

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

October, 2016

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, October 16, 2016
2:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting
October 16, 2016
1:00 p.m.**

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.

Results of the September election:

President: Winston Bailey
Secretary: Cheryl Pilny
Board Positions: Ted Pilny
Mike Neilan
Chuck Kettler

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Sunday, October 16, 2016 - Board/Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 - Dinner at Mama Roberto's - 5:30 p.m. - 8658 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH - Veterans eat for free.

Saturday, November 19, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. - Breakfast at Ruko's, 9385 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH

IN MEMORIAM



Elvis?? Nope, just T.J. Crooning

Thomas "TEE JAY" Farris
12/26/1945 - 09/25/2016

Born in New Bedford, MA, he was a loving father, brother, grandfather, friend and free spirit. TJ was a member of Rolling Thunder from 5/2009-9/2016. On June 26, 1963, he became a Marine and served 6 years in Vietnam. TJ will be missed by all who knew him.

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

PRESIDENT WINSTON BAILEY 440-639-2222

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CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984
TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744
MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) SUE BAILEY

CHAPLAIN DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

RUN COORDINATOR OPEN

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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

STATE LIASION AL KECK 216-332-1780
Cell: 216-374-3310

ASST. STATE LIASION
TY GEISER 330-466-0086

WE CARE YVONNE GIERMAN 440-285-3864
arphersfolks@windstream.net

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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 216-401-4984

EDUCATION CHAIR DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

Address: Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Ohio
P. O. Box 1145
Mentor, OH 44060

Web Site Address: www.rollingthunder1ohio.org
Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER 330-472-0871

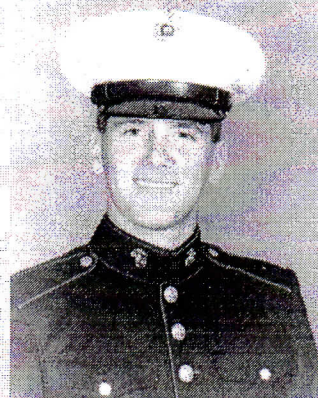
**Check us out on Facebook: Rolling Thunder
Chapter1 Ohio**

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

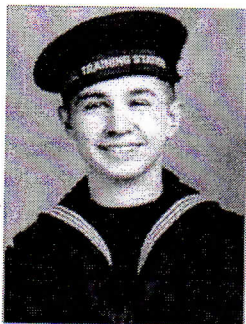
Happy Birthday U.S. Navy 10/13/2016

Coming home, 75 years later

**USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II
Accounted For (Piskuran)**

October 07, 2016

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman from World War II have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.



As the years went by, the memory of Rudolph Piskuran faded as those closest to him grew older or passed away.

He was young when he left Elyria — embarking as a fresh yeoman in the United States Navy during World War II — and he died before he got a chance to really live.

He was one of the 429 sailors killed at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, when a torpedo struck his ship, the USS Oklahoma. On that day, three ships of the U.S. fleet were destroyed, and 18 others were damaged. The overall death toll reached 2,403, including 68 civilians.

But Piskuran's family never gave up hope with each passing generation that someday the relative most knew only through family stories could come home and be honored with a proper burial. Now, finally, he will be.

Piskuran's remains were identified through DNA and he will be buried at 11 a.m. Oct. 14 at St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors. The service is open for all to attend.

It took three-quarters of a century, but Piskuran is coming home.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Rudolph V. Piskuran, 19, of Elyria, Ohio, will be buried Oct. 14 in his hometown. On Dec. 7, 1941, Piskuran was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Piskuran. No single vessel at Pearl Harbor, with the exception of the USS Arizona, suffered as many fatalities.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uano Cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of

35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Piskuran.

In April 2015, the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a policy memorandum directing the disinterment of unknowns associated with the USS Oklahoma. On June 15, 2015, DPAA personnel began exhuming the remains from the NMCP for analysis.

To identify Piskuran's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used Y-Short Tandem Repeat DNA analysis, which matched a brother and two nephews, as well as circumstantial evidence and laboratory analysis, to include dental comparisons, which matched Piskuran's records.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420.

Fallen American soldiers finally returned home - 170 years later

September 29, 2016

Remains thought to be those of U.S. troops who died in the Mexican-American War have been flown to a military mortuary in Delaware in an effort to determine whether they belonged to militia members of a Tennessee regiment known as "The Bloody First."

An Army twin-engine turboprop bearing two aluminum cases topped by American flags arrived Wednesday afternoon at Dover Air Force Base, home to the nation's largest military mortuary. White-gloved members of the 3rd Infantry "Old Guard" unit, which stands vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery near the nation's capital, solemnly

transferred the cases to a vehicle bound for the mortuary.

The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System will work with a team of scientists to analyze the remains, discovered in 2011, in the hopes of gleaned more information. The scientists will use DNA testing, elemental analysis, forensic dentistry and other methods in examining the commingled bones, which officials say appear to be those of at least 11, and possibly 13, individuals.

"We don't know how much we can get, but we have a number of experts who can try a number of different things," said Hugh Berryman, a forensic anthropologist and director of the Forensic Institute for Research and Education at Middle Tennessee State University.

Berryman, who is leading a team of more than 20 scientists and historians that will work with the Army, acknowledged that the odds of actually identifying the remains are "very remote."

"But if it can be done, it's spectacular, and we're going to see if we can do that," he said.

Troops from several states, including Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas, fought in the Battle of Monterrey in 1846. Berryman said the skeletal remains were found in an area of the Mexican battlefield where a large number of Tennesseans had died.

"We're hopeful that they're going to be found to be Tennessee men, and then we're going to bring them home to Tennessee as Volunteers," said U.S. Rep. Diane Black, part a Tennessee contingent that traveled to Dover to witness the repatriation of the remains.

The Battle of Monterrey, a U.S. victory in which more than 160 Americans were killed or reported missing, was part of a larger conflict waged from 1846 to 1848 that marked America's first extended conflict in another country. The war significantly altered geographical boundaries, with the U.S. adding about 1 million square miles of territory that today include the states of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas. The conflict also proved to be a training ground for a host of West Point graduates who later fought on both sides during the Civil War. Berryman suggested that skeletal analysis could help scientists determine what was in the water the men

drank as they grew up, which could help narrow the possible locales where they had lived. Army Col. Louis Finelli, chief medical examiner and director of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, said analyzing the remains will take at least a couple of months. He expects that the effort will be able to determine the number of individual remains but said it's difficult to say whether it will result in identifying particular individuals.

"We can do everything in our power to generate unique sequences for DNA, but without references and accurate family genealogies, we may not be able to put a name to it," he said. "Like fingerprints, like dental exams, we have to have a reference to compare, otherwise we just have sequences and numbers."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Remains Identified

World War II Remains Identified:

U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Rudolph V. Piskuran
USMC FM1c Warren G. Nelson
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ben B. Barnes

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Cpl. Milton T. Bullis
U.S. Army Pfc. William W. Cowan
U.S. Army Pfc. Everett E. Johnson
U.S. Army Pfc. William V. Giovanniello
U.S. Army Cpl. Roy C. Fink

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 **63** co-sponsors for this bill, still 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
13	Ryan, Tim	1421 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	202-225-5261

District	Name	Address	Phone
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 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

Agent Orange—The Silent Serial Killer - October is Agent Orange Awareness Month

October brings visions of cider, warm sweaters, shorter days and time with our families. The colors of foliage quickly turn to yellows, reds, and orange. For people suffering the long lasting effects of the herbicide Agent Orange, which was sprayed as a part of Operation Ranch Hand during the Vietnam War, October is a yearly reminder of the need for continued Agent Orange education. October is Agent Orange Awareness Month.



VICTORY DECLARED IN FIGHT OVER POW/MIA 'MISSING MAN' MEMORIALS

Published: 09/23/2016 ([BOB UNRUH](#))

The influential Family Research Council in Washington is declaring victory in a fight over the presence of Bibles on the "Missing Man Tables" set up at many military installations.

The tables honor the missing in action and prisoners of war with a table that features a white cloth, a single rose, salt, an inverted glass, a lemon, a vase tied with a red ribbon, a Bible, a candle, the American flag and empty chairs, all symbols.

Atheist organizations had been arguing for, and in some cases succeeding in getting, the removal of the Bibles.

But the Veterans Administration has ruled that the government is required to "remain neutral" on the "use

the "use of any religious items" in such displays, and "neutral doesn't mean hostile," the FRC reported.

The dispute was profiled just a few months ago by martial arts superstar, television and movie actor, and WND columnist Chuck Norris, who cited the "desecration" of military memorials:

"Back on Feb. 29, Todd Starnes, host of Fox News & Commentary radio, reported that 'a Bible and Bible verse were removed from a POW/MIA display inside an [Akron] Ohio Veteran's Administration clinic.'

"On Apr. 6, Military.com reported that a second VA clinic in Youngstown, Ohio, 'substituted a 'prop' book for a Bible ... at a table set up to honor American prisoners of war and missing in action,' known as 'Missing Man' tables.

"On April 19, the Army Times reported: '[O]fficials at Tobyhanna Army Depot removed a Bible with the depot's name on its cover from a prisoner-of-war memorial display in the installation's administration building about 24 hours after receiving a complaint [about it].'

"Also in April, senior staff at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas, also removed the Bible from its POW/MIA 'Missing Man' Memorial without a direct demand to do so," he wrote.

He explained the items on the table are symbols, "Each item holds special significance, and the Bible represents the 'strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God,'" Norris explained.

He continued, "As I have to do a few times a year, I need to remind and sometimes educate people that the U.S. Constitution doesn't prohibit such practices as placing a Bible in a public or government Veteran display; it actually protects the practice.

"Atheists and other progressives would have you believe that the First Amendment establishes an impenetrable and impassable 'separation of church and state.' But that phrase appears nowhere in the First Amendment, which actually reads: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. ...'"

He charged that organizations "such as the Military Religious Freedom Foundation" who are opposing the presence of Bibles "are not preserving First Amendment rights. They are perverting the meaning of the Establishment Clause (which was to prevent the creation of a single national church like the Church of England) to deny the Free Exercise Clause (which preserves our rights to exercise our religious freedoms as we want, privately and publicly). Both clauses were intended to safeguard religious liberty, not to circumscribe its practice. The framers were seeking to guarantee *freedom of religion*, not *freedom from religion*."

In a "Washington Update" from the FRC this week, it said, "The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs smacked down the far-Left extremists in the military who were systematically desecrating a display honoring the military's POWs."

The report noted that the MRFF had pressured a number of installations to remove the Bible, "falling prey to the idea that the Scriptures' inclusion was somehow unconstitutional."

FRC reported, "As our own Lt. General Jerry Boykin (U.S. Army-Ret.) has said before, U.S. servicemen and women know the enemy - and the Bible isn't it!"

"A Bible resting passively along with other tradition[al] elements of this display does not promote any single religion ... Please recall that our country was founded, in part, upon the realization that all people are endowed with God-given rights that include free expression and freedom of religion."

Boykin, the FRC said, "commended the VA for making the right decision - especially when it comes to honoring the sacrifice of those who've suffered through captivity in wartime or are still missing."

He said, "This guidance is long overdue because, unfortunately, various VA officials have been misled by militant secularist groups that have shown contempt for this display tradition and disregarded the families of the MIAs and the POWs themselves."

The memo, from Meghan Flanz, an acting assistant secretary of human resources and administration, specifically explains, "The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise of religion. The First Amendment has been interpreted to prohibit the government - including its employees acting in their official capacities - from endorsing, favoring, or inhibiting religion."

Specifically, employees are allowed to express their faith in the VA workplace, veterans may do the same, and even members of the public, cards with religious messages are allowed, songs with religious content are allowed, and outside displays with "religious and secular items" are allowed on VA properties.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Do We Have To?

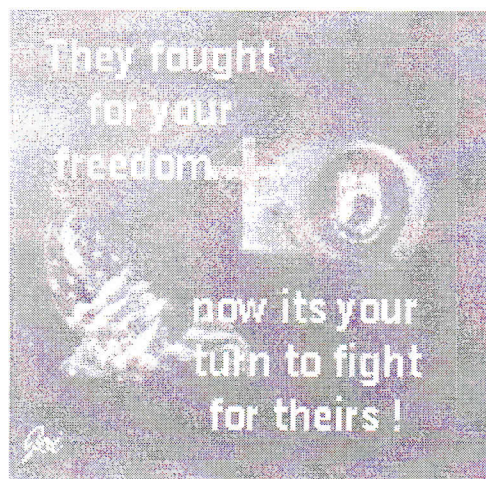
Joie started the children's program with prayer, then sang with the kids. Six-year-old Emmanuel squirmed in his seat when she prayed again after introducing Aaron, the teacher. Then Aaron began and ended his talk with prayer. Emmanuel complained: "That's *four* prayers! I can't sit still that long!"

If you think Emmanuel's challenge is difficult, look at 1 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray continually" or always be in a spirit of prayer. Even some of us adults can find prayer to be boring. Maybe that's because we don't know what to say or don't understand that prayer is a conversation with our Father.

Back in the seventeenth century, François Fénelon wrote some words about prayer that have helped me: "Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell Him your troubles, that He may comfort you; tell Him your joys, that He may sober them; tell Him your longings, that He may purify them." He continued, "Talk to Him of your temptations, that He may shield you from them; show Him the wounds of your heart, that He may heal them . . . If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of what to say."

May we grow in our intimacy with God so that we will want to spend more time with Him.

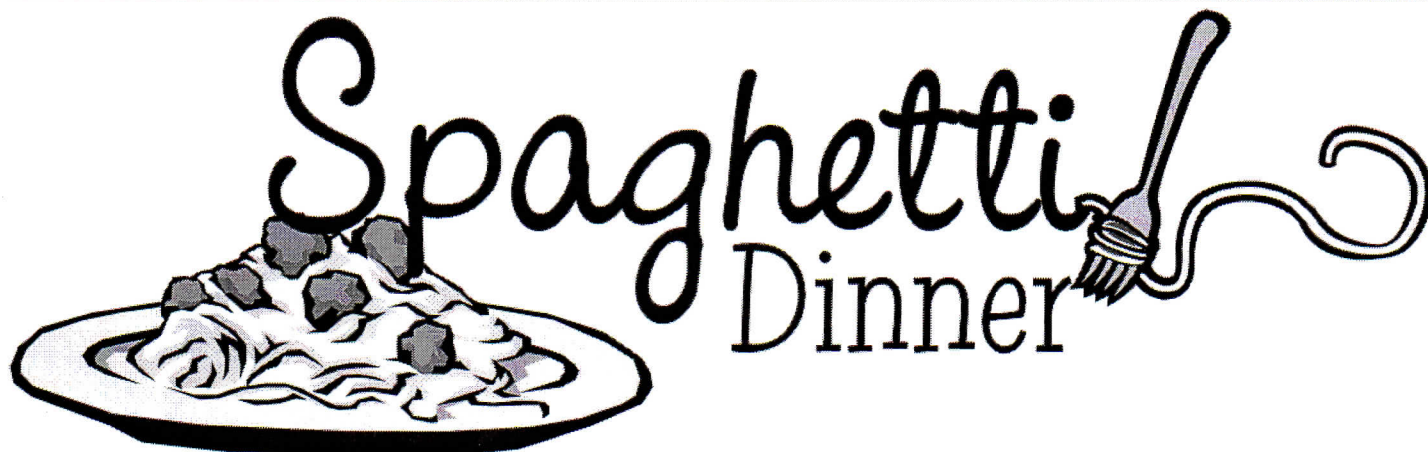
Prayer is an intimate conversation with our God.



ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.
OHIO CHAPTER 8



15th Annual All You Can Eat



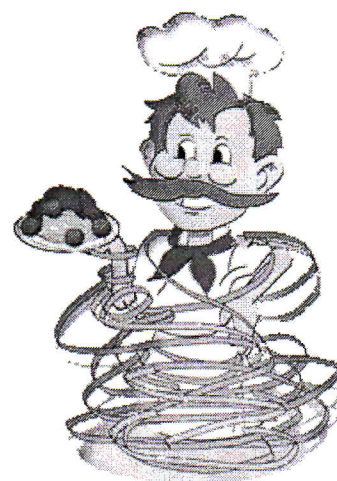
Sunday, October 23, 2016

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

VFW Post #9520

1439 South Carpenter Road

Brunswick, Ohio



plus

Advance Tickets - \$7.00
At the Door - \$10.00 Adults
\$6.00 Children 12-14
\$3.00 Children 6 - 11
Children 5 and under free
\$7.00 Carry Out Only

50/50 Raffle
Basket Raffle
Door Prizes

For additional information call
Diana Ward (216) 554-0888 or
Jerry Haumschild (330) 636-1550