

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

October, 2019

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

Due to a scheduling conflict with the Post:  
**SUNDAY, October 13, 2019**  
**2:00 p.m**

Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

**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 results of the September election:

Vice-President: Lew Ballard

Treasurer: Andy Klush

Chairman of the Board: Chuck Kettler

Board Members: Hank Langowski  
Jeff Brady

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Sunday, November 17, 2019 - Board/  
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00

Saturday, November 23, 2019 - VA  
Christmas Party - 1 - 3 p.m. Wade Park

**OCTOBER IS AGENT ORANGE  
AWARENESS MONTH**



**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

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE)

**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 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

#3 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#4 VIKKI CARROLL 440-283-7766

#5 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  
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Mentor, OH 44060

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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. Navy Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lawrence E. Woods  
U.S. Navy Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class James C. Webb  
U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Arnold M. Nielson  
U.S. Navy Chief Water Tender Francis D. Day  
U.S. Navy Quartermaster 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Daryle E. Artley  
U.S. Army Air Forces R. L. Tyler  
U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Thomas J.E. Crotty  
U.S. Navy Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class D. T. Kyser  
USMC Res. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Justin G. Mills  
USMC Pfc. Marley R. Arthurholtz  
USMC Pfc. Louis Wiesehan, Jr.  
USMC Res. Pfc. Robert J. Hatch  
USMC Res. Pfc. John R. Bayens  
USMC Res. Pfc. Norman A. Buan  
USMC Res. Pfc. Jack B. Van Zandt

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

U.S. Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George S. Crisp  
U.S. Army Cpl. Audrey J. Betar  
U.S. Army Cpl. Joe T. Avant  
U.S. Army Cpl. Wilfred K. Hussey, Jr.  
U.S. Army Cpl. William J. McCollum  
U.S. Army Pfc. William J. Winchester  
U.S. Army Cpl. Asa E. Vance  
U.S. Army Cpl. Lloyd B. Odom  
U.S. Army Cpl. Henry L. Phelps  
U.S. Army Cpl. Kenneth E. Ford  
U.S. Army Sgt. David C. Sewell  
U.S. Army Col. Jerome V. Hummel  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Riley Burchfield  
U.S. Army Pfc. John A. Shelemba  
USCM Pfc. Ray P. Fairchild

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## **Gus 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 32 co-sponsors of the House bill H.R.1579 - National POW/MIA**

## Flag Act—finally one from Ohio— David Joyce.

**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	<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

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(A repeat from July, 2019 since this is Agent Orange awareness month)

**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)

#### Shelter from the Storm

As the story goes, in 1763, a young minister, traveling on a cliffside road in Somerset, England, ducked into a cave to escape the flashes of lightning and pounding rain. As he looked out at Cheddar Gorge, he pondered the gift of finding shelter and peace in God. Waiting there, he began to write a hymn, "Rock of Ages," with its memorable opening lines: "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee."

We don't know if Augustus Toplady thought about Moses's experience in the cleft of a rock while writing the hymn (Exodus 33:22), but perhaps he did. The Exodus account tells of Moses seeking God's reassurance and God's response. When Moses asked God to reveal His glory to him, God answered graciously, knowing that "no one may see me and live" (v. 20). He tucked Moses into the rocks when He passed by, letting Moses only see His back. And Moses knew that God was with him.

We can trust that just as God said to Moses, "My Presence will go with you" (v. 14), so too we can find refuge in Him. We may experience many storms in our lives, as did Moses and the English minister in the story, but when we cry out to Him, He will give us the peace of His presence.

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