

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

January, 2017

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, January 15, 2017
2:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting
January 15, 2017
1:00 p.m.**

**New chapter event calenders and new
constitutions will be handed out.**

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, January 14, 2017 - 6:00 p.m. - Dinner
at Mama Roberto's, Mentor, OH

Sunday, January 15, 2017 - Board Meeting/
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m

Saturday, February 4, 2017 - Breakfast at
Cracker Barrel, Twinsburg, OH - 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. -
Transition Home dinner

Sunday, February 11, 2017 - Bingo at Wade Park
- 1-3 p.m. Meet in the Atrium.

Sunday, February 19, 2017 - Board Meeting/
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m. - Pot luck
meal to follow

Sunday, February 26, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. - Shoot
& Scoot - 10:00 a.m. - Point Blank Range - Mentor,
OH Lunch to follow.

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):

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



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AND PLATOON LEADERS**

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

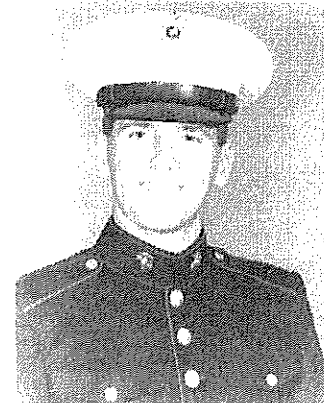
**Check us out on Facebook: Rolling Thunder
Chapter1 Ohio**

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:

U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Holm
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Harold R. Roesch
U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Floyd F. Clifford
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Camillus M. O'Grady
U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Cecil E. Bamcord
U.S. Navy Radioman 3rd Class Howard W. Bean
U.S. Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class Donald R. McCloud
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Francis J. Pitonyak
U.S. Navy Coxswain Verne F. Knipp
U.S. Navy F3c Glaydon I.C. Iverson
U.S. Army Pvt. Gene J. Appleby
U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Ralph M. Boudreaux
USMC Cpl. Walter G. Critchley
USMC Gunnery Sgt. Sidney A. Cook
USMC Pfc. Larry Roberts
USMC Pfc. James O. Whitehurst
USMC Reserve 2nd Lt. Ernest Matthews

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Eugene J. Colley
U.S. Army Cpl. Jules Hauteman
U.S. Army Cpl. Luis P. Torres
U.S. Army Pfc. Thomas C. Stagg
U.S. Army Pfc. Charles C. Follese
U.S. Army Sgt. Thomas E. Zimmer
U.S. Army Sgt. Edward Saunders
U.S. Army Cpl. Joseph N. Pelletier

Vietnam War Remains Identified:

USMC Reserve 1st Lt. William C. Ryan

Ramblings from Cheryl -

It's time to renew your membership for 2017, and Sue is collecting. The dues are still \$30/person.

I've been thinking about this for awhile now, but before you renew, think about why you joined Rolling Thunder®. What I am going to say is strictly my opinion and based on my own observations. I am not pointing a finger or singling anyone out.

Rolling Thunder® is not a "club" or motorcycle group. We are an organization whose mission is to keep

before the government the POW/MIA issue and to help veterans, disabled and otherwise, from all wars. If you joined because you get cool looking patches, you joined the wrong organization.

Yes, we are a volunteer organization, but there is a certain amount of commitment required, and there are minimum requirements to remain a member. You must attend a minimum of 3 meetings AND 3 events in a year. No one is expected to participate in everything, but if you can't find 6 days out of 365 to help out, then you are in the wrong organization.

Maybe you don't like how the organization is run or certain things that happen. Or you don't like how a committee is run. Then step up/speak out. If you don't, then nothing will change. We are a team, and we need to work together.

There are always some people who are more dedicated than others, or have more time to give. And that's okay. But any time anyone can contribute is always appreciated. Our veterans and POW/MIA's deserve this time. And remember, you are the voice of our POW/MIA's.

Chapter One is coming up on it's 20 year anniversary. Ted and I have been members since 1997, the beginning of the chapter. There have been many changes in these 20 years, and many people have come and gone, but this is a great organization. We've all been helping veterans before it was cool.

We'd love to have everyone back for 2017. The choice is yours.

These are the changes to the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. constitution for 2017:

No one on the Executive Board of the Chapter will spend more than \$500 for a chapter emergency at one time without approval of the Board of Directors. Also, receipts need to be turned over to the treasurer to be filed.

If there is a tie vote for an election position, the Executive Officers will vote to break the tie (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of the Board). If the tie vote is for

an Executive Officer, they will not vote. The Board member with the most time on the Board will cast the vote.

Regular Board meetings will be called by the Chairman of the Board only. A 10 day notice will be given to all Board members and Executive Officers.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Random Acts of Kindness

Some say that the American writer Anne Herbert scribbled the phrase "Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty" on a placemat at a restaurant in 1982. The sentiment has since been popularized through film and literature and has become a part of our vocabulary.

The question is "Why?" Why should we show kindness? For those who follow Jesus, the answer is clear: To show the tender mercy and kindness of God.

There's an Old Testament example of that principle in the story of Ruth, the emigrant from Moab. She was a foreigner, living in a strange land whose language and culture she did not understand. Furthermore, she was desperately poor, utterly dependent on the charity of a people who took little notice of her.

There was one Israelite, however, who showed Ruth grace and spoke to her heart (Ruth 2:13). He allowed her to glean in his fields, but more than simple charity, he showed her by his compassion the tender mercy of God, the One under whose wings she could take refuge. She became Boaz's bride, part of the family of God, and one in a line of ancestors that led to Jesus, who brought salvation to the world (see Matt. 1:1-16).

We never know what one act of kindness, done in Jesus's name, will do.

*Lord, what do You want me to do for another today?
Lead me. And may that person see a glimmer of You.
It's never too soon to be kind.*

Thank a Veteran: A veteran - whether active duty, retired or national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America & its citizenry for an amount of "up to and including my life."



Wreaths Across America at Western Reserve National Cemetery

A big "thank you" to all who participated in distributing the wreaths.





See the attached article submitted by Yvonne Gierman about her Uncle Frank Salava, who was lost on the submarine USS Sculpin (SS-191) during WWII.



New Congress Starts by Passing Vets Bills

On Tuesday, shortly after the opening of the 115th Congress, the House of Representatives passed its first two pieces of legislation, H.R. 27 and H.R. 28 -- both veterans bills. H.R. 27, the *Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act* will require that a copy of reprimands or admonishments are retained in a VA employee's permanent record. H.R. 28, the *Biological Implant Tracking and Veteran Safety Act of 2017*, directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants. Both bills will need to pass the Senate before becoming law.



On Wednesday, the House passed H.J. Res. 3, which approves the selection of a location for a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield. H.J. Res. 3 moves the VFW closer to fulfilling VFW Resolution 305, which was passed at our 115th National Convention. The Senate must also pass this resolution before final approval by the president.

This is the submarine that Yvonne Gierman's uncle Frank Salava died on. He was awarded The Bronze Star and a Purple Heart . His brother, Charles, also died from an accident while serving as an Army Medic. Yvonne wanted to share this with everyone.

Eternal Patrol - The Loss of USS Sculpin (SS-191)

SCULPIN (SS-191)

Compiled by Paul W. Wittmer and Charles R. Hinman, originally from:
U.S. Submarine Losses World War II, NAVPERS 15,784, 1949 ISSUE

Enroute to Johnston Island, SCULPIN, under Cdr. Fred Connaway, left Pearl Harbor on 5 November 1943. After topoff with fuel, she left Johnston on 7 November to conduct her ninth patrol in an area in the Caroline Islands. Her mission was to support the action of our surface forces in the Gilbert Islands by intercepting and attacking any enemy forces which might be proceeding from Truk and the Marshall Islands to oppose our surface forces. She was to leave her area on 14 December, and return to Pearl Harbor, stopping at Johnston for fuel if necessary. SCULPIN was not heard from following her departure from Johnston Island on 7 November.

During the patrol, Commander John P. Cromwell (promoted to Captain during the patrol) was aboard SCULPIN. He was to take charge of a coordinated attack group consisting of SCULPIN, SEARAVEN, and either APOGON or SPEARFISH, if formation of the group were directed by despatch. Should the group be ordered formed, Captain Cromwell would transmit his orders to them by low frequency radio from SCULPIN. On the night of 29 November, the vessels were directed to form and APOGON was named as the third member of the group. When no rendezvous orders were given by Captain Cromwell after 40 hours, new orders were sent by ComSubPac. SCULPIN was to proceed immediately to Eniwetok, make a close observation, and report any enemy shipping. This was done in order to avoid confusion among the other submarines, and to determine whether SCULPIN was all right. Although the new orders to SCULPIN were sent repeatedly on 1 December and other orders a few days later, no answer came from her. On 30 December SCULPIN was reported as presumed lost.

Meanwhile, long before tension mounted at the bases concerning her, SCULPIN was meeting her test. The story presented here is reconstructed from statements made by members of her crew recovered from enemy prison camps since the close of the war.

On the night of 18 November, SCULPIN made a radar contact on a fast convoy, and made an end around at full power. Submerging on the enemy track for a dawn attack, SCULPIN began what promised to be a successful approach. However, she was detected in the attack phase, and the convoy zigged toward, forcing her deep. There was no depth charge attack at this time. About an hour later, the ship surfaced to begin another end around, but immediately dived again, having surfaced 6,000 yards from a destroyer, which was lagging the convoy. Depth charging started as soon as she dived again.

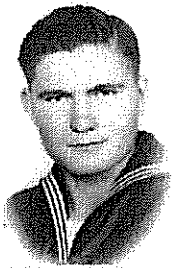
Early in the ensuing attack a string of depth charges did the ship minor damage. Lt. G. E. Brown, the only officer survivor, was relieved as diving officer to make an inspection and found her fundamentally sound. At this time the submarine had succeed in shaking the enemy, but before Brown returned to the control room the ship had broached when the diving officer had tried to bring her to periscope depth and the depth gauge had stuck at 125 feet. The depth charge attack was renewed at once.

About noon on 19 November, a close string of 18 depth charges threw SCULPIN, already at deep depth, badly out of control. The pressure hull was distorted, she was leaking, steering and diving plane gear were damaged and she was badly out of trim. Commander Connaway decided to surface and to fight clear. The ship was surfaced and went to gun action. During the battle Commander Connaway and the Gunnery Officer were on the bridge, and the Executive Officer was in the conning tower. When the destroyer placed a shell through the main induction, and one or more through the conning tower, these officers and several men were killed. Lt. Brown succeeded to command. He decided to scuttle the ship and gave the order, "all hands abandon ship." After giving the order the last time the ship was dived at emergency speed by opening all vents. About 12 men rode the ship down, including Captain Cromwell and one other officer, both of whom refused to leave it. Captain Cromwell, being familiar with plans for our operations in the Gilberts and other areas, stayed with the ship to insure that the enemy could not gain any of the information he possessed. For this action, ComSubPac recommended that he be given the Congressional Medal of Honor. In all, 42 men were taken prisoner by the Japanese destroyer, but one was thrown over the side almost immediately because he was severely wounded. Another man escaped being thrown overboard only by wrenching free of his captors and joining the other men.

The group of 38 enlisted men and 3 officers were taken to Truk where they were questioned for ten days. Then they were loaded on two carriers (21 on one, 20 on the other) and started for Japan. Enroute to its destination, the carrier CHUYO, carrying 21 SCULPIN survivors, was torpedoed and sunk by SAILFISH on 31 December 1943, and only one American escaped. This was a particularly coincidental and tragic event since SCULPIN stood by SQUALUS (later recommissioned SAILFISH) when she sank off Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1939. At Ofuna, the 21 survivors were repeatedly questioned, and they learned they were in an unofficial Navy prison camp. They were released from the camp a few at a time when the enemy became convinced that they could get no information from them, and were sent to work in the copper mines of Ashio. There they were allowed to register as prisoners of war, and received at least enough food to live on, although not enough to maintain health properly. They remained at Ashio until released by American forces on 4 September 1945.

This submarine on her first eight patrols sank nine ships for 42,200 tons and damaged ten, totaling 63,000 tons. Her first patrol off the east coast of the Philippines group resulted in one sinking, the 3,124 ton transport KANKYO MARU on 10 January 1942. During her second patrol in the region east of Celebes, she sank a destroyer type vessel and did damage to a light cruiser. Her third patrol was conducted in the Molucca Sea, and SCULPIN damaged a freighter. On her fourth patrol, conducted in the South China Sea, she is credited with having sunk a freighter, damaged a freighter and damaged three tankers.

SCULPIN went to the Solomons area for her fifth patrol, and is credited with sinking two large tankers and a transport. She damaged a freighter on this patrol. Going back to the Solomons for her sixth patrol, SCULPIN damaged a tanker. SCULPIN made her seventh patrol in May and June 1943 in the Aleutians. Here she sank two small patrol craft and damaged two freighters. On her eighth patrol in the East China Sea, SCULPIN sank a freighter-transport.



Frank Salava

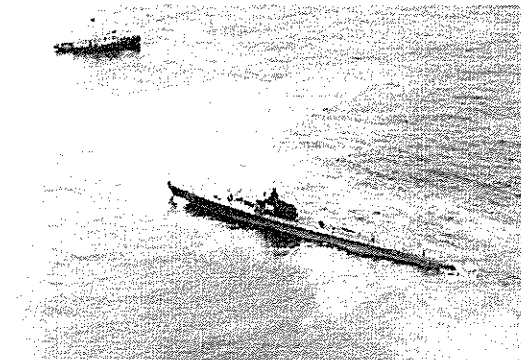
Rank/Rate	Fire Controlman, Third Class
Service Number	250 58 09
Birth Date	July 17, 1922
From	Chestnut Ridge, Pennsylvania
Decorations	Bronze Star, Purple Heart
Submarine	<u>USS Sculpin (SS-191)</u>
Loss Date	November 19, 1943
Location	North of Oroluk Island near Truk
Circumstances	Sunk by Japanese destroyer
Remarks	Frank was born in Thompson, Pennsylvania.



CHARLES SALAVA

Charles died from injuries incurred during military training. He passed away on November 8, 1942 at the age of 21. Camp Barkley, TX

Please note that most sources mistakenly spell the island's name "Groluk."



USS Sculpin standing over the sunken USS Squalus, 1939