



Because of the Brave

Honor Ride fights the rainy conditions off to Honor the Fallen on Memorial Day.



The 2019 Highground Memorial Day Honor Ride took place in, by far, the worst weather in the history of the Honor Ride, which began in 2010. Despite this, there was a fantastic turnout of more than 70 bikers that rode all day in the continuous rainstorms, supporting The Highground.

This year's Honor Ride raised over \$7,000 and all proceeds go directly to supporting veterans programs at The Highground. These funds were raised through generous sponsors – listed separately in this newsletter; rider

registrations; rider donations; the Honor Ride Raffle and 50/50. Several riders procured donations from businesses and individuals.

The Honor Ride routes all joined together at the Neillsville American Legion before heading out to The Highground for a Ride lunch donated and served by Brew Pub Pizza, Thrivent Financial and Highground volunteers. Most of the riders stayed at The Highground for the 3pm Memorial Day ceremony.

The Honor Ride takes a full year of preparation and many volunteers help with each

route. The 2019 routes were planned and led by these volunteers: Neillsville -Mark Dawson; Tomah -Bill Flemal; Medford –Dean Hommel; Eau Claire – Wade Hartung; King/ Waupaca and Appleton –Russ Wohlrahe and Ron Comer; Reedsburg –Del Scanlon.

Several police and sheriff's departments provided safety at intersections and through many towns along the routes for the large number of motorcycles. Among these departments were the Clark County Sheriff's Department, Neillsville Police Dept., Black River Falls Police Dept., Jackson County Sheriff's Department, West Salem Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Tomah Police Department, Medford Police Dept., Taylor County Sheriff's Dept., Wisconsin Rapids Police Dept., Plover Police Dept., and the Wood County Sheriff's Dept. Helping with registration areas and stops along the way were BP/Drescher

Thank you donors for a gift to remember lost loved ones or to honor those still among us.



In Memory Of:

Max Allen
Edward Anibas
Dean Beranek
Harold Bizer
Ralph Bockin
Ed Christianson
Bill DeBock
James Fischer
Roger Goldsmith

Alice Harmeyer
Tomas Hoffman
Donald Koch
Fritz Koehler
Ray Kukanich
Mike Murphy
John Schmidt
Les Stump
Don Zarling

In Honor of:

Robert Brandt's Birthday
Mike Moran &
Kathy Cronkrite's Wedding
Gladys & CL O'Kelly's
Anniversary
Mr & Mrs Schanz's 50th
Wedding anniversary



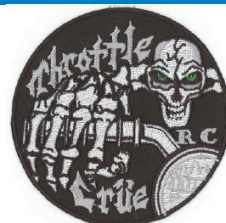
Oil and Subway in Neillsville; Kwik Trips in Tomah and Wisconsin Rapids; Appleton Harley-Davidson; Chain O' Lakes Bar & Grill in King; the 400 Club in Altoona; Hardee's in Medford; the Reedsburg VFW; Melrose Express; and the Mobil Station in Taylor.

The Highground sends out a whole-hearted "Thank You!" to all involved with the 2019 Honor Ride and appreciates all the riders that participated, especially given the uncomfortable and challenging wet conditions! As rider, Dave Loudon, stated when interviewed about the event by the WEAU news television crew, "Our brothers and sisters didn't get a break from the rain and we are here to honor them. We just jumped on the bikes, just pushed through and arrived here safely."

The 10th Annual Memorial Day Honor Ride Motorcycle Rally will be held on Monday, May 25, 2020. If you are interested in joining the Honor Ride as an individual rider, a group, or if you would like to plan an additional route of the Honor Ride please contact The Highground. Keep up to date with the latest Memorial Day Honor Ride news at www.thehighgroundhonorride.com

HONOR RIDE SPONSORS

Thank you to all who supported us this year!



American Legion Post #73
Neillsville, WI



SCHEELS



Hansen's IGA

Mobil Travel Plaza - 3 Squares Restaurant
Marc-On Shooting
DAV #53 Waupaca County (Manawa)
Bar BK Leatherworks
Murphy's Skunk Hill Bar - Freedom
Spiegelberg Concrete & Implement -
Weyauwega
Appleton Harley Davidson
United Country Real Estate Lori Verhalen
Hardee's of Neillsville, Colby, & Medford
The Chain O' Lakes Bar & Grill King/
Waupaca
JBC Screenprinting

Hartails Saloon & Catering - Hortonville
Wishing Well Bar & Grill
Battlefield Paintball
Stanley Correctional SCOPES
Clinicare E.C. Academy
River Rail Bar & Grill - Shiocton
American Legion Waupaca County Council
Sport Motors Harley Davidson
Sniteman Pharmacy Inc
Waupaca Mobil Auto - Truck Repair and
Recovery
American Legion #226 Manawa
Chasin' Perfection - Weyauwega



Register for Memoriums, or Sign up for Sponsorships now for next years ride at thehighgroundhonorride.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS UPDATES

Independence Day 4th of July Ceremony

We will be holding a ceremony on The Highground Plaza at 10 am on July 4th. Ceremony will include speakers, music, and area color guard. Make The Highground a special part of your Independence Day activities!

3rd Annual Summer Men's Retreat July 12-14

We are still taking reservations for the 3rd Annual Summer Men's retreat for July. Plenty of activities are planned for this retreat. This is a great opportunity to build camaraderie with some fellow veterans and friends.

Ride to Remember™ August 17

Don't miss out on our 19th Annual Ride to Remember™ motorcycle rally, Saturday, August 17th 2019. With a concert with the Blasterz after at The American Legion in Neillsville! If you would like to volunteer to help support this group please contact Theresa for more information.

GOLD STAR RECEPTION

Prior to the Gold Star Re-Dedication on Aug 24th at 4:30 pm we will be holding a reception for Gold Star, Silver Star, and Blue Star families to come and participate in the Grand Opening of the Gold Star & Remember Our Fallen Exhibit at the Museum.

GOLD STAR RE-DEDICATION

Save the date for our Gold Star Re-Dedication Ceremony on Aug 24th at 6:30 pm as we light the new gold star for the first time! We would like to invite all to join us and honor the lives of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. For more info please contact Theresa at events@thehighground.us

1st Annual Summer Women's Retreat Sept 6-7

We are still taking reservations for the 1st Annual Summer Women's retreat for Sept 6-7. Plenty of activities are planned for this retreat. This is a great opportunity to build camaraderie with some fellow veterans and friends. Sponsors are still being accepted and are asked to contact Theresa at 715-743-4224 or events@thehighground.us

Fall Men's Retreat Weekend Sept 13-15

We are still taking reservations for the Men's Retreat Weekend. Plenty of activities are planned for this retreat. This is a great opportunity to build camaraderie with some fellow veterans and friends.

FALL CLEAN UP DAYS Oct 9-12

As you can tell there is a lot happening at The Highground, and that means we are going to have to clean the park back up prior to the winter, can you come out and join us to help? Contact Julie at learningcenter@thehighground.us for more information

For information on events and how you can volunteer or participate please contact Theresa at 715-743-4224 or by email at events@thehighground.us

2019 Calendar of Events

Saturday June 29 Concert and Fireworks @ Dusk
Thursday July 4 Independence Day Celebration 10am
Fri-Sun July 12-14 3rd Annual Summer Men's Veterans Weekend
July 20-Aug 4 2019 Heroes Ride
Saturday July 20 Persian Gulf Stone, Legacy Stone Placements, Desert Storm to Present Reunion Education Afternoon.
Saturday August 3 Legacy Stone Placement
Fri-Sun August 2-4 35th Annual Bicycle Tour/Celebration picnic
Saturday Aug 17 19th Annual Ride to Remember™
Saturday Aug 24 Re-Dedication of the Gold Star & Dedication of Benches
Saturday Sept 6-7 Women's Veterans Retreat
Fri-Sun Sept 13-15 Fall Men's Weekend Retreat
Saturday September 21 Korea Stones, Legacy Stone Placement, Korean War Reunion/Education
Tues-Friday October 1-4 Highground Education Days
Saturday October 5 Legacy Stone Placements
Wed-Sat October 9-12 Fall Clean Up Days
Saturday November 9th The Highground Gala @ the Silverdome in Neillsville. 2019 Honoring Our Veterans Raffle Drawing Following Ceremony
Monday November 11 Veterans Day Celebration,
Saturday December 21 Annual Quilt Raffle Drawing

Museum and Learning Center Exhibits

June 2 - July 31 Multiply by Six Million
Aug 2 - Sept 30 Gold Star & ROF Exhibit
October 2 - November 1 Our Midwest and the Civil War
November 2 - January 30 The Forgotten War Korea
December 1-30 Honor Tree and Quilt Display/Raffle

2020 Calendar of Events

Jan 26 - Winter Bowl Fundraiser @Marshfield Lanes
Monday May 25 Honor Ride Motorcycle Ride, Memorial Day Ceremony
Saturday August 15 Veterans Freedom Fest @ Clark County Fairgrounds
Wednesday November 11 Veterans Day Celebration, 2019 Honoring Our Veterans Raffle Drawing Following Ceremony

ADD IT TO YOUR CALENDAR!

The Highground Gala Benefit Nov 9!

The Highground will be hosting a Gala Benefit at the Silver Dome on November 9th, 2019 (5 months to fit into the dress uniform!). We will include music and a meal with more details to come in the next few months!

FREEDOM CELEBRATION DAY!

June 29th, The Highground will be Rocking



It's almost time! An evening filled with fireworks, music, and more! The Highground will be hosting its annual Freedom Celebration Day on June 29th, 2019. Performing on stage will be Red Higgins and the Freedom Train at 5pm with Boogie and the Yo-Yoz at

7pm. The famous Kokosz Family Raffle will also be there! In addition to hosting a family-friendly event, The Highground is also kicking off its expanded donation collection program for homeless veterans and veterans in need. The public is encouraged to bring donations of new packaged socks, underwear, small personal toiletries and disposable hand warmers. Trunkel's Trailers was instrumental in getting a new enclosed trailer for permanent year-round use for the Veteran's Needs

The Kokosz Family will be providing their famous family chili and walking tacos along with 13 tables of Raffle Baskets! Also don't miss out on our Living WWII History Display!

2019 SPRING WORK WEEK

Volunteers worked through weathered conditions to make park pristine once again!

The 2019 Spring Work week went well despite the rainy weather. Volunteers came out in mass for their annual trek to the park for a Spring cleaning of the grounds and to help out with some items that needed to be completed as we prepared for the upcoming summer schedule. Volunteers from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and even Iowa came to do their part to bring the park back to life.

Flowers were planted, brush and trees trimmed, buildings cleaned, construction on our new administrative offices, and more as volunteers transcended on the park. "We're lucky to have such amazing volunteers who do so much for this park," said Julie Dallman, Learning Center Coordinator. "Each year we are blown away by the generosity of so many people

that come out and do so much around the grounds to help make the park everything that it is, we could not do it all without their help."

We also cannot thank our sponsors enough who



Collection program at The Highground. The goal for Saturday, June 29th is to fill the trailer for the first distribution of 2019!



Food will be provided by Hardee's starting at 5pm. Hardee's will be sponsoring the fireworks paid for by their fabulous Share Nights!



helped out with supplies and food. Without all of the communities support we would not have been able to complete such an amazing week for the park. BP/Drescher Oil, Hansen's IGA, Hardee's, Subway, VVA #331, Donna's Cozy Kitchen, Schmitt's on Main, Pizza Hut, Apple Valley Bar & Restaurant, Ag Country Farm Credit Services, and Sav-Rite Building Center, thank you so much for all of your support! We also want to send a special shout out to Cummins for their amazing volunteer crew who came out and helped start the process of the rebuilding of the Gold Star, and moving of the administrative offices from the Timberframe to the new Admin Building!

We are already gearing up and preparing for the Fall Clean Up Days happening October 9-12th. If you would like to volunteer please contact Julie at learningcenter@thehighground.us

2019 VOLUNTEER PICNIC

Noon, Saturday June 22nd at Wisconsin Adventure on Wheels

Highground Volunteers will be gathering together at Wisconsin Adventure on Wheels for the 2019 Highground Volunteer Picnic on Saturday, June 22nd. The picnic starts at Noon. There is no need to bring a dish to pass, but desserts are always welcome! Bring a spouse or a friend to enjoy the Camp and get to know other volunteers.

Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels is located at N9839 Sterling Ave, Willard WI 54493. This is about 15 minutes north of The Highground Veterans Memorial Park. All

Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels and The Highground volunteers are invited - we look forward to meeting those who take such great care of the Camp and conduct the Veteran's Hunts each year!

The Highground Volunteer picnic will again have a Crazy Auction - please bring one new or handmade item or baked good to be auctioned off. We will also be collecting non-perishable items for the Clark County Dept of Aging.

The meal and Crazy Auction will be held in the Camp

meeting room, but please dress for exploring the outdoor areas of the Camp! WAW is nestled within 300+ acres of wilderness, so that means there just might be a few mosquitoes...bring bug spray.

There is limited outdoor seating, so please bring a lawn chair for yourself.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Theresa at The Highground 715-743-4224 or events@thehighground.us

35th Annual Bike Tour

Register or Become a Sponsor Today!

The Highground Bike Tour, in its 35th year, is the largest, single, annual fundraiser for The Highground. The Bike Tour takes year round planning by the dedicated route leaders. The leaders and bike riders raise a great sum of money by gathering pledges and donations. Annually, the Bike Tour brings in over \$40,000 for The Highground.

As can be seen on the map on the Bike Tour poster, this event encompasses much of Wisconsin, with each route traveling an independent route. Most routes will start on Friday, August 2nd, and the journey ends on Sunday, August 4th, when all routes will convene at The Highground.

The Highground thanks all the riders that have returned yearly to take part in this amazing event and looks forward to seeing new riders join! Please contact the route leader for the route you would like to join this year ASAP to make their planning easier. If you are considering starting a new route, please contact The Highground.

Besides the fun and camaraderie of a multi-day bicycle event, each registered rider and SAG personnel will receive a "Welcome Home" lunch at The Highground and a 35th Annual Highground Bike Tour t-shirt. To commemorate the 35th year, there are also special "Highground Bike Tour" bicycle jerseys available for individuals to purchase on their own through Hidden Bay Sports. That online address is hiddenbaysports.com; click on "Team Sports" and go to "Highground". **The staff at Hidden Bay reminds everyone to carefully select your size using their sizing chart.**

This year, the Bike Tour will be joined by the Heroes Ride, a 1700 mile ride being bicycled by Tom Kingsbury (longtime rider of The Highground Bike Tour). The very special "Journey's End" ceremony will be held at The Highground at approximately Noon on Sunday, August 4th. We ask ALL Highground supporters to greet the routes of the Bike Tour as they arrive at The Highground. These riders have

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park

35th Annual Bike Tour!

Riding for Veterans

Aug 2-4 2019

Route Leader Contacts

Northern Route -170 Miles
Mike & Kathy-715-937-6786
mike.gleisner@hotmail.com

Western Route -178 Miles
Rob-715-222-6482
robthyme@gmail.com
Jerry 715-246-5370
stewartson@frontiernet.net

Eastern Route -178 Miles
Curt-920-539-5148
harekenneth3184@gmail.com

Southern Route -184 Miles
Kathy-608-669-5129
kathyh116@gmail.com
Mary 715-797-5110
mbear12@gmail.com

Southwestern Route -80 Miles
Tami-608-350-6185
oliviahope03@gmail.com

For Info Contact: The Highground Veterans Memorial Park
www.thehighground.us | events@thehighground.us | 715-743-4224
W7031 Ridge Rd. Neillsville, WI 54456

dedicated themselves year-round to the success of this event and the continued mission of The Highground. Let's make the 2019 35th Annual Highground Bike Tour "Welcome Home" the best ever with the longest welcoming flag line!

There is still time to become a sponsor of this important fundraising event. Contact Theresa at The Highground for information by phone at 715-743-4224 or via email at events@thehighground.us

2019 HELICOPTER, MILITARY, & TRIBUTE VEHICLE EXPO



The Helicopter & Military Vehicle Expo was held on Saturday, May 18th. Highground visitors were able to get some great, close-up experiences with a static display of a UH-1H Huey helicopter arranged by Jim Ottman and VVA#331 and military Jeeps owned by Don Anibas of Durand. Hardee's took part in the Expo, selling delicious food to guests. A Bake Sale was also held, which made over \$750. Both the Hardee's donation and the Bake Sale funds will go to support fuel costs for a Huey helicopter to land for veterans programs later in 2019. The Highground sends a big "Thank you!" to everyone that supplied baked goods,

including a phenomenal amount of baked goods from the Pittsville American Legion Palmer-Ritchie-Thomas #153 Auxiliary.

Tom Kingsbury brought his Quest bike and had a display for this summer's Heroes Ride. The Vet Center was also at The Highground with plenty of information on different programs and services that are available for veterans.

A very special part of the Expo were two Memorial / Tribute Vehicles that were on display from Service 1 and Karl's Transport. The Service 1 semi tractor was dedicated to all those who serve in the U.S.

military. Karl's Transport brought their semi tractor trailer that is dedicated to the memory of Ryan Jopek, KIA in Iraq. These vehicles remind us all of part of the reason of the mission of The Highground – to recognize those that have served and to remember the sacrifices of those who never returned from their service.

The day, unfortunately, had several strong rainstorms and the UH-1H scheduled to land at The Highground was unable to come.

The Highground appreciates and thanks all who visited during the Expo and all the volunteers that made it a great day!



Honor

Honor the Legacy, Sacrifice, and the Memory of so many men and women who have served this nation to secure our freedom and have fought off tyranny from all oppressors.

Educate

Educate the general public, civilians, community leaders, and others on the history of those that we honor, never forgetting their stories, as well as our own.

Heal

Help in the healing process for veterans, families, and friends who understand the sacrifice.

United In Service Stones Going Fast

United In Service (UIS) Honor Stones

The Wisconsin state map area for veteran organizations is off to a great start. Will your organization be represented in this high-profile area? Please contact Kay at donations@thehighground.us for specific details about this program. Placement ceremonies will be scheduled as determined with the

organization.

Looking for all VVAs, VFWs, American Legions, DAVs, and all other military based organizations. We hope you will support each other in getting all Wisconsin organizations represented in this special area.



Newsletter Subscription

We are updating our records and we need your help! The Newsletter is a huge undertaking to put together, and we want to make sure people keep receiving it and other updates as they happen! Please go to our website and look for the "I support The Highground" box located on the home page and update your information by filling out the form. We can send you our printed newsletter, a digital copy or whichever you prefer, we just need to know! Plus, if you provide us your information, we will get you our email newsletter giving you up to date changes as they happen! Or make sure you don't miss an issue by tearing off the friends of the highground form on page 13, and send it back in with your donation!



Heroes Ride The Coin, Donations and Sponsors Available but hurry!

As we get closer to Heroes Ride, we are getting excited to announce that Heroes Ride will be the next coin minted in honor of the over 1700 mile trek that Tom Kingsbury is so graciously doing to honor the more than 1700 lives lost from Wisconsin since Vietnam, and bring awareness of the issue of Veterans Suicide and the 21 veterans each day who suffer from this tragic consequence.

Another way to help support this ride and its campaign to bring awareness to the topic of Veterans Suicide to communities throughout the state, is by going to our website and selecting The Heroes Ride logo and donating, or signing up to be a sponsor. If you are interested in joining one of the 21 mile rides, you can sign up there as well to participate.

Heroes Ride Coming ready to go!



With Heroes Ride less than two months away, starting on July 20th and ending on August 4th, we are excited to be completing the details with all our community partners around the state! As you know, we are traveling over 1700 miles in over 20 locations throughout the state. With that comes some challenges and we have to make sure that we take some time to thank everyone for their contributions to this point.

We are excited that we will be stopping at locations such as The Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, The National Eagle Center in Wabasha, The Union Grove Veterans Cemetery, Concerts on the Square

in Madison, The Richland Center 100th American Legion Anniversary Celebration, The National Lumberjack Championships and The King Veterans home to name a few. The organizations that we are partnering with have graciously given so much to support our mission. There are so many more details coming in the next few weeks, and we want to make sure that you are up to date with everything that we are doing. Please make sure that you visit the website that we have recently put together www.thehighgroundheroesride.com and check to see all of the locations and supporters of this great mission.

In the next newsletter, you will see a vast amount of information about our ride, the five 21 mile rides to bring awareness to the epidemic of Veterans Suicide, and the community outreach that we provided to so many during this journey. Until then, we still need your help to support this ride to make sure that we have everything completely funded. This trip will be taking six people along on this trip to provide the needed support and bring the media awareness to this ride. If at all possible, go to the website and become a sponsor or donate. We have provided a small token of appreciation for each. Please wish us the success of remembering and honoring the over 1700 lives lost since Vietnam from Wisconsin, and bring awareness of the tragedy of Veterans Suicide to one of our many locations throughout the state by joining us; looking to see you on the road!

"Fragments" Coin

"Fragments" coins have been mailed out on the week of 6-10-2019. If you haven't received your coin yet, please contact Kay at 715-743-4224 or at donations@thehighground.us



Highground 19th Annual Ride to Remember™

Annual Motorcycle Ride Honoring POW's MIAs/KIAs w/Special Recognition to those from the U.S. Navy

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE HIGROUND!

FOR ITS MISSION TO HONOR, EDUCATE, AND HEAL FOR VETERANS, FAMILIES, AND ALL WHO VISIT

**SATURDAY AUG 17, 2019
REGISTRATION \$25**

includes rides, patch or rocker, lunch, free ticket to concert!

American Legion #73 6 Boon Blvd. Neillsville

8:30am-11am Breakfast Available for purchase at the Legion

10am Registration @ Legion

11am Guided Rides begin @ Legion

3pm Procession into The Highground

Group Photo, Rally Ceremony @ The Highground

8PM THE BLASTERZ!

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \$5 COVER @ THE LEGION)

**Guided Rides, Big Buffet Meal,
Vendors, Raffles, 50/50!**

www.thehighgroundridetoremember.com
715-743-4224 - events@thehighground.us

19th Annual Ride to Remember Still Accepting Sponsors, Get Signed up today!

Things are looking great for our 19th Annual Ride to Remember™! We are changing some things up, by adding a band at the Legion after the ride! The Blasterz will be joining us after the ride at The Neillsville American Legion. Even if you do not join the ride, you can still show your support by joining us at the after party!

A group from Appleton / Waupaca will be organizing a ride that will come to Neillsville for the Ride to Remember. For more information on this, please contact Russ at

715-281-9653 or redwolfusa17@yahoo.com

If you are interested in sponsoring either the ride or our after party event afterwards, there are still opportunities for you to get involved. Please call Theresa at 715-743-4224 or email her at events@thehighground.us



**Gold Star Tribute
Re-Dedication
August 24th
Reception at 4:30pm
Dedication at 6:30pm**

Legacy Stones for This Year almost full! Get your stones ordered now before it's too late!

The stone ceremonies for the 2019 season are almost full with limited spots available for the October Legacy Stone Ceremony.

We are already taking stone applications for next year for all ceremonies. But we should let you know that these stones are moving fast. Please go to our website at www.thehighground.us and get your application filled out and sent in. We are starting to run out of room on some of these locations in the park, so if you were waiting, hurry before it's potentially too late. For future dates and times please contact Kay at donations@thehighground.us

THE HIGHGROUND VETERANS RETREATS

Summer/ Fall 2019. A Gathering of Veterans: An Abundance of Activities, Food, Fun, & Camaraderie with 3 dates for sign up!

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

The Highground is working with long-standing successful local programs including: The Vet Center; The Heartbeat Center; All Seasons Sports & Archery, LLC; The CART Center; Warrior Songs; Henry Smith Woodcarving and Franciscan Retreat leader Fr. Conrad Targonski

(22 yrs service with US Navy and US Marine Corp., including 7th Marine Regiment as supervisory chaplain in Operation Phantom Fury, Fallujah, Iraq 2004-2005.; currently chaplain at Viterbo University)

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

In addition to activities and great food, there will

be time for veterans to relax at The Highground and at Wisconsin Adventure on Wheels 15 minutes North of The Highground.

Veterans from any era and branch of service are welcome. Space is limited and veterans must call The Highground to register. A \$30 reservation fee, refunded in full upon arrival at the Camp, is required. There are separate retreats for Male veterans and Female veterans. The September Male and Female Weekend Retreats will feature the same itineraries, but are held on separate weekends.

MAGGIE MAE, HEARTLAND COUNTRY BAND AND LEROY PETERSON RAISE OVER \$11,500!



Maggie Mae & The Heartland Country Band were joined by Leroy "Elvis" Peterson and played to a sold out auditorium in Pittsville, WI on Saturday, April 13th. The concert, sponsored by WWIS radio, was a benefit event to raise funds for The Highground Veterans Memorial Park. Over \$11,500, after expenses, was raised by the concert through ticket purchases, donations and the sale of raffle tickets.

The concert, at the beautiful Pittsville Area Foundation for the Arts auditorium at the Pittsville High School, was a wonderful mix of toe-tapping high energy country music, well-loved gospel songs and a great deal of pure fun! Maggie Mae honored military veterans during several moments and with many songs during the show. Leroy Peterson put on a great show with a contagious enthusiasm and

spot-on renditions of songs by Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Tennessee Ernie Ford and classic country artists. Leroy is developing a large following for his performances and is a joy to watch and hear!

After intermission, Jon Weiler, Highground Executive Director, presented Maggie Mae & Roger Hilliard with a "Friends of The Highground" plaque along with gifts for her and the band (Leroy received

his earlier in the show!) for their generous support of The Highground during the past several years. Jon let the audience know of a very special event that will be happening in 2019; the Heroes Ride – a 1700 mile bicycle ride by Tom Kingsbury across Wisconsin spreading awareness and information on the struggle against PTSD and Veteran Suicide. The Highground staff announced the winners of the framed art door prize (Shirley Jacobson of Wisconsin Rapids, WI) and the winner of the Eagle Statue raffle was Shelly Sebold of Marshfield.

The Highground will use the funds raised by the concert to continue and expand its PTSD book availability and other Veterans programs. More information on the many exciting events happening at the Highground can be found at www.thehighground.us



MULTIPLY BY SIX MILLION

June 2- July 31st



"Multiply by Six Million" is on loan to us from Exhibit Envoy and is on display at the Learning Center daily June 2 – July 31, 2019. The Opening Reception was held on June 7th from 4-6pm.

This exhibition is a visually arresting and powerful first-person history of one of the defining events of the 20th century: the Holocaust.

Photographer, Evvy Eisen's fifteen year-long project working with this unique group is moving and educational, bringing to light what these Holocaust Survivors endured and the struggles they have overcome. Each piece is a dramatic black-and-white portrait and compelling narrative of the survivors' own description of his/her experiences before during and after World War II.

By featuring individual survivor portraits and stories, "Multiply By Six Million" offers

viewers a personal perspective on the Holocaust. Survivors tell their stories in hopes that the seeds of today's intolerance and bigotry are recognized in time to prevent tomorrow's genocides.

The exhibition describes the horrors that the survivors experienced in Europe during the Holocaust and how they then came to the United States to create meaningful lives and contribute to society in their adopted country.

Survivor Frank Roubicek shares, "The horror years of the wartime taught me how to appreciate the basic values of life and to fully appreciate the good things it has to offer."

"Multiply by Six Million" includes 37 stunning black and white photographs and is accompanied by an emotional 24-minute DVD and an album of additional survivor portraits. The Interpretive text allows visitors to understand historical events in Europe, leading up to the Holocaust and contemplate current concerns about intolerance and genocide.



Exhibit Series being put together to honor service for Korea, Vietnam, and Global War on Terrorism

June Abrahamson, the Exhibits Coordinator, for The Highground is currently in the process of putting together three exhibits over the next couple of years, with the first to be displayed in November of this year. The series will feature on military service from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Each series will be made up of 12-16 banners with personal stories from those who served in these locations.

The exhibits will be put together utilizing grant funding and donations with the initial launch of each display located at The Highground Museum. Once the display has been shown at The Highground it will go into circulation for loan to other museums around the country.

"We have a unique opportunity to really show some very personal information about the stories of those who served in these conflicts," said June Abrahamson, Museum Coordinator, who is working to develop the series. "Over the years we have had some remarkable relationships that provided us the resources to do this, and really, there isn't anything like this out there. While there are exhibits out there that focus on the wars themselves, most do not focus on the personal stories of those who served, and none of them are part of a series that shows the entire time span like we are doing. It provides us a unique opportunity."

Those interested in donating information to June to help this project are encouraged to do so by contacting her at exhibits@thehighground.us or by phone at 715-773-1162

MUSEUM COMMITTEE BEING ASSEMBLED

Have an interest in History? We are looking for volunteers to help us take the museum to the next level. Some of the projects that the committee will be looking at are Museum Tourism; starting the process to becoming a member of the American Alliance of Museums; exhibits planning; marketing and more! Contact Julie to get involved today at learningcenter@thehighground.us or at 715-743-4224

A FACE FOR EVERY NAME - REMEMBER OUR FALLEN

Remembering & Honoring those that paid the ultimate sacrifice

Please come help us remember and honor those that gave the Ultimate Sacrifice, so we can continue to enjoy the blessing of Freedom.

The Highground Learning Center/Museum will have on display from August 2nd – September 30; A Face for Every Name, Remembering Our Fallen, along with history on Gold Star Mothers/Families, and the history/explanation of the Blue Star, Silver Star & Gold Star flags. While visiting the exhibit, please take time to look at their faces, speak their names and leave a note or token for your loved one, friend, neighbor or for any one of them in general, to let them and their families know we will never let them be forgotten.

A reception will be held on August 24, 2019 from 4:30-6:30 pm in conjunction with the Re-dedication of the Gold Star Tribute. The Re-dedication will begin at 6:30pm at the Tribute.



GOLD STAR, BLUE STAR, SILVER STAR

The banners that signify the service and sacrifice



The gold star denoting a family member who died in combat dates back to World War I. The phrase "Gold Star family" wasn't as widely known as it was during World War II. In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson approved a recommendation by the Women's Committee of National Defenses to wear a black armband

with a gold star — an update on traditional signs of mourning. It's believed Wilson coined the term "Gold Star Mother."

Over time, two types of service flags were created. One banner had a white background, red border and blue star. The other had a white background, blue border and gold star.

In 1928, 25 mothers met in Washington, D.C., to establish a national organization called American Gold Star Mothers Inc. That organization exists to this day.

In 1947, Congress authorized the military to issue gold star lapel pins to families of those who had been killed in combat. In 1973, Congress approved another for families of service members who died while on active duty but not in combat.

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. Queisser's



two sons served on the front line. His banner quickly became the unofficial symbol for parents with a child in active military service.

During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications on manufacture of the flag, as well as guidelines indicating when the service flag could be flown and by whom. Restrictions were also passed on who can

wear the service lapel. The Department of Defense authorized the service flag and service lapel on Dec. 1, 1967, with DoD Directive 1348.1, which implemented an act of Congress (U.S. Code 179-182). The Blue Star Service Banner is an 8.5-by-14-inch white field with one or more blue stars sewn onto a red banner. The size varies but should be in proportion to the U.S. flag. Today, families display these banners when they have a loved one serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The blue star represents one family member serving, and a banner can have up to five stars. If the individual is killed or dies, a smaller golden star is placed over it. Gold stars are placed above the blue stars or to the top right of the flag, in the event a flag represents multiple servicemembers.

Blue Star Service Banners were widely used during both world wars, but were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with the same enthusiasm. The American Legion rekindled that



spirit of pride in our military men and women following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by providing banners to military families across the nation.

On March 24, 2010, Resolution 534 proposed May 1, 2010, as the start of annual Silver Star Service

Banner Day.

Congress passed H.R.855 making Silver Star Service Banner Day on May 1st an Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured veterans. The Silver Star Families of America is an organization formed to remember, honor and assist the wounded and ill veterans and active duty Armed Forces and to address issues relevant to the problems facing veterans and active duty.

The Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent those members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States.

Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the American people remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Silver Star Flags for that purpose.

- From the goldstarmoms.com/our-history.html

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CW KING Chairman of the Board

It is springtime at The Highground and the beginning of what will be a busy and productive year.

This year will see many changes and much work that will ensure that The Highground will live forever. What started as a dream of one man to Honor his fallen friend has turned into more than anyone could have imagined.

The mission of The Highground is to Honor, Heal, and Educate. And with the addition of the Wisconsin Adventure on Wheels, we now are faced with the challenge of providing this mission to a much greater number of Veterans and others.

It will require a lot of planning, and a whole lot of money and hard work on the part of the Board of Directors, the staff, donors, and volunteers. I will at some point be asking for help from all of you reading this message, and I know, as in the past, you will be willing to give of your time and your talents. It is that spirit that has made The Highground what it is today, and I am counting on your continued help to make this dream come true. Together we will make this happen. - CW



The Highground Comes to Life with Highground Education Days October 1-4 9am-2:30pm



As 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 discovering the history and unexpected stories about The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, the Tributes, and Veterans' Military service.

In addition, there will be Fun & Educational exhibits and presentations along the tour including the cultures

involved in WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq & Afghanistan; History of the U.S. Flag & Liberty Bell; stories from Military Working Dog Handlers and more! There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony that will be held each day after the lunch break.

To Book your student's day call or email Theresa at 715-743-4224 or events@thehighground.us. Donation is only \$3.00 per person. Students should bring their own sack lunch and use our picnic areas.



For More Information Contact

W7031 Ridge Rd P.O. Box 457
Neillsville, WI 54456
Phone: 715-743-4224
info@thehighground.us

Find us somewhere on Social Media!



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JON WEILER

Executive Director

One of the important aspects of the Mission of The Highground is education. We need to educate everyone on the service and sacrifice of all those who have served. Memorial Day provides us with the perfect opportunity to educate on the real reason for this day of remembrance.

Please allow me the opportunity to share a story about how I received my education as to what Memorial Day is truly about.

To many of our American brothers and sisters, Memorial Day is just another federal holiday, another day off. During much of my time in the Army, I must confess that I looked at this holiday in much the same manner. To me this usually meant a four-day weekend, an opportunity to get in a round of golf or free day to hang out with my co-workers, family and friends enjoying the beginning of another great summer. I had many deployments where I had seen my fair share of the death and destruction caused by war, but this holiday never really spoke to me until one day a co-worker decided to spend Memorial Day with a WW2 Veteran because he did not have any family members to share the day with. He asked me if I would join him? My first reaction was no, then I had decided to join him because I could learn something about WW2 history.

That Memorial Day I got so much more than a simple little history lesson. During the conversation with this Old Veteran I began to see what this day was truly about. I could see his passion for our great country, I could hear his tears for his fallen comrades, I could feel his wounds that are no longer visible but still ever so painful. That day I felt inspired and blessed to be in the presence of a true American hero.

He did not talk about his service or what he did while fighting the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge. However, he spent the entire afternoon talking about those that did not return home to their families and loved ones, those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. He asked each of us to talk about those that we knew who had died in combat. Many of us knew someone who was Killed in Action. Some of us had forcibly removed those names from our



tongues, and our thoughts, but never from our hearts. Their stories brought much anger and even more pain. He told us that their sacrifice and their memory is what this Holiday is truly about, never forgetting those that gave up everything. Never forgetting those that signed that "Blank Check" that said they were willing to pay for it with everything, including their life. He shared with us that he also signed that "Blank Check", just as WE did, just all those that served did. And just because we are no longer serving in the military or wearing a military uniform, our service, it is not complete as that signature can never be erased. That contract that we signed to serve will not be complete until we are gathered together with our brothers and sisters that have gone before us to prepare the fields of peace. A place where there will be no more battles, no more death, no more sorrow, no more tears, and no more reason to celebrate this most solemn holiday. From that incredible afternoon, Memorial Day took on a new and very special meaning for me. This is not just a holiday to get day off, not just a day to spend with your family and friends at the cabin or the lake, not just a day to go play a round of golf or go into some shopping center because of a special sale. It is a day to truly honor those that were willing to make that ultimate sacrifice. A day to continue to serve this great nation and those that are no longer able to serve. President Abraham Lincoln in a speech given at Gettysburg in 1863 reminds us that "Thru their deeds, the dead have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and the living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause which they so willingly gave the last full measure, Their Country."

This is a true measure of a Real American Hero. Someone willingly giving their last full measure for the cause. Never Forget and Always Remember. Blessings, Jon

Friends of The Highground

The Highground is a grass-roots, non-profit 501(c)3 organization that does not receive any ongoing federal or state funding. We have a very small operating budget and only exist because of the hearts and hands of thousands of volunteers and contributors who continue to give generously of their time, talents and personal/financial resources.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

I would like the gift to be used for:

_____ and or Newsletter Subscription \$25

Please mail to: The Highground,
P.O. Box 457 Neillsville, WI 54456
or call to donate at 715-743-4224

- ____ Upcoming Events & Fundraising Calendar
____ Honor Stones on The Highground
____ Add someone to the mailing list
(please include name and address of whom you would like to send a gift subscription)
____ Endowment Fund
____ Booking information for "My War" exhibits or "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit
and I would like to volunteer for the following activities, please reach out to me!

- ____ Volunteer as a Porch Greeter
____ Volunteer for Work Week
____ Volunteer for Annual Bike Tour
____ Volunteer for Honor Ride
____ Volunteer for Ride to Remember
____ Volunteer to help in the Learning Center/Museum
____ Volunteer for Legacy Stone Ceremonies
____ Volunteer for Military Working Dog Stone Ceremonies
____ Volunteer for Korean War Stone Ceremonies
____ Volunteer for Persian Gulf Stone Ceremonies

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Questions or Comments _____

Show your Support and get The Highground's latest gear!



9.95 - 13.95

A wide variety of garden flags in for different occasions, and all branches of military



10.95 - 21.95

Scarves & Accessories



34.95

Lightweight Sweatshirt available in Charcol, Blue, and Red

21.95 - 39.95

Crossbody Purses



39.95

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18.95

Prices may vary on size

15.95

Hat



13.95

Prices may vary on size



31.95

Metal Signs available in each branch

Grounds Projects Support Needed!

Gold Star Completion - \$40,000 of the \$55,000. raised. We are almost to our goal of reaching the \$55,000 needed to fund the Gold Star!

Contributions have been generously coming in, but we have a little bit left to go. Can you help donate before our August deadline?!

Korean Wall addition to Tribute - \$10,000 of \$40,000 raised. We are currently in the process of adding more space to the Korean Tribute in an effort to receive more stones. We will be adding the wall this summer as more space is needed for our Korean Stone Ceremony this fall!

Lift for Timberframe - \$35,000 One of the goals this year was to complete a lift within the Timberframe building so that those with disabilities can enjoy the beautiful decks overlooking the Moraine, and bring us up to ADA code as we expand the store this summer!

WISHLIST COMPLETED

Missions Completed -

Handicap Tables \$325

Donation Trailer \$3500

Male mannequins \$200

Spring Fertilizer and Lime \$1700

Cordless Circular Saw \$200

Roku enabled TV for Admin Building \$450

Roku enabled TV for Museum \$375

Conversion of all VCR tapes to Digital \$600

Adobe Creative Suite \$240

OUR WISHLIST DONORS THANK YOU!

Many of our supporters continue to amaze us with their generosity. We put out a wishlist in hopes someone will find an interest in helping The Highground obtain the many needed items that have not been budgeted for but none-the-less needed. This list is only a small number of donors that have answered the wishlist cry in helping The Highground remain beautiful while continuing to move forward in fulfilling its mission of Honoring, Educating, and Healing. The staff also appreciates donors for the items listed that help them do their job more efficiently and needed for growing in our responsibilities to you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The Armed Forces Center Inc
DBA The Eagles Nest Association

David Wyatt

Terry Hannaman

Eau Claire Scheels

The Blu Bayou Pub

Doug & Kay Farmer

Leathernecks M.C. Wisconsin Inc.

Sandy Standord

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Quilts by Barb, Bloomington, WI

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Bonnie Hennen

Wisconsin Building Supply

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Robert & Deb Hall

James & Darlene Knudtson

Michael Gore

James Rice (Jud Holdings, LLC)

William Doll

Julie Diesing

Marshfield Clinic

Ted Galler

Cummins

Neillsville Area Chamber of Commerce

Joyce Bratsnen

WISHLIST NEEDED

Donations Needed -

Can you support these items?

- DeWalt Battery Operated Weed Trimmer and Battery \$275 Recently a donor was generous enough to donate to us some very high quality DeWalt battery operated equipment. Because of this we are trying to maximize the use of that gift, and cut down some time and strain on Mike by getting him Battery operated Weed trimmers which are much lighter and have many fewer maintenance needs then the gas operated models.

-Korean Era Exhibit \$6,000 we are working on putting together a Korean War exhibit of materials that we currently have. This exhibit will be shown here during November-January of this year. From there we will loan it to other museums. While we are producing this in house, we still need to purchase the banners that we will be printing this on. This will be an investment of another fantastic asset to the Museum.

-Summer Fertilizer and weed control \$2000 to ensure that the grounds stay gorgeous and plush, and to make sure we keep the dandelions out which drive up our maintenance costs by mowing excessively.

-Merchandise Display Racks \$2000 We will be expanding the store to the upstairs of the Timberframe soon, and with that, we will need more display racks to display all of our amazing selections!

-Roku enabled TV for Museum \$375 This TV will allow us to move all of our video content to digital and then display at the Museum. We can fit our entire DVD and VHS collection on one hard drive and have it connected to the TV saving valuable space, and allowing us quicker access to the content.

-Roku enabled TV for Admin Building \$450 This TV will allow us to utilize information on our computers to display on the screen during meetings and community presentations as we work through planning and progression.

-4 Flag Poles for Camp \$2,000 The Camp Committee has requested that flag poles be added to the camp to honor all branches of service at all times, and to add lighting on the flags.

-Laptop Computer for Staff - \$700 each (4) Our staff is moving around quite often, and no longer holding meetings solely in their offices! As we work with community members it is imperative that they can take their work with them so we are looking to upgrade some of our computer systems.

Quilts Still Needed!

We are still looking for quilts to be added to our annual quilt raffle! If you are interested in donating a quilt please contact Kay at donations@thehighground.us



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**Don't forget to visit Tom
out on Heroes Ride
July 20-Aug 4**

Let Them Not Go In Silence

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park staff, visitors, and all supporters remember and honor all who have served, in times of combat and times of peace. All veterans of every era, at one point in their life, have written 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 and newsletter. 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 liberty bell in their honor at each ceremony. We hope you will ring it every time that you are here.

WWII

Norman L Moody
Homer D McGettigan
John G McGlynn
Kenneth McWilliams
Ernest Nielson
Henry E O'Brien
Charles A O'Neil
Olin H Paulson
Dean K Peacock

KOREAN WAR

Robert L Mervicker
Frederick R Meyer
Joseph W Mick
Robert C Mielke
Hugh J Mikkelsen
Arthur K Mikulik
Wilhelm F Milbrandt
John G Miles
Gerold M Miller
Robert F Miller
Norbert J Misorski
Jerome A Misuraco
John H Mitchell
Truman O Moen
August a Molina
Jack D Monnot

VIETNAM WAR

James T Liebnitz
Theodore P Linski
Jerome W Litke
Gary Loduha
Michael J Lutzke
Terry L Mann
William J Martinez
James A McCaivy
Daniel J McGilvary Jr
Timothy A McGurty
William F Meinecke
Todd M Melton
Nathaniel Merriweather
Maichael S Mesich
John M Mihalovich
John E Milanowski

DESERT STORM, OIF, OEF – TO PRESENT DAY

Adam P Servais
Shaun A Novak
Kenneth M Cross
Merideht Howard
Luke J Zimmerman
Rhett W Schiller
Jesse D Tillery

Kevin M Kryst
Evan A Bixler
Joshua M Schmitz
Matthew T Grimm
Andrew G Matus
Jon B St John II
Harry H Timberman
Nicholas E Riehl
Jesse B Albrecht
Trevor J Diesing
Tyler J Kritz
Patrick L Wade
Matthew R Zindars
Alun R Howells
Derek A Dobogai
Rachael Hugo
Anthony R 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 J 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 Nagorski
Jacob A Gassen
Richard J Kemp
Daren M Hidalgo
Justin D Ross
Paul J Atim
Ryan D Jopek
Matthew D 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
Anthony A Gaunky

