



January 17, 2024
Volume 1, Issue 1

Rolling Thunder CA-1 Quarterly Newsletter

Our Mission

The major function of Rolling Thunder® Inc. is to publicize the POW-MIA issue: 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 the 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 and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA Issue that we are working on.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. CA-1 is the first fully chartered west coast chapter of Rolling Thunder® Inc. We are dedicated to helping those who are serving, have served and the families left behind of those members in the armed forces who have been wounded, missing or killed in action.



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Meetings

Monthly Meetings

We meet the
3rd Wednesday of
every month at the
Elks Lodge at 6:30 PM.

Address:
The Elks Lodge #2477
158 Conejo School Rd
Thousand Oaks, CA.
91360

Become A Member

Whether you are a veteran or not, family member of a veteran or not, ride a motorcycle or not, YOU ARE WELCOME!

Rolling Thunder Story

Incorporated in 1995, [Rolling Thunder[®], Inc.](#) is a class 501(c)(4) non-profit organization with over 90 chartered chapters throughout the United States and members abroad. While many members of Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. are veterans and many ride motorcycles, neither qualification is a prerequisite. Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. members are old and young, men and women, veterans and non-veterans. All are united in the cause to bring full accountability for Prisoners Of War (POW) and Missing In Action (MIA) of all wars, reminding the government, the media and the public by our watchwords: "We Will Not Forget."

Annual Events

Rolling Thunder CA-1 attends numerous events through-out the year to support, honor, and/or assist local veterans. The following list are those events that are scheduled for 2024.

Ride for the Blue	5/4/2024
Ride to the Flags	September
Thousand Oaks Street Fair	10/20/2024
West Valley Christian Church	November
Camarillo Christmas Parade & Santa's Village	December
Wreaths Across America	12/14/2024

If there is an event that you would like Rolling Thunder CA-1 to consider, please let us know. We are always looking for ways to support our veterans and raise awareness of the Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) issue.

Flag Etiquette

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Wreaths Across America History

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12-year old paper boy when he won a trip to Washington D.C. It was his first to our nation's capital and one that would change the trajectory of his life and the lives of millions of others across the country. Seeing the hundreds of thousands of graves and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. It was to be an experience that would follow him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of his nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe (ret), arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older cemetery sections that had been receiving fewer visitors each passing year. And so it begins...

Event Spotlight—Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a coordinated National event where wreaths are placed on veteran's graves at events taking place at the same time across the U.S.

This year's event was on Saturday, December 16, 2023. In our community, Conejo Mountain Memorial Park has sponsored this event for many years, where there are over 3,000 veteran graves.

This is the first year that Rolling Thunder CA-1 has been responsible for coordinating this event at Conejo Mountain. During the event, over 800 wreaths were placed, which is almost double from last year, but the goal is to ensure that all 3,000 + veterans receive a wreath, so that is our goal for this year.

To make a donation online, visit:

wreathscrossamerica.org/CA0659P



Wreaths Across America Mission

"Remember the fallen. Honor those who served. Teach the next generation the value of freedom."

Missing in Action (MIA) Update

Unaccounted for by War (as of 12/28/2023)

- World War II 72,125
- Korean War 7,485
- Vietnam War 1,577
- Cold War 126
- Gulf Wars 6
& Libya

Total MIA count for California : 6,367

Rolling Thunder CA-1 Officers & Board

Officers

- President—John Short III
(800) 606-1390
- Vice President—Allan Woods
(805)377-4492
- Secretary—Christina Woods
- Treasurer—Lisa Connolly

Board of Directors

- Chairman of the Board—Pat Connolly
- Gov't & Veteran Affairs—Jerry Schmidt
- Board Member —Tony Biter



Government Affairs

Legislative Updates

Bill	Latest Action
S.42 - BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023	Senate - 01/24/2023 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
H.R.214 - Veterans' True Choice Act of 2023	House - 01/09/2023 Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
H.R.232 - Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2023	House - 01/10/2023 Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R.733 - Vet CENTERS for Mental Health Act of 2023	House - 02/01/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Donations

Thanks to all who have contributed in any way to our chapter, organization and Veterans. We are 100% donation driven and 100% volunteer based. No one in the Rolling Thunder® Inc. organization draws a salary. All proceeds donated goes directly to help our Veterans and their families through projects we fund and manage.

How You Can Help

Without your help we would not be able to help our veterans. Rolling Thunder® Inc. CA-1 is a 501(c)(4) & Rolling Thunder® Inc. Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

You may send any donations to: P.O. Box 6672, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.



Rolling Thunder CA-1
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