

The Thunder Gazette

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February, 2018

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, February 25, 2018

2:00 p.m.

There is no Board meeting

There will be a pot luck meal immediately following the meeting. Please bring a dish to share!

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, February 25, 2018 - Membership Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. - Pot Luck meal to follow meeting

Sunday, March 11, 2018 - Board/Membership Meeting
- 1:00/2:00 p.m.

Friday, March 16, 2018 - Sunday, March 18, 2018 - Piston & Power Show at the IX Center

Saturday, March 17, 2018 - St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Cleveland, OH.

Saturday, March 24, 2018 - VOA Pizza Party
Noon

Keeping the Promise

I am just a faceless, nameless silhouette, and nobody knows my face, though many of you pray for me every day.

I am the man you said you would not forget.

I am the POW, I am the MIA.

I am the Navy pilot. I am the dead Marine. I am the wounded grunt my buddies could not find.

Somehow I feel trapped somewhere in between.

I still cannot believe I was left behind.

They killed me in an ambush, or they captured me alive.

I died when my chopper crashed and burned.

They overran my unit, but I managed to survive.

They brought me North in chains, never to be returned.

They beat me, they whipped me, they worked me 'til I dropped.

To break my will they made their greatest endeavor.

When great despair had gripped me, still the torture never stopped.

And they told me, "We can keep you here forever".

They told me that my parents died, and my kids had grown and gone away.

They told me my wife lost hope and married my best friend.

But there is a prayer I hold inside that helps me to go on.

That somewhere, someone still remembers and will one day bring me home again.

I am just a nameless silhouette and nobody knows my face, though many of you pray for me each day.

I am the POW, I am the MIA.

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AND PLATOON LEADERS**

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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



Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. John H. Canty
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Willard H. Aldridge
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Chester E. Seaton
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Eugene P. Ford
U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Warren H. Crim
U.S. Navy Fireman 2nd Class Lowell E. Valley
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Donald G. Keller
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Leonard R. Geller
USMC Pfc. Jack H. Krieger
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Leon Arickx
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Eugene W. Wicker
U.S. Navy Molder 1st Class Kenneth B. Armstrong
U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Arthur Glenn

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Cpl. William C. McDowell
U.S. Army Pfc. Lamar E. Newman
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Pete W. Simon
U.S. Army Pfc. David Baker

Viet Nam War Remains Identified:

U.S. Air Force Col. Edgar F. Davis

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 only SIX 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
6	<u>Johnson, Bill</u>	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

District	Name	Room	Phone
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

Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument in Arlington National Cemetery to be dedicated April 18, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC - The Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument will be dedicated in a formal ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Wednesday, Apr 18, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

The monument will honor the nearly 5,000 helicopter pilots and crewmembers killed during the Vietnam War, and is the only monument established to honor all who died operating rotary-wing aircraft in what is frequently called, "the Helicopter War."

During the Vietnam War the helicopter became the mainstay for joint operational mobility. Approximately 12,000 helicopters operated in the combat zone and were used by all military services: Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. Of this number, 5,086 were destroyed.

Arlington National Cemetery holds the greatest cluster of helicopter casualties from the Vietnam War made up of immediate casualties, Medal of Honor recipients, and the remains of MIAs recovered in the decades after the war ended in 1975.

First submitted in August, 2014, the monument proposal was initially rebuffed by Army officials citing limited space in the national military cemetery. Public outcry and Congressional interest led to bipartisan legislation, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Monument Act, championed by

U.S. Representative Mark Amodei (R-NV-2), and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

The April 18, 2018 dedication ceremony will see Vietnam Veterans, Gold Star Families, and helicopter combat crewmembers rejoin to honor friends lost in combat. "With more than 40 years having passed since the end of the Vietnam War, I'm pleased to know this group of deserving veterans will finally receive proper recognition - an honor that is long overdue," said Congressman Amodei.

For more info, contact [Bob Hesselbein](mailto:beaner1138@aol.com) at beaner1138@aol.com or (608) 628 - 9024.



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

The Army Is Officially Honoring Three Slain JROTC Cadets For Their Heroism During The Florida Shooting

By **JARED KELLER** and **JEFF SCHOGOL**
on February 20, 2018

The Army has awarded Medals of Heroism, the service's highest medal for Reserve Officers'

Training Corps cadets, to the three JROTC students killed defending their classmates from a gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida on Feb. 14



The Medal of Heroism, awarded to students Peter Wang, Alaina Petty and Martin Duque, recognizes JROTC cadets whose achievements "involved the acceptance of danger and extraordinary responsibilities, exemplifying praiseworthy courage and fortitude."

All three students were among the 17 people killed by former Stoneman Douglas High School JROTC cadet Nikolas Cruz on Wednesday.

According to eyewitness accounts, Wang was last seen holding a door open to allow his fellow students to escape. The Army confirmed the news, first reported by The Daily Beast, to Task & Purpose on Tuesday.

The Army presented Petty's family with her Medal of Heroism at a Feb. 19 memorial service, according to The Daily Beast, while Duque's family will receive his medal on Saturday. Wang's family received his medal during his Tuesday memorial service, where a sizeable military presence is expected.

"It's my understanding that this is an open casket service and the family requested their son be buried in his JROTC uniform," U.S. Army Cadet Command spokesman Michael Maddox told Task & Purpose. "The JROTC Heroism medal will be on his uniform, but a second 'keepsake' medal will be given to the family."

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reports that the U.S. Military Academy planned on providing the

Wang family with a letter posthumously accepting Peter to West Point Class of 2025.

Broward County Public High School system's JROTC program claims an average enrollment of 7,650 students in 28 of its 34 schools annually. According to the Wang family, proceeds from a Peter Wang Memorial Fund GoFundMe campaign established to support the JROTC program at Stoneman Douglas, whose members exhibited exemplary acts of heroism during the shooting.

"Awards for other possible Cadets are going through a review process, to include the two Cadets who were on the news," Maddox told Task & Purpose. "However, the immediate focus right now is on supporting the funerals with dignity and honor, so deserved by these cadets and their families."

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Growing Gratitude

Would you like to cultivate a greater sense of gratitude? George Herbert, a seventeenth-century British poet, encourages readers toward that goal in his poem "Gratefulness": "Thou that hast given so much to me, give one thing more: a grateful heart."

Herbert recognized the only thing he needed in order to be thankful was simply an awareness of the blessings God had already given him.

The Bible declares Christ Jesus as the source of all blessing in Romans 11:36, "For from him and through him and for him are all things." "All things" encompasses both the extravagant and the mundane, everyday gifts in our lives. Everything we receive in life comes directly from our heavenly Father (James 1:17), and He

willingly gives us those gifts out of His love for us.

To expand our awareness of God's blessings in our lives, we need to learn to cultivate a heart that acknowledges the source of all the joys we experience each day, but especially the ones we often take for granted. This could include a crisp morning to run, the anticipation of an evening with friends, a stocked pantry so you could make French toast with your family, the beauty of the world outside your window, and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee.

What is the "so much" that God has already given to you? Opening our eyes to those blessings will help us to develop grateful hearts.

Take a few minutes to thank God for what comes to your mind right now. Try to do that throughout the day as well.

When you think of all that's good, thank God.

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GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE

Name: Wade Lawrence Groth
 Rank/Branch: E4/US Army
 Unit: 50th Medical Detachment
 43rd Medical Group
 44th Medical Brigade
 Date of Birth: 14 May 1947
 Home City of Record: Greenville MI
 (joined Army in Cleveland OH)
 Date of Loss: 12 February 1968
 Country of Loss: South Vietnam
 Loss Coordinates: 121721N 1074713E (ZU030600)
 Status (in 1973): Missing In Action
 Category: 4
 Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H
 Other Personnel in Incident: Harry W. Brown, Alan W. Gunn, Jerry L. Roe (all missing)



REMARKS:

SYNOPSIS: On February 12, 1968, SP5 Harry Brown, medic; 1Lt. Jerry Roe, aircraft commander; WO Alan Gunn, pilot; and SP4 Wade Groth, crewchief, were flying a UH1H (tail #66-17027) dispatched on a night medical evacuation mission (dustoff). Dustoff 90 departed Ban Me Thuot, South Vietnam for Gia Nghai Special Forces camp.

As U.S. Air Force Tactical Control Radar operators at Ban Me Thuot tracked the flight, the blip that was the UH1H dustoff chopper disappeared from the screen at 2019 hours. The helicopter apparently went down 20 minutes outbound from its base in a mountainous region of Quang Duc Province.

An Army Infantry unit searched the apparent crash site near the Cambodian border for 36 hours, but found neither the helicopter nor its crew. Snipers were not known to be in the area, and it is not believed the helicopter was shot down, according to an Army report, indicating possible mechanical trouble.

In April 1969, CIA was asked to analyze the positive identifications made by a rallier of a number of photographs of missing Americans. The rallier selected the photos of both Harry Brown and Jerry Roe as two men he believed to have been prisoners of war. CIA could not determine why the source selected them.

In 1979, Sean O'Toolis, an Irish-American, was touring Bong Song Camp, 40 miles south of Hanoi, on an IRA gun-buying mission, when he alleges he met and spoke with American prisoners, Brendon Foley and Wade Groth, a prison workmate of Foley's. He also claims to have talked to men named MacDonald, Jennings and an O'Hare or O'Hara. He brought a message to Foley's brother and fingerprints of Foley and O'Hara. He identified old photos of Groth, and gave believable descriptions of Foley and Groth. Neither family knows whether or not to believe O'Toolis, as much of his account of his travels seems incorrect.

Whether the four men aboard the dustoff lost on February 12, 1968 survived to be captured is unknown. The coincidence of two separate sources identifying three members of the crew seems too strong to ignore. The U.S. Government does not believe there is any substance to these reports. Based on thousands of still-classified sighting reports, many experts believe hundreds of Americans did survive, and are still alive, waiting to be brought home. If even one is alive, he must be brought home.