



# RTNC 7 NEWS

February 2011

## MISSION STATEMENT

Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW-MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. To help correct the past and to protect the future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War/Missing In Action. We are 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.

**When one American is not worth the effort to be found, then we as Americans have lost.**

## Letter from the President

Welcome to 2011! We are off to a great start; the fund raising raffle is doing very well under the guidance of Randy Grosskopf and Patricia Thor! Our setup day at the Wal-Mart in Zebulon was a success beyond our expectations! Not only were people interested in hearing about what Rolling Thunder's mission was, but they were generous in supporting us and our campaign to get donations for our new project to collect donations of goods for a local homeless and rehab facility for Veterans.

In this issue you will read about Chewy, Chewy and his driver Butch are there if we are sending our troops to war, bringing them home, honoring the fallen, or paying final tribute to a Veteran. Chewy is always respectful and knowing, and is often the light in an otherwise somber occasion. He is one of us!

Please continue to check your emails and watch the calendar on the website as we will be setting up more Education and Donation dates.

We are a volunteer organization, however, one with requirements to attend meetings and events. There will be 4 Chapter events this year, please mark your calendars as we will be asking for full chapter support on these:

April 30<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Poker Run

June 11<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Memorial Run

October 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bike Show and Military Appreciation Rally

October 8<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wounded Warrior Bug Run

Thank you to everyone who supported our American Legion post home Brunswick Stew this past month, I learned that you have to be there when the doors open as the Stew was gone in one hour!

**A reminder to all members, please bring your dues to the February meeting!**

*Monica Vetula Cash*



# CHEWY "IRON MUTT" EWING BECOMES AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE DOGWOOD GSM CHAPTER



After the New Year, my driver and I joined the Gold Star Mothers, Blue Star Mothers, Rolling Thunder, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Operation Helping Hands for Heroes, and other organizations to recover and honorably dispose of the wreaths from Wreaths Across America. At that time, Julie Southerland asked my driver if I could attend a Gold Star Mother meeting. My driver told me I had a meeting to go to on January 22. I wasn't particularly interested until he said "... and we're taking the Harley." That got my interest.

On the morning of the meeting, it was cold, but we rode the Harley because that's what we do. My mom followed in the cage. We arrived at Julie Webb's house for the meeting of the American Gold Star Mothers – Dogwood Chapter. Julie has a dog and two cats, so I enjoyed sniff-learning about her fur-kids for a few minutes.

Before the meeting, my mom and my driver talked with Susan McClamrock and Christi Kazakavage, who talked about their sons. My driver was sitting on the floor, so I sat next to my driver so he could pet me because I knew the conversation was bothering him.

Paula Spivey presented me with a certificate making me an Associate Chapter Member for my service to our veterans and their families. At first, I was surprised because I'm a male and I don't have any puppies, that I know of. I sniffed the certificate, which smelled honorable. They also gave me a GSM coin and a white bandana with a gold star. Now, if anyone does a coin challenge with me, the GSM coin trumps any coin out there! My driver and I were humbled by this honor.



I also met Fred Atkins and received a copy of his book "I Live in the Greatest Country", which he autographed. During the meeting Fred talked about the Dixie Deer Classic, March 4-6. He obtained a booth at no cost, and the Gold Star Mothers plan to staff the booth, inform people about the GSM, and accept donations. My driver and I volunteered to park my Harley in the booth and let people take photos (using their own camera) with me for any donation amount. If you plan to attend the Dixie Deer Classic, please stop at the booth and chat with the Gold Star Mothers.

I'll see you on the road. Ride safe and keep your tongue in the wind!



# ETERNAL FLAME MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT FT BRAGG



Pictured: Cindy Williams, VP RTNC4, Monica Cash, President RTNC7 and Bud Mayse, Chaplain RTNC 7

The eternal flame was lit at an afternoon ceremony attended by hundreds of uniformed soldiers, military family members and veterans. The new monument, placed between two towering oaks on the base's main parade field, consists of a rough-cut column of stone on a granite base. Perched on the point of the stone is a cauldron in which a gas-fed fire burns.

The stone came from Curahee Mountain in Georgia, the site of Camp Toccoa, a World War II-era paratrooper training ground. The fire bowl is cast from steel salvaged from the wreckage of the World Trade Center after the terrorist attacks on the buildings on Sept. 11, 2001

The \$140,000 project was just six months in the making, a collaboration between Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, commanding general of Fort Bragg and the 18th Airborne Corps, and other Army and civilian leaders.

Helmick spoke briefly at the ceremony, saying the monument honors service members, living and dead, from Fort Bragg and Pope who have deployed or will deploy to Afghanistan or Iraq after 9/11.

He said the flame "will remain lit until they're all home."



