

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

March, 2024

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY, March 17, 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.

*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.*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024 - Membership meeting 2:00 p.m.**

**Friday April 5, - Sunday, April 7 2024 - Piston & Power Show at the IX Center -**  
More details at the meeting.





**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 216-789-9272

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**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** 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**

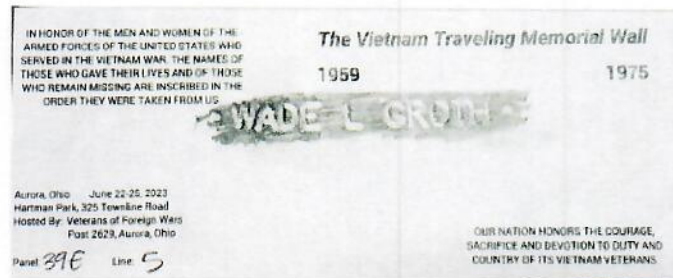




**GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE**

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](https://www.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](https://www.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. Army Pfc. Alcario V. Flores  
U.S. Army Pvt. Harold O. Poulter  
U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert L.E. Porter  
U.S. Army TEC5 Clifford H. Strickland  
U.S. Army Air Forces TEC5 Ballard E. Yeates  
U.S. Army Pfc. Noah C. Reeves  
U.S. Army Pvt. James B. McCartney

### Korean War

U.S. Army Cpl. Ray Kirby Lilly

### Viet Nam War

None listed

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## **Honoring Women Veterans: Celebrating Women's History Month!**

As we embrace the vibrant tapestry of Women's History Month, let's take a moment to shine a spotlight on the incredible women who have served their nations with unwavering dedication and valor. Women veterans, often unsung heroes in the archives of history, have contributed immeasurably to the rich tapestry of military service across the globe.

This March, as we commemorate Women's History Month, let's recognize the remarkable achievements, sacrifices, and resilience of women who have served in uniform. From breaking barriers to paving the way for future generations, their stories are etched in the fabric of our collective history.

Women veterans embody strength, courage, and tenacity. They've stood shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts, demonstrating their prowess in every branch of the military. Whether on the frontlines, in support roles, or commanding troops, women have shown time and again that they are indispensable assets to their nations' armed forces.

Their journeys are as diverse as the roles they've undertaken. From World War II's trailblazing WACs (Women's Army Corps) to today's fierce warriors serving in combat zones worldwide, women veterans have shattered stereotypes and shattered glass ceilings, proving their mettle time and time again.

Beyond their service in uniform, women veterans continue to make significant contributions to society as leaders, entrepreneurs, caregivers,



and advocates. Their resilience in the face of adversity inspires us all to strive for excellence and never give up on our dreams.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let's ensure that the stories of women veterans are not only heard but cherished. Let's honor their service, amplify their voices, and pledge to create a world where their contributions are recognized, valued, and celebrated every day. To all women veterans: Your bravery, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication inspire us. Thank you for your service, and may your legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

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### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

#### The Passion of Christ

*The punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5

Before Jim Caviezel played Jesus in the film *The Passion of the Christ*, director Mel Gibson warned that the role would be extremely difficult and could negatively impact his career in Hollywood. Caviezel took on the role anyway, saying, "I think we have to make it, even if it is difficult."

During the filming, Caviezel was struck by lightning, lost forty-five pounds, and was accidentally whipped during the flogging scene. Afterwards, he stated, "I didn't want people to see me. I just wanted them to see Jesus. Conversions will happen through that." The film deeply affected Caviezel and others on the set, and only God knows how many of the millions who watched it experienced changed lives.

The passion of Christ refers to the time of Jesus' greatest suffering, from His triumphal entry on Palm Sunday and including His betrayal,

mocking, flogging, and crucifixion. Accounts are found in all four gospels.

In Isaiah 53, His suffering and its outcome are foretold: "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (v. 5). All of us, "like sheep, have gone astray" (v. 6). But because of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, we can have peace with God. His suffering opened the way for us to be with Him.

By: Alyson Kieda

