



# Rolling Thunder to ride to Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial

**By Seth Gatewood**  
*Special to The Press*

Rolling Thunder Chapter 6 stationed in Martin is making a special trip this Memorial Day to Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial in Perryville.

President David Hawks invites all residents to join them in order to pay their respect to fallen veterans and remember the sacrifices they paid for Americans’ freedom.

Rolling Thunder Chapter 6 is an advocacy group which seeks to bring full accountability for prisoners of war and missing-in-action service members of all U.S. wars. The group is involved with Wreaths Across America, an organization that lays wreaths on military graves, and does local fundraisers, making as much as \$10,000. They use the money to give to veterans at the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Humboldt, send care packages at Christmas and help buy groceries for local veterans who are too poor to buy them for themselves.

Hawks said veterans of all wars are near and dear

to his heart and h he would like to find some way to pay them back for all they have sacrificed for the community and the country.

Hawks was in college in 1969 during the days of the Vietnam War and had many of his friends get drafted into the war. He lost some of his friends in the jungles and swamps of Vietnam and still has much pain and hurt from that loss. He never went into military service, but still wanted to do something for his community and all the veterans in his area. So, he joined Rolling Thunder in 2010 to bring awareness to the sacrifices of veterans and attempt to bring closure to families of POWs and MIAs.

Hawks and Rolling Thunder Chapter 6 will ride to Perryville, Mo., on Saturday. He said, “We’re picking that day to honor our fallen men and women in Vietnam and all the other wars. It’s just a day for all of us to get out and try to remember those who have served, both the living and the dead, and why we have our freedoms and the price that was paid for them.”

He urges anyone who wants to join them, regardless if they are a veteran or a part of Rolling Thunder, to meet up with them at 9 a.m. at Martin Gateway Center. From there, they will ride to Perryville. When the group arrives at Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial, they will have a small lunch of chips, sandwiches and drinks. Then, the group will visit the James E. Edlemon Military Museum inside the memorial. After a tour of the museum, all of the group will go and visit America’s Wall. America’s Wall is a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It’s where many families with lost veterans go to pay their respects. There will be a brief moment of silence at America’s Wall and a moment of prayer. Then, after the prayer is finished, everyone will get in their vehicles and head back to Martin.

For more information about the event or to learn how to help local veterans, contact Rolling Thunder Chapter 6 at 731-225-0892.

*Editor’s note: Seth Gatewood of Martin is a freelance reporter.*



**REMEMBERING VETERANS** — Members of Rolling Thunder Chapter 6 stationed in Martin invite the public to join them Saturday as they travel to Perryville, Mo., to visit Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial and see America’s Wall, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Those attending will leave from Martin Gateway Center in Martin Saturday at 9 a.m. (Photo courtesy of Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial)

# Residents invited to participate in annual Taps Across America

On Memorial Day, Americans remember those who have died in military service. The National Moment of Remembrance is an annual event that asks all citizens, wherever they are at 3 p.m. (local time), to pause for a duration of one minute in silent tribute to the men and women who have honorably served in uniform and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

The fourth annual Taps Across America will honor those military members. This Memorial Day, thousands will spread out across the nation to sound the 24 notes of the most solemn bugle call “Taps.” Instrumentalists will sound the call from their homes, on sidewalks and at cemeteries and memorials to make sure this musical tribute is given to those who, as President Abra-



National Cemetery for 23 years. Villanueva also served the State of Maryland for 10 years as the director of military funeral honors for the Maryland Military Department.

Taps Across America started in 2020 as a way to commemorate Memorial Day during the COVID pandemic.

Taps will be heard at the National World War I Memorial at 3 p.m. EDT as part of the annual Taps Across America tribute.

The Doughboy Foundation is sponsoring buglers to sound Taps at 5 p.m. EDT on Memorial Day at all the major war memorials in Washington, D.C. The Doughboy Foundation sponsors the sounding of Daily Taps at 5 p.m. Eastern every day without fail at the National World War I Memorial in honor of the nation’s heroes.



**UT MARTIN REMEMBERS** — UT Martin will hold its annual Memorial Day Commemoration ceremony at 9 a.m. Friday on the main campus in the north plaza between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library. The event is open to the public. In this file photo, flags line the walkway for last year’s commemoration.

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CLOSED MONDAY  
Memorial Day

Memorial Day  
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