



PO BOX 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.org

contact@vva351.org

***January – February
2012***



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

Education

Scholarship 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 ..Leon Meidam
Panel Presentations ũ 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 Jer Sanderfoot
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 ..Jake Paltzer
Military Support Group 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

Contacts

Chapter _____ contact@vva351.org
Joe Eiting ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ ũ 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. Jon Li Donne (920) 832-5697

Waupaca Co. (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. Mifflin St. Suite 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.

2012

January 7th - Chapter budget planning meeting. Please see message on page 5.

February 8th – Appreciation and Valentines Dinner Party - 6:00 pm at Mark's East Side Restaurant. Please see message on page 5.

March 14th - Chapter meeting

April 11th - Chapter meeting

May 4th & 5th - Chapter's Orange Blossom Drive

May 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

January 1st – New Years Day

January 16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 20th - Presidents Day

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

The Chapter picnic was held on June 11, 2011. With the help of many people, the picnic was enjoyed by all. To have the picnic ready for the members and run smoothly is a credit to (L - R) Diana Driessen and Christine Meidam. They do a lot of the preparations graciously.

APPRECIATION DINNER

The Chapter will hold an Appreciation and Valentine Dinner Party on February 8, 2012 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 1st 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!!

BUDGET MEETING

DATE CHANGED!! Due to a conflict of schedules, the Annual Budget Meeting for our Vietnam Chapter has been CHANGED to Saturday, January 7, 2012. It will start at 10:00 AM and should get done in the EARLY afternoon. It will be held at the Bank of Kaukauna (basement), 264 W. Wisconsin Ave. Kaukauna, WI. 54130. Lunch will be served. Please contact Christine Meidam to let her know what type of dish to pass you will bring. Soda/coffee/water will be donated by the Bank at no cost. It is IMPORTANT that as many members as possible attend. We need YOUR input. Thank-you. ***** DATE CHANGED. *****
DATE CHANGED. *****

Mike Weaver – President

CORRESPONDENCE

The Highground

Dear Friends of The Highground:

Thank you for your generous tax-deductible donation of \$300.00. Your donation for the Persian Gulf Tribute helps support the mission of healing and education at The Highground.

`Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground_'. These frequently spoken/written words ring true because they underlie the very essence of The Highground itself.

We have established a Visionaries and Immortals Endowment fund at The Highground, We would appreciate your consideration in your future financial planning.

Enclosed please find a certificate, our brochure and again thank you for your donation and your interest in The Highground.

Sincerely,

Kirk Rodman - Volunteer General Manager

VETERANS DAY CHALLENGE

At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, `The Wall_', in Washington DC, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, VVMF, is proposing to build an Education Center. The Center will educate the public about the Vietnam War but more importantly it will tell the `story_' of each of those 58,000 plus on The Wall. The Chapter donated \$500.00 to this great cause.

There was a matching fund drive and the VVMF needed to raise \$1,000,000 by Veterans Day. With the Chapter's help, they raised \$1,207,893. A total of \$85,000,000 is needed to build the Center - consider making a contribution. Visit the site at www.buildthecenter.org

VA ADDS SHIPS to AGENT ORANGE LIST

The VA has expanded its list of ships that served in areas of Vietnam that now qualify for disability compensation due to Agent Orange herbicide exposure.

Veterans who served on the ships between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, can file VA claims for 15 medical conditions VA presumes to have been caused by Agent Orange exposure. Find the list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange. Or call VA's Special Issue Helpline at 1-800-749-8387 and press 3.

Veterans afflicted with the three conditions (Parkinson's disease, various chronic B-cell leukemias and ischemic heart disease) VA added to the Agent Orange presumptive list last year can file claims at www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOFastTrack/.

According to VA's September 2nd announcement, "Service onboard ships anchored in an open-water harbor, such as DaNang Harbor, or on other open waters around Vietnam during the war, **is not** considered sufficient for the presumption of Agent Orange exposure."

Veterans interested in obtaining deck logs contact the National Archives at College Park, MD. at www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/researcher-info.html.

Others interested in conducting their own research or submitting their own documentary evidence can e-mail 211_AOSHIPS.VBACO@va.gov

WEB SITE

The Chapter has a new web site at vva351.org. View the site to see any upcoming events or information. The site is in development. Special Thank You goes to Stan Tucker for developing the site.

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: 'The Nurse'. The Nurse is the first Veterans memorial in the country to pay tribute specifically to women Veterans. This was a model submitted for the design contest in Washington DC for the women's tribute there. Had it been chosen it would have been a life sized figure. It was brought to The Highground by the Chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America. She has a place of honor in front of the flagpole and is often found with roses in her arms left by visitors who remember her kindness and care.

CHAPTER HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Chapter Halloween Party was held October 21st at the Meidam Haunted Manor. On page 9, photo # 1, some of the decorations that greeted the guest as they arrive. Photo # 2, could that be a celebrity - Cousin It from the Addams Family, grilling? The guest were treated to Spook-gatti and Hallo-weenies (hamburgers and brats too). Photo # 3, preparations for the burning at the stake. Have to find a witch, if not marshmallows will do. Because of the difficulty of trying to find a witch we were treated to smores. On Page 10, photo #2, some of the younger party goers. They look like they are ready for some trick or treating. A special Thank You to Leon and Chris for hosting the party and to everyone that brought a dish to pass. It was a spook-tacular time.

CHAPTER HALLOWEEN PARTY



The Highground



1



2

Wall Call

Going on a mission
To see an old, grave friend
Whom I was in contact with
Right to our fighting end.

And he left Nam that night
And landed on the Wall´
With me went all the memories
That stayed beyond the Fall

And the flashbacks they are daily´
In crowds and in the halls,
And I never left´ no I never left´

All those names up on the Wall

And I tried to make a difference
to listen for my call,
To listen for my call,
So the day that I expire
I can join them on the Wall.

Service

It was apparent in the posture´
In the searching of their eyes´
That they had served our country
On the ground and waves and skies,

And as a grateful nation,
We owe our Veterans thanks´
Commitment to our country:
Every service´ every rank.

The Long Salute

We honor all our fallen
And Veterans from all times
Who gave their hearts and bodies
Through all the muck and grime.

To those who are now serving´
We salute you too with pride´
Because there is no question
On whom our future rides.

R.K. Mitby

CARD

Special Thank You to Christine Meidam for the beautiful and thoughtful
Veterans Day card!!

**For all that you have sacrificed
and everything you've done
To help to make this world we share a safer, better one,
This comes with admiration and with gratitude to say
You're thought about so often—
and especially on this day.**

Happy Veterans Day

Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 351

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I graduated from Janesville H.S in 1965. We had approx 750 students in my graduating class. Consequently, I did not know many of them very well. I attended one of the first class reunions many years ago and none since. Went onto college for 1.5 years, and then dropped out. I was not ready to finish my degree at that point, but did receive my Bachelors Degree years later. I enlisted in the Army Medical Corps and served in Vietnam in 1968-69. When my tour was done, I came home in February of 1969 on leave. A classmate, Michael Schumacher, came home from Vietnam at the same time. He had been killed in action. He was with the 101st Airborne Division. My mother saw his obituary in the local paper and alerted me. I then contacted his family, and asked if I could assist in anyway. They requested that I be the military escort that rode in the hearse with him to the cemetery and I also handed his mother the American flag after it had been folded at the burial site. It is a day that has stayed with me all these years. It will never leave my being. And it should not. I have visited his grave every year since to pay my respects. My parents are buried in the same cemetery.

Since LZ Lambeau occurred, I was made aware of the `Virtual Wall` internet site. I never knew about it before. They have many ways in which to search for the Fallen on this site. One way is to search by city/state. I did so, and was shocked to see that there were 18 names listed as KIA's from Janesville that died in Vietnam! As I viewed the names, line by line, I realized that I knew six of them very well! The others were either much older than me or had not gone to H.S. when I did. I made myself a promise that when I went to the cemetery this year to visit, I would pay my respects to the other five soldiers and marines. On the Saturday before Veterans Day, I rode my motorcycle to Janesville to make my pilgrimage. (It was a perfect day to ride. Especially in November for Wisconsin) Before I went I had called Oakhill & Mt. Olivet Cemeteries. I was surprised to learn that all of them were buried there. Two soldiers and one marine were buried in close proximity to Michael in the Catholic section. One had received the DSC. The other two were buried in the Protestant section. One marine and one soldier.

I spent time at each grave. Prayed and read the 23rd Psalm. I placed an American flag in each of their Veterans' markers and also attached a keychain fob made of colored beads in Nam battle ribbon colors. I saluted each before I left. The cemeteries are very hilly and are approx 3 city blocks square. It was quite a panorama with the fall colors. It was a difficult day, but yet very satisfying that I could pay my final respects to them all. It was a 5 hour round trip. It gave me much time for reflection as I drove thru the autumn countryside of rural Wisconsin. I have a sense of a deeper inner peace these days. Maybe because of the years that have passed since the War has been over. Maybe because of all the healing that has occurred within me and all my Nam brothers since LZ Lambeau. Maybe because of all the work that I have done with the Patriot Guard in serving the Fallen and their Goldstar families. Maybe because I could acknowledge my six Fallen brothers that paid the ultimate sacrifice for us all. They are the true American heroes. We will NEVER forget!

If you are able, save them a place inside of you, and save one backward glance, when you are leaving, for the places they can no longer go. Embrace your families this special time of year. Extend your pride of military service onto your children and grandchildren. Make sure they understand why it is important to serve others. Not just in the military, but in other acts of human kindness. And finally, make sure that you include ALL of the American Fallen & Wounded from ALL Wars in your tableside prayers. And that you also pray for ALL of our American Military serving throughout the Globe to protect our way of life. Blessings to you my brothers. May God bless you and yours at this special time of year. WELCOME HOME!!

Michael Weaver
President
VVA #351

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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**Life Member: V.F.W., V.V.A. – Chapter 351
and American Legion**



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Appleton, WI 54911
www.valleyfh.com
Email: valley@valleyfh.com



WAYNE F. TAUBER
Owner/Funeral Director

Phone: 920 733-5435 Cell: 920 858-2942 Fax: 920 733-9458

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