

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

July, 2020

PLEASE NOTE

**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP
MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
Tim & Dorothy Exton's
2651 St. Rt. 82
Aurora, OH**

**SUNDAY, July 19, 2020
Noon**

We will have our chapter family picnic immediately following the meeting. The chapter will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans and soft drinks. Please provide a dish to share. Your platoon leader should have contacted you to get a head count and an idea of what dish you will bring.

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.

There will be no nominations at this meeting for the positions of president, secretary and 3 Board members. Because of the current coronavirus pandemic, it was voted unanimously at the June meeting to have the current officers and Board members in those positions to continue for one more year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 19, 2020 - Membership Meeting / Chapter Family Picnic - Noon - at the home of Tim & Dorothy Exton. There will be a short meeting at noon, and the picnic will be immediately following the meeting.

Unfortunately, all other events/activities have been put on hold because of the pandemic.



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

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) PAUL WIGET

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 SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

STATE LIASION TY GEISER 330-466-0086

WE CARE YVONNE GIERMAN 440-285-3864

arphersfolks@windstream.net

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

COORDINATOR FOR WADE PARK VISITS -

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
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.

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:

USMC Res. Pfc. Harold W. Hayden
USMC Res. Pfc. John E. Gillen
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond C. Blanton
USMC Res. Pvt. Howard E. Miller
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Maurice V. Spangler
U.S. Naval Reserve Seaman 1st Class
James C. Williams
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Samuel C. Steiner
USMC Res. Pfc. Robert D. Jenks
USMC Res. Pfc. Thomas F. Johnson
U.S. Army Pvt. Charles Andrews
U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Floyd D. Helton
USMC Pfc. Mervin D. Galland
U.S. Navy Metalsmith 1st Class Leonard F. Smith
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Louis J. Tushia
USMC Res. Pfc. Charles D. Miller
U.S. Army Pfc. John J. Sitarz
U.S. Navy Radioman 3rd Class Thomas E. Griffith
U.S. Navy Radioman 3rd Class Irvin F. Rice
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Wesley E. Graham
U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class James M. Flanagan
USMC Pfc. John M. Fahy

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Pfc. Glenn E. Collins
U.S. Army Cpl. R. B. Cherry
U.S. Army Sgt. William E. Cavender
U.S. Army Sgt. Jesse D. Hill
U.S. Army Cpl. Billie Joe Hash
U.S. Army Master Sgt. James Hart, Jr.
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Anthony R. Mazzulla
U.S. Army Sgt. Stanley L. DeWitt
U.S. Army Cpl. Pete Conley
U.S. Army Cpl. Francis J. Rochon
U.S. Army Master Sgt. James L. Quong

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

District	Name	Room	Phone
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

"UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"

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

Senate Passes Bill to Give Millions More Veterans Free Lifetime Entry to National Parks 24 Jun 2020 Stars and Stripes | By Nikki Wentling

WASHINGTON -- The Senate approved a bill Monday to grant all veterans with service-connected disabilities free lifetime entry to America's 419 national park sites.

The Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, which now goes to the House for consideration, amends the current eligibility standards for national park passes. The bill

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

would grant the passes to millions more U.S. veterans.

Now, veterans must have a 100% permanent disability to receive free lifetime entry. If approved by the House, the bill would grant a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass to any veteran with a disability rating through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to a recent report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4.7 million veterans, or 25% of the total vets in the U.S., had a service-connected disability in 2019. About 2.09 million had a disability rating of 60% or higher, the report shows. It did not specify how many veterans were 100% disabled.

For years, veterans and experts have praised experiences in nature as therapy for those suffering from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Recreation in our national parks and public lands can be a valuable healing tool for veterans living with physical and emotional wounds as a result of their service," said Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana. "I'll continue fighting to make sure our legislation crosses the finish line in Congress."

Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-California, introduced the bill in the House in November.

"National parks can connect our veterans with nature and increase their spiritual, mental and physical well-being," Ruiz said at the time.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

A Wide, Sweeping Grace

Alexa, Amazon's voice-controlled device, has an interesting feature: it can erase everything you say. Whatever you've asked Alexa to do, whatever information you've asked Alexa to retrieve, one simple sentence ("Delete everything I said today") sweeps it all clean, as if it never happened. It's too bad that the rest of our life doesn't have this capability. Every misspoken word, every disgraceful act, every moment we wish we could erase—we'd just speak the command, and the entire mess would disappear.

There's good news, though. God does offer each of us a clean start. Only, He goes far deeper than merely deleting our mistakes or bad behavior. God provides redemption, a deep healing that transforms us and makes us new. "Return to me," He says, "I have redeemed you" (Isaiah 44:22). Even though Israel rebelled and disobeyed, God reached out to them with lavish mercy. He "swept away [their] offenses like a cloud, [their] sins like the morning mist" (v. 22). He gathered all their shame and failures and washed them away with His wide, sweeping grace.

God will do the same with our sin and blunders. There's no mistake He can't mend, no wound He can't heal. God's mercy heals and redeems the most painful places in our soul—even the ones we've hidden for so very long. His mercy sweeps away all our guilt, washes away every regret.