

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

May, 2019

PLEASE NOTE:

BIKE BLESSING & VETERANS TRIBUTE SERVICE

HAMBDEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
13840 GAR Highway (Rt. 6)
Hambden Twp.

Sunday, May 19, 2019

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

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

A short Board meeting will follow the picnic, and then the membership meeting.

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, May 19, 2019 - Bike Blessing & Veterans Tribute Service & Board/Membership Meeting - Hambden Congregational Church

Memorial Day Weekend - Run To The Wall - Washington, DC

Saturday, June 1 & Sunday, June 2 -

Streetsboro Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 - Escort Viet Nam Traveling Wall and assist with assembly.

Thursday, June 13, 2019 - Sunday, June 16, 2019 - Display of the Viet Nam Traveling Wall at Northfield VFW Post 6768 - Help with daily activities while on display

Monday, June 17, 2019 - Help with tear down and loading of the Traveling Wall.

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 - TR Home cookout - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 22, 2019 - Vet Fest - 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Lock 3, Akron, OH

Saturday, June 22, 2019 - Lake County Captains Hero's Night

Sunday, June 23, 2019 - Board/Membership Meeting



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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



Update on Gregory Harris

Dear Winston,

Hello! A Happy Easter to you and everyone at RT1 of Ohio!

I wanted to provide you all with a quick update on Greg's case and our plans for this year's Vietnam Family Meetings in DC.

First, Greg's case analyst has informed us that the excavation proposal has been partially approved. Because it is a single loss site, they want to do what is called an archeological survey first to see if there are any signs of a burial. If they find evidence, then they would do a full excavation. There are some issues with this approach, but we hope to work through this with the help of our analyst. We remain hopeful.

Due to work commitments and the present status of Greg's case, we have decided to forego the meetings this year. We feel that there isn't much we could do there this year as the excavation is most likely, in part, being considered. For the first time in decades, we have full confidence in our analyst.

We wanted to touch base with you about not attending the meetings this year so, in case there is a need elsewhere, you can reallocate those funds.

We are and always will be extremely thankful for the support that your organization has shown us through our special friendship with Ron and Claudette. I know she would be so excited about this news! I can hear her voice in my mind.

Please send our love to Ron and we hope he is doing well and his health has improved since our surprise visit a few years ago.

Our warmest thanks!

A Blessed Easter to you all, our Ohio family!

Much love,
Mary Ann

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 Pfc. Raymond H. Middlekauff
U.S. Army Pfc. John W. Hayes
U.S. Army Pfc. Dale W. Ross
U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Harold K. Costill
U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Ray H. Myers
U.S. Army Pfc. Dewey W. Harris
U.S. Army Cpl. Ralph L. Bennett
U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Jasper L. Pue
USMC Platoon Sgt. George E. Trotter
USMC Staff Sgt. Wesley L. Kroenung

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Elden C. Justus
U.S. Army Pfc. Sterling Geary, Jr.

Government Affairs, Gus Dante & Mike Wolff

Gus Dante: Mike Wolff and Gus have made it easier on the Government/Veterans Affairs section on the RT National website by providing links so members can get information on anything needed to contact their representatives (Congress and Senate). Gus thanked Mike Maloney, RT National member, for his addition of a link on the Flags, Signs, and Chairs website. Thank you to Nikki and Elaine Muller at our RT National office for all their help in setting this up for the Government Affairs committee. Regarding Senate Bill 693 - "National POW/MIA flag Act", sponsored by Senator Warren Gus was sent the following from Senator Warren's office. So far the Bill has six co-sponsors. Hey Gus, We are working to "hotline" the bill in order to get it passed

without the need for a vote, which would needlessly waste time. Something as bipartisan and uncontroversial as this bill shouldn't need a big timely debate. Right now, we ask that you sit tight while we quietly work with Senators who may be unfamiliar with the bill to explain to them what it seeks to accomplish. No Senator has expressed a problem with the bill, but if one does, we will work with him or her to address any concerns as quickly possible. We will provide you with an update as soon as we have some news! Note that the Senate is in recess until April 29 and not conducting any legislative business (so no bills can get passed), so we won't have any news to share until the Senate returns to session. Hope this explanation helps. Best, Feras Feras Sleiman Counsel Senator Elizabeth Warren Gus sent a letter to Rep. Jerrold Nadler, Chairman of the House Judiciary requesting that RT throughout the country move out of the Subcommittee Constitution on Civil Rights & Civil Liberties. Note: in the last Congress (115th Congress) the Subcommittee was Constitution and Civil Justice. A staffer from Rep. Smith's District office in NJ asked Gus to send a letter to his office. This was done yesterday with the same sent to Nadler's office, but with a few minor changes. Gus read and remarked on the following news item. CONGRESS EXPLORING FLYING POW/MIA FLAG EVERYDAY WASHINGTON (Gray DC) -- The POW/MIA flag may become more prominent in America. Senators are exploring the idea of flying that flag year-round. Anne Mills-Griffiths, the CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families, said she supports the idea. She said, "There are 1589 Americans that are still unaccounted for or missing from the Vietnam War." More than 40 years after the Vietnam War ended Mills-Griffiths is continuing her mission to bring closure to the families of those service members who were never found. She leads the National League of POW-MIA Families, the group created this flag in 1972. Mills-Griffiths said, "Our objective then was to improve the treatment of POWs." The POW-MIA flag flies over federal

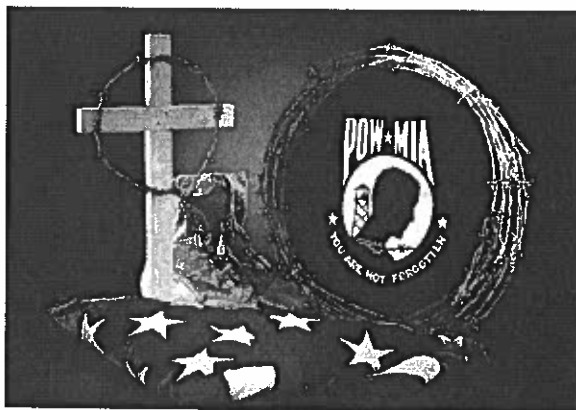
buildings six days a year, such as Memorial Day and Fourth of July. Senator John Thune (R-SD) is supporting a bipartisan bill to fly the flag every single day over buildings like the U.S. Capitol and local post offices. Thune said, "POW-MIA veterans in this country and their families deserve to be recognized that way. All too often they get overlooked." Authors H. Bruce Franklin and Rick Holmes question the original intent of the flag and don't want to see it fly every day over places like the U.S. Capitol.

They say there are better ways to honor service members, like with a symbol of peace, or just simply with the American flag flying by itself. In the Senate, three Republicans and four Democrats are supporting the bill to fly the flag year-round. Copyright 2019 Gray DC. All rights reserved. Gus remarked that Franklin in particular has been against the Vietnam War since the 1960's, and has denied the existence of POW's left behind. He has not changed, and is against Vietnam Veterans. We will continue to push for this Bill, and oppose him.

To date, there are 7 co-sponsors of the Senate bill S.693 - National POW/MIA Flag Act, And 18 co-sponsors of the House bill H.R.1579 - National POW/MIA Flag Act—still 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



New legislation would recognize nine more diseases caused by Agent Orange

By NIKKI WENTLING | STARS AND STRIPES Published: April 17, 2019

WASHINGTON — A group of lawmakers introduced legislation that would add nine more diseases to a list of conditions presumed to be caused by the chemical herbicide Agent Orange, giving veterans who suffer from them a fast-track to Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation and health care.

The Keeping Our Promises Act, introduced last week, adds prostate cancer, bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, hypertension, stroke, early-onset peripheral neuropathy, AL amyloidosis, ischemic heart disease and Parkinson-like syndromes to a list of diseases presumed to be caused by Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War.

Researchers with the National Academy of Medicine released findings in November that there was "suggestive" evidence that eight of the diseases could be caused by Agent Orange. For hypertension, researchers found that "sufficient" evidence exists.

"American heroes affected by Agent Orange deserve the peace of mind knowing that the federal government recognizes the existing link between their exposure and illness," said Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Penn., one of eight lawmakers who banded together to introduce the legislation.

VA experts have begun a "formal, deliberative review" of the National Academy of Medicine's latest report, VA Press Secretary Curt Cashour said Tuesday. The review is expected to be complete in the summer, at which time the agency will make recommendations about presumptive conditions, he said.

During a Senate hearing March 26, Richard Stone, the executive in charge of the Veterans

Health Administration, guessed the review would be complete within 90 days.

"We're working our way through that right now," Stone said of the national academy report.

Recommendations would be sent to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, who would choose when - and whether - to act on them.

The VA previously recommended that some of the conditions be added. After the last National Academy of Medicine report in 2016, the VA took 20 months before it sent recommendations to the White House that bladder cancer, hypertension, hyperthyroidism and Parkinson's-like tremors be added to the list.

The recommendation hasn't made it past the White House's Office of Management and Budget. Last year, VA officials told the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs that the Office of Management and Budget is waiting for results of ongoing mortality and morbidity studies, which could provide more evidence of a connection between the diseases and Agent Orange.

On Tuesday, Cashour said some of those results will be published as early as mid-2019.

But some lawmakers don't want to wait on the executive process.

Fitzpatrick, along with Reps. Annie Kuster, D-N.H., Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., Scott Tipton, R-Colo., Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., Joe Cunningham, D-S.C., Brendan Boyle, D-Penn., and Mike Thompson, D-Calif., are trying to use a legislative route.

Boyle estimated it would help tens of thousands of Vietnam War veterans.

"This bipartisan legislation makes good on that promise by ensuring all servicemembers exposed to these herbicides and chemicals as a part of their military service get the health care they need," Boyle said in a statement. "Not one more

servicemember should be forced to suffer in this way without the best care our federal government has to offer."

The bill is likely to face an uphill battle in Congress, where veterans and advocates have fought for years to prove toxic exposures and secure VA benefits.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Bowl of Tears

As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me.
Psalm 55:16

In Boston, Massachusetts, a plaque titled "Crossing the Bowl of Tears" remembers those who braved the Atlantic to escape death during the catastrophic Irish potato famine of the late 1840s. More than a million people died in that disaster, while another million or more abandoned home to cross the ocean, which John Boyle O'Reilly poetically called "a bowl of tears." Driven by hunger and heartache, these travelers sought some measure of hope during desperate times.

In Psalm 55, David shares how he pursued hope. While we're uncertain about the specifics of the threat he faced, the weight of his experience was enough to break him emotionally (vv. 4-5). His instinctive reaction was to pray, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest" (v. 6).

Like David, we may want to flee to safety in the midst of painful circumstances. After considering his plight, however, David chose to run to his God instead of running from his heartache, singing, "As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me" (v. 16).

When trouble comes, remember that the God of all comfort is able to carry you through your

darkest moments and deepest fears. He promises that one day He Himself will wipe away every tear from our eyes (Revelation 21:4). Strengthened by this assurance, we can confidently trust Him with our tears now.



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

Hambden Congregational Church

13840 GAR Highway (Rt. 6)

Hambden Twp.

Welcomes Rolling Thunder



For a Bike Blessing & Veterans Tribute Service

All Are Invited 2 wheels or 4 wheels To Join Us Rain or Shine

Sunday May 19, 2019

All Motorcycles are to gather on Chardon Square at 9:30 AM

departure at 9:45 AM Service to start by 10:30 AM

A picnic gathering to be held @ Hambden Twp. Park

Please bring a dish to share with all

Hamburgers, Hotdogs & drinks provided by Hambden Congregational Church

Cooking to be done by Chardon V. F. W.

Clean up & other assistance by The Young Marines



President's Letter

Dear Members:

As I am writing this, Rolling Thunder® Inc. "Ride for Freedom" 2019 is only a few weeks away. Artie and I have made one trip to D.C. to talk to Pentagon and National Park Services. Police officials in relationship to Rolling Thunder XXXII arrangements. Usually, we meet two or three times prior to our event. All went well at our meetings, the Pentagon says they will cooperate with us - BUT I don't believe that! And yes, as always the Pentagon is charging us with an outrageous bill for their services.

This will be our last "Ride for Freedom" demonstration in D.C., in 2020 we will take the ride across the country. Some state Chapters are already in the planning stages for 2020 Memorial weekend, when our Mission takes a new direction on the state level. Following our May 26th "Ride for Freedom" in D.C., state Chapters need to connect and organize their plans for 2020. It will take time and much planning for state chapters to establish a "Ride for Freedom" event in their state. Hopefully, we can continue to bring awareness to the POW/MIA issue and help needy veterans.

Check your 2019 Memorial Weekend schedule or bulletin board (Hyatt Lobby) for events, meetings, times, changes. There will be no visit to Walter Reed Hospital on Friday, May 24th by the membership due to a decline in hospital patients. We will be hosting our last visit to the Washington VA Hospital on Saturday, May 25th. This event has been greatly enjoyed by the patients and the membership over the years.

There is much planned to do all weekend. We anticipate a large amount of supporters to be in the D.C. area and the Pentagon assembly lots for our final "Ride for Freedom". The Hyatt Regency is our host hotel and is completely booked – we thank them for their service and hospitality to us. We ask all our membership to be alert and careful, enjoy the weekend and help to make this event memorable.

Please keep our troops and POW/MIA's in your hearts and Prayers
"Thank you, Veterans and God bless America"

Joe Bean

Joe Bean
National President

ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 2 & DONOVAN'S KIDS
WITH THE CITY OF AKRON & LOCK 3 PRESENT:

VET FEST



2019

JUNE 22ND LOCK 3

DOWNTOWN AKRON 1PM-8PM

A CELEBRATION OF
VETERANS, ACTIVE MILITARY,
FAMILIES & COMMUNITY.