

# The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

November, 2024

## PLEASE NOTE

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

**SUNDAY, November 17, 2024**

**2:00 p.m.**

### *No Board Meeting*

**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

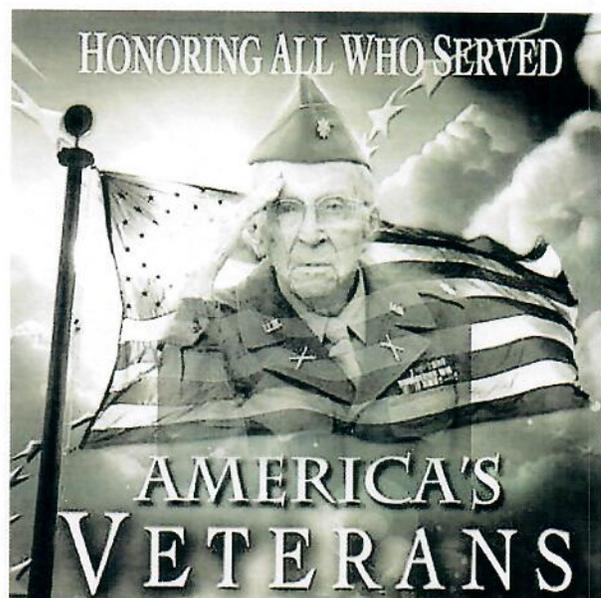
Sunday, November 17, 2024 - Membership meeting - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 14, 2024 - Wreaths Across America - Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery

Sunday, December 15, 2024 - 2:00 p.m. - Chapter Meeting / Christmas Party

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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.*



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

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**VICE-PRES** PAUL WIGET 440-476-3656  
**SECRETARY** CHERYL PILNY 440-543-8468  
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**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**  
CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

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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

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#4 OPEN

**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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**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.

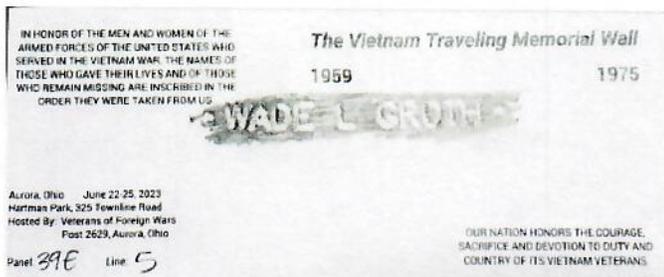
**Our Adopted MIA/POW – Wade Groth**



## 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](https://www.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](https://www.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 Cpl. Ernest H. Ulrich  
U.S. Army Sgt. Simon Garelick  
U.S. Army Pvt. James S. Mitchell  
U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Homer C. Nyberg  
U.S. Army Pfc. Leon R. Karwacki  
U.S. Army Air Forces Glenn H. Hodak  
U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas V. Kelly  
U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. James H. Murray  
U.S. Army Sgt. Howard L. Hasselkus  
U.S. Army Pvt. Harland J. Hennessey

U.S. Army Pvt. James G. Loterbaugh  
U.S. Army Air Forces SSG Eugene J. Darrigan  
U.S. Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Donald W. Sheppick  
U.S. Army Pfc. Robert Lee Bryant  
U.S. Army Air Forces S.Sgt. Loring E. Lord  
U.S. Army Air Forces Pfc. Bernard J. Calvi  
U.S. Army Pfc. Estle E. Corvin  
U.S. Army Sgt. Norman Henry Drewes  
U.S. Army Pfc. Kenneth D. Burgess  
USMC Cpl. John Edward Edwinson  
U.S. Army Cpl. Malcolm S. Webb  
U.S. Army Pvt. Leroy B. Miller  
U.S. Army Pfc. Gordon N. Larson

#### Korean War

U.S. Army Cpl. Frederick Carino  
U.S. Army Sgt. Thomas Joseph O'Brien  
U.S. Army Sgt. David Eugene Hardy  
U.S. Army Pfc. Willard Hoyt Edwards  
U.S. Army Pfc. James Charles Bowman  
U.S. Army Pvt. Floyd Schultz  
U.S. Army Cpl. Billie Charles Driver  
U.S. Army Cpl. John Brooks Miller  
U.S. Army Pfc. William Arlo Wheeler

#### Viet Nam War

U.S. Army WO1 Albert Raymond Trudeau

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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**



### **What is a Vet?**

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg or, perhaps, another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking.

He is the cop who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

She or he is the nurse who went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the P.O.W. who went away one person and came back another—if he came back at all.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat, but has saved countless lives by turning rednecks and gang members into soldiers and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket—palsied and aggravatingly slow—who helped liberate a Nazi death camp, and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet extraordinary human being—a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say "Thank You". That's all most of these people need and, in most cases, it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded. Two little words that mean a lot: "THANK YOU!"