



PO BOX 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.com

contact@vva351.com

January - February

2011



**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 Directors: (B. O. D.)..... Mike Hoks
Board of Directors: (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

Chapter.....contact@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

VVA 351 MEETINGS

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.

2011

January 22nd – budget planning meeting – 10:30 am at the Bank of Kaukauna

February 9th – Appreciation and Valentines Dinner Party – 6:00 pm at Mark’s East Side Restaurant

March 9th – Chapter meeting

April 13th – 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

January 1st – New Years Day

January 3rd – Fruitcake toss day (toss out the old and bring in the new)

January 18th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 15th – Presidents’ Day

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter members, (left to right) Mike Hoks and Richard Forrest, participated at the Winchester Rendezvous. This was sponsored by the Winchester Area Historical Society in September 2010. Mike and Richard are dressed in the 1850s style clothing. What a fashion trend!!

THANK YOU

From The Highground for the \$300.00 donation to The Highground 2010 Bicycle Tour. The Chapter funded Brian Jahn, Leroy Johnson and Leon Meidam participation in the bike tour with a \$100.00 each donation. The Chapter also donated \$105.00 towards the support of the bike tour. The Highground is a memorial park whose mission is healing and education. The Highground is located at Neilsville, Wisconsin.

From the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the \$500.00 donation to the Education Center at The Wall. The Education Center will allow visitors

to learn the importance of the Memorial, its role in helping to remember those who served and the vital part it played in helping to heal the deep societal divisions resulting from the Vietnam War. The Memorial Fund hopes the Center will encourage citizenship and an appreciation of those who have served and continue to serve in America's armed forces. For more in-depth look at V.V.M.F.'s progress, visit www.vvmf.org.

From Pat Lewis, wife of Chuck Lewis, for the sympathy card and check of \$25.00 in memory of Pat's mother who died recently. Pat said the money will be used for a memorial in memory of her mother.

From Chapter Veterans to Chris Meidam and the Sunshine Committee for the Veterans Day card. It was a beautiful card and but a special touch on Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a day to recognize Veterans for what they did and do for our country. They do appreciate the recognition and when someone goes out of their way to say Thank You that is special!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we gather with our families and friends at this most special time of year, let us take a moment and reflect upon our blessings. For many of us, we have much to be thankful for. We live in a free society that allows us many freedoms. You should ALL be proud of the fact that each of you has served in our Armed Forces to protect the form of society that allows us to live in this great country. It does NOT matter whether you served in Vietnam or not. It also does NOT matter that you served in a combat arms roll or not. What DOES matter is that YOU answered the call, when your country asked you to step forward to protect our way of life. Many of our members are now challenged with issues of our aging bodies and minds, but we did SURVIVE the War in which we were asked to serve. It is up to us to serve our fellow man. A great scholar has been quoted as saying: "The ability to care is the thing that gives life one of its deepest meanings and purpose. By holding the heart of another in the comforting hands of prayer and service to others, is a priceless

human act of love and compassion." I have seen many of you perform these acts of service. I applaud your efforts and salute your activities. I would like to offer a prayer that was written by a close friend of mine, James Unruh. Jim is a fellow Sr. Ride Captain for the Patriot Guard in S.E. Wisconsin. It reads as follows:

Dear Lord, we thank you for our blessings of health, family, and friends. For many of our families in this great country of ours, a familiar voice will not be heard and a chair at the table will remain empty, because they have a loved one serving in our Armed Forces far from home. Today, members of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard will gather in foxholes, trenches, bunkers, tents, or mess halls to celebrate a traditional Christmas dinner. Let us remember all of them as we gather in our individual homes and keep them within our prayers. We further pray that their service and sacrifice will indeed, make this world a better/safer place in which to live. We also ask for a special prayer for all of our Goldstar families that will FOREVER have an empty chair at their family tables. Their loved ones have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms. May we NEVER forget them. May we ALWAYS honor their memory, and seek ways to further our way of life. In your name do we pray. AMEN.

I wish all of you and your families, a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

BEST WISHES, Michael Weaver, President, VVA #351

BUDGET MEETING

The annual Chapter budget meeting will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the Bank of Kaukauna in the Community Room in the basement. It will start at 10:30 am and finishing by 2:00 pm. There will be a break for lunch. Contact Chris Meidam at 757-6587 to let Chris

know what “dish to pass” that you will bring. This will help her plan accordingly. The Bank will provide the beverages at no cost. Please try to attend this meeting because it is an very important meeting for the Chapter. This will determine the budget for the year and your input is important so bring your ideas.

FOX VALLEY VETERANS’ COUNCIL

The Fox Valley Veterans’ Council (F.V.V.C.) is made up of Veteran organizations from the Fox Valley area. The Chapter is a member of this council. The council is doing a fund raiser called PROJECT SAVE (Supporting All Veterans Everyday). It is a benefit project created to promote community awareness and support local Veterans by raising money for the Veterans’ Emergency Fund which assists Veterans in time of financial distress. One of the ways the council is trying to raise funds is by the sale of rubber wrist bands which come in the colors: red white and blue. The cost is \$2.00 per band or if you purchase all three bands, the cost is \$5.00. If you would like a band, contact Leon Meidam at 757-6587. You not only support a good cause but look fashionable.

CHAPTER HALLOWEEN PARTY

On October 15th the Chapter witches, goblins and ghouls gathered at The Meidam Haunted Manor to eat crow and burned a local scarecrow at the stake. A **BIG THANK YOU**: to Leon and Chris for organizing the scary evening and also for opening the manor to host the frighteningly event; delicious food by all those that brought food for the pot luck and came to enjoy the evening of fright. Pictures are on page 9: in picture # 1 are some of the decorations that greeted the guest; in picture # 2, some of the guests arriving for the evening and in # 3 the bonfire is being prepared for which the witch will be burnt at the stake. A good time was enjoyed by all except the witch.

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.

The Highground has tributes to Vietnam Veterans, W.W.II Veterans, W.W.I Veterans, Women Veterans, and families that supported and lost loved ones. Also, The Highground has a Dove Effigy Mound, A United In Service Tribute, a Korean Veterans Memorial, a developmental forest with 4 miles of hiking trails, and a meditation garden.

The photo on page 10, picture # 1, is of the flag pole that greets visitors as they arrive at The Highground. The American flag was at half staff, at the time of this photo, in honor and remembrance of Marine Corporal Justin Cain. He was killed in Afghanistan on October 13, 2010. Justin was from Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

In future newsletters, the tributes at The Highground will be covered.

ALWAYS LOST: A MEDITATION ON WAR

The University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley is proud to welcome the special exhibit “Always Lost: A Meditation of War” to Wisconsin on its national tour following its creation and exhibition at Western Nevada College. “Always Lost” is a unique collection of photographs, poems, and prose that recognizes the ultimate sacrifice of our American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Photo # 2 on page 10.

A sacred space in which to contemplate the personal effects of war, “Always Lost” features the “Wall of the Dead”, photos and names of over 5,000 American service members who have perished in the Middle East since September 11, 2001. The exhibition is on display at UW-FV, 1478 Midway Road, Menasha, until January 5th.

In a future newsletter issue, there will be photos of this exhibit.

CHAPTER HALLOWEEN PARTY



1



2



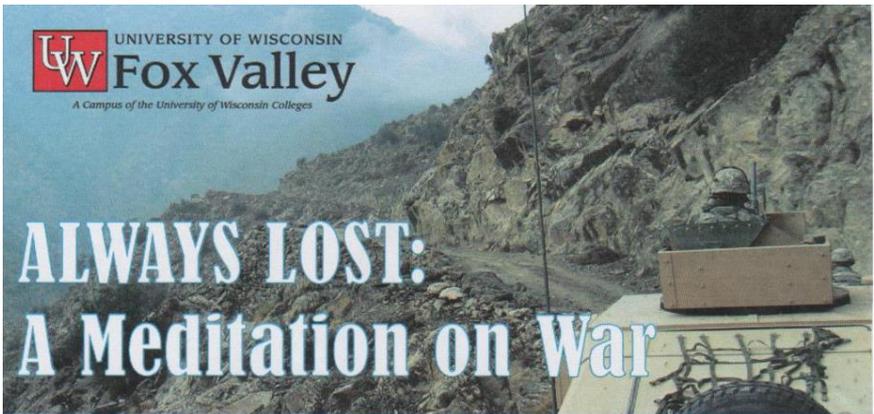
3

The Highground



1

2



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

2009 V.V.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY

As the poignant song played-----
Energy flowed through
Our circled hands,
And the dead danced with us
In the pulsing
Christmas lights.

Back Forty---News Year's Eve

Sipping treats of tepid 7-Up
While officers and other sergeants
Drained a warm beer or two
In the TOC on LZ Mary
In III Corp---War Zone C

To the present
At Johnny's Steakhouse
Eating with the officer types----

To look into the future
At Dejope Casino with
Hmongs, ex GI's and Vietnamese

And there was a band playing
And we danced and saw
In a song by the Righteous Brothers
A spouse or nurse or---
Carrying an era from
His lonely walker and
Holding him up on the dance floor
through the entire song

And back to the night when
I carried my superior
Across the LZ
To the slicks skying off
with the dead and wounded.

R.K. Mitby

Honor

Our revered dead,
Those crippled by combat,
Warriors with wounded minds,
The many others who served,
And those
 Who labored
 And waited
 In support.

R.K. Mitby

HEALTH ISSUE ASSISTANCE

Many of you have been exposed to Asbestos during your military service, and possibly during post-military employment. Asbestos fibers can remain dormant in your body for 30 years or more before causing Asbestosis, Mesothelioma or Lung Cancer. There are various funds available to compensate victims. **YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO SUBSTANTIAL COMPENSATION!!!**

Please call me at 920-731-0479 for a free consultation. I make home visits if you are not feeling well.

Carlton Schuh – Chapter member

AGENT ORANGE REVIEW

Blue Water Veterans are those that served during the Vietnam War on open sea ships, generally in the Navy or Coast Guard. In January 2009, the Supreme Court effectively let stand an earlier court ruling that requires a service member to have served on land or on the inland waterways of Vietnam in order to be presumed exposed to Agent Orange.

Blue Water Veterans continue to have the same access to health care as any Veteran.

The VA has asked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to review the medical and scientific evidence regarding Blue Water Veterans' possible exposure to Agent Orange. A report of the IOM findings is expected by the summer of 2011.

The VA has notified Veterans with disability claims on file that are affected by the Supreme Court ruling. For questions regarding claim status, Veterans may contact their VA Regional Office (VARO). Lists of VARO contacts are available at www.va.gov/directory.

In addition, all Veterans may be eligible for a full range of other benefits offered by the VA, including education, training, home loan programs, pension and more.

To learn more about VA's programs, you can visit this site: www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets or call 1-800-827-1000.

THE FINAL BRIDGE

The Final Bridge is a personal search, I started in 2002, of locating the exact location of those individuals from the northeastern Wisconsin who were killed in Vietnam. It has now expanded to the entire State.

It's called "The Final Bridge" for it is a bridge between their name on the wall and their final resting place: both I consider are hallow ground. Through the help of County Veteran Service Offices, Historical Societies, Libraries, funeral homes and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum I have been given numerous cemetery locations. I travel to these cemeteries and by luck or chance I find them. I record the section, row, column and any identifiable landmarks. I record my findings in my personal excel spreadsheet and as a remembrance on thevirtualwall.org website by the individual's profile.

So far I have found 340 of the 1160 individuals. My goal next year is locate half, 580. Through the winter months I'll do my research on line and networking with people in the cities and towns where they lived. This project has been the most moving experience of my life. I can't explain how at times I'll drive to a certain section in the cemetery or walk a certain way and there he'll be. Or by just stopping in a place like a church, a school or a city hall and a person happens to know the individual I'm looking for. I feel at times they are guiding me.

I've discovered during these searches that if they are buried outside the state of Wisconsin there is no record anywhere of their location. I have found eight individuals like this. Also, I have found that some of the county and state records are incomplete and some are even in error. As I find them I ensure these records are updated. I have written about my searches and the stories comrades, friends and family have relayed to me called "Stories From The Final Bridge." My reason for doing this is simple, to provide a means for anyone to easily find them and pay their respects.

Simply put, I'm just carrying out Logan's Order. For I go back from time to time to check on them. I replace their worn out Flags and clean up their marker. I add water to the plants and ensure I've accurately recorded their location. It is my sacred trust to the heroes of this war, the Vietnam War, that as a nation, as a community and as individuals that we

have not forgotten them and their sacrifice. Of all the orders I've carried out in my life time, none has given me the deepest of reverence as has this one.

In closing, it's a honor that I conduct these searches. If it can bring some healing and/or closure, I feel it has accomplished some good. I have found several instances in which it has. I won't stop till they're all found. May they continue to guide me on my journey.

Steve Conto - Menasha, Wisconsin

(Steve retired from the U.S. Navy during which he served in the Persian Gulf War.)

APPRECIATION DINNER

The Chapter will hold an Appreciation and Valentine Dinner Party on February 9, 2011 for the members and associate members and their spouse or friend. This will be held at Mark's East Side Restaurant at 1405 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton. Cocktails at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm and you can order off the menu. For each member and associate member in attendance, you will receive \$10 from the Chapter. This is for the Chapter's Appreciation of your affiliation with the Chapter. Please contact Mike Weaver at 766-4538 by February 2nd if you can attend and how many will attend. This will help with the meal arrangements. The attire is casual. Hope to see you there!!

COLLEGE CLASS

A college class was told to they had to write a short story in as few words as possible. The instructions were. The short story had to contain the following three things: (1) Religion, (2) Sexuality and (3) Mystery.

This is the only A+ for the entire class.

“Good God, I'm pregnant, I wonder who did it?”

If you have been injured in an accident, I can make a monetary claim on your behalf for:

- Hospital and medical expenses
- Pain and suffering
- Loss of enjoyment of life
- Lost wages
- Damage to your vehicle

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(Lifetime member of VVA Chapter 351 since 1994)

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WAYNE F. TAUBER
MANAGER/CEO/DIRECTOR

Chapter Jackets

We have three Chapter jackets in stock (L, XL and 2XL). For jacket: first name, patches and you supplying your unit patch or service patch, total price will be \$35 total. If we need to order a unit or service patch, it will be a total cost of about \$50. 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