

MIA Totals: WWI (3,344), WWII (72,674), Korean (7,631), Cold War (126), Vietnam (1,594), OEF, OIF (5)  
Indiana WWI (104) WWII (1,498), Korean (169), Vietnam (51)

# INCOMING!



January 2025 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:** Darryle Swartzlander

**Secretary:** Jessica Clark

**Treasurer:** Terry “Flash” Sanderson

## President News

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

2024 is now in the past and 2025 is off and running. We closed out 2024 with our Christmas Meeting and luncheon at the Veterans Center on December 15th. We were honored to have three MIA families and guest present at the meeting. The Chapter Honor Guard Team performed the Flame of Freedom and the Missing Man Table ceremonies. The Coachman Restaurant provided a great lunch for everyone to include Ham bake beans, coleslaw, mash potatoes, buns, and to top it off, the membership provided some awesome desserts. Thanks to everyone that brought in a dessert.

The planning committee did an awesome job putting the Christmas luncheon together to include setting up the room and purchasing Christmas gifts for the White Elephant gift exchange. The meeting also included a surprise visit from the man in the RED suite. Santa Clause had some special presents to pass out to the little ones that attended the meeting. Thanks to all that helped. Great Job!!!.

The Chapter had a pretty good 2024 with 93 events counting Chapter meetings. January is the start of a new event calendar. The event calendar is a working document and changes often as events come up. We have an event planning committee meeting on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss events for the upcoming month and future events. All Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend the event planning meetings.

Pages 13-16 list some of the Chapter accomplishments for 2024. Pages 17-19 list the 2024 events and the number of attendees. As you can see, some of the events had a decent membership representation and other were lacking. In 2025, we need to try and improve our membership attendance at our CORE events.

Chapter Membership dues are now due and must be paid by the **February Chapter meeting** to remain a member in good standing. The Chapter must have all dues turned into National by March 2025. Please pay your dues as soon as possible.

**The next Chapter meeting is Sunday January 19, 2025**

**January  
2025 Birthday's**



Richard (Brian) Griffith (8)

Jeff Thatcher (9)

Charles Rogers (24)

**Hope you have many more**

## ACTIVE MEMBERS WITH 20 YEARS OR MORE OF SERVICE

First Name	Last Name	Date Joined	Remarks
Judy	Brinkley	September 1, 1998	
Sammy	Davis	September 1, 1998	Honorary
Carol	McFarland	September 1, 1998	
Don	McFarland	September 1, 1998	
Mark	Smith	September 1, 1998	Honorary
Bill	Reisa	November 19, 1998	
Terry	Sanderson	June 28, 1999	
Roger	Roe	November 19, 2000	
Donna	Ransdell	April 21, 2002	
Tom	Ransdell	April 21, 2002	
Ken	White	January 18, 2003	
David	Begala	June 1, 2003	
Alex	Barile	February 2, 2004	
Tony	Palmiero	March 1, 2004	
Larry	Paynter	March 21, 2004	
Clark	Michael	February 2, 2005	
Clark	Barbara	May 15, 2005	
Harrington	Linda	July 5, 2005	

The above members are still active members in the Chapter and have 20 or more years of service starting in 2025. Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter #1 was chartered in September 1, 1998. The above members with Joined Date of September 1, 1998 are Charter Members.

The Chapter is fortunate to have dedicated members such as these and I thank them for their service to the Chapter. I hope all of you will continue your service for many more years. Thank You.

## BINGO With Our Veterans Indiana Veterans Home December 7, 2024

On December 7th, the Chapter played BINGO with our Veterans at the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette Indiana. We played 2 regular games of BINGO with a \$5.00 payout for a maximum of 20 winners, 1 regular game with a \$10.00 payout for a maximum of 20 winners, and a cover the card game with a \$50.00 payout for a maximum of 10 winners. We also gave each Veteran that played BINGO with us some extra cash as they left the room. The total amount that we donated to our Indiana Veterans was \$1,875.00. Carla Henderson was our BINGO caller this year and did a great job. She accidentally put a couple balls in the wrong number and the Veterans called her out. The Veterans take their BINGO seriously and will call you out if you make a mistake. Before heading to the Indiana Veterans Home, members enjoyed lunch at the Red Bird Café in Dayton Indiana.



## Blue Light Ceremony December 3, 2024

On December 3rd Chapter members attended the Blue Light Ceremony at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy located in Plainfield Indiana. This is a special ceremony to honor our Indiana Fallen Officers and their families. In 2024, there were two officers that were killed in the line of duty. Several families were present to honor their loved one that died in the line of duty from previous years.



The ceremony normally takes place outside, but due to the cold weather the ceremony was conducted inside the Academy, which everyone appreciated.

Before heading over to the ceremony, Chapter members gathered at the Coachman Restaurant for a good dinner.

## The Flame of Freedom Ceremony December 15, 2024



### Flame of Freedom Ceremony

The Flame of Freedom represents Light and Hope in knowing that someone is always there waiting to open the doors home.

Caring the Flame is Jennifer Eisberg, the Niece of PFC Ernest G. Sarles who spent 27 months as a POW during WWII. Her escorts are Chapter Members Alex Barile and Jeff Thatcher.

For hundreds of years, the light in the distance meant hope. The flickering in the distance of the light high atop the lighthouse tells of nearing land in a heavy fog, the dim light of a front porch says come inside to the warmth of home, and let us not forget the lantern of Paul Revere riding through the streets to warn the British were coming.

There was a time long ago that our forefathers fought to provide us with freedom, then came other wars fought to preserve those freedoms.

Today, we fight to protect that freedom. This flame is also a symbol. It lights the way home for your brothers and sisters in arms. It crosses this great country to tell everyone the War-Fighter stands with pride and honor to keep us free and we keep the light burning to show the way home.

The light does not cast a shadow, for its sole purpose is to send the message of hope, to let everyone know that we will not forget. The table that sits before you, is a symbolism of faith and hope. A place waiting undisturbed until the War-Fighter returns home. The flame will light this table as long as the table sits empty.

## The Missing Man Table Ceremony December 15, 2024

The Chapter Honor Guard team performed the Missing Man Table ceremony. The Missing Man Table ceremony is our way of recognizing those who remain missing. They may be still lying on the battle field, or they may be in the hands of our enemies, we don't know, they are Unaccounted-For.

Their remains have not been recovered, their whereabouts are unknown, and their fate is yet to be determined. These American heroes are Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA).

They are not able to be with their loved ones, so we join together to pay humble tribute to them and to bear witness to their continued absence. The table is a physical symbol of the 81,000 American Service Members that are still listed as Unaccounted-For Nationwide since WWII. Indiana alone has 1,498 MIAs from WWII, 169 from the Korean War, and 51 from the Vietnam War.

The Honor Guard Team placed the covers for each branch of service on the table to symbolize their presents.



**Jim Haarbauer**  
Representing U.S Army



**Larry Paynter** Representing  
U.S Marine CORPS



**Jeff Thatcher**  
Representing U.S Navy



**Darryle Swartzlander**  
Representing U.S Air Force



**Greg Thompson**  
Representing US. Coast Guard

## December Chapter Meeting and Luncheon December 15, 2024



**Missing Man Table**



**Dave Thomas receives  
his Boot Patch.  
Congratulations Dave.**



**WWII Veteran Jim  
Collins.**



The Chapter was privileged to have WWII Veteran Jim Collins to attend our December Chapter Meeting. Jim was born on December 10, 1942 and turned 100 years old this year. Jim joined the Navy in 1943 and served as a Nurse and eventually passed the exams to become a pharmacist. Jim was later assigned to a remote island in a makeshift hospital off the coast of Japan.

Jim said the hospital was a series of tents connected to wooden walkways and tent tops, a typical MASH outfit. There were tents for Headquarters, a tent for surgery, a tent for bone fractures, another for infectious diseases. Jim was assigned to the infectious diseases tent and said that the only treatment they had to give patients for infection diseases was suffer drugs and it didn't work. Jim said the only time someone was released from the infectious diseases tent was when mother nature healed them.

Jim's unit received it's first shipment of penicillin which was first discovered in 1918. The shipment came with instructions for administration to document dosages, reactions and effectiveness. The documentation had to be sent to Washington immediately. Jim was the first corpsman to administer penicillin. Jim served for three years and one day, before receiving his honorable discharge. Jim went to work at the state board of health, and later for the food and drug inspection division where he was the inspector of the largest food poisoning outbreak in the history of Indiana.



## December Chapter Meeting and Luncheon December 15, 2024

The Chapter meeting included several guest to include, Sandra Rigdon and her Husband Clyde, Sandra is the Daughter of Seaman First Class Eldridge Wayne Bowles, who was Lost at Sea when the USS Indianapolis was sunk during WWII. John Wertz, his Wife Elizabeth and daughter Amelia, John is the Grandson of Chief Warrant Officer John William Frederick, Jr United States Marine Corps, who was held as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam from December 7, 1965 until his death in captivity on or about July 19, 1972. Jennifer Eisberg and Her Husband Eric, Jennifer is the Niece of PFC Ernest G. Sarles who was a POW during WWII. Richard Poynter, Vietnam War Veteran and a longtime supporter and sponsor of the Chapter.

We also had the man in the Red suite to provide presents to the family members. Chaz Rogers did an awesome job as Santa Clause and put a smile on faces of the kids. The Coachman Restaurant provided a great meal with Ham, Beans, Coleslaw, Potatoes, Gravy and other good stuff. The Members brought in some delicious deserts to finish off the meal. Thanks to all that came to this special meeting.



## December Chapter Meeting and Luncheon December 15, 2024

The meeting included a White Elephant gift exchange. Members and the Chapter provided gifts valued \$10.00 or less for the gift exchange. The individual was provided a number when they signed in and picked out their gift when their number was called. In this version of the game, steals were not permitted. What you picked is what you got.



## December Chapter Meeting and Luncheon December 15, 2024

The Chapter meeting also included the Ugly Sweater contest. Below are the contestants that participated in the contest. The winner was based how loud the audience would clap for the person. President Clark held his hand over the head of the competitor and ask for the audience to clap. The competition was tuff with some great looking sweaters. Little Mae Mae received the loudest response and won the competition.



**The winner was little Mae Mae**

## 2024 Member of the Year December 15, 2024

Every year, the membership votes on the member that they think has gone above and beyond in support of the Chapter. This year, the membership voted for Carla Henderson as the member of the year. Carla is the manager of the Chapters Facebook page and has done an outstanding job keeping the Facebook up-to-date and current.

Carla is passionate about the Chapters POW/MIA mission and helping our Indiana Veterans. She is one that you can count on to be at the airport to welcome home our Indiana Veterans as they enter the Airport from their long Journey to Washington DC to visit their memorials. Carla is a big supporter of the Honor Flight program and working on ways to ensure all eligible Veterans have an opportunity to go on a Honor Flight.



## 2024 Chapter Accomplishments

The next few pages is a review of some of the Chapter accomplishments in 2024. The three areas we would like to see improvements in 2025 is, 1) increase our membership numbers, 2) increase our members in good standing, 3) increase our Chapter event attendance.

### Membership Status as of December 31, 2024

Members on the Roster in 2024: 95

Junior Members: 7

Honorary Members: 2

Members lost due to Resigning: 2

Members in Good Standing: 37

Members that Joined the Chapter in 2024: 7

Charter Members still with the Chapter: 3 (Don & Carol McFarland and Judy Brinkley)

### Chapter Events: 93

The Chapter completed approximately 93 events in 2024 to include Chapter meetings. Some events were well attended and others were lacking attendance. Some of the significant events included:

**February 21st - Sammy Davis Proclamation.** The city of Mooresville Indiana declared February 21st as Sammy Davis Day and unveiled a street being renamed in his honor. The ceremony took place at the historic Newby Gym in Mooresville Indiana. Sammy Davis is the only living Indiana Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War.

**May 26th - Rolling Thunder® XXXVI Ride for Freedom.** This event took place at the Veterans National Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne Indiana. We had approximately 31 members and 32 guest, to include 15 FNG's, 28 motorcycles, and 5 automobiles. The event went very well and received a lot of good comments. The event included a 50/50 raffle which collected \$715.00. The winner of the 50/50 and the Chapter donated all \$715.00 to the Veterans National Shrine and Museum.

**July 30th - 9th Annual USS Indianapolis Honor Watch.** Chapter Members were invited to read the names of the 31 Hoosier heroes who served on the USS Indianapolis, and gave the ultimate sacrifice when the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by the Japanese on July 30th 1945. On that day, 879 men were killed in action and lost at sea.

**September 19th - Watch Fire Ceremony.** Chapter Members assisted the Indianapolis POW/MIA Council with executing the Watch Fire Ceremony at the Indiana War Memorial (IWM). The ceremony started with youth groups placing 1,723 American Flags on the lawn of the IWM. After the placement of the flags, the groups moved into the IWM. The youths were broken down into groups and guided through the IWM to each historical display station. Once they arrived at each station, a docent brief the group with historical facts about the displays. When the youths arrived at the Pershing Auditorium, they read the names of the 1,723 Indiana MIAs that are still missing since WWII.

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## 2024 Chapter Accomplishments

### - Continued -

**September 20th - POW/MIA Recognition Day and Escort.** The POW/MIA Recognition Day Escort and Ceremony is an annual event that occurs on the third Friday in September. The Chapter was honored this year to escort 11 MIA families from the Fort Harrison Veterans Center to the Indiana War Memorial for their POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony. The keynote speaker was Taylor Kiland who is the author of the book Unwavering, and coauthor of the book Lessons from the Hanoi Hilton.

**Sponsorship/Fund Raising** - Sponsorship and Fund Raising is an important part of the financial health of the Chapter. The Chapter would not be able to do our mission without funding. Due to the hard work of Chapter members going out and getting sponsors and donations, the Chapter collected \$15,370 in monetary and in-kind donations for 2024. Special thanks to all of our Sponsors and Chapter members that helped in collecting donations.

**Gun Raffle** - The Chapter raffled a AM-15 rifle and a Kiger 9C pistol to help raise funds for the Chapter. Chapter members attended the March and May Gun & Blade shows and sold tickets independently. Through their efforts, the membership was able to sell 842 tickets which generated over \$6,500 in support of the Chapter mission.

**Supporting our Veterans and their families** - The Chapter worked hard in supporting our Veterans in 2024 in many ways.

1. **Indiana POW/MIA License Plate:** The Indiana POW/MIA License Plate is a special tool that has two purposes. **First**, the POW/MIA License Plate helps bring awareness to the public about our POWs and MIAs, **Secondly**, the funds generated from the plate helps our Indiana Veterans in need. As of December 31st there are **4,903** POW/MIA License plates on the streets of Indiana. In 2024, the plate has generated **\$122,225** dollars to help our Indiana Veterans through the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund. **We have sold/renewed 73 more plates in 2024 compared to 2023.** See charts on pages 22 and 23.

2. **BINGO at the Indiana Veterans Home:** Every year the Chapter plays BINGO with our Veterans at the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette Indiana. The Chapter made sure that every Veteran that played BINGO with the Chapter walk away with money in their pocket. In 2024, the Chapter paid out **\$1,875.00** to the Veterans. This year, the BINGO game took place on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day. The group included Veterans from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terror.

3. **Pets Healing Vets:** The Pets Healing Vets program is an important program for our Veterans that suffer from PTSD and other issues. A K9 buddy helps the Veteran to cope with daily challenges. The Chapter hosted a fund raiser in support of the Pets Healing Vets program, and thanks to Don Leasure's hard work, the fund raiser generated \$6,952 for the Pets Healing Vets program.

4. **Indy Honor Flights:** The Chapter has participated in the Welcome Home Celebrations for the Veterans returning home after visiting their monuments in Washington DC. Chapter members greeted Veterans at the Indianapolis Airport as they debark their airplane and at the Welcome Home celebration at the Plainfield High School. The Chapter attended Honor Flight #40, #42, and Honor Flight #43.

## **2024 Chapter Accomplishments**

### **- Continued -**

**Special Ceremonies** - The Chapter has been active in performing the Missing Man Table and other ceremonies throughout the year to help bring awareness to the public about our Missing. Some of these ceremonies included:

1. **May 18th** - POW/MIA Chair of Honor dedication ceremony at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
2. **July 30th** - USS Indianapolis eight Annual Honor Watch, CA-35 Memorial (Roll Call).
3. **May 26th** - Missing Man Table Ceremony at the XXXVI Ride for Freedom event.
4. **September 20h** - POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony (Missing Man Table).
5. **October 9th** - Rushville Elks Lodge, POW\*MIA Chair of Honor dedication.
6. **November 27th** - Rushville High School, POW\*MIA Chair of Honor dedication.
7. **December 15th** - Flame of Fredon Ceremony and the Missing Man Table Ceremony at our December Chapter meeting.

### **Funerals and Processions:**

**May 31th** - Korean War MIA PVT Poulter Escort.

**June 28th** - Vietnam War Veteran Marine Lcpl Jeff Henderson Flag Line.

**September 20th** - WWII MIA PFC Clossie Brown Escort.

**September 24th** - WWII MIA PFC Clossie Brown Funeral.

**October 30th** - WWII Veteran Bob Pedigo Escort and Funeral.

**November 19th** - Vietnam War Veteran Marine Sergeant Jesus Quintana Flag Line and Funeral.

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## **2023 Chapter Accomplishments - Continued -**

**Scholarships** - The Chapter had two Scholarship offers in 2024.

1. **Linda Smith-Cope Scholarship.** This is a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a Covington Community High School graduating senior seeking a higher education at an accredited College, University, or Trade School. The topic for the 2024 scholarship was “**A POW/MIA themed topic of their choosing**” The Chapter received three applications for this scholarship. The awardee of the \$1,000 scholarship was Noah Armstrong of Covington Indiana. Noah will continue his education at the Purdue University.
2. **Chapter Scholarship Program.** This is a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a high school graduating senior or a student receiving the GED seeking a higher education at an accredited college, university, or trade school. The topic for the scholarship is the same at the Linda Smith-Cope scholarship. The applicant for this scholarship must be a resident of Indiana, and have a verifiable family relationship to a former Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). The purpose of this scholarship is to give back to the families that have sacrificed the lost of a loved one in war that remains unaccounted-for. Unfortunately, the Chapter didn't receive any applications for this scholarship in 2024.

The previous pages are just a few of the Chapter accomplishments in 2024. We have many more things to accomplish in 2025 and we need your membership to continue on with our POW/MIA mission and helping our Indiana Veterans. Your membership is important, and we hope that you will continue your membership with the Chapter and help recruit new members.



## 2024 Chapter Event Attendance

The next three pages is the list of Chapter events for 2024 and how many members attended the events in accordance with the attendance records. The CORE events are highlighted in **RED**. The CORE events are the ones that we consider high priority and all abled-body members are expected to attend. The Chapter meetings are not considered an event, and all members should plan on attending our monthly Chapter meetings.

Date	Event	Attendees
January 1, 2024	News Year Day Brunch at MCL	17
January 3, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	7
January 6, 2024	Chapter Budget Meeting	10
January 16, 2024	Indiana Military Veterans Legislative Day (State House)	2
January 21, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	28
February 7, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	8
February 18, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting (Chili Cook-off)</b>	33
February 21, 2024	Sammy Davis Proclamation (Newby Gym, Mooresville, IN)	8
February 25, 2024	ABATE Swap Meet (Scottsburg Indiana)	2
March 5, 2024	Rushville American Legion	2
March 6, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	8
March 10, 2024	INDY Gun and Blade Show	12
March 12, 2024	Ride Advertisement Raffle Tickets	1
March 17, 2024	<b>Chapter Meeting at the Humane Society for Hamilton County</b>	19
March 29, 2024	Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.	0
April 3, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	5
April 13, 2024	Indy Honor Flight #40 (Reschedule from September 2023)	13
April 17, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	6
April 20, 2024	Vietnam Veterans of America Spouse and Survivor Benefits Seminar	0
April 20, 2024	Mission 22 Ride to Nashville	7
April 21, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	27
April 28, 2024	Support the Troops, Kokomo Indiana	0
May 4, 2024	David Brewer Annual Fling	6
May 8, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	8
May 11, 2024	Indy Honor Flight #42	7
May 15, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	7
May 17, 2024	Fowler State Bank Shred Day	12
May 17-May 19	Armed Forces Day at the Track	12
May 18, 2024	IMS POW*MIA Chair of Honor Dedication	12
May 19, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	34
May 22, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	8
May 24, 2024	500 Memorial Service	3
May 25, 2024	Hot Rods and Heroes	11

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## 2024 Chapter Events Attendance

-Continue -

Date	Event	Attendees
May 25, 2024	Hot Rods and Heroes	11
May 26, 2024	<b>Rolling Thunder XXXVI Ride for Freedom.</b>	31
May 31-June 2	INDY Gun and Blade Show	12
May 31, 2024	PVT Poulter Escort	11
June 5, 2024	Chapter Event Planning Meeting	0
June 8, 2024	Welcome Home WWII Veterans	9
June 9, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	38
June 15, 2024	Veterans Memorial Ride, Madison Indiana	22
June 28, 2024	Jeff Henderson Memorial	14
July 31, 2024	Hell to Paradise Ride	2
July 10, 2024	Chapter Event Planning Meeting	7
July 13, 2024	Never Forget our Fallen Heroes Ride, Kokomo Indiana	1
July 21, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	27
July 26, 2024	Impromptu Lunch Ride	3
July 27, 2024	Thunder off the Rail (Veterans Home Fundraiser)	0
July 27, 2024	Jason McReynolds Ride	5
July 30, 2024	9th Annual USS Indianapolis Honor Watch	15
August 3, 2024	Fallen Officer Memorial Ride, Shelbyville Indiana	2
August 7, 2024	Chapter Event Planning Meeting	6
August 10, 2024	Andrew Ray Veterans Memorial Ride, Rockville Indiana	8
August 13, 2024	Wall that Heals Morgan County, Mooresville Indiana	6
August 17, 2024	Veterans Ride Muncie Indiana.	3
August 18, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	27
August 24, 2024	<b>Veterans Center Support Event</b>	25
September 4, 2024	Chapter Event Planning Meeting	8
September 6-7	Trip to Evansville for DPAA Briefing	8
September 11, 2024	9/11 Ride	0
September 14, 2024	INDY Honor Flight #43	12
September 14, 2024	Harley Davidson Salute to Service	10
September 15, 2024	Howard County Vietnam Veterans Ride	1
September 15, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting and Elections</b>	34
September 16-23	All Veterans Ride	2
September 18, 2024	Saluting Branches at Indiana Veterans Home	6
September 19, 2024	<b>Watch Fire Ceremony, IWM</b>	12
September 20, 2024	<b>POW/MIA Recognition Day Escort and Ceremony</b>	24

- Continue on next page -

## 2024 Chapter Events Attendance

-Continue -

Date	Event	Attendees
September 20, 2024	PFC Clossie Brown Escort	14
September 20, 2024	Taylor Kiland Briefing	9
September 21, 2024	Quaker Day Parade	3
September 24, 2024	PFC Clossie Brown Funeral	9
September 25, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	7
September 28, 2024	Brody Briggs Batten Battle Ride	0
October 2, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	0
October 5, 2024	Pets Healing Vets	10
October 9, 2024	Elks Lodge POW*MIA Chair of Honor Dedication	15
October 20, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	35
October 24, 2024	Brown County Impromptu Ride	6
October 26, 2024	INDY Honor Flight #44	9
October 30, 2024	Bob Pedigo Funeral	3
November 2-4	Rolling Thunder National Conference	7
November 6, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	6
November 11, 2024	Indianapolis Veterans Day Parade	15
November 17, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting</b>	37
November 19, 2024	Jesus Quintana Funeral	11
November 27, 2024	Rushville High School POW*MIA Chair of Honor Dedication	10
December 4, 2024	Annual Project Blue Light Ceremony	8
December 7, 2024	Indiana Veterans Home BINGO	13
December 11, 2024	Jim Collins Birthday Celebration	13
December 11, 2024	Chapter Event Plaining Meeting	8
December 13, 2024	Susan Davis and David Thomas Lucheon	8
December 14, 2024	Wreath Across America	14
December 15, 2024	<b>Board/Chapter Meeting and Luncheon</b>	38

## Upcoming Events for January and February 2025

<b>January 14th</b>	Indiana Military Veterans Legislative Day (State House)
<b>January 19th</b>	Chapter Meeting and Annual Budget
<b>February 5th</b>	Chapter Event Planning Meeting
<b>February 16th</b>	Board/Chapter Meeting (Chili Cook-off)

### 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 2025 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 2025 budget and approval or disapprove the budget. It's important for the membership to know how the Chapters funds will be spent.

### 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.

### Board/Chapter Meeting and Chili Cook-off

The February Chapter meeting is the time for members to bring in a pot of Chili and show off their famous Chili recipes. The best Chili will be voted on by the membership and the winner will receive a grand prize.

You have from now until the February Chapter meeting to tweak your Chili recipe.

The Board meeting will be from 11:00 to 12:45 (**Board members only**) and the Chapter meeting will start at 13:00, everyone welcome.

# **Operation Rolling Thunder**

*Our Organization's Namesake*

(Excerpted from online articles)

**Operation Rolling Thunder** was a gradual and sustained aerial bombardment campaign conducted by the United States (U.S.) 2nd Air Division (later Seventh Air Force), U.S. Navy, and Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) against North Vietnam, China and North Korea from 2 March 1965 until 2 November 1968, during the Vietnam War.

The four objectives of the operation (which evolved over time) were 1) to boost the morale of South Vietnam; 2) to persuade North Vietnam to cease its support for the communist insurgency in South Vietnam without sending ground forces into communist North Vietnam; 3) to destroy North Vietnam's transportation system, industrial base, and air defenses; and 4) to halt the flow of men and materiel into South Vietnam. Attainment of these objectives was made difficult by both the restraints imposed upon the U.S. and its allies by Cold War exigencies, and the military aid and assistance received by North Vietnam from its communist allies, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and North Korea.

The operation became the most intense air/ground battle waged during the Cold War period; it was the most difficult such campaign fought by the United States since the aerial bombardment of Germany during World War II. Supported by its communist allies, North Vietnam fielded a potent mixture of MiG fighter-interceptor jets and sophisticated air-to-air and surface-to-air weapons that created one of the most effective air defenses ever faced by American military aviators. The limited effectiveness of the operation and the pursuit of peace talks led to the scaling back of the operation in March 1968 and its cancellation in November 1968.

Between March 1965 and November 1968, USAF aircraft had flown 153,784 attack sorties against North Vietnam, while the Navy and Marine Corps had added another 152,399. By the time the last American combat troops left Vietnam in 1973, the U.S. military had dropped some 4.6 million tons of bombs on Vietnam, compared with 653,000 tons dropped during the entire Korean War and 2.7 million tons dropped by the US and British forces in Europe and 503,000 tons in the Pacific theater during the Second World War.

Due to combat and operational circumstances, 506 USAF, 397 Navy and 19 Marine Corps aircraft were lost over or near North Vietnam. During the operation, of the 745 crewmen shot down, the USAF recorded 145 rescued, 255 killed, 222 captured (23 of whom died in captivity) and 123 missing. Figures on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps casualties were harder to come by. During the 44-month time frame, 454 naval aviators were killed, captured, or missing during combined operations over North Vietnam and Laos.

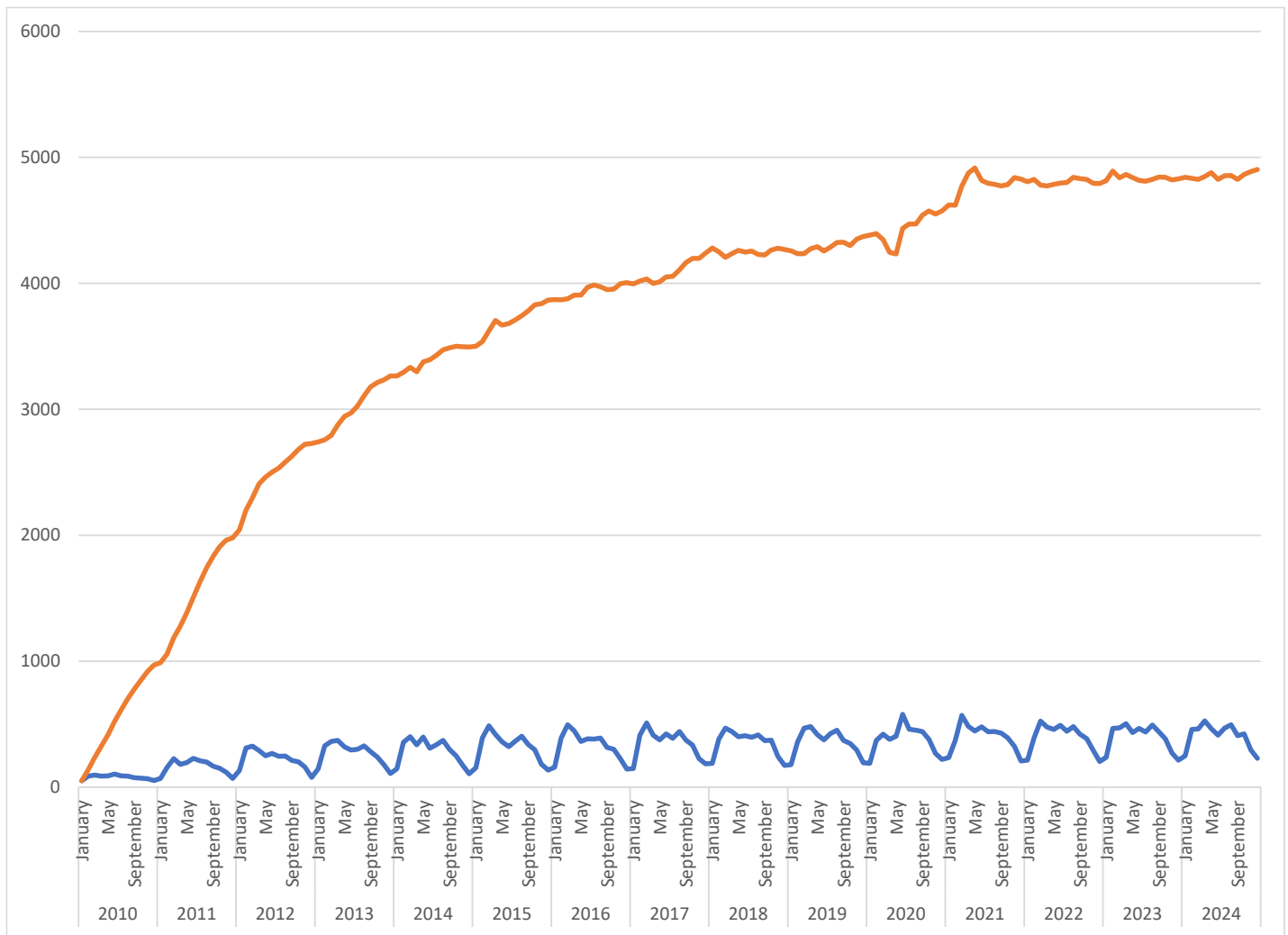
Unexploded ordnance left over from Operation Rolling Thunder and other bombing campaigns of the Vietnam War has killed or injured tens of thousands of Vietnamese, by some estimates, since the United States withdrew its combat troops in 1973.

**Regardless of the negativity of our society in those days, we owe all of our heroes our respect and our thanks for their service and the sacrifice of so many...**

***Edited by:** Terry 'Flash' Sanderson  
December 11, 2024*

## Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plates on the Streets

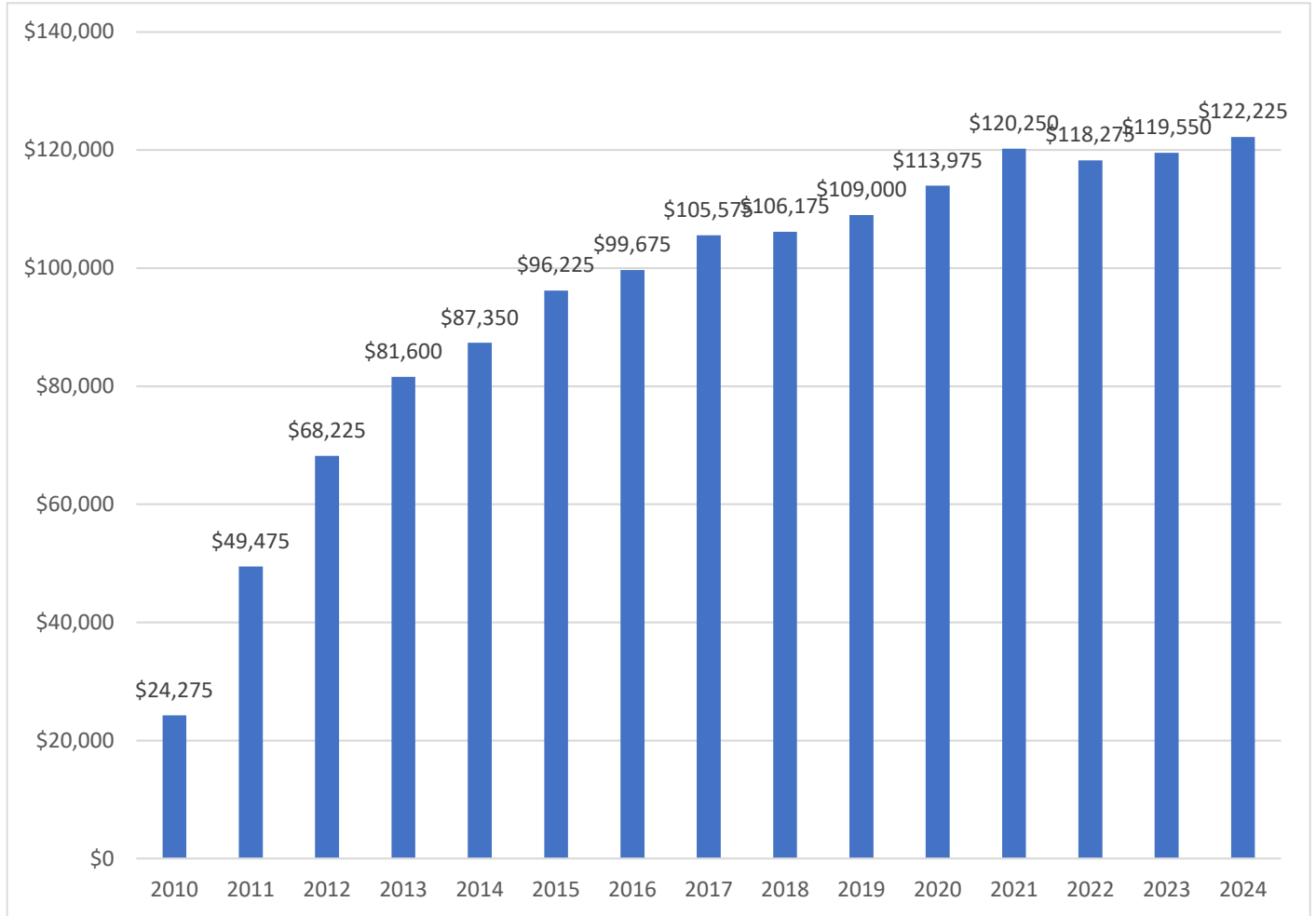
As of December 31, 2024



As of December 31, 2024, we have **4,903** 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). **230** plates were Renewed/Sold in December 2024. **We have sold/renewed 73 more plates in 2024 compared to 2023. This is a 1.5% increase in sales.**

## Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate Fund

From 2010 to 2024



Since the introduction of the Indiana POW/MIA Specialty Plate in January 2010, the plate has generated an estimated **\$1,421,850**. 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.

**We have exceeded the 2023 plate sales by \$2,675. Keep the good work up.**



## 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, 2025**. 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](http://www.indianarollingthunder.com).

**Never Forget the Families that have given all**



## Total Accounted for in FY 2025: 20

### Accounted-For by War

**WWII (13)**

**Korea (6)**

**Cold War (0)**

**Vietnam/Laos (1)**

## Indiana Heroes that have been Identified

<b>Name</b>	<b>DOL</b>	<b>Identified</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>HOR</b>
<b>F3C Alferd E. Livingston</b>	12-7-1941	2-1-2007	7-21-2007	USS Oklahoma	Worthington
<b>1st Class Paul A. Nash</b>	12-7-1941	4-15-2015	6-30-2016	USS Oklahoma	Carlisle
<b>1LT Robert L. McIntosh</b>	5-12-1944	8-1-2015	8-13-2016	Italy	Tipton
<b>3rd Class Francis L. Hannon</b>	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
<b>PFC Marvin E. Dickson</b>	11-13-1944	9-27-2018	6-8-2019	Germany	Indianapolis
<b>MSG Charles H. McDaniel</b>	11-1-1950	9-12-2018	10-27-2018	Korea	Greenwood
<b>PFC Army Clifford M. Mills</b>	9-18-1944	1-29-2019	3-30-2019	Germany	Troy
<b>SEA1 Oris V. Brandt</b>	12-7-1941	2-20-2019		USS Oklahoma	Kentland
<b>TSGT Charles G. Ruble</b>	9-17-1944	5-31-2019	3-2-2020	Netherlands	Parker City
<b>PVT USMC William E. Ramboo</b>	11-20-1943	7-13-2019		Betio Island	LaPorte
<b>PFC USMC Marley R. Arthurholtz</b>	12-7-1941	9-18-2019	12-7-2019	USS Oklahoma	South Bend
<b>PFC USMC Louis Wiesshan</b>	11-21-1943	9-23-2019	6-11-2020	Tarawa Atoll	Richmond
<b>SEA1 Maurice V. Spangler</b>	12-7-1941	3-27-2020		USS Oklahoma	Ft. Wayne
<b>CPO B. James Booe</b>	12-7-1941	9-29-2020	6-1-2021	USS Oklahoma	Veedersburg
<b>2nd Class Harold F. Trapp</b>	12-7-1941	11-24-2020		USS Oklahoma	LaPorte
<b>3Rd Class Willaim H. Trapp</b>	12-7-1941	11-24-2020		USS Oklahoma	LaPorte
<b>PFC USMC Charles D. Miller</b>	11-22-1943	5-19-2020		Tarawa Atoll	Albany
<b>SGT Stanley Lee Dewitt</b>	11-1-1950	6-5-2020	10-19-2021	Chosen Reservoir	Royal City
<b>George Gilbert</b>	12-7-941	8-24-2020	6-6-2022	USS Oklahoma	Indianapolis
<b>SFC James A. Coleman</b>	10-3-1952	5-23-2022	10-19-2022	Korea	Hillsdale
<b>SGT Charles Garrigus</b>	12-1-1950	8-2-2022	3-7-2023	Chosen Reservoir	Terre Haute

## POW/MIA Affairs Committee

### Continue

#### Indiana Heroes that have been Identified

Name	DOL	Identified	Returned	County	HOR
<b>PFC Leonard E. Adams</b>	1-21-1945	7-20-2022	6-13-2023	France	Dana
<b>2LT Gene F. Walker</b>	11-24-1944	7-21-2023		Germany	Richmond
<b>PFC Clossie D. Brown</b>	1-21-1945	4-25-2024		France	Kirkin
<b>MSG Wallace Simmons JR</b>	12-6-1950	6-20-2024		Chosin Reservoir	Marion, CO

## 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.**

## 2025 Membership Dues

In accordance with the National constitution, the membership dues are required to be paid to National by March to remain a member in good standing.

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 members in good standing, 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, **but no later than February 16, 2025**. We do appreciate your membership.



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
<b>Leave No Man Behind</b>	Bill Bell
<b>Why Didn't You Get Me Out</b>	Frank Aton
Kiss The Boys Goodbye	Monika Jensen-Stevenson & William Stevenson
Betrayed	Joseph D. Douglass, Jr
<b>Still Waiting</b>	Linda Cope
<b>An Enormous Crime</b>	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)	<a href="http://www.dpaa.mil/">http://www.dpaa.mil/</a>
Biographies on Prisoners of War and Missing in Action	<a href="http://www.pownetwork.org/bios.htm">http://www.pownetwork.org/bios.htm</a>
Rolling Thunder National	<a href="http://www.rollingthunder1.com/">http://www.rollingthunder1.com/</a>
National League of POW/MIA Families	<a href="http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/">http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/</a>
Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 1	<a href="http://www.indianarollingthunder.com/">http://www.indianarollingthunder.com/</a>
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	<a href="http://esgr.mil/in">http://esgr.mil/in</a>
Veterans Support Council of Marion County	<a href="http://www.vscmc.com/">http://www.vscmc.com/</a>
Veterans Events	<a href="http://www.veteranevents.org/">http://www.veteranevents.org/</a>
American Ex-Prisoners of War	<a href="http://www.axpow.org/default.htm">http://www.axpow.org/default.htm</a>

## 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**



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
Gary L. Porter, Charter Member, June 7, 2024	Ralph Coulter, Member July 6, 2024