

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

January, 2023



PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

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

**SUNDAY, January 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.**

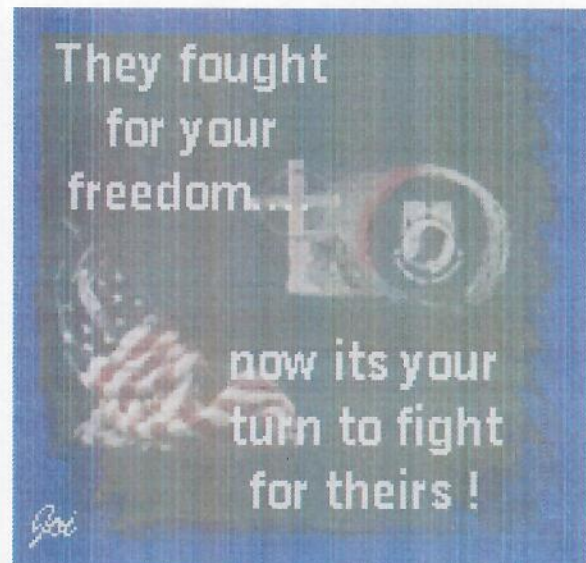
**Paul Wiget will be collecting 2023 dues -
\$40 / person**

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, January 15, 2023 - Membership
Meeting - 2:00 p.m.



**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
JIM ROSSI
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

VA VISITS – OPEN

EVENTS CHAIR

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

EDUCATION CHAIR DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

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Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at
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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 -

With the 118th Congress getting settled in,
updates on legislation will be in upcoming
newsletters.

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.**

Remains Identified

WWII Remains Identified:

U.S. Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class William Gusie
U.S. Army Pfc. William Simon
U.S. Navy Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class
Anthony DiPetta

Korean War

U.S. Army Pfc. James Miller

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

How you can help prevent Veteran suicide in 2023

Data helps VA develop programs and initiatives for Veterans and their loved ones

By Matthew Miller

Executive director, VA Suicide Prevention, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

The 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report analyzes Veteran suicide data from 2001 through 2020 and contains the most comprehensive set of data about Veteran suicide mortality to date. When the report first came out in September, I shared key findings, like:

- There were 343 fewer Veteran suicides in 2020 than in 2019.
- From 2018 to 2020, age- and sex-adjusted suicide rates for Veterans fell by 9.7% (5.5% for non-Veterans).

Now that several months have passed, I'd like to share how insights from our latest annual report will help us create programs and initiatives for our highest clinical priority, which is preventing Veteran suicide. Here's what you can do to help us save lives.

Suicide in younger Veterans

Veterans aged 18-34 have the highest suicide rate. They also happen to use social media at extremely high rates. According to Refuel Agency's Military Explorer Series 2020, about 9 in 10 post-9/11 Veterans use some kind of social media. This could include Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitch and Twitter.

Knowing this, we want to encourage everyone to learn what to do if you spot a social media post or comment that makes you concerned for a Veteran. Reaching out to a Veteran in your life before they hit a crisis point decreases their overall suicide risk

VA's Social Media Safety Toolkit outlines the steps you can take to support a Veteran expressing emotional distress, feelings of crisis, or thoughts of suicide on social media. If you notice someone on social media exhibiting signs of a potential crisis, use the guidance in this toolkit to take action.

Guns and suicide

Guns are by far the leading method used in Veteran suicides. From 2019-2020, the percentage of Veteran suicides involving firearms increased from 69.5% to 71.0%, while other methods (like poisoning or suffocation) decreased in the same time period.

I know many Veterans are responsible gun owners and have been trained to handle their guns safely and with respect. But these numbers show us that crises happen and it's important to take the extra step to protect yourself if you reach that point.

Be prepared by creating a safe home environment, learning how to talk to a Veteran about gun safety, and knowing how to secure your guns when they're not in use.

Putting time and space between someone in crisis and their firearm could save their life.

Veteran suicide rates

From 2019 to 2020, the age- and sex-adjusted suicide rate among Veterans fell by 4.8%. From 2018 to 2020, adjusted rates for Veterans fell by 9.7%. Assessment of Veteran suicide rates by race showed decreases from 2019 to 2020 for all groups. The overall downward trends in Veteran suicide in 2019 and 2020 are encouraging. These reductions followed VA's launch of the 2018 National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, which reflects a comprehensive public health approach to Veteran suicide prevention. This public health approach combines community and clinical strategies for suicide prevention.

Additional large-scale VA suicide prevention efforts during this time included SP 2.0—a six-year strategic plan with national reach focused on the implementation of clinical and community-based prevention.

It also includes intervention and postvention services that reflect the National Strategy's four pillars and the "SP Now" initiative which focuses on these five critical areas:

1. Lethal means safety
2. Suicide prevention in at-risk medical populations

3. Outreach and understanding of prior and non-VA users
4. Suicide prevention program enhancements
5. Media campaigns

You can explore suicide prevention resources to build networks of support among community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, health care providers, and other members of your community that strengthen protective factors for Veterans.

Evidence-based programs and initiatives

Suicide has no single cause, and it will take multiple approaches to end it. Prevention is possible. Here are some of the programs and initiatives we're working on:

- VA S.A.V.E. Training: Free, online suicide prevention resource to help you understand what to say (and what not to say) if a Veteran in your life is having thoughts of suicide.
- Do you want to take VA S.A.V.E. Training? Go to psycharmor.org/courses/va-save to take the course online or contact your local suicide prevention coordinator to schedule in-person training: VeteransCrisisLine.net/find-resources/local-resources/.
- National Shooting Sports Foundation partnership: Promotes lethal means safety.
- Caring Letters: Focuses on mailing letters to Veterans during the year after their initial documented call to the Veterans Crisis Line. This initiative has been found to reduce the rate of suicide death, attempts and ideation.
- Peer Support Outreach Call Center: Staffed by trained Veterans who proactively reach out to Veterans Crisis Line callers who might benefit from additional intervention. Studies show Veterans who have peer mentors are more likely to keep their VA appointments, access additional treatment methods and meet other important health benchmarks.
- Everyone has a role to play in Veteran suicide prevention
- While a decrease in Veteran suicide provides hope, there's much more work to be done. Even one Veteran suicide is too many.
- You don't have to be an expert to help Veterans. Please share this information with the people in

your life so they can be prepared in case a Veteran they know needs support.

- And remember, the Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that connects Veterans and their loved ones to a caring, qualified responder. Dial 988 then press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.
- Veterans don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

A Small Start

The Brooklyn Bridge was considered "the eighth wonder of the world" upon its completion in 1883. But a single, slender wire strung from one bridge tower to the other was essential for the structure to come to fruition. Additional wires were added to the first until a massive cable, along with three others, was woven together. When finished, each cable—composed of more than five thousand galvanized wires—helped support the longest suspension bridge in its day. What started as something small turned into a huge part of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Jesus' life began in a small way—a baby born and placed in a feeding trough in a tiny town (Luke 2:7). The prophet Micah prophesied His humble birth, writing, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel" (Micah 5:2; see also Matthew 2:6). A small start, but this ruler and shepherd would see His fame and mission "reach to the ends of the earth" (Micah 5:4).

Jesus was born in a small place in humility, and His life on earth ended as "he humbled himself" and died a criminal's death on a "cross" (Philippians 2:8 nlt). But by His immense sacrifice He bridged the gap between us and God—providing salvation for all who believe. This season, may you receive God's great gift in Jesus by faith. And if you do believe, may you humbly praise Him anew for all He's done for you.

ROUNDING UP FOR ROLLING THUNDER, CHAPTER 1 OHIO



By Chip Kettler
Buyer/Regional Supervisor

For the Memorial Day holiday this year, stores 1, 10, 41, and 49 rounded up change totaling \$3500 for Rolling Thunder, a nonprofit veterans group that has a mission. The Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW-MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. To help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War/Missing in Action. They are 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. Rolling Thunder®, Inc. relies on its volunteers to donate their time to keep the mission alive. Just a little time as a volunteer makes a lot of difference to our veterans.

Incorporated in 1995, Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a class 501(c4) non-profit organization with over 90 chartered chapters throughout the United States and members abroad. While many members of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. are veterans and many ride motorcycles, neither qualification is a prerequisite. Rolling Thunder®, Inc. members are old and young, men and women, veterans and non-veterans. All are united in the cause to bring full accountability for Prisoners Of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) of all wars, reminding the government, the media and the public by our watchwords: "We Will Not Forget."

Rolling Thunder was influential in the passing of the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1993. The bill states that a service member cannot be listed as killed in action (KIA) without substantial evidence. In 1995 Rolling Thunder Inc. won approval from the United States Government for a POW/MIA postage stamp to be put in circulation and the organization continues to work with the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on new bills for the return of, and information about, servicemen and women. Rolling Thunder co-authored the 2006 Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act.



Left to Right: Lew Ballard- President, John Gans, Don Boodjeh, Bruce Wasem, Chuck Kettler- Chairman of the Board, and Paul Wiget- Vice President

