



PO BOX 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

July – August 2010

www.vva351.com

contact@vva351.com



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

VVA CHAPTER #351 – Officers

President Mike Weaver
Vice President.....Carlton Schuh
Secretary Dave Evans
Treasurer.....Jake Paltzer
Board of Director (B.O. D.)..... Mike Hoks
Board of Director (B. O. D.).....Richard Forrest

COMMITTEES

Public Affairs

Newsletter Editor..... Jake Paltzer
Assistant Editor, Ads.....Leon Meidam
Printing / Mailing..... Jake Paltzer
Parade / Color Guard.....Carlton Schuh
Sunshine.....Chris Meidam

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..... David Evans
Recognition / Awards.....David Evans

Finance

Fund Raising..... 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..... Tom Driessen
Boy Scouts.....to be appointed
Veterans Day Group.....Jake Paltzer
Military Support Group..... Mike Weaver

Chapter Appreciation

Picnic.....Mike Weaver
Halloween Party.....Chris Meidam
Appreciation Dinner.....Mike Weaver
Free Fire.....Tom Driessen

Nomination / Constitution

Nomination.....Tom Driessen

Chapter Contacts

Chaptercontact@vva351.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."

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

County Veterans Service Officers

Calumet Co..... Bill Krizek (920) 849-1452
Outagamie Co.....Andy Clark (920) 832-5697
Waupaca Co.....Jon Li Donne (715) 258-6475
Winnebago Co. Neenah Robert Stone (920) 729-4820

VA Medical Center

Milwaukee - Clement J. Zablocki888-469-6614
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. Steven Kagen, M.D.

8th District, WI
333 E. College Av. - Appleton, WI. 54911
(920) 380-0061

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

14 W. Miffin St. Suet 207 – Madison, WI 53703-2576
(920) 738-1640

U.S. Senator Russ Feingold

1640 Main St. – Green Bay, WI 54302-2639
(920) 465-7508

State Senator Mike Ellis

429 S. Commercial St. – Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751-4801

VVA 351 MEETINGS 2010

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

July and August – No meeting

September 8th - Chapter meeting

October 13th – Chapter meeting

November 10th – Chapter meeting

December – No 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

July 4th = Independence Day

August 5th to 8th = The Highground Annual Bicycle Tour

September 6th = Labor Day

September 17th = POW/MIA Drive

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Boy Scout Troop 57 was the Chapter’s Color Guard for the Memorial Day and Flag Day Parade in Appleton. The Chapter sponsors Boy Scout Troop 57 and Cub Scout Pack 3057. This photo was taken during the Memorial Day Parade.

The Highground

The 26th annual The Highground Bicycle Tour will be held August 6th to 8th. Chapter 351 is helping sponsor the Eastern Route this year. This is not a race, just an easy ride across the state to raise money for The Highground. We will be using the Chapter trailer and what is left over from the Chapter picnic and summer events. The route will start from my home and leaving Appleton at 9:00 am on August 6th. We will stay over in Waupaca on Friday night. We will start out on Saturday morning have lunch in Stevens Point and staying over in Marshfield that night. We should arrive at The Highground by 12:00 pm on Sunday. You can join or leave the route at any time. Rider registration will be \$100 for singles or \$200 for families. I have registration and sponsor forms. Contact me if you need one. Make the check out to The Highground and in the memo section write bike tour. All funds go to The Highground. If you would like to have your money help the Eastern Route then send a note with your donation. This is their largest fundraiser. My address is: Leon Meidam - N2241 Mayflower - Appleton, WI 54913. Call at 920-757-6687 or go on line at www.thehighground.org.

Leon Meidam

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Chapter's Vietnam Education Program was renamed back to its original name, Vietnam Educational Outreach Program. We also have a tri fold hand out to pass out. The lay out was done by students from Appleton North High School. We thanked them for their work. This will help us PR our program. The school year is over so we will have some rest time from the Educational program. The schools we did this year are: Manitowoc High School, Little Chute Middle School, Appleton North High School, Appleton Central High School, Hortonville High School, Neenah High School and Menasha High School. The members doing the program this year are: Steve Buntjer, Richard Forrest, Mike Hoks, Bill Kuntz, Chuck Lewis, Leon Meidam and Mike Weaver.

We thank these members for giving of their time to talk about their military service to the students. We thank the teachers that invite us to their classes. They do the extra work to get us to their class for their students benefit. THANK YOU!!

The Vietnam Display went to LZ Lambeau for the Wisconsin Vietnam Welcome Home Program. For the many members that put in a lot of long hours at the display a BIG THANK YOU!!! There was a steady flow of students Friday morning and that steady flow continued through out the rest of the time we were open, all weekend. We got a lot of great comments on having one of the best Vietnam memorabilia displays. There was a lot of great comments on our members being there all the time answering questions. Many Veterans showed their families the display, pointed out the equipment and how they used it. Seeing this was the most rewarding to me. Family members of a Veteran finding out what the Veteran really did, seeing the equipment he used and how he lived in that time is important. We had a lot of help from many members and non members that put in long hours keeping the display manned. Thank you to all!! The list is to long to put down and there were a lot of helpers that I did not know. Thank you all for giving of your time.

The springs on the trailer broke, they are old and brittle. We decided that it would be safer to put all new springs and hardware on the trailer. We are hoping to keep the cost down and have it fixed and on the road soon. The display will be going to The Highground July 9th to 28th. It will be set up in their new educational center. At this time we do not have any more events for the program. I have used up most of the grant money we had to keep us going. I have turned down three events do to timing. I am looking for someone to raise funds for the next year.

Leon Meidam

PHOTOS

With the lack of space in this issue future issues will have photos of the display and LZ Lambeau. -Editor

Orange Blossom Drive

This year's Orange Blossom Drive on May 7th was a BIG SUCCESS!!! This was the fifth annual drive for the Chapter. Because of your hard work, it was up from last year and is the best the drive has ever done.

This year, Mother Nature with the rain and cooler temperature put a "damper" on the drive or so we thought. I thought that the only highlight of the drive was no one got sun burnt. We actually did better than last year. I think the main reason was we had more people helping with the drive. They worked through the unpleasant weather and worked longer hours. Next year we will have to look at more businesses to hold the drive.

We want to thank the following businesses for allowing us to hold the drive: Wal-Mart on Calumet Street and west of the Fox River Mall, Festival Foods on "CE" and "OO" and Copps on west Wisconsin Avenue. Please make an effort to thank these businesses!!

A Special Thank You to the following that made this so successful: Steve Buntjer, David Evans, Richard Forrest, Keith Gabriel, Ralph Gehrman, Mary Heindl, Tim Hewitt, Mike Hoks, Leroy & Cheryl Johnson, Les Kersten, Bill Kunz, Chuck Lewis, Leon & Chris Meidam, Roxann Miller, Burt Rosenthal, Jerry & Sandy Segersin, Mike Weaver and Ron Yow. Hats off to Chris Meidam for lining up the scheduling.

We have learned a lot and we are looking at some changes to make next years an even better drive. The public does support Veterans and it showed!!

On page 10, Orange Blossom Drive photo # 1 shows Jerry & Sandy Segersin staying warm and dry. In photo # 2 shows an enthusiastic Ron Yow welcoming a supporter of the drive.

Jake Paltzer

HIGHWAY PICKUP

The dates for the Highway Pickup are June 30 and August 25. The dates are all on Wednesday. We will meet at 5 pm in the “park & ride” on the corner of Highway 10 and County N. We do two miles of Highway 10 between County N and Highway 55. Depending on how many show up, it usually takes just over an hour. When we finish, we go to the Darboy Family Restaurant for something to eat. The Chapter donates \$5 towards each person's meal. Good chance to get some fresh air and help the Chapter.

-Tom Driessen

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The Chapter participated in the Memorial Day Parade in Appleton on May 31st. Photo on page 9 of the float with riders, marchers, Mike Weaver and his restored jeep and Boy Scout Troop 57. A photo of Boy Scout Troop 57 is on the cover of the issue. The public support was fantastic!!

FLAG DAY PARADE

The Chapter participated in the Flag Day Parade in Appleton on June 12th. Photos on page 9 and 10 of the float with riders, marchers, Mike Weaver and his restored jeep and Boy Scout Troop 57. The marchers look sharp and they are in step!!!! Guess who they are. Go to page 15. As with the Memorial Day Parade, the public support was fantastic!! The public supports Veterans and their issues and it shows.

CHAPTER JACKETS

We now have our new order of jackets (white) in stock. We have the following waiting for sale and patches applied: (1) Large; (1) Extra Large; and (1) 2 Extra Large.

They will cost \$35ea. with service patch provided to us put more if the Chapter has to pay to order your service patch.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



FLAG DAY PARADE



1



2

FLAG DAY PARADE



ORANGE BLOSSOM DRIVE



1.



2.

VA Issues List of Ships with Agent Orange Exposure

The Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing regional offices with information to assist with development in Haas related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans.

To date, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam. The VA also has identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed on the [Compensation & Pension Service Bulletin \[PDF\]](#). For your convenience, we also have listed the ships and dates below.

If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development.

All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS]
Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour
USS Carronade (IFS 1)
USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship,
Medium, Rocket]
USS Francis River (LSMR 525)
USS White River (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing
Ship, Tank] during their entire tour
[WWII ships converted to transport supplies on
rivers and serve as barracks for brown water
Mobile Riverine Forces]

All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour

All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour [Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters]

All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film “Apocalypse Now”]

USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, October 24-25, 1965]

USS Mansfield (DD-728) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and December 21-24, 1968]

USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) [Destroyer] [Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge]

USS Basilone (DD-824) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]

USS Hamner (DD-718) [Destroyer] [Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers, August 15-September 1, 1966]

USS Conway (DD-507) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, early August 1966]

USS Fiske (DD-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on Mekong River, June 16-21, 1966]

USS Black (DD-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, July 13-19, 1966]

USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon River 3 days during January 1964]

USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate] [Operated on Saigon River October 24-28, 1964]

USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport] [Operated on Saigon River July 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and August 5-6, 1968]

USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968]

WHY THE AMERICAN FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES

HERE IT IS: The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust". After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George

Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things which have deep meaning. You will see many flags folded in the coming weeks, and now you will know why.

MARCHERS

The marchers are from left to right: Leon Meidam, Steve Buntjer, Richard Forrest and Carlton Schuh. They look as sharp as they do 40 years ago!!

TOP 10 COUNTRY & WESTERN SONGS OF 2009 (unofficial)

10. I Hate Every Bone In Her Body But Mine
9. I Ain't Never Gone To Bed With An Ugly Woman, But I Woke Up With A Few
8. If The Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know It's Me
7. I've Missed You, But My Aim's Improvin'
6. Wouldn't Take Her To A Dogfight 'Cause I'm Scared She'd Win
5. I'm So Miserable Without You, It's Like You're Still Here
4. My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend And I Miss Him
3. She Took My Ring And Gave Me The Finger
2. She's Lookin' Better With Every Beer
1. It's Hard To Kiss The Lips at Night That Chew My Ass All Day!!!

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM

Company/Business/Individual

Name.....

Contact Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

Phone.....E-Mail.....

Advertisement size (circle preference)

Full page 4" x 7"\$300.00

Half page 4" x 3 1/2"\$150.00

Quarter page 4" x 1 3/4"\$75.00

Quarter page 2" x 3 1/2"\$75.00

Business card 1 1/2" x 2 1/2"\$75.00

Be sure to fill out the form and submit it with your ad.

All ads should be submitted as a clean, high resolution at actual size of your final ad.

Ad copy and disk will not be returned.

All ads will be in black and white.

All ads must be accompanied by appropriate payment.

Payable and mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America

P.O. Box 1862 – Appleton, WI 54912-1862

Ad space starts September 1st and expires August 31st.

Chapter Jackets

We have three Chapter jackets in stock (all size XL) with patches and Chapter logo on for \$30. If you supply your own unit patch or service patch and your name put on, it will be \$35 total. If we need to order a unit or service patch, add \$6 - \$7 more or about \$41 - \$42 total.

However, we can order any size jacket you need. Getting a jacket one size larger than you ordinarily wear works well if you may want to wear them with something heavier underneath in much cooler weather but the jackets do come with an inner liner.

In Stock:

Cap – V.V.A. logo (Navy mesh) - \$15.00

U.S. Flags - Right - \$4.50 ea.

Chapter 351 Logo Patches - \$3 ea.

3 in. Life Member Patches - \$4.00 ea.

3 in. Reg. Member Patches - \$3.50 ea.

2.5 in. Life or Reg. Member Patches - \$3.00 ea.

3 in. POW/MIA Patches - \$2.50 ea.

2 1/4 in. POW/MIA Patches - \$5.50 ea.

VVA Associate Stickers - \$1.80 ea.

3 in. V.V.A. – Associate Patches - \$3.65 ea.

2.5 in. V.V.A. – Associate Patches - \$3.60

10 in. VVA Logo Patches at \$19.95 ea.

We will order more by request.

David Evans - Veterans Collectibles Chairman

Membership Information

VVA was congressionally chartered in 1986. VVA is a Veterans service organization comprised of any person that served in the United States Military.

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