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## LATEST NEWS

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Friends of Veterans Village,

It's Spring. The days are now getting longer, and we are quickly progressing through 2025. Many are likely excited as it is NCAA tournament time and looking forward to the upcoming NFL draft in Green Bay.

Here's a brief snapshot on things we continue to accomplish:

- All 48 apartments are now housing veterans!!!! - The 4th Annual Rocky Bleier Golf Classic will be held on June 5th. Go to [www.WisVVA.org](http://www.WisVVA.org) or the following link <https://wisvva.org/golf-outing/> to sign up for a foursome and/or a sponsorship!!

- WisVVA will be updating its website soon. We will be making enhancements to make it easier to use and increase our capabilities around events and donor promotions

I wanted to take this moment to thank all of the residents living in the village, for making the village a home. For making it a "Village". The combination of everyone's background and their experiences makes an impact in each other's lives. I also want to remind everyone living at the village that we are blessed. The support we receive and have received from everyone in our community has been a blessing and a "Hand Up", not a "Hand Out". Tom Wiltzius, a founder of the village and an outstanding patriotic veteran, shared this with me and I want to pass it along. Veterans don't need "Hand Outs". We know how to get up, move forward, take the next hill, and get things done. We all went through Basic Training and likely worse. However, at times we may need a "Hand Up". Whether from a fellow buddy on the battlefield or someone that appreciates what we do or what we have done. Please remember this as a resident in the village. Help your buddies. Take care of the "Hand Ups" we have received. Do everything in your power to pass the "Hand Up" we have received onto others who will need a "Hand Up". We never know when someone will need a "Hand Up".

As always, thank you to everyone who has and continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of veterans living at the village and here in Wisconsin. We are proud to have such a wonderful facility to provide a safe, supportive environment for those who have served our country.

Respectfully

Keith Scott  
President WisVVA

### Vet Crisis Line

**Dial 988 then press 1**

*You don't need to be enrolled in VA it's or health care to connect.*

### Veterans Benefits

**County Veterans Service Officers 920-832-5698**

*CVSO assists with applying for benefits (federal or state) that you may be interested in and eligible for.*

**Fox Valley Veterans Council 920-358-0662**

*Assist, connect and honor military veteran families in our community.*



## Wisconsin Veterans Village Mural

A brief history of the founding of Wisconsin Veterans Village. In 2017, Tom Wiltzius of Appleton was unable to find senior living for his mom, a veteran of World War II. Looking for a solution, he connected with Outagamie County Housing Authority, and a plan was proposed.

At the Outagamie County Housing Authority Glenpark Campus, buildings that housed students at the Fox Valley Technical College, had the potential to be repurposed as affordable housing for veterans.

To implement the change, Wiltzius formed a nonprofit organization, Wisconsin Veterans Village Association ([wisvva.org](http://wisvva.org)). To further the project, the Outagamie County Housing Authority agreed that the association would be able to purchase the facility once 80% of the apartments became vacant as part of natural attrition.

The apartments would be remodeled as they became available. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Wisconsin Veterans Village began operating the complex as a facility devoted to affordable housing for veterans.

In 2021 however; A mural was commissioned, Spenser Young was chosen as the artist, his signature is in the lower right-hand corner, signed Forever Young. The inspiration for the mural, is our co-founders' mother, alongside many other tremendous women who served our country. Every day we are reminded of the tremendous courage of women, who are veterans, and their fight for equality, as they fought our nations wars. It is worth noting that every painted picture, is that of a real person, that served in the military. Original photos were provided by Kim Massey and Pat Lovesee for Steve Young to depict.

The Wiltzius family, and their military service.

Tom Wiltzius served in the Army. on active duty in Vietnam 1969-1970 with the 36<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion at Long Binh Vietnam. He earned a Bachelor's, Master's, and a PHD degree in Counseling and Guidance at UW Madison while at Fox Valley Technical College, serving as a college counselor. Tom also served 15 more years in the Army Reserves attaining the rank of Major, as an officer, while serving in the Public Affairs Office. Tom's story can be seen online via the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. Tom is not featured in the mural, and currently resides in Florida.

Lilian Wiltzius (Pictured in the lower right- hand corner) Tom's mother, served In the Army / Air Force Core, in World War II, stationed at Enid Army Air Base in Enid Oklahoma, as an Aircraft Dispatcher. Later in 1981, Lilian started the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) here in the Fox Valley, and another close friend who both lost daughters to drunk drivers. Tom helped found the Fox Valley MADD chapter.

Norbert Resheske (Pictured in the lower left-hand corner) was Tom's Father-in-law, he served in the pacific, as a Medic during WW II. He is said to be a great story teller. It was unknown if the stories he told were based in truth or embellished tales of his military experiences.

Please come by and join us for a cup of coffee, we'd love to show off our Mural. Thank you to everyone that was involved in completing the Mural, and for Anna Wiltzius for sharing her family story.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE VILLAGE



## SUPPORTING VETERANS VILLAGE

Please visit our website at [www.wisvva.org](http://www.wisvva.org).

Follow us on Facebook at: [Facebook/WisVVA](https://www.facebook.com/WisVVA).

Follow us on Instagram: [#Wisvva](https://www.instagram.com/Wisvva)

The Village, Guitars for Vets, Music for Success are all partnering together this Spring and Summer, to promote one another, through music and PSA's (Public Service Announcements) to bring awareness to each of our causes. If interested in volunteering, please contact us at [norbertbolda@wisvva.org](mailto:norbertbolda@wisvva.org)

## RECENT DONATIONS TO THE VILLAGE

As of December 2024, Veterans village set up a "Wish List" on Amazon. The Wish List shows current needs for the community, or for individual veterans. When an item is selected, it is drop shipped directly to Veterans Village. A card accompanies the donation, so that we know who sent the donation.

Veterans' Village recognizes these donations on our Facebook page. Please follow us there.

A link to the Amazon Wish List can be found on our Facebook page. [Facebook/WisVVA.org](https://www.facebook.com/WisVVA)

*Thank you for thinking of the Veterans Village Community.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Events / Dinners – See our Social Calander or Facebook page

AA Meetings Every Monday at 6:30 pm - Community Center

Coffee with Vets, Tuesdays 10to 12 am - Community Center  
the event is open to everyone – please stop by and have a Cup of Joy with us, and see the Village

4/16/25 - Tennent Leadership Council

4/19/25, 9-11 am - Free Veterans Breakfast  
Community Center

6/5/25 - 4th Annual Rocky Bleier Golf Classic  
Royal St. Pats Golf Course, Wrightstown, WI

Tasting for the Troops - TBA

## DID YOU KNOW...

### Resident Birthdays this month:

**Michael M**  
**Angeleia M**  
**John M**  
**Joseph Y**  
**Lee S**

Happy Birthday to Everyone! Have a special Day!

### The Village is looking for volunteers to help with the following upcoming calendar of events.

- Purpose of these events is to gain visibility in the community, and to help with our fundraising efforts.
- Arbor Day (April 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Memorial Day – Building a Parade Float (May 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Flag Day – Use the same Float (June 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Rocky Bleier Golf Tournament – Volunteers needed (June 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Farmers Market Appleton – June through October to man a booth talk up the village.
- Farmers Market Green Bay – June through October, to man a booth and talk up the Village.
- Fourth of July Parade Floats
- Taste for the Troops - TBA

We need as many people to join, and help. Transportation should not be a problem, as we plan on running a shuttle to downtown, and back. Please consider volunteering.

**Soon, we plan on sending out our newsletters electronically, as a cost savings measure, so please ensure we have an accurate email on file.**

In the coming weeks we will be updating our website WisVVA.org to help Veterans, Dependents, Survivors and Caregivers, find resources for benefits, or services that are available from the VA, or locally. Please visit our website, follow us on Facebook, and sign up for our monthly newsletter.

**Daughters of the American Revolution Welcome Home Pinning Ceremony**

**Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 12 PM @ Vet & Friends of Wisconsin  
St James United Methodist Church  
100 West Capital Dr, Appleton, WI**

On Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, @ 12 pm The Daughters of the American Revolution will be holding it's final Welcome Home Pinning Ceremony. In 2012 President Barack Obama and Congress established the **Vietnam War Commemoration** program to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The 13-year-long Vietnam War Commemoration enlists Commemorative Partner organizations at the local, state and national levels to conduct pinning events and activities that honor 6.2 million Vietnam War-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of duty location, and their 9 million family members.

The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. The Daughters of the Wisconsin Society volunteer thousands of service hours a year in these missions. Through membership, we are focused on family genealogy and share a passion for history, remembering our Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors.

**You are  
not alone.**

Confidential crisis support  
is available 24/7.

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

Chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)  
Text 838255

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers | I

**Phone Numbers**

Veterans Crisis Line.....	Dial 988, then Press 1
VA Hotline.....	800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411, option 9)
MyVA411.....	800-698-2411
Bereavement Counseling (through Vet Centers).....	877-927-8387
Camp Lejeune Family Member Program.....	866-372-1144
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA).....	800-733-8387
Community Care Billing Questions.....	877-881-7618
Debt Management Center.....	800-827-0648
Education.....	888-442-4551
Foreign Medical Program.....	877-345-8179 or 303-331-7590
Headstones and Markers.....	800-697-6947
Health Care.....	877-222-8387
Homeless Veterans.....	877-424-3838
Home Loans.....	877-827-3702
Life Insurance, All Programs Other than SGLI, FSGLI, TSGLI, VGLI.....	800-669-8477
Life Insurance, Veterans' Group Life Insurance Program (VGLI), Claims for Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family SGLI.....	800-419-1473
National Cemetery Scheduling Office.....	800-535-1117
Native American Direct Home Loans.....	888-349-7541
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program.....	202-565-4964
Spina Bifida Program.....	888-820-1756
TTY, Federal Relay.....	711
VA Benefits.....	800-827-1000
Vet Center Call Center.....	877-927-8387
Women Veterans.....	877-222-8387
72-Hour Emergency Care Notification Line.....	844-724-7842