



PO BOX 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.com

contact@vva351.com

March - April

2011



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

VVA CHAPTER #351 – Officers

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

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 Assistant Editor, Ads ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ .. Leon Meidam
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 Parade / Color Guard ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ .. Carlton Schuh
 Sunshine ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ .. Chris Meidam

Veterans Affairs

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

Membership

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

Finance

Fund Raising ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ .. Leon Meidam
 Wreath ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ .. Leon Meidam
 POW/MIA ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ .. Jake Paltzer
 Orange Blossom ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ .. Jake Paltzer
 Budget ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ .. Leon Meidam

Education

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

Community Service

Adopt-A-Highway ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ Tom Driessen
Boy Scouts ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ to be appointed
Veterans Day Group ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ..Jake Paltzer
Military Support Group ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ... Mike Weaver

Chapter Appreciation

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

Nomination / Constitution

Nomination ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ Tom Driessen

Chapter Contacts

Chapter ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ .. ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ..contact@vva351.org
Joe Eiting ũ 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. Reid Ribble

8th District, WI

2685 West Mason Street – Green Bay, WI 54303
(920) 499-4000

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

14 W. Miffin St. Suet 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

MEETING FACILITY

Chapter meetings will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 E. South River Street – Appleton. The meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm with refreshments and social at 6:30 pm and Call to Order at 7:00 pm.

March 9th - Chapter meeting

April 13th - Chapter meeting

May 11th - Chapter meeting

June, July and August – no meeting

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 8th - Mardi Gras

March 13th - Daylight Savings Time starts

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

April 24th - Easter

May 6th & 7th - Chapter's Orange Blossom Drive

May 8th - Mother's Day

May 29th - Indianapolis 500

May 30th - Memorial Day

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter member, Ron Yow, helping with the Chapter's wreath drive. The wreath drive is an important part of the funding for the Chapter and Ron is one of many that worked hard at the drive. Also during the drive the Chapter set out a military helmet. Funds received in the helmet go to the Adopt-A-Family Program. These funds are used to take a needy Veteran family Christmas shopping. The Chapter tries to brighten their holiday season.

THANK YOU

From the Veterans Assistance Program at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Wisconsin, for the case of coffee, case of sweet n low and case of creamer. The Veterans and their spouses, who make their home at King, truly appreciate what they have received and they know that someone cares and is thinking of them.

From Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Wisconsin, for the wreaths and swags that were not sold at the Chapter's wreath drive. The Veterans and their spouses, who make their home at King, truly appreciate what they have received and they know that someone cares and is thinking of them.

From the family the Chapter sponsored under the Chapter's Adopt-A-Family Program. This is where the Chapter takes a needy family Christmas shopping. The funds for the program come from the helmet that is set out during the wreath drive and the Chapter also donates to the program. The name of the family comes from the County Veterans Service Officer. Chuck Lewis, a Chapter member, is the chairman of this program and takes care of the family.

Dear V.V.A.,

We would like to say Thank You first for your service. Thank You so

much for caring for our family greatly to give us a wonderful Christmas. We could not of done it alone! Words can't express our thanks for all of your kindness and generosity. We hope you all have a wonderful and healthy 2011.

With Loving Memories, (family name)

CORRESPONDENCE

Today we are diligently working to complete our goal of building The Education Center at The Wall. The Education Center is going to put a face to the names of the 58,267 men and women who adorn The Wall. We will also be bringing some of the 150,000 priceless items that have been left at the foot of The Wall out on display. These mostly anonymous items tell the story of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice through the thoughts, images and mementos left by their teammates, friends and love ones. Finally the Education Center will also include a detailed timeline of the Vietnam War and Era for those who did not live through one of our Country's most trying times.

ORANGE BLOSSOM DRIVE

The V. V. A. Chapter 351 will be holding a fundraiser called the Orange Blossom Drive. The drive will be on Friday May 6, 2011 and starting this year the drive will also be held on Saturday May 7, 2011. The drive will start at 8:00 am and go to 8:00 pm. The reason for the two day drive is to help support the funding of programs and activities of the Chapter. Some of the programs and activities are: sponsor and charter Boy Scout Troop 57, Cub Scout Pack 3057; participate in Adopt-A-Highway Program; sponsor a bike tour for the Veterans Memorial Project at Neillsville; participate in Adopt-A-Family Program at Christmas time; fund an educational display of military equipment for students and the public; fund a Color/Honor Guard for parades, programs and dedications; help the Chapter be the leading advocate for Vietnam Veterans by securing benefits and services and assist needy Veterans,

and their families, through programs managed by a local Veterans Council with the guidance of the local County Veterans Service Officer. These are good programs and activities and to keep them vibrant requires financial support. This is where you can help. Take just 1 hour, more if you can and offer the Orange Blossom to the public at the following businesses: in the May - June newsletter will be a list of businesses that the drive will be held at.

This year a letter will be sent to individuals asking them to help and support the drive. They can help by offering flowers at businesses and /or make a donation to the drive. To make a donation: make the check out to the V.V.A. - Chapter 351 and in the memo section write Orange Blossom Drive. Mail to this address: V.V.A. - Chapter 351 - P.O. Box 1862 - Appleton, WI 54912-1862. The V.V.A. - Chapter 351 is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c) (19) of the IRS Code.

With all of us working together we can make this drive very successful. The public does support Veterans and Veterans issues!!

Leon and Christine Meidam and Jacob Paltzer - Orange Blossom Chairpersons

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

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

The Veterans Day Program was held at the old Outagamie County Court House on November 11th at 11:00 am. The Chapter had a Color Guard at the event and on page 9 in photo # 1 (left to right): Leon Meidam, Carlton Schuh, John Fiers, Tim Hewitt, Richard Forrest and David Evans. In photo # 2, the Color Guard marching out at the closing of the ceremonies. In photo # 3, the program has a poster contest for students in the 7th and 8th grade. This year, Einstein Middle School ~ Appleton had 1 winner, James Madison Middle School ~ Appleton had 2 winners and Greenville Middle School ~ Greenville had 3 winners. Students are in this photo and their posters are on page 10 in photo # 4 and # 5. The students are very talented!!

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: `Fragments`. This tribute honors the men and women from Wisconsin who served in Vietnam. Each fragmented figure supports the other. A close inspection of the figure with the helmet reveals the long hair of a woman ~ the first depicted on a US Veterans memorial. Her poncho supports 1,244 rods engraved with the names of those who didn't return. Their chimes hang among the rod clusters allowing them to speak to us. The rifle is broken showing the war is over. It is held in a position which would signal a medevac landing, indicating help is still needed. The rifle stands on a replica of a Native American burial mound and includes a flash of orange glass reminding us of the effects of Agent Orange and the war on ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



1



2



3

4



5



The Highground



Meaning

Wounds of flesh and rapped out minds

Smell and sights and mimic sounds

Bring the painful past around.

A K's, rockets-other flak

Starch-filled memories rushing back.

Flashbacks, dreams, and twisted hours

Token death for higher powers.

Anguished moans for mom and Lord

Mangled, wounded-sights abhorred.

Haunted terror filled with guns-

A war that US soldiers won.

Keep on searching-hope to find:

A meaning for those days.

R.K. Mitby

Days

Some say ' just put it behind you;

Drive on with the things in your life '

But those lingering days in the Nam

Filled with moments of terror and strife

Are engraved like a brand in the memory

With flashbacks so vividly clear '

Reliving the carnage of battle

Especially as those days draw near.

For those dead you know that you're living,
And those days forever you'll grieve,
While striving all life for fulfillment
The questions and whys never cease.

And one has a mom who remembers,
Another a spouse who supports,
But many just suffer in silence
And find solace with cohorts.

R.K. Mitby

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is hopefully on the wane, as you all are reading this issue of the newsletter. So much snow and cold this year! Let's hope that the summer is that much better for all of our suffering these past few months. I joined the family and friends of Rob Warren recently to welcome him home from his third deployment in Afghanistan. Rob is a Staff Sergeant in the USMC. He also has served one tour in Iraq.

He is such a fine young man, and so deeply committed to the Corps and its mission. He was wounded twice, and has been recommended for the Silver Star. Sounds like the Navy has approved him for the Bronze Star instead. There were no words that could describe the gathering with his family and friends as we all joined in celebrating his safe return. (I have known his family for 5 years now.) His dad is a Marine Corps Veteran as well. They live in Peshtigo. It was a very positive and happy evening at a local sports bar with lots of good food, drink, and fellowship.

I did not dwell on the past, but it was difficult to not compare what it was like for me and all of you upon our return from the Nam. No

cheering. No celebration. Sometimes rejection by neighbors and friends. Sometimes outright hostility by strangers towards us as we made the journey home thru the airports, train stations and bus terminals. Many years have passed .. A lot of water over the dam, as they say. I encourage all of you to pick up the gauntlet to serve others. Try not to wallow in your own self pity. I have found it to be such a positive force in my life to assist my fellow Veterans and their families. Thru service to others, you will truly find the awakening of a very positive force in each of your lives. In the process, you will find great changes occurring within yourself. Go for it!

In the spirit of serving others, I challenge you to consider our V.V.A. Chapter in its educational efforts this spring. We have many requests for presentations through various Valley Middle Schools and High Schools. Our Nam display is without equal to any other collection of equipment from the era. It is truly something to be most proud of and be involved in relating your war experience to the new generation of young people.

You might consider helping out with our pickup of trash/litter along the highways in our area, as well. It's a great time for fellowship and we always have a meal afterwards. Does not take much time, but the impact is most rewarding.

In closing, remember: `It's the soldier who salutes the flag, serves under the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, and who gives the protestor the right to burn the flag_ I thank ALL of you for your Military Service. Welcome home my brothers and sisters.

Mike Weaver - Chapter President

Wreath Sales 2010

The Wreath Sales for 2010 did not do as good as we hoped. We came in

close to making our budgeted income and under budget for cost. Our large wreaths did not do as well as we hoped. We did a great job on selling and we will not have to cut back on any programs next year. Thanks to the hard work of Chapter 351 members and some luck, and the wonderful supporters of this Chapter. The Chapter Thanks Northland Mall for giving us a place to sell wreaths.

We got a lot of work done on the selling booth thanks to Steven Buntjer, Leroy Johnson and John Fiers Jr.

Members that helped: Leroy and Cheryl Johnson for getting and donating boughs to sell and made crosses and swags. Members that worked: Leroy & Cheryl Johnson, Christine Meidam and Jacob Paltzer for decorating wreaths to sell. Their work added a lot to the Chapter's profits. Thanks to all the members that worked at Northland Mall: David Evans, Pat Gabriel, Ralph Gehrmann, Tim Hewitt, Amy Jahn, Leroy & Cheryl Johnson, Les Kersten, Christine Meidam, Jacob Paltzer, Burt Rosenthal, Carlton Schuh, Roxann Miller, Mike Weaver, Mike Hoks, Ron Yow, Richard Forrest, Jim & Mary Heirdl and Jerry & Sandy Seggersin, Thanks to Steven Buntjer and Leroy Johnson for helping take down and packing everything way and have it ready for next year.

Without your donated time to the Chapter, we could not make this fundraiser work. I also want to personally Thank each and every one of you for all your help. You made my job so much easier.

Leon Meidam - Wreath Sale Committee Head

EDUCATION REPORT

We will start doing school programs in April. We are not doing Manitowoc this year. Each year we need help doing the programs. To put out a good program, we need veterans that served in each branch of

service all around the world. There is a lot more information to put out to the students. Everyone had a job to do somewhere. Skills you got and what the military life did for you. Call me and let me know if you can help. You can come and see how a program works to see if you can do it. You can help with just a school or as many as you want. This program is not blood and gut stories, it is how you did your duty for your country.

Schools that we have request for this spring: Winchester Community Center - April 7, 1 pm to 9 pm; Kaukauna Middle School - April 19, 7 am to 4 pm; Appleton North High School - May 5, 7 am to 4 pm and Neenah High School - May 25, 7 am to 4 pm.

There will be a work day to get the trailer set up for display hauling and loading it. We will set up the display, reorganize it with the new items that we have to add and fix any broken parts. We will do this on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2. Give me a call and let me know if you can help with the schools and the work day.

Leon Meidam (920)-757-6587

STATISTICS

Of the approximate 3 million Americans who served in the Vietnam War, less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today. It's unbelievable when you see the numbers in print! These kinds of statistics are the ones we are used to hearing about when you think of WW II Vets. It is further estimated that approximately 400 Vietnam Vets are passing away each day. Take care of yourselves!

IRISH HUMOR

How did the Irish Jig get started?

Too much to drink and not enough bathrooms!!

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

LAW OFFICE OF CARLTON H. SCHUH

(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

V.V.A. was congressionally chartered in 1986. V.V.A. 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