

MIA Totals: WWI (3,344), WWII (72,674), Korean (7,631), Cold War (126), Vietnam (1,594), OEF, OIF (5)
Indiana WWII (1,507), Korean (173), Vietnam (50)

INCOMING!



February, 2021 Newsletter

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.

Indiana Chapter #1
“POW-MIA – You are not Forgotten”

<http://indianarollingthunder.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/RTINCh1>

Chapter Officers

President: Michael Clark

Vice President: David Craig

Secretary: Bill Bailey

Treasurer: Terry “Flash” Sanderson



President News

Chapter members, I hope everyone is doing well and in good health. Once we get past February, the weather should start warming up a little more and riding fever will sit in. We have several members with birthday's this month that are listed on page 2. I wish all of you a happy birthday and hope you have many more.

Chapter member Steve Wiederkehr wrote an article in the HOG 1 newsletter that I would like to share with you all. The article is about the escort for WWII MIA PFC Louis Wiesehan who returned home on September 17, 2020. Steve did a great job on the article and what he felt on the escort, is what we all feel every time we escort one of our Hoosier Heroes to their home town. If you have never participated in one of these escorts, you need to make it a point to do so. Enjoy the article.

COVID has slowed down our 2020 Sponsorship award presentations, but we are starting to get them done. On Page 5, Jim and Crystal presented the Plaque and POW/MIA Flag to CentreBank which is one of our Sargent Level sponsors. On page 6, Nick Esposito presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Periodontal Associates of Lafayette and Hunters Moon Harley-Davidson of Lafayette. Both organizations have been great supporters of the Chapter and our POW/MIA mission.

Page 10 and 11 are important pages for you to review. The Chapter Event Planning Committee had their second event planning meeting on Wednesday February 3rd. The Event Planning Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of each month from March to December 2021. Any Chapter member that would like to provide input or ask the committee to consider an event, is welcome to join the meeting. The meetings will be at the Veterans Center starting at 18:00. Zoom access will be available as well.

Membership Dues:

September was the start of a new membership year and membership dues are due. The membership dues are still \$30.00 per year and need to be paid to keep your membership in good standing. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. If you are having financial difficulties, please let me know so we can discuss options. Hope to see you all at the Chapter meeting on Sunday February 21st.

The next Chapter meeting is Sunday February 21, 2021

February 2021 Birthday's



Melanie Bailey (2)

John Byers (15)

Rick Cass (5)

Nick Esposito (22)

Mike Frazier (21)

Karen Kraner (5)

Wendy Leasure (14)

Donna Ransdell (5)

Linda Sandefur (27)

Crystal Smith (4)

Joyce Wiederkehr (8)

Happy Birthday to all

PFC Louis Wieshan Escort

September 17, 2020

Story by Steve Wiederkehr



Yesterday I had the privilege and honor to be a part of the escort to bring 20 year old WW2 United States Marine PFC Louis (JR) Wiesehan Jr back to his home town Richmond Indiana. PFC Wiesehan was a member of 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division and was killed in Action on November 21, 1943. PFC Wiesehan was part of Operation Galvanic, an amphibious assault on the Japanese held Betio Island during the Battle of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. The Battle of Tarawa was the first American Offensive in the central Pacific region. Tarawa housed 4,500 Japanese Militants and according to records were well prepared and very well supplied. The United States lost an estimated 3,166 Soldiers during this 3 day Battle. PFC Wiesehan remains were buried in a Marine Cemetery created on Betio Island but were never recovered at the end of the war and he was declared as unrecoverable. In 2015 History Flight, a privately operated Non-Profit dedicated to researching, recovering and returning America's service members to the United States recovered the remains of Several Marines and PFC Wiesehan was accounted for on September, 30th 2019.

On Sept 17th 2020, Myself and Several Hundred Veterans, Family members, and US Citizens were at the Indianapolis Airport to escort PFC Louis Wiesehan Jr after 77 year of being missing to his home town of Richmond Indiana. Indiana Patriot Guard Riders organized the escort. My group Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter 1 and HOG Chapter 1 were also in attendance along with several other Motorcycle organizations. This was my first MIA/KIA Escort and will not be my last. I wasn't sure what to expect when I decided to do this mission. I joined the Rolling Thunder® to be more active in Veterans issues and the return of POW MIA/KIA to the United States. I couldn't believe the turnout at the airport, although the day was rather pleasant it was a weekday and I didn't expect there to be a huge turnout. I talked to several people and family members from all over the Midwest not just Indiana. I was great to hear stories and memories of PFC Wiesehan and of past POW MIA/KIA escorts. By the end of the day I had realized what it meant to be there and to pay my respects.

PFC Louis Wieshan Escort

September 17, 2020

Story by Steve Wiederkehr

(Continued)

When PFC Wiesehan arrived and we were ready to depart to Richmond, my heart started beating faster and my Adrenaline sky rocketed. We heading from the airport on 70 East. We had a full Police escort. As we passed the stopped cars waiting for us to move down the Highway I saw a lot of angry people as we were doing this during evening rush hour. However I also saw plenty of People that paid respect and stood outside their vehicles with the hand over their heart and some even saluting. As we traveled towards downtown on 70 East I noticed at several overpasses there were Fire trucks and Fireman standing at attention waving flags and saluting. I thought "Wow that's awesome. Once we reached Mount Comfort road and headed south I was truly amazed. The Mt Comfort over pass had several Fire Trucks and citizens waving American flags, Marine Corps Flags and sings saying Welcome Home Hero. I was in awe, I had a lump in by throat and a tears of Joy in my eyes. As we proceed South on Mt Comfort Road I was truly amazed at all of the people standing on the sides of the road, in driveways, next to parked cars and in yards. It was truly hard to hold back all of the emotions I was feeling. As we got to US 40 and headed east I noticed my Wife and Kids standing at the gas station along with several other People and first responders waving flags and showing respect for this WW2 Hero. All along US 40 there was an overwhelming show of respect for this falling WW2 Soldier. I truly understand the importance for remembering and respecting our US Veterans and believe every family in America needs to experience something like this. I was very proud to see Family's young and old with children on the street side paying respect during this escort. This will be a normal thing for me now as it helped be see that there are still good people in America.

I know some people were inconvenienced by our rather large escort but, if you take a look you will notice we only interrupted less than 5 minutes of your time as we passed. If you can't take the 5 minutes out of you hectic day to pay respect for a returning POW MIA/KIA than my heart weeps for you. This Marine we escorted today has not had his family in 77 years so there was no closure for them. Hopefully now he can rest in peace and his family can rest easy knowing he is, home again, in Indiana. I am real proud of the Indiana Citizens that paid respect as we traveled to Richmond. And thank you for taking the time to read what I have written. GOD BLESS THE USA.

Great job Steve. Thanks for allowing us to share your story. If anyone else has a story that you would like to share with the membership, please send to me by the last week of the month. The newsletter goes out the first week of the next month.

CentreBank Sponsorship Award Presentation

February 1, 2021



Jim Smith and Crystal Smith presented the 2020 Sponsorship plaque and POW/MIA Flag to CentreBank located in Veedersburg Indiana. CentreBank was a Sargent Level sponsor which donated \$1,000 to the Chapter in support of our POW/MIA mission.

Thank you CentreBank, Jim and Crystal for your support to the Chapter.

2020 Sponsorship Award Presentation in Lafayette Indiana

February 2, 2021



Periodontal Associates of Lafayette



Hunters Moon Harley-Davidson

Nick Esposito presented the 2020 Certificates of Appreciation awards to Periodontal Associates of Lafayette and Hunter's Moon Harley-Davidson of Lafayette Indiana. Periodontal Associates of Lafayette and Hunter's Moon Harley-Davidson have been great supporters of the Chapter and our POW/MIA mission.

Thank you Dr. Reef, Britney, and Nick for your support to the Chapter.

POW/MIA Affairs Committee

2021 MIAs Accounted-For

DPAA 2021 Accounted for: 13

As of February 1, 2021

Accounted-For by War

WWII (13)

Korea (0)

Vietnam/Laos (0)

Accounted-For By Service

U.S Army (1)

U.S Army Air Forces (2)

U.S Marine Corps (1)

U.S Marine Corps Reserves (0)

U.S Navy (9)

U.S Navy Reserves (0)

U.S Air Force (0)

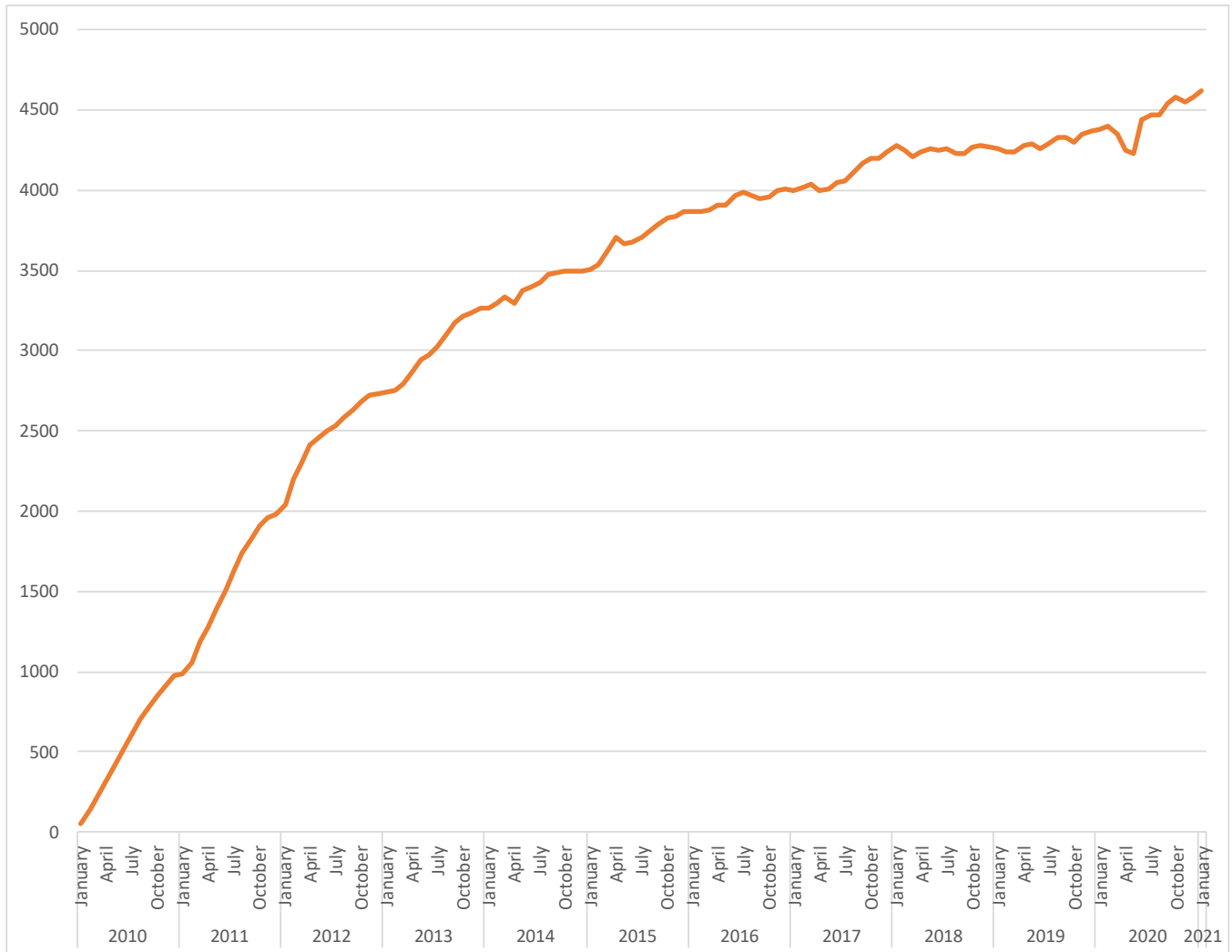
U.S Coast Guard (0)

Indiana Heroes that have been Identified

Name	DOL	Identified	Returned	County	HOR
PFC Army Clifford M. Mills	9-18-1944	1-29-2019	3-30-2019	Germany	Troy
PVT USMC Fred Freet	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
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
PVT USMC William E. Ramboo	11-20-1943	7-13-2019		Betio Island	LaPorte
SEA1 Maurice V. Spangler	12-7-1942	3-27-2020		USS Oklahoma	Ft. Wayne
PFC USMC Charles D. Miller	11-22-1943	5-19-2020		Tarawa Atoll	Albany

Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plates

As of January 31, 2021



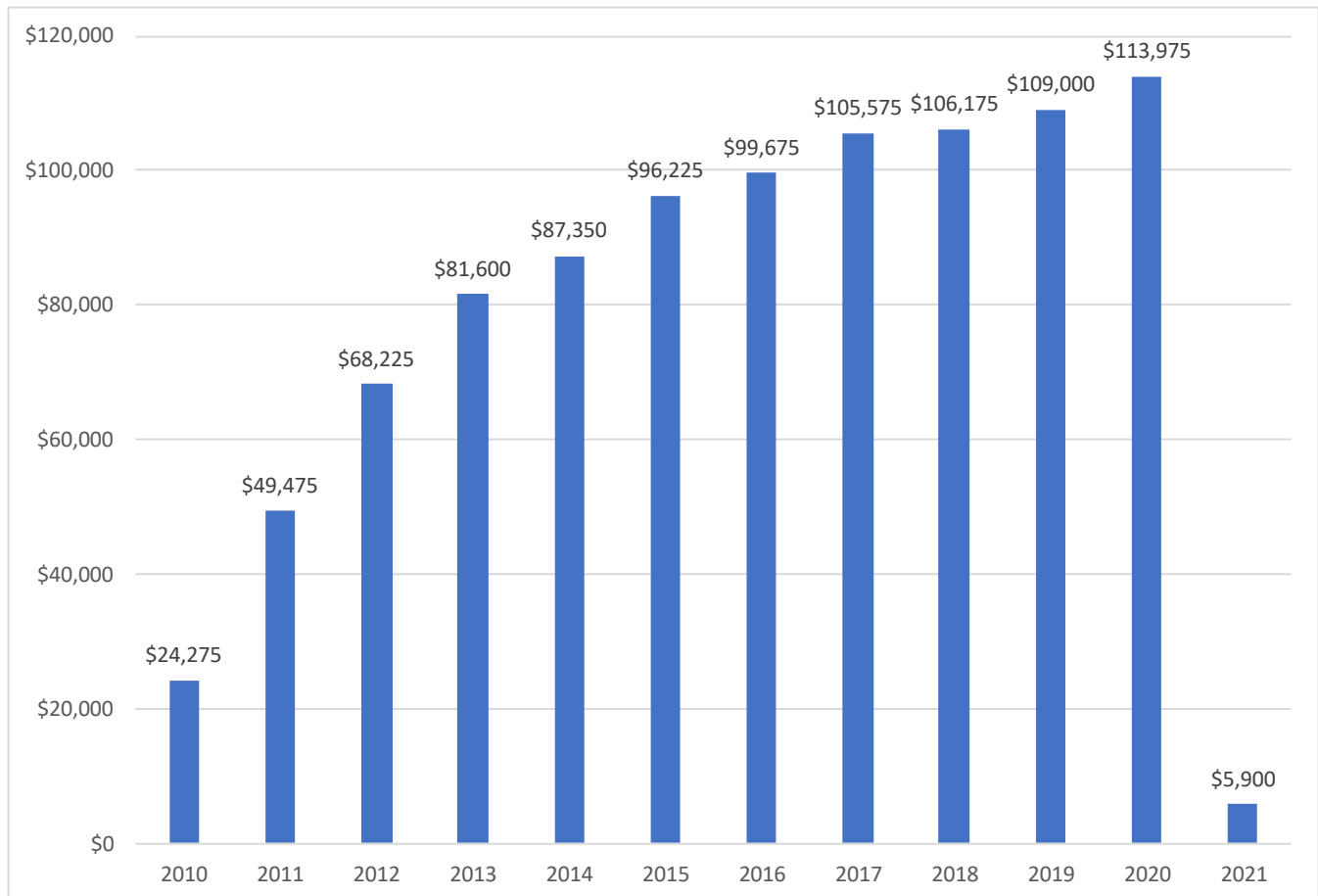
As of January 31, 2021 we have **4,622** POW/MIA specialty plates on the streets of Indiana helping to bring awareness to the public about our POWs, and MIAs. The funds generated from the sale of the POW/MIA Specialty plate goes towards helping our Indiana Veterans in need through the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF).



Get your plate today and help a Veteran.

Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate Fund

From 2010 to 2021



Since the introduction of the Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate in January 2010, the plate has generated an estimated **\$947,450** 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.

Our mission goal is to hit \$1,000,000 in 2021

Please purchase your Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate Today.

Chapter Event Planning Committee

February 3, 2021 Minutes

The Event Planning Committee meets the First Wednesday of each month from February to December 2021. The purpose of the Committee is to review the upcoming events for that month and go over the status of events that the Chapter is responsible for hosting to ensure the events have the personnel and resources to make the event successful.

The second meeting for the Event Planning Committee (EPC) was Wednesday February 3rd. The EPC reviewed several events that the Chapter will be responsible for hosting or participating in. Some of these include the following:

Monday March 29th - Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day: The decision was to leave the event on the Calendar to see if another organization puts on an event, if they do, we would participate.

Sunday April 25th – Support the Troops (Kokomo Indiana): Ed Newbill agreed to research and see if the Chapter would be able to setup an information table/booth.

Saturday May 1st – Indiana Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Dedication: This event is scheduled for 12:30 and located at 760 North Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis IN 46204. The POC is Jill Fewell at 317-549-5900. Information obtained from [Shared Calendar \(veteranevents.org\)](http://SharedCalendar(veteranevents.org)). Jim Haarbauer will also do some research on the event and update the Committee.

Sunday May 23rd – Crown Royal Armed Forces Qualifying: The Committee agreed that this would be a good event for the Chapter to attend and setup a booth/table. Orin Morris has agreed to research the details and cost and update the Committee.

Sunday May 30th – Rolling Thunder XXXIII National Ride for Freedom: The Committee agreed that the best option for 2021 is for the Chapter to stay in Indiana and do the Ride to the Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park. There will be more discussion with the Chapter Membership at the February Chapter meeting.

Monday (Memorial Day) May 31st – Crown Hill Cemetery Memorial Service: The Committee agreed that the Chapter should go to Crown Hill Cemetery whether we are called to perform the Roll Call ceremony or not. We would do a site tour of the cemetery and lay a wreath on Craig Van Brunt's grave located at the Field of Valor.

Fri-Sun June 18-20 – Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run (Middle East Conflicts Wall): The Committee agreed that this would be a good event for the Chapter to participate in. The return date was changed from Saturday to Sunday. The extra day will give the riders time to participate in the Saturday evening events.

Sunday August 29th – Veterans Center Support Ride: Vern Rensing has agreed to look for volunteer's to work this event. The event was changed from Saturday to Sunday with the hopes of attracting more riders. Last year, we lost riders due to other events taken place the same day.

Saturday Sep 18th – Indianapolis POW/MIA Recognition Day Ride and Ceremony: This event will be our premier event for the year. Mike Clark, Terry Sanderson, Vern Rensing, Orin Morris, and Jim Haarbauer has agreed to be the planning committee. Any other members interested in helping is welcomed.

Chapter Event Planning Committee

Continued

Yearly Event - Indiana County Ride: This event would be a reoccurring event throughout the year. The event Committee or a designated member would determine which Counties the Chapter should visit and research the activities within that County. If the scheduled activity is within the scope of our POW/MIA mission, a visit would be scheduled to that County. The Committee has decided on **May 30th** we would ride to the Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park located in Richmond Indiana. The ride would go through Greenfield Indiana and stop at the Hancock County Veterans Memorial. Hancock County has (1) Korean War MIA from Greenfield, IN. The next stop would be at the Veterans Memorial Park in Kingstown Indiana which is in Henry County. Henry County has (3) Korean War MIAs from New Castle Indiana. The final stop would be the Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park located in Wayne County. Wayne County has (3) MIA from Richmond Indiana. One from the Korean War and two from the Vietnam War.

In conclusion, all of these events and any other events that we come up with for this year will be subject to COVID concerns. However, we still need to Plan, Plan and Plan in case the virus is not an issue for these events.

Chapter Survey: We have one three-day event planned for the year. The Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run is from June 18th through 20th. I have prepared a survey for Chapter Members to choose one additional multiday event. Once we know what event the membership prefers, we'll determine the date for the event.

Listed below are the events that members have identified as events of interest. With our limited resources to coordinate these multiple day events, we ask that only one event is chosen. The survey will be submitted with the newsletter for members to complete and return to me.

Days (6) Ride to the Wall - Washington, DC, Gettysburg, and Flight 93 National Memorial

Days (5) National Prisoner of War Museum - Andersonville, GA

Days (3) Flight 93 National Memorial, Fort Ligonier Historical Site - Shanksville, PA

Days (3) Ride to the Wall - Perryville, MO

Days (3) National WWI museum - Kansas City, MO

Days (3) Jefferson Barracks Civil War museum - Saint Louis, MO

Days (1 to 2) Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum - Fort Wayne, IN

The next EPC meeting will be Wednesday March 3rd starting at 18:00. The meeting will be at the Veterans Center with Zoom access available. If you have an event that you would like for the EPC to consider, please come to the meeting. The Zoom access information will be provided in a separate email.

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.

National 2020/2021 Motorcycle



Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Rolling Thunder® Ride for Freedom Nationwide, the drawing for the above motorcycle has been extended until June 1, 2021.

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

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



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

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

Visit the Coachman at <http://www.thecoachmanrestaurant.com>



The Coachman Restaurant and Lounge

10% discount with this coupon

Not available with any other discounts

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

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

Ed will love to see yea

Hair Cuts at the Vintage Style Barber/Beauty Shop
Mention the Chapter Newsletter and a get \$5.00 discount
Veterans always get a \$10.00 discount



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46205
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Mention the Rolling Thunder newsletter & get \$5 off your first cut!

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For service options & pricing visit our website today!
www.peaceloveandhairindy.com



This page is dedicated to our brothers and sisters that 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