

NEWSLETTER

Honor, Educate and Heal... A Place for All

thehighground.us — 715.743.4224



From Left to right: John Zutz, Don Quicker, Scott Schultz, Steve Piotrowski, Matt Stevenson and Bob Kanyusik at The Highground Museum with Tom Miller on a video conference call.

“The Highground History Project” Moves Forward with Great Strides

On Saturday, April 29, several notable members of The Highground’s early years gathered for a day of recorded discussions on the foundation of The Highground.

Those present included Don Quicker, Steve Piotrowski, Bob Kanyusik, Matt Stevenson, John Zutz, and Scott Schultz. Tom Miller, Founder of The Highground, joined via video conference call from his home in New Jersey. The main focus of this day’s discussion was the beginning of The Highground – The Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project Inc. (WVVMPP). The group discussed several important “chapters” of The Highground’s history, including: the service of Tom Miller and Jack Swender in the Vietnam War, the incorporation of the WVVMPP, site selection for the future park, design of the main Plaza, the creation of “Fragments”, the dedication of the park and special stories of the creation and dedications of the Dove Effigy Mound, the Gold Star, WWI and WWII tributes. **Read more on page 7**



Summer “Vets & Guitars” & Ukuleles

Registration is open for the Summer “Vets & Guitars” & Ukulele course which begins on Thursday, June 15. Because of generous donors, these 10-session courses are free for Veterans. **Learn more on page 8**

What’s inside

06. Featured Veteran
Army Veteran Darrel O. Horn

09. Museum Update
Two special exhibitions will be on display this summer

13. Crisis Management
Discover resources for crisis management planning

Honor Stones, Memorials & Honorariums

Honor Stone Ceremonies bring together Veterans, families and friends throughout the summer and fall months.

These events offer guests an opportunity to share their appreciation for a special Veteran or service-hearted loved one in their life and often inspire never-before-told stories to be shared. Consider joining us for one of the available ceremony dates listed below and make some memories.

July 15, 11:00am Persian Gulf Honor Stone Ceremony

July 15, 2:00pm Legacy Honor Stone Ceremony and the Vietnam Veterans Reunion

August 5, 11am Legacy Honor Stone Ceremony

August 5, 2pm Legacy Honor Stone Ceremony – Currently three Veteran's Service groups will be in attendance. Join for the camaraderie!

September 16, 11am Legacy Honor Stone Ceremony and Military Working Dog Honor Stone Ceremony

September 16, 2pm Legacy Honor Stone Ceremony

October 7, 11am Legacy Honor Stone Ceremony

October 7, 2pm Legacy Honor Stone Ceremony

For more information about these honor stones, please email donations@thehighground.us, call Haley at 715-743-4224 or visit thehighground.us/honor-stones



A group of Honor Stones lined up for placement at the Park.

IN MEMORY OF

John Matuszak
Robert C. Lindberg
Gaylord Rous
Darrel Horn
Cyril M. Spangler
Herbert F. Holtz
Richard A. Schoultz
James Luenenberg
Roger I Ewoldt

Stephen G Frolicher
Danny E. Rossow
William P. O'Black
Gerald L. Nicholson
Leon Toyne
Frank Farrell
Roger Grell
Stephen P. Bird
Paul H. Sokolowski
Dennis D. Bee

Patrick Smalley
Rowland "Jack" Zurfluh
Edward G. Borkowski Jr.
Sigurd Brian
Phil Cler
Charles Havlicek

IN HONOR OF

David Pietenpol
Tom Gorenc
Rudy Winger

Honor Stone applications are available on our website, on the "Honor Stone" page, at thehighground.us/honor-stones.

Apply online or print the application and mail it to:
The Highground, PO Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

Thank You

Thank you, Honor Ride Sponsors!



Wisconsin District 7



American Legion Post #73
Neillsville

SCHEELS



In Memory of Sigurd Brian



Combat Veterans
Motorcycle Association



The Highground
JUNE 24
FREEDOM CELEBRATION FIREWORKS
JUNE 24
9:30 show time
limited concessions available
RAIN DATE: JUNE 25

The Highground

2023 Calendar of Events

NOTE: Honor Stone dates are firm; all Veterans Retreats and Vets & Guitars are TBD; the PTS Peer Support Group will meet monthly. All other event and exhibit dates are subject to change depending on construction.

- Jan 29 10th Annual Winter Bowl (Eau Claire)
- May 10-13 Spring Work Week
- May 13 Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
- May 14 Hmong Lao Day Ceremony
- May 20 Legacy Stone Ceremonies; Spring Bake Sale
- May 29 13th Annual Honor Ride; Memorial Day Ceremony
- June 10 Korean and Legacy Stone Ceremonies
- June 16-18 Female Veterans Retreat
- June 22-25 Female Veterans Retreat Ice Age Trail Hike
- June 24 Freedom Celebration Fireworks at Dusk
- July 15 Persian Gulf and Legacy Stone Ceremonies
- Aug 4-6 39th Annual Heroes Ride Bike Tour (Ceremony Aug 6)
- Aug 5 Legacy Stone Ceremonies
- Aug 11-13 Male Veterans Retreat
- Aug 19 23rd Annual Ride to Remember® Motorcycle Ride & Rally
- Sept 16 Legacy Stone Ceremonies; Military Working Dog Ceremony
- Sept 21 The Highground Day of Peace Community Event
- Oct 3-6 The Highground Education Days
- Oct 7 Legacy Stone Ceremonies; Fall Bake Sale
- Oct 13-14 Fall Cleanup Days
- Oct 21 Bowling for The Highground (TBD)
- Nov 11 Veterans Day Ceremony; Honor Our Veterans Raffle Drawing
- Nov 13-Mar 1, 2024 The Highground Holiday Lights
- Nov 28 Season of Giving – Pledge your support for The Highground
- Dec 9 Patriotic Quilt Raffle Drawing (Quilts displayed during Dec.)

Museum Exhibits

On display through May 2023 "History of The Highground" Exhibit and "Wisconsin Remembers: A Face for Every Name" (Vietnam Memorial) Exhibit

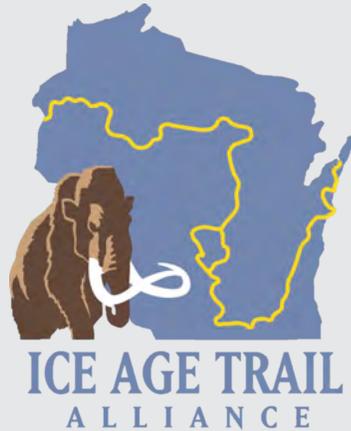
Visit thehighground.us for more information

Female Veterans Retreats

The Highground Offers Two Female Veterans Retreats in June



Presenter Sarah Blum with Veterans during a special Honor Stone ceremony at the 2022 Female Veterans Retreat.



Registration is still open for both retreats. Female Veterans can take part in these retreats free of charge. (Transportation to and from the retreat weekend is the responsibility of the Veteran) Vietnam Veteran nurse, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) / military sexual trauma (MST) presenter, Sarah Blum, will lead programs at both retreats. More information about Sarah's support of female Veterans and presentations can be found at womenunderfire.net.

The Highground Female Veterans Retreat at the Christine Center June 16-18, 2023

Lodging for the June 16-18 retreat will be in cabins at The Christine Center (christinecenter.org), a beautiful and serene retreat facility located near Willard, WI (13 miles from The Highground). The activities at The Christine Center, The Highground and other local sites will combine nature-based physical activities, creative arts, mindfulness and PTSD / MST management workshops. Veterans will participate in these workshops while being able to enjoy the beauty of nature and the camaraderie of other female Veterans. Details on specific presentations will be publicized when available on The Highground website (thehighground.us), The Highground e-news and social media.

The Highground Ice Age Trail Hike – Female Veterans Retreat June 22-25, 2023

The Highground Female Veterans Retreat hits Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail on its first-ever hiking / camping retreat! Spending time in nature is one of the most effective and achievable ways to help heal and manage PTSD and to reach goals of better mental health. Female Veterans will meet on the evening of Thursday, June 22nd near the Ice Age Trail section in Taylor County, Wisconsin. They will have the opportunity to learn outdoor skills and participate in meaningful PTSD / MST activities while hiking and camping on the Ice Age Trail Friday morning through Sunday afternoon. The intent of this retreat is for Veterans to learn and become confident in hiking and camping skills in order to continue with these activities after the retreat. They will also have the opportunity to make strides in healing and managing PTSD / MST through the group workshops led by Sarah Blum. The group will be hiking 5-8 miles daily on the rolling terrain of a segment of the Ice Age Trail. Veterans will be supplied with the basic equipment necessary for this adventurous weekend! We will also lead up to the retreat with information beforehand on how to prepare for the hike.

Major funding for both retreats has been received through generous grants from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the MDRT Foundation. In addition, Granite Gear has generously donated all the backpacks for the Female Veterans. Additional sponsors are: The National Society of the Dames of the Court of Honor and Maureen Hornung, Carol Shea, Bonnie Hengen, Simplicity Credit Union in Neillsville, Caribou Coffee, Festival Foods in Eau Claire, WWIS Radio- FM105.3|FM99.7|AM1260 and Central Wisconsin Broadcasting. We also thank the Ice Age Trail Alliance and Pete Kitzhaber for their expert guidance in planning this event as well as the Birch Creek Town Hall in Holcombe.

Registration is required to attend these retreats. To register for either or both of these retreats and for more information, please contact Theresa at The Highground museum@thehighground.us 715-743-4224

Male Veterans Retreat

Male Veterans Retreat Rescheduled to August 11–13, 2023

The Highground's Male Veterans Retreat will be held August 11–13 and will be based at The Highground. Veterans can participate in activities and learn skills which have proven to be helpful in Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS/PTSD) management. Activities will include outdoor skills workshops and nature-based physical activity such as hiking on trail systems near The Highground. Other important components of the retreat will include PTSD mindfulness workshops and art-based presentations, all presented in the group setting of Veterans. The intent of this retreat is for Veterans to learn new skills and hobbies that they can continue with on their personal PTS/PTSD growth journey. Jeanne Dowiasch with the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center will present a workshop on the Ice Age and early cultures in Wisconsin, followed by a fieldtrip to the Silver Mound archaeology site. More details about specific workshops and activities will be available as they are confirmed. The retreat workshops, meals and lodging at the retreat will be free for the Veterans who are registered and attend the retreat. Lodging will be at the Moraine Motel, adjacent to The Highground. Transportation to and back home from the retreat location will be the Veteran's responsibility.

Major funding for this retreat has been received through a generous grant from the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Additional sponsors of our Veterans Retreat program are: Carol Shea, Bonnie Hennen, Simplicity Credit Union–Neillsville, Festival Foods–Eau Claire, Caribou Coffee, WWIS FM105.3 | FM99.7 and Central Wisconsin Broadcasting.

To register and for more information, please contact Theresa at The Highground museum@thehighground.us 715-743-4224.



Equine Therapy at Strides Equestrian in Greenwood during the 2022 Male Veterans Retreat.

Veteran & Family PTSD Peer Support Group

The Highground holds a monthly peer support group for not only veterans that are managing post-traumatic stress (PTS), but also, for the family and loved ones of veterans with PTS.

There are limited resources in the way of peer support for family members and other loved ones that are the caregivers and support system for veterans. As with caregivers and families of people struggling with other physical and mental challenges, a caregiver and/or friend to a person struggling with PTS / PTSD can develop their own depression, stress, and fears due to their dedication to helping their loved one. The Highground PTS Peer Support Group welcomes these family members and friends!

The Peer Support Group offers a confidential and casual gathering to learn from others that are “in your shoes”; listen to speakers on topics chosen by the group; and obtain resources. The group is an opportunity to find support and comfort in a welcoming environment, to share experiences and make new friendships. Families and Veterans can attend separate from their loved one(s). Veterans who are struggling with PTS are invited to attend to gain additional skills, information and tools that others have found helpful in managing PTS. This is not a

clinical, counseling group, but there are presentations and information available from professionals in PTS management.

Both veterans and family / friends of veterans that attend the PTS Peer Support Group are able to learn from each other...to get an idea of how PTS is affecting the daily life of the veteran AND how it is also affecting the lives of the caregivers and loved ones. The recognition of this is a key to improving communication. Better communication is a major step towards better PTS management, better relationships, and a more joyful quality of life.

The Highground PTS Peer Support Groups are generally held every 3rd Sunday of the month at 2pm. The upcoming scheduled PTS Peer Support Groups are June 11, July 16, August 20 and September 17.

Major sponsors of the Veteran / Family PTSD Peer Support Group are the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) and the Charles E Kubly Foundation.

For more information, please send an email to Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.

Featured Veteran Darrel O. Horn

A Longtime Volunteer Will be Missed But Remembered With a Smile

The Highground holds all of our volunteers in the highest regard. Without the extra hands and hearts, the many events that begin in May and take us into October would be difficult to manage with the few people we have on staff!

A kind soul, Darrel Horn, was one of our stalwart volunteers for 12+ years. His family, friends and fellow volunteer companions have said their good byes. Darrel passed away on March 27, 2023 while cooking what would become his final batch of maple syrup.

His love of The Highground went without saying as he hardly ever said “no, I’m not available” when asked to help with an event. His wife, Lois, of 64 years recalls that Darrel enjoyed being a Porch Greeter. “Sometimes you got tears in your eyes to hear their stories”, Darrel shared with Lois.

Darrel was an Army Veteran, having enlisted on January 7, 1955 and serving as a PVT (Private) until his honorable discharge on October 10, 1956. Having never left the states, he nonetheless felt it was his duty. According to his wife Lois, Darrel thought every young man should serve their two years in the service or Peace Corps, “it helps us to grow up. I know I did.”

Following his time in the service, Darrel attended the Farm Short Course at UW-Madison and returned home to his



A photo taken at the Korean Tribute in 2018. Darrel is on the right in the yellow shirt.

family’s farm. Finding his life companion, he and Lois were married on June 7, 1958. They worked together cultivating the family farm which became a Century Farm in 1984. What brought Darrel more joy than his prize Holsteins, was his three daughters. Darrel and Lois enjoyed traveling to many states and countries during their retirement years. He was most at peace in the woods enjoying the wildlife, planting or harvesting trees or tapping for syrup in his sugarbush.

Darrel was humbled to be granted the opportunity to join the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. with his daughter, Denise, as his “Guardian”. Lois reports he thought it was the most beautiful sight to see.

Upon the return of his Honor Flight, Darrel was handed an envelope of letters, mainly from students he didn’t know. Mrs. Lois said “he was not a letter

writer, but he wrote a letter to every one of the people who sent one to him”.

As his 2023 Spring turkey permit goes unfilled, we cherish his duty to his country, his family, and his community. Darrel will always be with us on The Highground as he shares an 8 x 12 black granite stone on the wall of the Korean War Tribute...



Darrel’s granite honor stone is located on the wall of the Korean War Tribute.

The Highground History (cont.)

The video and transcript from this roundtable meeting will be a valuable part of The Highground History Project, future educational exhibits and as a documented reminder of The Highground's intent and mission as the organization continues to be an important part of the lives of many Veterans and their families. Special thanks go out to Carol Amour for recording the event and for her assistance in formatting and organizing the documentation to best meet The Highground's current and future needs. We look forward to working with Carol on future documentary events for The Highground History Project—coming very soon!

The event was made even more pleasant with a home-cooked breakfast and lunch provided by Bonnie Hennen who helps in so many ways year-round at The Highground! We are currently working on collecting and cataloging stories, documents, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the fascinating and important history of The Highground. Funding is needed for covering costs such as travel, food and lodging for additional documentary events like this.

If you would like to help with funding for the project, or if you have stories or items to share, please send Theresa an email to museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.



From the archives: The Fourth Annual Bike-a-Thon held in 1988.



From the archives: "Fragments" being hoisted for placement.

THE BENEFITS OF A CHARITABLE BEQUEST

Each year, the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project (dba The Highground) receives bequests that help us meet our current funding needs, expand Veterans programs and plan for the future.

A charitable bequest is an amazing way for you to support the work of The Highground and its continuing mission. Here are some of the reasons why you may consider bequest giving:

- Making a bequest today will cost you nothing.
- You can make a gift of any amount while retaining control of your assets during your lifetime.
- Bequests can be modified at any point in time.
- An outright gift from your estate is entirely free from federal estate taxes, permitting The Highground to utilize the full amount of your gift. Bequests made to individuals, in contrast, are usually heavily taxed.
- Enjoy the satisfaction of creating a legacy and having a lasting impact on the long-term health and recovery of our Veterans.

Here are the many ways you can make a bequest:

- Make a gift of cash, securities or property.
- Give a specific dollar amount or asset.
- Specify a percentage on your estate.
- Specify a gift from the balance of your estate.
- Designate the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project as a beneficiary of your IRA, retirement account or insurance policy.*

***To designate the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project as the beneficiary (whole or part) of your life insurance policy/policies, you can request a beneficiary change form from your insurance company.**

Our information:

The Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project
PO Box 457
W7031 Ridge Rd.
Neillsville, WI 54456
Phone: 715-743-4224
EIN/Federal Tax ID#: 39-1512902

To learn more about bequest giving, please send an email to Chris Pettis at director@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.

“Vets & Guitars” & Ukuleles

Registration is open for the Summer “Vets & Guitars” & Ukuleles course which begins on Thursday, June 15.

4:30pm: Beginner Ukulele Class

6pm: Beginner Acoustic Guitar Class

Veterans can email Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224 to register or for more information.

At the time of this writing, The Highground is in the middle of the Spring “Vets & Guitars” & Ukuleles course! This third session had a full house—12 Veterans for guitar instruction and 5 for ukulele. Music is a powerful tool in bringing joy to life. Peace and mental focus can be found almost immediately when we listen to and create music. The “Vets & Guitars” & Ukuleles course is a fun way for Veterans to learn a lifelong artistic skill in the company of fellow Veterans. All courses are instructed by local award-winning musician and instructor, Victoria Shoemaker. Victoria has partnered with The Highground to develop this music program for Veterans. More information on Victoria and her music performances with Peter Phippen and their band, Virginia Steel, can be found at virginiasteelmusic.com. The **Acoustic Guitar course** is geared towards Veterans who have little to no experience or those who haven’t played in several years and would like to refresh their skills and enjoy the company of fellow Veterans. The **Ukulele course** was an exciting new addition to The Highground’s Veterans programs. According to Victoria, “The ukulele is easier for Veterans that have a lack of hand strength or control to play. We wanted to offer this exciting option for Veterans that have not joined the guitar course because of this...we want to reach out to more Veterans with this important program.” Because of generous donors, the 10-session courses are free for Veterans and The Highground is able to supply the instruction, instruments and basic supplies needed for the courses. **Major funding for the 2023 programs has been received from Lawrence Kizewski and grants from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). It takes \$150 to sponsor a Veteran for the program. If you would like to help a Veteran attend this program through a sponsorship, please contact Theresa at The Highground.**



Victoria and Veterans at a Spring “Vets & Guitars” & Ukuleles session.

The Highground 39th Annual

BIKE TOUR

August 4–6, 2023

The Highground Heroes Ride Bike Tour has been a popular, family-friendly ride for almost 40 years. Starting in five locations across Wisconsin, the 2–3, 170-plus day ride ends at The Highground. This vital fundraiser bolsters the organization’s efforts to provide much-needed support, programs and resources to Veterans and their families. **To join a route, contact a route leader or visit thehighgroundheroesride.com today.**

The Northern Route
Route Leaders
Mike & Kathy Gleisner: 715-937-6786
mike.gleisner@hotmail.com

The Western Route
Route Leader
Jerry: 715-246-5370 simonsoa@iconicnet.net
Cole: 651-895-9622, cop4695@belnet.edu

The Eastern Route
Route Leader
Curt: 920-539-5148
karatemani13184@charter.net

The Southwestern Route
Route Leaders
Terri: 608-350-6105
alveinbope03@gmail.com

The Southern Route
Route Leaders
Kathy: 608-669-5129 kathyhett16@gmail.com
Mary: 715-957-5110 mbcooni@gmail.com

The Highground

715.743.4224 | thehighground.us | W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville, WI 54456

23RD ANNUAL RIDE TO REMEMBER®

ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE RIDE HONORING POW'S, MIA'S & KIA'S

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023

REGISTRATION: 9–10AM
(AMERICAN LEGION, 6 BOON BLVD, NEILLSVILLE)

\$25/RIDER OR \$45/RIDER PLUS PASSENGER

INCLUDES RIDES, ROCKER OR PATCH AND LUNCH
GINORMOUS “BASKET BABES” RAFFLE • LIVE MUSIC • VENDORS

ONE-HOUR GUIDED RIDES: 10:30AM & 1PM; TWO-HOUR GUIDED RIDE: NOON

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL BONNIE AT 715-743-4224
OR SEND AN EMAIL TO EVENTS@THEHIGHGROUND.US

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT THE HIGHGROUND'S MISSION TO HONOR, EDUCATE AND HEAL VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND ALL WHO VISIT
— SINCE 2001 —

THEHIGHGROUND.US

Museum Summer 2023 Update

Showing throughout the Summer!

The Highground Museum will be displaying two very special exhibitions throughout this summer. The Highground was founded to remember those lost, and the sacrifices of those who served, in the Vietnam War. We continue this mission this summer in a very special way by offering visitors the chance to see the photos and read the names of the men from Wisconsin who never returned from their service in Vietnam with **“Wisconsin Remembers – A Face For Every Name”**. This exhibit will be on display starting in June and throughout the summer.

The other exhibition that will be on display at the same time as “A Face For Every Name” is the ever-growing exhibit **“The History of The Highground”**. As Highground staff continue to research, conduct interviews, document and preserve the history of The Highground (nearly 40 years!), additions will be made to the exhibit. Currently, the exhibit showcases the timeline of notable events and news articles showing the reaction and participation of not only Vietnam Veterans, but of citizens statewide.



“Wisconsin Remembers – A Face For Every Name”



Creation of The Highground's Dove Effigy Mound (1989).



“Fragments” Designer & Sculptor, Bob Kanyusik, molding the clay statue.

Vietnam Veterans Reunion

On Saturday, July 15, The Highground will host its annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion combining Vietnam War exhibits, Huey helicopter displays (a landing – weather permitting) and an opportunity to meet fellow Vietnam veterans. There are usually 100+ Vietnam Veterans who come together for lunch!

Itinerary:

10am (?): UH-1H Huey landing (weather permitting) – Sponsored by John & Donna Koutre

10am–5pm: “Vietnam Experience” Exhibit – by Carl Bogar Jr. with Historic Military Impressions

This exhibit will be at The Highground Friday, July 14–Sunday, July 16.

10am–5pm: “Tet Offensive 1968” Book Signing & Sales by Carl Bogar Jr.

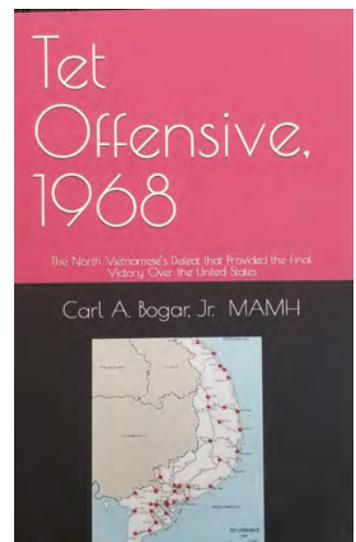
10am–3pm: Static Display UH-1H Huey Helicopter – Courtesy of VVA 331

12:30pm–1:30pm: Lunch is served for Reunion guests – RSVP's are appreciated –

Please email Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.

We are still accepting sponsors for the Vietnam Veterans Reunion Lunch. Please contact Theresa if you or your organization would like to be a sponsor. For more information, send Theresa an email to museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.

The Museum is open Monday–Friday from 10am–5pm and Saturday–Sunday from 9am–5pm. For more information on exhibits and/or inquiries about donations to the Museum, please email Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.



“We Were There: Vietnam War” Project

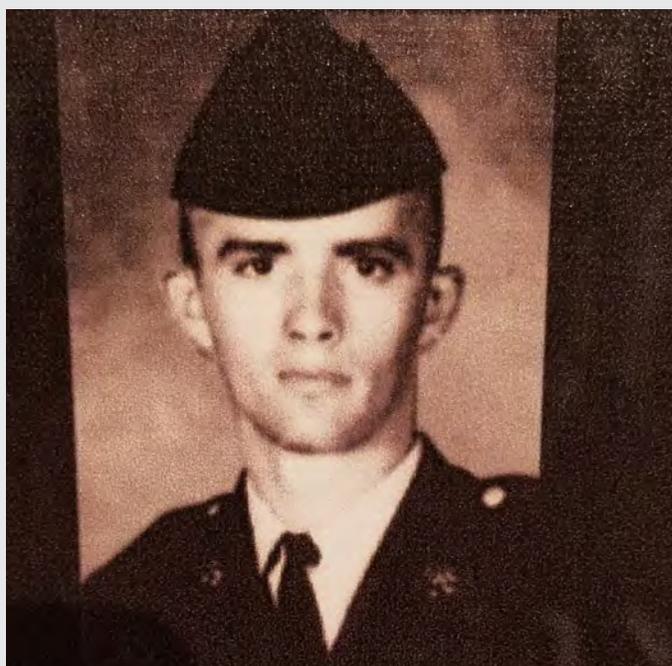
The “We Were There: Vietnam War” project is still open for Vietnam Veterans and their families to join and share their stories.

This project is a collection of how the Vietnam War affected both those who served in the military during this time and also the lives of the families back home. There are many ways to be a part of the project in a manner that is most comfortable for you. Personal recollections can be shared by being interviewed and/or by submitting photographs, written stories, creative works of poetry and music, actual memorabilia, letters, and more. You do not have to be a combat Veteran to be a part of “We Were There: Vietnam War”. The project will document a wide range of personal experiences of those that served in many ways, from the combat veteran to the many that served by supporting those in the midst of combat, and the families back home.

The purpose of this project is to remember and honor those who were affected by serving in Vietnam; give a voice to the stories of the families waiting back home; document the experiences to preserve them and to provide an educational exhibition. This project will also help promote healing for many veterans who continue to face post-traumatic stress (PTS). Sharing experiences, seeing that others are “in your shoes” and joining a creative project can help not only that veteran, but also veterans of all eras who will view and learn from this exhibition. The “We Were There: Vietnam War” exhibition will also include information and resources for Veterans and families struggling with PTS.

Approximately 50 Vietnam Veterans and families are already part of the “We Were There: Vietnam War” project and more are welcome to join! Interviews are a great way to record and connect your story to the world. Veterans and families are encouraged to set up an individual or group interview. If you would like to set up an interview, please contact Theresa at The Highground. There is a deadline of Memorial Day (May 29, 2023) to submit information to be a part of the physical banner and memorabilia exhibition. This is close to the time of this writing. Please contact Theresa at The Highground as soon as possible if you wish to submit items for the banner exhibit! The virtual exhibition, which will be available online, will include the interviews, photographs and written submissions. **Note: Items in the banner exhibit will also be available on the virtual exhibit. The deadline for the virtual exhibition items is September 15, 2023.**

This is a big project which would not be possible without financial support. Sponsors of the “We Were There: Vietnam War” project are: VFW 9202 – Germantown, WI and Gary Koenigs. For information about becoming a sponsor and the “We Were There: Vietnam War” project in general, please contact Theresa at The Highground museum@thehighground.us 715-743-4224.



News clipping submitted by the family of Dennis Klimpke of Colby WI, KIA Vietnam on April 15 1968, 55 years to the day when Dennis's brothers came in to be interviewed for the “We Were There: Vietnam War” Project. The date was not planned to be on the anniversary. It was a meaningful coincidence.

Friends of The Highground Dinner Recap

58 first-year contributors joined longtime supporters in bolstering the organizations continued efforts to support Veterans and their families.

The generosity of many make the mission possible. Supporters from Wisconsin and surrounding states braved the winter weather on the evening of March 11, 2023, for the Friends of The Highground Dinner. They joined members of The Highground staff and Board of Directors at the Castle Hill Supper Club in Merrilan, Wisconsin to recognize supporters for 2022.

Chris Pettis, Executive Director, reflected on last year's events and provided glimpses into 2023 with his Friends of The Highground address. Most pivotal is the ever-growing Veterans programming that the nonprofit offers to Veterans and their families as well as the great need to provide a welcoming environment for program attendees. The Highground anticipates breaking ground on the new Welcome Center in 2023 to meet those needs.

This annual recognition dinner is intended to show appreciation for the generous donors who give monetarily, provide services that save The Highground over \$1,000 or assist in raising over \$1,000 in the year prior to the event.

Of the 200 individuals and organizations to be recognized, The Highground welcomed 58 first-year contributors in 2022.

They were joined by faithful advocates Dr. John & Rebecca Scaletta, Donald Quicker and Central Wisconsin Broadcasting (WCCN/WKPG). These champions have supported the Highground for many years, including the 19 years that this recognition dinner has been around.

The Highground Liberty Bell was chosen for the award certificate photo as 2022 marked the 20th Anniversary of its dedication as a tribute.

Keeping with the tradition, the "Spirit of The Highground" awards were presented to four individuals for not only their 2022 contribution but also for their ceaseless devotion through their volunteer service throughout the year. The recipients were Carol Shea, Julie Diesing, Bonnie Henchen and Wes Waterman.

The Highground staff is a very small but tight group of 10 that would not be able to accomplish so much without the endless help of so many volunteers and contributors. The Highground is eternally grateful to all of them.

The article with the entire list of those who received the "Friends of The Highground" certificates is available on our website "News" page at www.thehighground.us/the-highground-hosts-19th-annual-recognition-dinner/.

WIN A NEW ATV!

2023 ATV Raffle

**Honoring our
Veterans**

November 11, 2023
at The Highground



**\$20 each or 3 for \$50
Over \$11,000 in prizes!**

**Purchase tickets at The Highground Gift Shop,
call 715-743-4224 or email store@thehighground.us
We only have 1,000 tickets, so get yours today!**

1st Place: 2023 Polaris
Sportsman 570 (above)*
(value \$10,000)

2nd Place: \$1,000 Cash
3rd Place: \$500 Cash

*Note, winner is responsible for tax and title

The drawing will be held after the 3pm Veterans Day Ceremony.

SPONSORED IN PART BY:



Patriotic Quilt Raffle



Drawing:

Dec 9, 2023

at The Highground Museum

As many winners as there are quilts

1 Quilt per winner

Quilts can be mailed at winners' expense (\$15-\$20)

Special Fun Raffle for those present day of drawing



Quilts will be displayed in
the museum & online from
Dec 1 to Dec 9.

**Need not be present to win
However those present will
have 1st choice**

The Highground Education Days 2023

Two Events Designed for Different Ages!
October 3–4 for 5th Grade / October 5–6 for 9th–12th Grades

5th Grade Event

October 3 & 4 – Choose AM or PM session and day

Tour The Highground with a knowledgeable guide discovering the history and unexpected stories of The Highground, the Tributes and our Veterans' military service. A Flag Retirement Ceremony, conducted by the Ah-Da-Wah-Gam chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, will be held each day at midday (in the overlap of AM & PM sessions)

For 5th Grade Tour – Choose either October 3 or October 4 / AM or PM session

- AM session each day is 9:30am - 12:15pm (no lunch break)
- PM session each day is 11:30am - 2:15pm (no lunch break)

9th–12th Grade Event

October 5 & 6 – Full Day

This event will have two exciting, educational presentations each on these subjects / tributes – WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars (Global War on Terror). A speaker will present information on the U.S. experience in that conflict. An additional speaker will present the students with cultural information about the countries or regions where the conflicts took place. These countries will be: Japan in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and/or Afghanistan. Presentations will be full of information, artifacts and interesting cultural items!

For 9th - 12th Grade – Choose either Thursday, October 5 or Friday, October 6

- Each day will be from 9:30am–2:00pm (lunch break 11:30–noon)

To book a tour for your students, email Theresa at museum@thehighground.us or call 715-743-4224.

Picnic tables are available for schools that think their students would enjoy eating lunch at The Highground. A requested donation (not mandatory) of \$3.00 per person is appreciated.



Ward Zischke presenting at the Korean Tribute during the 2022 Education Days.



Henry Smith presenting at the National Native American Vietnam Veterans Tribute during the 2022 Education Days.

What is a Crisis Management Plan?

Purpose: Identify warning signs/triggers of a potential post-traumatic stress (PTS / PTSD) crisis. Recognize when the crisis may escalate and know when to refer to the plan and take action to reduce risks of self-harm or harm to others.

What is a Safety Plan?

- A written list of personal, prioritized triggers/warning signs of an escalating crisis
- A written list of coping strategies to use and sources of support individuals to contact to de-escalate the situation.

Why is a Safety Plan important?

- PTS crises are not usually a onetime occurrence.
- Having and practicing a safety plan helps de-escalate crisis situations.
- The very act of thinking through and creating a plan is helpful to reduce anxiety and to realize the support and options that are available to help during a crisis.
- Creating a Safety Plan with a loved one is an opportunity to communicate openly about PTS.

Who should have a Safety Plan? You

Is a Safety Plan effective? YES

How are Safety Plans done?

Optimally, safety plans are completed with a clinician's supervision in order to help assess, address concerns and revise the plan to meet the individual's needs.

Six Steps of Safety Planning:

1. Identify your warning signs/triggers
2. Determine what things you can do to take your mind off the problems before contacting another person.
3. Name the people and social settings that make you feel better or provide helpful distractions.
4. Contacting family members or friends who may help resolve the crisis.
5. Identify mental health professionals or agencies.
6. Determine how to make your environment safer.

Here are some resources to help you make your plan:

You can contact Theresa or Bonnie at 715-743-4224 or email museum@thehighground.us or events@thehighground.us for Safety Plan forms.

Weblinks:

mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/vasafetyplancolor.pdf
healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/MH/srb/PHCoEPatientSafetyPlanSelfPrint3302020508.pdf
ptsd.va.gov/publications/print/understandingptsd_family_booklet.pdf
floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/VA-Suicide-Prevention-Community-Outreach-Toolkit.pdf



Vet Center – La Crosse
20 Copeland Avenue
La Crosse, WI 54603
Direct line
608-782-4403

Vet Center – Green Bay
1600 South Ashland Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54304
Direct line
920-435-5650

Vet Center – Madison
1291 North Sherman Ave
Madison, WI 53704
Direct line
608-264-5342

Vet Center – Milwaukee
7910 North 76th Street, Suite 100
Milwaukee, WI 53223-3916
Direct line
414-902-5561

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) or text to **838255**

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FEATURED ITEMS

GIFT SHOP SUMMER HOURS ARE 10AM-5PM DAILY

ARE YOU A NEW CUSTOMER? GET 15% OFF YOUR FIRST ONLINE ORDER!

We carry a variety of products for all, designed with those you love in mind. Check out our t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jewelry, home decor and more in store and online.

THEHIGHGROUND.SHOP

The store that supports the mission



JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2023



Kimona Style 1093
Cover-up \$22.95

Lightweight tie-dye cover-up in navy blue with tassels on the bottom.



"They Fight We Ride"

Honoring those who helped give us the freedom to ride. Original print by Tom Miller. **1137**
\$24.95



Service Branch T-shirts

Licensed service branch tees. "Veteran" in bold across chest. Army and Marine Corps tees have soldier images within the letters. Navy tee has ship images within the letters. The left sleeve has "The Highground We Remember" in white.

1152
\$26.95



HG Gift Card

The perfect gift for anyone and any occasion. Available in any amount.



Tranquility Chime 1189

Find peace and serenity with the sound of our tranquility table chime. A wonderful gift for anyone who needs to unplug for a while. Perfect size for a bookshelf or desktop.

\$49.95



Family Chaos Art Heart 2400

"Family - just the right mix of chaos and love". The heart can be hung by its tassel or stand using the attached key. **\$19.95**

Call us at 715-743-4224

Email: store@thehighground.us
thehighground.shop

W7031 Ridge Road, Neillsville, WI 54456

Wish List

We are in need of the following:

- Volunteers who are willing to keep the weeds at bay 1-2 times a month from April-October
- Sweet Platoon bakers to provide desserts (no icing or refrigerator necessary) for events. See the Calendar of Events on page 3.
- Funding for these landscaping items: Inline fertilizer spreader (\$150), fertilizer and lime (\$1,028), black lava rocks (\$280), caution paint (\$50)
- Trail bench number markers
- Fireworks sponsorship (contact Bonnie)
- \$150 sponsorship for the Vietnam Veterans Reunion (contact Theresa)

Please give us a call if you are able to help with any of the wish list items.

Thank you for the donations of binders and Rubbermaid totes for Museum storage, monetary support for digitizing the "We Were There: Vietnam War" and "The Highground History" projects, gravel for maintaining the grounds and monetary support for the Vietnam Veterans Reunion lunch.

Gifting opportunities to consider:

- Honor a lost loved one with a Memorial gift
- Honor a loved one with an Honorarium
- Contribute to The Highground Endowment Fund
- Sponsor one of four Persian Gulf Tribute barriers for \$4K (together with family community, employer, etc.)
- Veterans service organizations can honor the families and communities of our Veterans with a United in Service Stone

To support any of these initiatives, please send an email to donations@thehighground.us or call Haley at 715-743-4224.



For More Information, Contact 715-743-4224

W7031 Ridge Rd, P.O. Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456

Find us somewhere on Social Media!



Newsletter Subscription

What you can do to help us... If you would like to receive the Email Newsletter to help reduce printing and postage costs, please contact us and we can make that happen. There is also an email signup form at the bottom of our website homepage. If you receive more than one issue of each newsletter, please let us know. If you would like to continue receiving a hard copy newsletter, a small monetary assistance of \$25 per year would help cover the printing and mailing costs. Want to make sure you don't miss an issue? Cut off the form to the right, fill it out and send it with your donation in the included envelope. Please rest assured that The Highground does not sell its lists or your information to anyone.

Request Information

The Highground is a grassroots, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The private facility, which receives no ongoing federal or state funding, is supported by private donations and grants. It has a very small operating budget and exists because volunteers and contributors have given The Highground their time, talents and personal/financial resources.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

I would like the gift to be used for:

and/or the printed newsletter subscription \$25

Please mail to:

The Highground

P.O. Box 457 Neillsville, WI 54456

or call 715-743-4224 to make a donation.

I would like more information about:

- _____ Upcoming events and the fundraising calendar
- _____ Honor Stones
- _____ Adding someone to the mailing list
(please include the name and address of the person you want to send a gift subscription to)
- _____ Capital Campaign
- _____ Endowment Fund
- _____ Booking details for "We Were There: Korean War" exhibit

I would also like to volunteer for the following events and activities. Please reach out to me!

- _____ Porch Greeter
- _____ Work Week
- _____ Heroes Ride Annual Bike Tour
- _____ Honor Ride/Memorial Day
- _____ Ride to Remember®
- _____ The Highground Museum
- _____ Honor Stone Ceremonies

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Questions or Comments _____



The Korean Tribute honors those who served during the Korean War. The three bronze figures depict Cold, Heat and Anguish, conditions that made living and fighting in Korea an unending nightmare. The figures are on granite slabs shaped like the peninsula of Korea in the midst of the Yin-Yang circle, the symbol on the South Korean flag. Water surrounds the peninsula, emphasizing the distance these men are from home, family and friends.

Let Them Not Go In Silence

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park staff, visitors and supporters remember and honor all who have served; in times of combat and in times of peace. All Veterans of any era have, at one point in their life, written a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount up to and including their life. 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 gave their lives during combat \(KIA\) service to our country. As a tangible reminder for us all, a different selection of KIA names will be printed for each future ceremony and newsletter. Again, this is not the complete list but a selection of names from each war who gave their lives in combat areas.](#)

Let us remember and honor all those who perished during their service and let them not go in silence. We ring our replica Liberty Bell in their honor at each ceremony. We hope you will ring it whenever you are here.

Korean War

George Michael Zukowski
Rowland "Jack" Zurfluh
Wilbert Vincent Adamick
Donald Edwin Adams
Willis L. Akins
Donald Otto Albert
Verle S. Albertson
Elmer J. Albecht
Jack Duane Alexander
Donald Paul Allan
Leslie R. Amann
Wayne R. Amelung
Donald E. Anderson
Gale C. Anderson
George Freeman Anderson
John W. Anderson
Linford R. Anderson
Loris W. Anderson
Norbert Anderson
Robert Donald Anderson
Eugene Leroy Angel
Eugene J. Arcand
Ray Louis Arpke
Leroy E. Aschenbrenner
Donald James Ayem
Raymond W Backhaus
Donald Lavern Baer
David J. Baermann
Thomas Charles Baker
Benjamin B. Baldwin
Keith Duane Baldwin
James J. Banczak

Ward Oliver Bard
Ernest Waune Barnes
Charles J. Baron Jr.
Wallace E. Barr
Bruce O. Barton
Marlin F. Basina
Kenneth Baskerville
Gerald Allen Bauer
Gerald F. Baumgartner
Richard Baumgartner

Vietnam War

Kevin Walker Moore
Gene Charles Morack
Michael Peter Moran
Larry Harold Morgan
James Michael Moriarty
Jermone Dale Morneau
John D. Morris
Carl P. Morrison
Edward Arnold Morrison
Cecil J. Moser
Larry Clarence Mosher
Wayne Charles Mousel
Robert Joseph Muellenbach
Joseph Bernard Mueller
Marco Francisco Mueller
Randy Roy Mueller
Robert Gilbert Mueller
Tom Richard Mueller
Michael Lee Mulcahy
Russell Wesley Mulder
Francis Trainor Mulvey

Thomas Joseph Murphy
Timothy James Murphy
William Henry Murphy III
George Thomas Murray
Chester Arthur Myers Jr.
Gordon Lavern Nagel
Nicholas Lee Natzke
Randall Keith Nauertz
Orlan Marvin Nelon
Vernon Lee Nelson
John Laurence Nesovanovic
Bruce Paul Nettesheim
Earl Jeffrey Netzow
James R. Neubauer
Mark Willard Neumann
Terry James Neumeier
Gregory Eugene Newman
Michael C. Newman
Jerry Allen Nichols
Larry James Nicholson
Gilbert Ronald Nickerson
Russell Chester Nicolai
Michael Charles Nielsen
Ronald Robert Niles
Donald William Noel
George E Norbut
Timothy John Norman

Gulf Wars–GWOT–Present Day

Ryan C. Adams
Jesse B. Albrecht
Tracy Lynn Alger

Joseph J. Altmann
Nicholas R. Anderson
Paul J. Atim
Robert J. Basham
Jeremy Bird
Evan A. Bixler
Paul Buege
Daniel Busch
Kevin Calloway
Michael Fitz
Carson Holmquist
Daniel Joel
Durwood "Hanks" Jones
Ryan D. Jopek
Charles A. Kaufman
Richard J. Kemp
Amy Krueger
Cheryl LaBeau-O'Brien
Lance Monsen
Rocky Nelson
Heidi Ruh
Scott Schroeder
Brian Scott
Russell Seager
William Strehlow
Adam J. VanAlstine
Brent T. Vroman

Jeremy D. Vrooman
Patrick L. Wade
Andrew P. Wallace
Patrick Wanke
Richard D. Warner
Robert P. Warns, II
Anthony R. Wasielewski
Michael J. Wendling
Earl D. Werner
Matthew J. West
Travis M. Wichlacz
Michelle M. Witmer
Jeremy L. Wolfe
Daniel R. Wyatt