

*“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)**

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

*July – August  
2014*



**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 .....Larry Cavanaugh  
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Board of Directors: (B. O. D.)..... Mike Hoks  
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**Veterans Affairs**

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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 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.

### 2014

**June, July and August** – no meeting

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

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**November 12<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

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** – American Independence Day

**August 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bicycle Tour at The Highground

**August 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>** – The Wall That Heals at The Highground

**September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Labor Day

**September 19<sup>th</sup>** – POW/MIA Recognition Day

## NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Mark Ropella, a teacher at Appleton North High School, was presented a plaque thanking him for endless support of the Chapter and all Veterans. Mark and students, who with Mark's guidance, help on countless projects that any Veteran asks. They expect nothing in return for helping a Veteran or Veterans group. Mark and the students are priceless!! In the photo (L to R) Mike Weaver, Mark Ropella, John Koehler and Leon Meidam

## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear V.V.A. – Chapter 351

Thank you to all in V.V.A. - Chapter 351. We wouldn't be where we are and still fighting the battle without such support and we are deeply grateful. We'll send you the formal program shortly after the June 11-14th meeting. And, **please thank all in your Chapter for their loyal support throughout the years to the National League of Families.**

Best to you and all.

Ann Mills-Griffiths  
Chairman of the Board

Betty Murphy  
National League of Families  
Commemorative Program Chairman

National League of POW/MIA Families

The National League of POW/MIA Families in Southeast Asia'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 Chapter

takes out an annual membership in the National League of POW/MIA Families. They have a convention in June and the Chapter has an ad space where the Chapter honors four men from this area that are POW or MIA from the Vietnam War:

**Robert W. Brownlee Jr.** – he was a military advisor to the South Vietnamese Army. He was listed as MIA on April 24, 1972 in Kontum Province, South Vietnam when his group was over ran. Robert's home was 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.

(Hopefully one day the guys will come HOME.)

**Dear Chapter V.V.A. 351 Members**

**Again your generosity and compassion to our Wisconsin Families of the Fallen humbles me.**

**It will be used to cover the costs of our Weekend Retreat for our Families of our Fallen. The weekend cost us almost \$13,000.00, so you know how appreciative we are!**

**Our gatherings are a time for them to heal with each other...to share their stories, experiences, sadness and laughter, together with others who understand exactly what they have/are going through. And they love attending them.**

**They have made new friends. And now even the children are building new friendships through all of their Face book pages, emails and other techie things I may never understand:>)It's so beautiful to hear laughter and to watch all of the hugging that goes on between Families. They are healing...forever changed...but healing. And you are part of that healing**

**Please know that you have touched the hearts of over 200 Families in WI who are trying to cope with the death of their loved one who chose to wear the uniform of Freedom and to keep us safe. They are special people, as are you.**

**God bless all of you.**

**With great appreciation,**

**Judith Singer**

**Founder – Being There-Reaching Out**

**(The Chapter donated \$500.00 to the organization)**

Hello to all my friends,

Living in the Sunshine State is not always great. It's been in the mid 80's for over two weeks already (its spring)? Anyway, I have an orange tree and it has beautiful white blossoms. Please accept the enclosed check for the Orange Blossom Drive. Keep up the good work and Semper fi.

Yours in friendship,

Bob Everson

## V.V.A. Chapter 351

**Thank you for the floral arrangement. My Dad was very involved with the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Organization. He would have been proud for all you guys did for his family.**

**Cristie Smith  
Philip Smith's daughter**

**The Best of the Smith Family**

### **2014 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

**2014 Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up Dates:** Wednesdays = August **20<sup>th</sup>** and **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. We meet at the “park & ride” on the NE corner of Highway 10 County Road N at 5:00 P.M. **If it is raining at 5:00 PM, make-up date will always be the following Wednesday!** 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. After the clean-up, all volunteers will 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!”**

Jer Sanderfoot, Coordinator

### **THE WALL THAT HEALS**

The traveling Wall, replica of Vietnam War Memorial “The Wall” in Washington D.C., will be at The Highground in Neillsville, WI from August 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. There are activities every day. If you want to help in any way, contact June Berg or Theresa Herbert at 715-743-4224 for more information.



## **PRESTIGIOUS MEDALS**

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

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS – NAVY**



The **Navy Cross** is the second highest military decoration for valor that may be awarded to a member of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard for extraordinary heroism in combat. The Navy Cross is bestowed by the Secretary of the Navy and may also be awarded to members of the other armed services, and to foreign military personnel while serving with the U.S. naval services. The Navy Cross was instituted in part due to the entrance of the United States into World War I. The Navy Cross was established by Act of Congress (Public Law 65-253) and approved on February 4, 1919 but retroactive to 6 April 1917. Since its creation, it has been awarded more than 6,300 times. It was designed by James Earle Fraser.

## **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.

### **PHILIP G. SMITH**

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

Phil passed away peacefully on March 4, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969. He was called “Doc” because he was a combat medic with the AirCav Division in Vietnam. After his service, Phil worked as the Veteran’s employment representative in the Menasha Job Service office with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the State of Wisconsin Job Service. He worked tirelessly to secure jobs for Veterans. Phil also was instrumental in the start up of this Chapter. Please keep Phil and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



## CHAPTER'S APPRECIATION (VALENTINE) BANQUET

The Chapter's Appreciation (Valentine) Banquet was held on February 12<sup>th</sup> at Mark's East Side Restaurant. More photos of the evening.



Enjoying the evening (L to R) Ralph & An Gehrman, Diane & Dick Poukey, Joe & Leone Eiting and Sandie Cavanaugh.



Sandie & Larry Cavanaugh. Each lady received a rose, hand made Valentine card and candy. Larry said the candy was delicious!!



From (L to R) Joyce Paltzer, John & Linda Breitzman and Janice & Jim Barker are having a lively discussion.



Mary & Tim Hewitt. Did anyone see Mr. Santa Claus that evening?

## **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.

## **GREATEST GENERATION / BOOM BOOM BOOMERS**

From '46 to '64  
To dads returning home from war.

Moms from jobs and out plowing earth,  
Bearing the babies—back in the hearth.

Remembering their lives in poverty—  
Rationing—and now victory.

So they restarted—a new life—  
Assured—expecting little strife.

Then came the never-ending war  
That no one had been prepared for.

Foundations set were badly strewn  
To long haired gnomes and changing tunes.

But they grew up and took their place  
And gave this land a brand new face.

Space-age travel—electronic surge,  
Improved health, the Boomers urged.

No more protests—like the Vets—  
Lead The World to the best years yet.

### **ENDURE**

She was proud of him,  
And he was proud of her—  
Very fundamental  
For a marriage to endure.

R.K. Mitby

## **VIETNAM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Richard Forrest, Larry Cavanaugh and Michael Hoks made the trip to White Lake. We went right through the Menominee reservation. The day and trip was beautiful. We had lots of help setting up and taking down. The children were great and really enjoyed the program. Dinner was at Luigi's in Shawano. The new trailer was great and returned without arrows or dents. We had a great time and thought it was one of the best we ever did. The school made a \$500.00 donation to our educational program.

## **BORN A LUTHERAN**

Each Friday night after work, Ole would fire up his outdoor grill on the shore of Big Stone Lake and cook a venison steak. But all of Ole's neighbors were Catholic... And since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Friday.

The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks wafted over Ortonville all the way to Clinton, and was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest. The Priest came to visit Ole and suggested that he become a Catholic.

After several classes and much study, Ole attended Mass.....and as the priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said, "You were born a Lutheran, and raised a Lutheran, but now you are a Catholic."

Ole's neighbors were relieved, until Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood. The Priest was called immediately by the neighbors, and, as he rushed into Ole's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, he stopped and watched in amazement. There stood Ole, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat and chanted: "You vuz born a deer, you vuz raised a deer, but now you is a walleye."

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



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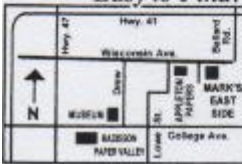
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## Membership Eligibility

**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 \$200.00 ( ) ages 56-60

Life \$175.00 ( ) ages 61-65

Life \$150.00 ( ) ages 66-71

Life \$100.00 ( ) ages 72 +

**\$50.00 rebate on Life Membership from Chapter**

**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**