

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7
February 10, 2007

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 meeting held February 10, 2007. Meeting was called to order at 10:05am by President Thompson. All were present except COB Orr. A quorum was present and declared an official meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance recited, a moment of silence of our POW/MIAs was held, mission statement was read, members and guests were welcomed.

Motion to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2007 meeting as presented by Director Parker and seconded by Will Harris. **Passed.**

Treasurer's report was presented.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and file for audit by Director Ealey and seconded by Assistant Director Dumont. **Passed.**

The recent State President's meeting brought out some information – there will be no bike raffle tickets sold in Daytona as part of Bike Week this year. There were thoughts of having a booth to sell the tickets at the Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Melbourne but those organizers won't allow sales at their reunion in April. Leesburg BikeFest is another option and is being researched. Working on a State calendar for all RT Florida events. Still pushing legislation for POW/MIA not captured.

Several rides are approaching –

- February 24 Support the Jessica Lundsford Act. Leave New Port Richey HD at 11:00am for a police escorted ride to Crystal River HD.
- February 28 Steve Raymond, former POW at Central Ridge Library 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- March 17 Poker Run for troops in Iraq.
- March 31 Legion Riders for local National Guard families
- April 5 Escort the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial. Wal-Mart parking lot on SR 200 at 484. Kickstands up at 9:00am. Assist in putting up The Wall after the ride.
- April 6-8 The Vietnam Veterans Gathering presents the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial at On Top of the World on SR200 in Ocala.
- April 8 Freedom Ride in conjunction with the Vietnam Veterans Gathering. Planning to meet at Central Florida Community College (CFCC) on SR200 in Ocala across from the Paddock Mall. Kickstands up at noon.
- April 19-23 Nature Coast BikeFest - Willards
- May 16-19 American ExPOW convention in Deerfield Beach.

If you don't want information on the rosters that are made available to members at chapter meetings, advise Secretary Stepanek.

Present membership stands at 76. We have several people who have not paid their dues and/or have not attended sufficient meetings/events to remain members. Those people have been sent letters informing them that they have been dropped and requesting the return of their patches. Those people are – Mary Lou Besedell (boot), Debbie Mampe (boot), Joyce Reeves (boot), Warren Stines (boot), and Paul Van Degrieff (boot & back). Additional letters will be sent.

Patrick Bailey reported that there are still 1807 POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War.

Linda King reported that 23 new Vet Centers are planned to be opened in 2007. A telemarketer calling itself the Indiana Veterans Relief Fund is a bogus operation. HR293 calls for mandatory national service for everyone aged 18 – 42.

Director Ealey reported that Steve Melnyk had surgery and is doing. Vicki Gooding was hospitalized but is out and doing well. Angeline McIntyre's dad suffered a stroke.

James Gilchriese approached the Chrysler dealer in Inverness to fly a POW/MIA flag and was told it is against the law. James then went to the City of Inverness and was told the same thing by the City manager.

Archie Gooding reported that the Donut Program at the Lecanto VA is going well.

Members who want embroidered polo shirts were requested to sign up.

A small supply of embroidered chapter patches were made available. Another 100 patches will be ordered.

Plans for the POW ceremonies in Andersonville, GA on September 19-22, 2007 are going well. The organizers have a website – www.powridehome.org.

The chapter will participate in the Purple Heart ceremonies to be held at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Crystal River on February 17, 2007. The ceremonies will start at 11:00am. Chapter members will meet at the BH VFW Post 10087 with kickstands up/doors closed at 10:00am.

A Desert Storm veteran is having medical and financial problems. Discussion ensued.

Motion to pay the telephone bill and garbage bill for Daryl Hynes by Assistant Director Dumont and seconded by Vicki Gooding. **Passed.**

More discussion ensued. In the past the chapter talked about setting monetary limits and time restraints on donations made to members/non-members and veterans/non-veterans. The plan was \$150.00 maximum for a member and/or veteran and \$100.00 maximum for a non-member and/or non-veteran. Either scenario would be a one time donation. The plan was to eliminate potential emotions and have a standard donation from the chapter. Secretary Stepanek will investigate previous minutes.

Motion to get a Kash & Karry gift card for Daryl Hynes by Vicki Gooding and seconded by Prudy Rodriguez. **Passed.**

Members were encouraged to bring non-perishable food for Daryl Hynes to the March Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 10, 2007 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS VFW AND WILL START AT 10:00AM.

Submitted by

Jim Stepanek