

The Thunder Gazette

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May, 2016

PLEASE NOTE

BIKE BLESSING & VETERANS TRIBUTE SERVICE

**HAMB DEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
13840 GAR Highway (Rt. 6)
Hambden Twp.**

SUNDAY, May 22, 2016

**Meet at Chardon Square at 9:30 a.m.
departure at 9:45 AM
Service to start by 10:15 AM**

Picnic to follow the service at Hambden Twp. Park. Bring a dish to share.

The membership meeting will follow the picnic at Hambden Twp. Park. (1:00 p.m.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 21, 2016 - Chair of Honor dedication at Ohio Veterans Memorial Park - Clinton, OH - Meet at the park at 2:30 p.m. Dedication at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 21, 2016 - Candlelight Vigil - Support the Troops - Medina, OH - Anyone who wants to ride in as a group should meet at Century/Stinger HD in Medina (Rt.18) at 6:30 p.m. Kickstands up at 7:00 p.m. to ride to the square.

Sunday, May 22, 2016 - Bike Blessing & Veterans Tribute Service - Hambden Congregational Church.
Meet at Chardon Square at 9:30 a.m. Service to be followed by a picnic at Hambden Twp. Park. Bring a dish to share. **Membership meeting to follow the picnic (1:00 P.M.).**

Friday, May 27-Sunday, May 29, 2015 - Ride For Freedom, Washington, D.C. We have been asked to work with the sales team at table 5 in the south parking lot on Sunday. Winston will attend the sales meeting on Saturday evening to gather the details.

Friday, June 3, 2016 - Nation of Patriots - Travel to Erie, PA to transfer American flag. Anyone who wants to ride along, meet at Western Reserve HD. Kickstands up at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 4 - Sunday, June 5, 2016 - Macedonia Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday, June 10, 2016 - Lake County Captains Veteran's Night - Meet at 5:30 p.m. at BP station at Rts. 91. & 90 \$5 for game ticket/\$7 for food ticket Sign up sheet at the meeting. Please pay Sue for tickets before the game if you plan on attending.

Sunday, June 12, 2016 - Wade Park visit - 3 - 5 p.m. (tentatively)

Monday, June 13, 2016 - Chapter VA picnic meeting - 6:00 p.m. at Winston's house

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 - Transition Home cookout - 6:00 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, June 24 - 26, 2016 - Moving Wall at Medina High School

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

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

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

Remains Identified

World War II Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Pvt. John P. Sersha
U.S. Army Cpl. George G. Simmons
U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Jayne
U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Rudolph V. Piskuran
U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Harold F. Carney
USMC Pfc. John Saini
USMC Pvt. Palmer S. Haroldson
U.S. Navy Lt. Julian B. Jordan
U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Edwin C. Hopkins
U.S. Navy Fireman 2nd Class James B. Boring
U.S. Navy Ensign John C. England
U.S. Navy Ensign William M. Finnegan
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Donald L. Beals
U.S. Army Cpt. Elwood J. Euart

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class James P. Shunney



President Signs Lynch's POW/MIA Remembrance Act into Law

May 2, 2016 (202) 226-1918



WASHINGTON, D.C. - On Friday, President Barack Obama signed the National POW/MIA Remembrance Act of 2015 into law. Congressman Lynch introduced and successfully pushed the bipartisan legislation through Congress in March with the help of United States Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), who introduced the bipartisan Senate companion bill. The legislation honors American service members who are Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA) by placing a commemorative chair on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol.

"I am very pleased that President Obama signed H.R. 1670, the National POW/MIA Remembrance Act of 2015 into law. Each day, members of Congress and visitors to the U.S. Capitol will pass by the chair of honor and take a moment to pay respect to our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action who bravely serve our nation with honor and valor," said Congressman Lynch. "I applaud Joe D'Entremont, Gus Dante, and Rolling Thunder Massachusetts Chapter 1 for their leadership both in Massachusetts and across our country in advocating for increased government accountability for POW/MIA and their families. It was the strong advocacy of Rolling Thunder that brought this bill to the finish line and on to the President's desk."

"My three older brothers served in the military, and I appreciate the sacrifices our servicemembers and their families make each day to keep our country safe. It's our duty to honor those who have served our nation with courage, including those who have not made it home," said Senator Warren. "This commemorative chair will serve as a lasting reminder

to honor America's missing servicemembers and prisoners of war, and I thank the Massachusetts Chapter of Rolling Thunder and Rolling Thunder National for their hard work to get this bill passed and signed into law."

"Our nation's POW-MIAs should never be forgotten. Now, with the signing of this bill into law every American visiting the nation's capital will have the opportunity to honor the incredible sacrifice made by those brave Americans whose fate is still unknown and the courage of the families that are left behind," said Senator Markey. "I thank President Joe D'Entremont and the members of the Massachusetts Chapter of Rolling Thunder for their tireless efforts to establish a commemorative chair on the U.S. Capitol grounds and ensure that our service members receive the recognition they earned through their noble service to our nation."

The National POW/MIA Remembrance Act of 2015 directs the Architect of the Capitol to place a commemorative chair bearing the logo of the National League of POW/MIA Families in a prominent location in the U.S. Capitol. Commemorative chairs, which carry the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action insignia, have been placed in cities and towns around the country, in spaces ranging from city halls to professional sports stadiums. These seats remain perpetually unoccupied as a solemn reminder of the over 83,000 brave service members still waiting to be brought home.

Joe D'Entremont of Jamaica Plain, the former President of Rolling Thunder Massachusetts Chapter 1, first brought this initiative to the attention of Congressman Lynch and Senator Warren in 2014. D'Entremont and Gus Dante, both members of Rolling Thunder, Inc. National, have worked hard to promote government accountability for American POW and MIA and their families. They have also been national leaders in advocating for POW/MIA chairs in venues across the country.

H.R. 1670, the National POW/MIA Remembrance Act of 2015, passed the House of Representatives unanimously on March 21, 2016 and passed the Senate unanimously on April 14, 2016.

Elizabeth Zappala | Press Secretary
Office of Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (MA-08)

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

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

Remember this date/please share - Armed Forces Day, Sat, May 21 '16

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

In the United States, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. It falls near the end of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May and ends on the third Sunday of May.

First observed on 20 May 1950, the day was created on 31 August 1949, to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches, the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, United States Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard, following the consolidation of the military services in the U.S. Department of Defense.

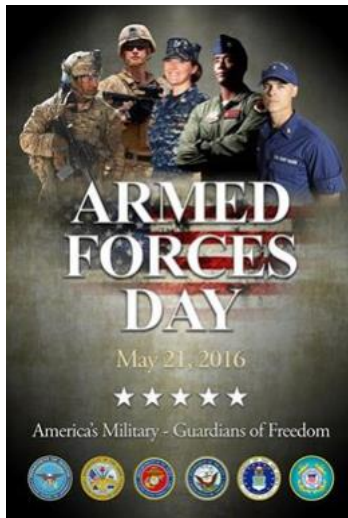
It was intended to replace the separate Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Days, but

the separate days are still observed, especially within the respective services.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions and air shows. The United States' longest running city-sponsored Armed Forces Day Parade is held in Bremerton, Washington.

In 2016, Bremerton will celebrate the 68th year of their Armed Forces Day Parade.

This is a great day to recognize and thank our military retirees, veterans and those currently serving this great nation



House votes to allow Arlington interments for female WWII pilots
Leo Shane III, Military Times

House lawmakers overwhelmingly approved legislation on Tuesday allowing a group of female WWII military pilots to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, reversing Army officials' orders.

The measure, which passed by a vote of 385 to 0, comes less than a week after lawmakers grilled defense officials over the exclusion of Women Airforce Service Pilots from the well-known cemetery. Bill sponsor Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., praised the women as pioneers as heroes who are being unjustly barred from the memorial site.

Almost 1,100 WASPs served from 1942 to 1944, ferrying airplanes, training combat pilots and towing

airborne targets. Thirty-eight died during training and support missions.

Following the war, the women were denied veterans benefits and services until 1977, when Congress passed legislation retroactively granting active-duty status to WASP pilots. Advocates have blamed that delay on sexist attitudes at the time of their service.

But problems have persisted. In 2002, after requests from WASPs' families, Arlington National Cemetery approved group members for military honors and burial of ashes there. But Army officials ruled in 2015 that under existing rules the women could not be included, and once again barred cemetery space for those individuals.

Last week, acting Army Secretary Pat Murphy said that new legislation from Congress would be required to fix the issue.

Tuesday's House vote is the first step in that process. A group of senators has backed similar legislation in their chamber, but no timeline for a possible vote has been unveiled.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

God's Enduring Word

At the beginning of World War II, aerial bombings flattened much of Warsaw, Poland. Cement blocks, ruptured plumbing, and shards of glass lay strewn across the great city. In the downtown area, however, most of one damaged building still stubbornly stood. It was the Polish headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible Society. Still legible on a surviving wall were these words: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Matt. 24:35).

Jesus made that statement to encourage His disciples when they asked Him about the "end of the age" (v. 3). But His words also give us courage in the midst of our embattled situation today. Standing in the rubble of our shattered dreams, we can still find confidence in God's indestructible character, sovereignty, and promises.

The psalmist wrote: "Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens" (Ps. 119:89). But it is more than the word of the Lord; it is His very character. That is why the psalmist could also say, "Your faithfulness continues through all generations" (v. 90).

As we face devastating experiences, we can define them either in terms of despair or of hope. Because God will not abandon us to our circumstances, we can confidently choose hope. His enduring Word assures us of His unfailing love.

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of Your Word. Thank You for its truth, its timelessness, and the guidance You give us by that Word. Help us believe and trust everything You say.

We can trust God's unchanging Word.



Chuck worked his butt off, took him a year-and-a-half to receive the rocker and Eagle patches. Congratulations Chuck!



Dawn receiving her boot patch.



Joe also received his boot patch.

Fun at the Transition Home Cookout. Must be karaoke night.



We must never forget the sacrifice of the men and women who defend this great nation. NEVER!

