

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

April, 2017

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, April 9, 2017
2:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting, April 9, 2017
1:00 p.m.**

**Remember: Chili cookoff at this meeting.
Bring your best chili forward!**

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 8, 2017 - Wade Park VA
Hospital Visit - 1 - 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 9, 2017 - Board/Membership
Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m. Chili cook-off. Open to
all members.

Saturday, April 15, 2017 - Cookout at Valor
Home, 221 W. 21st St., Lorain, OH 44052 - 10:30
a.m. setup

Saturday, April 22, 2017 - Flag raising at
Willoughby City Hall - One Public Square - 1:00
p.m.

Saturday, April 22, 2017 - Bowling at
Roseland Lanes, Oakwood Village, OH - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 29, 2017 - Red Hackle Ball

Sunday, April 30, 2017 - Rally For The
Troops

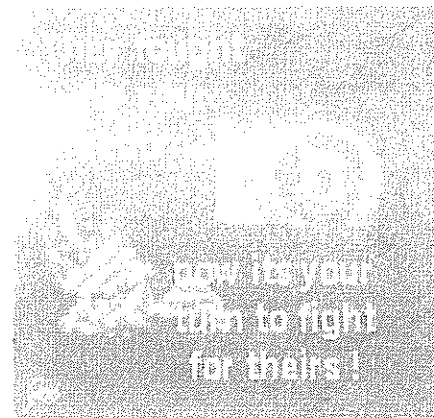
Saturday, May 6, 2017 - Ohio Veterans
Home, Sandusky, OH - Bingo and pizza

Saturday, May 13 & Sunday, May 14, 2017 -
Mentor Walmart Fundraiser - 10:00 a.m. -
4:00 p.m.

Education Team Schedule

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 - Aurora High School
- 7:30 a.m. to end of day

Thursday, June 1, 2017 & Friday, June 2,
2017 - South East High School, Ravenna, OH
- 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



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

PRESIDENT WINSTON BAILEY 440-639-2222
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SECRETARY CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468
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LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

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CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984
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SARGENT AT ARMS

OPEN

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Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at
ckkettler@yahoo.com

**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



Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

USMC Reserves Cpt. James W. Boyden
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Robert E. Oxford
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Elmer T. Kerestes
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Charles R. Casio
USMC Reserves Pvt. Donald S. Spayd
USMC Reserves Pfc. Jack J. Fox
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Monroe Temple
U.S. Army Pfc. Reece Gass

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Sgt. Willie Rowe
U.S. Army Pfc. Manuel M. Quintana
U.S. Army Pfc. Robert E. Mitchell
U.S. Army Cpl. William R. Sadewasser
U.S. Army Cpl. Freddie L. Henson

As I go through the list of remains that have been identified, every now and then there are names on there of servicemen who were killed in the Battle of Tarawa in 1943 and wondered where that was. In a nutshell, here is the history.

The **Battle of Tarawa** was a battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II that was fought from November 20 to November 23, 1943. It took place at the Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands. Nearly 6,400 Japanese, Koreans, and Americans died in the fighting, mostly on and around the small island of Betio, in the extreme southwest of Tarawa Atoll.

The Battle of Tarawa was the first American offensive in the critical central Pacific region. It was also the first time in the Pacific War that the United States faced serious Japanese opposition to an amphibious landing. Previous landings had met little or no initial resistance, but on Tarawa the 4,500 Japanese defenders were well-supplied and well-prepared, and they fought almost to the last man, exacting a heavy toll on the United States Marine Corps. The U.S. had suffered similar casualties throughout the duration of other previous campaigns, for example over the six months of the Guadalcanal Campaign, but the losses on Tarawa were incurred within the space of 76 hours.

The Gilbert Islands are part of Micronesia. They became a colony of the British Empire in January 1916. They were invaded and occupied by the Empire of Japan in December 1941. The battle was fought almost two years later. In July 1979 the islands became independent from the United Kingdom and now comprise part of the nation of Kiribati.

More than 1,000 U.S. troops were killed in action and some 2,000 were wounded in only three days of fighting at Tarawa.

So now we know.

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

The 115th Congress has begun January 3, 2017. All legislation that was introduced in the 114th congress will have to be reintroduced with ALL new bill numbers. Gus contacted Rep. Leonard Lance's (R-NJ 7) office on reintroducing H.R. 4910. This is now H.R. 504. The Bill reads as follows: "To Amend Title 36 US Code to require that the POW/MIA Flag to be displayed ALL DAYS that the US Flag is Displayed, especially over the US White House and the US Capitol."

Gus is working on a companion bill in the Senate and has contacted New Jersey Senator Cory Booker's office in which he spoke to Michael Songer, a Military Advisor who will work with Rep. Lance's office. ALL Chapters of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. throughout the country will be notified to help make this legislation Law. We must continue to pressure our representatives to promote and pass legislation that pertains to the POW/MIA and Veteran related issues.

Gus is also working with the AOC (Architect of the Capitol) on the placement of the POW/MIA Chair of Honor Memorial. The manufacturing and cost of the plaque is the only obstacle and this obstacle is expected to be resolved soon.

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
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 still only two co-sponsors to this bill—none from OHIO. Get those letters sent!

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>

Congratulations on receiving your rocker & eagle patches!



Greg Zakrajsek



Dave Stewart

of each Chapter's revenue collection activities which support their individual veteran's projects annually. Chapter 1 also took advantage of the event to interact with the passing crowd to explain House Bill 504; why we feel the POW/MIA flag should always fly in conjunction with the American flag at all government facilities all the time; where this bill is in the legislative process; and to generate additional support by signing our petition sheets asking that this bill be passed by congress. 1,235 signatures representing over 65 petition sheets were collected in support. These sheets will be delivered to our local congressmen.

The winners of the flag poles and flags that were raffled off were Leon from Ashtabula (who donated them back to the chapter, and Dennis from Akron.



PRESS RELEASE
SUMMIT RACING EQUIPMENT
I X PISTON POWERED AUTORAMA
CLEVELAND, OHIO

THE 2017 Summit Racing Piston Powered AutoRama took place at the Cleveland IX Center March 17-19. Totalling over 1,000,000 square feet [think 21 football fields] of display area, every type of machine that moved with a piston powered motor was represented. Acres of airplanes, classic cars, custom cars, antique vehicles, vintage motorcycles, custom motorcycles, boats, farm equipment and military vehicles were represented in large numbers. Added to all this activity were vendors representing everything from custom pin stripping to swap meet parts to die cast car collectors.

This year's show also recognized and celebrated a home-coming to over 67,000 Ohio female veterans.

Rolling Thunder Chapter's 1, 2 and 8 joined forces and occupied a large display area. The three-day paid attendance of 46,102 were generous in their support



Chaplain's Corner

(Submitted by Dan McGinnis)

He Understands and Cares

When asked if he thought that ignorance and apathy were problems in modern society, a man joked, "I don't know and I don't care."

I suppose many discouraged people feel that way about the world today and the people in it. But when it comes to the perplexities and concerns of our lives, Jesus fully understands, and He deeply cares. Isaiah 53, an Old Testament prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus, gives us a glimpse of what He went through for us. "He was oppressed and afflicted . . . led like a lamb to the slaughter" (v. 7). "For the transgression of my people he was punished" (v. 8). "It was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand" (v. 10).

On the cross Jesus willingly bore our sin and guilt. No one ever suffered more than our Lord did for us. He knew what it would cost to save us from our sins and, in love, He willingly paid it (vv. 4-6).

Because of Jesus's resurrection from the dead, He is alive and present with us today. Whatever situation we face, Jesus understands and cares. And He will carry us through.

Lord, we give thanks for Your knowledge of our circumstances and Your care for us. Today we want to walk with You and honor You in all we do.

He is not here; He has risen! Luke 24:6

I hope everyone has a happy and blessed Easter!

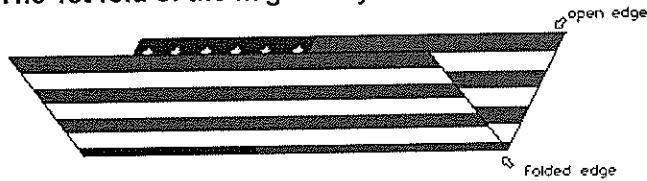


Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?



Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

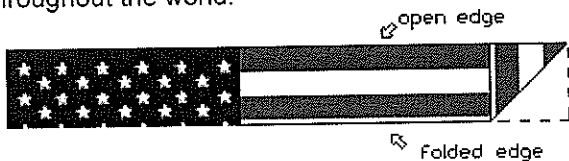
The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.



The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.



The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.



The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.



The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'



The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

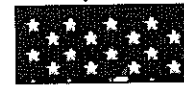


The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.



The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.



The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'



After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning.

In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.