

It will be inspirational, educational and uplifting, a place for healing and reflection.



410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.org

contact@vva351.org

***March - April
2013***



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

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

President Mike Weaver
Vice President.....Joe Eiting
Secretary Dave Evans
Treasurer.....Jake Paltzer
Board of Directors: (B. O. D.)..... Mike Hoks
Board of Directors: (B. O. D.).....Richard Forrest

Public Affairs

Newsletter Editor..... Jake Paltzer
Assistant Editor, Ads.....Leon Meidam
Printing / Mailing..... Jake Paltzer
Parade / Color Guard.....Carlton Schuh
Sunshine.....Chuck Lewis
WebSite.....Joe Eiting

Veterans Affairs

The Highground..... Leon Meidam
POW/MIA.....Richard Forrest
Adopt-A-Family.....Chuck Lewis
Fox Valley Veterans Council.....David Evans
Taps.....Tom Driessen

Membership

Veterans Collectibles/Membership.....John Fiers
Recognition / Awards.....David Evans

Finance

Fundraising..... Leon Meidam
Wreath.....Leon Meidam
POW/MIA.....Jake Paltzer
Orange Blossom.....Jake Paltzer
Budget.....Leon Meidam

Education

Scholarship.....Carlton Schuh
Vietnam Program..... B.O.D.
Vietnam Display.....Leon Meidam
Panel Presentations.....Leon Meidam

Community Service

Adopt-A-Highway..... Jer Sanderfoot
Boy Scouts.....to be appointed
Veterans Day Group.....Jake Paltzer
Military Support Group..... Mike Weaver

Chapter Appreciation

Picnic.....Mike Weaver
Halloween Party.....Richard Forrest
Appreciation Dinner.....Mike Weaver
Free Fire.....Tom Driessen

Nomination / Constitution

Nomination.....Tom Driessen

Contacts

Chapter info@vvawi351.org
Joe Eiting.....920-358-6152

GOALS

VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam Veterans; to create a new identity for this generation of Veterans; and to change public perception of Vietnam Veterans.

"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."

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.

2013

March 13th – Chapter meeting

April 10th – Chapter meeting

May 8th – Chapter meeting

June, July and August – no meeting

September 11th – 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

March 31st – Easter

May 3rd & 4th – Chapter’s Orange Blossom Drive

May 10th & 11th – Disabled American Veterans’ For-Get-Me-Not Drive

May 12th – Mother’s Day

May 27th – Memorial Day

June 8th – Appleton’s Flag Day Parade

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter members receiving the Distinguished Service Award for 2012 at the Vietnam Veterans of America - Wisconsin Department banquet in December 2012. (L to R) Richard Forrest, Mike Demske – emcee for the program, Steve Buntjer and Michael Hoks. More on pages 9 and 10.

CORRESPONDENCE

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 351

Dear President Mike Weaver and Chapter members:

The Fox Valley Veterans Council, Inc. would like to Thank You in your support of the Veterans Emergency Fund of \$150.00 in the month of December. The program will assist Veterans and their families in the Fox Valley area with housing assistance, utilities and a host of other issues.

Sincerely,

Jacob Paltzer

Fox Valley Veterans Council Treasurer

(The Chapter donated \$100.00 and Ralph Gerhmann added \$50.00 to make the total \$150.00)

V.V.A. – Chapter 351

Dear Leon Meidam and Chapter members:

On behalf of the residents and staff of the Veterans Assistance Program, we would like to thank you for your donation of coffee, cream and

sugar! The residents here greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness. This response to our needs was truly a considerate act on your behalf. It brightens the day for the Veterans to know that someone cares and is thinking of them.

The support you provide to the Center, along with the continuing support we receive from various corporations, groups and individuals, convinces us that there are truly people who care about the men and women who gave to their country in its time of need. It is the donations we receive that make possible many of the services the Vets here at the center desperately need.

Your support is very much appreciated by everyone here at the Veterans Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

Sarah Graham

Office Manager

Veterans Assistance Program - King

“Veterans Serving Veterans”

Vietnam Veterans of America – Appleton Area Chapter 351

Dear Friends of The Highground,

Thank you for your generous check of \$100.00 and cash donation of \$514.50 to support The Highground’s Annual Bicycle Tour 2012. Your donation helps support the mission of healing and education at The Highground.

“Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground”. These frequently spoken and written words ring true because they

underlie the very essence of The Highground itself.

Enclosed please find some Highground information, remember to mark your calendar for next year's bicycle tour August 1 -4, 2013. Again, thank you for your donations and your interest in The Highground and continued support of The Highground Veterans Memorial Park.

Sincerely,

The Highground Staff

(Leon Meidam and Leroy Johnson participated in the 2012 bicycle tour)

IT'S ONLY A GAME

In an interview, Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers extolled the virtues of being the quarterback at Green Bay. He spoke of the deep history and tradition of the organization, about how proud he was to be a member of the team and the community. He said it was an honor to play on the "hallowed" ground of Lambeau Field.

There is no hallowed ground at Lambeau.

The dictionary defines hallowed ground as "a holy place. One that has been consecrated. One that is sacred. It is a place of great "reverence". Examples of hallowed ground include the battlefields of Lexington, Gettysburg, Belleau Wood, Normandy, Chosin Reservoir, Ia Drang Valley, Fallujah and Marjah, Afghanistan. Cemeteries such as Arlington and those that contain thousands of American GIs in Europe are other examples of hallowed ground.

They have been consecrated by the blood shed in defense of our liberties.
Not Lambeau Field.

Sporting events at all levels, whether professional or amateur, provide a healthy outlet for participants and spectators. They're entertainment. They do have a positive economic impact throughout our communities. For participants, it's a vehicle to learn about teamwork and self-discipline. For spectators, it's a diversion. It's a channel to release frustrations, anger and joy. But we must remember, they're only games.

I'm a veteran. The people of this great country of ours need to remember who has defended and allowed our country to continue to exist. It's the citizen soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen and Coast Guardsmen who have stepped up to serve. In some cases, they have died serving in those capacities.

It was, and is, a matter of life and death. It was and is not a game. It's the real deal.

Michael Weaver

(This article appeared in the Appleton Post Crescent on Saturday, January 26, 2013. It was featured as the "Silver Pen Letter". The Silver Pen acknowledges good writing, cogent thoughts and persuasiveness.)

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT

If you are in the need of health care equipment, contact the Larsen Lions Club. The hours are limited: Tuesday from 10 am to 2 pm and then from 6 pm to 7 pm. Call Eugene Hardell at 722-9387 for more information. The cost is a donation to the Lions

The Highground

The Highground in Neillsville, Wisconsin has evolved to be a Veterans 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.



KILROY WAS HERE

During World War II this was a symbol for the American serviceman. Any place in the World where one of them went he would see it. It was found in restrooms, on trucks, tanks, ships, bombed out walls, and almost any place it could be painted, panned, scratched or chalked. Even during an invasion or battle, someone would leave this symbol where those following would see it. It was a symbol of courage, pride, encouragement, and very definitely a morale booster. That is why it was selected to represent all the service personnel who served in World War II all around the world. This is a loving memorial embracing all who served during the World War II years from 1940 through 1945.

V.V.A.'s DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



1



2



In photo # 1, Steve Buntjer (R) receives the Distinguished Service Award from Mike Demske. In photo # 2, Michael Hoks (R) his Distinguished Service Award from Mike Demske. And in photo # 3, Richard Forrest receives his Distinguished Service Award from Mike Demske. They received the award for 2012 at the Vietnam Veterans of America - Wisconsin Department Banquet.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mike, Richard and Steve because of the time, talent and hard work they have done and continue to do for the Chapter. The Chapter is very active and does supports Veterans and Veterans issues. This is not only because of Mike, Richard and Steve but because of all the members.

Congratulations Mike, Richard and Steve!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

TAPS

May each of us, when our voyages and battles of life are over, find a welcome in that region of the blest where there is no more storm-tossed sea nor scorching battlefield.

THOMAS EARL SAUTER

Our friend is in the hands of our Heavenly Father and “God giveth His beloved sleep.”

Thomas passed away peacefully at his home in Moss Point, MS. on December 7, 2012, after a lengthy illness. He was born and raised in Appleton. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1966. Tom served in Germany and then was reassigned to the 1st/ 11th Artillery / 9th Infantry Division and served one tour in Nam. He was discharged in 1969. Tom reenlisted with his daughter in May 1990 and was assigned to the 395th Ordnance Company in Appleton. During this time he served in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm and was discharged in 1994. Tom was a charter member of the Chapter and served as its President. He was instrumental in organizing the Chapter’s wreath drive. Please keep Tom and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



BRONSON'S SQUAD

We just finished high school
And went right off to war,
But still we haven't figured
What on earth we're fighting for.

Our country's still debating
If the war is right or wrong—
Here the only answer
Is to live and get along.

America, you sent us
A plane-day-ride from home;
But out here on patrol,
You've left us quite alone.

We grease 'em with our 16's,
And we hit 'em from the air—
They run to Cambodia,
And we can't get 'em there.

We're fighting for our buddies—
White and Black and Brown—
Who come from farms and cities—
Not from mansions far from town.

We're hacking through the jungle
Hunting Cong and NVA—
We fight from widened LZ's—
Agent Orange's killing ways.

At home our peers are dancing
And protesting all around,
But we grunt in the Boonies

Use stealth and make no sound,
And in the World you're dining
On pizzas, burgers, treats—
Out here the LRRP's and "C's"
Get mighty hard to eat.

We're serving in the Valley,
Though drenched with sweat or rain,
And listen to the lizard
Who lives in this terrain.

We've been out for forty days
And never had a shower—
And so our smell and rashes
Get more rancid every hour.

The bush it teaches quickly
To slither like a fox,
But even with that cunning
We can come home in a box.

Living for the Freedom Bird
And keeping track of days
Till we've spent our time in Hell
And we can fly away—

Don't doubt our firm devotion
And toughness in our tasks—
We'll whip our adversaries
And—
Do what our country asks.

R.K. Mitby

PHOTOS

After building The Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) continues its mission to honor, educate and heal by building the Education Center at The Wall. The Center will be the place on the National Mall, in Washington D.C., where the stories and sacrifices of our heroes will never be forgotten. It will be inspirational, educational and uplifting, a place for healing and reflection.

The Wall of Faces: Displays the images of the 58,282 whose names are memorialized on The Wall, giving a face to the faceless. The visitor sees that these are real people who shared the same hopes and aspirations that we all do. It will be a place to honor those who died and all who served, a place where the names on The Wall become visible.

On VVMF's web site – www.vvmf.org – is each person's military story. The following, which are on the Outagamie County Veterans Memorial site – www.ocvm.us - **do not** have their photo with their story: Thomas Armitage, William Bellile, Larry Bender, Ronald Blaese, Lawrence Butler, Paul Christjohn, James Corey, Kent Cunningham, John Fisher, Thomas Foley, John Gray, Andrew Heider, Thomas Larsen, Mike Laux, Gene Morack, James Moriarty, Allen Papenfus, Eugene Robinson, James Schmoll, Gary Schroeder and Scott Westphal.

The VVMF would like a quality photo of this person, by himself, in his military uniform but if this is not possible they would like other photos – class photo or etc... If you are interested in forming a committee to try to contact the family for a photo to send to the VVMF site, contact me at 739-2603 or e-mail at jpaltzer@yahoo.com. Please visit both web sites and let's try to put a face with a story.

Jake Paltzer

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SAVE4VETS



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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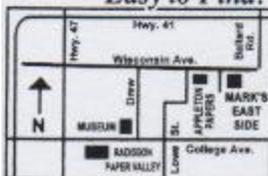
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Attorney Schuh is looking for Veterans who have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, Asbestosis and / or lung cancer associated with Mesothelioma and Asbestosis. There is **SUBSTANTIAL** compensation available for victims, especially military Veterans.

I travel **ANYWHERE** in Wisconsin to meet with and consult with victims. **PLEASE** call now!!

Life Member: V.V.A. – Chapter 351, V.F.W. Post 2778 and American Legion Post 38

THANK YOU!!



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Email: valley@valleyfh.com



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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 56-60

Life \$175.00 () ages 61–65

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 – 410 W.
Franklin Str. Unit 1862 – Appleton, WI 54912-1862

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
CHAPTER 351 - APPLETON AREA
410 W. FRANKLIN STR. UNIT 1862
APPLETON, WI 54912-1862