



**410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862**

**Appleton, WI 54912-1862**

**[www.vva351.org](http://www.vva351.org)**

**[contact@vva351.org](mailto:contact@vva351.org)**

***January - February  
2013***



**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.....Chuck Lewis  
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

**Chapter Contacts**

Chapter.....contact@vva351.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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 2013

**February** – Chapter budget planning meeting. Please see message on page 5.

**February 6<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter appreciation dinner. Please see message on page 5.

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – 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 1<sup>st</sup>** – New Year’s Day

**January 21<sup>st</sup>** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Valentine’s Day

## **NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO**

Chapter members participating in the Chapter's Adopt-A-Highway Program. A two-mile stretch of Highway 10 between County Road N and Highway 55 is cleaned up of trash. In 2012, the Chapter conducted four clean-ups. After the clean-up, all the volunteers go to Mohnen's Family Restaurant for a meal and the Chapter donates \$5.00 towards each meal. In the photo (L to R), David Evans, practicing before heading out, with Pam and Jer Sanderfoot. Pam and Jer coordinate the program. It is well organized and (believe it or not) enjoyable!!

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Dear Members of V.V.A.,**

**Thank you from the family of Howard Ruemlar. The money was given to the Hospice Center in Buffalo, Indiana.**

**Sue Kozlovsky**

**(The Chapter donated to a remembrance of Sue's father)**

On Veterans Day

Keeping you close in thought and prayer.

There's always so much pride  
in every thought of you,  
And on this Veterans Day,

That's especially true—  
So this brings warmest wishes  
and a special heartfelt prayer  
That God will always bless your life  
and keep you in His care.

V.V.A. Chapter 351

(All Chapter members receive a Veterans Day card from the Chapter)

### **BUDGET MEETING**

The Annual Budget Meeting for our Vietnam Chapter will be on a Saturday in February, 2013. 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 Chuck Lewis to let him 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. I will send an e-mail to the members with the date. Thank-you.

Mike Weaver – President

### **APPRECIATION DINNER**

The Chapter will hold an Appreciation and Valentine Dinner Party on February 6, 2013 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 January 22<sup>nd</sup> 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!!

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As another year draws to an end, let us take time to reflect upon our many blessings. We have lost some close, dear friends, but we have also made new ones. Let us take the good memories that we have been left with from those we have held so close. Take what they have left us in their legacies. Go forward with their kind, unselfish friendship to us, and extend that hand of human kindness to all we encounter. That way their kind deeds will continue on to the next generation.

Embrace your fellow Veterans. We are NOT getting any younger. Since many of us are retired or about to be, volunteer as much as you can in whatever endeavor you choose. Whether it be related to Veterans affairs, food pantries, or church activities; GET INVOLVED. The Vietnam Veteran is FINALLY receiving his proper recognition for his service. In the past seven years, I have NEVER received so many thank-you/acknowledgements for my military service! As many of you; I NEVER received any welcome home or thanks upon returning from the Nam. Only from my immediate family. Those days are gone forever; thank God! Let go of your bitterness and frustration. It does you no good. It will eventually destroy you, if you allow it to fester within you. Hold your head high and BE PROUD OF YOUR MILITARY SERVICE. I SALUTE each and every one of you. WELCOME HOME!

Lastly, enjoy the Holidays with your friends and family. Share all of those stories of past Holidays. Enjoy their presence (especially your grandchildren). Absorb all of their love. Take time to remember and pray for all of those serving in our Military in faraway, hostile lands. Those young men and women are the guardians of our Freedoms. They are the protectors of all that we hold so dear. We have passed the torch to them. Do NOT forget them. We have so much to be thankful for in our great country. It is still THE best place to live. Bar none!

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of you! May God bless you and all of your families. I retire at year-end. As I finish this message to you, I have nineteen and a wake up! I am a double-digit midget, once again. But who's counting? ME!!! SHORT!!!!

Michael Weaver  
President, VVA #351

### **POW-MIA**

There are many Veterans and some Gold Star Family Members that stand the flag lines. Be it sunny, cold, rainy or snow, they are part of the Patriot Guard Riders. Sometimes in deep sadness and other times in respect I have stood the flag line myself. We travel sometimes long distances to show our respect for the veterans. This year we had 2 MIA funerals. One veteran was a World War II MIA and one was a Korean War MIA.

I think when I hear about POW-MIA; my thoughts go to the Vietnam War because it was part of the times I lived. There are so many loved ones that never came home from all the wars. My prayers are with the POW-MIA's and their families. I hope someday they will all come back home to their families and to rest in the land of the free.

God Bless!  
Richard Forrest

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Tom Bartel

Mike Deshasier

Welcome aboard!!!

## 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.



Artist Michael Martino designed this tribute using three bronze figures to depict cold, heat, and anguish. The harshness of these conditions made living and fighting in Korea an unending nightmare. The figures are placed on granite slabs shaped like the peninsula of Korea in the midst of the Ying and Yang circle, which is the symbol on the South Korean Flag. Water surrounds the peninsula emphasizing the distance these men are from home, friends and family. Along the rim of the circle, engraved black granite plaques offer visitors a history of the Korean War from 1950 to 1953; additional space is available to record the next chapter in this unresolved dispute.

## Chapter's Fall Harvest Party

The Chapter's Fall Harvest Party was held at Richard and Cheryl Forrest's home on October 12<sup>th</sup>. In photo 1, Richard gave hayrides – loading the wagon and getting the horses started up.

1



2



In photo 2, in search of the “Great Pumpkin”. In photo 3, pony rides (just for the children).



3



4

Brian Jahn’s birthday – to pretty to eat. Happy Birthday Brian!!

## **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.

### **KEITH ALLEN GABRIEL**

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

Keith at the age 61, passed away on August 10, 2012 unexpectedly. Keith was a charter member and active member for many years. Keith served in the U.S. Marine Corps and his primary training was communication repair. He served in Nam from 70 – 71 and was an artillery gun captain on 105s with the 11th Marine Regiment. He is survived by his brother, Wayne also a Chapter member.

This year, a number of our brothers and a sister have left the Chapter. They will truly be missed!! Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers and also their families. With the Christmas holiday season upon us, may we more deeply appreciate the true meaning of Christmas and the love of our family and friends. Please stay in touch with them and share that special feeling.

## NEW VISIONS

To the strength and the safety  
Of our Red, White, and Blue—  
We pledge our hearts and toil  
In all things that we do.

We'll strive to keep our freedom—  
To build upon our past—  
Protect our hardy people  
And make our visions last

Of vibrant, bright tomorrows  
On earth and up in space  
As we live close together  
And all peoples we embrace.

We'll travel to the asteroids,  
Send missions up to Mars,  
Use stealth and new surveillance  
To raise our safety bar.

Let's get those jobs that left us—  
Become competitive—  
And spend within our means—  
Make a better place to live.

And in our great Republic  
Production we'll increase  
And strive for innovations  
And answers for world peace.

And teach to all our leaders  
In our robust USA  
To stand up for our country  
And bring on better days.

### TWINS

Obliged to watch her siblings  
Play a youth-like football game—  
She found that sitting, watching  
Was quite boring—rather lame,

And then she looked behind her  
And saw the soaring sight—  
A butterfly meandering  
In playful, carefree flight.

So the butterfly she chased—  
Crossed midfield in a bound,  
Zigzagged past the twenty,  
Lunged to catch it—found the ground,

And she was in the end zone,  
As her quarry flew away,  
But no one was applauding  
For the score she made today.

R.K. Mitby

## **Winters are Long in Wisconsin!**

Since I stepped out of my full time job in 2010, I have been involved in a couple of different social groups that for whatever reason have lost some members due to guys moving away, health issues, or work related travel conflicts. I thought that I would see if there were any VVA members interested in getting together for some “social male bonding” time to help while away the winter months and perhaps beyond.

**Coffee Social Hour** I am wondering if there would be an interest in starting a morning get together a couple of times a month to have coffee, swap old war stories, participate in general BS, and in general work towards solutions of **all** world problems. I have a good friend who is a neighbor and Navy Veteran that I am already doing this with, and we have been talking about expanding our network a bit now that we have lost three of our members. If you already have a group that you are doing this with and would like a couple of additional fellows let me know and perhaps we could join you. If not, and you would be interested in getting something started, let me know and we can work out some logistics.

**Round Robin Poker** My poker group has lost three members this last year and we would either like to recruit a couple of more fellows to join our group or join an existing clan to play poker with during the winter months after the holidays. Typically we have been playing nickel, dime, quarter which usually amounts to no more than \$15.00 - \$20.00 changing hands in an evening. We had been rotating houses every month and sharing costs for refreshments and BYOB.

If either of these have an appeal for you, please let me know by either calling John Koehler at 920 858 3310 or sending me a note at [kent1952@live.com](mailto:kent1952@live.com). Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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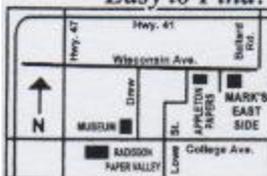
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Attorney Schuh is looking for Veterans who have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, Asbestosis and / or lung cancer associated with Mesothelioma and Asbestosis. There is **SUBSTANTIAL** compensation available for victims, especially military Veterans.

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

**THANK YOU!!**



2211 N. Richmond Street

Appleton, WI 54911

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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 – 410 W.  
Franklin Str. Unit 1862 – Appleton, WI 54912-1862

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC**  
**CHAPTER 351 - APPLETON AREA**  
**P.O. BOX 1862**  
**APPLETON, WI 54912-1862**