

"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."



410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.org

contact@vva351.org

***July - August
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
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Treasurer.....Jake Paltzer
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Board of Directors: (B. O. D.).....Richard Forrest

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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
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

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.

2013

June, July and August – no meeting

September 11th – Chapter meeting

October 9th – Chapter meeting

November 13th – 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

August 1st to 4th – The Highground bicycle tour

September 2nd – Labor Day

September 20th – POW/MIA Recognition Day

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter President, Michael Weaver, receives a plaque and congratulations from Jim Strong, President of the Fox Valley Veterans Council. Mike was selected by the Council as the “Veteran of the Year”. The Council recognized Mike for his dedication to Veterans, Veterans issues and his remembrance of all Veterans. See page 7 for more information of the Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Members of V.V.A.,

Thank you for your generous donation to Being There-Reaching Out of \$500.00.

Being There-Reaching Out is a gathering together of Wisconsin Families of Fallen Military men and women. The gatherings are instrumental in opening the doors of friendship and support between the Families of Fallen Heroes. When together they talk, laugh, hug, shed tears, and reach out to one another in a way that only someone in the same shoes could do: someone who feels the daily pain and sorrow of having made the greatest sacrifice humanely possible for our country and our Freedoms.

Judith Singer
Being There-Reaching Out

V.V.A. Appleton Area Chapter 351 Dear Friend of The Highground,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250.00. Your donation for

the Learning Center Vietnam Graffiti Exhibit 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 our brochure and again thank you for your donation and your interest in the Highground. Please visit our website at www.thehighground.org for more news.

Sincerely,

**Kirk Rodman
Volunteer General Manager**

Dear Vietnam Veterans of America:

The Fox Valley Veterans Council, Inc., F.V.V.C., would like to thank you for your generous donation to the Veterans Emergency Fund of \$2,000.00 in the year of 2013. The program will assist Veterans and their families in the Fox Valley area with housing assistance, utilities, and a host of other issues.

Sincerely,

Barb Miller
Secretary / Treasurer

Dear Mr. Vietnam Veterans,

Thank you for coming and presenting at our school!! I really liked all of your stories. I also really liked the display you had setup. One thing I found really cool was that you all volunteered to go to war!!

I'm sorry you were treated badly when you got home. You guys are national heroes; you shouldn't have been treated that way. You guys are awesome! Thank you for presenting and thank you for defending our country!!

**Sincerely,
Austin**

(The Chapter did an Educational Program at Neenah High School and this letter was from one of the students.)

Vietnam Veterans of America

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The family of

Gene Van Den Eng

“Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up”

**Adopt-A-Highway 2013 Clean-up Dates: June 19th, July 31st,
October 16th**. 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 (8) volunteers show up. If it was like past years, we will have some rainy-day changes. After the clean-up, 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. 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

FOX VALLEY VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.

The Fox Valley Veterans Council, Inc. (F.V.V.C.) is comprised of Veterans service organizations of the Fox Valley area. The purpose of the F.V.V.C. is to provide a central forum to share Veteran information between Veteran organizations and support Veteran organization activities.

One of the goals of the F.V.V.C. is the Veterans Emergency Fund. This fund is for Veterans and their families who are in need of emergency financial assistance in the Fox Valley area. It is short-term help in a time of hardship.

Another goal is to honor and remember those that died while serving in American Armed Forces from Outagamie County. This program is held on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend at the Outagamie County Court House in Appleton.

At the last meeting for the year, the F.V.V.C. selects a person who goes beyond themselves in dedication to Veterans, Veteran issues and the remembrance of Veterans. For 2012, Chapter President Michael Weaver was selected by the F.V.V.C. Congratulations Mike!!!!!!!!!!!!!! See photo on cover of this newsletter.

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.



STONE and REGISTRY

The Stone combined with the Registry creates the true legacy. The Registry allows the Stone honoree (or family) to tell the rest of the story. There is a story behind every Stone, whether a Legacy Stone, Meditation Stone, Korean Tribute Stone or Persian Gulf Honor Stone. Families are encouraged to continue to update the story for generations to come and read.

CHAPTER'S APPRECIATION (VALENTINE) BANQUET

The Chapter's Appreciation (Valentine) Banquet was on February 6th at Mark's East Side Restaurant.



Some of those in attendance (L to R) Frank McGinnis, Tom & Elaine Bartel, An & Ralph Gehrman, Dick & Diane Poukey and Jer & Pam Sanderfoot.

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Opposite view of above photo; (L to R) Diane Poukey, Jer & Pam Sanderfoot, Diana & Tom Driessen, Frank McGinnis, Tom & Elaine Bartel and An Gehrman. A BIG Thank You to Mike Weaver for organizing a great evening of fellowship!!

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In photo 1, Mike Weaver (R) and Leon Meidam (L) preparing the POW/MIA Flag to be raised on the flag pole. In photo 2, the raising of the POW/MIA Flag. The ceremony was held at Kaukauna's Veterans Park. This is remembrance of Eugene De Bruin who was working for Air America and his plane was shot down in Laos. He was taken as a POW.

1



2

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.

EUGENE (GENE) V. VAN DEN ENG

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

Chapter member Gene Van Den Eng passed on Sunday, April 14, 2013. Gene served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years and retired as a Master Sergeant. Gene was a Korean War Veteran and a Vietnam War Veteran. He was also stationed in Europe for two tours. He married Kenice on May 24, 1968. In 1980 opened Van Den Eng Realty, Inc. which is still in existence.



SIXTIES BEAUTIES

Where did sixties beauties go
Who used to rule the floor?
They're dancing in their bedrooms
In a mirror like years before.

When some get out in public
And hear an old-time band,
Belting out the music
That they can understand—

They start to slowly wiggle—
Get up and dance around
To the drummer's steady beat
And that great, old sixties sound,

And the wrinkles tend to wander,
And the pounds just peel away,
And they are out there dancing
In their era and their day.

VIETNAM TODAY

Their guide called it
 "The American War"—
Said his father fought
 For the South,
And that people are still flocking
 From the North to the South,
And they all revere
 Ho Chi Minh.

I'd never
Go back there again—
Even though they'd like
 My tourist dollars
Much more than
 My military service.

PTSD

While walking on Campus
Saw a face tight and tense
And grabbed for my Sixteen
To provide for defense.

One day in the summer
I whiffed that same air
From those days in the jungle
In the time I was there.

When a chopper goes over
And I watch its loud flight,
It brings back the memories
When it took me to fight.

In a part of each day
And in night dreams I see
Pictures of past times
In that Asian country.

R.K. Mitby

Are you willing to support a fellow Veteran?

St. Paul Hospice Services is looking for more Veterans to volunteer in our *Veteran to Veteran* volunteer program. Our hospice program would like to recognize our Veteran patients and give them the sensitive care they may need at end of life. The primary goal of our program is to match a Veteran Volunteer with a Veteran hospice patient so they may have the unique ability to relate and connect with each other creating an environment where life review and healing may occur. Why are Veteran volunteers important? When Veterans interact there is a common language and experiences that can form a strong bond, it is a unique and satisfying support nobody else may be able to provide, and it's a way to thank our Veterans for their service. All of our Veteran hospice patients currently receive a visit from the Veteran volunteer which includes: a framed certificate thanking them for their service with their branch emblem and a small US flag. Further visits may be requested by the patients and families. We currently have one Veteran Volunteer whom you may all know and that is Mike Weaver. He has done an excellent job and would like a few more Veterans to work with in our program. With more support and continued growth we can improve our care and continue to support the "We Honor Veterans." This is a national campaign conducted by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veteran Affairs. If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer and specifically want to join to be a Veteran volunteer please contact Mellissa Hansen at 920-766-6180 on Mondays and Wednesdays or email her at mellissah@stpauelders.org All hospice training is included and the hours are very flexible. We look forward to working with you!

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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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!!



2211 N. Richmond Street

Appleton, WI 54911

www.valleyfh.com

Email: valley@valleyfh.com



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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
410 W. FRANKLIN STR. UNIT 1862
APPLETON, WI 54912-1862**