

# NEWSLETTER

Honor, Educate and Heal... A Place for All

thehighground.us — 715.743.4224



## The 38th Annual Heroes Ride Raises an Incredible \$92,287 for Veterans

**Supporters stood in the rain to welcome the 128 bicyclists and support personnel to the Park.**

On Sunday, August 7, guests, volunteers, families and friends stood in the rain to welcome the 128 bicyclists and support personnel to The Highground after their three-day and 150 plus mile journey. Ranging in ages from 10 to over 70 years, and from Veteran family/friends to Veterans themselves, the 2022 Heroes Ride made a remarkable “PANDEMIC BREAKOUT” (as quoted by Duane Pupp)! This ride is The Highground’s largest and longest running fundraiser. The amount raised in 2021 was amazing but that didn’t stop the riders from raising over \$25,000 more for 2022!

Although all five routes experienced high temps and rain, the riders adapted and overcame the challenges to complete their mission to The Highground as victors for Veterans. The funds raised by the ride allow The Highground to offer crucial programming to Veterans and their families plus educate visitors on the tremendous sacrifices that each and every service member has made. The Veterans Retreats and the Veteran & Family PTS Peer Support Group continue to grow in participation, supporting the mission to relieve burdens and soften memories. **Read more on page 4.**



## Male Veterans Retreat Recap

The Highground 3-Day Male Veterans Retreat was held at The Highground on July 8–10. The nine veteran attendees and several staff members, many of them veterans, enjoyed a wide variety of activities, great food and pleasant weather. **Learn more about the retreat on page 11.**

### What’s inside

#### 04. Korean Veterans

Honoring Old Glory Honor Flight Korean War Veterans

#### 08. Featured Veteran

Marine Veteran Scott Schultz with the Heartbeat Center

#### 13. Dear Reader

Veterans Crisis Line Update

# Honor Stones Placed June and July 2022

The Highground is proud to recognize these recipients. Some are still with us and some have passed. All of them were remembered and honored during the June and July Honor Stone Ceremonies. Please continue to send information, stories and pictures of your loved one to be included in our Registry Books.

Edwin F. Atkins  
Paul Badker  
Francis JR Baker  
William Barfknecht  
Dale B. Bauer  
Maynard R. Bauer  
Jeffrey L. Beaty  
Benjamin Bertz  
David R. Blazer  
Larry M. Bolchen  
Andrew Brost  
Ronald A. Buechler  
Herbert M. Burbach  
Leo Burbach  
Harold J. Burbach  
Neale H. Caflisch  
Kristin Chambasian  
Kyle Chambasian  
Kevin J. Clement  
Michael G. Clubb  
Richard D. Craycraft  
Richard D. Culver  
Peter J. Dejno  
Zachary Dorr  
John J. Duchac

Larry J. Dzienkowski  
Travis Eckardt  
Peggy Escolopio  
Dennis J. Fauenberg  
Jack J. Fischer  
Thomas Fischer  
Larry Flaskrud  
Dalbert H. Fletcher  
James G. Follen  
Michael Freck  
Terry Gilbertson  
Charles P. Hansen  
James C. Hansen  
Ray H. Henrichs  
Tom Hilden  
Daniel L. Hill  
Terry W. Hopkins  
Richard J. Horton  
Joshua Jacobs  
Anthony C. Jarocki  
Morie F. Karch  
Michael Korger  
Orville W. Kurth  
Rodney Lehl  
Thomas S. Mader

Irvin Marg  
James H. Marohn  
Forrest C. Martens  
John D. Mason  
Kenneth I. McTier  
Claus H. Meyer  
Joseph N. Momper  
John F. Nagel  
Clarence Nagel  
Eugene W. Oberle  
Samuel G. Olivo  
Edgar J. Parish  
Donovan M. Peck  
Bruce A. Peck  
Ronald C. Peck  
Dennis L. Peck  
Curtiss S. Peck  
Curtiss W. Peck II  
Raymond Piller  
Rodney L. Plenge  
Leland E. Radley  
Milton & Olga Raeck  
Milton Raeck  
Jerold C. Rakovec  
Mitchell Redcloud Jr.

Pamela A. Rous  
James Schreiner  
Richard G. Schroeder  
Norman P. Schultz  
Bruce R. Scott  
Jack A. Shadrick  
Philip M. Smith  
J.J. Soarkness  
Joshua Sonheim  
Robert Sonsalla  
Cyril M. Spangler  
Walter A. Sperling  
William A. Sperling  
Carl Steder  
Karl E. Suchanek  
Jay D. Turner  
Jack Vater  
Eddie J. Voss  
John W. Werner  
Fred H. Winkler  
Edward J. Witek  
Gerald L. Wolfgram  
Marvin E. Wulff  
American Legion Post 461  
K9 Satan

Correction to the UIS Stone Placement list on page 2 of the March 2022 Newsletter: The first listing should have read "Vietnam Veterans Chapter 224-Green Bay" NOT "American Legion Post #224-Green Bay (placed in 2021)". Our apologies for the error.

## IN MEMORY OF

Anthony Jarocki  
Claus H. Meyer  
Diane Kassien  
Francis and Marilyn Mueller  
Frank Trachte  
Frederick Van Ark  
Glenn F. Spindler  
Harold Collinson  
James A. Batchelor  
Jim Griepentrog

John Southworth  
Joshua Brennan  
Lila Oelhafen  
Marlene Schaetzel  
Paul F. Wolf  
Richard (Dick) Detert  
Robert Leigh  
Rocky Nelson  
Ron Seidl  
Tom Jakel  
Tracy Algers

William F. Young Jr.  
William Becker

## IN HONOR OF

Angel Heimstead  
Chris Pettis  
Cindy Boon  
Dale Schuldt  
Dave Souders  
Dolores Foster  
Paul Badker

**Note: There will be a \$40 increase in stone prices for 2023 stone purchases due to suppliers cost increase.**

Honor Stone applications are available on our website, on the "Honor Stone" page, at [thehighground.us/honor-stones](http://thehighground.us/honor-stones).  
Apply online or print the application and mail it to:  
The Highground, PO Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



# Heroes Ride Recap and Korean Veterans Visit

## 38th Annual Heroes Ride Recap, cont.

The Heroes Ride is not unlike other events The Highground hosts—it is organized as a tribute to those who have been lost and to all honorees. Henry Smith, retired rider and current support personnel for the Northern Route, accepts the responsibility of preparing a plaque of names and setting out the white “Ghost Rider” bike at every stop as a memorial to riders the Northern Route has lost over the years. This year, the route rode in memory of John Southworth and Jim Griepentrog. Both men passed away shortly after the 2021 Heroes Ride. The Western Route rode in honor of Gary Simon who has ridden in years past.

On behalf of the Veterans The Highground has served, are serving and will serve well into the future, The Highground extends its congratulations and gratitude to the route leaders for a job well done: Jerry Simon and Cole Peterson of the Western Route; Curt and Oran Braatz of the Eastern Route; Kathy Heit and Mary Boortz of the Southern Route; Terri Stott of the Southwestern Route; and Kathy and Mike Gleisner of the Northern Route; and to all the riders, support personnel and individual rider supporters.

**The Highground staff and all the riders are grateful for the event and route sponsors: Stache Bike & Adventure–Eau Claire, Riverside Bike & Skate Shop, Inc.–Eau Claire, Asher Lasting Exteriors–Eau Claire, C & W Med Rides LLC–Fort Atkinson, TVL Trucking, Inc.–Whitewater, Dennis Fischer Trucking LLC–Jefferson; Our Lady of Sorrows–Ladysmith, Blue Hills Kiwanis–Bruce, VFW Post #9464–Cornell, Marshfield Police Association; American Legion Post #75–Fond du Lac, American Legion Post #218–Hayward, American Legion Post #425–Exeland, American Legion Post #268–Bruce, American Legion Post #353–Holcombe, American Legion Post #118–Thorp, J & L Auto Repair–Menomonie, Luk’s Auto Repair–Menomonie, Lowe Advertising–New Richmond; Kwik Trip; Church Electric, LLC–Fort Atkinson, Epic Real Estate–Fort Atkinson, Fort Health Care–Fort Atkinson, Marine Corps League Detachment 552–Fond du Lac, Munson, Inc.–Glendale, Next Home Success–Fort Atkinson, Riverstone Restaurant & Wedding/Event Center–Fort Atkinson and many more.**

Future events, including the 39th Annual Heroes Ride, will be published to the website ([thehighground.us](http://thehighground.us)) as they become available. A photo album can be viewed on Facebook ([facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial](https://facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial)).

## Old Glory Honor Flight – Korean War Veterans Honored at The Highground

On Sunday, June 5, The Highground was honored with a visit by the Old Glory Honor Flight Korean War Veterans. The group arrived at The Highground at 10:30am and was warmly welcomed with a flag line of local supporters. **The Korean Veterans received a guided tour of The Highground followed by a catered lunch by M & M Catering of Neillsville.**

“The Highground is a premier destination that highlights Wisconsin’s ongoing efforts to honor its treasured veterans”, said Old Glory Board member Kati Cunningham. “The rolling hills and beautiful memorials to all of our nation’s conflicts offer veterans an opportunity to reflect on their service and begin to understand how grateful the community is for their service.”





## The Highground's Veteran & Family PTS Peer Support Group

The Highground has received many “calls for help” from spouses, family & friends of Veterans who are currently having difficulty managing post-traumatic stress (PTS).

These loved ones and their Veterans are seeking resources, a group to speak with, and most importantly a place to share their experiences and learn from others who are going through a similar situation and from those that have “been there”.

The Highground holds monthly Veteran & Family PTS Peer Support Group meetings at The Highground. Upcoming group dates are all at 2pm on: Sunday, September 18; Sunday, October 16; Sunday, November 13.

**If you are interested in being a part of the coordination of these events or if you are that Veteran or loved one of a Veteran with PTS and want to attend the events, please email Theresa at [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us) or call 715-743-4224.**



## 12th Annual Honor Ride Rallies Over 250 Riders

Over 250 riders from Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and as far as Florida rallied for the 12th Annual Honor Ride to Honor the Fallen on Memorial Day.

For their planning expertise and guidance along scenic routes, The Highground is tremendously grateful to the volunteer ride leaders: Bill Fleml of Appleton, Dominic Anderson of Richland Center, Del Scanlon of Reedsburg, Wade Hartung of Eau Claire, Kenneth Lanier of Minocqua, Jason Shearier of Lake Mills, Dennis Fick of Merrill and Mark Dawson of Neillsville. All the routes connected at the American Legion Post #73 in Neillsville. With the intent to memorialize the service men and women who died in battle or as a result of their battle wounds, the riders took their place in the procession through Neillsville and out to The Highground where they participated in a Memorial Day Ceremony worthy of the name.

David Carlson, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran, founder and co-owner of C.C. We Adapt ([ccweadapt.com](http://ccweadapt.com)) delivered a gripping and heartfelt speech reflecting on the loss of fellow service members but also on living a life worthy of those valuable sacrifices. Adding to the relevance of the day, the Northwest Region Team of the U.S. Army State Funeral Honors Team, led by NCOIC Sgt. Rave, provided the ceremonial Honor Guard along with an incredibly moving funeral flag folding during the traditional reading of 100 KIA names from the Korean War to present day. The funeral flag was then gently placed at the base of “Fragments”, the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Tribute.

The Highground continues to focus on Veterans and their families with programming designed to relieve burdens and soften memories. With funds raised through the gracious sponsorships, registrations, donations and raffle reaching over \$13,000, The Highground's mission endures.

The Highground offers a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Honor Ride and extends a special thank you to the sponsors who helped make this event a success: Central Wisconsin Broadcasting (WCCN/WPKG); WWIS; MEC-Neillsville; American Legion Post #73-Neillsville; Scheels; VFW Riders District 7; Diane Becker; Harley Davidson of Madison; Marks Made 4 U Furniture and More; Bonnie Hennen-Thrivent; Woodfield Inn & Suites-Marshfield; The Nickel Barn & Coffee Shop-Osseo; Lumberyard Bar & Grill-Marshfield; Starbucks-Roselle, IL; Wisconsin Veterans Farm; LLC Winery-Cornell; BP Station-Straton, IL; JBC Screenprinting-Neillsville.

The 13th Annual Honor Ride will be held on May 29, 2023. The Highground invites new riders to join a route, start a new route or ride as an individual and looks forward to seeing everyone next year.

# The Highground History Project & Exhibit

## The “History of The Highground” Project Brings You the “Story of The Highground” Exhibition Oct 22 – Dec 4, 2022

The “History of The Highground Project” is well underway! We are currently collecting and cataloging stories, documents, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the fascinating and important history of The Highground. As part of our long-term research and documentation project, the Museum will feature an exhibition on “The Story of The Highground” October 22 – December 31, 2022. Visit us online at [thehighground.us](http://thehighground.us), follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram) and subscribe to our email newsletter to watch the History of The Highground Project unfold. You may recognize some supporters and events from days gone by!

**Funding is needed for file storage, printing, etc. If you would like to make a donation for this project or if you have stories or items to share, please email Theresa at [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us) or call 715-743-4224.**



## The Highground History Project – An inspiring and Powerful Experience Underway

The Highground History Project is well underway! We are collecting and cataloging stories, documents, photographs and memorabilia to help us tell this important story. **Funding is needed for digitization. If you would like to help or if you have stories/items to share, please email Theresa at [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us) or call 715-743-4224.**

## “We Were There: Korean War” Traveling Exhibit Information

The “We Were There - Korean War” exhibit is a banner display of 24 banners that are 8’ H x 3’ W. They are printed on both sides. The banners tell the many varied stories of those who served in the Korean War...personal stories and a wide variety of service and experience categories. The banners are on a fabric sleeve that fits over a metal frame. The metal frame is in 8 pieces that snap together. The loan fee for the “We Were There - Korean War” banner exhibit is \$200/month, \$275/2 months, \$325/3 months. Longer display times can be discussed. There will be an additional mileage cost of .50/mile if The Highground is needed to deliver and/or pick up the banners from your location. Shipping could be made available, but as the banners are heavy, the shipping & handling cost may be greater than personal mileage costs. Since we recommend showing you how the banners are assembled, it would be best if someone picked them up from The Highground or if we deliver them to you personally. **For more information, email Theresa at [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us) or call 715-743-4224.**



## The Highground Annual Clothing Drive is coming up

The Highground will be collecting items for Veterans and families in need. Items most needed are disposable hand warmers and foot warmers, hats, gloves and new socks. Warm winter jackets and snowsuits, sleeping bags, blankets, scarves, mittens and boots are also being accepted. Items can be dropped off **Nov. 1–Jan. 1, 2023** at the Museum and will go to Every Third Saturday, the Veterans Assistance Foundation in Tomah, the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home and the Clark County Department of Aging.



# We Were There Vietnam

## The “We Were There – Vietnam War” Documentary Project is Going Strong

The “We Were There – Vietnam War” project is off and running! Support has started coming in from veterans organizations and individuals. There is an ever-growing list of Vietnam veterans and spouses / families that have lost their loved one who served in Vietnam that are submitting their stories, photographs, and taking part in interviews so that the full story of the experiences and sacrifices of serving in the Vietnam War will not be forgotten. This documentary project, a collaboration of The Highground and The Heartbeat Center for Writing, Literacy and the Arts, will preserve and exhibit the stories and messages of those who served in the Vietnam War and their experiences upon returning home. “We Were There – Vietnam War” also honors the loved ones back home and documents their experiences as they waited for and worried about their loved ones serving in Vietnam. As the Vietnam War did not end for many upon their return home, the project also covers the experiences of both the Vietnam Veteran and their family of the return home of the veteran and how the Vietnam War has affected their lives for decades since.

The project will consist of a set of printed banners of photographs and stories and an online exhibit consisting of photographs, written stories, audio and video interviews. **To be included in the printed banner display, we are asking for Vietnam Veterans and/or families to submit their photographs and stories by December 31, 2022.** The benefit of the digital exhibition is that there will not be a strict deadline. If we meet Vietnam Veterans or families a year from now, they will be able to have their voices and stories included in the project. That being said, we are gathering and preserving the items and interviews for a premiere of the “We Were There – Vietnam War” digital exhibition early in 2023.

**We encourage Vietnam Veterans and families who would like to be included to contact Theresa to set up a meeting before the end of this year. Theresa can be reached at 715-743-4224 or by email to [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us).**

**Thank you, Germantown VFW Post 9202 and Gary Koenigs for your support and encouragement of this project.**

**Thank you, Scott Schultz with The Heartbeat Center for Writing, Literacy and the Arts for your collaboration, encouragement and dedication for this project.**

### “We Were There: The Vietnam War” Gathering the Personal Stories of the Vietnam War



**The Highground is announcing the creation of *We Were There: The Vietnam War* an exhibition project documenting the personal stories of those whose lives were affected by the Vietnam War: those who served in-country; those who served elsewhere; the families and friends waiting back home.**

This extensive exhibition will consist of several types of media, making it easily available for the public to view and, importantly, keeping the exhibition stories & photographs carefully preserved, easily updated as formats change, and allows for additional info to be added to the exhibition whenever necessary.

If you are a Vietnam Veteran (in-country or not in-country) or if you have family or friends who served and would like to contribute stories, photographs, film, etc. to this incredibly important exhibition, please contact Theresa Hebert 715-743-4224 [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us)

**SPONSOR INFORMATION:** A project of this scope also needs the financial help of those who believe in documenting and preserving stories via current digital formats. Many opportunities are available for individuals and businesses that would like to become a sponsor of “We Were There: Vietnam War”. To become a sponsor, contact Theresa Hebert 715-743-4224 [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us)

Many Vietnam Veterans and families of those who are no longer with us have submitted photographs & stories and have been participating in interviews for the “We Were There: Vietnam War” project. To join the project, please send an email to Theresa at [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us) or call 715-743-4224.

# Featured Veteran



## Scott Schultz, Marine Combat Correspondent

Scott Schultz was raised on a diversified dairy farm at Veefkind in Clark County, and he's more than happy to tell the Veefkind story to anyone who asks about Veefkind's location or history.

He's a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran having served as a public affairs noncommissioned officer/combat correspondent. During his time of service, Scott provided information for national news media from multiple bases within the United States and Okinawa, Japan and the Far East. He edited the Okinawa Marine newspaper for Marines based in the Far East, wrote and photographed Marine Corps related news and organized the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program for Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

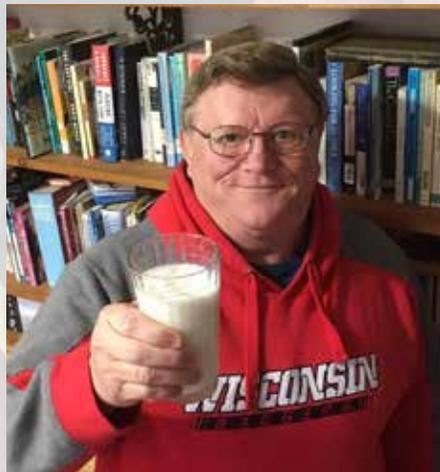
Scott's passion for journalism didn't end with his end of active service. He spent 45 years deeply involved in print journalism, and then the Eau Claire WAXX radio morning farm show and WEAU TV Ag-Chat program. His passion for working on veterans' issues runs deep, including currently serving on the Wisconsin Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Veterans' Opportunities. He is a member of the Loyal American Legion Post 175 and the Pleasantville Amvets Post 1.

Scott is officially retired from journalism but still does many journalism projects. And in 2001, he founded The Heartbeat Center for Writing, Literacy and the Arts ([theheartbeat.us](http://theheartbeat.us)) which motivates people of all ages to give attention to the rural countryside while telling their stories through

writing, visual arts and performing arts. Scott continues to serve as that nonprofit organization's president and executive director. One of The Heartbeat's major projects is its Veterans Expressing Themselves project, in which veterans are helped to find their voices, healing and identity by telling their stories. Most recently, The Heartbeat Center is working on a documentary about the resettlement of Afghan refugees in Wisconsin and how that affects the refugees, communities, resettlement organizations and Veterans who served in Afghanistan.

Scott authored the book, "Rural Routes and Ruts: Roaming the Roads of Rural Life," and maintains a blog ([ruralroutes.blog](http://ruralroutes.blog)) which contains more of his essays and photographs about the rural countryside. Scott's essays have appeared in many state and national publications and rural life projects, and he often makes writing motivation presentations to community groups and organizations, and to school and university classes. Scott also does work with the Wisconsin Humanities' Love Wisconsin storytelling program.

The Highground holds a special place in Scott's heart for many reasons—the biggest being that he was at the



forefront of introducing the site to the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc. during the mid-1980s. As his involvement with The Highground comes full circle,

Scott currently assists with the coordination of the newly established Veteran & Family PTS Peer Support Group and the Men's and Women's Veterans Retreats. Scott is also the newest member of the volunteer Board of Directors.

Scott and his wife Dee live on a small farm south of Osseo where he maintained about 25 brood sows until Dee suggested he kick that habit. He's been involved with many regional, state and local boards and organizations along the way.

# From the Chair, Gary Weirauch

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## The Highground Rising Campaign Update



We are picking up the pace on the new Welcome Center as we work with the architects on the final building plans. The current problem is estimating the costs as prices on building materials have fluctuated so much this year. Building estimates have been all over the board and estimating bid prices for each phase of construction has been difficult at best. It appears lumber prices are dropping but labor cost is escalating and any bids received this winter for spring 2023 construction will be at least 20% more than the original estimate. With that in mind, we are applying for a USDA community facilities loan to carry us through construction and provide a level of permanent financing.

This loan, if approved, does not mean that our capital campaign has come to an end. Contributions you make between now and the potential grand opening in the spring of 2024 means a smaller permanent loan and a smaller annual debt service requirement.

This has been a difficult year for retirement assets and investment accounts, so I know you are reviewing your finances closely before deciding on any donations or pledges. We appreciate any donation you are able to make over the next 18 months. If you are not able to make a current contribution, please consider making us a beneficiary of a portion of your life insurance or include us in your will.

Our Highground events continue to grow in size and scope. It is no longer unusual to place 50-60 honor stones on stone ceremony days and have an attendance approaching a thousand people. These ceremonies bring people from more than a half dozen states. At the last ceremony, I talked with people from Florida and Nevada. This is a wonderful tribute to those who served and that their sacrifice is forever honored by family and friends. The Veterans Reunions, Male and Female Veterans Retreats, Veterans & Family PTS Peer Support Group and other offerings continue to see attendance increases and we plan to keep the momentum going. We would like to see you at one of these events or on a daily visit so that you can experience all the Park has to offer. Until we meet at the Park, may God keep you in good health and Thank You for your service.

# From the Executive Director, Chris Pettis

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This year, so far, has been an amazing year. To date we have Honored 206 Veterans and 10 Military Working Dogs. There has been laughter, tears, goosebumps, wonderful stories and life lessons and experiences shared. Most importantly an appreciation for those that have donned the uniform of the U.S. Military. Not only is it a memorable day for the Veteran, but for the family and friends that accompanied them.

The Highground started a Family/Veteran PTS Peer Support Group in May with monthly meetings. The goal of the group is to provide tools and knowledge to help both the veteran and family navigate life during and after service. I think one of the best parts thus far is the fact that we have a diverse age group that will share some of their own personal experiences, challenges and what has worked, or not for them. We have had discussions on suicide prevention with the WDVA, identifying and coping with PTS triggers and common responses to trauma and coping strategies. After the first meeting, my eyes were opened to some of my own faults as a Veteran and my lack of communications skills with my own family and friends, one of the many faults that I am working on correcting. Every session I have learned something that will improve my wellbeing (as long as I apply it) as I hope things that I have shared will help others. I look forward to our future meetings, not only are they informational and helpful, but a wonderful bond has been formed with those who attend.

# The Highground Education Days

## Attention teachers and home-schooled families!

### The Highground will host its 2022 Education Days October 4–7

#### There will be two different programs to enhance our educational mission.

We are working on creating a more well-rounded Education Days program to reach out with two days of programs for students in Middle School / High School with a more precise and exciting educational experience while still retaining two days dedicated to the traditional “5th Grade Tour of The Highground”.

#### October 4 and 5 will be our traditional “5th Grade Days”.

Students will receive a guided tour of The Highground with additional complimentary presentations on different cultures, important moments in history and a Flag Retirement Ceremony. The 5th Grade Tour will be a half day presentation. Schools need to pick the day and either the AM (9:30am–12:15pm) or PM (11:30am–2:15pm) session. A lunch break is not scheduled within the sessions, but schools are welcome to bring and eat a sack lunch after or before their session, using our picnic tables. Students are invited to bring a Ziploc bag of soil from their home, school or other special place to place on the Dove Mound.

#### The programs on October 6 and 7 will be for Grades 9–12.

They will feature more indepth programs with insight into the U.S. military experience in WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Global War on Terror with accompanying presentations on other nations & cultures involved in these wars. It will not include a complete tour of The Highground and it will not be a repeat of what these students may have received if they attended a prior “Education Days” event. Schools need to pick which day to attend.



Both days will run a full day from 9:30am–2pm. A lunch break is included from 11:30am–noon.

Teachers are welcome to contact Theresa at The Highground with questions if they would like to coordinate a lesson plan with the “5th Grade Days” tour or the October 6 and 7 “9th–12th Grade” event.

**For more information about The Highground Education Days, please send an email to Theresa at [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us) or call 715-743-4224.**



## Spring Work Week Recap

The Highground was looking good and ready to welcome visitors this summer! Thank you to the many dedicated volunteers who worked steady during Spring Work Week. We were blessed with wonderful people and fantastic weather.

**Thank you to these area businesses for donating lunches for the hardworking volunteers: Subway–Neillsville, Hardee’s of Neillsville, Medford & Colby, Pizza Hut–Neillsville, Schmitty’s on Main, Neillsville Hansen’s IGA, BP / Drescher Oil–Neillsville, AgCountry Farm Credit Services–Thorp.**

## 2022 3-Day Male Veterans Retreat Recap, cont.

The afternoon of July 8 was the beginning of the retreat with Veterans gathering for a crossbow presentation at Perfect 10 Outdoors near Neillsville. This was followed by an introductory talk by Vietnam Veteran dog handler Mike Voorhees at The Highground. Mike's scout dog "Satan" was the inspiration for The Highground's Military Working Dog Tribute. The evening ended with a twilight tour of the Park, guided by Vietnam Veteran Skip Klabon, and a bonfire at the Moraine Motel (the lodging facility for the 2022 retreats).

The next day began with an early morning tai chi – morning stretch led by Linda Imler of AKF Martial Arts. The Veterans then enjoyed the Park's wooded trails with a Forest Walk therapeutic workshop guided by Tina Wagner of Healing Oaks Forest Therapy. This two-hour workshop teaches skills of mindfulness, living in the moment and realizing the healing power of nature which builds skills necessary for PTS management and general stress relief. After a delicious lunch prepared by volunteer Bonnie Hennen, who prepped and served almost all the retreat meals, the Veterans took part in honoring Mike Voorhees with a formal Honor Stone ceremony at the Military Working Dog Tribute. The Veterans formed the color guard for the ceremony which was attended by Mike's family and friends. Honored guests

included Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Michael English and K9 Officer "Arthur"; Patriot K9s staff member Lani Rethaber and his dog Timber. After the ceremony, Lani of Patriot K9s provided a presentation on their therapy dog program for Veterans. Skip and Debbie Klabon provided a generous venison steak meal on Saturday evening, a retreat tradition!

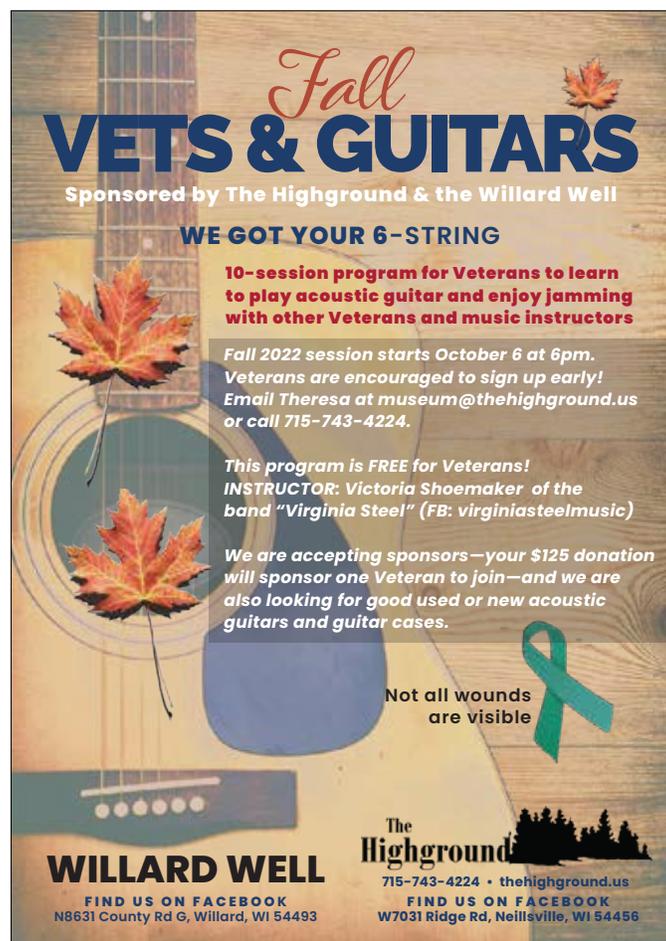
Vietnam Veteran author and post-traumatic stress recovery advocate Michael Orban spoke to the Veterans on PTS causes, how to destigmatize PTS and the importance of communication on PTS management. Vietnam Veteran Will Gilmore then presented on his experiences during his service in Vietnam and his recognition and healing of PTS when he returned home.

Pastor Mike Voorhees began Sunday morning with a non-denominational service for the Veterans on The Highground Plaza. The group then headed out to Strides Equestrian Therapeutic Center near Greenwood for an extended introductory session of equine (horse) therapy for Veterans in PTS management. Scott Schultz of The Heartbeat Center for Writing, Literacy and the Arts led a relaxing and interactive workshop on the more light-hearted moments of service, even those who served in combat. This workshop was the perfect way to end a great weekend of camaraderie and healing at The Highground.

## Volunteers Needed for Fall Cleanup

The Highground's Annual Fall Cleanup Days will take place Friday and Saturday, October 14–15. This is a great opportunity for supporters to help maintain The Highground as one of the finest Veterans parks in the country. Cleanup days are from 8:30am–4pm. Volunteering is a great way to lend a hand to The Highground and help maintain it as a unique treasure which provides healing and education to Veterans, families and to the over 200,000 visitors that The Highground draws to Central Wisconsin every year.

**Everyone is invited to attend. If you are joining us, please email Pete at [ops@thehighground.us](mailto:ops@thehighground.us) or call Pete at 715-743-4224 so lunches can be planned accordingly.**



*Fall*  
**VETS & GUITARS**

Sponsored by The Highground & the Willard Well

**WE GOT YOUR 6-STRING**

**10-session program for Veterans to learn to play acoustic guitar and enjoy jamming with other Veterans and music instructors**

Fall 2022 session starts October 6 at 6pm. Veterans are encouraged to sign up early! Email Theresa at [museum@thehighground.us](mailto:museum@thehighground.us) or call 715-743-4224.

This program is FREE for Veterans!  
INSTRUCTOR: Victoria Shoemaker of the band "Virginia Steel" (FB: [virginiateelmusic](https://www.facebook.com/virginiateelmusic))

We are accepting sponsors—your \$125 donation will sponsor one Veteran to join—and we are also looking for good used or new acoustic guitars and guitar cases.

Not all wounds are visible

The Highground

**WILLARD WELL**  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
N8631 County Rd G, Willard, WI 54493

715-743-4224 • [thehighground.us](http://thehighground.us)  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville, WI 54456

# Upcoming Events

**THE HIGHGROUND DAY OF PEACE**



**SEP 21**

THE HIGHGROUND WILL RECOGNIZE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE WITH THE 2ND ANNUAL "OPEN COMMUNITY" GATHERING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21. THE EVENT WILL START AT NOON WITH A MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE BY THE LIBERTY BELL.

FOR QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES ABOUT READING OR PERFORMING AT THE EVENT, EMAIL THERESA AT [MUSEUM@THEHIGHGROUND.US](mailto:MUSEUM@THEHIGHGROUND.US) OR CALL 715-743-4224.

**The Highground**

W7031 RIDGE ROAD  
NEILLSVILLE, WI, 54456

715-743-4224  
[THEHIGHGROUND.US](http://THEHIGHGROUND.US)

**WIN A NEW ATV!**

**2022 ATV Raffle**



**Honoring our Veterans**

November 11, 2022  
at The Highground

**\$20 each or 3 for \$50**

We have 1500 tickets available! The drawing will take place after the 3pm Veterans Day Ceremony.

**Purchase your tickets today at The Highground Gift Shop, call 715-743-4224 or email [donations@thehighground.us](mailto:donations@thehighground.us)**

**1st Place:** 2022 Polaris Sportsman 450 H.O.\*  
**2nd Place:** \$1000 Cash  
**3rd Place:** \$500 Cash  
(value \$7988)

\*Note, winner is responsible for tax and title

**Over \$9,400 in prizes!**

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W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville, WI 54456 • [thehighground.us](http://thehighground.us)

**2022 Highground Fall**

**BAKE SALE**  
Saturdays  
**OCTOBER 1**  
FROM 10 AM TO 3 PM  
At The Highground

Breads cakes pies  
Cookies and More!

**SUPPORTING IMPROVED**  
Veteran Reunions experiences

**THROUGH EVENTS LIKE...**  
the Vietnam era Huey Flight  
Veteran meal, & activities

**The Highground**  
Veterans Memorial Park



**6th Annual Patriotic Quilt Raffle**

**Attention Quilters**

The Highground is looking for those patriotic quilts: lap size or larger! Quilts will be displayed in the museum & online from Dec 1 to Dec 13.

**Tickets**  
\$5 ea  
5 for \$20  
15 for \$40

**Drawing at The Highground Museum Dec 13, 2022 at Noon**

**As many winners as there are quilts**

Pick your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> choices from our website, [thehighground.us](http://thehighground.us) & note it on your ticket. Quilts can be mailed at winner's expense (\$15-\$20).

**The Highground**  
Veterans Memorial Park



# Dear Reader

Thank you for all the compliments on the newsletter changes. Some of you have said you like the new setup and some have said you enjoy reading about how The Highground is helping Veterans. With that in mind, please note the following changes to the **Veterans Crisis Line** and please help us get the word out. You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

To reach the Veterans Crisis Line:

Veterans and their loved ones can **Dial 988 then press 1** OR **Text 838255**.

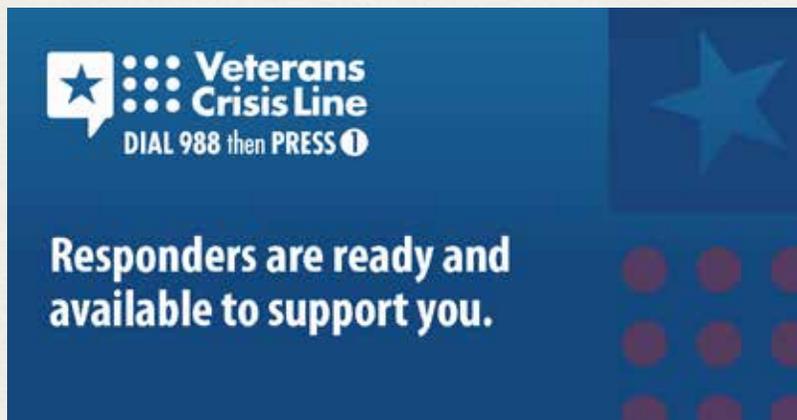
They will be routed to the same trained Veteran Crisis Line responders, 24/7/365.

Online chat is also available at **veteranscrisisline.net**

*“Do not give in to the war within” – Unknown author*

Best Wishes,

The Bravo of Bravo-Romeo-Tango



**Reminder:** “**Dear Bravo-Romeo-Tango**” is your place to ask questions or advice about The Highground, Veteran resources/programs and events. We invite you to provide your story as a Veteran or as a Veteran’s family that you feel may help others.

Please email your letters to [store@thehighground.us](mailto:store@thehighground.us) or mail them to:

**The Highground**  
c/o Dear B-R-T  
P.O. Box 457  
Neillsville, WI 54456

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Mike Purgett

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Roxane Purgett

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Ellie Walter

# FEATURED ITEMS

GIFT SHOP HOURS ARE 10AM TO 4PM DAILY

ARE YOU A NEW CUSTOMER? GET 15% OFF YOUR FIRST ONLINE ORDER!

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

**THEHIGHGROUND.SHOP**

The store that supports the mission



SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2022



**Tile Ribbons**

**10010**  
**\$5.95**

Ribbons with tiles that spell the branches of the military. Hang anywhere.



**Patriotic Dish Towel**

**3120**  
**\$10.95**

Double-sided 100% cotton jacquard woven thread towel with stars and stripes design.



**Custom Patriotic Pen**

**9902-01**  
**\$45.95**

Custom pens made by a Marine Veteran. Rifle clip with bolt action. Tip unscrews to put in ink refill. Available in Veteran, Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy.



**B/W Mandala**

**8424**  
**\$22.95**

Black & white soaker bandana with gemstones (center item in photo above)



**HG Gift Card**

**N/A**  
**N/A**

The perfect gift for anyone and any occasion. Available in any amount.



**Winter Pine Coaster Set**

**3009**  
**\$12.95**

Set of four coasters with four different images and sayings. Size: 4" x 4" Winter hat featured above. Other images in this set include mittens, boots and skates.

**Call us at 715-743-4224**

Email: [store@thehighground.us](mailto:store@thehighground.us)  
[thehighground.shop](http://thehighground.shop)

W7031 Ridge Road, Neillsville, WI 54456

# Wish List

## The Highground Wist List:

- Raffle baskets for the Neillsville 9 Pin Bowling Tournament (Oct. 8)
- New 32GB USB drives (Thank you for those we've received so far!)
- Display mannequin heads for Gift Shop (item or funding for)
- Volunteers willing to weed areas 1-2 times a month (April-Oct.)
- Volunteers for 2023 Events Committee (call Bonnie)
- Volunteers for 2022-2023 Honor Stone Ceremony Crew:  
Color Guards, Rifle Squads, Parking cars, guiding visitors, bell ringers, pinning red ribbons on Veterans, singers for the National Anthem, photographers (not your cameras) and more! Many volunteers are needed to make the ceremony memorable for the honorees and their families (call Haley)
- Volunteer professional printer to produce letterhead and envelopes

Thank you to Roy and Ginny Franz for providing our letterhead, envelopes and so much more over the years! Your support and kind hearts are truly appreciated!

## Gifting opportunities to consider:

- Honor a lost loved one with a Memorial gift
- Honor a loved one with an Honorarium
- Contribute to The Highground Endowment Fund
- Sponsor one of four Persian Gulf Tribute barriers for \$4K (together with family community, employer, etc.)
- Veterans service organizations can honor the families and communities of our Veterans with a United in Service Stone

To support any of these initiatives, call 715-743-4224 or send an email to [donations@thehighground.us](mailto:donations@thehighground.us).

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

What you can do to help us... If you would like to receive the Email Newsletter to help reduce printing and postage costs, please contact us and we can make that happen. There is also an email signup form at the bottom of our website homepage. If you receive more than one issue of each newsletter, please let us know. If you would like to continue receiving a hard copy newsletter, a small monetary assistance of \$25 per year would help cover the cost associated with the printing and mailing. Your assistance with this project is greatly appreciated. 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 grassroots, 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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 printed 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



2022 is the 30th Anniversary of "The Nurse" tribute. The Highground is one of the first memorials in the United States to pay specific tribute to women Veterans. "Fragments", placed in 1988, includes a woman in the statuary as does The Women's Memorial which was dedicated in 1992. Roger Brodin originally submitted "The Nurse" in the competition for the Women's Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. Had she been chosen, the 36" model, which now stands on a piece of granite in front of the Flag Pole, would have been a life-size version. When a different design was chosen, the Wisconsin Chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America purchased the statue for The Highground where she pays tribute to all women who have served our nation.

## 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.

### Vietnam War

Richard John Gorges  
William Dale Gorsuch  
Gregg Michael Golsin  
Glenn Richard Gradecki  
Kenneth Joseph Grassl  
Harvey Duncan Gray  
John Patrick Gray  
Paul R. Grazier  
Robert William Grebby  
Dennis Joseph Green  
Ben J. Greene  
Bruce John Greenwood  
Roger William Greetan  
Lon Paul Gregorash  
Michael Jon Gregorius  
Donald Leonard Greiger  
Neil Norman Greinke  
Thomas Andrew Greisen  
Ronald Louis Grenier  
Leon G. Greshamer  
Robert Greskowiak  
Carl Wayne Grimes  
Dennis Allen Groff  
John Albert Gross  
Allen Frederick Grotzke  
Michael Alfred Gruber  
William Thomas Grudzinski  
Jerome E. Grunewald  
Edward Roy Gruszczynski  
Thomas Charles Guden

### Korean War

Melvin R. Klein  
Laverne R. Klevgard  
Charles J. Kling  
John Klunk  
Forrest N. Knich  
Frances D. Knobel  
Roy E. Knopp  
Jerome W. Knorr  
Ralph E. Knuth  
Paul E. Kochanski  
Kenneth John Kohlbeck  
Glenn E. Kohn  
Edward Kokot  
Harvey A. Kolberg  
Jack Korakian  
Leonard Joseph Koscielak  
Donald Kosmecki  
Chester F. Kotowicz  
Daniel Benjamin Kott  
Jerome W. Kottmer  
Stanley F. Kountney  
Clarence E. Krei  
Eugene Kressin  
Walter B. Kretlow Jr.  
George A. Krizan  
Wayne Allen Krueger  
Stanley S. Krukowski  
Janis Krumins  
Jerome M. Krumpus  
Raymond Krzyzaniak

Roland W. Kubinek  
Harvey Earl Kudick  
Melvin L. Kuehl  
Wayne A. Kuehn  
Roger Ray Kuhlmann  
Adrian Kurowski  
John Ellis Laborg  
Robert L. Lafave  
Robert Joseph Lahey  
Howard J Landry  
Lee W. Langeberg

### Persian Gulf

Eric A. Palmisano  
Eric J. Poelman  
Matthew I. Pionik  
Brian P. Prening  
Robert M. Rieckhoff  
Nickolas E. Riehl  
Jakob Roelli  
Justin D. Ross  
Rhett W. Schiller  
Joshua M. Schmitz  
Sean M. Schneider  
Matthew E. Schram  
Joshua Michael Scott  
Adam P. Servais  
Chad J. Simon  
Benjamin A. Smith

Adrian V. Soltau  
Christopher J. Splinter  
Jon B. St. John II  
Andy A. Stevens  
Kirk Allen Straseskie  
Paul J. Sturino  
Jesse L. Thiry  
Daniel J. Thompson  
Matthew Thompson  
Jesse D. Tillery  
Harry H. Timberman  
John O. Tollefson  
Eugene A. Uhl, III  
Nathan J. Vacho  
Daniel Joel  
Cheryl LaBeau-O'Brien  
Lance Monsen  
Rocky Nelson  
Scott Schroeder  
Brian Scott  
William Strehlow  
Patrick Wanke  
Carl Zabel

