

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park



May

Honor, Educate, Heal ... a place for all.

2018

JOIN VETERANS of ALL ERAS. their loved ones, and those who admire THE CANINES AND HANDLERS that serve our country as we Dedicate THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TRIBUTE on Saturday, June 2nd at The Highground!

11:00AM - Quilts of Valor ceremony

Honoring Military Working Dogs (MWD), their Handlers, and Veterans that led the way with the construction of this tribute.

11:30AM - Media Conference

Noon - K9 Demonstration by David McCarthy

Currently serving with a WI State Patrol K9 Unit after serving eight years as a military dog handler.

1:00PM - Dedication Ceremony

Veterans posts from Bloomer WI: American Legion #295, AMVETS #6440, VFW #6175, and Loyal American Legion Post #175 will be present with Color Guards and Rifle Units.

Presentation of a K9 Memorial "Battlefield Cross" Wreath-laying at the MWD Tribute

Speakers -

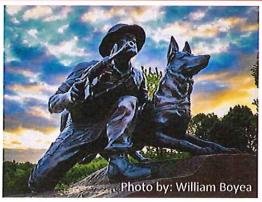
Mike Voorhees - Vietnam Veteran Military Working Dog (MWD) Handler, will present Invocation and speak on his service and serving with the MWD, Satan 4A16, in Vietnam - the canine that was the origin behind the drive to construct this tribute.

Steve Maddox - Vietnam Veteran and Highground Board Member, will present a work of poetry written for this dedication.

David Backstrom – MWD Tribute Committee Chairman, & Vietnam Veteran David McCarthy - 8 years of service as a MWD Handler, USAF Security Police, and currently serving as part of a K9 Unit for the WI State Patrol Mike Olson - Vietnam Veteran MWD Handler, member of MWD tribute committee, and former member of The Highground Board of Directors

There will be an opportunity for the public to place flowers and wreaths at the Military Working Dog Tribute

Check out what else Neillsville & Clark County has to offer at www.clarkcountywi.org & Neillsville-wi.com for more to see and do before or after the Ceremony! Visit the Gift Shop for Military Working Dog books, pins, memento boxes, and more.



The Highground thanks the Wisconsin Department of Tourism for the \$10,000 Grant for the upcoming Dedication Day of the Military Working Dog Tribute! We hope all will enjoy a great dedication of the newest Highground tribute.





Hardee's will be at The Highground with Roast Beef Sandwiches, chips, soda, and water for purchase.





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

In Memory:

Claude Ayers **Donald Ayers** Florence Ayers Ron Bellemere Merlin Bender Robert Bertz

Robert Brandt Harold Aschenbrenner Richard Carle Larry Erickson Rev. Al Houts Dennis Jansen Thomas Johnson **Bob Kleist**

Jon C. Konig Harvey Krings Sid Kroeger Frank Madill Elmer Millette Stan Pekol Masrcus Radloff **DuWayne Wallner**

Eugene M. Wiater (Bonnie Wiater wrote of Eugene's passing on 6/27/2017, as he served in VN, lived in The HG area & wants to let his friends know)

Honoring:

Happy Birthday **Harold Schmitt**



Ted Fetting Special Memorial and Stone Dedications

A special ceremony will be held at The Highground on Saturday, August 4th at 1:00 p.m. honoring Ted Fetting as well as 22 other friends/veterans that Ted purchased Legacy Stones for before his own passing. These men and women are:

Diane Carlson Naomi Horowitz Dave Peroshek Fitch J. Taylor Jim Baire Jack (Scott) Buker Alex Delecon John Markham Marvin Pratt Don Turek Gary Bandor Evans Geoff Rudell Tom Wynn Paul Bialk Dan Delliberti **Bob Frautchy** Norm Myhra Bob Buhr Bill Emanuel Jeff Hempel Lionel Olson Wm. Sims

If you are one of these people or are family or friends of these individuals, please contact Ted's sister, Ruth Fetting Kalms, with the following information: person's full name, branch of service, specific unit, location of service, dates of service, or any awards. If you have phone numbers or email addresses for any of these individuals please give these to Ruth as well. Pictures of the person in uniform would also be appreciated. Please plan to attend the ceremony and invite other friends and family. Thank you.

Ruth's contact information: timetotalk@charter.net, 715-207-0281, Ruth Kalms, 1200 E. 25th St., Marshfield, WI 54449



Thank you Joanne Tibbitt — You will be missed!!

Editor: When I wrote the article in the last newsletter thanking Joanne Tibbett for her years of dedication to our flag mending, I did not know I would now have to write our goodbyes. Joanne would have been 87 years young this coming June. She was cheery and always had a warm smile when flags were brought to her or picked up after her mending.

Thank you, Joanne, for the awesome job you always did for The Highground. We were blessed by you!

A poem chosen at her funeral:

Treasured Seasons

For everything there is an appointed season And a time for everything under heaven-

A time for sowing,

A time for reaping;

A time for sharing,

A time for caring.

A time for loving,

A time for giving;

A time for remembering,

A time for parting,

You have made everything beautiful in its time for everything You do remains forever.

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

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

"Start by Doing What's Necessary Then Do What's Possible and Suddenly You Are Doing the Impossible" - St Francis of Assisi

Tentative Schedule:

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

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

Sunday July 15th

(Tentatively UH-IH

Helicopter Fly-in

Or go visit one)

Closing ceremony and planting a "Warrior's Tree"



Sponsored by:



Phaneuf-Vanasse American Legion Post #111

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

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

Limited Space—Call to register



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

Have you heard.....

... Back by popular demand the second annual quilt raffle is starting! Get the supplies out and pick your favorite patriotic pattern. Quilts will be gathered all year and be on display in the Learning Center. Raffle drawing is on December 22, 2018! Stay tuned for upcoming details.

... We have a new website/social media manager!! Ike Rebout, designer of the current website has agreed to work on a continuous basis for The Highground as well as maintain our social media! Watch for us on Pinterest, Twitter, LinkedIn, Constant Contact, and more! He will help keep you informed with emails too. So let us know your email address to keep you informed about Highground happenings.

...Volunteer picnic is RE-scheduled!! Save the new date!

Now the same day as the Freedom Celebration Day. Stay for music and fireworks. A day of fun.

Please RSVP by Friday, June 20 715-743-4224 or events@thehighground.us



We will again be gathering Non-perishable Food Donations for the Food Pantry.

Please Join us for The Highground Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

Saturday, June 30, 2018 @ 1:00pm @ The Highground

No need to bring a "dish to pass". Just yourselves, spouse, and/or guests. Desserts are always welcome, though!

We will have a Crazy Auction & Raffle, so please bring one new or handmade item or a favorite pie or cookies to be auctioned/raffled.





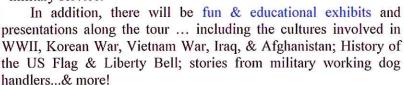
The Highground Comes to Life with Highground Education Days!



October 2 - 5, 2018 9:00 am - 2:30 pm (This is an exciting combination of The Highground's Diversity Days & 5th Grade Days!)

Students in grades 5 through 9 are invited to:

Tour The Highground with a knowledgeable tour guide discover the history and unexpected stories about The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, the Tributes and veterans' military service.



Call to book your students' day. Cost: \$3.00 per person Contact: 715-743-4224 events@thehighground.us

Bring your own sack lunch and use our picnic areas.







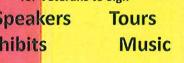
Central Wisconsin Remembers Those Who Served in Vietnam "Welcome Home" Parade, Ceremony & Exhibits **SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**

30th Anniversary of The Highground & "Fragments" The Tribute to those who served in the Vietnam War

NOON - Vellow Ribbon Parade - Neillsville 2PM - Vietnam Veteran's Ceremony Vietnam Era UH-1H Helicopter Landing Rolling Thunder #3 - Missing Man Table Ceremony



Speakers **Tours Exhibits**







Korean Reunion/Education Afternoon June 16, 2018

The annual Korean Reunion and Education gathering is fast approaching.

Get together at the Learning Center on June 16th at 2:00pm. Call, email, or write a letter to all the Korean Veterans you know and invite them to share in the day.

We always have a wonderful time meeting new people, catching up with old friends and, of course, sharing history.

The Reunion/Education gatherings are open to the public, come learn about these veterans firsthand. Please invite your family and friends to attend too.



Independence Day 2018 Honor Tree Sessions

- 1. Ken Smith from Your Family
- 2. To my Hero Roshier "Bill" Watts Jr. with Love from Your Lady Pat
- 3. Roy R. & Gerald G. Schmidt Thanks, Don Schmidt
- John, Hazel, Belinda & Kyrie Novotny, Brenda Evans,
 Zoey Johansen from John & Hazel
- 5. Lewis Deegan from Connie Deegan
- 6. Tommy Collinson from Family & Friends
- 7. In Memory of Colleen (Fry) Ristau & all Veterans Spouses - from Wayne Ristau
- 8. Rachel Bosveld from Tom Doan

Honor Trees are available for 2018. You may sponsor a tree for 1 session - \$25, or all year for \$100. There are four sessions per year, with 22 total trees for each session except Christmas which is unlimited in quantity.

- ⇒Memorial Day May 15 to June 13
- ⇒Independence Day June 24 to July 23
- ⇒Veterans Day November 1 to 30
- ⇒Christmas December 15 to Jan 15

Please contact Julie @ 715-743-4224 or email her at <u>learningcenter@thehighground.us</u> to sponsor a tree honoring your hero.

Museum Becomes a Reality!!



With the approval of a \$25,000 Wisconsin State Grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, this vision of a Highground Museum will become a reality. The grant will allow for

museum quality, secure, and illuminated cabinets to hold this incredible information for ALL to see, helping to fulfill the mission of education for future generations.

When the founders of The Highground Veterans Memorial established the park in the early 1980's, the vision of having a military museum was, at the time, a long shot. For many years The Highground has been collecting military memorabilia with the hope of one day having a place to display it all. Well, that day is here and the long awaited Highground Military Museum will finally become a reality.

On May 17th an official ribbon cutting ceremony for The Highground Military Museum took place in the Learning Center.

On display are uniforms, personnel equipment, artifacts, personal mementos, and documents from many different eras. Please visit us to see the founder's vision be a reality.



2018 Exhibits include:

♦HMONG IN AMERICA: Journey from a Secret War Through May 28th

♦U.S. FLAG HISTORY - June - July ♦WWII PACIFIC THEATER/ IWO JIMA - August ♦HIGHGROUND HISTORY - September - November ♦NOT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS - December

Vietnam Reunion/Education Afternoon Was held April 21, 2018!

We had a nice turnout with about 16 Veterans and family members that came to reconnect with their service brothers and sisters, some made new friends, and all came to share some memories or sit back and take in some history.



Attending were veterans Skip K., John D., Ted G., Bill D., Warren H., Wes S., Steve M., Ron, Ken S. and family members.



"Our flag honors those who have fought to protect it, and is a reminder of the sacrifice of our nation's founders and heroes. As the ultimate icon of America's storied history, the Stars and Stripes represent the very best of this nation."

- J. Barton

For more than 200 years, our American flag has been the symbol of our nation's strength and unity. It has survived battles, inspired songs, and evolved in response to the

growth of the country it represents. Assembled by The Highground, this display is meant to be a source of pride and inspiration for all of our citizens.

The first official flag

June 14, 1777: The first official flag, also known as the Stars and Stripes or Old Glory, was adopted by the Continental Congress.

The 13 stars represent: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

Flag Day will be recognized during both stone ceremonies June 16, 2018 at 10am & 1pm.
All are welcome.



Meaning of The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was written with a strong meaning we, as citizens, all believe in. "I pledge allegiance", means I promise to be true.

"To the flag" means to the symbol of our country.

"Of the United States of America" means each state that has joined to make our country.

"And to the Republic" means a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them. The government is for the people.

"For which it stands," means the flag stands for the country.

"One Nation" means a single country.

"Under God" means the people believe in a supreme being.

"Indivisible" means the country cannot be split into parts.

"With liberty and justice" means with freedom and fairness.

"For all" means for each person in the country.

THE HIGHGROUND'S FREEDOM CELEBRATION DAY!!!

Saturday, June 30th

WWII LIVING HISTORY: EXPERIENCE THE PAST AT THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY EXCITING EVENT!

9:30AM—6:30PM

MUSIC & FIREWORKS! 6PM - PROMISE QUARTET!

7PM - Concert by <u>Northwood's Favorite</u> RED HIGGINS & FREEDOM TRAIN!

THE ANNUAL HIGHGROUND FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT DUSK!!!



The Highground will celebrate Independence Day with a ceremony on Wednesday, July 4th at 10AM.

All Welcome



"Veterans Art & Business Expo & Exhibit"

Veteran Artisans and Crafters, Exhibit Space still available

June 16, 2018, 10am—5pm, set up at 9am

Small Business Administration and other Business Mentors will be on site to advise Veterans on starting and maintaining a business. The public is invited to visit and see the creations of these veterans including: book signings, wood crafts, glass art, wooden flags, metal art, The Heartbeat

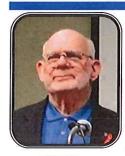
Center, CC Young Professionals, plus so much more.

Have you thought about starting a business to sell your creations? Just want a place to set up and sell the items you create? Sometimes you've just got to do something to get the ball rolling. We would love to help you!

Call us at 715-743-4224 or email: learningcenter@thehighground.us to register!







CW King, Board Chair

Spring comes slowly to the Highground this year. In spite of the unwillingness of winter to give up its grip, there is a lot going on and this promises to be a very exciting year. Several legacy stone ceremonies are planned along with many events, including the 30th Anniversary Celebration, September 22nd. Your Board of Directors is working hard to keep The Highground vibrant and alive. The BOD will be discussing some changes at their April meeting, and you will hear what they decide in the next newsletter. We currently have one of, if not, the best Veterans Park in the Country, and our challenge is to keep it that way. As always, we need the support of all of you, your time, and your talents to keep The Highground the best Veterans Park in the nation. We know that you want and expect nothing less, and we are trying hard to accomplish that task.

—CW



Jon Weiler, Executive Director

When I look out my office window (April 14th), I am supposed to see green grass and tree buds, not all of this strange white stuff. However, as someone I greatly admire once told me "The weather is as predictable as my checkbook, some days it looks good, other days not so good". I know that eventually the weather will turn around and Mike will be complaining because he cannot keep up with all of the mowing that needs to be done.

We had a quiet winter, however, many things got accomplished. The Gift Shop Staff have done an incredible job getting the Gift Shop ready for the upcoming season. Many new items fill the shelves so come check it out. Kay is ready for a very busy season of stone laying and donations. Theresa has got a great handle on the upcoming and new events for this year, even though she would disagree with me. Julie is sprucing up the Learning Center and will be ready for a ribbon cutting for the new Museum that we will be officially opening on May 17th, and all of the other things that we have going on over there this year.

We are looking at the beginning of a very exciting year, with some new and special events. We will be doing most of our normal events; however, we have enhanced some, eliminated some, and moved some. As I stated earlier, our new museum will be completed; the Military Working Dog Tribute will be dedicated on June 2nd; The Veterans Business and Art Expo and Exhibit (a new event) will be June 16th; we will have a free outdoor concert and an incredible fireworks show for our Freedom Celebration on June 30th; The Highground 30th Anniversary Celebration will be on September 22nd; and The Highground Education Days will be October 2nd-5th. Please refer to the website or give us a call if you have any questions about a favorite event.

There is one thing that has not changed at The Highground, the need for more storage! We have a lot of equipment that we currently have to leave out in the elements because we do not have a place to store it all. (Particularly wheel chairs, golf carts, etc.) We have a plan to add to the maintenance shop and would really appreciate any and all support towards this project. It is going to cost approximately \$35,000 and hopefully we will have something in the works next fall. If you are interested in supporting this project please consider donating. If you have any questions please give me a call or send me an email.

I look forward to seeing those of you that I have met again this year, but I am most excited about meeting those of you that I have not met yet. Can't wait to shake your hand and become friends! See you soon!

There are a lot BIG things happening this year! Please stay tuned!

—Blessings, Jon



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

Gift Shop

W7031 Ridge Rd. PO Box 457 Phone: 715-743-4224 Neillsville, WI 54456 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

For More Information Contact

Executive Director	Jon Weiler
Gift Shop Manager	Position Open
Event/Volunteer Coord	Theresa Hebert
Donation Coordinator	Kay Anason
Learning Center	Julie Dallman
Maintenance	Mike Purgett
Gift Shop	Brenda Vanderhoof
Gift Shop	Alicia Elgersma

Mae Bautch

The Highground Staff

Board of Directors

CW King, Chair (Chippewa Falls, WI)
Beth E. Martin, Vice-Chair (WI Rapids)
Scott Kissinger, Sec. (WI Rapids, 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)

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Notices/Information—Bulletin Board

Important Resources for Veterans & Their Families

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255

DTCD Assistance

PTSD Assistance Tomah VA

Tomah VA 608-372-1651

Wisconsin Vet Benefits Resource Center

1-800-947-8387 wisvets.com



(Let us know if you find positive assistance at other places to share with our readers.)

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

Clear Captions_{TM}

You may qualify for a free phone and service with captions.
Sharli 920-312-0808



Congratulations were given to a graduate of the Tomah PTSD program after receiving a tour from Jon Weiler, Exec. Director.

For more info on this program call: (608) 372-1758

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Tomah VA Residential

Combat Post Traumatic
Stress Disorder (PTSD)
program.

The Recovery Village, an organization with locations across the country dedicated to helping those struggling with substance abuse into recovery. Many men and women who have bravely served our country are sadly left with painful memories they wish they didn't have. In many cases, veterans turn to drugs and alcohol as a way to deal with these thoughts, which is especially common if they have PTSD. Luckily, there are resources available to help. The organization is Addiction Resource, which raises awareness of the dangers of addiction among our fellow Veterans:

https://addictionresource.com/addiction/veterans-and-substance-abuse/

DISCLAIMER: The links and contact information are provided in this [newsletter/ website] as a courtesy to outside organizations whose efforts align with ours, the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc. ("The Highground"), in supporting veterans; Information provided on this site to support those efforts should not be seen as an endorsement of any organization or their activities by The Highground and/or it's staff.

New direct emails for The Highground staff!

To contact the Executive Director, Jon, please email at director@thehighground.us

For More information regardingo Stone purchases, Donations, Raffles, Grants please email Kay at info@thehighground.us

For More information on Events (including event sponsors), Tours, Volunteering, email Theresa at events@thehighground.us

For More information on the Store Merchandise, Shipping, Ordering please email the Gift Shop at store@thehighground.us

For More information on the Exhibits, Honor Trees, Exhibit Rentals My War; & Remembering our Fallen, etc) please contact Julie at

learningcenter@thehighground.us

ALL can still be contacted via phone at: 715-743-4224

Good luck, Jim Osterman

Well it is almost time for Jim to hit the road again. He requested some help with this



- ride in a few different ways: 1. "The one thing I really hope to do is get the word out to as many people as possible. With Veteran suicide being at 20 per day now my trip is based around that number.
- 2. My plan is to go 20,000 miles, take at least 20 Veterans skydiving or meet with them, and talk and hopefully help in anyway I can.
- 3. The last part might be the most challenging. I have created a Facebook page and I am looking to have 20,000 people like and follow the page. I need LOTS of help with this. The page has over 700 in two days but has come to a stand still. I really hope The Highground supporters will be willing to post and promote the 'needs' page as much as possible. The Highground has such a huge reach across the country, I have no doubt if anyone I am reaching out to follows and likes the page and shares it, the goal of 20,000 is very obtainable." —Thanks, Jim

https://www.facebook.com/One8884574838/

MEMORIAL DAY MOTORCYCLE HONOR RIDE!!

MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018 In Support of The Highground & Veterans!

Routes Across Wisconsin! - Ride Ends Together at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park near Neillsville, WI

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

Includes: Patch or Rocker, Memorial Day Ceremony (3pm) and BREW PUB PIZZA at The Highground!

APPLETON Route — Joins with Waupaca Route — Contact Russ 715-281-9653
Or Leon lrm101@ntd.net Reg. 7am - Appleton Harley Davidson - depart 7:30am

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. rmfz41@outlook.com
Reg. and 3 pick up spots in Minneapolis starting at 9am; 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)



REEDSBURG Route - Contact Del 608-770-3709 dalhart1961@gmail.com Meet at Reedsburg VFW, 200 Veterans Dr, Reedsburg, WI 7:30am-depart 8:30am

Please Contact Route Leader for Details or www.thehighground.us 715-743-4224 events@thehighground.us

The Highground Memorial Day

Monday, May 28, 2018

11:30AM

Reading the Names of Wisconsin KIA/MIAs in Vietnam, Korea, Iraq & Afghanistan—Volunteers Needed

2:00PM

Welcome the Honor Ride Motorcycle Rally into The Highground!

3:00PM Ceremony

Speakers: Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar Joel Brockman, Gold Star Father of Andrew Wallace

Neillsville
American Legion #73

















UNITED VFW Post #6856 of Milltown, WI











WATERING HOLE

APPLETON
HARLEY-DAVIDSON







More Honor Ride Sponsors:

Sav-Rite Building Center Murphy's Skunk Hill Bar – Freedom Sport Motors

Mobil Travel Plaza / 3 Squares Restaurant

Thank You!

Mulligan's Bar & Grill - Augusta Loose Wheel - Hortonville Drescher Oil / BP

Kwik Trip – Tomah Heroes Fire-Military-Police - Hortonville





34th ANNUAL HIGHGROUND BICYCLE TOUR

August 3 - 5, 2018

4 ROUTES—3 DAYS—2 NIGHTS—



ROUTE CONTACTS

Northern Route—Mike & Kathy—715-937-6786

Mike.gleisner@hotmail.com

EVENT!

Tom - 715-897-4661

Western Route-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

Sponsors as of 4/9/2018 are:





New Moon Ski & Bike Hayward, WI



18**TH ANN**UAL RIDE TO REMEMBER MOTORCYCLE RALLY

Annual Ride Honoring POW/MIAs/KIAs

Special Recognition in 2018 to Merchant Marine History

Friday, August 17 **OPENING CEREMONY**

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

Saturday, August 18 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 25!

Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Games and Prizes II Bike Show (for fun!) 3pm Procession into the Highground Followed by Group Photo, Rally Ceremony & Picnic!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE HIGHGROUND AND ITS MISSION OF HEALING & EDUCATION FOR VETERANS, FAMILIES & ALL WHO VISIT!

Registration \$25 – get patch or rocker, rides, lunch Incentives for getting pledges over \$150!



FOR INFO: 715-743-4224

www.thehighground.us

Sponsors as of 4/9/2018 for the 2018 Ride to Remember:

Waupaca VFW Central WI Broadcasting ABATE 4C

Office Outfitters In Memory of Tracey Rueth In Memory of Bill Watts

Women on Wheels Neillsville American Legion #73

For Information on ANY events Contact:

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park at: www.thehighground.us 715-743-4224

Kwik Trip - Wisconsin Rapids

events@thehighground.us





The Highground Veterans Memorial

Chicken Chaser's Bar & Grill - Fall Creek Hardtails Saloon & Catering, LLC - Hortonville Melrose Express

Battlefield Paintball First Strike Paintball

Thank You Mobil Station - Taylor

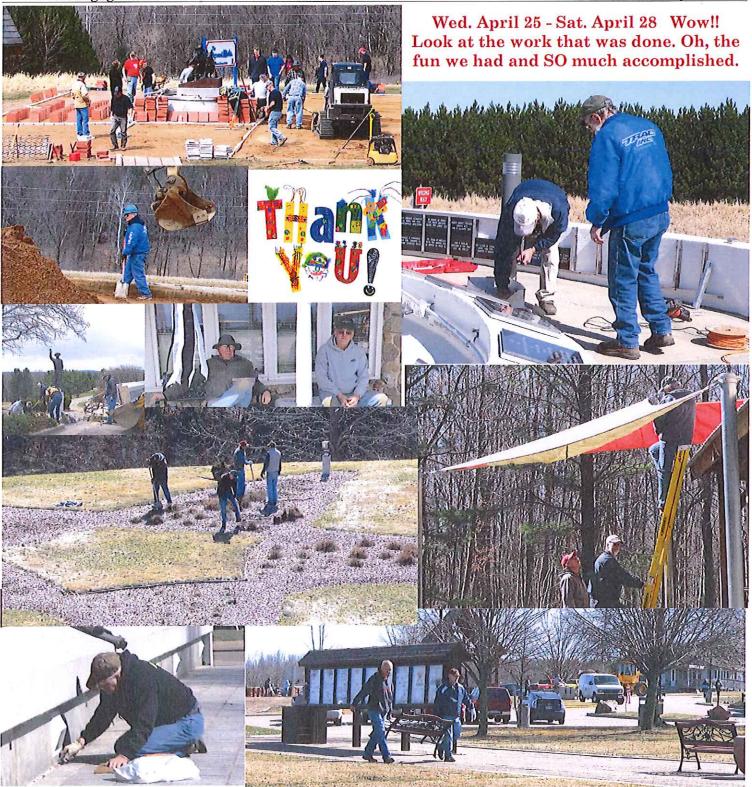
Cenex - Fairchild

VFW #1866 - Marshfield

Russell's of Neillsville Marshfield Fraternal Order of Eagles #624 VFW #10262 - Ployer

DAV #53 Manawa (Waupaca County) Chain O'Lakes Bar & Grill - King / Waupaca Spiegelberg Concrete & Implement — Weyauwega River Rail Bar & Grill - Shiocton United Country Real Estate - Lori Verhalen Pork's Sports Bar & Grill - Hortonville Waupaca Mobil Recovery & Repair AAA Bear Lake Bar, Banquet Hall & Campground - Manawa

Wishing Well Bar & Grill on A - Center Valley



Save these dates, we will need help again:

Fall Clean-Up Days - October 12 & 13, 2018 Veterans Day at The Highground - November 11

Planning Farther Ahead: 2019 Heroes Ride



Tom Kingsbury, on his third decade of riding his bicycle for The Highground, will be riding another Heroes Ride in late July 2019 (ending at The Highground on August 4, 2019). Tom is working diligently to get the route and stop locations all planned. If you would like to join Tom on his journey for part of the way, or volunteer in any fashion, please let us know. Tom is training for the 1500+ miles—a mile for each Wisconsin KIA including Vietnam through the present. He will bring awareness to the 22 suicides that happen daily with our veterans. Can you join him during those special sections of his ride?

2018 Honoring our Veterans Raffle

Size: 41"long 19"deep 21"high



Hickory Wooden Chest with cedar lining Value \$475.00 Donated by the Ryan Larson American Legion Post #65 Size 3' diameter



Fire Pit Ring Value \$250.00 Donated by Bill and Kathy Flemal Size 20" x 16"



Eagle on Canvas Value \$125.00 Donated by Phil and Carol Cler Size 33"x18"



Coat Rack with Shelf with Eagle Picture Value \$75 Donated by Tim and Julie Dallman

Tickets: \$2 each, 6 for \$10, 12 for \$20

Drawing to be November 11, 2018 after the Veterans Day Ceremony

The 2018 Honor Stone ceremonies are filling quickly!

Honor stones are a tremendous gift of appreciation, honor, and respect. April's ceremony went off without a hitch—except for the 18" of snow the week before. However, by Saturday, April 21st the temperature was comfortable, the snow banks were smaller and, as they say, "The ceremony must go on." After all, our service personnel did not get to pick their weather for fighting, so we pushed on as they did for the 1-1/2 hours to dedicate these stones to honor our men and women.

All honor stones and the different locations of the granite stones are available for all veterans, non-veterans, organizations and groups. We know the rest of the year will be warmer and "greener". Thank you everyone who stuck it out with us.

Reminder: The public is invited to ALL ceremonies & events! Your support is appreciated.

There are six areas of Honor Stones to consider at The Highground:

Wisconsin

<u>Legacy Stones</u> are placed on our plaza walkways. We are still filling the center walkway with stones. (\$475)

Meditation Stones The Meditation Shelter's floor is almost complete. September 15, 2018 will be the <u>last</u> stone placement in the Meditation Shelter. (\$500)

Korean Honor Stones The inside walkway wall will be completed June 16, 2018—another "rice paddy" is being designed for upcoming stones in 2019 and beyond—be the first to honor a Korean Vet in the new paddy by calling Kay. (\$575)

Persian Gulf Honor Stones are placed in *The Bootprint* of the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute. A new type of stone will be used with current stones being replaced (at no additional cost) with sand-colored granite stones. Original stones are available to take home. (\$550)

Military Working Dog Stones are placed around the Tribute's base or one-line plaques are placed upright on the tribute. (\$525)

<u>UIS Stones</u> around the large Wisconsin Map with the counties will be occupied by VVAs, VFWs, DAVs. Chapters, Posts, etc. Please call for more details if interested in this special area.

Snortheim Remembered During Stone Ceremony



Norm Snortheim and his family from Marshfield, WI laid a stone in honor of his son Russell, to whom he lost to cancer three years ago, with his name attached as well, as father and son were both honored for their service. It was dedicated by his

three other sons Randy, Doug, and Dan, as well as Russell's widow, Brenda. "I got the plaque for Christmas from my three sons who are still living," said Norm. Russell served in the Navy from 1986-1991 and Norm had served in the National Guard from 1956-1964. Norm was seen taking pictures with him and his family, holding his one-month old Great Granddaughter, his first, Eleanor Lee. When talking about him first finding out about the stone he commented, "I cried, it was something that I never expected." The surprise came on Christmas this last year, as Norm

and Brenda opened their present together to remember their cherished Russell. "We were sitting around on Christmas, we had to open it at the same time, it was writing in a frame that was written up from the boys and their families. It really touched me."

-Written by: Ike Rebout, Media Manager

Call 715-743-4224 Email: info@thehighground.us

Friends of The Highground

A wonderful time was enjoyed by many of our donors. To become a "Friend of The Highground" and be invited to a recognition banquet, these donors have accumulated \$1000 or more throughout 2017 for The Highground's programs or projects. The Spirit Award is a special recognition, voted on by staff, to someone they felt had the Highground pride and spiriti. Thank you everyone for making all things possible at The Highground.

1st Year Recognition

Vernon & Gwendolyn Beloat
Carla Burchett
Ron Comer
DAV Chapter 65
Shane Dawson
Bob Frazee
Jay Froh
John Fury
Shane Gurney
Steve Heimerl



Tom Kauth
Dr. Brianne Kemp-Live Well Chiropractic

Ray & Nancy Kodl
Al & Kay Lamovec
Elaine Pringel
Ike & Jess Rebout
Jodi Savoren
Wendi Schmitz
Duane Schwab



Julie Slabey-Sikkema Debra & Steve Thornton Kathy Tornes

Mary Troudt VFW Calumet County Post #3153 Sandy Wahamaki, WI Dept of Veterans Affairs



Curtis & Bonnie Ackley American Legion Riders District 2

Fred & Kim Berg
George & Betty Blauvelt
Bohl Associates, Inc.
Tim & Julie Dallman
Mark Dawson
Jayne Ehlert



Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls
Dean Hommel
Kokosz Family
Marawood Construction Services, Inc.

Marshfield Masonic Lodge #224
Neillsville Dept of Public Works
Jim Ottman
Misty Peterson
Augie Stark Photography
Terrence Stein

State of WI Stanley Correctional Instit.
The Garden Bar (Buggs Bar)
VVA Appleton Area Chapter 351

VVA Chapter 331 Walmart Foundation

3rd Year Recognition
Tom Babbitt
Mike & Amy Bodoh
James Feneli
Roy & Ginny Franz
Gross Motors, Inc.
Bonnie Henchen
Beth Martin
Pat Watts
Dave Week



4th Year Recognition
Lee & Kathleen Anderson

Dave Backstrom
Michele Benson
John Blank
Julie Diesing
Kimberly Knudsen
Paul Kokosz
Nick & Janet Lesar
Lorraine Short
Karen & Steve Swader

5th Year Recognition Robert & Gloria Beyer

Thrivent Financial

Curt Braatz
Robert Brandt
Bill & Kathy Flemal
LeRoy Johnson
Taylor Johnson
Verla Lysy
Cole Peterson



Joel & Marla Raine-BP Drescher Oil Andy & Nikki Smith

6th Year Recognition

Citizens State Bank of Loyal
Michael & Kathy Gleisner
Independent Hardee's Franchisee Assn.
Maggie Mae & Roger Hilliard
David Kemp
CW & Mary Ann King
Skip & Deb Klabon
Donald & Noreen Schmidt
Steve Swanson
Gary & Kay Weirauch

7th Year Recognition

Dennis & Sharon Herzberg Joyce & Thomas Hoffman



Steve & Karen Maddox Michael Olson Dave Sharretts Robert & Caryl Solberg

8th Year Recognition

Jim Braatz
Hardee's Cougar Enterprise
Michael & Joyce Huebsch
Andy Rueth
VVA Chapter 639
Wes Waterman
Lucinda Zimmer

9th Year Recognition
City of Neillsville
Jim & Susan Fox

Jakel Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Gary Karczewski

Mar-Lin VFW Post #10203

10th Year Recognition

Marguerite Listeman Foundation

Walter Tollefson

Tom & Anita Werthman

11th Year Recognition
Joan Cervenka
Marjorie Short

12th Year Recognition
Leon Meidam
Randy Meyer

Jerry Simon Jerry & Alice Smith

13th Year Recognition
Joan Jungwirth

14th Year Recognition
Central WI Broadcasting:
WCCN / WPKG
Don Quicker
Kirk & Nancy Rodman
Dr. John & Rebecca Scaletta

Spirit Awards
Tom Doan (see page 13)



Joel & Marla Raine



2018 Porch Greeters Meeting / Lunch Getting a big jump on the Busy Year to come!

Thank you Apple Valley Bar and Restaurant for a great lunch and a wonderful place to meet for The Highground Porch Greeters meeting on Tuesday, March 13th. Everyone was able to re-connect with fellow greeters they may not have seen for several months and hear about the exciting 2018 events coming up. We were also able to honor veteran and volunteer, Tom Doan, with a "Spirit of The Highground" award for his dedication and service. Sheila Nyberg, from the Clark County Economic Development & Tourism, joined us as a speaker for the program. Sheila and Clark County Economic Development & Tourism are already a big part of The Highground's 30th Anniversary celebration! You can read more about that on that event article.

It is the goal of The Highground to have a Greeter(s) every day from April 1st through October 31st, generally from 10am – 2pm. There is always room on the Porch Greeter Calendar for more volunteers! If you are interested, contact Theresa at The Highground.

Thank You, Sheila, and all who attended! Our Porch Greeter volunteers are a big reason that The Highground is such a healing place.



Concert by Maggie Mae & The Heartland Country Band with Special Guest, Leroy Peterson, Raises over \$12,000!

Maggie Mae & The Heartland Country Band played to a sold out auditorium in Pittsville on Saturday, April 7th. The concert, sponsored by WWIS, WDLB, Pittsville Farm & Home Center, and Baum's Mercantile in Pittsville, was a benefit event to raise funds for The Highground. Over \$12,000 was raised by the concert through ticket purchases and sponsor donations.

The concert, at the beautiful Pittsville Area Foundation for the Arts auditorium at the Pittsville High School, was pure high-energy country music with many moments of tribute to the veterans that were present in the audience. Special guest, Leroy Peterson, also had the crowd wowed by his spot on tribute to Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash.

After intermission, Jon Weiler, Highground Executive Director, presented Maggie Mae with a Friends of The Highground plaque and gifts for her and the band (Leroy received his earlier!) for their generous support of The Highground during the past several years.

The Highground will use the funds raised by the concert to continue and expand and it's PTSD book program and Veterans Weekends.



for these awesome donations.



Thank you Jim Brandt of Colby for working with the



Thank you Gary Lawrence and Elizabeth Page for awesome path lighting.

Thank you to Tomahawk Wurl-Feind-Ingman VFW Post #2687.



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.

\$18.95 MADE IN WI

New in the The Highground Veterans Memorial Park **Gift Shop** Denim Work All NEW Screen Shirt is back! Tees are \$36.95-41.95 **USA Made USA** 21.95-24.95 \$12.95 \$13.95 Hook & Loop 14"x25" \$224.95 1/8" Steel Laser Cut MADE IN WI \$21.95-24.9 \$21.95-24.95 \$21.95 60" Golf brella \$17.95 **NEW ITEMS Youth Tee Books COMING IN** XS-L \$19.95 15.95-19.95 \$15.95 DAILY FIEANK YOU FOR \$8.95 YOUR SLAVICE \$14.95 **Desk Plaques** AND STRIPES \$9.95-13.95 a dog 48" \$39.95 40" \$31.95 Made in MN Suncatcher Gift Certificates Available FirePit Poker \$19.95 \$14.95 Open all year round: Monday—Sunday 10:00am—5:00pm \$12.95 Visit our website at www.thehighground.us Call us for help in ordering or shipping at

715-743-4224

Wish Lists — Donations Needed—Can you help?

URGENT Immediate Needs:

- -Gas Powered Pressure Washer: \$400
- -Light box for photography: \$150
- -Funds for re-usable signs for Event Sandwich Boards: \$200
- -Funds to obtain yellow ribbon for Yellow Ribbon Campaign
- -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: \$1000/each
- -The Highground Education Days: \$800
- -Compact Utility Tractor: \$25,000
- -Endowment Fund Donors
- -Memorials: Honor your loved ones
- -Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 8 more @ \$4000/each
- -Highway road sign needs solar charger or digital sign: \$2600
- -PTSD Books: It is helping!!

Learning Center wish list

- -Sony HDR-CX405/B Full HD 60p Camcorder w/tri-pod: \$260
- -6 Gallons interior paint: \$250
- -1 or 2 more male mannequins for uniform displays: Thanks

Letter sent to The Highground:

"Seeing the park and being welcomed by your staff while on our trip around the U.S. will <u>ALWAYS</u> be a high spot in my memories." —Joe Richardson, Founding Member & Current Secretary Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County



Check out the website!!
Updated with new features.



Want to be part of the new email function? —on the home page, enter your email and you will get updates on Highground happenings right in your inbox. (We will <u>not</u> share your email address or information.)

If you see something "not correct" or if you see something you really like, please let us know so we can correct it and learn what you want to see more of in your inbox/newsletter.

Click the Donate button on the top by the logo and see all the ways to do just that—donate!

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 2018

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 sive a sift subscription)
	would like to give a gift subscription) Endowment Fund
	Booking information for "My War" exhibit of "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit
	Volunteer opportunities on site
	Please add me to the Work Week mailings (I am available to help)
<u></u> 3	I would like your newsletter emailed

Phone Questions or Comments:

Thanks, Mae, for the extra help creating this newsletter!

Rhapsody in Olive Drab by Steve Maddox

The Chippewa Falls Public Library located in Chippewa Falls, WI, was host to a reading of "Rhapsody In Olive Drab". Writer/poet/Vietnam veteran Steve Maddox read from "Reveille" and "Taps", the two books which make up the "Rhapsody" collection. Signed copies of both books were available to the public following the reading. A minimum donation of \$26 is requested payable to The Highground

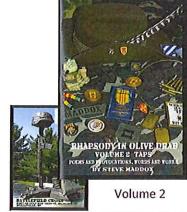
earmarked to help support the Highground's PTSD program.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Enjoy the poetry. Meet the poet by inviting him to a your venue.

Veterans Memorial near Neillsville, WI. All contributions are

Make a meaningful contribution to a very worthwhile cause!





W7031 Ridge Rd. Neillsville, WI 54456

We want to keep you up-to-date on all our exciting activities. Please let us know your email address. We will NOT sell or use your information for anything other than Highground news! Call, email, or send it with your next donation check.

You've got mail!

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

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park staff, visitors, and all supporters remember and honor all who have served, in times of combat and in times of peace. All veterans of any era have, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount up to and including their life.

As we recognize those among us who are veterans, we recognize that they and their families have in many different ways been affected by their service. Many positive qualities and sometimes hardships result from signing that blank check. Over 26,000 Wisconsin men and women have given their lives in service to our country. As a tangible reminder of ALL of them, we will remember a selection of names that will change for each future ceremony. (This is not a list of ALL that have given their lives in these combat areas.)

Let us remember and honor those who perished during their service and let them not go in silence. We ring the replica liberty bell in their honor at each ceremony. We hope you will ring it when you are here.

LET THEM NOT GO IN SILENCE

(WWII)

David Shumsky Marshall O Skinner Kenneth D Smith Joseph R Snobl Raymond H Stauner John B Vanbeek Morris A Waite Lloyd M Wallace William L Webb **Ernest J Weber**

(Korea)

Richard W Mahr

Arthur Majeske Jr Frank M Malczewski Robert D Malkiewicz Jerome M Mangner Gilbert P Mantey Bernard H Marquardt Frank O Mars Harold L Marsh Odvin A Martinson Robert L Mastin Richard W Mahr Henry E Matton Jr Harley D May Carl E McClaflin James L McClenathan Michael W McClone Robert G McCormick Thomas C McCullen Donn A McFarlane James C McGuire William M McGuire Murdock McKay Paul L McKittrick Bruce D McKown Andrew G McLeod John J McMahon Richard O McNitt

(Vietnam) Merlin C Stelpflug Francis T Mulvey Donald L Smith **David W Knouse** Phillip D Monson David G Bendorf William A Beyer **Edmond Richardson** Gary T Walz Gary L Peat **Gerald R Brines** Lloyd G Wiegel Nicholas G Walz Dennis R Mason Nolan E Black **Edwin F Brown** Jerrald J Bulin John A De Bock

Harry E Geary

William P Martin James P McConnell Michael C Nielsen Timothy J Norman Gerald W Schultz Richard W Stindl Leonard J Tauschek **Ernest W Tews** Dennis M Wood **David W Timm** Glen H Young Dale E Rauber Steven J Roum Earl W Knutson Jr Glen A Bjerke James M Donstad William T Grudzinski Timothy C Agard Vincent J Agius Thomas L Becker **Donald W Downing** David L Drought John J Fiedler Alvin L Halverson David P Hellenbrad John M Kessinger Robert A McCartney Jeffrey E Mead Carl E Oldfield Elwood J Roehl

Harry W Schneider Michael Schumacher Thomas E Vail Ralph M Wixson

(Desert Storm, Iraq,

Afghan Present Day) Jon B St John II Harry H Timberman Robert J Basham Nicholas E Riehl Jesse B Albrecht Tyler J Kritz Patrick L Wade Matthew R Zindars Alun R Howells Derek A Dobogai Rachael Hugo Anthony Wasielewski Joshua C Brennan Louis A Griese Tracy L Alger James W McDonald Jason F Lemke Timothy R Hanson Matthew I Pionk Keith E Lloyd Christopher S Frost Richard J Nelson

Dean D Opicka

Steven Christofferson

Jeremy D Vrooman Nick A Dewhirst Daniel J Thompson Steven T Drees Brian K Naseman Earl D Werner Robert M Rieckhoff Ryan C Adams Nickolas A Mueller Amy Krueger Russell Seager Jacob A Meinert Paul R Bartz Chad D Coleman Adam J Novak Matthew J West Daniel J Johnson Justin J Cain Scott T Nagorsk Jacob A Gassen Richard J Kemp Daren M Hidalgo Justin D Ross Paul J Atim Matthew Hermanson Ryan J Larson Tyler R Kreinz Michael C Nolen Garrick L Eppinger Jr Jakob Roelli

Joseph J Altmann David A Johnson Jesse J Grindey Benjamin H Neal Jeremiah Collins Jr Heidi Ruh Matthew I Leggett Carson Holmquist Quinn Johnson-Harris Matthew Thompson **Kevin Calloway** Rocky Nelson Lance Monsen Scott Schroeder **Brian Scott** William Strehlow Michael Fitz Cheryl LaBeau-O'Brien Daniel Joel Patrick Wanke Paul Buege Carl Zabel Jeremy Bird Daniel Busch Ryan P Long Kirk A Straseskie Matthew E Schram Dan H Gabrielson Paul J Sturino