

# The Thunder Gazette

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June, 2023

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

**SUNDAY, June 11, 2023**

**(a week early because of Father's Day)**

**2:00 p.m.**

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

### **No Board 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.

Nominations will begin in July at the membership meeting for the positions of president (currently held by Lew Ballard), secretary (currently held by Cheryl Pilny), and 3 board positions (Bill Street, Ted Pilny & Dan Hubbard) are the 3 board members whose positions are up for nominations). Nominations will be taken at the July and August meetings.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 10, 2023 - Walmart -  
Chardon, OH - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 11, 2023 - Membership meeting  
2:00 p.m.

Missing And Unaccounted For > 85,855  
Last Seen As Prisoners-Of-War, Last  
Declared Missing-In-Action

- >WWI 4,422
- >WWII 72,222
- >COLD WAR 126
- >KOREA 7,500
- >VIETNAM 1,579
- >IRAQ-PERSIAN GULF-LIBYA 6



**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>  
**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.)**

H.R.542 - This bill addresses home care and caregiver programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

There are currently 48 co-sponsors, one from Ohio.

**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.)

**H.R.1282 - Major Richard Star Act -** This bill provides that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation. 9 co-sponsors from Ohio.

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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

None listed

#### Korean War

None listed

#### Viet Nam War

None listed



D-Day, June 6th, brings memories of the brave men and women who fought a strategically planned and well-executed battle that ultimately led to the end of the Second World War. Nearly 160,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy. Of those, 73,000 were from the United States, 83,000 from Britain and Canada. Forces from several other countries were also involved. Allied soldiers, sailors, pilots, medics and others were involved in the overall Operation Overlord, the battle to free western France from Nazi control. Now, 79 years after, these memories remain fresh to the remaining living U.S. veterans of the war. The rest of us spend this day remembering and honoring them and the sacrifices they made for freedom.

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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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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

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Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) responders are trained to provide support no matter what you're experiencing. Here's what happens after you dial 988 and press 1:

- 1 - Once you're connected to a VCL responder, they'll listen to better understand what you're going through and why you called.
- 2 - They may also ask a few questions to make sure they're providing support and resources that best fit your needs. You decide how much information you share.
- 3 - The responder will work with you and help you make a plan to stay safe.

If you choose, the responder will share your name and some personal information with your local VA suicide prevention coordinator who will contact you the next business day. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect to the VCL.

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### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

#### **Putting the Pieces Together**

*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1:6

While the family quarantined due to the global pandemic, they took on an ambitious project—an eighteen-thousand-piece puzzle! Even though they worked on it almost daily, often they felt like they weren't making much progress. Five months after it began, they finally celebrated adding the final piece to the nine-by-six-foot puzzle that covered the dining room floor.

Sometimes life may feel a bit like a giant puzzle—many pieces in place, but a whole lot more still lying in a jumble on the floor. While we know that God is at work transforming us to be more and more like Jesus, sometimes it can be hard to see much progress.

Take great comfort in Paul's encouragement in his letter to the Philippians when he said he prayed for them with joy because of the good work they were doing (1:3-4). But his confidence came not in their abilities but in God, believing that "he who began a good work . . . [would] carry it on to completion" (v. 6).

God has promised to finish His work in us. Like a puzzle, there may be sections that still need our attention, and there are times when we don't seem to make much progress. But we can have confidence that our faithful God is still putting the pieces together.

Chair of Honor placement at Riverside High School in Painesville, OH.

