

The Highground NEWSLETTER

HONOR, EDUCATE AND HEAL... A PLACE FOR ALL

March 2021

The Highground Rising

The Highground Rising continues to move forward and we are tremendously thrilled to update you on our progress. The capital campaign, to expand The Highground and continue our mission, is planning its move from the “quiet solicitation stage” to a formal campaign launch. Thank you to the donors who have already pledged their support and to dedicated committee volunteers who have worked diligently to get us this far.

The Highground Rising aims to provide Veterans and families with mental health support and resources, expand building space to accommodate visitors, enhance their museum experience, host year-round Veterans and student events, improve parking and ADA accessibility and pay off the long-term debt. We also aim to finalize long-term finances by adding to the endowment fund.

Please join us as we launch the public stage for The Highground Rising! You won't want to miss this special event celebrating the history and future of The Highground on April 8, from 5:30–7:30pm at The Condensery in Osseo. You will learn more about the \$4M expansion campaign, what we have accomplished thus far and how you can help us achieve so much more.

The event is free; however registration is required. Please register as soon as possible as space will be at a premium. Call Bonnie at 715-743-4224 or register online via this link: bit.ly/launchparty2021

The event will also be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend in person. Stay tuned for details. See the “Save the Date” below for additional information. We look forward to seeing you there!



Contributors: Thank you for a gift to remember lost loved ones or to honor those still with us.

IN MEMORY OF

- Bernard Anderson
- Elmer “Pug” Backstrom
- William Alexander Becker
- Richard V Block
- Alfred “Soapy” Blume
- Carl W. Bobb
- Donald B. Bobb
- Chester Brahmer
- Gerald Chipman
- Phil Cler
- Richard Del Viscio
- Gene Downs
- Ben Edinger

- Oscar Felsch
- Joanne Fredrickson
- John Gillitzer
- Lawrence P Gradel
- Steve Gurnoe
- Don Harris
- Bernard Hoffman
- Donald Hoffman
- Herbert Hoffman
- James Hoffman
- Patricia Hubing
- Arthur Jungwirth
- Verland Kasten
- James Robert Kendall

- Charles Knuppel
- Frank Koehler
- Dick Lysy
- Tim Mayhew
- Richard Mulroy
- Kelly Murtaugh
- Ken Nelson
- Lila Oelhafen
- Fay Opelt
- Anthony Padovano
- Bruce Peterson
- Gerald Schaefer
- Kenneth A Schmidt
- Howard Sherpe

- Robert Sippel
- Gilbert Speers
- Sgt. Andy Stevens
- John Strachota
- John Tollefson
- Dale H and Eldora Vollrath
- Tom Wallace
- Ken Weis
- Leo Wiesner
- Duane Wooch
- IN HONOR OF**
- Brian Bell’s Birthday
- Michael Voorhees
- (Dog handler) and Satan

WINTER BOWL AND RAFFLE WRAP-UP



The "mock" bowling lane at The Highground Museum.

Starting the year off with pins dropping, the 8th Annual Winter Bowl, known as Plan B(owl), raised just over \$3,000 to help support this year's Men's and Women's Veteran Retreats. Aiding the community's efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the event was held at the Museum over an 18-day period. Bringing more awareness to the increased need for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) services, the mock bowling lane featured pins adorned with PTSD symptoms and problems and the bowling ball represented the various resolutions. Veterans suffering from their own issues were encouraged to write their burdens on the pins. Bowlers used the ball of PTSD resolutions to STRIKE down the pins of PTSD.

Congratulations to Gill Sandford of Osseo, the proud winner of the grand prize Bulleit Bourbon Fire Pit, donated by Festival Foods. The complete list of this year's bucket raffle winners is available in the "News" section of our website at thehighground.us.



We received a variety of donations to fill raffle baskets.

Thank you to this year's sponsors which include these generous businesses, Veteran Posts and individuals: Citizens State Bank of Loyal; American Legion Phaneuf-Vanasse Post #111; Festival Foods; Marshfield Professional Police Association; American Legion Post #354; Alliance Bank; Gauger Ventures, LLC; Milwaukee Brewers Miller Park; Central Wisconsin Broadcasting; WWIS The Star & The Hill; SCOPE DOC; Marshfield Acupuncture and Precision Armament, LLC; Green Bay Packers; American Legion Auxiliary Unit #175; Cathy Lawrence-Scentsy Consultant; Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and those bowlers who donated their registration fees.

The Patriotic Chair will be displayed at the Gift Shop and the drawing has been postponed until all 100 squares are sold. This chair will make a unique addition around a bonfire. There are 90 squares available, so stop by and increase your chances of winning this exclusive chair! On behalf of the many Veterans we serve, we thank you. Your contribution enables them to participate in the resourceful activities the Veterans Retreats offer.

See you next year!



Do good all year long. Please keep us in your thoughts while making your contributions. If you are looking for ways to support our organization, visit the "donations" page on our website at thehighground.us/about-us/donate

EVENT UPDATES

For the most current information, be sure to visit our website at thehighground.us. The Park is open 24/7/365 and the Gift Shop and Museum are open 10am-4pm daily during the winter.

Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band

At this time, we are unable to schedule a venue or new date for the long-awaited Maggie Mae Concert. We will let you know if anything changes. Please keep an eye on our website or follow us on Facebook for updates.

Spring Work Week May 12-15

We are springing into the ceremony and event season. Kicking the cold out and preparing the Park for guests will be the tasks at hand during this week in May. Bring your work gloves and enjoy some much-needed fresh air and help us get it ready.

Spring Bake Sale May 22

Our "Sweet Platoon" will have many tasty sweets, breads and more on hand—for immediate consumption and for you to take home and share. The proceeds will help support the Men's and Women's Veteran Retreats and bringing in the Huey for the Vietnam Reunion that day.

The 11th Annual Honor Ride Memorial Day Ceremony "Lost 74" Dedication

This day will be packed with the thunder of motorcycles riding in from many routes around Wisconsin, in honor of Veterans from all war eras and in memory of the service members lost during, after and because of those wars. Help us welcome riders to The Highground and join us for the Memorial Day Ceremony and Dedication of the "Lost 74" Tribute.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch June 5

2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate? Our wonderful crew of volunteers, that's who! Join us for the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Clark County Department of Aging.

2021 Calendar of Events

APR or MAY Maggie Mae Benefit Concert **TENTATIVE**

MAY 12-15 Spring Work Week

MAY 22 Legacy Stone Ceremonies; Vietnam Reunion; Spring Bake Sale

MAY 31 The Honor Ride; Memorial Day Ceremony; "Lost 74" Dedication

JUNE 5 Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

JUNE 12 Korean and Legacy Stone Ceremonies; Korean War Reunion

JUNE 26 Freedom Celebration Fireworks at Dusk

JULY 9-11 5th Annual Men's Veterans Retreat

JULY 17 Persian Gulf and Legacy Stone Ceremonies

JULY 30-Aug 1 37th Annual Heroes Ride Bike Tour (ceremony Aug 1)

JULY 31 Legacy Stone Ceremonies

AUG 20-21 Veterans Freedom Fest **CANCELED**

AUG 21 21st Annual Ride to Remember™ Motorcycle Ride & Rally

SEPT 10-12 3rd Annual Women's Veterans Retreat

SEPT 18 Military Working Dog and Legacy Stone Ceremonies

OCT 2 Legacy Stone Ceremonies; Fall Bake Sale

OCT 5-8 The Highground Education Days

OCT 9 Bowling for The Highground

OCT 15-16 Fall Cleanup Days

NOV 11 Veterans Day Ceremony; Honoring Our Veterans Raffle Drawing

NOV 15, 2021-MAR 1, 2022 The Highground Holiday Lights

NOV 30 Season of Giving – Pledge your support for The Highground

DEC 4 The Highground Christmas Concert **TENTATIVE**

DEC 18 Patriotic Quilt Raffle Drawing

Museum Exhibits

FEB 6 Opening of "WWI" Museum Exhibit (exhibit: 2/6-3/29)

APR 3 Opening of "POW/MIA & Memorial Day" Exhibit (exhibit: 4/3-7/15)

JUL 24 Opening of "PTSD" Exhibit (7/24-9/28)

OCT 2 Opening of "Women in the Military" Exhibit (10/2-11/30)

DEC 4 Opening of "Pacific Theater WWII" Exhibit (12/4-2/1/22)

DEC 1-31 Patriotic Quilt Display

Note: All events, dates and times are subject to change

Stay tuned for additional events at The Museum and Camp Victory. For timely updates, visit our website and sign up for our email newsletter!

For information about events and sponsorship opportunities, please call Bonnie at 715-743-4224 or send an email to events@thehighground.us

To volunteer, visit thehighground.us/about-us/get-involved

2020 ATV RAFFLE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who purchased and sold raffle tickets for the Honoring Our Veterans ATV Raffle. Your generosity supports The Highground's mission. Congratulations go out to the winners! **Mary E. of Dorchester** won the ATV, **Dick P. of Rice Lake** took home \$1,000 in cash and **Dan A. of Green Bay** won the \$500 cash. With the help of ticket purchasers and our supporting partners, Chilson Automotive Group and NextGen, over \$17,000 was raised to support the mission.

Mary, our first place winner, told us the story of how she almost lost out on the ATV. She happened to see the light blinking on the answering machine two weeks after the drawing (and right after she tossed her ticket!). As it turns out, there were a few messages on the machine telling her she won. Mary's husband said that Mary will be listening to her messages a little more often from now on! Mary and her husband picked up her new ATV from The Highground in early January with less than 10 miles registered on the odometer. Mary added, "Thanks to Ralph from Colby who sold me the ticket!"



(L-R): Executive Director Chris P. and ATV Winner Mary E.

2020 QUILT RAFFLE RECAP



One of our lucky quilt winners.



One of the 23 donated quilts we received.

The Highground hosted their annual Patriotic Quilt Display during the month of December followed by the raffle drawing for the quilts just before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and all the wonderful quilters who worked so hard to create 23 incredible quilts! Without their dedicated efforts, this event would not have been possible. For the 2020 raffle, almost \$4,000 was raised to support The Highground's mission to Honor, Educate and Heal.

We hope these talented quilters will consider supporting The Highground's 2021 Quilt Raffle with another beautiful creation and that more quilters will join them. We already received one quilt for 2021. The quilter was kind enough to allow us to include it for 2021 as it came in after December 1, 2020 and is too gorgeous to not be on display for the public to see. For the full list of winners and quilters, please visit the "News" section of website at thehighground.us.

\$40
gift is all it takes

The Highground Newsletter is sent to over 18,000 households four times a year. If half of all households would donate \$40, we would be able to fund so many of the Park improvements that are identified every year! Will you help us continue the mission by pledging \$40?

2021 VETERAN RETREATS

The Highground Veterans Retreats offer three days of food, fun and workshops, most based on outdoor activities, to bring enjoyment and new experiences to Veterans in a peaceful setting of camaraderie. These are not professional counseling retreats, but many veterans have found the retreats have brought them healing as they work their way through issues including PTSD and have gone away with new interests, friendships and hobbies to continue when they return home. The retreats are conducted with guidance and participation of the Vet Center, Healing Oaks Forest Therapy, The Heartbeat Center for Arts & Literature and many other skilled organizations.

Male Veterans Retreat – July 9-11: At this time, the Retreat is planned to be based at The Highground’s Camp Victory.

Female Veterans Retreat – Sept 10-12: The Retreat lodging will be at the Moraine Motel adjacent to The Highground, with workshops primarily at The Highground and Camp Victory.

More information about workshops, seminars and activities will be announced soon. To register or for more information, email museum@thehighground.us or call Theresa at 715-743-4224.

HOMELESS VETERANS DRIVE UPDATE

We received an amazing amount of donations for our Homeless Veteran Donation Drive!

Through the generosity of a great number of organizations and individuals, The Highground was able to donate thousands of items to help homeless Veterans and Veterans in need during the harsh winter. The equivalent of 56 six-foot long tables were filled during the collection “push” which happened from November–February. The items were very well-chosen by donors and were primarily the most requested items of new socks, hand warmers, winter outerwear, boots, non-perishable food, toiletries, sleeping bags and blankets. Generous donors were able to donate the very gently used items along with LOTS of brand new items – some items were shipped directly to The Highground from the retailer! Everything was distributed directly to homeless Veterans and Veterans in need through the Chippewa Veterans Assistance Foundation and The Hands Foundation through their partnership with “Every 3rd Saturday” Veterans outreach.



The Highground Museum donation drop-off location.



Captain Frank Koresh of the Black River Falls Fire Dept.

WWI: MIDWEST EXPERIENCE IN THE GREAT WAR

On display through March 29, 2021

The Highground Museum is excited to present a unique exhibition on WWI, focusing on personal stories of those who served in the Great War. In addition to historical WWI items from our collection, the exhibit prominently features fascinating stories, photographs and items submitted by several families in honor of their ancestors who served in WWI. There are also many wonderful items on loan from The Jackson County Historical Society that tell the stories of men during their time in the war. A centerpoint of the exhibit is a large banner display from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, "WWI Beyond the Trenches – Stories from the Front".



We received a variety of uniforms, photos and memorabilia

Thank you to these individuals and organizations that contributed displays to this exhibition! Jackson County Historical Society, Wisconsin National Guard, The Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Troy Buddenhagen, the Vinje family, Oran James Braatz and Carol Shaub

"LEST WE FORGET" POW/MIA AND MEMORIAL

April 3 – July 18, 2021

The real cost of war—the human cost—will be remembered and honored by this exhibition. A special event will be held in conjunction with the Vietnam Veterans Reunion on Saturday, May 22 as we welcome Erin Miller, the author of "Wisconsin's 37 – Missing in Action in the Vietnam War", to speak and do a book signing. She will be onsite to speak at approximately 12:30pm that day. Other special presentations with this exhibit are TBA. For current exhibit and event information, visit our Calendar of Events webpage at thehighground.us and subscribe to our e-mail newsletter (the "Stay Connected" signup form is located on our website near the bottom of every page).

EXPLORING PTSD

July 24 – September 26, 2021

The Highground Museum's exhibition "Exploring PTSD" will not only trace how PTSD was acknowledged and managed in the past, but what is currently available for Veterans, their families and others who have endured trauma. Based on input from Veterans working their way through their personal PTSD story, The Highground Museum will display information and actual "take home" items for activities that have proven helpful, many of them "art-based", for Veterans and others with PTSD to experience. A large part of healing is communication—bonding with others who are experiencing similar circumstances. Displaying artworks—e.g., drawings, paintings, photography, writing—created by Veterans as part of their PTSD healing journey is an important part of this exhibit. If you or someone you know would like to be part of the "PTSD Healing Through Art" exhibit, please contact Theresa at The Highground at 715-743-4224 or by email to museum@thehighground.us.

VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION | VEHICLE EXPO

Saturday, May 22, 2021
Helicopter & Military Vehicle Expo (9am – 5pm)
Vietnam Veterans Reunion (Noon – 5pm)
WWII Living History (TBA)
Big Spring Bake Sale! (10am - ?)

Military Vehicle Owners – We invite you to display your vehicle(s) at The Highground on this exciting day! Contact Theresa via email to museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.

2021 Vietnam Veterans Reunion

Noon–5pm: Casual gathering and exhibits

Noon: Lunch will be served at the Reunion (RSVP's to Theresa appreciated, call 715-743-4224)

Special Guest: Erin Miller, author of “Wisconsin’s 37” Missing in Action. Erin will be doing a book signing and there will be sales of her book. She will be available to meet with Veterans and will give a brief speech at approximately 12:30pm in the Lunch area.

Helicopters on site – The VVA #331 static display UH-1H Huey. A UH-1H is also planned to land onsite in the morning – all details and confirmation TBA. Weather permitting, The Highground’s Big Map of the Vietnam War will be available to sign. There will be several other Veteran-related exhibit booths and organizations on site – details TBA.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY EXHIBIT

October 2 – November 30, 2021

Be a part of the “Women in the Military” exhibit! The Highground Museum is gathering the real stories of women who have served in the military to be an honored part of this exhibit, which will be on display in early October at the Museum. If you are a female Veteran, or if you have a female Veteran in your family, and would like to share stories, photographs, and/or memorabilia, please contact Theresa at 715-743-4224 or send an email to museum@thehighground.us.

WE WERE THERE: VIETNAM

Invitation to participate in upcoming exhibit

Let the stories and photographs of your service in the Vietnam War be remembered.

The Highground is creating the next exhibit in its “We Were There” series, honoring those who served in the Vietnam War. Veterans, and families of those who served, are invited to reach out to Theresa at The Highground to learn more about becoming part of this exhibit, which will have a permanent Highground installation as well as a traveling banner display. Contact Theresa via email to museum@thehighground.us or call her at 715-743-4224.

Save the Date!

Korean War Veterans Reunion: Saturday June 12 at The Highground Museum at noon.
Lunch and a casual gathering; video interviews for Veteran stories; speaker TBA.

2021 HONOR STONE PLACEMENTS

2021 Honor Stone Ceremonies are being planned with all precautions possible for safe, memorable dedication ceremonies.

For those who have applied for a 2021 dedication date prior to our updated applications, we are asking for a sentence or two about the person you are honoring. Due to the pandemic, we will not be passing the microphone from person-to-person in a talking circle at the ceremonies. Therefore, we will be including something about each honoree in the day's program. If you have not submitted information, please send an email to Kay at donations@thehighground.us with what you would like to have published in the placement program.

Attention Color Guards and Rifle Squads: Are you available during one or more of our stone ceremonies? Please contact Kay at 715-743-4224 if your group can attend.

Reminder to those who are thinking of a special gift for someone who deserves to be honored with a forever stone, Mother's Day, Father's Day or "just because" day... perfect to surprise (or not surprise) them with a gift of granite that will be forever found at The Highground. The Honor Stone, along with your loved one or organization, will be listed in The Highground Registry Book. This Registry tells the story behind the stone for future generations to read, and remember, what your honoree did in their life and for our country.



2021 Honor Stone applications are available on our website, on the "Honor Stone" page, at thehighground.us/honor-stones. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy year!

You can apply online or print the application and mail it to:

The Highground, PO Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456.

FROM THE CHAIR Gary Weirauch



Let me start by thanking everyone who donated to The Highground this past year. The amount of your gift is of lessor importance than the fact you gave what you could—helping us continue our mission to Honor, Educate and Heal. COVID limited our ability to keep the Gift Shop open, tempering our revenue, but you stepped up when we needed you the most. We receive no tax dollars, never charge Park entrance or Museum admission fees and yet we were able to exceed our budget last year due to your generosity. We did receive a Payroll Protection loan in the amount of \$46,000 (which is in the process of being forgiven) which helped us continue operations with a minimum of furloughed employees even as we had to limit indoor admittance. Your support has been truly amazing.

As you will note in other areas of this newsletter and on our website, we are embarking on a major campaign—to build a new Welcome Center, make the grounds of the Park more accessible, pay down our obligations and fund Camp Victory updates. We wish to secure funding through our donor network this year and begin building in the spring of 2022. We are excited to embark on this new endeavor and will need your donations now as much as ever. Please consider a contribution to our capital campaign or a donation to our general operating account to continue supporting the mission.

Because of the tax law changes of three years ago, it is harder to itemize deductions and therefore receive a tax break for your philanthropy. There are two ways that you can contribute and save tax dollars without having to itemize. The first is to contribute directly from your individual retirement account. If you have reached the age of 72 1/2, you are eligible to have your IRA administrator send your contribution to The Highground directly from your IRA without having to claim the distribution as income. Since most people are paying over 20% of their IRA distribution to the government in the form of taxes, this makes your contribution more tax friendly or allows you to give a larger contribution. If you have not reached the afore mentioned golden age, you can still contribute on a tax advantaged basis. Anyone who has a brokerage account probably has a stock or two which has a significant gain and the gain could be taxed at 20% federal plus state. If you give this stock to The Highground, you will not pay the tax on the gain AND you will have an itemizable deduction equal to the current value of the stock on the day of the gift.

If you wish to help via either of these methods, we can supply a form needed for your IRA administrator. We also have a form for your stockbroker although we may need to speak with him/her due to transfer logistics. If you are willing to donate, we stand ready to help in the process. Please call The Highground at 715-743-4224 to speak to the appropriate individual. Donors will **always** be the life blood of The Highground.

The Highground History Project: The Highground is putting together an extensive collection of its exciting 35+ year history! If you were involved in the “early years” (gathering the support and momentum for the Memorial Park, site selection and dedication) and would like to share your stories, photographs, etc. with us, please contact Theresa at 715-743-4224 to learn more or send an email to museum@thehighground.us.

CAMP VICTORY NEWS

2021 Hunts, Events and Improvements

After a very busy 2020 fall, activity at Camp Victory has significantly slowed down. A beautiful blanket of snow now covers all the fields and trees. During our “reprieve”, plans are underway for this year’s hunts and events. The dates and groups for the 2021 hunts are:



October 20-23, Vietnam Veterans

October 27-30, Purple Heart Veterans

November 3-5, Northern Wisconsin Combat Veterans

November 10-13, Desert Storm and Persian Gulf Veterans

If you would like to attend one of this year’s hunts, please contact Al Lamovec at 715-225-0164.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 14**, for our Second Annual Open House and Raffle Drawing. Come tour the facilities and learn more of what Camp Victory has to offer Veterans and their families. Last year’s turnout was very impressive and we are anticipating an even bigger crowd this year. Newcomers are greatly appreciated, so please extend an invitation to anyone who supports Veterans and is interested in learning more about our mission.

Camp Victory Improvements

We are excited to be moving forward with improvements to our camping area. Blueprints for the addition of a bathroom/shower facility and a cabin are in hand. Plans for the bathroom/shower facility will include a 14 ft x 28 ft building with a shower room between the male and female bathrooms. Planned new cabins and bathroom/shower facility will be ADA compliant. Our goal is to offer camping opportunities for everyone.

We are very excited to announce that Shelly Cedarblade has volunteered to work with Camp Victory on our social media and web presence. She brings a very impressive resume as the owner of Woo! Marketing Solutions. She is excited to educate Veterans and the public about Camp Victory and what it has to offer. We are very thankful to have someone with her talents on board and look forward to working with her. Stay tuned for updates.



Winter Break at Camp Victory



Pictured (L-R): Rodger Zvolena from Whitetails Unlimited with Al Lamovec, Camp Victory Manager

FROM THE DIRECTOR Chris Pettis



Thankfully, 2020 is in our rearview mirror! However, many of the events from 2020 are still affecting us today. As Americans, we are strong and resilient and will overcome challenges that carried over into 2021. Some challenges may take longer than others, but we will persevere. During my military service, several sayings helped me through some uncomfortable times: “Don’t sweat the small stuff; it’s all small stuff” and, “No matter how bad you think you have it, someone has it worse.” Mind you, these sayings have been cleaned up for professional reading, but the takeaway is this: If we focus on the things that inconvenience us, we are not able to focus on our mission or see other opportunities.

Often, we find obstacles and roadblocks in our path which lead us into making a choice: do we find a way around it, challenge it head on or just give up? At times, making these decisions can be overwhelming.

We need people in our lives who will be there for us and provide the guidance and support in our time in need. Those people are most likely already in your life. The question is, can you ask them?

As I reflect on my time in the Marine Corps, I firmly believe and am occasionally reminded that from Day One to the end of my service, we were not thrown into situations to face our struggles unarmed and alone. When we struggle with effects of wartime trauma, grief or loss, deployments away from family, or even the ability to make sense of our own lives, there are others who can—and will—assure us that we are not fighting the battle alone. If you lost someone who was dear to you, I am truly sorry for your loss. Please realize that you are the keeper of that loved one’s story, but most importantly you are the vessel in which those stories are shared so they will never be forgotten.

GOLD STAR REPAIR

If you visited the park during 2020, you may have noticed that our tribute to Gold Star Families has not remained in the same condition as the day it was dedicated. With every rainfall, sand washes down to the bottom of the star and often outside its borders. It also appeared as though it was being used as a large sand box for two and four-legged critters. As the new Meditation Garden walkway was being installed, it sparked an idea to use the same binder to repair the Gold Star. The Highground staff and a few volunteers named Jim started making what we feel is a permanent solution to these problems



(Please know that no harm was inflicted on animals or children). We are using the binder with the sand. Once dry, the surface will be hard, preventing erosion and foot/paw/hoof prints and thus eliminating the innocent desecration of such a meaningful tribute. Thank you to all involved in this large undertaking, to include Mr. and Mrs. Miller for your donated time and materials to relocate the electrical box outside the Gold Star.

DONATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Highground Receives Power Wheelchair from Minnesota-based Veterans advocates

The Highground gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a Vision Sport Power Wheelchair—delivered to the Park in February by **Richard LaFontaine, the donor and owner at St Paul Siders, and 1SG Dean W. Markuson, Veteran's supporter at Foss and Swanson Veterans.** Dean helped facilitate the donation. Valued at over \$6,000, the wheelchair will be an invaluable asset for mobility impaired Veterans, volunteers and visitors.



Pictured (L-R): Chris Pettis with Richard LaFontaine and 1SG Dean W. Markuson

Patriotic Ski Chair Gifted to The Highground

This red, white and blue ski chair was handcrafted by **Vietnam Veteran Mark Kramer from Green Lake** and donated to The Highground to be put to good use. It's being raffled off now, and will look great around a bonfire. Call 715-937-3335 or stop by the Gift Shop to snag a square or two—only \$10 each! Proceeds will support our 2021 Men's and Women's Veteran Retreats.



Pictured: (L-R) Mark Kramer dropping off the ski chair with Chris Pettis

Promise Remembered and Now Fulfilled

A very special donation arrived from a gentleman who had promised to donate \$1,000 per year since the Vietnam War. However, like many of us have experienced, “life got in the way” and the promise was put on hold, **but not forgotten.** Fifty years after the war, this pledge came to fruition and The Highground received \$50,000 for the Endowment Fund! It was well worth the wait.

The Highground Gift Shop Receives New Furnace thanks to a Trio of Supporters

The Gift Shop (Timberframe) has a wonderful new furnace, thanks to supporters who truly know the meaning of “team effort”. **RUUD Manufacturing** (furnace manufacturer), **Goodin Company** (their vendor) and **Custom Heating and Cooling** all went in on thirds to provide The Highground with the new furnace as a thank you to our Veterans, past, present and future.

Lunda Charitable Fund, Inc. provides \$5,000 for The Highground Museum

Thank you members of the **Lunda Charitable Fund in Black River Falls** for granting The Highground Museum \$5,000 to help preserve our heritage and enhance exhibits in the Museum. The funds will be used to obtain materials needed to keep artifacts in the best possible condition. The Museum continues to receive additional items to add to our exhibits—this brings more awareness and visitors to The Highground, where they can see the care we take with their memorabilia. To see if your items qualify for upcoming exhibits, call Theresa at 715-743-4224 or send an email to museum@thehighground.us.

Can you hear me now?

Our Plaza speakers have met their demise; however, they put up a good fight against Wisconsin winds and weather for 10 years. Not only are they used for events but for safety alerts to warn guest regarding inclement weather. The replacement cost is approximately \$8,500. A grant has been secured to help pay for half of the cost, but the other half is **essential.**

We sincerely thank all of you for your kindness and wish you a safe and prosperous year.

FEATURED ITEMS

GIFT SHOP WINTER HOURS ARE 10AM TO 4PM DAILY

NEW CUSTOMERS: GET 15% OFF YOUR FIRST ONLINE PURCHASE!

We carry a variety of products for all, designed with those you love in mind. Check out our hats, t-shirts, metal art, home decor, books and jewelry in-store and online.

THEHIGHGROUND.SHOP

The store that supports the mission.



MARCH - MAY 2021



Angel Wing Earrings 2667
 Angel wing earrings with crystals embedded in primer slice. Created by a Veteran.
\$14.95



Hooded Sweatshirt 1125
 The Highground hooded sweatshirt, available in red and navy.
\$34.95-
\$39.95



Steve Maddox Books 6109
 Books by Steve Maddox with proceeds going to support our PTS program.
\$12.95-
\$35.00



Flag Mobile 3251
 Cut into the shape of a U.S. flag from tumbled glass, strung together and attached to a piece of driftwood.
\$23.95



Americana Frames 3107 / 3203
 These Americana frames hold a 4x6 picture.
\$10.95



Dove Tribute Shirt 1140
 Long-sleeved shirt features Dove Effigy Mound. Storm Heather, Maroon Heather
\$29.95



Call us at 715-743-4224

Email: store@thehighground.us
 W7031 Ridge Road, Neillsville, WI 54456
thehighground.shop

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Bill Lobeck—Viola, WI

Steve Maddox—Chippewa Falls, WI

Daniel Curran—Dodgeville, WI

Michele Benson—Ripon, WI

Ron “Bulldog” Perry—Augusta, WI

Dominic Anderson—Richland Center, WI

Wayne Guenther—Eau Claire, WI

Thanks to C.W. King and Greg Foye for their dedication as they retire from the Board!

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Maintenance

Mike Purgett

Gift Shop Staff

Roxane Purgett

Judy Quicker

Lisa Smith

Rayle Winegarden

Abby Meshnick

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MAY

Spring Work Week, May 12–May 15—We are springing into The Highground ceremonies and events for 2021. Enjoy camaraderie and make new friends while helping to prepare the grounds for the warmer months. Projects include: Gold Star repair, gardening and freshening up the grounds. Lunch provided.

May 22—Stone Ceremony, Bake Sale and Vietnam War Reunion: Volunteers are needed from 10am–3pm to park cars, greet visitors, set up/take down/sale of the bake sale and help during the ceremony.

May 31—11th Annual Honor Ride, Memorial Day Ceremony and “Lost 74” Dedication: Volunteers are needed to help with registration, lunch prep/serving, car parking, shuttle driving, greeting visitors and ceremony set up/take down. Volunteers are also needed to read the names of the Wisconsin KIA/MIAs. There will be lots of things to do from 7am–3pm.

JUNE

June 5—Volunteer Appreciation Lunch: This is when WE serve you. More details to follow.

June 12—Stone ceremony and Korean War Reunion: Volunteers are needed to park cars and greet visitors from 8am–2pm.

June 26—Fireworks at dusk: Volunteers are needed to park cars, and greet and shuttle visitors. Volunteers are needed to help clean up fireworks from 9-11am on **June 27**.



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WISH LIST

- Funds for Registry materials
- Funds for archival quality storage items (\$1,500)
- Funding for a Winter Veterans Retreat to combine PTSD therapeutic workshops with winter outdoor activities. (\$2,000)
- Funding for quilting materials (\$1,000) for the upcoming "Women in the Military" Exhibit
- Camp Chairs for Retreats
- Leaf vacuum for lawn mower
- Broom attachment for skidsteer
- Spring fertilizer
- Gravel for the Pavilion area
- Funding for male/female styrofoam "heads"
- Funding or actual items:
 - Coloring books and colored pencils for adults
 - Artist white Canvas boards (all sizes)
 - Charcoal pencil sets
 - Sharpie permanent markers (all colors)
 - Zentangle art supplies (black and colors)
 - Paper—Studio Series Artist's Tiles card stock (white, 75 pack)
 - Sakura Pigma Micron .05 pens
 - Sakura 50115 Zentangle Pen Set
 - Misulove Micro-Pen Fineliner Ink Pens

To support any of our initiatives, send an email to Kay at donations@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.

For More Information, Contact 715-743-4224

W7031 Ridge Rd P.O. Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456

Find us somewhere on Social Media!



Newsletter Subscription Request

We continue to update our records and need your help! The newsletter is a big project to organize and we want to make sure people continue to receive it as well as other important updates. Please visit our website and look for the "I support The Highground" box located on the home page. Click on it and then update your information by completing the form. We can mail you a printed newsletter or send a digital copy; we just need to know what you prefer. If you provide us with your information, we can also send you our email newsletter which will include updates as they happen. Want to make sure you don't miss an issue? Cut off the form to the right, fill it out and send it with your donation in the included envelope. Please rest assured that The Highground does not sell its lists or your information to anyone.

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 the Newsletter subscription \$25

Please mail to: The Highground
P.O. Box 457 Neillsville, WI 54456
or call 715-743-4224 to make a donation.

I would like more information about:

- _____ Upcoming Events and Fundraising Calendar
- _____ Honor Stones
- _____ Add someone to the mailing list
(please include the name and address of the person you want to send a gift subscription to)
- _____ Endowment Fund
- _____ Booking information for the "My War" and "We Were There" exhibits

I would also like to volunteer for the following events and activities. Please reach out to me!

- _____ Porch Greeter
- _____ Work Week
- _____ Heroes Ride Annual Bike Tour
- _____ Honor Ride/Memorial Day
- _____ Ride to Remember™
- _____ The Highground Museum
- _____ Camp Victory
- _____ Legacy Honor Stone Ceremonies
- _____ Military Working Dog Honor Stone Ceremonies
- _____ Korean War Honor Stone Ceremonies
- _____ Persian Gulf Honor Stone Ceremonies

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Questions or Comments _____



The Persian Gulf Tribute honors all branches of America's Military who served through multiple conflicts in the Middle East through the symbolism of a bootprint... by marching forward in the Global War on Terrorism to a place of hope, we do not walk past you but with you. This tribute strives to memorialize the sacrifices made while providing a safe haven for all to reflect and to heal.

Let Them Not Go In Silence

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park staff, visitors and supporters remember and honor 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, written a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount up to and including their life. 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 gave their lives during combat (KIA) service to our country. As a tangible reminder for us all, a different selection of KIA names will be printed for each future ceremony and newsletter. Again, this is not the complete list but a selection of names from each war who gave their lives in combat areas.**

Let us remember and honor all those who perished during their service and let them not go in silence. We ring our replica Liberty Bell in their honor at each ceremony. We hope you will ring it whenever you are here.

WWII

Richard W. Ackley
 Norman H. Anderson
 Walter W. Avery
 Alvin M. Berg
 Ernest L. Berghund
 Raymond R. Bilodeau
 Harry R. Blanchard
 Edmund T. Bodine
 Burton H. Boettcher
 Edmund A. Bogart
 Herman C. Bonitz
 Percy E. Bowers
 Clifford J. Bredeson
 Roy D. Brindley
 Eugene P. Brinker
 Earl A. Broker
 Arthur L. Butterworth
 Haleon W. Byrd
 Jerome R. Campbell
 Warren G. Canfield
 Robert W. Casey
 John M. Cate
 Raymond A. Cloude
 Lawrence J. Corbine
 Lawrence J. Craig
 Russell W. Davis
 Harold Denham
 Merlin C. Douglass
 Arthur B. Draeving
 Robert G. Duffy
 Edwin L. Dyrness
 Lawrence J. Effertz

Lloyd R. Erickson
 Arvo J. Erickson
 Robert J. Fancher

Korean War

Vern Harris Fuller
 Robert Raymond Funke
 Robert H. Gaedeke
 Joseph E. Gallitz
 Valentine R. Gannon
 Ralph E. Garbisch
 Arvil R. Garner
 Bert John Gaspord
 Eugene A. Gawlik
 Robert F. Geiger
 Morris C. Gensch
 Robert A. Gerlach
 Donald L. Gerrits
 John P. Gershewski Jr.
 Francis Gilbertson
 William A. Gilson
 Charles J. Gitzlaff
 Edwin Goede Jr.
 Rueben J. Goerl
 William O. Goetz
 Wallace E. Goff
 Donald A. Goggins
 James E. Goldsworthy
 Harry J. Gonia
 Robert J. Gora
 Harold L. Gorman
 Kenneth J. Gorman
 Norbert J. Gorman

Paul A. Graber
 Rodney F. Graff
 Wilbur L. Grass
 Ronald J. Grassold
 Gerald Clifford Graveen
 Ronald William Greeb
 James Theodore Griswold

Vietnam War

Paul Joseph Pamanet
 Martin James Pamonicut
 Allen Daryl Papenfus
 Donald Paskowicz
 Daniel Garry Patrick
 William Anthony Patterson
 Patrick James Paulich
 John Paul Paulson Jr.
 Louis A Pavlacky Jr
 Richard Charles Pawelke
 Terry John Payne
 Bradley Alan Pearson
 Gary Laverne Peat
 Robert W Peck
 Marvin Clifford Pederson
 Roger Allen Pederson
 Richard Eloy Perez
 Brian Scott Perlewitz
 Steven Owen Perlewitz
 Terry Lee Perz
 Joseph James Peterlich
 David E. Peters
 Lee Raymond Peters
 Carl Elving Peterson

Darwin Stuart Peterson
 Dennis Newell Peterson
 John Alfred Peterson
 Lowell Todd Peterson
 Timm Conrad Peterson
 Dan Leon Pfister
 Leon Milton Phillips
 Ronald Ernest Pickart
 William C. Pierson III
 William Edwin Pierson
 Jerald Lee Pinneker

Desert Storm, OIF, OEF – To Present Day

Benjamin H. Neal
 Shane K. O'Donnell
 Todd D. Olson
 Dean D. Opicka
 Eric A. Palmisano
 Eric J. Poelman
 Matthew I. Pionk
 Brian P. Prening
 Robert M. Rieckhoff
 Nickolas E. Riehl
 Rhett W. Schiller
 Joshua M. Schmitz
 Matthew E. Schram
 Chad J. Simon
 Benjamin A. Smith
 Jon B. St. John II
 Andy A. Stevens
 Jesse D. Tillery

Harry H. Timberman
 John O. Tollefson
 Nathan J. Vacho
 Matthew Thompson
 Joshua Michael Scott
 Adam J. Van Alstine
 Brent T. Vroman
 Jeremy D. Vrooman
 Patrick L. Wade
 Andrew P. Wallace
 Richard D. Warner
 Robert P. Warns II
 Anthony R. Wasielewski
 Michael J. Wendling
 Earl D. Werner
 Travis M. Wichlacz
 Heidi Ruh
 Russell Seager