

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

March, 2022

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, March 13, 2022
2:00 p.m.
(A week early)**

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 \$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, March 13, 2022 -Membership
Meeting - 2:00 p.m.**

**Friday, April 1 - Sunday, April 3, 2022 -
Power & Piston Show at IX Center**

AMERICAN Reminder.

Tuesday 3.29.22

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are more than 6 million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad, along with 9 million families of those who served during this timeframe.

In those numbers, there is no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and none could self-determine where they would serve.

WELCOME HOME.

**6,000,000+ VIETNAM WAR ERA VETERANS
684 FORMER PRISONERS-OF-WAR**

RIP

58,000+ KILLED

NEVER FORGET

1,584 MISSING & UNACCOUNTED FOR

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

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 Casimir Lobacz
 U.S. Army Air Forces Eugene Shauvin

Korean War Remains Identified:

U.S. Army William Zoellick
 U.S. Army Francis Jury

HOUSE, SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEADERS STATEMENTS ON ANNUAL VETERANS' HOMELESSNESS DATA

Report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development showed ten percent decrease in sheltered veterans' homelessness since 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C.— House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee leaders issued statements today following an Annual Report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on veterans' homelessness data since the beginning of the COVID-19

pandemic. Each year, HUD releases a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of unhoused people across the United States, including veterans, however this survey was interrupted during the pandemic. The annual reporting forms how Congress legislates and allocates resources to best respond to and prevent veterans' homelessness.

"I am so pleased to see that the number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness decreased by 10 percent in the last PIT count," said Chairman Takano. "This is encouraging news that suggests that the concrete measures we have taken through the American Rescue Plan and the Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care, and Benefits Improvement Act are working and have helped drive down veteran homelessness. As highlighted in his visit to my district and the LA area last year, I know Secretary McDonough is committed to VA's Housing First policy, and I stand ready to see how VA, Congress, and the Biden-Harris Administration can continue working together to further reduce veteran homelessness." "No veteran should be without a place to call home. I am glad that the most recent estimate showed fewer veterans living in homeless shelters last year. But I remain worried about the many veterans sleeping on the streets or elsewhere who were not included in this count," said Ranking Member Bost. "That's why we must continue our work to ensure that the rubber is meeting the road and every veteran has access to safe, stable housing and the help they need to thrive."

"I'm encouraged to see that our efforts to deliver resources and stronger support during the COVID-19 pandemic are putting more veterans on the path to housing stability," said Chairman Tester. "While this is a step in the right direction, veterans can't afford to wait another year for this data to inform what our next steps need to be. We've got to keep passing commonsense bills like my bipartisan Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act to help secure additional resources that'll deliver help where it's most needed and end veterans' homelessness once and for all." "While I'm pleased to see that progress is being made in reducing the number of homeless

veterans in recent years, too many veterans still lack stable housing," said Ranking Member Moran. "We have provided added resources and authorities for federal assistance to help veterans at risk of homelessness, and we need to make certain those resources are being used to make the biggest impact possible for homeless veterans. I am pleased to see VA working closely with HUD and other federal agencies to collect accurate current data on where homeless veterans are and how federal assistance can best help them."

The Report, based on a single night's assessment in January 2021, is the first official HUD count since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It found a ten percent decrease in sheltered veterans' homelessness since 2020—the biggest single year decrease since 2016. Data also shows that Black veterans continue to be overrepresented among veterans experiencing homelessness, making up 33 percent of the sheltered homeless veterans, but only 12 percent of the veteran population overall. This demographic also saw one of the highest rates of decline in homelessness last year with a 13.9 percent drop. Last year, Committee leaders secured key provisions in the Johnny Isakson And David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care And Benefits Improvement Act Of 2020, an end-of-year veterans' package with language to remove barriers to VA funding for ending homelessness organizations in need of critical upgrades to Keep Homeless Veterans Safe from the coronavirus



Military Women In History

Col. Ruby Bradley World War II and Korean War



A survivor of two wars, a prison camp and near starvation, Colonel Ruby Bradley is one of the most decorated women in U.S. military history. Her military record included 34 medals and citations of bravery, including two Legion of Merit medals, two Bronze stars, two Presidential Emblems, the World War II Victory Medal and the U.N. Service Medal. She was also the recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal, the Red Cross' highest international honor. West Virginia native Ruby Bradley joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps as a surgical nurse in 1934. In 1941, she was taken captive by Japanese forces while serving in the Philippines. She and fellow imprisoned nurses continued to care for their fellow prisoners, earning them the nickname "angels in fatigues." During her 37 months in captivity, Bradley assisted in 230 major operations and the delivery of 13 babies. "A lot of people died in the last few months," she told the Washington Post in 1983. "There were several deaths a day, mostly the older ones, who just couldn't take it." At the Santo Tomas camp, the military and civilian captives dubbed Bradley and the other imprisoned nurses who provided them with medical treatment "Angels in Fatigues." The POWs subsisted mainly on rice--half a cup in the morning and half a cup at night--but Bradley shared her limited rations with the children. "I'd save part of my food for the children later in the day, when they started crying and being hungry," she said. Bradley also learned to be "a pretty good thief. I would take food and put it in my pockets for the children,"

she said. By the time the camp was liberated by the Americans on Feb. 3, 1945, the formerly 110-pound Bradley had shrunk to 84 pounds. In February 1945, U.S. troops stormed the gates of the Japanese camp and liberated Bradley and her fellow prisoners, where she had been held captive for three years. Bradley continued serving in the Army Nurse Corps after her release and then in the Korean War. She dedicated 30 years to the military, becoming only the third woman in U.S. history to be promoted to the rank of colonel.

Here's a fun fact:

WWII uncovered: John Banner from the US Army to Hogan's Heroes

Johann "John" Banner, was born in Vienna Austria on January 28, 1910. After attending the University of Vienna, John decided to pursue a career in acting. Touring throughout Switzerland, Banner emigrated to the United States shortly after the annexation of Austria to Germany. Because of his Jewish heritage John became a political refugee at the age of 28 years old.

After quickly learning the English language John began his career in the United States by performing on Broadway in various productions showcasing his comedic talents. In addition to the stage, John also performed in a number of films in which he portrayed German characters.

In 1942 John joined the US Army Air Forces and was sent to Atlantic City for basic training. Serving as a Supply Sergeant Banner posed for a recruitment poster.

In 1965, Bing Crosby Productions cast Banner as "Sergeant Schultz", in the wartime comedy sitcom, Hogan's Heroes. The show debuted on Friday evening, September 17th, 1965, on CBS

channels. The series was a take-off on Billy Wilder's Stalag 17. Banner will always be associated with Schultz's catchphrase "I know nothing! I see nothing! Nothing!

After the conclusion of Hogan's Heroes John signed for another series which was abruptly canceled after just 13 episodes. He then relocated to Vienna Austria in the early 1970s where he would live the rest of his life with his wife Christine Renee Muhr Banner. Having lost his biological parents and siblings during the Holocaust John also perished in Vienna on January 28, 1973 which was his 63rd birthday.

John Banner lies in rest at Friedhof Mauer in Mauer, Wien Stadt, Vienna, Austria. Lest We Forget.





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

Inspiration:

This is a truth that will never die: we will never find anyone who can ever measure up to God. God is never moved by the problems we face because they cannot shake Him. No man, no power, no principality can even dare to come to us and try and convince us that they are greater than God. Who can compare to the One who created the heavens, the earth, and everything in between? Who can say they can stand on the same ground as the God who made the ultimate sacrifice of love, to save those who didn't even know they needed saving? No one.

Prayer:

Dear God, no one can compare to Your greatness. There is no one, not a single being, in this universe that can try to stand up to You. I pray that all the earth will come to the knowledge of Your greatness, O God, and that we will all come to worship You and give You the praise that is truly due to You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

March 17, 2022

