

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

June, 2021

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

SUNDAY, June 13, 2021

2:00 p.m.

(A week early because of Father's Day)

There is no Board meeting.

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.

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.

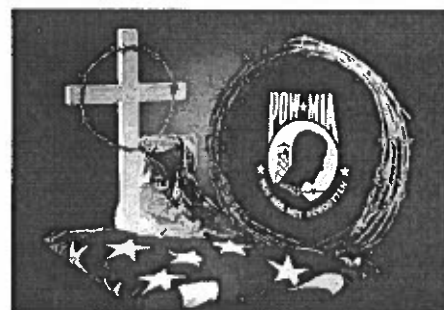
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 13, 2021 - Membership Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.
Towers of Remembrance - Escort to Northfield VFW. Details at meeting.

Thursday, June 24 - Sunday, June 27, 2021 - Towers of Remembrance - Northfield VFW - Details at meeting

Friday, July 2, 2021 - 11:00 a.m. - Chair of Honor Ceremony - Parma Veterans Center, 6325 York Rd., Parma Hts., OH



**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

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MEMBERSHIP SUSAN BAILEY 440-639-2222

QUARTERMASTER
DAN HUBBARD 216-741-3992

ASST. QUARTERMASTER

SARGENT AT ARMS
HANK LANGOWSKI 216-513-5712

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#2 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

#3 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

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CHUCK KETTLER 216-401-4984

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EVENTS CHAIR JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

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EDUCATION CHAIR DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

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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



SEE ATTACHED UPDATE ON GREG

Government Affairs - Berney Jarosz

First off, I want to mention that the POW/MIA Flag is back where it belongs atop the White House. It was announced on National Former POW Recognition Day, April 9th. In keeping with the president's commitment to honor the sacrifices of all those who serve, including veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors, the president has restored the POW/MIA flag to its original location on top of the White House residence. The decision followed a bipartisan push for the POW/MIA flag to be restored to its former location by Senators Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Tom Cotton (R-Ark), who wrote to The President days after he took office asking that the flag be returned to the top of the White House.

I sent a letter of support to Senator John Boozman to let him know that we support the bill S.657 (A bill 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.)

We have been looking into a bill that was introduced by Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6] on March 29th. H.R.2281 - To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam. I am preparing a letter of support to send to Representative Kilmer. The bill honors a small group of Americans that have made unique contributions to the American military mission in the Vietnam War. Dust Off was the radio call sign used by helicopter ambulances during the war. These heroic Americans operated regularly with an unwavering dedication to the preservation of human life and sacred American values through their indomitable courage, extraordinary aviation skill, and sound judgement

under fire. Helicopters were used for medical evacuation beginning in World War II, but their use expanded during the Vietnam War when about 900,000 U.S., South Vietnamese or allied troops were evacuated, as well as some wounded enemy forces. Able to rescue wounded in almost any weather from almost any terrain, the swish-swish-swish or whop-whop-whop noise of an approaching medevac chopper became an iconic sound of the war for soldiers. During 11 years of operation from May 1962 - March 1973 in and over South Vietnam's jungles, the pilots, crews, and medical staff of Dust-off units refined lifesaving techniques and proved the increased odds of survival for combat casualties who could be quickly transported to surgical facilities. This was dangerous duty for the Dust-Off crews, with a 1-in-3 chance of being wounded or killed. These soldiers earned a national reputation for their service in what was considered to be one of the most dangerous jobs in one of the world's deadliest conflicts in the modern era. The Dust-Off crews of the Vietnam War truly embody some of the most talented and heroic service members in American history, these warriors displayed the utmost courage and resilience while under fire by flying to the treacherous front lines to get wounded soldiers out of harm's way. Because of their bravery, hundreds of thousands of lives were saved.

With regard to legislation from the 116th Congress, that is being cleared out and are getting into contact with the 117th Congress to see if past legislation that we are backing will be reintroduced.

REMEMBER: The NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE DESIGNATION ACT OF 2020 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

District	Name	Office Room	Phone
8th	<u>Davidson, Warren</u>	2113 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6205
9th	<u>Kaptur, 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 Seaman 2nd Class Russell O. Ufford

U.S. Navy Fireman 2nd Class William K. Shafer

U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class -

Charles D. Brown

U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Robert J. Harr

U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Leaman R. Dill

U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Everett C. Titterington

U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Raymond D. Boynton

U.S. Navy Musician 2nd Class Charlton H. Ferguson

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Myles W. Esmay

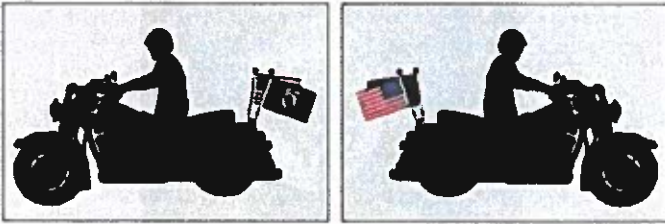
U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Walter R. Pentico

Vietnam War Remains Identified:

U.S. Naval Reserve Cmdr. Paul C. Charvet

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

Proper Flag Placement on Bikes (in case anyone is wondering)



Display on Motorcycles

When the U.S. flag is flown alone, it needs to be at the center of the back of the motorcycle, or to its "marching right". The "marching right" is on the right side of the motorcycle to the rider's perspective when facing forward. If the U.S. flag is on your bike with another, it should be to its "marching right". All flags flown with the U.S. flag are the same size and at the same height of the U.S. flag. While the U.S. flag is on your bike with several other flags, The U.S. flag is placed at the center and highest. Other flags should be arranged in alphabetical order and in decreasing importance—nations first, states (in order of admittance) and territories second, military third (in order of establishment) and then others.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

He Knows Your Name

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

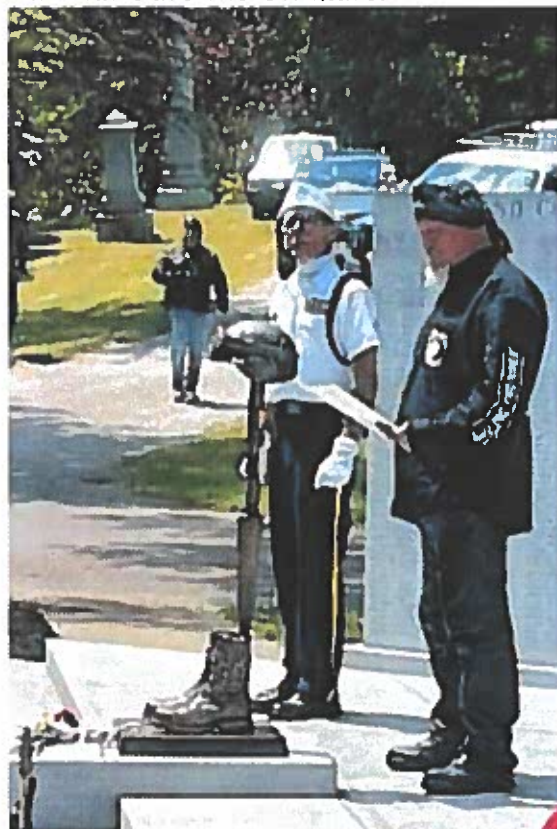
Isaiah 43:1

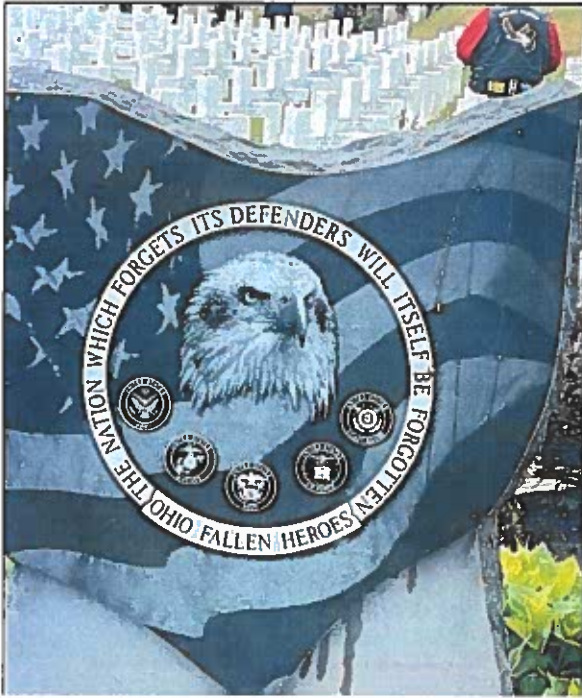
After breaking with their longtime church, a couple reunited with the fellowship after three long years. *But how would people treat us? Would they welcome us back? Love us? Forgive us for leaving?* They got their answer on a sunny Sunday morning. As they walked through the big church doors, they kept hearing their names. "Pat! Dan! It's so great to see you!" As children's author Kate DiCamillo wrote in one of her popular books, "Reader, nothing is sweeter in this sad world than the sound of someone you love calling your name."

The same assurance was true for the people of Israel. We had chosen a different church for a time, but they had turned their backs on God. Yet, He welcomed them back. He sent the prophet Isaiah to assure them, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

In this world—where we can feel unseen, unappreciated, and even unknown—be assured that God knows each of us by name. "You are precious and honored in my sight," He promises (v. 4). "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you" (v. 2). This promise isn't just for Israel. Jesus ransomed His life for us. He knows our names. Why? In love, we are His.

Mission complete! Safe ride for all 85 bikes from Queen City Harley to Northfield VFW for Rolling Thunder Ohio Chapters Ride for Freedom. Wisconsin 3 and Michigan Chapters rode to say "You are Not Forgotten!" with Stops in Sunbury, Ashland and Clinton at the Memorial a Meaningful Day! Thank You to all who rode and All That Gave the Ultimate!





UPDATE ON GREGORY HARRIS

Dear RT 1 of Ohio,

Greetings from Upstate New York and the Harris Family! First, we send our love to our favorite member of your organization, Ron Svagerko. We miss you, old friend!

Winston contacted us recently asking for an update on Greg's case. In 2016-17 we received a new case analyst, and he was sent from heaven, there is no other way to put it. He listened to us, he worked the case harder than all of our previous analysts combined. He was able to completely disavow the crazy waterwheel and sandbar story and the Department of Defense agreed to begin to look for Greg elsewhere.

The analyst went to Vietnam two or three times and interviewed locals in Greg's loss area. Soon a different story began to develop, and certain pieces of this new story were being corroborated. They now believe that Greg was killed because there was no way to get him out of the area of operation to hold him as a POW so they killed him and left him near a ditch in town. Someone reported having kicked the body of an American into this ditch and remembered exactly where this happened. We now have a spot to excavate.

Sadly, we are now plagued with two problems; 1) COVID has delayed excavations and even if we could get Greg's name on the excavation list, it would be several years before any excavation could take place and 2) because Congress, a few years ago, insisted that DPAA recover at least 200 names a year, the organization has changed their tactics, focusing on recoveries that will give them more bang for their buck. Since Greg is a single loss excavation, he is less likely to be put on the list. In addition, where he is believed to be buried, now has a small local store over part of it and it would cost DPAA quite a bit of money to compensate the town and the store owner to dig up the area.

So, we wait for COVID to come to an end and then we begin the next leg of our journey, getting Greg's name on the excavation list. Yet, we strongly believe that God wouldn't have brought us this far only to have us drop the ball on the 20-yard line. We are regrouping and ready to fight another day.

A warm thank you to you all and we thank you for your support, your prayers and for always remembering our Marine.

Warmly,
Mary Ann, Chris and the rest of the Harris Family

Rolling ThunderChapter 1, Ohio
Platoon List

PLATOON 1

MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

Street, William
McGinnis, Dan
Rood, Ted
Tim & Doroty Exton
Pilny, Ted & Cheryl
Ron Svagerko

PLATOON 2

TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

Blechschnid, John
Langowski, Hank
Rossi, James
Stewart, Dave
Ronnie Dinger

PLATOON 3

SALLY FELEAN (Larry 440-439-4914

Brady, Jeff
Rozar, Dan
Hubbard, Dan
Kerrigan, Joe

PLATOON 4

SUSAN BAILEY (Winston) 440-639-2222

Ballard, Lewis
Gierman, Glenn & Yvonne
Kettler, Chuck
Kettler, Chip
Wiget, Paul
Klush, Andrew
Bigler, Richard

Revision Date: June 9, 2021

Winston calls when e-mails are sent

Stewart, Dave
Blechschnid, John
Ron Svagerko
Tom Blechschnid
Joe Kerrigan