

PO Box 605
West Chester, Ohio 45271
(Donations welcomed)

Rolling Thunder® Chapter 9 - March 2009

Just because you can't do everything does not give
you an excuse to do nothing



From the President's



Spring is upon us. Soon we'll be out riding and spreading the word around the tri-state about all our brothers and sisters from all wars still unaccounted for!

Now's the time to start thinking about ways we can get out into the public and do our work. Come up with some ideas like the idea of setting up tables outside Wal-Mart or Sams Club. Let your imagination run wild ... let's plan NOW!

'Ozzie' is unable to help with our runs in 2009 so I'd like someone to find someone to help 'Curley' this year! Anyone?

ALSO

Starting with this issue I'm including a section on correspondences we send and receive. This way if you don't see these items at our meeting you'll know that our secretary Chaps will have a copy to be viewed at the next meeting. She will keep most items for only one month due to the volume of mail received.

Spy

Vietnam



On the 1st day of February **194** U.S. Heroes died between 1963 and 1974

8 from Ohio:

GEORGE
DALE
ARNOLD SSGT USA WAYNESVILLE

Ohio (Continued):

DE WAYNE
RODNEY
BLACK PFC USMC TOLEDO
ROLAND
RALPH JOHN CPL USMC PAINESVILLE
STEPHEN
JOSEPH
BOBKOVICH SSGT USMC AKRON
MICHAEL
BRUCE
SPICER CPL USMC MARION
LAWRENCE
WILLIAM
PORTER PFC USMC STEUBENVILLE
HERBERT
WHEELER
KLUG SP4 USA DAYTON
KARL RAY
GANTZ A1C USAF LOUISVILLE

2 From Kentucky

RODNEY
MICHAEL
GOODE SGT USA LOUISVILLE
BEN HENRY
WILKINS JR SP5 USA LOUISVILLE

6 From Indiana:

ROBERT LOPEZ PFC USMC GARY
BENNIE
KSIAZEK PFC USA GARY
DANIEL DEAN BEVERLY
BRUCE PFC USMC SHORES
JIMMIE LEE
JOHNSON PFC USA ANDERSON
MICHAEL
EUGENE ROLLING
KELLY PFC USA PRAIRIE
ARNOLD RAY
BENTON SSGT USA ODON



Iraq & Afghanistan



KIA since last publication

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Srv</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
2/08	Burkholder, Jason E.	SSgt.	USA	Elida, OH
2/08	Southworth, Jared W.	1st Lt.	USA	Oakland, Il.
2/07	Preach, Kevin T.	LCpl	USMC	Bridgewater, MA

Keep these men and their families in your prayers this month!



Military Humor

Sergeant's philosophy

The Company Commander and the First Sergeant were in the field. As they hit the sack for the night, the First Sergeant said, "Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?"

The CO said, "I see millions of stars."

1st Sgt.: "And what does that tell you, sir?"

CO: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Top?"

1st Sgt.: "Well sir, it tells me that somebody stole our tent."

**Extra treat this time
.... Non-military...**

There were five houses of religion in a small Texas town: The Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist and a Catholic Church and a Jewish Synagogue.

Each church and Synagogue was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In The Baptist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week

The Methodist Church got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the Squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

But -- The Catholic Church came up with the effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter.

Not much was heard about the Jewish Synagogue, but they took one squirrel and had a short service with him called circumcision and they haven't seen a squirrel on the property since.

Reflections
'A closer look'



Story 1 - 60177 C141

A Bit of military history you might be interested in seeing.

C-141 Tail Number 60177 was the last of the 285 C-141's built by Lockheed to leave active service. She flew 100 POWs out of Hanoi on 12 February 1973, some of them tasting freedom for the first time in six years. Each POW put their shot-down date on the face of the oxygen panel during their flight to Clark Air Base in the Philippines. For her retirement ceremony, some of the POWs she brought home were brought back for the ceremony and one last flight by this gracious lady. Most of them are old men now but their enthusiasm, emotions, and excitement were evident during this flight and retirement ceremony. She was then flown to Dayton, Ohio where she will spend her final days in the Air Force Museum.

A very touching video can be seen by pasting the URL below into a browser - Be sure to turn on the sound.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BM09bxf3Ng>

Story 2 – STEELERS?

Well many people in Ohio are not fond of the Pittsburgh Steelers but some of you may remember they had a Vietnam vet on the team a few years back and he's still helping the cause:

Face of Defense: Vietnam Veteran, Former Steeler Shares Lessons With Guard

By William Prokopyk - Special to American Forces Press Service

BISMARCK, N.D., Jan. 28, 2009 - A Vietnam War veteran who overcame great odds to become a successful National Football League player shared his message of strength, attitude and optimism during the North Dakota National Guard's 2009 Safety Conference here Jan. 24.



Vietnam veteran and former Pittsburgh Steeler Rocky Bleier gives Army Capt. Doug Larsen an opportunity to try on Bleier's four Super Bowl rings at the North Dakota National Guard's 2009 Safety Conference in Bismarck, N.D., Jan. 24, 2009. Bleier was the keynote speaker for the conference. U.S. Army photo by Bill Prokopyk
Former Pittsburgh Steeler Rocky Bleier was the conference's keynote speaker, and his message to the Guardsmen was clear and simple: "Never give up, no matter how badly the odds are stacked against you."

Although his football career is truly noteworthy -- he has four Super Bowl rings from his years with the Steelers -- it was the Army veteran in Bleier that was most appreciated by the Guardsmen who listened to him speak.

"We chose Rocky Bleier as our keynote speaker because of his inspirational story of never quitting," Army Chief Warrant Officer Bradley Hoines, North Dakota National Guard state safety officer, said. "His ability to overcome obstacles with hard work coupled with good personal choices fits well with our objectives in our commander's safety program.

"Safety encompasses the myriad of choices that an individual makes, which can either prove to be a positive or negative influence on their life," he said.

Rolling Thunder ® Chapter 9 - March 2009

In 1968, Bleier was drafted by both the Pittsburgh Steelers and the U.S. Army. After playing sparingly with the Steelers, Bleier headed for basic training and deployed to Vietnam in May 1969. He served as an infantryman with the American Division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

In August of that same year, Bleier was twice wounded in the legs by gunfire and a grenade during the same battle.

It would be a long, arduous journey back to professional football. Military doctors told Bleier that he would probably be able to walk, but that he would never play football again. Bleier refused to believe it.

"I talk a lot about structure and fundamentals and what happens in changing environments," Bleier said. "It's really those basic fundamentals that football teaches you and life teaches you. The military teaches you the same thing."

Through personal devotion and hard work, he rehabilitated himself and finally won a starting position with the Steelers in the 1974 season, playing in the same backfield with Hall of Fame members Terry Bradshaw and Franco Harris. Bleier was destined to play with the "Super Steelers" of the 1970s that won Super Bowls IX, X, XIII and XIV. He retired from football after the 1980 season.

Bleier's enthusiasm and energy engaged the Guardsmen throughout his talk, and he remained open and gracious throughout the conference. He signed autographs when requested and was quick to offer all four of his precious Super Bowl rings for his fans to proudly wear as they posed for pictures alongside him.

"Rocky Bleier's comments were right on the mark," Army Capt. Doug Larsen said. "I think his refusal to accept his destiny as a disabled veteran and his persistence to achieve his dream most likely had a very positive impact on his teammates. It will certainly have that impact on me."

In addition to being a four-time Super Bowl winner, Bleier also was named by Parade magazine as an All-American high school player, was a member of Notre Dame's 1966 national championship football team, was selected as team captain the next year, and was named to the "Steelers All-Time Team."

Despite his lengthy list of football accomplishments, Bleier is quick to point out that he is just as proud of his military service and the service of his Army buddies during the Vietnam War. He received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his time in combat.

Bleier said he is extremely appreciative that today's military members returning home from war are greeted as the heroes they truly are.

William Prokopyk serves in the North Dakota National Guard.

Printed with the permission of William Prokopyk
Interesting statistics...

DID YOU KNOW - DO YOU CARE

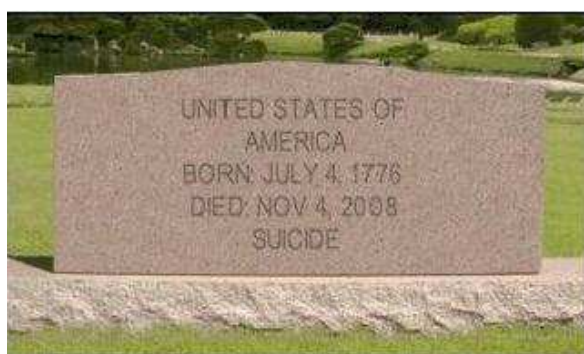
Professor Joseph Olson of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the Presidential election:

Number of States won: D: 19 R: 29

Square miles of land won: D: 580,000 R: 2,427,000

Population of counties won: D: 127 M R: 143 M

Murder rate per 100,000 residents in counties won by: D: 13.2 R: 2.1



Professor Olson adds: "In aggregate, the map of the territory Republican won was mostly the land owned by the taxpaying citizens of the country. Democrat territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in government-owned tenements and living off various forms of government welfare..." Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the "complacency and apathy" phase of Professor Tyler's definition of democracy, with some forty percent of the nation's population already having reached the "governmental dependency" phase.

If Congress grants amnesty and citizenship to twenty million criminal invaders called illegals and they vote, then we can say goodbye to the USA in fewer than five years.

Scholarships for Military Family Members

There are a couple of scholarships for military family member that are currently accepting applications:

- If you have a child who will be attending college or vocational school during the 2009-2010 school year, learn more about the American Freedom Patriot Scholarship Award for Military Dependent Children.
- The Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program, administered by the National Military Family Coalition, has extended the deadline for applications from the spouses of wounded and fallen military members until February 16th.
- The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation offers scholarships to the children of current and former Marines.

Learn about more available scholarships on the Military.com finance blog.

Remember: Not applying for scholarships is like turning down free money. Get started on your search for scholarships today - visit the Military.com Scholarship Finder using the URL below.

<http://aid.military.com/scholarship/search-for-scholarships.do?esrc=vr.nl>

SPECIAL LITTLE EXTRA:

Vietnam War Resources:

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." - George Santayana Paste URL into you're browser!

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>



1. National News Letter Volume 14 Issue 2 (Has order form for patches in DC).
2. President and VP Patches for DC.
3. Letter for Artie returned check and Carole's application for additional data and a request to send an alphabetized list of current members.
4. Thank you note from Congressman Jim Jordan Ohio 4th District
5. Letter from Texas 2.
6. Letter from North Carolina 3
7. Jonalee White Request for money to send CD's to troops.



Thank you letters to:

Congressman Steve Driehaus
Congressman Driehaus' Deputy
Director Steve Brinker
Dr. Bill Gates Vitas
Ms. Carole Quackenbush R.N. Vitas

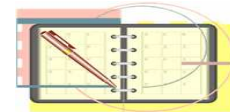
They say it's your *Birthday!*

Kelsey

March 5



Upcoming Events



S = Suggested / 0 = Official / I - Info

Have an idea for an article send it to Spy!

jpmreilly@yahoo.com