

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

April, 2019

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, April 7, 2019

2:00 p.m.

***(note the date change due to a scheduling
conflict with the VFW post)***

Board Meeting at 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, April 7, 2019 - Board/Membership
Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.**

**Friday, April 12, 2019 - Chair of Honor
Ceremony - 1:30 pm - Community Based
Outpatient Clinic - 35000 Kaiser Court,
Willoughby, OH**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019 - Domiciliary pizza
party - set up at 10:30 - serve until noon.**

Saturday, April 13, 2019 - Red Hackle Ball

**Saturday, April 27, 2019 - Bingo at Wade
Park - 1:00 p.m. Meet in the Atrium**

**Sunday, April 28, 2019 - Rally For the
Troops - The trailer will be at Rock & Roll HD**

**Sunday, May 5, 2019 - Remember the Louie
Run at Sammy K's, Perry, OH**

**Saturday, May 11, 2019 - Breakfast at
Concord Family Restaurant - 9:30 a.m.**

**Thursday, May 16, 2019 - POW/MIA flag
raisings at 4 locations of Pat O'Brien
Chevrolet car dealership. The Bishop Rd and the
Vermilion locations will be at 11:00 A.M.. The
Medina and the West Lake locations will be held
at 2:00 P. M**

**Sunday, May 19, 2019 - Bike Blessing &
Veterans Tribute Service - Hambden Congregational
Church - Membership meeting to follow.**



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

PRESIDENT WINSTON BAILEY 440-639-2222

VICE-PRES LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

SECRETARY CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

TREASURER ANDY KLUSH 330-620-6047

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

BOARD MEMBERS

TED PILNY 216-346-6407

JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

HANK LANGOWSKI 216-513-5712

LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914

RONNIE DINGER 216-799-5539

(ALTERNATE) MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

CHAPLAIN DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

RUN COORDINATOR OPEN

MEMBERSHIP SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

QUARTERMASTER
FRANK FOX 440-494-7165
GERI PHILLIPS 440-494-7165

ASST. QUARTERMASTER
LEW BALLARD 440-942-1688

SARGENT AT ARMS
HANK LANGOWSKI 216-513-5712

NEWSLETTER STAFF
CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

PLATOON LEADERS:

#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

#2 RONNIE DINGER 216-799-5539

#3 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

#4 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#5 VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

#6 SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

STATE LIASION TY GEISER 330-466-0086

ASST. STATE LIASION
TOM THOMPSON 513-616-9887

WE CARE YVONNE GIERMAN 440-285-3864
arphersfolks@windstream.net

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
CHUCK KETTLER

216-401-4984

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

Address: Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Ohio
P. O. Box 1145
Mentor, OH 44060

Web Site Address: www.rollingthunder1ohio.org
Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER 330-472-0871
Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at
ckettler6480@yahoo.com

**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



POW/MIA "We Will Never Forget"	
WWI	3,343
WWII	72,784
Cold War	126
Korea	7,676
Vietnam	1,592

Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Vincent J. Rogers, Jr.
 U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Calvin H. Palmer
 U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Wilferd D. Palmer
 U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Richard J. Thomson
 U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Ernest R. West

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Pfc. Herschel M. Riggs

Government Affairs, Gus Dante & Mike Wolff

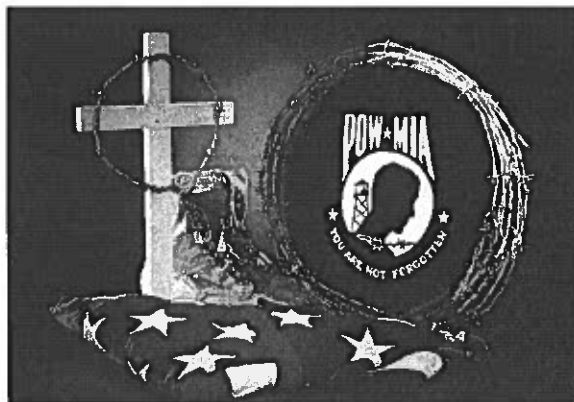
Gus Dante: The 116th Congress has begun, and all legislation from the 115th Congress which ended Dec 2018 will have to be reintroduced. Senator Warren introduced S.3698 at the end of the 115th Congress in place of H.R. 504 sponsored by Rep. Lance who was defeated in the Nov. 2018 elections. Senator Warren's office, out of courtesy reached out to Representative Lance's office to discuss and to continue sponsorship in the Senate of Bill S.3698 "National POW/MIA Flag Act". As of Jan 16th, 2019, Senator Warren's office is working on a companion Bill in the House, and once that is completed, they will reintroduce/release a bipartisan Bill in the Senate and House simultaneously. Letter to RT: We must continue to promote the Rolling Thunder Inc. Mission Statement more than before: Attention: Rolling Thunder Inc. Liaisons, Chapter Presidents, and Members As you all know, the midterm elections are behind us and a new class of Congressmen/Women started governing January 3, 2019 in the 116th Congress.

The new addition of 111 new members to the House and the Senate combined in the past three cycles are the youngest and most diverse. I feel that we (Rolling Thunder Inc.) must start NOW to educate these new members of Congress on Rolling Thunder Inc. Mission Statement and that we are all about the POW/MIA, and Veterans issues. Call make appointments in DC or when they are in district. Ask them if they would fly a POW/MIA flag outside their office. You can Google "Meet the New Freshman in Congress". Give them a call and make an appointment to see them.

To date, there are 5 co-sponsors of the Senate bill S.693 - National POW/MIA Flag Act, And 5 co-sponsors of the House bill H.R.1579 - National POW/MIA Flag Act—none, so far, from Ohio.

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

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



VA to Drop Fight Against Blue Water Navy Veterans

26 Mar 2019 Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs will not appeal a January court ruling that ordered it to provide health care and disability benefits for 90,000 veterans who served on Navy ships

during the Vietnam War, likely paving the way for "Blue Water Navy" sailors and Marines to receive Agent Orange-related compensation and VA-paid health care benefits.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie told members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Tuesday that he will recommend the Justice Department not fight the decision, handing a victory to all former service members who fought for years to have their diseases recognized as related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

Last year, the House unanimously passed a bill, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, to provide benefits to affected service members. But Wilkie objected, saying the science does not prove that they were exposed to Agent Orange. Veterans and their advocates had argued that the ships' distilling systems used Agent Orange-tainted seawater, exposing sailors on board to concentrated levels of dioxin.

However, the bill failed in the Senate when two Republicans, Sen. Michael Enzi of Wyoming and Mike Lee of Utah, said they wanted to wait for a vote pending the outcome of a current study on Agent Orange exposure.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in January ruled that a Vietnam veteran, 73-year-old Alfred Procopio, and other Blue Water Navy veterans qualified for benefits currently given to service members stationed on the ground in Vietnam or who served on inland waterways and have diseases associated with Agent Orange.

Procopio, who served on the aircraft carrier Intrepid, suffers from prostate cancer and diabetes, illnesses presumed to be related to exposure to the toxic herbicide.

The VA has contended that any herbicide runoff from the millions of gallons sprayed in Vietnam

was diluted by seawater and would not have affected offshore service members. It also objected to the cost of providing benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans for illnesses common to all aging patients, not just those exposed to Agent Orange.

The proposed Blue Water Navy Veterans act had estimated the cost of providing benefits to these veterans at \$1.1 billion over 10 years. VA officials say the amount is roughly \$5.5 billion.

Wilkie told members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee during a hearing on the VA's fiscal 2019 budget that the department already has started serving 51,000 Blue Water Navy veterans.

He cautioned, however, that while he is recommending the Justice Department drop the case, he "didn't know what other agencies would do."

Lawmakers praised Wilkie's announcement, urging him to ensure that the DOJ drops the case. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, said it would "bring fairness" to these veterans.

"I am grateful for you in making these considerations," Blumenthal said, adding that he'd like to see the VA do more research on toxic exposures on the modern battlefield. "The potential poisons on the battlefield are one of the greatest challenges of our time."

Committee chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Georgia, also promised a hearing later this year on burn pits and other environmental exposures some troops say left them with lifelong illnesses, including cancers -- some fatal -- and respiratory diseases.

Isakson added, however, that the VA needs to care first for Blue Water Navy veterans. "If it happens, we are going to be in the process of swallowing a big bite and chewing it," he said.

The diseases considered presumptive to Agent Orange exposure, according to the VA, are AL amyloidosis, chronic B-cell leukemia, chloracne, Type 2 diabetes, Hodgkin's lymphoma, ischemic heart disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Parkinson's disease, early onset peripheral neuropathy, porphyria, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers and soft tissue sarcomas.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, in a veteran who served 90 days or more in the military is automatically considered service connected, regardless of date of service.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Unexplainable Love

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

A small congregation decided to surprise a boy on his sixth birthday. The church members decorated his Sunday school classroom with balloons and set up a small table with a cake on it. When he opened the door, everyone shouted, "Happy birthday!"

Later on, as the cake was being cut, the boy came over and whispered in his mother's ear, "Mom, why does everyone here love me?" She had the same question! These people had known them for only six months but were treating them as longtime friends.

Their love for her son reflected God's love for us. We can't understand why He loves us, but He does—and His love is freely given. We've done nothing to deserve His love, and yet He lavishly loves us. Scripture tells us: "God is love" (1 John 4:8). It's part of who He is.

God has poured out His love on us so we can show this same love to others. Jesus told His disciples, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

The people in the small church community loved them because God's love is in them. It shines through and identifies them as followers of Jesus. We can't comprehend God's love fully, but we can pour it out on others—being examples of His unexplainable love.

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

