

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

May, 2024

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, May 19, 2024

2:00 p.m.

NO Board Meeting

**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.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - Membership meeting
2:00 p.m.

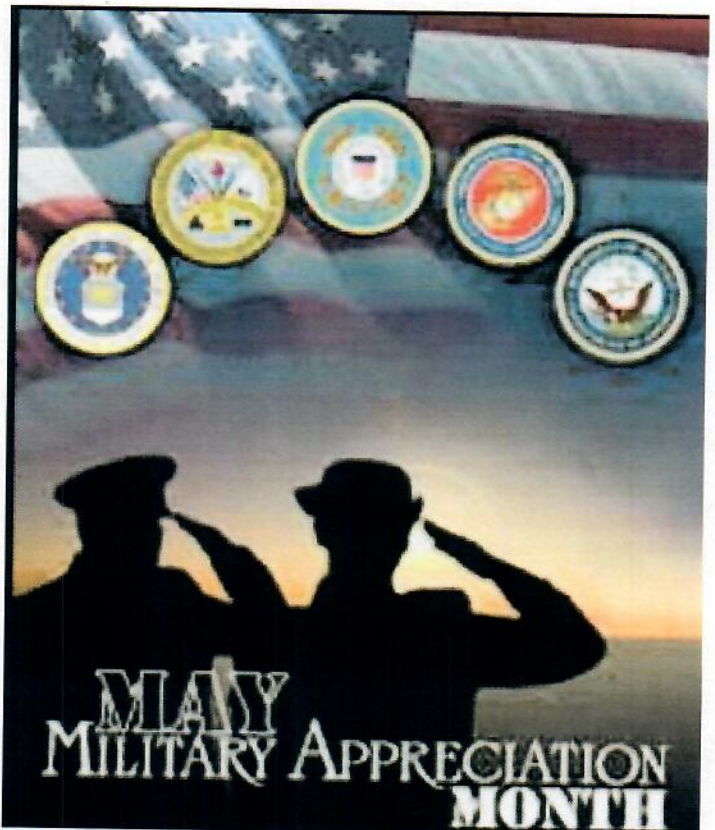
Saturday, June 15, 2024 - Macedonia
Walmart - 10 - 2 p.m.

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

Saturday, May 18, 2024 - Parma Walmart - 10 - 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - We are scheduled to perform the Roll Call of the Missing at the American Cruisers car show. Meet at the party center parking lot at Chevrolet Blvd. and Brookpark Rd. at 11:00 a.m. At 11:30, we will ride to the Cruisers' show and perform the ceremony. After the Roll Call, we will go to the Northfield VFW for our regular meeting at 2:00 p.m.



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

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VICE-PRES PAUL WIGET 440-476-3656

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VA VISITS – OPEN

EVENTS CHAIR OPEN

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

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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.

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.

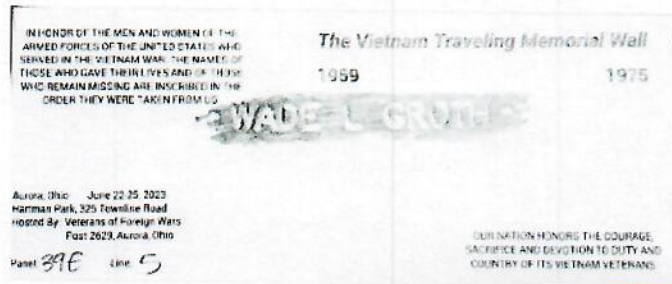
Our Adopted MIA/POW – Wade Groth



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)



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.

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.

Remains Identified

WWII

USMC Reserve Pvt. George Coe Browning
U.S. Army TSG Charles E. Young
U.S. Army Pfc. Clossie D. Brown
U.S. Army Sgt. Sam A. Prince
U.S. Army Cpl Raymond N. DeCloss
U.S. Army Pvt. Jeremiah P. Mahoney
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Nathan B. Baskind

Korean War

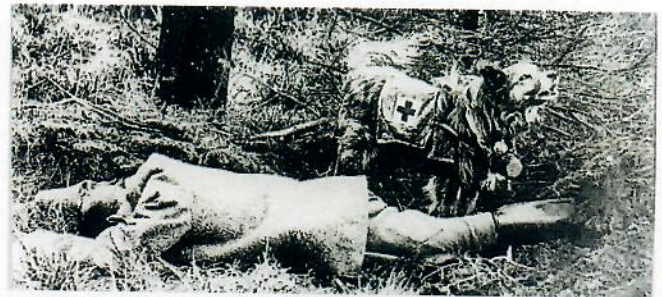
U.S. Army Cpl. Jesse Leroy Mitchell
U.S. Army Pfc. Charles Albert Vorel
U.S. Army Cpl William Colby
U.S. Army Sgt. Kester Bernard Hardman

Viet Nam War

USAF Maj. John Creighton Gille Kerr

Meet The Mercy Dogs, The Unsung Canine Heroes Of World War I

By [Kaleena Fraga](#)



Mercy dogs, also known as casualty dogs, were first used by the German Army to help find wounded soldiers on the battlefield and to comfort the dying.

For wounded soldiers in No Man's Land during World War I, few things could bring more comfort than the gentle nudge of a wet nose. The arrival of a mercy dog meant help was coming.

These dogs scoured fields following a battle in search of soldiers to help. Most carried medical supplies on their back; some obligingly wore gas masks. When they found a badly wounded man, they picked up a piece of his uniform in their teeth and ran with it back to camp.

Sometimes mercy dogs found someone beyond saving. In that case, these loyal canines stuck by the soldier's side as he died, offering him final moments of companionship and comfort.

These are the mercy dogs of World War I who lived — and died — alongside human soldiers.

How Armies Started Using Mercy Dogs

Humans have been using dogs in wars for thousands of years. Murals in ancient Egypt depict dogs in battle, and accounts written by ancient Greeks [mention dogs](#) "protected with coats of mail."

But a new idea started to emerge in 1890. Then, a German dog lover and painter named Jean Bungartz [founded the](#) *Deutschen Verein für Saniätshunde* or German Association for Medical Dogs. He envisioned training dogs who could help find wounded soldiers.

The idea for *saniätshunde* — or medical dogs — leaped to Britain five years later. In 1895, Major Edwin Richardson encountered a man buying English dogs to ship back to Germany.

"I took notice of a 'foreigner' buying a sheepdog from a shepherd and learned that the man was a German, sent over by his government to purchase large quantities of collie dogs for the German Army," [Richardson recounted](#).

"I was told that these dogs were found to be excellent for the work required and that they had nothing in Germany, which could compare with them."

Richardson, a dog lover like Bungartz, started to experiment with dogs to see if they could be useful during war. At the nearby Barry Buddon army camp, he fastened them with saddlebags and had them bring spirits to volunteer soldiers. Terriers and collies were good, Richardson decided, but Airedales were the "ideal."

In 1914, he and his wife opened the British War Dog School — and got to work.

"Shells from batteries at practice were screaming overhead, and army motor lorries passed to and fro," [said one journalist](#) who visited the school "The dogs are trained to the constant sound of the guns and very soon learn to take no heed of them."

The dogs were trained to do more than that. They also learned to find people — Richardson paid unemployed locals to lie in the woods — pass by dead bodies, wear gas masks, and even ignore German uniforms.

When World War I broke out, dogs from Britain, France, and Germany were sent to the front. There, these mercy dogs would save thousands of lives.

Mercy Dogs During World War I

And as men poured into the trenches during WWI, so did dogs. During the four bloody years of conflict, the two sides [used more than 50,000 dogs](#).

Some of them were Richard's Airedales. Others were German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, Boxers, and other breeds. Called mercy dogs, Red Cross dogs, ambulance dogs, or casualty dogs, their job started as soon as soldiers started stumbling back from battles.

Then, these specially trained dogs took to the field. They carried medical supplies on their backs which allowed a wounded soldier to treat himself. When they found someone badly wounded, the dogs would pick up a piece of his uniform and race back to camp to alert others.

"To the forlorn and despairing wounded soldier, the coming of the Red Cross dog is that of a messenger of hope," wrote Oliver Hyde in *The Work of the Red Cross Dog on the Battlefield*.

"Here at last is help, here is first aid. [The soldier] knows that medical assistance cannot be

far away, and will be summoned by every means in the dog's power."

Soon, incredible stories about mercy dogs came pouring from the front.

"It was a pitch-dark night with heavy fog," starts [one 1915 account of German *santiätshunde*](#) in the *New York Times*.

"At the command, 'Hunt the wounded!' the dogs dashed ahead into the woods, we following them as rapidly as possible ... it wasn't long before we heard barking... the dogs came running back to meet us and guided us until we came upon one poor devil who lay on the ground groaning, his eyes fixed on the dog...

"And so it went all night long, till we had thoroughly searched the battlefield. Fourteen wounded were found in the dark woods by our dogs who could never have been found by our ambulance men and would have been left to their fate. You cannot picture the horror of it."

Indeed, the dogs often alerted other soldiers to men clinging to life — ones that humans might dismiss as beyond saving.

"They sometimes lead us to the bodies we think have no life in them, but when we bring them back to the doctors... they always find a spark," wrote one surgeon "It is purely a matter of their instinct, [which] is far more effective than man's reasoning powers."

Other times, the dogs comforted the dying. They lay next to the fatally wounded man so that he didn't die alone.

Some of these mercy dogs even became famous. [Sergeant Stubby](#), a rare American dog, learned to alert soldiers about incoming mustard gas and helped search for the wounded. And a German shepherd puppy bred to be a mercy dog but nearly killed in a bombing grew up to become the American movie star, Rin Tin Tin.

Most mercy dogs, however, toiled anonymously. And large numbers of them died during the war. By the time the conflict came to an end in 1918, some 7,000 mercy dogs had been killed.

The Enduring Legacy Of Wartime Canines

As the 20th century charged on, humans frequently used dogs during wartime. During World War II, canines returned to the fields of battle as mercy dogs, guards, messengers, and scouts. The US alone [employed some 20,000 dogs](#) in the U.S. Army, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps.

Dogs served in later conflicts, too. During the Vietnam war, they helped soldiers sniff out Viet Cong tunnels. And during wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, dogs used their keen sense of smell to identify IEDs.

Since WWII, dogs have also been used to bring comfort to soldiers. The Red Cross started using therapy dogs with soldiers convalescing after battle in the 1940s. Today, they help soldiers battling conditions like PTSD.

In that way, the legacy of WWI's mercy dogs lives on. These brave canines brought desperately needed help to soldiers wounded in No Man's Land. What's more, they brought comfort.

To a wounded man, their presence meant help was coming. To a dying one, their soft fur, gentle breath, and beating heart meant that the man wouldn't have to die alone.

After all, there's a reason why dogs are called man's best friend.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Words Reflect Our Heart

A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart.

Luke 6:45 nlt

How do you eliminate foul language? A high school chose to institute a "no foul language" promise. The students took an oath, saying: "I do solemnly promise not to use profanities of any kind within the walls and properties of [our school]." This was a noble effort, but, according to Jesus, no external rule or pledge can ever cover the odor of foul speech.

Removing the stench of the words that come from our mouths begins with renewing our hearts. Just as people recognize the kind of tree by the fruit it bears (Luke 6:43-44), Jesus said that our speech is a convincing indicator of whether our hearts are in tune with Him and His ways or not. Fruit stands for a person's speech, "for the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (v. 45). Christ was pointing out that if we really want to change what's coming out of our mouths, we first have to focus on changing our hearts as He helps us.

External promises are useless to curb the foul language that comes forth from an untransformed heart. We can only eliminate foul speech by first believing in Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:3) and then inviting the Holy Spirit to fill us (Ephesians 5:18). He works within us to inspire and help us to continually offer thanks to God (v. 20) and to speak encouraging and edifying words to others (4:15, 29; Colossians 4:6).

By: Marvin Williams

