

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

February, 2022

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, February 20, 2022
2:00 p.m.**

Board meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**Come celebrate 25 years of Rolling
Thunder® Chapter 1 Ohio**

**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 \$40/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, February 20, 2022 - Board/
Membership Meeting - 1:00 / 2:00 p.m.**

A Short History of Our Chapter

Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Ohio was formed in 1997 by Paul and Cassie Ewsich, with the help of Pete Rhome. Paul and Cassie were in Washington, DC when they came across the Rolling Thunder National chapter. Paul, a Vietnam vet, suffered with severe PTSD, and Cassie felt that being involved with this organization would be helpful for him. Our first year to participate in the demonstration run in DC was in 1997. That was fun. Through the years we've had picnics for the veterans at Brecksville VA Hospital and later at Wade Park. We've participated in parades and community events to help spread our mission. Some of our members participate in school presentations to help educate the students. Many members have come and gone throughout the years, but Chapter 1 remains, and other chapters were formed throughout Ohio. I like to say that we have been helping veterans since before it was cool.



CHAPTER OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND PLATOON LEADERS

PRESIDENT LEW BALLARD 440-725-8157

VICE-PRES PAUL WIGET 440-476-3656

SECRETARY CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

TREASURER ANDY KLUSH 330-620-6047

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

BOARD MEMBERS

BILL STREET
JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794
MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655
TED PILNY 216-346-6407
DAN HUBBARD 216-741-3992

(ALTERNATE) TED ROOD

CHAPLAIN DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

RUN COORDINATOR OPEN

MEMBERSHIP OPEN

QUARTERMASTER
DAN HUBBARD 216-741-3992

ASST. QUARTERMASTER OPEN

SARGENT AT ARMS OPEN

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 OPEN

STATE LIAISON

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

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

WADE PARK VISITS – OPEN

EVENTS CHAIR JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

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

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. - **04/27/2021**

Referred to the Subcommittee on health.

Action by: Committee on Veterans" Affairs

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. - **03/08/2021** **Referred to the Committee on Armed Services and, in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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**

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.

- **03/22/2021** **Referred to the Subcommittee on Health**

Action by: Committee on Veterans" Affairs

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. - **H.R. 1448 Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act was signed into law By President Joe Biden August 25, 2021.**
08/25/2021 **Became Public Law No : 117-37**

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.

03/22/2021 **Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.**

Action by: Committee on Veterans" Affairs

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.)

04/28/2021 - Committee on Veterans" Affairs. Hearing held.

2) HR 333 - The Disabled Veteran's tax termination act. es. (03/08/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.)

Action by: Committee on Veterans Affairs

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).

Action by: House of Representatives.

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.

07/28/2021 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

5) S 89 and HR 746 Ensuring Survivor Benefits during Covid-19 Act of 2021.

07/21/2021 Passed Senate

07/26/2021 House: Held at the desk.

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

District	Name	Office Room	Phone
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	Shontell Brown	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 Walter Wildman
U.S. Army Air Forces Edward Benson
U.S. Army Grady Canup
U.S. Army Air Forces Adolph Olenik
U.S. Army William Coleman

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army Donald Menken
U.S. Army Kenneth Bridger
U.S. Army Roy Delauter

Gold Star Families Day would be celebrated each September under new proposal

By Leo Shane III Tuesday, Feb 1, 2022

America recognizes troops' time in service each November on Veterans Day, but now a bipartisan group of senators wants to set aside a day for Gold Star families each September to better honor their sacrifices.

On Tuesday, the lawmakers introduced the new Gold Star Families Day Act, which would make the last Monday in September — just about six weeks before Veterans Day — a federal holiday to recognize families who have lost a loved one while serving in the military.

"For the countless American families spanning generations who have given and sacrificed so much to defend our nation and protect our freedoms and way of life, our country is eternally grateful," said Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa and an Army National Guard veteran.

Ernst and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., are leading the effort, which would establish a 12th federal holiday in honor of the families. Veterans Day (Nov. 11) and Memorial Day (the last Monday in May) are among the 11 existing ones.

In a statement, Warren said the move is needed "to honor and respect the painful sacrifice that continually lives with the families of our fallen heroes."

Advocates have estimated as many as 3 million Americans may be related to service members who gave their life in the line of duty.

Sheila Mitchell-Murphy — the mother of Army Spc. Etienne Murphy, who died in a vehicle rollover accident while serving in Syria — said in a statement of support for the legislation that the holiday would help educate many Americans unfamiliar with the term "Gold Star family" and unaware of the frequent danger of military service, even outside of wartime.

"Many have congratulated me on my Gold Star Family license plate, they think it's a good thing," she said. "A veteran thought it meant that I had more than one family member in the military. "I believe that once Gold Star Families Day becomes a Federal holiday, people would start to take notice, inquire more about us, become enlightened."

Bonnie Carroll, president and founder of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, said that the majority of service-connected deaths are

non-combat related, but that distinction means little for the grief and loss that survivors experience.

"A service member's death is honored and remembered based on their life and service, not based on the geography or circumstance of their death," she said.

Before the new holiday can become law, the legislation must be approved by both the House and Senate. That could be a difficult task, given the long list of other priorities before both chambers and the shortened legislative schedule this year because of the November midterm elections.

***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)

And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Inspiration:

God will never hide from us. He desires that we seek more and more of Him, so that we grow in our knowledge of Him. Growing in the knowledge of God builds our confidence in Him and serves as a constant reminder of why we can trust in Him.

Prayer:

Dear God, I thank you that I can always know You more. Father, I pray that I grow in my knowledge of You on a daily basis, because in knowing You there is life and there is freedom. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.