



PO BOX 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

November - December

www.vva351.com

2011

contact@vva351.com



**Fox Valley's Only Chartered
Vietnam Veterans Organization Serving Area Veterans Since 1987**

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

County Veterans Service Officers:

Calumet Co. Bill Krizek (920) 849-1452

Outagamie Co. Jon Li Donne (920) 832-5697

Waupaca Co. (715) 258-6475

Winnebago Co. Neenah Robert Stone (920) 729-4820

VA Medical Center

Milwaukee - Clement J. Zablocki ..888-469-6614

Appleton - John Bradley 920-831-0070

VA Great Lakes Center 800-872-8662

VA Regional Office (Milwaukee) ..800-827-1000

Vet Center - Milwaukee 1-414-536-1301

Informational and Referral 24 / 7

Non-Emergency ...211 or 800-924-5514

U.S. Rep. Reid Ribble

8th District, WI

P.O. Box 7200 - Appleton, WI 54912

(920) 499-4000

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

14 W. Mifflin St. Suite 207 - Madison, WI 53703-2576

(920) 738-1640

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson

P.O. Box 1159 - Oshkosh, WI 54903-1159

(920) 230-7070

State Senator Mike Ellis

429 S. Commercial St. - Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 751-4801

VVA 351 MEETINGS

The Chapter meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, 6:30 pm refreshments and social time. Call to Order 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

2011

November 9th - Chapter meeting

December – no meeting

2012

January - Chapter budget planning meeting on a Saturday - to be determined

February – Chapter appreciation dinner - to be determined

March 14th - Chapter meeting

MEETING FACILITY

Chapter meetings will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 E. South River Street – Appleton.

This is across the river from Lawrence University in Appleton. Park in the `West_ lot and use the Church entrance on that side.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 11th - Veterans Day

November 24th - Thanksgiving

November 25th to December 11th - Chapter's wreath drive

December 25th - Christmas

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter member, Terry Engelhardt, collects military patches - Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. Terry has about 12,000 patches and each has its own history. If you have a couple of minutes contact Terry at 920-731-8040, it is impressive to see all these patches. Each has its own story and some are unique. Terry is a life member of the Chapter.

MY FELLOW VETS

Terry Engelhardt here and I thought I might be able to help some of you. If you're like most of us, when you got out of service you threw everything away that reminded you of the military. And now that we are older, we wish we had some of those things, like our unit patch. Well I collect unit patches and I have about 12,000 of them - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. I also have many books to look through to find your patch and I have sources to get them (cheap). So if you are looking for a patch to put in a shadow box or to give to a grandchild, let me know and I will do everything I can to get your patch. Or if you know anyone who would like to start a great hobby, I will help them get started collecting patches. If anyone is interested in seeing what 12,000 military patches look like, give me a call at 920-731-8040 and we can set up a time to show them to you.

Yours truly,

Terry Engelhardt

VETERANS DAY

November 11th is Veterans Day. On this day our Nation honors all military Veterans. There will be a program at the Outagamie County Court House; this is presently the Administration building located at 410 S. Walnut Street, Appleton. The program starts promptly at 11:00 am

with the ringing of local church bells, introduction, prayer, speeches by dignitaries, poster contest done by students from local schools and ending with Taps. Immediately after, visit the Outagamie County Veterans Memorial inside. After the program everyone is invited to the American Legion Post on 3220 W. College Avenue, Appleton for a lunch. Our Chapter supports this program and participates in it.

If you would like to be in the Color Guard, contact Carlton Schuh at 757-0696. We will assemble at 10:45 am in front of the old Court House.

The following are a list of programs or activities on or around Veterans Day, November 11th.

Monday, November 7th:

Thompson Center - 820 W. College Ave. - Appleton. Lunch and program at noon. You will need to pick up a ticket to participate. Get a ticket while available.

Friday, November 11th:

Einstein Middle School - 324 E. Florida Ave. - Appleton. Program from 8:00 am to 9:00 am with social gathering after.

Fox Valley Lutheran High School - 5300 N. Meade Str. - Appleton. Breakfast starts at 8:00 am to 9:00 am. and program to follow. RSVP at 739-4441 by November 9th.

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar - through-out Wisconsin. Free meal off a limited menu for all Veterans during serving hours.

Monday, November 14th:

Golden Corral - 1169 N. Westhill Blvd. - Appleton. Free meal for any Veteran from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Thank you veterans, past and present, for serving our county!!!

WREATH SALES – 2011

We will have the wreath sale booth at the east parking lot at Northland Mall again this year. We will be decorating all of the large wreaths, to get the quality that we want. I will be picking up the large wreaths November 2nd. We will have to decorate some for opening weekend and deliveries, the rest will be decorated as we need them. This worked last year. Prices for this year: 24_- \$18.00, 36_- \$25.00, 48_- \$45.00, 60_- \$65.00, 72_- \$80.00, cane and crosses - \$20.00 and swags - \$7.00. We also cut back on large wreath orders. They are very high cost items. We will sell out of large wreaths this year. We will not sell swags opening weekend. So get your order in as soon as you can, so I can have that wreath for you: mail your order in or call it in at 757-6587 or e-mail it to lrm101@ntd.net. All preorders will be filled first in the order received and paid for.

We will need help in manning up the sales booth, starting Friday November 25th through Sunday December 11th. The hours for the weekend are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and the weekdays are 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We will be using a larger generator so there will be more heat and light. Call Chris to sign up to work, as soon as you can, because this will save her a lot of time in calling. Call Chris at 920-757-6587.

We need help working on Chapter trailer to pick up wreaths and selling trailer, before November 12th. We need help setting up at the selling area at Northland Mall, weather permitting November 24th & 25th. Call me to work times out.

Leon Meidam - Wreath Chairman at 757-6587 or e-mail lrm101@ntd.net

NEW MEMBER

John Breitzman

Welcome aboard!!

The Highground

The Highground has evolved to be a memorial park that pays tribute to the Dead, and honors the Survivors, their service, and their sacrifices. It also pays tribute to the people who supported them when they were away and upon their return.

This is a continuing series on the tributes at The Highground. On page 10, in photo #1 is the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Tribute: `The Doughboy: The Tribute to World War I Veterans`. The Highground is not a war memorial; it honors Veterans, their service, and their sacrifices. The Doughboy was changed so that he has his rifle at parade rest, not in the ready. And his right arm is raised up with his hand open as if to greet visitors as they enter the park or bid a fond farewell as they leave. The raised hand of the truly classic statue may be clinched in anger or caught in the act of throwing a grenade and the rifle in the ready position.

CHAPTER PICNIC

The Chapter picnic was held after the Flag Day Parade on June 11th at the Northside Kiwanis Park in Appleton. On page 9, in photo # 1, Chapter members, (L) Tom Driessen and (R) Leroy Johnson are manning the grill. The gourmet meal was a special treat!!! The picnic was not only for Chapter members and their families but was opened to the Chapter sponsored Boy Scout Troop 57 and Cub Scout Pack 3157 and their families. In photo # 2 & 3, all are enjoying a good time and delicious cook out. On page 10, photo #2, Chapter members: (L to R) Richard Forrest, Steve Buntjer and Dennis Green, relaxing after disassembling the Chapter float. A special THANK YOU to all those that worked so hard to make the picnic truly an enjoyable time!!

CHAPTER PICNIC



1



2



3

The Highground



Dream Fields

Around 0200´ emerging from detasseling
With dirt-caked boots and corn-cut arms
And a look at the present from the past´
The panorama astonishingly little changed
Except for a somewhat better perspective from
Journeys through replaying-like experiences.

The tears whelming up but repressed masculinely
As old blood dribbled from
His hands and flowed off his wounded face
The terror and unit turnover from the Bulge´
The moments having hardened on his cloak
And never fixed to move forward´ locked in´
Continually clicking, clicking and never,
Never advancing or able to come up to now
And join the moment of the present,

And she smoked a cigarette, and one more
And then another, as she spoke about
What she had overcome through
Eighty plus women years,
But she was as tough as he was and
Had forcefully fought the discrimination
And skirt-life, and age perceptions, and stereotypes
To prove that the she's could do what the he's
For so long hadn't decreed,

And he came from nothing´ he wore it
On his work-lined face of determination´
An old, modern immigrant walking from
The job office in his ragged jacket and
Crumpled toughness saying that he would

Find something, anything, and do that job
The best he could, with dignity and determination,
So his offspring could walk on him
Through education to a distinguished future,

And he was close ' he know that '
Mr. Mayo said he could die in the
Hospital or go home to expire, and he chose
To leave sterility and that painless life
To relive his past through his friends and family
And to see the future through the dreams
Of his progeny and his pals,

And it wasn't so different from the cornfield.
That generation was from there or very close to it,
And perhaps that's what made them so special,
And maybe, as we get away from our finest
Asset, we must maneuver to get back
To that dream or vision for our greatness.

R.K. Mitby

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Thank you to all that helped in making this fourth annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Drive such a BIG SUCCESS!!! The funds that were raised will be used to purchase material on the POW/MIA issue. This material will then be distributed to local schools and libraries for educational purposes. A scholarship will be established in honor of a local soldier who is Missing in Action or Prisoner of War in the Vietnam War. This scholarship will be presented to a student, going onto a higher education, from a local high school. Also the Chapter supports the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia which works on the POW/MIA issue.

Mother Nature smiled on us. With the economy not in the best shape, the drive did very well!!! We did not have a large work force for the drive but those that helped did a **GREAT JOB!!** They are: Steve Buntjer, David Evans, John Fiers, Richard Forrest, Bill Kunz, Chuck Lewis, Leon & Chris Meidam, Roxann Miller, Jer Sanderfoot, Jerry & Sandy Segersin, Stan Tucker and eight students from Appleton North High School. A special **THANK YOU** to John Fiers and Richard Forrest for the extra long hours. This dedication is one of the reasons for the success of the drive!! An extra special **THANK YOU** to Chris Meidam for organizing the scheduling of the drive. Chris makes it look like an easy task but it requires a lot of contacting of people and trying to accommodate them to the schedule. This is another reason for the success of the drive!!

No words can express our gratitude to Appleton North High School and teacher Mark Ropella. Mark and staff members developed material used for the drive. Mark and the students held a drive at the school and eight students helped Chapter members with the drive held at local businesses. The Appleton School District does a great job of educating our students. Mark Ropella does a great job of teaching our students to appreciate what people have done for them - especially Veterans.

The following businesses: Wal-Mart on east Calumet Street, Wal-Mart at the Fox River Mall, Wal-Mart in Neenah, Festival Foods on CE, Festival Foods on Northland Ave. `OO_ and Larry's Piggly Wiggly in Kaukauna are where the drive was held. Please `Thank_ them for allowing us to hold the drive!!

Even in harder times and no matter what their personal political belief is `the public in the Fox Valley area does support Veterans and Veteran issues and concerns and it showed_!!

Jake Paltzer

PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

Property tax credit is being missed by many disabled Veterans and their widow(er) s. From 2055 to 2008, Veterans who were age 65, VA rated at 100% service connected disabled, who entered the service as Wisconsin resident or who met the state residency and ownership requirements, were eligible for the WI Property Tax Credit. With the implementation of the new 2009 Property Tax Credit Program, both the age and the requirement for the 100% rating to be totally service connected have been eliminated. Now Veterans receiving benefits at the 100% rate or due to unemployability, no matter what age, may apply for certification to begin recouping their property taxes when they file their 2009 state taxes in 2010. There are still residency and ownership requirements that must be met. This also applies to the eligible, un-married, surviving spouse of a Veteran who entered service as a resident of Wisconsin and who died while on active or inactive duty for training purposes. Or whose deceased Veteran spouse would have or did meet the age, rating, and residency requirements above, if not for their death, may also apply. Again, these benefits may be filed for by the eligible surviving spouse. Please contact your local County Veteran Service Office to find out if you are eligible.

STATE PARK FEES

Since October 2008 Veterans with POW status, Service Connected (SC) disability rating 70% or higher (permanent or temporary), or receiving benefits at the unemployability rate are eligible to apply for a waiver of state park vehicle admission and trail pass fees. Please contact your local County Veteran Service Office to find out if you are eligible. The office personnel must verify your eligibility and sign-off on the form prior to mailing it to Madison for you.

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In the Fox Valley, WI

You Can Help Fox Valley Veterans!
americannationalbank.org/vets

Veterans In Need

American National Bank Fox Cities has partnered with the Fox Valley Veterans Council to build an emergency fund for Fox Valley Veterans in need. Funds are needed annually for housing, utility payments, clothing, food, medicine, transportation or any other high priority need. This emergency fund can save lives and families. Visit our website at americannationalbank.org/vets

Military Accounts

American National Bank Fox Cities offers a special Liberty Checking and Savings account with benefits for military service members on active duty, Reserves, National Guard, or Veteran status.

Bank Here & We Donate

American National Bank Fox Cities will donate to the Fox Valley Veterans emergency fund throughout the year when you open a new checking or savings account, or when you take out a mortgage loan. (Now offering VA loans).

- \$10 - Checking Account
- \$10 - Savings Account
- \$50 - Mortgage Loan



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**Life Member: V.F.W., V.V.A. – Chapter 351
and American Legion**



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Membership Eligibility

Regular Member: In Vietnam between **February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975** or any duty location in the world between **August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975**. Copy of DD 214 **required**.

AVVA Member: wives, children and concerned individuals.

To Join – Complete The Following

NEW () Renew () Member () AVVA ()

1 Year \$20.00 () 3 Year \$50.00 ()

Life \$225.00 () ages 50-55

Life \$200.00 () ages 56-61

Life \$175.00 () ages 62-65

Life \$150 () ages 66 and over

Life installments \$50.00 Down + 8 months of \$25.00

Limited time - \$50 rebate on Life Membership.

Name _____.

Address _____.

City _____.

State / Zip _____.

Phone _____.

Dues payable and mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 1862 - Appleton, WI 54912-1862

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
CHAPTER 351 - APPLETON AREA
P.O. BOX 1862
APPLETON, WI 54912-1862