

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

July, 2019

## **PLEASE NOTE**

### **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP**

### **MEETING WILL BE HELD AT**

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

**SUNDAY, July 21, 2019  
2:00 p.m**

**There will be a VA picnic meeting  
immediately following the membership  
meeting.**

**There is no Board meeting.**

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

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**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.**

**Elections are coming up in September. The positions to be voted on this year are Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, and 2 Board positions (currently held by Jeff Brady and Hank Langowski).**

**If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.**

**Nominations will take place at the July and August meetings.**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, July 21, 2019 -Membership meeting -**  
2:00 p.m. VA picnic meeting will be held after the membership meeting.

**Saturday, July 27 & Sunday, July 28, 2019 -**  
Macedonia Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, August 3, 2019 - Valor Home**  
Cookout - serving at noon - 221 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St. ,  
Lorain, OH

**Note: Lunch at Eddie's Grill in Geneva On  
The Lake that was originally scheduled for  
August 3, 2019 has been canceled.**

**Thursday, August 8, 2019 - Elvis Night**

**Saturday, August 10 & Sunday, August 11,**  
**2019 - Aurora Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, August 18, 2019 - Board/Membership**  
meeting - 1:00 p.m. / 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, August 24, 2019 - Wade Park VA**  
picnic -setup starting at 9:30 a.m. Serve at noon.

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

**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](mailto: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](http://www.rollingthunder1ohio.org)  
Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER 330-472-0871  
Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at  
[ckettler6480@yahoo.com](mailto:ckettler6480@yahoo.com)

**Check us out on Facebook: Rolling Thunder  
Chapter1 Ohio**

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**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.

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**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 Pvt. Connie Cagle  
 U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Johnnie C. Laurie  
 U.S. Navy Fire Controlman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Adolph J. Loebach  
 USMC Reserve Pvt. William E. Rambo  
 U.S. Army Sgt. Robert W. McCarville  
 U.S. Army Pvt. James I. Trick  
 U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Paul Cybowski  
 U.S. Army Pvt. Laurel W. Ebert  
 U.S. Navy Radioman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Floyd A. Wells  
 USMC Reserve Pfc. Kenneth W. Likens  
 U.S. Army Pvt. Penn Franks, Jr.  
 U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Howard F. Gotts  
 U.S. Army Tech 5 John E. Bainbridge  
 U.S. Army Pvt. Jacob W. Givens

#### Korean War Remains Identified:

USMC Reserve Pfc. Grady J. Crawford  
 U.S. Army Cpl. Donald E. Angle  
 U.S. Army Pfc. David C Wilkes  
 U.S. Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd

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**Government Affairs, Gus Dante & Mike Wolff**

### GREAT NEWS:

• S-693 "National POW/MIA Flag Act" Sponsor, Senator Elizabeth Warren PASSED the Senate without amendment by unanimous consent, 5/3/2019. • Now we must continue to get co-sponsors for the companion Bill H.R. 1579, sponsor Congressman Pappas, (D-1st NH). We must call our Congressional Representatives in the House to co-sponsor this legislation, and get the Bill to the floor for a vote. Presently, H.R.1579 is held up in the House Judiciary Subcommittee Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil

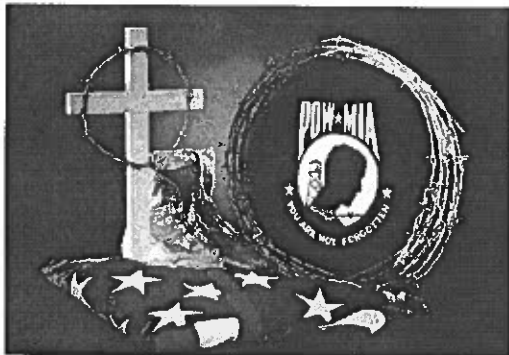
Liberties. The Chairman of that committee is Rep. Steve Cohen (D-9th TN). Our RT Tennessee Chapters have called Cohen, We are asking that all RT members call Cohen's office, and ask him to move H.R. 1579 out of committee and to the floor for a vote. PLEASE give Rep. Cohens' office a call. Phone number at the Judiciary is 202-225-2825 or 202- 225-3265. • Once the Bill is passed it would then go to the President for his signature in order to become law. The POW/MIA flag flying underneath the American flag over the Capitol and the White House on ALL DAYS can be a reality. Let's get this done! It is the goal and obligation of Rolling Thunder® Inc. National and its 92 chapters throughout the nation to seek and promote the fullest possible accounting of those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines listed as POW/MIAs in southeast Asia and other parts of the world, regardless of the war in which they were lost. The mission of Rolling Thunder® Inc is to educate the public that many Americans POW/MIA's were left behind after all past wars. We will not stop Until They All Come Home. That is why we must keep advocating for the POW/MIA issue by getting this legislation passed in the House of Representatives, H.R. 1579. We must let the families of those who still wait for closure know that we have not forgotten our POW/MIA's by flying the POW/MIA flag over the Capitol and White House. "UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME" To date, there are 26 co-sponsors of the House bill H.R.1579 - National POW/MIA Flag Act—*still none 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](http://www.rollingthunder1.com)

District	Name	Room	Phone
1	Chabot, Steve	2408 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	2303 Rayburn 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.	2467 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6405
6	<u>Johnson, Bill</u>	2336 Rayburn 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	1107 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	2082 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	Balderson, Troy	1221 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	2234 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-2015
16	Gonzalez, Anthony	1023 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515	202-225-3876



### Agent Orange's Long Legacy: Its Now Affecting Vets' Grandchildren

From War History Online - The Place For Military History News and Views - Article by George Winston

Beginning in 1962 and continuing until 1971, the United States military, with the approval of President John F. Kennedy, sprayed over twenty million gallons of herbicide over more than four

and a half million acres in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in order to defoliate the jungle and reduce the areas available for the North Vietnamese soldiers to hide in as well as to destroy crops. The effects of that decision are still with us today.

The cases of the children, and now the grandchildren, of the thousands of people exposed to the defoliants suffering from birth defects and diseases, have reached an alarming level. But the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has continually dragged its feet regarding the acknowledgement of any correlation.

The most frequently used chemical was Agent Orange, a mixture of equal parts of two herbicides, 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D. The result of this mixture unintentionally created a highly toxic dioxin, tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, commonly known as TCDD.

The chemicals were sprayed by airplanes, helicopters, and boats. Not only were enemy targets sprayed, but the perimeters of camps and airfields were kept tidy using backpack spraying, too. Because it was believed the spray was essentially harmless no masks or other safety equipment was used.

The numbers of both Americans and Vietnamese that were exposed by spray, residue, contaminated groundwater and soil could not possibly be measured, but it's thought that over two million American service personnel have been affected.

Vietnam has reported that at least four hundred thousand people died or were disfigured by American herbicides.

The offspring of many of the veterans are born with physical defects such as spina bifida and other spinal disorders, extra fingers and toes as well as fused digits, diseases including several

different types of cancers such as leukemia, respiratory cancers, and prostate cancers. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Parkinson's Disease, Diabetes Mellitus Type 2, heart disease, nerve and muscle disorders are also reported, and many have suffered psychological disorders. Vietnam vet Mike Ryan, who was exposed to the herbicides, fathered a daughter after his return who was born with spina bifida, deformed extremities, a hole in her heart, and no lower digestive tract among a host of other problems.

There were no problems on either side of the family, and the Ryans were considered healthy, with no drug or smoking histories. The Ryans made their plight public after hearing of more children of vets with similar problems.

In 1980, then President-elect Ronald Reagan met with the Ryans over their concerns. Later, the administration worked to block the Ryan's class action lawsuit which resulted in U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein's ruling that direct payments could only be made to disabled veterans or survivors of those who had died. That ruling conspicuously left out the descendants of veterans. According to Ryan, "They will never admit it because if they do, then America is admitting to drafting the unborn.

Veteran Royal Gee had a daughter before his service in Vietnam who is completely healthy and a daughter born after his return who suffers from cysts, joint problems, and an immune system disorder. "They say it has nothing to do with my service in Vietnam and it stops right there," said the former Marine. "There's got to be a reason."

Hundreds of studies have been conducted and many point to the association of Agent Orange and birth defects, and in 2007, 2009, 2012, and 2014 the Federal Institute of Medicine's scientific panels recommended that the Veterans Administration "should review all the

possible cognitive and developmental effects in offspring of veterans. Such a review should include the possibility of effects in grandchildren."

The Veterans Administration still resists acknowledging the link between Agent Orange and the many cases of birth defects and disease, but more and more people are coming forward with personal stories. The VA may someday be pushed into admitting the long-term complications of Agent Orange.

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### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Beautiful to God

When Denise began dating her boyfriend, she attempted to maintain a slim figure and dress stylishly, believing she would be more attractive to him in that way. After all, it was what all the women's magazines advised. It was only much later that she discovered what he really thought: "I liked you just as much when you were heavier and didn't worry about what you wore."

Denise realized then how subjective "beauty" was. Our view of beauty is so easily influenced by others. It's often focused on the external, forgetting the value of inner beauty. But God sees us in only one way—as His beautiful, beloved children. I'd like to think that when God created the world, He left the best for last—us! Everything He created was good, but we're extra special because we're made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

God considers us beautiful! No wonder the psalmist was filled with awe as he compared the greatness of nature with humans. "What is mankind," he asked, "that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:4). Yet God chose to give mortals a glory and honor that nothing else had (v. 5). This truth gives us an assurance and reason to praise Him (v. 9). No matter what others think of us—or what we think of ourselves—know this: We are beautiful to God.