



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

August 2017 Newsletter

Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at

VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI



Volume 3 Issue 8

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

08/02/17 Chapter Meeting at Post 7232 @ 7pm

*** AVVA Members meet 6:30 pm

08/03-06 Buffalo County Fair, Mondovi

08/08/17 Tamburitzan at 7:30 pm McDonnell High School

08/08-12 VVA National Convention, New Orleans

08/09-13 Clark County Fair, Neillsville

08/12/17 Shelly Steinke Charity Fundraiser, Jim Falls

08/16/17 Checks for Vets at 4:00 pm Prestige Auto, EC

08/18-20 Big Rig Truck Show at NWSF, Chippewa Falls

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org

Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

Veterans Assistance: John Dorsey 715-835-5055

Finance: Joe Heil 715-839-7089

Outdoor Recreation: Bill Anderson 715-530-3481

EC City Veterans Memorial Park: Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

Govt. Affairs: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518

Membership: Joe Heil 715-839-7089

Public Affairs: Joe Graff 715-579-0912

Minority Affairs: Vacant

Women Veterans: Julie McBee 715-202-0181

POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0912

Service Officer: Peter Breed 715-642-1246

Fundraising Chair: Larry Wrycza & Co-Chair: Julie McBee

Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza

AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181

Historical: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-647-2091

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President Mike Korger 715-726-3918

VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106

Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089

Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180

Chaplain Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Joe Graff 715-579-0912

Ken Lestrud 715-235-9432

Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260

Rory Schutte 715-563-1583

Ernie Werlein 715-926-4222

Founding principle,

***Vietnam Veterans of America
"Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another."***



God Bless All Veterans

Chapter Moto: Honor the DEAD and fight like Hell for the LIVING!



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

To be given slow and deliberate, not a speed test!

Greetings,

I must apologize for missing our in July. I was gone on a family vacation, but I still intended on making it to the meeting. It didn't work out, so than you Joe Heil for being able to conduct our meeting. Thank you to Mac for accepting the Office of Secretary.

Our booth at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair was quite successful. We greeted a lot of veterans and gave out a bunch of veterans' information. We gave out all the small American flags we had plus some candy to the kids, sold some t-shirts and got some donations, and we increased our raffle ticket sales for this fair compared to last year. A side bonus was the photo ops we got thanks to our Chapter Photographer, Kristina. She arranged for those of us who were present to get a photo with Clint Black on Thursday evening and then again on Saturday evening with the Beach Boys. A special thanks goes to Rick and Kristina Talford and Joe Graff for being there every day from beginning to end. Thanks to the others of you who were able to be there for one or more days also.

Who else can make it to one or more of these fairs or community events? Please call Joe Heil, Rick Talford, Larry Wrycza or Julie to coordinate. We need a lot of raffle ticket sales to cover our expenses and make a worthwhile profit. These profits and greeting veterans and giving them information are our focus so that we are able to help all veterans, especially Vietnam veterans. Hopefully some of the Vietnam vets we invited to one of our next meetings will check us out. Be sure to greet them when you see them there.

Please consider setting up a table outside of a grocery store or any other high volume place of business to sell our raffle tickets, or leave some raffle tickets at a place of business or company to sell for us. Contact Joe Heil for tickets.

Blessings for a safe, rewarding trip and convention to Mac, Julie, Rick and Kristina as they travel to our National Convention in New Orleans August 8th-12th.

I will be out of action for awhile as I am having knee replacement surgery on July 18th. If all goes well enough, hopefully I can be transported to our next meeting. Let's pray for each other for blessings, healing, recovery and better health, especially for Dennis Werlein, Dennis Schramm, Bill Connolly, Dave Zien, and Mac.

Hopefully you can all make it to our next meeting at 7 pm (6:30 pm for AVVA) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire on August 2nd.

Mike Korger, President
VVA Chapter #5



VVA Meeting of 7/5/2017

Meeting was called to order by Treasurer, Joe Heil at 7 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant at Arms, Joe Graff and opening prayer was led by Chaplain, Dennis Werlein. Members listed to be kept in our prayers are Dennis Schram, Jim Blaha, Bill Connolly and Dennis Werlein. There were no guests, new members or guest speakers present. Due to unexpected late notice of VFW Post 7232 being closed, tonight's meeting is held at the Eau Claire Elks Club. "Thank You" to the Elks Club, and John Dorsey, for the hospitality and making us feel welcomed.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Dennis Werlein to accept the Secretary's Report for the minutes of last month's meeting as mailed and e-mailed, motion seconded by Joe Graff; motion carried. Election of new Secretary is required following the death of Roger Schuh last month. James 'Mac' McBee accepted nomination of this position, motion made by Dennis Werlein to elect Mac as the Chapter's new Secretary, seconded by Joe Graff; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Heil gave the Treasurer's Report and explained that all computer issues have now been resolved. He went on to explain all bank account balances, income received, anticipated expenses and expenses paid; all accounts balance. Motion made by Joe

Graff to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Pat Moore, motion carried. Joe also gave a brief account of the Brat Stand fundraiser that the Chapter sponsored for Shelley Steinke that was just held. Shelley was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer in March of 2017. The family had approached the Chapter and asked us to act as the non-profit sponsor for the brat stand and split the proceeds between them and us. After a brief discussion, Dennis Werlein made a motion to have all proceeds from this event remain with the Steinke family as they plan to utilize these funds to help with their main fundraiser in August. This motion was seconded by Joe Graff and the motion carried. The main fundraiser for Shelley will be held Saturday, August 12, 2017 at Fall Creek High School from 11 am – 6 pm. More information can be found on their Facebook page: [me/shelleysbenefit](https://www.facebook.com/shelleysbenefit) or calling Jamie at 715-828-4559.

President's Report: Mike Korger not present, no report submitted.

Vice President's Report: Larry Wrycza not present, no report submitted.

AVVA Report: National has recognized Julie McBee as Chapter 5's AVVA Representative and voting Delegate, along with recognizing Rick Talford as our Alternate Delegate while Julie is attending the VVA meetings with Mac. Request was made for a \$100 donation for AVVA's Project Friendship 2017. Project Friendship is a program that makes a donation to an organization in the host city of the National Convention which supports veterans. This year that donation will be presented to Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans to help close the funding gap with their programs for homeless veterans which focus on transitional housing, counseling, intensive care coordination, a job training and employment program, and supportive services for low income/homeless veterans and their families. For more information or to send a donation, go to www.VOAGNO.org. Motion was made for the Chapter to donate \$100 to Project Friendship by Dennis Werlein, seconded by Ralph Ottum; motion carried.

National VVA Convention: August 8 – 12, 2017 in New Orleans; McBee's and Talford's will be attending to represent our Chapter. Joe Heil clarified the costs the Chapter had agreed to pay for sending members to New Orleans; all registration fees and luncheon costs for four members paid to National and closing banquet costs for four members paid to State. A brief discussion about the candidates who are running for VVA National office ensued with consensus to vote for the candidates as proposed for National Office and Mike Demske as Region 6 Director. Rick Talford asked who the Chapter preferred for AVVA Region 6 Director, our State Representative, Pat Furno, or current Region 6 Director, Fran Davis; Chapter prefers Fran Davis. All members were encouraged to look over the proposed resolution changes prior to the August Chapter meeting so Mac can vote accordingly.

State VVA Meeting: Julie McBee provided a report from the State Council meeting that was held at Highground on June 17th. Veterans Suicide Prevention program will be held on Friday, September 22nd from 12:00 noon until 6:00 pm in Waupaca to be followed on Saturday, September 23rd with the VVA WI State Council meeting. Joe Heil will not be able to attend, if anyone is interested in attending please let leadership know. Veteran Suicide Prevention Program flyer was passed out and membership is encouraged to inform their local Police, Fire, EMT, First Re-

sponders, Clergy, educators, medical personnel, community leaders or families/caregivers that may benefit from this NO COST program. CEU's are available. For more information or to register on-line go to www.vvawi.org/about/program or contact Joe Eiting by phone at 920-205-1565 or email at jeiting67@gmail.com.

VA/Benefits: Pete Breed reported he recently met with Barron County Veterans Service Officers to present them with the \$1000 donation made by the Chapter to assist veterans affected by the tornado in that county. The funds were gratefully accepted and greatly appreciated. Pictured below are Assistant VSO Tami Saleska, VSO Scott Bachowski and Pete Breed.



Minority Report: None at this time – with Roger's passing this Chairman's position is vacant. Please let Mike Korger know if you are interested in filling this vacancy.

Membership: Currently 146 members as of May 30, 2017; 116 VVA members and 30 AVVA members.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home: Rory Schutte provided a report on the Veterans Home; all finances are in good order. There will be a Vets Fest on July 8th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm with tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and discounted group rates. Members are encouraged to come on out, enjoy the day and visit with the veterans and assist them getting to the picnic pavilion. There will be a motorcycle ride at the Home also that day. On August 8th there will be a Tamburitzan performance at McDonnell High School in Chippewa Falls at 7:30 pm that will be a Recreation Committee fundraiser for the Home. More information as it is available, but a good

turnout is appreciated. Joe Heil has coordinated with DAV 21 for our co-hosted Christmas Party this year and the date has been set for Friday, December 8th so mark your calendars—HoHoHo!

Highground: Joe Graff gave the Highground Report on upcoming events. There will be a bicycle ride scheduled for August 4th and a motorcycle ride scheduled for August 18th-19th. The Fall Fest/Chili Feed will be on October 7th. Find more information at www.thehighground.org. Joe continued by passing around information pamphlets for The Journey Home and the Veterans Wellness Program. He went on to say that the Board of Directors at the Highground gave Kirk and Nancy Rodman a three week trip to Ireland as a retirement present for all their years of service and provided some information on the new manager, John Weilmer, a retired Army veteran whose wife and daughters are already helping out. Note: Dave Zien asked the Chapter to consider sending a “Thank You” letter to Kirk and Nancy for their 19 years of service. Dennis Werlein made a motion to approve a plaque and a Thank You letter for the Rodman’s, seconded by Mac McBee, motion carried. A letter and Certificate of Appreciation will be drafted by Julie and we’ll discuss how we would like to present it to the Rodman’s in August.

Logo/Clothing: More zippered hoodies sweatshirts have been ordered. A flyer was passed around with a lightweight jacket for our Color Guard. Discussion ensued about the future of our Color Guard with members’ advancing years/health issues and whether or not we could continue to march in parades. Further Color Guard details for parades will need to be addressed on a one-on-one situation, but we will definitely continue with Funeral and Honor Guard details, as well as for assemblies or meetings which would be indoors and of shorter marching distances. Will have a jacket at the next meeting for everyone to look at and vote on.

Fundraising: Upcoming events are the Northern Wisconsin State Fair from July 12th through 16th in Chippewa Falls; Dunn County Fair from July 26th through 30th in Menomonie; Buffalo County Fair from August 3rd through 6th in Mondovi; Clark County Fair from August 9th through 13th in Neillsville and the Big Rig Truck Show from August 18th through 20th at the fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls. If you are able to help out at any of these events, please contact Julie. A fundraising committee meeting will be scheduled soon and members notified. Continue to sell those raffle tickets so we can have a successful event on October 1st. Aside from selling raffle tickets, don’t forget that we need to start requesting donations for door prizes and silent auction items. If you need donation forms, or drop off collected items, contact Julie. We will have new posters printed, along with a donation request cover letter, and these will be available at our August meeting or call Julie if you can’t make that meeting and she’ll get them to you.

Also discussed was a fundraising opportunity at Pizza Ranch. Julie has spoken to the manager in charge of their fundraising program for non-profit organizations. The program entails having four to six members of an organization bus tables, promote their organization with a portion of that evening’s sales, along with tips earned, given to the organization. Available nights are during the week (no weekend night) and they have materials to help organizations promote “their” night so that there is a good turn-out. Summers are slow so she suggested a night in September. When informed of our October 1st Fundraiser, she said she could also set-up a table for us to have flyers and guys sitting there to sell our raffle tickets. Organizations are able to book a

fundraising night once every three months, so we could continue to use this opportunity throughout the year. Right now dates are open in September, we just need to let her know when we would like to book an event. She said that more than four or six to bus the tables' gets cumbersome, but having more than that meant that the work could be divided in shifts so the work wouldn't fall to just a few. She also suggested after Labor Day and the start of school would be a good time.

Julie also reported an opportunity that was mentioned at the State Council meeting of selling beer glasses with the VVA logo (or our Chapter logo) from S. Magnuson Posi-Pour. These are 16 oz. Libby beer glasses that are a nice, heavy-weight glass that the VVA State Council has been selling. The glasses are purchased for \$84/case of 24 glasses, sold for \$5 each and the profits (\$36) go to the State Council's Toxic Exposure Programs. These have been "selling themselves" and if the Chapter wished to have the Chapter logo on the glass, then the Chapter would realize the profits from selling the glasses instead of the State Council. A flyer was passed around so everyone could see what the glasses looked like. After discussion on this, motion was made by Dennis Werlein for the Chapter to purchase two cases of glasses with the Chapter logo, seconded by Joe Graff; motion carried.

Dave Zien stated that for our October 1st Fundraiser, Jerry Allen is available to perform. Jerry is known to the group for his *Dead Man's Hand* movie filming here in Wisconsin and as a performer of his Highwayman Tribute to Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson. Dave states that the cost would be \$300 and possibly a hotel room. Mac McBee made a motion to approve \$300 to hire Jerry Allen for our Fundraiser entertainment, seconded by Rory Schutte; motion carried. Julie will make contact with Jerry to work out the details.

Eau Claire Veterans Council: Joe Heil reported that DAV van is operating well with two trips made this past week. He further added that the Tribute Park is going forward and donations are now being accepted, with a goal of raising \$1.8 million for the building phase. A Foundation meeting is held every two weeks to go over issues and move things along and pledge forms are now available. The issue with the Community Garden Club is not really with the Tribute project, but with the Eau Claire City Council itself. There have been two large donations pledged; the Altoona VFW Post 10405 and Eau Claire VFW Post 305 have both pledged \$10,000 each. The Lao-Hmong were asked to go back to their membership and have them decide what kind of a memorial design they would like to have for their presence at the Tribute, and report back to the Foundation with the design for approval. There are Pledge Sheets available now and corporations are being approached about large ticket items that could be "sponsored" such as light poles, benches, memorial stones, etc. Individuals or families are also able to sponsor these large items. The formal name to be used for the Tribute will be the "Eau Claire Veterans Tribute Trail".

NEW BUSINESS

A Thank You note has been received from the scholarship recipient from North. The nursing scholarship recipient will be determined by CVTC sometime in September or October.

Ralph Ottum spoke of Abbotsford having their First City Days on August 12th and 13th and requested a donation of some of the Chapter tee shirts for this event; this was unanimously agreed upon. This event will be taking place at the same time as the Clark County Fair in Neillsville. Our Chapter will have a booth at this fair to sell raffle tickets and thanks to the Granton John Deere, we will have a lawn mower on display. If you can help out, give Ralph a call.

Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com
Don't forget you can find National info at www.VVA.org and State info at www.VVAWI.org

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Zien spoke of a VFW Unmet Needs event to be held at the Eagles Club on September 9th. There will also be a food fight at the Peace Park in Lake Hallie and Harley Davidson will also be hosting an event. More information on these events will be available soon. The Living Heritage Legacy events that will take place October 30th through November 4th for Armed Forces Appreciation Week was also discussed. There is a calendar of events available and more information can be found through the Wheels of Liberty or Living Heritage Legacy Tour Facebook pages or by contacting Bill and Pam Ingram at 715-579-9871 or Tom and Dodie Neuenfeldt at 715-559-6960. Dennis Werlein asked if the Chapter's donation for one of the Legacy signs had been paid, it had not been so he asked that the Chapter fulfill this donation; Joe Heil to take care of. Lastly, Dave informed us that on display inside the Elks Club was an American Flag made out of 4,559 toy soldiers by John Dorsey's grandson, Jay Dorsey, and to be sure to have a look.



Ed Michaels won the attendance drawing; however, he was not in attendance so next month's drawing will be \$80. New member Terry McConnell won the 50/50 drawing which he donated back to the Chapter. There were 24 members in attendance and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next month's meeting will be on August 2nd, at 7:00 pm at VFW Post 7232. Again, we thank the Elks Club and John Dorsey for the warm welcome for tonight's meeting.

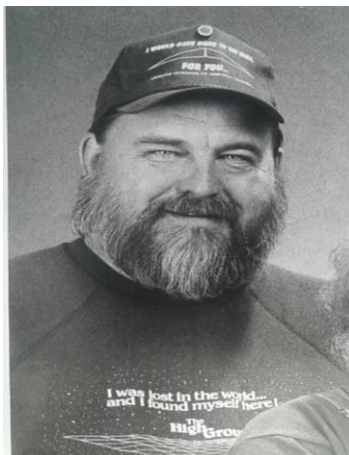


Together Always

Thank you to all who attended our AVVA meeting on July 5th. Some things we discussed was the possibility of our AVVA members having an on-going fundraising effort through the Kwik-Trip's program whereby we purchase either donut, pizza, car wash or script cards, at cost, sell them at their suggested selling price, and keep the profits. This may be a way for our AVVA to have a source of income separate from the VVA. What do all of you think about this? I also mentioned Thank You cards for the individuals on the National level who assisted us in being recognized for this year's convention. Cards and little *thank you* bags will be at our August meeting for everyone to look at and sign the cards. I will also be mailing or emailing everyone with the issues to be voted on at National so we can present consensus votes on those issues at the convention. Remember, our Chapter's yearly Chicken Feed Fundraiser will be on Sunday, October 1st, at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie. For now, sell those raffle tickets! Any questions, comments or suggestions, don't hesitate to give me a call! *Julie*



Greetings to members of our very blessed Chapter. A few words to talk about our purpose in life. God put us on earth to flourish and have happiness—something very hard to accomplish when problems occur or heart-break sets in. But the Lord promises if we ask through prayer He will be there for us. He will give us His grace to overcome all hardships and troubles. We can feel better about our lives if we act on opportunities we have and make something of them. When we have the VVA and its organized activities, it gives us the chance to serve the Lord by reaching out a helping hand to other veterans and the community. When we do this we forget our problems and it helps us feel more fulfilled in life. Our Chapter has been blessed to have some great fundraising events that give us the opportunity to help those in need with the money we raise and promote God's Will in our community. May the Lord give us courage to be involved in these activities. Remember, pray for the deceased and those in need and fight like a champion for the living! From your Chaplain, Dennis (P.S. Remember to keep me in your prayers and all those of us dealing with health issues; also, Dennis Schramm, a Vietnam Veteran from the Augusta area.)



Do you know who this gentleman is? Have you ever wondered who "Mike Voth" of Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 Vietnam Veterans of America was? Well, this is him! He graduated from Regis High School in 1967, and in 1969 he was drafted into the Army and served from May of 1969 until February of 1971 with the 101st Airborne Division. He was a Lifetime Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and served as President of Chapter 5. He loved riding his motorcycle, hunting, fishing, golfing and his pets, Buddy and Willy. He passed away December 29, 2012 after a brave two and a half year battle with cancer; he was 63 years old. Ask some of the older Chapter members about him as we want to preserve our history. Next month find out who the poet is amongst us!



VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

- Friday, September 22, 2017
- Ramada Waupaca
- Noon to 6:00 P.M.
110 Grand Seasons Drive
Waupaca, WI 54981

Save the Date... Save a Veteran's Life

Veteran Suicide Prevention Program (Noon to 5:00 P.M.) to Include:

- ★ **Discovering what makes a *Veteran Suicide Attempt* different.**
- ★ **Exploring *Potential Triggers* associate with a *Veteran Suicide Attempt* different.**
- ★ **Learning *Unique Signs* Veterans often display prior to a *Suicide Attempt*.**
- ★ **Discussing the *STEPS* you can take to *Prevent Veteran Suicide*.**

Followed by a roundtable discussion & A Guided "Time to Share" Segment

PROGRAM PRESENTERS

Dr. Tom Berger

Executive Director Veterans Health Council, member of the Education Advisory Committee for National Center for PTSD, member of the Executive Committee of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and former Chair of Vietnam Veterans of America PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee.

Dr. Thomas Hall

Professor of Psychology, Therapist, Chair of the Addiction Counselor Training program at the Kansas City Kansas Community College, Consultant to the Council of Governors, U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, and Chair of Vietnam Veterans of America PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee.

Who should attend?

This program is designed for all Veterans and their family members, caregivers, EMTs, first responders, firefighters, law enforcement officers, medical professionals, healthcare providers, therapists, educators, religious and community leaders, and others.

How to enroll?

1. Register at **NO COST** online at:
www.vvawi.org/about/program
 2. Contact Joe to register at **NO COST** at:
920-205-1565 or email jeiting67@gmail.com
- CEU information provided at registration.



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Introduction to QPR - A Suicide Prevention Approach

Offered from 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refers - three (3) simple steps to help save a life from suicide. Learning QPR will prepare you to:

- Recognize the warning signs of suicide
- Know how to offer hope
- Know how to get help and save a life



Don't forget—pass out this flyer to anyone you know who could benefit from attending. Remember, it is FREE! Just be sure that they register so that there are plenty of seats and materials available.



Memorial Day Parade 2017 Eau Claire, WI



Fourth of July Parade 2017 Mondovi, WI



Legacy Sign on Menomonie St. in Eau Claire



Booth at Northern Wisconsin State Fair







Combat Vets Motorcycle Association Riders at the Cadott Veterans Tribute for Vets Fest

VVA Chapter #5
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Call Joe Heil at 715-559-2945

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 <p>Western Wisconsin Animal Damage Control®</p> <p>Beaver Management Coon & Opossum Skunk Nuisance Moles & Squirrels</p> <p>Home: 1-175-832-1640 Website: www.callofthewild.org Email: coyote-7@calloffthewild.org</p> <p>DICK QUICK Licensed</p>	<p><i>Altoona Family Restaurant</i></p> <p>Open 7 Days a Week ♦ 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. <i>Breakfast Served All Day</i> 715-830-5000 2000 N. Hillcrest Pkwy. ♦ Altoona WI 54720</p>	<p>1 column inch \$100 Annual Donation \$8.33 a month Price of a breakfast ~ <i>a good investment</i></p> <p>2 column inches \$150 Annual Donation \$12.50 a month Price of buying a Veteran a good lunch <i>a great investment</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Stand out from all the rest with</p> <p>3 column inches \$200 Annual Donation \$16.60 a month Take a veteran out once a month <i>the best investment</i> All donations are tax deductible</p> <p>PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!</p>
<p>~ Mondovi Family Restaurant ~ Home Cooked Meals Open 6am - 9pm 715-926-5550 699 E. Main St. • Mondovi, WI 54735</p>	 <p>Adult Day Services in Altoona and Chippewa Falls</p> <p>2 days per week at low or no cost! Using your V.A. Benefits</p> <p>Health Care • Socializing • Exercise • Friendship • Bathing • Medication</p> <p>Chippewa Falls (715) 738-1925 2050 County Trunk I CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729</p> <p>Altoona (715) 832-8811 2441 New Pine Drive ALTOONA, WI 54720</p>	

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