

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

July, 2017

## **PLEASE NOTE**

### **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP**

### **MEETING WILL BE HELD AT**

**Roundup Lake Campgrounds**  
3392 State Route 82 Mantua.

**SUNDAY, July 16, 2017**

**12:00 p.m. (noon)**

**There will be no Board meeting**

Members & families picnic lunch will follow the meeting. Please bring a dish to share. The chapter will provide Hamburgers and Hot Dogs and the fixings. We will also have cases of water and punch, anything else you desire, please bring your own beverage.

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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.

**Elections are coming up in September. Nominations will be taken at this meeting for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, and 2 Board positions (currently held by Larry Felean and Tom Trojan).**

**If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.**

**Nominations will again be taken at the August meeting.**

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

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, July 15, 2017 - Freedom House Picnic, 1213 Anita Court, Kent, OH - Setup at 11:00 a.m. Serving at noon.**

**Sunday, July 16, 2017 - Membership Meeting Noon at Roundup Lake Campgrounds, Mantua, OH - Lunch will follow the meeting. When you enter the Campgrounds, just tell the person at the gate you are there for the Rolling Thunder picnic and follow the signs to Pavillion #8. Please bring your swimsuits, fishing poles, and they also rent paddle boats but not sure of the price. There is a beach next to our pavillion and a swimming pool near by. Ronnie has made arrangements for us to use the park all day and has put in a lot of effort to see that we have a great picnic.**

**Saturday, July 22, 2017 - Wade Park VA picnic - Setup at 9:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, July 29 & Sunday, July 30, 2017 - Aurora Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Friday, August 4, 2017 - Chair of Honor and plaque placement - Federal Building, East 9<sup>th</sup>, Cleveland, OH - 10:00 a.m.**

**Friday, August 4 - Sunday, August 6, 2017 - Twinsday Festival - Twinsburg, OH**

**Saturday, August 5 & Sunday August 6, 2017 Middlefield Walmart -10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, August 10, 2017 - Elvis Night - DTBA**

**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

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**  
LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

**BOARD MEMBERS**

TED PILNY 216-346-6407

LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914

CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

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

**RUN COORDINATOR** OPEN

**MEMBERSHIP** SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

**QUARTERMASTER**

FRANK FOX 440-494-7165

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**ASST. QUARTERMASTER**  
LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

**SARGENT AT ARMS**  
OPEN

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**  
CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

**PLATOON LEADERS:**

#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

#2 RONNIE DINGER 216-799-5539

#3 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#5 TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744

#6 VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

#7 SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

**STATE LIASION** TY GEISER 330-466-0086

**ASST. STATE LIASION**  
AL KECK 216-374-3310

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[arphersfolks@windstream.net](mailto:arphersfolks@windstream.net)

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

OPEN

VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

**COORDINATOR FOR WADE PARK VISITS**

VICKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

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

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

**EDUCATION CHAIR** DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

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Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER 330-472-0871  
Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at  
[ckettler6480@yahoo.com](mailto:ckettler6480@yahoo.com)

**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**



## Remains Identified

### WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George W. Betchley  
USMC Pfc. George B. Murray  
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gerald L. Jacobsen  
USMC Pvt. Archie W. Newell  
U.S. Army Pfc. Gerald F. Wipfli  
U.S. Navy Reserve Lt. William Q. Punnell  
U.S. Army Sgt. Richard G. Sowell

### Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Cpl. Edward L. Borders  
U.S. Army Pfc. Albert E. Adkins  
U.S. Army Pfc. Charlie H. Hill  
U.S. Army Cpl. Thomas H. Mullins  
U.S. Army Master Sgt. George R. Housekeeper  
U.S. Army Cpl. Clarence R. Skates  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Max E. Harris

### VietNam War Remains Identified:

U.S. Air Force Col. Roosevelt Hestle, Jr.  
U.S. Air Force Capt. Robert E. Holton

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

Gus had two appointments on the hill Thursday May 25, 2017 before Memorial Day Weekend, with Rep Lance on H.R. 504 to discuss cosponsors for the bill, and also met with the AOC (Architect of The Capitol) checking on the progress on the POW/MIA Chair placement in the emancipation Hall of the United States capitol. First, Joe Muller and Gus met with the Architect Of the Capitol and staffers from Senator Warren's office and Representative Lynch's office to discuss the status of the POWMIA Chair. In that meeting Feras Sleiman from Sen. Warren's office had said that the Senate Rules Committee who reviewed the wording on the plaque "Dedicated by Rolling Thunder®, Inc. National" would have to be eliminated. Gus was very upset to say the least. Their reason was not to set a precedent due to the fact that all the statues in the statuary Hall have no "Dedicated By". The staffers emphatically said that any publication on the hill, and any media regarding

the POW/MIA Remembrance Act/Chair of Honor Placed in the US Capitol before and after the DEDICATION will read that the POW/MIA Chair was "Dedicated By Rolling Thunder®, Inc. National". After returning from Rolling Thunder XXX Artie Muller and Gus had discussed the situation and conveyed to the AOC and Sen. Warren's office, how we at Rolling Thunder Inc. National were very disappointed about the decision, but we will accept the Senate Rules and the AOC policy, not to delay placement of the chair. After President Obama signed into law April 2016.

Date: June 7, 2017 at 6:06 PM Subject: RE: POW/MIA Chair Thanks Gus. We understand that this was a difficult decision. We informed the Rules Committee of your acceptance of their policy regarding the plaque language, and we'll keep you updated on the progress of the chair. NOTE: From The AOC Sat 6/17/2017. We are moving forward and started the procurement process. My team will check in every few weeks to give me a status update so I'll do the same for you. Second, we met with Rep. Lance of NJ who is the sponsor of the legislation for H.R. 504: "To amend title 36, United States Code to require that the POW/MIA flag be Displayed on ALL DAYS that the flag of the United States is displayed." That morning Thursday May 25, 2017 Rep. Lance on the house floor congratulated Rolling Thunder Inc. for our 30th anniversary for promoting the POW/MIA issue not only in DC but also helping Veterans throughout the year. He also mentioned H.R/504 that the POW/MIA Flag should fly All DAYS the US Flag is displayed. Gus hand delivered to Rep. Lance's office over 2000 signatures from Winston Bailey, President RT-1 Ohio chapter, who started a petition to have the residents of Ohio sign in support of H.R. 504. Rolling Thunder Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio Great Job and Thank you.

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

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

District	Name	Room	Phone
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	Stivers, 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

### Contacting Representatives by phone

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling today from Rolling Thunder@Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio. I would like to speak with the Staffer who handles Military/Veterans Affairs.

Make sure you make clear why you are calling:  
If you make contact with the MA (Military Affairs) staffer, tell them you would like for their boss Congressman/woman \_\_\_\_\_ to cosponsor:  
H.R. 504- To amend title 36, US Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on ALL DAYS that the flag of the United States is displayed.

If you don't make contact, leave Voice Mail message  
Why you are calling and have them call you back.

More than likely they will want you to email them, but leave Voice Mail and also email them. Get the

spelling of the MA. House emails are usually.  
john.doe@mail.house.gov

After your email, and speaking with the MA, give them about a week. If you don't hear back from them, then call back to see if they are going to cosponsor H.R. 504.

To contact by mail or email:

To:

Subject: Cosponsoring H.R.504

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ member of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio. I am emailing you to have your Boss, Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ to cosponsor

**H.R.504- To amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.**

This is a bipartisan issue and a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." This will be a reminder that the families of our missing and the public that our government has not forgotten those that did not come home.

I appreciate your time in this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***To date there are only three co-sponsors to this bill—none from OHIO. I had the opportunity to speak to Congressman Jim Renacci from Ohio at the State Run. He had not heard of this legislation yet but said that he would look into it. His explanation was that it was only introduced in January of 2017, and it takes a long time for the bill to get to the floor of the House. Get those letters sent!***

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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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### **Bones found near wreckage of WWII-era US bomber in Croatia (From Stars and Stripes)**

By ASSOCIATED PRESSPublished: July 10, 2017

**ZAGREB, Croatia—** Divers have located human bones near the wreckage of a U.S. bomber that crashed in the Adriatic Sea in Croatia in 1944.

The discovery was made last week at the site of the crash of The Tulsamerican, the last B-24 Liberator bomber built in Tulsa, Oklahoma, near the end of World War II, according to Croatia's state TV.

"The remains of human bones have been found, but we can't say anything without further analysis," Zadar University archaeologist Mate Parica said.

The wreckage itself was found at the bottom of the sea at a depth of some 40 meters (130 feet) near the island of Vis in 2010 after a 17-year search. Three members of the 10-man crew were killed in the crash.

Tomo Medved, who heads Croatia's ministry for war veterans, said the U.S. is still looking for some 200 Americans who perished in Croatia during WWII. Croatia was run by a Nazi puppet regime during the war. Medved pledged the country's cooperation.

"We will launch the procedure to sign an agreement between our countries so that we would find the remains of some 200 people that the United States is searching for in the territory of the Republic of Croatia," he said.

An effort to recover and return pieces of the wreckage to Oklahoma for display at the Tulsa Air

and Space Museum has been underway for several years.

The plane was hit after a bombing run over German-occupied Poland. It crashed into the Adriatic Sea on Dec. 17, 1944. The crew apparently tried to get the plane back to its base in Italy, but they eventually decided to ditch it in the Adriatic.

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### **Chaplain's Corner**

(Submitted by Dan McGinnis)

### **Celebrate Freedom**

After being kidnapped, held hostage for thirteen days, and released, New Zealand news cameraman Olaf Wiig, with a broad smile on his face, announced, "I feel more alive now than I have in my entire life."

For reasons difficult to understand, being freed is more exhilarating than being free.

For those who enjoy freedom every day, Olaf's joy was a good reminder of how easily we forget how blessed we are. This is also true spiritually. Those of us who have been Christians for a long time often forget what it's like to be held hostage by sin. We can become complacent and even ungrateful. But then God sends a reminder in the form of a new believer who gives an exuberant testimony of what God has done in his or her life, and once again we see the joy that is ours when we are "free from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2).

If freedom has become boring to you, or if you tend to focus on what you can't do, consider this: Not only are you no longer a slave to sin, but you are freed to be holy and to enjoy eternal life with Christ Jesus! (6:22).

Celebrate your freedom in Christ by taking the time to thank God for the things you are able and free to do as His servant.

**Living for Christ brings true freedom.**

# DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION [DAR] - SERVICE PROJECT

## SUBMITTED BY CHUCK KETTLER

Ohio DAR Chapters have, as their new on-going state Veteran' Services Project, adopted the aircraft carrier, USS George H.W. Bush, and all of its on-board ship personnel. The action plan is to target first on:

**Single Moms - Single Dads – First Time Deployers – Single Males – Female/Junior Sailors.**

This service project by Ohio was kicked off at the recent DAR Continental Congress held at DAR Constitution Hall held June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ohio's State Regent, Ms. Nancy Wright in her "State of the Union" report to all committee attendees at the Congress.

The service plan is to provide regular **"CARE PACKAGES"** to be distributed on the ship through the Community Public Relations Liaison Officer, RPCS Terrance Newton.

Care Packages will consist of: Gently used magazines/paperback books; Puzzle books; Inspirational and Motivational materials; Hygiene items; Personal care products; Socks; Candy [non-chocolate]; gum [not sold on the ship]; note pads and pens; and Phone Cards.

OHIO DAR CHAPTERS will be collecting donations of these items to package and send during the year. \*\*\*They are accepting cash donations as well to help support the project.

However, they are also offering a **Commemorative Project Pin** [\[see the picture\]](#) to help support this on-going project during the year. The pin is \$5.00.

I will have some of these available for sale at the up-coming chapter meetings for anyone interested in helping to support this innovative service project for the DAR ladies.

**CASH DONATIONS** – those wishing to support this project with a tax-deductible donation can make out a check payable to:

**OSDAR TREASURER – [foot note SHIP PROJECT]**

**Mail to:**

Ms. Mary Chase  
7655 Isaac Drive  
Cleveland, Ohio 44130

