

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

June, 2025

PLEASE NOTE

**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP
MEETING WILL BE HELD ON**

SUNDAY,

June 22, 2025

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.

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). Nominations will be taken at the July and August meetings.

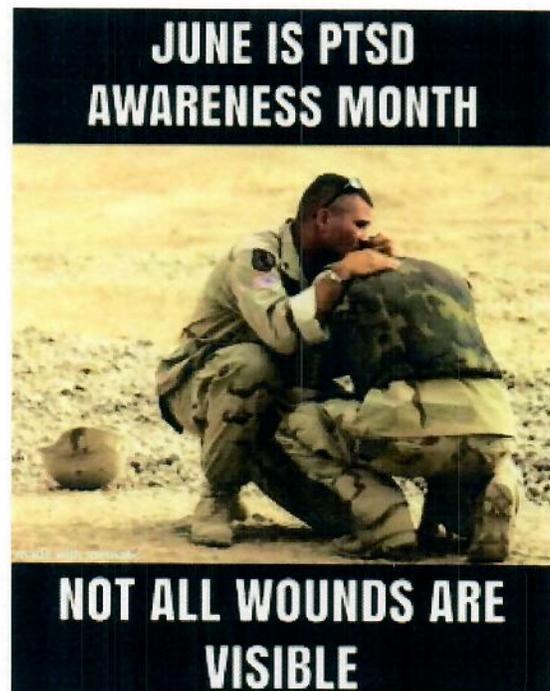
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 22, 2025 - 2:00 p.m. - Membership meeting - Northfield VFW - There will be a guest speaker from Ohio DAC to talk about music therapy retreats for Ohio veterans with PTSD and/or MST.

Saturday, June 28, 2025 - Chardon Walmart - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 29, 2025 - Lake County Captain's game - 1:00 p.m. More details at the meeting.

Saturday, July 19, 2025 - Picnic at the Wade Park VA hospital. All hands on deck!



**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

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

BOARD MEMBERS

BILL STREET 440-537-0955

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 216-789-9272

NEWSLETTER STAFF
CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468

PLATOON LEADERS:
#1 MIKE NEILAN 440-241-2655

#2 SALLY FELEAN 440-349-2470

#3 RUSS TUBBS 440-391-3833

#4 DAN MCGINNIS 330-618-1720

STATE LIAISON IRA "SHREK" SKEEBY 937-541-5927

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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Please send any pictures you may have to Chip at
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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.

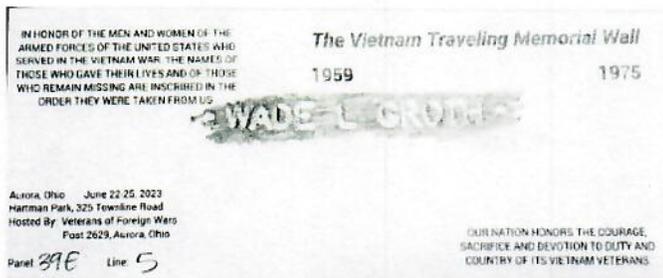
Our Adopted MIA/POW – Wade Groth



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)



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.



Government Affairs -

With the new Congress being in session, new bills need to be introduced. Stay tuned.

"UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"

Remember: You are the voice of our POW and MIAs.

Remains Identified

WWII

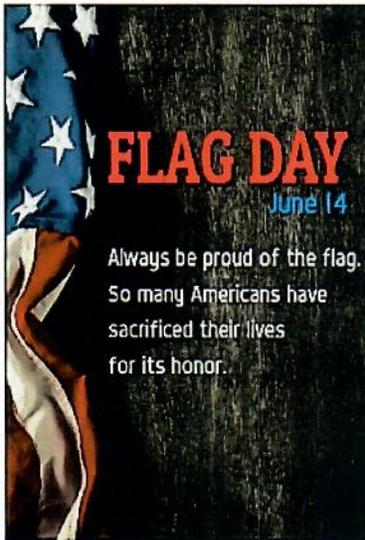
U.S. Navy SK3 Robert Stillman Garcia
U.S. Army Air Forces SSG Paul A. Heggemeier
U.S. Army Pvt. Kenneth E. Matson
U.S. Army PFC Edward J. Kramer
U.S. Army SSgt Junior J. Shelton
U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Jason K. Goldwater
U.S. Army PFC James R. Heigh
U.S. Army PFC Nicholas Hartman
U.S. Army PFC St. Clair M. Gibson
U.S. Army Pvt. Mack Homer
U.S. Army T/5 Daniel Wyatt
U.S. Army PFC Charles N. Milam
U.S. Army PFC Ell T. Simanta
U.S. Navy Ens Joseph Lee Richey
U.S. Army Air Forces SSG Nicholas J. Governale
U.S. Army PFC William E. Kutnock
U.S. Army SSGT Paul A. Gregg
U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Thomas G. Deitman

Korean War

U.S. Army Cpl. Oscar L. Sprague
U.S. Army PFC Elijah Trannon
U.S. Army Pfc Rodger Engle Fields
U.S. Army Pfc Albert Henry Faust

Viet Nam War

U.S. Navy CAPT Thomas Edwin Scheurich
U.S. Army MSG Donald Peter Gervais



On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation deeming June 14th as Flag Day. President Wilson stated, "It is the anniversary of the day upon which the flag of the United States was adopted by the Congress as the emblem of the Union." He also wrote, "On that day rededicate ourselves to the nation, 'one and inseparable' from which every thought that is not worthy of our fathers' first vows in independence, liberty, and right shall be excluded and in which we shall stand with united hearts."

"The American Flag does not fly because the wind moves past it. The American Flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died protecting it."



Chaplain's Corner (submitted by Dan McGinnis)

Putting the Pieces Together

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

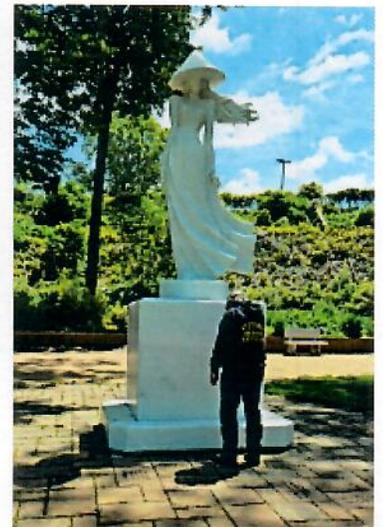
While the family quarantined due to the global pandemic, they took on an ambitious project—an eighteen-thousand-piece puzzle! Even though they worked on it almost daily, often they felt like they weren't making much progress. Five months after it began, they finally celebrated adding the final piece to the nine-by-six-foot puzzle that covered the dining room floor.

Sometimes life may feel a bit like a giant puzzle—many pieces in place, but a whole lot more still lying in a jumble on the floor. While we know that God is at work transforming us to be more and more like Jesus, sometimes it can be hard to see much progress.

Take great comfort in Paul's encouragement in his letter to the Philippians when he said he prayed for them with joy because of the good work they were doing (1:3-4). But his confidence came not in their abilities but in God, believing that "he who began a good work . . . [would] carry it on to completion" (v. 6).

God has promised to finish His work in us. Like a puzzle, there may be sections that still need our attention, and there are times when we don't seem to make much progress. But we can have confidence that our faithful God is still putting the pieces together.

A few photos from the Memorial Day run.





Challenge America

Virtual Music Therapy Retreats

The Challenge America Virtual Music Therapy Retreat leverages technology, the healing power of music, and best practices from trauma-informed music therapy to help Veterans cope with the diagnosis or symptoms of PTSD and Military Sexual Trauma.

Over the course of this 4-week program, Veterans meet together twice a week to learn brain-balancing skills utilizing guitar and mindfulness, while experiencing two 1:1 songwriting collaborations with a professional songwriter who will perform the Veteran's song in a virtual concert during the last week.



Veteran participants benefit from:

- Trauma-informed music therapy with a Board-Certified Music Therapist
- A songwriting opportunity with a professional songwriter to facilitate self-expression
- A Veteran group experience that interrupts the vicious cycle of isolation
- A guitar to turn to in times of darkness for comfort and to express emotions 
- Access to resources, including the Challenge America Veteran Arts Community (CAVARTS), the Military Sisterhood Initiative (MSI), & our growing library of free video tutorials on guitar, songwriting, & mindfulness lessons
- A renewed sense of hope, belonging & purpose 



National Peer-Support Communities



Created by Veterans, for Veterans, CAVARTS is an exclusive community that brings together 8,200+ Veterans & service members to connect, learn, & grow through the creative arts. Members have access to workshops, concerts, panel discussions, guitar lessons, clubs, & more.



MSI is a national peer support network of and for women of the military with 5,600+ members. Members provide support for one other & build connections through shared experiences in mental health, MST, PTSD, art, cooking, & more.

