

"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

***January - February
2014***



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

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

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Vietnam Display.....Leon Meidam
Panel Presentations.....Leon Meidam

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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.

2014

January 18th – Chapter’s budget planning meeting

February 12th – Chapter’s appreciation dinner

March 12th – Chapter meeting

April 9th – Chapter meeting

May 14th – 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 1st – New Year’s Day

January 20th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 14th – Valentine’s Day

April 20th – Easter

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter member, Terry Engelhardt, collects military patches – Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. Terry has about 12,000 patches and each has its own history. In the photo, Terry is at the Downtown Appleton Indoor Farmers Market at Appleton’s City Center on December 7th. A room was set up with displays, like Terry’s and others, to remember the WWII Veterans and the Pearl Harbor attack. Terry’s display showed the different military unit patches of WWII. If you have a couple of minutes, contact Terry at 920-731-8040, it is impressive to see all his patches. Each has its own story and some are unique.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Vets,

Where do I start? You people have been so special to me – so thoughtful!

I’m sharing one of the bulletins you sent to me with the Oshkosh Chapter, one with Richard’s son Brad and one with each of my children.

I’ve never received as much as a penny from the government for Richard being missing so what you have done for me has been extremely appreciated.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dorothy R. Hammer

(The Chapter sent Mrs. Hammer 6 copies of the last newsletter, bulletin, which covered the memorial bench that honors her son Richard. The Chapter donated the bench.)

CHRISTMAS CARDS

You are such a blessing!

My thoughts and prayers go with you all. Keep up the great work.

Dorothy Hammer

Merry Christmas

A wish for my friends at V.V.A. – 351.

Happy Holidays!

Semper Fi!

Ron Yow

(Ron is a Chapter member who has retired to South Carolina. Stay warm Ron!!)

Chapter 351

Ring out the message of peace and good will.

Merry Christmas!

My wreath and cross are so beautiful as usual. Thanks to Leon for wiring the cross and the wreath stand as well. Hope you all have a special holiday season.

Shirley Olson

BUDGET MEETING

The Annual Budget Meeting for our Vietnam Chapter will be on Saturday, January 18, 2014. It will start at 8:30 am and should get done by noon. It will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 E. South River Street, Appleton. This is where the Chapter holds its meetings. Lunch will be served. It is IMPORTANT that as many members as possible attend. We need YOUR input. Thank you.

Mike Weaver – President

APPRECIATION DINNER

The Chapter will hold an Appreciation and Valentine Dinner Party on February 12, 2014 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. Please contact Mike Weaver at 470-4674 by January 29th 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!!

V.V.A. 351 EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

We have committed this next year to presenting our program at the following schools this spring: Appleton Central HS , Appleton North HS, Hortonville HS, Appleton East HS, Appleton West HS, Neenah HS, Menasha HS, and Seymour HS. Our fall commitments for next year include Rawhide Boys Ranch and Kaukauna HS for a total of 10 presentations for 2014. Spring presentations will be scheduled from April 14 through May 30th and our two fall presentations will be held between October 6th through November 14th.

To date, the following members have agreed to help out with this commitment based on a canvass at a recent fall meeting: Larry Cavanaugh, Jake Paltzer, Steve Buntger, Bill Kunz, Mike Weaver, Dick Poukey, Mike Hoks, Ralph Gehrman, John Breitzman, Richard Forrest, Richard Wangard, Phil Moore, Tom Bartel, Stan Tucker, Harold Krueger, Leon Meidam and John Koehler. If I missed anyone, please let me know soon as possible.

After the holidays we will be working with schools to get these events scheduled and our agendas set. This year we will be adding Vietnam War period music (Can you say “We Gotta Get Out This Place?”) and a collage of 150 pictures from the war taken by a professional photographer. Feedback from teachers last year indicated that students would like to see pictures of presenters of how they looked when they served in the military so someone will be calling for an old photo or two to add to our display. We are also looking at getting our display lockers “touched up” a bit as it has been awhile since this has been done. Leon has agreed to be in charge of transporting the display (in our NEW trailer) to and from the schools again but he will likely need a backup or two in case he is not available for all of the dates.

We would like to have all schools scheduled and presenters assigned by the end of March to avoid any last minute surprises and to spread the workload out between multiple members. I will be in touch with all schools and volunteers within the next month or so. We are again looking forward to this very worthwhile program that is very well received by students and faculty alike. If you have any ideas or comments regarding this program, please give me a call at 920-858-3310.

I will provide another update in our next newsletter.

John Koehler

PRESTIGIOUS MEDALS

Prestigious service medals someone might receive while serving in U.S. Armed Forces.

MEDAL of HONOR



The Medal of Honor is the highest honor a soldier of the U.S. Armed Forces can receive from his country and is given by the President in the name of Congress. The Medal of Honor is awarded for going above and beyond the call of duty and showing conspicuous bravery and honor. It can only be received in actions against an enemy of the United States, in military operations against an opposing foreign force or by assisting friendly forces in their operations against an opposing force.

There is a version of the Medal of Honor for the Army, another for the Air Force and a third that is given to those in the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

The Medal of Honor was established in 1861 during the Civil War by a congressional resolution in recognition of Navy service members, "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

The following year, Congress created a similar citation for soldiers in the Army.

Since then, more than 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's military conflicts, including nineteen recipients who have received the distinguished medal twice.

VETERANS DAY 2013

The Veterans Day Program was held on November 11th at the Outagamie County Court House, which is now the Administration Building, in Appleton. This year's theme was "Remembering the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice - July 27, 1953.



The Color Guard units of the various Veterans Groups that attended the Veterans Day Program: (L to R) Appleton American Legion Post 38 Scarlet Guard, Appleton V.F.W. Post 2778 and V.V.A. – Chapter 351. Chapter member Richard Forrest is holding the American flag and Chapter member John Fiers is holding the Chapter's Colors.



Speakers: (L to R) Chaplain James E. Seim – Captain – USN Retired, LTC John Oakley – IN, WIARNG (gave Veterans Day Address), Outagamie County Executive Mr. Tom Nelson, Chaplain Robert Johnson – American Legion Post 38, Grand Chute Town Chairman Mr. Dave Schowalter, and Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna.



1



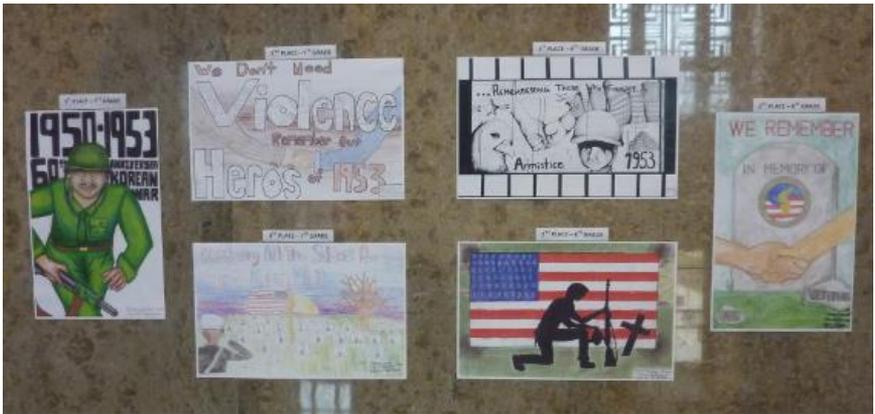
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Echo Taps was performed by Appleton North High School student Mr. Alex Reis, photo 1, and Appleton North High School Band Director Mr. James Thaldorf, photo 2.



1

2



The program sponsors a poster contest for students in 7th and 8th grade. In photo 1, (L to R) Mrs. Zitzelberger (one of the teachers whose students placed in the contest.) and the the winning students. In photo 2, the top three posters for the 7th and 8th students. Very talented students!!!

It was a nice program that THANKED all those men and women that have and are serving in American Armed Forces.

DICK CLARK

I hurried home from high school
Before our Friday games
And turned on to the Bandstand
To try my best to tame

My nerves and trepidation
before I went that night
Where everyone was watching
If we could do things right.

Those moments with Dick Clark—
His relaxing, pleasant voice—
A young man just like me
Who helped me make my choice

On how I should be dancing,
And whom I listened to,
And what was cool to say,
And what was neat to do.

So I enjoyed the Bandstand—
The sports were really great—
Went out and bought those platters
And played 'til it was late.

To you, Dick Clark, it follows
That your influence went deep—
To you I am so grateful
And in my mind I'll keep

Your love of rock 'n' roll—
Your help to make it start

And live throughout my days
In my soul and in my heart.

R.K. Mitby

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is the week before Christmas, 2013. The weather is winter-like, with snow on the ground. Hopefully, that will hold as we approach the Holiday. I hope you all will be able to gather with your families at this special time. We have been attending concerts watching our grandchildren perform. I am sure many of you are doing the same. It truly is a joy to watch them sing and play their instruments. It is their time of year!

As I sit down to write this message for our Chapter newsletter, my heart is saddened. An Army Blackhawk helo has crashed (shot down?) in the Afghan Warzone. Six U.S. soldiers lost their lives. One reportedly survived. No I.D. as yet. More of our Bluestar families have now joined the ranks of the Goldstar designation. It will be a difficult Christmas for all of them and all of us. After all, they are our brothers. My thoughts drift off to a time of two years ago. When, SSG Joseph Altmann (U S Army) of Marshfield lost his life on Christmas day, in the Afghan Warzone. He was a Sr. Medic (Expert qualified). He was shot by an enemy sniper as he was treating a downed soldier.... The Patriot Guard brought him home and buried him in Marshfield. His wife Nicki was there along with hundreds of mourners. They had only been married a short while. It was a cold and windy day as he was laid to rest.

Our Country has been at War since 2003 in Iraq and Afghanistan. Almost 7,000 G.I.'s have died. Over 50,000 wounded. Thousands more are suffering from PTSD, TBI, and extreme physical challenges. Many are unemployed and are experiencing difficulties at home. Multiple deployments have taken its toll on our young warriors. I know many of us feel like this is another Vietnam all over again....

Reach out to them. They need our help. We know what it is like to be rejected and ignored. "Never again will one generation of Veterans turn their back on another". We will invite more OIF and OEF Vets to our dinner in February, like we did last year. They need to know that we care. You might check with Jon LiDonne at the County Vets Office in Appleton to see if he knows of any Vets in need. You could also contact one of the Reserve or National Guard Units in Appleton, to see if they have any soldiers that we might assist.

We had a great year in 2013. More new members. Many school visits with our Nam program. We even went to Rawhide Boys Ranch near New London and did a presentation this past Fall. We donated monies for 2 new POW/MIA marble benches. One was placed in the Isle of Valor at Menasha. And the other was put at the Ring of Honor in Kaukauna. Both were given in remembrance of all who are lost, but also in memory of a specific Veteran from those two Counties, who are still missing. We had a great time at our parades in Appleton for Memorial Day, Flag Day, & Veterans Day. Super picnic in June.

Don't forget our annual Valentines Dinner on February 12th in 2014. At Mark's East Side Supper Club again. We had 55 in attendance last year. I think we might exceed that number this time. Enjoy the Holidays. Embrace your loved ones, and say a prayer for all of our young warriors, protecting our way of life. We all remember what it is like to be serving overseas during Christmas..... May God bless them and keep them safe. WELCOME HOME MY BROTHERS!

Mike Weaver - President

Greetings

Santa Tim is busier than I anticipated this year...We all wish you a very Merry Christmas, from the North Pole...

(Tim Hewett is a Chapter member, so be good because Santa is watching!!)

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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 at 920-731-0479.

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

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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
- \$10 - Savings Account
- \$50 - Mortgage Loan



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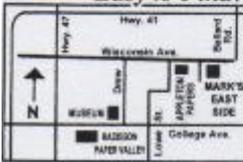
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Membership Eligibility

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 _____.

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Dues payable and mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America – 410 W.
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410 W. FRANKLIN STR. UNIT 1862
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