

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

June, 2024

## PLEASE NOTE

**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY, June 9, 2024**

**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.

Sunday, July 14, 2024 - Appreciation Day at the Captain's stadium - 11:00 a.m.

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Nominations will begin in July at the membership meeting for the positions of vice-president (currently held by Paul Wiget), treasurer (currently held by Andy Klush), Chairman of the Board (currently held by Chuck Kettler) and 2 board positions (Mike Neilan & Jim Rossi are the 2 Board members whose positions are up for nominations). Nominations will again be taken at the August meeting.

To be eligible for the position of chapter president, a member must have held a chapter executive officer position or been a member of the Board of Directors for 12 months prior to being nominated. To be nominated and/or elected for any other officer position, a Chapter member must be a member in good standing for a period of one (1) year or longer. The person must be a full member at the time of the nomination and have earned their patches. The member must also have attended six (6) meetings prior to nominations in the past twelve (12) months. You must be present at time of nomination to accept the nomination. Elections will be held at the September membership meeting. If you have someone in mind to nominate for any of these positions, please discuss with that person before nominating them.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 9, 2024 - Board/Membership meeting 1:00/2:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, July 13, 2024 - Streetsboro Walmart - 10 a.m. - 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.*



**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  
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JIM ROSSI  
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#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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ckettler6480@yahoo.com

**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**

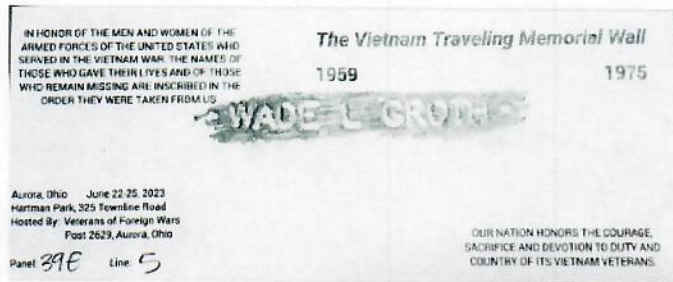




**GROTH, WADE LAWRENCE**

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.

**No further action to date.**

**H.R. 1774** - 118th Congress (2023-2024): VA Emergency Transportation Act | 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.

*07/18/2023 Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held*



**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](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

- USMC Pvt. Lewis Oscar McInstosh
- U.S. Army Pfc. Luther E. Bagley
- U.S. Army Air Forces John A. Tarbert
- U.S. Army Pvt. Joseph M. Cocco
- USMC Pfc. Erwin Shaftsbury King
- USMC Pvt. Randolph Ray Edwards
- Navy Reserve Lt. Jay Ross Manown
- U.S. Navy F3c Royle Bradford Luker
- U.S. Army Air Forces Jack H. Hohlfield

#### Korean War

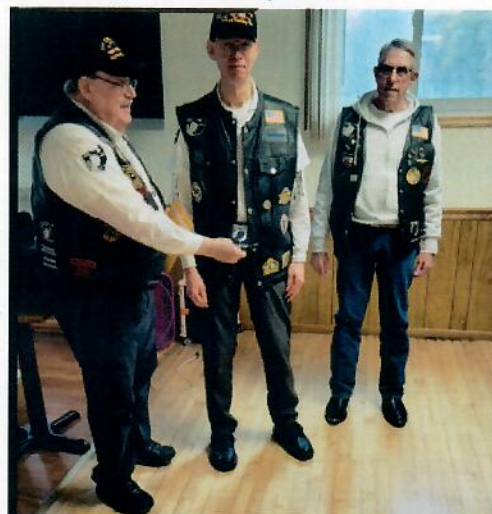
- U.S. Army Sfc. Israel Ramos
- U.S. Army Edward Joseph Smith

#### Viet Nam War

None listed

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**Russ receiving his boot patch!**



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4 women are buried among several thousand men at the US D-Day cemetery. These are their stories.

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN;  
STARS AND STRIPES • June 4, 2024

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — Among the roughly 9,400 graves at Normandy American Cemetery are those of four women: Mary Bankston, Mary Barlow, Dolores Browne and Elizabeth Richardson.

They're a reminder of the less-heralded roles American women played overseas during World War II.

Bankston and Barlow, both privates, and Browne, a sergeant, served with the Women's Army Corps, a special component created during the war to allow women to serve in non-combat roles. The Corps was segregated and included the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, to which the women were assigned.





In early 1945, the Six Triple Eight, as it was known, deployed to the United Kingdom with a mission to clear a backlog of undelivered letters and packages that had been piling up in warehouses since D-Day, the previous June. At the time, mail was the only way for service members abroad to communicate with their loved ones back home, and the backlog was said to be affecting troop morale.

"Just think about how many times a day you look at your phone or expect a phone call," said retired Army Col. Edna W. Cummings, who has spent about a decade working to get recognition for the unit. "Once that final communication with loved ones is interrupted, it causes troop morale to plummet."

The battalion's soldiers worked long shifts in bleak warehouses, where rats had eaten through some of the estimated 17 million items of mail. The buildings were kept dark so that the enemy couldn't detect them.

Cummings believed the women were set up to fail like other units that had attempted to clear the backlog before them.

But under the leadership of Maj. Charity Adams, the Six Triple Eight devised a system to tackle the problem, which included creating a card index of names and working round the clock in shifts to maximize efficiency, according to the U.S. Army Center of Military History. Not only did they complete their mission, but they also did so three months ahead of schedule. The success allowed the unit to transfer to Rouen, France, in May 1945 to clear a postal jam there.

It was in Rouen two months later when "the Three B's," as they were known, were involved in a fatal jeep accident. In her book "One Woman's Army," Adams wrote that the trio had been returning from a social trip to another installation when the accident happened.

The two privates were killed the day of the accident. Browne lived for another five days before succumbing to her injuries. All were in their early 20s.

Bankston and Barlow belonged to the battalion's entertainment troupe and put on performances in their free time. Not much else is known about any of the young women, whose remains were relocated to Normandy American Cemetery in 1948 with their families' consent.

While they faced segregation during their military service, they are honored at the cemetery in the same manner as all other service members regardless of rank, gender, race, religion or country of origin.

In 2022, their entire battalion was presented the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award, in large part thanks to Cummings' advocacy.

"They did something that no one else could get done," Cummings said. "Restoring a vital communication link in a combat environment is a heroic deed, and that's what the Six Triple Eight did."

Unlike the other three women, Elizabeth Richardson wasn't in the military. As a member of the American Red Cross clubmobile unit, she helped serve coffee and donuts to American service members in England and France.

The clubmobiles were vehicles converted into mobile kitchens. The first ones landed in Normandy just weeks after the Allied invasion. In some instances, they operated just behind the front lines.

While coffee and donuts might not sound like much, James H. Madison, a historian at Indiana University, said the clubmobile women were "exceedingly important."



"For many soldiers, these women were the embodiment of home, and that, of course, is what these guys were fighting for," Madison said. "They're not fighting to destroy fascism. They're not fighting to raise the American flag. They are fighting for home."

Madison first became aware of Richardson during a visit to Normandy American Cemetery, as he was looking for graves of "boys" from his home state of Indiana. He admits he was shocked to find one of a woman, and it piqued his curiosity.

Upon returning home, he began researching Richardson. Her brother provided him with a trove of information, including old diaries, which revealed how she formed a bond with American soldiers who fought on the front lines.

She had deep conversations with them about what they were feeling and experiencing. Among them were airborne soldiers, whom she spoke with just before they left for Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands. Several thousand Americans died in the fighting.

"She came to know war as well as anyone can know it who has not actually been in combat," Madison said. "She knew the necessity for the war, but she also knew the tragedies of it." Richardson also met American prisoners of war in France after they were liberated from Nazi confinement.

"She saw them and served them coffee and donuts when they got off their plane coming back from Germany," said Madison, who went on to write a book about Richardson. "That was the nature of her war experience. It's a heroic experience, and I think she deserves all the honor."

On July 25, 1945, Richardson was heading to Paris on a small plane when it crashed near Rouen, killing her and the pilot.

"It's important to remember that sacrifice came from all corners of America," said Charles Djou, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, which oversees Normandy American Cemetery. "It wasn't just soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."


And among those who were service members, it's important to remember that not all were men, said Kim Guise, a senior curator at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

"It's wonderful that many Americans know about Rosie the Riveter and the important work that women were doing in factories, here on the homefront," Guise said in a phone interview. "But a lot of people don't realize that women served in such large numbers in the military during World War II."

The Women's Army Corps had more than 150,000 volunteers, according to official figures. "It's our job now to tell those stories," Guise said. "There are some stories that are very well-known from World War II and for good reason, but if you look below the surface just a little, there are these other individuals and other stories that are just waiting to be told."

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## LETS GET THOSE BIRTHDAY CARDS IN THE MAIL...

WWII Veteran Edgar Guaraldi will be turning 100 on June 29th  
Eddie landed on Omaha Beach on D Day. He was there to liberate Buchenwald! He fought in the Battle of the Bulge!  
Send Edgar a Birthday card so he will feel the Love of a Grateful Nation   
Cards may be sent to:

Edgar Guaraldi  
C/O All American Assisted Living  
1074 West Washington Street  
Hanson, MA 02341





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### 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

