

Opinion

The Spirit of Freedom!

by Dan Gatlyn, USN Retired – Minister/Journalist

My brief commentary this evening deserves to be dispatched with all priority; for my gathering with Rolling Thunder and their words of support of those who have spent incomparable periods as Prisoners of War, literally left the the entire attendance with dampness of faces. Projections of plans through September 21, the last day being at Andersonville's National Prisoner of War Museum, was sufficiently somber to inform both the greatest and the most humble Warriors in the room. The unique presentations left all members wilted beyond comprehension.

In attendance was General James Sehorn, USAF Retired Pilot and former Vietnam POW, who spent Five and One-Half Years North Vietnam prisons!

No one person was scheduled as Speaker for the occasion; and, rightfully so in this planning session. While pending objectives by Organizational Officers served as Directives for subsequent hours; it was the, perhaps five minutes, delivery of General Sehorn that brought an unprecedented silence to the forum.

From his first words, through his tear stained statements, the General spoke with clarity of the prevailing atmosphere of the Meeting; and, **THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM!** His sensitive phrase on a subject, of which he was extremely qualified, brought to mind the words of Britisher Harry Jones, POW survivor of the Bridge at the River Kwai, upon his rescue...

“One cannot conceive anything so valuable as FREEDOM!”

General Sehorn's obvious concern for our National Liberties – the Terminologies and Mindset being presently conveyed from East to West – absolutely dwarfed all content of the meeting.

It was at this juncture that attendees once more silently affirmed an allegiance to America, and corresponding Merits. From silent expressions across the Room, it was immediately apparent that an updated and profound realization of our Freedoms and the Value of Each had gained a renewed residential solidarity! We had been privileged to conduct a personal introspection; and, mid-course corrections as necessary!

A gratitude is extended perpetually to Rolling Thunder, and to the far flung Membership, for a global support of **Prisoners-of-War, The Missing-in-Action, and our Warriors in General; and, in Memory of an Unparalleled Sacrifice!**

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