

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

September, 2016

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, September 18, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
September 18, 2016
1:00 p.m.

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

The election will be held on Sunday at the 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). Below are the current nominees. Since the President and Secretary positions were unopposed, we will only be voting on the Board positions.

President: Winston Bailey

Secretary: Cheryl Pilny

Board Positions: Ted Pilny
Mike Neilan
Larry Felean
Chuck Kettler

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 17, 2016 - Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery - POW/MIA Ceremony
Meet at El Patron's restaurant on the corner of Route 3 & Greenwich Road in Seville at noon. Kickstands up at 12:30 pm to go to the cemetery for POW/MIA ceremony at Western Reserve National Cemetery. Our chapter has a place on the agenda.

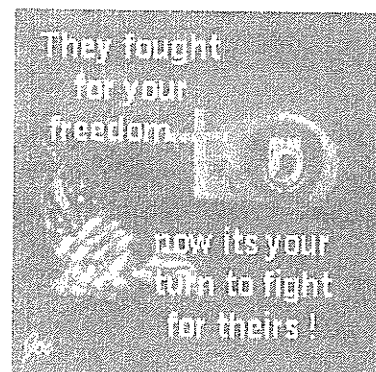
Sunday, September 18, 2016 - Board/Membership Meeting, 1:00/2:00 p.m. - Elections. There will also be a pot luck meal after the meeting.

Saturday, September 24, 2016 - Lunch at Slyman's Restaurant, - 11:00 a.m. - sign-up sheet at meeting

Sunday, September 25, 2016 - Visit Ohio Veterans Home, Sandusky, OH - Noon - Meet at McDonalds on 10710 Lorain Ave, Cleveland. Kickstands up at 12:15 sharp.

Sunday, October 9, 2016 - Middlefield, Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 15, 2016 - Cookout for veterans at Renaissance Retirement Campus, 26376 John Rd., Olmsted Falls, OH - Setup at 10:00 a.m. - serving at noon.



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

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SECRETARY CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

TREASURER ANDY KLUSH 330-620-6047

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JIM COZZARIN 440-255-6464

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

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.

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

National POW/MIA Recognition Day September 16, 2016

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 observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House. A Pentagon ceremony featuring members of each branch of military service is held annually on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. This year it will be held Friday, Sept. 16, 2016.

This day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense

Authorization Act. The POW/MIA flag was first recognized by Public Law 101-355 in 1990.



Remains Identified

World War II Remains Identified:

U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Jim H. Johnston
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Murry R. Cargile
U.S. Navy WT1c Walter Sollie
USMC Pfc. John W. MacDonald
USMC Pfc. Ben H. Gore
USMC Sgt. James J. Hubert
USMC Pfc. Nicholas J. Cancilla
USMC Pfc. James S. Smith

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Louis M. Baxter
U.S. Army Cpl. David T. Nordin, Jr.
U.S. Army Cpl. Vernon D. Presswood
U.S. Army Cpl. Wayne Milnard
U.S. Army Cpl. Donald R. Hendrickson
U.S. Army Pfc. Kenneth R. Miller

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 52 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

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

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.

Air Force Established 1947

The United States Air Force became a separate military service on September 18, 1947, with the implementation of the National Security Act of 1947. The Act created the National Military Establishment, later renamed the Dept. of Defense, which was composed of three branches, the Army, Navy and a newly created Air Force. Prior to 1947, the responsibility for military aviation was divided between the Army (for land-based operations) and the Navy, for sea-based operations from carrier and amphibious aircraft.

Although not officially Air Force Pilots -- **WOMEN AIR FORCE SERVICE PILOTS (WASP)** was a paramilitary organization. The WASP's predecessors, the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) and the **Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS)** organized separately in September 1942. They were the pioneering organizations of civilian female pilots, employed to fly military aircraft under the direction of the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII. The WFTD and WAFS were merged on August 5, 1943, to create the paramilitary WASP organization. The female pilots of the WASP ended up numbering 1,074, each freeing a male pilot for combat service and duties. They flew over 60 million miles in every

type of military aircraft.^[1] The WASP was granted veteran status in 1977, and given the Congressional Gold Medal in 2009.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

What Matters Most

As Jesus's beloved disciple John grew older, his teaching became increasingly narrowed, focusing entirely on the love of God in his three letters. In the book *Knowing the Truth of God's Love*, Peter Kreeft cites an old legend which says that one of John's young disciples once came to him complaining, "Why don't you talk about anything else?" John replied, "Because there isn't anything else."

God's love is certainly at the heart of the mission and message of Jesus. In his earlier gospel account, John recorded the words, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The apostle Paul tells us that God's love is at the core of how we live, and he reminds us that "neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39).

God's love is so strong, available, and stabilizing that we can confidently step into each day knowing that the good things are gifts from His hand and the challenges can be faced in His strength. For all of life, His love is what matters most.

Thank You, O Lord, that Your love is rich and pure, measureless and strong!

God's love stands when all else has fallen.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial traveling wall comes to Geauga County

By Kristi Garabrandt, *The News-Herald*

POSTED: 09/08/16, 8:05 PM EDT

The early morning rain didn't stop the two groups of motorcyclists from gathering to carry out a duty they were honored to have.

The rain stopped and sun came out Sept. 8 just as motorcyclists from the Red Knights chapters 1 and 9 and Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 assembled into formation along with two Geauga Park District Ranger units and four Geauga County Sheriff's deputies to start their escort.

Minutes later the roar of 16 motorcycles and a semi-truck echoed along the 20-mile route from Observatory Park in Montville Township to the Geauga County Fairgrounds in Burton Township. The Wall that Heals, the half-scale traveling replica of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was making its way to an exhibition at the fairgrounds.

Created by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the wall has been traveling the country for 20 years but this visit marks the first to Geauga County.

The wall was brought in by Geauga Park District and Geauga Veterans' Services Commission in collaboration with Geauga County Fairgrounds.

"Our hope is that this will be a time of healing for many," said John Oros, executive director of the Park District. "I met a Vietnam veteran earlier today who has not had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., so this is his first time ever seeing The Wall. This is just a great honor and privilege."

Organizers expect it to draw thousands of people over its four-day stay at the fairgrounds, located at 14373 Cheshire St.

The exhibit, which is open to visitors 24 hours a day, features a 250-foot, half-scale replica of the wall with all 58,249 names of the soldiers either killed in action or missing in action during the Vietnam War. Visitors looking to find a particular name on The Wall will have access to the name directory displaying the panel number and line number where the name can be found. Also available for viewing is a mobile education with digital 6-foot screens that tell the Vietnam War and memorial's history.

There will be three screens featuring faces of Vietnam soldiers and these include listing the names of soldiers on the wall who have a birthday on the date of display, the names and photos if available of any local soldiers on the wall and the names and photo if available of those who died as a result of the war but not during the war, such as those who came home but died from Agent Orange exposure or other injuries.

Visitors are encouraged to bring photos of friends and family named on the wall to be scanned and included into the Education Center.

These are newly added to the exhibit and just unveiled three weeks ago, according to Tim Tetz, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's director of outreach.

Additionally there are three windows for viewing items left at the memorial in Washington. These items are on loan to the traveling wall.

The idea of The Wall that Heals came in 1997, from Jan Scruggs, the man who inspired the memorial in Washington, according to Tetz.

“Scruggs realized that everyone was not going to be able to see the wall and decided that a traveling wall needed to be built, that represents the emotions that you would get in D.C.,” said Tetz.

“Although there are multiple walls, which is a good thing because this isn’t a competition, The Wall that Heals is the only wall affiliated with The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C.,” said Patrick O’Neill, the Memorial Fund’s site supervisor,

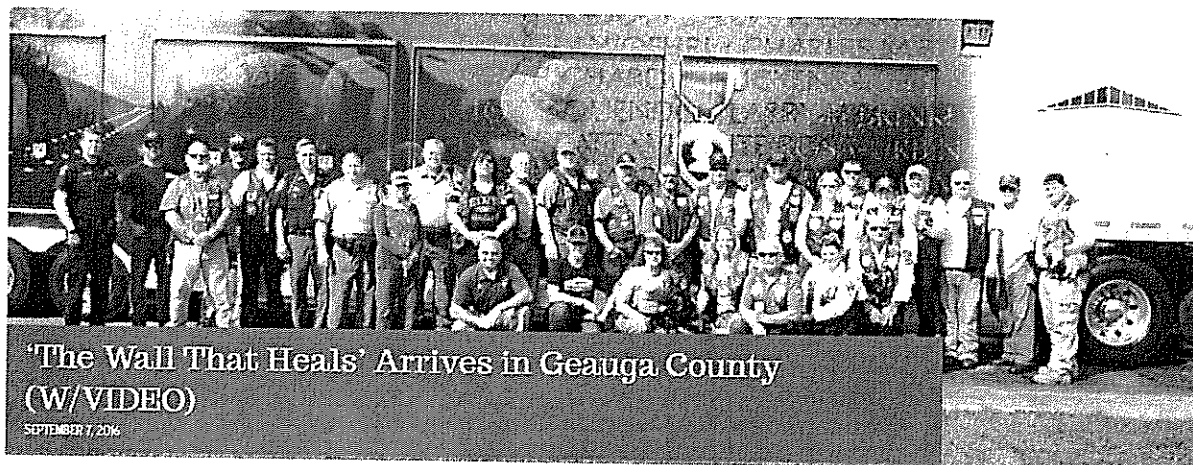
The wall takes approximately 15 to 20 people four hours to assemble. Once emptied, the 53-foot-trailer that transports it converts to the Mobile Education Center for visitors.

Multiple events will be occurring during the exhibition. An opening ceremony on Sept. 8 featured a color guard, laying of a wreath, and the reading of names of Geauga County residents killed in action.

Sept. 9 will be Education Day, Sept. 10 is Scout Day and the exhibit ends with a closing ceremony starting at 3 p.m. Sept. 11.

Linda Richard, a visitor to the wall, was 18 when her brother was killed in a helicopter crash in Vietnam on Thanksgiving Day in 1970, three weeks before he was scheduled to come home and be married.

“This is the best tribute for Vietnam we have ever done because you know how they were treated when they came home,” said Richard, who is planning on volunteering at The Wall. “This is very special to me and the fact that it is here.”



Top picture includes Glenn & Yvonne Gierman, Claudette Wlasuk, Ron Svagerko and Jim Rossi, who all helped escort the Wall. Picture to left includes Jim Rossi. The picture to the right is Yvonne’s back (she really hates having her picture taken).



POW-MIA'S "WE WILL NEVER FORGET"



Saturday July 23, 2016 was a special day for the veterans at the Louis Stokes V A Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Ohio hosted its annual V A Hospital picnic for all of the patients housed currently in the hospital as well as its Domiciliary facility adjacent to the hospital. The actual event occupied the first floor area of the main parking garage which provided protection from any type of adverse weather conditions. Although a hot and humid day, the garage provides its own unique cooling and ventilation effect due to its construction. Two 48" fans from the Maintenance Department at the hospital also kept a steady breeze flowing for the patient's personal comfort while eating and enjoying the entertainment provided during the day.

Rolling Thunder chapter members provided the organizational and cooking staff. Serving duties on the lunch line were provided by numerous support volunteers who handed out ample portions of hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and baked beans. Plenty of ice cold soft drinks and bottled water were dispensed by Rolling Thunder staff as well as handing out the popular

desert table offerings. Other volunteers assisted in distributing "goodie bags" filled with popular toiletries, socks as well as assorted books. The hospital staff team of nurses and aides assisted in the process of escorting patients from the hospital floors to the garage; helped patients work through the serving line and over to a table area to enjoy their lunch. The Rolling Thunder popcorn machine was popular as well as the ice cream truck that made a surprise visit. All patients received an ice cream ticket for a selection of their choice.

No picnic is complete without entertainment. The Red Hackle Pipe and Drum Corp provided many rousing selections of bag pipe tunes. And a rhythm and blues band kept everyone's attention. There is nothing quite like lively music and hot harmonica player in a parking garage to enhance the acoustic experience!

Many veterans made a special effort to stop by the Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Chair of Honor that was set up in the dining area. Also present was a special motorcycle display by Massillon, Ohio native and Viet Nam

Vet, Ken McGill. Ken, a 1966 graduate of Perry High School in Massillon went into the service after graduation along with numerous other classmates of that era. Eleven of these friends, including his best friend, unfortunately, did not return having made the ultimate sacrifice. Ken took it upon himself, over several years, to build a tribute bike from a 1968 Harley Davidson basket case he discovered in their honor. Beautifully hand crafted, the bike also boasts electrified paint on the tank and rear fender that illuminates from a remote pocket job he carries. A combat soldier on the tank and the names of the 11 lost veteran classmates glow on command.....a very moving tribute. Ken was constantly interacting with the patients telling his story and listening to theirs. It was a memorable day for all attendees.

Submitted by: Chuck Kettler
Public Relations
Chairman

Rolling Thunder
Chapter 1 Ohio

