

# The Thunder Gazette

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November, 2023

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, November 19, 2023

2:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING – 1:00 p.m.

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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 19, 2023 - Board/  
Membership meeting 1:00/2:00 p.m.

Wreaths Across America - December, 16,  
2023

*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.*

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

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TED PILNY 216-346-6407  
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(ALTERNATE) TED ROOD

**CHAPLAIN** DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

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**MEMBERSHIP** OPEN

**QUARTERMASTER**  
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**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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**Our Adopted MIA/POW – Wade Groth**

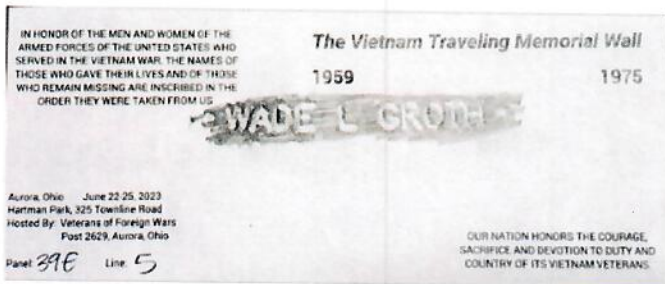




## GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE

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>  
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 72 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. To date, there are 8 co-sponsors.)**

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.

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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. Army Air Forces SSgt. Robert L. Ferris  
U.S. Navy PHM2 Merle Chester Joseph Hillman

**Korean War**

None listed

**Viet Nam War**

None listed

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**Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial**

Nov. 7, 2023 | By [Katie Lange](#), DOD News



Anyone who's ever scanned the list of 58,318 names etched into the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C., may have noticed a few that were different from the rest - particularly, the eight names that belong to women.

While women weren't allowed to serve in combat back then, plenty volunteered for other roles that still saw them deployed to Vietnam and put in harm's way.

As the nation recognizes all who have served this Veterans Day, a special spotlight will be on these women because Nov. 11 also commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Standing about 300 feet behind the apex of the Wall, the memorial was the first in the nation's capital to exclusively recognize the patriotic service of women, both military and civilian.

It took a long time to be realized, though. In fact, the idea for it didn't even begin to take shape until the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982. Diane Carlson Evans, who eventually founded the women's memorial, made sure she was at that unveiling.

"I had to be at the dedication. I had to find names," Evans said.

Evans was a captain in the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam era and served in the country as a nurse at two hospitals from 1968 to 1969. She said she and many other women saw a lot of trauma, and they did their best to save lives.

An estimated 10,000 women served in Vietnam, while more than 265,000 military and civilian women served around the world during that era. While 90% of the women who served in Vietnam were nurses, many were also in administrative roles, military intelligence or air traffic control. The eight women listed on the Wall were military nurses, but dozens more women died during the war working as civilian war



correspondents, photojournalists, humanitarian aids and more.

When Evans and the other women returned home, much like thousands of male service members of that era, they didn't receive a warm welcome.

"I believe in protesting war if we don't support it, but they didn't separate the war from the warrior, and we were feeling the brunt of it," she said. "For so many of us, our way of surviving our homecoming was to just not talk about [the war]."

However, about a year after the Wall's dedication, Evans saw a photo of the statue that would be added to the memorial depicting three servicemen. And that's when something just clicked.

"If they're going to have a statue to the men, there has to be one to the women, or they'll never know we were there," Evans remembered saying to her husband.

So, she began what turned into a 10-year quest to get a memorial built for female Vietnam veterans. (To put this effort into perspective, the larger memorial, the Wall, took three years.)

After years of planning and finding allies to support the cause, Congress approved a site on the National Mall for it in 1988, but the initial design was rejected by the D.C. Commission of Fine Arts, Evans said. So, they held a national open-design competition that received 350 submissions. The design by Glenna Goodacre, a New Mexican sculptor, came out on top. She created the bronze statue that's now in place depicting three women and a wounded soldier.

***"The nurse tending to the wounded soldier directly faces the apex. The standing woman ... is facing the [Abraham] Lincoln [Memorial], and the kneeling woman is facing towards the***

***Washington Monument," Evans explained. "The eight trees that surround this monument represent the eight women whose names are on the Wall."***

She said while many people assume the statue depicts nurses, it's a memorial to honor all women who served.

"There is no rank on the figures. There is no insignia identifying any of them," Evans said. "We embrace the 265,000 women who served around the world."

Once it was built, Evans said letters of thanks from servicewomen of the era began to pour in. "They were just so thankful for the Vietnam Women's Memorial because it was the starting point for their healing," she said. "Once they started sharing their stories, the public was incredulous. They had no idea that that's what we had seen, that's what we had done. ... And so, the appreciation and the gratitude from the public for these women has all been part of that healing process."

Over the years, more and more women have opened up to tell their stories publicly. For this year's Veterans Day commemoration on the National Mall, Evans said that, for once, it wasn't hard to find women willing to participate.

"They're just coming out of the woodwork. It's wonderful. I'm hearing from so many of them that they're coming in," she said. For those who can't attend in person, the event will be a livestreamed at <https://www.vvmf.org/live/>. Evans said that, in the past 30 years, female veterans have contributed greatly to America and should be celebrated.

"Some of them went on to become colonels and generals and stayed in the military. Others came out and ... changed occupations. They furthered their degrees, and they've been contributing to research that's being done on PTSD and Agent Orange. They've fought for legislation for



gender-inclusive benefits at VA facilities which were not friendly to women veterans when we came home in the 60s and 70s," Evans said. "We proved ourselves, and we opened doors for the next generations. Now, the sky's the limit." Evans said she and other female vets will continue to share their legacy "every day until we're all gone."

"I want to say how proud I was of the women I served with, and how much we cared for these young men who served during that era," she continued. "I'm so grateful to all those wounded soldiers in particular who came to stand by our side and support us to help us get that memorial built. ... They were so appreciative and so grateful."



The American Military Women Who Lost Their Lives in Vietnam

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**Chaplain's Corner**

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

**Crumbs of Time**

A friend was coming to town. He is a very busy man and his schedule was tight, but after a difficult day in important meetings, he managed to see my family for half an hour for a quick and late dinner. We enjoyed his visit, but I remember looking at my plate and thinking, "We only got the crumbs of his time."

Then I remembered how many times God gets the crumbs of my time—sometimes just the last minutes before I fall asleep.

Daniel was a busy man. He held a high government position in the ancient kingdom of Babylon, and I'm sure he had a full schedule. However, he had developed the habit of spending time with God—praying three times a day, praising God, and thanking Him. This routine helped him develop a strong faith that did not waver when he faced persecution (Dan. 6).

God desires a relationship with us. In the morning we can invite Him into our day, and then we can praise Him and ask Him for His help throughout the day. At other times we can treasure some time alone with Him and reflect on His faithfulness. As we spend time with God in prayer and in His Word, we grow in our relationship with Him and learn to become more and more like Him. As time with God becomes a priority, we enjoy His company more and more.

*Dear Father, I want to have an intimate relationship with You. I invite You to be part of my entire day—from the time I awake until I go to sleep.*

**Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. Isaiah 40:31**

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**Happy 248th Birthday to the United States Marine Corps**

