

By: Senator Rapert

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO COMMEND THE ROLLING THUNDER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY; AND FOR HELPING SUPPORT SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT POW/MIA ISSUES.

Subtitle

TO COMMEND THE ROLLING THUNDER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY; AND FOR HELPING SUPPORT SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT POW/MIA ISSUES.

WHEREAS, Rolling Thunder Inc., Chapter 1 Arkansas has been dedicated to helping all veterans in Arkansas since 2002 and devotes its time and efforts to helping our country's prisoners of war, persons missing in action, veterans, military members, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Rolling Thunder is a nonprofit organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), incorporated in Arkansas in affiliation with the National Rolling Thunder Charities organization; and

WHEREAS, all donations and support received by Rolling Thunder is distributed by Rolling Thunder in Arkansas; Rolling Thunder has minimal overhead costs and the entire effort of each member and officer of Rolling



Thunder is voluntary; and

WHEREAS, Rolling Thunder has donated hundreds of dollars and hundreds of hours each year in support of military members and veterans from the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing programs of Rolling Thunder include:

(1) Visiting with inpatient veterans several times each year including on Valentine's weekend and providing a BBQ gathering each summer;

(2) Donating money and supplies that go directly to veterans in need each year to the Fort Roots VA Volunteer Services;

(3) Visiting with and providing support and tangible items to veterans at Günter's Veterans home in Vilonia, Arkansas;

(4) Donating and distributing \$250 to each of several Arkansas veterans and at-risk veteran families that are identified by the VA wounded warrior coordinators at Fort Roots each year during the Christmas season and as needed throughout the year;

(5) Donating money to, assisting, and raising money for several veterans organizations, including providing a van for a local veterans home needing transportation and working with programs such as Toys for Tots and the Wounded Warrior Program;

(6) Providing and presenting prisoner of war and missing in action flags and programs to many local communities to help educate the public about the 83,000 unaccounted for soldiers missing in action from all wars since World War II, including Sgt. Bowe R. Bergdahl and five other soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

(7) Assisting with the research and location of the Arkansas descendants of soldiers missing in action to help Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command with DNA confirmation of hundreds of unidentified remains; and

WHEREAS, Rolling Thunder works extensively with nationally chartered veterans organizations such as Arkansas DVA, Arkansas VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the United States Marine Corps League, and with Fort Roots, Camp Robinson, the Little Rock Air Force Base, and local military units,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate commends and applauds the excellent work of Rolling Thunder Inc. Chapter 1 Arkansas to help and support our country's veterans and military members and their families, especially within the State of Arkansas, and assisting with and educating the public about prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon its adoption a copy of this resolution be presented to Rolling Thunder Inc. Chapter 1 Arkansas.