

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

June, 2020

## **PLEASE NOTE**

### **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

**SUNDAY, June 28, 2020  
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.

Nominations will begin in July at the membership meeting for the positions of president (currently held by Winston Bailey), secretary (currently held by Cheryl Pilny), and 3 board positions (Mike Neilan, Ted Pilny & Larry Felean are the 3 board members whose positions are up for nominations). Nominations will again be taken at the August meeting.

To be eligible for the position of chapter president, a member must have held a chapter executive officer position or been a member of the Board of Directors for 12 months prior to being nominated. To be nominated and/or elected for any other officer position, a Chapter member must be a member in

good standing for a period of one (1) year or longer. The person must be a full member at the time of the nomination and have earned their patches. The member must also have attended six (6) meetings prior to nominations in the past twelve (12) months. You must be present at time of nomination to accept the nomination. Elections will be held at the September membership meeting. If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, June 28, 2020 -**

**Board/Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.**

Unfortunately, all other events/activities have been put on hold because of the pandemic. We will still try to have the family picnic on July 19, 2020 at Roundup Lake. Stay tuned.

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**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

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

(ALTERNATE) PAUL WIGET

**CHAPLAIN** DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

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**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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**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.

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

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**Our Adopted MIA/POW – Gregory Harris**





## **Remains Identified**

### **WWII Remains Identified:**

USMC Sgt. Duane O. Cole  
U.S. Navy Fireman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Clarence A. Blaylock  
U.S. Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Russell C. Roach  
U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
Alton W. Whitson  
U.S. Navy Shipfitter 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Patrick L. Chess  
U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Earl W. Smith, Jr.  
U.S. Army Pvt. Wayne M. Evans  
USMC Sgt. Donald D. Stoddard  
U.S. Army Pfc. Anthony F. Mendonca  
USMC Pvt. Jack R. Shambaugh  
USMC Res. Pfc. John W. Hoffman, Jr.  
USMC Sgt. George R. Reeser  
USMC Pfc. Elden R. Baumbach  
USMC Res. Pvt. Jacob Cruz  
USMC Sgt. Fred Farris  
U.S. Army Pfc. Oliver Jeffers  
U.S. Army Pfc. Clarence W. Brotherton  
USMC Res. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Hugh D. Fricks  
USMC Cpl. Raymond J. Tuhey

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

U.S. Army Sgt. Kenneth E. Walker  
U.S. Army Sgt. Billy W. Rodgers  
U.S. Army Cpl. Eldert J. Beek  
U.S. Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas J. Redgate  
U.S. Army Cpl. Henry L. Helms  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Frank G. Vejar  
U.S. Army Cpl. Benjamin R. Bazzell  
U.S. Army Cpl. Ralph S. Boughman  
U.S. Army Cpl. Clifford S. Johnson  
U.S. Army Cpl. Charles E. Hiltibran  
U.S. Army Pfc. Louis N. Crosby  
U.S. Army Pfc. Bill F. Hobbs  
U.S. Army Sgt. Lloyd A. Alumbaugh  
U.S. Army Cpl. Burl Mullins  
U.S. Army Cpl. Dale W. Wright

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## **Government Affairs**

Per Mike Wolf from National, there has been little movement on most of what we are tracking

this legislative cycle. Given that this is an election year, I do not expect much movement. Keep up the pressure to move these out of committee, but most likely we will have to take up the fight to have these re-introduced in the 117th Congress.

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.

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](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

## "UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"

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

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## 2020-2021 Rolling Thunder Bike Raffle Update New Drawing Date - June 1, 2021

Greetings to All the Rolling Thunder Chapters and Members: Considering all, I hope that you are doing as well as possible during these very trying times of the pandemic in all parts of our country. As a result of the National shut down, quarantine

and cancelation of events in our Country and much consideration the 2020 Rolling Thunder Bike Raffle drawing date was changed to Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm. The drawing will take place at the Harley Davidson Washington dealership where the bike is currently being shown and hosted. To date, 14 Chapters have sent National sold bike raffle ticket stubs and the money proceeds for their sold tickets. 7 Chapters have sold all their tickets, 2 Chapters have sold all their tickets, requested addition tickets which have been issued to them, 4 Chapters have sent in partial tickets sales and money proceeds and are still selling their remaining tickets. National will also pay the State Sales Tax for the winner. We have almost a year to sell tickets until the drawing in 2021. I hope that all the chapters that have tickets issued to them will be able to sell them as our Country gets back to a more normal. God Bless and Heal our Country!

Elaine Muller

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### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

### Needing His Leading

Uncle Zaki was more than a friend to scholar Kenneth Bailey; he was his trusted guide on challenging excursions into the vast Sahara. By following Uncle Zaki, Bailey says that he and his team were demonstrating their complete trust in him. In essence, they were affirming, "We don't know the way to where we are going, and if you get us lost we will all

die. We have placed our total trust in your leadership."

In a time of great weariness and heartache, David looked beyond any human guide, seeking direction from the God he served. In Psalm 61:2 we read, "From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I." He longed for the safety and relief of being ushered afresh into God's presence (vv. 3-4).

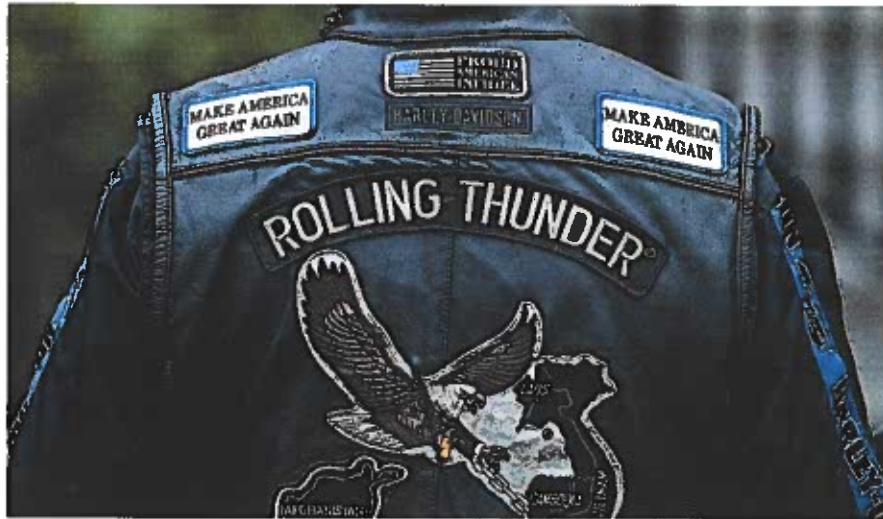
God's guidance in life is desperately needed for people the Scriptures describe as sheep that have "gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). Left to ourselves, we would be hopelessly lost in the desert of a broken world.

But we are not left to ourselves! We have a Shepherd who leads us "beside quiet waters," refreshes our souls, and guides us (Psalm 23:2-3).

Where do you need His leading today? Call on Him. He will never leave you.

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

# Coronavirus pandemic does not slow the mission of Rolling Thunder



By [Jennifer Harper](#) - *The Washington Times* - Sunday, May 24, 2020

The roar of motorcycles on a mission continues. Even the coronavirus has not stopped [Rolling Thunder's](#) "Ride for Freedom," an annual demonstration to draw attention to veterans issues and honor prisoners of war and those missing in action. It's just a little different this year.

For more than three decades, this charitable nonprofit has staged massive patriotic rides through the nation's capital each Memorial Day, drawing as many as a half-million motorcycles. The group now has opted for a grassroots approach that emphasizes local and regional rides rather than a single blockbuster event.

"Our mission is never going away. We were there in Washington for 32 years, and we're now continuing our efforts on a nationwide level. It's actually increased support for us. But we will not put our membership and supporters at risk because of this virus," Artie Muller, an Army veteran who co-founded the first ride in 1988, told *The Washington Times*.

In a letter to the group's 90 chapters, Mr. Muller cancelled Memorial Day plans, which included sizable rides and events in multiple states.

"We look forward to the future and will continue our memorial 'Ride for Freedom' nationwide demonstration in 2021. We must keep the faith. Better times are ahead," Mr. Muller advised.

[AMVETS](#), which had organized its own commemorative ride titled "Rolling to Remember" on D.C. streets this Memorial Day, also was forced to cancel its event because of the pandemic.

**CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE....**

*"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"*

The veterans advocacy group has gone virtual, however, asking participants to select their own symbolic 22-mile route, then register the trip online.

Why 22? That is the number of veterans who take their own lives each day, according to numbers from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Meanwhile, Rolling Thunder members have stepped up to carry on their organization's long-standing traditions.

"We have enjoyed going to Washington in the past, of course. The experience has an effect on you which you never forget. It meant a lot to me," Jerry Blake, president of a Rolling Thunder chapter in Evansville, Indiana, told The Washington Times.

"We're concentrating on our own local ride to make sure we pay homage to POWs, vets and the missing here in our community," said Mr. Blake, a 30-year Army veteran.

He expects there will be some 50 similar Rolling Thunder demonstrations around the country to mark Memorial Day while heeding social distancing.

"We'll stay with what was normally done in the past, within limits," said Tim Centers, president of the Rolling Thunder chapter in Frankfort, Kentucky, and a 25-year Army veteran and paratrooper. "We plan a low-key event — laying a wreath at the veterans' memorial here, with particular recognition for Col. Charles Shelton."

Charles Ervin Shelton was an Air Force pilot who was shot down over Laos during the Vietnam War in 1965 and was the last man to be listed as missing in action in that conflict.

"Though our circumstances changed this year, we'll continue the mission to draw attention to issues Rolling Thunder stands for. And I personally think it's not a bad idea to remember all those big rides in D.C.," Mr. Centers said.

The Rolling Thunder mission has global appeal, drawing riders from Australia, Germany, Britain, France and other countries. "All of those people cared. They also know the U.S. military has risked a lot to help their own nations gain freedom," Mr. Muller noted.

"There's a global side of the Rolling Thunder mission. Americans are not the only one with service members left behind during times of war, missing in action, or veterans who need some help once they're home," Mr. Centers said.

***"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost"***