

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

September, 2022

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, September 25, 2022
2:00 p.m.**

Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

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.

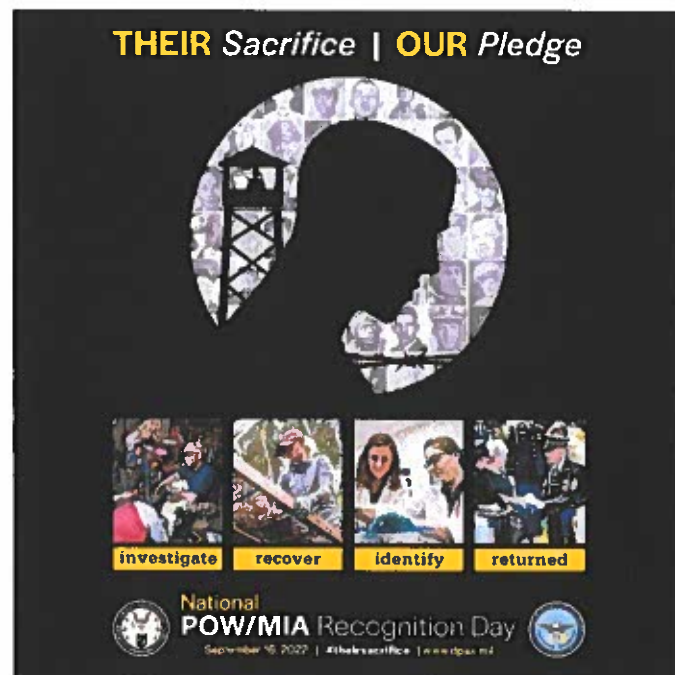
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 25, 2022 - Board /
Membership Meeting - 1:00 / 2:00 p.m.

Nominations were again taken at the August membership meeting for the positions of vice-president (currently held by Paul Wiget), treasurer (currently held by Andy Klush), Chairman of the Board (currently held by Chuck Kettler) and 2 board positions (Mike Neilan & Jeff Brady are the 2 Board members whose positions are up for

nominations). There were no new nominations. Below are the current nominees:

Vice-President: Paul Wiget - Accepted
Treasurer: Andy Klush - Accepted
Chairman of the Board: Chuck Kettler - Accepted
2 Board Positions: Mike Neilan - Accepted
Jim Rossi - Accepted



**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
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 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

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 – Wade Groth



GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE

Name: Wade Lawrence Groth
Rank/Branch: E4/US Army
Unit: 50th Medical Detachment, 43rd Medical Group,
44th Medical Brigade
Date of Birth: 14 May 1947
Home City of Record: Greenville MI (joined Army in
Cleveland OH)
Date of Loss: 12 February 1968
Country of Loss: South Vietnam
Loss Coordinates: 121721N 1074713E (ZU030600)
Status (in 1973): Missing In Action
Category: 4
Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H
Refno: 1046

Other Personnel In Incident: Harry W. Brown, Alan
W. Gunn, Jerry L. Roe (all
missing)

Government Affairs - Berney Jarosz

This is from June:

Louisiana U.S. District Judge Robert Summerhays officially ordered a temporary restraining order on April 27th, on what was to be the termination of Title 42, the U.S. health code that has allowed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to expel migrants who seek asylum over the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The order will be in effect for 14 days. The judge had previously released a memo earlier this week signaling his intent to issue the order. The seldom-used public health code was enacted by the Trump administration at the start of the pandemic and continued under Biden. Migrants who would have been allowed to seek asylum after the end of Title 42 on May 23 will continue being expeditiously removed to other countries for now. The restraining order prevents any action by DHS, such as processing migrants under immigration law instead of Title 42, before the next court hearing scheduled for May 13. Why is this in a Government /Veterans Affairs report you might ask. On April 27, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas testified that he was talking with VA Secretary Denis McDonough about using VA medical staff to assist U.S. border officials, who are encountering more people illegally crossing the

border than at any point in the past two decades. The Biden administration has walked back plans to send Veterans Affairs medical staff from around the country to the southern border following an outcry from Republicans, who raised the fear that veterans would lack care. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas disclosed during a hearing Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee that talks with VA Secretary Denis McDonough had ended. Two bills were sent to Congress to be read H.R. 7637 and S. 4082 "To prohibit the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of funds to provide emergency assistance at the southern border of the United States resulting from the repeal of certain public health orders, and for other purposes." I sent letters stating Rolling Thunder® Inc.'s support of these bills.

Government and Veteran Affairs issues Rolling Thunder® Inc. National is currently working on: Right now, we are supporting S. 4082 /H.R. 7637 companion bills in Congress "To prohibit the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of funds to provide emergency assistance at the southern border of the United States resulting from the repeal of certain public health orders, and for other purposes." **Note: Neither Ohio senator (Brown or Portman) have signed onto this bill (as of when I looked on 9/20/22), and only one Ohio Congressman has signed on. Contact your representatives to get involved!!!!**

Staying in contact with our Congressmen and the Department of Veterans Affairs to push the issue of opening up our VA hospitals and care facilities for visitation to the PTSD and CLC wards. Gus has been in contact with the Sub-committee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs to set up a hearing for H.R. 5297 "National POW/MIA Memorial/Museum" and move to the House floor for a vote. This bill designates the memorial and museum that is being constructed on an approximately 26-acre area on the POW-MIA Memorial Parkway in Jacksonville, Florida, as the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum.

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.

Note: This bill has passed the House and the Senate and is awaiting the President's signature to make it law.

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

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	<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	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 Pvt. David Whipple
 U.S. Army Capt. Donald Froemke
 U.S. Army Air Forces TSgt. John Carroll
 USMC Pfc. Lawrence Garrison
 U.S. Army Air Forces David Holeman
 U.S. Army Air Forces Harold Kretzer
 U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Howard Dickson
 U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. John Minogue
 U.S. Army Cpl. Franklin Bennett
 U.S. Army Air Forces TSgt. James Howie

U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Francis Montemurro
 U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Theodore Scarborough
 U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Carl Nesbitt
 U.S. Army Pfc. Mark Wilson
 U.S. Army Cpl. Joe Vinyard
 U.S. Army Pvt. Robert Gruwell
 U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Wayne Dyer
 U.S. Army Cpl. Joseph Gunnoe
 U.S. Army SSgt. Ralph Kolb
 U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Melvin Meyer
 U.S. Army Pfc. Clinton Koloski
 U.S. Army Air Forces TSgt. Ralph Richardson

Korean War

U.S. Army Cpl. David Defibaugh
 U.S. Army Pfc. Adelaido Solis
 U.S. Army Pfc. Robert Wright
 U.S. Army Sgt. Alfred Sidney
 U.S. Army MSgt. Merritt Wynn
 U.S. Army Pfc. Ithiel Whatley

Vietnam War

U.S. Army Pvt. Thomas Green
 U.S. Army SSG Sanford Finger

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
 Sep. 13, 2022, 12:16:00 PM

VA awards more than \$130M in new grant funding to help homeless Veterans and their family members find stable housing

WASHINGTON — On Sept. 13, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it awarded \$137 million in grants through VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program to help Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and their families.

These grant awards supplement the previous FY 2022 SSVF grants, increase the number of Veterans who are eligible for SSVF assistance, and allow the 150 non-profit organization grantees to expand on existing services for Veterans and their families. These grants are

being awarded in addition to the FY 2023 SSVF Grants, which were announced Aug. 1.

In this calendar year, VA has already placed more than 22,000 homeless Veterans into permanent housing — putting VA on track to meet its goal of 38,000 permanent housing placements for homeless Veterans in 2022.

"It's our job to remove the barriers that stand between homeless Veterans and the homes they need and deserve, including rising rental costs, cumbersome rental processes and more," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "These grant funds will empower our trusted VA partners to help homeless and at-risk Veterans through the entire housing process — from identifying a home to affording it to making it their own."

The SSVF grant awards can be used for:

- Supporting Veterans with HUD-VASH vouchers and connecting them with landlords from whom to rent.
- Providing incentives to encourage landlords to rent to Veterans. Grantees will be permitted to provide up to the equivalent of two months' rent to landlords as a fee for any lease of not less than one year when necessary to assist a Veteran in remaining in or obtaining permanent housing.
- Providing additional funds for move-in expenses to improve Veterans' quality of life by giving them essential items and home furnishings to help turn their house into a home.
- Expanding program eligibility by lifting the income limit for participants from 50% to 80% of the Area Median Income in designated communities. This is significant because Veterans who previously may not have been eligible for assistance due to income restrictions can now receive assistance with identifying and obtaining permanent housing from SSVF grantees' housing navigators.

In fiscal year 2021, SSVF served 114,175 participants, including 80,049 Veterans and 19,266 children.

The grant recipients successfully competed under a Notice of Funding Availability published June 24. View the list of grantees and learn more about SSVF [here](#).

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Deep-Water Rescue

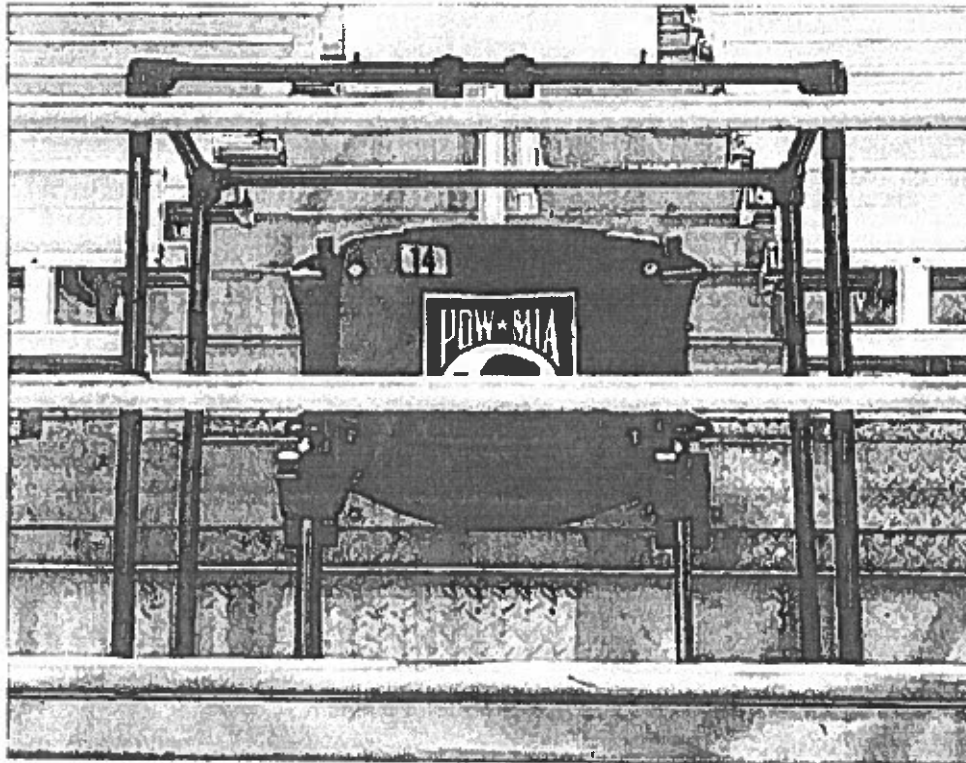
A record rainfall more than tripled what was forecasted in Waverly, Tennessee, in August 2021. In the wake of the powerful storm, twenty people lost their lives and hundreds of homes were destroyed. Had it not been for the compassion and skill of helicopter pilot Joel Boyers, the loss of human life would've been even greater.

The pilot took flight in response to a phone call from a woman who was concerned about her loved ones. In addition to seeing houses on fire and cars in trees, Boyers noted, "It was nothing but [muddy], raging water below me." The pilot, however, bravely proceeded to rescue twelve people from the roofs of their homes.

More often than not in life, the swirling floods we face aren't literal—but oh, how real! In days of uncertainty and instability, we can feel overwhelmed, unsafe—"in over our heads" mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. But we don't need to despair.

In Psalm 18, we read how David's enemies were many and mighty, but his God was greater. *How great?* So great and powerful (v. 1) that he used multiple metaphors (v. 2) to describe Him. God was mighty enough to rescue from deep waters and strong enemies (vv. 16-17). *How great?* Great enough for us to call upon Him in the name of Jesus, regardless of the volume and depth of the "waters" surrounding us in life (v. 3).

Commemorative chair honors POW/MIAs



The chair has been added to the home side at Jerome T. Osborne Stadium to commemorate MIA/POW soldiers in the military

By John Kampf
jkampf@news herald.com
@NHpreps on Twitter

A massive crowd, perhaps in excess of 5,000 fans, is expected this weekend when Mentor hosts Riverside in a nonconference game at Jerome T. Osborne Stadium.

One seat in particular has already been spoken for.

In fact, that seat has been reserved for eternity.

A special seat to honor prisoners of war and/or soldiers missing in action has been installed on the home side of the JTO. The chair is barred-off so no one can sit in it, and it rests just behind the walkway to the home-side bleachers at the 40-yard line on the west end of the field.

The memorial chair is made possible by a dedication through the Ohio chapter of

Rolling Thunder Inc.

The plaque for the special commemorative seat reads: "You are not forgotten."

Since World War I, more than 83,000 American soldiers are unaccounted for.

This unoccupied seat is dedicated to the memory of those brave men and women and the sacrifices each made in serving this country.

God Bless You, God Bless America."

The official dedication was made Aug. 19 at the Cardinals' home opener against Canton McKinley.

Similar chairs will be added to the lacrosse and soccer stadium, according to Chad Russo, assistant athletic director at Mentor who served in the Army from 1993-1997 before entering the field of education.

CHAIR • PAGE 4



A special seat has been added to Jerome T. Osborne Stadium at Mentor to commemorate soldiers missing in action or prisoners of war. This is the plaque that will be put by the chair.

Chair

FROM PAGE 1

Russo was a key driving force behind having the POW/MIA chairs installed at the school's athletic facilities, through Rolling Thunder Inc.

"Operation Rolling Thunder eliminated most of the cost," Russo said. "It's a group of eight to 10 men

from here in Mentor and they told us, 'We'd love to do this for you.'"

Mentor became a recipient of the "Purple Star Award" in 2019, earned through the school district meeting criteria for honoring military families. There is also a commemorative flag box honoring veterans that has been placed in the school.

"I'm one of only a few veterans in the school district, I believe, and I'm trying to

keep that connection with the military," Russo said. "It's important to have that connection. Whatever we can do to support them, it's an honor."

Mentor athletic director Jeff Cassella echoed those sentiments.

"We have a personal pride in our community and the way they support our veterans," he said.

As for this weekend's game against Riverside, slated for a

7 p.m. kickoff on Sept. 2, Cassella is expecting big things. It's the first time since 2010 that Mentor has played another Lake County school in a regular-season game.

"Our capacity for seating is 8,000, but we can go above that with standing room," Cassella said. "I anticipate this being our largest crowd of the year. It's been a long time since we've played anybody in-county. I anticipate a full house."