

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



410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.org

contact@vva351.org

***March - April
2014***



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

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

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

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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
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.

2014

March 12th – Chapter meeting

April 9th – Chapter meeting

May 14th – Chapter meeting

June, July and August – no meeting

September 10th – 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

April 20th – Easter

May 2nd & May 3rd – Orange Blossom Drive

May 26th – Memorial Day

June 14th – Appleton Flag Day Parade and Chapter’s picnic

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Wreaths were placed on some of the graves at the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King, WI. In the photo, (L to R) Chapter President Mike Weaver and Patriot Guard Rider Ron Meyer stand by the entrance sign for the cemetery. There were over 30,000 volunteers nationwide that placed wreaths on Veterans graves on December 14, 2013. A grand total of 540,000 wreaths were laid to honor our military fallen across the country at 908 cemeteries. And 143,000 wreaths were laid just at Arlington National Cemetery. This is a national effort called “Wreaths Across America”. More on pages 9 and 10.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear V.V.A. - Chapter 351

My name is Michael Pyenberg. I would like to thank everyone for the generous fund that will help me further my education. I would also like to thank everyone for their military acts that allowed me to get my education, and live my life freely.

Sincerely,

Michael Pyenberg

(Michael was one of the recipients of the Chapter’s scholarship program. He received \$1,000.00 for his hard work.)

Dear Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 351

On behalf of the residents and staff of the Veterans Assistance Program, we would like to thank you for your donation of **Food Value \$75.00!** 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
Case Manager
Veterans Assistance Program – King

“Veterans Serving Veterans”

(The Chapter donated coffee, creamer and sugar to the Veterans Home)

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00!

Supporters like you make all the difference. Your donation helps in so many ways — from maintaining The Wall itself, to bringing The Wall That Heals across the country, to our Hometown Heroes guide that students can use to learn the stories of service and sacrifice that exist within their own communities, to the six events we hold each year to honor and remember those who were lost.

Even more important is that your gift will help play a role in a

historic undertaking. As part of our extensive healing and educational outreach programs, we are looking to build an Education Center that tells the stories of the more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives in the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It will be a place to remember those who fell, a place to share reminiscences and remembrances of those who never made it home.

When I first had the dream to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., as a tribute to all who served during one of the longest wars in American history, I never imagined the impact it would have. Today the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is among the most visited memorials in the nation's capital – and has stood as a symbol of healing for our nation.

But it was only through the generosity of friends like you that this memorial came to be. And it is with the help of people like you that our work – and this new Education Center – will go forward for future generations. Thank you for your kindness and for ensuring that those who fell in Vietnam will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

**Jan C. Scruggs
Founder and President
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund**

P.S. Your gift means so much to all of us here. Thank you again.

Dear Friends of The Highground,

Thank you for your generous tax-deductible donation of \$300.00 to The Highground's Bicycle Tour. Your donation will help The Highground continue its mission of healing and education.

Volunteers and contributors, like you, allow The Highground Veterans Memorial Park to remain a very special place to Veterans and loved ones of Veterans.

Please join us in 2014 as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of The Highground!

Sincerely,

The Highground Staff

SEVENTH ANNUAL GRIEF SUPPORT SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium will be held at the University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley Communications Arts Center – Perry Hall, 1478 Midway Road, Menasha (use entrance 13S by the Large Silver Sculptures)

It will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm, it is free and open to the public. There will be information booths, light snacks and refreshments, two breakout sessions and a closing ceremony.

Keynote address from 8:30 – 10:00 am is “Loss of an Infant: Guilt, Shame and Grief” by Dr. Peter Barr.

Breakout sessions topics:

Veterans & Families: Coping Through Life Changes Due to War from 10:15 to 11:15 am

Sudden Loss in a Changing World from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

For more information, visit www.wichmannfargo.com click on After Care, then Calendar of Event or call 920-831-9905.

PRESTIGIOUS MEDALS

Prestigious service medals someone might receive while serving in U.S. Armed Forces.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS – AIR FORCE



Originally entitled the "Distinguished Service Cross (Air Force), the Air Force Cross was first proposed in 1947 after the creation of the United States Air Force as a separate armed service. The Air Force Cross was established by Congress on July 6, 1960. The criteria for the award is extraordinary heroism, not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor, to any person, who while serving with the U.S. Air Force while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States, engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The first award of that Air Force Cross was made posthumously to Major Rudolf Anderson for extraordinary heroism during the Cuban Missile Crisis. 192 people have been awarded the Air Force Cross.



1

Of the 6,000 graves at the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King, Chapter members Mike Weaver, Stan Tucker, Larry Cavanaugh and 30 other Veterans placed about 1,200 wreaths on the markers.

2



9

In photo 2, saluting a grave after the placement of the wreath (L to R) Ron Meyer, Larry Cavanaugh, Mike Weaver, Larry's granddaughter Natasha and Scot Jackson.

3



A German Shepherd named Brownie, entered military service on May 29, 1943 and served honorably in the K-9 Corps in the Pacific Theatre. Because of an eye injury, he was discharged from war service on October 13, 1944. He died on May 18, 1949 after many years of living with the Veterans community in King. He was buried with military honors and his grave marker was provided by the King American Legion Post.



Taken from the Time-Villager (November 9, 2013)

Dear Editor:

My name is Dar DeBruin-Hein and I am the youngest sister of Eugene DeBruin, a Kaukauna MIA/POW who was recently honored at the Ring of Honor in Kaukauna.

On behalf of my family, we would like to thank the civic engagement class, the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 351 and all others who have worked so hard to insure that men like my brother – and all Veterans – will be honored and always remembered.

My family wishes to extend our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all involved. We are humbled by their dedication and kindness.

Sincerely, Dar DeBruin-Hein

(The Chapter donated the bench.)

PRAYER

In God and Jesus I believe—
In that there is no doubt,
But I am just a simple man
With very little clout.

Some days on earth I've suffered
And so to You I'd pray
For guidance and direction
To get me through the day.

All my life I've loved my Lord,
In words and deeds and song,
And tried to heed His message—
The right way—not the wrong,

But I have often wondered,
As my body's gotten old,
If I have passed the test
To get into His Fold.

Please forgive me for my sins
And wrongs that I have done—
Bring forth in me Your Mission—
Make Your Work number one.

So God when you are ready
Please take me Up on High:
For in You I have found—
The Way to get me by.

Build me the foundation
To Your Blessed, World Sublime:

To enter into Heaven
When You say it's my time.

R.K. Mitby

MAYBE I'VE CHANGED

Maybe I've changed,
I don't know.
My new friends seem different
When they hear about it.
They are quieter,
They seem to watch me.
Why, I don't know,
Maybe I've changed.

I didn't have a choice,
I had to do it
It wasn't in me to run away.
There was nothing bad in that.
I have always felt that way.
Maybe they have changed,
I don't know.

I wasn't alone there.
I thank God I had friends.
Some are here, some are not.
If this has changed me,
It must be for the better.
They say I have changed,
Maybe we all have.

My friends from there changed.
Some a little, others a lot.
Some didn't want to,
Others did.
Now some are trying to change,
Others can't.
Vietnam changed everything,
And everyone.

Harold Krueger

(This poem, Maybe I've Changed, was composed by Harold Krueger who is a Chapter member.)



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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 at 920-731-0479.

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

Proud to be an American.

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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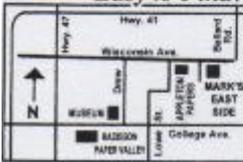
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Membership Eligibility

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
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