

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

April, 2021

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, April 18, 2021
2:00 p.m.**

There is no Board meeting.

**Our veterans need white socks. We will be collecting white socks at each meeting.
We are also looking for donations for the Fisher House. See attached list.**

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, April 18, 2021 - Membership Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 25, 2021 - Rally For the Troops - 1:00 p.m. - Rock N' Roll City Harley Davidson, 4985 West 150, Cleveland Ohio - Our trailer will be there.

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

Rally For the Troops

On Sunday April 25th at 1:00 PM the Rally for Troops will take place at Rock N' Roll City Harley Davidson , 4985 West 150, Cleveland Ohio. Monica Robins , WKYC anchor, will be our MC and sing the National Anthem. The purpose of the Rally for Troops is to express our support for our active military, veterans and GOLD Star families. The Strongsville VFW will provide Flag Honor Guard, Bugler for taps and their firing squad to honor our nations Fallen. Additionally, the Cleveland Firefighters Pipes and Drum will perform Amazing Grace. There is NO COST to attend and we will be honoring Ohio's 276 Fallen from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by a reading of their names. The event will take place regardless of the weather. Hope to see you all there and thanks for your support since the Rally began in 2003.



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 440-476-3656

CHAPLAIN DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

RUN COORDINATOR OPEN

MEMBERSHIP SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

QUARTERMASTER
DAN HUBBARD 216-741-3992

ASST. QUARTERMASTER

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 LIAISON TY GEISER 330-466-0086

WE CARE YVONNE GIERMAN 440-285-3864
arphersfolks@windstream.net

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

WADE PARK VISITS –

WINSTON/SUE BAILEY 440-639-2222

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



Government Affairs - Berney Jarosz

First off, I want to let everyone know that we are clearing out the legislation from the 116th Congress and are getting into contact with the 117th Congress to see if past legislation that we are backing will be reintroduced.

As for the end of the 116th Congress, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, MD Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 was passed into law 116-315 on January 5, 2021. It incorporates: • The Deborah Sampson Act of 2020 • The FREE Veterans Act of 2020 • The Financial Refuge for Every Elderly Veteran Act of 2020 • The Navy Seal Bill Mulder Act of 2020.

I want to give you a little background on an amazing woman that the Deborah Sampson Act was named after. Deborah Sampson (1760-1827) Deborah Sampson became a hero of the American Revolution when she disguised herself as a man and joined the Patriot forces. She was the only woman to earn a full military pension for participation in the Revolutionary army. In 1782, as the Revolutionary War raged on, the patriotic Sampson disguised herself as a man named Robert Shurtleff and joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. At West Point, New York, she was assigned to Captain George Webb's Company of Light Infantry. She was given the dangerous task of scouting neutral territory to assess British buildup of men and materiel in Manhattan, which General George Washington contemplated attacking. In June of 1782, Sampson and two sergeants led about 30 infantrymen on an expedition that ended with a confrontation—often one-on-one—with Tories. She led a raid on a Tory home that resulted in the capture of 15 men. At the siege of Yorktown, she dug trenches, helped storm a British redoubt, and endured canon fire. For over two years, Sampson's true sex had escaped detection despite close calls. When she received

a gash in her forehead from a sword and was shot in her left thigh, she extracted the pistol ball herself. She was ultimately discovered—a year and a half into her service—in Philadelphia, when she became ill during an epidemic, was taken to a hospital, and lost consciousness. Receiving an honorable discharge on October 23, 1783, Sampson returned to Massachusetts. On April 7, 1785 she married Benjamin Gannet from Sharon, and they had three children, Earl, Mary, and Patience. The story of her life was written in 1797 by Herman Mann, entitled *The Female Review: or, Memoirs of an American Young Lady*. She received a military pension from the state of Massachusetts. Although Sampson's life after the army was mostly typical of a farmer's wife, in 1802 she began a year-long lecture tour about her experiences—the first woman in America to do so—sometimes dressing in full military regalia.

Finally, I want to let everyone know about Law # 116-172, The NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE DESIGNATION ACT OF 2020 that was passed on October 17, 2020. The number 9-8-8 is the universal number for the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

Progress of Bills from the 116th Congress:

H.R. 712/S.179 - VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2020 - letter written to Rep. Andy Kim

S.191 Burn Pit Accountability Act - became law 116-92 on 12/20/2019

S.514 Deborah Sampson Act Benefit for women veterans - became law 116-315 1/5/2021

H.R. 326 - Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2019 - No NJ Rep. Cosponsors

H.R. 1350 - Corey Adams Green Alert Throughout the US. - letter written to Rep. Donald Payne, Jr.

HR. 2201 - Modify Presumption for service-connected veterans who served in Thailand during the Vietnam Era. - letter written to Rep. Andy Kim

H.R. 2819/ S. 1673 - Gold Star Families National Monument Extension. - letters written to Rep. Andy Kim and Senator Corey Booker.

More information may be found on the Rolling Thunder, Inc. National's website under the heading "Government Affairs"
www.rollingthunder1.com

"UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"

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

District	Name	Office Room	Phone
1st	<u>Chabot, Steve</u>	2408 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-2216
2nd	<u>Wenstrup, Brad</u>	2419 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-3164
3rd	<u>Beatty, Joyce</u>	2303 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-4324
4th	<u>Jordan, Jim</u>	2056 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-2676
5th	<u>Latta, Robert E.</u>	2467 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6405
6th	<u>Johnson, Bill</u>	2336 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5705
7th	<u>Gibbs, Bob</u>	2217 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6265
8th	<u>Davidson, Warren</u>	2113 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6205
9th	<u>Keptur, Marcy</u>	2186 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-4146
10th	<u>Turner, Michael</u>	2082 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6465
11th	<u>Fudge, Marcia L. - Vacancy</u>	2344 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-7032
12th	<u>Balderson, Troy</u>	2429 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5355
13th	<u>Ryan, Tim</u>	1126 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5261
14th	<u>Joyce, David</u>	2065 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5731
15th	<u>Stivers, Steve</u>	2234 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-2015
16th	<u>Gonzalez, Anthony</u>	2458 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-3876

Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Navy Radioman 3rd Class Charles A. Montgomery
U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Octavius Mabine
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Neal K. Todd
U.S. Navy Water Tender 1st Class Milo E. Phillips
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Wilbur F. Balance
U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Harold E. Bates
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Elmer P. Lawrence
U.S. Navy Signalman 1st Class Eugene M. Skaggs
U.S. Navy Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class

George L. Paradis

U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class

Everett R. Stewart

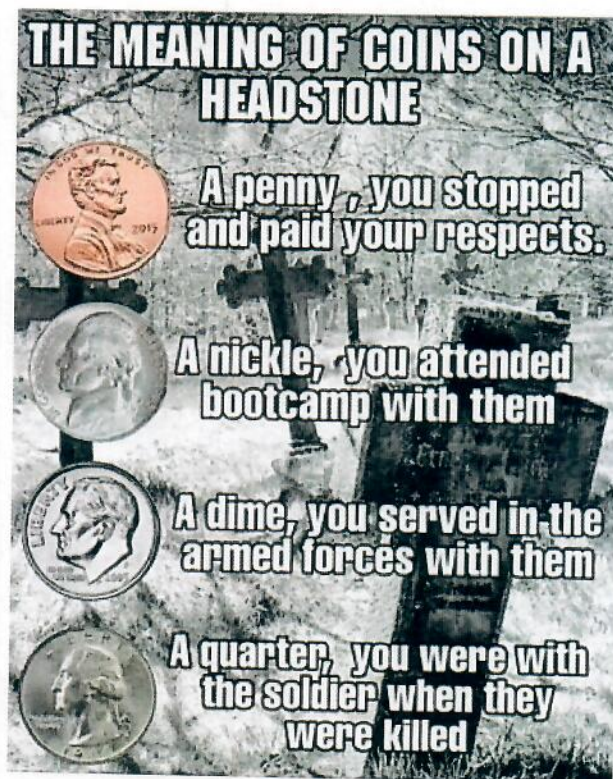
USMC Reserve Pfc. Jack E. Hill

U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Leslie P. Delles

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Pfc. Raymond A. Smith
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas J. Valentine
U.S. Army Cpl. Walter A. Smead

If you see a coin on the headstone of a veteran, do not remove it!



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. National will also pay the State Sales Tax for the winner. God Bless and Heal our Country! Elaine Muller

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Serving the Least

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

His name is Spencer. But everybody calls him "Spence." He was a state track champion in high school; then he went on to attend a prestigious university on a full academic scholarship. He lives now in one of America's largest cities and is highly respected in the field of chemical engineering. But if you were to ask Spence his greatest achievements to date, he wouldn't mention any of those things. He would excitedly tell you about the trips he makes to Nicaragua every few months to check in on the kids and teachers in the tutoring program he helped establish in one of the poorest areas of the country. And he'd tell you how enriched his life has been by serving them.

"The least of these." It's a phrase people use in a variety of ways, yet Jesus used it to describe those who, according to the world's standards, have little or nothing to offer us in return for our service. They are the men and women and children the world often overlooks—if not forgets completely. Yet it's exactly those people Jesus elevates to such a beautiful status by saying, "Whatever you did [for them], you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). You don't have to have a degree from a prestigious university to understand Christ's meaning: serving "the least" is the same as serving Him. All it really takes is a willing heart.

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





Greater Cleveland VA Fisher House

What is a Fisher House?

Comprised of two 16-suite homes, the Greater Cleveland VA Fisher House is a "home away from home" for families of military and Veterans receiving care from the Cleveland VA Medical Center and area hospitals. The house provides free, temporary lodging so military and Veteran families who live at least 50 miles or further from the treating facility can be close to their hospitalized loved one during a medical crisis.

The two Fisher Houses provide a comforting, first-class experience while their loved one is receiving care in an unfamiliar environment. This special support relieves the stress of locating a place to stay in an unfamiliar city so the family can focus on supporting their loved one. All the comforts of home are provided to allow families to retreat and rejuvenate after a stressful day at the hospital. While the road to recovery is different for every family, one thing remains the same, the Greater Cleveland Fisher House is there to provide comfort and compassion.

The Fisher House program was established in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher to provide free, temporary lodging to military families, allowing them to be close to their loved one during a medical crisis and focus on what's important – the healing process.

Fisher House guest suites each have a private bedroom and bath. There is a shared common kitchen, laundry area, dining room, living room, library and toys for children. All homes are professionally furnished and decorated and are wheelchair accessible.



More than 1,000 local Cleveland donors including community organizations, Veteran Service Organizations, charitable foundations and individuals combined with national donors over nearly 10 years to raise \$3.4 million. Fisher House Foundation constructed and gifted the houses to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to support the need in Northeast Ohio. With the support and land donation from the City of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga Land Bank, the official Land Transfer Ceremony took place June 30, 2017, the first step in beginning construction. The groundbreaking ceremony took place March 23, 2018, and the Greater Cleveland VA Fisher House opened its doors to its first guest Monday, June 10, 2019.

The Greater Cleveland VA Fisher House is part of VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. The healthcare system delivers comprehensive, seamless health care and social services for more than 112,000 Veterans at 18 locations across Northeast Ohio. The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is the healthcare system's hub and operates more than 20 national and regional referral services for Veterans.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to the Fisher House or have operations questions, please contact the Fisher House Manager at 216-707-4800. For media inquiries, contact VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Public Affairs at 216-791-3800 ext. 63012.



VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health
Administration
VA Northeast Ohio
Healthcare System

10521 Lee Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106 | 216-707-4800 | <https://www.cleveland.va.gov/FisherHouse.asp>

Greater Cleveland VA Fisher House – Needs List

- **Gift Cards** (\$10 - \$50 Increments)
 - Visa, Amazon, Walmart, Target, etc.
 - Local Grocery Stores
 - Local Restaurants
 - Gas Cards (\$20 - \$50)
 - Via / Uber / Lyft / Taxi Vouchers
- **Paper Products**
 - Tissues (boxes & travel packets)
 - Napkins
 - Paper Towels
 - Toilet Paper
- **Kitchen Essentials**
 - Paper Plates
 - Paper Cups
 - Plastic Silverware
 - Plastic Cups
 - Saran wrap
 - Foil
 - Parchment Paper
 - Plastic Baggies (sandwich, quart, gallon – freezer & storage)
- **Beverages**
 - Coffee (ground & K-cups)
 - Tea Bags (assorted)
 - Coffee Creamer (plain & flavored – single serve, non-refrigerated)
 - Cases of Individual Bottled Water
 - Cans of Soda (name brand preferred)
 - Flavored Sparkling Water
 - Sports Drinks (Gatorade / Powerade)
- **Pantry & Freezer Items**
 - Sugar Packets
 - Sweet-n-Low Packets
 - Stevia (or similar)
 - Assorted Spices
 - Baking Sugar
 - Baking Flour
 - Cereal (individual servings)
 - Syrup
 - Pancake Mix
 - Oatmeal
 - Pasta
 - Pasta Sauce
 - Peanut Butter
 - Jelly
 - Condiments
 - Microwaveable Meals (frozen & shelf-stable)
- **Snacks**
 - Granola Bars
 - Grab & Go Snacks (single pack items)
 - Cereal Bars
 - Chips (individual packages)
 - Fruit Snacks
 - Mixed Nuts (individual packages)
 - Candy
- **Cleaning Products**
 - Trash Bags (kitchen & small size)
 - Dishwasher Soap (pods only)
 - Liquid Dish Soap
 - Dishwasher Rinse (spot free, Cascade)
 - Kitchen Sponges
 - Hand Sanitizer (small & large)
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Hand Soap & Refills (pump style)
 - Cleaning Rags
 - Toilet Bowl Cleaner
 - Cleaning Disinfectant Spray
- **Laundry Items**
 - High Efficiency Laundry Detergent
 - Stain Remover
 - Fabric Softener & Dryer Sheets
 - Hangers
- **Personal Care Items**
 - Mouthwash
 - Lotions
 - Shampoo & Conditioner
 - Hand Soap
- **Entertainment, Events & Donations**
 - Attraction Park Tickets
 - Zoo & Museum Tickets
 - Monetary and time donations are also encouraged to support activities and events. Please make checks payable to GPF# 1177, in care of GCFH -VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System.