

On the 22nd of September, the Alabama Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 of Spanish Fort as well as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Riders formed the POW/MIA Recognition ride from The Cramton Bowl to our State Capital.



Lead Rider from the AL Rolling Thunder Chapter 1



Many carried the POW/MIA flags on their bikes



Frances and Joseph McCarrick from AL Morgan County Post 15 in Decatur



Shirley and Post Commander Vaughn Harwell of Morgan County Post 15 in Decatur



33rd District Vice Commander Donna and State Jr Vice Commander Wayne Stacey rode in the Recognition Ride. They are members of the AL Gulf Shore Post 44 in Gulf Shores.



2nd Vice Commander Bill Cole of Morgan County Post 15



Carroll High School JROTC cadets Godeke and McNabb escorted the POW/MIA Guest Speaker Seymour 'Sy' Lichtenfeld = US Army POW during WW II.

The Capital Sounds Concert Band provided the National Anthem. The AL National Guard Chaplain Major Anthony Holloway offered the Invocation at the beginning of the ceremony. The Carroll High School JROTC presented the Colors.

Mr. Seymour 'Sy' Lichtenfeld was the guest speaker and delivered an outstanding speech about his experience during WW II and how he was made a Prison Of War (POW) at the Battle of the Bulge. He related how his unit which was completely surrounded by a huge German army for days. Surrendered only after they had fired their last bullets. Because of the German hatred towards Jews, Sy Lichtenfeld was in extreme danger of being killed at any time if they found out that he was Jewish. He discussed the harsh conditions that he and others had to endure during the coldest winter that German had. He and others had no shoes and often we were required to march in below zero weather and with snow on the ground.

During the ceremony, the number of POW/MIAs in each branch of our Services (Army (134), Marine Corps (14), Navy (11), and Air Force (24)) for the State of Alabama were reflected on posters. The State of Alabama has a total of 184 veterans that were POW/MIA victims



The Master of Ceremonies was Robert Horton who presented the Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's proclamation recognizing 22nd of September as the 2012 POW/MIA Recognition Day to Seymour Lichtenfeld.

The Marine Corps League, P. L. Wilson of Detachment 447 conducted the Presentation and Raising of the POW/MIA flag on the State Capital flag pole.

Ms. Lela Brown sang The Battle Hymn of the Republic. The 151st Army Band provided the Taps at the closing of the ceremony.

The Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club reflected the significance of the "Missing Man Table" and identified all of the items on the Table.



One of the most touching features of the event was the Vietnam Prison of War cage where many of the Vietnam prisoners were retained as POWs until the end of the war. Many of the prisoners died from starvation during this period. The bowl represents the amount of daily rations that were provided to the prisoners during the war.



Members of the American Legion Rider of the Morgan County Post 15 in Decatur. Bill Cole was directing Frances and Joe McCarrick into a parking spot.