

Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 7
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2007

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 meeting held December 8, 2007. Meeting was called to order at 10:05am by President Thompson. All were present except Directors Dumont and Gooding. 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 October 13, 2007 meeting as presented by COB Parker and seconded by Will Harris. **Passed.**

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

The chapter presently has 86 members.

Several activities have taken place since our last meeting – post office dedications in Lecanto and Brooksville, White Springs and Fort Cooper flag raisings, Beverly Hills Holiday parade, Homosassa Library dedication – and all activities were well attended by members.

The DAV presented President Thompson with a “Road Warrior” sculpture in appreciation of Rays’ work as chapter president.

Ken Hughes introduced Kevin Farell from the Wounded Warriors Foundation. Iraq veterans need assistance in re-adjustment to the civilian workplace. One way to obtain assistance is through Real World Transition seminars that are held quarterly in different locations around the country. Check out www.helpwarriors.com for more info.

Director Gooding arrived at 10:22am.

Denise Garnett reported that the remains of 4 Korean War and 4 Vietnam War POW/MIAs have been identified. Florida has had an additional KIA since our last meeting.

Bill Ealey reported that the Sunshine Committee has been busy –Bob & Cyndi Kline in a bike accident; Jim Gilchriese, shoulder surgery; Archie Gooding, shoulder surgery; JJ Kenny's wife passed away; Jerry Brousseau and Ray Dumont need our prayers; Penny Thompson's Dad passed away.

Noranne Melnyk reported that the T-shirt order has arrived and Quartermaster sales are going well. Secretary Stepanek made a motion to allow the Quartermaster authority to purchase a cart to haul supplies around. Ray Knisley will donate a cart to the chapter for Quartermaster use. A tent and tables has not yet been acquired.

Joe Taylor reported that the VA Donut Program is going well and additional volunteers are welcome.

The Andersonville Committee met for an after-action report. Chapter from other states want to become involved in the process next year.

President Thompson and VP Perrino reported on the RT National Conference. The RT Foundation will be a 501(c) corporation. Donations for chapter would be solicited by chapters with the check going to National and then back to the chapter. Receipts will be required to be returned to National. More info will be coming. Another conference item was that RT members are not allowed to wear any Patriot's Guard patches on RT vests because the Patriot's Guard is regarded as an MC.

There were 55 people who responded as attending the chapter Christmas party.

Florida Chapter 3 submitted a check to support the POW/MIA replacement flag program for the Florida State parks. Replacement flags have been sent to the State.

The Christmas Family Program has had difficulty trying to find a deserving family. Only one (1) could be found and the approved allotment of \$600.00 will be spent on that family.

Frank Del Rio was appointed as the chapter Service Officer.

Citrus County has a "Shop with a Cop" program that supports underprivileged children. The chapter supported their efforts last year.

Motion to donate \$400.00 to the "Shop with a Cop" program by Director Ealey and seconded by Kitt Bruno-Minard. **Passed.**

Ray Dumont has resigned as a chapter director because of health reasons. The chapter needs a replacement director and also an alternate director. Any member interested in holding the positions should contact a chapter officer/director.

Iron Horse Parts wants to hold a poker run, dyno runs, bike show, and bike games on February 2, 2008. Half the proceeds will go to RT. We have to do nothing but help get the word out. Iron Horse will have a kick-off party on February 1 at their location on CR44 in Lecanto.

The chapter may plan to visit the troops at Tampa VA in January 2008.

The chapter will start collecting 2008 annual dues of \$30.00 at the January meeting.

The Scott Speicher Memorial Run will take Place on January 19, 2008 in Jacksonville. Chapter 4 is putting the run together and we need to support the effort. RT people will be staying at the LaQuinta motel in Jacksonville.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE January 12, 2008 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS VFW POST 10087 AND WILL START AT 10:00am.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Submitted by
Jim Stepanek