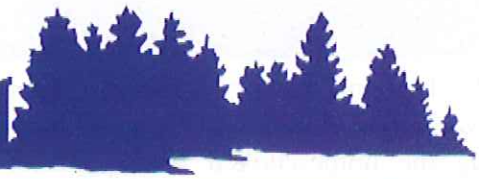




The Highground



Spring 2013

...a place for all of us.

THE HIGHGROUND'S VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



The rain didn't dampen spirits on Veterans Day, but it did cause most of The Highground Veterans Day Ceremony to be moved inside to the Learning Center! Approximately fifty guests attended the inspiring, and at times emotional, ceremony. Guest speaker, Command Sgt Major Jeffrey E. Uhlig from Fort McCoy spoke eloquently of the service of veterans, "It's important that we do honor our veterans because they're

what made us strong, they are what's going to be carrying us into the future." Sgt. Uhlig also recognized the "silent killer", post-traumatic stress disorder, which affects many soldiers returning from combat.



The cold rain did not stop a few hardy volunteers who stood in front of the Liberty Bell and read the names of Wisconsin's KIA's and MIA's from the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The names of those killed at Fort Hood were also read.

Other highlights of the service included the Presentation of Colors by the Loyal American Legion 175, The "Star-Spangled Banner" led by the Granton Fall Festival Court, poetry by John Myers and "Taps" by Robert Labarbera.



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

In memory of:

Ed Adamczyk
Tracy Lynn Alger
John Allen
Thomas "Blackie" Bednarek
John Bolda
Fred Bruechert
Grace Caliebe
George Christensen
Chad Coleman
Thor Feind
Oscar Felsch
James Flick
Terry Frey
Ray Fuller
Kenneth Gage



Charles Hardy
Jim Hauge
Lee Hermann
Linda Jacobs
David Johnson
Theodore Junemann
Lyle Kasper
Charles Kaufman
William Kluza, Sr.
Jeff Kusik
Tony Marksteiner
Richard D Marrs
D. McGraths
Tim McQuade
Chris Meidam
Tom Miller (namesake)

Clifford Muller
Dick Needham
Charlie Neff
Ray Newberg
R.J. Novak
Rudy Ourada
Albert Pahl
Lloyd Peterson
Terry Peterson
Fred Pulver
Thomas Roberts
Roger Schilhabel
Lloyd Schmeling
Ray Schmid
Marv Schucknecht
Robert Sippel

Harland Smith
Alice Stargardt
John Tollefson
Brendt Vroman
Frank Wenzel
Harold Westberg
Michelle Witmer
Gene Yde

In honor of:

Robert Brandt
Harold & Helen Jennings
Steve Maddox
Kirk & Nancy Rodman
Joel Rothbauer
Don & Evelyn Schutte

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

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck

The Highground's annual Volunteer Appreciation Potluck was held on January 19th at the Loyal American Legion with approximately 70 volunteers and guests enjoying the home-cooked buffet. Pastor Al Houts led the invocation and entertainment was provided by "Elvis and Patsy" (Garry and Elaine Wesley). Pastor Doug Bjerke and Sharon Bjerke read the names of the service men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Highground volunteers raised money and donated non-perishable food for the Clark County Department of Aging during the potluck event. Auctioneers Gary Weirauch and Ned Carlson led a spirited auction. The auction and a raffle generated \$664.00. These funds and several boxes of non-perishable food and supplies were later donated to the Dept. of Aging by volunteers Ina Mae Dux and Pastor Doug Bjerke.



Besides the great food and fun entertainment, there were also several volunteer awards presented during the potluck. Volunteers with service of 50-100 volunteer



hours during 2012 were awarded The Highground Award. These volunteers include: Rebecca Anason, Cindy Boon, Bill Connelly, Fred Craig, Tom Doan, Joseph Graff, Jim Hennen, Allen Johnson, Terri Johnson, Louie Kessler, Dick Masanz, Jean Moseley, John Myers, Bruce Pertsch, Don Quicker, Melissa Schultz and Julian Szewczyk. Each of these volunteers received a personal Highground certificate and a lighted "Fountain of Tears" crystal.



The President's Volunteer Service Award was given to those folks that served over 100 hours of volunteer work at The Highground in 2012. Each of these people received a lighted "Fountain of Tears" crystal, a Presidential Service Award pin and a signed Presidential Letter. The volunteers who received the President's Volunteer Service Award were: Mary Dick, Charlie Frey, Bonnie Hennen, Ken Jennings, David

Kemp, Skip Klabon, Bob Solberg, Skip Sparks, and Wes Waterman.

A true highlight of the event was Bonnie Hennen being recognized as The Highground's "Volunteer of the Year"! In 2012 alone, Bonnie logged over 230 volunteer hours. She has been called upon to do several varying tasks ranging from exhibit set-up and take down, feeding hungry guests and volunteers, and entering records into the Registry books. For her exemplary volunteer service and dedication, Bonnie also received a numbered limited edition eagle print signed by Tom Miller titled "Majestic".

We truly love and appreciate all the volunteers at The Highground, and are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2013 Events season!!



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

THE HIGHGROUND FORUM



(The outside of this card addressed to The Highground's volunteers said:)

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. Thank you for your time."

Thank you for volunteering your time to teach us about the importance of our veterans.

- Pittsville 5th Grade

Please note that the donation included came from the hearts of the 5th grade students in the form of nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills. Thank you for what you do!

Tracy Nave, 5th grade teacher

**It was the best trip!
We learned so much.**

Thank you for the tour of the High Ground. We saw the veterans memorial and many other important things from the wars. Our class learned about respect and honor for our country and people who served. We learned about the pride and compassion many veterans show to us. It's such a challenge to go out and fight for our country to keep us safe at home, but now we know to respect the bravery of the people who do.

We wouldn't have been able to go on the tour if it wasn't for your volunteering. It was a good experience for all of us to have.

(Actual inside of card)

(Staff couldn't have said it better!)

Thank you Larry Dessner

For your dedication to The Highground these past three years as a Board Member. Your support has been appreciated! We look forward to seeing you in other volunteer opportunities at The Highground.



Carter "Kruegs" Groh—middle name is in honor of Sgt Amy Krueger known as Kruegs to her friends. Carter by "Angel Amy's" grave — Sgt. Krueger was killed at Fort Hood. -submitted photo

Little Sister

By: Steve Conto, The Final Bridge

You always looked up to him, in more ways than one
He always looked down to you and still does today
You remember his smile and laugh,
He remembers looking out for you, and still does today
You remember his great accomplishments
He remembers the young girl who gave him so much joy
and still does today
You remember his hard work and dedication
He remembers you as the playful one, enjoying life
and still does today
You remember the loss you felt the day he was taken
He remembers the tears he couldn't wipe away
and still wishes to do so today
You remember him bigger than life
He remembers life with you
Until you're together again, keep remembering
A love one never dies if you keep remembering

The Abbotsford 5th grade classrooms have enjoyed participating in the October tours that have been organized and led by the Clark County veterans. This year, the students and teachers were again very impressed and moved by the tributes of The Highground. We also understand the enormous financial efforts and personal sacrifices that many people make to keep The Highground available to the public. For these reasons, it is our honor to make this donation to The Highground Veteran's Memorial Park. Please continue to do the amazing things that you are doing. We look forward to visiting with you again in the next school year.

—Sincerely,

—The 5th Grade Classrooms of
Abbotsford Elementary School



Contributors and Volunteers are The Heart of The Highground.

FRIENDS OF THE HIGHGROUND DINNER

The Friends of The Highground are a group of individuals/businesses/organization that are generously giving of their equipment/dollars totaling over \$1000 in a calendar year. The 2012 calendar year brought over sixty of these contributors to The Highground. Their generosity and dedication can be seen in the number of recognition year plaques these Friends have received. Thank you to all of them! Each are invaluable to what/how they contribute.



Scaletta



Simon



Meyer



Jakel



Werthman

City of Neillsville
(Mayor Mabie)

Fox



Karczewski

9th Year Recognition

Kevin & Peggy Grap,
WCCN
John & Sandra Scaletta

8th Year Recognition

Joan Jungwirth



7th Year Recognition

Carl & Sue Floerke
Leon Meidam
Randy Meyer
Jerry Simon

6th Year Recognition

Joan Cervenka
Randy Borchardt
John Lynch—Buggs' Place
Verne & Laverne Vollrath
Mike & Jody Olson

5th Year Recognition

Clark Electric Cooperative
Jakel Plumbing, Heating
& Air Conditioning
Listeman Foundation
Walter Tollefson
Tom & Anita Werthman

4th Year Recognition

City of Neillsville
James & Susan Fox
Gary & Rita Karczewski

3rd Year Recognition

Air Force Sergeants Assoc
Chapter FO-856
Donald Boon
Cummins Filtration
Hardees' Cougar Enterprise
Michael & Joyce Huebsch
Steve Maddox
Andy Rueth
VVA Chapter 639
Wes Waterman
Lucinda Zimmer

Chapter FO-856
(Novotny)

Boon

Cummins
(Cowter)Hardees' Cougar
(Williams)

Huebsch



Rueth



Spirit of The Highground Award Troy Buddenhagen

The Spirit of The Highground award was proudly presented to Troy Buddenhagen for his continuous support of The Highground Learning Center. For the past two years Troy has shared his collections of military memorabilia to enhance the Learning Center's exhibits. Not only has he loaned us his items, but he has traveled back and forth from La Crosse, WI to The Highground to

deliver the items, set up displays and assist June with identifying donated items. Troy has also put together a WWII Living History that was on display last year before the Fireworks and they have graciously agreed to return again this year with an even bigger and better display. Thank you Troy for always being there for us, sometimes even at a drop of the hat. Because of your generosity we are able to continue our mission of healing and education!!



Your support is greatly appreciated!

FRIENDS CONTINUED

To thank these generous contributors, a dinner was enjoyed at Fannies' Supper Club in Neillsville, February 23, 2013. Kirk Rodman, Vol. General Manager and Ned Carlson, Board Member welcomed everyone and presented them with a plaque and heartfelt thanks for all they have done for The Highground. Jerry "Fuzzy" Bellin from the Ant Hill Mob Motorcycle Club gave the evening's invocation. Gary Karczewski and Mary Williams kept with Our 2003 Promise by reading the names of the Wisconsin men and women killed in Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraq, Afghanistan and Fort Hood.



Herzberg



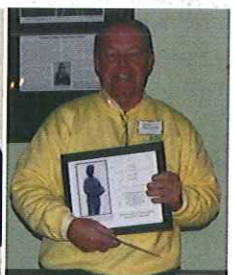
Hoffman

Independent Hardees'
Franchisee (Droste)

Kalepp



Kaufman



Sharretts



Solberg

Team Far
(Broetz)

2nd Year Recognition
Stanton & Connie Braun
Dennis Herzberg
Joyce & Thomas Hoffman
Independent Hardees'
Franchisee Assoc
Charles Isensee
Dan & Sue Kalepp
Mark & Celeste Kaufman
Dave Sharretts
Robert & Caryl Solberg
Team Far
Pink & Ruth Van Gorden
Gary Weirauch

1st Year Recognition
American Legion Voight
Post 376
Ant Hill Mob
Motorcycle Club LTD
Dolores Bruesewitz
Bank Mutual
Citizens State Bank of Loyal
Michael & Carolyn Dosland
Amanda & Brandon Hensiak
Maggie Mae & Roger Hilliard

Lyle Kasper Memorial Fund
David Kemp
Kimberly High School
Amy Melvin
John & Blanca Morrow
Ruth Ostlie
Land O'Frost
Prince Building Systems LLC
William & Karla Schiller
Donald & Noreen Schmidt
VVA Chapter 101

Thank you everyone!

Ant Hill Mob Motorcycle Club
(Junk, Bunnell, Bellin)Citizens State
(Glisczinski)

Hensiak



Kemp

VVA Chapter 101
(Backstrom)

Surprise presentation
from John & Hazel Novotny who presented Dave Backstrom, Military Dog Tribute Chair, with a check from the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter FO-856.



The evening ended with Kirk Rodman speaking about The Highground in Human Terms....the emotional impact and history of The Highground. He related several personal stories of how we have seen people begin to heal at The Highground and how the Tributes are more than art, they contain a story, a soul. Many could be seen wiping a tear during this emotional speech.

Kirk, himself, was acknowledged by staff for all his hard work and dedication to which the assembled guests rose to their feet to give him a standing ovation.

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 highgmd@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.

The Highground Couldn't Do It Without YOU!

Work Week Scheduled April 24-27th—Can you help?



It's time to dust off the work gloves and pull out the old blue jeans because the 2013 Highground Spring Work Week is fast approaching! Our Work Week is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th through Saturday, April 27th. Work starts at 8:30am each day - rain, snow, "snizzle", or shine with coffee and donuts! We have a long "to-do" list of painting, repairs, construction and various other projects that need to be tackled in order to keep The Highground running smooth and looking good for the busy, exciting upcoming 2013 events.

Plus, there is the **new pavilion** that needs building this spring in our picnic grounds. This 36'x18' structure with special seating planned around it will be a wonderful addition to our shelters and learning/education facilities already on the grounds.

We invite all volunteers to come out and lend a hand. Besides preparing The Highground to welcome this year's veterans and visitors, it is also a great time to re-connect with fellow volunteers and enjoy delicious lunches and treats. Please call The Highground at 715-743-4224 to let us know which day(s) you can help and if there is a special job you would be interested in working on. Local restaurants provide lunch, so a count of workers is needed—food will be plentiful!

LEARNING CENTER

- Painting upper back outside north wall
- Repair front door threshold
- New shelving in storage room
- Side garage door needs to be repaired or replaced
- Install fire extinguisher
- Touch up paint on walls
- Stain steps behind Learning Center
- Paint outside of small garage door
- Repair area on south deck wall
- Seal foundation, east wall
- Basement shelving
- Add a step on end of parking lot stairs



TRIBUTES

- Clean & re wax tribute figures
- Rewire Liberty bell lights
- Install rails for Korean Tribute Stones
- Gold Star – Install foundation for bench

UPPER PARKING LOT

- Add soil & seed where needed
- Add stones around grassy area (semi deterrent)



PLAZA

- Power wash walls on plaza for sealing
- Replace gaskets in lights on Legacy Walkway
- Paint lettering on Legacy Stones
- Caulk West Wall (where legacy stones meet wall)

PLAZA RESTROOMS

- Stain wood panels outside public restrooms
- Paint walls & floors
- Fix men's west window



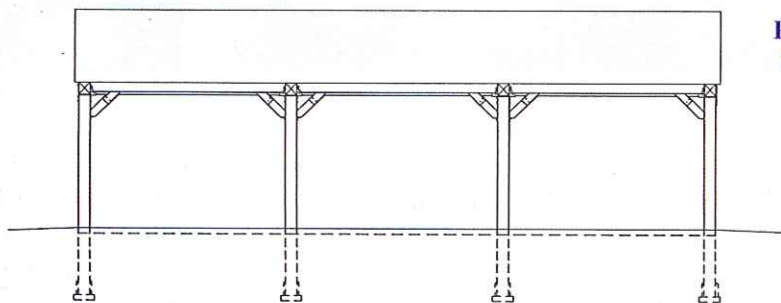
TIMBERFRAME

- Stain around windows upstairs & downstairs
- Rebuild shelf in basement
- Expand sign holders for letters
- Stain decks-around door and lead-in area north side
- Clean beams inside
- Patch hole in wall
- Bring outside electrical box on deck to inside

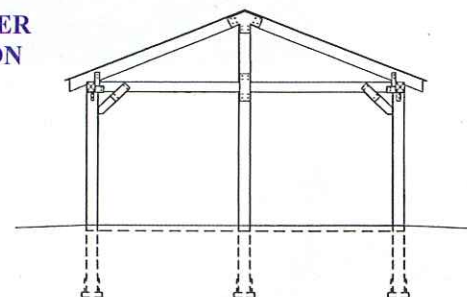
MISC

- Railings' fascia on south balcony
- Multi-use building ceiling repair
- Work on Registry book upgrade
- Seed & Soil on Time-dose system

PICNIC SHELTER CONSTRUCTION



SIDE ELEVATION



END ELEVATION

Some projects need to be completed **before** work week:

PROJECTS PRIOR TO WORK WEEK

- Rewiring of lights on Liberty Bell
- Pull & sort things from overhead area of multi-use building
- Power wash building to prepare for stain

Some projects need to be completed **after** work week:

PROJECTS FOR MAY

- Stain Timberframe & complete any unfinished painting
- Paint white areas of Korean Tribute
- Cement cracks on Korean Tribute

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

THE HIGHGROUND FORUM

The Highground website is where you will find most of the Forum. With all the new and exciting things happening at The Highground, space is limited in the newsletter. Please take a moment to put your comments and connections on the site and then visit often! Connect to www.thehighground.org—find the link for The Highground Forum and post your entry. Communicate what an awesome Memorial Park you have helped create! Visit today to see what your neighbors and friends are saying.

The Highground Wishes— Will You Respond?

- Persian Gulf Tribute grass preparation: \$1360
- Irrigation System for Learning Center: \$5400 *thanks for \$2465*
- Camera: \$400
- 100 Straw bales: \$300 *Thanks for \$30 so far*
- Repair Plaza walls: \$1876
- Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 18 @ \$4000/ea
Thanks for 1 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/ea
Thanks for 1 so far
- Design to cover the well in the Library parking lot: priceless
- Learning Center totes/portfolio storage: *Thanks*
- Registry Honor Books upgrade: \$350; *Thanks for \$250 so far*
- Vacuum Cleaner: *Thanks*
- Bench upgrade: 20 @ \$80/each *Thanks for 16 so far*
- Plaza Parking lot paving: \$18,000/\$100 per share
- Mule Snow Blade: \$2250
- Weed trimmer: *Thanks*
- 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 10 so far
- Blacktop for paving Learning Center lot: \$9140
- Learning Center Garage Heaters: 2 @ \$250
- Endowment Fund Givers
- 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 \$8350 so far*
- School transportation fund: *Thanks for \$200 so far*
- Additional books for PTSD: *Thanks*
- Learning Center frames: *Thanks*
- Learning Center Library Computers: \$1600
- Learning Center storage shelving: \$680
- New tires for mule: \$450
- Board Members: 2 more needed: priceless



Learning Center Wishes For An Exhibit Fund

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 a budget for. 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: \$2300*
 Ghost Army (WWII): *Paid! Thank you!*
 Living Thru the Forgotten War Exhibit &
 Korean War in Color (Korea): \$5,000
 Civil War Sesquicentennial: \$250
 The Wall That Heals: \$6,000 (coming in 2014)
Thanks for \$3,000 so far!!

Check the website for details on these exhibits.



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

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

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 _____

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

The Highground has wishes. Thank you for fulfilling them!

Stones--Legacy, Korean, Meditation and Persian Gulf

2013 Placements Starting!

April 13, 2013 is the first ceremony of the year and will begin in the center walkway of The Highground plaza! A full ceremony is planned also! First stones will be placed near the Vietnam Tribute below the United in Service Wisconsin map. Please come share the excitement of this new stone phase in April.

As with all our stone ceremonies, it is a first come, first choice for the date and location of the stone placement. There are a few blank spaces available in the west walkway and east walkway—but very limited, call soon if you would like to be in those areas.

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 donations 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: \$550 (sand) in the Tribute

Persian Gulf Honor Stones

Ground has been broken! Stones are being purchased! The Tribute is coming to The Highground in 2013! Hopes are for a stone placement Fall 2013. Watch the website for updates and progress of the construction! Stones are priced at \$550 until May 1, 2013. (\$600 after May 1, 2013)

Registry: Don't forget to continue to add to the Registry book for those that have stones at The Highground. These books are being upgraded and are located in The Learning Center Library. Fascinating reading for your future generation or for those interested in reading about those supporting The Highground. These are the stories behind the stone—"the rest of the story". (Please submit only copies—pictures, letters, writings, etc.)

Stone placement dates:

Open to the public—come honor those being dedicated

Legacy Stones:

April 13 1:00pm (full)
May 18 1:00pm (2 spots avail.)
June 8 1:00pm (18 available)
July 13 9:30am (18 available)
Sept 7 1:00pm (11 available)
Oct 5 9:30am or 2:00pm

Meditation Stones:

Sept 7 9:30am

Korean Stones:

June 8 9:30am (9 available)

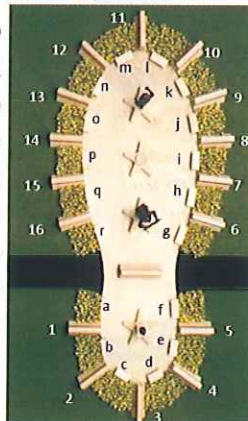
Persian Gulf Stones—TBA



Ten Stones for *one* family —The Smith Family—placed the same day! An awesome tribute to those in their family as they came together to celebrate each other. Even a cloudy rainy day would not deter this family from dedicating their stones. Thank you Bud Smith for arranging, supporting and bringing them all home to The Highground. Reports have it—all in attendance appreciated your efforts to make this happen.

Persian Gulf update

With the Groundbreaking behind us and building to commence in April, it is a very exciting time for the Persian Gulf Tribute. As this tribute comes together it is a time to reflect on where we have been and where we are headed. Each person on this committee is here for their own personal reason, whether it be a person in the military, a loved one of a fallen soldier, or a friend/family that wants to be supportive, we are always looking for more committee members. We hope that more will join us in getting this tribute completed, so if you would like to help please contact Brandon Hensiak @ 715-937-4354.

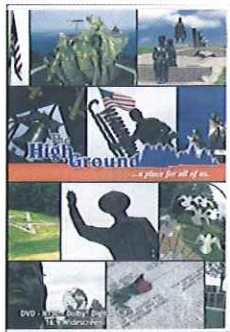


Sponsors needed for:

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

Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute construction starts this spring! Will you be here?

Greet Spring—Nancy Rodman, Volunteer Gift Shop Manager



A 2 disc DVD offers an in-depth look at *The Highground*, the tributes, the memorials, and it's history. \$29.95

Spring is just around the corner...stop in or visit our website to browse through the shop to see all the items on display. Remember, custom orders are also available!



Music Boxes starting at \$14.95



Lace scarves for \$14.95

Scarf charms for \$10.95



Unique jewelry sets, bracelets or rings \$10.95 to \$24.95



For those chilly spring days, be comfortable in one of our new hooded sweatshirts. Sizes S-3XL for \$31.95 - \$34.95 in either Heather Grey or Maroon.



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



Drink your favorite hot or cold beverage from our new insulated acrylic 16oz tumbler embossed with the dove logo. Choose either blue or green for \$9.95.

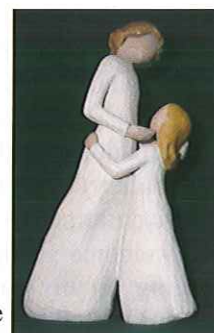
22" Pewter windchimes in assorted designs for \$23.95



Other windchimes also available



The all weather Baywatch jacket with jersey lining and fitted cuffs and waist will be perfect for "whatever the weatherman" has in store for us this spring. Comes in Red, Navy, Forest Green; sizes S-3XL for \$67.95 to \$69.95.



Willow Tree Angels \$13.95—\$33.95



Military Dog/Dog Handler Tribute



The committee working to build a Military Dog and Handler Memorial at The Highground needs your assistance. This memorial will honor the service of Military Dogs (Scout, Sentry and Tracker) and their handlers. It will be designed with Vietnam era camo, equipment, and German Shepherd Dog or Dogs. They have been an integral part of our Military for 100 years and their use has been expanded in recent times. The Seal Team 6 operation that removed Osama Bin Laden had a service dog (Cairo) that was an integral part of their mission. Dogs have a heightened sense of sight, hearing and smell that make them extremely valuable to the soldiers.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, dogs are used to identify IED's and other forms of weaponry. In Vietnam, Scout dogs (guard) served with the point soldier for patrols working in the jungles. Their keen senses were invaluable to our troops. Sentry Dogs (attack dogs) were used to guard critical sites, ammunition dumps, perimeters, etc. These dogs, working only at night, protected the camps and vital military sites. Tracker dogs (labs, cross breeds) were used to track the enemy once contact with them had been broken. Similar to a blood hound they followed the scent trail of the enemy. In the Learning Center Library, there is a DVD that shows the training and duties of Sentry Dogs in Vietnam. We wish to honor these four-legged heroes and their handlers. The committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the committee and, of course, for contributions. Please call The Highground at 715-743-4224 if you would like to participate on the committee, have designs to submit, or contributions to send.



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

What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave?—Kirk Rodman, Vol. Gen Mgr



They said it might not be worth the cost. What did we have to do to get The Highground back on track over a decade ago? Can we measure the cost? It was a costly year, we lost Jim H., our neighbor, who was our consultant while Nancy and I built our house. Jim turned into our consultant on projects and our photographer/historian at The Highground. He was always there for us when we called. Jo F. came to talk about a tree and stayed for over five years. Jo helped us develop our thank you program and then managed it for all those years; she died recently and left a hole in our lives. Dick O., big and blustery, but the guy you wanted in your corner. Rain, snow or sleet he was greeting visitors and directing them about his Highground. Yes, he is gone, but not from The Highground, his and their spirits are with us, still carrying us.

The question is, can you bear the cost of yourself to replace them? Is this the time in your life to come on board to lift up your partners with your presence? Today, more than ever, we have more to do and need many volunteers. Last year, over 300 veterans and non-veterans worked at The Highground. Everyone that came we put to work, there is not a job too big

or too small for us to accomplish.

This spring will be especially "needy". We *need* to complete the upper park with earth and grass around the new parking lot. We will start the Persian Gulf Tribute and will *need* everyone from shovelers to electricians. We will build the new Pavilion in the picnic area and will *need* carpenters, laborers, electricians, and cleanup crews.

The Learning Center always *needs* assistance with upcoming exhibits. This is just a start of the work weekend in April where you can be involved. In addition, there are the jobs you can expect for the spring opening of the grounds. A few of those jobs include lawn care, planting shrubs, painting the legacy stones, finishing the culverts around the Liberty Bell, putting in cement bench bases, and, if you don't see something that trips your trigger, there are 4 dozen other jobs for you to try. Like Jo, Jim and Dick stop for a visit and stay for a lifetime.

God love you guys.... we miss you.



Kirk Rodman

Board of Directors—Michael Weaver, Board Chair



Michael Weaver

It's Valentine's Day and we are receiving Cupid's arrows in the form of snowflakes. Rather a cruel joke, but not unusual for Wisconsin weather conditions. (at least we are not having pouring rain or tornadoes, as they are in other parts of our country) And the temperatures seem to be moderating. And the days are becoming

longer with more welcome sunlight. I have heard more birds chirping and singing on my early morning walks with my dogs. Now that I am retired, I can do this at a more leisurely pace.

The calendar of events at The Highground is full and there are many exciting days ahead. Before the days warm with Spring, you might consider visiting the Learning Center. The current exhibit is titled, "The First Warrior". Many Native American photographs and personal stories are shared. And in March, April and May are exhibits and displays regarding Vietnam Graffiti. Downstairs, we have literally thousands of volumes of books pertaining to military history. They are available to check-out. The Persian Gulf Tribute work will

start up again, as weather conditions allow.

Outdoors, a half marathon run is scheduled for March 23rd. The Legacy stone placements kick-off on April 13th. And the ever popular work week is set for April 24-27th. Now that I am retired, I will make every effort to attend. There are many tasks to perform and you do NOT have to be a skilled craftsman to attend. (that's why I might be allowed on a crew) Just bring your positive attitude, and a little elbow grease. It's an opportunity to assist in some important projects to maintain the park, and have a personal impact on it's many treasures. It is a way for you to repay the comfort and healing that has occurred within you, since encountering the Park. Remember, it is YOUR Park. Help to maintain it for the next Veteran that visits. You may never know how your toil and sweat affects the next Veteran who encounters The Highground. But be assured, it WILL be a positive and nurturing experience for him or her. It will resonate many times, in many ways. You WILL make a difference.

Take the first step.....

Board of Directors

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Gary Weirauch, Vice Chair (Neillsville, WI)
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Don Quicker, Treasurer (Neillsville, WI)
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Bill Lobeck (Viola, WI)
Steve Maddox (Chippewa Falls, WI)
Beth E. Martin (WI Rapids, WI)

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

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 Jean Langreck

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

Vietnam Graffiti Project on Display Now!

Vietnam Graffiti Project was developed by Art and Lee Beltrone to preserve the historic canvases and other belongings left aboard the troopship *General Nelson M. Walker*. When the ship was destined to be scrapped, everyone feared all of this history would be lost. So VGP volunteers collected the materials and developed 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.

This exhibit will be on display in the Learning Center from March 1, 2013 to May 31, 2013. Come "sail" back in time with us. The exhibit includes three bunks with graffiti from LaCrosse, Lone Rock and Milwaukee, Wisconsin Veterans, as well as many others from across the United States.

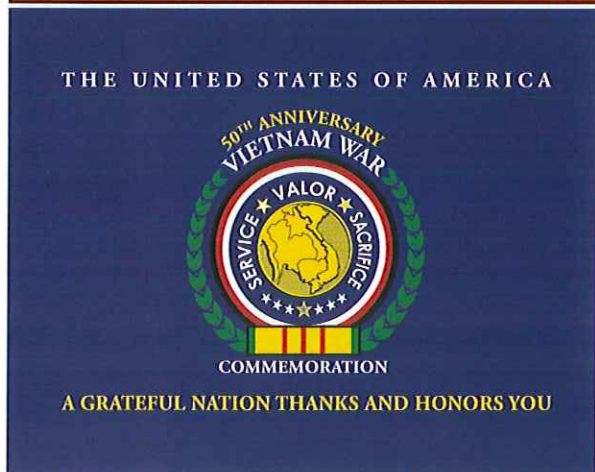


Thank you sponsors for this awesome Vietnam Graffiti Exhibit:

- VVA Chapter 331
- WI Vietnam Vets, Inc.
- WI Vietnam Vets, Inc. Chapter 7
- VVA Castle Rock
- VVA Chapter 224
- William Marten
- Vietnam Veterans Chapter 101
- William Sonny Simon VFW Post 8216
- VFW Post 1959
- Virginia Stubblefield
- WI Vietnam Vets Chapter 3
- Prince Building Systems LLC



Vietnam Commemorative Partner



THANK YOU



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1950 DEFENSE PENTAGON
1950 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1950

Dear Commemorative Partner:

Congratulations on volunteering to become a Commemorative Partner with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration and assisting a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families especially those who lost loved ones. Your official Commemorative Partner certificate is enclosed. As more programs are added and become operational, we will notify you, so that you may take advantage of new materials, new ideas and new opportunities to integrate into your commemorative program.

Thank you for your willingness to assist this nation in properly thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with you and your organization. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us through our website www.VietnamWar50th.com, the Commemorative Partner Program email at CPP_vnwar50th@wso.whs.mil or phone (877) 387-9951.

Sincerely,

Claude M. Kieckhefer
Claude M. Kieckhefer
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Ret)
Director
DoD Office of Commemorations

Thank you!

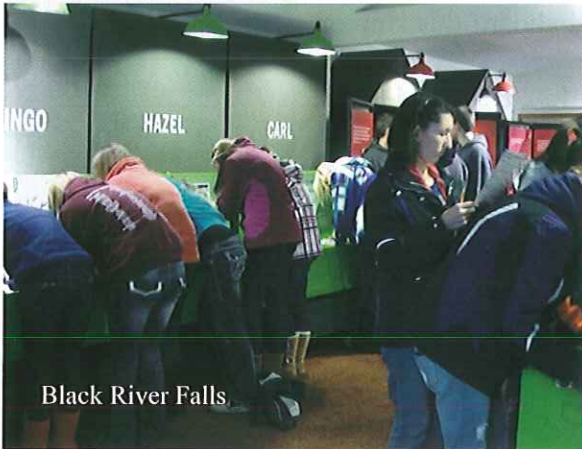
The Highground is proud to be a Commemorative Partner to thank and honor the Vietnam Veterans of the United States and their families.



Watch The Highground website for future activities in honor of these great Veterans.

Fighting for Democracy Exhibit

Is history repeating itself or have things never really changed? During the *Fighting for Democracy* exhibit, displayed November and December in the Learning Center, over 600 students and 200 adult visitors contemplated this question. The exhibit told the life stories of seven Americans from diverse backgrounds. It taught us about their struggles and accomplishments and the changes that came about in our country because of their actions.



Black River Falls

Pepin, Black River Falls, Pittsville, and Neillsville schools brought their students for multiple day lessons on democracy, discrimination, perseverance and achieving their dreams. Students participated in several activities, including slideshow and booklet for their pre-WWII research, a video section was used for portraying their lives during WWII, iPads were used for the post-WWII research and all students participated in group projects.

The students and adults alike learned that prior to and during WWII if you were from a different ethnic background, even if you and your whole family were born in the United States, you suffered discrimination, ridicule, exclusion and some forms of physical retribution. They also learned from these seven individuals that you should always stand up for what you believe in, never give up on your dreams, and always strive to make this a better place for ALL to live.

Another observation that was gleaned from this exhibit was that there is still much discrimination, ridicule, exclusion and physical retribution going on today. We may not hang signs everywhere or have segregated schools, busses or drinking fountains, but it is thriving in different forms such as bullying, cliques and now, with the internet, cyber-hate is out of control. Students drafted plans of action they will take to personally help stop this vicious cycle and to ensure democracy and equality for themselves and future generations.

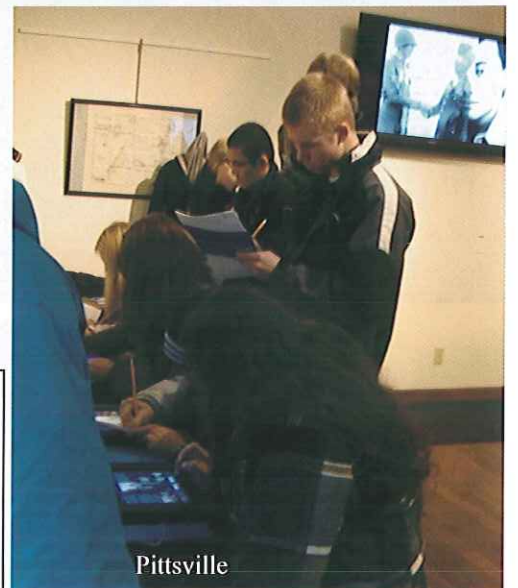


Neillsville



Thank you sponsors for this Fighting For Democracy Exhibit:

- Natalie Erpenbach
- James Hanson Jr.
- Alan & Debra Heidle
- Roger Krinke
- Kathleen Schmitz
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 360
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 118
- Prince Building Systems, LLC



Pittsville

Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We the People", a completely interactive exhibit, was on loan to us from Clement Hanami and the Japanese-American Museum of Los Angeles, CA. It was made possible with major support provided by the US Army Center of Military History. The traveling exhibition is made possible through the generous support of The Boeing Company.

FIRST WARRIOR EXPERIENCE



On January 16, 2013 several members of the Ho-Chunk Nation joined us for an opening ceremony.

Everyone was welcomed by Kirk Rodman, Vol. General Manager. Invocation



was given by US Navy Veteran Norman Snake Jr. and US Air Force Veteran Ralph Snake presented a history of the Ho-Chunk Veterans.



Marlon WhiteEagle and Ralph Snake came to The Highground to "Smudge" (bless) the exhibit before its opening to the public.



The ceremony included the singing of four Native American service songs, while six Ho-Chunk members played the drum and others danced. The day brought a special meaning to the exhibit for those who attended this ceremony.

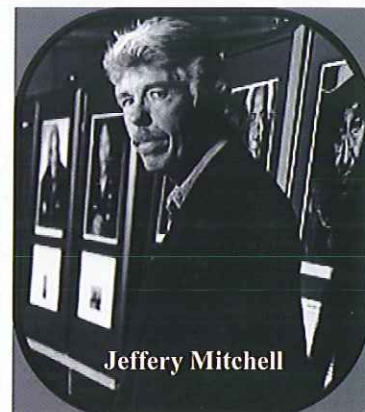


Thank you sponsors for the First Warrior Exhibit:

- Gregory & Vickie Davis
- William Erickson
- Bonnie Hennen
- Gail Marten
- Frank & Lynette Neibauer
- Kathryn Stevens
- Dave Troudt

"American Indians have had the highest enlistment rate of any minority group since WWI. Over 42,000 served in WWII. Of the 48,000 who served in Vietnam, 90% volunteered. Yet the patriotic service of these Original Americans has been overlooked." (Jeffery Mitchell)

This statement and these facts are what inspired Jeffery Mitchell to research and document this amazing history. He started his journey to photograph and record the oral stories of these gallant veterans in July of 2001. He is still working on this project and asks if you know a Native American Veteran please let him know. His contact information is: Jeffery Mitchell 32912 River's Drive Chiloquin, OR 97624, and his email is jemitch12@aol.com, his cell is 541-892-0756.



Sharing is how we learn—thank you for sharing!!

Upcoming Events You Want to Put on Your Calendar

Annual Helicopter Expo Saturday, May 4, 2013 10:00am—4:00pm



Bring your family and friends to experience an exciting educational display of military helicopters, a Vietnam Memorial Caisson, and many more examples of military vehicles from all eras.

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. More details will be provided about

both events on the website as the planning concludes. You may also call The Highground.



29th Annual Bicycle Tour – Thursday, Aug 1st through Sunday, Aug 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. On Sunday, August 4th, the bicyclists will celebrate their Journey's End by riding into The Highground to enjoy a picnic and awards ceremony. The Bicycle Tour is a major contributor of funding and awareness for the park. To be a part of this year's Bicycle Tour or to become a sponsor, please call or visit our website.

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

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. Throughout 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 apart of the Ride to Remember, or to learn more, please call us at 715-743-4224.

Updates will be posted on our website as they become available.

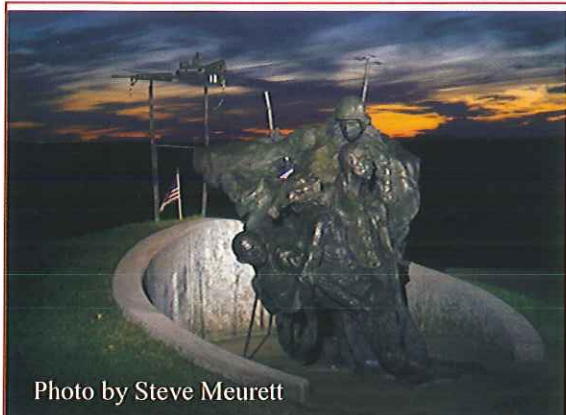


Photo by Steve Meurett

25th Anniversary of Fragments September 14, 2013

All Vietnam Veterans and their families are invited to attend the commemoration ceremony of the 25th Anniversary of the dedication of "Fragments"—Wisconsin's tribute to Vietnam Veterans. The 2:00pm ceremony will feature Founder, Tom Miller and guest speaker, Howard Sherpe. Many other individuals and organizations that were an integral part in bringing this Tribute to The Highground will also be recognized. If you have pictures from the dedication, please share them with The Highground. Information will be posted on the website as it becomes available or contact us at 715-743-4224.

More Events!!!

PORCH GREETERS' LUNCHEON

Porch Greeters will gather for their annual luncheon on Tuesday, March 12th at noon. If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, we encourage you to attend the luncheon to learn more about it and to meet and mingle with our current Greeters. Porch Greeters are needed for the 2013 busy schedule at The Highground. With upcoming events and more visitors each year—your efforts to help welcome everyone is needed more than ever. With a large display that is in the Learning Center in March—please note the change of location for the luncheon—Methodist Church, 413 Court St., Neillsville. If you cannot attend—just give us a call and we will get you on the schedule. Looking forward to a great 2013—because of you.

HALF IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME

The Half is Good Enough For Me
Marathon & 5K event will be held
Saturday, March 23rd at The Highground
7:15am registration — 8:30am start

You can register online, by phone or email.
Runners, Walkers and Volunteers are needed!
Thank you Amy Melvin for supporting The
Highground in memory of your mom, Sandy
Green. *We miss her and she will be proud of
your run!*



MAGGIE MAE and The Heartland Country Band

Midwest country singer
Maggie Mae to perform
a benefit concert for
The Highground
Saturday, April 6th 2:00pm
Pittsville High School
Auditorium
**Reserved Seating: Call
today for the best seats!**
\$25/each

Persian Gulf BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

308 N. 6th Street
Colby, WI

Thursday, April 11—8 a.m.—5 p.m.

Friday, April 12 — 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday, April 13—9 a.m.—11 a.m.

**Anyone wanting to donate items for
this sale should call**

**Debbie Klabon in the Colby area
@ 715-223-6050 or**

**Amanda Hensiak in the Neillsville
area @ 715-937-4354 to schedule
drop-off time for sale items.**

2013 Upcoming Learning Center

Exhibits:

Mar-Apr-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



Reunion/Education Nights: (6:30pm)

April 9: Civil War

April 30: Vietnam War

May 8: WWII

July 27: Korean War

October 7: DS-OIF-OND-OEF

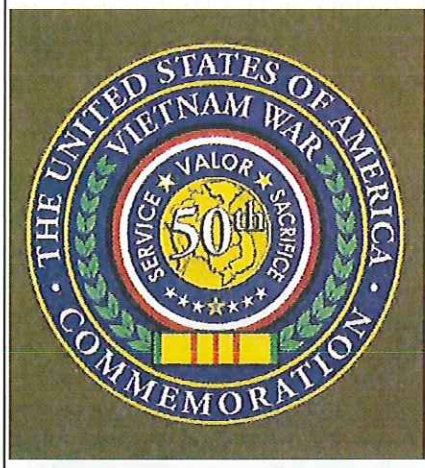
November 11: WWI

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

The High Ground

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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

Sean M. Schneider
Jessie L. Thiry
Ryan M. Jerabek
Michelle M. Witmer
Michael A. McGlothlin
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

Trevor J. Diesing
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

Tyler J. Kritz
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

Merideth Howard
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
Justin Cain
Scott T. Nagorski
Jacob Gassen
Daren M. Hidalgo
Justin Ross
Paul J. Atim
Matthew D. Hermanson
Ryan J. Larson
Tyler R. Kreinz
Michael C. Nolen
Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr.
Jakob Roelli
Joseph J. Altmann
David Johnson
Jesse J. Grindey
Benjamin H. Neal

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

Todd Olson
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

Rhett W. Schiller
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

KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

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

KILLED AT FORT HOOD

Amy Krueger
Russell Seager



LET THEM NOT GO IN SILENCE