

ROLLING THUNDER[®]



NH-1 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 8/9 "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN...SERVING VETERANS FROM ALL WARS..." AUG/SEP 2008



POW/MIAs are Definitely not Forgotten in NH

President's Corner

Wow hard to believe the Summer is gone, Fall is upon us and Winter is right around the corner! I know this because we just concluded our Annual Elections.

With that in mind, GIANT THANK YOU to those that have served and are taking a different pathway with our Mission – we have accomplished a lot in 7.25 years and it is a direct result of all the hard work and dedication that you have provided to the Organization.

To those of you who stepped forward and ran for a position – THANK YOU, you may have not been elected but your willingness to stand up and offer is a further display of your dedication to our Mission and we will be relying on your continued support, energy, and drive.

To our new members who have joined, WELCOME ABOARD. You have chosen to join and participate with an incredible Organization and one that is healthy and growing. And as we grow we are becoming an evermore increasingly reminder to the public about the POW/MIA Issues and Veteran's Rights.

To all our new and re-elected Officers – CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU for stepping up. I am very excited about the increase to the Board Members and the energy and dedication that each of you will bring and continue to bring. We have a bright future with lots to be had and with your leadership and support we will continue to spread our Mission and activities throughout New Hampshire. We will Never Forget and we will not rest until every Military Serviceman is fully accounted for!! Now lets GET TO WORK☺!!

RT NH Chpt 1 we have a lot to be proud of: Take a moment look back to 8 years ago when there was a small group of folks chatting about the possibility of a New Hampshire Chapter to where we stand right now with a strong growing membership, financially healthy, recognized by the State, with voting rights at the New Hampshire Veteran's Council, acknowledged by other veteran's and public service groups within this State, we have a New England Director with Chapters in ME, VT, MA.....WOW, Impressive, Great Job,.....Now take a moment look ahead to where we are going.....**OUTSTANDING!!!!**

Be Safe & Healthy,

Jeffrey "Doc" Stewart
President RT NH Chpt. 1

**ELECTIONS ARE OVER
CONGRATULATIONS!**

What an outstanding Election for RTNH1. Thank you to all that stepped up and ran for these offices.

Your new officers are as follows:

Vice President ~ Steve Grundy

Chairman of the Board of Directors ~ Susan Olsen

Treasurer ~ Janice Maramaldi-Jolly

2 year Board of Directors ~ Bill Niland, Joe Evans, Russell Jolly

1 year Board of Directors ~ Jay Robicheau

Thank you all!

JULY 19, 2008 A FEW WHO PARTICIPATED IN GRANITE STATE THUNDER RUN!

THANK YOU ALAN OLSEN FOR THE PICTURES



WHAT AN END TO A WONDERFUL DAY!!!

THE GRANITE STATE THUNDER RUN WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

~

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!

Paying Respect to Four Special Veterans August 22, 2008

Four to five hundred attended today's ceremony at Boscawen Cemetery.

"..... through coordination with Phaneuf Funeral Home, Director Roger Desjardin has identified and arranged for the burial of four veterans (3 Army and 1 Air Force) at the Veterans Cemetery. These veterans, for various reasons, had been in 'temporary' status for many years and now will get the final resting place they so rightly deserved alongside their comrades at Boscawen."



I was drawn to this older gentleman at the Marine Corps Monument. His uniform still fit him like a glove. He stuck out his hand and introduced himself; "E. Jim Carey, corporal" and he drew my attention to his name engraved near the lower right corner of the monument. He said he served in 52, 53 and 54 and with in a few minutes was flying his hand through the air telling me how the new F-86 Sabre Jets would fly in for close air support. As proud to be a Marine today as the day he joined. He was pleased when I told him how sharp he looked today in his uniform.



The four veterans' remains pass in review.

Robert A Caghey (WWII era)-David Smith Receiving Flag
Robert Caghey died at the age of 71; had one known daughter from Manchester. US Army Veteran serving in 1941- separating with the rank of private.

William J. "Jack" Mitchell (Korean War Era) Ron Reilly receiving flag.
William Mitchell died at the age of 76, served in the US Army 1050-1952- was a professional pianist and no known family at the time of death. Separated with the rank of Corporal.

John A. "Jean" Bissonnette. Don Labrie receiving flag.
John Bissonnette died at the age of 69; served in the US Army 1927 to 1929; no known family members at the time of his death. Separated with the rank of Corporal.

John E. Davison (Korea) Harv Keyes receiving flag.
John Davison died at the age of 73- a US Air Force veteran serving 1950 to 1953. No known family at the time of his death. Separated with rank of A2nd Class.

An outstanding ceremony of respect today to our veterans of past. Director, Roger Desjardin continues to elevate the honor and ground for passing American Veterans at the Boscawen Cemetery .

You are not Forgotten.
With Respect.
Alan Olsen

Unknown where this came from, but I thought it fitting.

TAPS

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps were played; this brings out a new meaning of it.

Here is something every American should know. Until I read this, I didn't know, but I checked it out and it's true: We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps'. It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes.

But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings. Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention crawling on his stomach, through gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was Confederate. But out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done, Gone the sun. From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh. Fading light, Dims the sight, And a star, Gem in the sky Gleaming bright From afar. Drawing nigh Falls the night, Thanks and praise For our days Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky. As we go, This we know, God is nigh.



Photo by Alan Olsen

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either, so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

Remember those Lost and Harmed while serving their country.

Also remember those who have served and returned; and for those presently serving in the Armed Forces.

Ride for the Fallen August 24, 2008

From Alan Olsen

Long day yesterday and the heat, the ride and bbq feast did me in. I want to put into perspective what all of this means to me and try to show my pride in this organization through sharing of photos of nh-1 involvement -P'OW-MIA and that "You Are Not Forgotten."

This was Roger Desjardin's last public speech at Boscawen as Director; it was moving, he will be dearly missed and will always be a personal friend to all veterans.

Senator Bob Letourneau read brief messages written by Blue Star Mothers in honor of their son's: excerpts from his speech follows:

Mom: Gail Sora - son Peter J. Sora Jr. (PJ) "He loved his family, his god and his country..he loved life and died for his country on May 4, 2004."

Mom: Karen (Burgess) Moore - son Specialist Alan Joseph Burgess. "I miss his calls during lunch break just to say Hi, and to make sure everything is ok."

Mom: Elaine M. Gibson - son Cpl Timothy M. Gibson, USMC. KIA January 26, 2005. "Tim said the best decision he ever made was joining the Marines and it was there he felt he was protecting those at home."

Mom: Natalie Healy- son Daniel Richard Healy Senior Chief, Navy SEAL, USN. KIA June 28, 2005-shot down in Afghanistan. "He died with seven other Seal's and eight army Night stalkers in the air and three other Seals on the ground. The account is told in the book LONE SURVIVOR by Marcus Luttrell....I miss his humor, kindness, generosity and love of life."

Mom: Denise Gionet - son Daniel R Gionet, Sgt, US Army - Medic. KIA June 4, 2006 Baghdad, Iraq. "His family and friends were his most treasured possessions, and he wasn't afraid to let us all know that."

Mom: Jean Tully Durgin - son Sgt. Russell M Durgin, HHC Co.,1st Battalion, 1-32 Infantry, 10th Mountain Division. KIA June 13, 2006, Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mom: Lynn Savage - son CPL Matthew J, Stanley, U.S. Army Scout - C 1st 7th Cavalry. KIA Taji Iraq, December 16, 2006. "He had a great love for his family and his country and a great zest for life."

Mom: Rhonda Rollins - son SPC Justin Allan Rollins. - KIA March 5th, 2007 along with 5 other soldiers from the 82nd Airborne. "My son gave up his life so that we could have our freedom. I am so proud of him, for being so strong."

Written by Brittney:- "The memorial ride, like the memorial bracelet is how Justin lives on. To some, Justin Rollins is just a name, but through the ride his person rides on."

There were good tears yesterday, family and that sense of loyalty in the air for all veterans. If I may, I would like to again share Janice's last email. It best sums up how I too feel.



Donna Fontaine sells tickets to a rider
Photos by Alan Olsen



a few members of NH-1 attending, await the start of the days ride.

Fallen Member Ride August 24, 2008

From Janice Maramaldi-Jolly

Today was an absolute picture perfect day. I could feel the unity in the air for the cause we were present for. While we were at the cemetery I noticed a Butterfly flying around Skip and Rhonda, and when I spoke with Rhonda she expressed that she felt confident that it was sent by her son, Justin just for her.

As we rode the bridge I knew why I joined this organization.

I was moved to deep emotion as the mass of motorcycles swept through town were and greeted by people of all ages. From children to seniors. I am always amazed when we roll through and people take the time to MAKE SURE they are right there to wave us on as we ride for the cause we are riding for.

As I looked around during the ceremony I saw a mix of people all standing quietly and listening to the emotion and pride as we heard the speakers of the day and was reminded why I do this.

As I sat in the cemetery and listened to Roger talk about the pride that they all take in that absolutely, beautiful place, and further listened to the list of all Fallen soldiers that were talked about today.... again, I remembered why I am a proud & grateful member of this organization.



Photo by Janice Maramaldi-Jolly

As we were doing our Fallen Member Ride on August 24, 2008 ~ 4,000-mile Run for the Fallen reaches it Arlington goal

Stars and Stripes – Online edition, Sunday, August 24, 2008-09-07

A ten-week, 4000-run from California to the nation's capital in honor of a fallen friend came to a successful conclusion Sunday morning when New York native Jon Bellona led a pack of runners to a finish line at the gates of Arlington National Cemetery.

Bellona organized the event to honor his Hamilton College roommate, Army 1st Lt. Michael Cleary, who was killed in Iraq in 2005.

"Run for the Fallen is a living record," and exhausted, emotional Bellona told the crowd at the finish. "It is not just dedicated to the more than 4,000 men and women who gave their lives, but to the families, loved ones and active duty currently in harm's way."

"Today we've come over 10 million steps to be here at the doorstep of the most sacred place in America, Arlington National Cemetery."

Bellona said that the key moment in the run for him came in Texas, where he saw a sign dedicated to a local service member that said "May we remember his life, not his death."

"The quote by someone I never met made me think about Mike Cleary and all the moments we shared together. It made me proud to have known him and made me proud to be an American." "We have to ask ourselves," he added, "how will we continue to remember the fallen? How will we continue to keep their spirits alive?"

The runners taking part in the final day's event included relatives and friends of those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. After the run, the group continued on to Arlington's Section 60, where many of the recent casualties are buried.



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
PHOTO BY MARSHA BAILEY



RHONDA AND SKIP COMFORT EACH OTHER AS THE NAMES OF THE FALLEN ARE READ.
PHOTO BY ALAN OLSEN

THE PROGRAM:

On Thursday, September 11, 2008, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an AMERICAN flag on this seventh anniversary of one of our country's worst tragedies. We do this honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms.

In the days, weeks, and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

Action Plan:

So, here's what we need you to do ..

- (1) **Take a moment to think back to how you felt on 9/11 and let those sentiments guide you.**
- (2) **Fly an** American flag of any size on 9/11. Honestly, Americans should fly the flag year-round, but if you don't, then at least make it a priority on this day.

Thank you for your participation. God Bless You and God Bless America!

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR TROOPS

Jack & Georgia Ewald



ROLLING THUNDER

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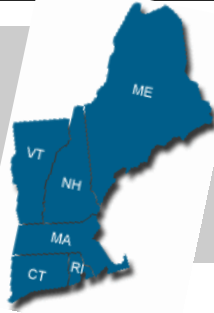
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The Director's Corner

Patrick McGhie

NE States Director

Election time!! We must now take a moment to thank those who have served and now leaving office. We appreciate the time and efforts you have put into Rolling Thunder during your term and hope you will share your experiences with those coming in behind you.

To your New officers, Welcome and thank you for stepping forward to work for our POW/MIA's and our Veterans. Good leadership is important and your stepping forward is appreciated. New blood is good for a chapter.

National Conference in Nov 7th and 8th. Get your reservations in to the Hyatt. It is a Constitutional requirement that at least one officer attend. There is a lot of information available at this event and it is good to meet and interact with officers of the other chapters around the country. There will be more details coming from National in the next few weeks regarding speakers and main agenda.

In October, we will be having a Regional meeting (date not yet confirmed) and it will be open to the Pres, VP and COB of each Chapter. We will be discussing the items up for vote at National and how we wish to vote on them.

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

RTNH-1 PHOTO

Photo by Alan Olsen
July 12, 2008
Fallen Member Ride

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, OCTOBER 7, 2008

7:30 P.M

AMERICAN LEGION HALL, POST 51 ROUTE 125. EPPING. NH



Rolling Thunder® New Hampshire Upcoming Events

Date	Day	Legend	Event/Function
Sep 13	Sat		Home Town Heroes Ride
Sep 20	Sat	CF	ME 2 POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sep 28	Sun	CS	Tilton Ice Cream Social
Oct 4	Sat		Sean Powers Ride
Nov 8	Sat	CS	Tentative RTNH1 Patriotic Night

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.