

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

August, 2023

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, August 20, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Roundup Lake Campgrounds
3392 State Route 82 Mantua, Ohio 44255

Please bring a dish to share

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.

Nominated in July:

President:	Lew Ballard
Board Member:	Bill Street
	Ted Rood
	Dan Hubbard

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 20, 2023 - Membership meeting/chapter picnic - 2:00 p.m. - Roundup Lake Campground

Friday, August 26, 2023 - Chair of Honor placement at Mentor High School soccer stadium. Be on site by 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 9, 2023 - Pizza party at Wade Park VA Hospital - details at 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.**

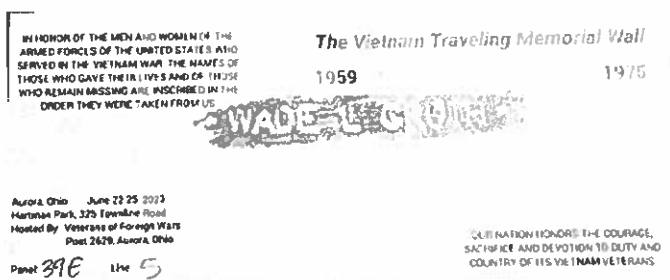
Our Adopted MIA/POW – Wade Groth



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.

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 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. Navy GM3c Arnold Eugene Lyon
U.S. Army Sgt. John W. Radanovich
U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Donal C. Aiken
U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Alfred W. Pezzella

Korean War

U.S. Army Pfc. Albert Aaron Gosnell
U.S. Army Pvt. Alvin Dalton Thurman

Viet Nam War

USMC Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman

***I was prepared to fight, prepared to die.
But I was not prepared for my country to
leave me behind.***

MIA soldier's daughter helps win national, state and local recognition for Gold Star children

By [Amber Spradley](#)

Published: Jul. 31, 2023 at 7:17 PM EDT

BILOXI, Miss. (WLOX) - Following one Biloxi woman's unrelenting effort to have August 1, 2023 declared as "Gold Star Children's Day", Governor Tate Reeves

signed it into law statewide Monday, while United States Senator Roger Wicker successfully helped get it proclaimed nationally for the first time in United States history.

It's a designation that no family wishes for: the Gold Star status. Those are the immediate loved ones of fallen military members serving in action.

"Our nation and its principles have been defended throughout history by brave men and women," Governor Reeves said Monday. "This proclamation is intended to honor the brave children who lost mothers and fathers in service to our country." Dawn Moore from Biloxi is one of about 20,000 Gold Star Children left in the country resulting from Vietnam losses alone. That's according to research conducted by a group called Sons and Daughters in Touch.

"We have our own group, and we've sat back over 60 years and have felt forgotten," Moore said. Gold Star Mother's Day is nationally observed on the last Sunday of every September. Every April 5 is nationally reserved for Gold Star Spouses. Until Wednesday, there had never been a nationally recognized holiday honoring the children.

That acknowledgment is something Moore would fight years for.

She brainstormed with a fellow Gold Star son in Alabama, and they both successfully pushed to have August 1 declared as "Gold Star Children's Day" in their own states.

Governor Reeves first signed it into Mississippi law in 2020 and has done so every year since. "That's great," Moore's friend told her. "We have two states: Alabama and Mississippi, right next to each other."

She replied, "Yes, and I'm going to go one higher." Moore called on Senator Wicker to take her request to Capital Hill.

"We are now recognized by the United States, and by two different states," she said, victoriously.

In a press release, Senator Wicker said, "The children of our nation's fallen patriots make a sacrifice that is difficult to comprehend...These sons and daughters are heroes in their own right, and the least we can do is recognize their service. This resolution is a small token of our nation's appreciation and respect."

In his push to get the declaration signed, Senator Wicker was also backed with support by West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin.

"No child should ever have to grow up without a parent, and I cannot imagine the pain of losing any loved one in the line of duty," Senator Manchin said. "West Virginians and Americans are forever grateful to the brave patriots and their families who have sacrificed so much for the country we all love. I'm proud to reintroduce this bipartisan resolution to designate August 1st, 2023 as Gold Star Children's Day to honor their dedication and sacrifice to our nation. I extend my deepest condolences and sincere gratitude to every Gold Star family and child." It was a long-fought battle that Moore refused to surrender.

"Sometimes it takes a warrior's strength, and then, to realize, wait a minute, I have the warrior's blood," she said.

To most of us, Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Moore is a wartime hero. To Moore, it's her father who went missing on Halloween of 1965.

"On that day, when they were 30 miles from Saigon, out came multiple Vietcong guerrilla, and they took the van and my dad and the other three," she said.

CMSGT Moore joined the then-called Army Air Force when he was 18 years old. He was part of the Air Force's branching off, as well as the establishment of Keesler AFB. Among many honors, he earned the Soldier's Medal of Valor for once saving a civilian worker.

Moore was only 11 years old when she found out her father went missing.

"I picked up the telegram myself and read it, and it is instilled in my head," she said.

A confirmed prisoner of war, CMSGT Moore is still listed as "missing in action". His case remains under analytical investigation.

"When you become old, 'old gold', we realize our own mortality," Moore said. "We're their living legacy."

Moore said Biloxi is home to her. It's where her parents first met and where she grew up after her father went missing.

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich worked to establish a Gold Star Families memorial monument that still stands today near the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.

He also declared August 1 as Gold Star Children's Day throughout the city.

"It's a day to remember our fathers or our mothers," Moore said. "But it's a day to tell the public, 'Hey, there's another section.'"

National Gold Star Children's Day is Tuesday.



Read the full text of the resolution below:

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the

families of fallen service members displayed a service flag with a gold star in the window of their homes;

Whereas, in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation declaring Gold Star Mother's Day, a national observance honoring the mothers of fallen service members annually on the last Sunday of September;

Whereas, since 2010, the Senate has honored Gold Star Spouses by resolution annually, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by spouses of fallen service members;

Whereas thousands of sons and daughters of military families have lost mothers or fathers who served in the Armed Forces and also deserve national recognition for the burden and legacy they carry; and

Whereas no date has existed to specifically recognize the children of fallen service members of the United States as part of a national debt of gratitude that the people of the United States owe to the service members who sacrificed all in protecting the freedom of the United States and the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 1, 2023, as "Gold Star Children's Day";

(2) honors the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen service members; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Children's Day in support of children of the fallen men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Jesus Our Brother

Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. - Hebrews 2:11

Bridger Walker was only six when a menacing dog lunged at his younger sister. Instinctively, Bridger jumped in front of her, shielding her from the dog's ferocious attack. After receiving emergency care and

ninety stitches to his face, Bridger explained his actions. "If someone had to die, I thought it should be me." Thankfully, plastic surgeons have helped Bridger's face heal. But his brotherly love, evidenced in recent pictures where he's seen hugging his sister, remains strong as ever.

Ideally, family members watch over us and care for us. True brothers step in when we're in trouble and come alongside us when we're afraid or alone. In reality, even our best brothers are imperfect; some even wound us. We have one brother, however, who's always on our side, Jesus. Hebrews tells us that Christ, as an act of humble love, joined the human family, sharing our "flesh and blood" and becoming like us, "fully human in every way" (2:14, 17). As a result, Jesus is our truest brother, and He delights in calling us His "brothers and sisters" (v. 11).

We refer to Jesus as our Savior, Friend, and King—and each of these are true. However, Jesus is also our brother who has experienced every human fear and temptation, every despair or sadness. Our brother stands alongside us—always.

