

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!



January 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. My apologies for the late submission of the January newsletter. Unfortunately, Barbara and I got hit with the Virus, but with all the Prayers, we are doing fine.

December was the closing of a challenging year and I hope 2021 will be a better year. As you all know, many 2020 events were cancelled due to COVID-19, however, the Chapter was still able to have 24 events to include 11 Chapter meetings. The only Chapter meeting that we had to cancel was the March meeting when the China Virus hit.

Pages 3 through 16 highlights some of the Chapter events that we were able to complete in 2020. Some of the most significant events include the Linda Cope Scholarship award, the Veterans Memorial Ride, Wally Dudek Celebration of Life, Veterans Center Support Ride (Raised over \$15,000 for the Veterans Center), the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony video, and the escort for one of our Indiana heroes, PFC Wiesehan. We are looking forward to what the Chapter can accomplish in 2021.

The other major accomplish for the Chapter in 2020, is the sale of the Indiana POW/MIA Specialty plate. As of December 31, 2020 we have **4,575** POW/MIA Specialty plate on the streets of Indiana helping us with our POW/MIA mission. The plate sales increased from \$109,000 in 2019 to \$113,975 in 2020. This brings the total plate sales to **\$941,550** since 2010. Our Chapter goal is to surpass \$1,000,000 by summer 2021. With the membership help in advertising the plate, we can meet this goal.

Passing of Honorary Member Joseph Kernan. Unfortunately, the Chapter didn't make it through 2020 without the loss of a member. Joe Kernan was a former Vietnam War POW and honorary member of the Chapter. See his obit on page 10 of the newsletter.

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.

The next Chapter meeting is Sunday February 21, 2021

January 2021 Birthday's



Richard (Brian) Griffith (8)

Charles Rogers (24)

Timothy Schaaf (18)

Jeff Thatcher (9)

Patricia Wiederkehr (9)

Happy Birthday to all

January 2020



New Years Brunch at the MCL

Flag Raising Ceremonies



Hendricks County FOP



Plainfield Eagles



Plainfield Police Academy

Legislative Day at the State Capitol



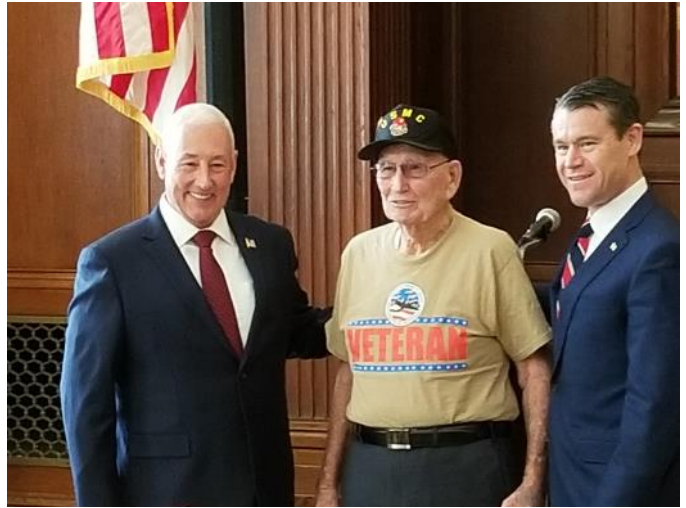
Angela Barrett Patched



February 2020

75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima

February 21, 2020



Representative Greg Pence, Wayne Sauceman and Senator Todd Young.



WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Representative Greg Pence (IN-06) today introduced a Joint Resolution to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima during World War II. The resolution recognizes the bravery and heroism demonstrated 75 years ago during the victory that was led by the United States Marine Corps on the island of Iwo Jima.

“Iwo Jima is hallowed ground for me, my fellow Marines, and all those who lost loved ones in the battle. This resolution helps to recognize those who gave their lives in Iwo Jima seventy-five years ago,” said Senator Young. “The resolution also calls upon Americans to honor these veterans and reaffirm the deep bonds of friendship between the United States and Japan that have developed over the seventy-five years since we were at war.”

April 2020

On April 30th, Chapter members drove up to the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette Indiana for a parade around the Veterans home to let the Veterans know that they are not forgotten during the Pandemic and we appreciate their service.



Nick Esposito



Denise Van Brunt



Larry Paynter



Jeff Thatcher



Chuck Henderson



Vern Rensing



Rocco Brunelle



Bill Reisa



Clark's



May 2, 2020

122 Fighter Wing Fly Over and Impromptu Ride to Brown County



Members met at the Veterans Center to watch the 122 Fighter Wing Fly Over the Lawrence Armory In Honor of the Health Workers fighting the COVID-19 crises. Followed by a nice ride to Brown County.

May 23, 2020



Members stage at the Veterans Center for our traditional ride to Batavia Ohio



Fuel stop at New Point on I-74 exit 143



Lunch stop at Batavia, Ohio. After lunch, the group headed back to Indianapolis.

June 14

June 14, 2020 , due to VOVID concerns we had our back yard Chapter meeting at the Veterans Center. At the June meeting, Jackie (Spooky) Hubbard, Steve Wiederkehr were awarded their Rocker and Eagle patches. Barbara Clark was also awarded for winning the Chili Cook Off contest at the February Chapter Meeting.



Jackie Hubbard



Mike Kirkhoff



Barbara Clark

June 23rd

Several Chapter members joined HOG Chapter 1 and the Corvette Club in a drive by in Lawrence Indiana for two twin sisters that recovered from COVOD-19.



July 11, 2020

On July 11, 2020 several Chapter members rode to Covington Indiana to present the Linda Cope Scholarship award to Faith Barnes and Grayson Kleist of Covington Indiana. Faith will attend IUPUI and Grayson will attend DePauw University. Both students were awarded a \$500 scholarship.



Faith Barnes, her family and the Chapter Scholarship Committee.



Grayson Kleist with the Scholarship Committee.



Chapter Members enjoying a great meal at the Beef House which has been a good sponsorship supporter to the Chapter.



July 18, 2020

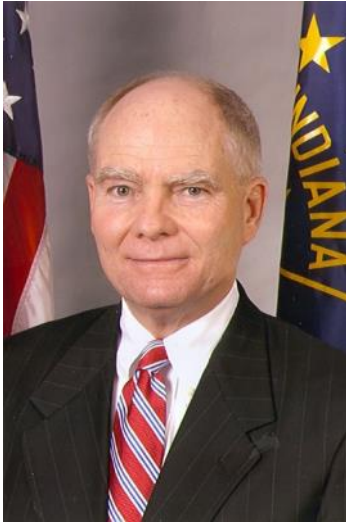
Veterans Memorial Ride

On July 18, 2020 several members rode down to Madison Indiana to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery to honor our Chapter members that are buried at the Cemetery or have passed on. Tom Ransdell performed a great ceremony with members making comments that they recalled about the members. Afterwards, we had a great lunch at Harry's Stone Grill.



Passing of USN Vietnam War POW Joseph D. Kernan

July 29, 2020



Joseph Kernan



Indiana War Memorial

2016 Ride to the Wall Sendoff Ceremony



Indianapolis Airport

2017 Ride to the Wall Sendoff Ceremony

Joe Kernan, the 48th governor of Indiana and three-term mayor of South Bend, passed away peacefully in his beloved hometown of South Bend on July 29, 2020. Joe is survived by his wife of 46 years, Maggie (McCullough) Kernan, a brother and six sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Eugene Kernan, Jr., his mother, Marion (Powers) Kernan and a sister, Mary Pat (Kernan) Harbison. Joe was a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in South Bend. In 1968 he earned a degree in Government from the University of Notre Dame, where he was a catcher on the baseball team.

Mr. Kernan entered the United States Navy in 1969 and served as a naval flight officer aboard the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk. In May of 1972, Lieutenant Kernan was shot down by the enemy while on a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. He was held as a prisoner of war for 11 months. Lieutenant Kernan was repatriated in 1973 during Operation Homecoming and continued on active duty with the United States Navy until December 1974. For his service, Lieutenant Kernan received numerous awards, including the Navy Commendation Medal, two Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Following his service in the Navy, Joe worked for both the Schwarz Paper Company and the Mac Williams Corporation. He was also South Bend's city controller from 1980 to 1984. Joe Kernan was elected mayor of South Bend in 1987, 1991 and again in 1995, when he won with more than 82% of the vote. At the time, he was the longest serving mayor in the city's history.

In 1996, Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan were elected to the top two positions in Indiana government. The O'Bannon-Kernan team was elected for a second term in 2000. Upon the death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon in September 2003, Joe assumed the position of governor of Indiana. He made history immediately by appointing Kathy Davis as Indiana's first woman lieutenant governor. Please go to www.joekernan.com to learn more about Joe's accomplishments as both lieutenant governor and governor. Mr. Kernan also served as the Governor of Indiana from September 13th 2003 to January 10th, 2005.

Due to ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, no services were planned for Mr. Kernan. The Chapter made a \$100 memorial contributions to the Veterans Fund at the University of Notre Dame, which supports scholarships and fellowships for military-connected students.

Joe was an honorary member of the Chapter and supported our POW/MIA mission. As depicted above, Joe attend our 2016 and 2017 sendoff ceremonies and POW*MIA Chair of Honor dedications.

July 30, 2020

USS Indianapolis Memorial Service

On July 30th, a few Chapter members went down to the USS Indianapolis memorial to participate in the memorial service. The Memorial is located on the canal downtown Indianapolis. If you have never seen the Indianapolis Memorial, its worth the trip. The USS Indianapolis was instrumental in helping to end WWII.



August 2, 2020

Wally Dudek Celebration of Life

On August 2, 2020 members rode to the Veterans Memorial Park located in Richmond Indiana to participate the Wally Dudek Celebration of Life. Wally was a member of VVA 777, Richmond, VFW 1108, Richmond, Vietnam Veterans for Veterans (Vets for Vets), Indy, Howard County Vietnam Veterans, Kokomo and former member of our Chapter. Wally was a strong advocate for the POW/MIA issue and a big supporter of the Staff Sergeant Matt Maupin family when Matt was taken POW in Iraq on April 9th, 2004. The Memorial park has several nice monuments to see.



Tony Gigli presenting a plaque to Wally's Wife.



August 22, 2020

Veterans Center Support Ride

The 6th annual Fort Harrison Support Ride was a success. Mike “Cowboy” Kraner and his Squad Leaders and Sweeps did an excellent job on the route and everyone that I spoke with enjoyed the ride. Mike and the Squad leaders made several runs on the route to make sure everyone knew the route and the roads were in good condition for the event.

The ride destination was the Henry County Memorial Park located in Greencastle, IN. The park has a lot to see to include a memorial for all wars, Gulf War, Wilbur Wright, and many more. The below statue of the Doughboy was dedicated by the Henry County Chapter American War Mothers in honor of the Henry County boys that died in WWI. Karen Kraner provided drinks and snacks for the group to enjoy while at the park. The Henry County Memorial Park is a great place for a family visit.

The event raised over \$15,000 for the Veterans Center to use to help keep the facility going. Kudos to the Kraner’s and their team for a job well done. Thank you !!.



War Memorial



Doughboy Memorial



Wilbur Wright Memorial

September 9, 2020

POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony Video

On September 9, 2020 the Indiana POW/MIA Recognition Day Committee and the Chapter recorded the POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony video at the Indiana War Memorial. The Honor Guard Team did an outstanding job and represented the Chapter well. The video can be seen on our website www.rollingthunderindiana.com or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RTINCh1>.



Terry Sanderson
Recited the Pledge



Missing Man Table



Tom Ransdell



Donna Ransdell

The Chapter Honor Guard Team represented all 5 military branches and our 1 Civilian.



David Craig
Army



Larry Paynter
Marine



Jeff Thatcher
Navy



Ed Newbill
Air Force



Greg Thompson
Coast Guard



Alex Barile
Civilian

Never Forget 9/11 Ceremony

September 11th



Chapter Members attended the 9/11 Ceremony downtown Indianapolis. The ceremony included fund raising kickoff for the expansion of the 9/11 memorial. The project will include an 800-pound piece of Indiana limestone from the Pentagon crash site, and a "Survivor Tree" from the World Trade Center will also be planted on the site. The goal is to complete the extension and re-dedicate the site on the 20th anniversary on Sept. 11, 2021. The expansion project will highlight those heroes and honor Lieutenant General Tim Maude, a Hoosier who was killed at the Pentagon on 9/11.

Marine PFC Wiesehan Escort September 17th

On September 17, 2020 the Indiana Patriot Guard and Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter One members escorted PFC Wiesehan from the Indianapolis Airport to his home town of Richmond Indiana. PFC Wiesehan was laid to rest on September 19 at the Goshen Cemetery in Richmond Indiana. After 77 years, another Hoosier Hero has finally come home.



Quaker Day Parade

September 19, 2020



Chapter Members attended the Quaker Day Parade in Plainfield Indiana.

November 5-8, 2020

Rolling Thunder® National Conference

Due to the concerns of COVID-19, the attendance was down from previous years. The Hotel and Rolling Thunder® National did a good job maintaining Social Distancing and keeping everyone safe. With the Chapters cancelling most of their events this year, there wasn't much discussion on 2020 events.



Veterans Day Parade

The Indiana Veterans Day Parade that normally takes place downtown Indianapolis on November 11th was cancelled due to COVID concern for the elderly Veterans. The Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette Indiana decided to have a drive by parade to show the resident Veterans that we are still thinking about them and appreciate their service. Several vehicles showed up to participate in the parade to include a few from Indiana Chapter 1.



January 1, 2021
New Year Day Brunch at MCL



On January 1, 2021 a few Chapter members met at the MCL cafeteria located at Castleton Square to celebrate the new year. The New Years Day brunch has been a tradition for the Chapter for many years. Unfortunately, the concerns of the Virus affected the attendance this year. Hopefully, in 2022 the Virus will no longer be a concern and we can celebrate the new year as before.

I do appreciate the members that were able to make the brunch. MCL has always been a good place for the group to come together for a good meal and discuss the new year. **2022 will be a better year !!**

Heather French



Miss America 2000 (winning the pageant in September 1999), Heather competed in the Miss Kentucky pageant 4 times before winning the 5th time then going on to win the Miss America pageant. Her platform for her reign was raising awareness for homeless veterans.

This picture was taken in the Pentagon parking lot May 28, 2000. Heather married the Lt. Governor of Kentucky, Steve Henry, in 2000. She is the daughter of a decorated Vietnam veteran.

Written by: *Terry Sanderson*
September 2020

POW/MIA Affairs Committee

2020 MIAs Accounted-For

DPAA 2020 Accounted for: 126

As of December 31, 2020

Accounted-For by War

WWII (87)

Korea (37)

Vietnam/Laos (2)

Accounted-For By Service

U.S Army (50)

U.S Army Air Forces (5)

U.S Marine Corps (16)

U.S Marine Corps Reserves (9)

U.S Navy (43)

U.S Navy Reserves (1)

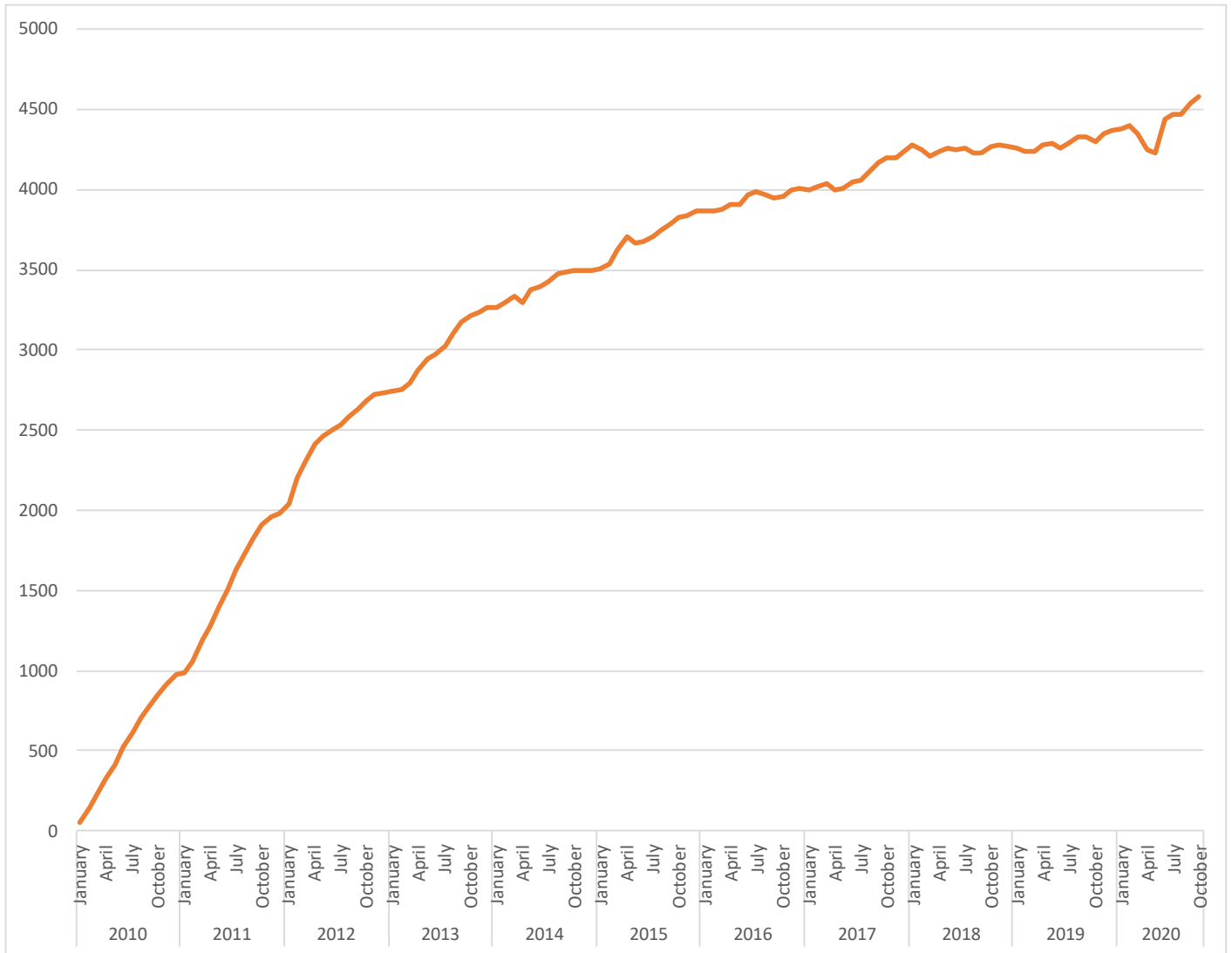
U.S Air Force (2)

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



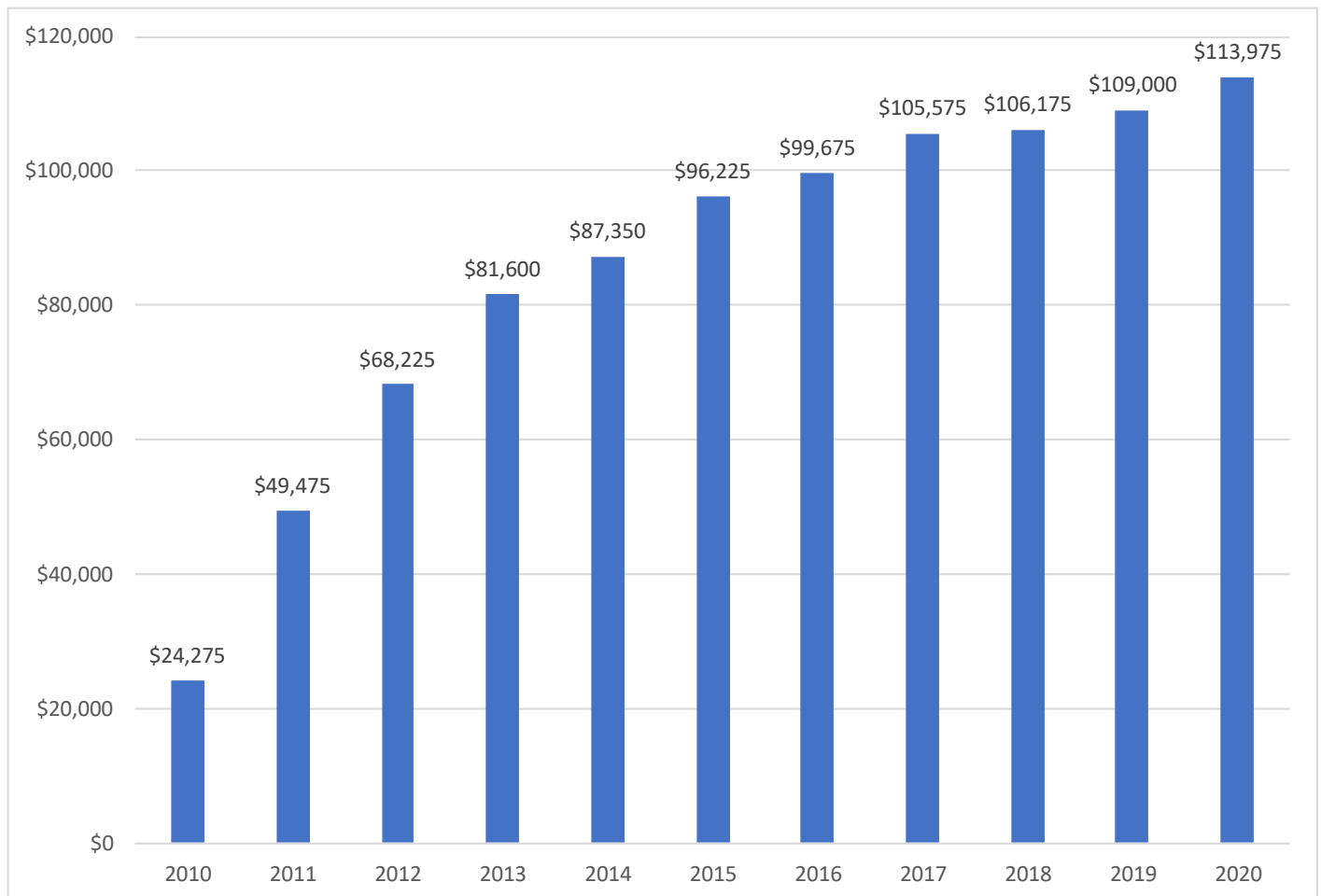
As of October 31,2020 we have **4,575** POW/MIA specialty plates on the streets of Indiana helping to bring awareness to the public about our POWs, and MIAs. The funds generated from the sale of the POW/MIA Specialty plate goes towards helping our Indiana Veterans in need through the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF).



Get your plate today and help a Veteran.

Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate Fund

From 2010 to 2020



Since the introduction of the Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate in January 2010, the plate has generated an estimated **\$941,550**. 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.

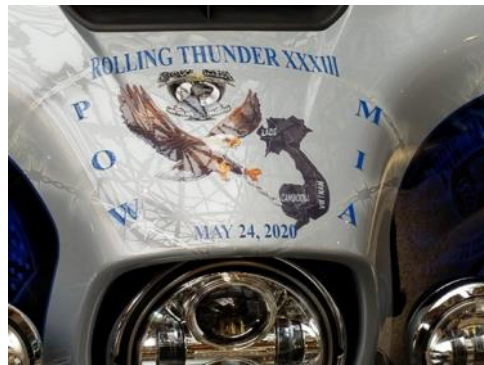
With the purchase of a Indiana POW/MIA specialty plate, not only will you be instrumental in helping to bring awareness to the public about our POWs and MIAs, you will be helping our Indiana Veterans in need.

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

Please purchase your Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate Today.

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.

2021 Membership Dues

September 2020 was the start of a new membership year and membership dues are due. The membership dues is still \$30.00 with \$20.00 going to National and \$10.00 staying with the Chapter.

Membership is important to keep the Chapter going so we can continue on with our important POW/MIA mission and helping our Indiana Veterans. Without your membership the Chapter would not be able to do our important missions. Please help the Chapter remain successful and pay your membership dues as soon as possible. If you are having financial difficulties, please let me know so we can discuss options.

Membership dues are due to National by February 2021 to remain in good standing.



Membership dues can be paid at the Chapter meeting or by mailing your renewal form and check to the Chapter P.O Box listed below:

Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 1

P.O Box 26458

Indianapolis, IN 46226

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



1469 E. 52nd Street
Indianapolis, IN
46205
317-254-5655

Vintage style barber/beauty shop
Your hair & scalp doctors with style!
Featuring natural & organic products & services!!

Located in the So-Bro neighborhood on 52nd Street, just a few blocks east of the Monon Trail. There's even a bus stop directly in front of the shop. We have appointments available Monday through Saturday, call today!

Peace Love & Hair is Inspired by Sacrifice, Motivated by Compassion, & Driven by Commitment.

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

Veterans get \$10 off all services all day every day!!

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 |