

ROLLING THUNDER®

®



NH-1 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6 "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN...SERVING VETERANS FROM ALL WARS..." JUNE 2008



Summer Is Upon Us! Have Fun! Stay Cool!

President's Corner

Memorial Weekend started for this Chapter under a very dark cloud. Lisa Robicheau lost her life while riding to WDC with her Husband-our Treasurer, Jay and their 14 year old Daughter Kyrra, who is also a Junior Member of our Chapter. To lose any member of this Chapter is a difficult and heart breaking event. This particular loss is compounded by the events surrounding her death and the fact that Lisa was a welcoming, compassionate, loyal friend not only to us long time members but especially warm and inviting to new members. Her sudden departure from this world leaves a hole in our organization and personally impacts many of us to a degree that is only heightened exponentially by Jay and Kyrra's loss. It is a tragedy that is unexplainable. A tragedy that hurts, and will continue to hurt for quite some time to come. How do we mourn the loss and reconcile the reality that Life goes on and our Mission goes on? One way for me is what I witnessed in WDC, received through emails, and saw first hand at Lisa's services. I personally received while in WDC expressions of empathy and condolences from Rolling Thunder® members from across the Nation. Perfect strangers would approach us and express their thoughts and prayers. I received numerous emails again from across this Nation. I printed off many of them and gave them in a card to Jay and Kyrra. Others I forwarded over to them, directly. Locally, I received emails and notes of condolences from many, many members of our Veteran Support Organizations. At the actual services, I saw first hand members from all the New England Rolling Thunder® Chapters, the Nam Knights, the Enforcers, the Marine Corps Riders, Hog Chapters, etc. come to pay their respects to Lisa and offer condolences and prayers to Jay and Kyrra. This is what assists us all to heal – knowing that our sorrow and pain is shared and supported by our brothers, sisters, friends, and strangers alike. The Rolling Thunder® Mission is what brought us together; it is the friendship and kindred spirit that binds us in our time of need. Lisa's life touched many people in a warm and welcoming fashion. Lisa, we love you, we miss you, and we will not forget you.

As stated Life does go on, our Mission of Rolling Thunder® goes on.....with that in mind: WDC was a successful venture, we participated in the Candle Light Vigil Friday Night at the Wall, the TAPS program on Saturday Morning, the VA Nursing visit Saturday Afternoon, and of course the Demonstration Ride on Sunday. From all reports from everyone I spoke to and what I witnessed directly we were well represented and well received. Thank you to Butch for coordinating the VA Saturday visit. I also received great reports from those of us who stayed in the New Hampshire area with the Moving Wall, Rollins Bridge Dedication, and Boscawen Cemetery. Thanks again goes out to Too Tall, Fred, and Chef for coordinating the various components back home – Thank You.

Be Safe & Healthy,

Jeffrey "Doc" Stewart
President RT NH Chpt. 1

ROLLING THUNDER NH CHPT. 1
DIRECTION – ELECTIONS – YOU

At our September General Meeting, we will be having our elections. This election we have Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, and two Board Member positions up for election/re-election. At the June, July, and August meetings, we will be opening up the meeting for nominations for these positions. I hope that you all will take a moment to review the National Constitution and the Chapter Bylaws regarding the proceedings and “*job descriptions*”. Both documents are available at our website and I have several copies of each document available at our General Meetings. Of course if any of you would like me to mail you a copy, I would be more than happy to do so. Just drop me an email or telephone call. That being said, I also want to take a moment and say a few words about the positions and where we are going.

I have been saying since I took Office as President and many times when I was the Chairman of the Board, we have had lots of growth in our last 7 years as a Chapter. And as we become bigger in numbers as well as develop a broader public awareness, the demands of this Chapter will and are increasing. The success of this Organization is up to the Membership. Those of us who are currently and who may in the future take on officer positions do so with the knowledge and commitment that our responsibility is to the Mission of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. and to the Membership. If you are considering running for office, or are considering nominating someone for a position, please seriously consider the commitment you are taking on. The Board meets before each General Meeting and a few extra times during the course of the year to address long term issues such as financial challenges and demands, membership participation and enhancement, patch retrieval – yes there are folks out there that are not up to date on dues or membership participation and we are seeking the return of their patches as required by National. The Treasurer’s position this year will increase as we are now required to file a full tax return. True we are a non-profit, but we are required to file and have an accounting of profits and losses. The Vice President’s position as written in the Constitution may seem rather inconsequential; I can easily argue the contrary. True, the VP takes the President’s place when not available, but the reality is that the VP assists me tremendously with contacts with other groups, provides feedback and input on some rather “*touchy*” situations, participates fully at the National Convention in November and assists with all the follow up items that come from that meeting. Bottom line he/she needs to be ready at any moment to take the lead should something arise that prevents the President from carrying out his/her duties.

In addition to the elected positions that are coming up, the Board is also seeking alternate Board Members. These folks would be required to attend all Board Meetings and if a Board Member is unable to be at the meeting, the alternate would sit in his/her place and vote at that time as needed. We are also looking for a Historian. The Historian would assist by keeping an archive both written and photographic of our Chapter’s major activities including things like when we got a voting seat on the Veteran’s Council, any major events or dedications, etc. We have been in existence as a NH Chapter since April 1, 2001 and I think it is important for us to do a better job of tracking and recording our Chapter’s history. Before you know it we will be at our 10th year and that is definitely a milestone for a NH non-profit veteran’s organization and one we should certainly celebrate and publicize. Having a strong historian will greatly assist us in pulling together items for reflection and publication at that time. The Alternate Board Member positions and the Historian position are appointed positions and serve at the pleasure of the Board.

To sum it up, we have a lot going on that requires strong membership participation and foresight. We seek participation with elected and appointed positions to assist us with the day to day and long term running and planning needed by this Chapter. Please seriously consider our Mission and weigh that with your availability to commit to the needs of this Chapter. Please contact myself or any member of the Board for more information or to discuss any of the leadership positions or direction we are going in.

Respectfully Submitted:

Doc Stewart
President
RT NH Chpt. 1

TAPS

Washington DC, as always was an emotional, eventful filled weekend. With the loss of our very special Lisa Robicheau, thoughts and hearts were back at home with Jay and Kyrra. Amongst all the sadness this one event has stuck in my mind of all the rest. Maybe because it was a healing event, as I thought of it. I(Munchkin), Doc Stewart, Diane Lloyd, and George “Spidah” Walsh, were proud to be a part of a special ride this year that took place on Saturday morning. It was an honor to meet children sponsored by a group named TAPS. These children are the offspring of Killed in Action soldiers of Afghanistan and Iraq. I didn’t get a count of bikes that went to this event, but they were all received with lots of smiles. We allowed the children to get on the bikes and rev up the engines and blow the horns. This went on for about an hour or so and the smiles were insurmountable. Grief never goes away as some of us know to well, and TAPS is not a magic cure. It can’t take away the pain, but I could see on the faces of these children that it lets them forget for a time. I found this on their website and the quote is so true, “Whoever, said, ‘Time heals,’ never lost a loved one. When it comes to grief, it never goes away. In order to live with it and go on, you have to file it and you can access it and not have it thrown at you every two seconds.” You never know when grief will role in, when you’ll need someone who has been in those dark waters before to help you get back to the light.”

Assisting grieving families is what TAPS is all about. From what I saw they are doing a superb job.

TAPS Mission:

When the unthinkable happens to America’s military families and a loved one is taken by war, illness, accident or suicide – there’s an organization uniquely designed to meet their needs. The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a caring community of families that have suffered similar losses, is waiting to walk alongside the newly bereaved.

TAPS is America’s front line resource for all who are grieving the death of a loved one serving in the Armed Forces. Since 1994, Taps has provided comfort and care 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Its comprehensive services include a national network of peer-based emotional support, case work assistance, crisis intervention, and grief and trauma resources. To date, TAPS has assisted more than 25,000 surviving family members, casualty officers, and caregivers. All services provided by TAPS are free of charge to surviving families and are made possible by the generosity of our donors.

Since 1994, TAPS has conducted 14 National Military Survivor Seminars and “Good Grief Camps”. In 2007-2008, TAPS held 18 regional grief seminars and “Good Grief Camps” around the country at locations including Camp Lejeune, Fort Campbell, Michigan, Camp Pendleton, New York City, Fort Hood, Fort Carson and Fort Drum. These seminars and camps have helped more than 2,000 surviving family members cope with their grief and establish support networks.

For the Survivor:

If you are grieving the death of a loved one in the military, whether, it is a family member, friend or fellow service member, you are warmly invited and encouraged to attend. You’ll attend workshops that are designed to help you heal and cope with tlife after loss. We have gentle, supportive discussions that offer you a chance to share with others facing similar losses, and help you discover that you are not alone on your grief journey.

For the Children:

The Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors is America’s only program for children who have lost a parent, sibling or loved one in military service to America. Our youth have a chance to share, to heal and have fun in a loving environment. Managed by some of America’s finest adolescent grief and trauma experts, our TAPS Youth also learn about our Nation’s Capitol while forging lasting friendships.

For the Caregiver:

TAPS offers the most current information and effective instruction fro professionals who work with military survivors. Essential for chaplains, casualty and mortuary staffs, family support, commanders and their spouses, medical and mental health personnel, funeral directors and therapists.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS, is a Washington DC based, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization founded in 1992 that assists families who have suffered the loss of a U.S. serviceman or woman.

For more information about the group go to taps.org or call 202-588-8277 or 1-800-959-8277 (24 hour hotline)

ROLLING THUNDER

New England Region:

- Pat McGhie, N.E. Regional Director, Photographer & Webmaster, pmcghie@comcast.net

NH Officers:

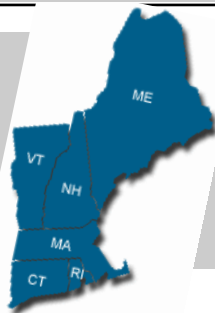
- Jeff "Doc" Stewart, President, JeffreyStewart276@msn.com
- Steve Grundy, Vice President, stevescastle@comcast.net
- Marsha Bailey, Secretary, jmbailey14@comcast.net
- Jay Robicheau, Treasurer, Jay_Robicheau@comcast.net

Board Members:

- Fred Jewell, Chairman FJewell@comcast.net
- Bill Niland, bcs111@aol.com
- Scott Suchovsky, twotall55@yahoo.com
- Raymond Hennessey, kingrayman777@aol.com
- Gerry Smith smithusaone@hotmail.com
- Dave Mott, 1st Alternate dmottv@yahoo.com
- Frank Canning, 2nd Alternate CANNING313@hotmail.com

Other:

- Fred Jewell, Chaplain fjewell@comcast.net
- Bill Niland, Road Captain, Sgt-at-arms, Quartermaster, bcs111@aol.com
- Jay Robicheau, Director, Juniors Program Jay_Robicheau@comcast.net
- Steve Grundy, Asst Director, Juniors Program, stevescastle@comcast.net
- Jim Chisholm, Legislative Liaison, teacherjim@gmail.com
- Marsha Bailey, Newsletter jmbailey14@comcast.net



The Director's Corner

Patrick McGhie

NE States Director

As most know, we lost a dear member of our NH Chapter recently, Lisa Robicheau, died in a crash on her way to support Veterans Rights in Washington. Please see Doc's Presidents message for more eloquent words than I am capable of. Let me just say that she will be missed by us all...

I would just like to mention that all Chapters should now be in their Election Process. June, July and August are for Nominations and Posting the Elections on your Web, Newsletters and announcing at each meeting.

Please evaluate your motives should you run, is it for the Mission and the Good of the Chapter?? Can you devote the needed time to the office you are running for?? Can you complete the required term?? It is important to have qualified and committed individuals to guide your chapter through the next 2 years. We thank all those who choose to serve.

Keep these same points in mind as you nominate others and when you vote. This is not a time to vote for friends etc, just because they are friends. It is a time to vote for the best candidate for your Rolling Thunder Chapter. This is "Your" Chapter, exercise your right to have a voice in the Leadership.

Never forget our POW's and MIA's and keep those serving today in your thoughts and prayers.

Patrick McGhie
NE States Director

Contact Pat at pmcghie@comcast.net



Jay & Kyma,
Our thoughts are with you
in this difficult time.
Please, let us know if
there is anything we can do.

Lisa, will always be in
our hearts and thoughts.

RTNH1

Never Forget!!



Always Remember

Join us on a mission that lasts all year...
 ...are you ready to give some time
 to *your* veterans?

New Hampshire Korean War MIA/POWs

Philip Warren Ackley
 Philip Albert Botsford
 Madison Freeman Charles
 Myron Gracian Dick
 Henry C. Flanders
 Reginald E. Frazier
 Robert Shurben Hedman
 George Norman Hill
 Warren O. Kendall
 Theodore W. Ledoux
 Albert Anthony McCarthy
 Edward Joseph Morse, Jr.
 Wallace F. Ritter
 Leo Paul Savard
 Mark A. Wentworth

Francis Adams Ashly
 John Charles Brennan
 George A. Curley, Jr.
 Gerald Leo Joseph Dubay
 Frederick E. Fleming
 Benjamin W. Griggs, Jr.
 Richard C. Henson
 Paul Herbert Jordon
 Arthur Raymond Labonte
 Robert Hugh Malloy
 Bruce Robert Mills
 Joseph Norman Pelletier
 Joseph A. Robillard
 Alfred Harry Sidney

Phillip Kendall Balgh
 Arthur Delbert Buckley, Jr.
 Joseph Adelard Demers
 Leland Rockwood Dunham
 Robert S. Fletcher
 Elmer Rix Hamlin
 Herbert A. Hesseltine, Jr.
 John Murray Kelley
 Roland L. Leblanc
 James Joseph Mayo
 Fernand Aime Morin
 Elmer Powers Richard
 Ernest F. Russell
 Harry Sparrow Smith

New Hampshire Vietnam War MIA/POWs

Clyde Douglas Alloway
 Gerald Robert Helmich

Frank Neil Badolati
 Quinten Emile Mulleavey

Robert Joseph Sullivan
 Albert L. Page, Jr.

OUR MISSION

The major function of Rolling Thunder, Inc is to publicize POW-MIA issues: 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 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. Members donate their time because they believe in the issues we are working on.



NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008

7:30 P.M AT AMERICAN LEGION, EPPING NH

AMERICAN LEGION HALL, POST 51

ROUTE 125. EPPING. NH



Rolling Thunder® New Hampshire Upcoming Events

Date	Day	Legend	Event/Function
Jun 19	Thu	CS	Freedom Ride, Meredith NH
Jun 21	Sat	CF	RT ME Ride for Biddeford Vets Home
Jun 22	Sun		RTMA Run for Veterans
Jul 12	Sat	CS	Fallen Member Ride
Jul 19	Sat	CS	NH Thunder Run
Aug 9	Sat	CS	Tilton Vets Home Barbecue
Aug 10	Sun		RTMA Freedom Ride
Aug 16	Sat	CS	Liberty House
Aug 24	Sun	CS	Justin Rollins Memorial Ride

CS = Chapter Sponsored (We are putting it on) - **CF**= Chapter Designated Function (All should try an attend)

Blank = Informational for dates on other events This is a tentative list as developed by the Board. As we firm it up, we will add items and details to our Web Event Calendar. If you have suggestions or items, please feel free to write them down and give them to any board member. As other events and functions of interest become known, we will publish them.