

# **Rolling Thunder®, Inc.**

## **Indiana Chapter #1**

### **Scholarship Program**



The lives of Military individuals and families are forever changed as a result of their service to country.

It is in this spirit of military fellowship that  
Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter #1  
offers this scholarship to one student per academic year.

## **Preface**

### **The Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Story**

In the fall of 1987, Artie Muller and Ray Manzo, two Vietnam veterans met to discuss their personal concerns about the POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War. Having honorably served their country and having taken an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies..." and to "bear true faith and allegiance to the same," they were deeply troubled by the abhorrent neglect of attention given to those who did not make it out with their lives or their freedom. These veterans discussed the more than 10,000 reported sightings of live Americans living in dismal captivity. Intelligence reports of these sightings were generally ignored by the government and mainstream press.

### **The First Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Demonstration**

The Founders of Rolling Thunder®, Inc., Artie Muller and Ray Manzo, were ordinary men who understood that they had a right to have their voices heard and proceeded to lay down the plans for a gathering in Washington, D.C. during the 1988 Memorial Day weekend. They reached out to their families, fellow veterans and veterans' advocates to unify and form a march and demonstration in the nation's Capital. Their arrival would be announced by the roar of their motorcycles, a sound not unlike the 1965 bombing campaign against North Vietnam dubbed Operation Rolling Thunder. Hence, they would call themselves "Rolling Thunder" a title that would endure time and be trademarked in 1990. Word spread quickly and by Memorial Day weekend in 1988, approximately 2,500 motorcycles from all over the country converged on Washington, D.C. to demand from our leaders a full accounting of all POW/MIAs. As Artie and Ray made their stand that day in front of the Capitol, they reflected thankfully for the people who came in support of the POW/ MIAs and for the unity that was felt. This was the first Rolling Thunder®, Inc. demonstration. And until ALL POW/MIAs ARE ACCOUNTED FOR, it will not be their last. On that day, the foundation was laid for the annual "Ride for Freedom" to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall (also referred to as the "Ride to the Wall"). The number of participants/spectators in the Memorial Day weekend Ride for Freedom has grown from 2,500 to an estimated 900,000.

Incorporated in 1995, Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a class 501(c) (4) non-profit organization with over 90 chartered chapters throughout the United States and members abroad. While many members of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. are veterans and many ride motorcycles, neither is a prerequisite. Rolling Thunder®, Inc. members are old and young, men and women, veterans and non-veterans. All are united in the cause to bring full accountability for the Prisoners of War-Missing in Action (POW/MIA) of all wars, reminding the government, the media and the public by our watchwords: "We Will Not Forget.

### **Mission Statement**

The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 is to publicize the POW-MIA issue: To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect the future Veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War-Missing in Action. We are 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 issue.

## **Purpose**

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 scholarship is intended to help a graduating high school senior or GED recipients seeking a higher education at a college, university, or trade school in order to cover the costs of educational expenses (e.g., tuition, fees, books, and on-campus room and board) for the given year.

## **Scholarship Award**

The scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00 and will be paid directly to the school the applicant has selected to attend. The scholarship is for an undergraduate or trade school applicant enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited institution. This is a onetime award for the applicant.

The scholarship will be awarded during the Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter #1 July Chapter meeting at the Fort Harrison Veterans Center or at another designated time and place. The application deadline is April 30th and the Scholarship Committee decision will be made by June 30th.

This scholarship is awarded based upon the decision of the Scholarship Committee and the Board of Directors.

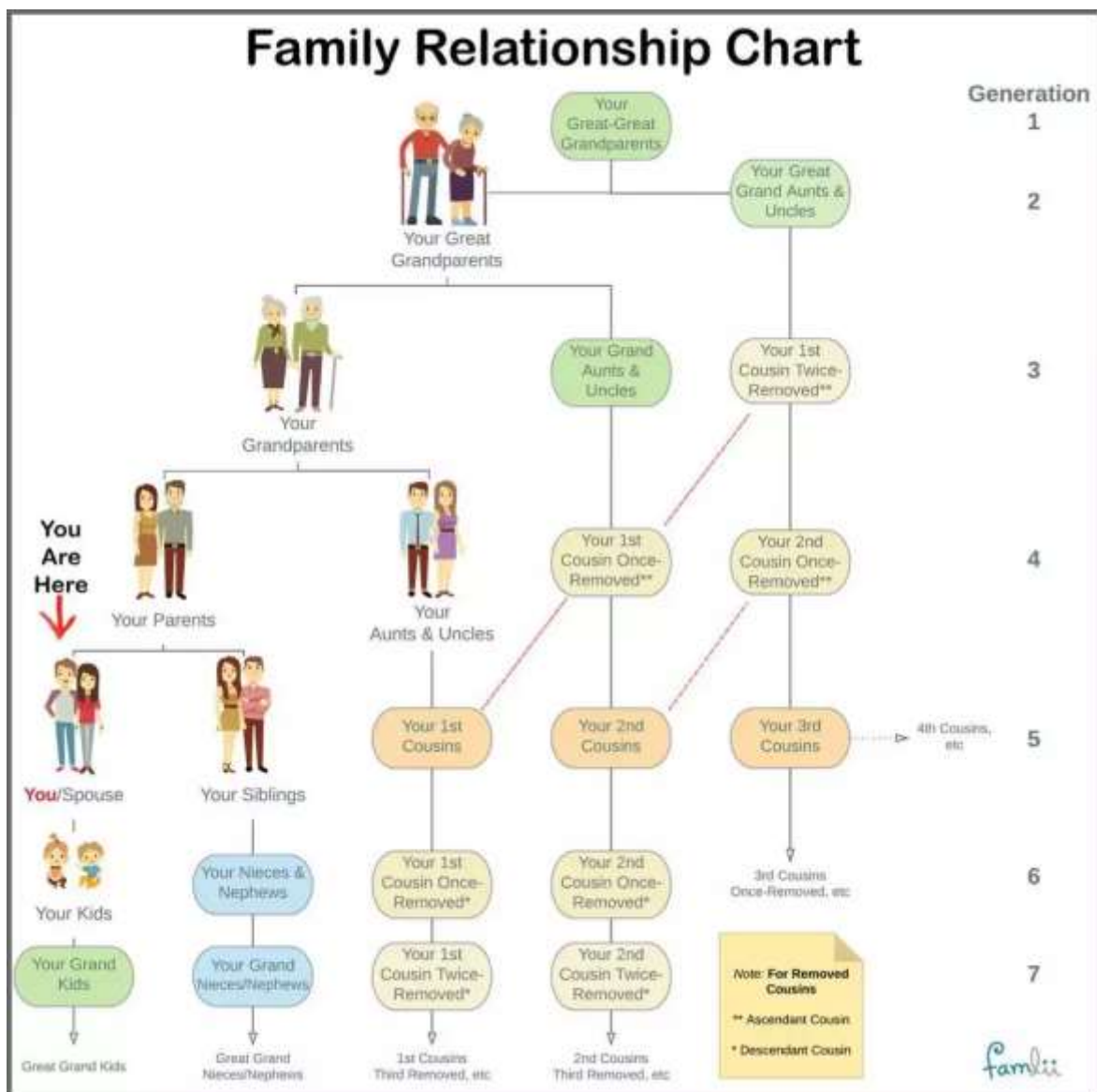
## **Eligibility Criteria**

- Applicant must be a current resident of Indiana.
- Applicant must have a verifiable familial relationship to a former Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA).
- A copy of the acceptance letter and student ID number from an accredited college, university or trade school must be presented to receive the award.

## Family Relationship

**Family Member** means a person who is a spouse, former spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, cousin, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, including adoptive relationships.

If you have a family service member that is unaccounted for, or if you know of a family that has a service member unaccounted for, it is very important that the family members provide a DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) sample to the Armed Forces Identification laboratory for identification purposes. Please refer to the Family References Sample Program listed on our website at [Family Reference Samples \(FRS\) Program \(indianarollingthunder.com\)](http://indianarollingthunder.com) for more details.



### **Proof of Eligibility**

- Explain how the applicant is related to the POW/MIA and provide verification of this relationship from an immediate family member of the POW/MIA.
- Proof of Indiana Residency.
  - Indiana Driver License, or
  - BMV issued ID Card.

### **Submission Requirements**

- A few sentences about the applicant's educational goals.
- Write an essay on a POW/MIA themed topic of the applicant's choosing.
- The theme of the essay should be original and based on an event, person, philosophy or ideal.
- The essay should be no less than five hundred (500) words and no more than twelve hundred (1200) words.
- 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.
- If the applicant wishes to write about a family member, it should be separate from the themed essay.
- The essay will be judged by the members of the of Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter #1 Scholarship Committee for historical accuracy, clarity of thought, organization and proven topic, grammar and spelling, and documentation.
- Separate from the essay should be a bibliography or works cited page.
- Submit three (3) references from non-family members (e.g., school counselors, teachers, pastors, adult friends, neighbors). The references should describe your qualifications, character, and any other personal information they would like to share with the Scholarship Committee.

### **How to Apply for a Scholarship**

Applications are available from the Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter #1 web site, <http://indianarollingthunder.com/scholarship.html>, or by writing or faxing to:

**Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter #1  
Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 26458  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46226**

**Fax 317-991-3188**

All scholarship applications are to be submitted to the Scholarship Committee of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 no later than April 30<sup>th</sup> of the requested academic year.

Please feel free to contact the Scholarship Committee Chair with any questions about eligibility or any other questions. Phone Number: 317-991-3085, Fax 317-991-3188, e-mail address: [RTIN1.scholar@att.net](mailto:RTIN1.scholar@att.net).

### **Additional Notes**

The applicant agrees, if his/her essay is chosen as a winner, it becomes the property of Rolling Thunder and may be published accordingly. Applicant further agrees his/her essay may not be submitted to any other contest or used for any other purpose without the express written permission of Rolling Thunder.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 will not use the private information or images provided by the applicants in any form other than the award recipient's name and photo images to be stated within Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 Newsletter and web site without the award recipient's written permission.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 will not use applicant contact information to send spam advertising messages or sell it to other advertisers.

It is not required but it would be appreciated if the Scholarship Award winner sends the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 an acknowledgement that the school did receive the scholarship check and how it was used to further their education. This would be appreciated by the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter #1 members to encourage us to continue to provide this type of scholarship.



**Rolling Thunder® , Inc.**  
**Indiana Chapter #1**  
**Scholarship Application**

**Applicant Information:**

Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> phone _____
Mailing Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> email _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	<i>Check preferred means of contact.</i>

**Educational Information:**

I am currently pursuing a ( <i>check one</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> high school diploma or <input type="checkbox"/> GED credentials from: _____ My date of graduation ( <i>or expected date</i> ) is: _____ My educational ambition is: _____ _____ _____
I plan to attend: _____

**Eligibility:**

<b>Name of the former POW or MIA that is your relation:</b> _____ <b>Explain the relationship you have with this POW/MIA</b> ( <i>attach additional information as needed to include verification of this relationship from an immediate family member of the POW/MIA</i> ): _____ _____ _____
<b>Proof of Applicant's Indiana residency:</b> Enclose with this application a copy of your Indiana driver's license or ID card from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

**Optional notes or comments** (additional information about yourself that you would like to Scholarship Committee to know about you):

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
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**Rolling Thunder® , Inc.**  
**Indiana Chapter #1**  
**Scholarship Application**

**Requirements:**

- An essay of not less than 500 words and not more than 1200 words is to be submitted with this application on the subject of:

**“POW/MIA themed topic of your choosing”**

The theme of the essay should be, ‘original’, based on an event, person, philosophy or ideal. The essay will be judged by the members of the of Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter #1 Scholarship Committee for historical accuracy, clarity of thought, organization and proven topic, grammar and spelling, and documentation.

- This application and essay may be submitted by email to [rtin1.scholar@att.net](mailto:rtin1.scholar@att.net) or mailed to:  
Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter #1  
P.O. Box 26458  
Indianapolis, IN 46226
- 3 references from non-family members (e.g. school counselors, teachers, pastors, adult friends or neighbors etc.) attesting to your qualifications and character are to be submitted with this application.
- Application and paper must be received by April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current scholarship year. (Winner will be announced on or before June 30.)
- A copy of the acceptance letter from an accredited college, university, or trade school must be presented to receive the award. A check in the amount of the scholarship will be issued to that school to be applied to cover any educational expenses as necessary.

**Attestation:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ confirm the information submitted is correct and accurate, and that I authored the essay submitted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

