

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

February, 2024

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY, February 18, 2024**

**2:00 p.m.**

***NO Board Meeting***

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

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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.

2024 dues are being collected. If you haven't already paid them, please do so as soon as possible. Dues are \$40/year.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, February 18, 2024 - Membership meeting 2:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, February 24, 2024 - Bingo at Wade Park - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Meet at 10:30 in the large common area near the Patriot store.**

*We seek accountability - the return of living POW's and when that is not possible - the repatriation of their remains. We further advocate the same for all MIA.*





**CHAPTER OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS  
AND PLATOON LEADERS**

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(ALTERNATE) TED ROOD

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**MEMBERSHIP** OPEN

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**ASST. QUARTERMASTER** OPEN

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#4 OPEN

**STATE LIAISON** James "Spy" Reilly – Chapter 9

**WE CARE**

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**  
CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

**VA VISITS –** OPEN

**EVENTS CHAIR** OPEN

**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**

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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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The advocacy group Rolling Thunder®, Inc. /  
Rolling Thunder® Charities, Inc. supports  
U.S. Military Active Duty, Veterans,  
Prisoners Of War, and Personnel Missing In  
Action from past wars.

**Our Adopted MIA/POW – Wade Groth**

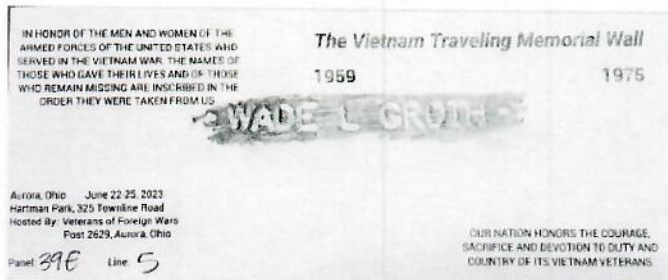




## GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE

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>  
Status: 1/24/23: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
Action By: Senate

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>

Status 2/16/23: *Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.*

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>

Status: 1/9/2023: *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.*

Action By: House of Representatives

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>

Status 1/10/23: *Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.*

Action By: House of Representatives



**There are 2 co-sponsors for this bill. None from Ohio.**

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)

Status 2/8/23: Referred to the Sub-committee on Health.

Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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

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

Status: *This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to study the effects of cannabis on veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system and have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or chronic pain (i.e., eligible veterans).*

*First, the bill requires the VA to conduct an observational, 18-month study on the effects of cannabis on the health outcomes of eligible veterans. The VA must report on the study and address whether it is able to meet criteria necessary to conduct clinical trials.*

*Then, if the VA determines that it is able to proceed, it must carry out a series of clinical trials on the effects of cannabis appropriate for investigational use, as determined by the Food and Drug Administration, on the outcomes of*

*eligible veterans. The VA must carry out a long-term observational study of the clinical trial participants.*

*The VA may terminate the trials if it is unable to meet clinical guideline requirements or the trials would create excessive risk to participants.*

*The VA must ensure that the study and trials are representative of the demographics of veterans in the United States, as determined by the most recent data from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census.*

*The study and trials must include mechanisms to ensure data preservation and registration as necessary (in an anonymous form).*

<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.\*\*

Status 2/9/23: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

<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.

Status 2/1/23: *Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*

Action By: *House of Representatives*

**(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.

Status 2/8/23: *Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.*

Action By: *Committee on Veterans' Affairs*

**There are no Ohio co-sponsors currently.**

**(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 72 co-sponsors, one from Ohio.

Status 12/6/23: *Passed in the House and sent to the Senate.*

**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.

Status 2/16/23: *Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.*

**(This bill is sponsored by Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown. To date, there are 8 co-sponsors.)**

**H.R.3722** (This is connected to S. 132, the senate bill)

Status 12/3/23: *Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.*

Action By: *Committee on Veterans' Affairs*

**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.**

Status 7/18/23: *Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 117.*

Action By: *House of Representatives*

**H. Con. Res. 64 (IH)** - Expressing the sense of Congress that all trade agreements the United States enters into, should provide reasonable access and collaboration of each nation involved



in such an agreement, for the purpose of search and recovery activities relating to members of the United States Armed Forces still missing and unaccounted for from prior wars or military conflicts.

**H.R. 1774** - 118th Congress (2023-2024): VA Emergency Transportation Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress. To amend title 38, United States Code, to reimburse veterans for the cost of emergency medical transportation to a Federal facility, and for other purposes. Introduced to the House on 3/24/23.

**H.R. 3670**- National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum Act 118th Congress 2023-2024. To designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum in Jacksonville, Florida, as a National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum.  
Status 6/9/23: *Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.*  
*Action By: Committee on Natural Resources*  
There are no 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

U.S. Navy RM2 Robert Thomas Duncan  
U.S. Navy SEA1 Richard Mstyin Schuon  
U.S. Navy MATT3 David Walker  
U.S. Army Air Forces Tech.Sgt. Harold L. Seifreid  
U.S, Army Air Forces Pfc. Robert L. Colter

U.S. Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dan W. Corson  
U.S. Army Air Forces S.Sgt. Jack W. Cory  
U.S. Army Air Forces S.Sgt. Henry L. Stevens  
U.S. Army Pvt. Earl E.R. Seibert  
U.S. Army S.Sgt. Leroy C. Cloud  
U.S. Army T/4 Elmo F. Hartwick

#### Korean War

U.S. Army MSgt. Thomas Crayton  
U.S. Army Cpl. William James Harrington

#### Viet Nam War

None listed

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### **DPAA completes first mission in the PRC since pandemic began**

Honolulu, HI -

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) completed a site survey in the People's Republic of China (PRC) on Jan. 19, investigating two previously surveyed sites related to World War II aircraft losses.

The mission aimed to locate a C-47 Skytrain and a P-40 Warhawk that went missing. The team, consisting of seven members, visited the provinces of Guangxi and Hunan, equipped with specialized skills to navigate challenging winter terrain efficiently. This undertaking marked the agency's first activity in the PRC since the onset of COVID-19.

"The PRC delegation recognized the humanitarian nature and people-to-people opportunities of our mission and pledged continued cooperation to include sustaining both the annual archival exchanges and field missions. The evidence recovered from the field survey at two World War II crash sites are being analyzed in our laboratory" said Kelly McKeague, DPAA director.

Supported by the United States Embassy in Beijing, the People's Liberation Army Archives (PLA-A), and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the team interacted with local leaders and received assistance from host nation workers.

During their stay, the team interviewed five people, including a 90-year-old eyewitness who shared



valuable insights. The team acknowledged the enthusiastic support received from the local community, emphasizing their eagerness to assist.

"The experience was humbling. The locals, so eager to provide any sort of assistance in our search for our fallen, cared for us and those we were searching for. This says something about the human spirit," said U.S. Army Capt. Jordan Smith, DPAA mission team leader.

Fellow investigative team members embraced the opportunity to look for any clue on their lost comrade in arms from decades ago.

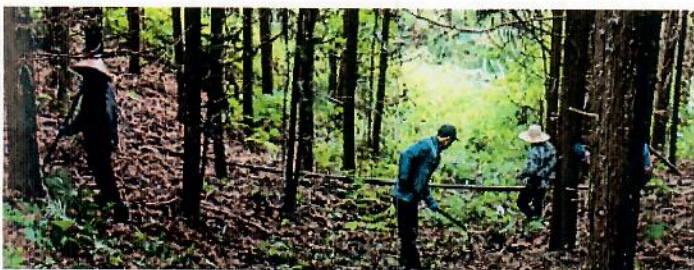
"I'm thankful to have had this chance to interact with our host nation counterparts and work together toward finding answers for these families of the fallen," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Miller, DPAA forensic photographer.

A crucial outcome of the mission was the reestablishment of ties between the DPAA and its PRC counterparts.

"A major contributing factor for the mission being such a success was that I was very fortunate to work with two incredible teams out there- our U.S. team composed of DPAA personnel and several members from the U.S. Embassy, and our PRC counterparts," said Dr. Willa Trask, DPAA scientific recovery expert for the team. "Our team was incredibly hardworking, and their assistance, skill, and professionalism proved a crucial asset for executing two successful site surveys.

Furthermore, the enthusiastic cooperation and hospitality shown to us by the PLA-A, MFA and local officials and hosts was invaluable."

The successful partner-building efforts with PLA-A and MFA counterparts aligned with DPAA's commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting for missing and unaccounted-for personnel. DPAA continues its search, and this mission was another step forward, paving the way for future cooperations.



### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

### **Growing Gratitude**

Would you like to cultivate a greater sense of gratitude? George Herbert, a seventeenth-century British poet, encourages readers toward that goal in his poem "Gratefulness": "Thou that hast given so much to me, give one thing more: a grateful heart."

Herbert recognized the only thing he needed in order to be thankful was simply an awareness of the blessings God had already given him.

The Bible declares Christ Jesus as the source of all blessing in Romans 11:36, "For from him and through him and for him are all things." "All things" encompasses both the extravagant and the mundane, everyday gifts in our lives. Everything we receive in life comes directly from our heavenly Father (James 1:17), and He willingly gives us those gifts out of His love for us.

To expand our awareness of God's blessings in our lives, we need to learn to cultivate a heart that acknowledges the source of all the joys we experience each day, but especially the ones we often take for granted. This could include a crisp morning to run, the anticipation of an evening with friends, a stocked pantry so you could make French toast with your family, the beauty of the world outside your window, and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee.

What is the "so much" that God has already given to you? Opening our eyes to those blessings will help us to develop grateful hearts.

*Take a few minutes to thank God for what comes to your mind right now. Try to do that throughout the day as well.*

*When you think of all that's good, thank God.*