



Together We
Make A Difference



Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310



– Arlington National Cemetery

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified,, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

– *President George Washington*

Pig Roast: Sep 9th

VVA 310 Dispatch September 2018

From the Editor's Desk: For the Dispatch Team, I would like to recognize those doing the labeling and mailing. Our 12-year label maker, Pete Belaire, has transferred the torch to Stan Harrison for making labels going forward. I would like to thank Pete for all his efforts on the labels. At the same time, I would like to welcome Stan as a new member of the Dispatch “award-winning” team. On another note, I would like to thank those who have contributed articles. Also, if you take a picture of an event, please share that picture with the Dispatch team. Thanks!

President's Message

By Jon Luker

Although the raffle went fairly well anyway, I was a bit saddened by the Heritage Festival. Maybe it is the weather. Maybe it is that summer is mostly over. Maybe I'm just getting older and remembering how vibrant, fun,



and busy the Festival used to be. A lot of work went into setting up (in the rain), selling raffle tickets, selling

merchandise, and letting the public learn about veterans, their needs, and how Charles S. Kettles Chapter of VVA is helping to meet those needs. Again, Don Miller is leading the pack of volunteers at the festival. Good work, Don, Chief, and all who showed up. Larry St. Antoine also setup and staffed the merchandise tent and organized sales help for the festival. Thanks to those who supported that effort also. I know several of us, including yours truly, would like to have helped but were unable to for one reason or another.

Nothing our chapter does would be done without people who are able to volunteer and then do so. Thank you very much for your good work.

As the summer activity slows down, the legislative work speeds up. There is a new possibility on the horizon. Remember how Washtenaw County was able to

pass a mileage that generated revenue for veterans' benefits and for operating the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs? As a result, Washtenaw is now even able to provide some assistance to veterans who have not been deployed. There were other benefits, as well, of course. Well, there is a potential source of revenue that could do the same thing for the State of Michigan. Imagine one source of revenue that would come in every year that would fund the Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs, take care of burial and other veterans' benefits, get county veterans services offices up and running in every county, operate the veteran homes for disabled veterans and so forth. Now imagine that this source would be tax free!

Not long ago, the United States



Supreme Court ruled that the US law that banned sports gambling except in Nevada was unconstitutional. That means that all states may now have sports gambling programs, including video gambling, and may receive appropriate revenue from money spent gambling, much as the State now receives money from Lottery gamblers. Shouldn't some of the new money from sports gambling pay for support of veterans'

programs statewide?

If you think the answer is "yes," now is the time to do something about it. All you need to do is call your local state legislators and tell them why you think it is important that they use the sports gambling revenue to support veterans first. For those of you who get an electronic copy of the Dispatch, here is a link you can click on to find your State Representative: <http://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/frmFindARep.aspx>. And, here's the link to find your State Senator: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html>. I assure you that if you contact your legislators and give them a good reason to support veterans, your message will be taken in to consideration. There will be competition for these funds, so, numbers will matter. Not only will the legislature need to have good reasons to use the funds to support veterans, but they will need to know that there is fundamental support throughout the community for this idea.

The other thing to do is to ask your friends and family to do the same thing. Help make your voice and their voices mean more to the legislature than the voice of the lobbyists.

Chaplain's Corner - Sept. 2018

By Gordon Moore

This election cycle is interesting for all the rhetoric being flung about. As I try to listen with an understanding ear and

heart, I find myself hearing how much people rely upon their government to solve their problems and supply their needs. To a certain extent, this is valid, as the purpose of government is serve the people, provide for the common defense, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty, as our Preamble to the Constitution states.

Yet, our nation was established upon a Judeo-Christian heritage, where God was looked upon as the Ultimate Provider, and the government is to look to Him for direction in ensuring these mentioned needs are met. As a general populace, we seem to have abandoned this concept and have placed upon our government a burden that they are not capable of fulfilling.

I offer Psalm 68: 1-13 as a key to provide those of the household of faith to get back on track.

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those also who hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Sing to God; sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him. A father of the fatherless, a defender of the widows, is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. O God, when

you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth shook; the



heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God, the God of Israel. You, O God, sent a plentiful rain, whereby you confirmed your inheritance, when it was weary. Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor. The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those who proclaimed it: Kings of armies flee, they flee, and she who remains at home divides the spoil. Though you lie down among the sheepfolds, you will be like the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold. As for me and my house, said Joshua, we will serve the Lord.. Gordon

Remembering KIA Anniversary September

Lance Corporal **Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr.** was born on March 9, 1947 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Hermon E. and Mrs. Eugenia Fuller of Ypsilanti. Hermon was a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School where he ran cross country and played football.

He gained a nickname in High School of "Flea" because there was a flea on the Soupy Sales Show named Herman. He also was a member of the Boy Scouts, and he worked on the stage crew for High School plays.

Lance Corporal Fuller enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 27, 1965 and received his infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. Hermon was stationed in Okinawa before being deployed to Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam serving as a rifleman



with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. He died on September

25, 1966 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds from a mortar attack.

Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother and three sisters. He lived 19 years, 6 months and 16 days. Hermon'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 11E Line 014.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class **Gary Robert Shepperdson** was born on July 13, 1946 to Mr. John and Mrs. Margaret Shepperdson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary was

a 1965 graduate of St. Thomas High School in Ann Arbor. He also attended Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Navy in September of 1966.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Shepperdson began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on July 10, 1968 serving as a Hospital Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Gary was killed on September 30, 1968 as a result of a gunshot wound



from enemy rifle fire while participating in Operation Mameluke Thrust.

Gary Robert Shepperdson is survived by his mother, a sister

and three brothers. His father preceded him in death in 1957. He lived 22 years, 3 months and 17 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary'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 42W Line 050

Hospital Corpsman Third Class **Scott Philip Smith** was born on May 30, 1947 in Ann Arbor to Mr. Philip H. of Grass Lake, Michigan and Mrs. Ralph (Jeane) Foreman, Jr. of Northville, Michigan. Scott was a 1965 graduate of Chelsea High School where he was on the

track team and the High School Band. He also attended Grand Valley Junior College in Grand Rapids, Michigan before he entered the Navy on March 17, 1967.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Smith began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on June 3, 1969



serving as a Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Scott was killed on September 17,

1969 as a result of an explosive device.

Scott Phillip Smith is survived by his parents, a half-brother and a half-sister. He lived 22 years, 3 months and 17 days. Scott'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 18W Line 106.

**Minutes,
VVA 310 Chapter
Vietnam Veterans
of America Charles S.
Kettles Chapter 310 -
General Membership
Meeting - 09 August
2018 -**

by Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Secretary

Call to Order by President Jon

Luker at 1900 hours.

Pledge of Allegiance and 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 Member: Tim Shannon
Guests: Bob Kwiecinski and his wife, Sharon, visited us.

Motion by Sandie Wilson and seconded by Larry St. Antoine to approve the July meeting minutes that were emailed to members and inserted on VVA 310's website. Approved.

President's Report: Signup sheet for merchandise and signup sheet for helping with Heritage Festival selling raffle tickets, etc. Leadership Conference presents us with significant challenges for the coming years. The board will lead the effort to address them.

Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne explained how to understand the financial report.

AVVA Report: Given by Meni Draper. Please see the attached full report on AVVA activities.

Food Pantry: Don Miller. No activity.

Merchandise Report: Larry St. Antoine reported that the Merchandise Committee needs new members since the current leadership group will not continue. Marv Rivers reported on a donation of Marine Corps items from the Marine Corps League, Detachment 414.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Jon Luker. No news.

Michigan State Council Report: Jon Luker.

Most likely there will be a vote on a Constitutional issue at Spokane WA in 2019. Makes membership date issue low priority.

Memorial Maintenance Report: Al (Fredo) Merritt: Memorial grounds look good and have received lots of compliments. An outside company fertilizes the grounds and takes care of shrubs. The parking project has been completed.

Website Report: Vance McCrumb: Website is functioning well.

Membership Report: Vance McCrumb: 213 members. Would appreciate anonymous donors.

Newsletter: Paulo Pereira: Thank you to contributors. The flow of articles has been great.

VAAHS Report: John Kinzinger: Taking part in activities is a good experience. Will need participants for Halloween Party and Christmas Party.

Old Business: **Motion** by Sandie Wilson and seconded by Al Merritt to amend Article X, Section 4 of VVA 310's By-Laws to delete it. This section currently reads: "Checks written for the Chapter require the signatures of two officers. There shall also be a minimum of at least a two-signature requirement for any financial accounts held by the Chapter." Vote was postponed to this month as required by Article XI of the Bylaws which states, "These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting." Approved.

New Business: **Motion** by Berry Bourne and seconded by Marv Rivers to transfer \$10,000 cash

as investment and recommended by the Finance Committee to purchase from Ann Arbor State Bank a CD at 1.75% according to stipulated terms. Approved.

Motion by Vance McCrumb and seconded by Larry St. Antoine to donate \$1,000 to be paid to Veterans Radio where the Chapter also receives stipulated advertising benefits. Approved.

Special Events Report:

11 Aug – 1200-1800, Vet Fest at Mount Brighton Ski Area, 4141 Bauer Rd, Brighton, MI 48116. Multiple live bands, food, activities, and dozens of veteran-helping agencies and groups on hand to provide information and assistance. Feel free to share freely with all the Vets you know!

21 Aug – 1030-1530, Escort the Moving Wall from Dundee to Howell. Meet at American Legion Post 282. KSU 1100. Lunch in Dundee.

23 – 26 Aug – Howell Moving Wall open to the public

24 - 26 Aug – Heritage Festival

9 Sep – 1200-1600, Pig Roast --

12 – 16 Sep – Kokomo

21 Sep – POW / MIA commemoration at VAAHS auditorium

27 Oct – 1730, Halloween at VA

13 – 14 Oct – AppleUmpkin

12 Nov – Veterans Day Ceremony at VAAHS

18 Dec – 1730, Christmas at the VA

Good of the Order:

Holiday's Restaurant offers free breakfast for veterans on selected menu items, every Tuesday, 8-11 am. Please tip waitresses. Bobski complimented VVA Chapter 310 for vibrant activities. Sandie Wilson reported on Blue Water

Navy receiving benefits; contact our two senators for political action. John Kinzinger: WACU Veterans activity on August 18th. Please RSVP to John K if you are coming for lunch.

Next Chapter Breakfast: will be Friday, September 14th, 0900 hours, at Bomber's Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Closing prayer was given by John Kinzinger. President Jon Luker led the group in a salute to the flag to close the meeting at 2100 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Secretary

The Vietnam War: Why Were We There?

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

In January 1965, Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson gave a State of the Union speech to Congress, in which he explained to Congress members "why we were there," namely, in Vietnam. Other Vietnam War experts can tell us



what we did in Vietnam or what we should have done in Vietnam. But as for me, my preference is to explore the question as to why

we were there.

Actually, Pres. Johnson himself gave us what I think is the best answer to that question, as follows:



“Twice in one generation we have had to fight against aggression in the Far East. To ignore aggression now would only increase the danger of a much larger war. Our goal is peace in Southeast Asia. That will come only when aggressors leave their neighbors in peace. What is at stake is the cause of freedom, and in that cause, America will never be found wanting” (Pres. Lyndon Johnson, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uou8EppdfAM>, minutes 13-15, January 4, 1965). Herein lies the entire meaning of the Vietnam War—succinctly explained in just a few words, which Pres. Johnson knew very well how to do. Averting “the danger of a much larger war”—that was the meaning of the Vietnam War. In that sense, the Vietnam War was a difficult and different war, because the objective of it was difficult to assess. Most wars have a clear

objective, which one can either fulfill or fail to fulfill—but the result is clear and easy to assess. But in the case of the Vietnam War, victory was not the object of it. Averting a “much larger war” was the object of it. And this is something one can know with a certain degree of certainty only decades after the war’s end. So, for years now, I have been saying that only in our time, that is, about 40+ years after U.S. troops pulled out of Vietnam (1973), can we have a degree of certainty whether that war was successful or not. And the correct question about the success of the Vietnam War is this: Did the Vietnam War avert the danger of a much larger war? That “much larger war” was a war against the Communist forces in the 1960s-70s, against the combined Communist front involving China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cuba, and North Korea,

with a possible assistance of Iran.

In conclusion, since this “larger war,” thank God, has not happened, one can say that the Vietnam War, yes, fulfilled its mission to avert the danger of a much larger war.

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to “honor thy Father and thy Mother,” she asked, “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?” Without missing a beat, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, “Yes! Thou shall not kill!”

AVVA Newsletter September 2018

If you are on Facebook, you can join the AVVA Michigan closed group. Just send a Friend Request to Marilyn Lash and she will accept you as a member of the AVVA Michigan closed group. This is how our AVVA Michigan State Association communicates between the bi-monthly meetings.

AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in August. Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Members supported VVA Merchandising Sales at Ypsilanti

Heritage Festival
Kathy attended Washtenaw
County Council of Veterans
Meeting

Members inventoried items for
the VVA Pig Roast

Kathy attended the AVVA
Michigan Association meeting

Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising
sales is Tuesday, September
11th, VVA 310 needs our help!

Please consider volunteering
one or two hours assisting VVA
310 merchandise team!

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 Michigan State Association
News

Next meeting is Sunday, October
14th in Harrison, MI. VVA /
AVVA Chapter 1047 is hosting
this meeting. More information
at our AVVA 310 September
meeting.

The December 2nd meeting will
be at AVVA /VVA 1083 in Port
Huron, MI.

AVVA Michigan News

AVVA Michigan Fundraising
Report

Please contact Kathy Driscoll
at 734-355-4897 or [dkathyr16@
gmail.com](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com). This fundraiser
will benefit AVVA Michigan
Association. Thank you for
supporting this AVVA Michigan
Association Fundraiser. I have 6
challenge coins left.

AVVA Michigan Association has
two fundraisers to benefit AVVA
Michigan Association.

2nd Annual Gift Card Envelope
Draw. AVVA Michigan is
requesting donations of Gift
Cards between \$10 - \$25 for
our 2nd Annual Mystery Gift
Card Raffle at the December
2nd Christmas meeting. AVVA
Michigan State Association is
requesting members donate
a gift card for the Envelope
Draw fundraiser raffle at the
VVA Council / AVVA State
Association December 2nd,
2018 delegate meeting. We are
planning to place each donated
gift card in an envelope and ask
for donations of \$10 for each
envelope. Suggested gift cards:
Tim Horton's, Starbucks, Meijers,
Restaurants, Fuel Cards, etc.
Please bring your donated Gift
Card to our AVVA 310 October or
November meetings.

No Bake / Bake-less Sale
Fundraiser for AVVA Michigan
Association is Raising funds for
the AVVA Michigan Association
Operating Funds. Suggested
Donation: \$1 from each of our
AVVA Michigan Association
Member. If we receive \$1 from
each of AVVA MI Association
member, we will raise over
\$765 for the AVVA Michigan
Association Treasury. Please
consider supporting this
fundraiser! I will collect your \$1

donation at our September and
October meetings.

Donation to Fisher House
Michigan from AVVA Michigan
Association!

AVVA Michigan Association
voted to donate \$100 to Fisher
House Michigan. This donation
will be sent on September 12th.
Fisher House Michigan has their
annual Patriot Match, September
11, 2018 through November 11,
2018. All Donations to Fisher
House Michigan will be matched
dollar to dollar.

AVVA Michigan Association
Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association
Webpage will be launched soon!
The Association will have a tab
on the new VVA Michigan State
Council webpage: [www.vvamsc.
org](http://www.vvamsc.org). I will let everyone know when
our AVVA tab is launched!

AVVA 310 Fundraising Report
Fisher House Michigan

We need fundraising ideas for
Fisher House Michigan. We
would like to raise another \$2,000
for Fisher House Michigan. This
will bring a total donation to
\$10,000.

SAVE THE DATE! Fundraisers for
Fisher House Michigan!

Creative Memories Fundraising
Event, "Scrapbooking for Soldiers"
benefitting Fisher House
Michigan will be Friday, October
5th at the VFW Post 423 from
09:00 am to 3:00 pm. Donation
for this event is \$10. Bring your
Photos to create your personal
Photo Memory Book. You can
order your Creative Memories
supplies from Meni Draper at
[https://www.creativememories.
com/user/menidraper](https://www.creativememories.com/user/menidraper). Meni is



AVVA Michigan Association
Challenge Coins \$10 donation.

donating her proceeds to Fisher House Michigan.

AVVA 1st Vendor Fair will be Saturday, October 20th at the VFW Post 423. We will need volunteers and items for the AVVA Raffle Portion. More information at our September meeting. Please volunteer for this event. We have the following vendors SeneGence/ LipSense, 31, Tastefully Simple, LuLaRoo, PartyLyte, Origami Owl, Pampered Chef and Tupperware. If you know a vendor, please ask them to participate in our Vendor Fair.

AVVA 310 Chapter Special Projects & Operating Funds Everyone should have received an email for our No Bake / Bakeless Sale to benefit AVVA 310 Operating and Special Projects Funds. We received \$40 so far. Please bring your donation to the September 13th meeting! Girls' State

This year we will be sponsoring three delegates to Girl State. If you know a young woman entering her Junior year in a Michigan High School this year, please ask her if she would like to attend Girl State. Her Guidance Office will have the Girl State applications. If you need more information, please contact Kathy Driscoll at 734-355-4897. We fund this project from our Lois Perrault Memorial Fund.

Upcoming Events!

9 September VVA 310 Pig Roast
Volunteers needed to assist both VVA and AVVA with setup, serve food, desserts, AVVA raffle table and cleanup!

11 September VVA 310
Merchandising VA Medical

Center Ann Arbor 3rd floor Kiosk.
13, 14, 15 16 September Howard
County Vietnam Veterans
Organization 36th Annual
Reunion

21 September POW / MIA
Commemoration, VA Medical
Center Ann Arbor.

28, 29, 30 September Clinton, MI
Fall Festival.

Next meeting is Thursday,
September 13th.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA
Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association
Vice President

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Announcing the 2018 Pig Roast!

Pig Roast is here again. Lunch will be Sunday, September 9th. But before that, the organizers have lots of need for volunteers: cleaning up, setting up, serving, greeting, and so on. Lots of opportunities. If you would like to get involved, please see page



12 of this newsletter for contact information. But for sure, don't miss the pig roast lunch. You'll love it, not just the great food but also the camaraderie, the fun time, and the fantastic raffle with

great prizes. And if you are a new member, be sure to introduce yourself around.

Interesting Veterans



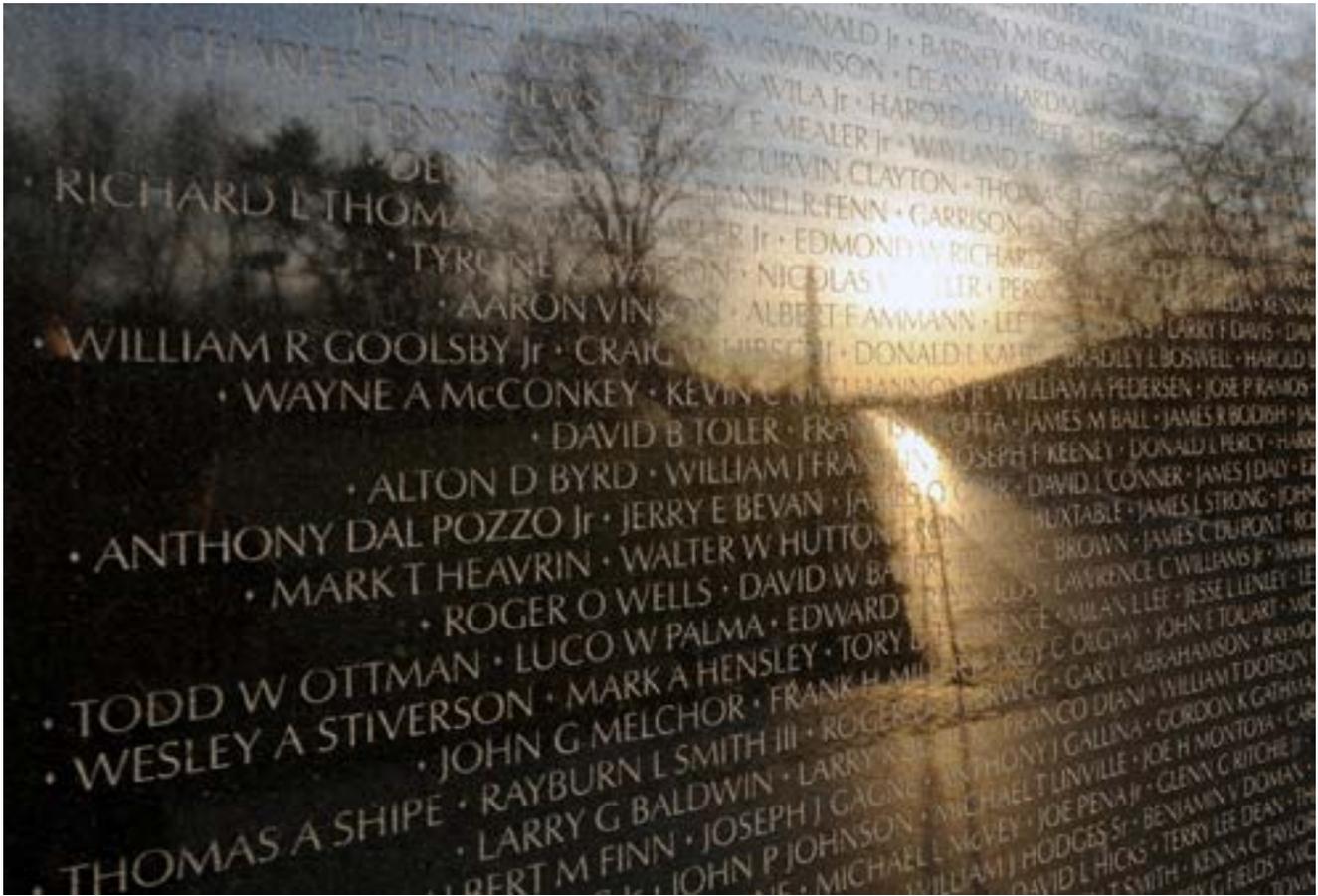
Statistics Off the Vietnam Memorial Wall

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. He is listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall. 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger. 8,283 were just 19 years old. The largest age group, 33,103 were



18 years old.
12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.
5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old. One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old. 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.
31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty-one sets of parents lost two of their sons. 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school. 8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.
244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are

on the Wall. Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons. West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall. The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine

Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home. The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor

Remembrance Day. The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths. The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred. Most Americans who read this will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Chapter/Dispatch Patrons-

Please check your dates to see if you are current

*Name listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The persons listed below have contributed to the printing cost associated with the newsletter. Thank you for your generosity. Here's how it works: Each newsletter that is printed and mailed costs about \$1.50, where workers are all volunteers. If you would like to contribute for this purpose, write your check to VVA310, memo line "Dispatch Patron." Then mail that letter to VVA310. See page 12 of this newsletter for contact information. For example, if you contribute \$30.00, you will receive the printed newsletter for 20 months. Also, Please consider

sending a complimentary subscription of friends and family. They may enjoy reading our interesting articles and information. Also, a few Dispatch Donors contribute toward the printing but choose to receive only the PDF newsletter. So, when you make your donation, let us know if you want the printed form or not. Again, your generosity is greatly appreciated

Donors.

George F Boone ~ October 2021
 Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020
 Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2019
 William Christophersen ~ March 2019
 Edward Fuller ~ March 2020
 Gary Couture ~ November 2017
 Joseph Flint ~ January 2021
 James Graham ~ February 2019
 Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021
 Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ October 2018
 Dick Knight ~ May 2018
 Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019
 Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021
 Dell Mayes ~ May 2019
 Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018
 Ron Oliver ~ February 2019
 Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ January 2020
 George Perrault ~ October 2022
 Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
 Ken Rogge ~ May 2019
 Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
 Edith Semark ~ December 2017
 Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019
 Tom & Sandi Sorensen ~ October 2018.

Chris Wetzler ~ April 2019
 Elizabeth Wong ~ November 2019
 Bob Kurtz ~ December 2019
 Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2020
 Linda Lamey-Leonard In memory of Lavern Lamey* ~ July 2021
 Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, **David S. Palmer** ~ Helena Prince in Memory of deceased member **Tom Prince** ~ April 2023
 Corrine Gignac in Memory of Vietnam Vet Marine **Gary L. West** ~ December 2018
 Bonnie Woods in memory of her VN vet husband **Gary Woods** ~ December 2018



Listen to Veterans Radio on WAAM, 1600 on your AM dial. It broadcasts at 5:00pm on Sundays.



This is an evacuation scene during the Tet Offensive, 1968. The U.S. military and allies repelled an attack by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. A defeat for Communists.

Living Well Past PTSD

by Paulo-Juarez Pereira

I was fortunate in my assignment in Vietnam, fortunate in the sense of arriving there in 1969, after the Tet Offensive. I was supposed

South Vietnam, and they were extremely important for the North Vietnamese to conquer. One might say that, for the North Vietnamese, the entire success of the Tet Offensive depended on

PTSD is not associated only with these major battles. It can result from all kinds of stress, even for people who were not in battles at all.

So, my purpose in bringing up these facts is to keep into our awareness the importance of seeking support for confronting PTSD challenges. Today there are many different kinds of ways to treat people. Knowledge here is important, such as feeling upset, nightmares, flashbacks, emotional isolation, loss of interest, difficulty in sleeping, and feeling startled.

For me, very helpful was to take part in support groups and realize that others had very similar challenges to the ones I was facing. Realizing this was a turning point for me.

We, Vietnam Veterans, are people who understand PTSD best, but younger troops may not be trained as well. So, the continued support that VVA members provide to younger veterans is important and, no doubt, makes an important difference—actually, an important difference. In conclusion, among all the great things that VVA members do, PTSD support is one of the most important ones. With good knowledge, adequate training, and the crucial support that veterans receive from health providers and other veterans, it is indeed possible to live well in spite of PTSD.



Quang Tri City, by Bùi Thụy Đào Nguyên. CC BY-SA 3.0.

to go in 1968, but because of receiving a direct commission as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps, my orders to go to Vietnam in February of 1968 were canceled, and I was instructed to receive more training and have one year command experience in the United States, as a platoon leader in an airborne unit.

By 1969, the major battles of the Tet Offensive were over. Mostly, the battles of Quang Tri City and Hue were finished. Those were two provincial capitals in the northern part of

conquering those two cities. The North Vietnamese Army indeed managed complete surprise and even an initial success, but eventually the NVA collapsed. The battle of Hue was especially difficult for the U.S. forces and allies, but after about a month of grinding struggle, the NVA failed.

I have mentioned these facts in connection with PTSD because obviously the troops that were involved in those actions were vulnerable to PTSD, but it is important to keep in mind that

If You Wish to Contact Us

Website: <http://vva310.org/>
General Information: (734) 994-0444
President: Jon Luker
Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt
Secretary: Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
Membership: Vance McCrumb
Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Chapter Mailing Address:
VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221
Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday of the Month, 1900 hours.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Please Forward. Thank You!