

Veterans float

after he heard several of his brothers talk about their experience coming home from Vietnam, that American’s Vietnam veterans had never gotten the recognition they deserved. “They didn’t get their due respect when they came home,” said Drought.

The United States’ involvement in the Vietnam War — an involvement that lasted 13 years, claimed 58,000 American lives, and ended in a bloody draw with the Viet Cong, the indigenous Communist guerilla force — split the nation during the late

1960s and the early 1970s, sowing political unrest, leading to wide-spread and sometimes violent street protests, and driving President Lyndon B. Johnson to not seek re-election in 1968.

For many Americans, the wounds inflicted by the war and the fierce, visceral debate over its rightness have never healed, especially Vietnam veterans, many of whom were ignored or treated with disdain when the returned stateside.

A group of Vietnam veterans from

Wisconsin set out to right that wrong by staging a three-day event recognizing Vietnam veterans for their service at Lambeau Field in May of 2010.

Drought and his wife attended the event, which was named “LZ Lambeau,” a nod to the two-letter code for landing zones that entered the national parlance during the Vietnam War, a conflict in which the United States relied heavily on helicopters to deliver infantry platoons to combat zones and ferry the dead and wounded to field hospitals.

A crowd of 26,000 filled one the bleachers on one side of the stadium during the event, and the field was covered with 1,244 chairs, painted white and arrayed in rows like the gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery — one for each Wisconsiner who, like Drought’s brother David, died in the jungles of Vietnam.

The event also featured a scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, the long, black marble memorial located in Washington D.C. that’s become a sacred site for veterans and non-veterans alike since it was opened in 1982.

The event had a big impact on Drought, who began to think about expanding the role of the veterans in the annual Tobacco Days parade, then only two months away. “When the wife and I were driving back from Green Bay I just started thinking about it and her and I were talking about it. When I got back to town I talked to a few people about it and then I called Fred Falk.”

Once he had the green light from Falk, Drought went to work. “I borrowed a semi from a friend of mine and a flat-bed trailer, and we got chairs and put them on the flat-bed.”

Drought said the plan quickly expanded to include all veterans, not just those who had served in Vietnam. “That first year we had World War II veterans, a lot of Korean veterans, a lot of Vietnam vets. We even had a couple of younger ones from Iraq on there.” Fittingly, one of the veterans was David Drought’s son Mike Drought, who served in the U.S

Navy.

In 2012, Drought arranged to borrow the float from the Milton veterans. The float, which Drought pulls behind a pickup truck, has a roof to keep the sun of veterans’ eyes and seats 24 veterans comfortably, although last year Drought said there were 28 veterans on the float. “It was little crowded,” said Drought with a chuckle.

Drought said the float is the least he can do to honor the men who put themselves in harm’s way in distant lands to protect the American way of life, some of whom, like his brother David, died doing so. “It’s kind of nice now that they’re getting their due respects from the crowd.”

Killed in Vietnam



Sgt. David Drought

Mr. and Mrs. John Drought, R. 4, Edgerton, have been notified that the body of their son, Sgt. David Lee Drought, 22, missing in action since December 31, 1967, has been found and is being returned to the States for burial. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Albrecht Funeral Home, Milton Junction.

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expectations,” while alderwoman Nancy Lader praised Schuetz for always being honest, courteous and “nice to people.”

“It seems like we have been through so much in such a short amount of time in our small community,” alderwoman Anissa Welch said, noting she was happy Schuetz was remaining in the community. “... It will be very difficult to replace you.”

“Fortunately, my new position keeps me here in our community and instead of saying goodbye, I’ll instead depart with a simple ‘I’ll see you around.’” Schuetz said.

Members of the Milton City Council were quick to offer their support and appreciation for Schuetz and his work during the last six years.

Alderman Dave Adams said Schuetz had performed “way beyond

Schuetz steps down

been completed as the Milton Police Department prepares to be officially accredited by the state.

Schuetz thanked the city’s 56 employees, Frazier, former mayor Tom Cheshire and the Milton City Council for trusting him to be a leader and for their dedication to improving the community.

The outgoing city administrator said his greatest appreciation was for his wife, Jen, and three children, Colin, Maddy and Olivia.

“I can never say thank you enough to my family, who all too often waited patiently and waited too long for Dad to get home,” Schuetz said. “... The sacrifices you have made way too often go unnoticed and were too underappreciated by me.”

Schuetz concluded while he will not be working for the city any longer, he will still be very much a part of the community in his new role.




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Budget

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the consequences of the cut were understood, Edgerton is not the first district to do away with the benefit. According to Wehner, other districts have eliminated the benefit in recent years, and as a result, premiums keep increasing.

“Each year we were incurring that cost and we were projecting a nine percent increase for the next fiscal year,” Wehner said.

While Wehner acknowledged that making the decision to cut the long-term care benefit was difficult, the need to pass a balanced budget was greater. Last October, the district passed a budget that was almost \$1 million more than its revenue. While part of the budget included one-time money for an upgrade to the district’s Tech Ed. Department, part of the money paid for with the district’s fund balance was for salaries and benefits.

Even with the cuts and savings this year, Wehner told board members the district is in the green by \$26,000, or one-tenth of one percent.

“There is not a lot of flexibility there and there were challenging decisions, but we cannot recycle the budget from last year because we will deteriorate the fund balance, and that is not a good decision for the district,” Wehner said.

Edgerton residents will have the chance to weigh in on the 2014-15 budget on Monday, Aug. 11 at the Annual Elector’s meeting. The district will finalize the tax levy on Oct. 27.

Other Action

—**Gifts approved.** Members of the school board had a long laundry-list of gifts to approve on Monday. They included: \$15,000 from Colonel Jennifer N. Pritzker to the Edgerton High School for the November 2014 band and choir trip to New York City; \$10,000 from Richard Uihlein for the November band and choir trip; \$2,060 from Warren and Judith Kukla for the 2014-15 school year Wartmann Artist Series performances; \$900 from the Swim Booster Club to the high school girls’ swim team toward the cost of a record board; \$880 from the Componex

Corporation for the 2014-15 Wartmann Artist Series Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performance; \$503.13 from the Yahara Valley Elementary School PTO to Yahara for a boom box, pancakes and syrup for the Pioneer Days, as well as fifth grade supplies; \$500 from Joann Fox to the high school girls’ swim team for a new record board; and \$500 from Alma Houfe for the November band and choir trip to New York City.

—**New hires approved.** The following new hires will be joining the Edgerton School District staff:

Amy Farrington will be employed as a new full-time high school cross categorical teacher;

Brian Kluge will be the new half-time elementary art/computer literacy teacher; and

Kristina Miller has been hired as the new middle school social studies teacher.

—**District resignations.** The board approved three resignations on Monday night.

Rocio Martinez, the district’s bilingual education aide, will be resigning from the district. Her final day with the district will be on Aug. 7.

Edgerton Middle School social studies teacher Thomas Molitor submitted his letter of resignation on June 27. He will be teaching social studies at Chilton High School in the fall.

“It was with mixed emotions that I have chosen to continue pursuing my career in education at Chilton High School. I appreciate the professional development and growth from Edgerton, and in particular, from my fellow teachers,” Molitor wrote in his resignation letter. “I have enjoyed positively guiding many students when both teaching social studies and while coaching. These students, in turn, have helped to enrich my life and career.”

Finally, longtime Edgerton Food Service Supervisor Karen Podewels submitted her letter of resignation, effective July 14. “I wish you all good luck and continued success. GO TIDE!” she wrote in her letter of resignation.”

What you need to know about Lyme Disease

Submitted by Susan Corcoran

On Thursday, July 24 at 1 p.m., join Nurse Practitioner Kaye McGrath to learn about Lyme Disease and self-care for checking for ticks.

The program will be held at Stoughton Hospital in the Bryant Health Education Center. To register for this free talk, please contact Sonja at 873-2356 or pr3@sto.hosp.com. To learn more about upcoming events and programs, please visit Stoughton Hospital on Facebook, Twitter, or stoughtonhos.pital.com.



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