

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

August, 2019

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, August 18, 2019
2:00 p.m**

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.

Nominations will again be taken at the August membership meeting for the positions of vice-president, treasurer, chairman of the board, and 2 board positions (currently held by Jeff Brady and Hank Langowski). Below are the current nominees:

Vice-President: Lew Ballard - Accepted
 Ronnie Dinger - Accepted

Treasurer: Andy Klush - Accepted

Chairman of the Board:

Chuck Kettler - Accepted

Ted Pilny - Declined

Board Members: Hank Langowski - Accepted
 Mike Neilan - Accepted

**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 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.

Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 - Nordonia High School
-Northfield, OH - 6:30 p.m. Chair of Honor
placement and POW/MIA flag raising.

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 - 911 Ride - Lake
Erie HD - Trailer will be there

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019 - VOA cook out -
set up 9:30 a.m. Serve at noon

Sunday, Sept 15, 2019 - Board/Membership
Meeting - 1:00/2:00 - Elections

Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 - Chair of Honor
placement at Wade Park VA Hospital

Saturday, Sept 21, 2019 - POW MIA
ceremony. Western Reserve National Cemetery

**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

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CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

BOARD MEMBERS

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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

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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:

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#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

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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

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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:

USMC Pfc. Joseph R. Livermore
 U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Herschel H. Mattes
 U.S. Army Air Forces Cpl. Waler J. Kellett
 U.S. Army Pvt. Charlie M. Waid
 U.S. Army Pfc. Eugene E. Lochowicz
 USMC Pvt. Edwin F. Benson
 U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Lyal J. Savage
 U.S. Army Pfc. Lawrence E. Worthen
 U.S. Army Pfc. Donald E. Mangan
 U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Joseph E. Finneran

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Sgt. Willie V. Galvan
 U.S. Army Maj. Harvey H. Storms
 U.S. Army Pfc. Daniel W. Gerrity
 U.S. Army Cpl. Harold Pearce
 U.S. Army Cpl. Herman R. Phy
 U.S. Army Cpl. Ralph L. Cale
 U.S. Army Pfc. Jasper V. Marquez
 U.S. Army Sgt. David A. Feriend
 U.S. Army Sgt. Billy J. Maxwell
 U.S. Army Sgt. Walter H. Tobin, Jr.
 U.S. Army Cpl. Norvin D. Brockett
 U.S. Army Cpl. Ysabel A. Ortiz
 U.S. Army Pfc. Wilbur T. Tackett

Viet Nam War Remains Identified

U.S. Air Force Maj. Neal C. Ward

Dante & Mike Wolff

Gus Dante: Legislation that we are pushing is on our Rolling Thunder® Inc. National Website
H.R. 2819/S 1673- Gold Star Families National Extension Act of 2019. We are adding two bills to the Government Affairs Web. H.R-2819/S-1673 - Gold Star Families National Extension Act of 2019;

sponsored by Congressman Andy Kim (D-NJ) in the House, and sponsored by Senator Booker (DNJ) in the Senate. The Gold star families have been waiting for 9 plus years to get this monument placed at Arlington National Cemetery where it should be. The Gold Star Families have faced many obstacles for getting this monument completed. The funding for the monument will end 2020. This legislation will extend funding to 2027.

S. 693 The National POW/MIA flag Act passed the senate without amendment by unanimous consent on 5/3/2019. The House bill **H.R.1579** - Is held up in the Judiciary Subcommittee, of Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. We only have 29 cosponsors. In order to get this piece of legislation passed we must go right to the source. Rolling Thunder® Inc. members please contact the following key representatives of the Subcommittee and the Chief Counsel James Park of the Judiciary Subcommittee: **James Park, Chief Counsel** - 202-225-2825, Fax 202-225-3746 Democrat: Rep. Cohen, Tennessee Chairman Rep. Raskin, Maryland, Vice Chair Republican: Rep. Johnson, Louisiana, Ranking Member Rep. Gohmert, Texas. If we want the POW/MIA flag to fly ALL DAYS that the American flag is displayed over the Capitol and White House, we must contact these Key Representatives and the Chief Counsel, ask them to move H.R. 1579 out of committee and to the House floor for a vote and passage. Remind them the POW/MIA flag will be a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still missing and the 80,000 plus unaccounted for from all wars. The POW/MIA flag over the Capitol will be a reminder to the families of our missing and the public that our Government has not forgotten those that did not come home. This is a no brainer, let's get this done! Any questions give Gus a call.

"UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"

To date, there are 29 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

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
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

Southwest Airlines flew the remains of a Vietnam airman home to Dallas. The pilot was his son.

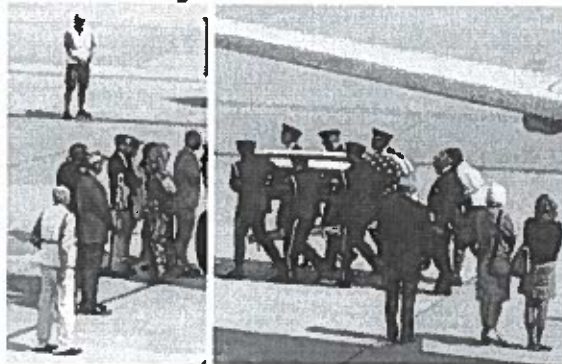
By REIS THEBAULT | The Washington Post | Published: August 9, 2019



Bryan Knight was 5 years old when he waved goodbye to his father from Dallas Love Field airport. He never saw him again.

The year was 1967 and Roy Knight Jr. was heading to war. The pilot reported to Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in January. By May — after flying near daily combat missions — Knight was missing, his plane shot down over enemy territory in Laos. It was another seven years before his family found out he'd been killed. And on Thursday, 45 years after that, they finally received closure.

Knight's remains, recovered near his plane's crash site more than five decades after it went down, were flown from Honolulu to Oakland, California, and from Oakland back to Dallas, where his family greeted the Southwest flight as it arrived.



Bryan Knight, the son who watched his dad leave to fight in the Vietnam War, was also the man who flew him home, the pilot of that flight from California to Texas that landed at Love Field, the last place the two saw each other.

"When I first got the call, it was almost surreal," Bryan Knight said in an interview with Southwest Airlines. "I really didn't think it would ever happen. Wow, you know, he's really coming home. We're going to be able to bring him back, and we're going to have a place where we can honor him."

His older brother, Roy Knight III told the local Weatherford Democrat newspaper that the end of the half century journey was hard to fathom. "You have these competing emotions — you're happy this is resolved," he said. "But there's that uncomfortable feeling of change and coming to grips with reality, then there's also immense, intense sadness that comes whenever you contemplate the loss of someone that's important to you."

When the plane landed in Dallas, the airport's fire trucks greeted it with a water salute. Knight's remains, in a casket draped with an American flag, were received with full military honors. Inside the terminal, hundreds looked on, their faces pressed against the window, listening as a gate agent tearfully

recounted the Knight family's story over the intercom.

It was the hero's homecoming never afforded to many Vietnam veterans, who today number fewer than 850,000, according to the Disabled American Veterans. Some of those men and women are still suffering the long lingering effects of their time at war — including health issues related to Agent Orange exposure and post traumatic stress disorder. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that nearly half of all homeless veterans served during Vietnam.

But at the end of a week dominated by macabre news, Knight's return was the rare bright spot. Jackson Proskow, the Washington bureau chief for Canada's Global News, was among the crowd. He started tweeting.

"I'm at the airport in Dallas, waiting for my flight home to DC from El Paso, and something incredible is happening," he wrote.

As the stirring scene unfolded, travelers, who had left their seats in waiting areas and paused their walks through the terminal, got quiet. The bustling airport was, for a moment, still. Proskow saw people wiping away tears as the casket was unloaded.

"It's incredible that everyone got to share in that," Proskow told The Washington Post. "I don't know if that was the family's intent or not, but they should be commended for allowing it because it was so powerful for everyone there."

Proskow had a layover in Dallas on his way home from El Paso, Texas, where he was covering the mass shooting that left 22 dead. He was just beginning to process what he'd seen on that grim reporting trip when he heard Knight's story. It was a flash of hope after a few dark days.

"It's already emotional," he said. "And then to hear it's his son doing that, how could you not react? It's unbelievable. It was incredibly moving."

Knight is now one of more than 1,000 Americans killed in the Vietnam War whose remains the Department of Defense has identified and returned to families for burial, the agency estimates. There are still more than 1,500 who remain unaccounted for.

The pilot, who left for war as a major and was promoted to colonel while he was missing in action, enlisted in the Air Force just a few days after his 17th birthday. He served as a fighter pilot in Germany and France in the late 1950s and early '60s before moving back to Texas with his young family.

He had just finished his bachelor's degree when he was ordered to report to a base in Thailand. Knight's plane was shot down while he was attacking a military target on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos, which borders Vietnam to the west. At first, he was listed as missing but was declared killed in action in 1974. He was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart and six Air Medals for his service, his obituary says.

On Facebook, Roy Knight III tracked his father's progress: across the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday, then across the country on Thursday. On Saturday, he'll be taken to Holder's Chapel in Cool, Texas, a few miles west of Weatherford. He'll be buried with family members. And, at long last, he'll be home.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)



The Eagle does not fight the snake on the ground. It picks it up into the sky and changes the battle ground, and then it releases the snake into the sky. The snake has no stamina, no power and no balance in the air. It is useless, weak and vulnerable unlike on the ground where it is powerful wise and deadly. Take your fight into the spiritual realm by praying and when you are in the spiritual realm God takes over your battles.

Don't fight the enemy in his comfort zone, change the battle grounds like the Eagle and let God take charge through your earnest prayer. You'll be assured of clean victory. Pray without ceasing.

