



410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.org

contact@vva351.org

***September - October
2012***



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

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

President Mike Weaver
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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/Membership.....John Fiers
Recognition / Awards.....David Evans

Finance

Fundraising..... 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..... Jer Sanderfoot
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

Contacts

Chapter info@vvawi351.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."

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

September 12th – Chapter meeting

October 10th – Chapter meeting

November 14th – 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

September 3rd – Labor Day

September 19th – Chapter’s highway pickup

September 21st – POW/MIA Recognition Day Drive

October 12th – Chapter Fall Harvest Party

November 11th – Veterans Day

November 22nd – Thanksgiving Holiday

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter members marching in Appleton's Memorial Day Parade: (L to R) Richard Forrest, Tim Hewitt, Leon Meidam, Carlton Schuh, Brian Jahn and John Fiers. More on the parade on page 9.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear V.V.A. – Chapter 351,

To thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.

John Ruwoldt family

(John is Christine Meidam's brother.)

Dear V. V.A. Members,

I would like to Thank all of you who have sent cards, brought over flowers and food. I even got a giant teddy bear. Thank you for the visits and offerings of help. Thank you for thinking of me and all the prayers you have sent my way.

Christine Meidam

Dear Vietnam Veterans of America,

Thank you for donating the bottle water for the 395th's Welcome Home Party. It was gladly appreciated because it was warm out. Thank you again for your donation.

Marlene Cops

Appleton Military Support Group

Dear V.V.A. – Chapter 351 Members,

Your generosity and compassion to our Wisconsin Families of the Fallen brings tears to my eyes.

While the children are off doing the fun things your contribution allows, the parents and older siblings are able to be with each other without worrying about them. It is very healing for them to be with each other, as it is for the children.

When the children get back from enjoying your generosity, they are all smiles and full of stories about the excursions. They run into the arms of their parents and talk, talk, talk. They're so excited! Then I see the parent's shoulders fall, they fall because they are relieved that finally the children are able to be themselves, young, carefree and happy, if only for a few days. How do I thank you for that? It's truly priceless.

I work with our dear Families every day, most communications are sad: they call when they are down; they call when the day is just too much for them to handle. But it is always after our weekend retreats that they call with lifted hearts. And that is because they are able to be with the other adults while the children do not need their attention...you help the whole Family through your "being there" for us.

Your generous donation will help us plan more comfortably for our weekend retreat next year in Green Bay. The at this point is to take the entire Family on tour of Lambeau Field and the Packer Hall of Fame. For the Families and children who want to do something else because they're already taken the tour, we'll have other plans for them.

So, while I am trying to write a letter of gratitude knowing I am falling short, I do want you to know that you have touched the hearts of over 200 Families in Wisconsin who are trying to cope with the death of their loved one who chose to wear the uniform of Freedom and to keep us safe. They are special people, as are you.

Thank you also for holding the PGR line the entire weekend. The Families love seeing you at our events, but a big thank you from me for understanding that it is more important that they be with each other rather than talking with you. Your respect of this “precious little time together” brings them closer to each other...and that is what we all want to see. Our gatherings are a time for them to heal with each other...to share their stories, experiences, sadness and laughter, together with others who understand exactly what they have / are going through. God bless you for understanding and “holding the line.”

God bless all of you.

With great appreciation,

Judith Singer

Founder – Being There-Reaching Out

(The Chapter donated \$500.00 to the organization.)

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is Friday, September 21, 2012. The Chapter will do a fund drive for this important day. The drive will be starting at 8:00 am and go to 8:00 pm. The funds raised will be used to fund the POW/MIA program. Last year some of the funds went for two \$1000 scholarship, in the name of a POW or MIA from the area, for a graduating high school student, and a donation was made to the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

This is a good program and to keep it vibrant requires financial support. This is where you can help. Take just 1 hour, more if you want, and offer the POW/MIA flower to the public at the following businesses: Wal-

Mart by the Fox River Mall, Neenah and Wal-Mart on Appleton's East side; Festival Foods on Appleton's East side and Festival Foods on Northland Ave., "OO" and Larry's Piggly Wiggly in Kaukauna and Little Chute. All you need to bring is a chair, if you want to sit, a cap or shirt with the V. V. A. emblem and a BIG SMILE!!! This is a great program that the Chapter is involved in so let's keep it going.

To help, contact Leon and Chris Meidam at 757-6587. If we all help out, we will make this a very successful drive. You can sign up for the business that you would like to help at and the time you would like to work. So please mark your calendar so we never forget. Please call by September 17, 2012.

To make a donation: make the check-out to the V.V.A. – Chapter 351 and in the memo section write POW/MIA 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.

Leon and Chris Meidam and Jacob Paltzer
POW/MIA Chairpersons

CHAPTER FALL HARVEST PARTY – FRIDAY NIGHT

Set aside Friday, October 12th for the Chapter's Fall Harvest Party. Come to: The Forrest Family Farm at 5190 North Loop Road, Larsen, WI at 5:00 pm for the hayride.

Dinner will be at 6:00 pm. This year we will be having hot dogs, hamburgers and brats.

After dinner we will be having a campfire and roasted marshmallows. (Please bring your fixings for smores if you wish.)

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. **Please R.S.V.P.: 920-836-2906 by Oct. 5.**

Richard Forrest

The Highground

The Highground in Neillsville, Wisconsin has evolved to be a Veterans 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. The tribute “WW II Veteran’s Tribute” is a globe that features stained glass campaign ribbons to reflect the different areas of service. These ribbons match the blouse decorations worn by WW II Veterans. The major battles in the European Theater and the major battles in the Pacific Theater are listed on the north and south sides of the base. The Kilroy as Here Inscription on the west side of the bases tells a story worth reading.

The Appleton Memorial Day program on Monday, May 28th started with a parade and ended with a memorial program at Riverside Cemetery. In photo 1, Boy Scout Troop 57 carrying the Chapter's banner.

1



2

9

In photo 2, 3 and 4, the Chapter's float.

3



4





The Vietnam War Gold Star Mothers unit in the Memorial Day Parade. The front passenger is Nathalie Person whose son was Timothy Arens (KIA – October 1, 1968) and the back passengers are Francis Behnke whose son was Robert Joosten (KIA – July 16, 1967) and Elizabeth Grassl whose son was Kenneth Grassl (KIA – January 29, 1968).

AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL

The May/June 2012 issue of the National V.V.A. Veteran magazine had an article by AVVA President Nancy Switzer. She spoke on Town Hall meetings, that are being held around the country, where people can tell how herbicides – Agent Orange used in Vietnam affected our troops and their children and grandchildren. Some of the problems they faced are cleft lip and palate, congenital heart disease, fused digits, hip dysplasia, neural tube defects and undescended testicles. If you and your family, or you know of a family with problems, please contact Mokie Porter at mporter@vva.org or Mike Demske from Manitowoc Chapter 731 at 920-684-1624. Please share your story with Mokie or Mike.

DIVISIVE

I left for Cam Rahn Bay—
Late by several days—
To fight for our great country
In a military way,

And we greased the NVA
And kicked old Charlie's ass,
But I couldn't stand the Nam
Or our old self-serving brass.

The Congress and our leaders
Just piddled while we died;
They had no plan for winning
No matter how we tried,

And all draftees and RA's
With blood and tainted minds
Came back to ugly protests
And never seemed to find

A feeling of cohesion—
Rather cold, deep-seated rage—
Abhorrence—sordid feelings
That have lasted through old age.

VOICES

Voices from the battlefields
And in waves or in the bays—
Voices from our airmen—
All defending what we say.

Believing in our country,
This vibrant USA,
Fighting for our freedom—
Veterans past and those today.

R.K. Mitby

TAPS

May each of us, when our voyages and battles of life are over, find a welcome in that region of the blest where there is no more storm-tossed sea nor scorching battlefield.

JOHN L. RUWOLDT

Our friend is in the hands of our Heavenly Father and “God giveth His beloved sleep.”

Age 63, passed away on June 26, 2012 following a courageous battle with kidney cancer. John was a charter member and a member for many years. John served in the U.S. Army as an Ammo Specialist. He is survived by his mother, three sons, four grandchildren, a brother and two sisters. We Thank the Patriot Guard Riders and all V.V.A. members who helped to make John’s service so special.

John Ruwoldt Family



Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up

2012 Clean-up Dates: Wednesday, September 19th. We meet at the “park & ride” on the NE corner of Highway 10 & County Road N at 5:00 P.M. The total job takes about an hour, if eight volunteers show up. Please mark these dates on your calendar in pencil. If it was like last year, we will have some rainy-day changes. I also want to state that the “job” is not done until the “paperwork” is done. To accomplish this, we all meet at the Darboy (Mohnen’s) Family Restaurant for something to eat. It is located in the Darboy Plaza on the SE corner of County Roads N & CE, behind the BP gas station. Our VVA Chapter will donate \$5.00 towards each volunteer’s meal.

I will be sending out E-mail notices to all Chapter Members prior to our Clean-up dates. If you are interested in volunteering, please send me your E-mail address at: jsanderfoot@new.rr.com.

Jer Sanderfoot - Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator

SICK CALL

Some of the Chapter members and friends of the Chapter are not feeling the best. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

DRY

It's so dry the Baptists are starting to sprinkle. Methodists are using wet wipes. Presbyterians are giving rain checks, and the Catholics are praying for the wine to turn back into water.

Proud to be an American.

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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

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\$50 - Mortgage Loan



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Attorney Schuh is looking for Veterans who have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, Asbestosis and / or lung cancer associated with Mesothelioma and Asbestosis. There is **SUBSTANTIAL** compensation available for victims, especially military Veterans.

I travel **ANYWHERE** in Wisconsin to meet with and consult with victims. **PLEASE** call now!!

Life Member: V.V.A. – Chapter 351, V.F.W. Post 2778 and American Legion Post 38

THANK YOU!!



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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 56-60

Life \$175.00 () ages 61–65

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