

"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

*May – June
2014*



The Eastern Route, from Appleton, was led by Jim and Curt Braatz.

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

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

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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.....Tom Bartel
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.

2014

May 14th – Chapter meeting

June, July and August – no meeting

September 10th – Chapter meeting

October 8th – Chapter meeting

November 12th – 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

May 2nd & May 3rd – Orange Blossom Drive

May 9th & 10th – D.A.V. – Chapter 18 For-Get-Me-Not Drive

May 26th – Memorial Day

June 14th – Appleton Flag Day Parade and Chapter’s picnic

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

The Highground Bicycle Tour was held August 1 to 4, 2013 ending at The Highground in Neilsville, WI. It is a fund raiser for The Highground that raised over \$41,000.00. The funds are used for The Highground's mission of education and healing. Those members of the Chapter that participated (L to R) Leon Meidam, Taylor – Leroy Johnson's granddaughter, Leroy Johnson and all the other supporters on the Eastern Route. If you would like to participate in the bicycle tour contact Leon or Leroy and mark your calendar for July31 to August 3, 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE

V.V.A. – Chapter 351

Michael Weaver:

Bob was a good man that served his country with honor. He was very proud to have been the driving force in starting "V.V.A. – Chapter 351". Until he could no longer speak, he always had a story to tell of his Vietnam War days. Some were not very pretty and they impacted his life more than we realized. Please accept this check as a memorial for Bob and may his good works always be remembered as well as the true soldier he was. He will be sadly missed. Thank You.

Bob's sister, Jackie

(Phil and Jackie Euler donated \$100.00 in remembrance of Bob Kallio. See page 9 for Bob's story.)

Vietnam Veterans of America

Greetings:

Our communities thrive because of non-profit organizations like

yours. At ThedaCare, we encourage our team to volunteer and play an active part in the places they live and work. We recognize employees who volunteer 75 hours or more in a calendar year by making a donation in their name to the charity of their choice.

ThedaCare employee, Leah Schwarz, has selected Vietnam Veterans of America to receive a \$200.00 donation.

This is just one small way to show our appreciation for all of the hard work that goes into making this area a great place to live. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

**Dean Gruner, MD
President and CEO**

V.V.A. – Chapter 351

My sincere thanks and gratitude to the Scholarship Committee for awarding me a \$1,000.00 scholarship as I continue my education at UW-Oshkosh. My essay was written about my grandpa's military experience. He passed away unexpectedly in November 2013. I am honored to accept this scholarship in his memory. Grandpa may be gone, but he will never be forgotten.

Thanks so much!

Connor Lambert

(Connor was one of the recipients of the Chapter's scholarship program and received \$1,000.00.)

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, May 24th:

At the Outagamie County Administration Building (Old Court House) – 410 S. Walnut Str. – Appleton. The program starts at 10:00 am, assemble about 9:30 am as part of the Patriot Guard Riders’ “Circle of Comfort”, following the program, reception at McGuinness Irish Pub

Sunday, May 25th:

The Veterans church service will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – 2220 College Avenue - Appleton. The service starts at 9:30 am, but assembly by 9:15 am.

Monday, May 26th:

The Memorial Day Parade, in Appleton, starts at 9:00 am. Assemble at the Appleton V.F.W. Post on 501 N. Richmond Str. to ride to parade location on College Avenue about 8:00 am. The parade will march to Riverside Cemetery to be followed by a memorial program at the G.A.R. plot within the cemetery at about 10:00 am. At the conclusion of this program there will be a memorial program at St. Joseph’s Cemetery at the American Legion Plot. After this program the public is invited to the Appleton V.F.W. Post on Richmond Street for chili and socializing. If you cannot march then you can ride on the float, jeep or trailer.

FLAG DAY PARADE

Appleton’s Flag Day Parade is Saturday, June 14th. The staging area is from Wisconsin Avenue north to Glendale Avenue and Oneida Street east to Drew Street. The parade starts at 2:00 pm and we will assemble about 1:00 pm at the Chapter’s designated parade location. If you cannot march then you can ride on the float, jeep or trailer.

CHAPTER'S PICNIC

Every year we have our Chapter picnic right after the Appleton Flag Day Parade at Erb Park. The Chapter always provides the hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, and fixings along with the soda pop. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. Please call me at 470-4674 to let me, Mike, know what you will be bringing. This helps make sure we have a good variety of food.

Mike Weaver

“Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up”

Jer Sanderfoot, Coordinator

Adopt-a-Highway 2013 Clean-up Dates: Wednesdays = **May 21st, June 18th, August 20th, October 1st**. 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. Please mark these dates on your calendar in pencil. If it was like past years, we will have some rain-day changes. 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, behind the BP gas station. Our VVA Chapter will donate \$5.00 towards each volunteer’s meal. **“MARK YOUR CALENDARS!”**

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. I know that I am missing many e-mail addresses for our Chapter members. If you e-mail me your e-mail address, I will include you in all of my mailings, or you could forward this e-mail to other VVA members that I do not have on my e-mail list.

Jer Sanderfoot
Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator
jsanderfoot@new.rr.com
920-759-7447

PRESTIGIOUS MEDALS

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

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS – ARMY



The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest military award that can be given to a member of the United States Army for risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor. It was established by order of President Woodrow Wilson. The Distinguished Service Cross was first awarded during World War I. Over 12,000 Distinguished Service Cross have been awarded since World War I.

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.

ROBERT W. KALLIO

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

Robert passed away peacefully on February 14, 2014. Bob served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 and was in country from 1968 to 1969 as a fire control specialist in the 196th Light Infantry. Bob was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America in Milwaukee and when the family moved to Appleton, he was instrumental in starting the Appleton area Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 351. Bob was the Chapter’s first President. He was proud to be a Chapter member. Please keep Jerry and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



CHAPTER'S APPRECIATION (VALENTINE) BANQUET

The Chapter's Appreciation (Valentine) Banquet was held on February 12th at Mark's East Side Restaurant.



The banquet was organized and hosted by Mike and Crystal Weaver. Truly a great evening of fellowship that was enjoyed by all!!



Chaplain Captain James E. Seim, U.S. Navy Retired, lead the banquet in the invocation and benediction. Very heart felt prayers.



Some of those in attendance (L to R) Tom and Diana Driessen and Leroy and Cheryl Johnson enjoying the evening.



Jer and Pam Sanderfoot also enjoying the delightful evening.

LINE

In our souls they're coming
From wars fought in the past—
Battles for our Country
That always seem to last

Within our hearts in honor—
Ingrained deep in our minds:
Soldiers, sailors, airmen—
Who've always held the line.

KOREA

Clad in dark green ponchos
And armed to meet their foes,
They're ready to do battle
And let everyone know

They'll never stop patrolling
To find the troops they've lost
In the war some call "Forgotten"
But fought at such a cost.

IRAQ / AFGHANISTAN

We have no
Statue—Tribute—
For our warriors from
Iraq / Afghanistan.

They will come.

For now we express
Our sincere appreciation

For the sacrifices
Of those who served us
In those distant places.

R.K. Mitby

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The VVA 351 Education Program for the local school is posted below for 2013. We could use some extra presenters for a number of the dates we have committed to. If interested please contact Mike Weaver @ 470-4674 or John Koehler @ 858 3310

Wednesday, April 16th - Appleton Central HS = 8 am -12:30 pm

Friday, April 25th – Appleton North = 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Friday, May 2nd – Menasha HS

Wednesday, May 7th – Hortonville HS

Friday, May 9th – Seymour HS

Monday, May 19th - Appleton West HS = 10 am – 2 pm

Wednesday, May 21st - Neenah HS - set up at 4 pm-6 pm then

Thursday, May 22nd - Neenah HS – presentation = 7 am-3 pm

Friday, May 23rd - Appleton East HS = 6 am - 12 noon

ORANGE BLOSSOM DRIVE

The V. V. A. – Chapter 351 will be holding a fundraiser called the Orange Blossom Drive. The drive will be on Friday, May 2, 2014 and

also be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014. The drive will start at 8:00 am and go to 8:00 pm. The drive is to help support the funding of programs and activities of the Chapter. Some of the programs and activities are: sponsor and charter Boy Scout Troop 57 and Cub Scout Pack 3057; participate in Adopt-A-Highway Program; sponsor a bike tour for the Veterans Memorial Project at Neillsville; participate in Adopt-A-Family Program at Christmas time; fund an educational display of military equipment for students and the public; fund a Color/Honor Guard for parades, programs and dedications; help the Chapter be the leading advocate for Vietnam Veterans by securing benefits and services and assist needy Veterans, and their families, through programs managed by a local Veterans Council with the guidance of the local County Veterans Service Officer.

These are good programs and activities and to keep them vibrant requires financial support. This is where you can help. Take a couple of hours, more if you can, and offer the Orange Blossom to the public at the following businesses: Wal-Mart on Calumet Street (KK), by the Grand Chute Mall and Neenah. We would like to men the two doors at each store, to be most effective. Please contact me, Jake, at 739-2603 to let me know where you would like to offer the flowers and at what times.

If you are unable to help by offering flowers at businesses, but still would like to help, you could make a donation to the drive. To make a donation: make the check-out to the V.V.A. – Chapter 351 and in the memo section write Orange Blossom Drive. Mail to this address: V.V.A. – Chapter 351 – 410 W. Franklin Street Unit 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.

Jacob Paltzer - Orange Blossom Chairperson

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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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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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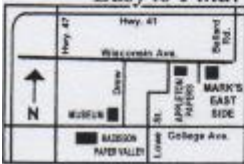
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3-6
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Membership Eligibility

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