

REMEMBRANCE

Issue 7 July 2007

being there



reaching out

The 2nd Annual BT-RO Summer Gathering

Sat. July 28, 2007 12 Noon

At the Home of

Our Dear Friends John and Marsha Mattek

Parents of LCPI John Mattek Jr. (Fallen 6-13-05 in Iraq)



Flag Raising Ceremony at 1:00

Games for the kids (Warning: we may all get wet!)

Hot tub available to all

MENU FOR THE DAY

Beer and soda....Hot Beef and Pork sandwiches...Broasted Chicken

Broasted Potatoes....Potato salad....Cake

****Bring a dish to share if you wish****

****Directions****

45North to County A... follow County A for 2 and 1/2 miles.

They are on County A.... 1/8th of mile in off the road

Or Just map-quest their address to get you to their door:

N8590County Road A, Deerbrook (near Antigo) WI 54424.

Make your own name badges-Prize for the best.

RSVP to Marsha or I please so we can make sure there is enough food, etc.
Any questions please contact Marsha at 715-623-6864 or mjmattek@wildblue.net
Or me at 414-476-0558 or Gentlyjs@yahoo.com

Our Prayer Wheel

Nick Jerabek is leaving for Marine boot camp on 14 August, 2007. He is the brother of CPL Ryan Jerabek (4/6/04-Iraq)

Craig Bosveld has been recalled to Iraq. He is the brother of Rachel Bosveld (10/26/03-Iraq)

Brian Vroman is leaving in September for Iraq. He is the brother of Brent Vroman (12/13/04-Iraq).

Family Announcements

Amy Bossert, Sister of Andrew (3/7/05-Iraq) and Theo Lopez are getting married October 6th...[see you all there.](#) :>))

From Chasity Uhl-Walker, sister of Eugene Uhl (11/15/03-Iraq): We saw an ultrasound today. Everything looks good as of today and a little BOY is expected in August for us! We are truly blessed and really excited. [We'll see that baby at the Highground gathering in August 25th!](#)

Kaye Olson, mother of Andy Stevens (12/1/05-Iraq) celebrated her birthday 3/17/07. [Got Cha!](#)

Pam DeGroot, mother of Brent Vroman (12/13/04-Iraq) has become a grandmother :>)). Her son Brian, twin brother of Brent, and his wife Wendy had a daughter, Cali, delivered 3/18 at 9:52 PM, 7lbs 6 oz. [Almost a leprechaun Pam!!](#)

John and Marsha Mattek parents of Johnny Mattek (6/13/05-Iraq) Married 32 years as of 4/4/07. [What can I say? Too beautiful...](#)

Cheryl Nussberger's birthday was 4/17. She is the mother of Patrick Lybert (6/21/06-Afghanistan).

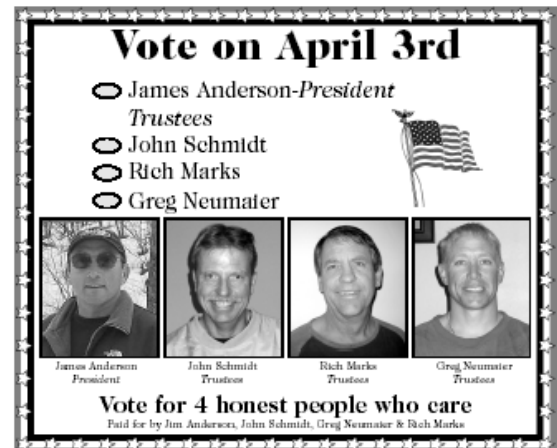
Eugen Uhl's birthday was 4/24. He is the father of Eugene Uhl (11-15-03-Iraq)

Amy Bixler sister of Evan (12/24/06-Iraq) turned 24 on April 28th:>))

Diane and Steve Bossert celebrate their birthdays this month: Diane's is the 25th and Steve's is the 28th---they'll be celebrating with their family and Jimmy Buffett at Alpine Valley—[lookin' for that #@!#%@^ shaker of salt.](#)

Jesse Olson, son of Todd (12/27/04-Iraq) graduated Saturday, May 26 from Loyal High School. A big party was held at their home following the ceremony. Jesse is planning on starting at the two year UW in Marshfield. His plans are to further his education in a Natural Science field. He hopes to get an apartment this summer. [Oh Oh!](#)

He Won!!!



Yes, that's our own sweet (and honest) Jim Anderson on the far-left (not politically..LOL!) who ran and won for the position of President of Sauk Prairie. Jim is the father of our Nick Anderson who fell in Afghanistan 3/13/06.

An update on our wonder dog "Hannah" sent in via Bobbie Samme, mother of Eric Palmisano (4-2-06-Iraq) from Hannah's new owners. Hannah was Eric's dog before he left for Iraq. A previous owner didn't really care for her and she was eventually hit by a car and severely injured. Her life was pretty bad... until Jenny and Steve came along. Issue 5 of [Remembrance](#) has Hannah's story in it. Eric can't help but be proud of his little Hannah. We certainly are.

Last weekend Steve took Hannah to the hospital for therapy work. She did her magic and brought many smiles to some sad faces. Two stories stick out. There was a lady in the hallway that stopped Steve and asked if he could come into her husband's room. He was dying and her daughter and her husband were there and they were having a very hard time with it. When Steve and Hannah went into the room, the girl had her head down and was crying. But when she looked up and saw Hannah, the tears stopped and she smiled. She pet Hannah and seemed to relax a little. Steve told her about Hannah and for the short time they were there, they seemed to help them take their mind off of their sad situation.

The other story is from when I took Hannah to the hospital. One of our scheduled visits was to a little boy in pediatrics. He was about 4 or 5. His parents were in the room when we arrived. He was hooked up to all kinds of tubes, etc. He looked very sad. I had a tennis ball and asked his mom if I could give it to him to throw to Hannah. She said sure. Well, he did and Hannah caught it. He laughed and squealed!! It was great. He did it several times and he continued to laugh and giggle. He loved it! His mom started crying and said that she has not seen him laugh or smile in a very long time. She said it was wonderful and thanked us for the visit.

So you see, that dog of Eric's continues to spread her heart out as much as she can. She is such a special spirit. We love her dearly and we treat her like a queen. Love, Jenny



We're not sure who built this beautiful "Saluting Snowman" at the final resting place of our beloved Ben Edinger (11/23/04-Iraq) ...but we have our suspicions and thank them for remembering our Ben in this special and fun way.



Belle Wichlacz's son Bran and his wife Stephanie with Belle's grandson: Lincoln William Hurt, 7 pounds 1 ounce 21 1/2 inches, born earlier this year. Sadly, Lincoln died 6/16/07 at home. Our prayers are with the entire Family.



More Gold Star Family Plates



SGT Andrew Wallace

Sent in by Pete Wallace, father of Andrew (9/26/05-Iraq)



SGT Warren Hansen

Sent in by Jim Karlson, father of Warren (11/15/03-Iraq)



SGT Mark Maida

Sent in by Diane mother of Mark (5-26-05-Iraq)



PFC Shaun Novak

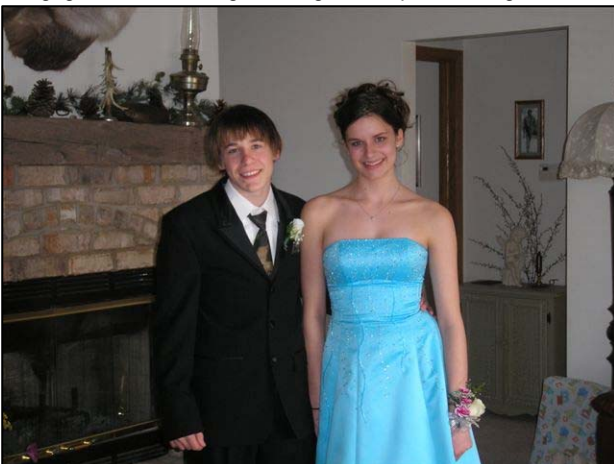
Hi Judith, I just wanted to let you know for the Newsletter that we received our Gold Star License Plates. Shaun's younger brother Danny will be getting his drivers license in July and

he also wants the Gold Star plates so once he decides on his we will let you know what he picked out. Hugs, Brenda

Sent to us by Jim Anderson, father of Nick (3-13-06-Afghanistan) [Legislature honors those killed in Iraq, Afghanistan](#) By William Cole Military Writer

A cross-section of America appeared before the state Legislature in a somber ceremony yesterday, some steady and some not so, to receive the recognition that no one set out to get — a state Medal of Honor for a life given in war. The names of 67 service members with Hawaii ties were read aloud as a ship's bell tolled the loss from service in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past year. Family and friends from as far as Delaware and Florida came to receive the state Medal of Honor in the second year that it has been awarded. Mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, wives and fellow service members accepted the Maltese cross with its circle of kalo (taro) leaves, representing 'ohana. Senate President Colleen Hanabusa spoke of honor, duty to country and courage. "Today, we gather in joint session to honor those who have made a sacrifice for which we cannot ask, and we shall not forget," Hanabusa said. Behind those killed were family members struggling to carry on and a greater weariness with the wars that continue to claim lives in their prime, but also an overwhelming pride in service to country and appreciation that the state recognizes the supreme sacrifices that have been made. **"It's tough," said a red-eyed Barbara Anderson, struggling to find the words. Her son, Hawai-based Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas R. Anderson, 21, of Sauk City, Wis.,** was killed in a vehicle accident while on patrol in Afghanistan just over a year ago. She and her daughter, Jessica Yanke, took a bus to Chicago and a flight to Los Angeles, where they had to sleep in the airport, before arriving in Honolulu. "We came because it's a big honor," Anderson said. "He liked being stationed here, and he liked the Marine Corps."

Sent in by Pam Bodart, mother of Isaiah Hunt (11-15-04-Iraq). It's Jonah Hunt on his way to Prom with his date, Chelsea! Our sweet, sweet Jonah! Jonah, we pray you and your dad (Mike Hunt) will fry fish for us again at the Highground 8/25...so get fishing and stop this dating stuff!



Born 4/16/07 on the farm of Steve and Kay Castner, parents of Stephen (7/24/06-Iraq). Way tooooooo cute...we should all have one! What's with dressing it up in green earrings Kay?

Calendar of Events



July 28th 2nd Annual BT-RO Gold Star Family Pig Roast-Antigo

August 11 LCPL Ryan Jerabek Memorial Challenge-Green Bay

August 25 Highground Laying of Legacy Stones and Pot luck picnic-Neilsville

Sept 28-30th Cranfest-Warrens, WI
Contact Al Stevens and Deb Stevens

Oct 13th Fund Raiser-Milwaukee

November 10th Veterans Day Parade-Milwaukee

Dec Uhl Tide Toys for Tots Party



Pencil 'em in!!

In September of 2005, a social studies school teacher from Arkansas did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal, and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom.

The kids came into first period, they walked in; there were no desks. They obviously looked around and said, "Where's our desks?"

The teacher said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior."

And she told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom. Second period, same thing. Third period. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in the class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom. The last period of the day, the instructor gathered her class. They were at this time sitting on the floor around the sides of the room.

She said, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily. Now I'm going to tell you."

She went over to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did 27 U. S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. And they placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. By the time they had finished placing the desks those kids for the first time I think perhaps in their lives understood how they earned those desks.

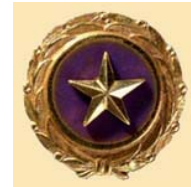
Their teacher said, "You don't have to earn those desks. These guys did it for you. They put them out there for you, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly, to learn, to be good students and good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk, and don't ever forget it."

From Deb Kiser, President of BT-RO, widow of Chuck Kiser (6/24/04-Iraq)

The 88th Regional Readiness Command, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, is organizing a weekend retreat for its Gold Star Families. The 88th is in charge of the Army Reservists from WI, MN, IN, IL, MI and Ohio. The retreat is scheduled for 17-19 August at the Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca IL, very nice. Only spouses, children and parents are invited. There will be no out of pocket expenses for the hotel, meals or travel.

The weekend will be led by the Office of the Staff Chaplain. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Harold Ivan Smith. There will be age appropriate workshops for children ages 8-12 and 13-17. Thanks Madam President :->)

The Gold Star Family Pin



The Gold Star Pin, so intimately associated with Gold Star Mothers is, in fact, not awarded by the Gold Star Mothers nor is it limited to mothers. It is awarded by the Defense Dept, usually through your casualty officer. The pin is awarded to the following relatives of the deceased: Widow, Widower, Mother, Father, Stepmother/father, Mother/father through adoption, Foster mother/father in loco parents, Son, Daughter, Stepson/daughter, Son/daughter by adoption, Brother, Sister, Half brother/sister. If you have not received your pin you can apply yourself using Defense Dept form DD-3 (I've include it in this newsletter). If others in your family have not received their pins, make copies of Form DD-3 for them also.

Snowball Express 2007

Deb Kiser, wife of Chuck Kiser (6-24-04-iraq) has sent this to us. She and her children will be attending, as they did last year. She encourages our Families to attend and said that last year was a wonderful experience for her family (and hers are teens!). There isn't any cost involved for you and the children. Nancy Olson, wife of Todd (12/27-04-Iraq) and her children went last year also, and her children are of various ages.

The 2007 Snowball Express Event planning is moving full steam ahead toward the goal of another great weekend of new memories for the children and spouses of our fallen heroes.

1. Thursday and Friday, Nov. 29, 30: Travel & Concert: (Drive/Fly to Orange County, CA)
2. Friday Night – Gary Sinise and the "Lt. Dan Band"
3. Saturday, Dec. 1 - Christmas and Oakley
4. Christmas Presentation
5. Celebration at Oakley Facility – gifts, demonstrations, food
6. Sunday, Dec. 2 – Disneyland
7. Monday, Dec. 3 - Return Home

For more information contact:
info@snowballexpress.org or Deb

BT-RO Encourages taking the Children to this.



Sent to us by Al Stevens and Deb Schroeder, parents of Andy (12/1/05-Iraq). They want all of us to attend:>)) HMMMMM! Sounds delightfully delicious!

The **Warrens Cranberry Festival** is an annual festival with a huge craft fair, farmers' market, and flea market as well as cranberry products, marsh tours, and a parade on Sunday afternoon. This year's fest will be **September 28-30 in Warrens, Wisconsin**, 7 miles north of Tomah on I-94. The Cranfest committee is planning a Military Salute this year, featuring the "moving wall" traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial.

A special program is planned for Saturday evening at 6:15 at the Wall and the committee would like to invite the **Gold Star families and recognize them as a group**. There will be some speakers, a wreath presentation, the Patriot Guard Riders plan to attend, and the committee is hoping to finalize some other events such as a helicopter fly-over.

If you need more information or are planning to attend, please contact Kim Billiard at 608-378-4568 or email her at cranfest@cranfest.com. The Cranfest committee would like to have your contact information (which we have been assured will not be used for any purpose other than inviting you to Cranfest and supplying information about Cranfest). They would also like to know which families will attend the Saturday evening program, but, to protect our privacy, they will not recognize individuals but the group as a whole. If you're interested in attending, you must contact Kim; we will not supply any contact information (per our established trust within BT-RO).

For those planning to attend who will need lodging, be aware that this is a big event and motels are booked for miles around. We are planning to attend the picnic in July and will bring brochures then as well.

To our knowledge, Cranfest has never done anything like this before, so we're honestly not quite sure what to expect. However being as close to Fort McCoy as we are, there is a definite military presence and appreciation for the military in the area. And, Cranfest is craft fair enthusiast's dream, not to mention that there's lots of food available. Oh yes, you can even buy cranberries, fresh from the marsh!

From Rita Jerabek, mother of Ryan (4/6/14-Iraq)
Dear Judith, Would you please forward this information to our Gold Star Families?

We are planning our **2nd Annual Pfc. Ryan Jerabek USMC Memorial Challenge** (2 mile walk/ 4 mile run) to take place on 11 August, 2007 at Four Seasons Park in Hobart, WI starting at 9 AM. At 8:45AM the National Anthem will be sung and paratroopers will present the colors from "the sky" as they did last year. **The mission of this event is: To support our Troops, thank our Veterans, and honor our Fallen.**

There is no charge for participation of servicemen & women, veterans, those in the delayed entry programs and our Gold Star families. We will be having a special Tribute to the Fallen as part of the program before the awards are presented. Please consider joining us if you can. For more information, see the website: www.JerabekChallenge.us. Registration forms can be printed from the website. Indicate on the form that you are a Gold Star Family. Please mail the forms to me:

Rita Jerabek
817 Brookwood West
Oneida, WI 54155

Please call me if you have any questions: (920) 497-9347. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be awarded to BT-RO to support future Gold Star Family events. Sending all my best to each of you!
You are in my thoughts and prayers every day!!!



The Bixler's, parents of Evan (12-24-06-Iraq) presenting a wreath in honor of our Fallen on Memorial Day at Union Grove Cemetery. God Bless.

Judith, I just wanted to share this with you... This was a story ran in the local paper (Daily Telegram) Love ya! Jen (aka Rosebud), sister of Adam Van Alstine (2/25/06-Iraq)

One of the last times Jennifer Van Alstine saw her brother, Lance Cpl. Adam VanAlstine, was at the Richard I. Bong World War II Center. He got there 20 minutes after local veterans raised a flag in front of the building to honor all World War II veterans.

If the Marine had been there a few minutes earlier, they told him, he could have helped raise the flag. "He was bummed he missed out on it," said Van Alstine.

"That holds a lot of significance for me." The first Friday she returned to work after her brother was killed in Iraq, Van Alstine, who works at the tourist information center in the center, was dragging her feet. She was unsure she wanted to see the touching ceremony. Then she began speeding up, pulling into the lot in time to see the stars and stripes ascend.

At 8:45 a.m. Friday, the family and friends of Van Alstine gather at that flagpole to honor the fallen Superior man. The 21-year-old was killed by a roadside bomb serving his country in Iraq on Feb. 25, 2006. It is a fitting tribute, Van Alstine said. "Here was this kid who wanted to be a Marine when he was in second grade when things were peaceful," she wrote in the biography that will be put on display during the week Adam's flag flies. "That desire only became stronger as he grew."

Fellow Marines and officers remembered the Superior man's sparkling eyes, contagious grin and passion for the job. Adam summed it up himself in his journal:

"There is only 24 hours in a day and 365 days in a year and there is no saving any of it. They all must be spent. I wish everyone in America knew this. I would say the world but there is too much evil in the world and I would never run out of work.

"That is the ultimate goal to run out of work for the militaries of the world. That man could live together in peace ... I would rather laugh with these people than kill or be killed."

His will be the first flag flown for a veteran who did not serve in World War II. Recently, the Flags of Honor Program was opened to veterans from all eras.

"We should honor everybody," said Hope Swenson, a center volunteer who launched the program in 2003 with the help of John Vaski, a member of the Richard I. Bong American Legion Post 435.

"It's such an honor for the whole family," Van Alstine said. And, said Vaski, it offers closure.

"A lot of times it brings families together," he said.

Following the flag raising there will be a time for visiting at the center. At 11 a.m., the family will stop by Superior High School for a short dedication of Adam's tree, which was planted last year. Friends of the Superior man are invited to attend the flag raising and the dedication.

(We missed it Rose bud....but we are here for you every day.)

Sent to us by Bobbie Samme, mother of Eric Palmisano (4/2/06-Iraq) on the soccer game in Eric's honor sent to her by his friend, Jackie.

Hey everyone... well unfortunately, USA lost to the bad guys 4-3, but a late penalty kick raised our hopes to conquer... no joy though. Claire was late (not a surprise) so, you won't see her featured in these photos but she had a phenomenal game. She assisted USA's 2nd goal with a long, leading, left footed cross just beyond the reach of the defense. The "Rest of the World" had some late signings including Ricardo who is an 18 year old phenom... and gave us some trouble. When we pulled up to the pitch there was a really big picture of Eric's smiling face denoting where to turn into the park. It was awesome... you could almost hear him laughing. On the pitch a table had been set up with a large glass frame with Eric's keeper jersey inside. It read: "Palmisano, #1" It was beautiful. There is also a "**Palmisano Cup,**" or trophy, in which the winning side is required to drink mixtures of alcoholic beverages out of. The "Rest of the World" got lucky this year because they only mixed Red Strip and Coors Light... last year it was Wild Turkey Whiskey for the USA and it was not good :)

It was a great day and Keith & I wore our "EAP #1" black arm bands to show support for our lost buddy, Eric. Keith feels especially proud because he was also in the military in England and in the USA, but a lot of his pride comes from when Eric would write letters to Claire, he would say: "Tell Keith & 2d I said Hi!" And Keith thought that meant he liked him more because he asked about him first. It makes me laugh just thinking about it.

We should have accumulated close to \$500 to give to Fisher House and a charity Claire picked out called "My Stuff Bags" (I think) that makes personalized bags for kids going into foster care or who were recently removed from a home due to abuse or neglect. All in all, despite the USA's loss, it was a great day. Sad to realize that he is still gone, but really, really great to remember that he was here and that he meant so much to us. I hope the pictures come through nicely. There should be more shortly. Love, Jackie & Keith



Palmisano Trophy

From Nancy Olson, wife of Todd (12/27/04-Iraq)
Hello Judith, I hope everyone had a blessed Memorial Day. A group called Fallen Patriots just contacted me. They have **funding for children of the Fallen** to attend post high school schooling. This might be helpful to anyone that is attending a non-state school. There website is www.fallenpatriots.org or the person who contacted me is Greg Islan: 866-917-2373. Love and God Bless, Nancy Olson

Andrew's Memorial Park is completed

Memorial Day: Those two words may include a fun-filled extended weekend, but when it comes to the holiday's true meaning, Staline Area residents clearly understand. Hundreds gathered this weekend to honor the bravery and courage of veterans, from local loved ones who served years ago to those still on the battlefield in the Middle East.

Equipped with flags and patriotic attire, or shirts and hats bearing the emblem of their respective branches of service, residents eagerly lined State Street and East Grand Avenue in Beloit's downtown Monday morning to participate in what is an annual tradition for many - the Memorial Day Parade. Coordinated by the United Veterans Memorial Day Parade Committee, this year's parade featured 120 groups, ranging from Beloit American Legion West-Field Post 48 - which included an American Legion Auxiliary color guard for the first time this year - to five bands from local middle and high schools, several local officials and plenty of businesses and non-profit organizations.

Keeping with its own traditions, the Town of Turtle held its fifth annual Memorial Day Observance Sunday afternoon at the Community Center. With the dedication of a new veterans' memorial, with an M60A3 military tank as its centerpiece, and community playground, the day was somewhat unique from past celebrations.

Only recently completed, the playground honors former Shopiere resident, U.S. Marine Pfc. Andrew McFall Halverson, who lost his life in Iraq in October 2004.

"I think it was about three years ago we had services for Andrew McFall Halverson in this building right behind us, and I think it is just so right and so fitting that we're dedicating this park today to one of our first heroes in this struggle," said U.S. Congressman Paul Ryan, R-Janesville, who spoke at the ceremony.

Andrew's aunt, Viviana McFall, agreed the playground is a perfect way to honor Andrew's memory and childlike spirit.

"I can't put words to it. It's life continuing because of his memory. He was always so full of life and adventure. I know if he were here, he'd be down here

playing with everybody," she said.

For Andrew's mother, Angela McFall, who saw the park through from a vision to a reality, the day was a bit overwhelming. But just seeing the dozens of children using the playground Sunday was reward enough, she said.

"I don't have to say anything - I think the playground speaks for itself," McFall gestured. "I want them all to be playing, I want to hear them laughing so that when Andrew takes his daily walks with Jesus he can hear that. That's the only payment I need - that's all I want."

The Pfc. Andrew's Veterans Memorial Park sits outside the Town of Turtle Community Center, and features a memorial stone inscribed with a poem Andrew wrote overseas, entitled "Duty."



Kids playing at the Turtle Township's new Veterans Memorial Park near the town's community center. Shopiere's Angela McFall donated the new playground equipment to honor her son, PFC Andrew McFall-Halverson, who was killed in Iraq. "Andrew was a gift from God and this (playground) is Andrew's gift back to the community" said his mother Angela.



From the Families of the Fallen to the Families of the Injured



From Peg Gabrielson, wife of Dan (7-9-03 Iraq). Peg, I did see some of our own Fallen on this memorial in Iraq.
<http://newsblaze.com/story/20061027201230nnnn.nb/topstory.html>



Hello all, Here is a picture of Nicks memorial at the SP High School. We had some Marines come from Madison and the local VFW. Jim Anderson, father of Nick (3-13-06-AFG)

The BT-RO Board of Directors would like to personally thank Kevin and Lisa Bixler, parents of Evan (12/24/06-Iraq) for the first donation, \$400, to be used to build a Fisher-type or Fisher House in Milwaukee:

A House from the Families of the Fallen to the Families of the Injured.

All donations can be sent to Belle Wichlacz, our Treasurer, and please designate it as such.



2nd Annual BT-RO Laying of the Legacy Stones

In honor of

Your Fallen Loved one

August 25, 2007 - 1PM Ceremony

The Highground Veterans Memorial Neillsville WI

BT-RO Pot-luck to follow on the POW-WOW Grounds (below the Memorial)

www.thehighground.org

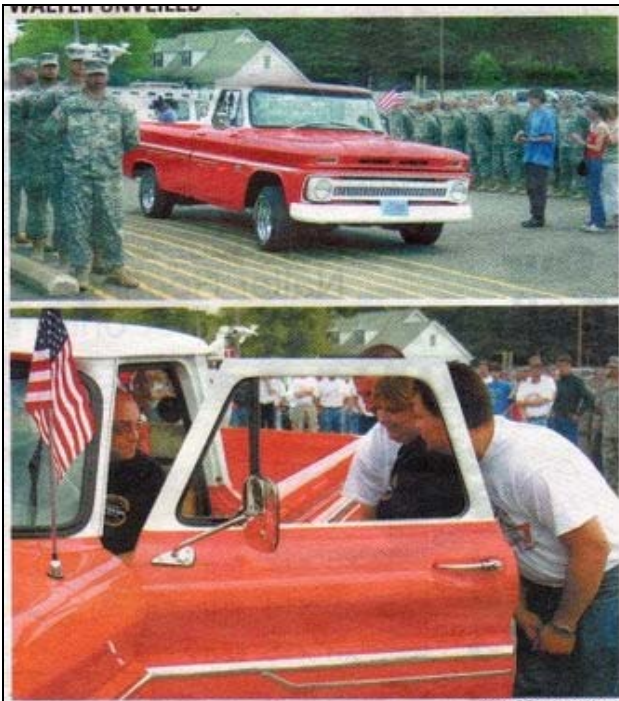
Or call 715-743-4224 and ask for Julie for information and cost for laying a Legacy Stone that day. Tell her you're with BT-RO



The Dove Sculpture at the Highground in honor of Andrew Wallace (9/26/05-Iraq)

rom Tracey Jopek ,mother of Ryan(8/2/06-Iraq)

Dear Judith, Attached are photos from the news paper articles that were written after we unveiled Ryan's 1966 Chevy 1/2 ton on what would have been his 21st Birthday. I was so honored to have 170 soldiers from the 105th Cav attend and over 300 of Ryan's friends, family, and fellow soldiers. It was a wonderful day, a day I could not have got through without the help of "Walter". When I drive Ryan's truck it is like he is right beside me. He would be so proud. Today as I write this Ryan's dad Brian is driving it in the Antigo Liberty Day Parade and will be showing it beside a World War II airplane. Ryan's truck is for all of usall of us who miss our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, husbands, and wife. All of us who know the cost that is paid by our loved ones. My hope is to use "Walter" as a way to get people to stop and think of what it costs to be an American. May God bless everyone.

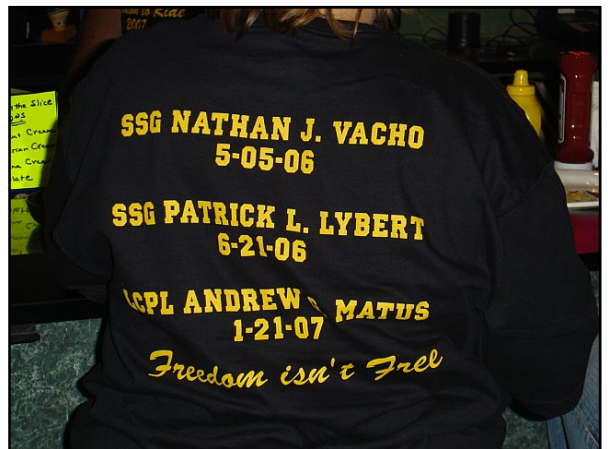


Kelly O'Day/Photo News
 RYAN JOPEK'S COMPLETELY REFURBISHED TRUCK ROLLS out for its grand unveiling in a special ceremony at Lincoln Lanes on Friday night, in front of an honor guard of nearly 170 soldiers from Troop E, 105th Cavalry and several hundred citizens. The heartfelt ceremony featured thanks to the amazing contingent of businesses and individuals that restored "Walter," touching stories of Ryan's life from his father Brian and mother Tracy, and Ryan's 21st birthday party that featured the band Montazh. Below, Brian offers his approval of the interior work to John Frazier (left) and Phil Mueller of RPM Body and Custom, the business that completed much of the extensive body work, and Tracy.



"Walter"

The Memorial Ride for Patrick Lybert (6-21-06-Afghanistan) sent his by his mother, Cheryl Nussberger



Memorial T-shirt's



Patrick Lybert's brother Noah, mother Cheryl and Nathan Vacho's Father, John, with Patrick's Purple Heart Plaque that John presented to Cheryl at the Ride



Patrick Lybert's F150 truck



Reddog was Patrick's Golden Retriever



My Golden Retriever is smarter than your honor student.

Reddog



The 2nd Annual WI Gold Star Family Day

April 11-13th, 2008

Fox Hills Resort
Mishicot WI

Your BT-RO Board of Directors

Joe and I as the Founders and Executive Directors for Being There-Reaching Out will continue to guide and assist in the endeavors of BT-RO...as an honor.

- President: Deb Kiser
(Wife of Chuck Kiser 6/24/04-Iraq)
- Vice President: Dorothy Moore (Supporter)
- Secretary: Bobbie Samme
(Mother of Eric Palmisano 4/2/06-Iraq)
- Treasurer: Belle Wichlacz
(Mother of Travis Wichlacz 2/5/05-Iraq)
- Regional Directors:
- Angela McFall
(Mother of Andrew Halverson 10/9/04-Iraq)
 - Joel and Janie Brockman
(Parents of Andrew Wallace 9/26/05-Iraq)
- At Large Directors:
- Robert and Renee Cornell
(Parents of Todd Cornell 11/9/04-Iraq)
 - Mary Bosveld
(Mother of Rachel Bosveld 10/26/03-Iraq)
 - John and Marsha Mattek
(Parents of John Mattek 6/13/05-Iraq)
 - Kevin and Lisa Bixler
(Parents of Evan Bixler 12/24/06-Iraq)

Remember our Fallen Loved ones



July

- 2nd Stephen Martin
- 9th Dan Gabrielson
- 24th Stephen Castner
- 27th Ben Jansky
- 27th John Tollefson

August

- 2nd Ryan Jopek
- 4th Chad Simon
- 19th Adam Servais
- 25th Trevor Diesing
- 27th Ken Cross
- 27th Shaun Novak

Sept

- 3rd Ryan Nass
- 8th Meredith Howard
- 13th Adrian Soltau
- 22nd Paul Sturino
- 26th Andrew Wallace
- 26th Michael Wendling



And Let us not forget our
Prisoners of War
and those Missing in Action
from the wars in the Middle East
*

Lieutenant Commander
Michael "Scott" Speicher...Missing
1/17/1991

SGT Matt Maupin...Missing 4/9/2004

SPC Ahmed K. Altaie...Missing
10/23/2006

Major Troy Gilbert...Missing 11/27/2006

5/12/07 Iraq
SPC Alex R. Jimenez
PFC Joseph J. Anzack Jr. (Remains found)
PVT Byron W. Fouty
*

*And all Prisoners of War
And Missing in Action*

*The next issue of Remembrance will be out
in early November....keep those articles
and photos coming.*

We are here for you 24/7.

*Judith Singer: 414-476-0558
Gentlyjs@yahoo.com*

*And
Joe Campbell: 414-670527
jfcampbell@machweld.com*



The Second Annual "Being there-
Reaching Out"
Highground Veterans Memorial
Park Laying of Legacy Stones
August 25th at Neillsville WI



And Our Christmas Toys for Tots
collection---Please bring at least
one.

11:30AM: Gather and set up at the POW-WOW
Grounds below the Park
1:00 PM: Laying of the Legacy Stones Ceremony
Relax and Socialize
3:00 PM: BBQ 5:00 PM: Smudging
Ceremony

The City of Neillsville is located in West Central
Wisconsin, about 50 miles southeast of Eau Claire
and 25 miles west of Marshfield. We suggest you get
a hotel room in Marshfield at the Holiday Inn
Conference Center: 715-486-1500

To arrange the laying a Legacy Stone with us
please contact the Highground at
www.thehighground.org
Or call 715-743-4224 and ask for Julie. Tell her
you're with BT-RO

Please bring a dish for all to share, your own
serving utensils, soda, beverages, and chairs.
Bring the appropriate item for the first letter of
your last name:
A-F: A Salad **G-L:** Hot dogs, Hamburger, or
Brats, and buns (A Dozen of your choice)
M-S: A Desert **T-Z:** 2 Snacks
Being There-Reaching Out will supply plates,
cups, napkins, silverware, charcoal and ice.

Would you like to present a reading, poem, or
story at the Smudging Ceremony: Yes No

Children and Siblings of our Fallen loved ones are
strongly encouraged to join us.

I hope you are going to join us. It will be wonderful to
see you again or meet you for the first time.

Please RSVP : Call or email me so I can make
sure we have enough food for everyone

Home: 414-476-055 Email:

Gentlyjs@yahoo.com



....in memory.



It's all about Love and Respect, we will never forget!

