Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project Inc

The Highground

W7031 Ridge Rd.
Neillsville, WI 54456

Thank you Bonnie —another beautiful year with your TLC

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Eau Claire, WI
PERMIT No. 366

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 remember those names by a 21 gun salute and ringing the Liberty Bell for all whom have died from Wisconsin for our Freedoms!!

Kevin Calloway	Michael A. McGlothin	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. Dewhirst	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

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park

September 2017 — a place for all of us.

The Highground Fall Fest

Saturday October 7, 2017!!

Chili Cook - Off!

Judging at 10AM, Serving at 10:30AM
Table Decoration Competition Too!

Chili Cook-Off – **Competitors** need to register before October 7th. Standard size crockpot or larger amount (Competitors that bring an 18qt roaster will receive a $20 Highground Gift Certificate). Must be fully prepared – there is no availability to The Highground kitchen facility – and ready to be judged at 10AM. The Learning Center garage Cook-Off area (with electrical outlets) will be open at 7AM. Each competitor will get a 3' long table space to use for set up of their chili and presentation.

Chili Cook-Off: Judge's First Place
Judge's Second Place
Judge's Third Place
Popular Vote First Place
Best Presentation

Visitors, for $5, Sample the Chili Entries and Place a Vote. After voting, get a big bowl of your favorite chili & fixin's!

Car & Motorcycle Show!

10AM—3PM $10 entry—call 715-743-4224 to Register or download form at www.thehighground.us
Highground Dash Plaques for the First 100 Registered Vehicles!
Trophies will be awarded for:

Car: Best of Show
Best Modified
Best Stock
People's Choice
Furthest Driven
Oldest Vehicle
Chili Choice (Buy a chili, get a vote)

Motorcycle: Best of Show
Oldest Motorcycle

Special Interest Trophy *– Have a vehicle that is unique; doesn't quite fit a "normal" category?!*

Call 715-743-4224 or go to www.thehighground.us to enter.

Reminder to those placing Legacy Honor Stones on October 7th…. If you are in the 9:30am ceremony, plan to stay later and enjoy the Fall Fest; if you are in the 2:00pm ceremony, plan to come early and partake in the festivities beforehand as it will be over by the time your ceremony is done. The chili is usually gone by 1:30pm!! Just a friendly heads-up.

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

In Memory:
Tracy Algers
Mica Debevec
William Friesbie
Gary Grissman
Pat Howe
Stan Hutter
Mark Klabon
David Korth
Jeanette Kramer
Jehu "Sarge" Malone
Harvey Mathwick
Gladys & C.L. O'Kelly
Dale Pingel
Roger Seigert
John Smith
Irene Van Ornum
Gordon Vine

In Honor:
Daniel Gallatin
Kirk & Nancy Rodman

Diversity Days

Tuesday & Wednesday
September 26 & 27, 2017
9:00am – 2:30pm

2017 is now FULL—Plan ahead to attend in 2018—Dates: September 25 and 26

Our Mission and Objective:

- To celebrate our similarities and differences
- To learn about different cultures, arts, traditions

Students in **grades 3 through 8** are invited to discover independent living for people with disabilities, explore new cultural traditions and learn about respect, duty, honor and country on The Highground tour.

Contact: 715-743-4224 **email highgrnd@tds.net** Cost: $3.00 per person

Participants may bring their own sack lunch and use the picnic areas in the park.

"Space Still Available!"

Teachers, Parents…Spread the Word

5TH Grade Days at The Highground!
October 3 & 4, 2017

The 2017 Fifth Grade Education Days will be held Tuesday, October 3rd and Wednesday, October 4th. Students will receive guided tours of The Highground and leave with a souvenir flag for their desks, milk and a snack! There will be two sessions offered each day: 9:30am – 11:30am and 12:30pm – 2:30pm.

Teachers / School Administrators can select between these days and sessions. Contact Theresa at The Highground with questions and to book a session for your students.

SAVE THE DATES
FALL CLEAN UP DAYS
OCTOBER 18TH & 19TH
FIXING THINGS, FOOD, FUN, FRIENDSHIPS—OLD & NEW!
Make plans to be at The Highground to help get the park ready for Winter

Volunteers Needed For Fall Clean-Up

The Annual Fall Clean-Up Days will be held on Wed, October 18th & Thurs, October 19th.

This is a great opportunity for supporters to help maintain The Highground as one of the finest veteran's parks in the country!

The clean-up days begin at 8:30am and a lunch will be provided for volunteer workers. Everyone is invited to attend, just call The Highground to let the staff know you are coming so lunches can be planned accordingly.

Volunteering during Clean-Up Days is a great way to lend a hand to The Highground and help maintain it as a unique treasure which provides healing and education to veterans, families and to the over 150,000 visitors that The Highground brings to Central Wisconsin each year.

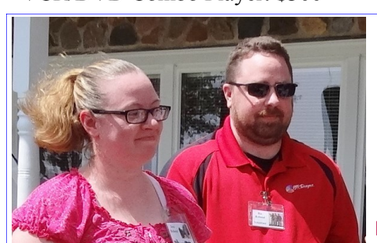
Volunteers are the Heart of The Highground!

Wish Lists — Donations Needed—Can you help?

URGENT Immediate Needs:
- -Funds for 5th Grade Days--milk for students: $280 (*Thanks* for $50 so far)
- -Funds for re-usable signs for Event Sandwich Boards: $200
- -Lawn Sweeper: THANK YOU—works great!
- -6.5'x12' trailer: $1000
- -Rifle/Flag rack for color guards to place their rifles/flags during ceremonies: THANK YOU!
- -Gold Star maintenance work: volunteers and funds needed
- -iPod and Speakers for Gift Shop: $300

-Duct & Gorilla tape: *THANKS*
-Brush Hog: $1095
-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 carts and $500 so far for another cart!
(More visitors mean more needed)
-Pathway Lights to Persian Gulf Tribute: 5 @ $1000/each
-Endowment Fund Donors: Goal: $5 million
-Memorials: Honor your loved ones
-Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 9 more @ $4000/each
-Highway road sign needs solar charger or digital sign: $2600
-PTSD Books: It is helping!!
-Lights for Native American Tribute: @ $79/each
(*Thanks for another one,* 2 more to go yet)

Learning Center wish list
-3-4 life sized mannequins *THANKS*
-"OPEN" LED Sign with Hanging Chain, *THANKS*
-Command Picture & Frame Hanging Strips,
96 Large Strips - 48 Pair (on going): $40
-Sony HDR-CX405/B Full HD 60p Camcorder w/tri-pod: $260
-Patriotic Quilts for December display & Raffle
(let's fill the Learning Center up!)
Thanks for 17 so far! More quilts—more winners!!
-Small 12V Screwdriver for projects: $50
-43" TV: $300
-VCR/DVD Combo Player: $300



Thank you, Jess and Ike Rebout
Sparta, WI

Our new website!

Awesome comments regarding the new website continue as more are logging onto their digital devices!

More improvements are coming—let us know if we miss something.

Thank You!

VOLUNTEER

Our Newsletter printed by: Johnson Litho Graphics

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 Sept 2017

Please send me information about:

____ Upcoming Events & Fundraising Calendar
____ Honor 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
____ Booking information for "My War" exhibit or "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit
____ Volunteer opportunities on site
____ Please add me to the Work Week mailings
(I am available to help)
____ I would like your newsletter emailed

Email_____
Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State____ Zip_____
Phone_____
Questions or Comments: _____
_____
_____
_____

Email users: We are still mailing your newsletter to you and have also emailed it to you. If you want a digital newsletter but have NOT received an email with it yet, please let us know—we are working on finalizing this project! We don't want you to miss a thing!

Thanks to generous donors, The Highground 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 take a further step towards understanding and healing.
Please visit us.

The Gift Shop Celebrates Fall

$49.95

$15.95

$23.95

$19.95

$12.95

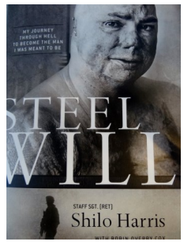
$12.95

$14.95

$10.95

$14.95

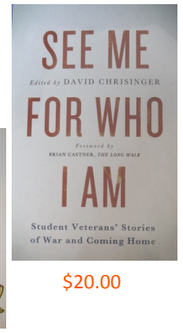
$9.95



Books $17.95

$9.95

Gift certificates are also welcome gifts…
Call for information
or to order: 715-743-4224



$20.00

Red, Navy or Green
Youth XL ~~$60.95~~ $45.71
S-4XL ~~$67.95-74.95~~ $50.96-56.21

Black or Royal Blue
S-3XL $37.95-39.95

Navy/Maroon or Tan/Navy
S-3XL $42.95–44.95

Crimson, Retro Heather Royal, Heather Grey, Military Green, Sapphire
S-3XL $24.95-26.95

$12.95

Vigil
$34.95

Shine
$28.95

Patience
$32.95

Kindness
Boy or Girl
$19.95 each

$34.95

$19.95

THE 5TH ANNUAL WINTER BOWL

FUNDRAISER FOR THE HIGHGROUND VETERANS' WEEKEND

Sunday, Jan 28, 2018 Noon—2:30PM
At ROSE BOWL LANES
1600 N Central, Marshfield

For $50 your group (family, friends—up to 6 people) can reserve a lane, balls & shoes from Noon—2:30PM
Registration required: call The Highground at 715-743-4224

Veteran's Organizations and Businesses — Call now to see how you can be a sponsor of this important event!

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE HIGHGROUND VETERANS' WEEKEND BEING HELD JULY 13-15, 2018

Lanes Limited-Call Now!!

Bowling! Door Prizes! Games! Silent Auctions! And Just Good Fun!

Sponsored in part by: Hardee's

Bowl to Support: The Highground Veterans' Weekend July 13-15, 2018

A Gathering of Veterans
An Abundance of Activities, Food, Fun & Camaraderie

Veterans Day Ceremony at The Highground, Saturday, November 11, 2017

The Highground Veterans Park will observe Veterans Day on Saturday, November 11th. At Noon, the names of the 1,244 Wisconsin KIAs/MIAs in the Vietnam War and 877 names of the Wisconsin KIAs/MIAs in the Korean War will be read and honored with the tolling of the Liberty Bell.

The Veterans Day ceremony will start at 3:00pm. It will be held outdoors on the plaza unless the weather is very inclement. In that event, it will be held indoors in The Learning Center.

Veteran, John Black, from Iola will be the guest speaker. The names of the Wisconsin service men and women who have died in the Persian Gulf conflicts, including Iraq and Afghanistan, and others will be read as part of the ceremony.

Volunteers are needed to read the names at Noon.

Please contact The Highground to be a part of this meaningful day.

Wisconsin Department of Corrections Employees will be at The Highground on Nov. 10th for their annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

2017 Honoring Our Veterans Annual Raffle

Patriotic Quilt (58 " x 75")
Honoring our K9 Vets & their handlers

2017 Honoring of Our Veterans Raffle

1st Prize: Patriotic Quilt (value $800)
2nd Prize: Eagle painted/textured on Live Edge Ash (value $250)
3rd Prize: Eagle/Flag Painting with Oak Frame (value $200)
4th Prize: Highground Gift Shop Certificate (value $100)

2057

Raffle Drawing: Veterans Day November 11, 2017 following the ceremony

Sponsored By: The Highground (WVVMP, Inc)
W7031 Ridge Road, Neillsville, WI 54456 (715-743-4224)
Website: www.thehighground.us

License #R0013938-A-49586 Tickets: $2.00 each; 6 for $10.00; 12 for $20.00

Painting with an Oak Frame (36"x32")

Eagle painted & Textured on Ash (18"x21")

Drawing:

November 11, 2017 following the 3pm ceremony

$100 Gift Certificate from The Highground Gift Shop

Blue Tickets: $2 each 6 for $10 12 for 20

Need not be present to win

The Highground 2018 Veterans' Weekend—July 13-15, 2018

A Gathering of Veterans An Abundance of Activities, Food, Fun & Camaraderie

Many veterans are looking for solutions to issues, such as PTSD, that are making it difficult for them to achieve the quality of life and relationships that they seek. The goal of The Highground Veterans Weekend is to offer new ideas, workshops and information to veterans in an atmosphere of camaraderie, peace, relaxation and a bit of fun.

The Highground is working with long-standing successful local programs including: The Heartbeat Center (Healing through Art & Literacy / Journaling); All Seasons Sports & Archery, LLC; Henry Smith Woodcarving 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 Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels (WAW).

Veterans will be introduced to many things that they can continue in their lives AFTER the Veterans Weekend to help realize the goals of peace and fulfillment that they may be lacking presently. They will leave the Retreat with actual items related to the workshops and new-found camaraderie from friendships formed with other veterans during the Retreat.

In addition to activities and great food, there will be time for veterans to relax at The Highground and at the Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels lodge. Tentative Schedule:

"Start by Doing What's Necessary

Then Do What's Possible and

Suddenly You Are Doing the Impossible"

- St Francis of Assisi

Friday July 13th

Archery program

Supper at Neillsville American Legion #73

Evening Highground Tour

Bonfire at Outdoor Lodge Site—Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels, Willard WI

Saturday July 14th

Breakfast at WAW

DAY-LONG FISHING TRIP!

5:30PM - Supper at WAW—Venison Feed & Fixin's courtesy of: Skip & Debbie Klabon

Music & Bonfire

Sunday July 15th

A Day of Fun, Food and Unique Presentations at The Highground

Closing ceremony and planting a "Warrior's Tree"

Weekend Lodging—Bunkhouse and campground (electricity avail.) at lodge site free of charge.
Stays at area motels are at veteran's own expense.

If you would like more information on attending The Highground Veterans Weekend and/or to register, please contact: The Highground W7031 Ridge Rd Neillsville WI 54437 715-743-4224 highgrnd@tds.net

This Weekend is for Male Veterans only— from any era & Branch of Service.
Limited Space—Call to register (A future event will be held for Female Veterans)

Planning Farther Ahead: 2019 Heroes Ride

Tom Kingsbury, on his third decade of riding bicycle for The Highground, will be riding a Heroes Ride in late July 2019 (ending at The Highground on August 4, 2019). He will be riding a circuitous route around Wisconsin as well as journeying into the neighboring states to raise awareness of The Highground and important veteran's issues.

The Heroes Ride is now in the planning and funding stage and your support is needed. We will be asking for help from veterans organizations, bicycle enthusiasts and everyone that wants to lend their help and financial support to make the Heroes Ride a success.

Stay tuned for further details on the 2019 Heroes Ride. If you know already that YOU, your organization or business want to be a sponsor of the Heroes Ride, please contact Theresa at The Highground.

In 1984, Tom Miller, Highground Founder, rode the first bicycle ride of 1,244 miles—a mile for each Wisconsin Vietnam KIA/MIA.

In 2009, Tom Kingsbury did a similar ride honoring the 25th Anniversary of the first ride. He rode 1,527 miles in ten days raising awareness and funds for The Highground Veterans Park. (A mile for each KIA/MIA: Vietnam thru 7/2009.)

In 2019, ten years later (35th Anniversary), Kingsbury will ride over 1500 miles honoring all who served.

The 2017 Honor Stone ceremonies filled quickly—thank you for the support!

Notice of price changes: stones have not had a price increase in over eight years, but the costs continue to rise for obtaining the stones and engraving. Therefore, prices will be increased January 1, 2018. Those purchasing the stones before then will receive 2017's current prices.

Currently, stones and prices are the following:

Legacy Stone (gray on the plaza walkways) ~~$435~~ (going to $475)
Meditation Stone (red in the Meditation Garden shelter) $500
Korean Honor Stone (polished black in the Korean Tribute) $575
Persian Gulf Honor Stone (sand in the Persian Gulf Tribute) $600
Military Working Dog Honor Stone (coming) $525
MWD & Handler Names only (one line on tribute itself) $150

These prices will remain until December 31, 2017, whether you dedicate the stone in 2017 or in the future. So if you are thinking of a gift for 2018 and beyond, take advantage of this notice now before prices increase.

2018 Stone Ceremony Dates

Legacy Stones
*April 21 *May 19
*June 16 *July 21
*Aug 18 *Sept 15
*Oct 6

Korean Stones
*June 16

Persian Gulf Stones
*July 21

Meditation Stones
*Sept 15

Stones Available at The Highground

There are five types of honor stones to consider at The Highground. Legacy Stones are placed on our walkway; Meditation Stones are limited in number and will be placed on the floor of the Meditation Garden Shelter; Korean Honor Stones are placed in the Korean Tribute walkway; Persian Gulf Honor Stones are placed in *the Bootprint* of the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute; and Military Working Dog Stones placed on the Tribute's base.

The wording on the stones should emulate a "living legacy". Please refrain from using birth/death dates and phrases such as "in memory of" on the stones. Only letters and numbers are used, no punctuation or special characters. Ideas for items to be included are service dates, branch of service, rank, medals, and inspirational phrases. For birthdays, anniversaries, and other celebrations, we will send one certificate (on patriotic paper) to the donor to give to the recipient.

All honor stone tributes include the use of The Registry. The Registry contains personal letters, memories, and pictures that tell a story about the recipient of the stone and is kept in the Learning Center Library. You can submit these materials at any time, plus continue to add to the Registry as time passes and more information is gathered.

The ceremony begins with the presentation of colors; a volunteer leads the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the National Anthem. Earth from the previous stone ceremony is mixed with the earth from the day's ceremony. Everyone will have the opportunity to share thoughts of their honoree, *if they choose,* with the other visitors. Each family then places their stone. For those planning a picnic or luncheon celebration before or after the ceremony, picnic shelters are available on the grounds. (Reservations are suggested.)

Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground

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 it supports the Persian Gulf Tribute.

Strictly Country Fundraiser

Beginning in April 1996, Strictly Country Magazine created 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

US Flags: Would you like to be the proud owner of a flag that was flown at The, Highground? Or would you like to honor someone special with a flag that was flown at The Highground?

For $175 you will receive a beautiful flag (5'x9.5') that was flown in your's or someone else's honor, with a certificate of authenticity. It makes a wonderful keepsake and remembrance of your time and support of The Highground Veteran's Memorial Park.

Take part of The Highground home with you.

—CW King,
Board Chair

A feeling of fall, change is coming. Soon the leaves will start to change and fall will be upon us once again. No place is this more true than at The Highground, a beautiful time to visit and to see all the changes that have taken place in the last year. The Board of Directors met last month and began the process of looking at the future needs of The Highground; the vision of the new Director; and how that all fits together with the vision of the Board of Directors. Change in leadership is always a struggle, and we, as the leaders of The Highground, are no different when it comes to dealing with change. Some of us are better at it than others of us. The one thing we all agree on is that we want to continue The Highground's mission and to keep the focus of honoring Veterans and their families and educating people about the human cost of war. It is a healing place and will always be a place for all to come and heal. It is because of the hard work and dedication of all who give of their time and talents that we continue to exist, and we hope that will always be so. The Highground exists for you, but it only exists because of you. Without the time, talent, and money that the supporters give so freely and graciously, we could not continue. As we begin a new era of leadership, we humbly ask for your input and continued support as we move your healing place in a positive direction. -CW

—Jon Weiler,
General Manager

My favorite time of the year is rolling in extremely fast. I so enjoy fall in all its glorious beauty. The colors of the forest, the briskness in the air, and the feeling that everything is preparing to settle down for a long winters nap. For me, this is a very exciting time of the year. For our family summer has flown by with all the changes in our life; my retirement from the Army, the beginning of this new career, kids getting ready for school, and me getting accustom to my daily commute. We have been truly blessed!

The Highground has had an extremely busy and successful summer. It has been as much of a challenge for me as it has been exciting. The staff is getting accustomed to my style of leadership and I am getting very familiar with them, and how AWESOME they are, as well as the entire park and all of the wonderful things that we do to serve veterans and their families.

We have many projects that we are attempting to get completed prior to summer ending and fall settling in. We are working to complete the Military Working Dog Tribute which has been difficult due to the amount of rain this summer, however, I believe that we are on track and it is my goal to dedicate this awesome tribute by Veterans Day. The fill project is nearing completion with the hydro-seeding to be done with-in the next two weeks. The Gold Star tribute is a work in progress and we are putting together ideas on how to fix the problems and ensure that it is a permanent fix. The Fountain of Tears is finally flowing again; however, we will need to replace the tear drops soon as they are starting to rust through. We have many other general maintenance issues that we are working on and need to get them completed before winter. So as you can see, we have a lot to work on during the Fall Clean-Up Days October 18th and 19th. If you are available, any help would be greatly appreciated—just give us a call.

The Staff is working on where The Highground is going and our Vision and we are extremely excited about where we will be going in the many years to come. *The journey is going to be incredible*! —Jon

Leader of the pack

Visitors come from all over the world in all types of vehicles and at all ages.

Beaches Corner Tractor Club—60 miles round trip at about 24mph!

Finishing Honor Tree Sessions for 2017

Honor trees are a way to show our love and respect for our honored veterans and those we have lost fighting for our freedoms. Family and friends have the opportunity to sponsor these trees, as a way to show their gratitude or remembrance for **$25 per session or $100 for all 4 sessions per year**.

Veterans Day session is Nov 1-30, with 3 trees still available for 2017.

This year we are going to do something different with the Christmas session, with the availability for even more families and friends to purchase an honor tree spot. For the Christmas session, you won't have to trudge through the snow, but come to the Learning Center, where we will have a Beautiful Christmas tree adorned with patriotic ornaments and tags honoring your loved ones. We will have a lighting ceremony on December 15 at 3pm to start the Christmas session, and the tree will remain lit until January 13, 2018.

With that said, there are plenty of tags left for the Christmas session, so call **715-743-4224** or email **highgrnd@tds.net** to get your veteran an honor tag for the Christmas tree in the Learning Center.

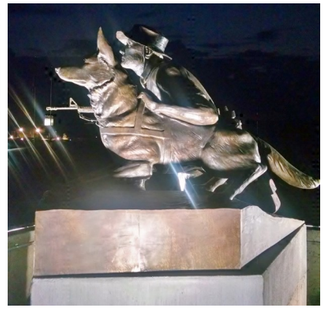
Veterans Day Recipients & Sponsors:

Ken Smith – From your Family
Our Veterans - From Ken & Linda Smith
Dennis Schattschneider - From Carl, Kelly, Emma, Lilly, & CJ
Dennis Schattschneider - From Karen Niedfeldt & Family
In Memory – Colleen Fry Ristau & All Veterans spouses - From Wayne Ristau
Don, Bill, Jim Buss & Jim Fitzle - From Mary, Laurie, Tim, Mike, Laura, Rylee & Owen
Edwin Lloyd Jr. – From Edwin Sr. & Bev Lloyd
Thomas Blackie Bednarek - From Chad Bednarek
Honoring Loucks Men - From Ma & Pa
MSgt. Lee A. Webb Jr. – From your family
Theodore Lawton - Love from Kent Lawton & Family
Terry McGivern - From Heather & Joanne McGivern
John McGivern - From Heather & Joanne McGivern
Matthew Leggett - From Tom Doan
John, Hazel, Belinda & Kyrie Novotny, Brenda Evans & Zoey Johanson - From John & Hazel
Louis Hentz - With Gratitude- Bill, Kay, Jeremy, Jason & Alica Hentz
Drew Chesebro - From Mike & Kathy Sevallius
Trevor Diesing - Love- Your Family
Glen "Pete" Johnson - From his Family

Many trees still available for 2018

The Military Working Dog Tribute…

The Highground's newest tribute had a set-back with the landscaping this summer, delaying the installation of the pavers and dedication of the tribute. Mother Nature showed that the rain can come and come often. It was found that the rain was more and stronger than the tribute's drainage capability. Volunteers, Jim H, Smiley, Gerry S, Jerry S, Paul J, Tom I, Wes W plus their equipment arrived to re-dig the base, install drain tile and re-level the landscaping area. Without their help, we would still be sitting "underwater".



Thank you gentleman!!

Compactor sunk

December Exhibit—Patriotic Quilts

Remember, if you are making a patriotic quilt for the December quilt display and raffle, bring them to The Highground before December 1st! (the sooner the better), to give us time to create a great display.

Sixteen quilts/afghans have been donated so far—here are three more.

Still looking to get a few quilt donations for our December display and raffle, if you or someone you know who is a quilter and would like to donate a patriotic quilt to be raffled, get in contact with us at The Highground.

And don't forget… the drawing will take place on Dec. 31st starting at noon.

Quilt Show and Raffle

Attention Quilters: Are you quilting for The Highground? Create your favorite pattern with patriotic theme 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.
Extra note: There may even be some quilt racks included with some quilts.

Tickets available now in the Gift Shop or by calling 715-743-4224
$10 each or 3 for $25.
Best price in town for these beautiful creations. We will have as many winners as there are quilts!!

Now find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial
Website: *www.thehighground.us*

For More Information Contact

W7031 Ridge Rd.
PO Box 457
Neillsville, WI 54456

Phone: 715-743-4224
Fax: 715-743-4228
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

The Highground Staff

General Manager	Jon Weiler
Gift Shop Manager	Deb Roedel
Event/Volunteer Coord	Theresa Hebert
Donation Coordinator	Kay Anason
Learning Center	Julie Dallman
Maintenance	Mike Purgett
Gift Shop	Kelly Bourdo
Gift Shop	Brenda Vanderhoof
Gift Shop	Looking for more

Board of Directors

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Bob Solberg (Neillsville, WI)
Gary Weirauch (Neillsville, WI)

We have established an Endowment Fund for the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc. a/k/a The Highground. We would appreciate your consideration in your future financial planning. Contact us for more information.

The Highground Newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc., PO Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456. Telephone (715) 743-4224, Fax (715)743-4228. Email at highgrnd@tds.net. Website: www.thehighground.us Printed in USA. Entire contents copyright 2017. 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 17th Annual Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally Raises over $10,500

The 17th Annual Ride to Remember motorcycle rally was held on August 18th & 19th honoring the US Coast Guard.

A ceremony was held Friday, Aug 18th to "open" the Ride to Remember and give riders a chance to register and purchase event t-shirts. The main event for The Ride to Remember was held on Saturday, August 19th. Registration, guided rides, games and silent auctions for The Ride were held Saturday at the Neillsville American Legion #73. Approximately 125 bikers took part in the Ride. They rode into The Highground, greeted by a flag line of supporters.

After a group photo at "Fragments", the Saturday ceremony included guest speakers, Anita Jevne and Matt Maske. Their father, Ervin Maske, was one of four Coast Guardsmen that made the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history in the winter of 1952, memorialized in the motion picture "The Finest Hours". (A special Coast Guard display which includes photos of these men was also displayed at The Highground Learning Center.) A Color Guard was presented by American Legion Post #175 of Loyal, WI. The talking circle, at the end of the program, was an important part of the Ride to Remember. Everyone had a chance to speak on what The Highground, the veterans and their personal service or the service of others means to them.

The riders and sponsors of the Ride raised over $10,500. Thank you for a Great Event!!!!

Ride to Remember Committee: Andy Rueth, Tom Babbitt, Pat Watts, Bill & Kathy Flemal, Mike & Amy Bodoh

This significant donation will help The Highground Veterans Memorial Park continue its mission of healing and education.

The Highground & Ride to Remember riders and crew thanks the Clark County Sheriff's Dept., Neillsville Police Dept., sponsors, riders and all the wonderful volunteers that helped make the 17th Annual Ride to Remember a success!

- WOMEN ON WHEELS
- IN MEMORY OF TRACEY RUETH
- IN MEMORY OF BILL WATTS
- CENTRAL WI BROADCASTING
- FORWARD FINANCIAL BANK
- ABATE 4C
- WOMEN FOR VETERANS
- FORWARD INSURANCE
- STONE'S THROW SUPPER CLUB
- VOYAGIN VET TECH SERVICE LLC
- THORP INVESTMENTS LLC
- TRAILS' END
- 18 WHEELS MA BACK ROAD RIDERS
- THORP DAIRY BAR CAFÉ
- GENESIS MIDWEST
- HO CHUNK GAMING—BLACK RIVER FALLS
- NEILLSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION #73
- CVMA 45-3
- FRICKIN A BAR & GRILL-DORCHESTER
- OFFICE OUTIFITTERS
- FRIENDS OF VETERANS
- JANICE HAPPE
- WAUPACA VFW #1037

Save the Date —
the 18th Annual Ride to Remember will be held Saturday, August 18, 2018 and will honor those that serve in the US Navy.

The Highground Bike Tour – 33 Years and Going Strong!
The 33rd Annual Highground Bicycle Tour
Raises nearly $50,000!

Riders from across Wisconsin joined together at The Highground to celebrate the completion of the 33rd Annual Bicycle Tour on Sunday, August 6th .

Each of the four routes plus one solo rider from La Crosse began their journey to The Highground days earlier. The bicycle riders obtained pledges and donations for their trip from individual and corporate sponsors. The Western Route, originating from New Richmond was led by Randy Meyer and Jerry Simon. The Eastern Route, from the Appleton area, was led by Curt and Oran (Jim) Braatz. The Southern Route from Madison was led by Andrew and Nicole Smith. The Northern Route, starting in Hayward (with some riders pedaling from Neillsville to Hayward to begin their tour!) was led by Mike and Kathy Gleisner. Terri Stott rode solo from La Crosse to the Highground!

Pizza Hut, for the second year in a row, provided and served the "Journey's End" lunch for 200 people! The Bike Tour is the largest annual fundraiser for The Highground. Over $49,825 was raised this year, which will help The Highground continue its mission of education and healing.

The 34th Annual Highground Bike Tour will be held August 3-5, 2018 – Save the Date!

Thank you Sponsors for the support! We couldn't do this without you!!

Hardee's
Premium Waters
Urban Sales & Service, Inc.
The Sports Den - Marshfield, WI
Menzner Lumber & Supply Co
Pamela Swanson

VVA Chapter #351
Cornell American Legion
Sweet Retreat Bakery – Loyal, WI
Apple Valley Bar 'N Restaurant – Neillsville, WI
H & S Manufacturing – Marshfield, WI
Thibaudeau-Drossart American Legion #319 – Casco, WI

September Exhibit: Jeffrey Stenbom's Glass Sculptors- "Window to a Veteran's Soul"

On September 5th, we welcomed Jeffery Stenbom with his exhibit **"Window to a Veteran's Soul"** Glass sculptures.

Artist Bio

Jeffery Stenbom is a sculptor who primarily works in glass. He comes to us from Apple Valley, MN.

Jeffery works and teaches throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the **Dedalus Foundation Master of Fine Arts Fellowship** Nominee**, Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award** Nominee, and a **Niche Awards** finalist in 2013, 2015, and 2016. Stenbom exhibits his work internationally and does guest artist lectures nationally. He received his MFA in glass from **Tulane University** in 2015, and received BFA in glass and a BS in art education from the **University of Wisconsin**, River Falls.

Things are always changing in the Learning Center so come visit us often!

Don't miss
Jeffery's exhibit!

Exhibit dates:
September – November 30, 2017

Notices/Information—Bulletin Board

Important Resources for Veterans & Their Families

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255

PTSD Assistance
Tomah VA
608-372-1651

Wisconsin Vet Benefits Resource Center
1-800-947-8387
wisvets.com

VetCenter of LaCrosse
20 Copeland Ave
LaCrosse, WI 54603
608-782-4403
877-927-8387

Vets4Warriors
Personalized Peer Support 24/7
vets4warriors.com
855-838-8255

VetCenter of Wausau
605 S 24th Ave Ste 24
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-1724
877-927-8387

(Let us know if you found positive assistance at other places that we could share with our readers.)

Collecting: The Highground will once again be collecting warm clothing (new or very gently used and clean – boots, jackets, hats, mittens, scarves, sweaters, snowmobile suits, etc.) New items such as socks and non-perishable food will also be gratefully collected at The Highground starting November 1st through December 1st. There will be a collection site located in the Learning Center. The collected items will be distributed in November and December to homeless and needy veterans and families in Central Wisconsin.

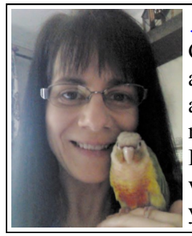
John Lynch, former owner of Bugg's Bar and VVA Chapter #639, sent a letter thanking all who helped these past ten years with the fundraisers for The Highground. He thanks all the volunteers, VVA Chapter 639, his daughter, his wife, Bugg's Bar's new owner Sara, and all the patrons that helped make the fundraiser so successful these past 10 years. October 14, 2017 will be the last fundraiser as Lynch will be retiring from his many, many years of volunteering.

The Highground offers its appreciation and thank you to all who helped John make this ten year run so successful. The donations to fulfill our mission were very generous and helped The Highground continue to touch people. Your contributions will be missed—anyone interested in starting a new ten year run to fill this void—let us know!

For those of you who enjoyed the Bugg's Bar fundraisers, please join them at their last event Saturday, October 14, 2017 1:30 - 5:00pm. Bugg's Place; 925 N Concord, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

Best wishes John, in your new adventure of retirement.

Have you heard…….



….Brenda Vanderhoof joined the Gift_Shop My husband Richard and I live about eight miles south of Granton. We have two lovely adult daughters, a handsome son-in-law and two delightful granddaughters. I am also a doting Mommy to a canary, cockatiel, conure and a flock of free range chickens. I enjoy and appreciate the beauty of nature and love seeing waterfalls and touring caves. I worked in mass retail for many years which left me searching for deeper meaning in my life and craving the tenderness of humanity. I feel so blessed and humbled to have been given the opportunity to meet and honor so many wonderful veterans and their families that have sacrificed so much for our country's freedom and security. I welcome you to come say hello! And let me help you make a meaningful purchase for such an an amazing cause!!

….Gift Shop is looking for help We have filled two positions, but one opening remains for a sales associate. The Highground is seeking an individual for meaningful employment to work 15-20 hours per week including 1-2 weekends per month. Greet and welcome veterans and other visitors, assist with purchases and help with other needs of our visitors. Call Deb, Gift Shop Mgr at 715-743-4224.

David Droste wins the Jefferson Award at WAOW Channel 9 of Wausau, WI. Dave, owner of Hardee's in Neillsville, Medford and Colby, came to one of his favorite locations for his TV interview. This is where he has done many things for the Veterans: Through Share Nights, Burger Bash, and being at the park selling sandwiches and shakes, Droste sponsors the annual fireworks; sponsored the Jersey Barrier in the Persian Gulf Tribute; sponsors the Maggie Mae benefit concert; a major sponsor of the Winter Bowl; plus so much more.

A great friend and generous sponsor—thank you Dave!

….Another quilt arrives Greetings, I was honored to visit The Highground one Saturday. My first visit to this hallowed place was 2 1/2 years ago on the 5th anniversary of my husband's death due to Agent Orange related causes. I have been receiving the newsletter since that visit and after reading about your donation drive and quilt (raffle) I was moved to create a Marine Corp quilt in honor of my husband. On Saturday, when visiting the memorial I was able to hand over my quilt to hopefully help in your December fundraising effort. I have to say that it was very emotional for me to leave that quilt behind but I know that it is where it needs to be.

God Bless you all for the wonderful work that you are doing for folks like me. It's a beautiful place to reflect, remember and honor our loved ones. —Thank you, Bonnie B., Minnesota

….New Tires! The Highground's golf carts needed some TLC. Bill's Tire & Service of Collby, WI generously provided the tires to one of our golf carts. Bill also was generous to donate the new tires on the mule last winter. Mike (our maintenance man) truly appreciated the tires, as he is the one in charge of this equipment maintenance!

BILL'S TIRE & SERVICE
TIRES · BRAKES · EXHAUST
223-4762

Thank you Bill!!

….The Korean Reunion/Education gathering brought veterans and friends together. On July 29th, veterans and those interested in that era got together in the Learning Center. Everyone had a good time sharing and hearing the stories told.

The next Korean Reunion / Education gathering will be on June 16th, 2018 after the Korean honor stone ceremony. Make sure to stop in at the Learning Center and say "thank you" to our Korean veterans for their service, learn about the Korean War and hear about some of their remembrances.

The Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 from Arena, WI came for a visit and a picnic on August 8, 2017. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a good time.

Pictured on the Effigy Dove are, from left: Chuck Gorecki of Eau Claire, Gil Halsted, Nancy Giffey, Fran Weidenhoeft, Steve Books, Larry Stephens, and Phil Franzen. David Giffey, the designer of the Dove Effigy Mound, took this picture so he is not in it.

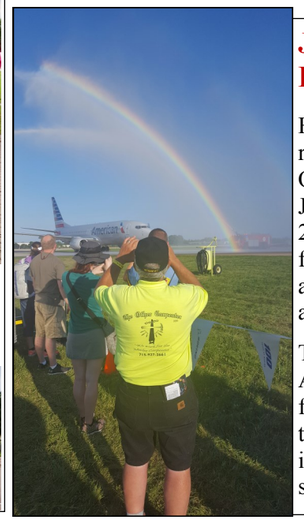
Farm Service Agency held their annual regional meeting at The Highground. They were welcomed by General Manager Jon Weiler and then separated into groups for team-building activities. A beautiful day, wonderful food (from the American Legion Post #73 of Neillsville) and camaraderie made the event a success for FSA employees. Thank you for coming to The Highground Veterans Memorial Park for your meeting destination.

Visitors utilize The Highground Park

Do you have a group that would like to see and hear about The Highground, how it came to be and history of the cost of war—the human cost? Or a group needing a company meeting away from the "company"? Come see what we have for you!

New use for old electrical pole. As the sole bicyclist from LaCrosse made her way as part of The Highground Bike Tour, Terri Stott, paused to take this picture — what a great way to utilize the pole in the middle of nowhere!

"Stilettos on Steel" enjoyed a tour with the new General Manager, Jon. Thank you ladies for coming and bringing your donation to further our mission of healing and education.



Just Landed!

Honor Flight returns to Oshkosh, July 29, 2017 on the first flight of a brand new airplane!

Thank you, Alan Voskuil for sharing this incredible sight.