



July 9, 2025
Volume 2, 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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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 the upcoming events that are scheduled so far for 2025.

Camarillo Heritage Days	7/19 & 7/20/2025
Camarillo Air Show	8/16 & 8/17/2025
Thousand Oaks Street Fair	10/19/2025
Wreaths Across America	12/13/2025

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
- 25 National Hire a Veteran Day
- 26 Americans With Disabilities Act Signed (1990)
- 27 Korean War Ends (1953) National Korean Veterans Armistice Day
- 29 Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps (1775)

AUGUST

- 2 Gulf War Begins (1990)
- 4 Coast Guard Birthday
- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 10 U.S. Dept 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

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day
- 2 Victory over Japan Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 17 Constitution Day & Citizenship Day
- 18 U.S. Air Force Established 1947 & Air National Guard Birthday
- 19 National POW-MIA Recognition Day
- 28 Gold Star Mothers Day
- 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Day

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
- Board Member: Mike Smith



Missing in Action (MIA) Update

Unaccounted for by War (as of 6/30/2025):

- World War II 71,903
- Korean War 7,413
- Vietnam War 1,567
- Cold War 126
- Gulf Wars 6
& Libya

Total accounted for so far in FY 2025 (10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025): 151

WWII = 104, Korean War = 40, Vietnam War = 7

Total MIA count for California : 6,331

Purple Heart Day



The official Purple Heart Day is observed on the 7th day of August each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

History

Commemorating the historic day in 1782 that General George Washington, Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, commissioned the first Purple Heart Medal, originally called the Badge of Military Merit.

The Badge of Military Merit is a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk bound with a thin edge of silver with the word merit embroidered in silver across the face. Only 3 Badges of Military Merit were awarded. The Badge of Military Merit was redesigned and re-commissioned in 1932 by General Douglas MacArthur in honor of George Washington's bicentennial birthday. Now known as the Purple Heart Medal – it is the oldest military award, first being awarded to soldiers in World War I and still given to soldiers today.

A presidential order signed in 1942 permitted the Purple Heart Medal to be awarded to all branches of the military including the U.S. Coast Guard. It was World War II, when the qualification to receive the Purple Heart Medal changed to honor those who were wounded or killed in combat – that is why it's recipients often call it "the medal that nobody wants". It is unknown how many soldiers actually received it.

Criteria

The Purple Heart has a long list of criteria for eligibility-too long to list here. But in general, it may be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been wounded, killed in action, or have died or may die from wounds received in any action against the United States, action with an opposing armed force, the results of any hostile "foreign force" and many other situations where men and women in uniform may find themselves under attack.

In general, the Purple Heart is awarded for injuries sustained because of an enemy attack. Injuries sustained for other reasons not related to things "not caused by enemy agents" are generally not acceptable as grounds for receiving the Purple Heart, though friendly fire injuries do qualify if the friendly fire was intended for the enemy. The Purple Heart is now given to persons who are injured, wounded, or died while a prisoner of war (POW).

On this day, let's all remember to pay our respects to fallen soldiers, to listen to the stories of soldiers and veterans, and to thank them for their service to the nation.



Veteran Spotlight (as reported by Tim Coates)

Getting to know your buddy **Pat Connolly**. Pat Connolly is our Rolling Thunder CA1 Chairman of the Board and an Air Force veteran, retired. He is also a founding / Charter member of the organization, having joined in 2012. He has a beguiling personality and a very dry sense of humor. He will say something that causes an uncomfortable and dramatic pause in the conversation and just let it sit and stew for what seems like forever before laughing. It's a gotcha moment.

Pat was born March 31, 1965, and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. He attended St. Agnes High School in St. Paul. While there he learned some stuff, played a lot of baseball at second base and short stop, and beat the drums in the High School band. That may explain why some of the marching band couldn't stay in step! Okay, kidding! After High School in 1983, Pat joined the Air Force. He was on active duty from 1983 until 1991, and then from 1993 until 2008 he was in the Air Force reserves. Pat received his Honorable Discharge and full retirement in 2008.

He was stationed at various Air Force bases (AFB) while on active duty serving our country. He was sent to Clark AFB in the Philippines, Beale AFB in California, Kunsan Air Base in Korea, and Edwards AFB California. Pat was fortunate enough to become a K-9 handler for the Air Force Military Police. Through his work ethic, he was recognized and promoted to an E-7 Master Sergeant and Law Enforcement Supervisor to Squadron Assistant Operations Superintendent.

While in the Air Force reserves, Pat joined the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and was a patrol officer. He retired after more than 25 years of police work as a Deputy Sheriff. It's not easy being the spouse of a law enforcement officer (LEO) because the work doesn't always stay in the patrol car (the patrol person's office). Lisa has been his constant companion through hard days and happy days.

Pat has been married 3 times: once from 1991-1993 (divorced in 1994), the second marriage from 1994-2008 (divorced), and he is presently (and permanently!) married to Lisa (Rolling Thunder BOD Treasurer). He has one stepdaughter. Pat and Lisa's beloved dog, Cambria, passed recently after a loving fourteen years of life. They are now blessed with a husky named Zasha as well as their cat, Raven.

Lisa and Pat love to travel. Pat said another favorite trip that he and Lisa went on has been a 10-day land tour of Italy. They are hoping to get to Ireland in a future trip. Pat and Lisa are also looking forward to taking some cruises. No sleeping on the ground in a tent for them!

Pat and Lisa are riders, and Pat has had a variety of two wheelers. When he was 16 years old his first bike was a Suzuki 125, something between a dirt bike and a street bike. Since then, he has had a 2006 Yamaha FZ-6, a 2008 Yamaha VSTAR 1100, a 2013 Yamaha 1300 Deluxe, and most recently, a CAN-AM Spider RT Limited. The Can-Am is a comfortable ride for both Pat and Lisa and has all the accoutrements: heated seats, inter-comms, three wheel contact and balance, and an easy ride, etc. Theirs is the RED Can -AM.

At our Rolling Thunder meetings, Pat is usually sitting to the right of our president John Short at the front of the officer's table. Take some time to say "Hi" to Pat (and Lisa) but be prepared to have your pant leg pulled by a guy with a dead-pan look on his face....and then a smile.





Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 13, 2025** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



**Help Rolling Thunder CA-1 honor
local heroes!**

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Conejo Mountain Memorial Park. Any questions, please call John Short III at 800-606-1390 or email him at john.short@ubs.com!

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit
www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CA0851



#KeepMovingForward

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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