

# The Thunder Gazette

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December, 2023

## PLEASE NOTE

**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY, December 17, 2023  
2:00 p.m.**

***Pot luck Christmas party immediately  
following the 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, December 16, 2023 - Wreaths  
Across America** - on **December 16, 2023**, we have the wreath placement at Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. We will meet at Rittman at approximately 08:30 AM. They are expecting a crowd so we are meeting early to place our specific wreathes before the ceremonies and public placement. I requested 30 wreathes for us to lay on specific graves. We will need to work with the trucks/administrators to get those early.

## Sunday, December 17, 2023 - Membership meeting 2:00 p.m. - Chapter Christmas party

This year's Christmas party will be a pot luck affair, spouses and significant others are included. The chapter will provide ham and rolls.

In addition to the shared meal we are going to play a game called "White Elephant." The way the game is played is this.

Bring 3-4 wrapped gifts per person. These can be dollar store items or that stuff you got in an office gift exchange or some garage sale item you could not unload. Please keep the cost as low as possible. The intent is to have fun "exchanging" these gifts.

At the start of the game, all the gifts are piled in the center of the table. A pair of dice is then started around the table and each person rolls the dice. The person who rolls a double can select a gift from the pile.

Now it gets interesting; if someone rolls a double they can select from the center of the table or they can "claim" a gift someone else has already won. The game continues for a limited time, usually 30 minutes, while we see who can accumulate the most gifts.

At the end of the game we unwrap our treasures and take them home to use next year etc. etc.

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***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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AND PLATOON LEADERS**

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

**WE CARE**

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**  
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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**

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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**

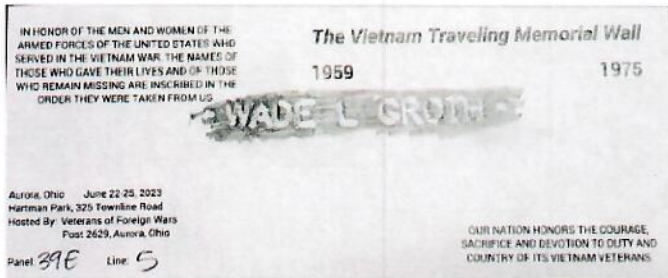




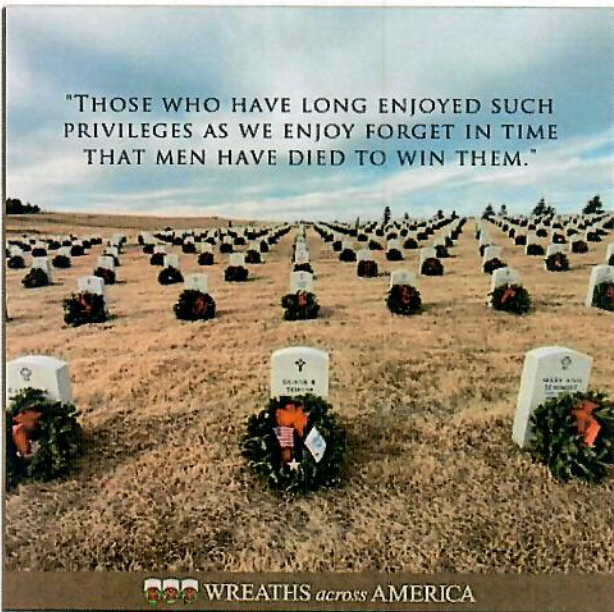
**GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kenyon Brindley

**Korean War**

U.S. Army MSgt. Roy Edward Barrow

**Viet Nam War**

USMC Capt. Ronald Wayne Forrester

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**Give Hope This Holiday Season**

Check in and spend time with the veterans in your life.

(December 8, 2023 by Matthew Miller, Executive Director, Suicide Prevention, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention)

In the past, as the holidays approached, I worried about gift buying, digging out decorations and wondering how I'd navigate the obligation of an entire month's worth of social gatherings.

This year though, I'm determined to do things differently. While many people are going to spend the next few weeks trying to live up to impossible expectations, I'm going to focus on the one thing that could have the most impact on someone's life, including my own: hope.



## **Giving Hope**

Some Veterans I know are very social. Others tend to be more introverted. Some would like to be more social but haven't been able to find the right balance that works for them.

If you're more outgoing and know a Veteran who tends to be alone most of the time, consider inviting them to meet up over the holidays. Get together for coffee or maybe see a movie.

If you don't live close to the Veterans you know, make sure you call or text them regularly. I know from experience that, for many people, the gift of your time means more than any material item you could wrap up for them. And for Veterans who may be struggling around the holidays, knowing they have a support network can reduce their risk for suicide.

Give hope to your Veteran loved ones who may be lonely.

## **Be Prepared to Offer Support**

While talking with your Veteran loved one, they might tell you they're going through a rough time. This is when you need to take action. Be prepared to listen to what they want to tell you. When it comes to responding to a Veteran, remember that simple, encouraging feedback goes a long way in showing support and encouraging help-seeking:

- "I'm here for you. How do you hurt and how can I help?"
- "I might not be able to understand exactly what you're going through or how

you feel, but I'm here to listen and want to help."

Make sure they know the Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 to help during a crisis. You can even call together. To reach responders 24/7, [Dial 988 then Press 1](tel:988), chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or text 838255.

## **Know How To Find Local Resources**

So far, I've talked about what are called "upstream" resources. These are resources that are supposed to help Veterans before a crisis strikes.

Another upstream resource that's helpful for Veterans and those who care about them is our [Resource Locator](#) tool, which is a guide to clinical resources like VA's suicide prevention coordinators, crisis centers, medical centers, outpatient clinics, Vet Centers and benefits offices.

To use this tool, visit the [Local Resources page](#) on the Veterans Crisis Line website. Scroll down to the "Search Local VA Resources" box. Here, you can enter your ZIP code and distance parameters. You can search from 10-300 miles from your ZIP code.

No matter what the Veteran you care about is experiencing, VA can connect them with resources and support systems to help.

## **A Simple Gesture Could be Life Changing**

It's easy to get caught up in the stress of the holidays, but you don't have to let your life revolve around gifts and parties and a



never-ending to-do list. This year, give hope to a Veteran you know.

Check in with those you served with. It can be as simple as a phone call or text. If you can, meet up in person. Focus on the things you can't buy: Time and support. That's what matters to Veterans facing a challenge.

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### Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

#### The Christmas Star

*When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.*

Matthew 2:10

"If you find that star, you can always find your way home." Those were my father's words when he taught me how to locate the North Star as a child. Dad had served in the armed forces during wartime, and there were moments when his life depended on being able to navigate by the night sky. So he made sure I knew the names and locations of several constellations, but it was being able to find Polaris that mattered most of all. Knowing that star's location meant I could gain a sense of direction wherever I was and find where I was supposed to be.

Scripture tells of another star of vital importance. "Magi from the east," learned men (from an area encompassed by Iran and Iraq today) had been watching for signs in the sky of the birth of the One who was to be God's king for His people. They came to Jerusalem asking "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:1-2).

Astronomers don't know what caused the star of Bethlehem to appear, but the Bible reveals that God created it to point the world to Jesus—"the bright Morning Star" (Revelation 22:16). Christ came to save us from our sins and guide us back to God. Follow Him, and you'll find your way home.

By: James Banks

