

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

September, 2019

## **PLEASE NOTE**

### **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

**SUNDAY, September 15, 2019  
2:00 p.m**

**Pot luck meal after the meeting. Please bring  
a dish to share.**

**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.**

**Below are the current nominees for the positions of vice-president, treasurer, chairman of the board, and 2 board positions (currently held by Jeff Brady and Hank Langowski). The election will be held this Sunday, September 15, 2019.**

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

**Treasurer:            Andy Klush - Accepted**

**Chairman of the Board:  
                          Chuck Kettler - Accepted**

**Board Members: Hank Langowski - Accepted  
                          Mike Neilan - Accepted  
                          Jeff Brady - Accepted**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019 - VOA cook out -  
set up 11:30 a.m. Serve at noon**

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

**Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 - Chair of Honor  
placement at Wade Park VA Hospital - 11:00  
a.m. Meet across from the Patriot Store.**

**Saturday, Sept 21, 2019 - POW MIA  
ceremony. Western Reserve National Cemetery  
Chapter 1 will be performing the table ceremony  
Ceremony starts at 1:00 p.m. See flyer.**

**Saturday, Sept. 28 & Sunday, Sept. 29,  
2019 - Middlefield Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00  
p.m.**

**Sunday, October 13, 2019 - Board/  
Membership Meeting - 1:00 p.m. / 2:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019 - TR Home  
cookout - 6:30 p.m. - Chapter to provide dinner**

**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

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**QUARTERMASTER**

FRANK FOX 440-494-7165

GERI PHILLIPS 440-494-7165

**ASST. QUARTERMASTER**

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**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**



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

### **Remains Identified**

#### **WWII Remains Identified:**

U.S. Navy Fire Controlman 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Robert L. Corn

U.S. Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Huber P. Hall

USMC Reserves Pfc. Raymond Warren

U.S. Navy Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Brady O. Prewitt

U.S. Navy Fireman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Albert Renner

U.S. Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stewart Jordan

USMC Reserves Pfc. Michael Kocopy

U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John F. McTigue

U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Willard R. Best

U.S. Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Steve Nagy

#### **Korean War Remains Identified:**

U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Phillip C. Mendoza

U.S. Army Cpl. Jerry M. Garrison

USMC Pfc. Billy E. Johnson

U.S. Army Pfc. Junior C. Evans

U.S. Army Sgt. Gerald B. Raeymacker

U.S. Army Cpl. Gudman C. Johnson, Jr.

U.S. Army Cpl. Charles H. Grubb

U.S. Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert C. Styslinger

U.S. Army Cpl. Gerald N. Wilson

U.S. Army Pfc. Harold K. Knight

U.S. Army Sgt. Donald L. Murphy

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**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](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
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	Johnson, Bill	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

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### More than two dozen missing Korean War troops just identified from returned remains

By: Leo Shane III August 2, 2019

Defense Department officials have identified 25 more missing service members from the cases of remains turned over by North Korean officials last year, a major advance for dozens of families who have waited decades for closure in the deaths of their loved ones.

The identifications were first announced by Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday afternoon and later confirmed by officials at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency during their annual

briefing to families of the Korean War, held in Washington.

On Friday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the news "A promise kept from the agreement between (North Korean) Chairman Kim (Jong Un) and President Donald Trump ... to return all of our fallen heroes."

DPAA officials said specific identifications will be made public in coming weeks, after family members have received formal notification from the individual services. Most of the service members identified are from the Army.

Prior to this week, DPAA officials had announced the identification of only seven fallen troops from the 55 cases of remains turned over by North Korea last August. That diplomatic breakthrough came a few weeks after Trump met with the North Korean leader in Singapore a few weeks earlier, and was seen as hope of improved relations between the countries.

But a second summit between the heads of state in February failed to produce similar agreements, and the DPAA announced last spring that it would cease planning efforts on the issue due to a lack of cooperation from North Korean officials.

DPAA Director Kelly McKeague told family members at this week's briefing that his agency is ready to resume recovery efforts within months if the North Korean government agrees. Among the 550 family members at the briefing were several related to the newly identified missing service members, agency officials said.

More than 82,000 Americans who fought in wars overseas are classified as missing in action. Of those, about half are believed to have been lost at sea.

More than 5,000 of those are believed to have died on the Korean Peninsula during the war there. From 1990 to 2005, 229 fallen troops were identified and returned home in joint operations between the two countries. But diplomatic fights between the countries' leadership ended that progress 12 years ago.

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## **Chaplain's Corner**

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

### **Feeling Small**

Many movie critics consider David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia* one of the greatest films of all time. With its seemingly endless vistas of the Arabian deserts, it has influenced a generation of filmmakers—including Academy Award-winning director Steven Spielberg. "I was inspired the first time I saw *Lawrence*," said Spielberg. "It made me feel puny. It still makes me feel puny. And that's one measure of its greatness."

What makes me feel small is creation's vastness—when I gaze at an ocean, fly over the polar ice cap, or survey a night sky sparkling with a billion stars. If the created universe is so expansive, how much greater must be the Creator who spoke it into being!

God's greatness and our feelings of insignificance are echoed by David when he declares, "What are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?" (Psalm 8:4 nlt). But Jesus assures us, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (Matthew 6:26).

I may feel small and insignificant, but through my Father's eyes, I have great worth—a worth that is proven every time I look at the cross. The price He was willing to pay to restore me to fellowship with Him is evidence of how He values me.

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### **He was getting old and paunchy (A Poem for Veterans) (Submitted by Glenn Gierman)**

He was getting old and paunchy  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion,  
Telling stories of the past.  
Of a war that he once fought in  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies;  
They were heroes, every one.  
And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors  
His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly  
For they knew where of he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For ol' Joe has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer  
For a Veteran died today.  
He won't be mourned by many,

Just his children and his wife.  
For he lived an ordinary,  
Very quiet sort of life.  
He held a job and raised a family,  
Going quietly on his way;  
And the world won't note his passing,  
'Tho a Veteran died today.  
When politicians leave this earth,

Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing,  
And proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell of their life stories  
From the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a Veteran  
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.  
Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise  
And cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow  
Who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?  
The politician's stipend  
And the style in which he lives,  
Are often disproportionate,  
To the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary Veteran,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal  
And perhaps a pension, small.  
It is not the politicians

With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.  
Should you find yourself in danger,  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out,  
With his ever-waffling stand?  
Or would you want a Veteran  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common Veteran,  
Who would fight until the end.  
He was just a common Veteran,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his likes again.  
For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the Veteran's part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles  
That the politicians start.  
If we cannot do him honor  
While he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage  
At the ending of his days.  
Perhaps just a simple headline  
In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."  
PLEASE.



# **THE COST OF FREEDOM**

## **POW/MIA DAY PROGRAM**

**September 21, 2019**

**Presented by Rolling Thunder ®, Inc  
Chapter 8 Ohio**

**Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery  
10175 Rawiga Rd., Rittman, Ohio  
Committal Shelter 1:00pm**

**For more information call**

**Becky Blackmore 330-723-0116**



# **GOLD STAR MOTHERS' SUNDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2019**

**AT THE**

**YORK TOWNSHIP**

**GOLD STAR FAMILIES' MEMORIAL PARK**

**3874 COLUMBIA, ROAD**

**MEDINA, OHIO 44256**

**AT 1:00PM**

**A PROGRAM TO HONOR AND  
REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE ALL**

**PROGRAM PRESENTED**

**BY**

**ROLLING THUNDER, INC.**

**OHIO CHAPTER 8**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**BECKY BLACKMORE, PRES. RTOH8 330-723-0116**

