

# The Thunder Gazette

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April, 2023

## **PLEASE NOTE**

### **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP**

### **MEETING WILL BE HELD AT**

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

**SUNDAY, April 16, 2023  
2:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.**

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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, April 16, 2023 - Board/  
Membership Meeting - 1:00/2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 28, 2023 - Rolling Thunder Ride  
For Freedom - Noon - Starting at National  
Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus,  
OH**



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Our busy lives can make it hard to keep up with loved ones and friends. Make the time today to pick up the phone and check on a buddy. You never know the positive impact one call can make

## 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**  
TIM EXTON

**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  
[ckettler6480@yahoo.com](mailto:ckettler6480@yahoo.com)

**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 – 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)

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### Government Affairs -

1. S.42 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): BUILD for  
Veterans Act of 2023 -  
To improve the management and performance of the  
capital asset programs of the Department of  
Veterans Affairs so as to better serve veterans,  
their families, caregivers, and survivors, and for  
other purposes. Has been referred to the Committee  
on Veterans' Affairs  
[https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-  
congress/senate-bill/42?s=1&r=5](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/42?s=1&r=5)  
**Ohio Senator Brown is a co-sponsor of this bill.  
Need to get Senator Vance on board.**

2. S.10 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): VA Clinician  
Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and  
Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023 -  
To improve the workforce of the Department of  
Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.  
[https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-  
congress/senate-bill/10/text](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/10/text)  
**No Ohio senators have signed onto this bill yet.**

3. H.R.214 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Veterans'  
True Choice Act of 2023 -  
To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide  
eligibility for TRICARE Select to veterans with

service-connected disabilities, and for other  
purposes.

[https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-  
bill/214/text?s=1&r=41](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/214/text?s=1&r=41)

**No Ohio representatives have signed onto this bill  
yet.**

4. H.R.232 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Real  
Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2023 | Congress.gov  
| Library of Congress  
[https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-  
bill/232/text?s=1&r=29](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/232/text?s=1&r=29)

**There are no co-sponsors to this bill yet.**

5. H.R.236 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): To direct  
the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate a  
week as "Battle Buddy Check Week" for the purpose  
of outreach and education concerning peer wellness  
checks for veterans, and for other purposes. |  
Congress.gov | Library of Congress  
[https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-  
bill/236/text?s=1&r=27](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/236/text?s=1&r=27)

Sponsor: Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-  
18] (Introduced

**There are no Ohio co-sponsors yet to this bill.**

01/10/2023 - Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs  
Latest Action: House - 02/08/2023 Referred to the  
Subcommittee on Health. (All Actions)

6. H.R.1003 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): To direct  
the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a  
study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on  
certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain  
and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other  
purposes. | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

[https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-  
bill/1003?overview=closed](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1003?overview=closed)

**There are no Ohio co-sponsors yet to this bill.**

7. H.R. 333 - To amend title 10, United States Code,  
to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who  
have a service-connected disability rated less than  
50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both  
retired pay and veterans disability compensation, to  
extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter  
61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of  
service, and for other purposes. \*\*Rep. Sanford

Bishop (Ga.) introduced H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.\*\*

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/333?s=1&r=65>

(There is one co-sponsor from Ohio)

**8. H.R.733 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Vet CENTERS for Mental Health Act of 2023**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve mental health care for veterans through the establishment of a minimum requirement for the number of Vet Centers per State.

(There are no co-sponsors from Ohio yet)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/733?s=1&r=2>

**9. H.R.411 - Lead by Example Act of 2023 118th Congress (2023-2024) |**

BILL Sponsor: Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8] (Introduced 01/20/2023) Committees: House - House Administration; Veterans' Affairs

(a) Health Care Benefits.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning January 3, 2025, the only health care plan that the Federal Government may make available to Members of Congress and Congressional staff with respect to their service as a Member of Congress or Congressional staff shall be health care provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs, including at facilities of the Department and non-Department facilities pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and any other provision of law authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish such care to veterans, as if such Members and staff were veterans.

(I think this is a really good one. Make sure that you contact your representatives to make sure this one happens. Maybe it will lead to some major changes in the health care of veterans.)

10. S-132--Pilot Program Required.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing the module described in subsection (b) and services under

subsection (c) as part of the pre-separation transition process for members of the Armed Forces as a means of reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.

(This bill is sponsored by Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown.)

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On April 26, 2022, 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](http://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.

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### Remains Identified

#### WWII Remains Identified:

US Navy ENS Stanley W. Allen

#### Korean War

None listed

#### Viet Nam War

US Air Force Col. Ernest Leo DeSoto

US Air Force Capt. Fredrick Mervyn Hall

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

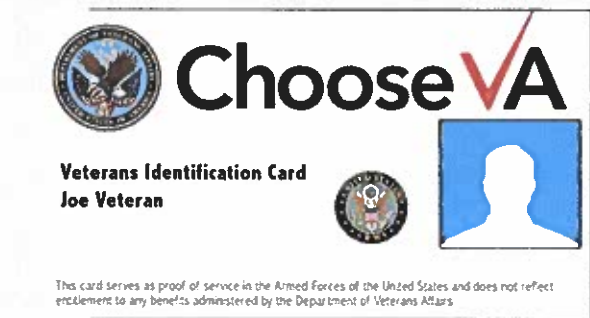
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**Your VA ID Card is the proof you need for discounts**

"How do I prove that I'm a Veteran?" It's a question often asked by those who once served in the military. Many businesses offer discounts to Veterans for restaurants, hotels, stores, recreational activities and even home improvement, among other perks. Former service members will want to take advantage of those opportunities.

First, you'll want to apply for VA's Veteran ID Card (VIC), which is a digital photo ID you can use to get those discounts. Since September 2022, all new Veteran ID cards have been digital. A Veteran with a physical ID card can continue using it to get discounts. The VIC is separate from the VA health

care ID, which a Veteran receives when enrolling in VA health care.



If you have any questions or need help, email VA's VIC program at [vetidcard@va.gov](mailto:vetidcard@va.gov).

You can apply online and login using your

existing [Login.gov](http://Login.gov), [ID.me](http://ID.me), [DS](http://DS)

[Logon](http://Logon) or [MyHealtheVet](http://MyHealtheVet) account. A Veteran without any of these accounts can create a free Login.gov or ID.me account. If you are unable to submit your VIC application through VA.gov, please use [Access VA](http://Access.VA). When applying, make sure to have your social security number; a digital copy of your DD214, DD256, DD257 or NGB22 that you can upload; and a copy of a current and valid government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, passport or state-issued identification card.

You'll also need a digital color photo of yourself from the shoulders up. The photo should follow all of these standards:

- Show a full, front view of your face and neck with no hat, head covering or headphones covering or casting shadows on your hairline or face.
- Be cropped from your shoulders up much like a passport photo.
- Show you with your eyes open and in a neutral expression.
- Be taken in clothing you'd wear for a driver's license photo.
- Be a square size and have a white or plain-color background with no scenery or other people in the photo.
- Show what you look like now, meaning a photo that is no older than 10 years old; it should be uploaded as a .jpeg, .png, .bmp or .tiff file.

A Veteran must meet certain criteria to be eligible for a VIC, including both of these requirements:

- Service on active duty, in the Reserve or in the National Guard, including the Coast Guard.

- Receipt of an honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions.

If the Veteran received an other-than honorable, bad conduct or dishonorable character of discharge, that person is not eligible for a Veteran ID card. If a Veteran has an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status, VA must verify that person's eligibility before approving an application. The Veteran must provide a copy of his/her discharge papers when applying for a VIC to prove their character of discharge.

After a Veteran applies for a VIC, VA will check that person's eligibility and verify that the character of discharge meets eligibility requirements, the ID submitted is valid and the image chosen to appear on the card meets photo requirements. VA will then send an email letting the Veteran know the status of the application. If the Veteran has an unknown or uncharacterized discharge status, the application will take more time to process. VA may need to request your records from the [National Personnel Records Center](#), part of the National Archives and Records Administration.

If a Veteran receives an email from VA asking for additional information or evidence to process the application, that person must sign in to [AccessVA](#) and update the application.

VA will send an email with the digital card attached if a Veteran is eligible for a Veteran ID Card.

For more information, email VA at [vetidcard@va.gov](mailto:vetidcard@va.gov).

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### **Chaplain's Corner**

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

#### **Deeper Healing**

On Easter Sunday 2020, the famous *Christ the Redeemer* statue that overlooks Rio de Janeiro in Brazil was illuminated in a way that appeared to clothe Jesus in the attire of a physician. The poignant portrayal of Christ as a doctor was in tribute to the many frontline health-care workers battling the coronavirus pandemic. The imagery brings to life the common description of Jesus as our Great Physician ([Mark 2:17](#)).

Jesus healed many people of their physical afflictions during His earthly ministry: blind Bartimaeus ([10:46-52](#)), a leper ([Luke 5:12-16](#)), and a paralytic ([Matthew 9:1-8](#)), to name a few. His care for the health of those following Him was also demonstrated in providing for their hunger by multiplying a simple meal to feed the masses ([John 6:1-13](#)). Each of these miracles reveal both Jesus' mighty power and His genuine love for people.

His greatest act of healing, however, came through His death and resurrection, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. It is "by [Jesus'] wounds we are healed" of our worst affliction: our separation from God as a result of our sins ([Isaiah 53:5](#)). Though Jesus doesn't heal all our health challenges, we can trust the cure for our deepest need: the healing He brings to our relationship with God.



**JOIN US FOR THE RIDE!**



**National Veterans Memorial  
and Musum  
Columbus, Ohio  
to WPAFB Museum  
Fairborn, Ohio.**