

# Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup>, Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

## Chapter Meeting Minutes

### March 5, 2025

Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup> Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Meeting was called to order by President Al Miller  
At 19:45 hours.

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Al "Shadow" Miller	President
Yes	Kandice "PG" Jacobs	Vice-President
Yes	Knute Weick	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Rick "Cosmo" Herr	Treasurer
Yes	Keith "Stretch" Stengler	Secretary
Yes	Chris "Spyder" Graham	Director
Yes	Dave "Roadie Dave" Skinner	Director
Yes	Sue "Stumbler" Price	Director
Yes	Wendy "Dragonfly" Vach	Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Rolling Thunder Mission Statement

MIA Personnel list

Cozmo:

- Treasurers report.

Shadow:

- Thanks to everyone who supported the ALR Bowling for Veterans event in Sandwich.
- We need to have everyone selling gun bash tickets. Sell, Sell, Sell!

PG:

- Explained a fund-raising idea, the Veterans Cash Raffle.  
The cost of tickets will be \$50.  
There will be 25 winners. 24 that will receive \$500 and the last winner will be \$1,000.  
All winners will be pulled in one day.  
Like the gun bash, the winners number will be returned to the drawing barrel.  
LT is working on a venue to hold the event, maybe Rays Evergreen in St. Charles.  
A side raffle will be for meat packages can add to our profit.  
Also, a 50/50 drawing using a deck of cards instead of tickets.  
Tank and Skippy will be the MCs for the event.  
We will ask the venue to donate some of the revenue back to us for having the event at their location.  
We could get a few funny meat t-shirts to raffle off too.  
A Saturday date for the event sometime in early October, TBD.  
We want to start selling the tickets in May just after the gun bash event.  
We will print where the donation monies go to on the back of the ticket.

- Rainbow asked about the cost of the ticket being a bit high. If this happens, ask a couple people to share the cost of the ticket.
- Snipe thought we could do this on a Friday evening.  
This would be difficult for some to get to the event on time to participate.
- Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be placing flags at ALNC Cemetery for Memorial Day.

Stumbler:

- All is going well with Irongate for their events. The dates are 5/10, 7/12 and 9/20. We have been asked to attend all 3 with a booth for us and Chappy.

Dragonfly:

- Sell gun bash tickets!

Stretch:

- March 29<sup>th</sup>, Mission BBQ is offering veterans a free meal. I will email the flyer we received from them to the chapter.

Spyder:

- Adam at Kane County Guns wants a list for the side raffle prizes at the gun bash. Looking for some help creating this list.

Roadie Dave:

- Wants member phone numbers who don't have email access so we can send them texts for event information.
- 3 Repatriations coming up.
  - U.S. Army Pvt. James C. Loyd, Elwood, Illinois, in May 2025  
U.S. Army Pvt. James C. Loyd, 19, of Brilliant, Alabama, missing in action during World War II, was accounted for March 14, 2024.  
In January 1944, Loyd was assigned to the Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division.  
On Jan. 31, Loyd was reported missing when his unit was engaged by German Forces near the town of Cisterna, Italy. He was last seen during a reconnaissance patrol north of the village of Conca.
  - U.S. Army Air Forces Second Lieutenant Buttala  
No burial info yet on this MIA. Being from Chicago, I would expect that he will be buried locally however, he may be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.  
On January 14, 2025, the (DPAA) identified the remains of Second Lieutenant Justice J. Buttala, missing from World War II.  
Second Lieutenant Buttala entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from Illinois and served in the 28th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group.  
On April 24, 1945, he was serving as an observer aboard a B-29 Superfortress with a crew of eleven which departed Guam for a bombing mission against enemy installations in Tachikawa, Japan.  
Just after dropping its bombs, the plane was shot down and caught fire, crashing into the ground. Six members of the crew were killed in the crash and were later identified. 2nd Lt Buttala was among the five crewmembers who successfully bailed out and were taken POW. He perished in the Tokyo Military Prison during a fire on May 26, 1945

- U.S. Army Pfc. Robert L. Bryant  
11 April Chicago or Indy. RT Indy 1  
12 April, Bloomington  
U.S. Army Pfc. Robert L. Bryant, 23, of Bloomington, Illinois, missing in action during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 18, 2024. In September 1943, Bryant was assigned to Company B, 4th Ranger Battalion, "Darby's Rangers," in the Mediterranean Theater in World War II. He participated in Operation AVALANCHE, the amphibious invasion of Italy near Salerno, and engaged in fighting near the Chiunzi Pass on the Sorrento Peninsula. On September 23, Bryant was reported missing in action following a four-man patrol west of Pietre, Italy.  
Darbys Rangers History In late January 1942, Captain Darby had arrived in Belfast, Ireland, with Maj. Gen. Russell Hartle's U.S. 34th Infantry Division. The 34th Infantry and the 1st Armored Division constituted the U.S. Army V Corps. The division had sailed to Ireland to train for the pending invasion of French-controlled North Africa.  
The soldiers of the V Corps who had reached Ireland had to sit relatively idle while the rest of the division arrived over the next four months.  
While they wait, Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall issued orders to Colonel Truscott, one of the most promising officers the infantry division possessed, to arrange for training with the British forces.  
US Army Colonel Truscott arranged for Lord Mountbatten, chief of combined operations for the British Commandos, to give a select group of Americans training alongside experienced soldiers.  
Colonel Truscott conceived the idea of a U.S. Ranger force modeled after the British Commandos. When Maj. Gen Hartle offered Darby the chance to lead the Ranger force, he leaped at the offer.  
Lt. Colonel Darby went on to lead his Rangers into battle in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy.  
Skip forward to November 1942.  
The Rangers' first operation was Operation Torch in North Africa November 1942 to reduce pressure on Allied forces in Egypt and eventually open a second European front through Italy.  
In July 1943, Rangers led the invasion of Sicily.  
On 9 September 1943 during Operation Avalanche the Rangers landed on Mainland Italy, and secured the Sorrento Peninsula that was protected by German Forces. The operation's goal was to seize Naples and cut off enemy forces to the south.  
In the course of the fighting, the 4th Battalion found itself in a heated firefight with Italians who had barricaded themselves in a schoolhouse.  
On September 23, Bryant was reported missing in action following a four-man patrol west of Pietre, Italy.

Knute:

- Asked if members on the email list are receiving messages through the system. All answered, yes.

Tug:

- Road renaming dates. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> of July and September 26<sup>th</sup>. More information coming.

Tom Bukovich:

- Proposed a ride challenge book as a fund raiser. There would be a charge, around \$10 per book. Participants would go to the stops at their own convenience. Participants can ride or drive to these stops so it is not just a motorcycle challenge. There would be around 50 stops.

Chappy:

- Community center, met with Tammy Duckworth. She gave typical referrals. We don't need referrals, we need commitments. Shortly after the meeting, she committed to helping to get a federal grant.  
The Cook County Housing Authority is all in for help.  
Next months meeting, will bring renderings of the center.

LT motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chappy. Passed

Meeting Close: 20:47

Respectfully – Stretch