

Rolling Thunder® NH-1 Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 12

December 2008



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From the President

Well here we are at the end of the year already – Wow the Season has flown by!! As we wrap up

the end of year items and get things lined up for 2009, please take a serious look at why you joined Rolling Thunder® New Hampshire Chapter I.

I wrote last month about National's reminder of "Get Back To Basics" as it relates to our Mission. We have several items on our table to address in 2009. Some of these items are directly related to the growth in our Chapter, some items are due to an increase in reporting requirements locally and nationally. These are items that require our action and believe it or not, are good things to deal with. We are growing. We are gaining recognition. As a result of the increased growth and wider recognition we have additional responsibilities. We need to ensure that our operations and public exposure is conducted in a more business-like and deliberate fashion. These requirements can sometimes pull us away from what we would rather be doing – educating the public on the POW-MIA history and situation and supporting Veteran's Rights and issues. However, they still need to be completed.

We are a volunteer organization and rely on members giving freely of their time and talents. I ask that each of you reflect on why you became a

member of RT NH Chpt. I. What is your motivation for being a member? If you are here to support our Mission and support the POW/MIA awareness and Veteran issues then you are in the right group. I am very excited on what is in our immediate future. I truly believe that we have an outstanding group of members that are dedicated to our Mission. We will overcome any challenges that are placed before us. Our key to success is to keep focus on our Mission, keep our eyes open for opportunities to excel, be true to the memories of those that have and still continue to give the utmost sacrifices as MIA's or POW's. We will Never Forget those that have given their Lives to support this Great Country. We will keep our actions focused on our goal to educate the Public on Veteran issues. These components are what drive this Chapter. These components are what should drive your desire to be a part of this. This is what unites us as a Chapter and part of a very large national organization – Rolling Thunder®, Inc.

I look forward to 2009. I welcome our challenges. And I thank each of you for being part of this Group and our Mission.

I wish all of you a Great Holiday and a Safe, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

Jeffrey "Doc" Stewart
President RT NH Chpt. 1

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New Hampshire Chapter 1 Holiday Family Remembrances



PVT. Kaitlyn Cavallaro

My name is Robin Cavallaro, and I am a proud member of Rolling Thunder NH1. I have 3 out of 4 of my children in the armed forces and one daughter-in-law. My sons and daughter-in-law are Air Force and my daughter is Army. As a mother, I couldn't be more proud of them and I wish them all the best for this Christmas season, as we celebrate together. This will be the first Christmas in a long time that we are all together and they are state side. God, has returned them safely after 2 tours each overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I also want to thank all veterans who have served and are serving, those who have lost their lives, and those who are still MIA and POW's, they are truly our guardian angels. I also would ask for prayers for my younger son Jeff and his wife, Ashley as they will be deploying on January 21st for their third tour in Iraq. Thank you and God Bless!!!!



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Dear Dad,
You have always made me so proud of who you were as a person. You always gave 100% of your attention to whoever was talking to you. Well this also was true in your service to our country. You served in the army air corps and defended our freedoms while risking your life. You gave 100% and I am so proud of you for that. I don't think I ever told you that while you were alive. For that I'm sorry. I love you ,Dad. Merry Christmas.

All my love, Becky Suchovsky



Arthur J. Jolly U.S. Marine 1950-1962 He held a rank of E6 and served his country proudly and with courage in the Korean War. During his service he was married and had three boys, which all became Marines. Two of the boys are listed here and the last one, I have no picture for,..Pictures of **Russell** and **Arthur Jr.** in their uniforms (left). - **Dennis J. Jolly** served in the Marines from 1976-1978 with a rank of E1 and served as a grunt.

After Arthur's discharge, he had two more children, daughters. Arthur's was a Police Officer in Lynn, MA. He later passed away from Cancer. Merry Christmas Arthur,

we wish you peace. I want to thank Arthur, Dennis, Arthur Jr. and of course my Husband Russell for proudly serving in the Marine Corp. and wish them all a Merry Christmas. Russell J. Jolly served in the Marines from 1976 - 1979 with a rank of E3 and served as an Aircraft Firefighter. Arthur J. Jolly Jr. (Cubby) served in the Marines from 1977 - 1981 with a rank of E4 and served as a grunt.

"RUDY" MARAMALDI Served in the U.S.



Navy from 1943-1947 in WWII. He was aboard the U.S.S. Bremerton. Rudy lost 50% of his hearing due to explosions from the War. After discharge, he was married and had four children. My Dad passed away 12/6/06.

I love you Dad, and miss you every day. I thank you for your service to this

country and the sacrifices you made for all of us. Merry Christmas:

Janice Maramaldi Jolly

New Hampshire Chapter 1 Holiday Family Remembrances

(Continued from page 2)

My Uncle Bob was a Seaman 1st Class US Navy during World War II. He born in 1922 and was killed in action on July 8, 1944 when a German V-2 rocket hit his ship, an LST, while sailing through the English Channel. He was 22 years old. His name is enshrined at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Seaman 1st Class Wm. C. Hook is buried in Pine Crest Cemetery, Guild, NH. My Grandmother, Catherine Hook, was one of the first Gold Star mothers in Kellyville, NH. She displayed the Gold Star in the front window of her home until her death in 1968. I missed all those things that Uncles do. I think of him often. I keep him in my prayers.

Top Ricker

End of the Year Thoughts from Too Tall



Wow, What a year it's been. December and the Holidays in general are a double edge sword to me. It's a time of great celebration with family and friends and a time of remembrance. our organization has had many gains this year. And with the help of each other We

are finding our way s to deal with our Great loss. I for one know I am a much better person because I can say Lisa was my friend. I'll always Miss her

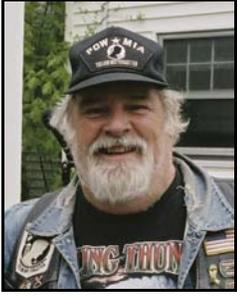
Our membership has grown by leaps and bounds and you should all be proud of the organization you have created. Webster's defines organization as *A structure through which individuals cooperate systematically to conduct business.* And I cannot think of a business more important than assisting our veterans and continuing to pursue the full accountability of or POW/MIA's.

The coming year promises to bring many challenges to Rolling Thunder. None of which we can't handle. A wise and very old man once told me "When in doubt, Read the mission statement" None of us can attend all of the events that come up but we must make every effort to support the ones we can.

In closing, Please Please stay close with family and loved ones this Christmas. For me, they are my foundation. Remember the men and women providing us with our freedoms and sacrificing their time with family so we can have ours. Never ever forget our POW/MIA's.

Merry Christmas to you all!!!
Too Tall

The Director's Corner *by Pat McGhie, RTNE Regional Director*



Here we are in December, the next time I write this column, we will be in "next year", 2009! The year has been good, Rolling Thunder has accomplished a lot of things this year. This is a direct result of the individual Chapters and the effort of their members. Thank you all, I applaud you for your efforts. At the same time, we need to remember our mission is not complete. The Missing have not all been accounted for and there are many veterans who need our help.

As you celebrate the Holidays with your families, take a moment to reflect on the Missing who are not with their families, those serving today who are deployed, and those who made the Supreme Sacrifice and will never be with their families. Let them be "Not Forgotten".

Heading into 2009, New England as a whole is doing well. The Chapters are planning to each name a Primary Event and we will be asking for maximum support from all members to those events. Imagine the presence that will be shown when members from 4 Rolling Thunder Chapters are lining up for your event.

At our Regional meeting, we also discussed the possibility of an All New England Event as a joint venture by all the Chapters. A fact finding committee with a member from each Chapter will be formed to meet after the Holidays and discuss this idea.

The message from National Conference was "Back To Basics". Refresh your mind on the Mission Statement, understand and renew your commitment to that Mission. We are here for "them", the POW/MIA's and all of our Veterans in need. We all need to check our ego's at the door, focus on what we can do for others and work together to achieve a common goal. Conserve our energy's for the Mission, lets not waste it on items of personal interest or squabbling over those things that do not have much meaning when we compare it to what our POW's and Wounded Warriors have and are going through.

Closing now, I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season. Never forget our POW's and MIA's and keep those serving today in your thoughts and prayers.

Patrick McGhie
NE States Director
 pmcghie@comcast.net



Gulf War Syndrome is *REAL*

by Jim Chisholm, Legislative Liaison

Why exactly should Rolling Thunder work to develop an ability to advocate strongly for veterans, on many issues, in a non-partisan and professional manner? Maybe because veterans lives and well-being depends on it. Here's the proof, regarding something that effects some of our own NH members. After over 20 years of denials, the Congress has released a reports which states that Gulf War Syndrome is **REAL** and effects as many as **25%** of the 700,000 U.S. military personnel that served there. This syndrome was connected with the neurotoxin effects of exposure to two chemicals; one which protected against nerve gas attacks, the other a pesticide used against sand flies and other pests that was sprayed not only on living and dining areas but also on uniforms and tents. When Gulf War vets came forward for treatment their symptoms were typically attributed to stress or other factors. On top of the stress of dealing with their illness, they suffered the additional stigma of seeming to complain about something the government refused to acknowledge existed. The report calls on Congress to appropriate \$60 million dollars a year to conduct research into the illness to attempt to find a cure, important since few veterans suffering from the syndrome rarely seem to re-

cover with time.

And you'll never guess why the report states that the National Academy of Sciences, usually considered a reliable institution, issued reports that concluded that there was little evidence to support evidence of the syndrome; it turns out that the VA ordered the Academy *not* to consider animal studies that showed evidence of neurotoxin effects of the same chemicals that troops were exposed to. By refusing to allow researchers to factor in these animal studies, the results were bound to indicate little evidence for a Gulf War Syndrome. Once again, we see the effects of VA secretaries that were picked for political reasons and loyalty to the cause of *reducing* VA services, not for their commitment to care for veterans. Strangely, I have seen few veterans get upset about this, a fact that both bothers and mystifies me. Rolling Thunder is an organization with almost 90 chapters around the country; it has a very healthy treasury and has been around for decades. Perhaps it is time for us to have a more organized and substantial voice in more of the major issues and debates which effect our veterans like the New G.I. Bill and the treatment for years of the VA as an overblown welfare bureaucracy instead of an institution charged with caring for those that defended our country. Our veterans surely deserve it.

Christmas Meeting - Yankee Swap

Too Tall led the group through this year's Yankee Swap at the December membership meeting. Talking fly swatter, leg lamps, tool sets, bike cleaners, American Flags and a copy of the Constitution were just a few of the many items changing hands this season. Pizza and time for the chapter to enjoy being together was welcomed by all.



2009 RT NH-1 CALENDAR

| DATE | DAY | LEGEND | EVENT/FUNCTION |
|-------------|---------|--------|---|
| Jan 6, 2009 | Tues | CF | Chapter Monthly Meeting Epping Legion 19:30 hrs |
| Jan 24-25 | Sat-Sun | CF | Rockingham Bike Show |

CS = Chapter Sponsored (We are putting it on) - **CF**= Chapter Designated Function (All should try an attend)
Blank = Informational for dates on other events



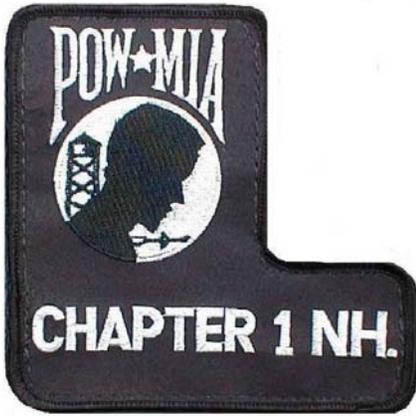
Jean Phyo receives her full set of patches



Dennis Kane receives his full set of patches

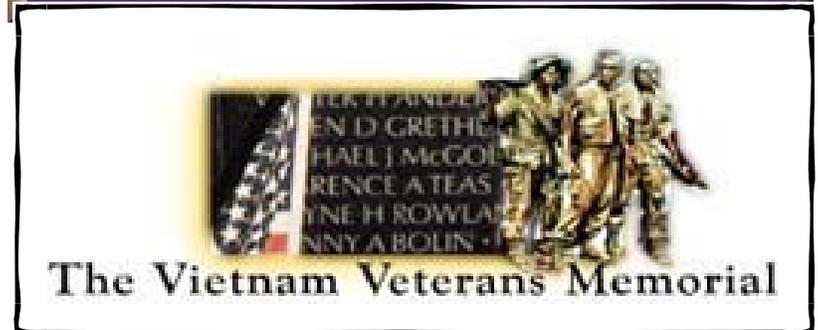


Robert Lurvey receives his Boot Patch



We will never forget.

We're on the web
www.rolling-thunder-nh1.org



Rolling Thunder® NH-1

December 2, 2008

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PO Box 343
Epping, NH 03042
Tel: 603-370-0691

Jeffery Stewart, *President*

January 6, 2009
7:30 P.M. Business Meeting
American Legion Hall, Post 51
Route 125, Epping, NH