

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

November, 2022

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, November 20, 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

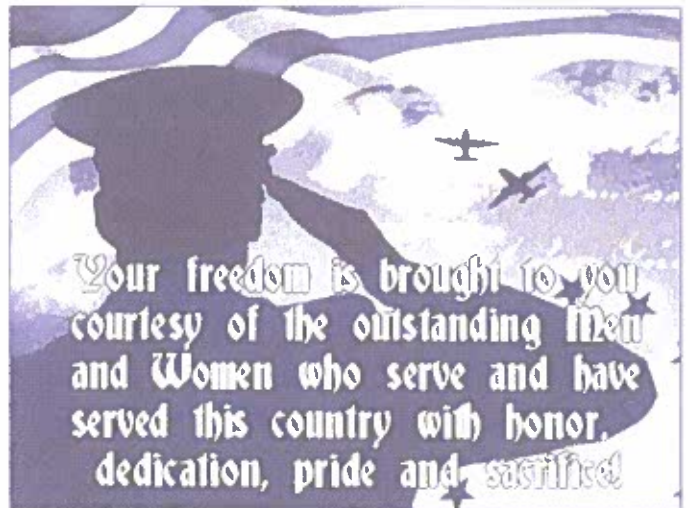
**Sunday, November 20, 2022 - Board/
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.**

Thank a Veteran: A veteran – whether active duty, retired or national guard or reserve – is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America & its citizenry for an amount of “up to and including my life.”

Thanksgiving
is a day when we pause
to give thanks for
the things we have.



"Veterans Day"
is a day when we pause
to give thanks to the
people who fought for
the things we have.



CHAPTER OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND PLATOON LEADERS

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VICE-PRES PAUL WIGET 440-476-3656

SECRETARY CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

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#3 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914

#4 OPEN

STATE LIAISON James "Spy" Reilly – Chapter 9

WE CARE

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CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

VA VISITS –

OPEN

EVENTS CHAIR

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

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**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 11/15/22), 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: Signed into law on August 10, 2022

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.

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 Air Forces Pvt. John Ropp
U.S. Army T Sgt James Triplett

Korean War

U.S. Army Sgt. Allen Tuttle
U.S. Army Sgt. Howard Malcolm

VietNam War

U.S. Army CW3 Larry Zich

HISTORY OF THE POW/MIA BRACELETS

Over the years, people have contacted the League looking for information on the history and background of the POW/MIA bracelets, originated and worn extensively in the 1970s, and continuously since by POW/MIA family members, veterans and other interested Americans. The following historical information was written by Carol Bates Brown, one of the originators:

I was the National Chairman of the POW/MIA Bracelet Campaign for VIVA (Voices In Vital America), the Los Angeles based student organization that produced and distributed the bracelets during the Vietnam War. Entertainers Bob Hope and Martha Raye served with me as honorary co-chairmen.

The idea for the bracelets was started by a fellow college student, Kay Hunter, and me, as a way to remember American prisoners of war suffering in captivity in Southeast Asia. In late 1969, television personality Bob Dornan (who several years later was elected to the US Congress) introduced us and several other members of VIVA to three wives of missing pilots. They thought our student group could assist them in drawing public attention to the prisoners and missing in Vietnam. The idea of circulating petitions and letters to Hanoi demanding humane treatment for the POWs was appealing, as we were looking for ways college students could become involved in positive programs to support US soldiers without becoming embroiled in the controversy of the war itself. The relatives of the men were beginning to organize locally, but the National League of POW/MIA Families had yet to be formed.

During that time, Bob Dornan wore a bracelet he had obtained in Vietnam from hill tribesmen, which he said always reminded him of the suffering the war had brought to so many. We

wanted to get similar bracelets to wear to remember US POWs, so rather naively, we tried to figure out a way to go to Vietnam. Since no one wanted to fund two sorority-girl types on a tour to Vietnam during the height of the war, and our parents were livid at the idea, we gave up and Kay Hunter began to check out ways to make bracelets. Soon other activities drew her attention and she dropped out of VIVA, leaving me, another student Steve Frank, and our adult advisor, Gloria Coppin, to pursue the POW/MIA awareness program.

The major problem was that VIVA had no money to make bracelets, although our advisor was able to find a small shop in Santa Monica that did engraving on silver used to decorate horses. The owner agreed to make 10 sample bracelets. I can remember us sitting around in Gloria Coppin's kitchen with the engraver on the telephone, as we tried to figure out what we would put on the bracelets. This is why they carried only name, rank and date of loss, since we didn't have time to think of anything else.

Armed with sample bracelets, we set out to find someone who would donate money to make bracelets for distribution to college students. It had not yet occurred to us that adults would want to wear them, as they weren't very attractive. Several approaches to Ross Perot were rebuffed, including a proposal that he loan us \$10,000 at 10% interest. We even visited Howard Hughes' senior aides in Las Vegas. They were sympathetic but not willing to help fund our project. Finally in late summer of 1970, Gloria Coppin's husband donated enough brass and copper to make 1,200 bracelets. The Santa Monica engraver agreed to make them and we could pay him from any proceeds we might realize.

Although the initial bracelets were going to cost about 75 cents to make, we were unsure about how much we should ask people to donate to receive a bracelet. In 1970, a student admission to the local movie theater was \$2.50. We

decided this seemed like a fair price to ask from a student for one of the nickel-plated bracelets. We also made copper ones for adults who believed they helped their "tennis elbow". Again, according to our logic, adults could pay more, so we would request \$3.00 for the copper bracelets.

At the suggestion of local POW/MIA relatives, we attended the National League of Families annual meeting in Washington, DC in late September. We were amazed at the interest from the wives and parents in having their man's name put on bracelets and in obtaining them for distribution. Bob Dornan, who was always a champion of the POW/MIAs and their families, continued to publicize the issue on his Los Angeles television talk show and promoted the bracelets.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 1970, we officially kicked off the bracelet program with a news conference at the Universal Sheraton Hotel. Public response quickly grew and we eventually got to the point we were receiving over 12,000 requests a day. This also brought money in to pay for brochures, bumper stickers, buttons, advertising and whatever else we could do to publicize the POW/MIA issue. We formed a close alliance with the relatives of missing men - they got bracelets from us on consignment and could keep some of the money they raised to fund their local organizations. We also tried to furnish these groups with all the stickers and other literature they could give away.

While Steve Frank and I ended up dropping out of college to work for VIVA full time to administer the bracelet and other POW/MIA programs, none of us got rich off the bracelets. VIVA's adult advisory group, headed by Gloria Coppin, was adamant that we would not have a highly paid professional staff. As I recall the highest salary was \$15,000 a year and we were able to keep administrative costs to less than 20 percent of income.

In all, VIVA distributed nearly five million bracelets and raised enough money to produce untold millions of bumper stickers, buttons, brochures, matchbooks, newspaper ads, etc., to draw attention to the missing men. In 1976, VIVA closed its doors. By then the American public was tired of hearing about Vietnam and showed no interest in the POW/MIA issue.

POW/MIA bracelets were initially introduced in the late 1960's by a now-defunct organization, Voices in Vital America (VIVA). The purpose of the bracelets was, and is, to increase public awareness about the plight of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

At one time distributed by the National League of Families, bracelets are now available from a decades-long strong issue-supporter, the nonprofit, Ohio Chapter MIA-POW (see address below) which donates 100% of all proceeds to help sustain the League's efforts. Demand for the bracelets continues, as is evidenced by the frequent inquiries to the League office. The original stainless steel or similar silver bracelet is the most in demand and signals continuity of concern by the American people.

The National League of Families is the only national organization comprised solely of the close relatives of U.S. servicemen and civilians still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Our threefold goal is the return of live prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and the repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died while serving our Nation in Southeast Asia.

POW/MIA Bracelets: Bracelets are stainless steel, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, bearing name, rank, service branch, country, and date of loss. Please note that data is engraved on bracelets, not filled in black. Names on hand with the Ohio Chapter are made with permission of the families, and most

come with a short bio of the missing man. Special names may be requested, but no bio is then available.

(Editor's Note: I have worn my POW/MIA bracelet for over 15 years. It is in remembrance of Major Morgan Donahue, USAF, whose aircraft was shot down over Laos in 1968. He was one of many in the crew. It is believed that he was taken alive. Until they all come home.)



***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)

A Mother's Love

When Sue's parents divorced when she was young, the legal tussle over her custody and other matters resulted in her being sent to a children's home for a while. Bullied by bigger kids, she felt lonely and abandoned. Her mother visited only once a month, and she hardly saw her father. It was only years later, however, that her mother told her that while the home's rules prevented her from visiting more often, she had stood at the fence every single day, hoping to catch a glimpse of her daughter. "Sometimes," she said, "I would just watch you playing in the garden, just to check if you were okay."

When Sue shared this story, it gave me a glimpse of God's love. Sometimes we may feel

abandoned and alone in our struggles. How comforting it is to know that God is in fact watching over us all the time! (Psalm 33:18). Even though we can't see Him, He is there. Like a loving parent, His eyes and His heart are constantly on us wherever we go. Yet, unlike Sue's mom, He can act on our behalf at any time.

Psalm 91 describes God delivering, protecting, and lifting up His children. He is more than a refuge and a shelter. As we navigate the dark valleys of life, we can take comfort in the knowledge that the all-powerful Lord is watching over us and is active in our lives. "I will answer [you]," He declares. "I will be with [you] in trouble, I will deliver [you]" (v. 15).

*Lord, thank You for the assurance that we're
always under Your watchful care.*

Our heavenly Father is ever near.

