

Rolling Thunder ~ The Run Continues

Rolling Thunder's Ride for Freedom was a great success in 2013. It was the 26th year, with activities again taking place over Memorial Day Weekend. Some 400,000 plus motorcycles and their riders participated in the Demonstration Ride on Sunday, May 26. About 1.3 million folks were there and the run went very smoothly.

It was decided among us ~ Michael, Patrick, & Betsy ~ that this year we would share information about what ELSE Rolling Thunder does. As impressive as the annual Demonstration Ride in Washington DC is, it is only a portion of what Rolling Thunder does during the year on behalf of our POW/MIAs.

A point that some readers may be unaware of is that Rolling Thunder is NEITHER a motorcycle club nor association. There is no need to be a Veteran or a motorcyclist to be a member of RT. But you must be dedicated to Veterans issues; most especially our POW/MIAs. There are RT Chapters in states across the nation. Visit the Rolling Thunder®, Inc website

[see below] for contact information. Members donate their time to helping their local Veterans. They make the personal commitment to be in Washington DC for the annual Demonstration Ride, do what they can to support the POW/MIA cause, and educate others on POW/MIA issues.

Many chapters hold events in their respective communities. A very visible & creative way in which Massachusetts Chapter 1 has begun raising public awareness is to put POW/MIA "Chairs" in cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Our friend Michael will pick it up at this point:

'Boston, July 4, 2013... Fenway Park, dubbed "America's Most Beloved Ballpark" ... On July 4th 2013 the Boston Red Sox followed the lead of the Boston Bruins, the Boston Celtics, the New England Patriots, & the Lowell Spinners in dedicating a Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Chair high above the left field bleachers. The chair, most fittingly, looks down the line to "Home Plate".

'Left field was the domain of Boston Red Sox Player #9, whose number has been retired; the "Splendid Splinter", the late Ted Williams. Williams was a United States Naval Aviator attached to the U.S. Marine Corps in WWII & Korea. He is, or I would like to think that he is, looking down from that lofty chair approvingly. Number 37, "Salty", the Red Sox catcher, is wearing a POW/MIA bracelet for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, USA; a Prisoner of War since June 2009, being held somewhere in Southwest Asia. Thanks "Salty". We want Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl USA home NOW.

'A lone motorcycle passed ever so slowly, in solemn tribute along the left field wall. Rolling Thunder®, Inc. 1MA members stood in front of a massive "National Ensign" the "Stars & Stripes" which was suspended from the top of the left field fence. That motorcycle carries the names of the Massachusetts Service Members who are still Prisoners of War or Missing in Action.

'Rolling Thunder®, Inc., MA Chapter 1 deserves the nation's gratitude for working with the pro teams in New England, to raise the level of public awareness of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action issue. These teams also fly or display the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag, the other "National Ensign". Thank you to them all. And as Ted Williams might say, "Semper Fidelis teammates."

View more photos from Rolling Thunder® XXVI by following this link...

http://www.patrickjhughes.org/patrickjhughes-org/galleries/6_rolling_thunder/

View more photos from the POW-MIA Chair dedication | Mass 1 Rolling Thunder® via this link...

http://www.patrickjhughes.org/galleries/5_pow-mia/83_POWMIACHAIR

Learn more about Rolling Thunder® Inc via their national website www.rollingthunder1.com

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Rolling Thunder, Inc. 1MA members at Fenway Park; participating in a tribute to POW/MIAs



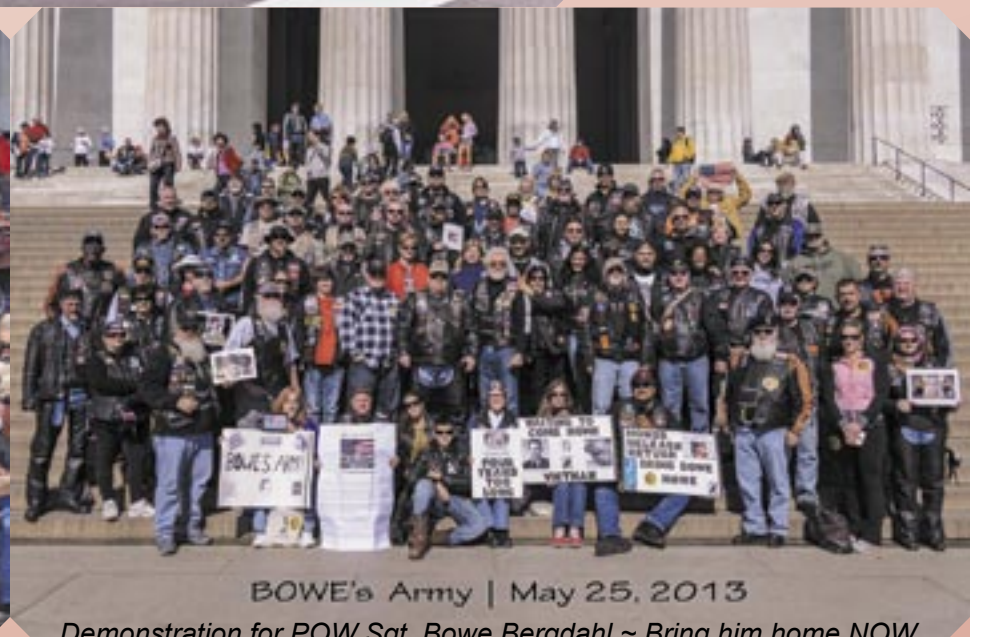
Marine SSgt Tim Chambers

photo top left: Joe D'Entremont, President Mass 1 Rolling Thunder® and Dr. Charles Steinberg Senior Advisor to the President/CEO, Boston Red Sox unveil before the July 4, 2013 ballgame their POW-MIA chair at Fenway Park.

next photo down: A motorcycle tribute; with the names of those Massachusetts Service Members who are still Prisoners of War or Missing in Action painted upon it.

next photo down: Congressional Medal Of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel leads bikes across Memorial Bridge for Rolling Thunder XXVI

bottom left: Viet Nam Vets / Legacy Vets MC, Washington DC, May 26, 2013



BOWE's Army | May 25, 2013

Demonstration for POW Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl ~ Bring him home NOW