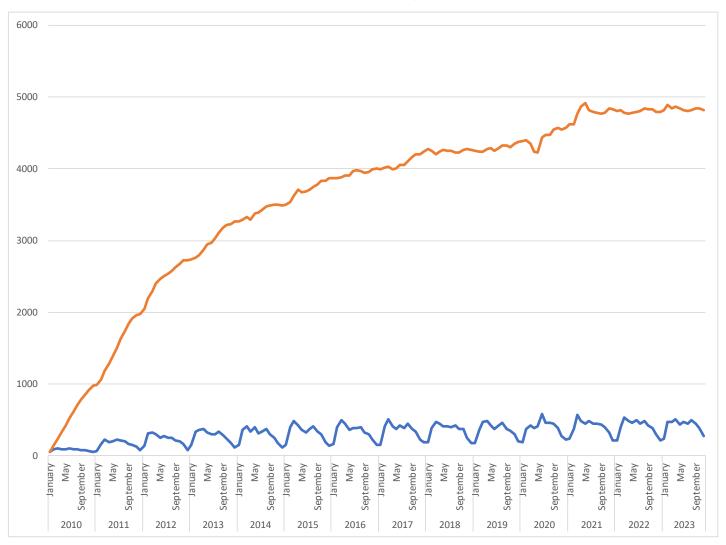
### **Indiana Military Veterans Legislative Day**

This is a annual event that takes place at the Indiana State House located at 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The Indiana Military & Veterans Legislative Day (IMVLD) was founded in 2013 by Indiana State Representative John L Bartlett and a group of volunteers consisting of nonpartisan, not-for-profit Indiana Veteran Service Organizations and Military Associations. It is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of Indiana Legislators. IMVDL intends to create an opportunity to enhance communications between Indiana's Military, Veterans, and State Senators and Representatives regarding Military and Veteran-specific legislation moving through the Indiana General Assembly.

### **January Chapter Meeting and Annual Budget**

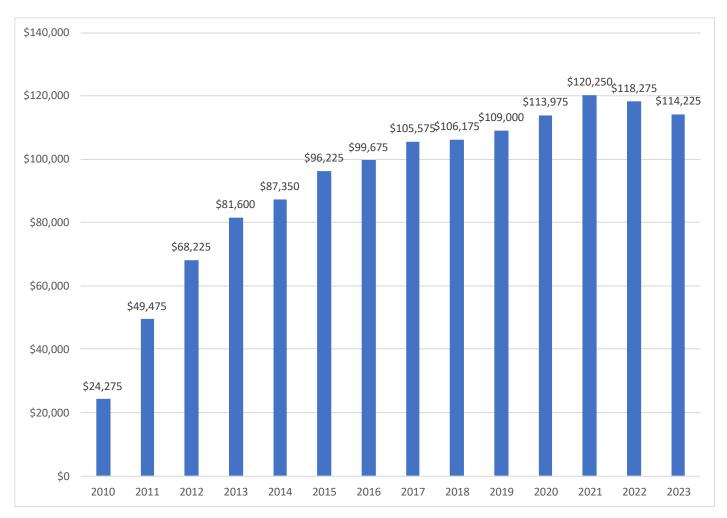
The 2024 annual budget will be presented to the membership for their review. It will be important for all members that are able to attend the Chapter meeting to review the proposed 2024 budget and approval or disapprove the budget. It's important for the membership to know how the Chapters funds will be spent.

## Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plates on the Streets As of November 30, 2023



As of November 30, 2023, we have **4,820** POW/MIA specialty plates on the streets of Indiana helping to bring awareness to the public about our POWs, and MIAs. The funds generated from the sale of the POW/MIA Specialty plate goes towards helping our Indiana Veterans in need through the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF). **272** plates were Renewed/Sold in November 2023. **We are 25 plates up from this time last year.** 

### Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate Fund From 2010 to 2023



Since the introduction of the Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate in January 2010, the plate has generated an estimated \$1,294,300. 100% of the proceeds generated from the sales of the POW/MIA specialty plate goes to the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) to help our Indiana Veterans in need.

If you don't have a Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate on your vehicle, please let the Bureau Motor Vehicle (BMV) know that you would like to purchase a Rolling Thunder® sponsored POW/MIA specialty plate on your next renewal or new purchase.

With the purchase of a Indiana POW/MIA specialty plate, not only will you be instrumental in helping to bring awareness to the public about our POWs and MIAs, you will be helping our Indiana Veterans in need.

Based on the previous plate sales for the month of December, we have a good chance of exceeding 2022 plate sales.

### **Chapter Scholarship Program**





The Chapter is giving back to the family members of our Indiana heroes by offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior or student receiving the GED, seeking a higher education at an accredited college, university, or trade school. This scholarship opportunity is only available to family members that are residents of Indiana and have a verifiable family relationship to a former POW or MIA.

The Chapter Scholarship started in 2021 and has help four of our MIA families in continuing their education to better their lives. The Chapter has generously donated \$4,000 in Scholarship funds to our MIA family members since 2021.

To be eligible for this Scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Indiana and have a verifiable familial relationship to a former Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). The student applying for the scholarship will be required to independently write an essay on a POW/MIA themed topic of their choosing. The theme of the essay should be original and based on an event, person, philosophy or ideal.

Possible topic themes might be a discussion of POWs during a particular war (Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, etc.), POW encampments such as in Andersonville, Georgia, Camp Atterbury, Camp Morton, internment camps of Japanese-Americans during WWII.

The deadline for application submission is April 30, 2024. Winner announcement and scholarship award will be made by June 30, 2024.

To learn more about the Chapter Scholarship program, go to www.indianarollingthunder.com.

Never Forget the Families that have given all

### Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Membership Patches and Obligations National Constitution

The Rolling Thunder® patches are items that members strive to obtain. The Boot patch represents the members Chapter, and the Rocker and Eagle represents Rolling Thunder® National. These patches should be worn proudly and with respect. When a member is issued these patches, they have an obligation to take care of them and turn them in if they decide to quit Rolling Thunder® for whatever reason. Below is an abstract from the National Constitution on the members obligations that they agree to when they receive these patches.



The Chapter Boot Patch. All members will receive a Rolling Thunder® Membership Boot patch when they become a full member at the end of a 120-day period. If a member meets his/her obligations before the 120 days are up they are entitled to receive their Boot patch no earlier than 90 days, provided they meet all other (loyalty and conduct) requirements. A new member must make 3 meetings or events, or a combination thereof, during the 120-day trial period to become a full member. A \$50.00 patch deposit is required before National will issue the Boot Patch.



The Rocker and Eagle Patches. After a member completes his/her first year (from the day they receive their boot patch) as a member in good standing ,they will be issued the Eagle & Rocker patches, which is the property of National. A \$100.00 patch deposit is required before National will issue the Rocker and Eagle Patches.

### **Membership Obligations**

Retrieve Patches: It's the Chapters responsibility to retrieve all patches. If a member does not renew dues in a reasonable time, thirty days from the end of February the Chapter President or his appointed representative will collect their patches. Any Chapter that does not retrieve the members patches will be held liable for their cost. Any problems from a delinquent member to collect our property, if needed have a lawyer send a letter and take them to court (quote the constitution) that a member will pay all court and lawyers fees. The Chapter will pay National \$150.00 per set lost and members deposit will not be refunded.

If you mail your patches to the Chapter, make sure you send the package **CERTIFIED** or **PRIORITY** mail for tracking purposes and insure the package for \$150.00.

Please DO NOT Glue your patches on your vest. National will NOT accept damaged patches and you may lose your patch refund.

### POW/MIA Affairs Committee 2023 DPAA MIAs Accounted-For

### Total Accounted for in 2023: 39 As of November 30, 2023

### **Accounted-For by War**

**WWII** (26)

Korea (8)

Vietnam/Laos (5)

### **Accounted-For By Service**

**U.S Army** (15)

**U.S Army Air Forces** (14)

**U.S Marine Corps (3)** 

**U.S Marine Corps Reserves** (0)

**U.S Navy** (4)

**U.S Navy Reserves** (0)

U.S Air Force (3)

**U.S Coast Guard** (0)

### Indiana Heroes that have been Identified

Name	DOL	Identified	Returned	County	HOR
F3C Alferd E. Livingston	12-7-1941	2-1-2007	7-21-2007	USS Oklahoma	Worthington
1st Class Paul A. Nash	12-7-1941	4-15-2015	6-30-2016	USS Oklahoma	Carlisle
1LT Robert L. McIntosh	5-12-1944	8-1-2015	8-13-2016	Italy	Tipton
3rd Class Francis L. Hannon	12-7-1941	10-24-2017		USS Oklahoma	Indianapolis
<b>PVT USMC Fred Freet</b>	11-20-1943	8-6-2018	4-18-2019	Tarawa Atoll	Marion
PFC Marvin E. Dickson	11-13-1944	9-27-2018	6-8-2019	Germany	Indianapolis
MSG Charles H. McDaniel	11-1-1950	9-12-2018	10-27-2018	Korea	Greenwood
PFC Army Clifford M. Mills	9-18-1944	1-29-2019	3-30-2019	Germany	Troy
SEA1 Oris V. Brandt	12-7-1941	2-20-2019		USS Oklahoma	Kentland
TSGT Charles G. Ruble	9-17-1944	5-31-2019	3-2-2020	Netherlands	Parker City

## POW/MIA Affairs Committee Continue

### **Indiana Heroes that have been Identified**

Name	DOL	Identified	Returned	County	HOR
PVT USMC William E. Ramboo	11-20-1943	7-13-2019		Betio Island	LaPorte
PFC USMC Marley R. Arthurholtz	12-7-1941	9-18-2019	12-7-2019	USS Oklahoma	South Bend
PFC USMC Louis Wiesshan	11-21-1943	9-23-2019	6-11-2020	Tarawa Atoll	Richmond
SEA1 Maurice V. Spangler	12-7-1941	3-27-2020		USS Oklahoma	Ft. Wayne
CPO B. James Booe	12-7-1941	9-29-2020	6-1-2021	USS Oklahoma	Veedersburg
2nd Class Harold F. Trapp	12-7-1941	11-24-2020		USS Oklahoma	LaPorte
3Rd Class Willaim H. Trapp	12-7-1941	11-24-2020		USS Oklahoma	LaPorte
PFC USMC Charles D. Miller	11-22-1943	5-19-2020		Tarawa Atoll	Albany
SGT Stanley Lee Dewitt	11-1-1950	6-5-2020	10-19-2021	Chosen Reservoir	Royal City
George Gilbert	12-7-941	8-24-2020	6-6-2022	USS Oklahoma	Indianapolis
SFC James A. Coleman	10-3-1952	5-23-2022	10-19-2022	Korea	Hillsdale
SGT Charles Garrigus	12-1-1950	8-2-2022	3-7-2023	Chosen Reservoir	Terre Haute
PFC Leonard E. Adams	1-21-1945	7-20-2022	6-13-2023	France	Dana
2LT Gene F. Walker	11-24-1944	7-21-2023		Germany	Richmond

### **POW/MIA Education Reading**

### And

### Websites

### **Recommended Books**

Title	Author
Leave No Man Behind	Bill Bell
Why Didn't You Get Me Out	Frank Aton
Kiss The Boys Goodbye	Monika Jensen-Stevenson & William Stevenson
Betrayed	Joseph D. Douglass, Jr
Still Waiting	Linda Cope
An Enormous Crime	Bill Hendon and Elizabeth A Stewart
Scars and Strips	Captain Eugene "RED" McDaniel USN Retired
Reflections on Captivity	Porter Alexander Halyburton
Escape from Corregidor	Edgar D. Whitcomb

Note: Books marked in RED are highly recommended reads.

### **Recommended Web Sites**

Title	URL
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)	http://www.dpaa.mil/
Biographies on Prisoners of War and Missing in Action	http://www.pownetwork.org/bios.htm
Rolling Thunder National	http://www.rollingthunder1.com/
National League of POW/MIA Families	http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/
Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 1	http://www.indianarollingthunder.com/
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	http://esgr.mil/in
Veterans Support Council of Marion County	http://www.vscmc.com/
Veterans Events	http://www.veteranevents.org/
American Ex-Prisoners of War	http://www.axpow.org/default.htm

### **The Coachman Restaurant and Lounge**





Mr. Paynter with his wife Becky. Hard to believe that a Marine could make such a catch

Larry Paynter is a proud Marine, Chapter Member, and along with his wife Becky, own and operate the Coachman Restaurant & Lounge in Plainfield, IN. The Coachman is famous for mouthwatering Prime Rib, Fresh cut steaks, large seafood selection, and the best Pork Tenderloin sandwich anywhere.

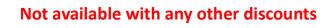
The Coachman offers daily lunch, and dinner food specials, with discount on appetizers, desserts, wine, liquor, and beer.

Join us for great food, and service along with our beautiful Patio for outside dining and entertainment (weather permitting). The Coachman is located at 6112 Cambridge Way, Plainfield, IN 46168

Visit the Coachman at <a href="http://www.thecoachmanrestaurant.com">http://www.thecoachmanrestaurant.com</a>



The Coachman Restaurant and Lounge
10% discount with this coupon



Always remember our American POWs and MIAs





Ed Duam is a long time Rolling Thunder Chapter Member, and owner of the Do it Best Hardware store in Plainfield, IN. Ed has a great selection of hardware products for you do-it-yourselfers. If you are in a need of an American, POW-MIA, or State flag, see Ed. His flags are top American quality at a reasonable price.

### Ed offers 10% discount to Veterans.

Web site: <a href="http://www.plainfielddoitbest.com/">http://www.plainfielddoitbest.com/</a>

Store Address: 1001 East Main Street, Plainfield, IN 46168 (317) 839-2353

Ed will love to see yea



This page is dedicated to our brothers and sisters hat have gone on to ride the heavens

### **NEVER FORGET**

Tookolo, Allen, Member, November 2002	Booth, Frank, Member, 2004
Walker, Bruce, Member, October 2004	Parish, Bruce "Buz", Past President, Sept 2008
Brinkley, Jon Past President, January 2009	Leck, Lou, Member, September 2009
Hall, Bruce, Member, March 2010	Gigle, Gene, Member, August 2011
Jolly, Ron Past Vice President, December 2011	Kaler, Steve, Past President, June 2012
Wilson, John, US Army WWII POW, July 2012	Loffredo, Nicholas, Member, August 2012
Freeman, James, Past Board, August 2012	Fulmer, Kenneth, Member, August 2012
Huelskamp, Glenn, Member, February 2013	Hillis, George "Sam", May 2013
Winters, Steve, Member, September 2013	Meyerrose, Timothy, Member, May 2014
Richard (Dick) Forrey, Member June 2015	Hutchinson, James Alt Board Member, Dec 2015
Mary Brodrick, Member April 2016	Van Brunt, Craig, May 2016
Gary Stanley, Member October 2017	Jimmie Earl Brown, Member August 2018
Ruth Smith, Member September 2018	Damon Gastineau , Member December 2018
Joseph Smith, Member April 2018	Linda Cope, Past Secretary June 2019
Walter "Wally" J. Dudek, Member November 2019	Joe Kernan, USN Vietnam War POW, July 2020
Melanie Bailey, Member November 25, 2021	Katherina Bean, Member December 14, 2021
Donald Leffler, Member December 20, 2021	Richard Harrington, Past COB, January 17, 2022
John Byers, Member August 27, 2022	Kaler, Shirley, Member October 13, 2022
James "Jim" Weaver, Member December 14, 2022	Joseph B. Stuart, Member July 20, 2023