

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park



February 2018

a place for all of us.

2018—the year to celebrate more amazing milestones at The Highground!

Military Working Dog Tribute Dedication June 2, 2018 @ 1pm

We were so close last summer!!! And then came the rain, then snow... Landscaping once again needed to be put on hold until the spring.

SPRING is almost upon us, which means Spring Work Week is almost here!! With that said, the dedication of this beautiful Military Working Dog Tribute is *going to be* Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 1:00pm.

Many exhibits, demonstrations (with dogs), pictures and special speaker presentations are planned that you will not want to miss! These special veterans will be remembered and honored in a meaningful ceremony. Many human veterans owe their lives to these canines. Stories have been told that need to be shared. Watch for more details as they are confirmed on our website, Facebook and the next newsletter!

Most importantly—SAVE THE DATE!

30th Anniversary—September 22, 2018





Celebrating the 30th Anniversary

of The Highground & "Fragments" Vietnam Veterans Tribute which is the tribute to those who served in the Vietnam War.

Many activities and displays are being planned for

Friday, September 21st thru Sunday, September 23rd.
Details will be posted as they come together!

The 30th Anniversary Ceremony will be held Saturday, September 22, at 1pm At The Highground Veterans Memorial Park



Thank you Pastor Albert "Al" Houts—You will be missed!!

It is with a heavy heart we share that we lost another great friend and supporter of The Highground. Many of you have seen/



by side with him during work weeks and clean-ups. He had his cute green "toys" (as he called them) that he so generously brought to help—tractor, bucket, wood chipper, etc and always, always a smile! You may have one of his pens he gave to those he met along the way and helped spread blessings to all he met. Pastor Al spoke of our troops in very high regards, leading many invocations which were so appropriate at The Highground.

We will miss you Al, but know you are still with us!

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

In Memory:

Tracy Algers
Ron Bellemare
Harold Bergeron
EJ Dorsch
Pastor Curtis Everson
Dan Fogg
Ed Cletus Hardy

John A Jelich
David Korth
Larry Laning
John "Sarge" Malone
Betty Martin
Ted Meyer
Bill Munkwitz
R.J. Novak

Charles Francis Orlowski
Tom Querin
Bill Ruppert
Dennis Schramm
Sgt Andy Stevens
Robert Sippel
Bernie Stamm Sr
Harold Stange

Bill Thomas
John Tollefson
Roger Werebelow
June Whitfield
Richard Wrensch
Don Wuthrich

Those who are lost but not forgotten

Honoring:

Eisenach Family Members who served

> Michael & Joyce Huebsch

Verland Kasten
Jim O'Donnell



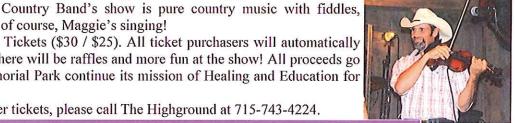
Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band Concert - April 7th in Pittsville. Country Music, Fun and Honoring our Veterans

Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band will be performing at the Pittsville School District Auditorium, Pittsville WI on Saturday, April 7th at 2PM. Maggie Mae is a regular performer on the RFD-TV television station. Her home is in Oxford, WI, but she tours the country throughout the year, always finding time to support military veterans and her long list of fans! Maggie Mae & Heartland

guitars, steel guitars, piano, drums, and of course, Maggie's singing!

The concert is reserved seating only. Tickets (\$30 / \$25). All ticket purchasers will automatically be entered for an exciting door prize. There will be raffles and more fun at the show! All proceeds go to help The Highground Veterans Memorial Park continue its mission of Healing and Education for veterans, families and all who visit.

For more information and to order tickets, please call The Highground at 715-743-4224.













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

Sunday July 15th

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

Closing ceremony and planting a "Warrior's Tree"



Sponsored by:



Phaneuf-Vanasse American Legion Post #111

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 Veterans Weekend and/or to register, please contact: The Highground, W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville WI 54437 715-743-4224 or events@thehighground.us



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 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. Yes, it does take a year to get this organized! If you would like to join Tom on his journey for part of the way, please let us know. If you would like to 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.

An exciting time to support a huge fundraiser. Hey Tom Miller (founder of The Highground), are you available to join Tom Kingsburry this time? (We can dust off your old bike from the first ride you did! Its on display in the Learning Center.) Sponsored in part by:

di wide

Have you heard.....

...Mae is back! We're super happy to announce the return of Mae to the Gift Shop Staff! As you may recall she left in August to attend UW Platteville. After the first semester she has elected to attend classes online for the general education requirements. We're excited to have her energy and commitment to our Veterans and visitors back with us!

...Volunteer picnic is scheduled!! Save the date!



Please Join us for The Highground Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

Saturday, June 9, 2018 @ Noon @ 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.

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



We Look Forward to Seeing You!

Please RSVP by Friday, May 25 715-743-4224 or events@thehighground.us



....New Tires!

Thank you Bill!!



The Highground's mule needed tires (esp for the winter snow). Bill's Tire & Service of Colby, WI *once again* generously helped us

by providing the tires.







2018 SPRING WORK WEEK! Wed. April 25 - Sat. April 28

It's time to get The Highground ready for SUMMER!

There are many Spring projects to be completed - buildings to be cleaned,

"yard work", trail work, picnic tables, benches and canopies to bring out and more.

We plan on finishing the paver base of The Military Working Dog Tribute and working on The Gold Star Tribute during Spring Work Week—two very exciting and important projects!

We look forward to your help. It's a great time to come together to make things happen. Ask your friends to come help, as well! Work days are approx. 8am - 4:30pm.

Please RSVP by April 13th by calling or emailing The Highground. Let us know which day(s) you

will be here. We need to know how many hungry volunteers to plan for lunch!

715-743-4224 or events@thehighground.us





Any tools: rakes, hammers, wrenches, etc that you can bring—please put your name on them.





Take part of The Highground home with you

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?

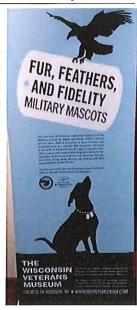
For \$175 you will receive a beautiful flag (9.5'x5.5') that was flown in your's or someone else's honor, with a certificate of authenticity. It makes a wonderful keepsake and remembrance of your time and support of The Highground Veteran's Memorial Park. YOU can even be the one to raise or lower the flag on your chosen date. Call Kay for details or ordering—(some dates are already claimed).



Learning Center News!

It's Here! "Working Warriors and Military Mascots!" Thanks to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, WI, we are able to bring you this interesting exhibit from now until the end of March. We encourage you to bring your families and see this exhibit to learn about some of the jobs in the military that are behind the front lines. Also, learn about some of the animal mascots that comfort our soldiers. Open daily from 10am - 4pm





When you come to The Highground, stop in at the Learning Center Library. Check out what's new! We have added a computer station and an entertainment center. Now, if the weather doesn't cooperate, you can stay comfortable and listen to



the audio tour or watch a video from our library. There is an extensive collection of military books in the library for research needs and/or to check out.

A big "Thank You" goes out to Ron Trunkel of Trunkel's Trailers for the use of an enclosed trailer with which we brought in the library cabinets. Thank you, also, Trunkel's Trailers Unlimited to Tim Dallman for preparing the 2106 Black River Road Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456 room, making and installing the





Christmas Honor Tree For Remembering Heroes!!

Thank you to all who supported The Christmas Honor Tree in the Learning Center. It turned out beautiful! With the addition of the inside honor tree in the learning center we are capable of honoring more heroes.

Keep this in mind for next year!



2018 Exhibits include:

cabinets.

- ♦ HMONG IN AMERICA: Journey from a Secret War
- -April 2nd -May 25th
- ♦ U.S. FLAG HISTORY June July
- ♦ WWII PACIFIC THEATER/ IWO JIMA August
- ♦ HIGHGROUND HISTORY September November
- NOT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS December

Memorial 2018 Honor Tree Session

- 1. Ken Smith from Your Family
- To my Hero Roshier "Bill" Watts Jr. with Love from Your Lady Pat
- 3. Roy R. & Gerald G Schmidt Thanks, Don Schmidt
- 4. 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 learningcenter@thehighground.us to sponsor a tree honoring your hero.

"HMONG IN AMERICA: Journey From a Secret War"

This interesting exhibit is organized and assembled by the Chippewa Valley Museum. It will be on display at The Highground Learning Center April 2 through May 25, 2018.

"Hmong in America" tells the dramatic story of one of America's newest groups of immigrants, the Hmong, told through the voices of the people who lived this contemporary history. Their journey begins in the scenic, rugged highlands of Laos, travels through the Vietnam War, pauses in the over-crowded refugee camps of Thailand, and ends with the challenges of resettlement and a new life in America.



Mark your calendars!
Vietnam Reunion/Education Afternoon!

April 21, 2018 2~4 PM
In The Highground Learning Center

Get together with other Vietnam Vets for snacks, stories and have a good time.

There will also have a slide presentation of 68 ~ 69 Vietnam.



Another Vision Will Become a Reality!!

While getting ready for the 30th Anniversary of "Fragments" and preparing to display various Highground History information, Julie, the Learning Center Coordinator, read about The Highground Founder, Tom Miller, and the Board of Directors seeking to have a museum "some day". Well, "some day" will be in 2018—another milestone to celebrate!

Throughout the years, especially with the

changing exhibits in the Learning Center, The Highground has acquired many artifacts and precious memorabilia. Currently, many of these items are stored away and not seen unless it pertains to an upcoming exhibit.

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.

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park

Congratulations on being awarded a 2018 non-profit grant award, awarded to non-profit organizations that provide financial assistance and other services to Wisconsin veterans or their families. Thank you for working to ensure that Wisconsin veterans receive the benefits and services they have earned in their service and sacrifice to our nation.

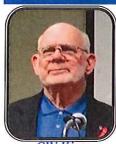


Joanne Tibbett

Thanks to Joanne, our flags last a little longer. For those of you that have taken The Highground tour, you know our flags (US, POW/MIA and Native American) can last anywhere from one day to six

weeks in the winds at the Park. Joanne has taken our flags and "fixed" them with her sewing talents! Sometimes allowing us to use these flags again—extending their lives (and our budget)!

Thank you, Joanne, for the awesome job you continue to do for The Highground.



CW King, Board Chair

As we move into another year, I will update you on what the Board of Directors of The Highground has been doing. The Board met in January to plan for the 2018 year, and on into the future. We spent time talking with a forester about the coming ash borer problem and the effect that will have on our trees. We will be doing some work during the spring work week, and likely some selective cutting in the near future. We spent a lot of time talking about the future needs of The Highground, and of keeping the mission of The Highground at the forefront of everything we do. We have work to be done on a couple of the memorials that we will attempt to get completed in the spring. Since the BOD made the decision last fall not to build the Welcome Center, we have been trying to get a handle on what we need to have to further the mission of The Highground and continue to serve Veterans and their families. So far, it has already been an interesting year, and I am looking forward to another great year in the life of The Highground. Jon is

doing a great job, as are all the staff and volunteers, and I want to say Thanks to all of you reading this newsletter for your ongoing support and help. You are truly the Heart of the Highground.



Jon Weiler, Executive Director

2017 is behind us and 2018 is ready to come out of hibernation with a bang. It has been a brutally cold winter as many of you, other than the "Snow Birds"...the smart ones... can attest to. We had an amazing year last year, and are looking to only increase in 2018. It is going to be a HUGE year for us as it is our 30th Anniversary and we are planning to celebrate this milestone throughout the year.

My first eight months as the Executive Director here have been some of the most memorable times in my life. Being a Veteran and having this job has afforded me the opportunity to spend time with some of the most amazing men and women I have ever met.

I recently read a speech given by the Washington Redskins President, Bruce Allen, at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 8th, 2017 at the WWII Memorial in Washington DC. He was talking about the characteristics his scouts look for when seeking future players. Those characteristics include unselfishness, dependability, commitment level, coachability, toughness, can they be a good teammate, and are they a

winner. He stated that "Clearly these are the scouting reports on the 16 million Americans who served in WWII and every one of those boxes had been checked."

That statement can be made for every Veteran that has ever raised their right hand and sworn an oath to protect our great county, its citizens and the Constitution. Whenever I meet someone who says "yes I am a Veteran but I didn't deploy" or "I didn't serve in a time of conflict" or "I served but don't really consider myself as a Veteran, because I didn't do anything", my response, and I believe everyone's response should be, "that does not matter, you still raised your right hand and swore an oath to protect our great county, its citizens and the Constitution. When you did that you knew that at any given moment you could have been told to go somewhere and do something that you never thought you could and, therefore, I Thank You!"

You may be thinking "Who would ever think that they weren't really a Veteran because they didn't do anything or go anywhere?" Trust me, they are out there. You would not even know many of them have served as they don't like to broadcast it. That is why we greet everyone who comes to The Highground, "Thank you for visiting, have you ever served?"

Remember to thank all Veterans for their service as they all have signed that blank check that they were willing to give their life for. —Jon



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

	W7031 Ridge Rd.	
	PO Box 457	Phone: 715-743-4224
	Neillsville, WI 54456	Fax: 715-743-4228
	Facebook: www.facebook.com/	
	The Highground Veterans Memorial	
	Web: www.tl	nehighground.us
On US Hwy 10, 4 miles west of Neillsville,		es west of Neillsville, WI
	Or 30 miles east of 0	Osseo from the junction
	of I-94 and	d US Hwy 10

For More Information Contact

The Highground Staff

Executive Director	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	Brenda Vanderhoof
Gift Shop	Alicia Elgersma
Git Shop	Mae Bautch

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)

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: info@thehighground.us Website: www.thehighground.us Printed in USA. Entire contents copyright 2018. 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.

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.)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Tomah VA Residential Combat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) program.

Coming home from war can present challenges for the returning military service member and veterans. Some service members or veterans struggle to find their way back home and get stuck in a rut. A service member or veteran can often start to feel isolated, broken, constantly on guard, and struggle to participate in daily situations (e.g. going to restaurant, time with family, going shopping). This can become something known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). There is help available to assist eligible veterans.

Many service members or veterans have tried outpatient counseling or therapy. Are you looking for that next step? If so, there is another option available; the Tomah VA has a Residential Combat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) program. This 9 week residential program has been serving local Wisconsin and out of state combat veterans for many decades. The program is designed to help them combat their struggles with PTSD and related difficulties. This 13 bed program provides intensive PTSD treatment for veterans who served in various tours of War such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Desert Storm, Vietnam, Korea, and so forth. Each veteran who comes to our program becomes part of the community. They often feel part of something again as they bond with fellow brothers and sisters. Our veterans report feeling like they are back in their unit or squad again. They often tell us how comfortable they feel with the staff here as they receive intensive individual and group treatment. They get opportunities to fight their triggers directly through structured exercises. They also tell us that it's hard work to do the program but tell us it's worth it in the end as they feel better after they have been through it.

The Tomah VA Residential Combat PTSD Program participates in treatment activities in the community. The Highground has been part of those activities for the last 15 years. Maybe you are considering getting some help for yourself? Maybe you're a family member who is looking for help for their veteran? Maybe you have been to the program before and are on the fence about coming back for some more help? Give us a call. For more info, please call our admission coordinator at (608) 372-1758.

New direct emails for The Highground staff!

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

For More information in regards to 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 **Deb** 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

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.

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.

You are Invited!

The Highground

PORCH GREETERS LUNCH!

MARCH 13, 2018

Lunch at NOON

at Apple Valley Bar & Restaurant! 415 W US Hwy 10 Neillsville We will discuss the exciting events that are planned for 2018 at The Highground; meet Sheila from Clark County Economic Development and Tourism; enjoy a delicious lunch and fill out the 2018 Porch Greeter Calendar. If you are a returning greeter and know which days you would like for this year, please call us so we can post it on the calendar.

It is our goal to have a Porch Greeter at The Highground every day, from April through October, to greet park visitors. We would like to have volunteers greet from 10am to 3pm on their scheduled days. Days of events and/or honor stone-laying ceremonies may have an earlier start time for greeters and these days will be noted on the calendar.

Newcomers are always welcome! Please extend an invitation to anyone who may be interested in becoming a Porch Greeter.

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY MARCH 2ND!

Call (715)743-4224 or email: events@thehighground.us

"Veterans Art & Business Expo & Exhibit"

Veteran Artisans and Crafters, Exhibit Space still available June 16, 2018, 10am—5pm with set up at 9am

Small Business Administration and other Business Mentors on site to advise Veterans on starting & maintaining a business.

Public invited to visit and see the creations of these veterans

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 get exposure!

MEMORIAL DAY MOTORCYCLE HONOR RIDE!!

MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018



8th ANNUAL!

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 Lunch at The Highground

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

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

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

KING / WAUPACA Route —

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS Route—Contact Bob for info. rmfz41@outlook.com Reg. and 3 pick up spots in Minneapolis starting at 9am; 1 in Eau Claire,

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)

More Routes
May be Added

REEDSBURG Route - Contact Del 608-770-3709 dalhart1961@gmail.com

MORE ROUTES CAN BE ADDED — CONTACT THE HIGHGROUND FOR INFO. ON LEADING A ROUTE

PLEASE CONTACT ROUTE LEADER FOR DETAILS OR www.thehighground.us 715-743-4224 events@thehighground.us



34th ANNUAL HIGHGROUND BIKE TOUR

August 3 - 5, 2018

4 ROUTES—3 DAYS—2 NIGHTS—1 GOAL!

Northern Route—Mike & Kathy—715-937-6786 Southern Route—Andrew & Nicole—608-201-7328 karateman013184@charter.net Western Route—Jerry—715-246-5370 For Veterans Tom - 715-897-4661 simonsez@frontiernet.net Eastern Route—Curt -920-539-5148 katemike21@gmail.com adsmith2391@yahoo.com Riding ROUTE CONTACTS: EASTERN ROUTE Madison SOUTHERN ROUTE Baraboo START NORTHERN ROUTE New Richmond START **WESTERN ROUTE**

ADDITIONAL ROUTES ARE WELCOME!
CONTACT THE HIGHGROUND TO JOIN THIS GREAT WISCONSIN BICYCLING EVENT!

For Information on ANY of these events Contact:
The Highground Veterans Memorial Park
www.thehighground.us
TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial
events@thehighground.us 715-743-4224
W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville WI 54456

Helicopter & Military Vehicle Expo!

May 19, 2018 10am - 4pm



Tentatively scheduled to land at The Highground, weather permitting,

Time TBA





RIDE TO REMEMBER MOTORCYCLE RALLY August 17 & 18, 2018

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)

Sign up for 107.5 Bud Bike 251

10 AM - REGISTRATION - GUIDED RIDES BEGIN AT 11 AM Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Games and Prizes !! 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



Over \$8,000 raised by the 5th Annual Highground Winter Bowl!

Over \$8,000 was raised during The Highground's 5th Annual Winter Bowl fundraiser. The Winter Bowl was held Sunday, January 28th at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield, with all lanes filled to the max with bowlers raising money for The Highground Veterans Weekend Retreat.



The enthusiastic crowd enjoyed bowling and trying their luck at winning over \$3,000 of raffle, silent auction and other prize items! Fritz Miller won the 50" VIZIO LED TV, donated by Hardee's (Colby, Neillsville and Medford).

The success of the Winter Bowl depended on the generosity of sponsors that support The Highground and the Veterans Weekend Retreat. These sponsors include: Hardee's (Colby, Medford and Neillsville), Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls, Nicolet National Bank, Phaneuf-Vanasse American Legion Post #111, VFW #7308, VFW #7308 Auxiliary, VFW #7308 Riders Group, Scheels, WI Timber Rattlers, Milwaukee Brewers, Milwaukee Bucks, John Buetzberger, Rose Bowl Lanes, Hiller's True Value-Marshfield, Weber's Farm Store, Lake of the Torches Resort Casino, Metropolis Resort Action City, VVA #479, DAV #31 Rib Lake, After All Inc., C & J Auto & Machine Inc., Rogers Cinema Theatres, Lands' End, Green Bay Packers, Fringe Benefits, Fred & Kim Berg, Tim & Julie Dallman, and Forward Financial Bank.

The 2nd Annual Highground Veterans Weekend Retreat will be held July 13-15, 2018. For more details on this and other Highground events, please call 715-743-4224 or email events@thehighground.us

Photos from the 5th Annual Winter Bowl can be seen on The Highground Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial/.

Thank You!



The 6th Annual Winter Bowl will be held at Rose Bowl Lanes on Sunday, January 27, 2019. There are several lanes already reserved, so call early to register for 2019!



Thank you Sponsors!! You made



Phaneuf-Vanasse American Legion Post #111









Thank you bowlers for participating in the raffles, silent auction and 50/50 and for supporting our veterans.

A HUGE thank you to all the Volunteers—





This would not be possible without all of you!!

See you next year.



More Donations Presented During the Winter Bowl!

In addition to the funds raised by the Winter Bowl, Dave Droste, representing Independent Hardee's Franchisee Association, presented a check for \$2,530 to Jon Weiler, Exec Director. This check was from the Hardee's Restaurants independently owned by Cougar Enterprises, Inc., Bowar Management, and Oshkosh Restaurants, Inc. which together have Wisconsin restaurants in Rice Lake, Prairie Du Chien, Medford, Colby, Neillsville, Oshkosh plus a location in Waukon, IA.



Another generous surprise at the Winter Bowl was a donation of a beautifully constructed wood chest presented to The Highground by the Ryan Larson American Legion Post #65, from



Rome WI. This cedar-lined chest is already on display and will be on a raffle at The Highground. Tickets available May 1st.

manchisee Owners

The chest and other items will be on the annual Honor our Veterans raffle! Drawing: November 11th following the Veterans Day Ceremony

The 2018 Honor Stone ceremonies are filling quickly—thank you for the support!

Reminder: Public is invited to ALL ceremonies & events!

Support is appreciated.

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

Legacy Stones are placed on our plaza walkways. We are still filling the center walkway with stones.

Meditation Stones The Meditation Shelter's floor is almost complete. September 15, 2018 will be the last stone placement in the Meditation Shelter. There are a few openings for this last ceremony, call if you would like to be included in this special location. As with other stone areas these red granite stones are available for all veterans, non-veterans, organizations and groups.

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.

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 with the new sand granite stone.

Military Working Dog Stones placed around the Tribute's base. One-line plaque placed upright on the tribute.

UIS Stones 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.

Legacy Stone (gray on the plaza walkways) \$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) \$550 Military Working Dog Honor (mahogany around tribute) \$525 MWD & Handler Names only (one line on tribute itself) \$150



2018 Stone Ceremony Dates (* indicates full ceremonies)

*April 21 *May 19 *June 16 —July 21 -Aug 18 —Sept 15 -Oct 6

Persian Gulf Honor **Stones** —July 21



FOREST JAMES LARSEN A HARLEY LEGEND PEACE ON THE FORTY

Korean Stones *June 16

Meditation Stones —Sept 15



Military Working Dog Tribute area stones placement dates TBA

United in Service

Wisconsin

County Map



Multiple names of the canines & handler vetrans. A polished mahogany granite

stone.

Military Working Dog Tribute One-line Plaque

First plaque(s) dedicated June 2, 2018 during the Tribute Dedication Ceremony



The 2017 Honor Stone Recipients Brought Family, Friends, Tears & Joy from around the U.S.

Abney, Jack M -WI Abney, Kathleen M -WI Adamski, Donald N -WI Adkerson, John Albright, LeRoy -WI American Legion & Aux Post 240-WI American Legion Aux Unit 81-WI American Legion Post 153

Palmer-Ritchie Thomas -WI American Legion Post 270 -WI American Legion Riders District 7-WI

Anderson, Larry V -MI Archer, Nicholas A -CA Argue, George H -WI Awe, John August -WI Ayers, Carol J-WI Babcock, Wesley -WI Baehr, Fred -WI Bahr, Gerald D-WI Bartig, Edward H Bauermeister, Fritz -WI Bell, Bob W-WI Benavides Jr, Samuel -WI

Berg, Gary L-WI Bergeson, Dale -WI Bergeson, Donald N -WI Bernt, Helmut -WI

Bigalke, David -WI Bills, Raymond -WI

Bleskacek, Thomas S -WI Books, Jon C

Bowden, Charles J -WI Brandt Sr., Leonard R -WI

Brantner, Thomas A -WI Bredesen, Julius -WI Breneman, John Allen -WI

Brickheimer, Gerald A -WI Briski, Frank N-WI

Brosnahan, Charles T Brown, James D -WI

Brown, Steven

Bruyere, Peter N Bryan, Patrick -WI

Carlson, Brittany A -OK Carlson, Gustave A -WI

Casey, Richard L -WI Clark, Otto -WI

Colby Chrysler Center -WI Collinson, Tommy L -WI Connick, Ray W - WI

Cook, T WM (Bill) -WI

Coon, David -NC

Coon, Earl -WI

Coon, Oscar, Earl & David -WI Cornell, Todd R

Crandall Sr., Richard G -MN Cundiff, Sheila Wetzel -WI

Decker, Ronald C -WI Deel, Jesse -VA

Dehlinger, Bruce -WI Demars, Clarence W -WI

Demars, Darrell W -WI Derfus, Ronald M Dern, Kenneth R -WI

Duchac Jr., Clarence Dumke, Lloyd E -WI

Ehlert, Howard C -WI Ellner, Sonja M -WI

Embke, Eugene M -WI Erickson, Daniel -WI Faulkner, Bruce W-WI Fjelstad, Steven W-WI

Forrest, Kenyon L -WI Foster, David G-WI

Foster, Donald G-WI Frahm, Leroy E -WI

Franke, Robert K -WI Fredenhagen, Donald W-IL

Friske, Fred -WI Friske, Marguerite -WI

Friske, Norman E -WI Gaulke, Donald L -WI Gauthier, Edward A -WI

Gauthier, Edward C -WI Gauthier, Robert J-WI

Gear, Nathan Gerdes, George

Glines, Fred -WI Glines, Michael -WI

Goodermuth, Terry R Gorton, Dave

Gran, Stanley A -WI Gunderson, Arthur E-WI

Habeck, Dean Arthur -WI Haegler, Ernest P-WI

Hannis, Michael D Hannis, Milton Dusty -WI

Hansen, Lon M -WI Hansen, Merl K -WI

HONOR

COURAGE

FREEDOM

Haslit, Rick -WI Heard, Otis -WI

Hebert, Dana -MN Hebert, Elliot F-WI

Heil, Earl R -WI Heil, Matt L-WI Heil, Russ -WI

Herron Jr., David R -WI Hildebrandt, Roger - WI

Hoesly, John E-WI

Hounsell, Tom Hunt, Garry E -MI

Hyrn, John

Irish, Rodger H-WI Iverson, David L -WI

Iverson, Donald G-WI Jachim, Charles G -WI

Janicek, Bob -WI Jelle, Fay Friske -WI

Johnson, Robert H-WI Johnson, Ruben -WI

Jones, Gayle E -WI Junglas, Matt & Annie

Kallas, Phil-WI Kath, Otis E-WI

Kidrick, Robert W - WI Kieffer, Jason A -AZ Klasinski, Leonard L -IL/WI

Knutson, Barbara A -IA Knutson, Kenneth -WI

Koltis, Adolph -WI Koltis, Ernest W Koltis, Gordon G

Koltis, Walter A Koltis, Wesley Walter Konecny, Joseph S -WI

Koth, Ron -WI

Kowalski, Jerome A Kratky, Vincent Kravick, David F-WI

Kreciak Sr., Michael A Kreciak, Anthony M Kruger, Edward -MI

Kruger, Randall -WI Kukuk, Jesse -WI LaQuee, Warren -WI

Lau, Herbert J-WI Lau, Stella M -WI

Lawrence, Thomas J-WI

Leach, Roger

Lick, Timothy A -WI Lilly, Kennith V-WI

Mannel, Joshua

Marcott, Wilfred Art -WI Marine, Mark

Marine, Michelle Martin, Derold J-WI

Martin, Duane A -WI Martin, Sep & Betty -WI Mathwick, Harvey -WI

Mathwick, Robert -WI Matthes, Roger W-WI Means, Dale W-MN

Mears, Andrew M -WI Mears, Andrew R -WI

Mears, Ronald R -WI Mertens, Bernard G Michels, Francis N -WI

Miller, James Francis -WI Miller, Myron M

Mincoff, John Adrian -WI Montgomery, Virginia -WI

Mooney Sr., Walter -WI Morien, William D -WI Moua, Choug Vang

Nagan, Mark A -WI Nelson, Bernard

Nelson, Rebecca A -KS

Nelson, Robert E-WI Nelson, Rowena -KS

Nelson, Roy James -WI

Nichols, Roger, Gary, Keith-WI Nikolai, Don P-WI

Noeldner, Jerry -WI Okonek, David -WI

Olson, Herbert E-WI Olson, Merlin E -WI

Oster, Tom -WI Panacek, Wendeline John -WI

Patrick, David M -WI Peissig, Dell F-WI Perman, Victor -MN

Pernsteiner, Henry A -WI Pha, Tony Chou

Pifher, James M -WI Pliska, Ray-WI

Ponshock, Clarence A -WI Prehning, Brian -WI

Prochaska, Francis & Mary -WI

Quake, Leonard Radloff, Wallace T - Wausau, WI

Raine, Jess & Jen-WI Ramsey, Archie R -WI Raymond, Roger D Reyzer, Joseph -WI

Rogers, John E-WI Rossow, Karen Karnes -SD Rothenburger, Robert -WI Schuette, Bob -WI Schuette, Mike -WI Schulte, Richard J-WI Schultz, Donald W -WI Schultz, Glenn -WI Schultz, Lloyd W -WI Schuster, Gordon -WI Seefeld, Dale A, Douglas D, Jeffery J, Bruce W-WI

Rhiner, Julian O -WI

Seidl, John, Fredric, Ronald, Dennis, Aloyce -WI

Siggelkow Jr., Charles -WI Siggelkow, Donald L-WI Siggelkow, John W-WV Siggelkow, Robert -MN

Simonson, Gary A -WI Skiff, V.A. -MN

Skiff, W.N. (Bud) -MN Skinvik, Loren Peter -WI

Skroch, Tony -WI Sladich, Edward I - WI

Smith, James R, Ed, Richard, James M Soppe, Leo F-WI

Stahmann, Harold E Stange, Allen -Eugene -WI Steffen, Adam Stelzer, Leroy J -WI

Stemper, Larry Stockheimer, James R -WI

Stott, James E Strandberg Darold -WI

Susa, Gerald L -WI Thomas, William P-WI Tischendorf, George P

Toeppe, Robert J-WI Transportation Det Ft McCoy -WI

Tullar, Robert J-WI Tullar, Robert M -WI Udvare, Michael S - WI

Van Ornum, Morgan D -WI Vanderwyst, Maurice H Vaness, Philip P -WI

VFW Post 9496 Menomonee Falls-WI VFW Riders Group Post 1865

Vogt, John J Jake

Thankyou ...

VVA Minocqua honors: Oster/Hounsell

Wagner, Ruth Walters, Gary W -WI Warnke, Jason M - WI

Wetzel, Emil -WI Wilcox, Roy -WI

Willger, James, Steven -WI Wiste, Orville T -WI

Wiste, Wayne V -WI

Witt, William Woodward, Paul K -WI

Xiong, Chia Koua -Laos

Xiong, Chong Soua -Laos Xiong, Nao Tou -WI Xiong, Xaiv Vam -Laos

Yang, Nue Chang -Laos Ziegler, Marcia -WI Zuleger, Marvin C -WI

Zwieg, Theresa -WI



Blessings to all of you!!



Quilters: You have worked hard and the array of quilts filled the Learning Center.
We asked and quilters came through!! Thank you!! Thank you!!
The Drawing was Dec 31, 2017 ending the year on a warm and cozy note.

Raffle winners present were able to pick their quilt!
Congratulations everyone and THANK YOU to all who entered.



The Gift Shop News



Help us tell The Highground Story with our new stretch bracelet for \$4.95



Irish Charm \$19.95



Something Special \$28.95



Je t'aime \$32.95



Soar \$20.95



Bloom \$20.95



Butterfly \$34.95





Wooden Laser Cut **Plaques**

\$39.95



Bistro Mugs: Black, Burgundy, Green \$14.95



\$29.95-35.95



The Gremlin Bell .

\$10.95



Men's 1/4 Zip Navy or Black



Women's 1/4 Zip Forest or Gray S-XL \$43.95 2-3XL \$49.95



Laser Cut 12" Cribbage Boards \$42.95



Tulip Mugs: Purple, Blue, Dark Green, Black, Green Apple \$9.95





Wish Lists — Donations Needed—Can you help?

URGENT Immediate Needs:

- -Light box for photography: \$150
- -Funds for re-usable signs for Event Sandwich Boards: \$200
- -Desktop computer/monitor: \$1000
- -iPod and Speakers for Gift Shop: Thanks
- -30' Flag Pole: Thanks
- -Funds for 5th Grade Days--Thanks —they enjoyed it!
- -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!

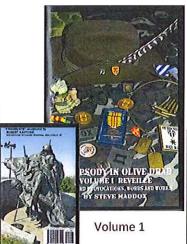
 (More visitors mean more needed)
- -Pathway Lights to Persian Gulf Tribute: 5 @ \$1000/each
- -The Highground Education Days: \$800
- -Endowment Fund Donors
- -Memorials: Honor your loved ones
- -Persian Gulf Tribute Jersey Barriers: 9 more @ \$4000/each
- -Highway road sign needs solar charger or digital sign: \$2600
- -PTSD Books: It is helping!!

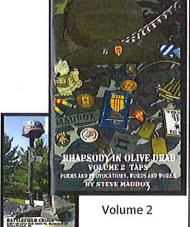
Learning Center wish list

- -Sony HDR-CX405/B Full HD 60p Camcorder w/tri-pod: \$260
- -6 Gallons interior paint: \$250
- -Painters tape, rollers, brushes, drop cloths: Thanks
- -1 or 2 more male mannequins for uniform displays: \$109 ea.
- -VCR/DVD combo player: Thanks
- -Lumber for new bookcases & TV area \$1200 Thanks
- -Stove/Oven for Learning Center: Thanks

Rhapsody in Olive Drab by Steve Maddox

Volume 1 "Reveille" and Volume 2 "Taps" contains over eighty pages of original works. Steve is a volunteer board member, published poet and supporter of the PTSD program at The Highground. All proceeds of these books will be donated to The Highground. The set of books is \$26 and Steve has offered to sign any copies upon request. Please send your donation indicating which volume (or both—recommended) you would like to receive or call the Gift Shop to place your order.





Our Newsletter printed by:



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			
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Please send me information about: Upcoming Events & Fundraising Calendar			
Name			
Address			
CityStateZip_			
Phone			
Questions or Comments:			
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Strictly Country Fundraiser

Strictly Country Magazine created "Fight For The Future Charities", (FFFC). Entertainers are asked to autograph Christmas ornaments and donate other items to raise funds for various charitable organizations.

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



Congratulations Gina for 25 Years of Strictly-Country!!

The Strictly-Country Magazine can be purchased in The Highground

Gift Shop and ornaments can be purchased through the Gift Shop website.



Highground ***

W7031 Ridge Rd. Neillsville, WI 54456

Thank you Dave for all your ongoing time, talents and financial support.



Of Neillsville, Colby and Medford



Your support of our sponsors is important so they can keep doing what they do!

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 read from a selection of names that will change in 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.

(WWII)

Joseph A Jack Edmond H Jeffers Allen H Johnson Robert H Johnson William A Johnson James A Kennedy Felix P Klimas Warren F Krueger Clifford J Landry John B Lee James E Leith George H Maiwald George Marunycz Paul N Miller Robert R McCabe Charles E McGeehan John P Nelson Chester E Nidefske John T O'Donahue Stephen F Ofiara Alvin E Ohlsson John J Osness Edward R Pero Kenneth M Peterson William J Peterson Lyman C Plyer Everett K Reed Homer H Reed Wallace P Ringham

Thomas B Robinson

Winfield N Robinson Edward D Rogers Harold E Russell Harry L Ryan Richard P Schlies Lyle P Schroeer Ernest C Schultz John E Sharp William E Skews George W Steinmetz

(Korea)
Walter Jung
Hilary W Justman
Joe Kaczmarczyk
Joseph C Kainz
Ernest Kaminski
David B Kampa
Daniel F Kamps
Gordon W Kanter
Clyde W Kappus
Jerome Karpowicz
Ross w Katzman
Arthur R

Kazmierczak John F Kelleher Gerald J Keller Gilbert A Kemnitz Vernon L Kesler Rufus L Ketchum Edward Kiedrowski James E King
Daniel W Kirkland
David R Kittleson
Charles R Klatt
Melvin R Klein
Laverne R Klevgard
Charles J Kling
John Klunk
Forrest N Knich
Francis D Knobel
Harry A Knoke
Roy E Knopp
Jerome W Knorr

(Vietnam)
James A Stoeberl
Ronald L Grenier
Richard R Cerra
Thomas H Zehner
Larry I Sutton
Charles J Janke
William G McCann
Lawrence J Butler
Charles F Hughes
Robert A Pulaski
Barrent O Torgerson
Larry R Lalan
Jeremy R
Woitkiewicz

Gary A Isaacson

Kent L Johnstone

Dale R Karpenske Gene S Swager Timm C Peterson David G Dobosz Bradley A Pearson Richard C Ferdig Daniel M Java Dean M Beranek Paul D Abbott Gerald L Kuhnly Greg M Goslin Dennis N Peterson Richard C Simon Vernon L Nelson Richard C Fina Gary J Halverson James L Hamlet Thomas E Severson Robert A Singerhouse Dennis J Kromrey Bruce B Hartman Bruce H Rawling John T Chapman Thomas J Murphy Robert L Cloutier Jon E Reed James A Schachtner Edward H Rixmann William B Libersky Frederick W Bungartz

Erling A Anderson Gordon H Blexrude Ronald R Blohm James R Devney (Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan-Present Day) Benjamin C Edinger Ryan J Cantafio Brent T Vroman Richard D Warner Todd D Olson Travis M Wichlacz Donald W Eacho Joshua M Schmitz Andrew L Bossert Mark A Maida Joshua M Scott Kyle M Hemauer Eric J Poelman John J Mattek Jr Charles A Kaufman John O Tollefson Ben D Jansky Chad J Simon Trevor J Diesing

Ryan J Nass

Bernard P Meinen Jr

Wilbur A Skaar

Jerry C Gillett

Michael J Wendling Andrew P Wallace Matthew R Kading Benjamin A Smith Anthony "Alex" Gaunky Andy A Stevens Adam J VanAlstine Nicholas R Anderson Eric A Palmisano Nathan J Vacho Eric D Clark Grant A Dampier Jamie Jaenke Patrick L Lybert Stephen Castner Ryan D Jopek Adam P Servais Shaun A Novak Kenneth M Cross Merideth Howard Luke J Zimmerman Rhett W Schiller Jesse D Tillery Kevin M Kryst Evan A Bixler Matthew T Grimm Andrew G Matus

LET THEM <u>NOT</u> Go In Silence

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