

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

September, 2017

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

V.F.W. POST #6768  
8584 Olde Eight Rd.  
Northfield, OH

SUNDAY, September 17, 2017  
2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

*Pot Luck meal after the meeting. Please  
bring a dish to share.*

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To be a member in good standing, one must:

- a. Attend at least 3 meetings & 3 events per year;
- b. Pay the annual membership dues of \$30/yr;
- c. Abide by the Membership Patch rules;
- d. Remain loyal to Rolling Thunder® in word, deed and action;
- e. Conduct him/herself in a professional and courteous manner at all times.

Below are the current nominees for the positions of vice-president, treasurer, chairman of the board, and 2 board positions (currently held by Larry Felean and Tom Trojan)

Vice-President: Dave Bush - Accepted  
Chuck Kettler - Accepted

Treasurer: Andy Klush - Accepted

Chairman of the Board: Lew Ballard - Accepted

Board Members: Jeff Brady - Accepted  
Hank Langowski - Accepted  
Larry Felean - Accepted

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 16, 2017 - POW/MIA Day Remembrance program Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery at 1:00 pm  
in Committal Shelter closest to POW Flag pole. If you ride, meet at El Patron restaurant corner of RT.3 & Greenwich Rd at 12:00 pm to ride in as a group.

Sunday, September 17, 2017 - Board/Membership Meeting - 1:00 p.m./2:00 p.m. Elections. Pot luck meal after the meeting.

Thursday, September 21 - Sunday, September 24, 2017 - Moving Wall at Perry High School - See attached Those that are able to help with the escort of the Wall, please meet at La Malfa Center, 5783 Heisley Rd, Mentor, Ohio starting at 7:00 a.m. for blessing and safety briefing. Kickstands up at 8:45.

Saturday, September 23, 2017 - Ohio Moving Wall at American Legion Post 336 - Chapter 1 trailer will be there. DTBA

Sunday, September 24, 2017 - The Claudette Wlasuk Celebration of Life Ride - Meet at VFW Post 2133 (W. 131<sup>st</sup> St., Cleveland, OH) between 11:30 a.m. and noon. Kickstands up at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 7, 2017 - Dinner at Mama Roberto's - 6:00 p.m.

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*I was prepared to fight, prepared to die. But  
I was not prepared for my country to leave  
me behind.*

**CHAPTER OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS  
AND PLATOON LEADERS**

**PRESIDENT** WINSTON BAILEY 440-639-2222

**VICE-PRES** DAVE BUSH 216-408-2639

**SECRETARY** CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

**TREASURER** ANDY KLUSH 330-620-6047

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LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

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CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

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MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

**CHAPLAIN** DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

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**SARGENT AT ARMS**

OPEN

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#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

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**COORDINATOR FOR WADE PARK VISITS**

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**EVENTS CHAIR** JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

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**Check us out on Facebook: Rolling Thunder  
Chapter1 Ohio**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

THE MAJOR FUNCTION OF ROLLING THUNDER® INC. IS TO PUBLICIZE THE POW-MIA ISSUE: TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC THAT MANY AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR WERE LEFT BEHIND AFTER ALL PREVIOUS WARS, AND TO HELP CORRECT THE PAST AND TO PROTECT FUTURE VETERANS FROM BEING LEFT BEHIND SHOULD THEY BECOME PRISONERS OF WAR-MISSING IN ACTION. WE ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO HELPING AMERICAN VETERANS FROM ALL WARS.

EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL DONATES HIS OR HER TIME BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN THE ISSUES AT HAND.

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**Our Adopted MIA/POW – Gregory Harris**



**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**



In the United States, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing in Action. This day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act. It is one of six days that the POW/MIA Flag can be flown. The POW/MIA flag was first recognized by Public Law 101-355 in 1990.

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**Remains Identified**

**WWII Remains Identified:**

U.S. Navy Gunner's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class George Herbert

U.S. Navy Pharmacist's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
John H. Schoonover

U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stanley F. Stegnerski

USMC Pvt. Vernon P. Keaton

U.S. Army Pvt. Raymond Sinowitz

USMC Assist. Cook Frank L. Masoni

USMC Pfc. Manuel Menendez

U.S. Navy Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Samuel W. Crowder

U.S. Navy Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Elmer D. Nail

U.S. Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class John E. Savidge

U.S. Navy Reserve Chief Water Tender  
Paul R. Wright

USMC Pvt. George F. Patrick

U.S. Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Frank Wood

**Korean War Remains Identified:**

U.S. Army Pfc. Felipe A. Champion  
U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
William G. Payne

**VietNam War Remains Identified:**

U.S. Air Force Col. Martin R. Scott  
U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Donald J. Hall

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**Government Affairs by Gus Dante (Federal Legislative & Government Affairs for National chapter) - UPDATE**

Gus Dante reported that all is going well in the process to place the POW/MIA Chair in Emancipation Hall at the Capitol Building. In mid-September delivery of the plaque is expected. In speaking with Representatives Lynch and Warren's offices, a Resolution is required to close down Emancipation Hall of the Capitol building for an hour and half for the Dedication. We are looking at early November or Veterans Day.

Regarding the Bill to place the POW Flag at the White House and Capitol we do not have the necessary co-sponsors as of yet. The resistance of some to the new Trump administration prevents work being done. Gus remarked that the best way to contact your elected representative is email and phone as letters get delayed in processing.

To take action: Go to <http://www.govtrack.us/>. Search and review a bill or bills of interest, go to the website listed for your US Representatives or US Senators and send letters, e-mails and or faxes requesting an action (preferably in writing) to be taken such as to cosponsor the bill or support getting the bill/resolution to the floor for a vote. Or, call their DC office and ask to speak to their Military or Veteran Affairs staffer and request that an action be taken.

**Remember: You are the voice of our POW and MIAs.**

*To date there are still only three co-sponsors to this bill—none from OHIO. Get those letters sent!*

Below is a listing of the Ohio representatives.

District	Name	Room	Phone
1	Chabot, Steve	2371 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2216
2	Wenstrup, Brad	2419 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-3164
3	Beatty, Joyce	133 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-4324
4	Jordan, Jim	2056 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2676
5	Latta, Robert E.	2448 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6405
6	<u>Johnson, Bill</u>	1710 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5705
7	Gibbs, Bob	2446 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6265
8	Davidson, Warren	1004 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6205
9	Kaptur, Marcy	2186 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-4146
10	Turner, Michael	2368 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6465
11	Fudge, Marcia L.	2344 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-7032
12	Tiberi, Pat	1203 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5355
13	Ryan, Tim	1126 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5261
14	Joyce, David	1124 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5731
15	Silvers, Steve	1022 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2015
16	Renacci, Jim	328 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-3876

**Other bills that are being worked on:**

H. Res. 219- Rep. Walker R-NC-6: Establishing a Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

H. Res. 129/ S.61: Calling on the DOD, other elements of the federal Government and foreign governments to intensify effort to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted for US personnel.

H.R. 299/ S. 422: Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017.

For information on these bills go to links: <https://www.congress.gov> or <https://www.govtrack.us/accounts/login>

More information may be found on the Rolling Thunder, Inc. National's website under the heading "Government Affairs" [www.rollingthunder1.com](http://www.rollingthunder1.com)

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**Monument honoring Vietnam helicopter crews approved for Arlington Cemetery**

By: Charlsy Panzino (Military Times)

It's been three years in the making, but helicopter crews who flew during the Vietnam War will have their own monument at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and Arlington National Cemetery worked together on a compromise, and Congress introduced the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Monument Act to support the mission. The 2 1/2-foot by 2 1/2-foot monument will be placed in Section 35 along Memorial Drive, not far from the Tomb of the Unknowns, in the Virginia cemetery.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Bob Hesselbein, who flew AH-1 Cobra gunships in Vietnam, helped spearhead the campaign for the memorial.

In April 2014, Hesselbein, legacy committee chairman of the pilots association, and other members went to Arlington Cemetery to discuss donating a tree. Instead, one of the historians suggested donating a monument.

"We discovered that the greatest concentration of combat casualties who operated helicopters in the Vietnam War are in Arlington," he told Military Times on Thursday.



The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association will donate this monument to Arlington National Cemetery.

The association members completed the lengthy application process before the end of 2014, but the cemetery's advisory committee was deadlocked 3-3 on the proposal.

The tiebreaker went to then-Army Secretary John McHugh, who decided to not move forward with the original monument.

"The prime directive for the cemetery is to do everything it can not to initiate an action that would displace an otherwise-eligible veteran," McHugh told Time magazine in 2016. "On a very tough decision, that philosophy and unwritten rule was the determining factor."

McHugh said the association could donate the tree, as originally intended, but Hesselbein said just having the tree marker didn't give justice to those who lost their lives.

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association members sought action from Congress, and through publicity and nationwide support from the community, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Monument Act was introduced. Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, introduced the bipartisan legislation.

Companion legislation was introduced on the House side by Rep. Mark Amodei, R-Nev. Baldwin told Army Times that she was moved by Hesselbein's stories of his own experiences during Vietnam, including "stories of his friends and comrades that he still knows and those that he lost," she said.

The Vietnam War was known as the "helicopter war" because the United States relied heavily on the aircraft to transport troops and provide close-air support.

A monument that honors the Vietnam-era helicopter crews is important not only for family members who visit Arlington Cemetery to see their loved ones, but also for those who aren't directly impacted.

"It's a teachable moment," she said. "It gets people involved and gets people to understand the story of the helicopter pilots and crew members killed during the Vietnam War."

Staff from Arlington National Cemetery met with members of the pilot association in March, and the two parties were able to agree on the size of the memorial.

Hesselbein said thousands of people contacted members of Congress to show their support for the monument, which the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association is funding.

He recognizes that the primary mission of the cemetery is to provide grave space for American heroes who died, but the secondary mission is to be a national shrine.

Tourists who visit Arlington don't necessarily go there to look at the graves but to see the Tomb of the Unknowns and other memorials.

"People need to create memorials and monuments to honor those who give the ultimate sacrifice," Hesselbein said.

N.J. farm makes POW/MIA flag corn maze to honor veterans



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### Chaplain's Corner

(Submitted by Dan McGinnis)

#### The One Who Understands

John Babler is the chaplain for the police and fire departments in his Texas community. During a twenty-two-week sabbatical from his job, he attended police academy training so that he could better understand the situations law enforcement officers face. Through spending time with the other cadets and learning about the intense challenges of the profession, Babler gained a new sense of humility and empathy. In the future, he hopes to be more effective as he counsels police officers who struggle with emotional stress, fatigue, and loss.

We know that God understands the situations we face because He made us and sees everything that happens to us. We also know He understands because He has been to earth and experienced life as a human being. He "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" as the person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14).

Jesus's earthly life included a wide range of difficulty. He felt the searing heat of the sun, the pain of an empty stomach, and the uncertainty of homelessness. Emotionally, He endured the tension of disagreements, the burn of betrayal, and the ongoing threat of violence.

Jesus experienced the joys of friendship and family love, as well as the worst problems that we face here on earth. He provides hope. He is the Wonderful Counselor who patiently listens to our concerns with insight and care (Isa. 9:6). He is the One who can say, "I've been through that. I understand."

*Dear Lord, thank You for caring enough to humble Yourself and come to earth as a human being.*

**God understands the struggles we face.**



# The Claudette Wlasuk



## Celebration of Life Ride

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Meet at VFW Post 2133 between 11:30am and Noon.  
Kickstands up at 1:00pm.

The ride will go to Canal Exploration Center for a small service. Then we will meet back at VFW Post 2133 for a celebration. Route will be given out the day of.

Please bring a side dish to share.

RVSP to Rob Robertson, 440-537-4972 or  
[rrobertson.vfw@gmail.com](mailto:rrobertson.vfw@gmail.com)  
(looking for a head count)

VFW Post 2133  
4435 W. 131 Street  
Cleveland OH 44135



September 21<sup>st</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Perry High School

**Thursday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>,**

**Noon Open:** Open 24 Hours until Sunday at 6pm:

5:00pm: Wreath Presentations

5:45pm: Honor Lake County 56 Fallen Hero's

6:40pm: MIA POW Setting of Table, by Rolling Thunder

**7:00pm-8pm Opening Ceremony:**

Presenters, posting of colors, invocation, National Anthem, 21-gun salute, taps, bag pipes, lighting of eternal flame

8-9pm: Please view the "Military Wall of Honor" in the school

**Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup>,**

12:00pm: Chief Petty Officer Christopher O'Donnell U.S. Coast Guard, Honors 7 fallen Coast Guard Heroes

12:30pm: Tom Norman, 68-69. Merchant Marine, recognize his fallen comrade's service in Vietnam

9:30pm-10:00pm: Candle Light Vigil

Mike Evangelista, Army, will read his Poem "To the Heroes of Etched Black"

8-9pm: Please view the "Military Wall of Honor" in the high school

**Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>,**

1:00pm-1:15pm: Perry Class of "65" Vietnam Vets Presentation; Jake Martine Bag Pipes

4:00pm-4:20pm: Ohio-Penn Vintage Tractor Club: Pass & Review

5:30-6:30pm: Please view the "Military Wall of Honor" in the high school

**Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>,**

4-5pm: Please view the "Military Wall of Honor" in the high school

5:30pm: Mary Reynolds Powell, Captain Army Nurse Corps, Vietnam 70-71

**6:00pm: Closing Ceremony: Honorable Presenters**

Sergeant Sam Felton, USMC, Navy Cross, Purple Heart

Sergeant Mike Warner, Army, two tours Vietnam

Fellow Vietnam Comrades or family members like to offer a message

National Anthem

Benediction

James McBride, Warrant Officer sings a Personal Song

Extinguish of Eternal Flame

21-gun salute

Taps-Vietnam Veteran / bag pipes

**7:05pm:** An Extraordinary Farewell Salute by Vietnam Veterans & then all veterans to "He's My Brother"

**Conclusion:** Will need help removing the panels of the "Moving Wall" Please stay and help

Thank you, Arnie Stanko, Chairman

**NOTE: Please Certified Service Pets only**