

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

May, 2022

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, May 15, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**

*In the pavilion*

**Board Meeting at 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 \$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, May 15, 2022 - Board/  
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 29, 2022 - Rolling Thunder  
Ride for Freedom XXXIV - Details at meeting



## IN ENDLESS GRATITUDE

Quietly, they all turned gray  
They did their job - they saved our way  
Our life and freedom they preserved  
We thanked them less than they deserved

They never boasted, bragged, or asked  
For adulation for their past  
They did the job they knew was right  
And quietly, they cried at night.

For bodies maimed and comrades lost  
For sights beyond our furthest thoughts  
For what they'd lived and felt and seen  
For what the cost of freedom means

They left us blessed with every breath  
That cost them arms and legs and death  
They won the worst and greatest war  
We owed them more, we owe them more

To thank them for their wondrous feats  
For open speech and quiet streets  
For worship as we choose to pray  
For preservation of our way

In endless gratitude to show  
That in their silence we'd still know  
What they accomplished and what they did  
For who we are and how we live

And so with love from wives and sons  
And daughters - for a job well done  
From kids who've never seen a tank  
We give them thanks, we give them thanks

For homes and jobs and baseball games  
For many colors many names  
They saved our lives and we're still free  
From shining sea to shining sea

Thank you, Thank you  
Thank you - Rest in peace

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**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

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BILL STREET  
JEFF BRADY 440-669-1794

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**CHAPLAIN** DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

**RUN COORDINATOR** OPEN

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**QUARTERMASTER**  
DAN HUBBARD 216-741-3992

**ASST. QUARTERMASTER** OPEN

**SARGENT AT ARMS** OPEN

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CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

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#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

#2 TOM BLECHSCHMID 440-349-2470

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#4 OPEN

**STATE LIAISON** James "Spy" Reilly – Chapter 9

**WE CARE**

**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

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**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

### Honoring our PACT Act

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs routinely denies the vast majority of claims for a long list of cancers and other maladies linked to toxic exposure. It took 50 years for the VA to accept all the conditions caused by Agent Orange in Vietnam, and history is repeating itself, pulmonologist Dr. Anthony Szema said. "That's putting all the soldiers who actually have constrictive bronchiolitis in a quagmire - that they're never going to get diagnosed and they're never going to get treated," Szema said. Szema, who directs the International Center of Excellence in Deployment Health and Medical Geosciences, says he is glad the Biden administration has been adding new illnesses to the VA's list of diagnoses connected to burn pits. Biden added several more in his first State of the Union address this month but at this piecemeal rate, Szema said many vets will die of cancer before the VA accepts their claims. "Soldiers have a ticking time bomb that it will get progressively worse over time," he said. The House of Representatives passed a bill this month to change that; the Honoring our PACT Act would make the VA accept 23 illnesses as "presumptive," meaning any vet who was exposed to burn pits and other known toxins would automatically get benefits and treatment for those illnesses. Thirty-four Republicans joined all the House Democrats to pass the bill, but the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans, opposed the bill, calling it too broad and too expensive. Speaking in Fort Worth, Texas, on Tuesday March 8th, President Biden endorsed the PACT act and

the Senate measure, which veterans' advocates fear would use up their momentum on the burn pits issue without fully addressing the 3.5 million veterans who were exposed to them since the first Gulf War.

**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 Sub-committee 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.**  
**Nine New Cancers Added To The Presumed Service- Connected List Related To Particulate Matter**

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On April 26, VA announced the addition of nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to exposure to fine particulate matter for Veterans who served any amount of time in

- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria or Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War, from September 19, 2001, to the present, or
- The Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present.

VA is taking a new approach to making decisions on presumptives, one that takes all available science into account, with one goal in mind - getting today's Veterans, and Vets in the decades ahead - the benefits they deserve, as fast as possible.

VA identified, through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence, a biological plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract; the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection. Veterans and survivors who had claims previously denied for any of the below respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a supplemental claim for benefits:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx;
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea;
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea;
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung;
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung;
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung and;
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

VA will contact impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and it will provide information on how to apply.

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit VA.gov or call toll-free at 800-827-1000.

**"UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"**

**Remember: You are the voice of our POW and MIAs.**

District	Name	Office Room	Phone
1st	Chabot, Steve	2408 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-2216
2nd	Wenstrup, Brad	2419 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-3164
3rd	Beatty, Joyce	2303 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-4324
4th	Jordan, Jim	2056 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-2676
5th	Latta, Robert E.	2467 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6405
6th	Johnson, Bill	2336 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5705
7th	Gibbs, Bob	2217 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6265
8th	Davidson, Warren	2113 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-6205
9th	Kaptur, Marcy	2186 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-4146
10th	Turner, Michael	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	Balderson, Troy	2429 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5355
13th	Ryan, Tim	1126 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5261
14th	Joyce, David	2065 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-5731
15th	Stivers, Steve	2234 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-2015
16th	Gonzalez, Anthony	2458 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	(202) 225-3876

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## Remains Identified

### WWII Remains Identified:

USMC William Ragsdale

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### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

### Asking God

The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. Psalm 6:9

When her husband was diagnosed with cancer, Lori couldn't find the "right" way to ask God to heal him. In her limited view, other people in the world had such serious problems—war, famine, poverty, natural disasters. Then one day, during

morning prayer time, she heard her husband humbly ask, "Dear Lord, please heal my disease." It was such a simple but heartfelt plea that it reminded her to stop complicating every prayer request, because God perfectly hears our righteous cries for help. As David simply asked, "Turn, Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love" (Psalm 6:4).

That's what David declared during a time of spiritual confusion and despair. His exact situation isn't explained in this psalm. His honest pleas, however, show deep desire for godly help and restoration. "I am worn out from my groaning," he wrote (v. 6).

Yet, David didn't let his own limits, including sin, stop him from going to God with his need. Thus, even before God answered, David was able to rejoice, "the Lord has heard my weeping. The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer" (vv. 8-9). Despite our own confusion and uncertainty, God hears and accepts the honest pleas of His children. He's ready to hear us, especially when we need Him most.

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And remember, Memorial Day is not about bar-b-ques and sales. Take some time this weekend to remember those who have sacrificed all.

# ROLLING THUNDER®

## XXXIV

### RIDE FOR FREEDOM

### MAY 29, 2022

283  
MILES



JOIN  
OR LEAVE  
AT ANY OF  
THE STAGES!!!!

KICK STANDS UP 0700 QUEEN CITY HARLEY DAVIDSON  
DEPART 0830 TANGIERS OUTLET JEFFERSONVILLE  
0945-1030 SUNBURY MEMORIAL PARK, SUNBURY OHIO  
1215-1245 FUEL STOP LOVE'S GARMAN ROAD LODI, OHIO  
1305-1345 WESTERN RESERVE CEMETERY BURBANK, OHIO  
1415-1545 OHIO VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK CLINTON, OHIO  
1630 VFW POST 5768 OLDE 8 RD NORTHFIELD, OHIO

STAGING FOR QUEEN CITY STARTS AT 0600 BE THERE EARLY! CONTACT JAMES REILLY(513)602-9300