



# The Highground

Veterans Memorial Park



December 2017

a place for all of us.

## December Learning Center Exhibit

What awesome quilts (all sizes—lap to king) were given to The Highground for the first Patriotic-Quilt Show.

Another great reason to visit The Highground Learning Center and/or purchase your raffle tickets.

There will be many winners to start the new year out warm and comfy!

All Donated quilts/afghans will find new homes—will one come to you? We can't thank the quilters enough for their gorgeous/generous work! YOU help make this fundraiser exhibit a success with your talents!! Thank You all!!!



### Patriotic Quilt Show and Raffle

**Quilters:** You have worked hard and the array of quilts fill the Learning Center. We asked and quilters came through!! Thank you!! Thank you!!

The Drawing is Dec 31, 2017 at noon. End the year on a warm and cozy note.

**Tickets still available in the Gift Shop or by calling 715-743-4224**  
**\$10 each or 3 for \$25**

**Best price in town for these beautiful creations.**  
**We will have as many winners as there are quilts!!**



Thank you donors, for gifts to remember lost loved ones or to honor those still among us!

*In Loving Memory*

**In Memory:**  
Tracy Algers  
Pastor Curtis Everson  
Ted Fetting  
Stan Hutter  
Vilas "Boots" Kraft

Jehu "Sarge" Malone  
Betty Martin  
Bill Munkwitz  
R.J. Novak  
Bill Ruppert  
Dennis Schramm

Bernie Stamm Sr  
Bill Thomas  
SPC John Tollefson  
Roger Werbelow  
June Whitfield  
Richard Wrench

**Honoring:**  
Eisenach Family  
Members who served  
Kirk & Nancy Rodman

**THE 5TH ANNUAL WINTER BOWL!  
FUNDRAISER FOR THE  
HIGHGROUND VETERAN'S WEEKEND**



**Sunday, Jan 28, 2018**

Noon—2:30PM

At ROSE BOWL LANES  
1600 N Central, Marshfield



For \$50 your group (family, friends—up to 6 people) can reserve a lane, balls & shoes from Noon—2:30PM

**Veteran's Organizations and Businesses — Call now to see how you can be a sponsor**

Registration required  
Call The Highground at  
**715-743-4224**

**LANES LIMITED-CALL NOW!**

**Bowling! Door Prizes! Games!  
Silent Auctions!**

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR  
THE HIGHGROUND VETERAN'S WEEKEND  
BEING HELD JULY 13-15, 2018



**Register Now To Bowl For The Highground Veterans Weekend**

Are you a supporter of veterans? Do you like to bowl and win prizes? Sign up now to have fun and raise funds for The Highground Veterans Weekend! This bowling fundraiser will be held Sunday, January 28, 2018 at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield, WI from Noon to 2:30PM.

Be prepared to have lots of fun, win prizes and bid on an exciting array of auction items. There will be something for everyone ... 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 group for the two and a half hour shift - shoes and bowling balls included. Reserve your lane today to help honor the service and sacrifices of our military veterans.

Sponsorships for this event are available for veterans' organizations, businesses and individuals that would like to support the Veterans Weekend Retreat to be held July 13-15, 2018.

Contact The Highground to Reserve Your Lane(s) today!

Sponsored in part by:



Editor's note: Sneaked a peak at some of this years prizes/raffles and silent auction items—a large LED Smart TV; a week's stay at Christmas Mountain in Wisconsin Dells - July 2018; prints; M&M Elvis motorcycle collectibles (cute!) and so much more. You don't have to bowl to enter or bid on any of these items!!

**The Highground 2018 Veterans Weekend—July 13-15, 2018**

**A Gathering of Veterans — An Abundance of Activities, Food, Fun & Camaraderie**

Tentative Schedule:

*"Start by Doing What's Necessary  
Then Do What's Possible  
and  
Suddenly You Are  
Doing the Impossible"  
- St Francis of Assisi*

**Friday July 13th**  
Archery program  
Supper at Neillsville  
American Legion #73  
Evening Highground Tour  
Bonfire at Outdoor Lodge  
Site—Wisconsin Adventures  
on Wheels, Willard WI

**Saturday July 14th**  
Breakfast at WAW  
**DAY-LONG FISHING TRIP!**  
5:30PM - Supper at WAW—  
Venison Feed & Fixin's courtesy of: Skip & Debbie Klabon  
Music & Bonfire



**Sunday July 15th**  
A Day of Fun, Food and Unique Presentations at The Highground  
Closing ceremony and planting a "Warrior's Tree"



**Weekend Lodging**—Bunkhouse and campground (electricity avail.) at lodge site free of charge.  
Stays at area motels are at veteran's own expense.

If you would like more information on attending The Highground Veterans Weekend and/or to register, please contact: The Highground, W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville WI 54437 715-743-4224 events@thehighground.us

This Weekend is for Male Veterans only— from any era & Branch of Service.  
Limited Space—Call to register (A future event will be held for Female Veterans)

**Planning Farther Ahead: 2019 Heroes Ride**

Tom Kingsbury, on his third decade of riding his bicycle for The Highground, will be riding another Heroes Ride in late July 2019 (ending at The Highground on August 4, 2019). Tom is working diligently to get the route, stop locations all planned. Yes, it does take a year to get this organized! If you would like to join Tom on his journey for part of the way, please let us know. If you would like to volunteer in any fashion, please let us know. Tom is training to make the 1500+ miles—a mile for each Wisconsin KIA including Vietnam through the present.

An exciting time to support a huge fundraiser.—Hey Tom Miller (founder of The Highground), are you available to join Tom Kingsbury this time? (We can dust off your old bike from the first ride you did!)





....**New Tires!** The Highground's golf carts needed some TLC. Bill's Tire & Service of **Colby, WI** (*correct city!*) generously provided the tires to one of our golf carts. Bill also was generous enough to donate the new tires on the mule last winter. Mike (our maintenance man) appreciates the tires, as he is the one in charge of this equipment maintenance!

**Thank you Bill!!**



**Have you heard.....**



**Alicia Elgersma has joined the Gift Shop staff.** Her hometown is Greenwood, just 20 minutes from The Highground. She currently is also attending Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, pursuing a degree in dental hygiene. Alicia has four older sisters, three brothers-in-law, and one niece. She tells us she absolutely loves spending time with family and friends! She also really enjoys traveling, having visited ten new states this past year!

"I've been so blessed by working at The Highground, as this is so much more than just a job. Being able to meet and thank so many veterans and hear so many amazing stories truly warms my heart and has given me a deep appreciation for our military and all those who have served. Feel free to stop by and say hi, I would love to meet you!"



**You can order US Flags:** Would you like to be the proud owner of a flag that was flown at The Highground? Or would you like to honor someone special with a flag that was flown at The Highground?

For \$175 you will receive a beautiful flag (5'x9.5') that was flown in your's or someone else's honor, with a certificate of authenticity. It makes a wonderful keepsake and remembrance of your time and support of The Highground Veteran's Memorial Park.

**Take part of The Highground home with you.**

**It is not too late to be invited to The Friends of The Highground Dinner!**

We are still looking for those last few 2017 donors to be invited to The Friends of The Highground Dinner. This year, the dinner will be at the American Legion Post #73 / VFW Post #2241 in Neillsville, WI. The dinner is a way of thanking those generous donors supporting our mission of healing and education. Those with annual cumulative donations in excess of \$1000 will be invited and treated to a special evening including being the first to hear about 2018's goals. 2017 is not over so there is still time to send your tax-deductible contribution to The Highground and receive your invitation.



**HURRY!  
HURRY!  
HURRY!**

**Tickets are available NOW—call today for the best seats in the house—  
Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band Concert - April 7<sup>th</sup> in Pittsville  
Country Music, Fun and Honoring our Veterans**

Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band will be performing at the Pittsville School District Auditorium, Pittsville, WI on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. Maggie Mae is a regular performer on the RFD TV television station. Her home is in Oxford, WI, but she tours the country throughout the year, always finding time to support military veterans and her long list of fans! Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band's show is pure country music with fiddles, guitars, steel guitars, piano, drums, and of course, Maggie's singing!

The concert is reserved seating only. Tickets (\$30 / \$25) go on sale NOW! All ticket purchasers will automatically be entered for an exciting door prize.

There will be raffles and more fun at the show! For more information and to order tickets, please call The Highground at 715-743-4224.



### Learning Center Display Schedule:

It's that time again! The weather is getting colder and we are looking at snow. Mother nature has put the plants to bed, to prepare for a beautiful spring next year.

Are you ready for our "PATRIOTIC QUILTS" display, quilt raffle and the HONOR CHRISTMAS TREE (many tags still available) in December?

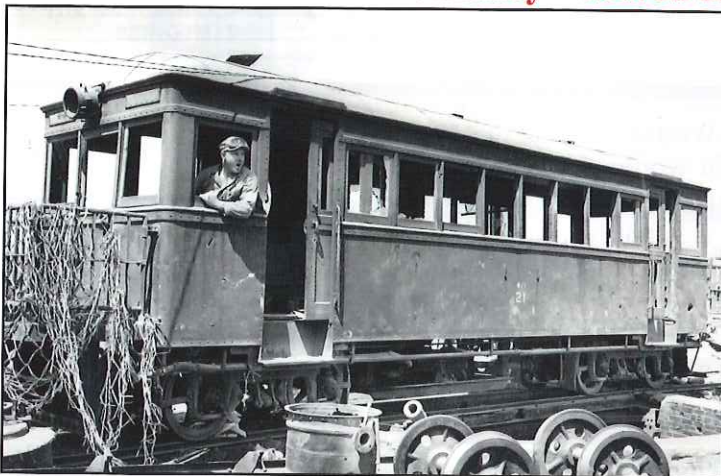
2018 promises to be another exciting year with some great new exhibits that you are invited to enjoy:

- Jan – March Working Warriors & Military Mascots
- April - May Lao Hmong display
- June – July U.S Flag History
- August WWII Pacific Theater/ Iwo Jima
- Sept – Nov Highground History
- December Not Home for Christmas

### Learning Center updates:

- ⇒ The Learning Center, is looking at new colors for the walls to update the look and make exhibits more appealing to visitors.
- ⇒ The Learning Center library has updated the book lending system. With the books entered into the computer in the library (thank you, volunteers, for all the help working with this project) it will be easier for people to find and check out books.
- ⇒ New in the library is the FINAL BRIDGE LIST: Wisconsin's Vietnam losses and where their final resting place is located, is now on the library computer for all to view and find their comrades/friends/family.

## January—March Learning Center Exhibits



**Working Warriors: Military Life Beyond Combat** exhibit features the almost 75% of military work that is considered non-combat. These roles rarely make the headlines, but are vital to every military operation. Exploring the non-combat roles of military service personnel, including work as beauticians, military police, dentists, mechanics, and photographers, this exhibit showcases an often overlooked but highly relatable side of military life.



**Fur, Feathers and Fidelity: Military Mascots** exhibit features mascots and their important service in the military. Whether a lion, a monkey, or a dog, military mascots are a source of pride and morale for troops.

## The Military Working Dog Tribute

We were so close!!! And then came the rain, then snow... Landscaping once again needed to be put on hold until the spring. With that said, the dedication of this beautiful Military Working Dog Tribute is going to be Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 1:00pm.

The Board of Directors have approved black polished granite blocks to be placed upright on the tribute's base. For \$150, a line can be created to list the handler's name, their dog's name and conflict. This is a work-in-progress. As enough names are gathered to complete a block, the order will be sent to the engraver and purchasers will be notified when the block will be installed. Listing on the blocks will be first come—first listed.

The Board has also approved the \$525 donation for the 12"x12"x2" honor stones that will become the base of the Tribute's surrounding area. At this time, no placement dates have been set—but we are getting close.

**Applications for both recognitions on the tribute are available now!**

### Military Working Dog Tribute One-Line Recognition Application

Committee Mission Statement:

Memorial to all working military dogs (scout, sentry and tracker) and their handlers for their sacrifice and service in protecting the liberties of the United States of America.

Many lives were touched and saved by the work of dogs and dog handlers during conflicts. Be it the work of a scout dog, sentry dog, or tracker dog — the efforts of these animals and their handlers made a profound impact on our military and it's mission.



The goal is to honor all Military personnel and their dogs who have served in conflicts past, present, and continuing. We hope this provides a place of healing for those affected by these wars, and educate others regarding the effects of these wars on everyone.



The one-line recognition will be engraved on a polished black granite stone on a first come basis. The stone will be engraved once all lines are purchased.



Inscribed with the following (only letters, numbers, & spaces will be used):

Dog's name and serial #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handler's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 War/Conflict: \_\_\_\_\_

A confirmation letter will be sent once the plaque is complete and installed.

## Final 2017 Honor Tree Session



Don't forget, this year's Christmas Honor Tree will be in the Learning Center, so you won't have to trudge through the snow to see your honorees tags.

All are invited to the lighting of the tree in the Learning Center on December 15, 2017 at 3:00pm. An Open House at the Learning Center will be held from 3-5pm. The tree will remain lit until January 13, 2018.

Although there are only 22 trees for a full year's sessions, there is still plenty of room to get your veteran a special tag on the Christmas Tree session by calling 715-743-4224 or email Julie at [learningcenter@thehighground.us](mailto:learningcenter@thehighground.us) to get your veteran an honor tag for the Christmas Tree in the Learning Center.

### 2017 Christmas Honor Tree List as of 11/15/2018 (tags still available)

- ⇒ Ken Smith – From your Family
- ⇒ Dennis Schattschneider—From Carl, Kelly, Emma, Lilly, & CJ
- ⇒ Dennis Schattschneider—From Karen Niedfeldt & Family
- ⇒ In Memory – Colleen Fry Ristau & All Veterans spouses—From Wayne Ristau
- ⇒ Don, Bill, Jim Buss & Jim Fizzle—From Mary, Laurie, Tim, Mike, Laura, Rylee & Owen
- ⇒ Edwin Lloyd Jr. —From Edwin Sr. & Bev Lloyd
- ⇒ Thomas “Blackie” Bednarek—From Chad Bednarek
- ⇒ Honoring Loucks Men—From Ma & Pa
- ⇒ MSgt. Lee A. Webb Jr.—From your family
- ⇒ Theodore Lawton—Love from Kent Lawton & Family
- ⇒ Terry McGivern—From Heather & Joanne McGivern
- ⇒ John McGivern—From Heather & Joanne McGivern
- ⇒ Tom Doan
- ⇒ Lewis Deegan—From Connie Deegan
- ⇒ John, Hazel, Belinda & Kyrie Novotny, Brenda Evans and Zoey Johanson—From John & Hazel
- ⇒ Louis Hentz—With Gratitude- Bill, Kay, Jeremy, Jason & Alica Hentz
- ⇒ Drew Chesebro—From Mike & Kathy Sevallius
- ⇒ Trevor Diesing—Love- Your Family
- ⇒ Glen “Pete” Johnson—From his Family
- ⇒ Roy R. & Gerald G. Schmidt—Thanks, Donald Schmidt
- ⇒ In memory of: Mark Klabon, US Army Our hearts still hurt from losing you, dear brother—From Skip and Debbie
- ⇒ In memory of: Arnie Erickson, USMC, Vietnam Vet, Semper Fi, my cousin and friend. You are always in our hearts.—From Skip and Debbie
- ⇒ In Honor of LeRoy Thelen & Stewart Elwing II—From Steven Koenigs
- ⇒ Ken DeFoe —From Mary DeFoe
- ⇒ Mitch Knase —From Mary DeFoe

### Many trees still available for 2018 sessions

**2017 Honoring Our Veterans Annual Raffle Congratulations Raffle Winners!**

*...And the winners are:*



**Quilt:** William Lobeck  
Viola, WI



**Painting:** Rae Kohn  
Medford, WI



**Eagles:** Steve Jones  
Fitchberg, WI



**\$100 Gift Certificate:**  
Al Laughlin  
Neillsville, WI



If you are or know of a veteran that makes *anything* they would like to sell and/or is interested in a small business, please contact us to be included in an upcoming “**Veterans Art & Business Expo**” scheduled for June 2018. There will be information on getting your “hobby” into business mode. Get exposure and talk to others about starting your small business.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Jon at [director@thehighground.us](mailto:director@thehighground.us).

More information will be coming as we hear from you.



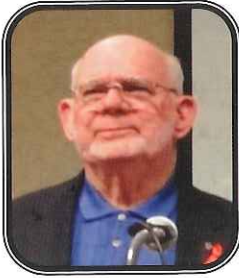
Winter Clothing & Non-Perishable Food Drive for Veterans & Needy Families

Wisconsin in December.

**Thank you everyone that brought these needed items.**



**Collected:** The Highground once again collected warm clothing and non-perishable food through November. The items will be distributed to homeless and needy veterans and families in Central Wisconsin in December.



CW King,  
Board Chair

**Message from the Board Chair....** The Highground Board of Directors met on Saturday October 10/28/2017 so I am using this opportunity to bring everyone up to date on the state of The Highground. The BOD discussed where we are with the plans for a Welcome Center, and while we are in agreement that we will not be building a welcome center as once planned, we are in agreement that we will need to do something to continue to focus more on our mission of healing and education. The plans for exactly how we will do this, remain fluid at this time. We feel we need more space to provide PTSD counseling as we continue to have people request this much needed service on site. The Board discussed several items of maintenance that you will hear more about as the planning for next spring's annual work week continues.

We had a report from the Clark County Forester about what we need to do to maintain our standing timber. He will be bringing a complete report, hopefully at our January meeting. Finally, the Board discussed the need to recruit more new members. January is our organizational meeting, and we likely have at least one member who will be leaving the Board. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, or know someone who may be interested, contact Jon at The Highground office and he will explain the expectations for a Board Member. Difficult as it is to believe, some of us are getting on in years and new members are always needed. —CW



Jon Weiler,  
General Manager

**Message from the General Manager...** Winter is almost here. The chill in the air is a sharp awakening that it is time to get out the cold weather gear. It doesn't make any difference how prepared for this season we are, it is going to slap us in the face anyway, so may as well get ready because, as we used to say as kids, "Ready or not, here I come!"

The Highground has had an extremely successful 2017 and is really excited about 2018. Our calendar of events is set so make sure you check out details on the website at [thehighground.us](http://thehighground.us) or (most preferably), stop in and grab the schedule from one of our very welcoming staff or Volunteers.

We are so blessed to have this incredible Staff and amazing group of Volunteers!

The Highground Board of Directors (BOD) has met several times since August to discuss where we are going to go in the future. We have talked about our needs and how we can focus more on our mission of healing and education. Many of you are aware that we planned on building a new Welcome Center. In September we received the final bid for the project and it came in at \$2.5 million dollars, which was way beyond what anyone had expected. The BOD unanimously agreed that we could not be fiscally responsible if we went forward with this project.

The BOD asked the Staff what we felt was needed to ensure that we were putting our emphasis on our mission of healing and education. We determined that we need private counseling offices for PTSD counseling; a larger meeting room to accommodate 75–150 people; better parking; and storage for our equipment. We are still in discussion as to how to achieve these needs but rest assured we will be letting everyone know once a decision is made and that we WILL be doing it within our means.

Another area of discussion has been the necessity to recruit new Board Members. As CW so graciously said in his letter from the Chairman of the Board, "some of us are getting on in years and new members are always a good idea". We are looking for veterans who have a valid DD214, can come to 4 quarterly meetings a year and would be committed to our mission of healing and education. If you have any interest or questions about potentially becoming a member of The Highground Board of Directors, please feel free to contact me or any of the staff at 715-743-4224 or email me a [director@thehighground.us](mailto:director@thehighground.us).

I hope and pray that you all have a joyful and Blessed Christmas. Remember that HE is the Reason for the Season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you all next year! —Jon



Now find us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial)

Website: [www.thehighground.us](http://www.thehighground.us)

## Board of Directors

CW King, Chair (Chippewa Falls, WI)  
Beth E. Martin, Vice-Chair (WI Rapids)  
Scott Kissinger, Sec. (WI Rapids, WI)  
Don Quicker, Treasurer (Neillsville, WI)  
Bob Barth (Neillsville, WI)  
Jim Fox (Elk Mound, WI)  
Leonard Frye (Richland Center, WI)  
Al Lamovec (Chippewa Falls, WI)  
Bill Lobeck (Viola, WI)  
Steve Maddox (Chippewa Falls, WI)  
Bob Solberg (Neillsville, WI)  
Gary Weirauch (Neillsville, WI)

## For More Information Contact

W7031 Ridge Rd.  
PO Box 457  
Neillsville, WI 54456  
Phone: 715-743-4224  
Fax: 715-743-4228  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial)  
Web: [www.thehighground.us](http://www.thehighground.us)  
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

General Manager	Jon Weiler
Gift Shop Manager	Deb Roedel
Event/Volunteer Coord	Theresa Hebert
Donation Coordinator	Kay Anason
Learning Center	Julie Dallman
Maintenance	Mike Purgett
Gift Shop	Brenda Vanderhoof
Gift Shop	Alicia Elgersma

## Notices/Information—Bulletin Board **Important Resources for Veterans & Their Families**

### Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

### PTSD Assistance

Tomah VA  
608-372-1651

### Wisconsin Vet Benefits Resource Center

1-800-947-8387  
wisvets.com

### VetCenter of LaCrosse

20 Copeland Ave  
LaCrosse, WI 54603  
608-782-4403  
877-927-8387

### Vets4Warriors

Personalized Peer Support 24/7  
vets4warriors.com  
855-838-8255

### VetCenter of Wausau

605 S 24th Ave Ste 24  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715-842-1724  
877-927-8387

[www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org) 1-800-vva-1316

### Your county veteran service officer

(Let us know if you found positive assistance at other places that we could share with our readers.)

Thanks to generous donors, The Highground is able to continue its mission of healing and education by offering books to those veterans and families that feel they are dealing with PTSD. With a handshake and promise, we would like to help you take a further step towards understanding and healing.

*Please visit us.*



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Tomah VA Residential Combat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) program.

Coming home from war can present challenges for the returning military service member and veterans. Some service members or veterans struggle to find their way back home and get stuck in a rut. A service member or veteran can often start to feel isolated, broken, constantly on guard, and struggle to participate in daily situations (e.g. going to restaurant, time with family, going shopping). This can become something known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). There is help available to assist eligible veterans.

Many service members or veterans have tried outpatient counseling or therapy. Are you looking for that next step? If so, there is another option available; the Tomah VA has a Residential Combat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) program. This 9 week residential program has been serving local Wisconsin and out of state combat veterans for many decades. The program is designed to help them combat their struggles with PTSD and related difficulties. This 13 bed program provides intensive PTSD treatment for veterans whom served in various tours of War such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Desert Storm, Vietnam, Korea, and so forth. Each veteran whom comes to our program becomes part of the community. They often feel part of something again as they bond with fellow brothers and sisters. Our veterans report feeling like they are back in their unit or squad again. They often tell us how comfortable they feel with the staff here as they receive intensive individual and group treatment. They get opportunities to fight their triggers directly through structured exercises. They also tell us that it's hard work to do the program but tell us it's worth it in the end as they feel better after they have been through it.

The Tomah VA Residential Combat PTSD Program participates in treatment activities in the community. The Highground has been part of those activities for the last 15 years. Maybe you are considering getting some help for yourself? Maybe you're a family member who is looking for help for your veteran? Maybe you have been to the program before and are on the fence about coming back for some more help? Give us a call. For more info, please call our admission coordinator at (608) 372-1758.

## New direct emails for The Highground staff!

To contact the General Manager, **Jon**, please email at [director@thehighground.us](mailto:director@thehighground.us)

For More information in regards to Stone purchases, Donations, Raffles, Grants please email **Kay** at [info@thehighground.us](mailto:info@thehighground.us)

For More information on Events (including event sponsors), Tours, Volunteering, email **Theresa** at [events@thehighground.us](mailto:events@thehighground.us)

For More information on the Store merchandise, Shipping, Ordering please email **Deb** at [store@thehighground.us](mailto:store@thehighground.us)

For More information on the Exhibits, Honor Trees, Exhibit Rentals (My War; Remembering our Fallen, etc) please contact **Julie** at [learningcenter@thehighground.us](mailto:learningcenter@thehighground.us)

**ALL can still be contacted via phone at: 715-743-4224**

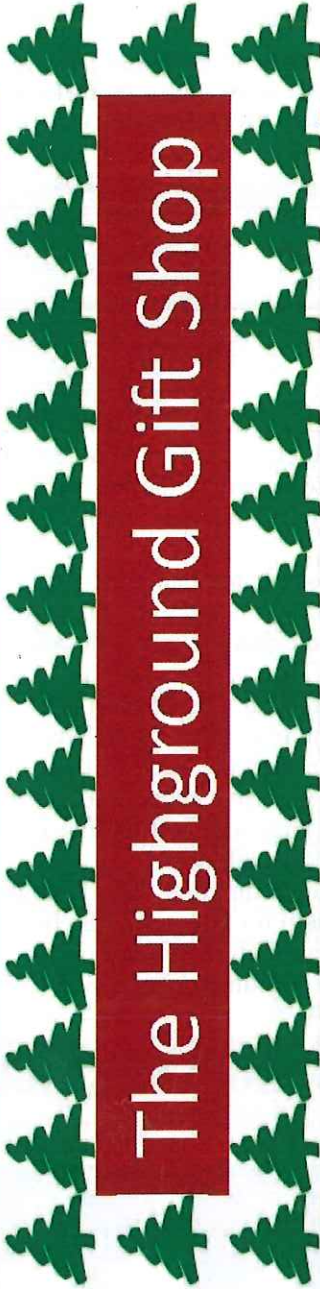
## IT WASN'T JUST AGENT ORANGE:

The Rainbow Herbicides of the Vietnam War Era



AGENT GREEN 245-T	AGENT PINK 245-T	AGENT PURPLE 24-D, 245-T	AGENT BLUE Crocidic Acid	AGENT WHITE 24-D, Fidemm	AGENT ORANGE 24-D, 245-T
USED: 1962	USED: 1961-1963	USED: 1962-1965	USED: 1966-1972	USED: 1966-1972	USED: 1965-1970
PURPOSE: Defoliation of Jungle Vegetation	PURPOSE: Defoliation of Jungle Vegetation	PURPOSE: Defoliation of Jungle Vegetation	PURPOSE: Crop Destruction	PURPOSE: Defoliation of Jungle Vegetation	PURPOSE: Defoliation of Jungle Vegetation
IN VIETNAM: 265 drums (20,856 gallons)	IN VIETNAM: 1,315 drums (72,256 gallons)	IN VIETNAM: 12,475 drums (685,474 gallons)	IN VIETNAM: 29,330 drums (1,611,639 gallons)	IN VIETNAM: 104,860 drums (5,738,538 gallons)	IN VIETNAM: 208,350 drums (11,417,272 gallons)

We have established an Endowment Fund for the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc. a/k/a The Highground. We would appreciate your consideration in your future financial planning. Contact us for more information.


**The Highground Gift Shop**



**\$37.95-\$39.95**



Short Sleeve \$17.95-\$21.95  
Long Sleeve \$20.95-\$24.95



**\$24.95-\$26.95**

**Stocking Stuffers!**  
**Leather Keychain, Dog Tag \$6.95,**  
**Money Clip \$10.95**  
**Challenge Coins \$12.95**  
**LED Stylus Pen \$3.95**



**\$33.95-\$36.95**



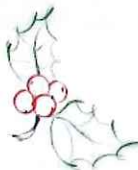
**\$42.95--\$44.95**



Short Sleeve \$16.95-\$20.95  
Long Sleeve \$20.95-\$23.95



**\$14.95**



**\$9.95**



**\$14.95**



**\$10.95**



**\$12.95**



**\$12.95**



**Books \$14.95**



**1 lb \$8.95**

**2 lbs \$16.95**



**Lao Mountain Coffee:**



**\$12.95--\$21.95**



**\$24.95**



**\$29.95 - \$35.95**

**Open all Year**  
**Winter Hours: Nov 5, 2017 to March 11, 2018**  
**Monday-Sunday 10am-4pm**  
 Visit our website at [www.thehighground.us](http://www.thehighground.us)  
 Call us for help in ordering or shipping: 715-743-4224  
 Email us at [store@thehighground.us](mailto:store@thehighground.us)

**FREE shipping**  
**on all orders over \$50.00**  
**Dec 1 through Dec 23**





# MADE IN THE USA ITEMS In the HIGHGROUND GIFT SHOP



\$14.95



\$21.95



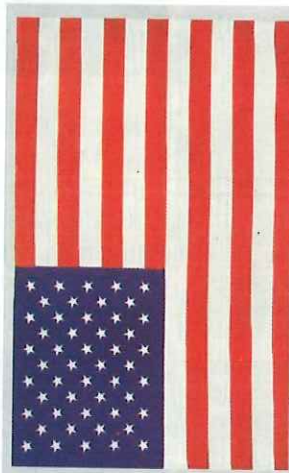
\$19.95



\$34.95



\$56.95



Embroidered 3x5 \$19.95



\$68.95



\$19.95-29.95



\$10.95



\$3.50



\$10.95



\$29.95



\$74.95-149.95





# The Highground Fall Fest

## Motorcycle Show and Chili Cook-Off



The Highground Fall Fest Car & Motorcycle Show, Chili Cook-Off and Bake Sale, sponsored by Central WI Broadcasting, Gross Motors and Domine Automotive, was held on Saturday, October 7th. Over \$1,800 was raised by this event, with an additional \$800 raised by a raffle organized by the Kokosz family of Chicago, IL.

Thirteen Chili Cook-Off participants had their chili and table displays judged by Jonathan Meyer, Joe Wiers and Inge Hawks.



Winners of the Chili Cook-Off: Judge's 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Erika Ferron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Kristina Talford, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Bob Lange; Popular Vote of Visitors 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jerome Lang, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Howard Rennhack, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Kristina Talford. Jerome Lang also won Best Presentation for his table display!



A special thank you to all that donated Baked Goods for the Fall Fest Bake Sale—many, many volunteers and the Pittsville American Legion Auxiliary Palmer-Ritchie-Thomas Post #153 for a TON of baked goods.

“Best of Show”, “Mayor’s Trophy” and “Oldest Vehicle” went to Al and Lynda Hajdasz for their 1936 Plymouth Coupe.



The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Highground Car & Motorcycle Show had a lower number of registered vehicles than previous years due to rain. Craig Johnson of HOG Corner’s Customs, Charlie Frey, Jim Fox and Neillville Mayor Mabie judged the entries.

Show participants and people who purchased chili were also able to vote for their favorite vehicles in a separate judging category.



Mark and Karen LaMourea won “Best Stock” and “Furthest Driven” (265 miles) for their 1971 Chevy Chevelle SS 454. The “Best Modified” trophy was won by Mark Gosh for his 1970 Chevy pickup. “Show Participant Choice” was a trophy voted on by those who entered vehicles in the Car & Motorcycle Show. This year’s “Show Participant Choice” trophy was awarded to Harlan Schmidt and his 1948 Chevy 1/2 ton pickup. The “Chili Choice” trophy voted on by Chili Cook-Off visitors was won by Bruce Johnson for his 1957 Ford Fairlane.



A new trophy this year, “Special Interest” was awarded to Odell Nelson for his 1944 Chevrolet Fire pumper truck.



“Best of Show Motorcycle” and “Oldest Cycle” was awarded to Dave Zien, sole motorcycle participant!



## Diversity Days Sept 26 & 27, 2017

Over 500 students from eleven schools attended Diversity Days. The presentations help students learn about different cultures; compassion and tolerance by learning and experiencing the struggles of others; history of key parts of The Highground and Wisconsin; experiencing unique arts, music and activities.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ah Da Wah Gam chapter presented a flag retirement ceremony and history of the US flag to all of the students each day.



### Presentations included:

- ♦Gavin Teter bagpipes
- ♦DAR – Ah-Da-Wa-Gam chapter
- ♦David Koch-Independent Living
- ♦Henry Smith–Woodcarving & Highground history
- ♦Lao Veterans of America – Lao Hmong culture
- ♦Cummins Inc. – Culture of China and Mexico
- ♦Personal Development Center
- ♦Linda Imler - AKF Martial Arts Academy
- ♦Joan Johannes “Hearing your Own Drummer” – Wood Instruments
- ♦Jean Dowiasch – MVAC – Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center of UW – La Crosse
- ♦David Giffey – Vietnam Veteran, artist & designer of The HG’s Effigy Dove Mound Tribute
- ♦Julie Dallman – Highground Learning Center Coordinator – Writing cards/ letters of Appreciation and Thanks to Veterans



## Fifth Grade Days – October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

A RECORD number of Students! 864 Fifth Grade students from 17 schools and



additional home-schooled students! Students and their accompanying adults (many of them veterans) received guided tours of the Highground and a presentation of flag etiquette and ceremonial flag. The Highground was happy to host students from: Loyal, St Anthony’s (Loyal), Thorp, Red Creek (Black River Falls), Gilman, Lincoln (Marshfield), Augusta, Our Savior’s, Colby, Pittsville, Greenwood, Abbotsford, Neillsville, Owen-Withee, Lincoln (Alma Center–Merrillan–Humbird), Stanley-Boyd, Longfellow (Eau Claire), plus many



home-schooled students throughout the area!



*Thank you, sponsors: Skip & Debbie Klabon, Al & Nancy Prehn, Kwik Trip, Tommy's Hilltop, Bushman Dairy and David Eulberg.*

## Wisconsin Department of Corrections Holds Veterans Day Observance at the Highground



The Highground was honored by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections that again held their annual Veterans Day Observance on our grounds. The ceremony was held on Fri., Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> with several hundred WI Dept. of Corrections employees and their families from across the state attending.

Randy Hepp, Warden at Fox Lake Corr. Inst. gave the “Welcome” to begin the ceremony. The Stanley Corr. Inst. Honor Guard presented the colors. Myron Olson, Chaplain at Jackson Co. Corr. Inst., led a prayer for veterans. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students from Neillsville Elementary Gold Star mother and

School recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Sandy Hautamaki, Deputy Warden of Redgranite Corr. Inst., sang the National Anthem. Highground General Manager, Jon Weiler, welcomed the crowd to The Highground.

Honored guest speakers were Jon E. Litscher, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and Col. David J. Monk, US Army (Ret.)



The Wisconsin service men and women who have died while fighting in the Persian Gulf area (Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan) were remembered. These fallen service members’ names were read by SSGT Jeff Baldovin and SSGT Kevin Pigman, both of the WI National Guard, and the Liberty Bell was rung by SCI staff members, Joseph Krug and Jarod Johnson. The reading was followed by a rifle salute from the Neillsville American Legion #73 & VFW #2241. “Taps” was performed by Dan Winkleski, Deputy Warden, WI Secure Program Facility.



Those attending the ceremony were served a lunch at the Neillsville American Legion Post #73 & VFW Post # 2241 afterwards. The WI Dept of Corrections thanks Post #73 & Post #2241 for their hospitality and service.

**Thank You!**



Stop in to see our new stained glass gift. Thank you Julie Slabey—it is 5'x2.5' of awesome!

**Thank You!**



One of two awesome large paintings—original artwork by Rod Bearcloud Berry donated to us from Perkie K. of Oconomowoc, WI. Do you see the spirits? Very detailed and the 3-D matting is indescribable. We have the artist proof as well. Looking for an art collector. (This piece is 24 of 50—signed.)

**Two vets that come through for The Highground over & over!**



**Tim Dallman**—a wonderful woodworker (come see our cabinets) and many other items needed or staff has requested to be done.

**Ken Jennings**—always available and willing to help with porch greeting, putting up tents for events, loaning us HIS tent for events or removing trees —Ken has his tools, his smile, a story or two and his wife Wanda that comes along to make sure the jobs get done.

**Thank you gentlemen and Wanda** —we are truly appreciative for all your work and help, regardless of the weather!

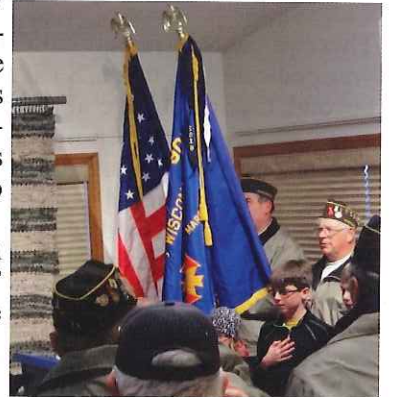
# Veterans Day Ceremony Held at The Highground



The Highground held its Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. At Noon, the names of over 2,000 Wisconsin KIAs/MIAs from the Korean War to present day were read and honored with the tolling of the Liberty Bell.



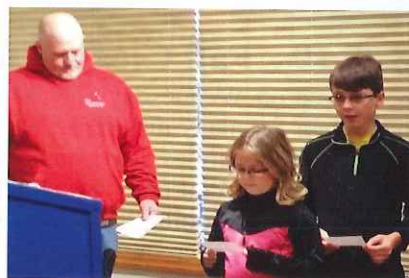
The Veterans Day ceremony was held at 3:00pm. The Liberty Bell was rung 21 times by members of Boy Scout Troop #43 at the start of the ceremony. The Thorp VFW #9057 presented the colors and rifle salute during the ceremony. An invocation and "Welcome to the Highground" was presented by The Highground's General Manager, Jon Weiler. The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem were led by students from Rural Virtual Academy. RVA students also read poems honoring veterans.



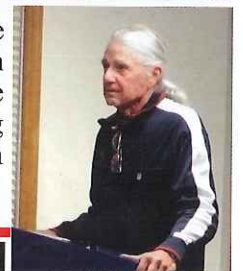
Al and Martha Palmer read 100 names of WI men and women KIA / MIA. This was followed by a rifle salute by the Thorp VFW and "Taps" performed by Seth Genteman, of Loyal High School. A "talking circle" was held following the ceremony.



Guest speaker, Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Black, US Army (Ret.) covered many aspects of why and how we honor veterans on Veterans Day. He also related personal stories from his own experience and those of his family on the difficulties after returning from service and the importance of reaching out for assistance if needed.



Steve Maddox, Vietnam veteran and member of The Highground Board of Directors, read a selection of poems from his 2-volume collection "Rhapsody in Olive Drab". These books are available at the Highground, with all proceeds going to The Highground's PTSD book program for veterans. (Both volumes can be obtained for a \$26 total donation.)



## JUST ARRIVED

New 3-D Laser cut ornaments on cherry wood, made by a veteran available in the Gift Shop. \$14.95



The 2017 Honor Stone ceremonies filled quickly—thank you for the support!

Notice of price changes: stones have not had a price increase in over eight years, but the costs continue to rise for obtaining the stones and engraving. Therefore, prices will be changed January 1, 2018. Those purchasing the stones before then will receive 2017's current prices.

Currently, stones and prices are the following:

- Legacy Stone (gray on the plaza walkways) \$435
- Meditation Stone (red in the Meditation Garden shelter) \$500
- Korean Honor Stone (polished black in the Korean Tribute) \$575
- Persian Gulf Honor Stone (sand in the Persian Gulf Tribute) \$600
- Military Working Dog Honor Stone (base around tribute) \$525
- MWD & Handler Names only (one line on tribute itself) \$150

These prices will remain until December 31, 2017, regardless of when you dedicate the stone. So if you are thinking of a gift for 2018 and beyond, take advantage of this notice now before prices increase.

There are five types of honor stones to consider at The Highground. Legacy Stones are placed on our walkway; Meditation Stones are limited in number and will be placed on the floor of the Meditation Garden Shelter; Korean Honor Stones are placed in the Korean Tribute walkway; Persian Gulf Honor Stones are placed in the Bootprint of the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute; and Military Working Dog Stones placed around the Tribute's base.

2018 Stone Ceremony Dates

Legacy Stones

- \*April 21
- \*May 19
- \*June 16
- \*July 21
- \*Aug 18
- \*Sept 15
- \*Oct 6



Korean Stones

- \*June 16



Persian Gulf Stones

- \*July 21



Meditation Stones

- \*Sept 15



Military Working Dog Tribute area stones do not have a scheduled placement date as of this printing.



October - 18 & 19 - Fall Clean-Up Days

Approximately 65 people on Wednesday and 50 people on Thursday came to volunteer for many different Clean Up jobs. We had great weather, bright smiles and fantastic lunches (thanks, Bonnie & Betty!) Important tasks were completed to get ready for Winter including: re-doing the rock walls by the WWII and W.A.S.P. tributes; trimming plants; building a much-needed storage area in the Learning Center garage; trail work; cleaning; mail preparation and more!



**Wish Lists — Donations Needed—Can you help?**

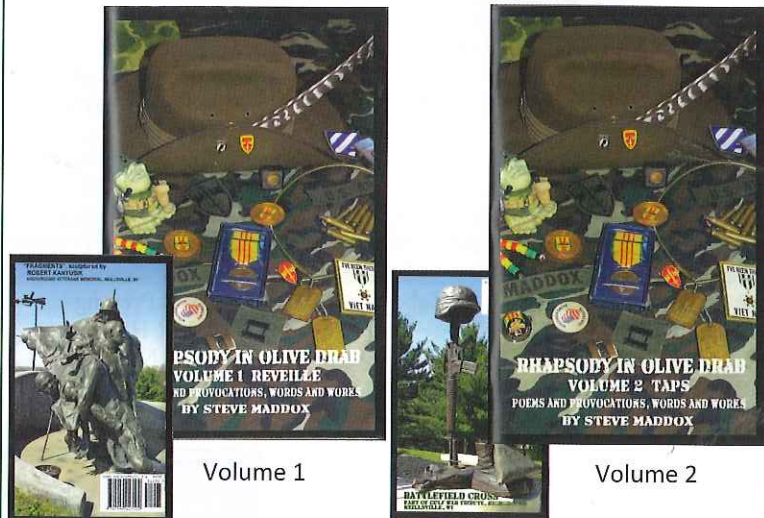
**URGENT Immediate Needs:**

- Funds for re-usable signs for Event Sandwich Boards: \$200
- iPod and Speakers for Gift Shop: \$300
- Desktop computer/monitor: \$1000
- 30' Flag Pole: \$800
- Funds for 5th Grade Days--*Thanks* —they enjoyed it!
- Brush Hog: *Thanks*
- 1 or 2 more used/new 4 or 6 passenger golf carts for visitors:  
*Thanks for six carts and \$500 so far for another cart!*  
*(More visitors mean more needed)*
- Pathway Lights to Persian Gulf Tribute: 5 @ \$1000/each
- Endowment Fund Donors: Goal: \$5 million
- Memorials: Honor your loved ones
- Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 9 more @ \$4000/each
- Highway road sign needs solar charger or digital sign: \$2600
- PTSD Books: Help us help them!!
- Lights for Native American Tribute: *Thanks*
- Learning Center wish list
- Command Picture & Frame Hanging Strips: *Thanks*
- Sony HDR-CX405/B Full HD 60p Camcorder w/tri-pod: \$260
- Small 12V Screwdriver for projects: *Thanks*
- 43" TV: *Thanks*
- 6.5'x12' trailer: *Thanks*
- 6 Gallons interior paint: \$250
- Painters tape, rollers, brushes, drop cloths: \$60
- 1 or 2 more male mannequins for uniform displays: \$109 ea.
- VCR/DVD combo player: \$300
- Lumber for new bookcases & TV area \$1200



**Rhapsody in Olive Drab by Steve Maddox**

Volume 1 "Reveille" and volume 2 "Taps" contains over eighty pages of original works. Steve is a volunteer board member, published poet and supporter of the PTSD program at The Highground. All proceeds of these books will be donated to The Highground. The set of books is \$26 and Steve has offered to sign any copies upon request. Please send your donation indicating which volume (or both—*recommended*) you would like to receive or call the Gift Shop to place your order.



**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 Dec 2017

**Please send me information about:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Upcoming Events & Fundraising Calendar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Honor Stones on The Highground
- \_\_\_\_\_ Add someone to the newsletter mailing list  
(please send name and address of whom you would like to give a gift subscription)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Booking information for "My War" exhibit or "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer opportunities on site
- \_\_\_\_\_ Please add me to the Work Week mailings  
(I am available to help)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like your newsletter emailed

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

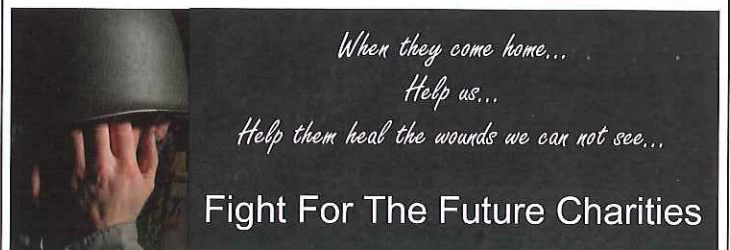
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Questions or Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

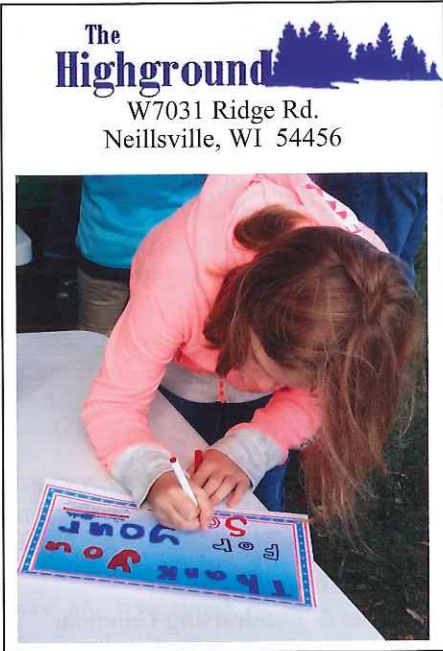
**Strictly Country Fundraiser**

Strictly Country Magazine created "Fight For The Future Charities", (FFFC). Entertainers are asked to autograph Christmas ornaments and donate other items to raise funds for various charitable organizations. These items are available Now thru Dec 31st and will help The Highground Veteran's Memorial Park to raise funds for Veterans and their families.

Please visit <http://www.strictly-country.com/fffcharities.html>



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## Honor Our Fallen

The Highground remembers and honors all who have served; in times of combat and in times of peace. All veterans of any era have, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount up to and including their life." As we recognize those among us who are veterans, we recognize that they and their families have in many different ways been affected by their service. Many positive qualities and sometimes hardships result from signing that blank check. Over 26,000 Wisconsin men and women have given their lives in service to our country. As a tangible reminder of ALL of them, here is a selection of names that will change in each future newsletters. (This is not a list of ALL that have given their lives in these combat areas.)

**Let us remember and honor those who perished during their service and let them not go in silence.**

<b>(WWII)</b>	Arvo Erickson	Donald Jaskulske	Anthony J	Ronald D Golden	Paul J Sturino
Merlin Douglas	Robert Fancher	Kenneth Jensen	Wieckowicz	James J Gunderson	Rachel K Bosveld
Arthur Draeving	Lewis Foris	Donald Jentzsch	Donald P Johnson	William A Patterson	Warren S Hansen
Lloyd Erickson	David Francisco	Raymond Jesko	Robert R Rades	Donald J Severson	Jeremy L Wolfe
Harry Hebard	John Frankie	Theodore Johnsbury	Lyman C Bach	John C Shellum	Eugene A Uhl III
Francis Hovorka	Walter Furtak	Edmund Johnson	Lawrence C Dobrenz	Howard D Strouse	Christopher J Splinter
Edward Prasil	Wilmer Goldinger	Ervin Johnson	Lin A Mahner	David W Kmetz	Robert J Cook
Ralph Romell	Elgen Henquinette	George Jones Jr	William H Hanson	Dennis R Gustafson	Nichole M Frye
Otto Smith	Fred Hirtreiter	John Jones IV	Dennis Eitel		Bert E Hoyer
Glen Soley	Bruno Hmielewski	Kenneth Jones	Frank Zyzdik Jr	<b>(Desert Storm, Iraq,</b>	John F Kurth
Ralph Tuttle	Roscoe Hosmer	George Jorgensen	Robert A Heiser	<b>Afghanistan—</b>	Sean M Schneider
James Wallace		Raymond Jose	Leo J Ludvigsen Jr	<b>Present Day)</b>	Jesse L Thiry
William Wrezinski	<b>(Korea)</b>		Allan F Berweger	Kevin Calloway	Ryan M Jerabek
Richard Ackley	William Hotchkiss	<b>(Vietnam)</b>	Marvin L Erickson	Rocky Nelson	Michelle M Witmer
Norman Anderson	Oliver Hottenstein	Larry D Milling	Keith B Janke	Lance Monsen	Michael A
Edmund Bogart	Eugene Houle	Ronald J Mahoney	Thomas J Sturgal	Scott Schroeder	McGlothlin
Herman Bonitz	Harvey House	Dennis L Klimpke	Merlin R Allen	Brian Scott	Charles A Kiser
Roy Brindley	Bernard Howe	James R Neubauer	James W Hessing	William Strehlow	Stephen G Martin
Lawrence Craig	Joseph Howell	Gary H Brux	Melvin W Gunderson	Michael Fitz	Adrian V Soltau
Lyle Curtis	Ronald Huebner	Duane A Novobielski	Peter P Polak	Cheryl LaBeau-	Andrew Halverson
Edwin Dyrness	Glen Huff	John L Rueth	Roy R Kubley	O'Brien	Daniel R Wyatt
Eugene Brinker	Gene Ingram	Leroy W Cwikla	Raymond T Heyne	Daniel Joel	Shane K O'Donnell
Ray Bushaw	James Iverson	Jerome D Morneau	James L Ledin	Patrick Wanke	Robert P Warns II
Arthur Butterworth	Douglas Jackson	Jimmy R Harries	Robert A Jardine Jr	Paul Buege	Todd R Cornell
Jerome Campbell	Ralph Jackson	Kenneth D Haas	William J Anderson	Carl Zabel	Brian P Prening
Warren Canfield	Arthur Jacob	James R Hagen	David L Banks	Jeremy Bird	Isaiah R Hunt
Robert Casey	Richard Jahnke	Larry L Techmeier	John M Bozinski	Daniel Busch	Scott T Nagorski
John Cate	John Jalas	Ronald S Sandel	Franklin D Defen-	Ryan P Long	Ryan D Jopek
Raymond Cloude	John James	Thomas W Faber	baugh	Kirk A Straseskie	Trevor J Diesing
Lawrence Corbine	Adrian Janiszewski	Leroy D Hoffman	Roy L Edelstein	Matthew E Schram	
	Roland Jarvey	Daniel J Orlikowski	Robert D Erickson	Dan H Gabrielson	

**LET THEM NOT  
GO IN SILENCE**