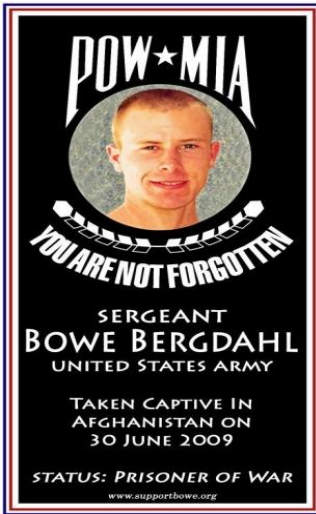


ROLLING THUNDER® XXV

SPEAKER & MUSICAL BIOS

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2012



Robert and Jani Bergdahl parents of Sgt. Bowe Robert

Bergdahl: POW Afghanistan - Bowe was born on March 28, 1986 in Sun Valley, Idaho and is a United States Army soldier. Since June 2009 Sgt. Bergdahl is in the captivity of the Taliban-supporting Afghanistan Haqqani network. Bergdahl is assigned to the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based at Fort Richardson, Alaska. He went missing on June 30, 2009. Since then, the Taliban have released five videos showing him in captivity. The Taliban have demanded \$1 million, the release of 21 Afghan prisoners and Aafia Siddiqui in exchange for Bergdahl's release. They have threatened to execute Bergdahl if Siddiqui is not released. At the time of his capture, Bergdahl's rank was that of Private First Class (E-3). In June 2010, he was promoted to Specialist (E-4) during his absence. On June 17, 2011 he was promoted

to the rank of Sergeant (E-5). For more information, please visit: www.facebook.com/pages/Bring-Bowe-Bergdahl-Home



Congressman Trent Franks is a conservative Reagan Republican serving his fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives and is a member of the Judiciary Committee. He serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution and is a member of the Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law. He is also a member of the Armed Services Committee, where he serves on the Strategic Forces Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Trent is someone who still believes that there is such a thing as the truth, and that people and principles should be at the center of political discourse in America. He works very hard in The United States Congress for a smaller government by cutting government waste, reducing taxes, bureaucracy, and

regulation. Trent believes in personal responsibility, free enterprise and that government's first purpose is to protect its innocent citizens. In January of 1987, Trent was appointed by the Governor of Arizona to head the Arizona Governor's Office for Children. The position is a Cabinet level division of the Arizona Governor's office responsible for overseeing and coordinating state policy and programs for Arizona's children. *"We have been blessed in this nation to be protected and served by the bravest and most noble soldiers in the world. I am deeply grateful to each and every one of these individuals for the enormous sacrifices made to preserve America's freedom and our cherished way of life. As men and women who have made great personal sacrifices to protect our freedom of their fellow countrymen, I believe that veterans deserve to be properly compensated for their valiant service to this country. I will continue to be forever indebted and passionately supportive of efforts to assist America's veterans."*



Commander Kirk S. Lippold, USN (Ret.) was the **Commanding Officer of the USS Cole (DDG-67)** on October 12, 2000 when the ship was attacked and bombed by Al-Qaeda terrorists during a refueling stop in the Yemeni port of Aden, killing 17 U.S. Sailors. Lippold assumed command of the Cole on June 25, 1999 and served until he was relieved on March 9, 2001. Lippold is a 1981 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He received a Master's of Science in Systems Engineering (Joint Command, Control and Communications) from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. He graduated from United States Army Command and General Staff College in 1994 and from Joint Forces Staff College in 2001. Before serving as Commanding Officer of USS Cole from 1999 to 2001, Lippold was Executive officer on USS Shiloh (CG-67). He also served as the Operations officer on the commissioning crew of USS Arleigh Burke (DDG-51), the lead ship of the same destroyer class as the USS Cole. Following his departure from the USS Cole, he received a series of desk positions at the Pentagon. Working in the War on Terrorism Division of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Directorate for Strategic Plans and Policy, Lippold "was instrumental" in the creation of detainee policy in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. He retired as a Commander in May 2007 at the age of 47 during a ceremony at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. Lippold is a senior military fellow with Military Families United, an advocacy group opposed to the release of prisoners held in Guantánamo. On February 4, 2010, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that Lippold was considering a run for U.S. Senate in NV against Harry Reid.



Colonel Patricia S. Blassie is the **Commander, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center**, Denver, CO. She is responsible for personnel and administrative support to more than 980,000 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard forces, ensuring that they are available resources in the event of a national emergency. The center provides support throughout their military careers, from initial entry to retirement, including assignments, promotions and separations. In 1980 she received an honorable discharge for her four years of active duty service and returned to her hometown, St. Louis, MO. While attending the University of Missouri, St. Louis, Colonel Blassie joined the United States Air Force Reserve. Colonel Blassie's Reserve assignments have included the 932nd Aeromedical Evacuation Group, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; the 94th Airlift Wing and 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.; and Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Colonel Blassie has also served as the 459th Mission Support Group commander, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and the 911th Mission Support Group commander, Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, Pa. Her combined service time, both Active Duty and Reserve total 32 years. Colonel Blassie attained the rank of Master Sergeant prior to being commissioned as Second Lieutenant in 1989 under the Deserving Airman Program. Prior to assuming her current position she served as Executive Officer to the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C. and as Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. *Colonel Blassie was the principal advisor to her family in the identification of her brother 1st Lt Michael J. Blassie. On Memorial Day 1984, Lieutenant Blassie was interred as the Vietnam Unknown Soldier, Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, Va. He was disinterred from the Tomb in May 1998, identified by DNA testing and brought home to his final resting place at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Mo, on July 11, 1998.* For more information, please visit: www.arpc.afrc.af.mil



Michael Shelby, (“New York Myke”) served in Vietnam with the Air Force 507th DAS-TAC-P directing air strikes for the 101st Airborne. He attended the dedication of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall on November 13, 1982. Since that time, Myke has been active in veteran's affairs, riding his H-D motorcycle to Washington, D.C. every Memorial Day & most Veteran’s Days since then. He was the keynote speaker at the 15th Annual Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Vietnam Wall in 1998 and has been the MC when the travelling wall has come to San Diego. In 1987, Shelby joined several hundred paratroopers and former paratroopers from around the world to train in Israel, commemorating the liberation of Jerusalem and earned his Israeli paratrooper wings. Myke moved to San Diego in 1987. He was the founding President of the JFK Rotary Club, President of the JFK Airport Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of New York’s Westchester & Putnam County Anti-Defamation League. He was awarded the Operation Homefront Hero Award for the work he has done for active and retired military servicemen and women in San Diego. As a Motorcycle rights activist Myke became the Executive Director of Abate of California from 1996 until 2006. In 2006 he led the fight to save the cross at the Mt. Soledad War Memorial and ran for mayor of San Diego. Myke has owned and operated the San Diego Harley-Davidson since 1993. He has had a talk radio show in San Diego and on the internet since 1994. He is an honorary member of the Wind and Fire Motorcycle Club, was inducted into the Sturgis Freedom Fighters Hall of Fame and in 2010 he became a member of Rolling Thunder National. For more information, please visit: www.newyorkmyke.com



Lynn O'Shea Director of Research for the **National Alliance of Families** for the Return of America’s Missing Servicemen. Lynn began her research in the early 1970’s trying to find out what happened to the man whose name was on her POW bracelet. She didn't like the answer. That led her to Dolores Alfond who was just starting the National Alliance of Families. Lynn has been with the Alliance since its inception in 1990, her two decades of research have provided numerous POW/MIA family members with previously unknown information on their missing loved ones. In addition to her research duties, she maintains the Alliance website and is editor of their newsletter “Bits N Pieces.” For more information, please visit: www.nationalalliance.org



SGT Matthew Smith, His service includes 2 tours to Iraq (2004 and 2008) which earned him a Combat Medical Badge, a tour in South Korea, supporting operations in response to Hurricane Katrina, and most recently in Afghanistan returning in Oct. 2011. SGT Smith has earned 3 Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, 2 Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with 2 Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has also been awarded the Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, 2 Overseas Service Ribbons, the NATO Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Combat Medical Badge, Air Assault, and the Basic Aviation Badge. SGT Smith is currently stationed with the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.



Steve Thompson Family & Veteran Liaison - Joint POW/MIA Accounting

Command. Steve has worked the POW/MIA issue since 1989 and is currently serving as the JPAC Family and Veteran Liaison. From 1989 to 1996 he served as an analyst, linguist, and team leader on Vietnam investigation teams; first with the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) and then with the Joint Task Force – Full Accounting (JTF-FA). From 1996 to 1999 Steve was assigned to JTF-FA's Detachment One in Bangkok, Thailand. He retired from the Army in 2000 after 23 years of active service. From September 2000 to July 2006 he served as the Chief of the Korea Analysis Section at the Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii and then with JPAC after the merger with JTF-

FA. Steve's work on behalf of our missing servicemen, their families, and our veterans has taken him to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, China, and both North and South Korea. Steve's other notable military assignments include tours with the 1st Special Forces Group and the 101st Airborne Division. He is a two-time graduate of the Defense Language Institute having studied the Korean and Vietnamese languages. He is also a graduate of Hawaii Pacific University where he studied Diplomacy and Military Studies. Steve and his family make their home on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. For more information, please visit: www.jpac.pacom.mil



Rockie Lynne has appeared nationally on "Good Morning America," The Grand Ole Opry "Live" and Fox News. His debut single, "Lipstick," spent an impressive 10 consecutive weeks as #1 on Billboard's Country Sales chart. He was named a "breakout artist" by ABC-TV's "Good Morning America." Billboard Magazine named him their artist "Most Likely to Succeed." With a lifelong interest in music, this native of Statesville, NC, has been singing and writing songs since the age of 14. After high school, he joined the Army, where he served for three years in the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg. After leaving the military, he started playing in clubs and quickly developed an

enthusiastic following for his crowd-pleasing live show and earned his chops as a lead guitarist. His electrifying concert performances have garnered him a fiercely loyal fan base. He has spent the better part of the last year touring and writing songs for his new album, Songs For Soldiers. One third of the proceeds from the record will benefit troop related charities. The inspiration for the album was his 21-day tour of Afghanistan, Southwest Asia, and the Persian Gulf, where he and his band entertained the U.S. troops who are stationed abroad. Lynne is co-founder of an annual charity motorcycle ride called TRIBUTE TO THE TROOPS. The riders visit the homes of the families of our fallen soldiers to acknowledge them for having made such an honorable sacrifice. The organization has raised over \$200,000 in aid to the families of the fallen. For more information, please visit www.rockielynne.com



Nancy Sinatra is an entertainer who needs no introduction. As a singer, actress, producer and headliner on television variety shows she comes armed with a signature style, catchy songs, memorable album covers and photo spreads. Nancy has scored more than 24 chart hits in the U.S. and internationally and become a role model for young, independent women as well as an icon of pop culture. Nancy starred in seven movies, two: "Speedway" with Elvis Presley and "The Wild Angels" with Peter Fonda, made her the top female box-office draw two years running. Nancy's support of American Veterans has been a highlight since her USO tours during the Vietnam war. Nancy was a favorite pin-up for the GIs on battlefields and ships. She regularly appears

at Veteran events making personal appearances and performing live concerts. In July of 1999, the United States Postal Service enlisted Nancy to unveil their Peace Symbol stamp. At this event, Nancy received official commendations from the Mayor of Los Angeles and the Governor of California for her efforts on behalf of the peace movement and for her consistent support of our military troops and Veterans. She also was presented with the key to the City of West Hollywood. She has been an active supporter of and participant in Rolling Thunder's annual Washington, D.C. demonstration for many years. Nancy is a member of Rolling Thunder National. For more information, please visit www.nancysinatra.com



Connie Stevens has been a successful motion picture and television entertainer with shows in Las Vegas and on Broadway and a recording star for well over forty years. Her years of tireless dedication to the U.S. Military from Korea to Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, has made her a favorite of Veterans across America and throughout the world. Connie has toured around the world with Bob Hope at every major base, numerous hospitals and military venues. Connie states of veterans and the young military of our country, “they are her favorite Americans and the most precious asset of America”. She has performed for four Presidents at the White House and Kennedy

Center. For her tireless work and support of others, Connie has been honored and received the coveted 1991 “Lady of Humanities” Award from the Shriners Hospital and “Humanitarian of the Year” and is a past Honoree of the USO Award. She is on the Board of Former Chief of Staff; General Hugh Shelton’s Leadership Foundation and has received the Highest Civilian Award given from our Armed Forces. More recently Connie has received the “Bob Hope Spirit Award” from the Medal of Honor Society. For more information, please visit www.foreverspring.com



Gordon Painter has been one of the most dedicated, enthusiastic supporters of Rolling Thunder and Veterans, especially Rolling Thunder’s annual demonstration in Washington, D.C. each May. He and wife Mary make it a family affair, bringing their children to witness the ceremonies and speeches as Gordon performs his unique musical style. Gordon was born near Kelso, WA, and although he had always loved music, he didn’t embark on a musical career until the 1990s. When Gordon opened for Collin Ray in 2002 singing the National Anthem and “God Bless the USA,” he received a standing ovation from the crowd. When he’s not performing, Gordon enjoys photography, snow skiing, motorcycles and dirt bikes. Gordon, Mary and their two children are Rolling Thunder National members. For more information, please visit www.gordonpainter.com



Loch Rannoch Pipes & Drums can trace its beginnings back to 1997, a Scottish Import Shop and the Pineville, PA Post Office. The formation of the band began with Keith Swanson, a rock musician from Staten Island, NY and Postmaster of the Pineville Post Office, and with Drum Major Sandy Sinclair (Ret.) Sandy hailed from Perth, Scotland, near Loch Rannoch in the central highlands. That became the band’s name and tartan, Drummond of Perth (modern). Soon the five-member band hit the streets as the Loch Rannoch Pipe Band. From those humble beginnings, the band has grown to a full-fledged pipes and drums unit, 17 members strong. The Loch

Rannoch Pipe Band has marched in parades from Edinburgh, Scotland to New York City to Washington. Some members have played for Her Majesty the Queen of England. Loch Rannoch plays the traditional sets along with the occasional playful touch of the unusual like their tribute to America and the Armed Forces which include a rendition of Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the USA”. In the spring of 2006 Loch Rannoch became the affiliate pipe band of the Emerald Society of Bucks & Montgomery Counties and in early 2008 began participating in events with Rolling Thunder. Several of the band members are Rolling Thunder National members. For more information, please visit: www.lochrannochpipesdrums.com



Dean Crawford Dunn's River Band, through hard work and perseverance, have emerged as the Mid-Atlantic's premier Country/Southern Rock group. A faithful and growing fan base is what keeps this group on the rise with sold out appearances and souvenir sales that eclipse any other group in the region. With regular gigs at local clubs, outdoor festivals, and private events, the Dean and his band has extended their reach to places like Bally's Wild Wild West Saloon in Atlantic City, Pimlico Race Track in Baltimore, Charles Town Races and Slots in West Virginia, Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis, Maryland, and Rams Head Live in Baltimore, they have also performed for the soldiers at Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG) several times as well as Special Olympics. Dean was also chosen by the

Governor to represent the country lifestyle and genre through his music and is bolstered by performances on FOX 45, WMAR and WJZ Channel 13 morning shows. Members: Dean Crawford - Lead Vocals/Singer/Song Writer Kenny Wise - Mandolin, acoustic guitar, vocals Bobby Lawrence - Drums Billy Coley - Steel Guitar Bobby Murphy - Lead Guitar Mike Clark - Bass Guitar Randy Denmyer - Sound Brooke Lawrence - Operations. For more information, please visit: www.simplydean.com