

January  
2024

# ROLLING THUNDER® TIMES



## Volunteers Made Wreaths Project Success Again!!!

On Saturday, December 16, 2023 Rolling Thunder® Inc. National members participated in the Eighth Annual “Wreaths Across America” project, placed wreaths on 1,650 graves at the Somerset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery and Mausoleum in Basking Ridge, NJ.

Most of all, Rolling Thunder® Charities, Inc. would like to thank all the people, businesses, and organizations that helped us meet our financial goals for this great event. Thank you to the volunteers from All Over!

We deeply appreciate everyone’s help.

Joe Weaver  
Rolling Thunder® Inc.

National Office  
PO Box 216  
Neshanic Station, NJ 08853  
Phone - 908-369-5439  
Fax - 908-369-2072  
Email - [rtnj1@att.net](mailto:rtnj1@att.net)  
[www.rollingthunder1.com](http://www.rollingthunder1.com)

## JANUARY

1/21 - National: Regular monthly meeting,  
Manville, VFW, 1PM



## TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Rolling Thunder® XXXVI  
NATION WIDE “Ride for Freedom”  
Sunday, May 26, 2024

Information will be posted on  
Rolling Thunder® Inc. National Website  
[www.rollingthunder1.com](http://www.rollingthunder1.com)

## Mission Statement

The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize the POW/MIA issue: To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars, and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War –Missing In Action. We are also committed to helping American veterans from all wars.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a non –profit organization and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW-MIA issue. All meetings must be orderly and every member must be heard. Everyone is as important as the next. Everyone has different views and we must all work together in an orderly manner.

Every Chapter must have an agenda to run a meeting. Everyone must get their turn to talk about any issue that concerns Rolling Thunder®, Inc. and its members

The Constitution and By-Laws of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. will not be changed or altered by any Chapter and everyone must abide by this constitution.

**Meetings are held on:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 1:00PM

**Meeting Location:** VFW 600 Washington St. Manville, NJ  
(unless otherwise indicated in the events section)

**ARTICLES IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT  
NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OR OPINIONS OF  
ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.**

To offer information to the newsletter it must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to get in the next month's newsletter.

**Newsletter Editor: National Office**

P.O. Box 216, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853

Phone : 908-369-5439 Fax : 908-369-2072

Email :rtnj1@att.net

Website: [www.rollingthunder1.com](http://www.rollingthunder1.com)

**Come Check us out on Facebook and Like Us!**

Officers:			<u>Media &amp; Public Relations</u>	Mike Maloney	609-285-8545
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2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jim Kosty	732-421-2552	Sunshine Committee	Sue Weaver	732-540-2124
Secretary	Brenda Einhorn	609-330-0040			
Treasurer	Nancy Bottrel	908-996-0081	Chapter Reports/ Relations	Elaine Muller	908-730-6711
Chairman of the Board	Ted Zabohonski	215-778-3606	Chapters Activity Report	Elaine Muller	908-730-6711
Board of Directors:	Andy Kerr	908-380-9116	Education Committee	Gary Domanski	908-369-4785
	Tom McAtee	908-797-4200	WWII/Korea War	Gus Dante	908-240-3201
	Joe McIlvaine III	732-685-7054	Gulf War Affairs	Tom Epps	609-841-8785
	Joe Weaver	732-427-2765	Gold Star Mothers Committee	Brenda Einhorn	609-330-0040
Alt. Board Members:	Robert Anderson	201-398-3105	Ted Zabohonski	215-778-3606	
Alt. Board Members:	Betsy Ficken	973-714-5120	NJ Mission of Honor for Cremains of American Veterans	Joe Weaver	732-427-2765
POW/MIA Chair of Honor & Missing Man Coordinator	Elaine Martin	908-442-4491	Executive Counselor	Gus Dante	908-240-3201
	Tom Epps	609-841-8785	VA Hospital Visits	Tom McAtee	908-797-4200
Head of Security	Joe McIlvaine	732-685-7054	Color Guard		
Sergeant-at-Arms			KIA Service & Remembrance	Deb Teall	908-917-3990
National Attorney	Kuchinsky & Rotunno	908-782-4911	Junior Members Comm.	Pat & Andy Kerr	732-388-0864
Quartermaster	Rob Stroka	908-797-2312			
	Bob Piscopo	732-926-8331			
Government Affairs	Gus Dante	908-240-3201			
adantesp4@comcast.net					
Government Links	<a href="http://www.house.gov">www.house.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.senate.gov">www.senate.gov</a>			
Congress Operator	202-224-3121				

Membership Committee/Junior Membership/Roster:

Mike Bottrel [Foxyzz28@aol.com](mailto:Foxyzz28@aol.com) 609-306-5248

ROLLING THUNDER,® INC. NATIONAL  
PO BOX 216  
NESHANIC STA, NJ 08853

**IN MEMORY OF**

**WWII REMAINS IDENTIFIED**

**S. SGT. Franklin P. Hall/U.S.A.A.F.**

**Eddie R. Wright 76, passed away November 23, 2023. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Kentucky for over 10 years. He was a past Board Member of Kentucky Chapter One. He was very active and will be missed by all. May he rest in peace and may he ride free in the Heavens above.**

**Wade Cleaver 63, passed away November 15, 2023. He was a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 Illinois for over 5 years. He was a very active member always at meetings and events. He will be missed by all. May he ride free in the Heavens above and may he rest in peace.**

**Olivia A. D'Alessio 67, passed away December 18, 2023. Olivia was a long time member of Rolling Thunder National for over 24 years. She was a faithful member and always helped everyone. She will be missed by everyone. May she rest in peace and may she ride free in the Heavens above.**

Our respect to all family & friends. May our Brothers and Sisters be at peace with the Lord. May those who served Honorably Rest in Peace in the soil they fought for Freedom for all. Those who remain Prisoners of War/Missing in action, body not recoverable, we will never forget you.

Let us remember those who have given their lives for our Freedom in the War against Terrorist and Operation Iraq Freedom (Gulf War II). May God Keep our Troops safe.

When one American is not worth the effort to be found,  
We as Americans have lost.  
Remember our Troops Killed in action and those serving.

**DONATION IN MEMORY OF**  
**IAN De LEONARDIS**  
**FROM NANCY & JOEL GOODMAN**

## **2024 Chapter Events Calendar Form**

Publication in the National Newsletter, please allow at least Three (3) months prior notice to the event and/or flyer. The following information is require by E-mail or mail - Rolling Thunder® Inc., P.O. Box 216 Neshanic Station, NJ 08853.

If you prefer to send by email, contact [rtnj1@att.net](mailto:rtnj1@att.net)

**Please make sure the following information is included:**

**Chapter State**

**Event Contact Person**

**Telephone**

**Event Name**

**Day/Date of Event**

**Time of Event**

**Event Location**

**Other Pertinent Information**



# ARMY CPL. GORDON D. MCCARTHY

20, Palmer, Michigan, killed during the Korean War, was **accounted for Feb. 13, 2023**. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. In 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes of remains. Scientists from DPAA Lab and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used anthropological and DNA analysis to identify McCarthy. His name will be removed from the Courts of the Missing, and a **rosette** will be placed next to his name. McCarthy will rest in Arlington National Cemetery.



NEVER | FORGOTTEN



# HURST, R.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced recently that U.S. Army Pvt. **Robert L. A. Hurst**, 21, of Wabasso, Florida, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was **accounted for July 10, 2023**.

In late 1942, Hurst served in the 429th Signal Maintenance Company during the Japanese invasion of the Philippine Islands. After intense battles leading to the surrender of Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942, Hurst, along with thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members, was captured and held in POW camps. He **endured the harrowing 65-mile Bataan Death March** and was interned at the Cabanatuan POW camp, where over 2,500 prisoners lost their lives during the war. Records from the prison camp indicate Hurst's death on July 27, 1942. He was laid to rest, alongside other fallen prisoners, in Common Grave 225 at the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery.



NEVERFORGOTTEN



# MITCHELL, H.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that U.S. Army Pvt. **Homer J. Mitchell**, 20, of Portales, New Mexico, killed during World War II, was **accounted for on July 24, 2023**.

In November 1944, Mitchell was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division. His Battalion had been tasked with holding defensive positions in the Pachten Forest near Dillingen, Germany, when he was reported killed in action on Dec. 10 by enemy artillery fire. His body could not be evacuated due to intense fighting against heavily reinforced German forces.

## 3 Portales Men On Casualty List

Included in the latest casualty list released by the Office of War Information are the following three Portales boys: Pvt. Homer J. Mitchell, son of Mrs. Gladie Mitchell, who was killed in action in the European theater; Pfc. E. L. Nelson, son of Lewis G. Nelson, and Sgt. William K. Wright, son of William T. Wright, who are among the Army wounded in the European theater. Also included in the Army wounded in the European regions is Sgt. Catrino C. Liendo, son of Mrs. Julia C. Liendo, of Malheur, Texas.



# ***Did You Know...***

## **A few facts about the Vietnam wall.**

*There are 58,267 names on the wall.*

*39,996 were just 22 or younger.*

*8,283 were 19. 33,103 were 18.*

*12 were 17 years old.*

*5 soldiers were 16.*

*There are 3 sets of fathers and sons on the wall.*

*31 sets of parents lost 2 of their sons.*

*997 were killed their first day.*

*1,448 were killed on their last day.*

*8 women were on the wall, nurses.*

*244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war and 153 of them are on the wall.*

# Hero Army Lieutenant Killed in WWII Will Finally Be Laid to Rest in 2024

Story by Stefanie Ladner



## *An American hero is finally coming home.*

The [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#) announced that U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Gene F. Walker has officially been found and accounted for 79 years after his death in World War II.

Walker, a native of Richmond, Indiana, was assigned to Company H, 3rd Battalion, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division and served as a commander of an M4 Sherman tank during World War II. In November 1944, Walker's unit fought German forces near Hüheltn, Germany. His tank was hit by an anti-tank round, which caused a fire and prompted surviving crew members to abandon the tank and flee. Walker was not among them. He was 27 years old.

His fellow service members tried to recover his body from the burned tank, but they were unable to retrieve him due to "heavy fighting." Efforts to locate deceased American military personnel upon the war's end around Hüheltn, Germany, occurred in 1948. However, Walker's remains were unable to be found. But thanks to the efforts of a historian from DPAA, Walker's remains are unaccounted for no longer.

The historian determined that a set of unidentified remains likely belonged to Walker, so the remains were exhumed from the Henri-Chapelle U.S. Military Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium, and sent for testing and analysis in August 2021. After various methods of analysis and evidentiary examination, including mitochondrial DNA, the agency was confident in concluding that it was indeed 2nd Lt. Walker who they had identified.

Although it has been 79 years, Walker will be received home by his family -- his daughter, Anne Walker Collingwood, who was just three months old when he died. He and his daughter never met before his passing. "It was the biggest surprise I've ever had in my life. I still can't grasp it," Collingwood said in an interview with [The New York Times](#).

Collingwood said her family plans to have a ceremony for her father early next year. He will be interred at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California, a scenic vista which overlooks the Pacific Ocean. "I was extremely happy and wishing that my mother and my grandmother could be alive, so that they could know this," she continued. According to DPAA, another 72,134 U.S. military service members are unaccounted for from World War II.

As a final act of recognition, a rosette will be placed next to Walker's name on the Walls of the Missing in Margarten, [Netherlands](#). A poignant [American memorial](#), it commemorates 1,722 missing and unaccounted for American soldiers from World War II.

The rosette symbolizes the completion of each fallen soldier's journey, from lost to found.

# Veterans Crisis Line is here for all Veterans

Life is unpredictable and full of ups and downs that can affect your well-being. As a Veteran, you face unique and difficult challenges due to your experience in the military. If you're dealing with a crisis or thoughts of suicide, it can feel like you're carrying the weight alone.

While support may seem out of reach or difficult to find, it's only a phone call away. Regardless of your age, gender, rank, branch, tenure, discharge status or job in the military, the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) is a free and accessible resource for all Veterans.

**Help is always available, day or night** - Some Veterans may question if they're allowed to call the Veterans Crisis Line. One might think this resource is only meant for Veterans who served in combat, were injured through their service, were deployed overseas or are currently enrolled in VA health care and benefits. None of this is true. Spreading the word about the Veterans Crisis Line is a high priority for VA, not only because we want to save lives but also because we want all Veterans to know support is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

You can Dial 988 then Press 1 to be connected to a compassionate and trained responder ready to listen and help with any challenges you're facing. There are also chat ([VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#)) and text 838255 options. Even if you don't know what you need or how to explain it, our responders are here for you. After making sure you have the resources you need, they can connect you to one of the 165 suicide prevention coordinators located across the country for continued, local support.

**Take the first step to healing** - Reaching out might be the last thing you want to do. You might be nervous and anxious, or you might think no one can help. Healing can be a difficult journey and it's hard to not focus on the negatives especially if you've been suffering in silence. But consider the ways that support could change your life. Since the Veterans Crisis Line launched in 2007, we have fielded more than six million contacts from Veterans and their loved ones. With one call, you'll be connected to accessible resources and people who want to help. You also decide how much information you want to share with our responders. You don't have to share any personal details like your name.

Veterans have told me they would feel more comfortable contacting the Veterans Crisis Line if they knew more about what to expect. Here's a step-by-step guide to what happens when you call the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988 then Press 1):

1. A recording will alert you that you've reached the Veterans Crisis Line.
2. There will be a brief pause while the call is connected to a qualified responder ready to listen and help.
3. The responder will ask a few questions, such as whether you or the Veteran or service member you're concerned about may be in immediate danger or at risk for suicide.
4. Your call is free and confidential, and you decide how much information to share.
5. If you or the Veteran or service member you're concerned about is in danger, the responder will help you get through the crisis and then connect you with the services you need, either from your local VA medical center or elsewhere in your community.
6. If you or the Veteran or service member you're concerned about is in crisis but not at imminent risk for injury or suicide, the responder will listen, offer support and help you make a plan to stay safe.
7. Afterward, you may be connected with a local suicide prevention coordinator who will contact you the next business day for continued support.

For information on what happens when you chat or text the Veterans Crisis Line, visit our [How It Works](#) page.

## **Be prepared in case you need support**

During a crisis, every second counts. Making sure you're prepared with how to find immediate support is critical and can potentially be lifesaving.

Even if you don't need support today, [saving the Veterans Crisis Line number](#)—Dial 988 then Press 1—can give you peace of mind knowing a trusted caring responder is waiting on the other end.

<https://news.va.gov/122599/veterans-crisis-line-is-here-for-all-veterans/>



## ***Rolling Thunder New York Chapter 3***



Pictured with Greg are President Ken Trager and VP Ron Orts.

***During our January 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter Meeting member Greg Burns was presented with the President's Award for his outstanding and unwavering commitment to our chapter and our veterans.***

***Congratulations Greg and thank you! Well deserved!***



## Rolling Thunder® Chap 5 MI

**ROLLING THUNDER INC. MICHIGAN CHAPTER 5 HAD THE PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO DEDICATE ANOTHER POW/MIA HONOR CHAIR AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. AS OF TODAY, THIS IS THE 8TH HONOR CHAIR DEDICATED AT THE UNIVERSITY, AND IN JUST OVER A YEAR. NOW EVERY SPORTS VENUE ON CAMPUS HAS ITS OWN HONOR CHAIR. THE EXCITEMENT BEHIND THIS PROJECT FROM THE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING AND HEARTWARMING. AFTER THE FIRST CHAIRS WERE DEDICATED AND WE MOVED ON TO THE NEXT ONE, IT WAS GREAT TO SEE EACH VENUE, ALONG WITH THE COACHES AND PLAYERS, READY AND WAITING TO GET THEIR OWN. EVERYONE KNEW WHAT THE CHAIRS REPRESENTED AND WHAT ROLLING THUNDER INC WAS ABOUT. THE RESPECT GIVEN BY EVERYONE INVOLVED WAS IMMENSE. I WILL PUT A COMPILATION TOGETHER WITH ALL OF THE CHAIRS ON THE MSU CAMPUS IN ANOTHER POST. CAN'T WAIT TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE NEXT PROJECT.**

**NEVER GIVE UP  
NEVER FORGET  
UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME**



# Dining For A Cause

Salt hill Pub

Invites You to a

Fundraiser Benefit:

Rolling Thunder Inc.<sup>®</sup> Chapter 2 NH

**Date: Monday, February 12, 2024**

**Time: 5:00 - 9:00**

**Location: Salt hill Pub (Upstairs)**

**58 Main Street**

**Newport, New Hampshire**

Salt hill Pub will donate 15% of your Guest Check

to

Rolling Thunder Inc.<sup>®</sup> Chapter 2 NH

*Help us Help our Vets!*

ROLLING THUNDER  
CHAPTER 6

NJ

— Saint —  
**PATRICK'S DAY**

**DINNER AND DANCING!!!**

**Saturday March 16th**

**6:00 - 10:00 PM**

Entry Fee \$20 Per Person  
(includes corned beef/cabbage dinner/coffee/  
dessert)  
Cash Bar

50/50  
Lucky Lotto Hat

**33 Daniel Road**

**Spotswood NJ**

**DJ DEMO**

**VETERANS EAT FREE!**

**All proceeds go to helping veterans**

# ROLLING THUNDER® INC.

## “Thanksgiving”

IN

### MARCH FOOD DRIVE

PLEASE BRING FOOD ITEMS TO THE March 17, 2024 MEETING  
(at THE VFW MANVILLE, NEW JERSEY)

#### THE FOOD BANK NEEDS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

CANNED MEATS (stews, corned beef, spam, chicken, turkey)  
PARMALAT MILK, CEREAL (hot & cold), PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP  
CANNED FRUIT (regular & no sugar)  
CANNED VEGETABLES (regular & no salt)  
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTIOS, PASTA (boxes, mixes)  
TUNA, MACARONI & CHEESE, WHITE or BROWN RICE (regular & mixes)  
CANNED SOUP, CANNED TOMATOES, CANNED GRAVY  
CEREAL (hot & cold), SNACKS (bars, pudding, Jello)  
Also needed is hand soap, diapers/wipes, dish & laundry detergent  
Paper towels, shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant

#### ALSO NEEDED IS - “BACK PACK FOOD”

BEEF STEW (small cans), VIENNA SAUAGES (small cans)  
TUNA (3 oz. pull-top cans & bags), CHEF BOYARDEE CANNED PASTA (7 oz.)  
JUICE BOXES, PUDDING CUPS, FRUIT CUPS, JELLO CUPS  
RAMEN NOODLES, CEREAL (small boxes)  
SNACKS – (individual packs, pretzels, cookies, bars)  
MAC & CHEESE (microwaveable packets)  
“Please no glass containers”

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE MARCH MEETING  
ASK YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS, LOCAL FOOD  
MARKETS TO HELP

All items collected will be donated to the  
Community Food Banks of New Jersey

2024  
Rolling Thunder® National Inc.  
Lyons VA Hospital Visits

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6:30 pm-Community Living Center ~ 2nd Fl.

January 18  
March 21  
May (none)  
July 18  
September 19  
November 21

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7:00 pm ~ PTSD Ward  
Bldg. 143~ 2nd Fl.  
(Please bring a dessert)

February 15  
April 18  
June 20  
August 25, Sunday (VA Picnic) 11:00am  
October 17  
December 4, Wednesday (Holiday party)

Recreation Dept. (908) 647-0180 Ext. 4327(Days)  
Please obey speed limits on VA grounds

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**Directions**

**From Route 78:**

Exit 33, head North to Valley Road (Approx 1 mi)  
Right on Valley Road. Go approx. 3 miles.  
Hospital entrance on left.

**From Route 22:**

At Bound Brook, take Warrentonville Road north.  
Approx. 8 mi. take Valley Road left.  
Hospital ½ mi. on right.

**To CLC ( Nursing Home):**

Pass thru security gate. Follow signs for Community Living Center. Take next left. Nursing Home is a free-standing building on the right just beyond the parking lot.

**To PTSD:**

Pass thru security gate. Take second right, then quick left. Bldg. 143 is directly ahead, use parking lot to the right.

Speed limit on hospital grounds strictly enforced !

# ROLLING THUNDER®, INC. NEWSLETTER



POW/MIA	
<b>"We Will Never Forget"</b>	
WWI	3,343
WWII	72,254
Cold War	126
Korea	7,514
Vietnam	1,581

## POW/MIA "WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

### Mission Statement

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