

Meeting Minutes - Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 - May 10, 2008

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 meeting held May 10, 2008. Meeting was called to order at 10:05am by President Thompson. All were present except Alternate Director Harris. 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 8, 2008 meeting as presented by Bob Bruno and seconded by Kitt Bruno-Minard. **Passed.**

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

House Bill 39 mandates the purchase and flying of the POW/MIA flag over Florida State Parks. The bill passed unanimously in both houses.

The Fort McCoy cookout was well attended by about 30 chapter members.

The SSgt. Borders benefit was well attended by about 43 chapter members. Borders is having another surgery on his left leg and the doctors are hoping to save the leg. John has already lost his right leg. The 50/50 raffle brought in \$2500 and over \$65,000 was raised at the benefit.

The chapter presently has 87 members and several boot and back patches were distributed.

The chapter sold \$940 of RT National bike raffle tickets.

The Citrus County Chronicle no longer publishes its' Veterans page.

Korean War Commemorative Coins will be distributed by Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite. If you are a Korean War Veteran, please contact Ginny's office (Brooksville).

Denise Garnett reported that 7 Florida heroes were killed in action since our March meeting. The remains of Matt Maupin have been found and two (2) of the perpetrators have been caught.

Liz Bryant reported that HR 111 has 273 co-sponsors but is held up in committee by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Members are encouraged to contact Pelosi requesting her to bring the bill out of committee via her fax number – 202-225-4188, phone 202-225-0100 or 202-225-4965. Her snail mail address is Speaker of the House, H232 US Capital, Washington, DC 20515.

The Huber Act addresses sole survivor issues and was introduced by Sen. Nunez (CA) with 298 co-sponsors.

Bill Ealey and the Sunshine Committee sent a card to Secretary Stepanek (neck surgery) and asked chapter members to call him if get well cards need to be sent out to a chapter member.

Plans for Andersonville are well underway. Corporate sponsorships are being sought. Most, if not all hotel rooms in the Andersonville area are already filled.

Memorial Day Services will be held on Monday, May 26, 2008 at Fero Memorial Gardens, 5891 Lecanto Hwy, Beverly Hills, at 10:30am. VFW 7991, 4252, 10087, Lecanto JROTC, Young

Marines, American Legion 155, Sheriff Dawsy, RTFL7. A motorcycle procession will follow the service and with a BBQ at Citrus Motorsports.

Rolling Thunder XXI is coming up. Chapter members will provide stage security on Sunday. All people going were asked to stay after the chapter meeting for a short DC meeting.

The chapter's second annual Independence Day Golf Tournament will take place on June 28, 2008. Plans are coming along, committee chairs are in place, golfers are signing up, but we can always use additional sponsors.

Al Courser's friend with the stock car will be at the Citrus County Speedway. Look for the POW/MIA sticker on the trunk lid and chapter logo on the roof.

The chapter has agreed that we will attend Flag Day ceremonies at Ft. Cooper. The plan is to trek to Ft. Cooper after the June chapter meeting. FREE food will be available at Ft. Cooper and the chapter will perform the POW/MIA Table Ceremony at 1:30pm. If you have a spare American flag that Ft. Cooper can borrow for a day or two, please contact Ken Hughes, who is coordinating the ceremonies.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE June 14, 2008 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS VFW POST 10087 AND WILL START AT 10:00am.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.

Submitted by

Jim Stepanek