



# The High Ground

Winter 2013

...a place for all of us.

## BOWLING FOR THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TRIBUTE



**To honor Military Working Dogs**

Sponsored by



### ***SIGN UP NOW TO BOWL FOR THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TRIBUTE***

Bowlers are signing up now for the “Bowl to Honor Military Working Dogs” event being held Sunday, January 26, 2014 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. The event will be held from noon to 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! (Visit The Highground website and Facebook for updates on door prizes and auction/raffle items.)

Your donation of \$50 will reserve a lane for your bowling group (6 bowlers max per lane) for the duration of the two and a half hour shift. Shoes and bowling balls are included!

Reserve your lane today to help honor the service and sacrifices of Military Working dogs and their handlers! Lane sponsorship opportunities are also available contact Theresa for package details.

For more information on Bowling for the Military Working Dog Tribute, to reserve your lane(s), or be a sponsor please call The Highground or fill out and mail in the form found in this newsletter on page 12.

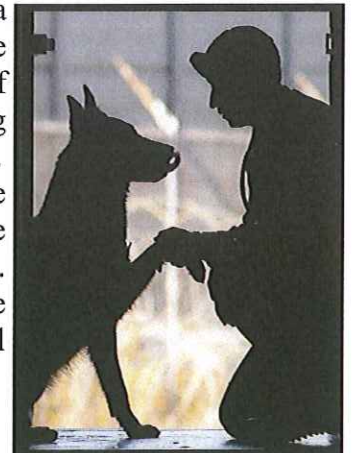


### *Military Working Dog Tribute—from the committee*

“Best Friends” would best describe the relationship between a dog handler and his military working dog. One of the objectives of the proposed tribute to military working dogs is to depict this bond. Working together for months of training and then deployment, the soldier and dog build a relationship that is difficult to describe. The dog becomes the extra set of eyes, ears and nose that is critical in early detection of enemy activity. Over their years of service, military working dogs have saved countless lives of our military service personnel.

To honor the countless sacrifices of military working dogs, The Military Working Dog Tribute committee is seeking more members to assist with the design selection and fundraising. Please contact The Highground at 715-743-4224 or e-mail The Highground at [highgrnd@tds.net](mailto:highgrnd@tds.net) if you would like additional information.

*The Highground Learning Center library has photos, C.D.'s and books regarding Military Working Dogs.*



*A bond like no other.*



## 25th Anniversary of Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans' Tribute, "Fragments"

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans' Tribute, known as "Fragments". This has become a destination for veterans and loved ones of those who were lost in Vietnam. Approximately one thousand people came together to show their support of Vietnam veterans and re-dedicate the tribute.

At noon, color guards from the Wausau VVA #479, Plover American Legion VFW #10262, Boyd American Legion #326, American Legion #0291, Augusta VFW #8478, Michael Voth VVA Chapter 5, Mattoon American Legion #287 and the Pala Veterans from the Pala Band Mission Indians from California accompanied



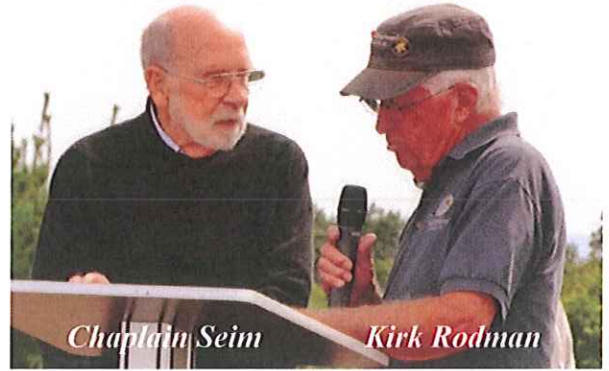
several Vietnam veterans as they honorably read aloud the names of the 1,244 Wisconsinites that were killed or missing in action during the Vietnam War.

At 2pm, these nine color guard units presented flags to begin the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Re-dedication ceremony of "Fragments". The National Anthem was led by musical group "Vets for Freedom". Chaplain James Seim, who had served as a chaplain in Vietnam, led the ceremony with a powerful invocation. He expressed how, even as we

experience the changing seasons and changes in

our own lives, we have still taken pause to honor, remember and reflect on "that company of comrades from Wisconsin who have offered their lives, who have made living sacrifices of all their hopes and dreams, their talents and gifts, all that they had to share with fellow citizens for our sakes."

Kirk Rodman, VGM, presented the guest speakers, Howard Sherpe, Steve Piotrowski, and Don Quicker, who were all instrumental in the development of The Highground. Robert Kanyusik, "Fragments" sculptor, spoke about the physical formation of the statuary and how he strove to achieve a precise reflective, emotional and healing essence in the solid tribute.



*Chaplain Seim Kirk Rodman*



*Howard Sherpe, Steve Piotrowski, Don Quicker, Bob Kanyusik*

At the close of the ceremony, the names of all Wisconsin KIAs of the Persian Gulf region, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Fort Hood were read. Bob Kitto, a member of the Plover American Legion #543, performed Taps after the reading.



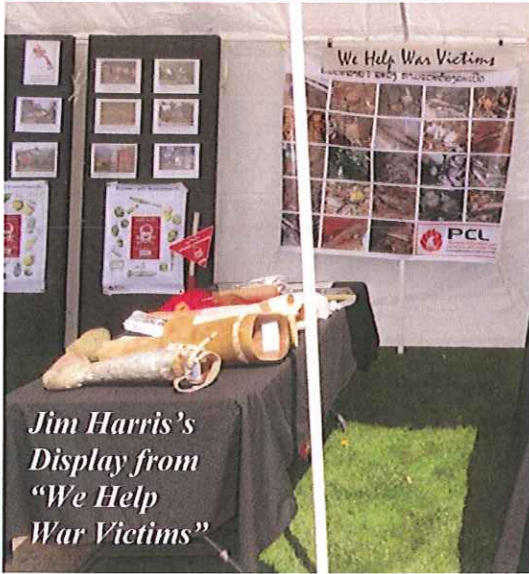
Many exhibits pertaining to "Fragments", Vietnam and the Vietnam War were on display at The Highground, including a 480 square foot map of the area in which the Vietnam War was fought. Vietnam veterans were able to sign on the regions where they had served. Friends and family of those who were lost in Vietnam, or who have since passed, were also able to sign where their loved ones had fought and served.



**People do not pass through The Highground.....**



September 14, 2013



*Jim Harris's Display from "We Help War Victims"*

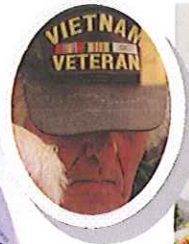
Other displays included a UH-1 Huey helicopter, a Vietnam Memorial Caisson, artifacts from Laos and the names of all 1,244 Wisconsin KIAs and MIAs were individually present on hanging wood blocks which veterans and family members were invited to take home with them.



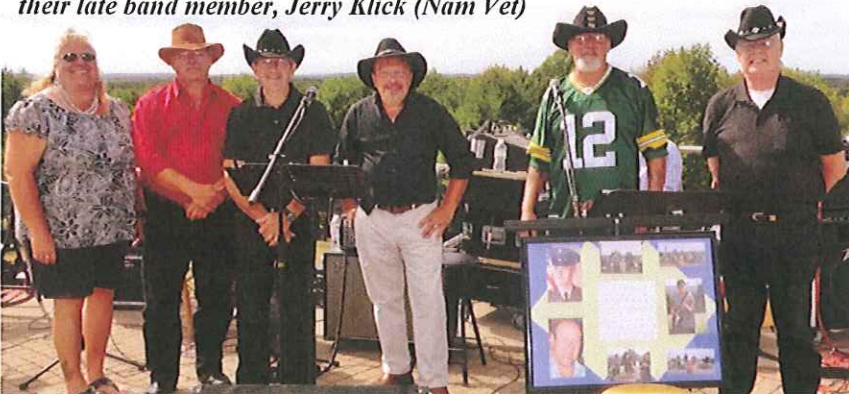
*Vietnam Veterans searching through blocks with the names of Vietnam KIA/MIAs*



*"Vets for Freedom" including a photo tribute to their late band member, Jerry Klick (Nam Vet)*



It was an emotional, honorable and healing day at The Highground. Vietnam veterans, loved ones of KIAs and MIAs, and supporters of veterans in attendance were able to experience this day of re-dedication and support and come away a step further in their journey of healing.



*Several businesses and individuals donated their time and goods to make this day possible. A big THANK YOU to: Troy Buddenhausen, Ken Jennings, ShopKo Hometown, Gross Motors, Neillsville Public Schools, Clark County Highway Dept., Mayville's Market, Hardee's, Jim and Janice Ottman, VVA #331, Bob and Ginny Teska, Don Anibas, UW-Platteville, Heinzen Printing, Rick and Dawn Suda, Tammi Cook, Jim Harris of "We Help War Victims", Miss Neillsville and her court, Ryan Opelt, and many, many Highground volunteers.*

**....People come home to The Highground.**



# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally raises \$15,000

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Highground Ride to Remember Rally took place on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>, and was dedicated to "Women in Service and Support". Friday night's program at The Highground was led with a presentation of colors by Neillsville Boy Scout Troop #43. Tom Barten led those present for the program in the singing of *The Star Spangled Banner*. Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager, welcomed the Friday night crowd and introduced guest speaker, **Ann Schueller**.



Ann, a veteran with 21 years of service, gave a heartfelt speech recounting her military service as well as her experience being the support figure while her husband and two sons served deployments. Ann leads a job seekers group at Fox Valley Technical College. Her work allows her to help veterans, some of which just recently returned from deployment, adjust to their civilian life, create resumes and find employment.

On Saturday, over 175 riders registered for the Ride to Remember at the WCCN pavilion and went on guided rides. At 3pm, the motorcyclists gathered together and began an impressive procession to the park. Welcoming the bikers into The Highground were a color guard from the Greenwood American Legion Post 238, members of Neillsville Boy Scout Troop #43, Menomonie Boy Scout Troop #1701 and many members of the community.



**Nevaeh Kaufman**, Royal Miss Humbird/ Royal Miss Wisconsin, made a presentation of a check and a large patch honoring our military.



Nevaeh's gift was a special highlight of the Ceremony.

THANK YOU!

**Ryan Mairs**, veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, was the guest speaker of Saturday's program. Ryan spoke about his multiple Deployments and how he and other veterans have had to find skills to cope with how their combat experiences have affected their return to civilian life and the struggles many face with re-entering into a "normal" family and community routine. Ryan works at The Vet Center in La Crosse and he emphasized the many programs and avenues for assistance that can be found there for veterans.



The total raised by sponsors and participants of the 2013 Ride to Remember was an outstanding \$15,000! We thank all the rally riders, committee members, volunteers, and Clark County Sheriff's Department  
**Plus Thank You Sponsors:**  
 WCCN 107.5, ABATE of WI, Bugg's Place in St Paul, MN, VVA Chapter 639, Neillsville Men's Club, BullishWear, Bar BK Leatherworks, Attorney Mike Witt, Al Muth Sales & Service, Genesis Midwest, Pat Watts, Andy Rueth, Office Outfitters, ABATE Region 4-C, Sauk Prairie Harley-Davidson, Second Chance Bar and Grill, Waupaca VFW Post 1037, Friends on 2 Wheels, Dental Clinic of Marshfield, Teamsters Local Union 662, House of Harley-Davidson Milwaukee, Women on Wheels - Dairyland Originals and Blue Mirror Bar and Bowl





## Diversity Day at The Highground —September 24, 2013

Two hundred forty students from five schools attended Diversity Day. Elementary and Middle School students from Pittsville, Maple Grove, Amherst, Neillsville and Immanuel Lutheran attended many interesting and exciting presentations plus guided tours of The Highground during their day-long program.

David Koch, a Resource Counselor from the Center for Independent Living in Western Wisconsin based in Menomonie, let the students feel what it is like to live with a handicap or disability. Through various props and limiting what students were able to use, the students experienced how those who have lost or impaired use of limbs, sight or other life-changing challenges must adapt to cope with everyday life.



Henry Smith, of Greenwood, brought wood carving to life as he explained the art of carving in The Highground's new educational pavilion. Students learned many things about carving, nature and what "diamond willow" looks like!

Flag history and etiquette were presented

by the Ah Dah Wa Gam Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from Wisconsin Rapids. A flag retirement ceremony was performed with the ceremonial burning of a 10'x15' United States flag which was beyond repair.



The Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) from the UW-La Crosse was represented by Jean Dowiasch. Jean brought an exciting display of what Wisconsin was like during the Ice Age and other times in our pre-American past. Students were able to handle replica mammoth teeth and other items to imagine what our hometowns looked like, what animals roamed the area and how the people of that age lived their daily lives. They were also able to learn how

archaeologists are able to use clues, such as the size of deer teeth found at ancient human sites, to determine in what conditions the people were living.

A musical presentation that was both fun and educational was brought to The Highground by Joan Johannes. Joan brought with her enough "hands-on" wood instruments so that each student was able to take part in creating and performing a group song. She also taught the lesson that it's okay to be different as long as you respect the rights of others. Her message was to "celebrate our sameness, but also our diversity".



Cummins Filtration returned to Diversity Day this year with a team to celebrate diversity across the globe. They gave a history and explained the cultures that are found in China and India. At the end of their presentation, students were given the opportunity to have their names written in Hindi and/or Chinese.

Diversity Day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2014.



## Korean Exhibit



### *Korean War in Color*

John Rich's, *Korean War in Color: A Correspondent's Retrospective on a Forgotten War*, photographs take the war out of the history books, allowing readers to better connect with a conflict that,

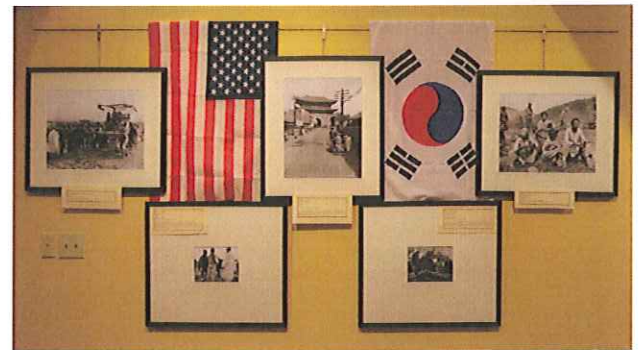
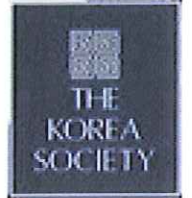


while forgotten, continues to impact the lives of Koreans to this day.



### *Living Through the Forgotten War: Portrait of Korea*

30 black and white photographs accompanied by thorough captions bring to light the everyday experiences of soldiers, civilians, refugees and even prisoners.



## “Forgotten War” Remembered at Opening Reception



The Highground hosted an invite only, opening reception to introduce their new exhibit paying tribute to Korean War Veterans. Thirty five people from all over WI attended the reception where they viewed two portrait collections on loan to us from the Korea Society in NY. One collection consisted of black and white photos taken by various service members while fighting in this unforgiving terrain. The other is one of the ONLY colored photo collections of the Korean War. John Rich was one of the very few photographers that had access to colored film, so his

collection is very rare and special. Guests also viewed other memorabilia and photos on loan from area Korean Veterans. A tasty array of hors d'oeuvres was enjoyed along with great conversation and reminiscing. Six portraits were set aside and saved for an exclusive un-veiling. We wanted this group of veterans, exhibit sponsors and community members to be the first to view these six special portraits. After the un-veiling, all veterans in attendance were recognized and presented with a “Korean War Veteran” pin.

Veterans in attendance were: Erland Greeler, Neillsville; Bill Schultz, Neillsville; Bob Berglund, Loyal; Cecil Berlin, Eau Claire; Gary Corey, Merrilan; Billy DeBock, Kenosha; Tony Eilers, Marshfield; Rae Kohn, Medford; Leo Mc Loughlin, Montello and Elroy Sletten of Greenwood.





## Fifth Grade Education Days by Joan Chwala, American Legion Unit 326



Comments at the Clark County Area Veterans Council sponsored Fifth Grade Education Day on Tuesday, October 1, went something like this: "What a great fall day!" "It's breezy, but the leaves are so beautiful, and the sunshine is fabulous!" "We couldn't ask for a nicer fall day!"

Then along came Wednesday,

October 2, and this day was even more beautiful. With warmer temperatures, sunshine, and little or no breeze, guests were shedding their jackets and getting the most out of their educational experiences.

During the event, the 650 plus students, chaperones, and volunteers were also able to witness "history in the making" as cement trucks arrived to work on the construction of the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute.

American Legion Auxiliary Department level volunteers, Joan Chwala, (member of Unit 326 in Boyd) Diane Weggen, and Virginia Kodl, (Unit 118 in Thorp) along with Ralph and Peggy Ottum of the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars #2227 presented a lesson about the meaning of the flag draped coffin and other information about military funeral ceremonies. The session ended with students joining hands to sing a patriotic song.

The field trip tours included schools from Colby, Abbottsford, Granton, Greenwood, Loyal, Neillsville, Owen-Withee, Thorp, Stanley, Merrilan-Lincoln, Augusta, and Gilman. Some



of the schools took up a collection prior to their excursion and presented the money pouch to their volunteer tour guides. At the conclusion of the tours, the Clark County Area Veterans Council volunteers presented each child with a personal flag and a milk and cookie treat.



### God's Tears—Kirk Rodman, Vol. Gen Mgr

A cold day today on the way to work and yet people are here as we open the doors. We asked, "When did you serve?" He answers the exact date in 1966. "Where did you serve?" He answers, "The central highlands." We shake his hand, pin a welcome home patch on his jacket and welcome him home. It gets quiet for a moment and then a few tears leak out of his eyes and ours.

Later a call comes in and they want to talk to me. It's a school teacher that has been here before and she wants someone to come to her school for Veterans Day. She would like me to come because I always make her cry. I explain that I will be in another school that day, but one of my *brothers* will be available, and we make it happen. However, what I thought I heard was "You always *let me cry*".

Many times when we tour and tell the stories of The Highground you can feel, what we call, *God's tears* starting to flow. On the Dove Effigy Mound, we like to read John Beaudin's words when he said, "Lay back in the soft folds of its wings and let Mother Earth unburden



you. Then get up and leave your troubles and cares there on the mound as you walk away, renewed, refreshed, and strengthened." Then at Fragments, sitting on the edge of the burial mound,

and listening to the chimes they seem to blame and then thank. First, they ask, "Where have you been?" "Have you forgotten us?" Then secondly, they switch gears and thank us for being there and bringing the kids to hear their stories. Then, there is the woman who lost her Dad to Agent Orange. She has the symptoms, and now she couldn't stop crying.

The tears flow thru me and rush into some dark and ugly places and purge out, into my eyes. For those of you that come here and walk with me while we tour, please know that you seem to give me that unspoken ok, because you "always let *me cry*".



## A Successful Highground Fall Fest Helps The Learning Center

The Highground Fall Fest had a great turn out for its Car Show, Chili Cook-Off and Cupcake Decorating Contest. On Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, over \$2,400.00 was raised during Fall Fest activities to help fund The Learning Center at The Highground.

The cool and damp weather helped chili sales and hundreds of bowls of chili were purchased by Fall Fest visitors. Prior to the chili sales, the contestants had their chili judged by area judges: Dave Bedell, Carrie Converse and Jeff Schultz. The judges' selection of Chili Cook-Off winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – The Miss Neillsville Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – the team of Amanda Hensiak, Nancy Olson and Erin Gurney, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – the team of Tom Laney and Charlie Nelson. Winners chosen by the Popular Vote of visitors were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mary Schlagenhaft, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – The Miss Neillsville Court, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mick Kokosz. Mick Kokosz also won Best Presentation for his crowd favorite Mexican décor and sombrero!



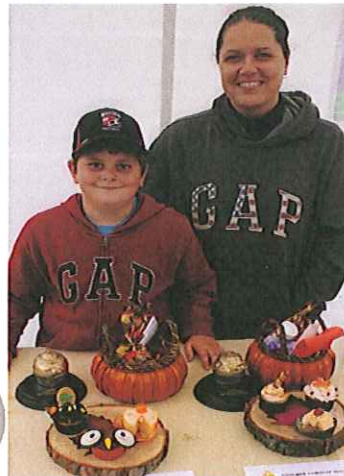
The Highground Car Show attracted more cars than were expected despite the rainy conditions. The car show, in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, drew entries from across the state. Adam Marg of Domine Auto Center of Loyal judged the entries. Visitors and car show participants were also able to vote for their favorite vehicles. Best of show went to Bob Feltz of Edgar, with his 1940 Nash coupe. Bob also won the Car Show Participant vote for best vehicle. The Chili Choice (visitor vote for best) went to Ron Prusinski of Hales Corners, for his 1964 Chevrolet S.S. 409 Impala. Ron also won the trophy for Furthest Driven by driving his entry 244 miles to the show. The Oldest Vehicle trophy

went to Al Stencil of Edgar for his 1930 Ford Model A sedan. The Best of the Newest vehicle trophy went to Jerrold Green of Hartford for his 2008 Porche Boxster RS60 Spyder. Many car clubs were represented at Fall Fest including: Rollin' Thunder Rodders, Fox City Mustang Club, Coulee Classics, Tri County Car Club, Wise Guyz, Badger Wheels, Creepers Car Club, and Corvettes of the North.



A Cupcake Decorating Contest was held for the first time at The Highground! This fun event had several age group winners. In the 10 yrs old and younger category, 1<sup>st</sup> Place went to George Gleich and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Patrick Gleich. In the 11–18 category, 1<sup>st</sup> Place was awarded to Jacob Kopp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Cassie Hebert and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place was awarded to Atlanta Hebert. First Place in the Adult category went to Dani Kopp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Jenny Anason and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place was awarded to Skip Sparks.

*Thank you Rachel McBride for judging the Cupcake Contest.*



A chainsaw carving of an eagle was raffled during Fall Fest. This carving was won by Jeff LeMieux.

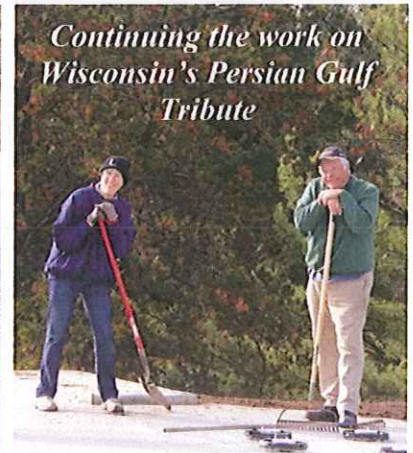
**We thank Jean Moseley for all her time and dedication spent to help this day run smoothly!**



# Fall Clean-Up Days!— October 16th & 17th



*Pastor Al Houts brought his front end loader and chipper to help with trail and hauling chores*



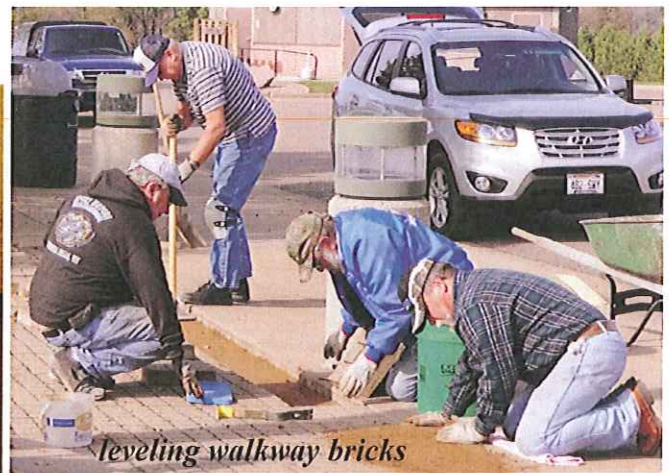
*Continuing the work on Wisconsin's Persian Gulf Tribute*



The Highground was a buzz with activity as volunteers gathered to take care of pre-winter tasks. Approximately 45 volunteers worked each day on a variety of projects including staining the Learning Center, leveling several bricked areas on the plaza walkways, continuing work on Wisconsin's Persian Gulf Tribute and cleaning of Highground buildings. Perennials were cut back and bricks were placed along the areas of shrubbery in preparation for the burlap covers.



*Some of the work crew enjoying chili*



*leveling walkway bricks*

## PAVILION CONSTRUCTION UPDATE — Additional Restrooms Next?



*Fred Craig and Bruce Pertzsch fine-tuning hanging positions of metal accents inside the pavilion.*

What an awesome sight to see the decorative metal gable ends placed on the educational pavilion. The finished look of the pavilion with gable ends and canopies are beautiful. We are looking forward to utilizing the pavilion for many years to come as a centerpiece for our educational programs.

**Restrooms construction next?**



Helping hands make happy hearts—thank you to everyone!



## Stones--Legacy, Korean, Meditation and Persian Gulf

Stone placements for 2013 have concluded except for saying a HUGE thank you to our volunteers that continually impress the staff and are so generous with their time and talents. Without you volunteers, the ceremonies would not continue to run as smoothly as they do. Thank you Cindy Boon, MC; Melissa Schultz; Jean Moseley; Skip Klabon; Al Prehn; Sandy Tritz; Julian Szewczyk. Your dedication to come each month for the ten ceremonies (plus other volunteer projects you do here) are remarkable. Because of you, each ceremony is perfect and enjoyed by so many as you can read in one of the many letters we receive after each ceremony.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! We will see you back in April 2014! Stone applications have been coming in for 2014. Stones make a great gift for the holidays, birthdays or as a “thank you” and are tax deductible. Ceremony dates are reserved on a first come—first choice basis. If there is a particular date that works best for your family, call soon—June is already half full!

### 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



Enclosed is an article that appeared in the *Lake Country Sunday* (newspaper) on September 29, 2013 about the Legacy Stone placement on September 7, 2013.

The ceremony was impressive and fitting to those receiving the honor of a Legacy Stone. My husband and I visited many times while on motorhome trips and always meant to buy a stone before his death. It gives real meaning to the phrase “*never put off until tomorrow what you can do today*”.

Although the stone was placed after his death, I am certain his spirit was with us and he is proud to be honored.

Thank you again for the impressive ceremony.

Sincerely,

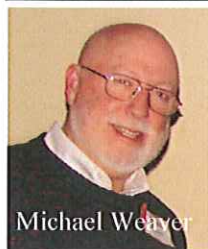
Judy

Delafield, WI



*Editor's note: you can read the article submitted in the Registry book as well as other fascinating stories about our stone honorees.*

## Michael Weaver, Board Chair



Michael Weaver

Well, winter is trying to wrestle its way into our calendars, even though it is only October. I live in the Fox Valley, and we have already had freezing temperatures and snow flurries. The trees still have some rusty color left in them, but many are now missing their full complement of foliage. We have cleaned out our garden, and my wife has me removing the dead perennials. The last Old Glory Honor Flight in the Fox Valley occurred two weeks ago. They will start up again next Spring. I belong to the Patriot Guard, and we always stand in the terminal with flags to welcome the Vets back home. The number of WW II Vets is dwindling, and the bulk of the participants are now Korean War Veterans. I did notice a few Vietnam War Vets mixed in this time.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Veterans Day will have passed, and Thanksgiving Day is quickly approaching. The Holidays always seem to arrive earlier, the older I become. Hopefully, you all will be able to gather with your families at this memorable time of year.

The Learning center display will be switching from the Civil War exhibit in November to the Veterans Art exhibit in December/January. Even though the weather will become colder outside, remember that we have indoor displays for you to enjoy. Think about purchasing a Tribute stone for a Holiday gift. The stone can be dedicated, even if the loved one is still living. (Mine was done that way. Many families do that before the Vet passes away) The Persian Gulf Tribute continues to move forward. Stones may be ordered at this time. Legacy and Meditation Garden stones are always available for purchase. We need your financial support to keep the park in sound condition.

Holiday time can be a tough one, for those who are alone. If you know a Veteran, bring them to the Highground for a visit. It will do your heart good, just to witness their reaction for what we have here. We need to let them know that we deeply appreciate all that they have done to protect our Freedoms. It is our time to honor them, and thank them for their service to our Country.



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

THE HIGHGROUND WISHES—WILL YOU RESPOND?

- 2 Vacuums: \$497
- Board Members: 1 more needed: *Priceless*
- Canopies for Pavilion: *Thanks*
- Persian Gulf Tribute grass preparation: \$1360
- Repair Plaza walls: \$1876
- Persian Gulf Benches: 18 @ \$3000; *Thanks for 6 so far*
- Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 16 @ \$4000/each;  
*Thanks for 3 so far*
- Plant water sprayer funds: \$312
- Pathway Bollards to Persian Gulf Tribute: 10 @ \$1000/each;  
*Thanks for 6 so far*
- Mule Snow Blade: \$2250
- Flowers for Persian Gulf Tribute: \$549
- Corduroy Trail Work Gravel: 12 loads @ \$151 per load  
*Thanks for \$300 so far*
- 15 Ballasts for Walkway Light Upgrade: \$160 each
- Electrical Box for Learning Center Garage: *Thanks*

*Please*

- Learning Center Track Lights for Displays 19 @ \$56 each;
- Light-weight snow plow for 2000 Silverado 1500: \$5400
- 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 \$14,043 so far*
- Learning Center Library Computers: \$1600
- New tires for mule: \$450
- Maple Tree for Gold Star Area: \$110
- Green Spire Linden Tree near the WASP: \$180
- Black Granite Breaker Rock for Persian Gulf Tribute: \$210
- Plans for a POW Tower: \$1100
- Exhibit framing materials: \$1000
- Hand vacuum cleaner: \$79
- New personal desktop printer: \$115



I would like to thank all who helped with our benefit: all the volunteers and the VVA Chapter #639 members who worked so hard, without you we could not do what we do. *Volunteers are the Backbone of the world.* I'm proud to be part of it all.

Thanks to all!  
John Lynch  
Bugg's Place,  
So. St. Paul, MN



Editor's note: Thank YOU John, for your continuing support and the leadership of your fundraising events for The Highground.



Picnic tables available for sponsorship. Adding six tables to help fill the new pavilion and other new areas. These go fast! Plaques put on the tables. Cost: \$300



**f** Now find us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial)

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For More Information Contact The Highground

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PO Box 457 Fax: 715-743-4228  
Neillsville, WI 54456 Email: [highgrnd@tds.net](mailto:highgrnd@tds.net)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial)  
Web: [www.thehighground.org](http://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

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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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

The Learning Center has an opportunity to obtain some fascinating exhibits for 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!

**The Wall That Heals: \$6000. Thanks for \$3500 so far**  
**One Woman Crying: \$5000**

*Anyone wishing to be a sponsor for any exhibit, please fill out this form or call June. It is because of YOUR generous donations and support that The Highground is capable of bringing such dynamic exhibits to the public, fulfilling it's mission of healing and education.*

**Thank you!**

**Bowling for Military Working Dog Tribute**

\_\_\_ Please reserve a lane(s) for my family & friends to bowl!

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

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

\_\_\_ Lane sponsorship opportunities available. Please contact us with details on the various packages available to sponsors. We want to help make it a great day for everyone through one of the opportunities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to The Highground or enter CC # below  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_



# Remember The Highground Gift Shop For Your Holiday Giving

There are lots of items that are sure to please everyone on your list at the gift shop.



Wilderness Woods laser art cherry music and memento boxes. Various designs: \$12.95-\$29.95 Other Music boxes \$17.95

Kids will love the new Turbo Twister remote control car. \$24.95 in red or blue.



Check out these items available at The Highground Gift Shop. (Too many to picture so here's a sample!)



Gift Certificates are great for the "hard to buy for" person....



Lots of stocking stuffers throughout the store.



Cadet caps for women available in two styles for \$14.95... New fashion Scarves/belts for \$13.95 & \$14.95.... Scarf charms for \$10.95

Jewelry is always appreciated and LOVED!!! Bracelets & necklaces from \$12.95-\$24.95



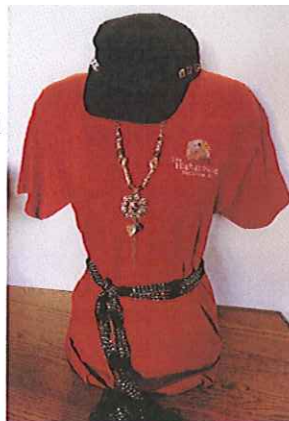
- Accessories:**  
 Scarves  
 Scarf Charms  
 Money Clips  
**Novelties:**  
 Blessing Rings  
 Chunky Wood Plaques  
 Switch Pitch Balls  
 Shut the Box Game  
 License Plate Frames

- Belts/Belt Buckles  
 Books  
 Caps & Hats  
 Cds/DVDs  
 Dogtags  
 Keychains  
 Flags  
 Windsocks  
 Knives  
 Mugs/Tumblers  
 Lighted Crystals  
 Patches  
 Magnets  
 Pins  
 Post Cards  
 Shirts  
 Jackets  
 Wind Chimes  
 Greeting Cards  
 Willow Tree Angels



Scramble Square Puzzle only nine pieces, but challenging. \$9.95

Short sleeve tees come in Dark Heather, Orchid, Pistachio, Cardinal Heather, Rusty Bronze S-3XL \$14.95-\$19.95



Variety of Willow Tree Angels and ornaments available \$13.95-\$31.95



New patriotic eagle design long sleeve tees in sport grey M-3XL \$19.95-\$23.95



Other long sleeve tees available in Lt Blue, Black, Yellow, Yam and Crimson S-3XL \$20.95-\$25.95



Sweatshirts in three styles....

**Crew Neck** Colors: Navy, Heather Grey, Yellow, Red S-3XL \$24-\$26.95  
**Hoodies:** Burgundy, Heather Grey: M-2XL \$31.95-\$34.95  
**Zip Front Hoodie:** Black: S-3XL \$35.95-\$38.95



Call for ordering information... free shipping on all orders over \$50.00! November 23rd-December 24th!



Persian Gulf Update

The “Bootprint” is finally taking shape. This past August, the foundations were finally laid, and the electrical wiring installed. Work continues on this phase I of the construction.

Phase II is the manufacture and installation of the statuary. This is where the bulk of the fundraising is required, and in order to complete this phase, we’ll need a concerted effort to bring the Persian Gulf Tribute to fruition.

As a reminder, this tribute includes the period of the Persian Gulf War back in 1991/1992. For those who may wonder why the American military men and women answer the call to serve our great country and her ideals, here’s an excerpt from a Navy deployment cruise book from back then that captures the best of what America is:



*There was little food. Fresh stream water quickly became stagnant. Diarrhea led to dehydration, and death for many. Instead of digging plots to feed the communities, mass grave plots were sprinkled in the mountainsides at each camp.*

*“We couldn’t get supplies fast enough to handle the mass of patients at our tent each morning.” one French doctor said. If refugees stayed in the camps, there would be more graves. Cholera and dysentery were calling. The Turkish border guards refused to answer the refugees’ pleas for help, wary of their own Kurdish population.*

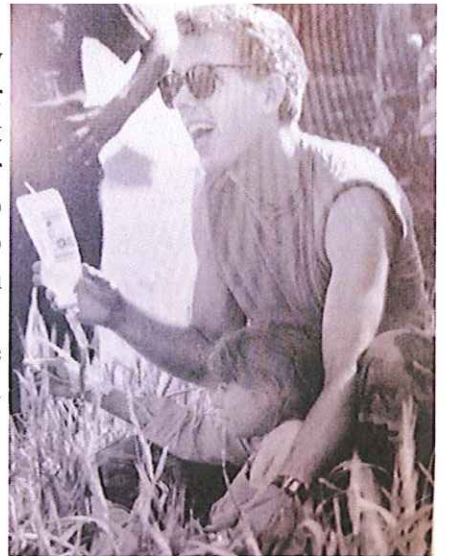
*Hussein said, “...come home, all will be forgotten.” But the Kurds had heard this before. At least they had a chance in the mountains. There were no gas attacks and no helicopter gunships strafing innocent civilians.*

*Then large, green helicopters with different markings began to land. And out the back came food and water, not soldiers. The Marines earned a new nickname, “Feeding Soldiers.”*

You see, after the shooting stops, peace needs to be restored. American military men and women have answered the peace call in the past and continue to answer that call today in lands far from home. The Persian Gulf War is over 20 years past and may be overshadowed by the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, but for those who served there, the Persian Gulf War is still fresh in our minds. And to those of us who were part of the humanitarian relief efforts, it makes me proud to be called an American, and I feel privileged to have served this fine nation in both the Persian Gulf War as well as in Iraq.

The Persian Gulf Tribute is taking shape and will soon take its place alongside the wonderful tributes to our veterans of past wars. The “Bootprint” should remind us all of the impressions we left on the hearts and minds of those we helped.

Submitted by: Paul Kokosz  
Lieutenant Commander, U.S.Navy (Retired)  
Persian Gulf Tribute Committee



Bill Weiler, Sniteman Pharmacy, (center) presents \$4000, to Dave Fields, Persian Gulf Committee member (left) and Kirk Rodman, VGM (right) while standing on the base of the tribute. Bill then picked the location of the Jersey Barrier in the Bootprint Tribute. Thank you, Bill & Sniteman Pharmacy of Neillsville for your generous support.





## More Upcoming Events You Want to Put on Your Calendar

### WANTED: ALL VETERAN ARTISTS

#### VETERANS ART EXHIBIT AT THE HIGHGROUND LEARNING CENTER

The Art Exhibit will run from December 1, 2013 through January 30, 2014.

We are looking for ANY form of art as long as it is done by a Veteran.

The exhibit is to pay tribute to Veteran Artists and to showcase their talents. As far as the number of items wanted....however many you have, that you would like to share.

We would love to set up a Saturday date during the show, where the artists will be present demonstrating their talent (It would be the date that works best for the majority....not yet set).

There will be a poster on our website [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org) under the Learning Center Tab, in the 2013 Upcoming Exhibits section. Just click on the December tab and it will pop up.

Please also include Name, Service Dates, Where served, Photo of self, and any other information you would like to share.



### Porch Greeters' Luncheon

The 2014 Porch Greeters' Luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Porch Greeters perform a very important duty at The Highground. They are the first to meet and greet visitors. The

welcome of a Porch Greeter informs our visitors of many varied aspects of The Highground including information on the tributes, Learning Center, Gift Shop and upcoming events. They offer audio guides to our guests, help with power scooters and wheelchairs and get visitors started on their tour. Perhaps the most important role of a Porch Greeter is to help our military veterans that visit the park feel welcome and comfortable during their visit. Many times, it has been the understanding and personal interaction of a Porch Greeter that has enabled a veteran to fully experience the park, which can be an emotional visit for many. Please contact The Highground if you would like more information on becoming a Porch Greeter.

### Veteran's Day Ceremony

Veteran's Day Ceremony took place on Monday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Kari Porter of the La Crosse Vet Center was the guest speaker; the replica Liberty Bell tolled as *all* names of Wisconsin KIAs/MIAs are read from Korea thru the Persian Gulf War. We hope you were able to join us in our celebration of our great veterans and remembrances of those who are no longer with us. The next newsletter will have all the highlights of the ceremony as this newsletter went to the printer prior to the ceremony.



### 2014 Volunteer Appreciation Potluck

The 2014 Volunteer Appreciation Potluck will be held at 1:00pm, Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Loyal American Legion Hall in Loyal. There will be a potluck buffet lunch and awards will be given out based on an individual's accumulated hours of volunteer service during 2013. As always, expect a crazy auction to be held during the potluck lunch!



### Friends of The Highground

Not too late to get your cumulative \$1000 donation to The Highground for 2013 and be invited to an evening of warmth and celebration for your generous support of The Highground mission of healing and education. We will also recognize someone whose Spirit touches us and makes The Highground so special.

### Maggie Mae Benefit Concert April 12, 2014 @ 2pm

Maggie Mae's concert benefitting the Persian Gulf Tribute will be held on Saturday April 12, 2014 in the Pittsville School District Auditorium at 2pm.

Tickets are \$25 each. You can order your tickets beginning Monday, December 2, 2013 by calling The Highground or stopping out to the park's Gift Shop.



**2013 Honoring  
Our Veterans Raffle**  
drawing was November 11th—  
*winners will be announced on  
the website and in the next  
newsletter issue*





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## 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. Diesing

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  
Jeremiah Collins, Jr.

**KILLED AT  
FORT HOOD**

Amy Krueger  
Russell Seager

**LET THEM NOT GO IN SILENCE**