

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 meeting held January 12, 2008. Meeting was called to order at 10:10am by President Thompson. 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 December 8, 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 Bob Strange. **Passed.**

The chapter presently has 87 members.

Ray Dumont is hurting. If you want to visit with him, please do so in the morning and call first.

Iron Horse Parts is holding a poker run, bike show & dyno shootout on February 2, 2008. Half of the proceeds from the event come to our chapter. We need to help get the word out and get people to attend.

On February 9, 2008 the Crystal River VFW Post 8189 will have a dinner from 5:00 – 7:00pm to benefit the troops.

The chapter roster is to be used for chapter business only! This has been repeated over and over and in the minutes time and time again. The Board will no longer put up with abuse of information and has so instituted the following;

- First offense will be a letter of reprimand and ninety (90) days probation.
- Second offense will be expulsion from the chapter and return of patches.

A bill has been introduced to the Florida legislature to give veterans a paid holiday on Veterans Day.

Member event sign-in sheets will be updated to include the many activities in November 2007.

Joe Taylor's father passed away in December.

Jerry Brousseau has had 2 back surgeries and was left paralyzed from the waist down. Jerry was the sole caretaker of his elderly father. Sally McCall is taking care of Dad while Jerry is in Woodland Terrace for rehab.

Bob Strange had another shoulder surgery. Archie Gooding had shoulder surgery and is ready to ride. Jean Fernandez is going into a nursing home.

The Quartermaster has a full compliment of supplies. Nameplates are available.

The family of an Iraq KIA from Texas was sent a private jet and personal aide. The family was told they would not be able to spend a penny when they left San Antonio to West Point to Arkansas and back to Texas. Hotels and meals were included. The family didn't win a contest – they were taken care of by a fellow Texan – Ross Perot.

Director positions have been filled by the Board;

Steve Melnyk—Director, Denise Garnett—1st Alternate Director, George Harris—2nd Alternate Director

The chapter financial assistance program for 2008 shows that a total of \$934.00 is available with \$187.00 available to an individual on a one time basis. The chapter will sponsor two (2) holes at the Gulfcoast PVA golf tournament from the assistance program.

SSgt John Borders was wounded in Iraq. The family will return to Ocala in April 2008. RT National would like the chapter to hold some type of fundraising event to help the family out. The government will provide \$4000.00 to modify their house to make it handicap accessible.

Florida saw one (1) KIA in December 2007.

Remains have been identified; Three (3) Korean War, One (1) Vietnam War, One (1) WWII.

The Christmas Family program was different but Shop with A Cop went over very well. It was suggested that the chapter concentrate next year on the Shop with a Cop program.

Debbie Boyd is introducing legislation to make it mandatory to fly a POW/MIA flag in Florida. If passed, the monetary burden would be lifted from Rolling Thunder. Charlie Dean is introducing a similar bill in the senate.

The Scott Spiecher Memorial Run takes place on January 19, 2008 in Jacksonville.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE February 9, 2008 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS VFW POST 10087 AND WILL START AT 10:00am.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

Submitted by

Jim Stepanek