

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

December, 2022

## PLEASE NOTE

### **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

**SUNDAY, December 18, 2022  
2:00 p.m.**

***Pot luck Christmas party immediately  
following the meeting.***

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

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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

### Saturday, December 17, 2022 - Wreaths

Across America - on **December 17, 2022**, we have the wreath placement at Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. It is normally crowded at Rittman, so I recommend you arrive between **08:30 and 09:00 A. M.** We will be focused on sections 10 and 11 this year. It is my understanding that they hope to have every grave in these sections with a wreath. The main ceremony will be held at the flag pole at noon. As a Chapter we have identified about

14 friends and family members for personal wreath placement. These will be distributed early and placed well before the ceremony at noon. This may require significant walking so be prepared. Maybe bring a grandchild to be your runner. Bring your own coffee and the Chapter will provide donuts.

### Sunday, December 18, 2022 -

Membership Meeting - 2:00 p.m. - is the next Chapter meeting and Christmas party.

This year's Christmas party will be a pot luck affair, spouses and significant others are included. To be sure we have a variety of food items, I am asking you call my wife, **Nancy, at 440-942-1688** and let us know what you will be bringing. The chapter will provide ham and rolls. We have a commitment for chili, lasagna and deviled eggs so far.

In addition to the shared meal we are going to play a game called "White Elephant." The way the game is played is this.

Bring 3-4 wrapped gifts per person. These can be dollar store items or that stuff you got in an office gift exchange or some garage sale item you could not unload. Please keep the cost as low as possible. The intent is to have fun "exchanging" these gifts.

At the start of the game, all the gifts are piled in the center of the table. A pair of dice is then started around the table and each person rolls the dice. The person who rolls a double can select a gift from the pile.

Now it gets interesting; if someone rolls a double they can select from the center of the table or they can "claim" a gift someone else has already won. The game continues for a limited time, usually 30 minutes, while we see who can accumulate the most gifts.

At the end of the game we unwrap our treasures and take them home to use next year etc. etc

**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  
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**

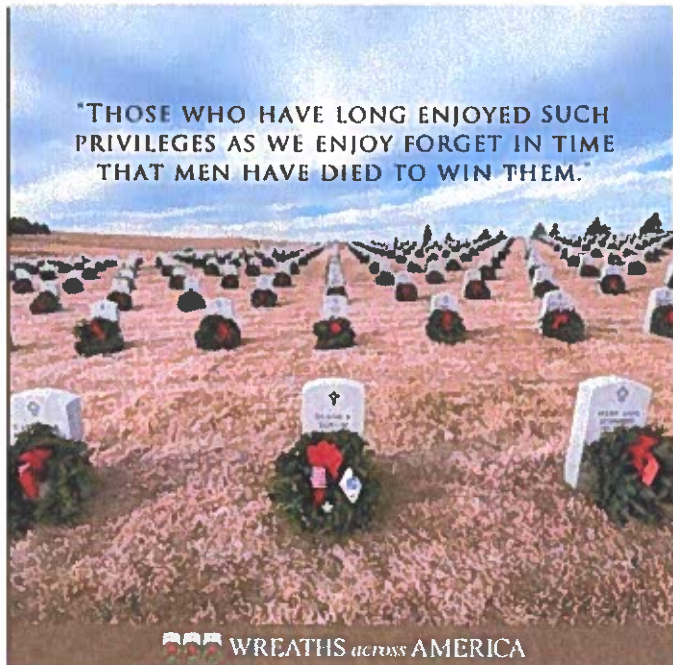


## GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE

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 - 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 Subcommittee 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

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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](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.**

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

District	Name	Office Room	Phone
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

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## **Remains Identified**

### **WWII Remains Identified:**

U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Arthur Van Kleeck

U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Porter Pile

U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William Scott

### **Korean War**

U.S. Army Pfc. Dale Thompson

U.S. Army Sfc. James Wilkinson

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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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## **Chaplain's Corner**

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

### **I Heard the Bells**

Why, my soul, are you downcast? . . . Put your  
hope in God.

Psalm 43:5

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," based on an 1863 poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is a truly unusual Christmas song. Instead of the expected Christmas joy and mirth, the lyric forms a lament, crying out, "And in despair I bowed my head / There is no peace on earth I said / For hate is strong and mocks the song / Of peace on earth, good will to men." This lament, however, moves forward into hope, reassuring us that "God is not dead, nor does he

sleep / The wrong shall fail, the right prevail / With peace on earth goodwill toward men."

The pattern of hope rising out of lament is also found in the lament psalms of the Bible. As such, Psalm 43 begins with the psalmist crying out about his enemies who attack him (v. 1) and his God who seems to have forgotten him (v. 2). But the singer doesn't stay in lament—he looks up to the God he doesn't fully understand but still trusts, singing, "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God" (v. 5).

Life is filled with reasons for lament, and we all experience them on a regular basis. But, if we allow that lament to point us to the God of hope, we can sing joyfully—even if we sing through our tears.

By: Bill Crowder

