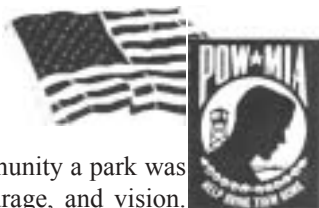


ONCE UPON A TIME AT THE HIGHGROUND



Once upon a time in a small rural community a park was built by men and women with great heart, courage, and vision. They built the park from human emotional convictions born on battlefields in far-away places that had torn away their innocence and homecomings that forever changed their lives.

They built themselves a place that no one could take away from them - a physical and spiritual safe haven - a High Ground.

Time pasted and the founders realized they needed help to ensure the future of this refuge.

And so it came to be that a retired business executive was asked to help manage a local privately owned veterans park "just for a short time" until plans could be formed and decisions made.

The park was operating with a handful of volunteers, fewer employees, and constant debt. A small gift shop, tributes to veterans of several wars and conflicts, a Pow Wow arena, two porta potties, and 140 Acres of woodland comprised the park. Compared to the number of employees and large department stores this executive had managed earlier in his life, the task seemed to be relatively straightforward.

Confident that his previous experiences would apply to the management of the park, he set his goals. Men and women who had drifted away from The Highground were invited to return and take an active role in the decision making process. People and organizations that had distanced themselves from the park were asked to become partners with The Highground in their efforts to support our veterans. Volunteer programs were instituted. Visitor services were emphasized. Employees were hired, trained, tested, and mentored. Volunteers were trained, scheduled, and praised for their efforts.

Just as he thought, changes came to The Highground. New buildings were constructed, the grounds were groomed, donations increased, volunteers took ownership for their role in the well-being of the park, and people from all over stepped forward to become a true part of The Highground.

The crinkle in this happy fairy tale comes from its very success. The Highground is doing better than it has for a long time. To many it may look like the work has been completed and the need for help past. This is not true. The Highground has not reached the fairy tale happy ending.

Our future is not secure, growth remains a vital part of our mission, and operating costs and debt continue to be a problem.

In truth, the story of The Highground is not a fairy tale at all. It is a non-fiction epic adventure with all the elements of human struggle: life/death, love/hate, hope/fear, and loss. In this adventure, you are the main character.

You invest it with your experiences, you enhance its beauty with your time, you nurture it with your spirit, you share your tears and laughter, and you support it with your donations. The Highground shine brightly because you care for it.

In this place, Once Upon a Time is Today. The Highground needs your continuing support. www.thehighground.org

POW-MIA

By Tim Peterson

Who are they? They are our brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, Mothers, Fathers, wives, husbands++. The LIVE POW'S are the focus of the VNV-Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club as well as every other veteran's organization.

We as veterans hope you always have a nice day but remember - **POW'S NEVER HAVE A NICE DAY!** Our government will have you believe there are NO LIVE POW'S! This has been proven false over and over again. Although each veteran's organization goes about it differently, the end goal is the same - to get our government of change it's official stance on this issue and get our live POW'S returned.

The VNV Motorcycle Club's focus is to inform and educate the public on the truth of the POW/MIA issue and ask for, beg, entreat, request, solicit, beseech and implore **EVERYONE** to call the White House Comment line at 202-456-1111 and say that as a concerned citizen you want the government to get our live POW'S returned. Everyday is best, but once a week or even once a month from everyone CAN get the government to change it's mindset. But we need volume volume volume! We (as a Nation) need a human tsunami (tidal wave) of telephone calls **CONTINUALLY** pressuring the White House in order to affect a change of policy. There have always been wars and there will always be another war after Iraq! Freedom is over. If we don't change the governments attitude now, **NO ONE** is going to bring your loved one home if they become a **POW** or find out what happened to them if they are MIA. There will be no closure for these families. If you'd like more information, contact Dan or Deb Stock at 320-252-8056/email: powpxdds@cloudnet.com or Tim Peterson at 218-724-0136/email: nomadtm@aol.com.

You can also call your Congressional Representative at 1-877-762-8762 toll-free. This is a switchboard operator. If you don't know who your representative is just tell them your city/state and they will connect you to your rep. Then ask that he/she sign on the House Resolution 103 in order to establish in the House of Representatives a committee known as the Select Committee for POW and MIA Affair. This committee will investigate and bring home our LIVE POWS!! We thank you and all our live POWS thank you!! Again: have a nice day but remember - **POW'S NEVER have a nice day!**

Why has the Department of Defense eliminated the POW status for captured American Service personnel, replacing it with the less descriptive Missing-Captured or MIA-C? **The Geneva Accords do not recognize the designation MIA-C, just as it does not recognize the DOD designation EPW (Enemy Prisoner of War).** So, Saddam is a POW but captured service personnel are MIA-C.

Some thing is wrong here!!!!!! Call the White House and ask them to always use the Term POW for our captured Prisoners of War!!

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