

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

SR 25

4
5 By: Senator Rapert
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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO COMMEND THE ROLLING THUNDER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
10 FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND
11 MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY; AND FOR HELPING SUPPORT
12 SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC
13 ABOUT POW/MIA ISSUES.
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15 **Subtitle**

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17 ORGANIZATION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS AND
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20 SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION AND EDUCATING
21 THE PUBLIC ABOUT POW/MIA ISSUES.
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25 WHEREAS, Rolling Thunder Inc., Chapter 1 Arkansas has been dedicated to
26 helping all veterans in Arkansas since 2002 and devotes its time and efforts
27 to helping our country's prisoners of war, persons missing in action,
28 veterans, military members, and their families; and
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30 WHEREAS, Rolling Thunder is a nonprofit organization as defined by the
31 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), incorporated in Arkansas in
32 affiliation with the National Rolling Thunder Charities organization; and
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34 WHEREAS, all donations and support received by Rolling Thunder is
35 distributed by Rolling Thunder in Arkansas; Rolling Thunder has minimal
36 overhead costs and the entire effort of each member and officer of Rolling



1 Thunder is voluntary; and

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

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7 WHEREAS, the ongoing programs of Rolling Thunder include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.