

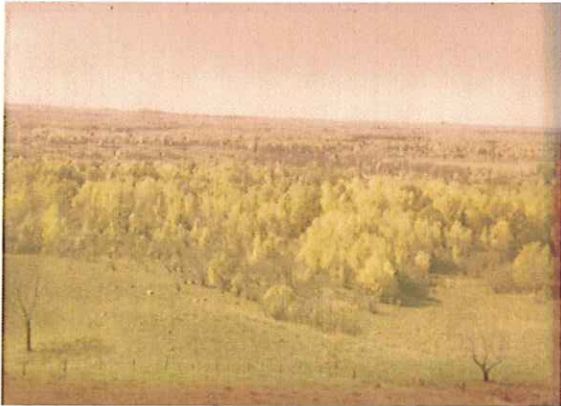


# The High Ground

March 2014

...a place for all of us.

30 YEARS—come celebrate,...past....present....future



Join with your comrades at The Highground, celebrate its beginnings, its middle, and look towards its future.

Hard to believe almost a third of 2014 has already gone! And the items staff has to share with you this year is mind boggling. Everything for a great 30th year celebration—yes, 30 years since The Highground was incorporated as the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc.—It sure has grown-up these past three decades and continues to grow! We hope you will join us in this year's journey from past to present and share the future's vision with us.

The Highground continues to excel in meeting its mission of healing and education. Look where we have come in the past 30 years—

—a promise,

—a field,

—a flag pole, .....

—A Learning Center with active changing exhibits

—and beyond.....



Thank you to the Board Members that contributed funds to allow the insertion of the event bookmark. We hope you will put this on your fridge or where you will see it and remember to join us in as many events as you can.

In the Learning Center, Highground History exhibits will focus on the item(s) that started or were dedicated during that month during the last 30 years. Check the website to find what is being emphasized each month.



Thank you Donors that honored the following people with 2013 gifts to The Highground!!...

### In memory of:

Ed Adameczyk  
Tracy Lynn Alger  
George Adler  
Lynette Anason  
Darlene Bachanan  
Raymond Barth  
Dr. Patrick James Bates  
Thomas Bednarek  
Joe Berger  
Ray Boxrucker  
Grace Caliebe  
Robert Clampitt  
James Cuff  
George Edwards  
Jo Fredrickson



Herman P. Gosse  
John H. Graczowski  
Jim Hauge  
Josephine Medicke  
Michael Hinkins  
Art & Lee Hokenson  
Ruth Houts  
Bettina Howe  
Donald Jacobson  
Stanley Jacobson  
Sam Kaplan  
Lyle Kasper  
David Kasch  
Charles Kaufman  
Robert R. Kinderman  
Ervin Knoop

Louis Luljak  
Curtis Marg  
Alec Maug  
Shannon Melvin  
Terry Mezera  
Eleanora Moen  
John Moll  
Tom Miller (namesake)  
Rocky Nelson  
Ray Newburg  
R.J. Novak  
Richard (Dick) O'Brien  
Loren A (Al) Quam  
Donald Schneider  
Gerald Scott  
Dr. Victor Tharp

John Tollefson  
Lloyd Ure  
Lauretta Wagner  
Lawrence Weiler  
Larry Wheeler

### In honor of:

Carl Binger  
Robert Brandt  
Ruth & Roger Fagerland  
LaVerne Herzfeldt  
Harold & Helen Jennings  
William Jurack  
Skip & Deb Klabon  
Matt & Wanda Neve  
Nancy Rodman



Celebrate Our Past, Present, Future



## Veterans Day



The Highground held its Veterans Day ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The names of the 1,244 Wisconsin KIAs/MIAs in the Vietnam War, 877 names of the Wisconsin KIAs/MIAs in the Korean War and the name of Daniel Busch, killed in Mogadishu, were honorably read on the plaza by John Myers (Eau Claire), Skip Klabon (Colby), Louie Kessler (Neillsville), Hiram Cutting (Watertown), and Jerry Feeney (Eau Claire).



Color guards from the Palmer-Ritchie-Thomas American Legion Post #153 from Pittsville and American Legion Post #9 from Wisconsin Rapids formally opened the ceremony honoring our local veterans. As they presented the flags, the American Legion members crossed in front of 145 white chairs, empty but for a single red rose on each. These chairs, placed facing the audience, were in honor and remembrance of the Wisconsin service men and women who have lost their lives while serving in the Persian Gulf area, which includes Iraq and Afghanistan.

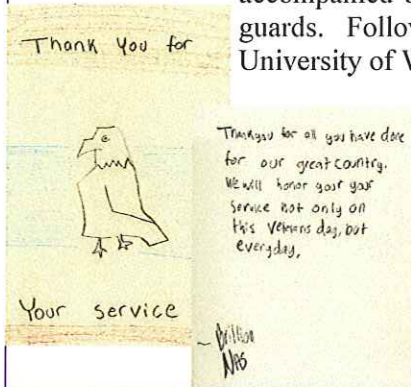
Eight members of the Neillsville High School choir sang the Star-Spangled Banner. Kay Anason, Highground Donations Coordinator, emceed the program.

A Highground Board member, C.W. King, welcomed the crowd and introduced guest speaker, Kari Porter, Counselor at LaCrosse Vet Center. Kari has been a member of the Wisconsin National Guard for almost 18 years with two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She spoke about the struggles many veterans of present-day conflicts are facing as they return to civilian life and how veterans' programs and community support is an indispensable ally for today's veterans.

The names of the Wisconsin service men and women who have died in the Persian Gulf conflicts were solemnly read aloud, accompanied by the tolling of the Liberty Bell and presentation of colors by the American Legion color guards. Following the reading, "Taps" was performed by John Hofmann of Marshfield, a student at the University of Wisconsin Marshfield Center.

Persian Gulf veterans and family members of those killed in the Persian Gulf were able to sign the base of the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute, which is under construction.

Thank you to Hiller's True Value Hardware of Marshfield for supplying the 145 white chairs which held a very special significance for those in attendance. The Highground also extends its gratitude to all the volunteers, performers, speakers and color guards who helped make this day a special occasion for those who came to be a part of and witness to the ceremony honoring and remembering our veterans.



## Wisconsin Department of Corrections Holds Veterans Day Observance



The Highground was honored to host the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Veterans Day Observance on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Randall Hepp, Assistant Administrator, Division of Juvenile Corrections gave the opening welcome and was the coordinating emcee of the ceremony. The Loyal American Legion Post #175 was present with a color guard and rifle squad. Myron Olson, Jackson Correctional Institution chaplain, led the ceremony with a prayer for veterans. Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager of The Highground, welcomed those in attendance to The Highground.

Honored guest speakers were Edward F. Wall, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections; Brigadier General Mark E. Anderson, assistant adjutant general of the Wisconsin

Army National Guard; and Sandy Hautamaki, Deputy Warden at Columbia Correctional Institution. Sandy is also the mother of Ryan J. Cantafio, a Marine who was killed in action in Iraq on November 25, 2004. A rifle salute was performed by the Loyal American Legion and Taps performed by Dan Winkleski, Deputy Warden at Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution and Duane Konkel, Bureau of Technology Management of the Wisconsin Dept. of Corrections.

The Highground's Big Map of the Vietnam War was displayed for Vietnam veterans to sign, and Persian Gulf veterans and family members of those killed in the Persian Gulf were able to sign the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute, which is under construction at The Highground.



**There are Heroes Walking Amongst Us!**



## The Highground Celebrates its Volunteers January 18th



The Highground volunteers gathered not to work, but to celebrate the accomplishments of 2013. The annual Highground Volunteer Appreciation lunch was held at The Loyal American Legion Post #175.

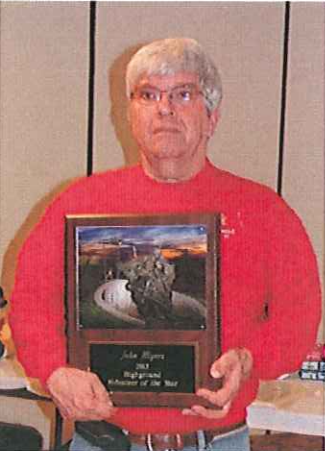
A great lunch was served, thanks to the generous donation of Billy Womble, a retired veteran from Arizona. Entertainment was provided by Doug and Sharon Bjerke of Neillsville. Donations were raised by a silent auction with Ned Carlson of Neillsville as

auctioneer during the "crazy auction" of volunteer-donated items. Volunteer General Manager, Kirk Rodman and Volunteer Gift Shop Manager, Nancy Rodman, were able to participate in the crazy auction despite being 2,000 miles away with the creative assistance of Kay Anason and Joyce Witt.

A \$1,000.00 check was presented from American Legion Post #53 by Rory Schutte to John Myers of the Military Working Dog Tribute Committee.

Many volunteers logged over fifty hours of service at The Highground in 2013. These volunteers were recognized for the generous donation of their time and energy. Those who volunteered between 50–100 hours in 2013 were: Sharon Bjerke, Jim Henchen, Louie Kessler, Betty Nemitz, Bob Solberg and Cindy Boon, all of Neillsville; Bill Connelly of Augusta; Al Johnson and Terri Johnson of Greenwood; Melissa Schultz of Spencer; Dick Masanz and George Schmidt of Stratford; Al Prehn of Abbotsford; Jim Ottman of Spring Valley; Fred Craig of Holmen; Debbie Klabon of Colby; David Dvorachek of Reedsville; Greg Foye and Joy Foye of Wausau; Sandi Frederickson of Marshfield.

Those who volunteered between 100–250 hours receiving Highground recognition and the Bronze President's Volunteer Service Award were: Mary Dick, Ken Jennings, and Jean Moseley, all of Neillsville; Joseph Graff of Augusta; David Kemp and Charlie Frey of Eau Claire; Skip Klabon of Colby; Skip Sparks of Abbotsford; Julian Szewcysk of Tomah; and Wes Waterman of Marshfield.



John Myers of Eau Claire received Highground recognition and the Silver President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering between 250–499 hours in 2013. Don Quicker of Neillsville, received the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award for over 500 volunteer hours. Bonnie Henchen of Neillsville, with 608 total logged volunteer hours at The Highground in 2013, received Highground recognition and the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award.

Those receiving a special "Thank You" award for their outstanding special volunteer service in 2013 were Bonnie Henchen, Jean Moseley and Charlie Frey. John Myers, a Vietnam veteran and member of the Military Working Dog Tribute committee, was recognized as The Highground's 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

The Highground is a place with unequaled, meaningful tributes, but it is The Highground's volunteers that make it a unique place with Heart, Healing, Understanding and Beauty; a place that truly gives a "Welcome Home" to our veterans.

**The Highground invites everyone to become a Highground volunteer in 2014!**

### Highground Volunteers Donate Food and Funds to Clark County Dept. of Aging

Highground volunteers, Bob Solberg and Betty Nemitz, delivered several bags and boxes of donated non-perishable food that were gathered during the annual Highground Volunteer Appreciation Lunch to the Clark County Department of Aging on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Along with the generous food donation, Bob and Betty also presented Mary Sladich of the Dept. of Aging a check from Highground volunteers for over \$600.



**Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground.**



# Successful Fundraiser for Wisconsin's Military Working Dog Tribute!

Over \$7,000 was raised during The Highground's fundraiser for the Wisconsin Military Working Dog Tribute. The fundraiser, held January 26<sup>th</sup> at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield, benefited the construction of the tribute which will honor the service of our nation's military working dogs and handlers past and present.



The event included a very special visit by Marshfield police officer Scott Schlei and his police working dog, Arco. Arco both charmed the crowd and showed



his precise training and bond with Officer Schlei. Officer Schlei presented a check for \$250 for the Military Working Dog Tribute from the Marshfield Professional Police Association.



Rose Bowl Lanes was packed full of military working dog supporters who were able to enjoy bowling and try their luck at winning over \$5,000 of raffle, silent auction and other prize items! Deanna Rotar of Stratford won the 50" Toshiba LED TV, donated by Mitten's and Hardee's (Colby, Neillsville and Medford) valued at \$1,200.00.



A generous check for \$300 was also received for the tribute from the Joe Altmann Foundation. Staff Sergeant Joe Altmann, a Marshfield native, served two tours of duty in Iraq before being deployed to Afghanistan in April 2011. He was killed in action on Dec. 25, 2011 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

The Highground and the Military Working Dog Tribute committee thanks all those who sponsored the event, those who participated, and everyone who helped make the fundraiser an exciting success. Order a Military Working Dog T-shirt today to keep the Tribute moving forward!



**Sponsors Making it happen:**

- WCCN 107.5
- Mitten's Furniture, Appliance & Electronics
- Hardee's of Colby, Medford and Neillsville
- AKF Martial Arts Academy of Neillsville
- K-9 Country Lodge of Black River Falls
- Ho-Chunk Gaming of Black River Falls
- Wisconsin Troopers Association K9 Unit
- Sport Motors of Chippewa Falls
- Wisconsin Vietnam Vets Chapter 4
- William Sonny Simon VFW Post 8216
- Festival Foods
- Premier Printing

Military working dog displays were presented by The Highground and Vietnam veteran dog handler, Jim Botts of Fitchburg. Harlan Hoffbeck, Korean War dog handler, visited the fundraiser and shared his experiences with those present.



**Show your support: Order a Tribute Shirt**



Youth Sizes:  
S - XL  
Light Blue

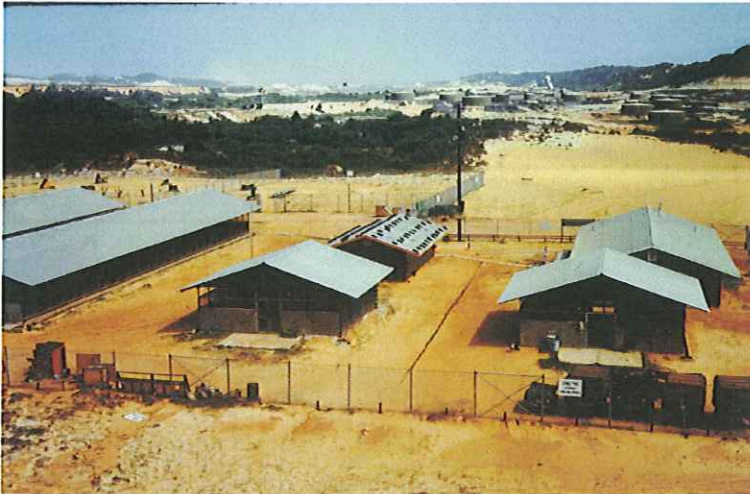
Adult Sizes:  
S - 2XL  
Light Olive Green

Call The Highground at 715-743-4224 for information and to place your order.

**\$16** plus s/h



## Military Working Dog Tribute—from the committee



The committee to bring a Military Working Dog Tribute has received 15 submissions from artists for consideration. They have narrowed the list down to four possibilities. Interviewing of artists will begin in April (Several of our committee members are spending the winter in warmer weather). Hopefully we will be able to present the final design later this summer. Thank you for your interest and support!

—The Military Working Dog Tribute Committee

### *Military Dog Care During Vietnam War*

Military working dogs are given tremendous veterinary care and treatment. Blood samples are drawn monthly to test for viruses, heart worm and other local blood conditions. Because of the amount of parasites and insects in tropical climates the dogs receive a monthly bath in a diluted solution that contains malathion.



This is not something they enjoy. Twice a year the dogs are put under a temporary anesthetic so that their teeth can be cleaned of plaque and tartar buildup. Dogs are fed a soft diet and commercially canned dog meat but are not allowed to chew on bones or other hard objects that would clean their teeth naturally. This is done to minimize any possible medical issues that would arise with chewing on hard objects.



## New Purchase: Possible Welcome Center? Definite Parking Area!



The Highground Veterans Memorial Park is excited to announce the purchase of Ed and Judy Christensen's property at W6982 Ridge Road near The Highground.

After acquiring the property that has become known as The Learning Center, events, exhibits and number of visitors to The Highground continue to grow. Tremendous exhibits have been seen at the Learning Center and the popularity among veterans, families, guests and schools has been awesome to experience. The Highground was offered the opportunity to add additional space

for the parking demand by the Christensen family. The Board of Directors will be making decisions as to the use of the home in the near future. With Work Week approaching in April, it will be a great opportunity for volunteers to see and help in the transformation of the property. One of the uses could be a "Welcome Center" to The Highground, or office space/meeting space may be on the Board's agenda for the property.

"This opportunity could not have come at a better time," explained Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager. The park has experienced an increase in visitors and use of the park's forest and facilities. Instrumental in making this possible was a gift from the Listeman Foundation that helped with the down payment. The Listeman Foundation continues to help the Neillsville area grow. Donors interested in seeing The Highground fulfill its mission of healing and education are supporting the project. Thank you to ALL of YOU! The staff expects to open and dedicate the new facility to visitors in late 2014 or early 2015. For information about being involved in the transformation call 715-743-4224.



## 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 Klabin; Al Prehn; Sandy Tritz; Julian Szewczyk. Your dedication to come each month, work 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 in April! Stone applications are strong 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—May and June are already full! August is 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

### 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. Limited availability.



Picnic tables available to sponsor. Adding just six new tables with plaques this year.

*These go fast*  
Cost: \$300



### Chilson Subaru Supports Newest Veterans by Presenting Check to The Highground

Matt Chilson of Chilson Subaru presents a \$4760 check to Celeste Kaufman, Gold Star Mother to support the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute being constructed at The Highground near Neillsville. Construction of "The Bootprint" began last fall.



Chilson's donation will provide for one of the barriers in the tribute along with the bordering flower beds. The new Tribute is located to the east of the plaza point, where visitors will be able to view "The Bootprint" design. Upon walking into the *Bootprint*, veterans, family and friends will also be able to experience the tranquility of being home at The Highground. The Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute will hold honor stones to welcome/thank our newest veterans for their service. Contributors, such as Chilson Subaru, allow the project to continue its journey forward in creation. Thank you Celeste Kaufman for bringing Matt Chilson and Chilson Subaru into this project!

### Boy Scout Eagle Project

The Highground has been approached by Dominic Kuhn, Neillsville Boy Scout, wishing to obtain his Eagle Scout designation. Scouts have rough camped at The Highground occasionally and the desire to have a restroom located in the picnic area has often been mentioned by many who utilize the shelters and now the new pavilion. Dominic, once a scout camper here, said the "little guys" would really appreciate something closer during the night. With Diversity Day and 5th Grade Education Days in the picnic area; not having to hike to the plaza would be wonderful. To obtain his Eagle designation, Dominic will be in charge of coordinating volunteers, contacts and fundraising to help The Highground bring new facilities to fruition. Watch the website and future newsletters to see the restroom progression. Thank you Dominic for choosing The Highground for your volunteer project for your Eagle designation goal.

(Accepting funds now to get him started.)





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

### THE HIGHGROUND WISHES—WILL YOU RESPOND?

- 2 Vacuums: \$497, *Thanks for one so far*
- 2 or 3 used golf carts for Welcome Center Visitors
- Canopies for Pavilion: *Thanks*
- Persian Gulf Tribute grass preparation: \$1360 *Please*
- 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 4 so far*
- Mule Snow Blade: \$2250
- 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

- Grass Seed: \$260
- Spring Fertilizer: \$435
- Supercal Lime: \$120
- Learning Center Garage Heaters: 2 @ \$250; *thanks for one*
- Endowment Fund Donors or send us a copy of your bequest
- Memorials: Honor your loved ones
- Walk behind brush mower for trails: \$2800
- Learning Center Library Computers: 2 @ \$1600
- New tires for mule and truck: \$950
- Maple Tree for Gold Star Area: *Thanks*
- Green Spire Linden Tree near the WASP: \$180
- Black Granite Breaker Rock for Persian Gulf Tribute: \$210
- Plans for a POW Tower: \$1100 *Thanks for \$100 so far*
- Exhibit framing materials: \$1000
- Digital Road sign or new sign changer equipment
- Workers for the Spring Clean-up



**2013 Honoring  
Our Veterans Raffle  
drawing was November 11th**

#### **Congratulations to:**

- Quilt: David Rude, Rochester, MN
- Packer Memorabilia: Judy Busch, Appleton, WI
- Carved Eagle: Carol Monge, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
- Seabees Throw: Romey Wagwen, Wausau, WI

#### **Thrivent Choice Program**

The Highground has been approved by *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* to be designated as the benefactor of Thrivent Choice Dollars. Eligibility is based upon a benefit member's insurance premiums, account values and volunteer leadership. If you are eligible, call Thrivent to direct your dollars to The Highground with no additional paperwork! Go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 to direct your dollars. Thank you.

Does your company have a donation program or matching funds program? Remember The Highground when making your next contribution—or ask your employer to match your efforts! Let us know about your company.



Are you aware of any veterinarian who works with service animals that we can pass along to our readers and inquiries about service animals for our military? Please let us know and watch the website if you are needing assistance. We will post as soon as we hear of these special veterinarians that help these awesome animals.

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

#### Board of Directors

- CW King, Chair (Chippewa Falls, WI)
- Beth E. Martin, Vice Chair (WI Rapids)
- Scott Kissinger, Secretary (Wausau, WI)
- Don Quicker, Treasurer (Neillsville, WI)
- Ned Carlson (Neillsville, WI)
- Jim Fox (Elk Mound, WI)
- Leonard Frye (Richland Center, WI)
- Bill Lobeck (Viola, WI)
- Steve Maddox (Chippewa Falls, WI)
- Michael Weaver, (Kaukauna, WI)
- Gary Weirauch, (Neillsville, WI)
- Petitioners:* Bob Solberg  
Bob Barth

#### 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](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        |

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](mailto:highgrnd@tds.net). Website: [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org). Printed in USA. Entire contents copyright 2014. 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.

**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 March 2014

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Learning Center Exhibits and Reunion/Education Nights

### Exhibit Contribution

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**, we are able to help bring important exhibits to the Learning Center 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Exhibits for 2014.

Can you help? Send a donation for this fund today and watch for upcoming exhibits thanks to YOU!

**The Wall That Heals: \$6,000 Thanks for \$4794 so far**  
**One Person Crying: Women and War \$5000**

*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!**

## Half is Good Enough for Me Half Marathon & 5K Registration

**Set For March 29th!** It's time to keep the 2014 fitness goal on track! The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Half is Good Enough For Me" Half Marathon and 5K is scheduled for Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, starting and finishing at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville. One of the earliest half-marathons and 5K's of the year, this race is always a fun and challenging event. The event is open to all ages and registration fees are only \$21 for the half-marathon and \$11 for the 5K. Proceeds from the race, sponsored by Scheels of Eau Claire, will be donated to The Highground to help continue its mission of healing and honoring our nation's veterans.

To register and for more information, please contact The Highground or Amy Melvin at: <http://www.active.com>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to The Highground or enter CC # below

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_



## PTSD Books are Helpful

The last time we were up there, Kirk gave me one of the PTSD books for a Vietnam Vet friend of mine. John has read the book, said it was excellent and it really helped him to understand some of the things that have plagued him and with that better understanding has made it a lot easier to accept and live with those issues. He has given it back to me so that I may read it and hopefully have a better understanding as well. After that, he has requested that it go to his daughter who is having difficulty understanding the changes in her friend after she has come back from Iraq and Afghanistan. When she is through, it will go to another Vietnam Vet friend of John's.

I wanted Kirk to know that this is definitely one book that is going to touch some lives and serve the purpose for which it was intended.

Thank you all very, very much.

Alan Palmer

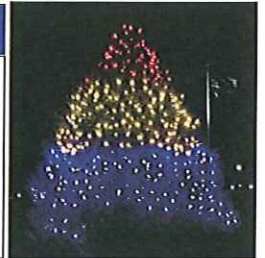
### Tree Light Donations for Wounded Warriors

An 11 foot tree, donated by the Kopps family, was adorned with red, white and blue lights to honor all veterans past and present. Donations from individuals for the lights went to the Wounded Warrior Project to help make the upcoming year a little brighter for these heroes and their families.

"RED" bulbs in Remembrance,

"WHITE" for those you are Waiting to return home

"BLUE" Because you love a veteran.



## Welcome Spring!!! Gift Shop News

Spring is just a few weeks away...

Browse our website or visit the shop to see all the new items on display... Custom orders are always welcome...



A "one size" knit watch cap features the military branch logo for \$10.95. Pair that with the popular all weather hooded Baywatch jacket, and you are ready for "whatever

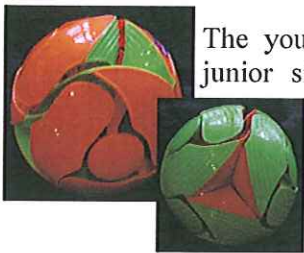
the weather" may hold in the days ahead. The jacket features a jersey lining, fitted cuffs and waist, and zippered pockets. Colors include Red, Navy and Forest Green in sizes S-3XL and priced at \$67.95 to \$69.95



Embroidered military patrol caps for branches of service and Vietnam and Iraq/ Afghanistan ball cap are available for \$12.95.



**Gift Certificates Available**



The youth corner features a new junior size switch pitch ball for \$4.95 as well as die cast night hawk F117A planes for \$5.50.



**Choose a special gift for the "Mom" in your life.**

Mother/Daughter, Mother/Son and With my Grandmother Willow Tree angels are sure to please for \$28.95. Wilderness Woods lasered cherry wood or music boxes are also favorites from \$12.95 to \$28.95. Other music boxes are also featured for \$14.95 & \$17.95. Women love jewelry and we have a nice assortment of bracelets and necklaces for \$15.95 to \$24.95. There is also a special sale on select jewelry items and scarves.

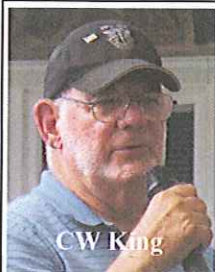


A new stainless Highground travel tumbler with insulated plastic liner will keep your beverage hot or cold. Military stainless mugs and tumblers are also on display. They all sell for \$12.95

Contact us at 715-743-4224 or email [highgrnd@tds.net](mailto:highgrnd@tds.net) for more information or assistance with an order.



### CW King, Board Chair



At the January meeting of The Highground Board of Directors, we began a new era as we installed new officers and accepted the resignation of two members (Greg Foye and Michael Olson), who completed their term on the board. I am honored to be the new chair of the board, and want to start by acknowledging the hard work of those who came before me. The new vice chair is Beth Martin, and Scott Kissinger is now the secretary. Don Quicker remains as the Treasurer. The Highground stands as a tribute to all veterans, and shows what volunteers can accomplish. As all of you know, volunteers are truly the heart and soul of The Highground. We would not be here without you.

Among the items discussed at the Board of Directors meeting was how to ensure the funding of The Highground for the future. The Board adopted a policy on investments, and we will be getting together an endowment package soon. My priority for the future will be raising money for the endowment fund to ensure The Highground lives forever. I know that many of you share my concern for the future of The Highground, and will want to be part of developing and growing the endowment. I look forward to continuing to be part of this wonderful facility and hope that all of you share my enthusiasm in this endeavor.

### Porch Greeters' Luncheon

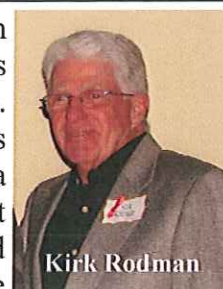


2013 Lunch

The 2014 Porch Greeters' Luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at Apple Valley Bar & Grill in Neillsville. We will be filling out the 2014 Porch Greeter calendar, reviewing important Porch Greeter details, getting a look at the 2014 upcoming events, and enjoying some great Apple Valley food!

Porch Greeters perform a very important duty. They are the first to meet and greet visitors. Perhaps the most important item that a Porch Greeter does at The Highground is help our military veterans that visit the park feel welcome and comfortable during their visit.

### Kirk Rodman, Vol. Gen Mgr



Thirty years ago, 1984, a new idea with a bunch of old guys. Lots of committees going in a lot of different directions. Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project Inc. It turned into a large park in the center of Wisconsin. It grew in leaps and bounds and ups and downs. Today it has much of what the original founders imagined and worked hard to achieve. It is remarkable that they held to their direction and plans. It would have been easy to swing to the money or easy ideas but they held steadfast to their beliefs and struggled to maintain the momentum. Today, looking back, we see the growth stacking up with Tributes almost done and new ones on the way. A consistent pattern of growth and the saying "If you aren't growing you are dying". And grow they did. From a flag pole in a rough laid 100 acres, to 12 tributes in 158 acres. Within the park 6 facilities built, with 4 miles of walking trails, over 2000 honor stones set. A newsletter that reaches out to over 10,500 individuals. The manned facility is open every day and the park open 24/7. The park visited annually by over 120,000 veterans and others who attend 37 plus events every year. The key to that growth is the over 330 volunteers who insure that the visitors who come here know and understand what the park is about and how it impacts on them. Today, as it was thirty years ago, The Highground is only as good as your participation. You come in and work and we flourish. You stay home and we stagnate. Young men and women come back to our country and seek help and we need to be available. Come and help and find out how fulfilling The Highground can be to you. God love you.

*Please contact The Highground if you would like to receive more on becoming a Porch Greeter and be an important aspect to our Park.*

### Actual letter to a Porch Greeter!

Dear Highground, Mr. Norm Poppe

I wanted to say thank you for your kindness you showed my mother, my friend and myself on August 23rd when we came to see the beautiful Veteran's Memorial. I also thank you again for your service to our country. It was such a joy to sit and visit with you that day. You are such a nice man. Highground is such a wonderful tribute to all who have served and to their families. I am so grateful we have such a place.

Sincerely, Rene Richardson



## “Feature a Veteran” section

Do you have a special veteran you would like to nominate for this new section in our newsletter? Please send a picture and information about a special veteran that deserves to be recognized in The Highground newsletter. Make sure to include where he/she is from; military affiliation (years, branch) and any outstanding achievement you would like us all to know!



### An Open Letter To The Highground

Odds are you do not know my friend and in all likelihood never will. He is a modest man and would disapprove of being singled out for attention. Over the years that he has been associated with The Highground, he has shown himself to be a man of dignified dedication and strength, clarity of purpose and unswerving devotion to our memorial and all it represents.

By his very nature prone to shun both limelight and recognition, Don Quicker has been satisfied to work, unpaid, as The Highground's financial backbone and conscience, keeping our books, insuring our solvency and steering our fiscal course since the project's inception in the mid 1980's. Suffice it to say, we owe him more than this simple nod. We owe him more than we will ever be able to offer him.

Walk the plaza of The Highground and you become a vital part of a bigger-than-life enterprise that he, in no small way, has helped fashion. The original concept, the seed from which our project sprang, was not his. Tom Miller carries that unique distinction. But the transformation of Tom's dream into our present day reality was begun on Don's watch and continues today under his capable financial oversight.

We might each do well to know of and to appreciate the on-going contributions made by this selfless man, this Highground founder/builder, this inconspicuous soldier who has contributed so very much, even if he remains to most no more than a name.

Better yet, take the time to say “thank you” to one of the most deserving among us. Say “thank you” to Don Quicker.

Respectfully,  
Steve Maddox,

Board member and friend

## Spring Work Week April 23-26, 2014

### There will be something to do for Everyone! What is your Specialty?

- ⇒ There will be Painting & Staining
- ⇒ Cleaning
- ⇒ Repairing Siding on the Learning Center
- ⇒ Power Washing—The Timberframe
- ⇒ Working on the Timberframe Support Timbers
- ⇒ Cleaning and waxing tributes
- ⇒ Setting Stones on the Persian Gulf Tribute
- ⇒ Getting Planters Ready
- ⇒ Trail work

Plus... You will be Well Fed each day by local  
restaurants and our Sweet Ladies!

*Call Now*

**Let Us Know Which Day(s) You Will Be Here!**

### Lower Pavilion

- Install railings
- Put up canopies

### Tributes

- Korean Tribute painting of new concrete
- Liberty Bell bench work

### “Welcome Center” Work

- Remove internal walls
- Make handicapped accessible
- Install two culverts
- Garden work
- Define parking areas
- Redesign front to make it look less like a house

### Learning Center

- Paint 2nd story exterior, metal outside basement door
- Caulk by water fountain/wall
- Media room wall/ceiling crack
- Insulate 2nd floor attic
- Plumbing for sprinkler system
- Install donation box and tour posts



### Some Projects to work on this spring!

#### Plaza

- Remove burlap
- Get garden equipment ready
- Work on path near WWI to give access to Persian Gulf



PLUS a lot of other items—let us know you are coming and if you have a project preference—we are sure we will have one for you!

**See you in April!**



## Tribute to the Fallen Exhibit February—April

### *Tribute To The Fallen Exhibit & Opening Reception* February 8, 2014

Our new exhibit entitled *Tribute To The Fallen*, is a tribute not only to our KIA's (Killed in Action) it is also for the "other" fallen, from 1990 - present. The ones that may have lost their lives in a training accident, or a misfortunate accident while on leave, or had their lives ended too soon at the hand of someone else other than the enemy and also those that were fighting another battle, PTSD, and at some point couldn't find any other option than to leave this world.

Opening Reception was held February 8, 2014 from 2 pm – 4 pm for the families of these amazing heroes. Fifty plus family members came together for fellowship, sharing of stories and photos, and time to help each other in that life long process of healing. A short program was held, families were thanked for their sacrifices, the fallen names recited and more stories were shared.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dave & Bonnie Wicks, of Baraboo for loaning us their tri-fold display (*Tribute To The Fallen Since 9/11*) and also to Celeste Kaufman, Mother of KIA Charles Kaufman and Randy Dewhirst, Father of KIA Nick Dewhirst, for reciting the names of our fallen.



*Tribute To The Fallen* will remain on display in the Learning Center until the end of April. The Learning Center is open daily from 10am–5pm.



## Civil War Tribute October & November



Those that walked through the Learning Center doors on October 5, 2013 may have thought that they went back in time 150 years. Their first encounter was with Ward Zischke clad in dress of the Invalid Corps/Veterans Reserve Corps of 1863 - 1865. As their journey back in time continued; they found themselves reading newspapers, telegraphs, letters home and even the Emancipation

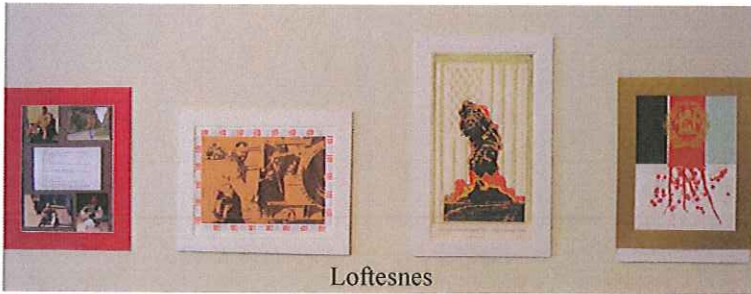
Proclamation and Gettysburg Address. Viewing photographs of yesterday's heroes brought back memories of family stories. Their path was lined with walls containing over 12,000 names of the Wisconsin men killed in battles or from diseases or infections from their wounds, throughout this epic time in our country (courtesy of D.C. Everest Jr. High and Kris Peterson). As they rounded the bend, they were met by Civil War Veteran William W. Robinson (as portrayed by his 2<sup>nd</sup> great-Grand Nephew Paul Johnson).



Learning from our past can protect our future. Education and healing for all ages.



## Art; so much more than just “pretty” November-January



Loftesnes

up a form of art as a pastime, while others found it to be part of their saving grace. The arts; no matter what form, can be a healer, up-lifter and strengthener of our minds, bodies and spirits.

As part of The Highground’s mission of healing and education, an open house was held December 14, 2013, where three veterans were on site demonstrating their talents to the public.

Veteran, **James “Jim” Hoefler** of Watertown, WI is a woodcarver. He began carving in 1991, and is now holding classes to teach others how this craft is done. Jim has a way of showing you how it is done, but also somehow teaches you how



Hoefler

Cutting

to put your “feelings” into it.

One of our volunteers and a Vietnam veteran, **Hiram Cutting**; also of Watertown, WI is a woodcarving hobbyist and one of Jim’s students. Hiram started woodcarving about 12 years ago and says that it is so relaxing and is such a good stress reliever, that he finds himself working on his carvings almost daily. Hiram works a lot with Basswood as it is a light wood that is easy to carve, especially the intricate details of facial features.

Local artist and veteran, **Wendell Ziegler** of Neillsville, started “turning” wood on a lathe as a hobby. He states that he can start turning a piece of wood with one idea in mind and then “the unexpected beauty that you find causes you to change your mind so you can save that beauty”. Wendell turns everything from toy tops to elaborate vases and bowls.

Other artist’s on display included: **Castanie** – Drawing, **Danno** – Drawing, **Dave Dvorachek** – Poetry, **Kirk Rodman** – Stained Glass, **Frank Thomas** – Drawing, **Patrick Loftesnes** – Print work, **Tom Miller** – Drawing/Painting, **William Phillips** – Painting, **Marathon Venture Academy Students** – Sculptures (done for our veterans), and 8 others that would like to remain anonymous.



Rodman

### *Welcome Home Persian Gulf Veterans*

Many events center around and feature those who gave their all and express our undying gratitude for their service; but those that came back also deserve our thanks and appreciation—help us welcome these soldiers home too.

The Highground would like to be the place to welcome our newest veterans home. An event to honor these heroes takes more than what The Highground staff can accomplish without YOUR input. Would you like to help bring these veterans to The Highground for a well deserved thank you? Please contact The Highground with your interest and desire to make this possible.



Ziegler

### *Reunion/Education Afternoons:*

The Learning Center will host the following reunion and education afternoons for those interested in hearing more about a particular war and join in on the open conversation about the experiences. Come join us at 2:00pm, Saturdays, for conversation and light snacks with the following topics:

- ◆ April 5: Civil War
- ◆ April 26: Vietnam
- ◆ May 3: WWII
- ◆ July 26: Korean War



## Persian Gulf Tribute Update

For the Veterans of ALL Persian Gulf Conflicts and families of the Fallen: On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> The Persian Gulf Tribute Committee will be meeting for their monthly meeting @ 10:00am upstairs in the Timberframe Gift Shop. All are welcome to attend. At 12 noon, Persian Gulf Tribute Committee members will be available by Persian Gulf Tribute with an informational table for any questions you may have regarding “The Bootprint Tribute” along with the model of the tribute (weather permitting). You will also be given the opportunity to **sign** “The Bootprint Tribute” before the Honor Stones are put in place during April 23-26 work week. If you are interested in donating towards the Tribute, purchasing an Honor Stone to be placed at a later date, or joining the committee, you may do so at this time. There will be a Legacy Stone Placement Ceremony at 1:00pm on the plaza. A Persian Gulf Tribute committee member will be available before, during and for a short time after the ceremony for questions and for Persian Gulf Veteran’s and families of the Fallen to **sign** their Soldiers’ name on “The Bootprint Tribute”. If you are unable to make it on April 19<sup>th</sup> to sign the Tribute, please feel free to stop in when the snow is melted or removed and ask in the Timberframe Gift Shop about signing the Tribute and someone will assist you. We would be honored to have as many Persian Gulf Veterans and families of the Fallen sign their Soldier’s name/s.

Just as the impression of the bootprint symbolically recalls the impression all Persian Gulf servicemen and women have had on the world, so will your names be forever written on “The Persian Gulf Tribute” and we will know they are written by many Veterans who have willingly served to protect our Freedom and the Freedom of so many others.

We Thank ALL of YOU for YOUR SERVICE and SACRIFICES!!!!



## Ride for the Highground Southern California Version



On President’s Day Saturday, February 15, 2014, under partly sunny skies and temps in the 60s, (*versus Highground temp at below zero during the week*) The Highground’s very own Paul Kokosz, committee member for the Persian Gulf Tribute, teamed up with Team Red White and Blue (RWB), a national veterans’ organization whose mission is to assist veterans in integrating into their communities through athletic events and social activities. Together they pedaled down scenic Pacific Coast Highway, from Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station through Malibu on down to Santa Monica pier, raising funds to help with the construction of the Persian Gulf Tribute, but more importantly, to raise awareness of the veterans’ causes – that of veterans helping veterans helping their communities.

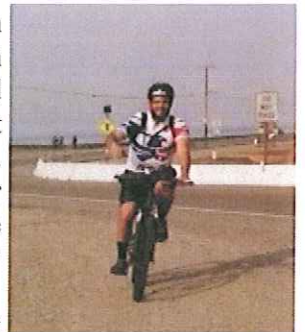
The concept originated with The Highground staff last summer, when the staff’s resident “cheerleader”, Kay Anason, suggested to Paul that he ride out in SoCal like he does in Wisconsin for the annual bike ride in early August. He did the Wisconsin ride, then returned to SoCal, and used his experience to develop a SoCal ride. Teaming with The Highground’s special volunteer admin assistant, Jean Moseley, they put together a ride plan. In the process, they tested some new concepts to be explored for other events held for The Highground, such as a specific on-line donation page for

participants, and utilizing a scan-able image for registration forms that can also be adapted for use on shirts – the image takes folks to The Highground web site – how cool is that! (Modern technology at its best.)

The on-line donation page seems to have worked out well, (donations are still coming in at the time of this writing), and together with checks, the first year goal of \$500 was exceeded. It may not seem like much, but together with an article printed in the Naval base newspaper and with the original intent to raise awareness of veterans’ causes, the ride is deemed a success – it’s the concept of “see what one person with an idea can do”. So for any other Highground friends in other locations, if a ride (or walk or run) is something you’ve been considering, this ride demonstrated it can be done—so just do it!

**Editor’s note:** You can still donate to Paul’s ride at:

<https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/paulkokosz/rideforthehighground-persiangulftribute>



We hope to see and visit with you on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.



## Upcoming Events You Want to Put on Your Calendar

### Attention American Legions, VFW's, and VVA's:

We invite you to join us with your Color Guard at a 2014 Highground event. Please let us know which event(s) you will be able to attend!



### Helicopter & Military Vehicle Expo Saturday, May 17 10am- 4pm



Please join us to get the rare chance to see a Vietnam era UH-1 helicopter up close and personal. Many military vehicles, other helicopters and Vietnam Memorial Caisson will be on display at The Highground as well. This is a family-friendly fun event! There is no admission charge.

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

Maggie Mae to Perform a Benefit Concert for Wisconsin's Persian Gulf Tribute

Maggie Mae & the Heartland Country Band will be performing at the Pittsville School District Auditorium on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 2pm. Tickets for this high-energy country concert, sponsored by Hardee's and Premier Printing, are only \$25.

**Reserved Seating only    Get your tickets ordered Today!  
Call The Highground to Order!**



### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Run Motorcycle Rally

The 4th Annual Fun Run Motorcycle Rally will take place on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. This event draws riders from as far away as Medford, Baraboo and Rice Lake. The Rally will begin at 8:30am from starting points in Neillsville, Boscobel (Readstown) and Tomah. Each group of motorcyclists will tour the countryside separately, eventually meeting and traveling together to The Highground. Please call or email if you would like to take part in the Fun Run or for more information.



### Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 26 1:00 pm

Help celebrate the memory of all those that we have lost in battle and honor the sacrifices of all who have served. The Highground Memorial Day Ceremony will be held Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony will begin after the Fun Run motorcycle rally riders enter The Highground, approximately 1:00pm.

### 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bicycle Tour! August 1-3, 2014

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Highground Bicycle Tour is this year. Everyone is welcome to join the ride and make this the biggest year ever!

Check the website for route leaders and contact information for the existing routes. If you are interested in starting an additional bicycle tour route or for more information, please call The Highground. There are sponsorship opportunities available for businesses that would like to be a part of this historic Bicycle Tour. Contact Theresa at The Highground for more information on sponsor packages.



### Ride to Remember August 15-16, 2014

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride to Remember motorcycle rally event will have a gathering at The Highground on Friday in the evening and the rally will be held on Saturday, with guided rides, silent auctions, raffles and more.

This year, the rally will be even bigger and better, coinciding with "The Wall That Heals" at The Highground. We hope to see you at the rally!





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Skip & Deb Klabon

**Friends of The Highground Spirit  
Award Winners  
Complete coverage next issue.**



## 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. McGlothin  
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  
Jeremiah Collins, Jr.

**KILLED AT  
FORT HOOD**

Amy Krueger  
Russell Seager

**LET THEM NOT GO IN SILENCE**