

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

**March 2023,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: It seems that cool, snowy days bring about a mood of looking back and remembering a different time. That is rightly so because "to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Thus, it is proper to enjoy the doing—and it is also proper to enjoy the remembering. Some of that is reflected in this Dispatch issue.

Be well!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

What's New at VVA 310 . . .

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Chaplain's Corner.</i>	2
<i>VVA 310 February Meeting Minutes</i>	3
<i>Honoring March Anniversaries on the Wall</i>	4
<i>Of Interest to Veterans</i>	6
<i>Dispatch Recipients</i>	7
<i>Current Events</i>	8
<i>The Rest of the Story</i>	8
<i>Jocosity</i>	9
<i>The Norden Bombsight</i>	9
<i>Looking Back and Retrospective</i>	10-11

President's Message — March 2023

By Stan Harrison

At our March meeting, we will be taking nominations for our various elected positions. The actual election will take place at our annual meeting. This year, our annual meeting will be on our reg-



ular meeting night in April and will run concurrently with our normal monthly meeting. I will call the annual meeting to order at 1800 on April 9th and our regular monthly meeting at 1900 as usual. Voting will be open until 2000.

March 29th is Vietnam Veterans Day. As we have done for the last couple of years, we will meet at the Memorial in Ypsilanti Township at 1100 for coffee and doughnuts and informal chit-chat. There is no "plan B"; so, if the weather is too bad, we may wind up sitting in our cars trying to eat up all of Fredo's doughnuts.

We have established some dates that you may want to mark on your calendar.

The Recognition Dinner will be on Saturday, May 13th. Tickets will again be \$15 (a bargain).

The Pig Roast this year will be on

Saturday, August 26th at the Saline American Legion.

The Clinton Fall Festival will run from Friday, September 22nd, through Sunday the 24th. We always need lots of help with this, and it is always fun.

I'll see you at our next meeting. In the meantime, stay safe and stay proud.

Chaplain's Corner March 2023

By Rev. Gordon Moore

With the arrival of March comes spring, and with it, a saying that bespeaks of the wind: "In like a lion, out like a lamb. In like a lamb, out like a lion." In March, it is easier to "go fly a kite."

The wind is marvelous, and we rely on it for many things: wind turbines to generate electricity, much like the windmills from the Netherlands and Holland, Michigan, which helped farmers churn grain, and the windmills on the farm, which generated enough electricity to drive the motors to draw water from the wells to nourish the farm animals.

But the wind itself is a bit of a mystery. It was in that context that Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about the kingdom of God, in John 3:

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicode-



mus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

(John 3:1-8)

Jesus then goes on to explain his role in salvation, which is the entrance to God's Kingdom:

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man, who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted

up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world, through Him, might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:13-18).

When you hear the March wind blowing, think of the kingdom of God and the Spirit that leads a person to Christ so that he might believe and have salvation. Spring blessings to all. Enjoy the beauty of the earth awakening from its winter slumber.

VVA 310 February Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary
Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting
Minutes

9 February 2023

Call to Order by President Harrison at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Bob Bull

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: Garry Massengill, Rick Wagner

Guests: None

Motion: by Stuart/Bull to approve the January Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

Adjourn to Nominations

President: Marv Rivers (absent), Stan Harrison (decline), Vance McCrumb (decline)

Vice President: Vance McCrumb (Accept), Bob Bull (decline),

Treasurer: Berry Bourne (Accept)
Secretary: Jon Luker (Accept)

Sergeant at Arms: Joe Palazzolo (decline) Eric Downey (Accept)

Two-year Board members moving to 1-year positions are: Bob Bull, Sandie Wilson, Steve Hitte, Dave Draper, Al (Fredo) Merritt

Two-year Board nominees

Accepting: Bill Stuart, Tim Clarke, John Kinzinger, Dale Throneberry

Declining: Eric Downey, Nick Bauder, Roy Hall, Chris Wetzler.

We need up to five State Council Delegates to volunteer to the VVA National Convention 8-12 August, in Orlando, Florida.

Recall to Order

President's Report:

I want to thank everyone who showed up to honor Del Mayes at his viewing.

We set the date for the Pig Roast to Saturday, 26 August. The Recognition Dinner will be 13 May at UAW 898 Hall at 8975 Textile Rd. We will keep the ticket price at \$15.

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. January was quiet, but we had a \$20,000 three-year certificate of deposit at 2.75% mature that pro-

vided \$2,300 interest. We continue to receive contributions for the Christmas Program. It is now over \$18,000. Our thanks to the Christmas Program committee and to those who donate.

AVVA Report:

Driscoll. Please see report in the Dispatch. Marge Ballou passed away. She will be interred at Great Lakes this spring. Steve Cox passed away. No viewing but he will have a funeral at Great Lakes. Dates to be determined. We did purchase a flower arrangement for Marge. We still have 50 bracelets to sell to raise funds for Fisher House Ann Arbor. Still collecting trial-size toilet items for Fisher House.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: No report, but we do have Chapter coins here for sale.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Next meeting, 20 February, will be here and sponsored by 40&8. We would like a couple members to volunteer to represent us.

Michigan State Council: Next meeting is on 12 March at the Eagles Hall in Michigan Center.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. A few of last year's maintenance crew have had to resign, so we are looking for new crew members. Please consider helping us. It is usually once a month and usually only takes two hours to do the job right. We are planning a clean-up date for the end of March. Irrigation plan is coming together.

Website: McCrumb. We are up around 367,220 hits since we started counting. I put PACT Act information on the website with reference to the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Services. I also put links on our website to

other websites but only if they offer help to veterans for free.

Membership: The official number is at 215, since we lost Steve Cox. There has been no recent report from National.

Newsletter: No report.

Health Care: Wilson. The VAMC still wants you to mask up to enter a facility. Dr. Long added that viruses get less deadly but more contagious to ensure the survival of the virus. It will become like the common cold. Now that treatments are better and the virus is less severe, Covid-19 consequences are less of a problem than in 2020. Although Fentanyl is a very useful medication, its abuse has become such a serious problem. From April 2020 to April 2021, over 64,000 deaths were due to Fentanyl – more people than were killed during the entire Vietnam War (not counting subsequent death from toxic exposure or long-term effects of wounds).

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger. Stan Harrison is going to escort Melissa Beyrand, who is Miss Michigan for 2022, to do room visits at the VA hospital on 14 February.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Bourne, supported by Bull, to approve the 2023-2024 Operating Budget presented to the membership as amended by the Board in January 2023. Approved.

Motion by Draper, supported by Bull, to purchase one table of tickets for \$120 to the 100th American Legion Anniversary Dinner, 30 August 2023. Approved.

Good of the Order:

Long: For those of you who can't afford to buy it, I left a copy of my book about the firsthand experiences of medics and nurses in

Vietnam here at VVA 310. Feel free to take it home to read but bring it back for the next person.

Bull: We had to move the Veterans Resource Center from the VFW to Washtenaw Community College, Technical and Industrial Building, Room 247, on the second floor. The days and hours stay the same, except as WCC's needs dictate, Wednesday and Saturday from 0930 to 1700. Our first day there, we had three student veterans come to visit us.

Don't make your caregivers and survivors try to get a copy of your DD-214 after you are incapacitated or dead. Get your copy now. They will need it to get you the care you need and then to take care of your memorial and burial later. There are three ways you can get your DD-214. The easiest is to call (800) 642-4838 (Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency). If they have it, they will email it to you. You can also get one from the County Register of Deeds in the county that was your home of record when you ETS'd, if you followed the advice you were given during out-processing to record it when you got home. The third way is to request it from the National Personnel Records Center. Don't request it by mail. It will take years. Instead, go online to <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>? to ask for yours. There is an online form. If your DD-214 has been scanned, this process will take less time than using the mail. Each September, we donate socks to the VAMC. Please bring new socks to any of our meetings. I am also looking for volunteer drivers. The program is called "DAVE" (Delivering A Vet). Volunteers would drive Vets who can't get

rides with the traditional services. Sometimes, a driver might need to stay at the VAMC if the patient is going to be anesthetized and discharged on the same day.

Hall: Our Recognition Dinner will be on 13 May. I need you to bring me new items for the bucket raffle, or recent gifts you would like to regift. If you have gift cards that you will not use, those will make good donations, also.

Harrison: Remember, we are doing the election differently this year. We are going to hold it on the second Thursday in April, 13 April 2023, which is our regular meeting night. We are not meeting on a Sunday like we did in the past. The election will be open for only two hours, instead of four like we did in the past. You may vote in person anytime from 1800 to 2000.

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday (March 10, 2023). Location: TBD.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2030 hrs.

Honoring March Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Earl Thomas Hoag

was born on March 9, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. Robert and Mrs. Mary Hoag of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Earl is a 1966 graduate of East Tawas High School in East Tawas, Michigan. He also attended Alpena Junior College and Cleary College. Earl worked for United Air Lines as a flight food handler at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Specialist 4 Hoag entered the Army on April 20, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Ord, California and Advanced Training



at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on August 19, 1968 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Earl was killed when his patrol was ambushed and he sustained multiple fragmentation wounds on March 8, 1969. He died just one day before his 21st birthday.

Earl Thomas Hoag is survived by his parents and three brothers. He lived 20 years, 11 months and 29 days. He is resting in Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan. Earl'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 30W Line 076.

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Private First Class Frank Leslie Keck was born on June 1, 1946. Frank attended Saline schools in

Saline, Michigan for six years, returning to Kalkaska, Michigan after the death of his father. He would have been in the 1964 graduating class in Saline where he played varsity basketball. He worked in construction before entering the Army in June of 1968.



Private First Class Keck began his tour in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam, on December 22, 1968, serving as an infantryman with C Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He died as a result of enemy small-arms fire on March 29, 1969.

Frank Leslie Keck is survived by his wife and son, his mother, and one brother. He lived 22 years, 9 months and 28 days. Frank's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Saline. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 28W Line 082.

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Private First Class Lavern Michael

Lamey was born on November 7, 1949 to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Lamey of Milan, Michigan. Lavern is a 1967 graduate of Lincoln Consolidated High School. He entered the Army on July 18, 1967 receiving his Basic Training at Fort



Knox, Kentucky. He completed his Advanced Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Private First Class Lamey began his tour of duty in Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam, on December 16, 1968, serving as a Grader Operator with the 15th Engineering Company, 299th Engineering Battalion, 937th Engineering Group. Lavern was killed by enemy mortar fire on March 5, 1969.

Lavern Michael Lamey is survived by his parents, his wife, a brother and two sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Marble Park Cemetery in Milan, Michigan. Lavern's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Viet-

nam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 30W Line 047.

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Corporal Gregory Randall Shambaugh was born on October 2, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Robert Shambaugh of Toledo, Ohio and Mrs. Geraldine Shambaugh of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gregory attended Carpenter School, Tappan Junior High School and Ann Arbor High School. He went on to grad-



uate in 1966 from Howe Military School in Howe, Indiana. Gregory attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan before enlisting in the Army on January 19, 1967.

Corporal Shambaugh began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. According to First Lieutenant McLemore in a letter

to Mrs. Shambaugh, "On March 6, 1968, while Gregory was participating in a search and destroy mission with Company D, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, he was struck by an enemy bullet and instantly killed." The Bronze Star Medal was posthumously presented to Mrs. Shambaugh.

Gregory Randall Shambaugh is survived by his parents and his wife. He lived 20 years, 5 months and 4 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gregory'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 43E Line 034.

AVVA Newsletter March 2023

(No report available)

Of Interest to Veterans

Miss MI at VA Hospital

Submitted by Vance McCrumb

On Valentines Day, VVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 brought Miss Michigan, Melissa Beyrand, to the VA hospital in Ann Arbor to help celebrate Veteran Patient



Appreciation Week. Many veterans were able to get a picture with Miss Michigan or an autograph, and all there enjoyed it

when she gave a mini-concert with

her violin.

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Message to Vance McCrumb, VVA310.org Webmaster

Dear sir,
Good evening from Houston, Texas. For the past hour or so I have visited your website and wanted to congratulate you on how impressed I was viewing it. It is refreshing and informative that has resulted in a positive and heart-warming response for the content and plethora of super content. Please accept my appreciation for not only what you are doing as a Chapter, as documented in the "310 Dispatch," but all the other areas covered in your website. I especially find interesting the historical documents you share that are the same as I use in my presentations about the Vietnam War and my duties, which I refer to in many speeches, and lectures to High Schools each year. You all are hitting a home run in my book – way to go.

What can I say. I just got back from watching a Texas A&M baseball game with my daughter who graduated from there. So a baseball saying kinda fits in.

Rest assured that I will continue to check out your website and Facebook.

In your service,
Stephen Brady
USAF Vietnam '72-'73 ARDF Operator EC-47, Det 3, 6994th Security Squadron, USAF Security Service Past Commander of VVA Chapter 343, Houston, Texas
Past Vice President VVA Texas State Council

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The Weather in Retrospect

By Jane Kinzinger

The worst ice storm in 50 years hit Ann Arbor and southeast Michigan on February 22, 2023, leaving $\frac{3}{4}$ " of ice accumulation from freezing rain. An ice storm warning was issued from noon Wednesday to 4 AM Thursday morning, as shown in the attached photo, compliments of Erika Behm. Travel was strongly discouraged during the ice storm warning time period.

The Ash Wednesday storm left 40% of DTE customers without power, including 461,376 in southeast Michigan Metro Detroit; 65,000



in Washtenaw County (27,600 in Ann Arbor and 15,800 in Ypsilanti). Schools were closed for 2 or 3 days. Power was eventually restored to many by Sunday, February 26; but, much clean up remained from downed power lines and fallen trees. This was a time when friends and neighbors checked in on each other and pitched in to help start generators, move branches from driveways and roadways, and offer support until the ice melted and power was restored. This will be a memorable event for many of us.

Another memorable storm occurred 45 years ago as The Great Blizzard of 1978 on January 25-27. Personally, I remember that Ford Motor Company sent employees home early that day. This was an historic winter storm that struck the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes

region. Michigan and nearby states had up to 33.8 inches of snow in four days due to heavy lake-effect snow squalls after the blizzard began. Wind gusts caused drifts that nearly buried some homes. There were 90 storm-related deaths.

The Michigan National Guard was called out by Michigan Governor William Milliken to aid stranded motorists and road crews. Traverse City was "unofficially closed!" Classes at Ohio State, Notre Dame, Purdue and Miami University were canceled. Notable snow depths in inches were: Detroit 8.2, Grand Rapids 19.2, South Bend 22-26, and Muskegon 33.8.

Five years before that blizzard, The 1973 St. Patrick's Day Blizzard brought depths of snow and drifts that closed I94 and M23.

This storm late in the winter season surprised Jackson, Michigan, with 19 inches of snow, stranding motorists and leaving homes without power, heat or phone service. Things were not green on St. Patrick's Day but white.

One last historic event that none of us were around to experience was called The Great Blizzard of 1918. Records were 20 inches of snow, winds of 60 MPH, 8-20 foot drifts, and -22 temperatures. More recently we have been reminded of the Pandemic of 1918. From my research, there were several things to remember that historic year. Let's hope the recent ice storm is the last major weather event for this winter. Stay safe and don't overdo it doing yard pick up.

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 2023
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023
Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024
Edward Fuller ~ September 2023
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031
Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024
Ralph Henry ~ November 2023
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 ~ January 2023
 Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027
 Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024
 George Perrault ~ October 2025
 Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023
 Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
 Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023
 Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
 John C. Shook ~ July 2028
 Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025
 Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023
 Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023
 Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

09 Mar: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA Regular Mtg 1900 hrs
 10 Mar: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Location TBD
 20 Mar: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, VFW Post 423
 ** Visit Veterans Radio online and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

The Rest of the Story

By John Kinzinger

While in Florida not long ago, I was being friendly and had an interesting experience. I was in line at Lowe's to check out, and ahead of me was a man wearing a 101st Airborne ballcap. He looked our age, and I just do not ignore "invita-

tions" like that. So, I asked when he was there.

As it turned out, he was there just after I came home. I served with the 2/7 Battalion of the First Cavalry Division. Our battalion was stationed south of Phan Rang in Phan Thiet. The 101st was headquartered in Phan Rang at that time. Around January 1967, the 101st Airborne Brigade flew into our base and ran joint operations in our area for about a month.

I was a battalion radio operator, and we did shifts on our battalion frequency monitoring activity and forwarding messages. During the time the 101st worked our area of operations with us, each evening the two commanders would meet in our operations center and would talk over the next day's operations. In the operations center, there was a huge scoreboard indicating for each of the two units the number of enemy KIAs, friendly KIAs, friendly wounded, and enemy captured. At the bottom of the 101st Airborne column was listed one tiger. I always found that tiger interesting and noteworthy.

As I talked to the man in the check-out line, I mentioned the tiger on the scoreboard. The tiger had been shot by a sister platoon as it stalked a point man on patrol. My new buddy at the checkout line said it was a while after they moved out from our area. He was sent to the rear echelon of



the 101st Airborne in Phan Rang because of medical issues. He was assigned at one time to clean up the Brigade General's living quarters—the general was to be returning from an operation soon. For all these 55 or so years, I had wondered about the story behind that tiger.

Well, this man, standing in line at Lowe's, answered my questions. As he was cleaning the General's bedroom area, there was this huge tiger skin. So, for me, that was the rest of the story. It was good that I started talking to this gentleman down in Florida, standing in line at Lowe's. You never know how close those answers are to lifelong questions.



Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

One day, at the veterinarian's office where I take my cat, a man and the receptionist were verbally sparring. The man was being aggressive. After a few moments, a technician came to her co-worker's defense. "Sir, do you know what happens to aggressive males in this office?"

—**—

Ken Rogge again

Floyd was on his way home to pick up his wife so they could go

out dancing. On the way, Floyd saw a beautiful young lady hitch hiking—and so, Floyd gives her a ride. When they arrive at the place the young lady is going to, she gets out and tells Floyd he was very kind for giving her a ride. After picking up his wife, Floyd notices a high heel on the floorboard and thought, “Oh no, if she sees that, I’ll catch all kinds of grief.” So, when his wife was not looking, he grabbed the shoe and threw it out the window. When they arrive at the dance hall, his wife is looking all around suspiciously. Nervously, Floyd asked her what was the matter. She replies, “I can’t find my shoe. I know I had it when I got into the car. Have you seen it?”

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On the Lighter Side

By George Perrault

There are organizations that work from sun to sun, BUT at the Charles S. Kettles, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 310, work is NEVER done.

The Norden Bombsight

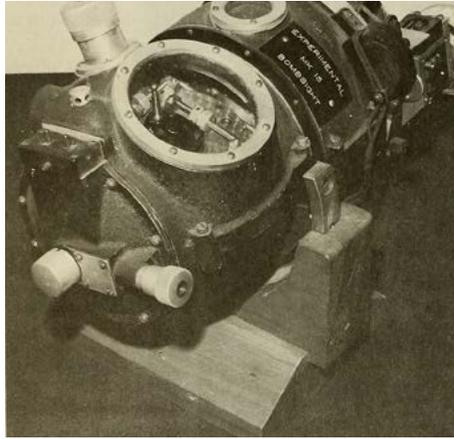
By Paulo Pereira

My military service was not in the US Airforce, and my academic training was heavy in languages rather than engineering. But there is one topic of military history that greatly interests me, namely the development of the Norden Bombsight (see image from Public Domain).

Also, the Norden Bombsight played a role in the Vietnam War and is, therefore, of interest to readers of

the *310 Dispatch*.

There is still another reason why I find myself interested in the Norden Bombsight: My good friend and *Dispatch* reader and supporter Darlene Imus sent me interesting



information about the Norden Bombsight. So, I present a brief summary with four points of highlights:

1. Development of the Norden Bombsight
2. Impact of the Norden Bombsight
3. The promise of the Norden Bombsight
4. Bombardiers’ skills and training in operating the Bombsight

1. Development of the Norden Bombsight

Enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1994, Carl Norden (1880-1965) was born in present-day Indonesia but went back to his native Holland and later to Germany. After graduating as a mechanical engineer, Norden came to the United States in 1904, where he worked to design gyro-stabilizers for large ships. Norden’s interests were in developing aerial torpedoes, flying bombs, radio-controlled planes, and precursors of the automatic pilot.

Norden’s most productive years were dedicated to the Navy. From 1923, Norden began to work on precision bombsights. During his 30 years of developing devices for the Navy, Norden’s best known achievement was the Norden bombsight, with the capability of automatically pinpointing targets from high altitudes.

Working as Carl L. Norden, Inc., Norden employed 18,000 workers and produced bombsight models that remained unchanged throughout World War II.

Once fully developed, the Norden bombsight had the capacity to place a bomb inside a 100-foot circle from a height of four miles.

Bombsights were guarded with ultimate secrecy: while on the ground, they were covered. Highly secret, the bombsight was used during raids on Germany and in the atomic attacks on Japan. Secrecy for the bombsight involved the guarantee that none of them would fall into enemy hands. Bombardiers were to destroy bombsight if enemies could get them.

2. Impact of the Norden Bombsight

During World War II, the Norden company produced more than 25,000 bombsights, which were maintained in secrecy to prevent enemies from duplicating the device. By oath, American bombardiers promised to be ready to die rather than allow a bombsight to fall intact into enemy hands.

Thus, the Norden bombsight was crucial to the success of the U.S. Army Air Forces’ daylight bombing campaign during World War II. Initially developed by Carl Norden for the U.S. Navy, the Army Air Corps acquired its first Norden bombsight in 1932. Highly clas-

sified, it gave American forces bombing accuracy unmatched by any other nation at the time.

3. The promise of the Norden Bombsight

The bombsight's relevance was in hitting designated targets. The promise of the Norden Bombsight was improved accuracy through an autopilot and an analog computer. Those features provided improved accuracy for daytime bombing from high altitudes, giving the military science of ballistics greater precision to calculate landing points.

4. Bombardiers skills and training in operating the Bombsight

From the experience of World War I, pilots knew that dropping bombs from airplanes seldom hit the targets. Since 1918, both allies and Germans had been making efforts to develop bombsights in order to improve targeting. They knew that bombs fall in a curved path and must be released from a precise distance of the target. Bomb accuracy could be affected by direction, movement, airplane speed, bomb aerodynamics, and weather conditions. Thus, bombardiers had to be highly skilled to control the flight effectively and drop the bombs at perfect circumstances.

In conclusion, the development and improvement of the Norden Bombsight made a decisive difference for US and allied forces both in World War II and Vietnam.

Looking Back: February 2022 and March 2013

By Jane Kinzinger

There is joy in looking back. There is the learning from experience and the reliving of past events. In this article, I will look at experiences and events of two periods: February 2022 and March 2013. I invite you to take a moment to look back.

February 2022
The Covid-19 pandemic was two years old, having hit the U.S. mid-March 2020. Two years after the Pandemic's start, some activities were still restricted, including volunteers at the VAMC. AVVA Report encouraged family and friends to get vaccines and wear a mask. County agencies reported indicated some communities were disproportionately affected by Covid-19, including Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township zip codes and the county's African American population. John Kinzinger reported that the annual gift of thousands of dollars' worth of needed underwear were delivered to the Voluntary Services Office to distribute to patients as they need them. Also, the annual gift of 150 specially embroidered shirts of different styles and sizes were also dropped off. The left breast of each was embroidered "Proud American Veteran, Freedom Is Not Free."

In the February 2022 Dispatch, the President's message mentioned the outstanding donation of \$5,000, which turned out to be \$10,000 to Fisher House Michigan due to a matching gift. The first Fisher House opened in Ann Arbor in June 2020, providing free-of-charge housing to families while their veterans received care at the Charles S. Kettles Medical Center. A second Michigan Fisher House in Detroit is being planned. Executive Director Kate Melcher indicates that it takes \$120,000 a year to run

the facility.

Vance McCrumb reported the member total to be 210. Joe Palazzolo and others collected and furnished a veteran's apartment in Dexter, with construction projected to be complete in February. Bob Bull was working on getting a used Huron Valley Ambulance to be used as a Mobil Resource Center. The Current Events for March 2022 included Vietnam Veterans Day 29 March. The first National Vietnam Veterans War Day was celebrated on March 29, 2017.

March 2013--10 Years Ago Dispatch Notes

This issue ten years ago was a "mini edition" for several reasons. Then President Marty Cothorn wrote that the main reason was the fact that Vance McCrumb had been seriously injured in a horrific vehicular crash in Ohio as he made a delivery for his employer, Precision Devices. Vance's small car did not fare well against a semi. Vance lost the tip of his finger, and he wore a device for a neck injury. There were other injuries which kept him in the University of Toledo Hospital for a while. Vance was the Dispatch editor at that time, as well as handling Membership. We were all thankful that Vance recovered and rejoined the Chapter later. Marty herself had been a patient for the first time at the Ann Arbor VA. She reported professional and compassionate treatment while hospitalized. A nurse she served with in the 323rd General Hospital was one of those providing her care. Marty mentioned tickets for the Annual Recognition Dinner are available for \$10. Our wonderful supporters Mike and Shada Eadie volunteered to prepare the special

Gary Lillie Spaghetti Dinner. Gary Lillie was killed near his home on Marshall Road in Dexter in August 2011.

Other activities upcoming according to Tim Clarke included Merchandise events this year in Milan, Grass Lake, Ypsilanti, Clinton, and Tecumseh. Gary Bourdeau reported the Aaron Tippin Concert was well attended. The new emergency room at the VAMC is slated to open in July; the 6th floor is to open in the springtime. A motion was approved to buy the Chapter Bowling Team new shirts. Team members were Doc and Sandy Martinez, and John and Jane Kinzinger. Games were played at Saline Maplewood Lanes. Edie Rose is in the hospital. Tim Clarke and Al Merritt went to the National Cemetery in Holly and laid wreaths. May 18th is the Fishing event for veterans in Manistee. Rick Briggs has applications. Dave Hizer reported that a K-9 Memorial Service will be held on March 9 and a Dog Burial Service in Milford. Packing Party is March 17. A letter appreciation was received from an Afghanistan soldier who received our boxes.

The Friends group held their meeting at 6:00, in conjunction with AVVA. Jane Kinzinger told of the Luau-themed Chapter Party to be held on March 23. Friends and Chapter members practiced and performed the hula dance as part of the entertainment for the potluck dinner. DJ Gary Vancena provided music. Friends were asked to vote for Friend of the Year and Honorary Friend of the Year, to be announced at the Recognition Dinner on April 13. Kathy Driscoll reported that all AVVA coins were sold. John

Kinzinger shared memories of their visit to New Zealand, where they met Allan and Barbara Woods. Allan served in Vietnam in the 4th Royal Army Regiment. John and Jane were introduced to Chief Richard "Rihati" Dargaville, a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran who served with the New Zealand Kiwi infantry assigned to Allan's Australian Infantry Battalion in Vietnam.

Retrospective in Photos

By Jane Kinzinger



Homemade bread: Yes, for Covid-19 shutdown



March 22, 2020 -- Snowfall and implications for Pandemic



Memorial, May 21, 2020 -- Jane, Bonnie, Corrine, Kate, Sandy, and Shirley.



May 30, 2022: Chapter 310, Parade after restrictions.



Underwear at the VA Hospital.

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

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Vice President: Vance McCrumb
Secretary: Jon Luker
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
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Please forward. Thank you!