

The Thunder Gazette

Published by Rolling Thunder® Inc. Chapter 1 Ohio

December, 2024

PLEASE NOTE

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP

MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, December 15, 2024

2:00 p.m.

No Board Meeting

**V.F.W. POST #6768
8584 Olde Eight Rd.
Northfield, OH**

***Pot luck Christmas party immediately
following the meeting***

To be a member in good standing, one must:

- Attend at least 3 meetings & 3 events per year;
- Pay the annual membership dues of \$40/yr;
- Abide by the Membership Patch rules;
- Remain loyal to Rolling Thunder® in word, deed and action;
- Conduct him/herself in a professional and courteous manner at all times.

Handicap placard vehicles are allowed at the cemetery.

10 a.m. Ceremony

General Wreath Laying will be immediately following.

No volunteer check-in this year, just come and enjoy the day. If you are a large group, over 10 people, you can check in with our large group gathering area near the large tent and we can let you know if there are larger tasks available for big groups at that time.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 - 2:00 p.m. - Chapter Meeting / Christmas Party - it would be helpful to arrive early to help with setup. Don't forget to bring a covered dish to share, and remember 3 to 4 wrapped gag white elephant gifts per person for the Santa game.

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 14, 2024 - Wreaths Across America - Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery - **Heads up! There have been some time and location changes from last year. Please read the following carefully.**

Parking for this year's event is at Jarrett Trucking 8860 Wooster Pike, Seville, OH.

Shuttles will begin running at 7:45 am. NO OTHER REMOTE PARKING SITES ARE APPROVED THIS YEAR.



**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
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHUCK KETTLER 330-636-5315

BOARD MEMBERS

BILL STREET
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

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TIM EXTON 216-789-9272

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#3 SALLY FELEAN 440-439-4914
#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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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.

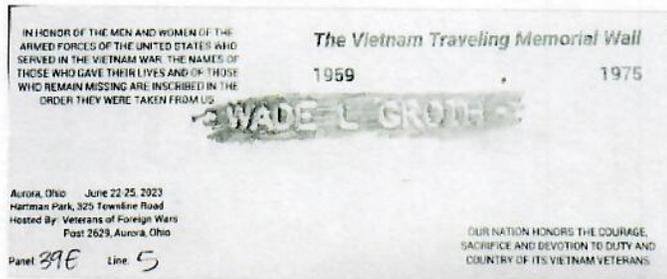
Our Adopted MIA/POW – Wade Groth



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)



Government Affairs -

EDITOR'S NOTE: I HAVE GONE THROUGH EACH OF THESE BILLS AND, AS OF 12/9/2024, NO FURTHER ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IF THESE BILLS TO NOT GET WRITTEN INTO LAW BY THE END OF THIS TERM, THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED DEAD AND WILL HAVE TO BE RE-INTRODUCED INTO CONGRESS.

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 or call toll-free at 800-827-1000.

"UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME"

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

Remains Identified

WWII

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. George Frank Wilson

Korean War

U.S. Army Cpl. Paul Eugene Hoots

Viet Nam War

None listed

Chaplain's Corner

(submitted by Dan McGinnis)

God's View of Us

It was 1968, and America was mired in a war with Vietnam, racial violence was exploding in cities, and two public figures had been assassinated. A year before, fire had taken the lives of three astronauts on the launch pad, and the idea of going to the moon seemed like a pipe dream. Nonetheless, Apollo 8 managed to launch a few days before Christmas.

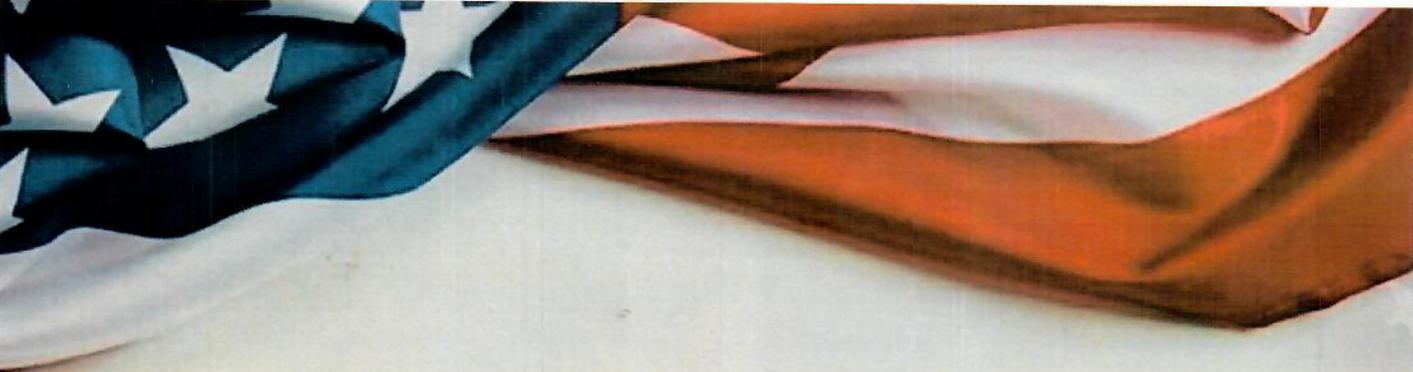
It became the first manned mission to orbit the moon. The flight crew, Borman, Anders, and Lovell—all men of faith—broadcast a Christmas Eve message: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). At the time, it was the most watched TV event in the world, and millions shared the God's-eye view of Earth in a

now iconic photo. Frank Borman finished the reading: "And God saw that it was good" (v. 10)

Sometimes it's hard to look at ourselves, all the hardships we're mired in, and see anything that's good. But we might return to the story of creation and see God's view of us: "In the image of God he created them" (v. 27). Let's pair that with another divine-eye view: "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16). Today, remember that God created you, sees the good despite the sin, and loves the you He created.

While many of our Veteran brothers and sisters were deciding which free meal or discount to enjoy, Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 Ohio went to visit the Louis Stoles VA hospital and entertain our Vets. We held a Bingo Party complete with prizes and pizza. As a special treat they received a visit from our own North Pole representative, Russ the Elf. Big shout out and thanks to Russ!





September 20, 2024 was "National POW/MIA Recognition Day" this year and quite by coincidence it was also the day we chose to bury our uncle, Sgt John Paul Ryhter, in his hometown cemetery.

On behalf of the Ryhter family, I want to thank you and all the members of RollingThunder for attending and participating in John's service as well as escorting him on the ride from the airport.

We are pleased the town of Bedford, its citizens, so many veterans and their organizations, all showed up in so many ways to honor John. It means a lot to us.

Sincerely,

Deb Klein and the entire Ryhter Family