



The High Ground



Summer 2013

...a place for all of us.

25th Anniversary of Fragments

Dedication: 9-18-88



"Fragments" Wisconsin's Vietnam Veteran's Tribute, is unique. Not only does it possess beauty and sculptural excellence, but it has a profound spiritual presence as well. "Fragments" has evolved from being a statue to becoming a destination, a "welcome home", a place to cry, a place of refuge, a place to breathe, a place to reflect with eyes closed surrounded by the whispers of chimes engraved with those who were lost. "Fragments" is at once both serene and powerful. While it speaks to us all, it speaks personally to each veteran and their loved ones. We will commemorate the 25th anniversary of "Fragments" on Saturday, September 14th at 2:00pm. Please join us as we are led in celebration by The Highground founder Tom Miller, speaker Howard Sherpe and other supporters whose contributions shaped The Highground. This will be a joyous, spiritual day and we encourage all to attend.

The First Person You See—the Porch Greeter



The Highground Porch Greeters' Luncheon Held Despite Heavy Snowfall

The Highground Porch Greeters' Luncheon was held March 19th at The United Methodist Church in Neillsville. Even though the previous day's snowfall made travel difficult, there was still a large turnout of "porch greeters" —



volunteers who greet visitors at The Highground.

Pastor Doug Bjerke led the invocation before all attendees enjoyed the luncheon which was served by The Highground staff with the cheerful help of Barb Petkovsek of Neillsville and JoAnn Voss of Granton. Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager, reminded everyone of the importance of being a porch greeter; how their presence welcomes all who visit, whether they are tourists on a day trip or veterans on a personal journey.

Porch Greeters volunteer their time on their chosen days from April through October, (4 hours/month) greeting visitors to The Highground, answering guest's questions and helping to make their visit an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

If you would like information on becoming a porch greeter or on other volunteer opportunities, please call or email The Highground or check out the "Volunteer Opportunities" page at www.thehighground.org.



People do not pass through The Highground. People come home to The Highground.

2nd Annual "Half is Good Enough For Me" 1/2 Marathon & 5K



On Saturday, March 23rd, 67 runners competed in the 2nd Annual "Half is Good Enough For Me" 1/2 Marathon & 5K race, starting and finishing at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville.

Participants from as far as Eau Claire, La Crosse, Green Bay, Middleton and Reedsburg, as well as local runners took on the challenging early spring conditions, enjoying the race, camaraderie of fellow runners, and raising funds to extend The Highground's mission of healing and education for all who come!



The runners with the best times of the 5K race were:

Bob Gruber, Marshfield, 22min 6sec;
Fred Walter, Neillsville, 22min 57sec;
Ian Zoschke, Marshfield, 23min 22sec.



The runners with the best times of the half-marathon race were:

Cullen Haselby, Stevens Point, 1hr 32min 48sec;
Cody Schuster, Marshfield, 1hr 34min 49sec;
Allan Stieber, Abbotsford, 1hr 35min 30sec.

The "Half is Good Enough For Me" was founded by local runner, Amy Melvin, in honor of her mother and best friend, Sandy Greene.

The 3rd Annual "Half is Good Enough For Me" will be held Saturday, March 29, 2014, so mark your calendars!



Dave Backstrom came sporting the first Highground 5K Run/Walk shirt held at The Highground in 1994.

Thank you Dave and Thank you Amy for bringing it back to The Highground!



Kirk Rodman, Vol. Gen. Mgr. of The Highground, surprised race founder, Amy Melvin, with a Friends of The Highground plaque to recognize her support of The Highground through her fundraising via the "Half is Good Enough for Me" race.

SCHEELS®

THANK YOU

The Highground and Amy Melvin thank this year's "Half is Good Enough For Me" sponsors: Hardee's, Citizen's State Bank of Loyal, and Scheels of Eau Claire. These sponsors supported the race with funds and donated items which were appreciated by all! They also thank the Clark County Sheriff's Department for going out of their way to ensure that the runners were kept safe while crossing a busy highway; Neillsville Highway Department, which helped with road safety items; Town of Pine Valley, for clearing the roadways; and Adam and Ashley Davel for the use of their driveway.



The miracle isn't that I finished. The miracle is that I had the courage to start!

MAGGIE MAE and The Heartland Country Band

Maggie Mae and The Heartland Country Band performed to a full house at the Pittsville School Auditorium on Saturday, April 6th. The concert, sponsored in part by Hardees, was held as a benefit concert to raise awareness and funds for The Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute which is being constructed at The Highground. This tribute will honor service men and women who served in conflicts in and around the Persian Gulf region, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans of these conflicts, their families and loved ones as well as all visitors to The Highground, will be able to walk through the outdoor tribute and use it as a place of healing and remembrance.



Maggie Mae and The Heartland Country Band gave a high energy, crowd-pleasing performance which included a very heartfelt dedication of songs to our veterans and current service members. Kirk Rodman, Vol. General Manager of The Highground, presented Maggie Mae with a Friends of The Highground Award to honor her contribution to The Highground.

Concert attendees viewed a mock-up 3D display of the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute. They also learned of the many valuable roles that The Highground plays by bringing educational and meaningful exhibits to Wisconsin; aiding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment groups with materials and support in providing a spiritual place for all of us.



Persian Gulf Tribute committee members, Amanda Hensiak and Celeste Kaufman (missing Connie Braun) presented Maggie Mae with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for her efforts benefiting The Persian Gulf Tribute.



Maggie Mae had her own surprise for Kirk, as she called him to the stage and sang "Happy Birthday" to him! There were other light-hearted moments between Maggie Mae and her band members, which made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon concert. After the concert, Maggie Mae mingled with her fans, taking photographs and enjoying conversation until the last fan left the auditorium. She really made everyone feel welcome and the entire spirit of the event was uplifting and inviting!

Music is the language of the spirit—Thank you, Maggie Mae!

SPRING WORK WEEK



The Highground is blessed to have the support of so many dedicated volunteers! This was evident during the Spring Work Week, when, despite the unpredictable weather, 50 to 80 volunteers arrived each day to complete a myriad of necessary tasks at The Highground.



The projects ranged from housekeeping chores inside the Timberframe and Learning Center to re-building rock walls, installing pavers, painting indoors, power washing, building shelves, and raking, raking, raking. All the volunteers excelled at their jobs and many were here each day of the work week. (A total of approximately 1,700 man hours were worked!)



Each day of the work week started with warm, delicious cinnamon rolls made by Hardee's. By 11:30am the work crews were more than ready to enjoy lunch, which was supplied each day by different local businesses. The Highground wishes to express thanks to those who donated so much time, effort, and food for the work week lunches: Mayville's Market, Pizza Hut, Cenex/Heartland Co-op, Apple Valley Restaurant, Subway, Mid-towne Café, Donna's Cozy Kitchen, Fannie's Restaurant, Hansen's IGA, Drescher Oil (BP), United FCS, and Neillsville Country Club. John



Myers and Janice Ottman also brought their specialties to serve at our lunches. The Highground "Sweet Ladies" once again supplied a bountiful amount of tasty bars and cookies for our desserts and snacks!



This newsletter cannot tell all that was done—nooks and crannies finally received attention (the attic), walkway sand was put in, pavers fixed or installed, "meeting of the minds" were shared plus so much more—it's not what you all see, it's what you don't see that brings our dedicated volunteers forward. Thank you!

While there isn't room to personally thank everyone in this column, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers that came to work week and through their hard efforts accomplished so many important tasks at The Highground. Their valuable time is "priceless".

Nothing is stronger than the heart of a volunteer! Thank you!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24- SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013



**Boy Scout Troop #1701
Menomonie**



Many volunteers came to work with their own tools and supplies. Some larger pieces of machinery were brought in by Wes Waterman and Don Anibas. Joel and Marla Raine gave us the use of their trailer; Connie and Wayne Opelt let us use their "Rhino"; and Bob Struensee lent the use of his compactor. The Highground also wants to thank Joel and Betty Martin for their hard work on the trail system on their 5-wheeler.

Volunteers

A volunteer is a special person
Though they would be the last to say.
They are the first to step forward
To ease someone else's way.

Who are these great people
That give their time so free.
Actually they are friends and neighbors
Folks just like you and me.

If you want to join the givers
There are a lot of things to do.
Just say you are readily available
And someone is sure to look for you.

Many things wouldn't get done
If none was willing to give.
When someone says "I'll do it"
They help enrich the lives we live.

So there are people out there
Who deserve our thanks and cheers.
They all give a part of themselves.
Thank God for the precious Volunteers.

Are you one of them?

---C/R 1/13 Mel Anderson



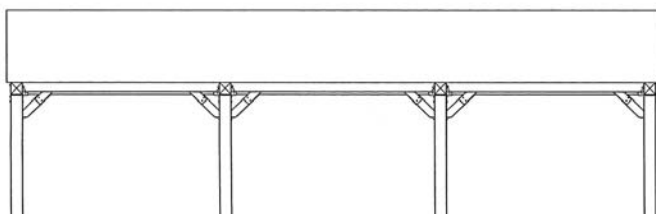
THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

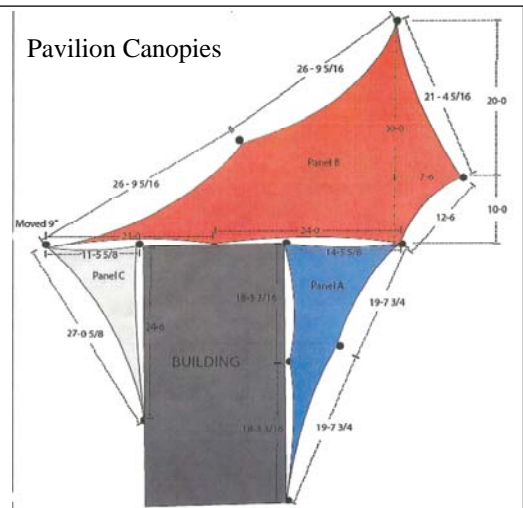
Work Week #2—Painting/Staining/Building

A major project that could not be completed during work week was the construction of the new pavilion in the picnic area due to the weather. Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, the cement is poured and the construction will begin on May 21st. If you have some extra time to lend a hand, please call The Highground to verify what is still needed for the Spring Work Week #2.



**PAVILION
CONSTRUCTION**

Pavilion Canopies



The Highground Couldn't Do It Without YOU!

Stones--Legacy, Korean, Meditation and Persian Gulf

2013 Placements Opens Center Walkway!

April 13, 2013 opened the center walkway on the plaza! What a great day it was with 24 stones being dedicated, even with snowy weather. Two families with 8 and 9 stones honored their veterans, traveling across the US (Arizona and California, Florida and East Coast).

Color Guards, Rifle Squads and the playing of Taps is always a moving portion of the ceremonies. If your post would like to come, (with or without a stone placement) please let us know. The Highground appreciates all who participate to make the ceremony even more meaningful!

The stones help support The Highground as a source of funding to provide the best possible park for our veterans

and visitors. Individuals/organizations or clubs are welcome to be part of The Highground (veterans and non-veterans are welcome).

**Perfect Gift for your loved one!
Or honor your organization!
Support The Highground
With a Stone Purchase.**

Choices of locations and stone types available:

Legacy Stones: \$435 (gray) on the plaza walkway

Meditation Stones: \$500 (red) in the Garden Shelter

Korean Tribute: \$575 (black polished) on Tribute walkway wall

Persian Gulf: \$600 (sand) in the Tribute

Registry: Don't forget to continue to add to the Registry book for those that have stones at The Highground. These are the stories behind the stone—"the rest of the story". (Please submit only copies—pictures, letters, writings, etc.)

These books have been updated and are located in The Learning Center Library. Thank you Bonnie Hennen for the hours of dedication you gave to update, correct and organize the books!



Stone placement dates:

Open to the public—come honor those being dedicated

Legacy Stones:

May 18 1:00pm (full.)

June 8 1:00pm (full)

July 13 9:30am (4 available)

August 3 9:30am (10 available)

Sept 7 1:00pm (10 available)

Oct 5 9:30am or 2:00pm

Meditation Stones:

Sept 7 9:30am

Korean Stones:

June 8 9:30am

Persian Gulf Stones—TBA

The American Legion Post #175 of Loyal was on hand as David Lucht, Commander was honored with a legacy stone from his family.

April's ceremony was done in snow, but the hearts were warm as the center walkway was opened for stone placements.



New Gold Star bench coming. Jill Haglund, Madison, has been diligently working on raising funds for a bench to be placed overlooking the Gold Star Tribute to honor those women who waited for their men. She is writing a book that will be available—full of *real* stories from contributors to the bench. Dedication is planned for June 8th.

Wording on the bench says:

***Pause to honor the women who waited
And whose love supported
All who served for our freedom***

Thank you Jill for your efforts to help The Highground further its mission of healing and education.



Now find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial

For More Information Contact The Highground

W7031 Ridge Rd. Phone: 715-743-4224
PO Box 457 Fax: 715-743-4228
Neillsville, WI 54456 Email: highgrnd@tds.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial

Web: www.thehighground.org

On US Hwy 10, 4 miles west of Neillsville, WI
Or 30 miles east of Osseo from the junction of I-94 and US Hwy 10

The Highground Staff

Volunteer General Manager	Kirk Rodman
Volunteer Gift Shop Mgr	Nancy Rodman
Event/Volunteer Coord	Theresa Hebert
Donation Coordinator	Kay Anason
Learning Center	June Berg
Maintenance	Mike Purgett
Gift Shop	Betty Marksteiner
Gift Shop	Ali Abel
Gift Shop	Judy Zickert
Gift Shop	Deb Roedel

Board of Directors

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Don Quicker, Treasurer (Neillsville, WI)
Ned Carlson (Neillsville, WI)
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Bill Lobeck (Viola, WI)
Steve Maddox (Chippewa Falls, WI)
Beth E. Martin (WI Rapids, WI)

The Highground—a place to remember, honor and heal.

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

THE HIGHGROUND WISHES—WILL YOU RESPOND?

-Board Members: 2 more needed: *Priceless*
 -Canopies for Pavilion: 3 @ \$1280/each
 -Person to water plants weekly: *Priceless*
 -Persian Gulf Tribute grass preparation: \$1360
 -Learning Center Irrigation System: \$5400; *Thanks for \$4725*
 -Camera: \$400
 -Repair Plaza walls: \$1876
 -Persian Gulf Benches: 18 @ \$3000; *Thanks for 4 so far*
 -Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 16 @ \$4000/each;
 Thanks for 2 so far
 -Plant water sprayer funds: \$312
 -Concrete for four different projects: \$1500 (WWII/Korean
 Tribute/sidewalk/Meditation Garden benches)
 -Pathway Bollards to Persian Gulf Tribute: 10 @ \$1000/each;
 Thanks for 2 so far
 -Design to cover the well in the Library parking lot: *Thanks*
 -Registry Honor Books upgrade: \$350; *Thanks for \$250 so far*
 -Bench upgrade: 20 @ \$80/each; *Thanks for 17 so far*
 -Plaza Parking lot paving: \$18,000/\$100 per share

-Mule Snow Blade: \$2250
 -Flowers for Persian Gulf Tribute: \$549
 -Corduroy Trail Work Gravel: 12 loads @ \$151 per load
 -15 Ballasts for Walkway Light Upgrade: \$160 each
 -Electrical Box for Learning Center Garage: \$545
 -Learning Center Track Lights for Displays 22@ \$56 each;
 Thanks for 14 so far
 -Blacktop for paving Learning Center lot: \$9140
 -Learning Center Garage Heaters: 2 @ \$250
 -Endowment Fund Donors
 -Memorials: Honor your loved ones
 -Walk behind brush mower for trails: \$2800
 -Preparation work for the upper parking lot: \$9800;
 Thanks for \$6000 so far
 -Learning Center Exhibit fund: *Thanks for \$9612 so far*
 -School transportation fund: *Thanks for \$25 so far in 2013*
 -Learning Center Library Computers: \$1600
 -Learning Center storage shelving: \$680
 -New tires for mule: \$450

Please

HELP!

BOWLING FOR THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TRIBUTE

We are excited to announce on Sunday, January 26, 2014 The Highground, along with Hardee's, will be hosting a bowling event to raise funds for The Military Working Dog Tribute! This will be an afternoon filled with fun, prizes and a chance to learn, renew or show-off your bowling skills! The event will be held at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield, WI from noon to 2:30pm (an additional "shift" may be added based on pre-registrations). Be prepared to have lots of fun, win prizes and bid on an exciting array of auction items. There will be something for everyone and it will be a fantastic afternoon for the whole family!

Reserve your bowling lane now for family and friends. For only \$50, your group will enjoy 2-½ hours of bowling fun (shoes included!), plus the knowledge that you are helping to honor the service and sacrifices of Military Working Dogs!

For more information on Bowling for the Military Working Dog Tribute, to reserve or to sponsor a lane(s) please call Theresa at The Highground or complete and mail in the form on page 8.

LEARNING CENTER EXHIBITS & REUNION/EDUCATION NIGHTS

The Learning Center has an opportunity to obtain some fascinating exhibits for 2013. However, these exhibits come with a price tag that The Highground currently does not have included in their budget. Can you help? Send a donation for this new fund today and watch for upcoming exhibits thanks to YOU!

Vietnam Graffiti Exhibit: \$5,000 Thanks for: \$2345
Living Thru the Forgotten War Exhibit & Korean War in Color (Korea): \$5,000 Thanks for \$1222
Civil War Sesquicentennial: \$250 Thanks for \$75
The Wall That Heals: \$6,000 (coming in 2014)
Thanks for \$3,000 so far!!

Anyone wishing to be a sponsor for any of these exhibits, please contact The Highground at 715-743-4224. It is because of YOUR generous donations and support that The Highground is capable of bringing such dynamic exhibits to you and the public to fulfill its mission of healing and education. **Thank you!**

Reunion/Education Nights are open to the public. Veterans are needed to be on the panel for a question and answer session. All are invited to attend and share their experiences or just be here to help The Highground fulfill it's mission of healing and education by reconnecting.

Thank you!

The Highground has wishes. Thank you for fulfilling them!

Friends of The Highground

Friends of The Highground

The Highground is a grass-roots, non-profit, 501 (c)3 organization that does not receive any ongoing federal or state funding. We have a very small operating budget and only exist because of the hearts and hands of thousands of volunteers and contributors who continue to give generously of their time, talents and personal/financial resources.

Please accept my donation of \$_____.

I would like the gift to be used for:

And/or

Newsletter subscription, \$25

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

Please send me information about:

- _____ Upcoming Highground events
- _____ Stones on The Highground
- _____ Fundraising Opportunities
- _____ Add someone to the newsletter mailing list
- _____ Information on the Persian Gulf Tribute
- _____ Volunteer opportunities on site
- _____ Visionaries and Immortals Endowment fund

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Bowling for Military Working Dog Tribute

Please reserve a lane for my family & friends to bowl!

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

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

I would like to sponsor a lane(s): (bowling is not included in sponsorship)

(\$100/lane) # of lane(s)_____ total \$_____

Name to place on sponsor sign displayed at lane:

(for example: "ABC Lighting", or "In Honor of John Doe")

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Make check out to The Highground or enter CC # below

Card #_____ Exp._____

Learning Center Exhibits and Reunion/Education Nights

Exhibit Contribution

___ **Yes**, we are able to help bring important exhibits to the Learning Center for others to learn with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.

Pledge amount \$_____

___ No, we are sorry we cannot support financially, but will help spread the word by distributing posters in our area. Please send us posters.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Reunion/Education Night RSVP

___ **Yes**, I am able to attend the following checked Reunion/Education Night (s) at 6:30pm

___ **Yes**, I would like to be on the panel that night to answer questions

___ No, we will not be able to attend the Reunion/Education Night but will spread the word.

___ **Please send us posters**

___ **July 27: Korean War**

___ **October 7: DS-OIF-OND-OEF**

___ **November 11: WWI**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Vietnam Graffiti Project on Display Now!



Jay Smith

Marking Time: Voyage to Vietnam—Vietnam Graffiti

Vietnam Graffiti Project (VGP) was developed by Art and Lee Beltrone to preserve the historic canvases and other belongings left aboard the *USNS Walker*. When the

ship was destined to be scrapped, everyone feared all of this history would be lost. So VGP volunteers collected the materials to develop an exhibit that would travel the country and present the stories of the soldiers and Marines who traveled aboard this ship on their way to Vietnam.

The exhibit includes many canvases with graffiti and even a few from local Wisconsin boys such as; Ed Monsoor formerly of La Crosse, WI now residing in West Salem, WI., Gene Bailey of Lone Rock, WI then and Stoughton, WI now. And, Jay Smith who called home Milwaukee when he boarded the *Walker* but now makes his home in Montello, Wisconsin. The exhibit will remain on display at the Learning Center until May 31, 2013.

Ed served with the 5th Special Forces Group (ABN), 4th Inf. Div. He successfully completed MACV Recondo School on May 11, 1968. Anyone having more information and/or photos of Ed is encouraged to contact June at The Highground.

On April 13, 2013 Gene and his family joined us here at The Highground for an educational and emotional day of remembrance. Gene shared stories of his experiences on board the *Walker* and about his time of service in Vietnam. Gene

was drafted in 1966, went to boot camp in Ft. Gordon, GA and completed AIT at Ft. Bragg, NC. He received his overseas orders in October 1966. Gene was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 15th Field Artillery. He boarded the *USNS Walker* in June 1967, after a 23 day voyage they landed on South Vietnamese soil at Qui Nhon on July 1, 1967. Attached to the 41st Artillery Group, First Field Force Vietnam (IFFV). Gene was a gunner on an 8 inch Self-Propelled Howitzer. He also worked with the Tiger Division and the White Horse Division during his tour in Vietnam. Gene returned to the U S and was honorably discharged from Ft. Lewis, WA in July 1968.

We searched high and low to locate and make contact with Jay, to no avail. Then on April 15th, out of the blue, he and his family showed up on our door step. What a wonderful surprise! Jay, too, spent the day with us, sharing his memories and stories. Jay was a gunner on a Chinook. He served in the Army for 2 years with a rank of Specialist 4th Class. His memories of the *Walker*: It was very hot, and a long ride, 28 days. They went through a typhoon that was a very rough ride. They had to clean up the puke from the guys getting sea sick.

Jay said "it was horrible, hot and smelly, bounding back and forth. A lot of guys got sick". Jay's job on the *Walker* was to clean the latrines. He stated the Marines on board did the other cleaning and cooking.



Gene Bailey

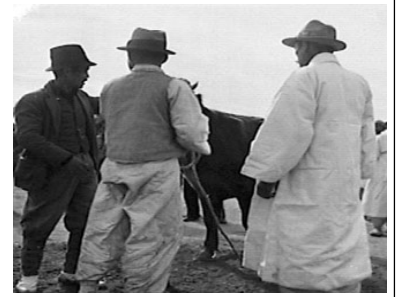
WWII Tribute—June & July



The extraordinary story of The Ghost Army is now available as a traveling exhibit coming to Learning Center in June and July. Produced in partnership between the University of Michigan and Plate of Peas Productions, the exhibit displays many rare photographs and works of art created by men in the unit.

Korean Tribute—August & September

Living Through Forgotten War: Portrait of Korea



Korean War in Color



In War, there are No-Unwounded Combat Warrior's

—Kirk Rodman, Vol. Gen Mgr



The editor's instructions to me for this issue's article was: "tie it all together". Take a walk in your mind about The Highground and tying it together can get very convoluted. Even an article for our newsletter is such a broad issue. So, I reviewed the newsletter and was again amazed at all the people involved with a tremendous amount of events. It would seem to me that what we should do is look out into the future and visualize where we see ourselves in the near future. We could pretend we were building something; for this we will need to use our tools. The first thing out of the box would be a measuring stick our mission statement, which is "Healing and Education", so we can measure everything we do in the future against our mission.

The future, what do you see? I see more veterans and families *needing* help as our population of Persian Gulf veterans mature. I see a *need* to accommodate more visitors as our base of supporters and new friends grow. I see these *needs* involving more people in staff and volunteers.

Short term *needs* would include a well to provide water for visitors in the lower picnic area. With the addition of water the next step would be restrooms to accommodate our growing base of people. With the growth of visitors, we would *need* to look at accessibility as visitors drive into the park and provide better parking areas. We also *need* to think about additional space as we grow from the

130,000 visitors a year to 175,000 or over 200,000 a year. We *need* to be prepared to look at the properties around us and consider buying them to expand our services as they become available.

Long term, we have to think about the services we offer and consider which ones *need* to grow and how to prioritize them. The survival of The Highground will depend on a healthy endowment fund to help sustain our growth.

A case in point is the new Learning Center since its inception we have been faced with the opportunity to provide larger exhibits, if we had more space. One of our early exhibits last year came in a 52 foot semi-trailer and it was full. It almost overwhelmed us. Next year, we will have the exhibit *One Woman Crying: Women and War* by Marissa Roth. It will be the premier showing in the United States coming directly from France. It has 98 photographs that range in size from 16" by 20" to 80" by 30". We will be sorely challenged to find enough quality space to show the exhibit in its entirety.

My belief is that if we are not growing, we are dying. I would be curious to hear from *you* about how you see your park in the near and distant future. It would also be interesting to hear how you see *yourself* involved in the future of The Highground.

Please take the time to let us know your thoughts.



Kirk Rodman



Board of Directors—Michael Weaver, Board Chair



Michael Weaver

The weather is really playing tricks on us this year! It is the end of April, and it is still winter in Northern Wisconsin. I am told that there is still over a foot of snow in many areas, and many of the lakes are still ice-encrusted. Fishing is being accomplished with the aid of ice augers and tip-ups, not the normal boat/motor tactics. Central parts of the State and southern regions are no longer covered with snow, but the temperatures are far from spring-like. Hopefully, the "worm will turn" in the near future.

Work week this April was somewhat protracted, due to weather. I am told that there were over 200 volunteers here the last week of April to perform a multitude of tasks. Volunteers are the heart of The Highground, and we DEEPLY appreciate all of their assistance!

THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU.....

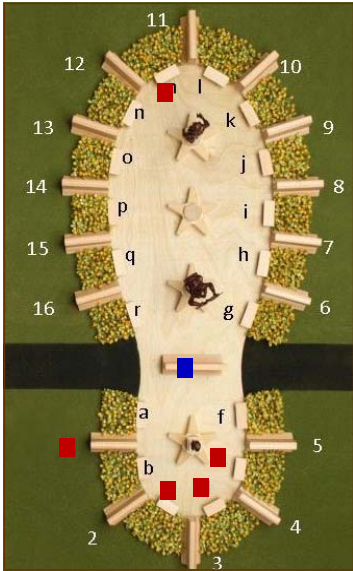
The pavilion should be completed in the month of May. When that is done, we will begin further construction of the Persian Gulf tribute. And the committee for the Military Working Dog Tribute is up and running, full throttle. If you have any interest to assist in these efforts, please let us know. We are always looking for new board members to serve, as well. Just give the office a call, should you have any questions.

Remember The Highground in any of your financial gift-giving. This is YOUR park, and is heavily dependent upon donations to keep this ship afloat. This is truly a first-rate, high quality Veterans Park. We appreciate your monetary support.

And finally, COME VISIT! Take a day out of your busy schedule. Bring your family and friends. Pack a picnic lunch. You will be amazed at all of the tributes. Enjoy this time of renewal. And take time to remember and honor our military veterans, especially at Memorial Day ceremonies.

Looking for two more Board of Directors? Would that be you?

Persian Gulf Update —The Persian Gulf Committee



Sponsors needed for:

- Jersey Barriers: ■ purchased
16 @ \$4,000/each (1-16)
- Single figure statue:
2 @ \$100,000/each
- Benches: ■ purchased
18 @ \$3,000/each (a-r)
- 1 Texas Barrier: \$30,000
■ Committed to purchase
- 1 Battlefield Cross: \$20,000
- 3 figure statue w/o base:
\$125,000

We've had a great start for *The Bootprint Tribute* in 2013. Several fundraisers have taken place and we, The Persian Gulf Tribute Committee, thank Amy Melvin for the "Half Is Good Enough For Me" 1/2 marathon/5K race held March 23rd in which 67 runners competed. We thank Maggie Mae for the GREAT concert she and the Heartland Country Band performed at the Pittsville School April 6th. We also thank Debbie and Skip Klabon, who hosted a huge garage sale in very cold weather, (snow, sleet and rain) on April 11-13 and all who donated the many items and those that helped in any way with the sale. These three wonderful fundraisers plus ALL donations that we have received from businesses and individuals, along with ALL the Many People, including The Highground Staff and Volunteers have made it possible to move forward with the prep work of *The Bootprint Tribute*. Work will continue as soon as the road bans are off and the start of the first phase will include setting forms, roughing in electrical, pouring cement, flooring and back fill. This phase should take approximately 3 months weather permitting. Only 1/3 of the monies needed to complete *The Bootprint Tribute* have been raised and we will be continuing to ask for more donations, fundraisers, people and/or businesses to purchase benches, jersey barriers, honor stones, statues and many other necessary items. Plaques are included with several of the items which can be inscribed with limited wording. A Persian Gulf Tribute committee member had a table set up at the May 4th Helicopter Expo with information and forms to purchase honor stones, benches and other items.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or have questions, contact The Highground. We will be available at other major events that will be taking place at The Highground... We look forward to seeing you there. Have a Great Summer!

**Thank You again to ALL who have helped in any way to bring
The Bootprint Tribute to The Highground**

Military Working Dog Tribute

The photo is of a scout dog wounded in Vietnam in 1969. This dog was attached to the 50th Infantry Platoon Scout Dogs (IPSD) working with the 4th Infantry Division in the central highlands. While walking point, a booby trap device exploded, injuring the dog's left front shoulder and three of his legs. He was medivaced by helicopter to the veterinary hospital at Cam Ranh Bay. Surgery was performed to repair his shoulder by taking bone from his ribs to replace those blown away from the blast and a cast was placed on his leg to keep the area immobilized. After two days, the veterinarian determined that the surgery was not successful and the dog was euthanized.

To honor the sacrifices of this dog and all other military working dogs, The Highground has a committee and is seeking designs and funds for a Military Working Dog Tribute. Please contact the Highground at 715-743-4224 or e-mail The Highground at highgrnds@tds.net if you can help with any of the above needs.

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



It is often in the darkest skies that we see the brightest stars.

Annual Helicopter Expo



On May 4th, one of the nicest days so far this year, the Helicopter Expo was held at The Highground. Over 200 visitors came to see the displays of a UH-1H helicopter (trailed in by Jim Ottman and the VVA 331) and several vintage military vehicles. The Highground thanks the generous people who brought their military vehicles and displays: Donald Anibas, Ernst Hediger, Troy Buddenhausen, Randy Lockman, Dale and Pam Bowden, and David and Mary Allton. Special thanks to Mary Schwartz (Iola Vintage Military Show: August 10-11, 2013 www.iolavms.com) for her generous support.

A highlight of the expo for kids of all ages was being able to sit in the helicopter and explore hands on! Many Vietnam veterans were able to discuss their memories of how important a role that particular kind of helicopter played in their wartime experience.

**THANK
YOU**



Hardees of Neillsville, a true supporter of The Highground throughout the year, set up a very popular food stand and remained busy throughout the expo.



As with all Highground events, this expo could not have happened without the work of several Highground volunteers. Thank you all!



**THANK
YOU**

One man's trash is another man's treasure!

What you may have thought was just something to dust or something to move from room to room became someone else's wish to have! Thanks to the open hearts of Skip and Debbie Klabon and the many family, friends and volunteers a great garage sale was assembled and open to the public in April! On a cold wintery day, this dedicated group raised \$1550 for the Persian Gulf Tribute (beating a local church's garage sale held indoors the same weekend)! Donors were generous with their belongings, making a perfect place to shop—it's amazing what a group can do when working together!



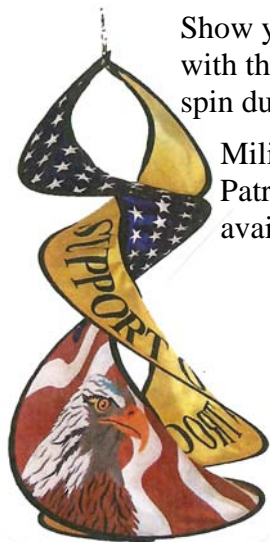
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Thank you!

Volunteers are paid in six figures S-M-I-L-E-S.

Spring into Summer—Nancy Rodman, Volunteer Gift Shop Manager



Show your Patriotic spirit with the Support our Troops spin duet for \$17.95.

Military emblems and Patriot spin duets are also available in our shop.



Turbo Twistera remote controlled car that lights up, spins, twists and flips. It is sure to delight kids of ALL ages for \$24.95



Tenzi...a dice game that is fun for the whole family at \$13.95



Puzzle Lovers, we have a challenge for you...The Scramble Squares have only nine pieces but are not easy to solve.

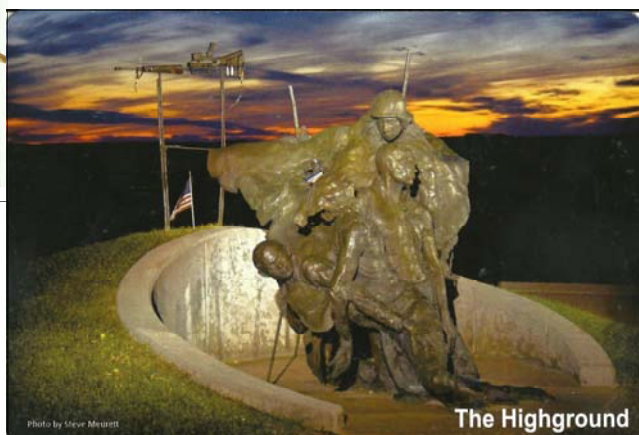
Several choices including: Armed Services, Hot Air Balloons, Classic Cycles, Civil War, Cats, and Bald Eagles.

Priced at \$9.95



Liven up your garden at night with a solar bubble light. Choose from Butterfly, Dragonfly, Frog, Lady Bug or Hummingbird.

Bubble wand changes into six different colors every few seconds. For \$22.95



A new large size Highground magnet featuring "Fragments" is now available for \$2.95.

Remember the special "Dad" in your life with an embroidered eagle polo shirt Sizes S-2XL. Colors: Cardinal Red, Dark Heather, Yellow Haze... \$22.95-\$24.95.



Short sleeve eagle tees also available in Cardinal Red, Heather Indigo, Pistachio, and Dark Heather, sizes S-3XL ..\$15.95-\$19.95



Australia comes to The Highground

Greetings from Australia! This Australian flag arrived at The Highground to be flown on ANZAC Day (April 25th) Australia and New Zealand Army Corps. The flag was flown all week long during work week, where many many volunteers came to help prepare the park for the busy summer season. Yes, "The Highground is a place for all of us" rings true around the world.

In 2012, The Highground was one of the highlights for different groups of Australian veterans. Coming separately, just weeks apart, it was interesting to hear their Vietnam stories from the war. *(More on the website.)*

Thank you John & Pat Martin for the flag! Safe travels!



The Highground Newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc., PO Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456. Telephone (715) 743-4224, Fax (715) 743-4228. Email at highgrnd@tds.net. Website: www.thehighground.org. Printed in USA. Entire contents copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Reproduction of materials herein is prohibited, except by written permission of The Highground. Publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material. Publisher reserves the right to publish, in whole or part, all letters received. Opinions expressed in The Highground Newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project Inc.

Call today for shipping and assistance: 715-743-4224 Email: highgrnd@tds.net

Upcoming Events You Want to Put on Your Calendar



Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 27, 2013 1:00pm

Speaker, Shane Dawson, a veteran who served in Iraq. A Color Guard will be presented by the Loyal American Legion Post 175 and TAPS will be played. If *your* color guard is available, please let us know.

All Welcome

2013 Upcoming Learning Center Exhibits

May: Vietnam Tribute-Vietnam Graffiti
June & July: WWII Tribute—Ghost Army
Aug & Sept: Korean Tribute-Living through the Forgotten War & Korean War in Color
Oct & Nov: Civil War Tribute-Sesquicentennial
December: Veterans Art Show

Check the website for details on these exhibits.

Memorial Day Ceremony / Motorcycle Fun Run Monday, May 27, 2013

Join us on Memorial Day, May 27th, as motorcyclists pay tribute to our veterans. A Memorial Day observance ceremony will begin after the conclusion of the Motorcycle Fun Run at 1:00pm. The Fun Run is composed of two groups of motorcyclists. One group will leave from Tomah at 8:30am on the 27th and the other group will leave from Neillsville at 8:15am. To join the event, please call Dave Keene-608-567-9150 or email yaman6004me@hotmail.com email Mark Dawson clubberman35@yahoo.com or feel free to call The Highground. *More details are also provided on The Highground website, www.thehighground.org.*



Flag Day Ceremony Saturday, June 8, 2013 9:30am

Join the Korean Honor Stone recipients in honoring our nation's flag during the Stone Ceremony. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and other volunteers will help The Highground display the 50+ Native American Flags on the plaza. A sight to behold.



29th Annual Bicycle Tour Thursday, August 1st — Sunday, August 4th 2013

We're "gearing" up for the 29th Annual Bicycle Tour (BAT) at The Highground! This event spans the state with several groups of bicyclists pedaling for up to 3 days on their journey to The Highground. On Sunday, August 4th, the bicyclists will celebrate their journey's end at The Highground. The Bicycle Tour is a major contributor of funding and awareness for The Highground. To be a part of this year's Bicycle Tour, please call The Highground at 715-743-4224. More information will also be posted on The Highground website. Please register early as T-shirts need to be ordered by June 1st.

13th Annual Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally—Friday, Aug 16th & Saturday, Aug 17th 2013

The 13th Annual Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally will be held on Aug 16th & 17th. This year's Rally will honor "Women in Service & Support". It will bring awareness of the strength, dedication and sacrifice of our nation's women who serve in the armed forces and also the women who support our armed forces whether with material goods or with emotional support. Through our nation's history, women have shown an unwavering strength and resilience "at home" during times of conflict and bravery and compassion when called upon to serve in war zones. As our nation enters a new chapter in the military service of women, we will continue our unwavering support of them! To become a part of the Ride to Remember, or to learn more, please call The Highground at 715-743-4224. Information is available on The Highground website as well.

June 29, 2013—A Day Packed With Events!

Living History, Voices Concert, and Fireworks!

Saturday, June 29, 2013 9:30am to dusk

World War II re-enactors will be at The Highground from 9:30am until 6:30pm!
At 7:00pm several veterans will perform music during our "Voices of Freedom" concert.
Fireworks will start at dusk!

WWII LIVING HISTORY

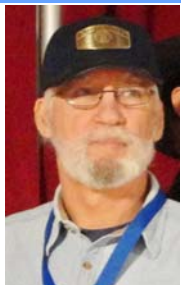


COME ENJOY RELIVING A DAY IN THE LIVES OF
WWII SOLDIERS
CAMP LIFE AND MACHINERY WILL BE ON DISPLAY
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO MINGLE AMONGST THE
SOLDIERS AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES
MAKE A DAY OF IT
WWII LIVING HISTORY 9:30AM TO 6:30PM
"VOICES OF FREEDOM" CONCERT AT 7:00PM
FIREWORKS AT DUSK.



"Voices of Freedom" Concert

Steve
Minor



Keith
Diamond



If you would like to
perform, please contact
The Highground.

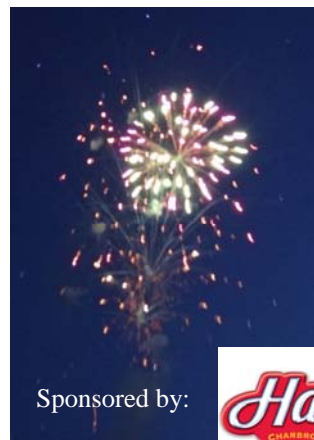
Andre Berry



Jim Fischer



Fireworks



Sponsored by:



THANK YOU

Independence Day Celebration



Thursday
July 4,
2013
10:00am



Independence Day
Celebration details will be
posted online as they are
finalized.

Ride to Support Veterans

I say "I love
America"

**FREEDOM
IS NOT
FREE**

Poker Run—August 24, 2013
Benefit—October 19, 2013

Buggs' Bar
925 N Concord St.,
South St. Paul, MN

Money raised for The Highground
Call: John 651-459-1310
Email: lynch0319@gmail.com

New Events Being Added—Don't Miss A Thing!



W7031 Ridge Rd.
Neillsville, WI 54456
Return Service Requested



**Bonnie Henchen doesn't
slow down! Thank YOU!**

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Our Promise

In 2003, The Highground made a pledge soon after the Iraq war started that we would not let those from Wisconsin who died in this war go in silence. At all events at The Highground we read the names and ring the Liberty Bell for all whom have died from Wisconsin in Iraq and Afghanistan.



WE REMEMBER THE WISCONSIN MEN AND WOMEN KILLED IN DESERT STORM— DESERT SHIELD

Paul Buege
Kevin Calloway
Michael Fitz
Daniel Joel
Cheryl LaBeau-O'Brien
Lance Monsen
Rocky Nelson
PFC Scott Schroeder
William Strehlow
Brian Scott
Patrick Wanke
Carl Zabel

Jessie L. Thiry
Ryan M. Jerabek
Michelle M. Witmer
Michael A. McGlothin
Charles Kiser
Stephen Martin
Adrian Soltau
Andrew Halverson
Daniel R. Wyatt
Shane K. O'Donnell
Robert P. Warns II
Todd R. Cornell
Brian R. Prening
Isaiah R. Hunt
Benjamin C. Edinger
Ryan J. Cantafio
Brent T. Vroman
Richard D. Warner
Todd Olson

Michael Wendling
Andrew Wallace
Matthew R. Kading
Benjamin A. Smith
Anthony Alexander
"Alex" Gaunky
Andy A. Stevens
Adam J. VanAlstine
Eric A. Palmisano
Nathan J. Vacho
Eric D. Clark
Grant Allen Dampier
Jamie Jaenke
Stephen Castner
Ryan Jopek
Shaun A. Novak
Kenneth Cross
Luke J. Zimmerman
Rhett W. Schiller

Patrick L. Wade
Matthew R. Zindars
Alun R. Howells
Derek A. Dobogai
Rachael L. Hugo
Anthony R. Wasielewski
Louis A. Griesse
Tracy Alger
James McDonald
Jason F. Lemke
Timothy R. Hanson
Matthew I. Pionk
Keith E. Lloyd
Christopher S. Frost
Richard J. Nelson
Dean D. Opicka
Steven J. Christofferson
Jeremy D. Vrooman
Brian Naseman
Earl D. Werner
Robert M Rieckhoff

Joshua C. Brennan
Nick A. Dewhirst
Daniel Thompson
Steven T. Drees
Ryan Adams
Nickolas Mueller
Jacob A Meinert
Paul R. Bartz
Chad Coleman
Adam Novak
Matthew J. West
Daniel J. Johnson
Justin Cain
Scott T. Nagorski
Jacob Gassen
Daren M. Hidalgo
Justin Ross
Paul J. Atim
Matthew D. Hermanson

KILLED IN IRAQ

Kirk Allen Straseskie
Matthew E. Schram
Dan H. Gabrielson
Paul J. Sturino
Rachel K. Bosveld
Warren S. Hansen
Jeremy L. Wolfe
Eugene A. Uhl III
Christopher J. Splinter
Nicole M. Frye
Bert Edward Hoyer
John F. "Hans" Kurth
Sean M. Schneider

Travis M. Wichlicz
Donald W. Eacho
Andrew L. Bossert
Mark A. Maida
Joshua Michael Scott
Eric J. Poelman
John J. Mattek, Jr.
Charles Kaufman
John Tollefson
Ben Jansky
Chad J. Simon
Trevor J. Diesing

Jesse D. Tillery
Kevin M. Kryst
Evan A. Bixler
Joshua M. Schmitz
Matthew T. Grimm
Andrew G. Matus
Jon B. St. John II
Harry H. Timberman
Robert J. Basham
Nicholas Riehl
Jesse B. Albrecht
Tyler J. Kritiz

KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Robert J. Cook
Kyle M. Hemauer
Ryan J. Nass
Nicholas R. Anderson
Patrick L. Lybert
Adam Servais
Merideth Howard

Ryan J. Larson
Tyler R Kreinz
Michael C. Nolen
Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr.
Jakob Roelli
Joseph J. Altmann
David Johnson
Jesse J. Grindey
Benjamin H. Neal

KILLED AT FORT HOOD

Amy Krueger
Russell Seager

LET THEM NOT GO IN SILENCE