



RUN FOR THE WALL

WE HONOR OUR KILLED IN ACTION
AND WANT AN ACCOUNTING OR
RELEASE OF OUR MISSING IN
ACTION OR PRISONERS OF WAR.

Official Newsletter of....."Run For The Wall".....October 1999

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RUN FOR THE WALL MISSION STATEMENT:

The following was adopted by the Board of Directors as the Mission Statement for the Run for the Wall

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote healing among Vietnam veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), and to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA).

PHILOSOPHY

We strive to maintain a safe, supportive and private atmosphere in which all participants can reflect and heal on their journey to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. in the hope that they may return home to a new beginning.

GOALS

1. *To guide the RFTW participants safely across America.*
2. *To educate future generations as to the importance of accountability in wartime actions emphasizing that no one should be left behind.*
3. *To participate in Rolling Thunder in support of their demand for government accountability for POW/MIA's.*

HERE ARE YOUR NEW LEADERS FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS ON "RFTW"

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
National Coordinator	Mike East "Iron Mike"	Jim David "Sidecar"	Milo Gordon
Assistant National Coordinator	Jim David "Sidecar"	Milo Gordon	AVAILABLE
Road Captain	Milo Gordon	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

As the Chairman of the RFTW Board of Directors, I am proud to say that we have had several good, qualified RFTW participants step forward to assume several Leadership roles in preparing and planning for the RFTW 2000 Run. As you read the newsletter, keep in mind that we should give a special Thank You to George Cheney (Lonewolf) and Ron Eschinger (Rambler) for putting the newsletter together. It was a task of great undertaking, as George lives in Oregon and Ron E lives in Virginia. They can probably start their own firm, now that they have figured out how computers work to transfer information, some times at a speed to quick for some of us.

I would like to Thank Lynda Papaioanu for all her work in putting together the financial statements, again working with different RFTW participants from through out the USA. We need to give Joe Lozano (Dragon) a Special Thank You for traveling to Sturgis Bike Rally, and the Iron Horse Bike Rally in Colorado to conduct RFTW business along with myself. It is dedicated RFTW participants (Volunteers) that make this great organization what it does and stands for as we go about the Country bringing awareness of the POW/MIA issues, along with remembering all the KIA's.

The RFTW Board of Directors attended three meetings in the past 12 months. The first meeting was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado where the RFTW Board of Directors appointed it's Officers. The second meeting was held in Washington, DC at the conclusion of Rolling Thunder in May, and the other meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois with all members present. I would like to make it clear that these meetings are attended by all Board Members, at their own expense. The RFTW does not pay any dollars out for any expenses for these meetings.

The Mission Statement, which is posted on the RFTW Bulletin Board, is what we are all about. We must all remember the POW/MIA's, and honor the KIA's from all wars. The RFTW Board of Directors will continue to use the newsletter as the form of communications to all RFTW participants. It will be a great burden on a majority to ask that they use the computer website as a communications source, for we understand that a lot of our RFTW participants do not have computers.

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SOUTHERN ROUTE COMMITTEE (SRC) FORMED

The Board of Directors empowered a committee to establish a second RFTW route from Los Angeles to DC traveling through some of the southern states in 2001. The committee was assisted by the RFTW Board of Directors at a routine meeting on Saturday, September 25, 1999, when it approved Phil Wright as the Chairman of the SRC. He will be the official spokesperson for the SRC, and will coordinate all activity involving the SRC planning, meetings, etc. for the first official full blown run in 2001. More information on the progress of the SRC will be published in future RFTW Newsletters.

1999 RFTW FINANCIAL REPORT

01/01/1999 Through 08/31/1999

Income Categories	
Donations	\$8,945.05
Merchandise Sale	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Merchandise Sales – Unassigned	\$25,541.50
Total Income Categories	\$25,691.50
Total Income	\$34,636.55
Expense Categories	
Bank Charges	
Service Charge	\$20.00
Total Bank Charges	\$20.00
Campground Fees	\$100.00
Charitable Donations	\$763.00
Corporate	\$500.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Back Patches	\$3,505.00
Ball Caps	\$900.00
Patches	\$948.00
T – Shirts	\$8,412.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$13,765.00
Equipment	\$436.99
Financial Assistance Given	\$67.00
Meals on the Run	\$412.21
Miscellaneous	\$619.85
Newsletter	
Mailing	\$946.31
Printing	\$686.43
Software	\$99.99

Supplies	\$49.74
Telephone	\$9.76
Total Newsletter Costs	\$1,792.23
Office Supplies	
Printer Cartridges	\$62.25
Total Office Supplies	\$62.65
Petty Cash	\$200.00
Postage	\$286.23
Promotional	
Displays	\$361.20
FNG Buttons	\$110.00
Missing Man Pins	\$120.00
Service Recognition Awards	\$2,398.38
Wrist Bands	\$342.00
Total Promotional	\$3,331.58
Radios	\$547.16
Refund	+ \$6.00
Sales Tax	\$73.47
Shipping	
Fed – X	\$35.25
Freight In	\$355.65
Freight Out	\$404.38
Relocate Equipment or Inventory	\$479.76
Supplies	\$7.98
Total Shipping	\$1,283.02
Support Vehicles	
Total Support Vehicles	\$ 798.90
Telephone	\$ 500.13
Website	\$ 402.00
Expense – Unassigned	0.00
Total Expense Categories	\$25,967.42
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$8,669.13

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NEWSLETTER

We are going to try and have the RFTW Newsletter published on a quarterly basis with copies distributed to all the RFTW participants that have provided us with their names and addresses. Distribution should be in October, January, April and a "For the Road" edition published and distributed in Ontario, CA. just prior to departure for RFTW 2000.

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2000 SIGN-UP SHEETS

As in the past, all participants which join the RFTW ride will be required to sign in when they join the pack. This sign-in serves three purposes; first, to release the Run for the Wall from any liability in the event you are injured during the run. Secondly, to provide a current address in order that you may receive future newsletters. Lastly, it will provide a telephone number or point of contact should it become necessary while we are on the road to contact someone for you in an emergency. The information you provide will be kept confidential and used only to distribute future newsletters and other RFTW correspondence.

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RFTW STATE COORDINATORS

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors the decision was made that participating states which choose to do so, be encouraged to elect or appoint the state coordinator of their choice. If a state has no candidate and would like Board assistance in soliciting and/or selecting individuals interested in making such a commitment, that request should be submitted to the board.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

Q: What should I expect on this ride?

A: Expect to experience a unique opportunity to share your experiences with others and in the experiences of others.

Q: How much money should this trip cost?

A: A minimum of \$100 per day for people staying in hotels and \$50 per day for those that camp.

Q: Is it true that many meals and campsites are provided free?

A: There are some campgrounds that do provide free camping and several of our stops will provide some meals. It should be noted however, that all participants should expect these instances as the exception and not the rule. Everyone should be prepared to personally fund their own way across country and their return home.

Q: What type of clothes should I take?

A: Be prepared for 100 degree temperatures going across the desert, possible snow going through the Rocky Mountains, rain, hail, sun and, as in the case of the 1999 run, absolutely great, clear and cool weather all across

country.

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RFTW WEB SITE – www.rftw.org

The official website of the "RFTW" (www.rftw.org) is managed by [WebKat](#) and is continually being improved. For those members of the RFTW family that do not have internet access, the following were selected at random for your benefit. These are just a very small sampling of the messages and correspondence which occurs each day in on the RFTW Bulletin Board.

MY COMMENT (GOOD)

Posted by A New Friend of the RUN on August 02, 1999 at 17:32:02:

I am not a biker. I am just a bystander. But I have read these messages and think that some of these folks have some good points and fine ideas (especially Dragon Rider, Littlemac, Cookie, and fidel). I am concerned about the fate of the MIAs too. You guys do a good job spreading the word across the country. I have seen you on the road. As I read the messages one thing is certain and that is you guys should think about having more routes. Littlemac said it well. There are lots of people who would like to participate but can't get away and you guys go no place near them. I hope that is a possibility your leaders and directors will consider. Peace to you all. I can tell each of you has that mission at heart and that the messages are not hate ones, but are ideas and suggestions to improve your organization. Maybe one day I can join you, but it would have to be closer to me and in a car in the back!

Never Forget

Posted by [Skipper](#) on July 28, 1999 at 21:23:07:

The History of the POW-MIA Flag

In 1971 Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife, recognized the need for a symbol representing our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice-President of the Annin & Company, which had just made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations as a part of their policy to provide flags to all UN Member Nations. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW-MIA issue. He, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our captive and missing. The simple message of the symbols on the flag is very eloquent. The stark white on black, the letters "POW-MIA", the guard tower, the armed guard, the barbed wire, the one lone serviceman with head down waiting, and the words "You Are Not Forgotten", all serve to create an unmistakable image and prompt all who see it to remember. Since its inception this flag, which was designed on behalf of American POW-MIA's from the Vietnam War, has come to represent our missing countrymen and women from all wars. The POW-MIA flag has been ruled legally to be "public domain"... as is the American Flag. It can not be claimed as the sole property of any organization or individual. The POW-MIA Flag flew over the White House for the first time on National POW-MIA Recognition Day 1988. On March 9, 1989 it was installed in the United States Capitol Rotunda. This occurred as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. Additionally, in a rare demonstration of bipartisan congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony. With the joint Resolution of Congress, the POW-MIA Flag (the only flag ever displayed in the Capitol Rotunda) stands as a powerful symbol of national commitment to American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

On August 10, 1990 the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355 which recognized the POW-MIA Flag and

designated it "as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation."

The POW-MIA Flag's importance lies in the continued visibility of this symbol as a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW-MIAs. Other than "Old Glory", the POW-MIA Flag is the only flag to fly over the White House and has flown in this place of honor on every National POW-MIA Recognition Day since 1988. The POW-MIA Flag flies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day at the National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial (The Wall), on Federal buildings, State buildings, at each National Cemetery, and at military installations worldwide. It also flies at countless additional locations throughout the nation every day of the year. Those Americans and organizations that fly the POW-MIA Flag do so to demonstrate their loyalty and sincere dedication to all Prisoners of War and Missing in Action and to their return ...both alive and dead. Deekin - you did a great job this year. Board Members - your hearts are in the right place, nothing is perfect at least as perceived by some others. State and Area Coordinators - outstanding job - ALL OF YOU - it just gets better every year. To Everyone Who Helped in ANY WAY - I "Thank You" for myself and I know that everyone remembers "WE RIDE IN FREEDOM FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T"

Semper Fi – Skipper

FAMILY Thoughts, What's It About...

Posted by [COOKIE](#) on July 30, 1999 at 16:48:32:

Hi everybody: Most of you know me, those who don't, That's my misfortune. I have said this before and I'll say it again. When the KISS method (Keep It Simple Stupid) is applied to life, everything seems to fall into place (for me anyway). The RFTW Family will go on no matter what. The MAIN MISSION of the Family is to bring awareness to our CAUSE. We will not go away, will not give up; we are here till the END. The Board has a Job to Do; It's the business part of the Organization and one hard ass job. They don't get paid they are volunteers just like you and I. My message is this: I hold no one responsible for my involvement with the family; I do it because I care. No one owes me anything; The VETS paid for it already, If anything I OWE Them. I Honor everybody with dignity and respect, We all have opinions, none exactly the same. I ride for the Cause, because I can. I follow who ever leads me across the country, because I trust them to lead me safely to my destination THAT'S ALL THEY EVER COMMITTED TO. I hope DEEKIN is listening, YOU DID GOOD. I'LL FOLLOW YOU AGAIN ANYWHERE ANY TIME. Just Like I Did SKIPPER, I'LL FOLLOW HIM AGAIN ANY TIME. These people are special. They care just like I do. TWO of my DREAMS came true on this year RUN. The First, My BROTHER Tom made it to DC this year (it took 33 years for him). I hope he is on the path to healing. I've done what I set out to do. He said to me and I Quote " I guess I'll have to reexamine my life, this is unreal". " I used to feel all alone for all these years, I guess I'm not alone after all". When he rode in the Rolling Thunder Parade he was like a little kid waving the POW Flags that I stuck in his hands as the parade started. I will always remember me telling him "THIS IS YOUR WELCOME HOME THAT YOU NEVER GOT" Trying to clear my eyes of the tears that were flowing from them Which is not easy to do two up on a gold wing going 5 miles an hour. I hope now that he uses my invitation to bond with his brother hood every year. The Second, My SON (Crumbs) rode across America and got an education concerning the cause. He talked to the vets and formed his opinions about the wrong that is being done to the POW's and MIA's and to the vets that served and etc. etc. etc. He vowed to carry on and inform his generation and his future generations of these injustices. So again I have contributed to the cause. When I got to Ontario, CA I found a couple of people that were FNG'S. They became my friends; they became my responsibility on the run. I was responsible for them feeling part of the family, which was my self, proclaimed commitment to the cause. In closing I say work on the cause and all the other stuff will take care of itself. "I WASN'T THERE, BUT I CARE" "I LOVE MY COUNTRY AND ALL THOSE WHO SERVED HER"

Peace

Cookie Monster "Got Milk"

PS. To All FNG'S hope to see you in MAY 2K.

Friendly Fire

Posted by [Kurt Hesselden](#) on August 11, 1999 at 15:52:52:

Need to find a Gunship Crew** In South Vietnam on May 8th 1968 I was with B Co. 4th Btn 12th Inf. 199th Light Infantry Brigade on the outskirts Southwest of Saigon in a village called Binh Tri Dong. Our company had been ordered to proceed to a new firebase set up to the north of the village and to sweep through the village on the way. An NVA Battalion sized force had dug itself into the village and when our company approached the village, the dug in battalion opened their ambush. During the firefight that lasted that day more than 8 hours, we called in helicopter gunship support. A Huey Gunship flying parallel to a ditch where most of our company had deployed fired both of his 2.75 rocket pods. The left pod rockets hit NVA positions just 25-50 feet from the ditch while some of the right pods rockets went wide impacting in the ditch. I was an RTO for the CP group and had given the CO and Artillery Liaison Officer my radio and joined my squad about 20 feet from the CP area. One 2.75 rocket from the gunship that fired wide impacted between me and the CP wounding myself, the Commanding Officer and the Artillery Liaison Officer. I have contacted the medic that treated me in the field that day and he was told I arrived DOA at 93rd Evac. in Long Binh. I need the gunship crew to know that I WAS NOT killed, if they tried to check on me they probably got the same story. They shouldn't have to live with that trip this long.

Re: History RFTW

Posted by [Suzanne](#) on September 11, 1999 at 16:35:33:

In Reply to: [To The BORAD!](#) posted by LittleMac on September 10, 1999 at 19:40:01:

RFTW members who have computer access - I'm no longer on the Board, but I would like to give you a bit of history on the Run. I got involved in '91 and there are those who check this site who have more years than me. The computer has people looking for so much more information at a faster pace. We leave on a Wednesday - It's a 10 day ride. We ride for the POW/MIA issue and we participate in Rolling Thunder. In terms of "what's new" - I think that each of us own that and folks are doing a good job. Dragon let you know that he was going to organize a gathering in Ignatio. Mountainman said he was opening his home to people who want to gather in October. We've been able to keep up with the well being of some of our family. The POW/MIA balloon was launched in California this week. POW/MIA recognition day is September 17. The post office just released a new stamp "honoring those who served". In earlier years, the notice was all anyone ever had. It generally came out some time after the first of the year. When Linda and John handled the Run - Linda decided to take a stab at a newsletter. She would beg for articles but was generally left to put together the scoop from her contact with folks. She gave us a new vehicle for communication. The newsletter rarely came out before the October reunion. Usually everyone went into their busy lives over the holidays and about the second week in January we all get antsy and start calling each other. We all leave each other in May with the intentions of putting out a newsletter right away and whatever..... Many folks find that they have put so much aside to make this trip that it takes quite a while to get their world focused back in this direction. I've seen a couple of postings by board members, saying something to the effect - - - If you have questions, contact me. - - - If there is something you are needing to get from them, give them a call. I don't imagine there are "secrets". The postings belong to each of us. Most everyone I know who works with the run and this issue is usually a person who is working on about 10 other projects. You know the old saying, that goes something like "if you want something done give it to the busiest person." All this to say, you may feel out of the loop on information because the computer gives us quick access. Typically, there just isn't much to "report".

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The Qualities of Survival

By Charlie Plumb from A Cup of Chicken Soup for the Soul
Copyright 1996 by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen & Barry Spilchuk.

Several years ago I found myself a long way from home in a small prison cell. As a prisoner of war, I was tortured, humiliated, starved and left to languish in squalor for six years. It's important that you get a vivid mental picture of this scene. Try your best to smell the stench in the bucket I called my toilet and taste the salt in the corners of my mouth from my sweat, my tears and my blood. Feel the baking tropical heat in a tin-roofed prison cell - not that you'll ever be a POW. If I am effective in these few moments we spend together, you'll see that the same kind of challenges you face as a teenager, a student, a leader, or a parent, are the same basic challenges I faced in a prison cell: feelings of fear, loneliness, failure and a breakdown of communication. More importantly, your response to those challenges will be the same response I had to have in the prison camp just to survive. What qualities do you have within you that would allow you to survive in a prison camp? Please pause here, think about this question, and write in the margin of this page at least five different qualities necessary for survival. (If you've written faith, commitment or dedication, you've already broken the code.)

As I worked my way through the first several months and then years of imprisonment, I found I already had a foundation of survival tools learned in life from my parents, preachers, youth leaders, and teachers. And the life-saving techniques I used in that prison camp had more to do with my value system, integrity and religious faith than anything I had learned from a textbook. Sound like your life? The adversities you face in your life can be just as debilitating to you as six years in a Communist prison camp could have been to me. Now here's the test: The next time you have a huge problem facing you, turn back to this page and read not my writing but your writing in the margin. You'll find that the same factors you've written here, which would serve you well in a prison camp, will serve you even better in the challenge of everyday life.

Charles Joseph Plumb is a former P.O.W. from the Vietnam war.

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NEWS RELEASE RFTW SOUTHERN ROUTE

The Board of Directors for Run For The Wall has empowered a Southern Run Committee (SRC) to establish a route from Ontario, California to Washington DC. This committee consists of Phil Wright (Chairman), Ray Michalowski, Dave Erickson, Jim Doimas and Tom Titus.

There will be a "Shakedown Run" in May 2000 to determine that the scheduled route will work well for a full SOUTHERN RUN FOR THE WALL (SRFTW) in 2001. The "Shakedown Run" will be done by a MAXIMUM OF 20 BIKES leaving Ontario, CA on 17 May 2000, at the same time as the Central RFTW run. This will be a NO FRILLS, BARE BONE, PAY YOUR OWN WAY, NO ATTITUDES RUN.

If you are interested in being part of the Shakedown Run you must have experience riding in a group, have gone ALL THE WAY (CA to DC) at least once, single riders or two up, and understand that we will be moteling it all the way this first year. NO OFFENSE INTENDED, WE LOVE YOU ALL; however, we feel it necessary to limit this first year to bikes only (no sidecars, trailers or three wheelers) for the sake of flexibility and planning. WE NEED TO HEAR FROM THOSE INTERESTED NO LATER THAN 31 December 1999. Provide your name, Address, phone and E-mail address to the Chairman of the SRC below.

We will need the help of State Coordinators, or persons willing to help coordinate for your state, from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee and volunteers to check road conditions on the route and help plan gas, meals and night stops. WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU BY 15 NOVEMBER 1999. Anyone in these areas having

suggestions for social stops (VAMCs, memorials, etc.), please contact the SRC.

CONTACT THE SRC AT:

p-lwright@zianet.com or
mail to:
SRC, c/o Phil Wright,
P.O. Box 7355,
Ruidoso, NM, 88355
Or Call 505-378-9148

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