

# The Thunder Gazette

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June, 2016

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, June 26, 2016  
2:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting  
SUNDAY, June 26, 2016  
1:00 p.m.**

This month is a Pot Luck and we will be cooking Hamburgers for our members and the members of Post 6768. This is our way of saying thank you and our appreciation to them for letting us use the post for our monthly meetings. The chapter will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and potato salad. Please bring a dish to share for everyone as we hope to have a good size crowd.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, June 24 - 26, 2016 - Moving Wall at Medina High School - If anyone is available to help staff at the Wall, contact Jack Forster, 440-759-3732.

Sunday, June 26, 2016 - Board Meeting/ Membership Meeting (1:00 p.m./ 2:00 p.m.) - Pot Luck to follow meeting. Please bring a dish to share.

Saturday, July 2 & Sunday, July 3, 2016 - Aurora Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 9, 2016 - Cookout at VOA - Noon Be there at 11:30 a.m. for setup.

### 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
<b>June</b>	<b>Shampoo/conditioner</b>
July	Body wash
August	Deodorant
September	Toothpaste/Brush
October	Shaving Cream
November	Lotion
December	Shampoo/conditioner



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

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AND PLATOON LEADERS**

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Check us out on [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)

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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**



June 12, 2016 marks the 50 year anniversary of the capture of Gregory Harris. See the article included in this newsletter.

**Remains Identified**

**World War II Remains Identified:**

U.S. Army Air Forces Pvt. Evans E. Overbey  
U.S. Navy Pharmacist's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Howard P. Brisbane  
U.S. Army Cpl. Frederick G. Collins, Jr.  
U.S. Army Air Forces Flight Officer Judson B. Baskettt

**From Pearl Harbor, USS Oklahoma**

U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Aloysius H. Schmitt  
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Frank E. Nicoles  
U.S. Navy Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Charles R. James  
U.S. Navy Warrant Officer Daryl H. Goggin  
U.S. Navy Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Vernon N. Grow

**Korean War Remains Identified:**

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Richard Davis  
U.S. Army Sgt. Harold Sparks  
U.S. Army Sgt. Bailey Keeton  
U.S. Army Cpl. Charles B. Crofts  
U.S. Army Sgt. Harold L. Curtis  
U.S. Army Pfc. William R. Butz

**Viet Nam War Remains Identified:**

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Frederick P. Crosby  
U.S. Air Force Col. Patrick H. Wood

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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 38 co-sponsors for this bill, including only one Ohio representative.

**Remember: You are the voice of our POW and MIAs.**

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**Other Legislation:**

**1. House Advances Bills:** On Wednesday, May 18, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a markup to advance several pieces of legislation. These included bills that would permanently authorize the Veterans' Success on Campus program, which provides counseling and benefits assistance to student veterans; the VA Health Center Management Stability and Improvement Act, which would require VA to develop and carry out a plan to hire permanent directors at each VA Medical Center; and a bill that would allow VA to recoup relocation expenses paid to employees when it is found that they did not deserve them. These bills were advanced to the full House for consideration.

**2. Hearing on Innovative Careers in Technology:** The House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing regarding innovative careers for veterans in technology based fields. During the hearing committee members made sure to focus on discussing not just tech-savvy, younger veterans, but also older generations of veterans interested in technology based careers. In attendance were leaders and policy makers from Microsoft, Amazon, NS2 Serves and Uber, whose companies have been making great efforts to hire more veterans. The VFW praises companies who offer innovative technology employment opportunities for veterans.

**3. House Passes Amendment for Blue Water Navy Benefits:** An amendment to the House-passed version of the Military Construction and

Veterans Affairs appropriations bill would extend presumptive service connection for conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans. Currently, only those Vietnam veterans who were "boots on the ground" or served on the inland waterways are eligible for the presumption. This would mean eligibility for health care and compensation for thousands of veterans. The inclusion of the amendment came on the heels of a Washington, D.C. press conference organized by its sponsor, Representative Chris Gibson (R-NY), and attended by the VFW. The passage of this amendment is a major victory, as the VFW has long advocated that Blue Water Navy veterans should be eligible for presumptive exposure to Agent Orange. Still, the amendment must pass the Senate. Be on the lookout for an Action Alert on this issue next week, and feel free to begin contacting your Senators today to let them know that this is a top priority!

#### **4. Congress Advances VA Appropriations**

**Bills:** On Thursday, the House of Representatives and the Senate advanced their respective Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2017. Both bills fall short of the Administration and the Independent Budget's request for veterans programs, specifically for VA's FY2017 construction accounts and advance appropriations for FY2018. Both bills increase funding from FY2016 levels and the Senate's version nearly matches the Administration's request, but the House bill falls \$1.5 billion short of the \$75 billion VA said it needs for health care, benefits, cemetery operations, construction and other discretionary spending programs. Both bills include language to authorize VA providers to discuss the use of medical marijuana with VA patients. The Senate bill includes a provision that would expand fertility treatments VA provides veterans who have lost their ability to reproduce due to severe injuries they suffered during military

service. However, the Senate failed to adopt an amendment introduced by Senator Grassley (R-IA) to end the wrongful practice of denying veterans who require a fiduciary their second amendment rights. The House bill does include a provision that would expand disability compensation benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans. It is unclear when Congress will discuss or consider a compromise bill, but the VFW urges its members and supporters to contact their members of Congress to ensure these three important provisions are included in a final compromise bill.

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#### **Chaplain's Corner**

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But, after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord, help us to realize that life gets hard. When things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.