

The Highground NEWSLETTER

HONOR EDUCATE HEAL... A PLACE FOR ALL

March 2020



The Next Chapter Begins

New Executive Director Chris Pettis takes the lead at The Highground

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park is proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Chris Pettis as Executive Director. Chris comes to The Highground with a wealth of knowledge, an extensive military background, and leadership experience.

"We are very excited for Chris to join The Highground team," said Gary Weirauch, Vice Chair of The Highground Board of Directors. "Chris's natural leadership qualities really impressed us during the interview process. We also learned that PTSD has personally impacted Chris's life which we strongly feel will give him the ability to relate to our Veterans."

Chris, a graduate of Eau Claire Memorial High School, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps shortly after high school.

During his 23-year career as a Marine, he held several positions including Field Radio Operator, Electronic-Optical Repair Technician, Instructor and Ordnance Chief. He was stationed at numerous bases in the U.S., including 29 Palms, CA and Camp Lejeune, NC. He deployed to Somalia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Kuwait, and Iraq.

Upon retirement as a Master Sergeant in 2014, Chris, his wife Bonnie, son Austin, and daughter Myrissa, moved from Jacksonville, NC to Osseo, WI, while their oldest daughter Morgan moved to California after college graduation. Chris started a new career in the mining industry, where he operated a shovel, before advancing to a jobsite foreman, a position he held for the last 3 years.

"I feel blessed to be a part of something so special. I can still remember how I felt the first time I attended a stone ceremony, seeing what The Highground means to other Veterans and their families," Chris said. "I'm fortunate to work with a staff that is passionate about supporting The Highground mission. I especially look forward to meeting the dedicated volunteers and donors who are so vital to our success. Without them, there is no us."

Chris is excited about the future of The Highground as well as the addition of Camp Victory and the many ways it can be used to facilitate healing and education for so many Veterans. One of his major goals is to encourage younger veterans to visit the park and become a part of its future.

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

In Memory Of:

Ronald G. Bellemare
Robert Bertz
Ralph L Blauvelt
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Brian
Joseph Brouillet
Mary Brunk
Leonard Buchanan
Anthony (Tony) Ceelen
Charles Cowan
Richard F Emiling
Dad+Oscar Felsch
Ted Fetting

Bob Field
Lorraine Flynn
Clifford Hanson
Ed & Richard Hardy
Ralph Helm
Peter A Jecevicus
CWO John Jelich
Jerry Johnson
Robert (Bob) Jorgensen
Charles Kaufman
Alfred (Al) Kienast
Kenneth Kraft
Vilas Kraft

Alfred Krueger
Bob Lekfield
Richard (Dick) Lysy
Rich Madrotka
Rich Maars
Cpl Benjamin H Neal
Emery Nelson
RJ Novak
Terry Peterson
Thomas Querin
Richard & Joan Raebel
Donald Reynen
Bob Shaw

Legionnaire John
Steinbring
Jerome Strunk
Delbert Thomas
Richard J Thompson
John Tollefson
Donovan (Don) True

In Honor of:

John Eickendorf
LeRoy Wheir
In honor of Katie Bera for
Christmas

Novotny Family
Sarah Jirik & Brian Ness
Barbara & Kate Jirik
Mary Jo Jirik & Stan Wong
Peter & Caty Jirik
In honor of Don
Havlicek's 85th Birthday
Wayne Pittsley
Alvin Abbeglen
Moose Meyer
Meditation Garden Bench
in honor of Orin
Toltzman's retirement

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park | Honor, Educate, Heal.

STUDY SUPPORTS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND THE HIGHGROUND

The Highground Board of Directors has approved a contract with Crescendo Fundraising Professionals, LLC to initiate a \$3.75 to \$4M capital campaign to respond to growth of the organization and to improve the visitor experience and services for its 225,000 annual visitors.

The campaign is based on a recently completed Campaign Readiness Study which confirmed that the capital campaign expansion is justifiable, has merit, and carries urgency. The results were identified from The Highground stakeholders, donors, and area philanthropic leaders. The funding capacity to meet the studied goal of \$7.5M was found to be unavailable at this time with a recommendation to respond to those elements at a future time based on fundraising success.

From its founding by Tom Miller and a small group of Vietnam veterans in 1984, the organization has grown to a 155-acre memorial park hosting more than 225,000 visitors annually and serves 6,000 to 8,000 veterans with individual referral, support, and healing services. The main campus includes the museum and visitor center, a library of military collections, 19 tributes dedicated to veterans' groups and service eras, a Meditation Garden, and trails which crisscross hills and valleys featuring a breathtaking landscape. A recently donated campground retreat, Camp Victory,

located approximately 20 miles from the main campus, is comprised of 300 acres and expands the organization's capacity to provide retreats for veterans and their families which will be fully developed in the coming years.

Recognizing the need to expand to better accommodate increased visitor interest, the Board of Directors began exploring the idea of a building expansion project and fundraising campaign in 2018. According to the Board of Directors President, C.W. King, "Through this study our donors have helped us determine the parameters for a successful campaign, and we are grateful for the input to help us set the course for the best future for the organization."

Stakeholders' input identified the following elements to address for the expansion campaign funds:

- Pay off the organization's \$750,000 mortgage to increase financial stability and long-term sustainability
- A new larger welcome and visitor center to house meeting, programming space and exhibits
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to ensure disabled veterans and all visitors are able to access all elements of the park and memorial sites
- Parking changes for safer access as funds allow

The Campaign Readiness Study provided the opportunity for respondents to share their ideas and thoughts, helped identify top leadership potential, evaluated the fundraising climate and favorable conditions, identified possible challenges, and developed a preliminary timeline for the campaign. According to Ellen Hongerholt, M.A., Crescendo Fundraising Professionals, LLC owner, "The Highground is a special place. It is obviously treasured by visitors who know the healing experience found there by veterans, veterans' families, and others who care about and honor the sacrifice of our country's military."

Results of the study are available by contacting The Highground or online at <https://www.thehighground.us/campaign/>

Hongerholt and her team of three advisors will manage the capital campaign process set to begin planning stages in April. After all the planning steps have been completed, informational sessions will begin to educate and engage individuals, organizations, and businesses about the expansion throughout the summer. The solicitation stage is slated for the fall of 2020 to mid-2021. To volunteer on one of the campaign committees, or for more information, contact Chris Pettis at 715-743-4224.

SPRING WORK WEEK JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



It's time to get The Highground ready for summer! There are many Spring projects to be completed, buildings to be cleaned, "yard work", trail work, picnic tables, benches and canopies to bring out and more! We look forward to your help. It's a good time to get together to make things happen. Ask your friends to help as well! Work days are approx 8am-4:30pm. Please RSVP by May 1st by calling or emailing to let us know which days you will be so we know how many hungry volunteers will be here for lunch! You can contact Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or by calling 715-743-4224.

Don't forget to register for Memorials or sign up for sponsorships now for the Memorial Day Honor Ride at thehighgroundhonorride.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS UPDATES

We Miss You! Staff is doing everything possible to keep the scheduled events, however, with the COVID-19, the calendar changes beyond our control. Please check for changes. What will not change is that the park is open 24/7!

Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band Postponed
The Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band concert scheduled for April 18, 2020 has been postponed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We are currently working with the Pittsville Auditorium and Maggie Mae to plan a reschedule date and will have updates soon. For more information or current updates, please contact Meranda at events@thehighground.us or

Spring Work Week May 6-9

It's that time of year again! Spring Work week is fast approaching and we are calling on all volunteers to come out and help support our efforts in getting the park ready for the summer! If interested please RSVP with Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or by calling 715-743-4224 in order for us to know how many lunches to have ready!

Honor Ride Motorcycle Ride/ Memorial Day Ceremony
Memorial Day is a special day at The Highground. Come join us for our Memorial Day Ceremony and our Honor Ride Motorcycle Ride. The Ride has nine locations to start from ending at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park with a grand entrance on the grounds. The Memorial Day Ceremony will follow with a special dedication for the "Lost 74". For more information or to register for the 10th Annual Memorial Day Honor Ride please go to thehighgroundhonorride.com for the latest information.

1st Annual Highground Golf Outing June 5
Join us for the 1st Annual Highground Golf Outing at the Neillsville Country Club in Neillsville WI. This golf outing will be filled with fun activities and prizes. \$300 per team for a round includes 2 carts, lunch, wingspan raffles, hole games, prizes and more. To reserve your team contact Meranda at

United in Service Stone Laying Ceremony June 5
The evening of June 5th we will be holding our UIS Stone laying ceremony. The UIS tribute is meant to remind all of us how important our communities and families are when our veterans come home. To purchase a stone for your veterans organization please contact Kay at donations@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224

Veterans Organization Open House June 6
We are calling on all Veterans Organizations for a special Open House on June 6th from 9am to 12pm at The Highground. There will be a special Meet and Greet with our new Executive Director Chris Pettis followed by a Legacy Stone Ceremony. If your organization has not been to The Highground this will be a perfect opportunity. Please RSVP with Kay at donations@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224

2020 Calendar of Events

April 18 (POSTPONED new date to be announced)- Maggie Mae and the Heartland Country Band at The Pittsville High School
May 6-9 Spring Work Week
May 9 - Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
May 15-16 - Camp Victory Work Days
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 - Veterans Organization Open House and Meet and Greet with Executive Director Chris Pettis
Jun 6 - Flag Day Recognition, Legacy Stone Placement
Jun 13 - State VVA meeting @ Camp Victory
Jun 27 - Freedom Celebration Days, Fireworks Show, Car Show @ The Silverdome
Jul 4 - Independence Day Celebration
Jul 10-12 4th Annual Men's Veterans Weekend Retreat
Jul 18 - Persian Gulf Stone Placement, Legacy Stone Placement, Military Working Dog Placement, Desert Storm/Persian Gulf Veterans Reunion
Jul 31-Aug 2 - 36th Annual Highground Heroes Bike Tour
Aug 1 - Legacy Stone Placement
Aug 14 - Patriotic Par 3
Aug 15 - Ride to Remember
Aug 22 - The Highground Night Out Fundraiser at Munson Bridge Winery
Sept 11-13 - The Highground 2nd Annual Female Veterans Retreat
Sept 19-21 The Highground 2nd Annual 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 The Highground Education Days
Oct 21-23 The Highground Fall Work Week
Oct 21-24 Vietnam Vets Archery @ Camp Victory
Nov 11 Veterans Day Celebration,
2020 Honoring Our Veterans Raffle Drawing Following Ceremony
Nov 28-Feb 15 - The Highground Holiday Lights
December 1 Giving Tuesday Campaign (pledge \$40!)
December 19 The Highground Patriotic Quilt Raffle

Museum Exhibits

Feb 1-May 31 Vietnam Experience
May 1-May 31 Remembrance
June 3 - Aug 2 "Fur, Feather, & Fidelity" Military Mascots
Aug 5-Sept 12 "Working Warriors" - Military Life Beyond Combat
Sept 15-Nov 29 "We Were There: Korea"
Dec 2 - Jan 31 USO & Holiday in the Military

Stay tuned for additional events at The Museum and Camp Victory. For timely updates, visit our website and sign up for our weekly emails!

Note, all events, dates, and times are subject to change

For information about events and volunteer opportunities, please ask for Meranda by calling 715-743-4224 or send an email to events@thehighground.us

THE HIGHGROUND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK HOLDS "FRIENDS OF THE HIGHGROUND" RECOGNITION BANQUET



The Highground donors were invited and honored at the annual "Friends of The Highground" recognition dinner that was held March 14, 2020 at the American Legion Post 73 in Neillsville, WI. The weather was very cooperative this year, but the COVID-19 virus prohibited a few from attending the event. Those in attendance enjoyed a wonderful meal, camaraderie and a relaxing program. This annual dinner is a way of thanking those generous donors who support The Highground through cumulative annual donations in excess of \$1,000. The "Remembering Our Fallen" display along with 2020 events were set up for attendees to see what will be happening at The Highground. Kay Anason, Donation Coordinator, welcomed everyone and introduced the new Executive Director Chris Pettis. Chris spoke of his background and future plans. Ron "Bull Dog" Perry explained the meaning behind the "Missing Man Table". Mark and Lori Dawson read a selection of Wisconsin Fallen names from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan through the present day. An invocation was given by Skip Klabon of Colby, WI. Many Board Members were in attendance to thank the donors as each donor was presented with a beautiful plaque depicting the re-dedicated Gold Star. This is the 16th year The Highground has presented plaques to those meeting the \$1,000 minimum donation.

This year, donors and Board Members from all around the state and Illinois were able to join us at the banquet. Only three have acquired all plaques—Thank You Central WI Broadcasting, Donald Quicker and Dr. John & Rebecca Scaletta! You have not missed one year of support to The

Highground Veterans Memorial Park since implementation of this recognition. We DO appreciate your generosity!

Gary Weirauch, Board of Director presented Jim Fox with a huge thank you and plaque for his years of dedication to The Highground Board of Directors. Jim came on the Board in 2006 and spent many hours working and sharing his expertise with The Highground. He and his wife, Susan, also spend endless hours making Vietnam service ribbon colored key chains for us to give every Vietnam Veteran that comes to the park. (We believe they have surpassed more than 50,000 keychain donations.)

A special award that is determined by the staff of The Highground is the "Spirit of The Highground" award. This award is presented to someone that has gone above and beyond the monetary works but also has the "Spirit" of The Highground in them. This year, the award was humbly accepted by John Myers, Eau Claire, WI and Robert Barth, Neillsville, WI. Although we know there are many people who have the "Spirit" of The Highground in them, the staff kept with the gravity of the Gold Star re-work and dedication given by these gentlemen to make sure August 24, 2019 was a special night for everyone by ensuring the Gold Star was completed in time.

The staff is a very small group (9-mostly part-time) that could not do what they do without the volunteers and contributors. To all of you—the staff says THANK YOU!!

Events expand and are added each year due to the increased interest in The Highground Veterans Memorial Park activities. Events and Museum Exhibits are open to the public free of charge because of Friends like THEM and YOU. From the 2019 donor calculations, the following received recognition for their continued awesome support of The Highground Veterans Memorial Park:

16th Year Recognition

Central WI Broadcasting
Don Quicker
Dr. John & Rebecca Scaletta

15th Year Recognition

Joan Jungwirth

14th Year Recognition

Randy Meyer
Jerry Simon
Jerry & Alice Smith

13th Year Recognition

Joan Cervenka
Marjorie Short

12th Year Recognition

Marguerite Listeman Foundation
Walter Tollefson
Tom & Anita Werthman

11th Year Recognition

City of Neillsville
Jim & Susan Fox
Jakel Plumbing, Heating & Electrical
Gary Karczewski
Mar-Lin VFW Post #10203

10th Year Recognition

Jim Braatz
Hardee's Cougar Enterprise
Michael & Joyce Huebsch
CW & Mary Ann King
Andy Rueth
Wes Waterman



Bob Barth (L) and John Meyer (R) receive "The Spirit Award" for their work with the Gold Star Project

9th Year Recognition

Dennis & Sharon Herzberg
Joyce Hoffman
Steve & Karen Maddox
Dave Sharretts
Lucinda Zimmer

8th Year Recognition

Citizens State Bank of Loyal
Michael & Kathy Gleisner
Maggie Mae & Roger Hilliard
The Heartland Country Band
David Kemp
Skip & Deb Klabon
Mike Olson
Donald & Noreen Schmidt
Steve Swanson
Gary & Kay Weirauch

7th Year Recognition

Curt Braatz
Robert & Gloria Beyer
Bill & Kathy Flemal
Kathy & Bernie Heit
LeRoy Johnson
Verla Lysy
Cole Peterson
Joel & Marla Raine-BP
Drescher Oil
Andy & Nikki Smith

6th Year Recognition

Michele Benson
Chilson Automotive Group
Julie Diesing
Kimberly Knudsen
Paul Kokosz
Nick & Janet Lesar

Karen & Steve Swader
Thrivent Financial

5th Year Recognition

Lee & Kathy Anderson
Tom Babbitt
John Blank
Mike & Amy Bodoh
James Feneli
Roy & Ginny Franz
Gross Motors, Inc.
Bonnie Henchen
David Reimer
Pat Watts
Dave Week
Russ & Kitty Wohlrabe

4th Year Recognition

Fred & Kim Berg
Neillsville Dept of Public Works
Augie Stark Photography
George & Betty Blauvelt
Ho-Chunk Gaming—
Black River Falls
Bohl Associates, Inc.
The Cummins Foundation
Mark & Lori Dawson
Joel & Heidi Hazzard
Tom Kingsbury
Kokosz Family
Jim Ottman
Joel Paplham
Terrence Stein
Stanley Correctional
Institute (SCOPES)
VFW Lakeland Post
#7898

3rd Year Recognition

Vernon & Gwendolyn Beloat
Mary Boortz
Ron Comer
Scott & Lori Daentl
Jay Froh
Shane Gurney
Al & Kay Lamovec
Terry Pezl, WSAU Radio
Jess Rebout
Dave & Ellen Schmitz
Duane Schwab

2nd Year Recognition

Andrew & Renee Bernard
Bernatello's Pizza, Inc.
Jeffrey & Cherie Bignell
Tom Christian
Larry & Pat Dessner
Barry Hammarback
Randy Henchen
Phil Hiller & Hiller's True Value
Kathy Houzner
Hardee's of Oshkosh
Samantha Kleifgan
John & Donna Koutre
Leathernecks Motorcycle Club
Marine Corp League McCullen
Kimpel Det #552
Marshfield Clinic/
Security Health
Michael W Stinson Nam
Knights-Tundra Chapter
Neillsville Chamber of
Commerce
Delmar Scanlon
Wendi Schmidt
Ellie Seymour
Simplicity Credit Union
The Buzzed Bus
Shannon Wachuta
Bonnie Wiater

1st Year Recognition

Ag County Farm
Credit Services
Am Leg Fletcher Pechacek
Post #121
Am Leg Riders Post #209
District 1
Randy, Carol & Caitlin Anason
Ronald Bellmare
Dan & Susan Berger
Blue Bayou Pub /
Christi Mitchell
James & Diana Buechner
Linda Czlapinski
Enbridge
Forward Bank
James Griepentrog
Red Higgins
Gloria Johnson
Betty Kienast
Judy Lillie
Lulich Implement, Inc.
Ray & Pat Maertens
Traci Messner
Allison & Paul Osmak
Ralph & Peg Ottum
Leroy Peterson
James Rice
Harold Schmitt
Schreiber Foods Richland
Center East
Henry Smith
Ralph Smrecek Sr
Stanley & Kathy Soderquist
Cyril Spangler
Terri Stott
VFW Dr Mueller Post #10452
VVA Dane Co Chapter #220
Wisconsin Lift Truck Corp
Russell & Nancy Young/
Eagle Tire Ctr
Zacho Sports Center



WINTER BOWL ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER FOR VETERANS RETREATS

The 7th Annual Winter Bowl was held on Sunday, January 26th, at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield, with a full house present! Over \$4,000 was raised to support our Veterans Weekend Retreats happening later this year and to continue our mission to honor, educate, and heal.



The enthusiastic crowd enjoyed an afternoon of bowling and lots of opportunities to "throw their name in the hat" to win a wide variety of raffle, silent auction and other prizes! Congratulations to Jerry Leonhardt for winning the 55" Samsung LED TV, donated by our loyal supporter Hardee's (Colby, Neillsville and Medford), and to John Myers for taking home the Yeti cooler, donated by our friends at Festival Foods. All in all, it was a day filled with lots of fun and cheering in support of our Veterans!

The success of this year's Winter Bowl depended in large part on the generosity of our sponsors. We are so grateful—we could not do what we do without that continued support.

A big thank you to: WCCN Radio, WWIS Radio, Hardee's, Festival Foods, Central WI Broadcasting, Rose Bowl Lanes, Fred & Kim Berg, Lake of The Torches Resort & Casino, John Buetzberger, Guaranteed Rate, Bonnie Hennen, Alan Voskuil, Aster Assisted Living, Woodfield Inn & Suites, Wilderness Resort, Thrivent Financial, Moraine Motel, Weber's Farm Store, Hiller's True Value, Chestnut Center for the Arts, Colby VFW Post #2227, Kirk & Nancy Rodman, Skip & Debbie Klabon, Gary & Kay Weirauch, Deb Esselman, Hotel Marshfield, Holiday Inn, Al Lamovec, Central Wisconsin State Fair, USA Nails, Loyal American Legion #175, and VVA #479.

Note: The Highground Veterans Weekend Retreats will be offered July and September this year. For more details on this and other Highground events, please call 715-743-4224 or email Theresa at museum@thehighground.us. Donations will continue to be accepted to support the retreats and can be mailed to The Highground at: P.O. Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456. Please designate donations as "Retreat donation."



Mark your calendar for The 8th Annual Winter Bowl which will be held at Rose Bowl Lanes on Sunday, January 31, 2021. There are several lanes already reserved, so call early to register for 2021!



2019 STONE LAYINGS

Congratulations to those who received honor stones during 2019!

32nd Veterans Assn
Abramczak, Robert C
Ackley, Curtis
Anderson, Erling A
Aron, Donald W
Ashley, Roger L
Ashmore, Steven Michael
Bachmann, Dick
Bahr, Richard R
Bahr, Richard R
Banczak, Mark
Barth, Donald G
Bauer, James J
Bauer, Tom
Beilke, Leroy Jerome
Beining, Peter
Bender, Orval R
Benson, Levi Collin
Bergerson, Alvin
Beuning, Joseph A
Beyer, Dale & Joanne
Bignell, Garry Lee
Blackburn, Jerome
Blanchard Jr, W
Boe, Cedric D
Boe, David C
Boening, Harold F
Bourget, R Patrick
Bratsven, Charles
Bredemann, Kenneth P
Bredow, Donald (Butch)
Brey, Linda & Marine,
Kari
Brown, Mike
Brummond, Aaron
Wayne
Bryson, D
Burgner, Gary
Carlson, Michael
Chojnacki, Robert E
Coons, Franklin Dean
Corbine, Daniel P
Czysz, Eugene D
Decker, William J
Decosta, Richard
Doan, Frank J
Doan, Tom
Droste, Donald
Dustan, Gerald R

Dux, James
Eddy, Dennis
Ehlert, Gene D
Eickendorf, John
Elmhorst, Victor
Evans, David R
Fekete, Martin J
Ferry, Noel I
Feneli, James
Firkus, Ronald
Foley, Gerald
Frank, Alfred & Stella
Frank, Nathaniel
Freiburger, David
Gebert, Alvin H
Gebert, Charles R
Gebert, John V
Gebert, Ralph
Gebert, Ronald J
Geib, John
Gilman Class of 1965
Grella, Devin
Grosman, John
Gudowski, R
Hable, Daniel J
Hagberg, Barbara
Hager, Maurice
Hager, Scott
Haggart, Alvin
Harmon, Kenneth E
Hash, Herbert F
Hawkins, Gary
Helbing, Daniel U
Henchen Sr, Ronald
Henke, Taylor Jay
Hodnett, Larry H
Hodnett, Lois M
Hoffbeck, Harlan
Hoheisel, Willard
Hoppe, Kipling R
Hoppe, Robert H
Jameson, John J
Jameson, Rodney L
Janz, Robert & Jesse
Jason, Michael D
Jenkins, James Alan
Jensen, Leroy A
Johns, Leslie
Johns, Robert

Johnson, Donald
Kacznski, James
Kauth, Allan R
Kauth, Edwin William
Kauth, Robert M
Kauth, Samuel A
Kieler, Thomas A
Kirchmeyer, Russell
Klanderman, Roger H
Klatt, Gerald Wallace
Kleinschmidt, John I
Kobishop, Ronald H
Koch, Gretchen
Kohlhofer, Francis
Kolpanen, Jerome Lee
Konig, Jeff
Kovatch, Albert J
Krueger, Albert
Kuberra, Royce Buster
Kunze, Gilbert E
Lang, Stephen F
Lau, Paul J
Laudolf, John C
Lebarron, William
Lilteich, Michael
Lindberg, Robert C
Lindberg, Robert M
Lor, Shong Her W
Loucks, John K
Luepke, Donald G
Malsin Jr, Hubert
Mancl, William J
Marine, Adelyn
Matz, Laverne & Greg
Mayer, Lavern R
Mendola, Martin A
Miller Jr, Robert
Miller, George
Miller, Kristopher R
Milton, Ronald D
Mitch, Joseph F
Moczynski, Leroy J
Muller, Keith
My Four Leg Hero
Nagorski, Scott
Naugle, Gerald Lloyd
Neal, Daniel P
Neis, James L
Niemuth, Leland E

Nigh, Howard L
Nigh, Howard L
Nimmer, Lloyd
Oleson, Henry N
Oleson, Richard N
Olson, Michael
Olson, Thomas P
Ondrus, Ken
Oster, James
Ottman, James M
Oxendorf, Donald Roy
Passon, Richard
Peetz, Roland
Pint, Curtiss
Pipping, Keith
Pitts, J Walter
Poeppel, Ray M
Polum, Daniel E
Preimesberger, Zeno,
Russ, Ron, Bob
Prondzinski, Jerome &
Ronald
Radlinger, Wayne P
Rand-Scott, Marilyn
Richardson, Eugene
Richardson, Jesse
Rogers, Scott W
Rohland, Otto & Agnes
Rolli, Neil F
Roman, Vernon J
Rude, David W
Russell, Brian
Sadowski Jr, Robert
Schesel, Robert H
Schnell, Frederick
Schreiber, Galen H
Scott, John
Seebruck, Leonard A
Seefeld, Wayne F
Seubert, Patrick
Sheskey, Francis Joe
Sholly, Lester "Les" H
Smith, Frank R
Smith, Jarret
Solinsky, Robert A
Splinter, David
Stamp, Allen L
Steffen, Henry K
Stendel, Gerald "Fritz"

Stewart, Don
Stewart, Donald D
Stewart, O.J. "Stu"
Stilen, Troy W
Strangfeld, Herman J
Strasser, Fred
Strelke, David
Swansby, Michael
Sweet, Norm
Swiontek, Frank & Hattie
Swiontek, Larry & Eugene
Syvrud, Jaimey
Taylor, Duane Joseph
Thao, Chavang
The Rands, Howard,
David, Gary, Mark,
Terry, Kevin, Jon
Thiede, Garry
Thompson, Michael K
Thompson, Wayne
Chester
Thurber, Fireman RJ
(Randall)
Thurber, Gary
Thurston, Ron "Fuzzy"
Timmerman, Ronald J
Tolaney Jr, Joseph A
Tritt, Donald
Underwood, Eddie A
Vannatta, Gerald J
Viergutz, Gerald M
Viergutz, Ralph E
Viergutz, Robert
Waite, Bradley H
Waite, Donald R
Waterman, Harold
Watts, Thomas
Weber, Robert J
Wheir, Leroy P
WI 4th Inf Division Assoc
Wieckowski, Kenneth
Woods, Edward L
Zaborowski, Leo "Buck"
Zynda, Michael C



Peg Conelly, Kay Anason, Rhoda Neuen-Feldt, Deloris Steinke

VFW Auxiliary of the Goede Smith Ramsey Post #8478 Donates Grant Funds for Camp Victory Flagpoles!

Members of the Goede Smith Ramsey VFW Post #8478 Auxiliary in Augusta WI came to The Highground Veterans Park to contribute funds they received from a grant. They have chosen to help The Highground get a large flagpole installed at Camp Victory.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The Highground team remains sensitive to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) health situation affecting our communities. As we continue to monitor the situation closely, we face the same question as others—What should we do about upcoming events in light of Governor Tony Evers “Safer At Home Order” (in effect as of March 25th).

Please know that the safety of all who are part of The Highground community is our number one priority. For those reasons, we have been working as quickly as we can to cancel or postpone all events and gatherings that were scheduled in March and April.

As of today, cancelled events include: Vietnam Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony and Veterans Freedom Fest. Note: Veterans Freedom Fest was cancelled as the timeline to complete event-related tasks would need to be pushed out due to the coronavirus pandemic. This situation could extend well into summer. Smaller, individual events that were already scheduled to be held during Freedom Fest will continue as planned if restrictions are lifted.

Maggie Mae & The Heartland Country Band has been postponed. We will announce the new date as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience. Events that will be reevaluated soon include Spring Work Week and the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

The Park remains open to the public 24/7 we are still taking orders through our online store. The Museum and Admin offices are closed until the ban has been lifted. You can still call our offices and we will return calls as soon as we can as we will be monitoring them during this time. We will continue to keep you updated regarding changes to the event calendar as well as Park access as we receive more information. For updates, check the Calendar of Events at thehighground.us and visit our “Staying Connected” page at thehighground.us/staying-connected. We also encourage you to sign up for our regularly scheduled e-newsletter to get the latest information, or find us on social media. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your consideration, participation, and ongoing support. We are in this together.

ANNUAL BIKE TOUR GETS A NEW NAME

Ride still remains the same, branding updated!



The Highground Annual Bike Tour will continue in 2020 (if the COVID-19 ban is lifted by then), with a new name and its own brand. The history of the Annual Bike Tour goes back to the first days of The Highground Veterans Memorial Park. In an effort to gain more recognition for the ride, a change was made to increase awareness by promoting a new brand. The

initial Heroes Ride was completed by Mr. Thomas Kingsbury last summer. He traveled over 1,500 miles around the state, creating a significant amount of attention and raising the question—how do we keep the momentum going for the Annual Bike Tour?

“There is a vast number of rides in the State of Wisconsin and in the Midwest. The question was how to separate ourselves from the pack and be easily identifiable to those who may be interested in what we are riding for,” said Ike Rebout Chief of Staff of The Highground. “We learned so much from the Heroes Ride on the marketing end in 2019, and we really felt that by solidifying the brand we could bring a significant amount of support to the Annual Bike Tour which has been such a significant part of this organization for decades. This annual ride exists and continues to be successful because of the dedicated route leaders and riders who have done so much for our

organization for over 35 years. We want to give the riders every opportunity to succeed even beyond what they have already done.”

The symbolism of the brand is significant as it honors the Heroes that are no longer with us, and compliments the riders who, in their own right, are Heroes to The Highground. The Annual Bike Tour has raised over \$45,000 a year for the park. These funds are used to expand programming to support Veterans in our community and make improvements to the park.

For more information, to sign up, or to raise funds to help support this cause, riders and contributors can go to

www.heroesridebiketour.com.

The Highground Receives Corporate Sponsorship Donation from Citizens State Bank of Loyal!

Darlene Zschernitz of Neillsville Citizens State Bank of Loyal presented a check for \$2,500 to Rhonda Miller, Gift Shop Coordinator at The Highground. Thank you Citizens State Bank of Loyal! Visitors to the Gift Shop, Museum and Visitor Center continue to benefit from and appreciate the various tributes and programs that are only available because of the generosity of our contributors. This gift allows us to continue supporting our Veterans and



CAMP VICTORY NEWS

Progress continues on programming for Camp Victory!

The summer and fall of 2019 have seen Camp Victory continue the mission and welcome home Veterans from all eras of service. Camp Victory's programs this past year have allowed Veterans to heal from the emotional wounds of war.

This past fall, Camp Victory saw fifty Veterans in five different groups experience a traditional Wisconsin bow hunt. The hunt was a great experience but the healing, camaraderie and new friends made were the highlight. The groups included Disabled Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, Purple Heart Veterans, WI Combat Veterans and Persian Gulf Veterans. To help run the hunt for each group, six volunteers were needed per hunt. The majority of the volunteers were Veterans themselves and enjoyed the experience just as much as the hunters. A common theme experienced by all participants was that for many years opportunities were turned down to do other hunts but through the sharing of stories and sense of camaraderie this hunt allowed healing to start and continue.

Camp Victory looks forward to another year of fulfilling The Highground mission to heal Veterans. Adding to this experience Mary Haupt from the La Crosse Vet Center, has volunteered to bring her extensive experience in treating PTSD to Camp. She is teaming up with Camp Victory to create a program that treats Veterans with PTSD along with their family. Her innovative approach will allow not only Veterans to heal but the families, also.

Camp Victory could not function without the financial support and volunteer support of all involved. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

-Written by Camp Victory Board member Matt Tennesen.



FACILITY UPGRADE FUNDS STILL NEEDED

In December we asked for your help to complete some of the facility projects at The Highground. We were struck, once again, by the generosity of our donors to help us keep the park the nation's premiere manned Veterans Memorial Park. In December, over \$20,000 was raised to help us with our projects. Thank you so much for your support!

Because of this, we anticipate that we will be able to complete the rebuilding of the Meditation Garden Pathway. A rubber surface that matches the current color of the rocks in the Meditation Garden that will allow for greater ADA accessibility. It could not get done without the help of so many donors! There is still more work to be done though.

One of our biggest concerns going into this year are two projects; the first being the a filtration system for the water at the park. We anticipate that the costs of these repairs will be close to \$10,000. Currently the minerals in the water leave a residue on the stones and tributes that it touches, mostly the "Fountain of Tears" and "The Korean" Tributes. While it can be cleaned off, the residue is harming the metal and the granite.

The second concern is the Persian Gulf Tribute. The original design did not anticipate that the stones bordering the "bootprint" would be there. The original design called for plants. An adjustment was made to move the benches out and replace the plants with honor stones. Because of this change, there needs to be an adjustment to the support of those stones. The anticipated cost of this will be about

\$8500 for concrete to put under the stones.

We already have the commitment from the volunteers to do the leg-work! We can do this with your support! Please consider donating \$40 or more to help us continue on the path of keeping The Highground beautiful for all to see and to complete these projects in the 2020 season! If you would like more information about these projects, or if you are interested in supporting one of these projects, please contact Executive Director Chris Pettis at director@thehighground.us, or by phone at 715-743-4224. If you are interested in donating for one of these projects, please go to www.thehighground.us and click on the donate button, select "Facilities" and select one of the projects that you would like to help contribute to!

\$ 40
gift is all it takes

The Highground Newsletter is sent to over 17,000 households five times a year. If half of all households donate \$40, we would be able to fund every one of the park improvement projects we identified for 2020! Will you help us continue the mission by pledging \$40?

We Were There: Vietnam

Search begins for Vietnam Veterans who "Were There"

We are beginning our search for Vietnam Veterans that would like to be included in phase two of our "We Were There" project. Any veterans or family members of veterans, that would like to pay honor and remembrance of their service, should contact June Abrahamson at WeWereThere@thehighground.us .

"We Were There: Vietnam" is the second element of a four-phase traveling exhibition The Highground is creating. It will consist of personal photographs, drawings, stories and letters composed by veterans who

"Were There". There are many elements that differ from each individual veteran, yet there are also some that are exactly the same, no matter what branch, what era or what country they were in. This exhibition collection will tell these stories.

The "We Were There" series will focus on the personal side of the wars and not the wars themselves. These exhibits will not only pay honor and 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", 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 and sisterhood that were made. The Vietnam portion of the exhibition is scheduled to be complete and on display at The Highground Museum in 2021.

Vietnam Experience Grand Opening Well Attended Carl Bogar Jr's exhibit a huge success

The Highground hosted a Grand Opening of its current exhibit, "The Vietnam Experience", on Saturday, February 1. The Museum was filled with guests eager to see all the Vietnam War memorabilia from Historic Military Impressions and a selection of The Highground's "My War" photo exhibit comprised of Vietnam veterans' personal photos from the war.

Carl Bogar Jr, owner of Historic Military Impressions, accompanied by his son, Elijah,

welcomed guests to the opening and gave a short presentation on his background, military service, and how he was inspired to create and share his ever-growing collections.

Pastor Doug Bjerke of Neillsville said a prayer, blessing the exhibit; that it and The Highground would continue to provide a place of

comfort, education and healing for all who visit.

Vietnam Veterans who gathered shared their stories, pointed out items in the collection, and used them to expand on their stories for those in the crowd who were not Vietnam Veterans.

The "Vietnam Experience" exhibit will be at The Highground



Museum daily from 10am-4pm, through May 31. The Museum is currently closed due to the Coronavirus.

For more information about The Highground exhibits, contact Theresa at 715-743-4224 or send an email to museum@thehighground.us



THE HIGHGROUND AIRS ON DISCOVER WISCONSIN Episode to be aired on April 18th



The Highground is proud to announce that it will be part of the April 18th 2020 episode. The episode will be one of the segments with EAA Oshkosh, Volk Field and The Oshkosh Veterans Museum. Filming took place over the 2019 season at The Highground including the Honor Ride, Ride to Remember, Annual Bike Tour and of course the tributes. Discover Wisconsin airs throughout the Midwest, and can be found also on streaming platforms for Roku, FireStick and Apple T.V. For times and channels please check your local listings, or watch at DiscoverWisconsin.com

We Were There: Korea

Final Call for “We Were There: Korea” materials

Anyone still wishing to contribute items to our “We Were There: Korea” exhibit, need to have their items submitted to June Abrahamson at WeWereThere@thehighground.us by May 15, 2020. After postponing the opening of the

exhibition due to a high volume of interest to include more veterans, we are happy to announce the exhibit will be complete and is scheduled to open at The Highground Museum, September 19, 2020. We have chosen this time-frame so it will correlate

with our Korean Stone placement and our Korean Reunion/Education gathering, giving many Korean Veterans and their family and friends the opportunity to partake in a multitude of experiences all at once.

Wisconsin Humanities Grant Awarded

Grant to help support “We Were There: Korea” exhibit



The Wisconsin Humanities Council has approved the application from Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc. for the project

titled announced in a letter sent to The Highground, “We Were There – Korea.” You have been approved for \$10,000 in support of your efforts. We are pleased to be working with you on this project.”

The Wisconsin Humanities Council Grant

will assist us with being able to collect and restore the historical information submitted by our Veterans. These funds will also be used to help with the cost of building the actual exhibit. The grant has allowed us to bring in a historian to assist us with pulling information and details out of submitted photos. Thus, allowing us to incorporate more accurate information and a deeper level of education to the exhibit. Many families never received the stories or details that were behind them.

We can't thank WHC enough for their generous support and look forward to

working with them throughout this project. The Wisconsin Humanities Council is a leading statewide resource for librarians, teachers, museum educators and civic leaders, who drive entertaining and informative programs using history, culture and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone. The Wisconsin Humanities Council also awards more than \$175,000 a year over seven rounds of grants to local organizations piloting humanities programming.

2020 Patriotic Quilt Raffle!



What beautiful quilts we had to raffle off December 19, 2019!! Thirty-six quilts were donated and helped raise

over \$3000 for The Highground Veterans Park.

Thank you to ALL the quilters that gave of their time and talent to make this a success:

J. Lee Zaspel, Karen Anderson, Linda Berger, Noreen & Don Schmidt, Ina Zettler, Judy Zaspel, Jill Gilbertson, Barb Raisbeck, Jan Friesema, Maletta Lewis, Coni Johnson, Carol Bader, Sugar River Quilts, Julie Whitehurs, Deanna Rotar, Sylvia Limmex, Pat Elgersma, First Lutheran

Church Ladies, Kim Kluewer, Ruth Hines, Linda Snortheim, Labor of Love Quilters, Louise Wagner, Delia Chy, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clearwater Quilts & Friendly Hugs, Peggy Ottum, Karen Anderson

Congratulations to all the winners of a quilt: Jim Sjolín, John Fury, Shirley Kraemer, Becky Mauch, Denny Reick, Ginny Franz, Amanda Schuebel, Jim Hennen, Joyce Vahl, Dawn Radosevich, Norm Snortheim, Tandi Schneider, Nick Lesar, Marilyn Tylka, Frederick Anderson, Roxane Purgett, Raegene Rodman, Raymond LaVallee, Andy Ewing, Carol Carman, Shane Smith, Deanna Rotar, Gary & Kay Weirauch, Lee Ann Tomczyk, Steve Laabs, Darlene Schommer, Ruth Hines, Lisa Kazhaer

The Highground is starting the 2020

collection of patriotic quilts to be raffled off December 19, 2020. It will be hard to top the quality last year's quilts, but the quilters out there have never let our raffle winners down yet! Quilting projects can be of any size—wall hangings to king size blankets! However, it needs to have a patriotic design/colors. Quilts will be displayed as they come in (and the museum has room) with a full display of quilt projects the month of December. So bring in your projects as they are completed!!



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 wewerethere@thehighground.us

Board of Directors

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Chippewa Falls, WI

Vice Chair - Gary Weirauch
Neillsville, WI

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Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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Michele Benson-Ripon, WI

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Ron "Bulldog" Perry - Augusta, WI

Dominic Anderson - Richland Center

CHRIS PETTIS

Executive Director

During my first few weeks at The Highground, I have found myself amazed at the dedication of so many individuals and companies that have volunteer their time and resources in order to keep the Plaza, Tributes, and Camp Victory functioning so that all visitors have a memorable experience. Without that continued support, none of this would be possible.

As winter comes to an end, we are ramping up in preparation for summer. There are many tasks around the properties that will need to be accomplished. I look forward to working at a 6' social distance with the many volunteers to prepare The Highground for everyone's enjoyment. Additionally, I would like to extend a heart-felt Thank You to those that have already signed up for the Spring Work Week, May 6th-9th. If you haven't already signed up, please do so and join us for fresh air, sweat equity, and camaraderie.



I am writing this, blessed to be looking over The Highground, and it is very quiet. The Highground is still here for you. In these uncertain days of COVID-19, social distancing and self-quarantine, our health, both mental and physical, are extremely important.

The Highground offers a place to achieve fresh air, and tranquility. The plaza and tributes are open to all 24/7. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we have closed the museum and gift shop to the public with our online store still operational. We will keep you posted regarding the upcoming events and their possible postponement/

cancellations.

I would like to thank the members of the board for their knowledge and insight and the staff for being so passionate and involved in the day to day activities. We will continue to work hard in maintaining The Highground and Camp Victory in order to provide Honoring, Education, and Healing for all.

Executive Director

Chris Pettis
director@thehighground.us

Donations Coordinator

Kay Anason
donations@thehighground.us

Museum Coordinator

Theresa Hebert
museum@thehighground.us

Events Coordinator

Meranda Lelonek
events@thehighground.us

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Liz Hamilton
marketing@thehighground.us

Gift Shop Coordinator

Rhonda Miller
store@thehighground.us

We Were There Series Coordinator

June Abrahamson
wewerethere@thehighground.us

Maintenance

Mike Purgett

Gift Shop Staff

Roxane Purgett
Judy Quicker
Isabella Kapusta

Don't miss out on our activities on June 5th as we host our 1st Golf Outing and our United In Service Stone Ceremony, or on June 6th as we host our Veterans Organization Meet and Greet with our new Executive Director Chris Pettis!

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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FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

Gary Weirauch

As the country closes down due to the coronavirus, it would be impractical to think that The Highground has not been affected. We have not seen our normal amount of traffic to the park, the museum or the gift shop as people practice social distancing. Obviously, this impacts our sales and donations and our ability to keep a full staff on payroll. Although the park proper will always remain open, the museum and gift shop will be affected by government's call to close all nonessential business. Please reference our website as to the availability of the museum, gift shop and Camp Victory.

We are in the process of reviewing our programs and events and have cancelled August Freedom Fest. We shall not make a determination on work week, Memorial Day weekend or our first honor stone ceremony until we are much closer to the event in hopes that we are closer to business as usual as a country. No one can predict where the coronavirus outbreak will have taken us by then so we pledge to keep you informed so as not to force you into last minute change of plans.

As donors and volunteers, I say thank you for all you have done for The Highground. If financially possible, we still need your donations to keep the park in tip top shape so that when this crisis passes, as it will, we are ready to receive visitors and continue with our mission of educating, honoring and healing. We would also appreciate you visiting our on-line store to make your patriotic purchases in supporting our organization. Please call us with any questions, email us and stay up to date on our programs by visiting our website.

Above all, please stay safe and practice the medical protocols as prescribed because we want to see you healthy and back at the Park later this year.

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 this page, and sending it back in with your donation! The Highground does not sell it's lists or your information to anyone.

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, "We Were There" 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 Highground Museum

_____ Volunteer at Camp Victory

_____ 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 _____

Mega

Big Sale

Extended

The
Highground

Veterans Memorial Park



Check Out

OUR NEW ONLINE STORE FOR ALL OUR LATEST ITEMS!

UP TO 15% DISCOUNT ON SELECTED ITEMS
GET THE GEAR THAT SUPPORTS THE MISSION



Highground Potbelly Mug

\$22.99
-32.99

Handmade 12 oz. mug, crafted right here in the U.S.A. Perfect mug for coffee, hot chocolate, or soup on a cold day. Available in colors: Blue Moon, Cinnamon Roll, and Old Glory.



\$ 45.99-49.55 Varsity Hooded Pullover

"Home of the Free - Because of the Brave" pullover hoodie. Full front pocket, contrasting color hood, and two stripes on each sleeve.



\$54.99-59.99

The Highground Tonal Fleece Hoodie

The Highground Tonal Fleece Hoodie comes in an assortment of colors. This heavy duty hoodie with a fleece interior is perfect for the cold temperatures!

New



\$ 56.99

Patriotic Eagle

This metal Patriotic Eagle is a great display piece for any home decor!

WOMEN'S & MENS FASHION

MARCH - APRIL 2020

CALL US: 1-715-743-4224

web: www.THEHIGGROUND.SHOP | Email: store@thehighground.us

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As the season progresses, there are quite a few volunteer opportunities available to help support the programming and events of The Highground. Some of the basic needs are to buy and help sell raffle tickets; put up event posters in your town; become a porch greeter to help other experience The Highground; become a tour guide; or help with photography! Volunteers are needed for each and every event at The Highground to find out more about some of the needs, or to volunteer, please contact Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or Meranda at events@thehighground.us or call us at 715-743-4224. Volunteer and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground!

GLOBE ARBORVITAE TO BE ADDED TO MEDITATION GARDEN!



The Highground will be changing out the bushes in the Meditation Garden this summer! The Woodward globe arborvitae is a compact to medium-sized shrub that naturally maintains its broadly rounded shape. The fine-textured, lacy foliage is a rich green, turning shades of green and brown in winter. It's a popular landscaping choice for an evergreen hedge or stand-alone shrub. The current "boxwoods" are not remaining viable in our zone. We are asking that you donate \$50 to help pay for

the replacement of these shrubs so we can get them ordered and ready for Spring Work Week! Thank You!

WISHLIST NEEDS

Donations Needed - Can you support these items?

PARK

- **Summer Fertilizer and weed control-\$2000** to ensure that the grounds stay gorgeous and plush, and to make sure we keep the weeds out which drive up our maintenance costs by mowing excessively.
- **Plants for Meditation Garden-\$1500** While we are updating the Meditation Garden with the new walkway, this seemed like a good time to update the bushes that are not sustainable in the current zone. We will be upgrading these bushes in the Meditation Garden so that they are more stable for the zone.
- **Funding for new lights on Korean Tribute-\$3500** each year the lighting system on the Korean Tribute needs to be corrected, we are looking at putting an LED option into the pond that will shine up on the statues above. These lights are waterproof and will sit in the pond instead of the sidewall enhancing the beauty of the tribute.
- **Water Filtration System for Park-\$10,000** you will notice around the park that in a couple of areas have a whitened tint to them, this is caused by the minerals that collect from the water, we would like to put a new filtration system in that would cure this issue and not do anymore damage to the tributes that this is effecting

CAMP

- **Quality & Sight Equipment for Archery Hunts**
- **3 Guides per hunt per day for Archery Hunts**
- **1 Cook for Archery Hunts**



Check out the new website
for Camp Victory at
campvictorywi.com

MUSEUM

- Supplies for preservation & archiving of photographs, paper artifacts, military medals, uniforms, all collection items - \$1,000
- Display case(s) construction materials - \$300
- Information display stands - \$35/each
- Solid color black or brown sturdy frames (any material as long as they are in like new condition) with unscratched glass or acrylic: Sizes from 8 x 10 photo to 24" x 36".
- Easels - both taller to stand on the floor & tabletop easels to hold larger framed items
- Tabletop stands to hold 8x10 framed items, display artifacts - Book stands, plate, platter stands all work well

Donate to any one of these projects by going to www.thehighground.us and clicking on the "Donate" button, or by calling us at 715-743-4224



We are practicing social distancing, the grounds are still open 24/7, however all buildings are closed. We want to take a moment to thank our healthcare professionals as they deal with the devastating effects of this situation!

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 for us all, we will include a selection of names that will change for each future ceremony and newsletter. Note, this edition does not include a complete list of all who 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

Raymond F Przybyl
 Frederick W Ramlow
 Lyle G Regoy
 Paul Romanelli Jr
 Walter Sanitzky
 John F Scheibe
 John E Schilling
 Alois P Schill
 George H Schmidt
 William C Schultz II

William A. Benthien
 Lyle C. Bentley
 Karl J. Bera
 Sidney O. Bergner
 William A. Bernier
 Matther R. Berres
 Robert A. Best
 Michael Betthausen
 Thomas C. Biesterveld
 James C. Bilty
 George T. Bissel
 Arthur Blackhawk

Korean War

Oliver W. Bard
 Wayne E. Barnes
 Charles J. Baron Jr.
 Wallace E. Barr
 Bruce O. Barton
 Marlin F. Basina
 Kenneth Baskerville
 Allen G. Bauer
 Gerald F. Baumgartner
 Richard Baumgartner
 Jefferson Beaver
 Clarence W. Becker
 Paul R. Becker
 Earl L. Belk
 Richard A. Bell
 Ralph Bender
 Maurice Benson Jr.

Vietnam War

Gary R. Miracle
 James S. Mitchell
 William D. Mize
 Harold J. Moe
 Randy W. Molkentine
 Phillip D. Monson
 Andrew L. Moodya Jr.
 Kevin W. Moore
 Thomas P. Moore
 Charles G. Morack
 Michael P. Moran
 Richard A. Moran
 Larry H. Morgan
 James M. Moriarty
 Jerome D. Morneau

Desert Storm, OIF, OEF – To Present Day

Paul Buege
 Kevin Calloway
 Michael Fitz
 Daniel Joel
 Lance Monsen
 Rocky Nelson
 Scott Schroeder
 William Strehlow
 Brian Scott
 Patrick Wanke
 Ryan P. Long
 Kirk Allen Straseskie
 Matthew E. Schram
 Dan H. Gabrielson
 Paul J. Sturino
 Rachel K. Bosveld
 Warren S. Hansen
 Jeremy L. Wolfe
 Eugene A. Uhl III
 Christopher J. Splinter
 Nichole M. Frye
 Bert Edward Hoyer
 John F. "Hans" Kurth
 Sean M. Schneider
 Jesse L. Thiry
 Michelle M. Witmer
 Michael A. McGlothin
 Ryan M. Jerabek

Charles A. Kiser
 Stephen G. Martin
 Adrian V. Soltau
 Andrew Halverson
 Kyle M. Hemauer
 Ryan J. Nass
 Nicholas R. Anderson
 Patrick L. Lybert
 Adam P. Servais
 Merideth Howard
 Joshua C. Brennan
 Nick A. Dewhirst
 Daniel J. Thompson
 Steven T. Drees
 Ryan C. Adams
 Nickolas A. Mueller
 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
 Daren M. Hidalgo
 Justin D. Ross
 Paul J. Atim
 Ryan J. Larson
 Tyler R. Kreinz
 Michael C. Nolen
 Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr

