

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

August, 2021

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, August 15, 2021
2:00 p.m.**

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.

Nominations will again be taken at the August membership meeting for the positions of president, secretary and 3 board positions. Below are the current nominees:

President: None (Winston Bailey and Lew Ballard were both nominated, but they both declined.)

Secretary: Cheryl Pilny - Accepted

Board Member: Mike Neilan - Accepted
Ted Pilny - Accepted

Paul Wiget - Accepted

Dan Hubbard - Accepted

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

Thursday, August 12, 2021 - Elvis at Oakwood Village Sam's Club - Meet at the police station by 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 14, 2021 - Lunch at the VOA - Setup at 11:30 a.m. Serving at noon.

Sunday, August 15, 2021 - Board/
Membership Meeting - 1:00 / 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 28 & Sunday, August 29, 2021 - Middlefield Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**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
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PLATOON LEADERS:

#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

#2 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

#3 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

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STATE LIAISON TY GEISER 330-466-0086

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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

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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



Government Affairs - Berney Jarosz

117th Congress Veteran Bills Being Supported by Rolling Thunder®, Inc. - UPDATE 7/18/2021

1) 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. (04/28/2021 Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.) No News

2) HR 333 - The Disabled Veteran's tax termination act. es. (03/08/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.) No News

3) 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. (03/29/2021) Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and, in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned). No News

4) S.1198 - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. (06/23/2021 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held) No News

5) S 89 and HR 746 Ensuring Survivor Benefits during Covid-19 Act of 2021. (06/24/2021 S 89 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 83.) No News (HR 746 03/16/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs) No News

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.

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>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. Army 1st Lt. James E. Wright
U.S. Army Pfc. Bill Morrison
U.S. Army Pfc. Berton J. McQueen
U.S. Army Pvt. Stephen C. Mason
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Alan E. Petersen
U.S. Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Jack A. Breedlove
U.S. Army Pvt. Andrew J. Ladner
U.S. Army Pfc. William L. Groh, Jr.
U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Harold W. Lindsey
U.S. Army Pvt. Emmet W. Schwartz
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gerald R. Helms
U.S. Army Air Forces Capt. Nando A. Cavalien
U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Biacio Casola
U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Henry D. Mitchell

**Remains of U.S. Pilot Recovered offshore Vietnam
Scripps Oceanography's Project Recover uses
advanced underwater technology to aid in recovery
By Lauren Fimbres Wood**

U.S. Air Force Maj. Paul A. Avolesse, 35, killed during the Vietnam War, was officially accounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) on Sept. 21, 2020. The recovery and identification of Maj. Avolesse's remains were a direct result of a Project Recover and DPAA partner initiative in Vietnam. This was DPAA's first non-governmental partnership allowed to conduct underwater searches for unaccounted-for sites in Vietnamese waters.

Project Recover is a public-private partnership, including scientists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, that uses 21st-century science and technology and archival and historical research to find the final underwater resting places of Americans missing in action.

On July 7, 1967, a B-52D Stratofortress (tail number 56-627, call sign "Kilo Red 2") with seven crew members took off from Guam as one of three aircraft on a bombing mission against enemy targets east of Bien Hoa, South Vietnam. When the flight was over the South China Sea, "Kilo Red 2" collided with one of the other B-52 aircraft in the flight (call sign "Kilo Red 1") as they attempted to change

position as directed by ground radar. The collision resulted in a giant fireball followed by the breakup of both aircraft. No parachutes were observed, but several beeper signals were received. Search and recovery efforts conducted from July 7-10, 1967 involved 21 helicopters, 42 fixed wing aircraft and five US Navy and US Coast Guard surface vessels. As a result, seven survivors, four from "Kilo Red 2" and three from "Kilo Red 1" were rescued. The remaining three crew members of "Kilo Red 2", including Avolesse, were lost during the incident and remained unaccounted for.

Major Paul Andrew Avolesse entered the U.S. Air Force from New York and served in the 2nd Bombardment Squadron. He was the radar navigator aboard "Kilo Red 2" and could not be located following the crash. Today, Major Avolesse is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

In 2020 Project Recover, represented by a team from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, was asked by DPAA to conduct an underwater survey of an area offshore Vietnam to locate the wreckage of the two B-52D aircraft. Along with previous successes in locating underwater MIA sites as part of Project Recover, the Scripps team has a long history of conducting scientific research in Vietnam.

Scripps researchers, led by Eric Terrill and Andrew Pietruszka, along with members of DPAA and the Vietnamese Office For Seeking Missing Persons, deployed modern oceanographic instruments in an attempt to relocate and document the aircraft. The team used a fleet of REMUS 100 autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) equipped with sidescan sonar and magnetometer to survey approximately eight square miles of the seafloor.

"For decades an operation like this was simply not feasible given the state of underwater technologies," said Bob Hess, a development engineer at Scripps who participated in this and several previous undersea Project Recover expeditions. "By harnessing recent advances in these technologies, many of these sites throughout the world are becoming accessible for the first time. Being able to operate in such an isolated environment and not only locate the sites, but to be able to identify individual pieces of the wreckage is

an amazing feat of man and technology. It is both exciting and humbling to be given the opportunity to locate these sites and bring closure to the friends and families of the fallen."

The survey resulted in the discovery of several targets that were investigated by SCUBA divers. The team identified several targets as consistent with the wreckage of a B-52D aircraft. The remains of Maj. Avolese were discovered at one of these sites and recovered by the scientific team.

Andrew Pietruszka, an underwater archaeologist at Scripps Oceanography and lead archaeologist for Project Recover described the experience. "It was an honor to participate in the first ever partner survey for underwater MIA sites in Vietnam," said Pietruszka. "To successfully locate the site and also recover the remains of Maj. Avolese was incredible. It's a testament to what can be accomplished with public private partnerships."

The remains were eventually transferred to DPAA in Hawaii where they were identified, before being returned to the next of kin for burial with full military honors.

"The success of this program is a testimony to the cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnamese governments and are commended for their willingness to partner with our organization to apply emerging technologies and scientific methods to finding and returning lost servicemen," said Terrill, an oceanographer at Scripps and co-founder of Project Recover.

ABOUT PROJECT RECOVER

In 2014, a partnership titled Project Recover was established with researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, University of Delaware, and BentProp Project. After receiving financial support from the Friedkin Foundation, Project Recover went global, expanding MIA search operations into 20 countries. In 2018, The BentProp Project name was retired and the 501c3 name became Project Recover, Inc

The work blends historical data from many different sources to optimize underwater search areas with scanning sonars, high definition and thermal cameras, advanced diving, and unmanned aerial and underwater

robotic technologies. These new methods are now being applied globally where servicemen are still missing.

Information on finds by Project Recover are then transmitted to the DPAA for identification, family notification and ultimately repatriation. Project Recover has an expanding footprint, with cases developing for global search and discovery.

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

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might, He increaseth strength. Isaiah 40:28-29

We can find tremendous comfort in this passage. God is eternal. He has always been there and will always be there. He never gets tired, as we do. In fact, He gives us strength when we are weary. He understands things we cannot begin to understand, and He helps us when we are weak. He is our strength and refuge. We can count on Him.

