



## Mission Completed

Gold Star Re-Dedicated to honor the families of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

On July 21st, The Highground officially broke ground on its new rendition of The Gold Star Tribute. The previous landscape/shrub based design had been continually failing to thrive, and the tribute was no longer expressing the feeling of honor that was due to the families and friends of those who were killed while serving. As you may know, the soil within the central "pentagon" part of the Gold Star Tribute is filled with the soil of where families last saw their loved one alive. Somewhere along the way, a fungus got into the soil, which created issues on the recent configuration of shrubs. Extensive time and resources were spent to see if there was a resolution to this, and it was decided that there was not and that we had to move on with another design.

Another concern when moving forward on the design was that the previous design did not lend itself well to being viewed in the evening hours and during snow cover in the winter. Not being able to view the

Gold Star Tribute at night was a significant issue that was relayed to us by many family members that would come out after hours to sit and reflect.

To answer these issues, the Gold Star Tribute was renovated and enhanced from the ground up. The large 5-pointed star's base was precisely measured and "re-drawn." The base was leveled, and concrete pavers set to border the star. Gold - colored sand, donated by Badger Mining, was brought in to fill the star, giving it a brilliant gold color. A large star statuery piece, created with the help of artist Michael Martino, was placed in the center of the tribute. With the addition of the LED Lighting built along the pavers, the light that can be seen is beautifully contrasted against the golden sand at night and can be seen from a pretty significant distance. To see the star in the evening when the solidly lit star border lights up is a wonderful experience.

Mr. Bob Barth managed the project with a dedicated group of volunteers working feverishly to complete the project on time. Also integral to the completion of the project was Jim Osterman, who helped lay significant amounts of the pavers along the borders. Wes Waterman also provided support by bringing in machinery to help clean up the area and haul sand into the area. Cummins filtration was a significant financial contributor. Volunteers from Cummins also came out numerous days to help. Stanley Correctional Facility brought out Veterans who were inmates played a significant role in the Tribute's completion.

The Gold Star was not the only part of the construction, though. There were three additional benches added to the walkway along the path that runs parallel to the Gold Star Tribute and down to the Persian Gulf Tribute. The benches that were added were for Blue Star Mothers, Gold Star Mothers, and

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

### In Memory Of:

ALL Veterans  
Edward Anibas  
Dennis Austad  
Marilyn Bertram  
Clyde Brown  
Albert Christensen  
Raberto Dirks  
Jim Finelli

Fred Friske  
Harland Hanson  
Gerald Krause  
Ed Lavallee  
Robert McKinley  
Durlin Morse  
Louis Musser  
Don Reynen  
Robert G Sebold

Dr. James Shafer  
H Robert Shaw  
Raymond Sonenberg  
Jerome Stunk  
Michael F Toelle  
Dennis Treu  
Dennis Valstad  
Robert L Waltz

### In Honor of:

Swede Johnson  
Kirk Rodman's 85th  
Birthday  
Ken & Wanda Jennings  
for their volunteer work

Gold Star Families. The retaining walls, the bench pillars that hold the benches, and the rock were all installed by Mr. John Myers, a Vietnam Veteran and dedicated volunteer to our organization.

The Gold Star was re-dedicated with a formal



ceremony on Saturday, August 24th. The event saw over 300 people attend. Colby VFW 2227 and VVA Chapter 5 of Eau Claire were there for the presentation of colors, with Jody Rueth singing the

National Anthem, and Pastor Doug Bjerke giving the Invocation. Speakers included Jon Weiler Executive Director of The Highground, Celeste Kaufman, Gold Star Mother of Charles Kaufman KIA Iraq, Pam Nesbit Gold Star sister of Terry Mezera KIA Vietnam, and Kaye Olson, Gold Star Mother of Andrews Steven KIA Iraq. Jody Rueth and Jeremy Lamont performed the song "Light of a Gold Star" by Lt. Col John Stea. The 132nd Army Band Brass Quintet was also on hand to perform "Taps" and "God Bless America." Each person that was there was presented with a vial full of the Gold Star Sand that came from the Tribute. Vials of the sand are currently available for all Gold Star families to pick up and will be kept in the Gift Shop or the Museum.

Following the ceremony, a candlelight vigil was held that walked from the Persian Gulf Tribute, back up to the Plaza, around the Plaza with a stop at "Fragments" and then to the WWII Tribute, the Korean Tribute, The National Native American Vietnam Veterans Tribute, and finally the

Liberty Bell. It was a truly amazing sight to see all of these people walking the paths and the areas that have been built and was a perfect closing to a very humbling and sacred event.

We also thank Cummins Filtration, Sonnentag Foundation, County Materials Cooperation, Julie Diesing, Michael Martino Studios, Badger Mining, Randy Henchen Electric, Bob Barth, Sav-Rite Building Supply, John Myers, Hefko Floral, Stone Services, and all the Highground Volunteers who made this incredible project happen.



## RIDE TO REMEMBER

### Annual Ride Raises over \$10,000!



The 19th Annual Ride to Remember motorcycle rally was held on August 17th. This year, the Rally honored the US Navy. The event was held for the most part at the Neillsville American Legion #73; with registration, guided rides, silent auction and vendors there for much of the day. Approximately 125 bikers participated in the Ride. At 3pm, the entire Ride to Remember group rode into The Highground, greeted by a flag line of supporters.

The ceremony was held on the Plaza following a group photo at "Fragments". Jon Weiler, Exec. Dir. of The Highground welcomed the riders to The Highground. Randy Bjerke, Jackson CVSO and Jerry Smith, Navy veteran and decades-long Highground volunteer, were the guest speakers. A Color Guard was presented by the Thorp VFW #9057. Randy Bjerke performed "Taps". The riders and sponsors of the Ride raised over \$10,000 for The Highground. This significant donation will help The Highground continue its mission of healing and education.

**The Ride to Remember riders, crew and Highground staff thanks the generous sponsors and supporters of this year's event!**

IN MEMORY OF TRACEY RUETH  
GENESIS MIDWEST  
IN MEMORY OF BILL WATTS  
HO-CHUNK GAMING BLACK RIVER FALLS  
WOMEN ON WHEELS  
FRICKIN' A BAR

TRAILS' END -FAIRCHILD  
BAR BK LEATHERWORKS  
THORP DAIRY BAR CAFÉ  
OFFICE OUTFITTERS  
WAUPACA VFW #1037  
NEILLSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION #73

IN MEMORY OF TERRI JOHNSON  
AG COUNTRY FARM SERVICES  
FORWARD BANK  
ABATE 4C  
DRESCHER OIL / BP  
FORWARD INSURANCE

The Highground and Ride to Remember riders and crew also thanks the Clark County Sheriff's Dept., Neillsville Police Dept. and all the wonderful volunteers that helped make the 19th Annual Ride to Remember a success!

**Register for Memorials, or sign up for sponsorships now for the Memorial Day Honor Ride at [thehighgroundhonorride.com](http://thehighgroundhonorride.com)**





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS UPDATES

## The Highground Holiday Lights Nov 28-Feb17

New to The Highground are the Highground Holiday Lights. These will include stars that can be sponsored and placed on the plaza in memory in honor of a loved one. Stars are \$125 a piece and will be placed on the plaza from Nov 28 to February 17th 2020.

## Winter Bowl Fundraiser Jan 26

Get out of the house on January 26th and visit us for our Winter Bowl Fundraiser at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield Wisconsin. Lane reservations and sponsors are currently being accepted.

## Friends of The Highground Dinner Mar 14

Keep your calendar open for the Friends of the Highground Dinner. This is a special event for the friends of The Highground who over the course of 2019 accumulated gifts of \$1,000 for the Highground. For more information please contact Kay at [donations@thehighground.us](mailto:donations@thehighground.us)

## Porch Greeter Luncheon Mar 17

While it's the winter time here at The Highground, we are already gearing up for the 2020 season, and that includes the Porch Greeter Luncheon on March 17th! If you are interested in becoming a porch greeter this is the place to meet up with other porch greeters and find out how you can get involved. For more information please contact Krissy at [volunteer@thehighground.us](mailto:volunteer@thehighground.us).

## Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band April 18

Maggie Mae is back at the Pittsville High School for a fundraiser for The Highground Veterans Memorial Park. Early bird tickets are available now until December 23rd for only \$20! After the 23rd tickets will be \$25!

## Veterans Freedom Fest Volunteers Needed!

The Highground is proud to announce Veterans Freedom Fest, a weekend of activities in the Neillsville area on August 14th-16th. It will include the 20th annual Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally, while other events scheduled include the Patriotic Par 3 Golf Tournament, the Find the Bigfoot ATV Ride, and more! This is a community partnership event in which multiple organizations will be participating to make a truly unique experience within the Neillsville area. For more information, or to see how your organization can support us, please contact Krissy at [cos@thehighground.us](mailto:cos@thehighground.us)

## 2020 Calendar of Events

**Nov 28-Feb 17** - Highground Holiday Lights  
**Dec 7** - The Highground Christmas Concert with Red Higgins  
**Jan 26** - Winter Bowl at Rose Bowl Lanes Marshfield  
**Feb** - The Highground Gala with Dueling Pianos (TBD, should know soon)  
**Mar 14** - Friends of the Highground Dinner  
**Mar 17** - Porch Greeters Luncheon  
**April 18** - Maggie Mae and the Heartland Country Band at The Pittsville High School  
**May 6-9** Spring Work Week  
**May 9** - Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon  
**May 25** Honor Ride Motorcycle Ride, Memorial Day Ceremony  
**May 30** - Legacy Stone Placement, Vietnam Veterans Reunion, The Highground Spring Bake Sale.  
**Jun 5** - 1st Annual Highground Golf Outing Fundraiser  
**Jun 6** - Flag Day Ceremony, MWD Honor Stone Placement Ceremony, Legacy Stone Ceremony  
**Jun 27** - Freedom Celebration days, Fireworks Show, Car Show  
**Jul 4** - Independence Day Celebration  
**Jul 10-12** 4th Annual Men's Veterans Weekend Retreat  
**Jul 18** - Persian Gulf Stone Placement, Legacy Stone Placement, Desert Storm/Persian Gulf Veterans Reunion  
**Jul 31-Aug 2** - 36th Annual Highground Heroes Bike Tour  
**Aug 1** - Legacy Stone Placement  
**Aug 14-16** - Veterans Freedom Fest including Patriotic Par 3, Ride to Remember, Find the Bigfoot ATV Ride, and more!  
**Aug 22** - The Highground Night Out Fundraiser at Munson Bridge Winery  
**Sept 11-13** - The Highground 2nd Female Veterans Retreat  
**Sept 19-21** The Highground 2nd Fall Male Veterans Retreat  
**Sept 19** - Korean Stone Placement, Legacy Stone Placement, Korean Reunion  
**Oct 3** - Legacy Stone Placement, Highground Fall Bake Sale  
**Oct 6-9** Highground Education Days  
**Oct 21-23** Highground Fall Work Week  
**Monday November 11** Veterans Day Celebration, 2020 Honoring Our Veterans Raffle Drawing Following Ceremony  
**November 28th** The Highground Patriotic Quilt Raffle  
**November 28-Feb 15** - The Highground Holiday Lights lighting  
**December 1** Giving Tuesday Campaign (pledge \$40!)

## Museum Exhibits

**Dec 7 - Jan 29** Winter in the Military  
**Feb 1-April 29** Vietnam Experience  
**May 1-May 31** Remembrance  
**June 3 - Aug 2** "Fur, Feather, & Fidelity" Military Mascots  
**Aug 5-Sept 27** "Working Warriors" - Military Life Beyond Combat  
**Sept 30-Nov 29** "WWI Beyond the Trenches" - Stories from the Front  
**Dec 2 - Jan 31** USO & Holiday in the Military

Stay tuned for updates to our calendar and additional events happening at The Museum and Camp Victory, to get updates go to our website and sign up for our weekly emails!

All dates and times are subject to change

For information on events and how you can volunteer or participate please contact Krissy at 715-743-4224 or by email at [volunteer@thehighground.us](mailto:volunteer@thehighground.us)

# "THE SEASON OF GIVING" IS "THE SEASON OF PLANNING" AT THE HIGHGROUND

As The Season of Giving draws near for all of us, The Highground's Board of Directors and Staff are planning the park's improvements. The Plan will depend on those willing to participate in the Season of Giving. Will you commit to contributing \$20, \$40, or \$60 to help fund the park improvements that are being scheduled for the 2020 season? Nine projects have been identified. By building our funds now, we can get all of the materials lined up, and schedule when the installations can begin. The past couple of years, we have been caught behind due to the funds not readily available when we could schedule contractors; then when funds were available, Mother Nature did not cooperate in letting the schedules begin and we found contractors unavailable to start as they had scheduled other projects. This year's Season of Giving will give us a jumpstart and we'll be the first to schedule contractors.

Improvements being scheduled for 2020 include:

1. The Meditation Garden pathways-- making this area ADA accessible
2. Persian Gulf Tribute-- fixing some major support structure issues
3. Plaza-- irrigation system repairs
4. Korean Tribute-- a new water filtration system
5. Gold Star Tribute-- improvements that include a support structure and irrigation
6. Timberframe-- ADA fixes
7. Park-- new sound system that will withstand the winds and weather
8. Plaza Display Board—rebuilding
9. Improved Signage-- for the

Administration, Timberframe Gift Shop and Museum Buildings

Our ability to fund these projects will be based on your continued support and contribution. Together there are close to \$250,000

to improve your park to make sure that we maintain it as a premier Veterans Memorial Park. This newsletter now goes out to over 17,000 households, if each household pledges \$40 we can complete all of these improvements and truly keep The Highground

the Premier Manned Veterans Memorial Park! Please make a small donation of \$20, \$40, or \$60 today and we can continue keeping it a free park, a place of healing for all, a place of educating for all, and a place of honoring all. Please during this Season pledge to contribute today to help keep The Highground mission to Honor, Educate, and Heal alive and well.



worth of items that should be completed next year, but it will take a concerted effort from our generous supporters to make it happen. Funds from The Season of Giving campaign will be used to for these repairs and improvements at the Park. By raising the funds during this Season, we can plan the projects appropriately and provide the lead time to get the best estimates for the pricing of materials and provide enough time to get the right volunteers/contractors lined up to complete these projects.

The Highground is a place of healing for Veterans and their families. It is important that we carry on this mission and continue

Donation Coordinator's Note: I had a mentor that once asked a group of donors to give another 10% of their normal giving to help reach the goal. If your donation is \$10, throw in another \$1; if it's \$100, throw in another \$10; if it's \$1000, add 10% making it \$1100, etc. That extra 10% was amazing to watch the finances grow and goals (projects) come to fruition. Can you, will you, help? If you have already donated—add 10% to it during The Season of Giving. Thank you in advance for your help! --Kay

**\$40**  
gift is all it takes

The Highground Newsletter is sent to over 17,000 households, each issue. If half of all households donate \$40, we will be able to fund each and every one of the park improvement projects for the 2020 year! During the Season of Giving will you pledge \$40 to help continue the mission?

# FREEDOM CELEBRATION DAY

On Saturday, June 29th, visitors filled The Highground's plaza for the Freedom Celebration Days Living History, Concert and Fireworks. A record number of visitors, approximately 1,200, attended this summer's event! Troy Buddenhagen organized a Living History display with a D-Day theme. In the late afternoon, music was provided on The Highground plaza by Red Higgins and Freedom Train. Boogie &

the Yo-Yoz followed and performed into the beginning of the fireworks display. The Neillsville Fire Dept set off the 40 minute amazing fireworks display! The fireworks were sponsored by Hardee's of Neillsville, Colby and Medford. Kevin Witt organized the selection of the fireworks. Hardee's had a variety of delicious sandwiches, fries and ice cream available and proceeds from these sales were donated to The

Highground. Throughout the spring, Hardee's holds "Share Nights" to raise funds. It is through these "Share Nights" and additional donation from Hardee's that sponsor The Freedom Celebration Fireworks. Thank You, Hardee's!! The Highground thanks each Highground volunteer that helped put on Freedom Celebration Day. Thank you for helping everyone have a terrific time! Highground Volunteers Rock!!

**A Special Thank you to Hardees for their continued support of Freedom Celebration Day! Please make sure to stop in and thank Dave and the rest of the team for all they do for The Highground!**



## HOLIDAY LIGHTS COMING TO THE HIGHGROUND!

Honor a loved one, or Become a Sponsor Today!

The Highground is proud to announce The Highground Holiday Lights from November 28th to February 17th. The Highground Holiday Lights will be a group of "Honor Stars" that will be lit on the Plaza and if needed, expanded to other areas of the park. The stars are lit with 25 LED lights that are integrated into the star. An 8"x9" placard is placed on the star so that a loved one can be honored on the star. The stars are \$125 a year to sponsor the memorial per year, this will replace the Honor Trees which started to see significant costs to light each year.

The Highground Holiday lights are an effort to produce a beautiful and unique experience at The Highground during the winter months and to provide another opportunity to honor and memorialize during the holiday season. The park is a very beautiful place during the winter months, however because of the snow people expect that most items are not

accessible and therefore wait to make the journey until the weather is a bit better. This year, however, there will be something new and unique; we will be lighting stars on the Plaza and will have the option for sponsorship of the trees.

Sponsorships and Donations are available if you are interested in lighting the trees and bushes throughout the park. Each location will have a sign signifying your contribution. Pricing for the trees and bushes vary, so please contact ike at [cos@thehighground.us](mailto:cos@thehighground.us) for more information and how you can partner with us.

If interested in sponsoring of a star in someones memory please go to our website, [www.thehighground.us](http://www.thehighground.us), and click on donations to register to memorialize or sponsor a star, tree, or bush. or, contact Kay at [donations@thehighground.us](mailto:donations@thehighground.us). We are still accepting donations to light these stars!

Help us make the park the most beautiful it can be this holiday season!



# HEROE'S RIDE



The Highground Heroe's Ride was a great success in getting the message of The Highground out to those who may not be aware of our park's valuable resources and history, as well as promoting our mission to Honor, Educate and Heal. The ride started from The Highground on July 20th in one of the worst storms that northern Wisconsin was to see in 2019. The first event was held at the Saw Mill in Merrill, Wisconsin. The event was a symbolic event that provided a moment to reflect as the dog tags were placed on the battle cross of those that have been lost in war from Marathon County since World War I. From there, the ride went to King Veterans Home for a day to take time to honor our veterans. The damage from the storm could visibly been seen as we entered the Veterans Home, but Ike and Jon were able to meet with many Veterans and bring a little bit of sunshine to their day. Ike specifically remembers, "I met with a man named Chester; he

was about to turn 100 years old. He was a WWII survivor who told me the story of how he survived a bombing run on his truck convoy from the Germans. He was the only one left of his team."

That night the Heroes Ride crew enjoyed dinner with about 20 veterans at the Chain Bar and Grill. The next stop was the Pearly Gates Bar in Green Bay. While the turnout was not what was expected due to the storm damage, we want to thank those who were able to attend. Jeff was an amazingly gracious host, who presented a coin to each of the crew members on the tour.

The next stop was the Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, where Tom and the crew visited the museum to pay homage to the Navy Veterans lost at sea. A wreath-laying ceremony was completed to signify those lost at sea.

Next on the agenda was the Lao Hmong Tribute, located in Sheboygan Wisconsin. This tribute is in honor of the Lao Hmong people who sacrificed and dedicated their lives to supporting the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. A wreath-laying ceremony was completed to pay our respects to those who sacrificed during the war.

Onward to Madison and the Concert on the Square. This event was scheduled to raise awareness of The Highground, as well as the Annual Bike Tour. Along the way, however, damages to the bike caught up, in all places, the Trek Bicycle Headquarters! The people at Trek Bicycle were amazing as they worked on Tom's bike and got

him up and going ready to go again! Tom made it to Madison, and his bike was on display for all to view at the concert at the park, where an estimated 40,000 people attended!

Leaving Madison, we were off to Union Grove Veterans Cemetery. The Union Grove Veterans Cemetery is a newer facility and is open to all Veterans and their spouses. Jon and Ike were able to spend a significant amount of time with

the Honor Guard of the cemetery who talked about their experiences while there. During the visit, a Veteran was laid to rest and reminded us all on how fragile life can be and how a veteran's experience stays with them until the end. The evening ended at The Bunker Bar in Waterford with

an amazing display of military vehicles, as well as a unique display of military logos of divisions literally on the ceiling tiles!

The next day included a trip to Janesville to Traxler Park and the Veterans Memorial Park, with Mark Finnegan leading the ceremony. Time was taken to pay the respects to lives lost from the Janesville community with an Honor Guard, Taps, and speeches by Executive Director Jon Weiler and Vets Roll director Mark Finnegan. "It truly is amazing what Vets Roll is doing for Veterans, and to be able to work with them on this project is a great opportunity for all of us," said Mr. Weiler. The night ended after one of the hardest Ride days in New Glarus.

After leaving New Glarus, it was time to visit the Richland Center Purple Heart Memorial and the Richland Center's American Legion 100th Birthday Celebration. During the celebration, the Richland Center American Legion paid their respects to a



## 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 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.



Korean Veteran who had been lost. The event saw over 200 people. Numerous people talked about their experiences at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park.

From New Glarus, the crew traveled to Hillsboro Veterans Memorial Park in which the Boy Scout Troop was there to provide the Pledge of Allegiance, and The Hillsboro Legion was there to provide a Color Guard and Rifle Squad for the laying of the wreath ceremony.

Next on the route was La Crosse and a stop to Veterans Freedom Park in La Crosse to pay our respects with a Laying of the Wreath ceremony.

Following La Crosse was the only out of state event as Tom traveled to the National Eagle Center located

in Wabasha, Minnesota, where the crew got to meet with the staff and to see some of the eagles that were on display. The National Eagle Center's mission is to help eagles that have been injured and to rehabilitate. It was a great opportunity to talk about how The Highground can work with those from the National Eagle Center moving forward, and a great opportunity to see some of the unique features and programming that they offer.

After leaving Wabasha, it was off to Chippewa Falls for a stop at Chilson Automotive Group who donated the usage of a van for the entire trip. It was then off to the Leinie Lodge where Tom and the crew got to meet with Dick Leinenkugel to talk about his experience with this ride. After Chippewa Falls, Tom and the crew returned to the Loyal area with a Welcome Home Ceremony for Tom at the Veterans Park in Loyal Wisconsin.

From there, Tom joined the Northern Bike Tour Ride to work on the rest of his amazing journey! After the Northern Tour was completed, a few miles were left to complete. Tom was dedicated to completing the mission and headed over to Elk Hart Wisconsin Road America track, where he completed the finalized over 1,700 miles of the ride.

The Highground and it's staff cannot thank the amazing work of all of the people that helped make the ride a success. To all our partners on this ride especially, Polly, Tracey, Jeff, Mark, Dick, Adam, Caitlin, Sharon, Xia Vu, Sue Ellen, Matt, Mike, Emily, Julianna,

Ken, Ed, Tiffany, Theresa, Mike and everyone else who helped put one of these events together.

To the Crew of The Heroes Ride that provided so much support to Tom, without you, there is no way we could have completed the mission, and the contribution that you provided will go much further than you will know. The impressions of the professionalism and dedication that you put through have already seen lasting impacts on our organization, thank you, Carol, Randy, Caitlin, Henry, and of course, Tom. Thank you for all you have done and Peddle On.



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## HONOR STONES

## 2019 A Huge Success, order yours for 2020!

2019 stone dedication ceremonies ended strong with ALL ceremonies filled up. Many stones were surprises given to loved ones, and the emotions ran very high for all.

A "first" happened at one of our stone ceremonies—we had to postpone a ceremony!! Stone ceremonies have been held rain, snow or the heat of the sun! But on July 20, 2019 brought lightning, horizontal rain, hail and wind, more than we've ever seen on a ceremony day. We tried to continue—but after the tables and tents blew away, we canceled the rest of the day. There was a quick break in the clouds, and a few honorees that were able to get to The Highground were able to dedicate their stones. The rest rescheduled a date with most returning September 7, 2019. Thank you, everyone, for your understanding and patience as we tried to keep everyone safe and reschedule.

Groups, organizations, families, and anonymous friends have purchased honor stones in various areas around The Highground. Gray granite stones are building the center walkway on the plaza with only 1/4 of the walkway remaining. Black polished granite stones for the Korean Tribute will be placed on the inside wall of the walkway in September. Burgundy granite stones were placed in the new Military Working Dog Tribute area for the first time

in June 2019. Sand-colored granite stones will continue to fill the base of the Wisconsin Persian Gulf Tribute's "Footprint".

Ceremony dates for 2020 are the following:

Legacy: May 30, June 6, July 18, August 1, September 19 and October 5, 2020

Korean Honor stones: September 19, 2020

Military Working Dog honor stones and one-liners: June 6

Persian Gulf honor stones: July 18

Don't miss YOUR choice of dates by waiting too long, call Kay today at 715-743-4224; email donations@thehighground.us. We look forward to making your day special for you and your family. (Kay also reminds us to plan with gifts for Christmas, birthdays, Mother & Father's Days, etc. Many ceremonies were full by March this year. Reservations are available NOW.)

We are looking at the possibility of having weekday stone ceremonies or evening dates/times. Let Kay know if this is of interest to you, and we'll look closer at making it happen in 2020!



# 35th Annual Bike Tour

## Brings in a Record Fundraiser Total in 2019!

The 35th Annual Highground Bike Tour Brings in a Record Fundraiser Total in 2019!

Over 200 bicyclists and an army of additional SAG support personnel and vehicles participated in one of the most unique bicycling events in the country, The Highground Bike Tour. 2019 was a very momentous year for the Bike Tour: the Tour celebrated its 35th year and also brought in over \$52,000 for The Highground – a new record tally!

The Highground Bike Tour brings together bicyclists of all ages and all abilities. The multiple-day event (routes ranging from 2 – 5 days) includes individuals and even whole families, even several generations of families riding together! Each route is led by experienced leaders that spend months organizing the logistics of everything that is needed to bring their group safely, happily, and well-fed, working with many organizations and communities along their route.



The Northern Route, led by Mike & Kathy Gleisner, starts for some bicyclists in Chili, WI, and has its formal starting point in Hayward, WI. The Northern Route has a total so far of over \$12,000.

The Eastern Route, led by Curt and Oran Jim Braatz, comes in from the Appleton area. The Eastern Route has a current total of over \$4,000 in donations for The Highground.

The Southern Route, led by Mary Boortz and Kathy Heit, has its starting point in Madison, WI. To date, the Southern Route is leading the pack with a fundraising total of over \$16,800!

The Western Route, from New Richmond, was led by Jerry Simon and Rob Thyne. This route is hot on the heels of the Southern Route, with a current total of over \$16,600!

More donations typically come in from supporters of The Highground Bike Tour for a few months after the Tour has completed. The Bike Tour is annually the



## HEALING, FUN & CAMARADERIE WERE FOUND AT THE HIGHGROUND'S SUMMER VETERANS WEEKEND RETREATS

The Highground held three veterans weekend retreats this summer. These 3 day retreats were very successful events, bringing fellowship, healing and many exciting experiences to veterans of all eras.

The July retreat for male veterans combined a great day of fishing with a crossbow workshop; healing programs by the Vet Center and the Heartbeat Center for Art & Literacy; Woodcarver Henry Smith, who gave personalized wood walking sticks to the veterans; and a veterans art workshop by veteran artist Shawn Ganther at the CART center in Neillsville.

In September, The Highground held their first ever female veterans retreat and another retreat for male veterans. These retreats had many of the same programs that were part of the July retreats with the addition of an amazing UH-1H Huey helicopter experience instead of a fishing trip. Jason Moon of Warrior Songs worked with the veterans on both September retreats. Through sessions of conversations, Jason

and the veterans worked through many veterans issues in the process of creating a song to express their experiences and their hopes for the future. Jason was able to perform the song at the final



evening bonfire of each retreat and the songs will be "finished" and recorded in the near future. Other workshops included mindful Forest Walks led by Tina Wagner; watercolor workshop by Linda Garret-Holets at the CART center in Neillsville; guided tours of the Tuft's Mansion and the 1897 Jail Museum. The Highground thanks NASA – The North American

Squirrel Association for providing 2 incredible track and 6-wheeled motorized "chairs" for the September male veterans retreat. Veterans with mobility issues were able to get around better than anyone with these vehicles!

A highlight of all veterans weekend retreats is a Friday evening supper at the Neillsville American Legion and a twilight tour of The Highground. The Highground would like to expand the Veterans Weekend Retreat program. Based on experiences and veteran feedback and requests, we see a great need for additional female veterans retreats and to expand our capabilities to provide retreats for couples, Gold Star families, and families affected by veteran suicide.

These programs will require sponsorship and funding, especially if we are to offer them at little or no cost to the veterans and families working their way through service – related issues. Sponsorship opportunities for 2020 are open now; contact The Highground for information on corporate and individual sponsorships to support these much-needed healing retreats.



largest single fundraiser for The Highground, and this year's banner success will go a very long way in making sure The Highground continues in its Mission of Healing, Honoring, and providing Education for Veterans, Their Families and All Who Visit.

Thank you to All Who Rode & All Who Supported!

Next year there will be a slight difference as The Bike Tour get a new badge and a new name. The committee voted to change the name of the annual ride to "The Highground Heroes" Bike Tour" This was an effort to be able to promote the Bike Tour more effectively, and to build on the statewide recognition that was started by Tom Kingsbury's Heroes Ride this last summer. Save the Date for the Highground Heroes Bike Tour – July 31 – August 2, 2020!



A Special Thank you to all of our sponsors and contributors to make another successful year!



A&B PROCESS  
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**SCHEELS**

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VVA Chapter 409  
VFW Post #1879

United VFW Post #6856  
American Legion Auxiliary #268  
Total Tool Supply  
VFW Post #10808  
J&L Auto Repair

## Independence Day Celebrated

An Independence Day ceremony was held Thursday, July 4th at The Highground. Steve Maddox, member of The Highground Board of Directors, represented The Highground in welcoming everyone to the ceremony and emceeding the program. The program featured keynote speaker Sgt First Class Timothy Garvey from Fort McCoy and the Color Guard from the Colby VFW #2227. Pastor Doug Bjerke of Neillsville gave an invocation. "Taps" was performed by Riley Raether of the Clark County 4-H Group. The 4-H groups of Clark County, WI and Worcester County, MA joined together and assisted with many aspects of the ceremony!

The true spirit and meaning of Independence Day was observed and felt on this very important day at The Highground. Thank you to everyone that participated and those that joined us.





**7TH ANNUAL WINTER BOWL**



**TO SUPPORT VETERANS RETREATS**  
ROSE BOWL LANES MARSHFIELD, WI  
**JAN 26 2020 NOON-2:30PM**

**The Highground Veterans Memorial Park**

**Hardee's**  
CHARBROILED THICKBURGER

**\$50 PER GROUP | UP TO 6 PER GROUP | BALL LANE SHOES INCLUDED**  
**DOOR PRIZES! | SILENT AUCTIONS | GAMES**

**THE WINTER BOWL LANES SOLD OUT THE LAST THREE YEARS! RESERVE YOUR 2020 LANE NOW!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT IKE AT [EVENTS@THEHIGHGROUND.US](mailto:EVENTS@THEHIGHGROUND.US) | 715-743-4224  
OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.THEHIGHGROUND.US](http://WWW.THEHIGHGROUND.US)

**SATURDAY APRIL 18 2020**

**LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES BY**  
**MAGGIE MAE & HEARTLAND COUNTRY BAND**

**SHOWTIME AT 2:00 PM**

**EARLY BIRD PRICING OF \$20 IF PURCHASED BEFORE DECEMBER 23RD**

**RESERVE TICKETS \$30/\$25 RESERVED SEATING ONLY**

**LIVE FROM PITTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITORIUM**

**RESERVATION CALL : 715-743-4224 FOR MORE INFO VISIT [WWW.THEHIGHGROUND.US](http://WWW.THEHIGHGROUND.US)**

**A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR**

**The Highground Veterans Memorial Park**  
HONOR. EDUCATE. HEAL... A PLACE FOR ALL





## Meditation Garden

### Creating long term plans for the Garden

The Meditation Garden has some needs that need to be corrected and fixed rather quickly. The flooring of the Meditation stones inside the shelter is completely sold out. We need to pull the stones up and have them re-cemented to make the floor solid and level.

We will also be adding benches to the



outside of the shelter. If you, your family, or an organization would like to support this endeavor, please contact Kay at 715-743-4224 or [donations@thehighground.us](mailto:donations@thehighground.us). Picnic tables will not be allowed on the engraved stones any longer, but these benches will allow those interested in meditating, group meetings, or an opportunity to reflect, to do so.

Lastly, there has been some erosion damage to the pathway over the years, and we are looking to find a more permanent solution to this. Due to the heavy storms the area has endured, the pathways in the garden have withstood the pounding water. A project for 2020 is to complete the paths with durable, sustainable material. We have investigated options that included blacktop,

which is not possible due to the size of the pathway and the equipment needed, as well as concreting the path, which has a very high cost. We are looking at utilizing a surface similar to that of the Sheboygan Book Park, which will be a surface that will be very durable, create a very natural look to keep the ambiance of the garden, and be accessible to those with disabilities. The cost is about half of what a concrete solution would be and is approved by the Army Corps of Engineers for durability and accessibility. If you would like to donate to this project please contact us.

Any financial help with this project will be appreciated enabling completion in the Spring of 2020 (when contractors are available again).



# We Were There: The Series

The Highground will be compiling information to create four new exhibits

The Highground is proud to announce the “We Were There” Series of traveling exhibits. Originally slated for this fall, we have changed the time frame to sometime next spring or summer. The need for the change, came about as word got out, and more people wanted to add their personal stories. This exhibit series will be a four-year journey to create four exhibits that speak from those that served and their experiences. The traveling exhibits will be compiled with information from Korea, Vietnam, WWII, and The War on Terror. The exhibits will include photographs, letters, and video interviews with veterans that were serving in the field. If you would like to add your stories, pictures, or information please contact June to get started.

“We Were There: Korea” is the first element of a four-phase traveling exhibition. We will be releasing the stand-up banner exhibit in 2020 and we will be launching the video series sometime in the future. June Abrahamson has been collecting information from Korean Veterans for the last six months. It will consist of personal photographs, drawings, stories, & letters composed by veterans who “Were There.” There are many elements that differ from each veteran,

yet there are also some that are the same, no matter what branch, what era, or what country they were in.

Moving into the next exhibits, Vietnam, WWII, The War on Terror, June Abrahamson will be collecting these items from veterans, completing any edits or restorations that are needed, and organizing into specific themes that will be used to build the layout. Along with items collected from personal individuals, she will be utilizing the items shared by families in our Registry Books located in the museum archives.

These exhibits will focus on the personal side of the wars and not the wars themselves. They will not only pay honor & remembrance to our veterans but will tell their stories. Every service member that has been separated from their family and friends and placed in harm’s way on a battlefield has also had to live a day to day life. We have all stated or thought, “I don’t know how they handled it.” By sharing this day to day life part, we feel we will help to educate viewers



on how they made it through some of the hardest times of their lives. Areas of the exhibit will also enlighten us on the things our veterans learned and the unbreakable bonds of brother & sisterhood that were made.

If you are interested in donating to these exhibits, please contact June Abrahamson at [exhibits@thehighground.us](mailto:exhibits@thehighground.us) or by phone at 715-773-1162. If you are interested in being interviewed for the video exhibits, please call Augie Stark at 608-335-6478

## HELP SUPPORT THE “WE WERE THERE” EXHIBITS

If you are interested in helping to support the building of the “We Were There” exhibits, please consider donating by going online and click the “Donate” Button and then select the “We Were There” box. Or call the Highground at 715-743-4224. We are also taking donations of photos and other memorabilia, if you would like to donate you can contact June at [exhibits@thehighground.us](mailto:exhibits@thehighground.us)

## Red Higgins Christmas Concert at The Silver Dome Dec 7th

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a Christmas Concert Fundraiser! Get ready to bring in the Holiday’s with our friends Red Higgins, Lisa Marie, and The Freedom Train as we hold our first Christmas Show on December 7th at 6:30 at The SilverDome. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased online or at The Highground Gift Shop. Early tickets will be \$20 and those who purchase tickets will be entered into an “early bird” drawing. Tickets at the door will be \$30.

Red Higgins was born and raised in Northern Wisconsin. He is a Nashville Recording Artist and has appeared on National Radio and Television. He has played numerous Casino’s, Festivals, County and State Fairs.

Red hosts a “Classic Country Show” and a ‘Classic Country Christmas Show’. Red is a supporter of the “Honor Flight” Programs and has done shows to help

send Veterans to Washington DC.

Red and his band cover classic hits from Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Conway Twitty, and Elvis to some “Old Rock and Roll”. Red’s original songs are reminiscent of true Traditional Country and Country Gospel. Together Red and his wife, Lisa Marie, have teamed up to bring to life some of Country’s greatest duets. Lisa Marie covers hits from Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, and Patsy Cline and more.

Red has had hits on the Country Gospel and Bluegrass charts. His original song “His Name is Jesus” achieved International success.

Red, with his high energy band bring to the table great entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

Get your tickets now and make sure you don’t miss out on this incredible show!

## Board of Directors

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### Gift Shop Coordinator

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### Exhibits Coordinator

June Abrahamson (Contractor)  
exhibits@thehighground.us

### Maintenance

Mike Purgett  
Isabella Kapusta

### Gift Shop Staff

Roxane Purgett  
Judy Quicker

## CW KING Chairman of the Board

It's Fall, my favorite time of the year at The Highground. Standing on the point looking over the miles of beautiful fall colors how could anyone not be impressed, this is a healing place for sure. As the Board works to incorporate Camp Victory into the mission of The Highground, much work is being done, and much is yet to be done. We are working to make Camp Victory a place for Veterans and others always feel safe as they are on their journey to a better place in life.

Already the Camp shares the feeling of healing and inner peace, and we intend to build on this. The Board of Directors is committed to a major capital campaign to acquire the necessary resources to complete this project. You will be hearing more about this later, but for now you need to know that change is in the air. Never forget the mission of the Highground: Heal, Educate, Honor. We, as your Board of Directors, are working to continue that mission.

-CW



## The Highground Comes to Life with Highground Education Days October 1-4

The Highground Education days were held on October 1-4 this year. Over 1800 kids from 15 schools participated in this years education days. This event is a yearly event in which students from 5-9 visit The Highground and are educated on the sacrifices our military members make for our freedoms. We want to personally thank all who volunteered to make this years education days a huge success. We also want to thank the participating school districts for their continued support of The Highground.



### For More Information Contact

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

Find us somewhere on Social Media!



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# KRISSY WENKE

## Volunteer Coordinator



Krissy with Riley Hebert from the Clark County Young Professionals making a contribution for the Military Care Packages

Krissy Wernke is married to her best friend Tim and has 5 wonderful children & one on the way! It's a Boy! Krissy moved from Central Florida to Neillsville WI back in the winter of 2019 after a hurricane ravaged her home. Krissy started in the Gift Shop in May of 2019 and had an immediate impact with the porch greeters and volunteers. Krissy has a long line of military family and feels blessed to be working at The Highground. "It's a wonderful experience to meet all

of the veterans, volunteers, their families and friends."

Krissy enjoys riding motorcycles, biking, the beautiful outdoors, and cooking (if you have ever eaten her baked goods you can attest to how amazing her cooking really is.) and most of all prayer time, being a wife, and being a momma to their children! God is great! I look forward to my role here working with the wonderful volunteers of The Highground!



## 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 form on the other page, and sending it back in with your donation!

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Great Gifts throughout the store for the holiday season! Now with two floors of merchandise!

Check out our online store for our entire inventory! To place an order give us a call and we will get the items shipped out in time for the holiday season! Orders over \$50 receive free shipping!



**Gift Cards  
Available!**



## ATV Raffle Raises over \$7,000!

The ATV Raffle was a huge success raising over \$7,000 for The Highground! We want to thank our partners NexGen Motorsports, and Chilson Motors for their sponsorship in this raffle. A special thanks goes out to all who helped sell tickets to make this an incredible success for our organization. We congratulate the winners Scott, Gary, Ken, and Bill!



## 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 nonetheless 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!

Ellie Seymour	WI Blue Star Mothers Chapter 1
Prestige Auto Corp	Listeman Foundation
AMVETS Vacho Lybert Post #127	Messiah Lutheran Church
Donald & Noreen Schmidt	Ho-Chunk Nation
Lucinda Zimmer	City of Neillsville
Telecom Pioneers WI Chapter #4	Mark & Angela Delvecchio
James & Terri Stott	Scott & Lori Danentl
Gary Koenigs	Mike Olson
Jody Wilkerson	Duane Schwab
Exelon	Ronald Bellemare
John Fury	Paul Kokosz
Nicolet National Bank	Joseph & Kathy Houzner
McFarland & Company	Marla & Joel Raine-BP-Neillsville
Hiller's True Value Hardware—Marshfield	Tom & Anita Werthman
VVA Lakeshore Chapter #618	Lulich Implement, Inc
Robert & Gloria Beyer	Betty Kienast
Lee & Kathleen Anderson	VFW Lakeland Post #7898
Victor Schwartz Estate	Robert & Gloria Beyer
Joyce Jarvis	Larry & Pat Dessner
Rosalinde Campbell	Michael W Stinson Nam Knights
DAV	Tundra Chapter
20th Engineer Brigade	Hardee's of Neillsville, Colby, Medford
VFW Post #10272 Oregon-Brooklyn	Marjory Short
Memorial	Bohl Associates, Inc
VFW Springbrook-Trego-Earl Post	Chilson Automotive Group
#10568	Bernatello's Pizza, Inc
84th Railsplitters Association LTD	Roy & Ginny Franz
Clark County Young Professionals	Mar-Lin VFW Post #10203
Karen & Jeffrey Doine	
Donald Benson	
Loyal Car Show	

## WISHLIST COMPLETED

### Missions Completed -

DeWalt Battery Operated Weed Trimmer and Battery	Leaf Blower for Grounds
Handicapped Accessible Tables	3 new Golf Carts for Camp Victory
Merchandise Display Racks	
1 Flag Pole for Camp Victory	

## WISHLIST NEEDED

### Donations Needed -

#### Can you support these items?

- **Handicap Accessible Tables \$325** (we need 3 more). Thanks to our supporters who have helped provide the funding for two of them already!

- **Korean War 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 fall of next 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.

- **Metal Shelving for Camp Victory** Camp Victory is looking for some solid metal shelving to help with some of the organizational needs in the storage areas on site. Either donations to purchase shelving, or actual shelving is appreciated.

- **Shop Organizers** - We are looking for shelf organizers especially for nuts, bolts, screws, nails etc for Camp Victory Storage areas. Either donations to purchase or actual shop organizers are appreciated.

- **Two 27" monitors for the new Marketing Coordinator** The new Marketing and Corporate Relations Coordinator will be coming on staff soon, and with that means that we need to get a little additional technology in house for them. Graphic Design is a very integral process and with that comes new requirements, let's help welcome them in by making sure they have the tools they need to do an amazing job for us!

- **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.

- **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.

- **3 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.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS!!

Don't forget to get your Quilt Raffle Tickets, we want to thank you for your continued support of the Quilt Raffle and look forward to announcing the winners! To purchase your tickets please contact Kay at [donations@thehighground.us](mailto:donations@thehighground.us)



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The Season of Giving is The  
Season of Planning

## 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

Julian K Prokopovitz  
Gordon B Rasmussen  
John F Rawlings  
Willard H Reince  
Donald R Rentmeester  
Donald J Richard  
Gerald F Roberts  
Harold A Robson  
Lester M Rolf  
Raymond I Rosinski

James J Banczak  
Ward O Bard  
Ernest W Barnes  
Charles J Baron Jr  
Wallace E Barr  
Bruce O Barton  
Marlin F Basina  
Kenneth Baskerville  
Gerald A Bauer  
Gerald F Baumgartner  
Richard Baumgartner  
Jefferson Beaver  
Clarence W Becker

John M Mihalovich  
John E Milanowski

### DESERT STORM, OIF, OEF – TO PRESENT DAY

Donald W. Eacho  
Andrew L. Bossert  
Mark A. Maida  
Joshua Michael Scott  
Eric J. Poelman  
John J. Mattek, Jr.  
Charles A. Kaufman  
John O. Tollefson  
Ben D. Jansky  
Chad J. Simon  
Trevor J. Diesing  
Michael J. Wendling  
Andrew P. Wallace  
Matthew R. Kading  
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Anthony Alexander "Alex"  
Gaunky  
Andy A. Stevens  
Adam J. VanAlstine  
Eric A. Palmisano  
Nathan J. Vacho  
Eric D. Clark  
Grant Allen Dampier

Jamie Jaenke  
Stephen Castner  
Ryan D. Jopek  
Shaun A. Novak  
Kenneth M. Cross  
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  
Robert J. Basham  
Nickolas E. Riehl  
Jesse B. Albrecht  
Tyler J. Kritz  
Patrick L. Wade  
Matthew R. Zindars  
Alun R. Howells  
Derek A. Dobogai  
Rachael L. Hugo  
Anthony R. Wasielewski  
Louis A. Griesse  
Tracy Lynn Alger  
James McDonald  
Jason F. Lemke  
Robert J. Cook  
Nichole M. Frye

### KOREAN WAR

Loris W Anderson  
Newbert O Anderson  
Robert D Anderson  
Eugene L Angell  
Eugene J Arcand  
Ray L Arpke  
Leroy E Aschenbrenner  
Donald J Ayen Raymond  
W Backhaus  
Donald Lavern Baer  
David J Baermann  
Thomas C Baker  
Benjamin B Baldwin  
Keith D Ballwahn  
Durrell M Balthazor

### VIETNAM WAR

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

Bert E Hoyer  
John F Kurth  
Sean M Schneider  
Jesse L Thiry  
Ryan M Jerabek  
Michelle M Witmer  
Michael A McGlothlin  
Charles A Kiser  
Stephen G Martin  
Adrian V Soltau  
Andrew Halverson  
Daniel R Wyatt  
Shane K O'Donnell  
Robert P Warns II  
Todd R Cornell  
Brian P Prening