

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

June, 2017

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, June 11, 2017

2:00 p.m.

There will be no Board meeting

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To be a member in good standing, one must:

- Attend at least 3 meetings & 3 events per year;
- Pay the annual membership dues of \$30/yr;
- Abide by the Membership Patch rules;
- Remain loyal to Rolling Thunder® in word, deed and action;
- Conduct him/herself in a professional and courteous manner at all times.

*Elections are coming up in September. The positions to be voted on this year are Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, and 2 Board positions (currently held by Larry Felean and Tom Trojan).*

*If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.*

*Nominations will take place at the July and August meetings.*

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*I was prepared to fight, prepared to die. But I was not prepared for my country to leave me behind.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 9 - 11, 2017 - Bedford Strawberry Festival

Saturday, June 10, 2017 - Military Night at Lake County Captains, Eastlake, OH - Meet at 5:30 p.m. at BP station at Rts. 91. & 90

Sunday, June 11, 2017 - Membership Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Monday, June 12, 2017 - VA Picnic Meeting - 7:00 p.m. at the Bailey's

Saturday, June 17, 2017 - Cookout at the Domicillary - set-up at 10:30 a.m.; serve at noon.

Saturday, June 17, 2017 - State Run - State Run to Columbus Statehouse Leave Stinger HD 8:00am See attached flyer.

Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 - Macedonia Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m

Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2 - Chardon Walmart. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 8, 2017 - Breakfast at Golden Corral - Macedonia, OH = 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - Transition Home visit/cookout - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 15, 2017 - Valor Home Picnic, Kent, OH

**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**  
LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

**BOARD MEMBERS**

TED PILNY 216-346-6407  
LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914  
CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984  
TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744  
MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655  
(ALTERNATE) JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

**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**  
OPEN

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**  
CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

**PLATOON LEADERS:**

#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655  
#2 RONNIE DINGER 216-799-5539  
#3 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470  
#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914  
#5 TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744  
#6 VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766  
#7 SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

**STATE LIASION** TY GEISER 330-466-0086

**ASST. STATE LIASION**  
AL KECK 216-374-3310

**WE CARE** YVONNE GIEMAN 440-285-3864  
[arphersfolks@windstream.net](mailto: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** JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

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

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**Web Site Address:** [www.rollingthunder1ohio.org](http://www.rollingthunder1ohio.org)  
Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER 330-472-0871  
Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at  
[ckettler6480@yahoo.com](mailto:ckettler6480@yahoo.com)

**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**





On Saturday, June 3, 2017, Claudette Wlasuk was called home to be with the Lord.

Claudette was a strong advocate for the Veterans before she joined Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Ohio in 2008. She was involved with the Chapter for many years before she decided to join. Her dedication to helping the veterans was felt throughout many chapters and other organizations throughout Ohio.

Claudette's dedication to the Missing Man Table ceremonies were her passion. She performed many ceremonies throughout Ohio. She always brought helpful information to the chapter as our Government Affairs Liaison. Her dedication and Love for the Veterans will be missed.

RIP, dear Claudette. We will miss you.

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### Remains Identified

#### WWII Remains Identified:

USMC Reserve Cpl. Henry Andregg, Jr.  
USMC Reserve Pfc. Sam J. Kourkos

#### VietNam War Remains Identified:

U.S. Navy Reserve Cmdr. Charles B. Goodwin  
U.S. Air Force Reserve Cpt. Joseph S. Smith

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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 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,	202-225-2676

District	Name	Room	Phone
		Washington, DC 20515	
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	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](mailto: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!**

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### 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>

More information may be found on the Rolling Thunder, Inc. National's website under the heading "Government Affairs" [www.rollingthunder1.com](http://www.rollingthunder1.com)

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A good friend of Lew Ballard made this possible. This banner is posted along Munson Rd. near the Civic Center Pool. Lewis "Bud" Ballard, is a good friend and still lives in Mentor. Bud served our country in the U. S. Army and was deployed in Vietnam. Bud has made it his mission that the sacrifices of the boys who served in Vietnam are never forgotten. He rides with Rolling Thunder, is active in veteran groups, visits vets at the Veteran's Hospital, and is a frequent speaker at area high schools, where he speaks about experiences during the Vietnam War. I am proud to know Bud, and am grateful for what he gave to our country. If you know Bud, he is on Facebook, drop a line to let him know you saw his banner.



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### Bedford Flag Raising

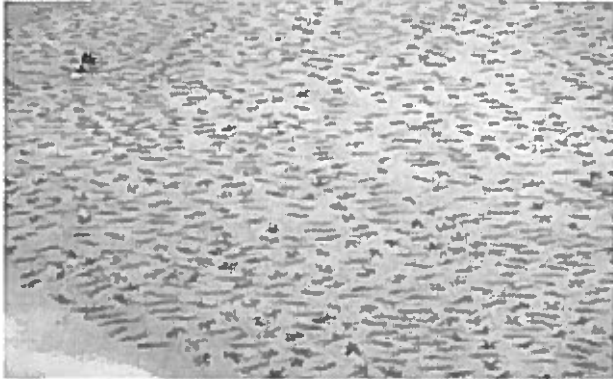


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Haunting reminder of millions of lives lost in war as artists stencil 9,000 bodies onto Normandy beach to mark Peace Day

In September, 2013, a pair of British artists created this stunning installation of 9,000 silhouettes on a D-Day Landings beach to mark International Peace Day. The project, named, 'The Fallen' is a tribute to the civilians, German forces and Allies who lost their lives during the Operation Neptune landing on June 6, 1944.





to it. So I talked to him and told him how much I love him.

The joy I felt at the sound of my grandson's voice was a reminder to me of God's deep desire for a relationship with us. From the very beginning, the Bible shows God actively pursuing us. After Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God and then hid from Him in the garden, "the Lord God called" to Adam (Gen. 3:9).

God continued to pursue humanity through Jesus. Because God desires a relationship with us, He sent Jesus to earth to pay the penalty for our sin by His death on the cross. "This is how God showed his love . . . . He sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God" (1 John 4:9-10 The Message).

How good it is to know that God loves us and wants us to respond to His love through Jesus. Even when we don't quite know what to say, our Father longs to hear from us!

*Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me and pursuing a relationship with me. Help me to be a joy to You by drawing near to You.*

**God's love for us is revealed through Jesus.**

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### Chaplain's Corner

(Submitted by Dan McGinnis)

### **God Calling**

One morning my daughter gave her eleven-month-old son her cell phone for a moment to entertain him. Less than a minute later my phone rang, and as I picked it up I heard his little voice. He had somehow hit the "speed dial" to my number, and what followed was a "conversation" I will long remember. My grandson can only say a few words, but he knows my voice and responds



**Rolling Thunder, Inc. Ohio Chapters State Run  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio  
June 17, 2017**

**Master of Ceremonies: Tyron Geiser, Ohio State Liaison**

**Color Guard: 555 Honors Detachment**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Dave Bush, VP, Oh. 1**

**Invocation: Tim Dvorac, Chaplain, Oh. 8**

**National Anthem: Kevin Ivey, Oh. 2**

**Rolling Thunder, Inc. Mission Statement:  
Shorty Thompson, VP, Oh. 9**

**Missing Man Table Ceremony:  
Claudette Wlasuk, Oh. 1**

**MIA Roll Call: Jim Jarrett, VP, Jim Smith, Pres., Oh. 2**

**Speakers:**

**Senator Frank LaRose, 27<sup>th</sup> District**

**Congressman Rick Perales, 73<sup>rd</sup> District**

**Gerry Farrow, Ohio Coordinator  
National League of Families**

**Bryan Bowman, Veterans Advocate  
Office of U.S. Congressman, James Renacci**

**Closing Statement: James Reilly, Pres. Oh. 9**

**“Amazing Grace”  
Emerald Society Police and Fire Pipes and Drums**