

Meeting Minutes of the Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 7  
April 14, 2007

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 meeting held April 14, 2007. Meeting was called to order at 10:08am by President Thompson. All were present. 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 March 10, 2007 meeting as presented by Archie Gooding 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 Archie Gooding and seconded by Linda King. **Passed.**

Our guest speaker was Bob Swick from the Florida Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans Association and he told about the activities and services the association provides for their members. The Florida Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans Association will be holding a golf tournament on May 7, 2007 in Tampa. The Board recommended sponsoring the beverage cart(s) for \$750.00.

**Motion** to sponsor the beverage cart(s) at the Florida Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans Association golf tournament on May 7, 2007 by Director Parker and seconded by Howard Potts. **Passed.**

The beverage cart(s) will fly 3' x 5' American and POW/MIA flags.

President Thompson read the transcript of Daryll Hynes statement that was made at a DAV Chapter 70 meeting on March 13, 2007. The meeting tape recorded and transcribed by Annamarie Perrigo, Adjutant.

"I spoke to Rolling Thunder. They sent a gentleman out to set up a ramp for me. I seen him once. He said I'll probably be here within a week or two to have your ramp built. The only time I ever spoke to him was when I called him. He never gets back in touch with me and I think it was all a big show for Rolling Thunder only. His name was Jim. I told the head guy at Rolling Thunder too. All he did was he wanted to make a good showing. He said he had all the wood at the meeting, not this last meeting but I guess the meeting before when I wasn't there, but he told everybody he had the wood and everything and he'd have it done for me in a couple of days and I never heard from him. My wife and besides she's got a bad back and her and my daughter have to try and carry this thing up four flights of stairs every day and bring it down and up every day."

The DAV has since been able to get Mr. Hynes a 100% disability rating from the VA. Mr. Hynes will never get funds from Rolling Thunder again.

A formal financial assistance policy was recommended to the chapter by the board.

**Motion** to set aside 25% of the chapter checking account as of January 01 with a 20% individual maximum on a one time basis per fiscal year by Chris King and seconded by Director Harris. **Passed.**

As an example, say the chapter had \$10,000.00 on January 01. There would be \$2500.00 set aside for financial assistance. Of that amount, \$500.00 would be available to a person in need.

The Ft. McCoy picnic will be added to the chapter event list. Chapter members also attended the Vietnam Veterans Gathering and the Legion Riders Poker Run.

There are some future events to note;

- April 22 Wall escort ride in Melbourne, FL.
- April 26-29 Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Melbourne, FL.
- May 5 VFW Post 10087 poker run – registration 8:30am breakfast available.
- May 16-19 American ExPOW convention in Deerfield Beach.
- May 19 Dunnellon Air Show – chapter booth 10:00am – 4:30pm
- May 27 Rolling Thunder XX in Washington, DC
- Sept 21-22 Andersonville, GA [www.powridehome.org](http://www.powridehome.org)

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

Patrick Bailey informed the group that 1788 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The remains of 10 WWII veterans have been identified and remains of 6 people have been returned from North Korea.

Linda King reported that co-sponsors for HR 111, HR284, and HR393 are few and far between. Members were encouraged to contact their representative(s).

Bill Ealey and the Sunshine Committee have been active sending cards to Penny Thompson (knee replacement), Vicki Gooding (back surgery), Patrick Bailey (back surgery), Don & Denise Garnett (horse passed away), Norann & Steve Melynik (niece in drive by shooting).

Jim Gilchriese reported that additional POW/MIA flags are going up around Citrus County.

Archie Gooding says the donut program is going very well and pointed out that RT is the only group that provides coffee and donuts and sticks around to distribute them. Other groups just drop stuff off and leave right away.

Members were encouraged to bring items for the troops to the next meeting. Bob Bruno will acquire 50 boxes that are 1 cubic foot each. Email will go out with a suggested list of items. Prudy Rodriguez is chairing the committee.

Present membership stands at 82. We have a person who has not paid her dues and has not attended sufficient meetings/events to remain a member. Debbie Mampe has been sent letters informing her that she has been dropped and requesting the return of her patches.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE MAY 12, 2007 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS VFW POST 10087 AND WILL START AT 10:00AM.**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Submitted by

Jim Stepanek