



The Highground



Fall 2013

...a place for all of us.

Join Us!

25th Anniversary of "Fragments" Wisconsin's Vietnam Veteran's Tribute

Join Us!

On Saturday, September 14th, The Highground will be commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veteran's Tribute. "Fragments" was dedicated at The Highground on September 18, 1988. Since its dedication, "Fragments" has become the spiritual anchor of the beautiful, meaningful veteran's memorial park that has evolved around it.

The celebration will begin at The Highground on Sept 14th at 2:00pm. Scheduled to speak are The Highground's founder, Tom Miller, Howard Sherpe and Steve Piotrowski. The public is invited to attend, veterans and non-veterans, alike. We will be honoring the story of "Fragments", its history and the dedicated people involved in fulfilling a promise made in Vietnam in December 1965.



The names of each Wisconsin KIA and MIA in Vietnam are etched onto the chimes of "Fragments". They are not meant to be read, but to have their spirits soar through the wind as the sound of the chimes ring out.

Bob Kanyusik, tribute designer refused to sign the statuary, stating "I could not sign it. It was signed by the men and women whose names are embedded on the bundles in the back; by their families; by all the people during all those terrible years of the Vietnam War in the US. It was signed by the cost of things.... It was signed by all of us."



2013 Flag Day Ceremony—adds to mission of education



Kuhn

of Menomonie and Cub Scout Pack 43 of Neillsville. Dominic Kuhn of Troop 43 presented a speech on the history of Flag Day.

Michael and Logan LaRock of Menomonie were recognized with a special presentation by Brian Wellington and The Highground. The boys, members of Troop 1701, were able to save their father's arm and

perhaps his life after a horrific chain saw accident last October. Michael and Logan applied emergency first aid to their father's wound, including an improvised tourniquet, and helped get their father to a medical facility. The Flag Day Ceremony in the afternoon featured Color Guards from the Omro American Legion Post #234, Greenwood American Legion Post #238 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #729. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dave Lemieux, Franki Sakschek, 11, sang the Star-Spangled Banner and Joey Anason of Boy Scout Troop 43 read the history of Flag Day.

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Thank you everyone!



People do not pass through The Highground. People come home to The Highground.

The 29th Annual Bicycle Tour

The Highground's annual Bicycle Tour "Journey's End" Celebration was on Sunday, August 4th. Riders from across the state joined at The Highground for a celebration and picnic. American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Post #73, VFW Post #2241, Boy Scout Troop 43, Cub Scout Pack 43 and Boy Scout Troop 221 joined members of the community, holding flags and welcoming the riders into The Highground.



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



THANK YOU!

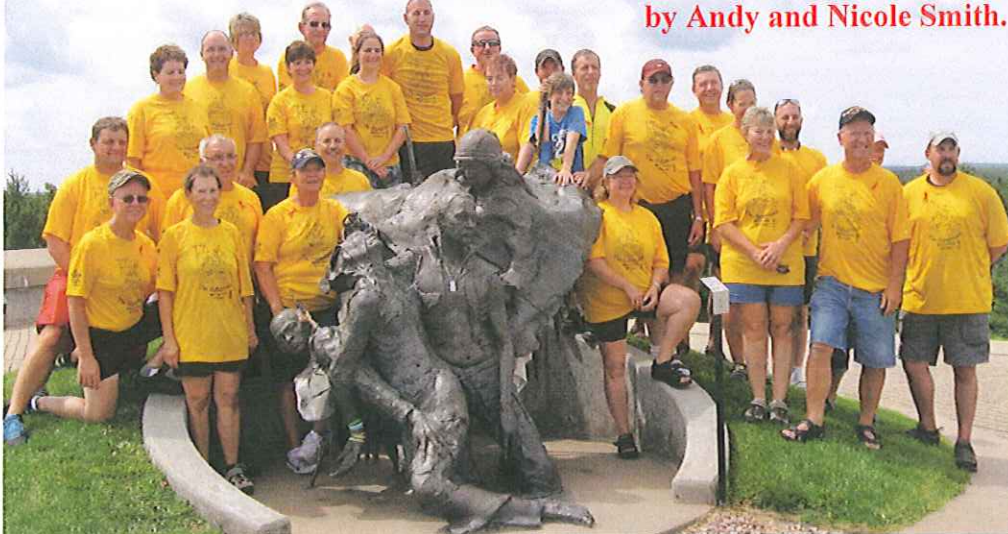
THANK YOU SPONSORS!

- WCCN Radio – Neillsville WI
- Rejoyn Medical Systems – Nevada City CA
- SCHEELS – Eau Claire WI
- Eau Claire Bike & Sport – Eau Claire WI
- The Sports Den – Marshfield WI
- VietNow – Rockford IL
- Apple Valley Bar 'N Grill – Neillsville WI
- BullishWear – Greenwood WI
- Citizens State Bank of Loyal – Neillsville WI
- Kwik Trip – Greenwood WI
- Menzner Lumber & Supply Co – Marathon WI
- Stone's Throw Supper Club – Hatfield WI
- Urban Sales & Service, Inc. – Neillsville WI

The Western Route, originating from New Richmond was led by Randy Meyer and Jerry Simon.



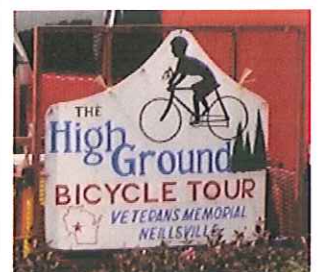
The Southern Route from Madison was led by Andy and Nicole Smith.



Thank you sag vehicles for keeping bikers safe—we need more banners and car magnets (large)—if you know of anyone who can help us! Please call The Highground.



Great signs! We need more for other events too!



The miracle isn't that I finished. The miracle is that I had the courage to start!

Raises Over \$41,000 For The Highground

Each route began its journey to The Highground on Thursday, August 1st. The riders obtained donations for their trip and corporate sponsors donated funds, advertising and supplies for the Bicycle Tour. Over \$41,500.00 was raised for The Highground's mission of education and healing by the Bicycle Tour!



After the "Welcome Home" entrance into The Highground, the riders enjoyed a picnic lunch served by Highground volunteers. The "Journey's End" program began after lunch and included the Star-Spangled Banner beautifully sung by Western Route rider, Ann Anez. Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General manager, gave the "Welcome Home" address and introduced each route and its leaders. Highground gift certificates were given out to riders that collected designated amounts of donations. At the end of the program, the lives that have been lost during the Persian Gulf era were solemnly recognized.

The Bicycle Tour could not happen at The Highground without the dedicated work of volunteers. It took a lot of determination and quick work on the day of the "Journey's End" program by many volunteers to make the celebration happen. The upstairs of the Timberframe was buzzing with quick and accurate calculations of donations and rider information. Lunch preparations began early with approximately 250 people being served! Volunteers also guided traffic, managed the bicycle route's entrance into The Highground, took photographs and did many other tasks.

Teamwork made the day a success! *We look forward to celebrating the 30th Annual Bicycle Tour on Aug 1-3, 2014!*

Rider Participation Anniversaries 2013

5 yrs – Vicki Hartjes – Eastern
Bob Schultz – Northern
Ed Carlson - Northern



10 yrs – Kathy/Glen Griswold – Southern
Alyssa Griepentrog – Northern
Sarah Gleisner - Northern



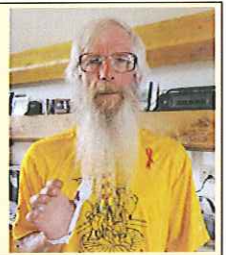
15yrs – Tom Kingsbury-Northern
Ann Anez – Western
Mitch Strege – Western
Kathy Gleisner - Northern

20 yrs – Janet Wegner – Northern
Fred Enfield – Southern
Joyce Jansen – Eastern
Joan Cervenka - Northern



California—here we come?! Paul Kokosz, Navy (now a Californian) came to ride the Northern Route again this year. He extended an invitation to all riders to enjoy the beautiful coast in January. Start your Wisc. 2014 training earlier and help Paul get a California Highground ride started. He is also currently working with the Persian Gulf Tribute Committee from there.

Looking for a 1999 and 2000 Bike-a-thon t-shirt. Leon would like to add to his collection. **IF** you have one stored away and willing to part with it, please let us know and we will pass on your information!



The Northern Route, starting in Hayward, led by Mike & Kathy Gleisner and Tom Kingsbury.

The Highground Newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc., PO Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456. Telephone (715) 743-4224, Fax (715)743-4228. Email at highgrnd@tds.net. Website: www.thehighground.org. Printed in USA. Entire contents copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Reproduction of materials herein is prohibited, except by written permission of The Highground. Publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material. Publisher reserves the right to publish, in whole or part, all letters received. Opinions expressed in The Highground Newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project Inc.

Thank you to everyone making this a safe and successful ride!!

Mormon Tabernacle Choir Visits The Highground!

Approximately 700 people visited The Highground on Wednesday, June 19th, as part of The Mormon Tabernacle Choir's visit to Central Wisconsin. After a morning program in Black River Falls the choir, and other members traveling with them, came to The Highground to have lunch (catered by M & M Catering of Neillsville) and tour the park. A skit was performed during the lunch portraying the history of the Mormon culture in our local logging past.

Before leaving The Highground, the choir gathered around the main flagpole and delighted the crowd with a few beautiful songs, including a personal "Happy Birthday" rendition to Theresa, The Highground Event Coordinator. It was a great day at The Highground!

Choir enjoys lunch on the plaza



Mormon Tabernacle Choir gathered around the central flagpole to sing.



Independence Day Ceremony at The Highground

Sunny skies and a brisk breeze greeted visitors at The Highground on July 4th for the Independence Day Ceremony. Colors were presented by the Loyal American Legion Post 175. Pastor Al Houts delivered the invocation to those gathered around the plaza. Miles Voss, volunteer, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager, spoke on freedom and the importance of The Highground for those that have fought for our freedom. He related the moving story of a rehabilitated bald eagle that was released at The Highground by veteran, Bob Mingus. Not only was there barely a dry eye in the crowd, but a bald eagle could also be seen soaring across the skies above us.

The guest speaker for the Independence Day Ceremony was Sergeant First Class Kevin L. Henderson, of the 181st Infantry Brigade at Fort McCoy. Henderson spoke about how you do *not* have to wear a uniform to be a patriot. He explained how the support of civilians at home is needed for the emotional and spiritual well-being of those in service. He said that it is an



Henderson

important act of patriotism to "have the backs" of our service men and women, to send letters and care packages, and to take care of the families that have loved ones in the service. Henderson also spoke on the importance of taking care of our service members

when they return home from deployment. The conflicts they have faced, both physical and emotional, do not always cease when a service member returns home. For some, it can be difficult to return home after a deployment. Communities and individuals that care for these wounded warriors and their families show a true act of patriotism.

Following Sgt. 1st Class Henderson's speech was the reading of the names of the Wisconsin service men & women who have been killed in the Persian Gulf War. The Loyal American Legion presented a rifle salute and Alex Mohr played Taps. The ceremony closed with a Talking Circle, a gathering of those present, where each person is given the opportunity to express their feelings about the day.



Americans Soldiers do not fight because they hate what is in front of them.....

2nd Annual Freedom Celebration Day

Several hundred people spent the day celebrating our country's freedom with many different activities. Some folks came back to visit the park, as they do every year, to just spend some time reflecting on all that we, as Americans, have because of those who have served and sacrificed. For others, it was their first visit. They took tours, visited the gift shop and Learning Center and marveled at what a wonderfully beautiful place this is.

But on this, the 29th day of June 2013, our visitors had so much more to enjoy on their visit.



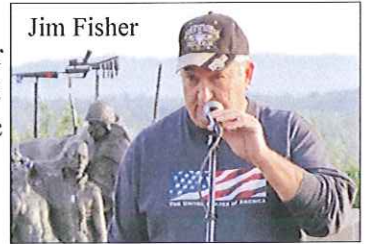
Troy Buddenhagen and his group of reenactors joined us again for an even bigger and better **WWII Living History**. Visitors wandered through their encampments looking, touching, talking and learning about the Americans, Germans and Russians and each of their roles in WWII.



Andre Berry



Veterans from around the area entertained everyone with their wonderful musical talents during our **Voices of Freedom Concert**. Visitors enjoyed a variety of country, gospel and, of course, patriotic music.



Jim Fisher

This year's performers were, Andre Berry, Jim Fisher, Joe Lamb and the group "Vets for Freedom"— consisting of Fred Callaway, Jim Fry, Jerry Klick, Joe Lamb, Tammy McFarland & Larry Stebbins.

Hardees' was on the grounds making sure everyone had great food and yummy ice cream treats. Dave and his group have been doing fundraisers all year (every year) to raise funds to sponsor The Highground fireworks.



And what would a freedom celebration be without **FIREWORKS?! Kevin and Joyce Witt and their crew did an amazing job again with a breathtaking display. All eyes were on the sky and all you could hear were "ooh's, aah's", cheering and clapping. Kevin had a special treat just for the kids. Just before dark, he shot off hundreds of parachutes with flags attached. The children scrambled all over the plaza and even over the walls to catch their parachute.**



.....but because they love what is behind them! Thank you for our freedoms!

Stones--Legacy, Korean, Meditation and Persian Gulf

2013 Placements

Stone placements are coming to an end for 2013. With the September 7th and the October 5th dates remaining, it has been a record year for The Highground. If you have never been to a stone ceremony, plan to come and see how these tributes touch the hearts and souls of those being honored. What a lasting legacy these stones have provided for those who have passed and for those still with us. Hear their stories, their emotions, their words at these moving dedication ceremonies.

2014 is The Highground's 30th Anniversary year, since its incorporation. What began as a promise on the

battlefield, has now grown beyond the founder's dreams. Stone placements help support this ongoing venture and will help The Highground continue its mission of healing and education. Read some of the stories behind the stones, "the rest of the story," in the Registry books located in the Learning Center Library. Fascinating information to be shared with all who come.

Choices of locations and stone types available:

- Legacy Stones: \$435 (gray) on the plaza walkway
- Meditation Stones: \$500 (red) in the garden shelter
- Korean Tribute: \$575 (black polished) on Tribute walkway wall
- Persian Gulf: \$600 (sand) in the Tribute



On June 8th the new Gold Star bench honoring women who waited for their soldiers to return was dedicated during the Legacy Stone Ceremony. The contributors gathered around the bench and onlookers watched from above as this beautiful bench was unveiled. The book with all the stories submitted is available online at: www.blurb.com (enter the author, Jill Haglund to access the ordering process). Bench wording is:

*Pause to honor the women who waited
And whose love supported
All who served for our freedom*

Thank you, Jill, for your efforts to help The Highground further its mission of healing and education.

Unique opportunity Special stones on the Korean Tribute Rice Paddies

Rice paddies have been completed except for the finishing touches of special stones. If you or your organization would like to sponsor a finishing stone to display your name or logo and support of the Korean Vets, please contact us soon. Only ten available.



2013 Stone placement dates:

Open to the public—come honor those being dedicated

Meditation Stones:

Sept 7 9:30am

Legacy Stones:

Sept 7 1:00pm (full)

Oct 5 9:30am (10 spots available)

Oct 5 2:00pm (full)

Korean & Persian Gulf Stones—2014 open for application



*Now find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial*

Board of Directors

- Michael Weaver, Chair (Kaukauna, WI)
- Gary Weirauch, Vice-Chair (Neillsville)
- Mike Olson, Secretary (Holmen, WI)
- Don Quicker, Treasurer (Neillsville, WI)
- Ned Carlson (Neillsville, WI)
- Greg Foye (Wausau, WI)
- Jim Fox (Elk Mound, WI)
- Leonard Frye (Richland Center, WI)
- CW King (Chippewa Falls, WI)
- Bill Lobeck (Viola, WI)
- Steve Maddox (Chippewa Falls, WI)
- Beth E. Martin (WI Rapids, WI)

For More Information Contact The Highground

W7031 Ridge Rd. Phone: 715-743-4224
 PO Box 457 Fax: 715-743-4228
 Neillsville, WI 54456 Email: highgrnd@tds.net
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial
 Web: www.thehighground.org
 On US Hwy 10, 4 miles west of Neillsville, WI
 Or 30 miles east of Osseo from the junction of I-94 and US Hwy 10

The Highground Staff

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Volunteer General Manager | Kirk Rodman |
| Volunteer Gift Shop Mgr | Nancy Rodman |
| Event/Volunteer Coord | Theresa Hebert |
| Donation Coordinator | Kay Anason |
| Learning Center | June Berg |
| Maintenance | Mike Purgett |
| Gift Shop | Betty Marksteiner |
| Gift Shop | Ali Abel |
| Gift Shop | Judy Zickert |
| Gift Shop | Deb Roedel |

Wish Lists -- Donation Form--Can You Help?

THE HIGHGROUND WISHES—WILL YOU RESPOND?

- Board Members: 2 more needed: *Priceless*
- Canopies for Pavilion: 3 @ \$1280/each
- Person to water plants weekly: *Priceless—Thanks Bonnie*
- Persian Gulf Tribute grass preparation: \$1360
- Learning Center Irrigation System: *Thanks*
- Camera: *Thanks*
- Repair Plaza walls: \$1876
- Persian Gulf Benches: 18 @ \$3000; *Thanks for 5 so far*
- Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 16 @ \$4000/each;
Thanks for 2 so far
- Plant water sprayer funds: \$312
- Concrete for four different projects: \$1500 (WWII/Korean
Tribute/sidewalk/Meditation Garden benches)
- Pathway Bollards to Persian Gulf Tribute: 10 @ \$1000/each;
Thanks for 2 so far
- Mule Snow Blade: \$2250

Please

- Flowers for Persian Gulf Tribute: \$549
- Corduroy Trail Work Gravel: 12 loads @ \$151 per load
Thanks for \$250 so far
- 15 Ballasts for Walkway Light Upgrade: \$160 each
- Electrical Box for Learning Center Garage: \$545
- Learning Center Track Lights for Displays 22@ \$56 each;
Thanks for 16 so far
- Blacktop for paving Learning Center lot: \$9140
- Learning Center Garage Heaters: 2 @ \$250
- Endowment Fund Donors
- Memorials: Honor your loved ones
- Walk behind brush mower for trails: \$2800
- Learning Center Exhibit fund: *Thanks for \$10,320 so far*
- School transportation fund: *Thanks for \$25 so far in 2013*
- Learning Center Library Computers: \$1600
- New tires for mule: \$450



PAVILION CONSTRUCTION — Additional Restrooms?

Thank you to many dedicated volunteers that returned to The Highground for a second work week to construct the new pavilion in the lower picnic area. This



shelter will provide space for Diversity Day, 5th Grade Education Days and many other education/training events. Coming soon are the canopies that will be installed to provide even more coverage and room for our visitors to enjoy their outdoor experience.



With this new pavilion, bids have been obtained, grants have been applied for, but full funding has not been obtained for lower restroom facilities to accommodate the needs for all who come to utilize this area. A new well and construction of these restrooms will allow visitors to enjoy activities in this area even more. Can you help The Highground bring another wish to fruition? We have the dedicated volunteers for labor, we just need your funds to purchase materials not donated.

LEARNING CENTER EXHIBITS & REUNION/EDUCATION NIGHTS

The Learning Center has an opportunity to obtain some fascinating exhibits for 2013 & 2014. However, these exhibits come with a price tag that The Highground currently does not have included in their budget. Can you help? Send a donation for this new fund today and watch for upcoming exhibits thanks to YOU!

- Living Through the Forgotten War Exhibit & Korean War in Color (Korea): \$5,000 Thanks for \$1310**
- Civil War Sesquicentennial: Thanks paid in full!**
- The Wall That Heals: \$6,000 (coming in 2014)**
Thanks for \$3500 so far!!
- One Woman Crying: \$5000 (coming 2014)**

Anyone wishing to be a sponsor for any of these exhibits, please fill out the form on page 8. It is because of YOUR generous donations and support that The Highground is capable of bringing such dynamic exhibits to the public fulfilling its mission of healing and education.

Thank you!

Reunion/Education Nights are open to the public. Veterans are needed to be on the panel for a question and answer session. All are invited to attend and share their experiences or just be here.

Thank you!

The Highground has wishes. Thank you for fulfilling them!

Friends of The Highground

Friends of The Highground

The Highground is a grass-roots, non-profit, 501 (c)3 organization that does not receive any ongoing federal or state funding. We have a very small operating budget and only exist because of the hearts and hands of thousands of volunteers and contributors who continue to give generously of their time, talents and personal/ financial resources.

Please accept my donation of \$_____.

I would like the gift to be used for:

And/or
Newsletter subscription, \$25

The Highground, W7031 Ridge Rd,
Neillsville, WI 54456 715-743-4224 Fall 2013

Please send me information about:

- Upcoming Highground events
Stones on The Highground
Fundraising Opportunities
Add someone to the newsletter mailing list
Information on the Persian Gulf Tribute
Volunteer opportunities on site
Visionaries and Immortals Endowment fund

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Bowling for Military Working Dog Tribute

Please reserve a lane for my family & friends to bowl!

Sunday, January 26, 2014 Noon-2:30pm

(\$50/lane) # of lane(s) _____ total \$ _____

I would like to sponsor a lane(s): (bowling is not included in sponsorship)

(\$100/lane) # of lane(s) _____ total \$ _____

Name to place on sponsor sign displayed at lane:

(for example: "ABC Lighting", or "In Honor of John Doe")

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make check out to The Highground or enter CC # below

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Learning Center Exhibits and Reunion/Education Nights

Exhibit Contribution

Yes, we are able to help bring important exhibits to the Learning Center for others to learn with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.

Pledge amount \$ _____

No, we are sorry we cannot support financially, but will help spread the word by distributing posters in our area. Please send us posters.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Reunion/Education Night RSVP

Yes, I am able to attend the following checked Reunion/Education Night (s) at 6:30pm

Yes, I would like to be on the panel that night to answer questions

No, we will not be able to attend the Reunion/ Education Night but will spread the word.

Please send us posters

October 7: DS-OIF-OND-OEF

November 11: WWI

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

“Remember, Honor, Heal”—Memorial Day Happenings

3rd Annual Fun Run Motorcycle Rally Raises \$700 Benefiting The Persian Gulf Tribute

The 3rd Annual Fun Run Motorcycle Rally took place on Monday, May 27th. This event drew riders from as far away as Medford, Baraboo and Rice Lake. The Rally began at 8:30am from starting points in Neillsville and Tomah. Each group of motorcyclists toured the countryside separately, joining forces at the Melrose Express, traveling together to The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville. The entrance to The Highground off of Hwy 10 was lined with members of Boy Scout Troop 43 from Watertown bearing flags, the Loyal American Legion Post 175 Color Guard and Rifle Squad, and community members who gathered to welcome the riders to the end of their journey.



Scouts and Loyal American Legion salute Fun Run riders as they enter The Highground.

Lots of help from individuals and local communities ensured a safe and enjoyable Fun Run Rally. The route leaders and co-planners of the event were Mark Dawson, Neillsville and Dave Keene, Tomah. Many police departments along the routes provided safe travel through towns and intersections. We thank the Jackson County sheriff's department, the

cities of Neillsville, Galesville, Merrilan, Melrose and the Wisconsin State Patrol. Volunteer workers, Lori Dawson, Neillsville and Julian Szewczyk, Tomah, rose early to register riders by 7:15am. The BP – Drescher Oil of Neillsville and Kwik Trip North in Tomah were gracious in allowing the Fun Run to begin in their parking lots on a busy Memorial Day morning. BP – Drescher Oil and Melrose Express also donated numerous gift certificates for prize drawings. Dave Keene donated a copy of his motorcycle touring book, “Cruisin’ the Back Roads”. The Highground also appreciates volunteers Hiram Cutting, Mary Dick, Bonnie Hennen and Celeste Kaufman for helping the event run smoothly.



Keene



Dawson

The “Sweet Ladies” baked and donated plenty of delicious bars and cookies!

The Fun Run will take place again on Memorial Day, 2014!

The end of the journey for the bikers was also the beginning of the Memorial Day Ceremony at The Highground.

The official opening of the ceremony was marked by the ringing of the Liberty Bell and presentation of colors by the Loyal American Legion Post 175. Guests were welcomed by Volunteer General Manager Kirk Rodman. The invocation was given by Terry Giles and the Star-Spangled Banner was sung by Marnie Schecklman. A member of Boy Scout Troop 43, from Watertown, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The guest speaker was National Guard Specialist, Shane Dawson. Shane served in Iraq and gave a poignant personal speech on his service, the importance of family support to our service members and the battle many service men and women face with PTSD as they return home.

The names of the Wisconsin soldiers killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Fort Hood were read by volunteers and Taps was played by Kirkland Johnson. At the close of the ceremony, visitors joined the talking circle; remembering, thanking and appreciating our beloved veterans.



Remember When...—Kirk Rodman, Vol. Gen Mgr



Remember when- Were you there? Before my time at The Highground, you dedicated Wisconsin's Tribute to Vietnam, "Fragments". One of the truly great experiences for the young and fitful Highground. On September 14th, we will celebrate the 25th year of that trip to our Park. Did you know that the Board of Directors voted on whether to use Fragments as their Tribute? .. it was a vote of 7 to 5 in favor. Today, it would be considered an act of war if someone wanted to remove it from its honored place on the plaza.

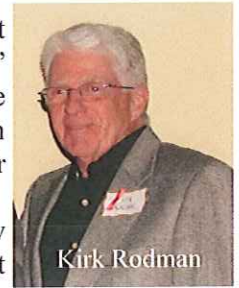
Have you heard it talk to you? Have you felt its presence? It seems like every time I walk by it or bring a tour group to it, it waits a moment and then the chimes commence to talk to me. I sit on the side of the cement wrap around and reach for the bundles of names to show the newbies and the chimes start and the people look at me as if I pushed a button to start some kind of sound machine. But, I hear them and they accuse me, they push me, and they say "Where have you been? Why does it take you so long? Why are you keeping us waiting? Why aren't you telling our stories?"

I tell the people, but mostly the kids, about our time during the Vietnam War and try to explain Agent Orange to them when they don't know what a defoliant is. I tell them about the lady that sobbed as I spoke and she couldn't be consoled. When she finally spoke she said her father had just died of Agent Orange and she had the symptoms. I walk in their midst and touch one and then another and to them I say "when you

are President and you are Vice President find another way to solve our problems." They nod a quiet yes. The kids that are with them always snicker until I tell them it will be their job to insure that their classmates are elected.

To the voices that speak, I don't know what your excuses are, but I know that mine are not very good. The voice inside of me says, remember you only have to *touch one person*. Let's never give up, we may get lucky.

See you on September 14th to remember.

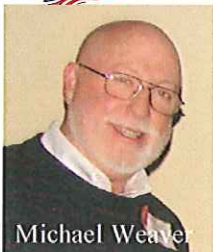


Kirk Rodman



The Highground mission is healing and education. Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager works with Cub Scouts on saluting.

Board of Directors—Michael Weaver, Board Chair



Michael Weaver

As I sit down to put my thoughts on paper to all of you, my mind keeps drifting ahead to this week Friday. The Old Glory Honor Flight will depart from Oshkosh to Washington, D.C. on that day. It will return the same evening at the EAA grounds, where the annual fly-in is taking place. Thousands of people will be on the tarmac

to greet the flight. These nationwide flights have been occurring for years to take WW II and Korean War Veterans to Washington to visit the Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. The Veterans are able to travel at no expense of their own, due to private/corporate donations to cover the costs. The flight this time will take Vietnam Vets. Five hundred Veterans applied and 115 were chosen. I am a Vietnam Vet, and am one of the lucky ones to attend. It will be a very emotional day, to say the least.....

Most of us that served in Vietnam were NOT recognized or welcomed home by our nation. The only ones that acknowledged/respected what we did, were our families. Many of us were rejected and were the brunt of many negative encounters. We have carried that personal pain of disrespect for over 40 years within us, as well as the physical, mental and emotional scars of war. The last eight years have been monumental in my personal healing process. I believe

that comment holds true for many of my fellow Nam Vets. The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have awoken a new wave of respect and honor to America's military. Along with their recognition, has come ours. I have had many OIF and OEF Veterans thank me for my service. And many citizens, as well. Since 9/11, I have devoted all of my energies to my brothers/sisters in military service. It has become my passion of service to others.

I would like to challenge all of the readers of this message, to reach out to Veterans in your own community. Many of them are hurting after multiple tours. They bear the physical and mental scars of war. Some are challenged with PTSD issues. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Addictions. Broken families. Unemployment and homeless rates are high. Suicide is rampant. They need your help. Do whatever you can thru your local churches, military reserve units, and outreach programs. Contact your County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, if you try!

Bringing a Veteran to a park such as The Highground, might be the first step. It is truly a healing ground. A place of peace and tranquility. A quiet walk thru the park, can be most refreshing. Spend an hour or two, or the entire day. Bring a picnic lunch. Visit the Learning Center. The new display is a tribute honoring our Korean War Vets. Do it now. Don't wait for Veterans Day. Because every day, IS Veterans Day!

See you on September 14th to Remember!

Persian Gulf Update

The time is getting closer for Phase One to begin for The Bootprint Tribute. We were told the ground work will start this summer if all goes as planned with the weather. The committee continues to meet monthly on the 4th Saturday at 1:00pm in the Timberframe Gift Shop. All are welcome to attend. We are working on the Timeline of conflicts which will be included in the Tribute on the Texas Barrier to help educate all on the Persian Gulf conflicts. Our thanks to The Highground staff and volunteers for their help in the fundraisers held at The Highground and the community and visitors who have helped in any way, whether it be a donation or lending a hand where needed. A table will be set up during the major events at The Highground. Come and visit us and see the model of The Bootprint Tribute. A representative will be available to answer any questions or concerns and will have brochures and Honor Stone applications for The Bootprint Tribute available.

We are looking forward to the start of The Bootprint Tribute and Thank YOU for your many donations, time and help!!!

—The Persian Gulf Tribute Committee

New
Patriotic Tees
Available in
The Gift
Shop



Youth XS-XL \$14.95



Adult S-3XL \$15.95-\$18.95



Military Working Dog Tribute

Words are hard to explain the bond between a military service dog and his handler

It is almost like the two become one

He is my compass, my eyes, my ears, my nose

Roles intertwined, he has my back, and I have his back

I have full trust in him and he has full trust in me

That's the way it is supposed to be

The words "I can't do it", don't exist in my dogs vocabulary

He never quits nor does he ever let his guard down

He gives me the courage to keep on going

He leads me and I know it is safe to follow

That piece of leather attached to his body

It's like his nervous system and my nervous system flow through that leather

We bond, we are one

There may be safe times but it is that feeling of not knowing what lies ahead

But it is that split second when my dog goes on guard, on alert

His hair stands so straight up on his back, like the bristles on a stiff wire brush

Perhaps my hair also, we bond we are one

His nose so sensitive, he can detect anything close by or so far ahead

His ears, I believe he could hear a feather landing on a pond

His eyes like those of an Eagle constantly sweeping back and forth like radar

His nose, his ears, his eyes, never stopping for a rest

My dogs' body language it is how I survive

He is like my gift from the Heavens above

He is my scout/guide dog, my companion

Almost like super glue, even before super glue was ever invented

He is glued to my left side, 24/7

These military dogs save so many lives

They don't demand anything for what they do; it's just what they do

My dog he just puts one paw down after another day in day out, night in night out

Perhaps a bronze tribute for a military dog and his handler

An artist sketches his dream upon a piece of paper

Much like a poet puts words together for a poem

The artists' pencil or brush glides so freely upon that piece of paper

One artists' entry will be selected for that special tribute

He will be the one who brings that military dog and his handler to life

A Tribute, a history lesson will unfold before all visitors who visit The Highground

A Tribute to all military dogs for their sacrifice and service to our country

It will sit amongst all the other Tributes here on The Highground

Written by: The MILITARY WORKING DOG TRIBUTE COMMITTEE



Tributes to honor service and sacrifice.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the “end” of the Korean War

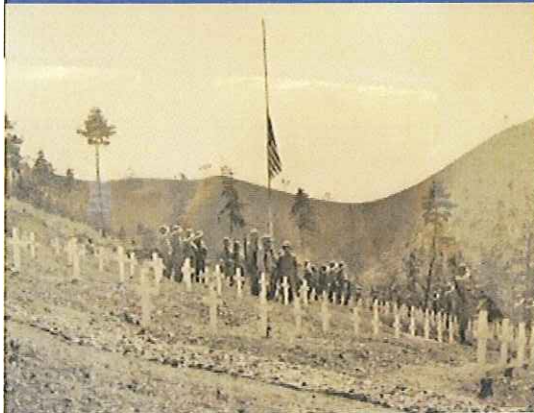
Our 2nd annual Korean Reunion/Education Night fell on the 60th Anniversary of the “end” of the Korean War. Although never officially declared over, the fighting of the Korean War ceased on July 27, 1953. Eight Korean Veterans along with family and friends gathered at The Highground’s Learning Center to commemorate this day and to help the forgotten war be remembered. The veterans shared stories, photos and memorabilia of their service, reunited with old friends and met new ones. Some have shared their experiences several times while others have just started being able to talk about theirs. A vital step in the road to healing is giving our veterans an opportunity and a safe place to interact with each other. As many of them stated “It is never too late to start the journey of healing, understanding and acceptance”.

Attending were Veterans: Cecil Berlin, Eau Claire, WI; Tony Eilers, Marshfield, WI; Ed Anibas, Osseo, WI; Rae Kohn, Medford, WI; Keith Briggs, Onalaska, WI; Tom Werthman, Marshfield, WI; George Michel, Inver Grove Heights, MN and Elmer Seehafer, Marshfield, WI. For more information and photos from the event, check out the Learning Center tab on our website.



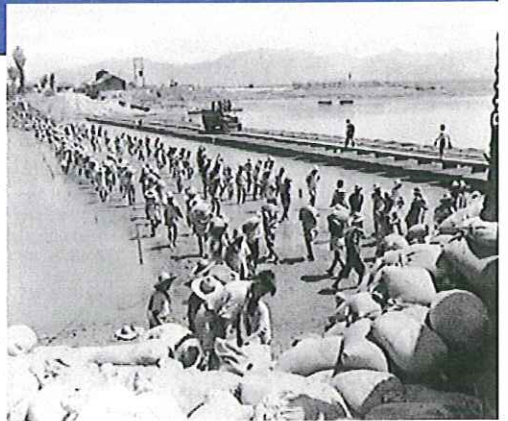
We hope to see even more of you at next year’s gathering slated for July 26, 2014 @ 6:30pm.

August and September: Korean Tribute



Living Through The Forgotten War: Portrait of Korea

Thirty black and white photographs with captions explaining the history and cultural context of the images make up this exhibit. The photographs in *Living Through The Forgotten War: Portrait of Korea* eschew the combat and military hardware shots typical in war



photography, and instead the focus is on the everyday experiences of soldiers, civilians, refugees and even prisoners.

Korean War in Color

As if it were not bad enough that the Korean War is, for many in the West, a 'forgotten war' wedged between the larger conflicts of World War II and Vietnam, its legacy has been conveyed largely in the medium of black and white photography, putting up yet another psychological barrier between the conflict and modern day audiences. John Rich's *'Korean War in Color: A Correspondent's Retrospective on a Forgotten War,'* breaks down this barrier with a jaw-dropping collection of color photographs of the Korean War.



Education and healing for all ages.

June & July we celebrated the recently unclassified story of



The Ghost Army
Secret Soldiers of World War II

Their Goal:
To fool the enemy

Their Method:
Impersonating other army units using inflatable tanks, sound recordings, fake radio scripts, and playacting

Most of their fellow soldiers never knew they were there.

In June 1944 a secret U.S. Army unit, the 23rd Headquarters, to become known as *The Ghost Army* went into action in Normandy. The weapons they deployed were unusual: hundreds of inflatable tanks and a one-of-a-kind collection of sound effects records. Their mission was to use bluff, deception and trickery to save lives. It



was a unit made up of about 1,100 men, most of which were artists and performers. They were not allowed to keep written journals, so many sketched and painted pictures to record their journey across Europe. The story of what these men accomplished was hushed by the Pentagon for more than forty years. They completed 21 missions from Normandy to the Rhine, with only 3 deaths and 13 injured.

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Civil War Tribute October & November



The Learning Center will be paying tribute to our Civil War Veterans and displaying photos, memorabilia and historical information, from this amazing time of our history. The Wisconsin Civil War Moving Memorial Wall from D.C. Everest School District will be on exhibit too. Please share your family photos, memorabilia and history with us.



Coming in Oct & Nov thanks to contributors:

Tom & Julie White and Don & Dorothy Havlicek

Don't miss this part our of history

BOWLING FOR THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TRIBUTE



To honor Military Working Dogs

“Bowlers” sign up now for the “Bowl to Honor Military Working Dogs” event being held Sunday, January 26th at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield, WI. The Highground along with Hardee’s is sponsoring this event to raise funds for The Military Working Dog Tribute. This will be an afternoon full of fun, prizes and a chance to learn, renew or show-off your bowling skills. First bowling shift is from noon until 2:30pm (an additional “shift” may be added based on pre-registrations). Be prepared to have lots of fun, win prizes and bid on an exciting array of auction items. There will be something for everyone and it will be a fantastic afternoon for the whole family!



Sponsored by



Reserve your bowling lane for family and friends. For only \$50, your group will enjoy 2 ½ hours of bowling (shoes included!), plus the knowledge that you are helping to honor the service and sacrifices of Military Working Dogs! For more information on Bowling for the Military Working Dog Tribute, to reserve your lane(s), or to sponsor a lane(s) please call Theresa at The Highground or complete the form on page 8 and mail to The Highground.

2013 Honoring Our Veterans Raffle —tickets on sale now—winners announced next issue

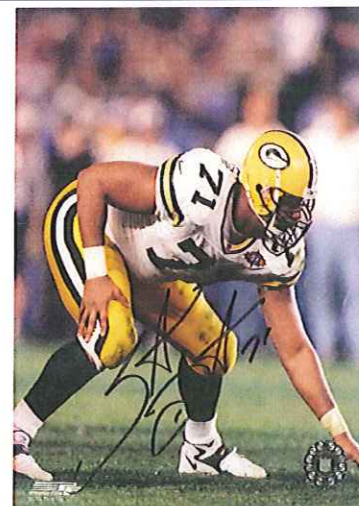
1st Prize: Beautiful patriotic quilt—hand-stitched

2nd Prize: Carved eagle on moose antler by Bridge Creek Antlers

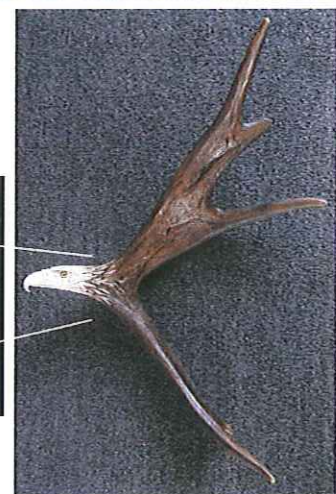
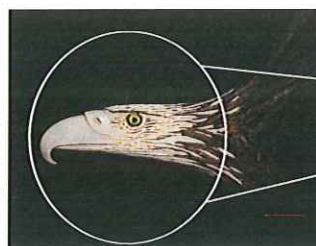
3rd Prize: Autographed Packer Memorabilia (Mini helmet and 8x10 glossy)

4th Prize: Seabees Throw

Drawing: Veterans Day November 11, 2013 3:30pm



**\$2/each
6/\$10 or 12/\$20**



Please send me ___ raffle tickets.
Enclosed is my donation of \$_____
Send us your donation, prior to Nov 1st with your name; address and phone number.
We will mail your raffle tickets.

More Upcoming Events You Want to Put on Your Calendar



13th Annual Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally Fundraiser

Aug 16th & Aug 17th 2013

This year's Rally will honor "Women in Service & Support". It will bring awareness of the strength, dedication and sacrifice of our nation's women who serve in the armed forces and also the women who support our armed forces from the home front.

Opening Ceremony is at The Highground, Friday, Aug 16th at 5:30pm. The speaker, Ann Schueller, (a military veteran with 21 years service) repaired helicopters and is now helping veterans find jobs. On Saturday, Aug 17th, rider registration will begin at 10am at the WCCN Pavilion East of Neillsville on Hwy 10. Guided rides begin at 11am with a cycle procession to The Highground at 3pm. To experience the Ride to Remember, please call The Highground at 715-743-4224. Information is also available on the website.

Ride to Support Veterans

—Poker Run—
August 24, 2013

—Benefit—
October 19, 2013

**I say
"I love America"**

**FREEDOM IS
NOT FREE**

Buggs' Bar
925 N Concord St.,
South St. Paul, MN

Money raised for
The Highground

Contact: John at
Buggs' Bar
for details

651-459-1310

Email:
lynch0319@gmail.com



Diversity Day



Tuesday, September 24th

Missions and Objectives are to:
—Celebrate our similarities and differences
—Recognize misinformation
—Claim pride in group identity
—Understand the personal impact of discrimination through Story-telling
—Learn hands-on tools for dealing effectively with discriminating comments and behavior

Students in grades 3rd—8th are invited to discover independent living for people with disabilities, explore new cultural traditions and learn about respect, duty, honor and country. The Daughters of the American Revolution will have a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

5th Grade Education Days



Tues. Oct 1st —
Wed. Oct 2nd

The Clark County Area Veterans Council is again sponsoring a two-day educational event for Clark County 5th grade classes. The 5th graders will come to The Highground as a school field trip for guided tours. While here, these students will also tour the Learning Center, receive instruction on flag etiquette and learn the proper method of flag folding. It's a great opportunity for veterans and The Highground to pass on education, respect for the flag and keep patriotism alive in our younger generations.

*The Highground mission:
Healing and Education*

Fall Clean-Up



Wed Oct 16th — Thurs Oct 17th

Help get The Highground ready for winter. We have many things to do and it takes a lot of helpful volunteers to take care of The Highground. Some of the necessary things that need to be done are: storing picnic tables and benches, pruning and covering plants, raking, trimming tree branches, and trail work. This is also a great time to get together with fellow volunteers and make new friendships. Lunch and delicious treats will be served both days! Please call for a list of projects if you are able to help and when you plan to be here.

Veteran's Day Ceremony



November 11th 3:00 pm

Veteran's Day Ceremony is Monday, Nov 11th at 3pm. Please join us as we show our respect to our nation's veterans. There will be a guest speaker; presentation of colors by area color guards; tolling of the replica Liberty Bell as *all* names of Wisconsin KIAs/MIAs are read from Vietnam thru the Persian Gulf War. They will all be acknowledged, remembered and not go in silence. If you would like to help with the readings or can bring a color guard, please contact Theresa. Then please plan to attend this important ceremony.



The Highground Fall Fest! Car Show, Chili Cook-Off & Cupcake Contest!



Saturday, October 5 10:00 am - ?

Fall Fest kicks off at 10am with the Annual Car Show & Chili Cook-Off! Please call The Highground to register for the Car Show (\$10 reg. fee) to show off your treasured ride – car and/or motorcycle!

Do you have the best Chili? Enter our Chili Cook-Off and put it to the test! Contestants need to pre-register; bring an 18 quart roaster of your best chili and enjoy the day. Prizes also for the best decorated table. Judging of Chili starts at 9:30am. (Separate category for professional/restaurants now too! Let your local owners know to join the fun.)

New this year is a Cupcake Decorating Contest! The best fall-themed decorated cupcakes will be the winner! Call today for details.



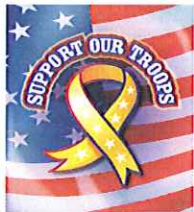


W7031 Ridge Rd.
Neillsville, WI 54456
Return Service Requested



Fragments celebrating
25th Anniversary

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Eau Claire, WI
PERMIT No. 366



Our Promise

In 2003, The Highground made a pledge soon after the Iraq war started that we would not let those from Wisconsin who died in this war go in silence. At all events at The Highground we read the names and ring the Liberty Bell for all whom have died from Wisconsin in Iraq and Afghanistan.



WE REMEMBER THE WISCONSIN MEN AND WOMEN KILLED IN DESERT STORM— DESERT SHIELD

Paul Buege
Kevin Calloway
Michael Fitz
Daniel Joel
Cheryl LaBeau-O'Brien
Lance Monsen
Rocky Nelson
PFC Scott Schroeder
William Strehlow
Brian Scott
Patrick Wanke
Carl Zabel

Jessie L. Thiry
Ryan M. Jerabek
Michelle M. Witmer
Michael A. McGlothlin
Charles Kiser
Stephen Martin
Adrian Soltau
Andrew Halverson
Daniel R. Wyatt
Shane K. O'Donnell
Robert P. Warns II
Todd R. Cornell
Brian R. Prening
Isaiah R. Hunt
Benjamin C. Edinger
Ryan J. Cantafio
Brent T. Vroman
Richard D. Warner
Todd Olson

Michael Wendling
Andrew Wallace
Matthew R. Kading
Benjamin A. Smith
Anthony Alexander
"Alex" Gaunky
Andy A. Stevens
Adam J. VanAlstine
Eric A. Palmisano
Nathan J. Vacho
Eric D. Clark
Grant Allen Dampier
Jamie Jaenke
Stephen Castner
Ryan Jopek
Shaun A. Novak
Kenneth Cross
Luke J. Zimmerman
Rhett W. Schiller

Patrick L. Wade
Matthew R. Zindars
Alun R. Howells
Derek A. Dobogai
Rachael L. Hugo
Anthony R. Wasielewski
Louis A. Griese
Tracy Alger
James McDonald
Jason F. Lemke
Timothy R. Hanson
Matthew I. Pionk
Keith E. Lloyd
Christopher S. Frost
Richard J. Nelson
Dean D. Opicka
Steven J. Christofferson
Jeremy D. Vrooman
Brian Naseman
Earl D. Werner
Robert M Rieckhoff

Joshua C. Brennan
Nick A. Dewhirst
Daniel Thompson
Steven T. Drees
Ryan Adams
Nickolas Mueller
Jacob A Meinert
Paul R. Bartz
Chad Coleman
Adam Novak
Matthew J. West
Daniel J. Johnson
Justin Cain
Scott T. Nagorski
Jacob Gassen
Daren M. Hidalgo
Justin Ross
Paul J. Atim
Matthew D. Hermanson
Ryan J. Larson
Tyler R Kreinz
Michael C. Nolen

KILLED IN IRAQ

Kirk Allen Straseskie
Matthew E. Schram
Dan H. Gabrielson
Paul J. Sturino
Rachel K. Bosveld
Warren S. Hansen
Jeremy L. Wolfe
Eugene A. Uhl III
Christopher J. Splinter
Nicole M. Frye
Bert Edward Hoyer
John F. "Hans" Kurth
Sean M. Schneider

Travis M. Wichlicz
Donald W. Eacho
Andrew L. Bossert
Mark A. Maida
Joshua Michael Scott
Eric J. Poelman
John J. Mattek, Jr.
Charles Kaufman
John Tollefson
Ben Jansky
Chad J. Simon
Trevor J. Dising

Jesse D. Tillery
Kevin M. Kryst
Evan A. Bixler
Joshua M. Schmitz
Matthew T. Grimm
Andrew G. Matus
Jon B. St. John II
Harry H. Timberman
Robert J. Basham
Nicholas Riehl
Jesse B. Albrecht
Tyler J. Kritz

KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Robert J. Cook
Kyle M. Hemauer
Ryan J. Nass
Nicholas R. Anderson
Patrick L. Lybert
Adam Servais
Merideth Howard

Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr.
Jakob Roelli
Joseph J. Altmann
David Johnson
Jesse J. Grindey
Benjamin H. Neal

KILLED AT FORT HOOD

Amy Krueger
Russell Seager

LET THEM NOT GO IN SILENCE