

The Thunder Gazette

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July, 2023

PLEASE NOTE

**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, July 16, 2023**

2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.

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

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.

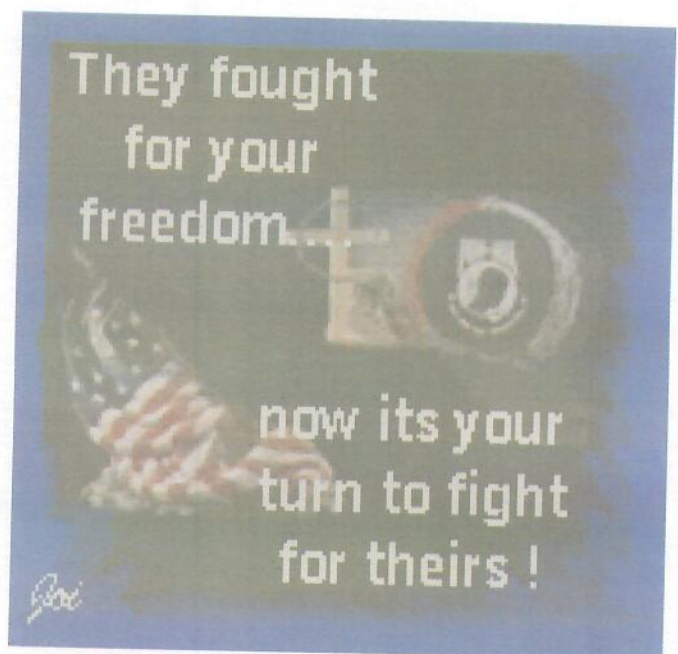
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 16, 2023 - Board/Membership meeting 1:00/2:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 20, 2023 - 1:00 p.m. - Chair of Honor placement at the Hospice of Western Reserve - details at the meeting.

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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**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)

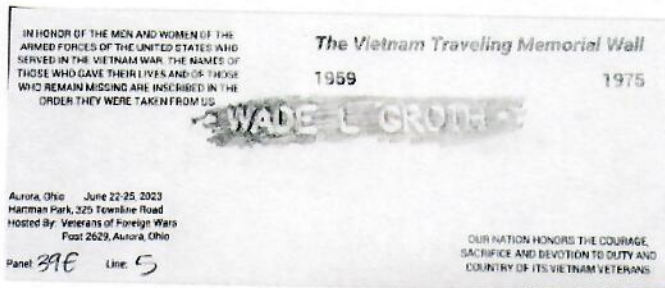
Status (in 1973): Missing In Action

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 -

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>

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>

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>

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>
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>

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.

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

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Noel E Shoup
U.S. Army Pfc. George B. Thomas
U.S. Army Pvt. Wing O. Hom
U.S. Army Air Forces T.Sgt. Elton L. Gomillion

Korean War

U.S. Army Sgt. Cresenciano Garcia
U.S. Army Cpl. Rex Warner Powell

Viet Nam War

None listed

*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)

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.
Psalms 73:26

Inspiration

At some point in time, we have felt like a failure. We slip up under pressure and fail to meet the expectations of those we respect. We behave poorly in family interactions or backslide in our walk with Christ. There are multiple ways we fail the world, but we are not failures to God. He sees us from the inside and knows our true hearts. He loves us unconditionally and will always strengthen us for the road ahead.

Prayer

Dear God, when we feel we've become a failure, we know You love us faithfully and unconditionally. In Jesus' Name, Amen.5