



ROLLING THUNDER®

NH-1 NEWSLETTER



WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T

May 2011, Volume 10, Issue 3

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Meetings are at 7:30 PM the first Tuesday of each month at the Epping American Legion Hall, Post 51, located on Rte 125, across from Telly's Restaurant Epping, New Hampshire.

A Note from the President



Jeffrey "Doc" Stewart
President
RT NH Chpt. I

President's Corner May 2011

Well Spring and the riding season is under full force and in true Rolling Thunder fashion we have events and activities booked throughout the season. We will do our best to represent at any events that fall into the param-

eters of our Mission to educate the Public about the POW-MIA issue and support Veterans from all previous Wars.

I do want to take a final moment to thank each and everyone who gave a hand, showed support, and/or came and celebrated our 10th Anniversary as the First New Hampshire Chartered Chapter of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. THANK YOU!!

We are getting ready to head down to Washington DC for our 24th Demonstration Ride from the Pentagon Parking lot to the Vietnam Memorial in support and remembrance of those service personnel who have been and still are Prisoners-of-War or Missing-in-Action. We currently have service personnel fighting for our County and everyday they are overseas away from Family and Friends doing as our Government directs – doing so honorably, courageously, and skillfully – they need to know that we back at home greatly appreciate their service, will honor them upon their return, and will ensure that they are not forgotten should they become POW's or MIA's. Our duty as Americans, Veterans, and Members of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to be vocal about the issues facing their return and to ensure should they not return that no-one forgets who they are and what they did!! Memorial Day to many has become a BBQ and time off from work – but for us it is a day to remember, celebrate our freedoms, and thank those who sacrificed in order for us to be able to BBQ and take a day off from work.

To the members of Rolling Thunder®, to our Friends and Supporters, and most importantly to the past and present service personnel – THANK YOU!

Good Health and Safe Travels!!

Jeffrey "Doc" Stewart
President RT NH Chpt. 1

In this issue:

President's Corner.....	1
New England Director's Corner.....	2
Thunder News.....	2
Website of the Month.....	3-5
Recent Happenings.....	5
In the Know.....	6-7
Recent and Upcoming Events.....	8
Upcoming Events.....	14

The Director's Corner May 2011

May is here already, many have been out riding and taking advantage of the dry days. At the end of this month is Rolling Thunder XXIV, the most important event for Rolling Thunder each year. This is our Demonstration Ride in Washington DC to let the World know that our POW/MIA's are not forgotten. It is what we are about and I hope to see many of you make the trip down this year. For those going for the 1st time, be prepared to face the "Shock & Awe" of this event, and the solemn nature of some of the events such as the Candlelight Vigil. Be safe on the way down, and on the return. Work hard as we, the Chapters, put this on, but at the same time allow some time to reflect on why we are there and what we do.

From here going forward, we will only get busier. The weekends fill with events and people and groups pulling at you for your time. Do the best you can to fill the obligations, prioritizing by the Mission Statement. Remember to support those who support you!! It is sometimes hard, but if need be, split your group up to attend two important events happening at the same time. Learn to politely say no (and why) when you are already committed and someone is looking for another "piece" of you. It is not possible to do everything so do what you can and do it well!

Rolling Thunder New England has been very successful in the past year. The Chapters have all had accomplishments to be proud of and I am confident that going forward we will continue to grow and generate Pride. We have two new Chapters in RI 1 and NH 2, NH 1 just celebrated its 10th anniversary and MA 1 lead by Joe D has been on a mission to distribute (and assure they fly them) POW/MIA Flags. VT has been working on growth and both them and ME continue to work diligently for the mission and our Veterans. To each one of you, I am proud of your accomplishments and ask that you continue your quest for "Full Accountability" under the Rolling Thunder Banner.

As a reminder, and I realize that it is the same weekend as the Regional Gathering but August 5th and 6th is the annual Cross Border Run. We support the Canadian Vietnam Veterans of Quebec and honor those men and women who crossed the border from Canada to fight and die alongside the American Military in Vietnam. I will be riding up the morning of the 5th to honor them and welcome any who wish to join me for this tribute.

Be Safe out there, keep our military in your thoughts and prayers and thank you all for what you do.

Patrick McGhie

NE States Director

pmcghie@comcast.net



Thunder News

Welcome to Rolling Thunder (R), Inc, New Hampshire Chapter One

January

Jason Bloxham
Shannon Bloxham
Catherine Brown
Robert Brown
Jon Dion
Mark Ryland

March

Kevin Rautenberg

April

James Constantin
John Domenicis
Jill Jette

A reminder that to get their patches they need to have paid \$50 by their first 120 days of membership - 3 meetings/3 events and \$100 one year from the date of receiving the boot patch.

Website of the Month

The National League of POW/MIA Families

<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/League/Updates.html>

Latest Update

April 22, 2011

AMERICANS IDENTIFIED: There are now 1,693 Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO just posted the news that the remains of U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Glenn D. McElroy and Captain John M. Nash, both previously missing from Laos, have been identified and will be returned to their families for interment with the honors earned. The remains of both officers were jointly recovered November 11, 2008 and identified February 5, 2010. No reason was given for the extended delay in posting the accounting for these two US army officers.

The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 890; another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 953. Of the 1,693 unreturned American veterans from the Vietnam War, our POW/MIAs, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam – 1,300 (VN-477, VS-823); Laos – 328; Cambodia – 58; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters – 7. Over 450 were over-water losses.

LEAGUE DELEGATION BACK FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA: League Executive Director Ann Mills-Griffiths and Senior Policy Advisor Richard T. Childress met with US and foreign officials in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia over the last three weeks. The delegation traveled first to Laos, where they visited two excavation sites in the south, then on to Vietnam on March 16th and to Cambodia on March 20th, before returning to Bangkok on March 23rd and back to the US. A summary report was published in the April 11th League Newsletter.

Discussions in Laos brought progress that may, at long last, finally result in Lao Government agreement for participation by DIA's Stony Beach specialist in POW/MIA investigations. Other issues were raised, including the need for Vietnam's archives to address cases of US personnel missing in Laos. Despite US failure to respond to Vietnam's 2009 proposal to expand the pace and scope of field operations (due to inaction by Congress to allocate funding), Vietnam reiterated its hope that such expansion would soon occur, offered to positively consider any initiatives we wish to propose, agreed more can be done on archival research and provision of records and agreed to work bilaterally and multilaterally (with the US, Laos and Cambodia) to expand opportunities for greater results in locating relevant archives. In Cambodia, there is willingness to respond positively to any request made by the US. Authorization comes directly from the Prime Minister to Cambodian POW/MIA Committee Chairman General Pol Saroeun, Chief of the Cambodian Armed Forces and his Deputy, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Interior Sieng Lapresse. All members of the Cambodian POW/MIA Committee are very senior and cooperate closely with DIA's two Stony Beach specialists in Phnom Penh, as well as with JPAC when conducting joint field operations.

ACCOUNTING COOPERATION: WWII-related investigations and remains recovery operations are ongoing in Papua New Guinea, and Korean War-related recoveries in South Korea. There are currently no Joint Field Activities (JFAs) ongoing in Southeast Asia; however, technical talks will take place in Hanoi on April 27th. These will be the first such discussions since the League Delegation and the resultant proposal to renew multi-lateral technical efforts to access and utilize relevant archival documents, primarily from Vietnam, that expedite joint operations to account for missing US personnel, especially along Vietnam's borders with Laos and Cambodia. Although the concept is in the early planning stage, it is important that momentum not be lost and that JPAC Commander, MG Stephen Tom, raise the proposal in general terms as worthwhile to pursue.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Admiral Robert Willard, USN, Commander of the US Pacific Command (PACOM) approved a waiver request, signed by a senior official in the US Defense Department, that will permit US personnel to travel via MI-17 helicopters to remote incident sites. The year-long waiver reportedly went into effect on April 15th. Earlier, a scheduled January 14th JFA had to be canceled due to the lack of helicopter support and the Lao Government's unwillingness to permit the teams to travel by truck on surface roads. In POW/MIA Consultations, the Lao approved issuing 45-day visas that will enable 30-day operations at sites to be extended, if needed, for completion. The Lao also supported JPAC requests related to team safety that are most welcome. There are still several steps that must be addressed before the helicopter situation is fully resolved, but JFAs were recently conducted in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

FUTURE OF US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS STILL UNCLEAR: All veteran and family groups support General Robert Foglesong, USAF (Ret) and his efforts to ensure that the USRJC remains valid, productive and independent. White House clarification is expected very soon.

42nd ANNUAL MEETING JULY 21-24, 2011: This year's annual meeting is important; YOU can help by being there. Governmental transitions have taken place, as have changes within the POW/MIA Community, and there is much to decide in terms of the League's and the issue's future. Opening Session will be on Thursday, July 21st, 9:00 a.m. There will be two very full days of presentations by senior US and League officials, briefings by analytic personnel, field operators, scientists and guest presenters on the complete range of issue-related policy and operational matters. A three-hour Question & Answer Session with US officials will be held on Saturday morning, July 23rd, followed by the bylaw-required League Business Session.

The 42nd Annual Dinner & Candlelight Ceremony will be on Thursday, July 21st, an event that is always inspirational. Cost this year is again \$55.00 per person. On Friday night, we have requested a concert at historic Ft. Myer. BINGO Night will conclude all activities on Saturday night, July 23rd.

Reservations can now be made at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel. Call 1-800-HILTONS (800-445-8667), noting affiliation with the League's 42nd Annual Meeting, or go to www.hilton.com, and use Group Code "POW" to get the special rate of \$149.00 (plus taxes) per room, per night, single or double. Deadline to secure the special rate is June 22nd, but the block of rooms is limited, so early reservations are encouraged to ensure desired accommodations are available.

Registration: The form to register for the 42nd Annual Meeting is online at the League's website or contact the League office to obtain a copy. It was also sent out to all League members as an enclosure to the April 11th Newsletter, with the flyer on Program Ad Rates on the reverse. Simply complete and return the form to the League office with your check for the registration fee (\$50.00 per League member; \$60.00 for non-League-members), plus \$55.00 per person for the 42nd Annual Dinner and Candlelight Ceremony. This form is also available from the League's web site: www.pow-miafamilies.org.

Transportation: As stipulated by Congress, the Secretary of Defense is expected to again authorize transportation (COIN Assist) for two family members representing each Vietnam War missing and unaccounted for US serviceman and civilian to attend the annual meeting during which official briefings will be given. Service Casualty Offices (SCOs) will be sending information to some (not all) family members about the annual meeting (too often with VERY confusing content) and forms to complete for requesting COIN Assist transportation, file reviews, attendance at Service-hosted luncheons, and transportation to the Friday evening concert. In authorizing COIN Assist, Congressional intent was to ensure that each unaccounted for American would be represented at the League's annual meetings.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Please help spread the word: All family members are eligible to attend League annual meetings at which official briefings will be given, though some League events are open only to those who register for the full League 42nd Annual Meeting. If you have questions, please call the League office, 703-465-7432.

Silent Auction: There will again be a Silent Auction, smaller in scope and open fewer hours. Sorely as are needed the funds generated by this highly successful event, it is very labor-intensive and demanding. Nevertheless, in view of the tremendous success each year, we are again seeking suitable items for display and purchase. Please be very selective. Bring the item(s) with you and deliver them to the Auction Room, 1st floor of the Hilton, adjacent to the Military Service Casualty Offices, or send them to the League office. Please send or bring an itemized list, with each item's value.

Program Ad Rates: Each year, the League publishes a beautiful program that includes individual ads honoring missing US personnel, organizational ads with best wishes to the families gathered for the meeting, ads promoting POW/MIA-related and other products, etc. The yellow insert provides the 2011 Program Ad Rates. The deadline for receipt of ads is June 30th. If possible, email your camera-ready ad to powmiafam@aol.com, and mail a copy with payment to the League office.

Recent Happenings

Rolling Thunder, Inc. New Hampshire Chapter 1 10th Anniversary

What a Great evening. Walking in the door to the event, members where each handed a commemorative challenge coin. Junior members walked around the room working very hard to raise money via donations for care packages, they did a great job talking to everyone there.



Once in the room I took a moment to look at the coin. Each coin has an eagle whos wings are made of the American Flag and the POW/MIA flag and boldly stating at the eagles feet "You are not forgotten".

Entering the room, there was a very celebratory spirit amongst all that where there. The room was filled with Rolling Thunder members as well as other organizations members who showed to celebrate our 10 years. Delicious appetizers where

being served by wait staff to the tables full of people around the room. Everyone was taking, laughing and enjoying themselves.

Janice Jolly, Chapter Treasurer, sang a lovely rendition of the National Anthem for the room.

Richard Borghi, Chapter Chaplin, then lead us all in prayer.

The mission statement was read and there were some other remarks and such, but the part that really got to me was the Missing Man Table. Our Junior Members, Kyrra Robicheau, Zachary Bennett, and Max Stewart helped with placing each item as the meaning of each item was read aloud. Afterwards everyone raised a glass to toast those who couldn't be there.



IN THE KNOW

New Hampshire Medal of Honor

Saturday December 11, 2010

Governor John Lynch, together with Adjutant General Major General William Reddel, honored New Hampshire's fallen soldiers with the New Hampshire Medal of Honor.

This is the first time New Hampshire has offered the medal since Governor John Lynch signed a law in 2007 that created the New Hampshire Medal of Honor.

To be a qualified recipient of this medal one must have been a New Hampshire citizen who lost their life in the line of duty, since November 4th 1979. The following rules are additional requirements:

* Engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

* Engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force;

* Assigned as military personnel to friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party;

* Serving in a combat zone as designated by Presidential order;

* Engaged in training in preparation for deployment to a combat zone as designated by Presidential order;

* Serving in the military and killed as a result of a terrorist act.

The State of New Hampshire, with undying gratitude for their service and in deep admiration of their selfless devotion to duty and country, most humbly presents the New Hampshire Medal of Honor.

This commemorative medal personifies the dignity, integrity, and valor of the brave servicemen and service-women who have proudly represented their home state and given "the last full measure of devotion" in defense of their country.

The following is the description submitted with the artist, Andre Belanger of Berlin, New Hampshire.

Visual Content:

1. The Medal consists of a multi-colored cloth ribbon from which a similarly colored metal pendant is suspended.

2. The colors of the ribbon are pale blue, deep green, white, gray, and purple.

3. The colors on the metal pendant are deep green, purple, and black; the metal colors of the pendant are brown, patina bronze, polished bronze, and gold.

4. The metal pendant is die-cut into a ten-pointed star with an open oval panel in the center of the ten-pointed star.

5. On the oval panel, there is lettering that reads "The State of New Hampshire Medal of Honor"; there are also nine stars on this panel.

6. Superimposed on the oval are the shape of the State of New Hampshire and a relief sculpture of the head of a North American Bald Eagle.

7. The connecting metal joint between the ribbon and the pendant is a small horizontal panel that in bronze with black letters that reads "Live Free or Die".

8. In the center of the pendant, "behind" the eagle, there is a black enamel panel with one polished, five-pointed star; the star is slightly larger than the nine stars on the oval of the pendant.



The medal was designed by Andre Belanger of Berlin, NH.

Design Content:

The colors and their significance on the ribbon are as follows:

1. Four pale blue stripes: the waters and life-giving forces in New Hampshire, the ocean, lakes, rivers and streams.

2. Two wider deep green stripes: the deep forest and agricultural lands that are the natural elements in New Hampshire.

3. Two white stripes: the snow covered White Mountains.

4. Two gray stripes: granite, the bedrock of New Hampshire.

5. One dominant purple stripe: valor, reminiscent of The Purple Heart, also, the state flower, the purple lilac.

6. All the stripes are vertical: leading upwards, and pointing directly to the pendant.

The colors, shapes, iconography, and their significance in the pendant are as follows:

1. A ten-pointed star: from the clear night sky, ten counties in New Hampshire, and the valleys and peaks in New Hampshire, and in life.

2. An oval: the continuum of life, hope, never-ending, always beginning.

3. Nine stars in order: New Hampshire, the ninth state to ratify the constitution.

4. The North American Bald Eagle: symbol of the United States of America. This head portrait in profile is fully-detailed to signify the many facets and characteristics that make up this Nation. The eagle's mouth is closed as if there is no way to express appropriately, with its voice, anything at this solemn time. The eagle is however, stern and majestic, reaching forward in flight, soaring in dignity and in peace.

5. The shape of the State of New Hampshire; polished and smooth. Every part of New Hampshire is one. It reflects and mirrors the emotions of the families and loved ones of the recipient. Its unique shape is unblemished.

6. State motto on the connecting metal joint in black letters: the purpose of life lived and lost by the recipient.

7. One polished gold star in a black-field: the individual honored by New Hampshire and the Nation, the Gold Star Family.

Information for this article was gathered from the following websites:

Office of the Governor Website

<http://www.governor.nh.gov/media/news/2010/120710-medal-of-honor.htm>

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
<http://www.nh.gov/nharts/newsandcalendar/e-news/Breaking%20News/080808.htm>

Information also taken from the Pamphlet handed out at the ceremony.



**Boscowen Veterans Cemetary
Spring Clean up**

April 16, 2011

Thank you to everyone who showed up to help clean up the Cemetery. Cleaning was scheduled to be from 10:30 to 12:00. The clean up itself only took about an hour thanks to everyone that showed up including members and members of other clubs. Also, thank you to those of you who helped with the fall clean up. By your efforts to help out it made the spring cleaning a bit easier of a job. To the right area few photos during the cleaning.



**11TH ANNUAL RUN
FOR THE LIBERTY
HOUSE VETERANS
SHELTER
AUGUST 20, 2011**

Photo of Riders During the Liberty House Run for the Shelter.

Please join us for a motorcycle trip from the Liberty House Veterans Shelter in Manchester, NH to the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH and then back to the House for some great festivities. All funds raised during this event support the House. For more information, please contact 'K' McCarthy, Community Outreach Coordinator, at libertyhouse75@aol.com.

Liberty House, a 501 C (3) non-profit located in Manchester, is the FIRST NH Transitional Home for homeless, honorably discharged, American Veterans.

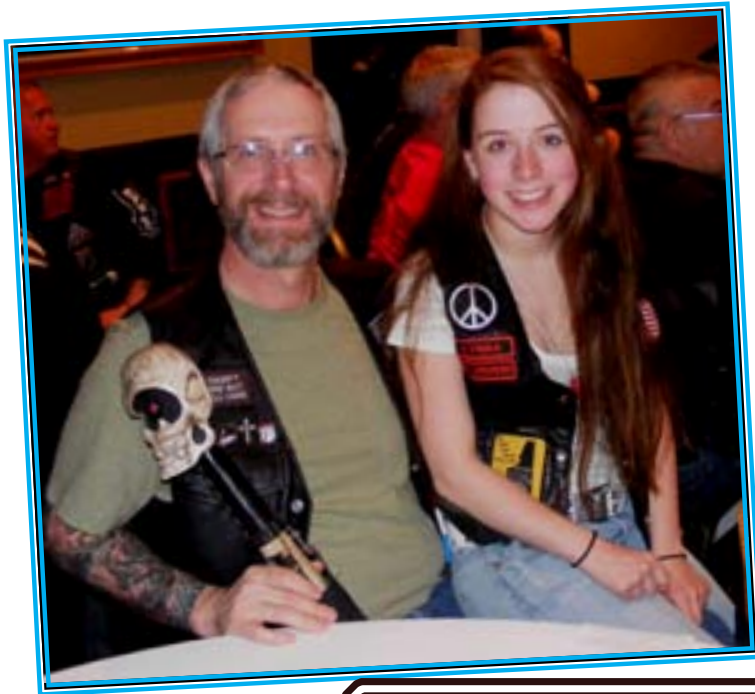
You can always help Liberty House by making a donation. For more information, please contact 'K' at libertyhouse75@aol.com. Donations are tax deductible. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



10th Anniversary Photos



10th Anniversary Photos



Poker Run

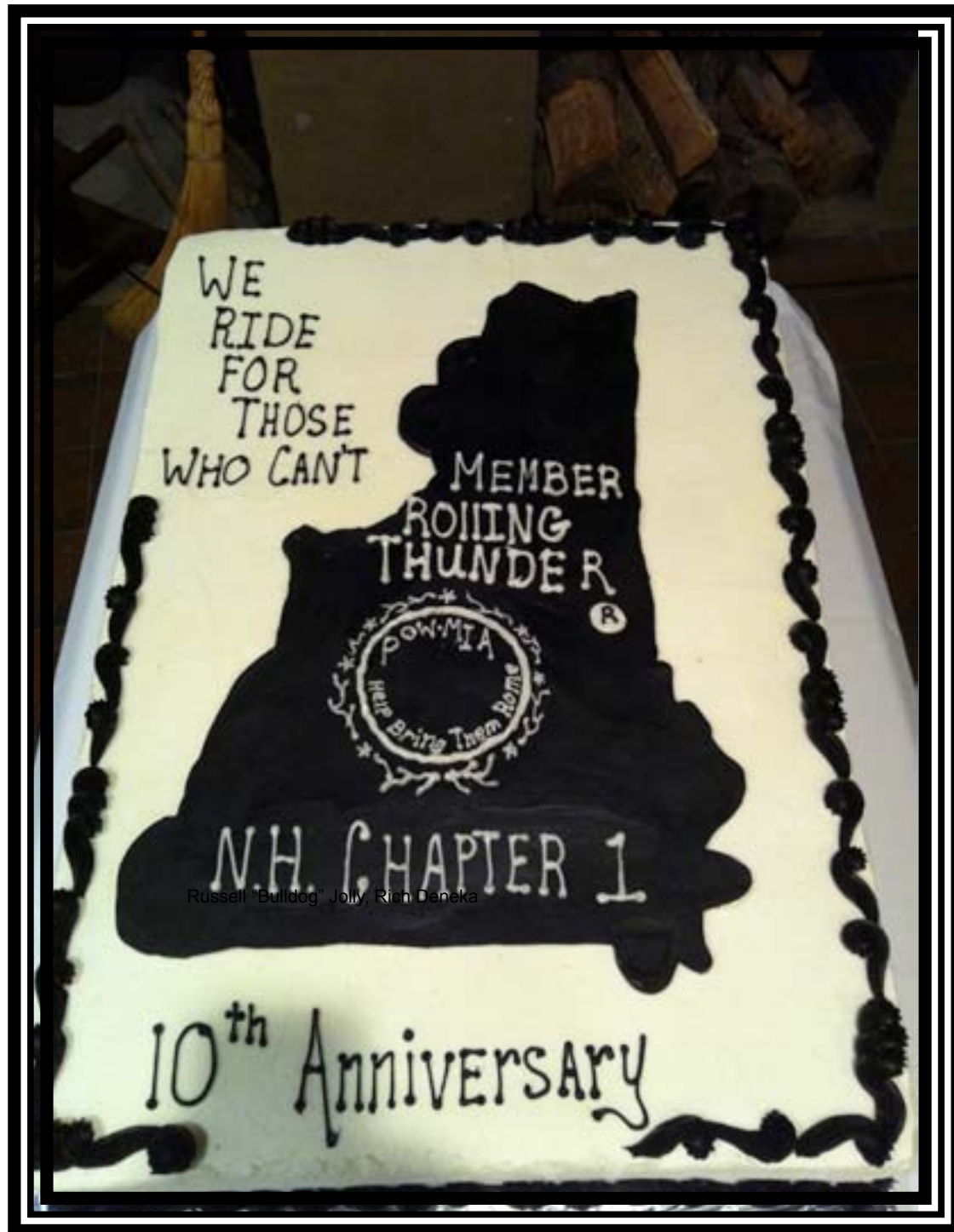
10th Anniversary Photos



Rolling Thunder® members



10th Anniversary Cake



POW/MIA Summary Statistics

	World War II	Korean War	Cold War	Vietnam War	Desert Storm	Total
Missing in Action (MIA)						
Total MIA	73,792	8,003	127	1,693	0	83,615

Data Last Updated 02 March 2011

Upcoming Events

1st Wednesday of the month: Monthly POW/MIA Vigil - Manchester NH, 7pm

2nd Wednesday of the month: New Hampshire Chapter 2 Meeting

Every Thursday: Weekly POW/MIA Vigil - Meredith NH, 7pm

July 16, 2011: Granite State Thunder Run V

July 23, 2011: Regional ME2 Shelter Run

July 24, 2011: New Hampshire Veteran's Home BBQ

August 6, 2011: Rolling Thunder New England's regional event

August 13, 2011: NHMS Day Regional Granite State Poker Run - NH2

August 14, 2011: NHMS Day Regional MA1 - Ride for Freedom

August 20, 2011: Liberty House's Run for the Shelter

August 27, 2011: Rollin's Ride

Rolling Thunder® New Hampshire Chapter 1
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Each and every individual donates his or her time because they believe in the issues at hand!