

Meeting Minutes - Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 - July 12, 2008

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 meeting held July 12, 2008. Meeting was called to order at 10:03am 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 June 14, 2008 meeting as presented by COB Parker and seconded by Bob Strange. **Passed.**

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

DAV Chapter 70 and RTFL7 combined efforts to present a \$1000.00 scholarship to Herbert Sickler, Jr. The award was presented by DAV Commander Jack Seaman and RTFL7 President Ray Thompson.

Flag Day ceremonies at Fort Cooper went very well and the chapter had 20 members in attendance. The chapter performed the POW/MIA Remembrance Table ceremony.

The July 4, 2008 visit to Haley VA went well with 17 chapter members as well as a Chapter 3 member and 2 members from Chapter 1 attending. The chapter provided \$750.00 for food that members distributed to about 70 spinal cord patients and 18 patients in the psych ward.

Lisa Paterson was our guest speaker from Grateful American Coins that show a tangible way to thank veterans for their service. Lisa went into the story of her "stalking" Jimmy Linesberry so she could present him with a coin.

Proceeds from the meetings 50/50 raffle will go towards the purchase of coins. (Coins are \$7.50 each).

DAV Chapter 70 has the 2008 version of the Citrus County Veteran Appreciation pins. All proceeds will go to their scholarship fund.

The chapter presently has 84 members.

Connie O'Brien reported on POW/MIAs – WWI 4,452; WWII 78,773; Korea 8,056; Cold War 123; Vietnam 1,757; Iraq 2. Three (3) Florida residents were KIA in Iraq in the past month.

Liz Bryant reported that Ginny Brown-Waite has introduced HR4665 to reduce veteran mortgages. New Vet Centers will be going in Pasco County, Pinellas County, Hernando County, the Villages, Palm Beach, Volusia County, and St. Augustine.

Director Gooding announced that an Army retirement seminar will be held in Orlando on August 16, 2008.

The Sunshine Committee reported that Cindi Kline will have some surgery done on skin cancer and Bill Squires is doing chemo for leukemia.

Joe Taylor reported that Donuts at the VA is going well and has enough volunteers.

Frank Del Rio reported on the Veterans ad hoc Committee. The chapter has been invited to perform the POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony at the Crystal River Mall on November 1, 2008. RTFL7 will also provide the main speaker for the Veterans at the Mall event. RTFL7 can also be the front unit at the Veterans Day parade and possibly perform the table ceremony at the courthouse in Inverness.

Plans for Andersonville Ride Home are in the final stages and call for a chopper flyover, former POWs, parade, program honoring POWs, guest speakers, and more. Patches and T-shirts are available.

The chapter's 2nd annual Independence Day Golf Tournament was a great success. Sixty (60) of the chapter's 84 members participated in one way or another. The chapter brought in \$5,653.80 from the event. The chapter Board, with approval from the chapter, committed to the following expenditures from the golf tournament proceeds -

- pay for food at the July 4, 2009 Haley VA \$750
- Haley House \$1500
- Andersonville Ride Home \$1600
- Citrus County Veterans Foundation \$500
- DAV Chapter 70 scholarship fund \$500
- Citrus County Heroes \$1000
- Key Training Center \$100

Motion to accept the Board's recommendation for the above expenditures by Chuck Orr and seconded by ?? **Passed.**

The chapter needs a storage area. A1 Storage will provide a 5 x 10 unit fro \$35/month. Secretary Stepanek will investigate other sites.

A Nomination/Election Committee was selected and will be chaired by Connie O'Brien with assistance from Denise Garnett. Nominations were –

Vice-President	Don Garnett	Gene Perrino		
Treasurer	Chris Harris			
COB	Rick Parker			
Directors	Bill Ealey	Jimmy Linesberry	Al Mumford	Terry Sippel

All accepted the nominations. Nomination will be opened at the August 2008 meeting. By accepting the nomination, Don Garnett resigned as a chapter director.

President Thompson, Secretary Stepanek and COB Parker will not be able to attend the August 2008 meeting.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 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