

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

March, 2020

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, March 8, 2020
2:00 p.m.**

Pot luck meal to follow the membership meeting – bring a dish to share – Ham and cake will be provided by the chapter

Board Meeting – 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 8, 2020 - Board/Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m. - Pot luck meal to follow the meeting.

Thursday, March 12 - Sunday, March 15, 2020 - Piston & Power Show -

Saturday, March 21, 2020 - VOA

Saturday, April 4, 2020 - Breakfast at Concord Family Restaurant - 9:30

Saturday, April 11, 2020 - Lunch at the Domiciliary - setup at 11:00 a.m.; serve at noon

Sunday, April 19, 2020 - Board/Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, 2020 - Bingo at Wade Park - 1:00 p.m. - Meet in the Atrium

Sunday, April 26, 2020 - Rally for the Troops



**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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LARRY FELEAN 440-439-4914

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

COORDINATOR FOR WADE PARK VISITS - OPEN

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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Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at
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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.

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC. IS A NON -PROFIT
ORGANIZATION AND EVERYONE DONATES HIS OR
HER TIME BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN THE POW-
MIA ISSUE.

Our Adopted MIA/POW – Gregory Harris



Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ernest L. Roth
U.S. Navy Steward's Mate 2nd Class Jesus F. Garcia

U.S. Navy FCC Daniel F. Harris
U.S. Army Pvt. James J. Cansler
U.S. Army Pfc. James W. White
U.S. Navy MMC Lada Smisek
USMC Cpl. Oscar E. Koskela
USMC Pfc. Roayl L. Waltz

Government Affairs

Listed below are items of legislation that members of the Rolling Thunder® Inc. National Government and Veterans' Affairs Committee are working on. They are committed to working with members of Congress, Veterans and other organizations to discuss and work on legislation that directly and indirectly affects our POW/MIA's and Veterans.

A recap of all current legislation being worked on:

S.693 - National POW/MIA Flag Act - LAW
11/07/2019 Became Public Law No: 116-67.

S.1790 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 - LAW

H.R. 1019. Full Military Honors Act of 2019 was incorporated into S.1790 National Defense Authorization Act 2020 and was signed into Law 12/20/2019 by President Trump. No. 116-92.

Bills we are still tracking:

H.R.712/S.179 - VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2019 To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health

outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes. Senate Veteran's Affairs - 8 cosponsors House Veteran's subcommittee on Health - 102 cosponsors

S.785 - Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 A bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Senate Veterans' Affairs - 42 Cosponsors

Related Bills:

H.R.5024 To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care coverage provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs during the transition of members of the Armed Forces from service in the Armed Forces to civilian life, and for other purposes.

H.R.5030 VA Suicide Prevention Services Accountability Act

H.R.2201 - To modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes. House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs - 70 Cosponsors.

Related News:

January 6th Military Times article stating "Study results on new Agent Orange diseases not expected until 'late 2020' says VA secretary." The day President Donald Trump signed a funding bill including a provision ordering VA to announce its plans to add four conditions to the list of Agent Orange-linked diseases within 30 days, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said the decision wasn't likely to come until at least "late 2020."

S.1673/H.R.2819 Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act - This bill extends through January 2, 2027, the authority of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star families.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources 1 - cosponsor Keep in mind that this year is critical to push these passing of the bills introduced in the 116th congress. If they are not passed by the end of 2020, they will have to be re-introduced in the 117th congress.

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, | 1023 Longworth House Office | 202-225- |

| District | Name | Room | Phone |
|----------|---------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Anthony | Building, Washington, DC 20515 | 3876 |

"UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"

Remember: You are the voice of our POW and MIAs.

Three downed aircraft, associated with seven MIAs from famous WWII battle, located in Pacific Ocean (Copied from Military Times)
Dylan Gresik February 20, 2020



In February 1944, the U.S. military launched Operation Hailstone, a massive military assault on Japanese fortified positions in the Pacific. On Monday — 76 years later — researchers announced the discovery of three U.S. aircraft remains associated with seven service members missing in action.

Project Recover identified the wrecks of two SBD-5 Dauntless dive bombers and one TBM/F-1 Avenger torpedo bomber in Truk Lagoon, now known as Chuuk State in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The nonprofit, which works to locate and repatriate Americans missing in action, located the three planes that launched from the carriers USS Enterprise and USS Intrepid to strafe Japanese-held islands during the two-day air assault.



Over four expeditions, researchers with Project Recover scanned the ocean floor with advanced sonar surveys and high-resolution imaging devices. The organization used underwater autonomous vehicles tethered to surface vessels and human divers to "interrogate" the sites — survey them for verification and identification of the remains. "[These vehicles are] able to look at large areas in fine resolution. When these aircraft crash into the water, they don't look like aircraft anymore," said Mark Moline, Ph.D., principal investigator and co-founder of Project Recover. "Most of them are piles of metal that don't rise very far off the bottom [of the ocean]. The exception is the propeller, usually sticking out."

Dr. Moline is also the director of the School of Marine Science and Policy at the University of Delaware, one of Project Recover's partner organizations. The Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego is also a partner.

The site of the bombardments, Truk Lagoon, may contain as many as 33 aircraft that carried nearly 100 service members still missing in action, according to lead historian, Colin Colbourn, Ph.D.

The lagoon has become a "high priority" location for recovery and identification efforts due to its "contained environment," which is relatively small compared to the surrounding ocean area with "depths that are scuba-diving depths" for recovery, Colbourn said.

Once a wreckage is identified, researchers look for the smallest details to narrow down the selection of potential downed aircraft — and thus missing crew members.

"We will stare at these images all day long and the wreckage that we find in order to be able to identify these airplanes based on very small pieces and parts," Colbourn said. "And for these particular aircraft, we got really fortunate that within this lagoon, there are only two SBDs that were missing with MIAs in the exact area that we located them."

Add to the deteriorating wrecks is the presence of hundreds of Japanese aircraft in the same area, which Moline said have also been periodically identified.

But for Moline and Colbourn, these dives aren't simply exercises in oceanography or archaeology; they're recovery operations.

The proper identification of aircraft, and thus their crew members, is critical to Project Recover's mission.

"Even though we are focused on finding aircraft, the aircraft really aren't our interest," said Moline. "We are only doing this to return and identify MIAs. That's really our core mission. The main headline is bringing our guys home."

The located remains are transferred to the federal government's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which formally identifies the service members, notifies

living relatives and repatriates the remains for proper burial.

"These were guys from towns across the United States. There was so much hurt after the war with 72,000 missing in action," said Colbourn. "Part of what we are doing...is to at least bring a little closure."

"The loss appears to be multi-generational. You have teenagers going to these funerals, and initially, they have no interest in being there," said Moline. "By the end of the events, these kids are taken — they understand the sacrifice. The entire family doesn't realize what they are going to feel when a loved one comes home."

The discovery of these three aircraft bring Project Recover's total to 28 aircraft with 13 repatriated remains; however, their work is not over.

The organization will continue its Expedition Chuuk to identify the remaining wrecks in Micronesia, and the nonprofit plans to begin additional explorations in Southeast Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East.

"There's a lot of questions now about what patriotism is," added Colbourn. "When you see the whole town come out to honor this person [and] what they've done for their country: that, for me, is the truest form of patriotism."

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Ever-Present Presence

During the 2018 World Cup, Colombian forward Radamel Falcao scored in the seventieth minute against Poland, securing a victory. The dramatic goal was Falcao's thirtieth in international play,

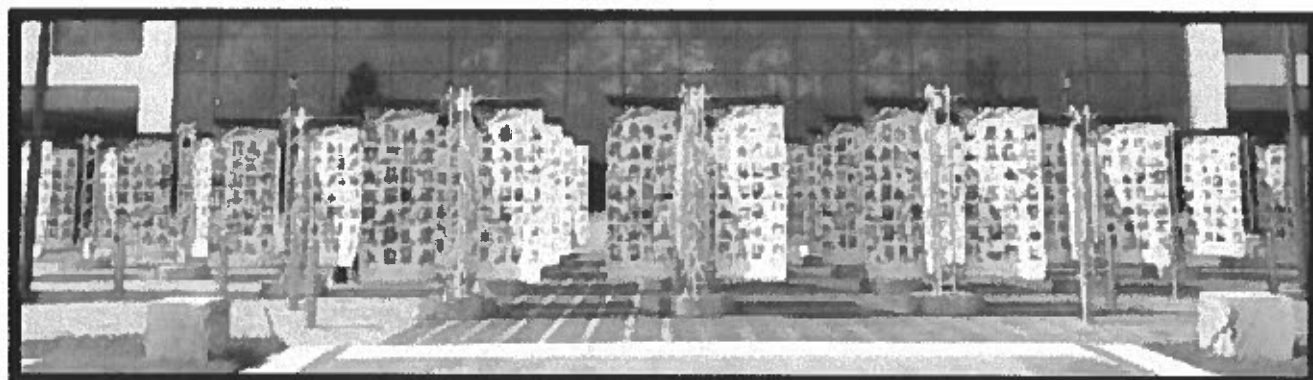
earning him the distinction of scoring the most goals by a Colombian player in international competition.

Falcao has often used his success on the soccer pitch to share his faith, frequently lifting his jersey after a score to reveal a shirt with the words, *Con Jesus nunca estara solo*: "With Jesus you'll never be alone."

Falcao's statement points us to the reassuring promise from Jesus, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Knowing He was about to return to heaven, Jesus comforted His disciples by assuring them He'd always be with them, through the presence of His Spirit (v. 20; John 14:16-18). Christ's Spirit would comfort, guide, protect, and empower them as they took the message of Jesus to cities both near and far. And when they experienced periods of intense loneliness in unfamiliar places, Christ's words would likely echo in their ears, a reminder of His presence with them.

No matter where we go, whether close to home or faraway, as we follow Jesus into the unknown we too can cling to this same promise. Even when we experience feelings of loneliness, as we reach out in prayer to Jesus, we can receive comfort knowing He's with us.

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



Remembering Our Fallen"

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THE "*REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN*" MEMORIAL IS A PHOTOGRAPHIC WAR MEMORIAL THAT HONORS ALL OF OUR COUNTRY'S MILITARY FALLEN FROM THE WAR ON TERROR. THE "*REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN*" MEMORIAL CONSISTS OF OVER 30 TEN FOOT TALL TOWERS AND CONTAINS BOTH MILITARY AND PERSONAL PHOTOS DESIGNED TO BE DISPLAYED BOTH INDOORS AND OUTDOORS. PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING OUR HERO'S.

TOWERS ON DISPLAY

DAWN TILL DUSK

JUNE 4, 5, 6, & 7

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GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR



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