

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

January, 2018

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, January 21, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

**Membership dues of \$30/person are being
collected for 2018**

**Our veterans need white socks. We will be
collecting white socks at each meeting.**

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

**Sunday, January 21, 2018 - Board/
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, February 10, Wade Park visit, lock
down ward 1 - 2 pm. Meet in the atrium at 12:30
p.m.**

**Sunday, February 18, 2018 - Board/
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m. - Pot
Luck meal to follow meeting**



Volunteers Made Wreaths Project Success Again!!!

On Saturday, December 16, 2017 Rolling Thunder® Chapter 1 Ohio members, along with members of other Ohio Rolling Thunder chapters, and many local supporters participated in the Fifth Annual "Wreaths Across America" project, placed wreaths on graves at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, OH.

Thank you to the volunteers from All Over! We deeply appreciate everyone's help.



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

PRESIDENT WINSTON BAILEY 440-639-2222

VICE-PRES DAVE BUSH 216-408-2639

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LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

BOARD MEMBERS

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HANK LANGOWSKI 216-513-5712

CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914

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NEWSLETTER STAFF
CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

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#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#5 TOM TROJAN 440-384-0744

#6 VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OPEN

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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Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at
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**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



This month will mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the Tet Offensive. 1968 was the deadliest year of the entire Vietnam War with more than 16,000 casualties.

The year 1968 makes up 72 of 140 panels on The Wall.

To the 1,602 still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, You Are Not Forgotten.



Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Navy Reserve Radioman 2nd Class Julius H.D. Pieper

USMC Reserve 1st Sgt. David H. Quinn

U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Robert R. Keown

USMC Pfc. Lyle E. Charpillot

USMC Reserve Pvt. Emil F. Ragucci

U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 2nd Class Archie Callahan, JR.

U.S. Navy Storekeeper 1st Class John W. Craig

USMC Pfc. Harry C. Morrissey

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Milton M. Beed

U.S. Army Pfc. Albert E. Quintero

Government Affairs by Ed Rutledge (Federal Legislative & Government Affairs for National chapter) - UPDATE

I understand that getting a hold of your Members of Congress (MOC), communicating with your MOC's is

not only challenging and difficult at times, but we must continue to "press" forward by doing our part to keep our concerns/issues on the "doorstep" of our MOC's as well as continue to seek support with getting the Bills/Legislation we support to the "floor" for a vote! This is very important for our American POW/MIA's, Veterans' and our organization! Please keep in mind that these Bills/Legislation will "die" at the conclusion of the 115th Congress which will cause these Bills/Legislation to have to be reintroduced during the 116th Congress! Please continue to make contact with your MOC's by visiting their offices and writing letter requesting for the support (if they are not already a cosponsor), or request they request that the Bills/Legislation are taken to the "floor" for a vote! If you need "sample" letters or information in reference to Bills/Legislation, please send me an e-mail and I will help you and or send you information and or help you the best I can! Might I suggest that you contact and or send letters to Representative Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, Senator Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader as well as members (preferable Ranking, Majority and Minority Leaders) whom "sit" on a Committee where these Bills/Legislation current "sit" stagnate! Please continue to follow the Bills/Legislation that we currently support and check for any updates.

We are continuing to "push" the following pieces of legislation:

H. Res. 129/S. Res. 61 - Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

H. Res. 219 - Establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs.

H. R. 299/S. 422 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017

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. NOTE: For information in reference to these and other POW/MIA and Veterans' legislation as well as current cosponsors and bill status, committee assignments, etc. please visit

<https://www.congress.gov> or <https://www.govtrack.us/accounts/login/?next=/accounts/lists> These websites are very good resources and extremely user-friendly. Information in reference to talking points for our current bills of top priority can be found on the "Government Affairs" page on the National website. Please feel free to use any of this information when speaking, corresponding and or meeting with your MOC's

To take action: Go to <http://www.govtrack.us/>. Search and review a bill or bills of interest, go to the website listed for your US Representatives or US Senators and send letters, e-mails and or faxes requesting an action (preferably in writing) to be taken such as to cosponsor the bill or support getting the bill/resolution to the floor for a vote. Or, call their DC office and ask to speak to their Military or Veteran Affairs staffer and request that an action be taken.

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

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.

*To date there are still only FOUR co-sponsors to this bill—none from OHIO.
Get those letters sent!*

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, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2676
5	Latta, Robert E	2448 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6405

District	Name	Room	Phone
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

More information may be found on the Rolling Thunder, Inc. National's website under the heading "Government Affairs"
www.rollingthunder1.com

Allentown's Anna Mae Hays, U.S. Army's first female general, dies at age 97



An Allentonian who was the first woman to rise to the rank of general in the U.S. Army has passed away. Anna Mae Hays died Sunday in Washington, D.C. at the age of 97, according to her niece Doris Kressly. Hays was a 1938 graduate of Allentown High School, now William Allen High School. She joined the Army Nurse Corps after the U.S. entered World War II and eventually rose to the rank of general in 1970. Back in 2014, 69 News interviewed Hays. She told us one of her most memorable experiences in the Army was caring for President Eisenhower at Walter Reed Hospital after he became ill with ileitis.

"I was very very fortunate and honored to be able to take care of him. He was one of my greatest patients," Hays told 69 News.

Although Hays' journey in the Army took her to many different areas, she told 69 News that she was always proud to refer to Allentown as her hometown. Hays' niece said the funeral is being planned for Friday at Grandview Cemetery in Allentown.

Heroic dog is honored 75 years after saving the lives of U.S. soldiers

Chips receives Britain's Dickin Medal for bravery in World War II.

January 15

Everyone in the Wren family knew that Chips was a special dog. Just how special, though, it would take a war to discover.

In 1942, shortly after the United States entered World War II, Americans were eager to aid the war effort. The military even asked people to donate their dogs to be trained for guard and patrol duty. More than 11,000 dogs ended up serving with the Army and Marine Corps.

Chips was one of them.

"He was a rascal," recalls John Wren.

The German shepherd-collie-husky mix chased and barked at the mailman and trash collectors.

"It killed my mother to part with him," says Wren, then a toddler. "But Chips was strong and smart, and we knew he'd be good" at Army duty.

So good, in fact, that in 1943 Chips became the only animal ever awarded the Silver Star, the U.S. military's third-highest medal for bravery in combat. He was also nominated for the Distinguished Service Cross (the second-highest award) and a Purple Heart for wounds he received while in Italy.

His story was big news back home. But some people didn't think animals should get the same medals as humans. They made a fuss, and Chips's Silver Star was taken away. John's mother reacted by telling reporters that Chips would probably like a pound of hamburger more than a medal, anyway.

Chips returned home a hero in 1945. He died the following year, but this week he's back in the news. On Monday, he was awarded the Dickin Medal, the highest honor for wartime bravery by an animal, from a group called PDSA. A very proud John Wren flew to London, England, for the big event.

Chips spent 3½ years in the Army. He served in North Africa, Italy, France and elsewhere in Europe. He met President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and General Dwight D. Eisenhower (a future president). When Eisenhower tried to pet Chips, the dog nipped him, having been trained to respond only to his handler.

July 10, 1943, was Chips's date with history.

An Italian machine-gun crew had U.S. forces pinned down on a beach in Sicily. Chips broke from his handler and charged the enemy's hut. A shot rang out. Moments later, a soldier appeared, with Chips at his throat. Three more soldiers followed, hands in the air.

Chips had a scalp wound and burns to his mouth and left eye, but that didn't stop him. Later that day his keen sense of smell detected 10 enemy soldiers, who also were captured.

Chips's platoon leader cited him "for extra heroism in action." Four months later, he was awarded the Silver Star. And even though Chips didn't get to keep it, Wren says his family always knew that their dog was a true hero.



The Dickin Medal

Chips is the 70th recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal, which honors exceptional bravery or devotion

to duty by animals during wars or other conflicts. Winners have included lots of pigeons and dogs, four horses and one cat.

"PDSA" refers to the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, a British charity begun in 1943 by animal welfare activist Maria Dickin.

Chips was nominated for the medal by Robin Hutton, a California writer who loves stories about brave animals. Another of her nominees, a Korean War horse named Reckless, won a Dickin Medal in 2016.



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

Congratulations to Ron Dinger, who received his Eagle and Rocker patches at the December meeting!



Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Let this sink in. . .

Let Me bless you with My grace and peace. Open your heart and mind to receive all that I have for you. Do not be ashamed of your emptiness. Instead, view it as the optimal condition for being filled with My peace.

It is easy to touch up your outward appearance, to look as if you have it all together. Your attempts to look good can fool most people. But I see straight through you, into the depths of your being. There is no place for pretense in your relationship with Me. Rejoice in the relief of being fully understood. Talk with Me about your struggles and feelings of inadequacy. Little by little, I will transform your weaknesses into strengths. Remember that your relationship with Me is saturated in grace. Therefore, nothing that you do or don't do can separate you from My presence.

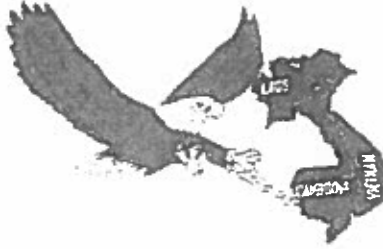
I Samuel 16:7

Romans 8:38-39





RIDE FOR FREEDOM



POW-MIA

"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

December 2017

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.
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rollingthunder1.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope everyone is well and looking forward to Rolling Thunder XXXI, "Ride for Freedom" on May 27, 2018 in Washington, D.C. Hard to believe 31 years have passed by since we first started this demonstration! I wish to thank all our supporters, organizations and clubs for the loyalty and commitment you have given to this issue over the years. Without your help and dedication, the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) issue would have been long forgotten and maybe just a few words in the history books.

Currently there has been much controversy in our country, as small group of citizens want to erase much of our American history, others will not stand in respect when the National Anthem is played and our government continues to wish the POW/MIA Issue would disappear. Have you looked at the Rolling Thunder Newsletter lately on our National website? The large number of remains identified in past months is no more then our government digging up old graves mostly from WWII, identifying these remains and giving impressive recovery statistics to the unknowing general public.

What is our government doing to recover remains from crash sights and battle fields? What has been done except talk over the last 30 years on live American POWs/MIAs left behind after all past wars? When is someone going to take action and put the live POW/MIA issue out front at a meeting with all foreign countries involved in past wars? The evidence of live Americans being held as POW/MIA's has always been in the hands of our government which has lied to us and concealed the evidence on live Prisoners of War in documents that are marked Top Secret. After all these years why they are still marked Top Secret if everyone by their reports is dead or was returned after the war?

Let us never give up and let our government forget about this issue! Our past POW/MIAs and our future troops need our support should they be captured as a POW/MIA. American troops will always face the enemy in foreign Wars for the freedom of others. Without us our Military has no one, keep speaking for them. Our organization and supporters are the only voice they have.

Remember our POW/MIAs, our Troops serving and God Bless the United States of America! Hope to see you at Rolling Thunder XXXI, "Ride for Freedom" Demonstration.

Sincerely

Sgt. Artie Muller
National Executive Director

Joseph Bean
National President