

310 Dispatch

Never again shall a veteran coming home from battle be made to feel alone and unappreciated!



*Together We Make
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles
Chapter 310*



**November 2023,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: The trees are brown, orange, and red, as we enjoy autumnal breezes and the fleeting bliss of an occasional sunlight. And to help us in dealing with the autumnal stages of life, the Department of Veterans Affairs has provided us with the "Health and Benefits App." This app is a one-stop shop for Veterans for managing health and benefits, including payments from a mobile phone or tablet. The app has built-in security features such as fingerprint and face recognition. And speaking of wellbeing, take a look at page 11. Be well. -- Paulo Juarez Pereira, Editor

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In concluding the preparation of this issue of our 310 Dispatch, I came across this quote:
"There is no greatness where there is not simplicity, goodness, and truth."

President's November Message

By Vance McCrumb



Four or five years ago, Lloyd Lee and Al Merritt were discussing how to go about getting a stretch of I-94 renamed to honor Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans. They asked Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda

Stumbo for guidance, and she put them in touch with our State House Representative Jimmy Wilson. Mr. Wilson got the ball rolling, and the bill passed in both the House and Senate and was awaiting the governor's signature.



On October 19th, Al Merritt, Eric Downie, Jon Luker, Wendy Hibbits, and I traveled to Lansing to witness Governor Gretchen Whitmer's signing of the bill that renamed I-94 between US 23 and Rawsonville Road. The new name

is **Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway**. I presented the Governor with two Chapter Challenge Coins, one for her and the other for Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II. She seemed to know the meaning of challenge coins and stated that, seeing how she didn't have one with her, she owed us a beer. Fredo suggested it would probably cost her more than one. What I find sad is the time it took for this to move through the legislative process because Lloyd missed seeing it come to fruition.

On October 20th, we were finally able to present Stan Harrison's President's Appreciation Certificate to Steve Larkins. Steve was the Store Manager at the Ann Arbor Home Depot and arranged to have many Home Depot employees at our annual Spring Cleanup at the Memorial. They removed the old shed and assembled the new one, planted annuals and perennials, trimmed the bushes, spread the bark ground cover, and left us with several yard tools. The Ann Arbor Home Depot has been a continued supporter of our Memorial projects over the years, and we are forever grateful!

We had two new members at our October meeting: Dr. Bernhard Muller of Milan and William (Bill) Coleman

of Dexter. Welcome Home Bernhard and Bill. Both are Army veterans. With these two new members, our head count is now 216.

Our State Council President and Region 5 Director John Riling III is scheduled to attend our November meeting to field questions and discuss the resolution of our national organization, as well as our future as a local Chapter. This should help answer many questions on our path moving forward.

John Kinzinger's Christmas packing party is November 5th, 1500 hours, at Post 423. As in the past, arrive early, or you will miss out on packing a box or two.

Arf,
V

The first five days after a weekend are always the hardest.

November 2023 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore



By I wanted to share words of thankfulness for this November article. With all that is happening in our world, we still have much to be thankful for. Let our hearts unite in thanksgiving.

A Thanksgiving Poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

The sun hath shed its kindly light,
Our harvesting is gladly o'er
Our fields have felt no killing blight,
Our bins are filled with goodly store.

From pestilence, fire, flood, and sword
We have been spared by thy decree,
And now with humble hearts, O Lord,
We come to pay our thanks to thee.

We feel that had our hearts been
The measure of thy gifts to us,
We erring children, born of sin,
Might now be rejoicing thus.

No need of our hath brought us grace;

When thou wert nigh our sight was dull,
We hid in trembling from thy face,
But thou, O God, wert merciful.

Thy mighty hand o'er all the land
Hath still been open to bestow
Those blessings which our wants demand
From heaven, whence all blessings flow.

Thou hast, with ever watchful eye,
Looked down on us with holy care,
And from thy storehouse in the sky
Hast scattered plenty everywhere.

Then lift we up our songs of praise
To thee, O Father, good and kind,
To thee we consecrate our days,
Be thine the temple of each mind.

With incense sweet our thanks ascend,
Before thy works our powers fall;
Though we should strive years without end,
We could not thank thee for them all.

Blessings to all.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes
12 October 2023

Call to Order by President McCrumb at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Tim Driscoll

Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S, their families and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

Roll Call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: Bill Coleman and Bernhard Muller

Guests: None

Motion: by Draper/Hitte to approve the September Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

President's Report:

Please see my remarks in the Dispatch.

Treasurer's Report:

Reports were emailed to the Board and to members who wanted one. Let Bourne know

your email address if you desire these reports. The significant nonrestricted revenues came from the Clinton Fall Festival and the Pig Roast. The largest unrestricted expense was the cost of goods sold at the festival.

We did not have revenue for restricted funds but sent \$840 to the VA to upgrade dinner to a steak dinner and paid \$328 to YUCA for water used at the Memorial. See note for Memorial Maintenance.

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see the report in the Dispatch. AVVA no longer meets at the VFW.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: The Pig Roast and The Clinton Fall Festival produced great results due to the support of the volunteers we had from the Chapter. Next Tuesday, we are doing limited sales at the VA. We could use 3 or 4 volunteers. We are also planning to buy a new 10 by 20 popup canopy tent that will save us a lot of work and setup time. We are working on a plan to sell our two older 10 by 20 canopies to Camp Liberty.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: No report.

Michigan State Council: State Council President John Riling is planning on attending our November meeting. There was discussion about the future of local Chapters and the State Council. The only thing known for certain is that any Chapter that is registered in Michigan as a perpetual, nonprofit entity will be allowed to continue indefinitely, no matter what VVA National does.

Memorial Maintenance: Cutting is winding down for the season. Water will be shut off after our fall cleanup on 21 October. Everyone is invited to help. Please bring garden tools, especially garden rakes. Lunch will be served.

We are addressing a new mole problem.

Arbor Master Tree Service gave us a free consultation to review the health of our trees and shrubs and to advise us about future development. They plan to return in the Spring as well.

As stated in the Treasurer's report, we had a surprisingly high water bill. We consulted with YUCA and the company that installed our irrigation system. We learned that our bill could be reasonably expected given how we programmed the irrigation system during the hot, dry weather we experienced during the 50-day billing period. We will check

again for leaks when the irrigation system is blown out. We do not expect bills that high in the future, except when we encounter long, hot, dry spells.

Website: We have had 386,436 visits since the current version of the website came on line a few years ago.

Membership: Including the two members who joined us tonight, we are now at 216 members.

Newsletter: No report.

Health Care: The VA now has the updated Senior Flu vaccine, the RSV vaccine and a new annual Covid vaccine you are encouraged to get. Due to a change in the VA's policy, any person born of a veteran (any gender, any time frame) who was born with a birth defect may now file a claim for compensation. David Saims, Director of the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs, has agreed to help get those claims filed. You are encouraged to call ahead for an appointment at 734-973-4540.

Any person who has a child born with a birth defect is encouraged to register with <https://birthdefects.org/>. Your registration will help VA understand the need to offer compensation as well as to help researchers learn more about how birth defects happen and how to help those impacted by toxic exposures.

LTCCSKMC: Two events coming up. We will be doing the annual Halloween visit on Monday, 30 October. Please come in costume. We'll meet in the lobby at 1730. After we visit all the patients we can, we plan to go to the Sidetrack Bar and Grill. We will soon schedule our annual embroidered shirt Christmas giveaway.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Good of the Order:

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday 13 October 2023 will be at 0900 at Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 668-1292.

Driscoll: According to NPR, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced that a small cell of special operations forces is now assisting Israel with intelligence and planning. The Pentagon also redirected the Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group to sail toward Israel. On Friday, the USS Dwight D.

Eisenhower carrier strike group will leave its home port of Norfolk, Virginia, and sail for the Mediterranean.

Draper: The American Legion has three events planned for Veterans Day: A flag raising ceremony at 0720 at Veterans Park; a ruck March from Veterans Park to the VFW; and breakfast at the VFW from 0800 to 1100. VVA 310 loaned the Legion our large grill for that purpose. All are welcome to the breakfast.

Merritt: Four years ago, Lloyd Lee and I came up with an idea to rename part of I-94 (between US 23 and the Belleville Road exit) as The Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. With help from State Representative Jimmie Wilson, the bill was finally approved by the State Legislature and will be signed by the Governor on the 19th. A few of us have been invited to the bill signing ceremony. We were shocked to learn that each sign will cost \$4,700. We are honored that Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo told us that we won't have to worry about that because the Township will pay for the signs.

Perrault: Most of the flags we retire at the Watch Fire Ceremony come from the Saline American Legion, who collects them all year. We are collecting more flags each year. So far this year, we have collected over 35 egg cartons full. That is far more than VVA can handle. One of our members has a connection to a crematory. A respectful flag retirement occurred there that reduced the collection by 25 cartons.

Long: I received a call from Pete Hegseth Fox News in New York about another doctor. I was able to ask the reporter if they will report on the recent news that M-16s were put in to service in Vietnam despite the manufacturer and the DoD being aware that they had a malfunction that would cause them to jam. The reporter was interested. We'll see what happens.

Kinzinger: We are having our Christmas Packing Party on Sunday, 5 November. As usual, we start packing at 1500 and are done by 1530. If you want to help pack, be here by 1445. If you have things you want to donate to the boxes, be here by 1430. Each time we do this we spend over \$1,500 on postage, so if you want to contribute to shipping costs, that would be appreciated as well. This year, the packages will go to West Point grad-

uates who are presently deployed outside CONUS.

Throneberry:

- I spoke with Kate Melcher today. She said they broke ground on the Detroit Fisher House today.
- I want to thank you for your support of Veterans Radio. Thank you for your contributions to our annual fundraiser. Contributions made by you and others at our recent fundraising event at Dr. Fretz's house met our fundraising goal – enough to cover all our operating expenses for one more year.
- It is time to find and train my replacement. If you know somebody that would like to learn the radio business and be the on-air person for Veterans Radio, please ask them to contact me.

Harrison: We will meet on 21 November to do our annual grocery shopping for Dawn Farm's Thanksgiving Dinner. A group of us will do the shopping and then deliver the food to Dawn Farm. If interested in helping, please let me know.

Closing Prayer: Tim Driscoll

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2007 hrs

AVVA Newsletter November 2023

Our October meeting was a successful lunch meeting at Alpha Coney . Seven members attended. Our next meeting will be a noon luncheon meeting at Alpha Coney on November 9th. If you are available, please join us for a luncheon meeting. We would love to see all of our members who are available to attend our new luncheon meetings.

Alpha Coney on Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI. The restaurant is on the south side of Jackson Rd east of Zeeb Rd. We will meet at 11:30.

We will be collecting **Toys 4 Tots** at our November and December meetings.

We received the five service emblem blanket throws and will be delivering them to Kate Melcher. I will send out an email with the time and date to deliver them to Kate. I invited Kate to join us at our November 9th membership meeting.

Our members assisted VVA 310 members with the fall cleanup at the memorial. Thank you to all who helped. Our Chapter will be assisting VVA 310 visiting the Ann

Arbor VA patients for a Halloween visit. Please meet at the first floor reception area at 5:30 pm. It will be great to see VVA and AVVA members in costumes bringing cheer to the patients. Last visit was 2019.

VISTA Report

Please email me your VISTA hours. I will need the hours for September and October. If you assisted our Chapter at the Memorial and VA Hospital visits, I need to report them to AVVA VISTA chairman.

Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 33 members. Tim Driscoll is our new Dual Member. All VVA 310 members are invited to join AVVA 310 as Dual Members. If you would like to join AVVA 310, please contact Kathy Driscoll. AVVA has changed their membership dues. There is no longer a 3-year membership.

https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new_memberapp_2022.pdf

1 Year \$20

Lifetime membership \$100*

*There is a Lifetime Membership payment plan of \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full.

VVA dual membership \$50.

Chapter Happenings!

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

- We have 40 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. Suggested donation is \$5. When we sellout, we will donate an additional \$300 to Fisher House Michigan. Contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. All proceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.



Service Projects

- Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. Our communities still have families who are food insecure due to Covid 19 and other economic circumstances.

Links to local Food Banks:

Saline Social Services:

<https://www.salinesocialservice.com/ways-to-give/donate/>

Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:
<https://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&slID=donate-funds>
SOS Community Services Ypsilanti, MI:
<https://soscs.org/ways-to-give/>
Catholic Social Services
<https://csswashtenaw.org/family-children/cssw-food-pantry/>
Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County:
<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=washtenaw+county+food+banks>

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2023 Girls’ State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,188.25. We purchased 12 new replacement aprons for our members to use at our events. Cost was \$120.00.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

I attended the October 8th meeting in Cheboygan. Five chapter delegates attended, with eight AVVA members total in attendance. All five chapters participated in a round table discussion of how their chapters serve their Veteran community supporting their VVA members. It was great to hear how AVVA Michigan Association members serve their Veteran communities. We have chapters supporting their local Veteran hospitals, CBOTs, and nursing homes throughout Michigan.

I will be attending the AVVA Michigan Association meeting on December 3rd in Southgate.

WCCV

I attended the September 18 meeting at the Saline American Legion Post 322. I plan to attend the October 16 meeting. It will be held at the Saline American Post 322

Keep up to date with our Chapter: All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our Chapter’s webpage, www.vva310.org in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 proudly supports the AVVA Mission and Vision Statements.

AVVA Mission Statement:

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA Vision Statement:

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Kathy Driscoll
Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310
Past President, AVVA Michigan Association
dkathyr16@gmail.com
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HONORING NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES ON THE WALL

Private First Class Daniel John Illi was born on December 6, 1945, to Mr. and Mrs. Erwin G. Illi at St. Joseph’s hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Daniel graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1964, where he played football and was a member of the Troubleshooting Mechanics Team. Before entering the Army on November 3, 1965, Daniel was a rental manager for Liberty Land Company affiliated with Butcher and Willits Building Company of Ann Arbor. He married on February 5, 1966.



Daniel Illi completed his basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, and was stationed there until transferred to Vietnam on August 2, 1966. Daniel served with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division operating out of An Khe, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. Daniel was killed by small arms fire on November 1, 1966.

Daniel John Illi is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Shirley (Smith), parents, two brothers, and a sister. He lived 20 years, 10 months, and 25 days. Daniel is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, on Panel 12E Line 002.

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Private First-Class Robert Allen Albertson was born on January 1, 1947 in Ypsilanti, Michigan, to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Albertson. Robert graduated from Ypsilanti

High School in 1966. He worked at the Ypsilanti Plant of the Ford Motor Company prior to entering service in the Army on May 3, 1966.

Private First-Class Robert Allen Albertson started his tour of duty in South Vietnam on October 11, 1967, serving as an infantryman with A Company, First Battalion, 8th Cavalry, First Cavalry Division. Robert died as a result of small arms fire on November 4, 1967, after being In-Country for only 23 days.



Robert Albertson is survived by his wife, parents, and two brothers. Robert lived 20 years, 10 months, and 3 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Robert's

name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 29E Line 018.

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Private First-Class Donald Barrett Roddy was born on March 7, 1943, to Mr. William Roddy of Gloversville, New York, and Mrs. Mary B. Woolfenden of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School after attending Shaker High School in Latham, New York, for his freshman and sophomore years. He also attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan, where he was a member of the Chi Sigma Nu social fraternity. Donald entered the Army on January 13, 1965.



Private First Class Roddy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on August 18, 1965, serving as an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Donald was killed on November 15, 1965, because of enemy small arms fire during the Battle for the Ia Drang Valley. According to an Ann Arbor

Newspaper article written by Gary Lillie, "Taking part in the first battle of LZ X-Ray was Pfc. Donald B. Roddy, a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. As a member of the 'Lost Patrol' of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he lost his life along with the rest of his machine gun crew as they fought to cover the withdrawal of their fellow troopers to safer ground. The account can be found on Page 87" ([We Were Soldiers Once... and Young](#), by Joseph L. Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore). Donald was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Donald Barrett Roddy is survived by his parents, his stepfather, and a brother. He lived 22 years, 8 months, and 8 days. Donald's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, on Panel 03E Line 061.

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Private First-Class Robert Clarence Skinner was born on June 21, 1951. Private First-Class Skinner began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, on September 27, 1969 serving as a Motor Vehicle Operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Shore Party Battalion, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Robert was killed on November 16, 1969.



According to a posting left by Sergeant Eddie G. Hammonds, Jr., "I served with PFC Skinner in Vietnam. He was killed on his first night patrol. I will never forget the night or his courageous valor. You will not be forgotten, because I remember."

Robert Clarence Skinner lived 18 years, 4 months, and 25 days. He is resting in the Platte Township Cemetery, Benzie County, Michigan. Robert's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, on Panel 16W Line 086.

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Engineman Third Class Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr., was born on August 9, 1948, in Adrian, Michigan, to Mr. Robert E. and Mrs. Maxine De Verna Kushmaul. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Chelsea High School, where he was the president of his class, a charter member of the Key Club, a member of the Student Council, and President of FFA.



Engineman Third Class Kushmaul entered the Navy on February 2, 1967. He began his tour of duty in Kien Giang Province, South Vietnam, on February 15, 1969, serving with Patrol Boat River 8131, Task Force 116, United States Naval Forces, Vietnam. He was killed while on a river boat patrolling on the Song Hkau Giang River south of Saigon on November 16, 1969, from a

rocket explosion.

Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr., is survived by his parents, a brother, and a sister. He lived 21 years, 3 months, and 7 days. He is resting in Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Robert's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Chelsea. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, on Panel 16W, Line 084.

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Sergeant Rickie D. Sparks was born on July 26, 1947, in Beecher City, Illinois to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sparks from Manchester, Michigan. Rickie is a 1965 graduate of Clinton High School in Clinton, Michigan, where he played varsity basketball and football. He entered the Army on September 1, 1965, and completed his Basic Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He com-



pleted his advanced training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Sergeant Sparks began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on February 20, 1967, serving as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Rickie was killed on November 18, 1967, as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Rickie D. Sparks is survived by his parents, a wife, and three brothers. He is resting in the Riverside Cemetery in Clinton, Michigan. Rickie's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, on Panel 30E, Line 019.

Nov 22-25, 1963

By George Perrault

I always reflect back this time of the year—especially this year, as it marks the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's death in Dallas, Texas, on Nov 22nd, 1963. As a career Navy man just coming off five years of sea duty, I was sent to Naval Station at

Anacostia, Washington, D.C., for a tour of shore duty. That turned out to be the most memorable tour of my naval career, a tour that was to last three years: April 63-66.



I had been working at a desk job in the

logistics field. As we all know, we get assigned duties above and beyond our specialties. The United States Navy ceremonial guard is permanently stationed at Anacostia as well. The guard puts on Navy funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, greets heads of state at the White House, and performs other duties as called upon.

From historical narratives, we know that President Herbert Hoover and General Douglas MacArthur were both ill at that time, and the ceremonial guard just might have been called to do two state funerals in addition to their regular duties. That would have required all hands on deck, and they needed to be prepared.

From my department, two names were submitted to supplement the guard, just in case. (As it turned out, the two dignitaries passed away in 1964.)

Treating it as a memo that was added to my regular duties about noon on that fateful Friday, November 22, 1963, my wife called and said that President Kennedy had been shot. Lois was at that time six months pregnant with our first child. The next time she saw me was on TV at President Kennedy's funeral. The press knocked on my parents' door back in Hazel Park, Michigan, and asked, "Did you know your son was on TV?" I recall a one-star general coming around the old Senate chamber asking our names and where we were from.

Remember, no cell phones back in those days. I think just the old dial ones (LOL). Can't recall if it was the base police or the shore patrol that came and whisked me off to the Ceremonial Barracks, which, by the way, was just a block away from where I worked. There we were told some of the gruesome details and why we were assembled. Not having ever faced something like that, we assembled and practiced a little, using a trash can (standing as a casket) and brooms and mops (standing as rifles) for what was to come. I will be brief for the rest of that weekend. A few of us were taken to Crawlers Funeral Home on Wisconsin Avenue, just a bit down from Bethesda Naval Hospital, where Kennedy's body was. I remember peeking out the funeral home window and seeing all kinds of lights from the press outside. It was getting dark about that time.

Then we were off to the White House, escorted through the basement with lots of folding racks, trophies, and other things. I came to find out the White House police used them, and I suppose they were a shelter of sorts in the Cold War days. Not the entire Ceremonial Guard, as they consisted of dozens of sailors, a few of whom were sent to the White House theater at that time. I recall sitting on JFK's twin size plywood bed (I think), as he had a WWII related bad back. I even thought of "borrowing" a throw blanket with his initials on it but changed my mind.

At 4:30 am on the 23rd, President Kennedy's remains were brought to the White House grounds. I happened to be the 3rd one in line as he arrived. I glanced down at Jackie's now famous pink suit skirt and saw

the deceased president's blood stains.

We were then taken back to the theater to await further duties. Lying in state in the East Room, there were former presidents and other dignitaries for viewing on that damp, drizzling day.

Then we were off to the Rotunda. As fate would have it, I stood the very first watch, having Mrs. Kennedy and daughter Caroline kneeling at the casket and President Lyndon Johnson laying a wreath. Surrounding the entire Rotunda was the press and just about everybody of our government and foreign heads of states. Watch duties were approximately 1/2 hour on and about 3 hours off just in daytime, although viewing was 24/7.

I will never forget the silence and reverence of the people as they passed by that area. Public viewing was to be limited. I'm told the line was some 22 blocks long; so, additional viewing was allowed throughout the night. A few of us were housed in the old Senate chambers off from the Rotunda, and at night, in Ft. Myers, in DC.

To make my dress uniform trousers look like a stove pipe, a rubber grommet was worn at the bottom. For sailors who can remember, the trousers had the infamous 13 buttons on the front to you-know-what. To relax the tension on the trousers, when one sat down, a few of the buttons were released and covered up by the jumper of the uniform.

Mrs. Ethel Kennedy (Bobby Kennedy's wife) came in looking for a phone, and a few of the sailors, soldiers, and marines knew who she was and stood up as a courtesy. I couldn't, as my "undies" would have shown.

Back home, I arrived just in time to watch President Kennedy's burial in Arlington. To this day, I can't remember how I got back to our apartment.

I have collected quite a bit of memorabilia on his funeral and sealed it up for my granddaughter to open and share with her children when she is 60, which will



be the 100th anniversary of his death. On the 50th anniversary, 2013, my 16-year old granddaughter convinced herself and me to go to Dallas, and it was very special. One may google

George Perrault Michigan today for some of those details. I still get very emotional, as I get older, to talk

about such things. They just don't happen every day, you know.

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

The farmer's son was returning from the market with the crate of chicken's his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden, the box fell and broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the neighborhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to the repaired crate. Hoping he had found them all, the boy reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst. "Pa, the chickens got loose," the boy confessed sadly, "but I managed to find all twelve of them." "Well, you did real good, son," the farmer beamed. "You left with seven."

Dispatch Recipients

VVA 310 award-winning newsletter reaches approximately 500 people each month with 100 mailed USPS, 50 hits off the website (www.vva310.org), and 350 emailed. With good stewardship and networking, the cost to print the *Dispatch* approximates \$1,250 per year.

If VVA 310 members or others receiving the *Dispatch* via USPS desire to assist with the printing cost, a suggested donation would be: one year at \$12.00, two years at \$22.00, and three years at \$30.00. Payment can be made payable to VVA 310 and mailed to P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221 indicating *Dispatch* on the memo line.

All other donations may be made payable to VVA 310 at the same mailing address by indicating Donation on the memo line.

Recipients

James Alford ~ December 2025
George Boone ~ February 2029
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2026
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2026
Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031
Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024
Stan Harrison to honor Russ Michalke ~ March 2026

Ralph Henry ~ November 2026
Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024
Ray Hunter ~ December 2032
Darlene Imus ~ January 2027
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2024
Mary Kate Kirkpatrick ~ December 2023
Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2024

This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.
Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031
David Marshall ~ June 2024
Sandy Martinez ~ November 2024
Del Mayes ~ March 2025
Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ March 2026
Gwen Park Olds in honor of John C. Park, Vietnam Vet ~ September 2033
Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027
Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024
George Perrault ~ October 2025
Bruce Ross ~ March 2028
Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
John C. Shook ~ July 2028
Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025
Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2026
Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027.

Current Events

By Ann D. Pereira

09 Nov: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs
08 Nov: 248th Marine Corps Birthday Celebration, 1730 hrs, Student Activities Bldg, U of M, 515 E. Jefferson St
10 Nov: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Bomb-ers Rest. 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI.
14 Nov: Merchandise Sales, 0800 hrs, VA Canteen
23 Nov: Thanksgiving Day
14 Dec: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs
15 Dec: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Brewed Awakenings
19 Dec: VVA 310 Annual Christmas room visit event, 1730 hrs, VA Medical Center. Meet in the lobby. Special embroidered shirts are to be presented. *****

The *Healthy* Habits of Emotional Wellbeing

It is important to recognize when someone is in emotional pain. It is equally important to learn basic habits that keep up emotionally healthy.

What are the Healthy Habits of Emotional Wellbeing? They are habits that everyone can learn, habits that allow each of us to identify and practice that works for us.



TAKE CARE OF YOU

Eat, sleep, and be active. We don't often think about how important these basic activities are for our mental health -- but they are critical.



CHECK IN AND GET CHECKUPS

We get check-ups for our physical health. We see our dentist to take care of our teeth. It's time to take responsibility and get check-ups for our emotional wellbeing. Talk with your doctor, a counselor, a faith-based leader....and your family and friends to make sure you, and those you love, are doing well emotionally.



ENGAGE AND CONNECT WISELY

Pay attention to your relationships. We can't be healthy if our relationships are not.



RELAX

Learn ways to reduce the stress that we all face -- and practice what works for you: meditate, run, knit, dance, sing, write, love...



KNOW THE FIVE SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL SUFFERING

The Five Signs are change in personality, agitation, withdrawal, decline in personal care, and hopelessness. Someone may exhibit one or more signs. Many conditions can result in emotional pain. If you see them in someone you love, reach out, connect and offer to help.

All About VVA 310

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
National Chapter of the Year:
1999 & 2007
Newsletter of the Year:
2007, 2009, 2011, & 2015
E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Vance McCrumb
Vice President: Marv Rivers
Secretary: Jon Luker
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb
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Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore
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Please forward. Thank you!