



The Highground

Veterans Memorial Park



May 2017

a place for all of us.

"Incredible" is all this editor can say regarding this newsletter! So many important events happened and are coming to The Highground that we ran out of room in this 16-page newsletter. ALL are important, so watch the website and facebook for more details until the next fully packed newsletter reaches you!

- ⇒ **Reminder:** The "Remember Our Fallen", "Tribute to The Fallen" and "My War" exhibits are available for loan.
- ⇒ Thank you for the beautiful 4-passenger golf cart, See Page 3.
- ⇒ Rodmans retiring—pages 8-9
- ⇒ Abrahamson moving—page 7
- ⇒ Events coming galore—all pages

Three opportunities for some awesome prizes!!

Tickets now available!



2017 Honoring Veterans Annual Raffle

1. A gorgeous quilt that was made to honor the Military Working Dog Tribute
2. Live Edge Ash Wood, beautifully painted and textured eagles with the flag
3. A hand painted eagle with flag flying over awesome scenery
4. A \$100 Highground Gift Shop Gift Certificate.

Tickets are: \$2 each; 6 for \$10; 12 for \$20

Quilt Show and Raffle

Attention Quilters: Are you quilting for The Highground? Create your favorite pattern with patriotic fabric before December 2017. The Learning Center will be ready Dec 1st to display all the beautiful quilts that are donated for our first quilt show and raffle. Please put your personal label on your quilt so winners know who created their choice prize! Drawing is Dec 31, 2017 at noon. End the year on a warm and cozy note.

Tickets are: \$10 each or 3 for \$25

Condo Raffle-Christmas Mountain

Back by popular demand and generosity of the Berg's, we have another condo stay in Wisconsin Dells valued at \$1,850.00!

**Enjoy a week's stay for 4
at Christmas Mountain**

August 19 – 26, 2017

**Raffle Drawing: Freedom Celebration Day,
June 24, 2017**

**At 9:00pm prior to the fireworks
Proceeds to benefit Learning Center Exhibits**

Tickets are: \$25 each or 5 for \$100

Spring? Work Week ??
In April??
Great Volunteers still came.



Mother Nature wasn't kind to volunteers during work days.

They awoke to snow the second morning—
we *did* tell them it was SPRING work week.
(More on page 13)

(not sure they believed us)



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

In Memory

Zach Gallenberg
JJ Bertrang
Gerald (Jerry) Fellenz
Jose Santiago Martinez

Ralph Blauvelt
Betty Lou Martin
J Boetzberger
Patrick Lyons
Stan Hutter

Donald Brown
Ted Fetting
James Moeller
Jim Hauge
Tracey Rueth

In Honor:

Joyce Jansen
Bob Brandt
Michael Glines



TED FETTING: It is with a sad heart that we have to inform you that The Highground has lost another one of its earliest board members. Ted Fetting passed away on April 1st after his battle with brain cancer. Ted had volunteered to serve in the Army to eliminate his younger brother from being eligible for the draft. Serving with the 9th Infantry, he distinguished himself as a machine gunner during Tet. As with many of us, the Vietnam War was the defining experience of Ted's life. Upon returning to the states, he became a lifelong advocate for veterans. He served in many positions, and on many committees to better the lives of veterans. Anybody who knew Ted knew that to him, the best interests of his fellow veterans always came first. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends. Peace to you Ted.

—Don Q

Helicopter & Military Vehicle Expo Saturday, May 13, 2017 10AM-4PM

This event is free of charge and family-friendly! Hardee's will have a food tent set up at The Highground during the day. Weather permitting, a UH-1H landing here at approximately 10AM. VVA 331 will be bringing their static UH-1H helicopter for visitors to explore first hand.



Do you have a military vehicle or other interesting military equipment that you would like to put on display at the Expo? Please contact Theresa at The Highground to reserve a space!

7th ANNUAL! Memorial Day Motorcycle Honor Ride — May 29, 2017

**SCENIC ROUTES STARTING IN APPLETON, EAU CLAIRE, MEDFORD, MINNEAPOLIS, NEILLSVILLE, TOMAH, KING / WAUPACA
ENDING AT THE HIGHGROUND, W7031 RIDGE RD, NEILLSVILLE**

APPLETON Route— Joins with Waupaca Route—Contact Russ 715-281-9653 redwolfusa17@yahoo.com Reg. at Appleton Harley Davidson

EAU CLAIRE Route— Contact Shane 715-559-0646 shanelgurney@yahoo.com Reg. at 7:15am - depart 8:30am - 400 Club (1411 Spooner Ave) in Altoona

NEILLSVILLE Route—Contact Mark 715-937-2326 clubberman35@yahoo.com Reg. at 7:15am—depart at 8:15am—BP Station in Neillsville

KING/ WAUPACA Route — Contact Russ 715-281-9653 redwolfusa17@yahoo.com Reg. at 7am at Chain O' Lakes Bar & Grill, King—Departure & stops TBA

MEDFORD Route—Contact Dean 715-785-8025 hommelsd@tds.net Reg. 6:00-6:45am at Hardee's parking lot next to VFW on Hwy 13, Medford.

MINNEAPOLIS Route—Contact Bob for info. rmfz@prodigy.net start at 8:30am 4 pick up spots in Twin Cities, 1 in Eau Claire, WI

TOMAH Route—Contact Bill 715-281-4068 bill.flemal@gmail.com Reg. at 7:15am— depart at 8:00am—Kwik Trip (South side Tomah) 1504 Superior Ave, Tomah (NOT THE TRUCK STOP)



\$25 per person (driver)
\$15 per passenger

Includes Patch or Year Rocker
& Lunch at The Highground
after Ride

PLEASE CONTACT ROUTE LEADER
FOR DETAILS OR CHECK AT
www.thehighground.us
715-743-4224 highgrnd@tds.net

Memorial Day Ceremony

The Highground
Memorial Day
Events
Monday,
May 29, 2017

11:30AM

Reading the Names of Wisconsin KIA/
MIAs in the Vietnam & Korean Wars—
Volunteers Needed

3:00PM

Ceremony
Speakers: Kirk Rodman
Brian Jopek
Celeste Kaufman

**Ceremony will feature: Color Guard & Rifle Unit of Loyal American Legion #175
Special Music By Celeste Kaufman: "Coming Home With Your Eyes Closed" honoring the
memory of her son KIA Spc Charles A Kaufman (2008). Performed by: Diane Schnell,
Alyssa Beasley, Konnor Denzine, Lucas Bednar and Cody Rodman**

We will be reading the names of WI Persian Gulf KIAs and others during the Ceremony

Come Early & Welcome the Honor Ride Motorcycle Rally into The Highground at 2:00PM!

Freedom Celebration Day —Saturday, June 24, 2017

Please join us for an exciting, patriotic day!

Starting at 9:30 AM will be a large World War II - DDay Living History near The Highground's "large vehicle parking lot".

Bring your family and your camera!

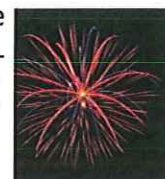
Hardee's will be serving their delicious food at The Highground.

At 6:00 PM a concert of musicians who are also military veterans and others will entertain until dusk. This concert is a crowd favorite that you will not want to miss!



At dusk, the Annual Highground Fireworks show will begin! Bring your lawn chairs or a

blanket to enjoy the large fireworks display!



The Highground Veterans Retreat July 7 - 9th



As Operation Persian Gulf Welcome Home was wrapping up in July 2016, many veterans asked "when will you do this again?" The event brought a lot of information and healing to veterans and families. We are going to keep moving forward and help veterans that are looking for solutions to some issues that they and their families are having due to their service. The goal of The Highground Veterans Retreat is to offer new ideas, workshops and information to veterans in an atmosphere of camaraderie, peace, relaxation and a bit of fun.

We are working with long-standing successful local programs including Trinity Equestrian, The Heartbeat Center, the Vet Center and Franciscan Retreat leaders Fr. Conrad Targonski (22 yrs service with US Navy and US Marine Corp including 7th Marine Regiment as supervisory chaplain in Operation Phantom Fury, Fallujah, Iraq 2004-2005; currently chaplain at Viterbo University) and Rev. Dr. Bill Reese (Chair of Religious Studies / Philosophy Dept. at Viterbo University and is a decorated Vietnam Veteran). In addition to workshops and presentations there will be time for veterans to relax at The Highground and at the outdoor lodge, Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels (just North of The Highground), music entertainment and great food!

The Veterans Retreat will be made available for veterans to attend free of charge due to the generosity of sponsors such as Central WI Broadcasting WCCN / WPKG, Ho Chunk Gaming Black River Falls and Hardee's. More sponsors (individual, veteran posts, businesses) are needed – contact The Highground to become a sponsor. If you would like more information on attending The Highground Veterans Retreat and/or to register, please contact Theresa at The Highground.

August Activities to Join



33rd ANNUAL HIGHGROUND BIKE TOUR

August 4—6, 2017

4 ROUTES—3 DAYS—2 NIGHTS—1 GOAL!

ROUTE CONTACTS

Northern Route—Mike & Kathy -715-683-2721
715-937-6786 katemike@tds.net

Western Route—Randy-715-497-6747
rdmeyer@nwcomm.net

Jerry—715-246-5370 simonsez@frontiernet.net

Southern Route—Andrew & Nicole
608-201-7328 adsmith2391@yahoo.com

Eastern Route—Curt -920-539-5148
karateman013184@charter.net



The
The Highground
Veterans Memorial Park

17TH ANNUAL RIDE TO REMEMBER MOTORCYCLE RALLY

August 18 & 19, 2017

The 2017 Ride will Honor the U.S. Coast Guard

Friday, August 18

OPENING CEREMONY

5:30 PM - THE HIGHGROUND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville WI

Saturday, August 19

RIDE TO REMEMBER

AMERICAN LEGION #73, 6 BOON BLVD, NEILLSVILLE

(8:30AM - 11AM: BREAKFAST AVAILABLE AT THE LEGION)

10 AM - REGISTRATION - GUIDED RIDES BEGIN AT 11 AM

Sign up for 107.5 Bud Bike 24!

Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Games and Prizes !!

**3pm Procession into the Highground
Followed by Group Photo, Rally Ceremony & Picnic!**



Donated By:
**VFW Post 3153
Chilton, WI**

Club Car

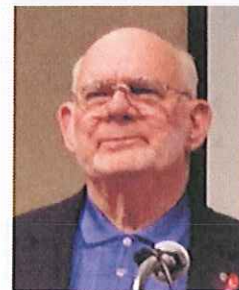
Message from CW King, Board Chair

Springtime at The Highground, a wonderful time of the year with a lot going on. There are changes in the wind, and your Board of Directors is working hard to get everything done. First, our long-time volunteer general manager has announced that he and his wife, Nancy (gift shop manager), will be leaving June 30th, and the BOD has a committee working on replacements. It will be very hard to find people who will bring the dedication and commitment the Rodmans have maintained for the last 19 years, but we will do our best. We have been advertising, and we will look at who applies and plan to bring the best candidates to the BOD for interviews in the near future. We will, as a Board, do our best to continue the tradition of providing the finest Veterans Park in the world.

The Military Working Dog Tribute has been completed and is being put in place. It is located behind the bell, above the entrance when you come off Highway 10. It is very well done and is a great addition to the park. During the work week in April, site-work for the area began. The tribute is here for you to honor these K9 veterans and their handlers.

The Spring Work Week was just completed (April 26-29), and as always there was much to do. The Highground relies on volunteers all year long, but the Spring Work Week is especially important to be ready for all the summer activities. If you have some time and energy, get in touch with Kirk to find out how we can use your skills—there are more jobs to do yet.

In closing, let me say that this will be a watershed year for the Highground, and certainly a challenge for the new director, and we will need to rely once again on your support for your time, talents and donations to continue to honor our veterans. Be sure to check out the newly completed web site @ thehighground.us. -CW



Message from Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager

How do you say Good bye?

I was buying a fishing license last week and the young man asked me my birth date. When I told him the date he kind of stepped back and eyed me up and down and I said, "yep I'm an old fart." He kind of nodded and then said "you must have seen a whole lot of stuff!" Not only have I seen a whole lot, but I've had the good fortune to have met an abundance of great people.

We all may have said good bye to a Mom or Dad or a close friend, but were not able to tell them how we felt or how they would be missed. Later it came to us that they knew; they didn't need the words as much as they needed us there touching them.

Today I sit here thinking about each of you and wanting to reach out and touch you and feel your presence. It is hard to think of all that we (all of us) have accomplished and how, as we did it, it changed us.

You have moved mountains and set a course that will long be marveled at and remembered. We (Nancy and I) were so blessed to be with you. No one could have imagined or dreamed that this place would pick us up and carry us along on a strange and wonderful journey.

Thank you for who you are and continue to be there for those that need us. Your strength and courage carried us thru the rough spots and made us believers. We will carry you with us forever.

-Kirk & Nancy



Now find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial

Website: www.thehighground.us

Board of Directors

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

For More Information Contact

The Highground Staff

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

Volunteer General Manager Kirk Rodman
Volunteer Gift Shop Mgr Nancy Rodman
Event/Volunteer Coord Theresa Sojka
Donation Coordinator Kay Anason
Learning Center June Abrahamson
Maintenance Mike Purgett
Gift Shop Deb Roedel
Gift Shop Julie Dallman
Gift Shop Mae Bautch

Military Working Dog Tribute

Groundbreaking for The Highground's newest tribute, which honors our K9 Veterans and their handlers: The Military Working Dog Tribute was done prior to the ceremony because of concrete contractor's scheduling and weather. Therefore, the Ground "Breaking" ceremony became a Ground "Throwing" Ceremony on April 20th.



Committee members, donors, Board Members, visitors, volunteers and staff were able to take gold shovels and put a scoop of earth onto the tribute footings.

It is hoped that a dedication date will be announced soon.

With your support, the faster it will be completed and ready for honor stones!

2017 Honor Trees

Honor, Love & Respect shines brightly here at The Highground for the veterans. Family and friends sponsor **Honor Trees**, as a way of showing their love and gratitude to their veterans. Each tree is illuminated and adorned with a plaque recognizing the honoree and the sponsor.

Honor Trees are again available for sponsorship for 2107. The following is a list of dates the trees will be illuminated. You may sponsor a tree for the whole year for \$100 or one session for \$25.

There are four (4) sessions a year:

Memorial Day May 15- June 13 **Veterans Day** November 1-30
Independence Day June 24- July 23 **Christmas** Dec 15 – January 13

Please contact June at 715-743-4224 or highgrnd@tds.net to sponsor your tree. We currently only have 8 trees left for sponsorship in 2017, so contact us today to reserve yours.

The following recipients have a tree illuminated honoring them this Memorial Day session:

Jerry Barker
 Ken Smith
 Our Veterans
 Dennis Schattschneider (2 trees)
 Colleen (Fry) Ristou
 Don, Bill, Jim Buss & Jim Fitzl
 Edwin Lloyd, Jr.
 Thomas "Blackie" Bednarek
 Loucks Men
 MSgt. Lee A. Webb, Jr
 Theodore Lawton
 John McGivern
 Terry McGivern

Honor Stones—Legacy, Korean, Meditation and Persian Gulf

Stones make a great gift for birthdays/Father's Day/Mother's Day/Just because You are You Day!

Some dates are filling up fast—for largest date selections, call today.

For those having 12+ stones and interested in a private ceremony, please contact Kay for arrangements.

We would love to see more schools honoring their veterans—if interested in making this happen, give Kay a call.

*Don't forget to come read the Registry Books! They are full of veteran stories and histories
 a true legacy by telling the rest of the story!*

Wow! What a way to start out the year!! April's stone ceremony went wonderfully and the weather was perfect. We gave those in attendance instructions to bring the same weather each month through October for these dedications! May's ceremony during the Helicopter & Military Vehicle Expo May 13th will be full and exciting. June 10th is the Korean and the Legacy Stone ceremonies (both full), but there is room left in the August 5th, September 11th and October 7th ceremonies. Don't be left out, as all of these are half full already!! (Persian Gulf Honor and Meditation Stones are still available.)

We would also love to work with schools! Last year Greenwood School had a stone presented to a veteran by students during their Veterans Day Program. It was well received, appreciated and students learned a lot about veterans in their area.

Long Shadow: The Vietnam Series — June - August

When another generation of American soldiers was sent to invade a distant nation at the start of the Gulf War in 1991, I began work on the *Long Shadow* series of paintings by examining hundreds of photographs I took in 1965-66 as a combat journalist with the 1st Infantry Division during the war in Viet Nam. Images in the paintings refer to the photos. For each painting I've also chosen excerpts from a journal I kept during the war. I completed the sixth canvas in the *Long Shadow* series in 2013.

My hope was to illustrate with paint my dismal, frightening, and emotional memories of war. I didn't anticipate the unexpected impressions of bloody explosions, violence, and loneliness that the work brought forth.

As a veteran, I'm lucky to work as an artist. Visual art is a peaceful outlet for the inner residue of war. Along with art, the love and support of family and friends, activism for peace and justice, a spiritual path, living in the country, and writing have come together to make life precious beyond words.

Not a single day has passed in 50 years when I am not aware of some aspect—a detail—of the war in Viet Nam. Every war, past, present, and yet to come, casts a shadow of trauma. Veterans return home with a long shadow permanently attached to their psyches, and the shadow is cast onto their families, friends, and communities. An antidote to the contagion of war is peace. But the peaceful cure is preempted when young people are sent to another war, which will truly end only with the death of its final survivor.



I'm grateful to The Highground for hosting this exhibition of paintings and photos. The exhibit is dedicated to my late friend, Viet Nam medic and veteran, artist, and writer Howard Sherpe. He was a co-founder of The Highground and consistently supported my work as an artist. When I submitted my design for the dove mound in 1985, Howard encouraged the idea and helped lead it to completion in 1989. Howard was a skilled artist and writer, always humble and kind. I thank him.

Long Shadow is a series of six mural-sized acrylic paintings on canvas accompanied by photos I took during the war, and excerpts from my war journal. I also collected a soundtrack of music important to me during the war era. —David Giffey



David Giffey Bio: Giffey grew up on a family dairy farm in Lamartine Township, Fond du Lac County. He was drafted in 1964 while working as wire editor of a daily newspaper in Oshkosh. After conscription, he was trained as a 105mm Howitzer gunner at Fort Riley, Kansas, and re-assigned as a combat journalist and editor with the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division during the American war in Viet Nam. Giffey was discharged from active duty in 1966, returning to Wisconsin to work as a civilian journalist and photographer. As a veteran, he was a peace activist and helped organize the 1969 Viet Nam War Moratorium in Oshkosh in 1969.

For the past 50 years Giffey worked as an artist, journalist, and photographer. He didn't study art formally, and began his visual art career as a street vendor in Austin, Texas, in 1971. Major visual art projects include icons and murals in Greek Orthodox churches, community centers, schools, and public buildings in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Greece, as well as a series of paintings based on his experiences in the Vietnam War. Hundreds of his easel paintings are owned by or were commissioned for private and public collections. He designed and supervised construction of the Mourning Dove Effigy Mound at the Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Clark County.

Publications include: *Long Shadows: Veterans Paths to Peace* (2006 - Atwood Publishing) with foreword by Howard Zinn; *Struggle for Justice: The Migrant Farm Worker Labor Movement in Wisconsin*, (1998) a chronicle of Wisconsin and Texas co-authored with Jesús Salas; and *The People's Stories of South Madison*, (2001) edited oral histories with elders of the African American community in Madison, Wisconsin. The publications include Giffey's photographic and painted illustrations.

From 2005-2012, Giffey edited the Home News weekly newspaper, Spring Green. His weekly columns won a 2008 Wisconsin Newspaper Association first place award and Golden Dozen Awards in 2010 and 2012 from the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

Giffey is an active member of Veterans for Peace Chapter 25. He lives in rural Iowa County with his wife Nancy, an artist.

Jeffrey Stenbom's Glass Sculptors- "Window to a Veterans Soul" —Sept - Nov



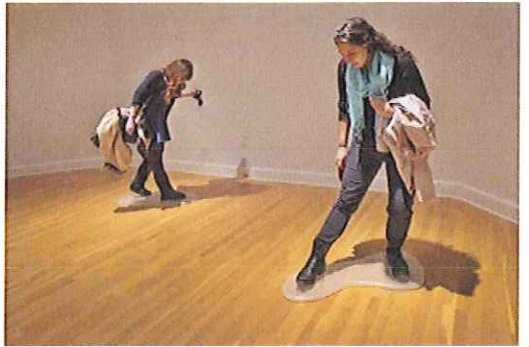
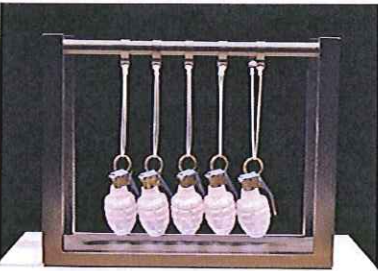
The Highground's Learning Center will be displaying Jeffrey's work September – November 2017. Jeffrey is an Iraq veteran who faced new challenges dealing with PTSD. His experiences led him to search for a passionate and creative means of exploring his emotions, political beliefs, personal views of the world and psychological distress. He feels art is not meant to fix problems, but to make others aware they exist, so change, comfort and understanding can happen.

Jeffrey grew up in the Midwest and attended college in MN and WI where he studied sculpture. He decided to take a break from college, and joined the US Army as a cavalry scout one week after 9/11. After serving in the US Army and being deployed to Iraq, he faced new challenges dealing with PTSD and was not sure what to do with his life.

He was fortunate to get back into art and start learning the medium of glass. His interest in sculpture stems from his experiences as a soldier. He has a new appreciation for life and how he looks at it. Being wounded and dealing with the pains of combat (both mentally and physically) takes a toll on a person.

Creating art is an escape for Jeffrey. It is his outlet from within, from the confines of his own mind. The experiences he had in the military and particularly in Iraq, shaped who he has become as a man and as a person. He doesn't always know how to interpret his thoughts and memories of these experiences in words, so his art becomes his medium.

Art has changed his life by giving him focus and helping him begin to heal from those life changing experiences. Learning how powerful art is and the impact it can have on a person's life has been the one major reason he is here today, driving him to learn more and to educate others.



Learning Center Coordinator Leaving

FOREVER A PART OF ME



It is with tears in my eyes and a lot of love in my heart that I draft this final article for the newsletter. My last day at The Highground will be Memorial Day, May 29th, as my husband Shane and I will be starting a new chapter in our lives out West.

I can't even begin to tell you all how much The Highground and every single person I have met over the last seven years means to me. Every person & every event touched my life in a way I never knew possible. This place and ALL of you have given me so much more than I can ever repay and I don't know how to thank you enough for letting me be a part of your lives.

If you are ever in the area, (Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Lake Mead, Hoover Dam) give us a call. We would love to see old friends and we will be close to these locations.

Please continue to take care of The Highground, our Veterans and each other!!

You Are Forever a Part of Me,
—June (Berg) Abrahamson

An "open house" to say good-bye will begin after the Memorial Day Ceremony. Come join us. We miss her already!

Volunteer General Manager and Gift Shop Manager — Retiring

End of an era: Rodmans decide to retire from The Highground Excerpts from *Todd Schmidt, Clark County Press*

After nearly 19 years of service to The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, retirement time has come for volunteer general manager Kirk Rodman, 83, and his wife, Nancy, 74, volunteer gift shop manager. Their announcement came at the annual Friends of the Highground dinner held Feb. 25, 2017.

"It has been an awesome experience and privilege to serve here. Amazing to think about all the people we have met and the stories we have heard. You have no idea what people are carrying around with them."

In 1998, Kirk and Nancy came to the Highground as volunteers. "They asked me to serve as volunteer general manager while they looked for somebody," he said. "My original commitment was one year. I said I would follow-up as a member of the search committee when I left." Kirk said he had three conditions to take the position. They needed to put together 12 people on a board of directors, find a home for the Liberty Bell and take steps to build bridges back to the community. A group of former board members and interested persons convened on a Saturday in the basement of the former M&I (now BMO Harris) Bank basement. Kirk was excused from the room for about 30 minutes, and when he was asked back in, a board of directors was in place.

Nancy said about the only way The Highground could stay open then was with volunteers willing to donate their time. Because of their extensive backgrounds with JC Penney in the retail industry, they were naturals to beef up the gift shop operation. "Now the place looks like a store," Kirk said. "It does a lot of sales volume per square foot. As it grew, a lot of people pitched in to help."

Kirk and the Board of Directors continually pushed the concept that The Highground was not a war memorial park. You don't see any old tanks or airplanes sitting around. "We honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans," Kirk said. "Our mission is healing and education."

The Highground accommodates an estimated 150,000 visitors per year. Staffers send out 13,000 newsletters five times per year. People come from all over the world to visit The Highground. The guest register includes signatures from China, Australia and various places in Europe. "Many of these visitors get it and turn into evangelists for us," Rodman noted. "With their help and financial support, The Highground can continue its mission. Most people who contribute money don't dictate how it is to be used. They tell us to use it where we need it. Their faith in our staff is amazing."

Kirk said. "It is hard for The Highground to function in the winter months due to snow, ice and cold weather. The Welcome Center will feature a virtual tour of The Highground. The large room can also be used for meetings and community events." A POW lookout tower will be constructed in the front of the building. "That is so we don't forget who we are and what we are about," he said.



Editor's note: The Rodmans are not the type of managers that direct staff and sit back themselves without pitching in. Both gave tours to students, young and old or they just listened to visitors. Kirk spoke and worked at every stone ceremony, event, work days and fundraisers. He is a leader, a "peddler" (his label) and enjoyed recognizing and honoring veterans and their families. Him and Nancy enjoyed shaking hands with visitors and often reminded us that we never know when we are going to "touch" that one person who needs it. His stories will be repeated in hopes we can carry with us all they have taught us.

They both will be missed.



Kirk was recognized by WAOW Media for his outstanding volunteer efforts and community service. He was presented with a coveted Jefferson Award.

Prior to coming to The Highground, Rodman served in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 to 1958 at Hickam AFB and Evreux AFB. He then managed JC Penney stores in the Midwest.

Nancy worked for JC Penney for many years. When they moved to La Crosse in 1980, she got a job at the UW-La Crosse bookstore.

The Rodmans were involved in building two churches, Christ the King in Onalaska and Calvary Lutheran in Neillsville. Kirk was in charge of constructing four huge stores for JC Penney. They also built a house on Lake Arbutus in 1995-1996, doing much of the work themselves. Kirk and Nancy were married in 1962. They have one son, two daughters and four grandchildren. The Rodmans are also active members of the Neillsville Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We believe when you do something, you need to concentrate on the job and do it really well," he said. "We like doing things, having the opportunity to manage projects and making things happen."

C. W. King is the chairperson of The Highground Board of Directors. He is leading the search committee for a new general manager, along with Bob Barth, Bob Solberg and Kirk.

"It will be difficult finding a replacement for Kirk," King said. "He has been with us for 19 years and he has done such a good job. We plan to advertise and hope to get some good candidates to interview soon."

King said the search committee should be able to screen the candidates down to a manageable number, with the entire board of directors involved in the interview process.



Rodmans for your vision, leadership, guidance, and friendship.

And yes Kirk, even some of your epiphanies.

God Bless



An "open house" at The Learning Center will be held on June 30, 2017, 3:00-7:00pm. Come visit and celebrate Kirk's third retirement before they start their next exciting adventure.



During Rodman's tenure The Highground experienced:

- 2002—Liberty Bell Shelter is dedicated.
 - 2003—Permanent restrooms open to the public.
 - 2004—Trail system extended and long-range forest management plan including developmental forest established.
 - 2004—Wisconsin Counties United In Service Tribute placed on walkway.
 - 2005—Handicap-accessible Treehouse completed.
 - 2005—First Meditation Stones placed in the Meditation Garden Shelter.
 - 2006—Meditation Garden, Ascension of Doves, Fountain of Tears and WASP Tribute dedicated.
 - 2007—Korean Tribute dedicated and first stone was placed on the Rice Paddies.
 - 2009—New parking lot constructed; a new good friend and supporter was found in the owner of American Asphalt.
 - 2009—Statuary within the Fountain of Tears dedicated.
 - 2009—The Hero Tribute Ride recreated the first bike tour.
 - 2010—The Learning Center dedicated. A main feature is a 67-foot clear span exhibit area that can be used to effectively house major exhibits. A library was put in that currently features over 4,000 books, most of them gifts. The owner of Mall Furniture in Marshfield donated the reading room furniture.
 - 2013—Large Pavilion completed in the picnic area.
 - 2013—Fragments (Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Tribute) celebrates 25 years
 - 2014—Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute breaks ground.
 - 2014—First Wisconsin Persian Gulf Honor Stone placed.
 - 2014—Purchased additional land for parking and expansion.
- The board of directors acquired seven acres of property for construction of a Welcome Center. The vision includes making one big room out of a former house, and using the facility to host regular service visits from psychologists and therapists to work with people affected by PTSD and other issues. Providers serving other Veterans Centers could use the facility on a revolving basis several times per month. About four acres of the seven-acre parcel will be available for additional parking. About 100 volunteers cleared trees and prepared the site, cutting the estimated cost by two-thirds.
- 2015—Lower Restrooms completed in picnic area helping a Boy Scout achieve his Eagle Scout desognmatopm.
 - 2016—Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute dedicated during the "Operation Persian Gulf Welcome Home" event.
 - 2017—Military Working Dog Tribute groundbreaking.

Friends of The Highground Recognition Banquet

Over 150 donors were invited and honored at the annual "Friends of The Highground" dinner that was held in February at Castle Hill Restaurant. Fifty-five of the donors being first time achievers of this donation level! This dinner is a way of thanking those generous donors who support The Highground Veterans Park through cumulative annual donations in excess of \$1,000. Displays were set up for attendees to see what has and will be happening at The Highground. After a warm welcome by Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager and an invocation by Pastor Al Houts, a delicious dinner was enjoyed by those in attendance. Many Board Members were in attendance to thank the recipients as each one was presented with a beautiful plaque. This is the thirteenth year The Highground has presented plaques to those meeting the \$1,000 minimum donation. Each year a new picture plaque is created to present to the donors.

This year, donors and Board Members from all around the state were able to join us at the banquet. Only two have acquired all thirteen plaques—Thank you Central WI Broadcasting: WCCN/WKPG and Dr. John Scaletta! You have *not* missed one year of support to The Highground Veterans Memorial Park since implementation of this recognition. WCCN generously announces many Highground events, bringing more and more visitors to the park and area each year. While Scaletta has contributed to many different needs over the years, his 2016 contribution supported the PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) program. Over 1,100 books have been distributed free to those needing this valuable information thanks to Scaletta's generous donations. Seeing a larger and larger need for the PTSD information, we encourage anyone who is having an issue, or think someone else is having problems adjusting to please look into the counselling service from the Vets Outreach Center. Confidential and private sessions are available at the Learning Center. The Highground is a safe place for all.

The following received recognition for their continued support of The Highground Veterans Memorial Park:

13th Year Recognition

Central WI Broadcasting: WCCN / WKPG

Dr. John Scaletta - Neillsville

12th Year Recognition

Joan Jungwirth - Tucson, AZ

11th Year Recognition

Leon Meidam - Appleton

Randy Meyer - New Richmond

Jerry Simon - New Richmond

Jerry & Alice Smith - Neillsville

10th Year Recognition

Joan Cervenka - Oak Lawn, IL

John Lynch - Cottage Grove, MN

Marjorie Short - Neillsville

9th Year Recognition

Listeman Foundation - Neillsville

Walter Tollefson - Fond du Lac

Tom & Anita Werthman - Marshfield

8th Year Recognition

City of Neillsville

Jim & Susan Fox - Elk Mound

Jakel Plumbing, Heating & Electrical

—Abbotsford

Gary Karczewski - Leroy, IL

Mar-Lin VFW Post #10203 - Hamburg

7th Year Recognition

Jim Braatz - Fond du Lac

Clark Electric Cooperative - Greenwood

Hardee's Cougar Enterprise - Neillsville, Colby, Medford

Michael & Joyce Huebsch - Marathon

Andy Rueth - Neillsville

VVA Chapter 639 - Cottage Grove, MN

Wes Waterman - Marshfield

Lucinda Zimmer - Merced, CA

6th Year Recognition

Dennis & Sharon Herzberg - WI Rapids

Joyce & Thomas Hoffman - Abbotsford

Mark & Celeste Kaufman - Colby

Steve & Karen Maddox - Chippewa Falls

Dave Sharretts - New Richmond

Robert & Caryl Solberg - Neillsville

5th Year Recognition

Citizens State Bank of Loyal

Doris Dux - Neillsville

Michael & Kathy Gleisner - Chili

Bernie & Kathy Heit - Cottage Grove

Maggie Mae & Roger Hilliard - Oxford

David Kemp - Eau Claire

CW & Mary Ann King - Chippewa Falls

Skip & Deb Klabon - Colby

Amy Melvin - Neillsville

Donald & Noreen Schmidt - De Forest

Steve Swanson - Star Prairie

4th Year Recognition

Robert & Gloria Beyer - Shanawo

Curt Braatz - Fond du Lac

Chilson Subaru - Eau Claire

Bill & Kathy Flemal - Waupaca

LeRoy Johnson - Appleton

Taylor Johnson - Appleton

L E Phillips Family Foundation - Eau Claire

Dick & Verla Lysy - Appleton

Alan & Martha Palmer - Boscobel

Cole Peterson - New Richmond

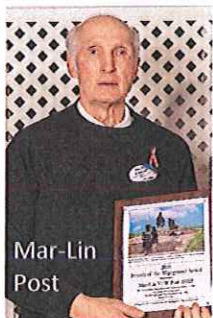
Joel & Marla Raine-BP Drescher Oil - Neillsville

Andy & Nikki Smith - Watertown

VFW Pittsville Memorial Post #7131



Scaletta



Mar-Lin
Post

THANK YOU



Schmidt



Palmer



Quicker

More Friends.....

3rd Year Recognition

Lee & Kathleen Anderson - DePere
David Backstrom - Eau Claire
Bemis - Neenah
Michele Benson - Ripon
John Blank - Hayward
DAV WM F Speel Chapter #18 - Appleton
Julie Diesing - Hastings, MN
Phil & Julie Henneman - Boscobel
Pastor Al & Jan Houts - Abbotsford
Kimberly Knudsen - Whitewater
Paul Kokosz - Italy
Nick & Janet Lesar - Whitewater
Nick Stuttgen Memorial Ride - Unity
Dave Reimer - Ashland
Gary Ruzic - Neillsville
Lorraine Short - Bayside, TX
Karen & Steve Swader - Whitewater
Thrivent Financial

2nd Year Recognition

Al Muth Harley Davidson - Black River Falls
Am Leg Willis-Chapel Post 306 - Green Lake
Tom Babbitt - Stanley
Mike & Amy Bodoh - Clintonville
Combat Parts, Inc. - Abbotsford
James Feneli - Marshfield
Ted Fetting - Wauwatosa
Roy & Ginny Franz - Madison
Gross Motors, Inc. - Neillsville
Haupt Well & Pump Co. - Auburndale
Bonnie Henchen - Neillsville
Juli McNeely Financial Service - Spencer
Prestige Auto Corp-Eau Claire

Richard & Becky Schleis - Waupaca
Sharp One Hour Photo - Eau Claire
VFW Lakeland #7898 - Woodruff
Dave Week - Vesper
Russ Wohlrabe & Damn Yankees
Watering Hole, Waupaca

1st Year Recognition

American Asphalt of Wisconsin-Mosinee
American Legion Riders - Neillsville
Augie Stark Photography - De Forest
Fred & Kim Berg - Middleburg, FL
Bernatello's Pizza - Maple Lake, MN
Lori Bixby/ Deerview Lodge - Hatfield
Bev's Saddle Mound Tap - Pittsville
Bohl Associates, Inc. - Clintonville
Mark Dawson - Neillsville
Tim Dallman - Greenwood
Jayne Ehlert - Eau Claire
Edgewood College - Madison
Exelon Corporation - Princeton, NJ
Bob Frazee - Plymouth, MN
Marv Freedman - Middleton
Jay Froh - Las Vegas, NV
Greg & Barb Gassen - Beaver Dam
Gordy's County Market - Neillsville
Shilo Harris - Elmendorf, TX
Rod Hawkins - New Richmond
Joel & Heidi Hazzard - Osceola
Jim Henchen - Neillsville
Bobby Henline - Seience Hill, KT
Hiller's True Value Hardware - Marshfield
Ho-Chunk Gaming - Black River Falls

Dean Hommel - Medford
Bruce Jacobs - Freedom
David Jay - Miami, FL
Sally Johnson - Colfax
Brian Jopek - Minocqua
Bryce Kelly/Thrivent Financial - Colby
Kokosz Family - Joliet, IL
Lisa & Kenneth Kraemer - Marshfield
Marawood Construction Serv-Marshfield
Michelle Marine - Mondovi
Neillsville Dept of Public Works
Old Abe WI Chapt Inc/101st ABN Assoc - Appleton
Opelt Sand & Gravel - Neillsville
Jim Ottman - Spring Valley
Rock 'N Roll to Go Plus! - Eau Claire
Logan & Tanner Smith - Whitewater
Dave & Ellen Schmitz - Spooner
Terrence Stein - Wauwatosa
State of WI Stanley Correctional Institute - Stanley
Sunrise Exchange Club of Eau Claire
Vulcan Riders - Janesville
VVA Appleton Area Chapter 351
VVA Chapter 331 - River Falls
Walmart Foundation - Bentonville, AZ
Pat Watts - Stanley
WEAU Channel 13 - Eau Claire
Dave & Bonnie Wick - Baraboo
Wisconsin Humanities Council - Madison
Wisconsin Public Radio - Wausau
WSAU Wausau Radio

Will you be invited next year to the Friends Dinner? Hope to see you there.

Special award plaques were given to Don Quicker, Highground Treasurer and Kirk & Nancy Rodman, Highground Volunteer Managers. All thirteen plaque photos were combined into one plaque for THEIR contributions to the park for many years of fundraising and accounting services.



A special award that is determined by the staff of The Highground is the "Spirit of The Highground" award. This award is presented to someone that has gone above and beyond monetary works but also has the "Spirit" of The Highground in them. This year, the award was humbly accepted by Paul Jakel of Abbotsford, WI and Jerry Smith of Neillsville, WI.

Other recognition was given to Al Palmer of Boscobel, WI and Ned Carlson of Neillsville, WI for their years of work at The Highground as Board Members. Their direction and guidance while

on the Board of Directors is seen throughout the park.

Kirk Rodman summarized all the accomplishments of 2016 and highlighted goals to achieve in the years to come. The staff is a very small group (7-mostly part-time) that could not do what they do without the volunteers and contributors. To all of them—the staff says THANK YOU!! The evening ended with Kirk and Nancy announcing that after 19 years at The Highground, they will be retiring July 1st. We ALL wished them the very best with a huge thank you of a standing ovation.



Events and Learning Center Exhibits are open to the public free of charge because of Friends like YOU.

Hope you didn't miss these awesome events!

70 Runners Compete in the "Half is Good Enough for Me" Half Marathon & 5K

Runners gathered at The Highground to take part in the 6th Annual "Half is Good Enough for Me" Half Marathon & 5K on Saturday, March 25th. Twenty-four runners participated in the Half Marathon. Corey Mullard of Appleton finished in first place with a time of 1:37:47. The second place finisher was Allen "Fish" Stieber of Abbotsford with 1:38:32 and Max Holmes of Sheboygan placed third with a time of 1:42:36.

The 5K had 46 participants. Finishing in first place in the 5K was Heather Langreck of Neillsville with a time of 00:20:17. Second place went to Skylar Drinka of Neillsville with 00:23:44 and coming in with a third place finish was April Reinart of Greenwood with a time of 00:24:22.

A list of all finisher times and photos will be posted on www.thehighground.us and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial.

Over \$1,700 was raised by this event for The Highground. The race is dedicated to the memory of Sandy Greene, the mother of race founder, Amy Melvin.

The Clark County Sheriff's Department and Clark County Highway Department provided their assistance to ensure that the race was both safe and enjoyable for the 70 participants and Highground volunteers. Adam and Ashley Davel donated the use of their driveway for the event. Vital to the success of the event was the generosity of the "Half is Good Enough for Me" sponsors. These included were: Memorial Medical Center, Central WI Broadcasting (WCCN, WPKG), Scheels of Eau Claire and Hardee's.



Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band AND Leroy!!—April 8, 2017

Once again, Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band put on a fantastic show to benefit The Highground! The concert took place on Sat. April 8th at the beautiful Pittsville Performing Arts Foundation Auditorium in Pittsville. The show captivated the audience with a combination of traditional country, gospel and crowd favorites. As if Maggie and the band weren't enough, we were also blown away by the talents of Leroy Peterson! Eighteen year old Leroy was a powerhouse, singing Elvis and Johnny Cash songs to perfection.

Approximately \$10,000 was raised for The Highground Veterans Memorial Park to continue its mission of Healing and Education for veterans, their families and all who visit.

Thank you, Maggie Mae,
Heartland Country Band,
Leroy Peterson, Roger
Hilliard, Robert Wolff,
Pittsville Performing Arts
Foundation, Hardee's and
WWIS Radio!



6th Annual Vietnam Reunion / Education Gathering — April 22, 2017

This year's gathering was held on the deck of the Learning Center on April 22, with eight Vietnam Veterans and four other guests in attendance enjoying a beautiful Spring day.

Veterans in attendance were: (Back Row/left to right) **Robert T.-Montgomery, IL,** **Alan H.-Rice Lake, WI,** **Carl G.-Madison, WI,** **Paul S.-Center Point, IA,** **Augie S.- DeForest, WI,** (Front Row) **Ted G.-Seymour, WI,** **Gary K.-Oconto Falls, WI** and **Skip K.-Colby, WI.**

A lot of history was shared and recorded for future generations to learn from. Veterans and guests alike enjoyed the camaraderie and the time to just be with fellow brothers and sisters. Knowing you are not alone and that you are cared about is a huge step in the healing process that for many, takes a life time. One visit, hug, tear, smile or listening ear is all that it takes to begin that healing process. Thanks to all that attended and for being a part of The Highground's mission of healing and education.



Spring Work Week — Wednesday, April 26 - Saturday April 29th!



Spring Work Week had many things completed regardless of the rain and snow.



Thank you Volunteers!!

You proved again there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.



Thanks to these wonderful businesses...The Highground Volunteers ate well! **THANK YOU....**

DONNA'S COZY KITCHEN

BP DRESCHER OIL

Hansen's



Yellow Ribbons



During "Operation Persian Gulf Welcome Home", Yellow Ribbons were fabricated and displayed down the pathway to the Persian Gulf Tribute. These are beautifully crafted stainless steel ribbons that are 19.25" long on steel rods for displaying.

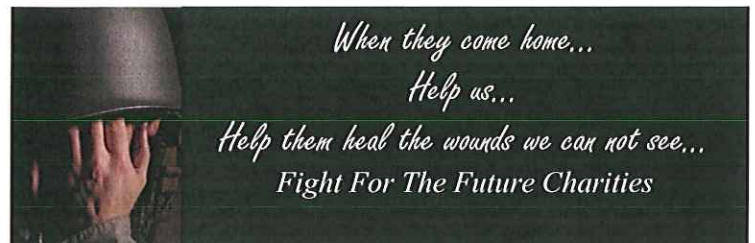
You can now receive your own with a \$150 donation that will show your support of our veterans in your yard. Plus support the Persian Gulf Tribute.



Strictly Country Fundraiser

Beginning in April 1996, Strictly Country Magazine captured what is called Fight For The Future Charities, (FFFC). Entertainers are asked to autograph Christmas ornaments and donate other items to raise funds for various charitable organizations. The items are only available twice a year. From May 15 - May 31st and Nov 15th - Dec 31st. The sale of these items will benefit The Highground Veteran's Memorial Park to help raise funds for Veterans and their families.

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



*When they come home...
Help us...
Help them heal the wounds we can not see...
Fight For The Future Charities*

The Gift Shop

HAPPY FATHER'S Day!

Many new items are now on display
throughout the shop.

Remember the favorite Dad or Grandfather in your life...

Gift certificates are also welcome gifts...

Call for information or to order: 715-743-4224 online ordering coming soon

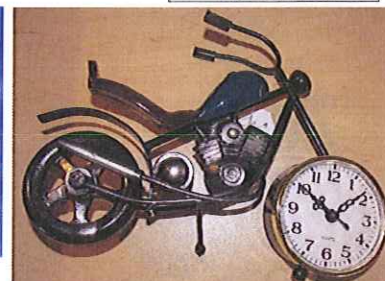
SOME
Super Heroes
Don't have
CAPIES...
They are
called **DAD**



Short Sleeved Polo's are 25% off
now \$17.21 & \$20.21 Sizes S-2XL
Colors: Kelly Green, Sapphire, Heather Grey



3-3/4"x8" Recycled Metal
Motorcycle \$29.95



6"x9" Antique Motorcycle
Clock: green, blue, burgundy
\$22.95



Unique wooden puzzle boxes
for \$24.95

Choose from Flying Eagle,
Humming Bird, Eagle Head,
Largemouth Bass, Rose, Calla Lily, Tree of Life.

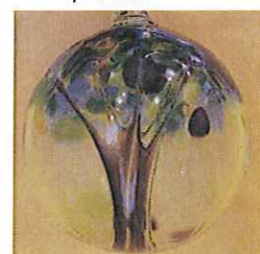


Intarsia wood 6"x4"x3"
boxes for \$22.95
Horse, Hummingbird,
Eagle, Cow, Golf bag

Intarsia
Wood
9"x6"x3"
boxes
\$34.95



Eagle & USA Flag or Pine Trees



Tree of Enchantment
blown glass globes are
\$24.95

Fatherhood, Brother,
Sister, Wishes, Healing



27" Burlap Banners: \$9.95
Patriotic 12" Star Picks: \$3.25



New Yard Art...motorcycles & bicycles in
red, blue, yellow for \$8.95



All solar art
merchandise is
25% off...stock
up NOW



Patriotic scarves, knee
highs, fringed vest,
cover ups for
\$10.95-\$15.95



Metal Key
racks \$15.95



Youth Corner Features new items:



Bump n Go Helicopter \$12.95

Drones
\$10.95

Bi-Planes
\$8.95



Hovering Ball \$15.95

Wish Lists — Donations Needed—Can you help?

- Tablet and a Camera: *Thank You!!*
- Leaf Rakes: 6 @ \$15/each
- Duct & Gorilla tape: Lots
- Brush Hog: \$1095
- PTSD Books: *Thanks for your support!* It is helping!! (Over 1100 books have been handed out in the last two years!)
- Trunks/Footlockers for traveling exhibit (Authentic would be wonderful but not necessary.)
- Partner with us to build the Welcome Center \$50 to \$10,000*
Call Kirk for projections
- Plans for walking ramp to the Persian Gulf Tribute road: \$1200
- 1 or 2 more used/new 4 or 6 passenger golf carts* for visitors:
Thanks for six so far! (More visitors mean more needed)
- Persian Gulf Tribute grass preparation: \$1360 Think Spring!
- Pathway Bollards to Persian Gulf Tribute: 6 @ \$1000/each*
- Endowment Fund Donors: Goal: \$5 million*
- Memorials: Honor your loved ones
- Learning Center Exhibit Funds
- Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers*: 10 more @ \$4000/each
- Highway road sign needs solar charger or digital sign: \$2600
- Sprinkler System for Gold Star: \$3980
- Persian Gulf big map to sign: \$650 still needed- *Thanks for \$350*
- New Roof & Base for 2-picnic shelters*: \$3570 each
- Tape measure, Laser level and Command Strips: *Thank you!*
- 21" self-propelled walk behind mower w/ mulcher: *Thank you!*
- Fill project: Buy a truck load: \$55/each: *Thanks for 4 so far!*
- Patriotic Quilts needed for the December display and raffle:
Thanks for 14 so far!
- Lights for Native American Tribute: 4 @ \$79/each
- 1st Annual Newsletter subscription drive: \$25
- Small 12V Screwdriver for crafts: \$50
- Flagpoles* on the Welcome Center Circle Drive: 10 @ \$2,500
(Buy your service Emblem—Army already sold)
- Welcome Center Buildings*: \$375,000 for each of
the 2 smaller buildings

Naming rights—honor a Hero or Post!**Anyone like to sell Christmas trees for us?***

The Highground has the opportunity to receive some beautiful Christmas trees to sell and raise funds. We are looking for a group to help us do this fundraiser.

If you have connections with a scout troop or would like to man the sales yourself, please give The Highground a call to make arrangements to receive the trees at your location.

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 May 2017

Please send me information about:

- _____ Upcoming Events & Fundraising Calendar
- _____ Stones on The Highground
- _____ Add someone to the newsletter mailing list
(please send name and address of whom you would like to give a gift subscription)
- _____ Endowment Fund
- _____ July 2017 Veterans Retreat
- _____ Booking "My War" exhibit or ROF exhibit
- _____ Volunteer opportunities on site
- _____ Please add me to the Work Week mailings
(I am available to help)
- _____ Please add me to the "Sweet Ladies" mailings
(I can bake for events/sales)
- _____ I would like your newsletter emailed

Email _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Questions or Comments: _____

Mail Truck Burns

We received notice that a mail truck heading this way was in an accident and the contents were burned. If you sent us a donation or correspondence in 2016 and have not received an acknowledgement/thank you from The Highground, please contact us—either your contribution burned or our thank you burned. Let's get it fixed.

**Our Newsletter
printed by:**



**Our new website!!
Created by:**



Thanks to generous donors, The Highground Veterans Park is able to continue its mission of healing and education by offering books to those veterans and families that feel they are dealing with PTSD.

With a handshake and promise, we would like to help you understand PTSD with a book.

The Highground

W7031 Ridge Rd.
Neillsville, WI 54456



Kirk & Nancy Rodman



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 these names and ring the Liberty Bell for all whom have died from Wisconsin.



Kevin Calloway	Michael A. McGlothlin	Matthew R. Kading	Tyler J. Kritz	Chad D. Coleman
Rocky Nelson	Charles Kiser	Benjamin A. Smith	Patrick L. Wade	Adam Novak
Lance Monsen	Stephen Martin	Anthony Alexander	Matthew R. Zindars	Matthew J. West
Scott Schroeder	Adrian Soltau	"Alex" Gaunky	Alun R. Howells	Daniel J. Johnson
Brian Scott	Andrew Halverson	Andy A. Stevens	Derek A. Dobogai	Justin Cain
William Strehlow	Daniel R. Wyatt	Adam J. VanAlstine	Rachael L. Hugo	Scott T. Nagorski
Michael Fitz	Shane K. O'Donnell	Nicholas R. Anderson	Anthony R. Wasielewski	Jacob A. Gassen
Cheryl LaBeau-O'Brien	Robert P. Warns II	Eric A. Palmisano	Joshua C. Brennan	Richard J. Kemp
Daniel Joel	Todd R. Cornell	Nathan J. Vacho	Louis A. Griese	Daren M. Hidalgo
Patrick Wanke	Brian R. Prening	Eric D. Clark	Tracy Alger	Justin Ross
Paul Buege	Isaiah R. Hunt	Grant Allen Dampier	James McDonald	Paul J. Atim
Carl Zabel	Benjamin C. Edinger	Jamie Jaenke	Jason F. Lemke	Matthew D. Hermanson
Jeremy Bird	Ryan J. Cantafio	Patrick L. Lybert	Timothy R. Hanson	Ryan J. Larson
Daniel Busch	Brent T. Vroman	Stephen Castner	Matthew I. Pionk	Tyler R. Kreinz
Ryan P. Long	Richard D. Warner	Ryan Jopek	Keith E. Lloyd	Michael C. Nolen
Kirk Allen Straseskie	Todd Olson	Adam P. Servais	Christopher S. Frost	Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr.
Matthew E. Schram	Travis M. Wichlicz	Shaun A. Novak	Richard J. Nelson	Jakob Roelli
Dan H. Gabrielson	Donald W. Eacho	Kenneth Cross	Dean D. Opicka	Joseph J. Altmann
Paul J. Sturino	Andrew L. Bossert	Merideth Howard	Steven J. Christofferson	David A. Johnson
Rachel K. Bosveld	Mark A. Maida	Luke J. Zimmerman	Jeremy D. Vrooman	Jesse J. Grindey
Warren S. Hansen	Joshua Michael Scott	Rhett W. Schiller	Nick A. Dewhurst	Benjamin H. Neal
Jeremy L. Wolfe	Kyle M. Hemauer	Jesse D. Tillery	Daniel Thompson	Jeremiah Collins, Jr
Eugene A. Uhl III	Eric J. Poelman	Kevin M. Kryst	Steven T. Drees	Heidi Ruh
Christopher J. Splinter	John J. Mattek, Jr.	Evan A. Bixler	Brian Naseman	Matthew I Leggett
Robert J. Cook	Charles Kaufman	Joshua M. Schmitz	Earl D. Werner	Carson Holmquist
Nicole M. Frye	John Tollefson	Matthew T. Grimm	Robert M Rieckhoff	Quinn Johnson-Harris
Bert Edward Hoyer	Ben Jansky	Andrew G. Matus	Ryan C. Adams	Matthew Thompson
John F. "Hans" Kurth	Chad J. Simon	Jon B. St. John II	Nickolas Mueller	
Sean M. Schneider	Trevor J. Diesing	Harry H. Timberman	Amy Krueger	
Jessie L. Thiry	Ryan J. Nass	Robert J. Basham	Russell Seager	
Ryan M. Jerabek	Michael Wendling	Nicholas Riehl	Jacob A Meinert	
Michelle M. Witmer	Andrew Wallace	Jesse B. Albrecht	Paul R. Bartz	

LET THEM NOT
GO IN SILENCE