



PO BOX 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.com

contact@vva351.com

July - August

2011



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

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

President .ũ ũ ũ 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 ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Joe Eiting
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Board of Directors: (B. O. D.) ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Richard Forrest

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Assistant Editor, Ads ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Leon Meidam
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Sunshine ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Chris Meidam
WebSite. ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Joe Eiting

Veterans Affairs

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POW/MIA ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ 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 ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Chuck Lewis
Fox Valley Veterans Council ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . David Evans
Taps ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Tom Driessen

Membership

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

Finance

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Budget ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ . . Leon Meidam

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

County Veterans Service Officers

Calumet Co. Bill Krizek (920) 849-1452
Outagamie Co. (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. Zablocki ..888-469-6614
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
P.O. Box 7200 - Appleton, WI 54912
(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

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.

2011

July, August and December – no meeting

September 14th – Chapter meeting

October 12th – Chapter meeting

November 9th – 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

July 4th – Independence Day

July 27th – Chapter’s highway pickup

August 5th to 7th – The Highground Annual Bicycle Tour

August 31st – Chapter’s highway pickup

September 16th – POW/MIA Drive

November 11th – Veterans Day

November 25th to December 11th – Chapter wreath drive

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter member, David Evans (L), along with friend John Rochon (R), place a flag on the grave of Veterans buried at Riverside Cemetery in Appleton. This is in preparation for Memorial Day. David has been placing a flag on the grave of Veterans for about 12 years. Riverside Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Appleton and is where the Memorial Day Program for Appleton is held. The program is held at the Grand Army of the Republic Plot located in the center of the cemetery.

THANK YOU LETTERS FROM

Fox Valley Veterans Council for the \$500.00 donation to the council's SAVE4VETS Program. The program will assist Veterans and their families in the Fox Valley area with housing assistance, utilities, medical bills and a host of other issues.

Fox Valley Veterans Council for the \$150.00 donation to the council's project Japanese Relief Program. The program will assist the nation of Japan following the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster. This will help the Japanese people in their time of need.

Fields of Honor Military Veterans Museum & Education Center for renewing the Chapter's membership. Your organization's commitment and support to the advancement of the museum's educational and operational goals is appreciated. We're proud of what we've been able to do and we could not have done it without you! Your partner in preserving military history. The dues were \$100.00.

Dear Scholarship Committee:

Thank you for selecting me as the 2011 POW/MIA Scholarship Award. It will help me greatly in my pursuit of higher education. I am honored to have been chosen.

Sincerely, Nick Anderson

Dear V.V.A.

Thank you for visiting our school and giving insight into the war. The display and speakers were informative and eye opening. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Neenah High Students

CORRESPONDANCE

Dear Leon and Christine:

Thank you so much for dropping off the POW/MIA Flags. It means a lot to our entire family. Your work for V.V.A. is important and appreciated.

Bless you and always take care.

Thanks again.

Millie Lemke
(DeBruin Family)

P.S. Please use the enclosed to carry on your good work!
(The \$25.00 will be used for the Chapter scholarship program.)

TOUR

A tour that highlights The Highground, Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, WI. is on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. It is a guided walking tour of the beautifully sculpted tributes which include the Wisconsin Vietnam Tribute, WW II Globe, WW I Dough Boy, Earthen Dove Effigy Mound and many more. Also on the grounds are a replica of the Liberty Bell and memorials dedicated to female Veterans and American Indian Veterans. Tour cost: \$79.00 per person includes Deluxe Motorcoach,

guided tour of The Highground, lunch at the American Legion, and a guided tour of Tufts Mansion (stately mansion of prominent families of Neillsville past. Contact Lamers Tour & Travel by calling: De Pere 920-336-1976 / 800-236-1976 or Menasha 920-832-9922 / 800-832-0807 for reservations.

VETERANS IN NEED

SAVE4VETS is a Veteran support program created by the Fox Valley Veterans Council (F.V.V.C.) and sponsored by American National Bank Fox Cities to create and sustain a new Veterans Emergency Fund (V.E.F.).

The purpose of the V.E.F. is primarily to provide a short-term financial bridge for Veterans waiting for federal and/or state assistance. The application and approval process for education, treatment or disability claims can take up to 12 months. During this critical and extended waiting time, Veterans trying desperately to reintegrate must continue to cope with their service-related mental and/or physical disabilities while often trying to hold their families together.

Veterans in this situation, particularly those that lack their own financial resources, are truly at risk. When short-term help is not provided, the documented results for some include homelessness, broken families/divorce, substance abuse/addictions, and in extreme situations, death at their own hands.

The V.E.F. provides emergency funds for housing, utility payments, clothing, food, medicine, transportation or any other high priority need. The V.E.F. is the bridge to successful reintegration, self-sufficiency and self-dignity. The V.E.F. can save lives and families.

The F.V.V.C. is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization dedicated

to serving the needs of Fox Valley Veterans. The council is comprised of 18 Veteran service organizations representing over 5,000 member-Veterans in their six county service area.

To make a donation to the SAVE4VETS Program, send a contribution and mail to the Fox Valley Veterans Council at P.O. Box 1275, Appleton, WI 54912. In the memo section write SAVE4VETS. The Fox Valley Veterans Council is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. Check with your tax consultant for more information.

MEMORIAL DAY

Appleton's Memorial Day Program started with a parade at 9:00 am. The Chapter had a float in the parade, photos on page 9, along with a some of the members marching. They are: (L to R) Richard Forrest, Brian Jahn, Steve Buntjer, Jake Paltzer, Tim Hewitt and Leon Meidam. Also Boy Scout Troop 57 carried the Chapter banner in the parade. After the parade, there was a memorial program at Riverside Cemetery. This was followed by a memorial program at the American Legion Plot which is located at the entrance that separates Riverside Cemetery and St. Joseph Cemetery. A light lunch was served at the Appleton V.F.W. Post 2778. In the afternoon, 2:00 pm, a memorial program was held at Appleton Highland Memorial Park.

On Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, a memorial program was held at the Outagamie County Administration Building, old Court House. This was in honor of those from Outagamie County that died while serving in U.S. Armed Forces, from the Civil War to the present day. In photo # 1, on page 10 (L to R) John Fiers and Steve Buntjer are part of the Patriot Guard Rider's Flag Line. Both are Chapter members. In photo # 2, Chapter president Mike Weaver gives the invocation for the memorial.

MEMORIAL DAY



The Highground



MEMORIAL DAY

1



2



Sil's Song

Oh, Sir! Sir! Sir!
You're back virile and alive,
But we women need a med
To help us with our drive,

But if that was the only thing
To keep us man and wife'
Then our marriage would be sterile
And we've lived a shallow life.

Sure, we started out with passion'
Couldn't wait to hug and kiss,
But still we love to cuddle
And live a wedded bliss.

And back in our beginning'
We both took on our roles'
And laughed and played and danced
And talked about our goals.

It's each day with its triumphs'
It's the family' times of stress'
It's the joy of autumn harvests'
Knowing we've done our best.

We've always been a team
Intertwined in life and toil'
Always at each other's side,
And it starts here with this soil.

R.K. Mitby

Some Women

Some men marched in protests
With women in their ranks´
Some men fought with women
Against our guns and tanks.

R.K. Mitby

Scholarships 2011

V.V.A. - Chapter 351 awarded 3 scholarships this year amounting to \$2,500.00. The winners are: Kate Heller, \$1,000.00 (Eugene De Bruin MIA/POW Scholarship), from Appleton West High School, and the presenter was Jacob Paltzer; Nicholas Anderson, \$1,000.00, Hortonville High School, and the presenter was Carlton Schuh and Thomas Garcia, \$500.00, Waupaca High School, and the presenter was Leon Meidam.

SCOUTING

I went to a Court of Honor on Saturday, April 16th, for 3 scouts that earned the Eagle Scout Award. They are: Jon Delzer, Brent Heurer and Chris Schuh. I congratulated them for the Chapter and received the Eagle Scout Plaque for the Chapter with their names added.

Leon Meidam

NEW MEMBERS

New members: James Lewis and Jerry Sanderfoot

Transfer member: Samuel Newman

Renewed member: Rich Wangard

Welcome aboard!!

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, is the Earthen Effigy Dove Mound. The Earthen Effigy Dove Mound is a `living memorial_ which pays tribute to POWs and MIAs. Because there are many among us who, while home in body, are missing emotionally or in spirit. At The Highground, MIA also stands for `Missing in America_.

This `living memorial_ is a replica of a Native American effigy mound. It was designed by David Giffey and constructed by volunteers from throughout Wisconsin. It contains soil from all 72 counties as well as hundreds of locations throughout the United States. Located southwest of the point of the plaza, The Dove measures 100` head to tail; the wing span is 140`.

At the 1989 dedication ceremony, Vietnam veteran and Native American, John Beaudin (Wa Kanja Hoohega), explained the symbolic purpose of the mound: `It is a spiritual place where you can go and let your mother, the Earth, hold you. Let the children play on it. Dance on it. Use it to unload your grief and pain, to renew and strengthen you. Lie back in the soft fold of its wings and let Mother Earth unburden you. Then get up and leave your troubles and cares there on the mound, as you walk, away, renewed and refreshed._

John`s words have been memorialized in the spring of 2003 with a plaque inserted into a 6600 pound red granite stone.

Eastern Route Bicycle Tour to The Highground

The bicycle tour is 150 miles to Neillsville WI., an enjoyable family ride that takes 3 days. We will do about 33 miles the first day and stay over night at the Waupaca VFW, with supper provided. You can put on more miles that day to shorten Saturday's ride of 70 miles. We provide breakfast early at 6:30 am. Lunch is at the Plover VFW Post at 11:30 am. A great spaghetti supper and breakfast will be provided at the Marshfield American Legion Post. We stay the night at the community center. Sunday morning we have a short ride, 32 miles, to The Highground and get there by 12:00 pm. There is a lunch and a small ceremony and we then pack up and head for home. If you do not have someone to pick you up at The Highground, we can drop you off on our way back to Appleton or bring you back to Appleton.

The route is mostly lightly traveled county roads, for safe riding. Plenty of rest stops and showers are available at over night locations. You will need over night gear, for we all sleep in large meeting rooms, or a gym. You can go to a motel if you want to. We have support staff, to haul your gear, and provide water and refreshments at your rest stops.

This is a fundraiser and registration is \$100.00 or \$200.00 for a family. We encourage you to get as many sponsors as you can to raise funds for The Highground. If you want to just make a donation, make it out to The Highground, and in the memo section write Eastern Route. Mail to Leon Meidam - N2241 Mayflower Dr. - Appleton WI. 54913. Any questions call 920-757-6587 or e-mail me at lrn101@ntd.net. For registration forms and sponsor sheets contact <http://www.thehighground.org/> and click on bicycle tour.

We will be leaving from my home at N2241 Mayflower Dr., Appleton WI. on Friday, August 5th, at 9:00 am. We will get back Sunday, August 7th, around 5:00 pm.

Leon Meidam

EDUCATION REPORT

We did the Winchester Community Center on April 7. Schools that we did this year: Kaukauna Middle School on April 19; Appleton Central High School on April 20, and April 29; Appleton North High School on May 5; Hortonville High School on May 10; Little Chute High School on May 18 and Neenah High School on May 25. Presenters this year: Mike Weaver, Steven Buntjer, Michael Hoks, Leon Meidam, Bill Kuntz and Richard Forrest. Richard Forrest is the second display committee person to make sure that our display makes it to the programs and is set up.

Leon Meidam

Orange Blossom Drive

This year's Orange Blossom Drive on May 6th & 7th was a BIG SUCCESS!!! This was the sixth annual drive for the Chapter. Because of your hard work, it was the best the drive has ever done.

This year, Mother Nature smiled on us.

We made some changes from previous year's experiences and that helped make the drive so successful. We added an extra day and more businesses to hold the drive. We are learning!!

We want to thank the following businesses for allowing us to hold the drive: Wal-Mart on Calumet Street, west of the Fox River Mall and Neenah; 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, Joe Eiting, David Evans, John Fiers, Richard Forrest, Keith Gabriel, Ralph Gehrmann, Tim Hewitt, Mike Hoks, Leroy & Cheryl Johnson, Les Kersten, Chuck Lewis, Frank Mc Ginnis, Leon & Chris Meidam, Roxann Miller, Burt Rosenthal, Jerry & Sandy Segersin and Ron Yow. Thank You also to Jeff Moore, Boy Scout Troop 57, and

his mother. Hats off to Chris Meidam for lining up the scheduling!!

Thank You letters were sent to the businesses, for their support of the drive, and to all the great workers, who made the drive so successful!!

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

Jake Paltzer

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WAYNE F. TAUBER
MANAGER/CEO/DIRECTOR

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