



July 10, 2024
Volume 1, Issue 3

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	5/04/2024
Conejo Valley Parade	5/05/2024
Pierce Brothers Memorial Day Event	5/27/2024
Camarillo Street Fair	7/13 & 7/14/2024
Camarillo Air Show	8/17 & 8/18/2024
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.

Dates to Remember

JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 20 First Moon Walk by Neil Armstrong
- 25 National Hire A Veteran Day
- 26 Americans with Disabilities Act Signed 1990
- 27 Korean War Ends (1953), National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- 29 Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps (1775)

AUGUST

- 2 Gulf War Begins (1990)
- 4 Coast Guard Birthday (1790)
- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 10 U.S. Department of Defense Birthday
- 14 Navajo Code Talkers Day
- 15 Japan Surrenders (1945) - End of WWII
- 16 National Airborne Day
- 19 National Aviation Day
- 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (1916)

SEPTEMBER

- 2 VJ Day (Victory Over Japan), Labor Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 17 Constitution Day, Citizenship Day
- 18 U.S Air Force Day (1947), Air National Guard Birthday (1947)
- 20 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 29 Gold Star Mothers Day, VFW Day

Patriot Day

In October 2001, the United States Congress passed a joint resolution designating that every September 11th be observed as "Patriot Day." The resolution requests that U.S. government entities and interested organizations and individuals display the flag of the United States at half staff on Patriot Day and that the people of the United States observe a moment of silence in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.



Chair of Honor Program

PROGRAM MISSION

The Rolling Thunder®, Inc. National POW-MIA Chair of Honor Program is intended to support Rolling Thunder's main mission by bringing daily reminders of the POW-MIA issue to cities and towns, big and small, across the nation.

A POW-MIA chair in any location is to remain perpetually empty to help people remember that even though our soldiers are not here, there is still a space for them.

POW/MIA Chairs of Honor can be found in public spaces ranging from professional sports stadiums to small town city halls, and everywhere in between. Rolling Thunder®, Inc. chapters nationwide also have portable POW-MIA Chairs of Honor for their individual chapter activities, like VA facility visits and local veterans' events.

Chair Options

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. POW/MIA chairs presented by Hussey Seating Company are available in Fixed and Portable models as shown below. Chairs have lead-times from order to delivery, which run 2 – 4 weeks depending on product demand. Hussey Seating will donate the chair if you commit to creating a local PR event around the chair dedication and the POW/ MIA mission and then share the results with us. For more information and the necessary forms, email a request to info@rollingthunderca1.com.

Purchase Price Options through Rolling Thunder® Inc. CA-1:

Fixed Chair: \$200 plus \$140-\$200 S&H

Portable Chair: \$100 plus \$35 S&H

Rolling Thunder CA-1 coordinated the Chair of Honor for City Hall in Thousand Oaks, and also at California Lutheran University (CLU)



Fixed POW/MIA Chairs Portable POW/MIA Chairs

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/Board Member: Jerry Schmidt
- Membership/Board Member : Tom Cook
- Board Member: Jim Kirby
- Board Member: Bob Jones



Missing in Action (MIA) Update

Unaccounted for by War (as of 6/26/2024):

- World War II 72,064
- Korean War 7,467
- Vietnam War 1,575
- Cold War 126
- Gulf Wars 6
& Libya

Total MIA count for California : 6,347

Total accounted for so far in FY 2024 (10/1/2023 - 9/30/2024): 99

WWII = 76, Korean War = 20, Vietnam War = 3

Veterans

When a Veteran leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and others, who may have already retired, wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

1. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

2. We know in the military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.

3. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends Comparisons - - some exceptions to this.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will kick the crowd's ass that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Sometimes are for a while.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, 'You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!' Then carry you home safely and put you to bed.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will knock the hell out of them for using your name in vain.

A Veteran - whether active duty, retired, or reserve is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Government of the United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life'; and military wives are as much veterans as their spouses.

It's an honor to be in your company. Thank you Veterans.

Veterans Crisis Line is here for all Veterans

Life is unpredictable and full of ups and downs that can affect your well-being. As a Veteran, you face unique and difficult challenges due to your experience in the military. If you're dealing with a crisis or thoughts of suicide, it can feel like you're carrying the weight alone.

While support may seem out of reach or difficult to find, it's only a phone call away. Regardless of your age, gender, rank, branch, tenure, discharge status or job in the military, the Veterans Crisis Line is a free and accessible resource for all Veterans.

Help is always available, day or night—24/7, 365 days a year.

You can Dial 988 then Press 1 to be connected to a compassionate and trained responder ready to listen and help with any challenges you're facing. There are also chat (VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) and text 838255 options. Even if you don't know what you need or how to explain it, responders are here for you. After making sure you have the resources you need, they can connect you to one of the suicide prevention coordinators located across the country for continued, local support.

Take the first step to healing

Veterans have stated they would feel more comfortable contacting the Veterans Crisis Line if they knew more about what to expect. Here's a step-by-step guide to what happens when you call the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988 then Press 1):

1. A recording will alert you that you've reached the Veterans Crisis Line.
2. There will be a brief pause while the call is connected to a qualified responder ready to listen and help.
3. The responder will ask a few questions, such as whether you or the Veteran or service member you're concerned about may be in immediate danger or at risk for suicide.
4. Your call is free and confidential, and you decide how much information to share.
5. If you or the Veteran or service member you're concerned about is in danger, the responder will help you get through the crisis and then connect you with the services you need, either from your local VA medical center or elsewhere in your community.
6. If you or the Veteran or service member you're concerned about is in crisis but not at imminent risk for injury or suicide, the responder will listen, offer support and help you make a plan to stay safe.
7. Afterward, you may be connected with a local suicide prevention coordinator who will contact you the next business day for continued support.

For information on what happens when you chat or text the Veterans Crisis Line, visit our [How It Works](#) page.

Be prepared in case you need support

During a crisis, every second counts. Making sure you're prepared with how to find immediate support is critical and can potentially be lifesaving.

Even if you don't need support today, saving the Veterans Crisis Line number - Dial 988 then Press 1, can give you peace of mind knowing a trusted caring responder is waiting on the other end.

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.



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