

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

August, 2018

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, August 19, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

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.

Nominations will again be taken at the August membership meeting for the positions of president, secretary, and 3 board positions (Mike Neilan, Ted Pilny & Chuck Kettler are the 3 board members whose positions are up for nominations). Below are the current nominees:

President: Winston Bailey (accepted)
Dave Bush (accepted)
Secretary: Cheryl Pilny (accepted)
Board Positions: Ted Pilny (accepted)
Chuck Kettler (accepted)
Larry Felean (accepted)
Ron Dinger (accepted)

To be eligible for the position of chapter president, a member must have held a chapter executive officer position or been a member of the Board of Directors for 12 months prior to being nominated. To be nominated and/or elected for any other officer position, a Chapter member must be a member in good standing for a period of one (1) year or longer. The person must be a full member at the time of the nomination and have earned their patches. The member must also have attended six (6) meetings prior to nominations in the past twelve (12) months. You must be present at time of nomination to accept the nomination. Elections will be held at the September membership meeting. If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 19, 2018 - Board/Chapter Meeting
1:00/2:00 p.m. - Northfield VFW

Saturday, August 25, 2018 - Wade Park VA Picnic

Sunday, August 26, 2018 - Middlefield Walmart -
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 16, 2018 - Board/Chapter Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m. - Northfield VFW

Saturday, September 22, 2018 - Table ceremony at Western Reserve National Cemetery

Sunday, September 30, 2018 - Middlefield Walmart



**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

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LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

BOARD MEMBERS

TED PILNY 216-346-6407

JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

HANK LANGOWSKI 216-513-5712

CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914

CHAPLAIN DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

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QUARTERMASTER

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ASST. QUARTERMASTER
LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

SARGENT AT ARMS OPEN

NEWSLETTER STAFF

CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

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#2 RONNIE DINGER 216-799-5539

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#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#5 VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

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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



Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Wilbur C. Barrett
U.S. Army Pfc. Leslie E. Shankles
U.S. Army Air Forces Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson
Carpenter's Mate 3rd Class William L. Kvidera
USMC Reserve Pfc. Merton R. Riser
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ottaway B. Cornwell
U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Martin F. O'Callaghan, Jr.
U.S. Army Pvt. John B. Cummings
USMC Reserve Pfc. Robert L. Zehetner
USMC Cpl. Claire E. Goldtrap
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Millard C. Pace
U.S. Army Pfc. Willard Jenkins
U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Hulen A. Leinweber
U.S. Navy Aviation Radioman 3rd Class
Walter E. Mintus

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Pfc. Leo J. Duquette
U.S. Army Pfc. John A. Taylor
U.S. Army Cpl. Albert E. Mills
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Leonard K. Chinn
U.S. Army Pvt. Delbert J. Holliday
U.S. Army Cpl. Francisco Ramos-Rivera
U.S. Army Pfc. Joe S. Elmore

Viet Nam War Remains Identified:

U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. Frederic M. Mellor

Legislation We Are Working On

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 - 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. Sponsor: Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3] (Introduced 02/15/2017) Cosponsors: (120) Committees: House - Foreign Affairs, Armed Services Latest Action: House - 02/14/2018 Motion to reconsider laid on the table. Agreed to without objection. NOTE: This Bill has PASSED in the House.

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. Sponsor: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ] (Introduced 02/15/2017) Cosponsors: (10) Committees: Senate - Foreign Relations Latest Action: Senate - 02/15/2017 Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Res. 219 - Establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs. Sponsor: Rep. Walker, Mark [R-NC-6] (Introduced 03/21/2017) Cosponsors: (8) Committees: House - Rules Latest Action: House - 03/21/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Rules.

H. R. 299 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 Sponsor: Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-21] (Introduced 01/05/2017) Cosponsors: (330) Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs Latest Actions: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 382 - 0 (Roll no. 289). Explanation: This Bill "PASSED" in the House on June 25th, 2018 and received by the Senate June 26th, 2018 for consideration. 06/28/18 Read twice and referred to

the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. House - 05/18/18 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. Rept. 115-680. Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 523. Action By: House of Representatives. S. 422 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] (Introduced 02/16/2017) Cosponsors: (50) Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs Latest Action: Senate - 02/16/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. Sponsor: Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7] (Introduced 01/12/2017) Cosponsors: (8) Committees: House - Judiciary Latest Action: House - 02/06/2017 Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. 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>. 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.

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 EIGHT 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

District	Name	Room	Phone
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, Marla 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

Remains of fallen US soldiers transferred out of North Korea

BY ELIZABETH MCLAUGHLIN & CONOR FINNEGAN
Jul 26, 2018

The remains of American service members from the Korean War were transferred out of North Korea on Friday, according to a White House statement, fulfilling a key agreement President Trump and Chairman Kim reached during last month's summit in Singapore.

A U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft containing remains has departed Wonsan, North Korea, accompanied by service members from the United Nations Command Korea, as well as experts from the Department of Defense's POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the statement read.

The unknown number of remains will be transferred to Osan Air Base in South Korea where a formal repatriation ceremony will be held on August 1. From there, they are expected to be taken to the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii where they will be identified.

"The United States owes a profound debt of gratitude to those American service members who gave their lives in service to their country and we are working diligently to bring them home," the White House said.

The repatriation comes amid doubts about North Korea's commitment to denuclearization, with little to no signs that the country is prepared to or engaged in dismantling its nuclear program. Still, it was one of the four pillars of Trump and Kim's joint declaration, and taking a first step to fulfill it will give the talks some much needed diplomatic momentum.

DPAA estimates that there are 7,697 Americans unaccounted for from the Korean War. Of those, approximately 5,300 are expected to be located in North Korea.

One hundred wooden transit caskets were delivered to the demilitarized zone at the North and South Korean border at the end of June.

U.S. and North Korean officials met twice during the week of July 16 to discuss the transfer of remains, according to State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert.

The White House statement noted that "Today's actions represent a significant first step to recommence the repatriation of remains from North Korea and to resume field operations in North Korea to search for the estimated 5,300 Americans who have not yet returned home."

According to DPAA, North Korean officials have indicated they possess as many as 200 sets of remains recovered over the year.

"The commitment established within the Joint Statement between President Trump and Chairman Kim would repatriate these as was done in the early 1990s and would reinforce the humanitarian aspects of this mission," DPAA said in a release last month.

From 1990 to 1994, the U.S. recovered 208 caskets with as many as 400 remains contained inside of them. From 1996 to 2005, 229 additional caskets were found and transferred.

DPAA has identified locations where they believe there are major concentrations of remains inside North Korea. Twelve hundred are believed to be in POW Camp Burial Sites and 1,000 could be located near the DMZ. There are also believed to be 184 individual remains at a cemetery in Pyongyang.



Native American veterans will be honored with memorial on National Mall

By Tara Bahrapour

The Mall is studded with monuments to iconic people and events, from presidents to wars to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Later this month, finalists will be announced for a memorial to a group with less name recognition: Native American veterans.

In the 20th century, Native Americans served in the United States military at a higher per capita rate than any other ethnic group, and their service stretches back to the Revolutionary War. This might sound surprising, given their fraught history with the U.S. government. Why would so many choose to fight and sacrifice for a country that has often treated native tribes so badly?

The answer lies in the way many see their patriotism, as inextricably connected with the land itself, said Rebecca Trautmann, project curator of the National Native American Veterans Memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian, upon whose land the memorial will be built.

"They have described an inherited responsibility to protect their homeland, their families, their communities and their traditional way of life," she said.

Or as Debra Kay Mooney, a Choctaw who is a veteran of the Iraq War, put it: "Our ancestors are the very groundwork of the United States because we died here first. It's our ancestors' bones and marrow that has degraded into the ground that is actually in the roots and the tops of the tallest trees. . . . We needed to protect our ancestors' bones."

While Congress approved the erection of the memorial in 1994, it did not authorize fundraising for it until 2013. (It is scheduled to be unveiled on Veterans Day in 2020). Museum staff and members of an advisory committee traveled around the country, meeting with tribal leaders and veterans, and came back with a few directives: Be inclusive of all tribes and traditions; don't leave out women; remember the sacrifices of family members; and include an element of spirituality.

The design must be broad enough to encompass the vast array of tribes (567 are federally recognized) yet specific enough that veterans and their families will recognize themselves and their stories.

That will not be easy for the panel of experts tasked with selecting the design. For example, some tribes' history of service goes back longer than others; to some, horses were integral, while others never rode them.

"What an intriguing memorial this will ultimately be if it is able to encompass for the casual observer and for Native Americans the oddities of where we stand today as Native Americans in the 21st century," said Kevin Brown, chairman of the Mohegan tribe, who along with Mooney is on the advisory committee. "You have native scouts who were on both sides in the Indian Wars, you have the first Native American to die in the defense of what would be called the U.S.A., in the Revolutionary War," a relative of Brown.

The placement of the memorial is significant, said Jefferson Keel, lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation, who is co-chair of the committee. "Anyone who goes out of the Capitol, down those steps, that will be the first thing they see. To me, that's exciting."

Keel acknowledged the contradictions inherent in serving a government that did not always serve its native population fairly. "I think it's in the warrior tradition to protect the freedoms that we have, even though we were not allowed to be citizens in general until [the 1920s]. Even before they were allowed to vote, they served." The memorial, he said, is "long overdue."

Many Americans don't know the extent of the more painful history of Native Americans, as well as many of their accomplishments, he said. "We're not what they learned about in public school systems." That history includes the forcible removal of native children from their families to be educated in boarding schools — which in some ways helped prepare them for service. "Students were taken from homes, their hair cut short, put into military uniforms and made to lead regimented lifestyles — so, often, the military recruited them," Trautmann said.

Among the best-known Native American veterans are the Choctaw, who passed messages in their own language during World Wars I and II — a code the enemy was unable to break. And Ira Hayes, one of six U.S. servicemen to raise the flag at Iwo Jima, became the subject of a Johnny Cash song.

Even among Native Americans there is a knowledge gap about their contributions, said Wayne Don, an Alaska Native who is a colonel in the National Guard. "I didn't know that my two grandfathers were Alaskan territorial guardsmen until I picked up a book," he said.

Over 31,000 Native American men and women are on active duty, and more than 140,000 veterans identify as Native Americans or Alaska Natives. Typically, they are celebrated in their own communities, with ceremonies and warrior societies that help them when they return from service. In 2004, a powwow was held in a combat zone near Fallujah, for which family members sent clothes and other items from the United States.

But despite the high status of warriors in many tribal traditions, Native Americans often have a harder time than the general population gaining access to veterans' benefits, Trautmann said.

"On the one hand, they have this support from the community that other vets don't, and on the other hand, it can be harder for them to access medical and social services," she said. "Many of them turn to traditional healing to deal with some of the PTSD from combat."

An important aspect of the memorial is that "it's intended to welcome these vets and be a healing experience for them, whether it's for vets who served many years ago, vets just returning from service or families who lost members in service," Trautmann said.

One of those is Allen Hoe, a Native Hawaiian and Vietnam veteran whose 27-year-old son Nainoa was killed in Iraq in 2005.

"He was very proud of the fact that his ancestors for 100 generations were warriors," said Hoe, who has another son in the military. "He wanted to step forward and provide the gratitude to his ancestors and conduct himself the way they would want him to." Hoe said he was originally shocked and disappointed to learn there was not already a memorial honoring Native American veterans.

"I was puzzled as to why not," he said, adding that he has since become active in veterans' initiatives such as the memorial. "There's not a lot you can do to change the past, but you can do your best to set the way forward."

While many served with distinction, recognition was not always accorded to them in their lifetime. Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson ("Woody") Keeble, a full-blooded Sioux, served in World War II and later in Korea. He was recommended for a Medal of Honor, but the paperwork was lost; he was finally given the award posthumously, in 2008.

"He would be very honored" to see the memorial, said Keeble's stepson, Russell Hawkins. "He comes from a warrior culture that epitomized all the values of honor and bravery, and he would want the story to be told."

Hawkins also hopes the memorial, by highlighting Native Americans' service and sacrifice, will do something else.

"I think the most bigoted white supremacist, when he reads what Woody did, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers, he'll say, 'Gee, maybe these guys aren't so bad after all. Maybe they deserve a little bit more understanding, a little bit more compassion.' "I think even the hardest heart will soften."

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Love Without Limits

A wise friend advised me to avoid using the words "you always" or "you never" in an argument—especially with my family. How easy it is to criticize others around us and to feel unloving toward those we love. But there is never any variation in God's enduring love for us all.

Psalm 145 overflows with the word *all*. "The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made" (v. 9). "The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down" (vv. 13-14). "The Lord watches over all who love him" (v. 20).

A dozen times in this psalm we are reminded that God's love is without limit and favoritism. And the New Testament reveals that the greatest expression of it is seen in Jesus Christ: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Psalm 145 declares that "the Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them" (vv. 18-19).

God's love for us always endures, and it never fails!

Father in heaven, we are awed by Your love for us that never changes, never fails, and never ends. We praise You for demonstrating Your limitless love for us through Jesus our Savior and Lord.

There is never any variation in God's enduring love for us all.