



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"...Winter 2000

Quarterly Newsletter
" We Ride For Those Who Can't "
Winter 2000

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RFTW Organizational Vision

The following Mission Statement, Philosophy and Goals are the vision for 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 can return home to a new beginning.

Goals:

1. To guide the 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/MIAs.

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Southern Route Commission

The RFTW Board has appointed a Southern Route Commission to investigate and establish a parallel route which will ride through the southern states from the West coast to the East coast in 2001, spreading our message of remembrance and concern to more parts of the USA.

The Southern Route will leave from Ontario, CA, with 20 bikes at 0800 17 May 2000, in conjunction with the Central Route RFTW. We will rejoin the Central Route at the Tom's Brook, VA, lunch stop on day 10 (26 May 2000) and ride into DC together. Projected night stops are still being verified, and the schedule will be published in the next RFTW Newsletter.

We will stay in motels all the way. Participants must all stay in the same hotel each night so that we can meet to evaluate the day's ride and activities, as well as lodging. We will also locate and evaluate camping facilities for the following years.

We are still taking names of those wishing to ride with us on this shakedown run. Riders with the Southern Route group must have gone "all the way" with RFTW at least once, and must be able to pay their own expenses. Anyone interested in riding the Southern Route, contact Phil and Linda Wright at: (505) 378-9148 or by email: plwright@zianet.com.

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Calling All Road Guards

RFTW 2000 will be leaving LA with a bigger herd than ever before. We are seeking a solid group of qualified riders to serve as Road Guards. Anyone interested in being a Road Guard for RFTW 2000 should contact Road Guard Captain Milo "Nayber" Gordon as soon as possible. The following criteria have been established for Road Guards:

1. Must have been on the Run for two (2) years, but need not have gone "all the way" either time.
2. Must have a current motorcycle endorsement on license for the state of licensure.
3. Must be a well-experienced motorcycle operator. Successful completion of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Riders Course is desirable, but not required.
4. As servants to the Run and to the public, Road Guards must treat everyone with honor and respect. Their function is to provide safe travel to both the Run and the Public.

ATTENTION FORMER ROAD GUARDS: Please contact Milo at your earliest opportunity if you are willing to serve again. Milo needs to know how many new Road Guards he will need for this run.

I look forward to meeting with you in May. In the mean time, I'm staying in good riding condition by riding my sno - scooter. Keep the wheels down and helmets up.

Milo (NAYBER) Gordon

2457 Blueberry Road Colby, WI 54421
(715) 223-3462
email: nayber@pcpros.net

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WWII Sailors Come Home

The Military Press (<http://www.militarypress.com>) 12/15/1999

The remains of eight Navy sailors missing in action from World War II have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial in the United States.

The eight men were lost on August 6, 1942, when their PBY-5 Catalina patrol aircraft disappeared in bad weather over the island of Expiritu Santo, New Hebrides.

Relic hunters discovered the remains in 1994, and the Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii eventually identified them. More than 78,000 Americans remain unaccounted for from WWII.

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Wall-To-Wall Run III

May 2000 will be the third annual Wall-To-Wall Run from The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. to the Canadian Vietnam Veteran Memorial in Windsor Ontario.

We will leave D.C. from in front of the Lincoln Memorial at 3:00 p.m. on May 28th, 2000, after the Rolling Thunder Parade.

First night's stop in Somerset, PA at Super 8, (814) 445-8788 (direct) or (800) 800-8000.

Monday we will head for Toledo, Ohio. We will stop for free supper and a visit at Point Place V. F. W. Monday a night stop will be in Monroe, MI at Cross Country Inn, (734) 289-2330 or (800) 621-1429.

Tuesday we'll ride down the road to the Monroe Vietnam Veteran Memorial. After our visit there, we'll cross the border into Canada and visit the Canadian Vietnam Veteran Memorial (The North Wall). Late free lunch at the Legion. For those wishing to stay the night in Canada, reservations can be made at the Ivy Rose Motel (519) 966-1700 or (800) 966-1700.

For pictures of 1999's Wall To Wall Run, go to: <http://www.members.tripod.com/SaltandPepper/>. Click "Wall to Wall 99". For more info, email Hal or Maddy (Salt N Pepper) at: rftw_ca@yahoo.com or call: (519) 523-9437, or visit our website: <http://RunForTheWall.tripod.com/Wall2Wall.html>.

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POW/MIA Awareness Campaign

The "POW/MIA Freedom Fighters" have a POW/MIA awareness campaign called "Plaques Across America." The campaign was inspired by the State of Illinois whose rest stops are dedicated to A POW/MIA's from Illinois. Each Illinois highway rest stop has an engraved plaque listing at least two POW/MIA's with Name, Rank, Branch, Date of Loss, and Country of Loss.

Recently, the campaign has been expanded to encourage folks to participate in the nation wide "Adopt-A-Highway" program by adopting stretch of highway on behalf of our POW/MIA's.

The program is administered within each state by the Highway and Transportation Department. In California, the Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway program posts signs on the highways giving recognition to individuals, organizations and businesses who help keep those highways clean. Adopters can either collect litter, remove graffiti, pay the maintenance costs for roadside rest areas or plant trees or wild flowers on state highways. The state provides Adopt-A-Highway volunteers with appropriate permits, litter bags, hats, gloves and safety training, at no cost, and clean ups need only be conducted twice a year.

Adopters are recognized for their contribution by the placement of a roadside sign.

According to POW/MIA Digest, there is a 10 mile stretch of highway right outside of Mojave, California, on the outskirts of Edwards Air Force Base adopted by "The Nortons On Behalf Of Our POW/MIA's." What a great way to remind people that there are still thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for!

Wouldn't it be something to see all our nations' highways and rest stops honoring our POW/MIA's? It would certainly ensure that this issue remains on everyone's mind until it is resolved! Think about adopting a piece of highway. It doesn't cost anything except a few days' time and effort each year. If each of us adopted just one mile in memory of our POW/MIA's, there would be signs on every roadway, and no one could ignore this issue.

You can also help by contacting local government agencies and businesses and asking them to fly the POW flag. Some business owners have been won over by the gift of a POW flag. A flag doesn't cost much - less than a so-so steak dinner or a motorcycle T-shirt, and the attention to our cause are worth it! We'll have more information and suggestions about POW flags in the next issue

For more ideas on things you can do to start or help support POW/MIA awareness campaigns in your area, please visit: <http://www.powmiaff.com>

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RFTW Newsletter

Randy "Lone Wolf" Weir has retired as RFTW Newsletter Editor. Randy was single-handedly responsible for editing, publishing and mailing the RFTW Newsletter to almost 1,500 RFTW participants during our difficult times of reorganiza-tion in 1998-1999. We know you'll join the RFTW Board in extending our deep and heartfelt thanks to Randy for his dedication to this important job.

Sally Marie "SizzMo" Down is the new Newsletter Editor. SizzMo' enthusiastically welcomes any comments, suggestions, constructive criticism and help. We don't guarantee that all items will be included in the Newsletter, but all will be read and considered.

Contact:

RFTW Newsletter Editor

9652 Jeremy St.
Santee, CA 92071
email: sizzmo@themail.com
Phone: (619) 258-6388/525-8582

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Lessons from Geese

- Dee "Tigger" Perry

Recently I read an article by Charles Dickson in The American Legion Magazine entitled "Learning Human Relations From Geese." The message in that article related to how organizations, like veterans' groups, can learn how to function better from some of the examples in the animal world. These kinds of lessons range from the emotional to the technological, and the geese facts that follow could supply us with human lessons.

GEESE FACT NO. 1: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an updraft for the bird following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds a greater flying range than if one bird flew alone. The Air Force learned from this and often employs it in military maneuvers.

HUMAN LESSON NO. 1: When people share a common direction and sense of community, they can get where they are going quicker and more easily. That's because they have learned to travel on the strength of each other. Successful organizations have learned that a spirit of teamwork, in which all workers pull in the same direction, makes it easier to achieve goals. This holds true not only for business corporations, but for families, for churches and for athletic teams.

GEESE FACT NO. 2: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

HUMAN LESSON NO. 2: If we have as much sense as geese we will stay in formation and be willing to accept help when we need it as well as lend help to others when they need it. How often we witness prima donnas on teams or in organizations who decide they can more readily be noticed when they try to go it alone. While they may achieve a short-term goal, they have an adverse effect over the long haul which hinders the group from reaching goals. Learning to "fly in formation" with friends, family members and fellow employees helps everyone to achieve desired results.

GEESE FACT NO. 3: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies in the point position.

HUMAN LESSON NO. 3: Geese instinctively share the task of leadership and do not resent the leader. How often have we seen groups fail due to jealousy among members? Too many chiefs and not enough workers is a sure formula for failure. How about a concept of shared leadership based on the belief that each person in the group has a valuable contribution to make toward meeting the goals of the organization? However, we will never know what that contribution is until we afford that person an opportunity to display his or her wares.

GEESE FACT NO. 4: Geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

HUMAN LESSON NO. 4: We need to learn the value of being part of a support system and to do whatever we can to encourage other members of the group. Our "honk" may consist of a word of encouragement, a pat on the back, a helpful suggestion or simply going the second mile to accomplish a task.

GEESE FACT NO. 5: When a goose gets sick, is wounded, or is shot down, two geese drop out of formation and

follow it down to earth to help and protect it. They stay with their disabled companion until it is able to fly again or dies. They then launch out on their own or catch up with the flock.

HUMAN LESSON NO. 5: We, too, need to learn to care for others. If a fellow employee or group member is going through some trying times or has simply been "shot down" by some bad event in life, that may be the time for us to concentrate on the needs of that person. When an organization begins to build a reputation for being a caring one, group loyalty increases immensely and success becomes more attainable.

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"Echoes" program teaches Vietnam War history

From San Diego Navy Dispatch, November 24, 1999

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund launched a new educational program on November 23, 1999. *Echoes From the Wall: History, Learning and Leadership Through the Lens of the Vietnam War Era* is an educational program designed to provide high school students with detailed examinations of the Vietnam Era from all perspectives. Approximately 28,000 public and private high schools have been invited to participate in this program which uses the Internet, multi-media materials, and local veterans to promote leadership, responsibility and understanding. Visit:

<http://www.teachvietnam.org> on the world wide web, or contact your local high school about participating in this program.

Echoes can also be reached through the VVMF at:

**The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund,
1012 14th St. N.W., Suite 201,
Washington, D.C., 20005.
Phone: (202) 393-0090,
Email: vvmf@vvmf.org.**

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Legislative Update

Legislative Update lists nonpartisan summaries of current national legislation affecting POW/MIA, Veteran and military issues. RFTW does not take political positions. We won't tell you whether to support or oppose any issue. However, we do ask you to educate yourself and get involved. Whether you support or oppose these bills and resolutions, please write or call your elected representatives to get more information and to convey your beliefs on these matters.

In January, 2000, the 106th Congress is halfway through its term. Legislation introduced in 1999 has until December, 2000 to either come to a vote, or expire forever. Here's how the process works: When a bill is introduced by a member of the House or Senate, it is first sent to the appropriate Senate or House Committee(s) for study and a recommendation. A bill must receive Committee recommendation before it can be brought to the floor for a vote. If the Congressional term ends before a bill has been voted on, the bill expires. If a bill that you think is important is "stuck in Committee," call or write your Congressional or Senate Representative to urge political pressure to bring the bill to a vote.

Bring Them Home Alive Act of 1999 (S. 484, H.R. 1926): This bill would provide an incentive for foreign citizens

with knowledge of live American POW/MIA's to come forward with information. If passed, this bill would grant of refugee status in the United States to any alien (and the parent, spouse, and child of such) who is a citizen of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China, North Korea, or any of the independent states of the former Soviet Union; and personally delivers into U.S. custody a living American Vietnam War POW or MIA. This bill would also require the U.S. Information Agency's International Broadcasting Bureau to announce information about this program during "Radio Free Asia" and "Radio Free Europe" broadcasts into the targeted countries.

The Senate version of this bill is sponsored by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell and has 30 cosponsors. The Senate bill is currently being studied by the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration. The House version of the bill is sponsored by Rep. Joel Hefley. It has cosponsors and is being studied by House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, and by the Committee on International Relations.

Military Retirement Equity Act (H.R. 65): A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service connected disability to receive military retired pay concurrently with veterans' disability compensation. The bill would reduce the retirement pay of individuals receiving both types of pay by a specified percentage of the disability compensation, which decreases as the disability rating increases. However, it prohibits any reduction in the retirement pay of a disabled person when the disability rating is total.

Sponsored by Rep. Michael Bilirakis, this bill currently has 96 cosponsors, and is still under consideration by the House Committee on Armed Services' Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Veterans' Access to Emergency Care Act (H.R.135): A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access of veterans to emergency medical care in non- Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. This bill would declare the annual patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be a health care plan, and the veterans enrolled in such system to be participants in a health care plan. It would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to contract for emergency health care for such veterans in non-Department facilities, and would include such contracted emergency care within the definition of authorized Department medical services. The bill would also authorize the reimbursement of enrolled veterans for expenses incurred in the treatment of any medical emergency which poses a serious threat to life or health.

Sponsored by Rep. Lane Evans, this bill has 13 cosponsors and is currently under review by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs' Subcommittee on Health.

Committee on POW & MIA Affairs (H. Res. 16): A resolution to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs. The Committee would consist of 10 Congressional Representatives who would conduct a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any United States personnel unaccounted for from the Vietnam era, the Korean conflict, or World War II, including MIA's and POW's.

This Resolution is sponsored by Rep. Peter King and 17 cosponsors and is being studied by the House Rules Committee.

American Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 1146): This bill would get the United States completely out of the United Nations and all of its sub-agencies and withdraw all diplomatic immunity agreements with UN personnel. The act would prohibit the participation of U.S. armed forces in UN military and peacekeeping operations, and bars placing US military personnel in UN uniform or under UN command.

Sponsored by Rep. Ron Paul, this legislation has 17 cosponsors and is being studied by the House International Relations Committee's subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Memorial Plaque at The Wall (H.R. 3293, S. 1921): This bill seeks to amend the law that authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to authorize the placement within the site of the memorial of a plaque to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a direct result of that service.

The House bill is sponsored by Rep. Elton Gallegly and 122 cosponsors, and is being studied by the House Committee on Resources. The Senate bill is sponsored by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell and is being studied by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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Julian Family Needs Our Help

On Monday evening, January 2000, the home of Ron and Kay Julian, Joe, Jessica, and Rachel burned to the ground. They all made it out safely but everything they had is gone. They lost everything. Thank God they are alright.

This family has been a part of RFTW for as long as I can remember. Always there to support the Run in anyway they could. A family that had little, but always gave all they had to our mission. Jessica and Rachael's smiles have brightened many tired vets' faces many mornings on the Run.

Their only request is, since they lost everyone's names, address, telephone numbers, and email addresses, could you all please send this information to them. Also, they would appreciate any photos from previous Runs.

I am asking, **if you can provide any support for this wonderful family, please do.** They need everything, clothing, bedding, pots and pans and, of course, money. Gift certificates and cash will help replace clothing and necessities. Look around your house at all you have - that is everything they lost and need now.

Their address is:

**The Julians
245 Country Road 611,
Walsenburg, CO 81089.
Phone: (719) 738-1662.**

Thanks RFTW family. - *Dragon & Mee Ok*

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Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul

Attention Veterans, and Family and Friends of Veterans! Do you have a true story about yourself or someone you knew during their time at war? If so, we invite you to tell us your experience.

The stories we collect will be published in an exciting new book: *Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul: 101 Stories to Stir the Pride And Honor the Courage of Veterans*

Veterans have many stories to tell. We want to capture this time in your lives and tell the world about it. People need to know what our veterans went through to defend our freedom. You need to be acknowledged and appreciated, and we want to make this happen. All types of stories are welcome and we urgently need your help in collecting them for this book! We invite stories from all veterans, from every war, and every branch of service. This is your opportunity to have your story told!

Some of the topics we would like to include:

- Heroism & Bravery
- Comradery & Closeness in Combat
- Leadership
- Laughter from the Front Lines
- Patriotism
- Understanding

We will contribute a percentage of all profits to associations benefitting veterans. Please feel free to submit more than one story, whether original or one of your personal favorites collected over the years from magazines, newspapers, or other sources. We pay a minimum of \$300 per original stories for one-time rights, and \$50 to the first contributor of a previously published item.

Deadline for contributions: March 1st, 2000 (but we will welcome stories after this date for a sequel book that is being planned.)

Thank you for joining us in stirring the pride and honoring the courage of millions of veterans everywhere.

Contact us at:

Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul
c/o Sid Slagter
607 W. Broadway Ave.
Fairfield, IA 52556-3200
Phone: 1-888-387-6373
Fax: 1-515-472-0719
E-Mail: remember@vetstories.com

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Plaque Proposed to Honor Vietnam Vet Post-War Deaths

The "Vietnam War in Memory Memorial" organization has proposed the addition of a plaque to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. to honor veterans whose post-war deaths can be attributed to their service in the Vietnam War. Complications from injuries, exposure to Agent Orange and PTSD- related deaths have taken the lives of countless veterans whose names are not inscribed on The Wall.

Bills authorizing addition of the plaque to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial have been introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives, (see Legislative Update for bill numbers and information.) Funding to create and emplace the plaque would come entirely from private donations.

The proposed plaque is 3' x 3' square, and would be placed at ground level beside the walkway between the 3 Servicemen Statue and the Vietnam Womens' Memorial. The proposed inscription would read: *"In memory of American veterans whose postwar deaths can be attributed to their Vietnam War service. Their names are not inscribed here, but their spirits are ever present."*

For more information:

Visit VVMM's website at: <http://members.aol.com/vietwarmem/plaque.htm>
or write to:
VVMM,

**808 Charlotte Street,
Fredericksburg, Virginia, 22401.
Phone: (540) 371-3253.**

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Vet Wins Uphill Battle For POW/MIA Mountain Memorial

By Jennifer Harper, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Three flags are planted there, thousands of feet above the sparkling hulk of a glacier and the dense tapestry of spruce and aspen in south-central Alaska. The flags flap in the cold wind: red, white and blue. And black and white. It's a lonely and beautiful spot, once a nameless peak in the Chugach Mountains about 45 miles north of Anchorage. Now, however, it has a name. This is Mount POW/MIA.

On Nov. 11, the 4,325-foot mountain was officially named to honor American prisoners of war and those missing in action, all because of the persistence of one former U.S. Marine.

John Morrissey, who was wounded three times in Vietnam while serving with the 3rd Marine Reconnaissance Battalion, climbed the mountain, then took on the federal bureaucracy to fulfill a decades-old dream. It was no easy dream, though. For 20 years, Mr. Morrissey was determined to persuade federal officials to name an American mountain to honor those comrades he was unable to forget. A marble statue was just not his style, though. "I wanted to have a natural, living monument dedicated to all the POWs and MIAs in every American conflict from the Revolutionary War through Kosovo, and future conflicts," Mr. Morrissey told the *Frontiersman*, a weekly newspaper in Wasilla, Alaska.

Over the years, Mr. Morrissey, 57, had left his home in upper New York state to climb several mountains in several states, always planting a black-and-white POW remembrance flag at the summits. The white-bearded vet dutifully put in requests with state and federal agencies to designate a POW/ MIA mountain, only to be greeted with red tape.

"It is easier to climb the mountains than go through all the paperwork of getting a mountain named," he said.

Until he got to Alaska, however. It took two tries and two mountains before he was successful. When he arrived at one mountain in the Brooks Range in the northwestern part of the state to stake his claim last May, rangers told Mr. Morrissey he wasn't even allowed to climb it. He went anyway. Over Memorial Day, Mr. Morrissey arrived in Wasilla, a small town known mostly as a stop along the Iditarod sled dog race trail. The town was dedicating a Veterans' Wall of Honor at a small visitor's center on a hillside by the main road.

Mr. Morrissey watched the town dedicate a 2,000-pound concrete American flag, and he read the honorary bronze plaques. Then he saw what ultimately proved to be the mountain: a flat-topped peak looming beyond the wall and above a mirror-smooth lake.

Research and local maps proved the mountain was anonymous -- nameless against the brilliant Alaskan sky. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Morrissey climbed it and planted his POW flag and two American flags given to him by Leo Kaye, a fellow vet and resident of Wasilla.

The pair started a letter-writing campaign and eventually garnered support from a dozen Alaskan veterans' groups, along with community organizations, local officials, the cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks, the town of Wasilla and the native village of Eklutna, among others.

Mr. Morrissey submitted an application to the Alaska Historical Commission to give the mountain a new name: Mount

POW/MIA. The commission approved the request in September, and sent it up the line to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. It, in turn, approved the name in October. By Veterans Day, it was official. The mountain would stand as a monument to the estimated 800,000 POWs and MIAs from American conflicts of the past and those to come.

"We must never forget them. This peak will be a permanent reminder of their service, their commitment and their sacrifice," said Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles, also a Vietnam vet.

"Americans must never forget those brave men and women who never had a chance to come home," said Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer, who chairs the historical commission that initially approved the request. "Mount POW/MIA is a strong reminder and a visible tribute to their courage."

For his part, Mr. Morrissey was speechless.

"He was overwhelmed," his friend Mr. Kaye noted.

And for now, the flags alone mark America's highest tribute -- literally -- to its combat heroes.

"I think it has really left an impact on our town," said Bill Kelder, a journalist who chronicled the saga for the Frontiersman. "It's brought a few of us to tears."

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Tuesday Night Chat Room

Each Tuesday evening at 2000 Eastern Time (8:00 p.m. EST,) people from Run For The Wall gather around their computers and join friends from the Run to keep alive that great feeling that RFTW has given us.

The Chat Room is the creation of Maddy "Pepper" and Hal "Salt" Laffin, who extend their welcome to all of the RFTW family who want to stay in touch and exchange positive encouragement and "virtual hugs."

Join the chat at: http://www.delphi.com/THE_ROSE/chat

You will be required to register with Delphi (no cost!). Once in Delphi, look for the " ~Salt N Pepper~ POW/MIA NOT FORGOTTEN" forum in the chat listings. Click that link to join in the chat.

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Desert Dolphin Seeks RFTW Stories for Book

Dear RFTW Brothers and Sisters,

After riding with the Run for the Wall for the last four years we have started work on a book about the Run, and would like your help.

We are the silver helmeted riders aboard the blue Gold Wing, "Desert Dolphin." By name we are Jill Dubisch and Ray Michalowski. So far we have ridden "all the way" three times (1996, 1998, and 1999) part-way (to Cimarron in 1997). On every trip we witnessed the power of the Run to change people's lives, to bring awareness of the POW-MIA cause to communities across the country, and to create moving ceremonies honoring those who were lost.

Now we would like to use our experience as writers and educators to tell the RFTW story to people beyond the current family of RFTW riders and supporters. Our book will be written for the motorcycling and veteran communities as well as the general reading public and college students, so it should help increase public awareness of the Run for the Wall and its mission.

We have made many close friends on the Run, but there are many in the RFTW family that we do not know. That is why we are asking for your help. We are interested in learning more about the different ways people around the country have experienced the Run, both as riders and as non-riding supporters. We invite you to tell us about your experiences with the Run. How did you become part of the Run for the Wall as a rider or supporter? What has it meant to you to be part of the Run? If you are not a Vietnam veteran, or a veteran at all, what led you to join the Run? In what ways, if any, it has the Run affected your life?

Jill is particularly interested in hearing the stories of the women on the Run. Are you the wife or partner of a Vietnam vet? If not, how did you become involved with the Run? What have been your experiences on the Run?

You can send us your stories anonymously if you wish. If you do identify yourself to us, we will not use anything you send us in a way that can identify you without first obtaining your permission.

To share story with us, send it by e-mail: raymond.michalowski@nau.edu, or jill.dubisch@nau.edu.

Or by snail mail:

Ray Michalowski and/or Jill Dubish
1671 N. Wakonda St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Thank you.

Ride safe and free, and Never Forget,
- *Ray & Jill*

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Pluggers

This touching tribute to Vietnam Veterans, and our Brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, ran in newspapers throughout the nation on Memorial Day, May 31, 1999.

So, what's a Plugger? Pluggers are the hard-working people the world depends on. They represent the 80 percent of humanity who unceremoniously keep plugging along, balancing work, play and family life. Pluggers encounter and conquer obstacles in their lives, but they always have a positive attitude and a good sense of humor. They're the people who work hard for what they get. Even if they're struggling, they are optimistic about life.

Sounds like most of the RFTW Family to me!

Thanks to Randy "Lone Wolf" Weir for sending this in.



A pluggie keeps his promise to look up his friends after the war.

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A framable copy of this Pluggers panel on glossy archival paper is available for \$24.99, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Autographed copies are also available for \$49.99, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. You'll receive a 6" x 8" copy of the panel on 8½" x 11" high-quality, glossy, archival paper. To order, call Julie Kaempfer at 1-800-245-6536, ext. 3701.

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Biscuit Boy Seeks Photos & Pen Pals

Many of you will remember Kyle "Biscuit Boy" LaFrenier, the really neat 10-year old who helped serve us those great biscuits and gravy for breakfast in Salina, Kansas last year, along with his dad's squad of U.S. Army cooks from the 1/5 Field Artillery at Fort Riley.

Biscuit Boy's mom wants to know if anyone out there has any photos of the Salina food servers. They were too busy feeding hungry RFTW bikers to take any photos, and they sure would like a few pictures.

Biscuit Boy's granddad is a Vietnam Vet, and his uncle Dave is a biker in Colorado. Biscuit Boy's plan for life is to become an all-American biker and to ride with RFTW. He would love to correspond with any of his beloved RFTW friends. Biscuit Boy's dad is currently serving a one year hardship tour in Korea, but his mom hopes that they still will be able to meet RFTW 2000 in Salina and help serve breakfast again.

Send pics or correspondence to Christine and Kyle by email: chri0164@oz-online.net, phone (785) 784-4560, or by "snail-mail" at Christine and Kyle LaFrenier, 6788 Burnside Loop, Apt #1, Fort Riley, Kansas 66442.

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Good Flicks

Note: Items are reviewed in this column for the interest of RFTW supporters. RFTW does not receive any proceeds from the sale of these items.

C-SPAN Rolling Thunder Video: C-SPAN aired a 2-hour live broadcast from the Pentagon parking lot on May 30, 1999, the morning of Rolling Thunder XII. C-SPAN host Brian Lamb interviewed RFTW's 1999 National Coordinator Dan "Deekin" Coyne and Rolling Thunder's Artie Mueller, as well as several other members of the RFTW Family.

The 2-hour C-SPAN Rolling Thunder Video is available from C-SPAN for \$36.95, which includes shipping. To order, call (800) 277-2698, between 8am and 5pm ET.

SNAKE-BYTE Videos of RFTW : The new SNAKE- BYTE Video of the 1999 Run For The Wall is now available for a mere \$28.90, which includes shipping & handling. Copies of the video from 1998 RFTW are also still available. Get out the popcorn, and get ready to enjoy - this is really a good 'un!

Send orders to:

**SNAKE-BYTE VIDEO
Pink Elephant Ranch
20 Imnaha Road
Tijeras, N.M. 87059**

Be sure to specify whether you want the **1998 or 1999** video.

Questions? Call Ken and Joy at (505) 281-5413.

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RFTW Income & Expense Report 01/01/1999 through 12/31/1999

Income Categories	Total
Donations	8,948.05
Merchandise Sales	
Miscellaneous	150.00
Merchandise Sales - Unassigned	25,695.00
Total Merchandise Sales	25,845.00
Total Income Categories	34,793.05
Expense Categories	
Bank Charges	
Service Charge	20.00
Total Bank Charges	20.00
Campground Fees	100.00
Charitable Donations	100.00
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
Meals on the Run	412.21
Miscellaneous	334.85
Newsletter	
Mailing	1,144.31
Printing	1,077.26
Software	99.99
Supplies	49.74
Telephone	9.76
Total Newsletter	2,381.06
Office Supplies	
Printer Cartridges	62.65
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	159.00
Sales Tax	73.47
Shipping	
Fed-Ex	35.25
Freight In	355.65
Freight Out	404.38
Relocate Equipment or Inventory	479.76
Supplies	7.98
Total Shipping	1,283.02
Telephone	734.55
Website	522.00
Expense - Unassigned	0.00
Total Expense Categories	25,249.77
GrandTotal	9,543.28

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Wanted: 2001 Road Captain Volunteer

The RFTW Board or Directors is now accepting applications for Road Guard Captain for 2001. The individual appointed must be willing to serve for at least 3 years - as Road Guard Captain in 2001, Assistant National Coordinator in 2002 , and as National Coordinator in 2003.

The 3-year progression will allow 2 years' experience on the committee before having to lead the RFTW group across country.

Qualified applicants must be experienced riders who meet the criteria for Road Guards (see "*Calling All Road Guards*" on page 1,) and must be committed to riding "All The Way" with RFTW for at least the next three years. You must be dedicated to remembering POW/MIAs, honoring our KIAs, and to helping Vets and their families to heal. Past experience as a Road Guard is helpful, but is not necessary.

For more info, or to apply, contact:

Ron "Beanie" Valandra
P.O. Box 160 Rosebud, SD 57570
Phone: (605) 747-2744
Email: beanie@rapidnet.com

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New Stamp Honors The Wall



A new postage stamp commemorating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was unveiled by the U.S. Postal Service Jan. 11 during a ceremony at The Wall in Washington, D.C.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial stamp is dedicated to the more than 58,000 Americans who died in the Vietnam War or are listed as missing. The stamp was selected by the public during nationwide balloting in February 1999 as one of 15 "Celebrate the Century" commemorative stamps saluting some of the most significant people, places and events of the 1980s.



A stamp commemorating the Vietnam War was released in 1999, as part of the 1960's decade collection.

Celebrate the Century stamps are available at post offices across the country.

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Angel Fire Update

This year, Run For The Wall XII will make its annual visit to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at Angel Fire on Day 5,

Saturday, May 20, 2000. Angel Fire is one of the most cherished and emotionally touching places that Run For The Wall visits, offering healing and peace to many veterans. Angel Fire was just one man's vision, but has given so much to so many of us, that it is appropriate that it become a vision to all of us.

By now most of you know that DAV is no longer funding this grand memorial, so it is being kept afloat through private donations and gift sales. Will you help us keep the LIGHTS ON and the CANDLES BURNING at the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial in Angel Fire New Mexico?

The Angel Fire Vietnam Veteran's Memorial has been in continual operation since its opening on May 22, 1971. THE VIETNAM VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL IS SELF SUPPORTING! Your contribution allows us to keep our LIGHTS ON and the CANDLES BURNING in honor of our Vietnam Veterans.

We want to send you a box of 3 Western Scented Candles, hand poured in Cimarron, New Mexico, for your contribution to help the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial.

Thank You!
 Dr. Victor Westphall, Founding Director
 Vietnam Veterans National Memorial

Yes! I am enclosing my contribution for \$18.50 or more to keep the LIGHTS ON and the CANDLES BURNING at the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial. Please send my box of 3 CANDLES to:
Name:
Street:
City: State: ZIP:
Mail To: Vietnam Veterans National Memorial P.O. Box 608 Angel Fire, New Mexico 87710 Phone: (505) 377-6900 Fax: (505) 377-3223 Email: memorial@afweb.com You can visit Angel Fire on the web at: http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Bunker/2810/

RFTW Newsletter Editor
 9652 Jeremy Street
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Colorado Coordinator #1 Joe "Dragon" Lozano (719) 576-7642 dragon@rftw.org	Colorado Coordinator #2 Jim Jones Voice: (303) 444-7108 FAX: (303) 448-9651 jmjones@bigfoot.com	D.C. Coordinator Ron Eschinger (703) 313-8011 rambler@rftw.org or reschinger@aol.com
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Illinois Coordinator #2 Jean Dominquez (618) 244-7339	Iowa Coordinator Oscar "Butcher" Huntington (319) 524-2274 butcher1@interl.net	Indiana Coordinator John "J.R." Bubala & Billie Bubala (812) 633-7870 jrb@netpointe.com
Kansas Coordinators Bill Reece & Becky Reece (785) 539-0863	Missouri Coordinator Jim "Sidecar" David (314) 831-0323 jdavid1@aol.com	Nebraska Coordinator Gene "Hawk" Witte (308) 697-4282
New Mexico Coordinators Phil & Linda Wright (505) 378-9148 p-lwright@zianet.com	Oregon Coordinator George "Lone Wulf" Cheney (503) 252-2020 lnwulf@aol.com	West Virginia Coordinators Benjy Harley Davidson (304) 523-1340 Ron Eschinger (703) 313-8011 rambler@rftw.org or reschinger@aol.com
REUNION STURGIS Rick "Smurf" & Shirley "Squirrel" Whiting (605) 393-0152 sdsquirrel@aol.com	REUNION NORTH Dave "Wally" (715) 359-3143	REUNION WEST Michael "Woody" Wood

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**RUN FOR THE WALL
CALIFORNIA TO WASH DC
2000
12 YEARS OF HONOR**

Riding in Freedom for Those Who Can't

**National Coordinator
Mike East 812-522-5575**

At 8 am. on Wednesday May 17, 2000, Veterans from all wars and Supporters will leave from the T&A truck stop at I10 &I15 in Ontario, CA, on an annual pilgrimage across the heartland of America. Most will be riding motorcycles, but the purpose is to create a groundswell of support for ALL American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action from all wars and to help those who need healing. This 10 day cross-country journey will include ceremonies from veteran and civic organizations, visits to war memorials, VA hospitals and appropriate stops to make sure our POW-MIA's are remembered.

Anyone can join the group anywhere along the route. Everyone and all brands of motorcycles are welcome.

In Washington, D.C., on Memorial Day Sunday, the group will unite with other riders from all over to form Rolling Thunder XIII, a We1come Home and We Have Not Forgotten Parade from the Pentagon to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial -THE WALL. Last year more than 200,000 bikes participated. People expected we would go away after Rolling Thunder 10. We will not go away until everyone is HOME! COME SHOW YOUR **SUPPORT**.

NO ATTITUDES: CONFIRMED

TUESDAY 16	WEDNESDAY 17	THURSDAY 18	FRIDAY 19	SATURDAY 20	SUNDAY 21
Ontario, CA Camp Prado Park 909-597-4260 Fairfield Inn 909-390-9855	Williams, AZ Camping KOA Days Inn 520-635-4051 Fairfield Inn 520-635-9888	Gallup, NM Camping KOA Comfort Inn 888-722-0982	Cimarron NM Cimarron Camp Cimarron Inn 800-546-2244	Limon CO Camp KOA Preferred Motor Inn 719-775-2385	Salina KS Camp FREE Budget Host 785-825-7265 Salina Inn 785-827-0292
MONDAY 22	TUESDAY 23	WEDNESDAY 24	THURSDAY 25	FRI/SAT 26/27	SUNDAY 28
Wentzville, MO Camp FREE Days Inn 314-625-1711	Carefree, IN Camp FREE Days Inn 812-739-4805 Kiel Brothers 812-739-4600	Huntington, WV Camp FREE C/o Benjy's HD Uptowner Inn 304-523-1340	Rainelle, WV Camp FREE Rainelle Lodge 304-438-8571	Alexandria, VA Camp Burke Lake Days Inn 800-241-7382	Washington, DC ROLLING THUNDER PARADE

THERE IS NO CHARGE TO GO ON RFTW. Through the generosity of many people, we may have free meals, gas, camping, etc. at some stops. However, each participant is responsible for all personal expenses. Support and chase vehicles are available for break-downs at no cost. Your support of merchandise, 50-50 drawings, and donations provide the funds for chase trucks. Check out our web site at RFTW.org

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Asst. Nat. Coordinator - Jim David: 314-831-0323	Road Guard Capt. - Milo Gordon: 715-223-3462
CA - Jim Perry: 805-934-3962	KS - Bill Reece: 785-539-0863
WV - Benjy's HD: 304-523-1340	AZ - Roger Herrick: 623-878-9102
MO - Jim David: 314-831-0323	VA - Ron Eschinger: 703-313-8011
NM - Phil Wright: 505-378-9148	IL - Jean Dominquez: 618-244-7339
CO - Joe Lozano: 719-576-7642	IN - J R Bubala: 812-633-7870

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