

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



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

**Appleton, WI 54912-1862**

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

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***September - October  
2013***



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

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Wreath.....Leon Meidam  
POW/MIA.....Jake Paltzer  
Orange Blossom.....Jake Paltzer  
Budget.....Leon Meidam

**Education**

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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 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**

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**October 9<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** – 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Labor Day

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** – POW/MIA Recognition Day

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter’s Halloween Party / Fall Festival

**October 31** – Halloween

## NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Appleton's Memorial Day Program started out with a parade which ended at Riverside Cemetery. At the cemetery, a memorial program was held at the Grand Army of the Republic Plot. A well attended program with various Color Guard units from the Veterans organizations. View photos on pages 10 and 11.

### “Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up”

**Adopt-A-Highway 2013 Clean-up Date: August 28<sup>th</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto:jsanderfoot@new.rr.com).

Jer Sanderfoot - Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

## CHAPTER'S HALLOWEEN PARTY / FALL FESTIVAL

Calling all witches, goblins and ghouls. There will be a burning at the stake of a local scarecrow who has stopped being scary.

This event will take place on Fright Night, Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:30 pm to the witching hour. The Meidam Haunted Manor is at N2241 Mayflower Drive, Appleton.

We will all eat “Crow” maybe, depending on how Leon does hunting in Canada or if he tags a deer with his truck coming home. The meat and drinks will be provided at 6:30 pm. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and costumes are always fun.

R.S.V.P. at 739-2603 with the number of people coming and what dish you will bring by October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Jake and Joyce Paltzer

## **THE HIGHGROUND**

At The Highground is a Vietnam Veterans Tribute, “Fragments”, designed by Robert Kanyusik. This tribute honors the men and women from Wisconsin who served in Vietnam. The figures are fragmented, recognizing the fragmentation of lives not only during war, but also in life. Each fragmented figure supports the other.

A close inspection of the figure with the helmet reveals the long hair of a woman – the first depicted on a US Veterans memorial. She is the tallest figure and wears a helmet to show she is at risk. Her poncho supports 1,244 rods engraved with the names of those who didn’t return. Their chimes hang among the rod clusters allowing them to speak to us.

In the background is an M-16 rifle that is broken apart with the trigger assembly missing. The rifle is broken showing the war is over. It is held in a position which would signal a medevac landing, indicating help is still needed. The rifle stands on a replica of a Native American burial mound and includes a flash of orange glass reminding us of the effects of Agent Orange and the war on ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at The Highground there will be a special celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Tribute,

“Fragments”. This program will start at 2:00 pm and scheduled to appear are Tom Miller, The Highground Founder, Howard Sherpe, guest speaker, and several Wisconsin Color Guards and Rifle Squads.

Our Chapter Commander Mike Weaver suggested that our Chapter have a Color Guard for the ceremony. If you are interested in being part of the Color Guard, contact me at 739-2603 or attend the Chapter meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be part of the Color Guard, please assemble at the American Flag pole in the general parking lot at 1:15 pm. This will give us time to organize and learn our part in the program.

The Highground is located at W7031 Ridge Rd – Neillsville, WI 54456. You can view the web site at [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org)

Jake Paltzer

### **ORANGE BLOSSOM DRIVE**

This year’s Orange Blossom Drive on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> was a great success. This was the eighth annual drive for the Chapter. The drive fund was the best we ever held.

We want to thank the following businesses for allowing us to hold the drive: Copps on West Wisconsin Avenue; Festival Foods on “CE” and “OO”; Piggly Wiggly in Kaukauna and Little Chute; and Wal-Mart on Calumet Street and in Neenah. Please make an effort to thank these businesses!!

Thank You letters were sent to the businesses, for their support of the drive, and to all the great workers, who made the drive so successful!!

We are looking at some changes to make next year’s an even better drive. The public does support Veterans and it showed!!

Jake Paltzer

## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is Friday, September 20, 2013. 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 scholarships, 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 me at 739-2603. 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 13, 2013.

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.

Jake Paltzer

## **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.



## **TREEHOUSE**

The Treehouse is handicap accessible for “kids” of all ages within the 146 acre park. Uniquely structured around a 160 year old green ash tree which overlooks the development forest. It is nestled among the four miles of hiking trails. Signs explain the various flora that share the natural beauty of the forest.

## **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

Memorial Day weekend started with a program at the Outagamie County Court House on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> honoring SSG Matthew Hermanson who was killed in action on April 28, 2011 in Afghanistan. In photo 1, our Chapter President Michael Weaver was the Keynote Speaker.



1



2

In photo 2 (L to R) Emcee Major James Strong – USA retired, Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson, Chaplain Captain James Seim – USN retired and Dennis Green with the Patriot Guard Riders.



Seated in the front on the left are Gold Star Parents Sandy and Jeff Hermanson whose son SSG Matthew was honored at the program. In the Patriot Guard Riders “Flag Line” those holding the American Flag (L to R) are Gold Star Parents Larry and Sharon Mueller, whose son Sgt. Nickolas Mueller died in Afghanistan. Gold Star Mother Kay St. John, whose son Jon St. John died in Iraq and Gold Star Mother Mary Bosveld, whose daughter Rachel Bosvelt died in Iraq.

## MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM





2



3

Appleton's Memorial Day Parade, in photo 1, Boy Scout Troop 57 carries the Chapter's banner and Colors. They are followed by Chapter members that marched in cadence – really – and the Chapter float (photos 2 and 3).

## **DRAFTED**

She had had her wild days  
Soon after he had left—  
Drafted from her loving  
And drifted from the test

Of keeping her commitment  
To date no other man—  
Temptation was too great  
to fit into that plan

So she danced with many men,  
To try to find a match  
For the soldier who was missing  
But saw nothing in the batch

Of booze and drugs and lies  
In the world that she partook—  
Found no one to replace him  
So she took a second look

And sent him sexy pictures  
For long and lonely nights  
Watching on the berm line  
In very little light

For sneaky, creeping Charlie  
Out probing at the wire—  
So he would have a reason  
To let loose all his fire

And come home to her loving  
And make her soon his mate—  
For now she'd live with letters  
No matter what the wait.

### **TO POLITICIANS**

Keep our strength and work for peace  
That's what we need to hear  
From all our generations  
Through each and every year,

And in this great USA  
No way should it be wrong  
To search for new solutions  
To keep us safe and strong.

### **V C**

In nineteen hundred seventy  
When we were virile, young, and strong  
V C stood for rabid Viet Cong.

Today in twenty hundred ten  
With all those strengths that we now miss,  
V C's Viagra and Cialis.

R.K. Mitby

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE of FAMILIES of AMERICAN PRISONERS and MISSING in SOUTHEAST ASIA**

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia was incorporated in the District of Columbia on May 28, 1970. The League's sole purpose is to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War.

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia held their Forty - Fourth Annual Meeting on June 12 to 15, 2013. The Chapter took a Sustaining Contributor ad space in the convention booklet. The Chapter also remembered service men that were POW or MIA during the Vietnam War from the area. They are:

**Robert W. Brownlee Jr.** – he was a military advisor to the South Vietnamize Army. He is listed as MIA on April 24, 1972 in Kontum Province, South Vietnam when his group was overrun. Robert's home is listed as Chicago, IL. Robert's wife, Audrey, lives in Appleton.

**James K. Brueggemann** – he was on the submarine, USS Scorpion, that was declared missing in the Atlantic Ocean on May 22, 1968. James was from Appleton. He did not die in the Vietnam War but during that time period.

**Eugene DeBruin** – he had served in the U.S. Air Force. After serving in the U.S. Air Force he worked for Air America. It was a CIA type of operation. On September 5, 1963, Eugene's plane was shot down in Laos where he was captured and held prisoner. Eugene was from Kaukauna.

**Richard J. Hentz** – he was in the U.S. Army. The surveillance plane he was on was shot down and he was listed as MIA on March 4, 1971. Richard was from Oshkosh.

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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.

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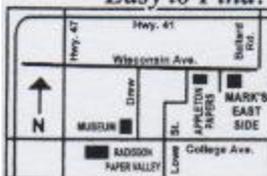
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**Life Member:** V.V.A. – Chapter 351, V.F.W. Post 2778 and American Legion Post 38

**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 – 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**  
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