

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

August, 2016

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, August 21, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting  
August 21, 2016  
1:00 p.m.

Nominations will again be taken at the August membership meeting for the positions of president, secretary, and 3 board positions (Mike Neilan, Ted Pilny & Larry Felean are the 3 board members whose positions are up for nominations). Nominations will again be taken at the August meeting. Below are the current nominees:

President: Winston Bailey (accepted)  
Secretary: Cheryl Pilny (accepted)  
Board Positions: Ted Pilny (accepted)  
Mike Neilan (accepted)  
Larry Felean (accepted)

To be eligible for the position of chapter president, a member must have held a chapter executive officer position or been a member of the Board of Directors for 12 months prior to being nominated. To be nominated and/or elected for any other officer position, a Chapter member must be a member in good standing for a period of one (1) year or longer. The person must be a full member at the time of the nomination and have earned their patches. The member must also have attended six (6) meetings prior to nominations in the past twelve (12) months. *You must be present at time of nomination to accept*

*the nomination.* Elections will be held at the September membership meeting. **If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 21, 2016 - Board/Membership Meeting 1:00/2:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, August 27 & 28, 2016 - Chardon Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 - Transition Home visit - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 10, 2016 - Visit Ohio Veterans Home, Sandusky, OH

Saturday, September 17, 2016 - Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery - POW/MIA Ceremony

Sunday, September 18, 2016 - Board/Membership Meeting, 1:00/2:00 p.m. - Elections. There will also be a pot luck meal after the meeting.

Saturday, September 24, 2016 - Lunch at Slyman's Restaurant, 3108 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH

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**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**  
JIM COZZARIN 440-255-6464

**BOARD MEMBERS**

TED PILNY 216-346-6407

LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914

TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) CHUCK KETTLER 330-273-5102

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

**RUN COORDINATOR** OPEN

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

**QUARTERMASTER**

FRANK FOX 440-494-7165

GERI PHILLIPS 440-494-7165

**ASST. QUARTERMASTER**

LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

**SARGENT AT ARMS**

JIM COZZARIN 440-255-6464

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

**PLATOON LEADERS:**

#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

#2 PAT MALONE 440-232-1088

#3 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#5 JEAN CHASE 330-467-1494

#6 VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

#7 SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

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CLAUDETTE WLASUK 216-281-8810

VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

**COORDINATOR FOR WADE PARK VISITS**

VICKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

**EVENTS CHAIR** DAVE BUSH 216-408-2639

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** CHUCK KETTLER 330-273-5102

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

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Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER

**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**



**OUR VETERANS NEED STUFF**

We are collecting items for the inpatients at the VA Hospital at every meeting. Please help our veterans who have served our country honorably. Here is the monthly list (socks are always welcome):

- January Body wash
- February Deodorant
- March Toothpaste/Brush
- April Shaving Cream
- May Denture cleaner
- June Shampoo/conditioner
- July Body wash
- August Deodorant**
- September Toothpaste/Brush
- October Shaving Cream
- November Lotion
- December Shampoo/conditioner

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**Remains Identified**

**World War II Remains Identified:**

- USMC Pfc. Wilbur C. Mattern
- USMC Sgt. Fae V. Moore
- U.S. Navy ENS Verdi Sederstrom
- U.S. Navy Machinest's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Earl Melton
- U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Marvin B. Rothman
- USMC Pvt. Frank F. Penna

**Korean War Remains Identified:**

- U.S. Army Pvt. Virgil B. Adkins
- U.S. Army Cpl. Ronald M. Sparks
- U.S. Army Sgt. James L. Campbell
- U.S. Army Master Sgt. Ira V. Miss, Jr.
- U.S. Army Cpl. Curtis J. Wells
- U.S. Army Cpl. Larry M. Dunn
- U.S. Army Cpl. Charles A. White

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As we continue to move forward through the 114th Congress, we are making significant progress. With the recent introduction of **H. Res. 590: Establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs**, a committee that will conduct a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any United States personnel unaccounted for from the Vietnam era, the Korean conflict, World War II, Cold War Missions, Persian Gulf War,

Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation Enduring Freedom, including MIAs and POWs missing and captured, we as an organization need to do our part with contacting our representatives in the House and seek their support and co-sponsorship. Please contact your Reps. by phone, e-mail, letters and or personal visit. We are seeking 100% compliance!

To date, there are 43 co-sponsors for this bill, including only one Ohio representative.

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

District	Name	Address	Phone
1	Chabot, Steve	2371 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2216
2	Wenstrup, Brad	1318 Longworth 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	1524 Longworth 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	Johnson, Bill	1710 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5705
7	Gibbs, Bob	329 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6265
8	Davidson, Warren	1011 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	2239 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

District	Name	Address	Phone
13	Ryan, Tim	1421 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

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The original Toxic Exposure Act of 2016 (H.R. 1769 / S-901) went from 19 pages to 331 pages when it was merged with a number of other Veteran related legislation.

The new H.R. 5286 was pulled from the floor by the VFW and DAV shortly before it was to be voted on. If this legislation is not voted on be and passed this summer we will have to start over again in January with the new congress.

So please have your members and anyone else who will help call:

The Speaker of the House Paul Ryan at 202-225-0600 (Chief of Staff- Mike Sommer)  
Ask him to move H.R. 5286 back to the house floor for a vote.

These representatives may also be of help:

Rep. Jeff Miller Chair. of (Veterans Affairs)--Maj. Staff Dir. Jon Tower--- 202-225-3527 at VA Office.  
Rep. Corrine Brown Ranking. Member (Veterans Affairs)--- Min. Staff Dir. Don Phillips.

We need to make The Speaker of the House hear our opinions. We are very close to getting this legislation passed because of the hard work of a lot of our members. We just need to make this last effort.

Thank you

Tom D'Alessio  
Rolling Thunder® Inc.  
National Vice President

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## Vietnam Vet To Get Long Overdue Medal of Honor - July 18, 2016



Nearly five decades after helping rescue dozens of American soldiers pinned down by enemy fire, a Vietnam War veteran is receiving the nation's highest military honor for valor.

President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to retired Lt. Col. Charles Kettles of Ypsilanti, Michigan during a ceremony at the White House.

Kettles led helicopter flights carrying reinforcements to U.S. soldiers and evacuated the wounded after they were ambushed in combat operations near Duc Pho in May 1967.

Kettles repeatedly returned to a landing zone under heavy fire. He is credited with helping to save 40 soldiers and four members of his unit. During the final evacuation effort, he was advised that eight soldiers had been unable to reach the helicopters, so he returned without benefit of artillery or tactical aircraft support.

The Army said his helicopter was hit by a mortar round that damaged the main rotor blade and shattered both front windshields. Small arms and machine gun fire also raked the helicopter.

"In spite of the severe damage to his helicopter, Kettles once more skillfully guided his heavily damaged aircraft to safety," the Army said in describing his actions. "Without his courageous actions and superior flying skills, the last group of soldiers and his crew would never have made it off the battlefield."

The Veterans History Project launched a formal campaign to upgrade Kettles' Distinguished Service Cross for his actions that day to the Medal of Honor. After the Pentagon agreed his actions merited an

upgrade, Congress passed legislation waiving a time limitation for the award, and paving the way for Obama's action.

"I didn't do it by myself. There were some 74 pilots and crew members involved in this whole mission that day, so it's not just me," Kettles says in a video on the Army's website. "The medal is not mine. It's theirs."

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**Purple Heart Phone Scam:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart is warning about a telephone scam being conducted in its name. Unknown individuals have been cold-calling people across the United States, often from 315-516-2512, and requesting donations for the upcoming presidential election. The callers say they're doing so on behalf of MOPH and mention the name of the group's national commander, Robert Puskar. "These calls are a hoax," read a MOPH statement, which asks people to contact local authorities if they receive such calls.

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### **National Navajo Code Talkers Day August 14, 2016**

Submitted by: Claudette

Cipher machines, or machines that create coded messages, did not work well in the jungles of the Pacific Islands during World War II. However, the United States military needed coded messages to send secret information from the battle lines to air bases and other locations. Native Americans who spoke the Navajo language helped solve this problem.

The Navajo "code talkers," as they became known, used English code words that they translated into their language to send messages. The Japanese military could hear these coded messages, but they could not understand their meanings. The Navajo language was not well known.

The Navajo code talkers served in some of the fiercest battles of the Pacific. They saved many lives and helped the United States and its allies win the war. However, the code talkers were never allowed to discuss their work with anyone. Most Americans did not know about the code talkers' role in World War II until much later. For their bravery and service, President Ronald Reagan set aside a special day to honor the Navajo code talkers. In 1982, he declared August 14 to be National Navajo Code Talkers Day.

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### **Happy Birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard**

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 it served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard protected the nation throughout its long history and served proudly in the majority of the nation's conflicts. The Coast Guard's national defense responsibilities remain one of its most important functions even today. In times of peace it operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard serves as part of the Navy Department.

The U. S. Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times a military force and federal law enforcement agency dedicated to maritime safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We enforce Federal laws on the high seas, the nation's coastal waters and its inland waterways. We are unique in the Nation and the world.

The Coast Guard's official history began on 4 August 1790 when President George Washington signed the Tariff Act that authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the "revenue cutters," the "system of cutters," the

Revenue Marine and finally the Revenue Cutter Service, it expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

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Chip Kettler and Ted Rood receiving their boot patch. Congrats!

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### Looking for something to do over a weekend?

Visit the National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago.

The National Veterans Art Museum inspires greater understanding of the real impact of war with a focus on Vietnam. The museum collects, preserves and exhibits art inspired by combat and created by veterans. The National Veterans Art Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation and exhibition of art inspired by combat and created by veterans.

Since its inception in 1981, the NVAM has been a space for military personnel, veterans, and civilians to open a dialogue over the real impact of war. All artwork is created by veterans and, on some level, serves as therapeutic for them and the communities they exist within.

The truly unique museum features work by combat veterans from all conflicts. The National Veterans Art Museum also has many educational opportunities to help you access, explore and connect with our one-of-a-kind collection.

Originally Incorporated in 1982 as the Vietnam Veterans Art Group, NVAM is proud to be recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

#### The Swagger

In the summer of 2015, Hunter (aged 15) carried his brother Braden (8) for a fifty-seven-mile walk to raise awareness of the needs of people with cerebral palsy. Braden weighs sixty pounds, so Hunter needed frequent rest stops where others helped him stretch his muscles, and he wore special harnesses to disperse Braden's weight. Hunter says that while the harnesses helped with the physical discomfort, what helped him most were the people along the way. "If it weren't for everyone cheering and walking with us, I wouldn't have been able to do it. . . . My legs were sore, but my friends picked me up and I made it through . . ." His mom named the arduous trek "The Cerebral Palsy Swagger."

The apostle Paul, who we think of as strong and courageous, also needed to be "picked up." In Romans 16 he lists a number of people who did just that for him. They served alongside him, encouraged him, met his needs, and prayed for him. He mentions Phoebe; Priscilla and Aquila, who were co-workers; Rufus's mother, who had been like a mother to him as well; Gaius, who showed him hospitality; and many more.

We all need friends who pick us up, and we all know of others who need our encouragement. As Jesus helps and carries us, let us help one another.

*Lord, in Your wisdom You established Your church as a place for us to love and care for each other. Help me to extend the grace I've received to others.*

**Encouragers pick others up when troubles weigh them down.**