



# MIKE VOTH MEMORIAL CHAPTER 5

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## April 2021 NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 7:00 P.M.  
HELD AT VFW POST #7232, 2900 W. FOLSOM, EAU CLAIRE, WI



Volume 7 – 2

EDITOR – Julia McBee

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting @ 7p.m. (AVVA @ 6:30 p.m.)
- April 8<sup>th</sup> The Highground Rising virtual launch 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting @ 7p.m. (AVVA @ 6:30 p.m.)
- May 10-15 – Armed Forces & Home Front Heroes Appreciation Week
- May 31<sup>st</sup> Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute Park, Altoona  
Dedication & Legacy Stone Laying @ 1:30 p.m.

### OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Mike Korger 715-404-5796
- VP - Kenny Piel 715-533-2732
- Treasurer - Joe Heil 715-559-2945
- Secretary - Mac McBee 715-202-0181
- Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms - Joe Graff
- BOD Bill Buss 715-5-669-3952
- BOD Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- BOD Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
- BOD Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
- BOD Al Weix 715-832-4792

Chapter website: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org)  
 Chapter email: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5](http://www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5)

### COMMITTEES

- AVVA Chapter Representative - Rick Talford 715-926-5302
- Color Guard – Rick Talford 715-926-5302
- Eau Claire Veteran’s Council – Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158
- Finance – Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Fundraising – J. Heil, J. McBee
- Government Affairs – Bob Laguban 651-285-8518
- Historical – Julia McBee 715-202-0181
- Minority Affairs – Dave Zien 715-829-9436
- Membership – Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Outdoor Recreation – Bill Anderson 715-530-3481
- POW/MIA/Highground – Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Public Affairs – Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Scholarship – J. Heil, Chair; J. Graff, M. Korger, J/J McBee
- Veterans Assistance – Dave Mayenchein 715-669-3169
- Veterans Home – Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
- Women Veterans – Julia McBee 715-202-0181

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA’S  
FOUNDING PRINCIPLE,

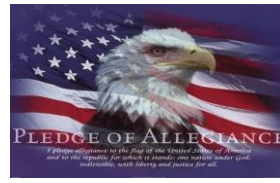
*“Never again will one generation  
of veterans abandon another.”*



God Bless All Veterans

P.O. Box 832, Eau Claire, WI 54702





April 2021 President's Letter

Greetings,

It was great to see those of you who could make it to our meeting in March. A sign of some normalcy after four months of not meeting! It felt good.

Not much for activities other than a Vietnam Veterans Day was held at VFW Post 305 on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, and our fundraising committee met and determined we should proceed with our annual raffle and sell our tickets at the available fairs and community events.

There was a virtual VVA State meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> that Joe Heil and I will report on at our next meeting. The Veteran, our national VVA magazine will be printed soon. No events for the Veterans Tribute Trail until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Check your "calendar of events" for the Highground to see what is going on there.

I am looking forward to being able to see you at our next regular VVA meeting on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> (after Easter)

at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger, President  
VVA Chapter 5

### **CHAPTER MINUTES FROM 3/3/2021**

Call to order by President Mike Korger, Pledge of Allegiance led, and Opening Prayer offered by BOD Joe Graff with a Moment of Silence for recently passed member, John Dorsey. Guests, Mark Beckfied and Lois Packard, welcomed. Mark offered words of appreciation by the area's businesses and public for the work done by veterans to make the Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute Park a reality stating, "We are one year ahead of schedule with financing at this time." The Foundation Committee meets every other week to continue overseeing each planning stage adding that no work is done until the money is in hand. Donations have reached over a million dollars and legacy stone purchases have been going very well. There will be a dedication and legacy stone laying on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m. with plans to have an Eagle with a seven-foot wingspan at the park's entrance. The new website, [www.chippewavalleyveterans.org](http://www.chippewavalleyveterans.org), has been created and is easier to use with information about the park, and contact information for the various veteran groups and foundation members involved with this project.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

Secretary – James “Mac” McBee (absent)

Minutes to be resumed now that we are meeting again for discussion and approval.

President – Mike Korger

No report to offer currently.

Vice President – Kenny Piel

Information on donations to Klein Hall was shared.

AVVA – Rick Talford

Recent losses in AVVA memberships, both to Region 6 and nationally, were discussed. Also, as this is a convention year, the VVA Board of Directors will be meeting to discuss if this will be an in-person or virtual event; the AVVA will not make any decision until there is a decision by the VVA. The AVVA National Board of Directors have been meeting regularly via Zoom meetings.

National VVA – Convention in November 2021; please refer to their website, [www.VVA.org](http://www.VVA.org).

State VVA Council – Online meeting on March 13, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. There will be a meeting in June at Highground’s Camp Victory in Willard, WI for state elections. Please refer to their website, [www.VVAWI.org](http://www.VVAWI.org) for more information about Wisconsin State Council.

VVA Region 6 – No information available for an upcoming regional meeting.

VA/Benefits/Claims – Dave Mayenchein (absent)

Minority – Dave Zien

Flyers handed out for the Vietnam Veterans Day program to be held at VFW Post 305 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. with guest speaker, John “Trapper” Schultz, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and for the 2021-Armed Forces-Veterans & Home Front Heroes Appreciation Week, May 10-15.

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte

The Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls remains closed to visitors.

Highground – Joe Graff

The Highground plans to build a new multi-purpose Welcome and Visitor Center that will provide a larger venue to hold events, meetings, and programs with improved accessibility and parking; more information on improvements to Highground and Camp Victory, along with a calendar of events, can be found on their website, [www.highground.us](http://www.highground.us). Do not forget to attend their virtual launch on April 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Joe also shared Information on the Gary Sinise Foundation to honor and serve veterans; check out the website at [www.garysinisefoundation.org](http://www.garysinisefoundation.org).

VVA Chapter #5  
P.O. 832  
Eau Claire, WI 54702

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