

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

September, 2021

## **PLEASE NOTE**

### **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

**SUNDAY, September 19, 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.**

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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.

Below are the current nominees for the positions of president, secretary, and 3 board positions (currently held by Ted Pilny, Mike Neilan and Larry Felean). The election will be held this Sunday, September 19, 2021.

**President:** None (Winston Bailey and Lew Ballard were both nominated, but they both declined.) Lew will continue as President pro tem.

**Secretary:** Cheryl Pilny - Accepted

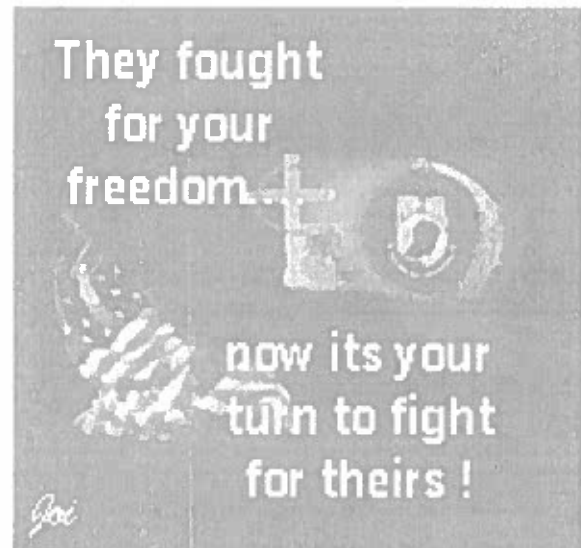
**Board Member:** Mike Neilan - Accepted  
Ted Pilny - Accepted  
Paul Wiget - Accepted  
Dan Hubbard - Accepted  
Bill Street - Accepted

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, September 19, 2021 - Board/  
Membership Meeting - 1:00 / 2:00 p.m.**

After the meeting, there will be a ride to Crown Hill Cemetery in Twinsburg, OH in memory of Jack and Sue Fedor.



**CHAPTER OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS  
AND PLATOON LEADERS**

**PRESIDENT** WINSTON BAILEY 440-639-2222

**VICE-PRES** LEW BALLARD 440-725-8157

**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**

**WE CARE** YVONNE GIERMAN 440-285-3864  
[arphersfolks@windstream.net](mailto: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](http://www.rollingthunder1ohio.org)  
Webmaster: CHIP KETTLER 330-472-0871  
Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at  
[ckettler6480@yahoo.com](mailto:ckettler6480@yahoo.com)

**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**



## **Government Affairs - Berney Jarosz**

A member from NJ Chapter 4 contacted me after speaking with District Director Christopher Chin from Representative Jeff VanDrew's office. Actually, he spoke to Joe Bean who sent Matt (Chico) to get me at the Staten Island event. He let me know about some of the legislation that Mr. Van Drew was working on. These are some of the bills That Mr. Van Drew is working on that we are supporting: -

**HR 1476 - PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act** - This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program to make grants to eligible entities for peer-to-peer mental health programs for veterans. -

**HR 1656 - TREAT PTSD Act** - This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) to furnish stellate ganglion block to certain veterans or members of the Armed Forces (including reserve components) diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Blocking the stellate ganglion (a group of nerves at the base of the neck) by injecting a local anesthetic is a treatment that may alleviate PTSD symptoms. -

**HR 1022 - PAWS Act of 2021** - This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a grant program for the purpose of pairing service dogs with eligible veterans. Organizations that receive grants must provide veterinary health insurance coverage, hardware, and travel expenses for each service dog and veteran participating in the program. -

**HR 1448 - Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act** - This bill implements a program and a policy related to service dog therapy for veterans. Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a five-year pilot program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as an element of a complementary and integrative health program. Eligible veterans are those who are enrolled in the VA health care system and have been recommended for

participation by a qualified mental health care provider or clinical team. -

**HR 1123 - Veteran Suicide Prevention Act** - This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to complete a review of the deaths of all covered veterans who died by suicide during the five-year period preceding the enactment of this bill. Covered veterans are those who received VA hospital care or medical services during the five-year period preceding the death of the veteran. I have sent a letter of support to Congressman Van Drew. I also sent a letter of support to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Denis R. McDonough to thank him for pushing through the presumptive Disability Benefits Status covering asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis. Adding that hopefully they can work to get the other presumptive disabilities added.

### **117th Congress Veteran Bills Being Supported by Rolling Thunder®, Inc. -**

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](http://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>	2058 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.</u> - Vacancy	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:

USMC Cpl. Andrew Pellerito

U.S. Navy Hospital Apprentice 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Keefe R. Connolly

U.S. Navy Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class John G. Book, Jr.

U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Francis W. Wiemerslage

U.S. Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joseph C. Rouse

U.S. Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard W. Horrigan

U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Harvey C. Herber

U.S. Navy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Edward E. Talbert

U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Harold F. Carney

USMC Pfc Charles R. Taylor

U.S. Army Sgt. Larry S. Wassil

U.S. Navy Gunner's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Herman Schmidt

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

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### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.  
(Jeremiah 31:25)

God satisfies every soul, even the weary one. To those who feel empty and sad, He fills. God gives joy and healing to the broken. God sees you when you are in that place. He cares about you and your worries. He wants to give you rest, satisfaction and joy. Come to the LORD, who cares for you more than anyone else ever will.





U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined approximately **115,000** Veterans may be eligible for a refund of their unused Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) contributions totaling up to **\$2,700**, but VA only has contact information for **25%** of them. We want to reach the other 75% and need your help. While we search other VA databases for contact information, you can notify those of your members who might be eligible so they can reach out to us and request a refund of their VEAP contribution.

Below, we have provided talking points you can use to inform your members nationally or share with individual chapters to help them identify potentially affected members and explain the situation to them.

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VA has informed us that approximately 115,000 Post-Vietnam Era Veterans are entitled to a refund of contributions they made to the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). If you don't know, VEAP was a service member education and training savings program for Post-Vietnam Era Veterans.

### **Why are some service members owed refunds?**

In general, Veterans have ten years from their date of discharge to use their education benefits. Some ineligible Veterans still have unused contributions and are entitled to a refund.

### **Who might be missing their refund?**

Veterans potentially eligible for a refund would have:

- Entered Active Duty between 01/01/77 to 06/30/85
- Contributed to VEAP while on active duty and before 4/01/87
- Not used all their contributions
- Not have been dishonorably discharged
- Completed 24 months of continuous service **or** have been discharged early due to:

- Convenience of the government within three months of the end of their enlistment (an "early out" under Title 10, Section 1171)
- Hardship (under Title 10, Section 1173)
- Service-connected disability (this includes those rated for a compensable service-connected disability even if they were not discharged for that disability)

**What should an eligible, or potentially eligible, Veteran do?**

If you have unused VEAP funds, you should submit VA Form 22-5281 after completing sections 1-6, 14, 15, and 18. It will take 3-4 weeks to receive a response and/or refund via U.S Treasury check.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a refund or whether you participated in VEAP, you can call the Education Call Center at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442 4551) domestically or 001-918-781-5678 overseas, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CT.

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Thank you for your help in this.

Respectfully,  
Education Service

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Benefits Administration

1-888-442-4551, TDD: 711

**If you know a Veteran who is in crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.**