



410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.org

contact@vva351.org

***November - December
2012***



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

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

President Mike Weaver
Vice President.....Joe Eiting
Secretary Dave Evans
Treasurer.....Jake Paltzer
Board of Directors: (B. O. D.)..... Mike Hoks
Board of Directors: (B. O. D.).....Richard Forrest

Public Affairs

Newsletter Editor..... Jake Paltzer
Assistant Editor, Ads.....Leon Meidam
Printing / Mailing..... Jake Paltzer
Parade / Color Guard.....Carlton Schuh
Sunshine.....Sue Koslovsky
WebSite.....Joe Eiting

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.....Richard Forrest
Appreciation Dinner.....Mike Weaver
Free Fire.....Tom Driessen

Nomination / Constitution

Nomination.....Tom Driessen

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter members participated in Greenville’s 9 -11 Memorial Program on August 25, 2012: (L to R) Steve Buntjer, John Fiers, Tim Hewitt and Jake Paltzer. The memorial was dedicated to the 2,977 civilians, firefighters, police and EMS, who lost their lives on Septemebr 11, 2001. The memorial program unveiled two structural steel beams that were recovered from the World Trade Center in New York City. Hats off to the Greenville 9 -11 Memorial Planning Committee for a well organized, emotional and meaningful program!!! Chapter members also participated in the Greenville Community Parade – a memorable day!!

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

November 14th – Chapter meeting

December – no meeting

2013

January – Chapter budget planning meeting on a Saturday – to be determined.

February 13th – Chapter appreciation dinner

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

November 11th – Veterans Day

November 22nd – Thanksgiving Holiday

November 23rd to December 9th – Chapter’s wreath drive

December 25th – Christmas

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Friends of The Highground,

Thank you for your generous tax-deductible donation of \$700.00. 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.

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

Sincerely,

**Kirk Rodman
Volunteer General Manager**

Members – Thank you for all that you continue to do for The Highground!

Kirk

Dear V.V.A. – Chapter 351,

Your kind sympathy at time this is more appreciated than words can ever express.

The June Meidam Family

(June is Leon Meidam’s mother.)

Dear Members of V.V.A.,

First, please forgive me for waiting so long to thank all of the members who were at Jerry's service. He cared for all veterans but especially his VietNam brothers.

Second, I want to thank you for the wonderful write up that was in your July-August newsletter. It truly was a tribute to Jerry and his picture included with the write up made it extra special.

Third, please accept this donation to your POW/MIA flower drive. Although I can't help this year, I want to make sure you receive a donation.

Finally, thanks again to all the members who were there or sent a card of just thought of us.

Sandy Segersin

Dear Members of V.V.A.,

To thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. We are truly grateful for the support and prayers we received during this time of need.

From the family of Keith Gabriel

Dear Members of V.V.A.,

Life's path is more easily traveled in the company of friends and family like you. Thank you for your kindness.

Thank you for all of your help and support during our sad time. Thank you for the bible and the beautiful floral arrangement.

The family of Christine Meidam

VETERANS DAY

November 11th is Veterans Day. On this day our Nation honors all military Veterans. There **will not** be a traditional program at the Outagamie County Court House; this is presently the Administration building. **The program will be held** at Don Hawkins Field at American Legion Post 38 on 3220 W. College Avenue, Appleton. This is because of construction and remodeling at the county building. The program starts promptly at 11:00 am with the ringing of local church bells, introduction, prayer, speeches by dignitaries, poster contest done by students from local schools and ending with Taps. Immediately after the program, everyone is invited inside the American Legion Post for a lunch. Our Chapter supports this program and participates in it.

If you would like to be in the Color Guard, contact Carlton Schuh at 757-0696. We will assemble at 10:45 am. Please arrive early because this is a new location and we will need to get oriented.

The following are a list of programs or activities on or around Veterans Day, November 11th. Check your local newspaper for other programs.

Sunday, November 11th:

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar – through-out Wisconsin. Free meal off a limited menu for all Veterans during serving hours.

Monday, November 12th:

Einstein Middle School – 324 E. Florida Ave. – Appleton. Program from 8:00 am to 9:00 am with social gathering after.

Fox Valley Lutheran High School – 5300 N. Meade Str. – Appleton. Free breakfast starts at 8:00 am and goes to 9:00 am. with a program to follow. RSVP at 739-4441 by November 7th.

Golden Corral – 1169 N. Westhill Blvd. – Appleton. Free meal for any Veteran from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Thompson Center – 820 W. College Ave. – Appleton. Lunch and program at noon. You will need to pick up a ticket to participate. Get a ticket while available. Free for Veteran and spouse, current service members and spouses of deceased Veterans.

Thank you Veterans, past and present, for serving our country!!!

WREATH DRIVE 2012

We will have the wreath sale booth at the east parking lot at Northland Mall again this year. We will be decorating all of the large wreaths, to get the quality that we want. I will be picking up the large wreaths Nov. 7th. We will have to decorate some for opening weekend and deliveries, the rest will be decorated as we need them, this worked last year. I will be picking up the smaller wreath Nov. 10th. Prices for this year: 24”- \$18.00, 36”- \$25.00, 48”- \$45.00, 60”- \$65.00, 72”- \$80.00 and cane and crosses - \$20.00. We will sell out of large wreaths this year. We will not sell swags opening weekend. So get your order in as soon as you can, so I can have that wreath for you: mail your order into V.V.A. 351, P.O. Box 1862, Appleton WI. 54912-1862, or call it in at 757-6587 or e-mail it to lrm101@ntd.net, All preorders will be filled first in the order received and paid for.

We will need help in manning up the sales booth, starting Friday Nov. 23rd through Sunday Dec. 9th. The hours for the weekend are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and the weekdays are 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We will be using a larger generator so there will be more heat and light. Call me to sign up to work, as soon as you can, because this will save me a lot of time in calling. 920-757-6587.

We need help working on Chapter trailer to pick up wreaths and selling trailer, before Nov. 10th. We need help setting up the selling area at Northland mall, weather permitting, on Nov. 20th. Call me to work times out at 757-6587 or e-mail me at lrm101@ntd.net.

Leon Meidam - Wreath Chairman

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 Woman Airforce Service Pilots” (WASPs) was designed by Dorothy Swain Lewis. She designed a bronze statue of a woman pilot looking towards the sky, representing female pilots and their role in WW II. Over 1,100 WASPs served as test pilots, flying instructors, and transport pilots. This allowed male pilots to be used in combat. Nine WASP pilots came to The Highground for the dedication in 2006.

They expressed hope their story would inspire young women to move beyond their own expectations and to soar above the clouds.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT of HONOR



Boy Scout Troop 57 held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 9, 2012 at Lawrence University in Appleton. For the young men, Jack Pamperin, William Shecterle and Joseph Sinclair, this is a proud moment. To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout requires hard work, dedication, will power and some guidance from the Scout leaders and parents. Displayed were the project each did to earn his Eagle and other projects needed that each needed for the different ranks. Troop 57 is sponsored by the Chapter. In the photo are: (L to R) Jack Pamperin, William Shecterle, Leon Meidam, Joseph Sinclair and Jake Paltzer. Leon and Jake are Chapter members. The plaque, one of many, has the names of Eagle Scouts from the troop. Congratulations Jack, William and Joseph!!

REMEMBRANCE

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.

CHRISTINE ANN MEIDAM

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

Christine at the age 61, passed away on September 20, 2012 peacefully at her home with family around her. Christine was a charter associate member of the Chapter. She is the wife of Leon Meidam. Christine and Leon are supporters of not only the Chapter but also worked with many other Veterans groups and community service organizations. Christine will be remembered for her caring of her family but she was a tireless listener, friend and supporter of Vietnam Veterans, their families and everyone who knew her.



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Thank you to all that helped in making this fifth annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Drive such a **BIG SUCCESS!!!** The funds that were raised will be used to purchase material on the POW/MIA issue. This material will then be distributed to local schools and libraries for educational purposes. A couple of scholarships will be established in honor of a local soldier who is Missing in Action or Prisoner of War in the Vietnam War. These scholarships will be presented to a student going on to higher education from a local high school. Also the Chapter supports the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia which works on the POW/MIA issue.

Mother Nature showed us her elements – sun shine, cloudiness, coolness, warmth and towards the end of the drive some rain clouds but the best was a double rainbow.

With the economy not in the best shape the drive did very well!!! We had a good work force for the drive and they did a **GREAT JOB!!** They are: Tom Bartel, Steve Buntjer, Larry Cavanaugh, Tom Driessen, Joe Eiting, David Evans, John Fiers, Richard Forrest, Wayne Gabriel, Tim Hewitt, Mike Hoks, Leroy Johnson, Chuck Lewis, Frank McGinnis, Sam & Kathy Neuman, Dick Poukey, Burt Rosenthal, Stan Tucker, Mike Weaver and Ken Wydeven.

The following businesses: Wal-Mart on east Calumet Street, Wal-Mart at the Fox River Mall, Wal-Mart in Neenah, Festival Foods on CE, Festival Foods on Northland Ave. “OO” and Larry’s Piggly Wiggly in Little Chute and Kaukauna are where the drive was held. Please “Thank” them for allowing us to hold the drive!!

Even in harder times “the public in the Fox Valley area does support Veterans and Veteran issues and concerns and it showed”!!

Jake Paltzer

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.

He seemed to die for nothing—
This brother—native son—
In a war without a plan
That our fighting forces won.

Deep into the darkness,
Especially self-contempt,
Felt loneliness, depression—
My insides quite unkempt,

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,
So the day that I expire
I can join them on the Wall.

R.K. Mitby

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last month or so has been overwhelming for our Chapter in many respects. Highs and lows. We lost one of our members, Keith Gabriel. Many of you attended the visitation/funeral services. Many more of you stood in the flag line for hours outside the funeral home with the Patriot Guard. His family was most appreciative of your efforts. Leon Meidam's wife, Christine lost her battle with cancer. Her death had a profound effect on many of us in the Chapter. She helped so many Veterans over the years, especially **Vietnam Vets**. She never asked for recognition or accolades. She always gave herself to others, unconditionally. Chris was always there to pitch in, wherever she was needed. Whether it was preparing food/cleaning up at the annual picnic, assisting so many years with Leon in the Highground bicycle tour, or organizing the work schedules for all of our fundraisers. (Orange Blossom poppy sales, Christmas wreath sales, or POM/MIA poppy sales) She was a tireless worker/champion for all Veterans. She was also a member of the Patriot Guard and received full support honors. She received full motorcycle escort to/from the funeral home, church & cemetery. The flag lines at the church/cemetery were lined with all of her Veterans/spouses that she so deeply loved. It was a fine tribute. She will be greatly missed. May God bless you, Chris. And may he shed his grace upon her family. You are forever in our hearts/minds.

On September 8th at the Highground we paid tribute to a great fellow Vietnam Vet, LCDR Ray Stubbe, USN. He served with the Marines in the battle/siege at Khe Sanh in 1968. In 77 days of carnage, over 250 Marines were KIA and over 2,000 were WIA. Chaplain Stubbe and the other Chaplains present, ministered to all of them. He is an amazing human being. We honored him by purchasing a stone at the Highground in his name. We also had his commanding officer there from Vietnam. They had not seen each since 1968! He was totally surprised! There were approximately 30-40 Vietnam Vets in attendance. It was an AWESOME event!

We had our annual POW/MIA fund drive in September. In one day of selling poppies, we raised over \$4,000.00! Those monies will be put to good usage by segregating funds for POW/MIA scholarships to local

H.S. students, integrating monies into our educational program, and donating funds back to the National POW/MIA effort.

Many of our members also belong to the Patriot Guard. We had the great honor of escorting 2 MIA's back to the Fox Valley this month. The first was Pfc. Arthur Hopfensperger, who was KIA in 1950, at the battle of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He laid in an unmarked grave for 60 years in Communist ground, before he was recovered. Thousands of American soldiers/marines are still MIA in Korea. 16 motorcycles went to Mitchell Field in Milwaukee to escort him home with State Patrol protection. 36 Veterans/Patriots encircled his grave at the cemetery for burial for over an hour. He is now at rest in his native soil of Appleton. Our second MIA recovery was Lt James Des Jardins of Green Bay. He was an Army Air Corps fighter pilot, who was shot down over Germany in 1944. He was escorting bombers when he was hit by AA fire. His aircraft crashed into a bog and sank. He laid there for almost 68 years. 18 motorcycles traveled once again, a week later, to Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, to bring him home to Green Bay, again with the State Patrol. Two days later, we buried Lt des Jardins in pouring rain. 26 Veterans/Patriots encircled his grave. He is now at rest in Green Bay. WELCOME HOME to both of these soldiers! It was our EXTREME honor to perform these duties. (Side note: there are still approx. 85,000 American POW/MIAs still unrecovered since WW II) They are known but to God. May they rest in peace, even though they are NOT home....

I salute you ALL. You are a terrific bunch of Vets! Your support of the Fallen is without parallel. You can hold your heads high in your devotion to duty and service to others.

President Mike Weaver

NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Dorow
Gary Merryfield

Welcome aboard!!!

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).

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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 \$200.00 () ages 56-60

Life \$175.00 () ages 61-65

Life \$150.00 () ages 66-71

Life \$100.00 () ages 72 and over

Life installments \$50.00 down, \$25.00/month (until paid in full)

Limited time - \$50 rebate on Life Membership.

Name _____.

Address _____.

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State / Zip _____.

Phone _____.

Dues payable and mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America – 410 W.
Franklin Str. Unit 1862 – Appleton, WI 54912-1862

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