

# 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*



**July 2020**

Washtenaw County,  
Michigan



**Editor's Note:** As usual, all contributions to the Dispatch are outstanding, and I would like to point out Gordon Moore's article with thoughts about this historical time and also a letter from the President of the University of Michigan (p. 10), showing how academic and business organizations are doing their best to adapt themselves to the challenges of this time. Finally, let me point out the new officers and directors that have just been sworn in. I would like to welcome them and thank them for their service to the VVA 310 Chapter. Be well!  
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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## President's Message

By Stan Harrison

As we have our annual change over of officers and board members, it seems like a good time to take a quick look at how we are doing. We all know that times are tough right now and for the immediate future. VVA310 has been greatly affected.

Our ability to raise funds has



been all but eliminated completely. Merchandise sales have come to a screeching halt because we can't get into the VA hospital for our regular monthly sale. The other venues for our sales are pretty much all canceled as well.

The pig roast is, at least as we know it, almost certainly off. It would be hard to ask our local small businesses for support this year, when so many people are struggling to survive.

There are lots of questions about our charitable work due to lack of access to the VA hospital and uncertainties as to what events can take place.

All of that is the bad news.

The good news is that, thanks to what you have done in the past, we are strong enough financially to get through this. With our culture of volunteerism and a little help from our friends, we will THRIVE.

I am proud to be a member of VVA 310, Charles S. Kettles

Chapter, and you should be too.

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## Chaplain's Corner

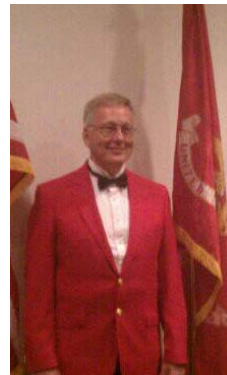
By Rev. Gordon Moore

The 2020 year certainly has been quite a year for the world in general and our nation and state in particular. Challenging would be an understatement, it seems. All of this has revealed the importance of good leadership as opposed to less than good leadership.

I have been spending a lot of time in Scripture lately, trying to discern where we are headed and what can be done. In this leadership process I am reminded of the statement in Judges 21:25,

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own eyes."

Everyone doing what was right in their own eyes signifies a highly



individualistic, and self-centered social reality. It was not merely that the people were self-interested. Their basis for morality, right and wrong, was centered upon

their own will and desires. As marine Generals Kelly and Mattis recently stated, the sign of good leadership is uniting people in the times of crisis and not saying and doing things that divide. Although they were saying this in opposition to the President's rhetoric, it certainly is also true of Congress and many State Governors, including our own. In late June the approval rating for the President

was 42 percent as was often pointed out by the media and members of congress, yet at the same time congress's approval rating was only 25 percent. In July and August 2019 it was at 17 percent.

Add to that the current events of protests, rioting, looting, violence and extreme displays of unintelligence and all the national debates going on regarding history, injustices, murders, lack of good leadership, monuments, etc., we are better able to understand the words from Judges as it relates to good leadership or a lack thereof. In stark contradistinction should be the actions and words of God's people so that we stand out as a light on a hill to draw people to God, by our good works, kind yet intelligent speech showing people were their actions will lead them. Psalm 19:7-10 states,

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."

National elections are around the corner and many hope for a day of reckoning, but what will that look like with such a dysfunctional government? Would better people, unless many in number, be able to turn the tide that is carrying our nation out to sea?

Let us pray and act in accordance to God's Word and make a positive

impact on those we encounter.  
In hope of a return to godliness,  
Gordon

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## AVVA Newsletter July 2020

By Kathy Driscoll

I hope everyone is feeling well and staying socially distanced as we all help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus in Michigan. Please let me know if you need anything. AVVA and VVA 310 have resources available to assist you. We have an anonymous AVVA member willing to deliver cereal and drinks on Wednesdays and a hot meal on Fridays to any AVVA or VVA family in the Dexter, Ann Arbor, Saline, Chelsea, Whitmore Lake, or Pinckney area.

Jane, Shirley, Meni, Bonnie and Kathy attended our June 13th meeting. We met on the VFW Post 423 patio. Today, June 30th, I emailed our treasury report to keep all of us up to date.

VVA 310 plans to reschedule the Recognition Dinner. We will have a raffle table at the Recognition Dinner. Please let me know of you have items for our table. All funds will benefit Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor.

On June 18th, Kate Melcher sent out an email requesting donation to purchase groceries for the Ann Arbor Fisher House. I sent Berryman Bourne an email today to send Fisher House Michigan \$25 monthly to Fisher House Michigan on behalf of AVVA 310 for groceries. This will be our commitment to provide a meal quarterly to Fisher House

Michigan. When the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted by the Ann Arbor VA, we will sign up to provide a supper/dinner to the residents in person.

If anyone would like to personally donate to the grocery cause, please logon to [this website](#) and complete the donation form. There is a box to make your donation recurring monthly.

*Email from Kate Melcher:*

**Good day!**

**Just a reminder that the Dedication Ceremony for the [VA Ann Arbor Fisher House](#) previously scheduled for tomorrow, 19 June 2020, has been postponed. But, don't worry - the public celebration will be rescheduled when it is safe to do so. We can't wait for you to see this beautiful home that you help build! In the meantime, take a look at the amazing map above. In just two short weeks, the first Fisher House program in Michigan has welcomed families from all over Michigan, as well as from Northern Ohio and Florida!**

**While we continue the [\\$20 million capital campaign to support construction near VA Detroit](#), your gifts are also helping us support the families staying in the VA Ann Arbor House.**

**Want to know the biggest need right now? Groceries! When your loved one is hospitalized, the kindness of someone else shopping and preparing food for you cannot be overstated.**

**Will you consider making a recurring monthly gift to help keep the Fisher House stocked? Donors like you who pledge sustaining support of \$25/month or more are making a difference for Veteran families. Your gift will:**

**Fill the refrigerator and pantry with nutritious and comforting food. Supplement cleaning supplies now in greater demand for public health reasons.**

**Provide compostable single-use cups and plates to reduce exposure to germs from others, while being mindful of our planet. Won't you help us out with a monthly donation? All you have to do is [click here](#).**

**It's that easy to make a difference today... because a family's love is good medicine.**

**With great thanks for your continued support,  
Kate Melcher  
Executive Director  
Fisher House Michigan  
2020 AVVA 310 Chapter Election Update**

I completed the election forms with proper signatures and mailed them to AVVA Michigan Association President, Penny Meinhardt. I will be our Chapter Representative for the next 2 years. We still need an Alternate Chapter Representative. This is an appointed position; please let me know if you would like to volunteer.

**H.R. 2568 Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act**

As of today, Monday, March 30, 2020, there are 17 co-sponsors to this bill. Tim Walberg (R-17) is the only Michigan US Congressman to co-sign this bill. If you live in another congressional district, please contact your representative to have him or her co-sign this bill. To send your congressional representative a letter to support this bill, [use this link](#).

Keep up to date with our Chapter: All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our Chapter's webpage, [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org) in the VVA News

Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

### AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

#### Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets

- AVVA 310 has Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets for a \$5 donation. Please contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. We have 50 bracelets left. Selling all 50 bracelets will raise \$250 to benefit Fisher House Michigan.



#### No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:

- Our 2020 "No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale" fundraiser raised \$403.00. Thank you to everyone who has donated. This fundraiser benefitted our Operating and Special Projects Funds.

#### Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2020 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,083.25. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan canceled 2020 Girls State. Michigan State University campus is closed. Per <https://michalaux.org/girls-state/> more information will be available soon. Hopefully I will have more information in September.

#### AVVA Michigan State Association News

The March 29th meeting was canceled. I will email our AVVA 310 members with any updates I receive from AVVA Michigan Association.

#### AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

- AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2020.

#### AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association

Webpage is launched! Check out the AVVA Michigan Association tab! <http://vvamsc.org/associate/>  
**AVVA National**

- 2020 –Leadership Conference – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, Ohio. Canceled.
- 2021- National Convention – Sheraton Greensboro At Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC
- 2022 – Leadership Conference – Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC
- 2023 - National Convention – Orlando, FL

#### Upcoming Events!

- All July and August events are canceled due to the Covid-19 virus.
- Our next meeting hopefully will be Thursday, September 10th at 6:00 pm.
- We decided to postpone our meetings until September. Hopefully our State of Michigan and especially Region 1 will allow us to meet safely indoors. We can meet via ZOOM. Please let me know if you want me to set up ZOOM meetings.

#### 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](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com)

1-734-355-4897

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## VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker

### Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Regular Membership Meeting Minutes

11 June 2020

**Call to Order** by President Driscoll at 1900 hrs.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

**Opening Prayer:** John Kinzinger  
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:** John Kanetz asked for an application.

**Guests:** Larkin Pham, Phil's daughter is selling face masks with military themes for \$10 each to raise money to restore Saigon Lady, the C-130 her grandfather, Pham Quang Kheim used to fly the family and many other people to freedom 45 years ago.

**Motion** to approve the March Minutes by Harrison/Wilson.

**Approved.**

#### President's Report:

We got an electric cart for Dell, now that he is home. He can use it to get outside and visit his son and so forth.

Kate and I had our 50th anniversary on Zoom.

Steve Duncan is back home.

We have a member having hard times. His wife is also having medical problems. Chapter members are taking care of the family.

Flag Day is Sunday. At 1600 we will dedicate the bricks for those

members who passed away since Memorial Day 2019. After that, John and Jane Kinzinger are providing 50 hot dogs and buns. Bring your own refreshments and a lawn chair. After that, about 1730, we begin to retire flags. Our plan is to use only one burn barrel and retire about 1/3 of the flags. We will retire the rest of them at VFW 423 in a private ceremony. Our election will be Saturday from noon to 1600.

#### **Meeting suspended for nominations** (third time)

Nominations for President: Stan Harrison, accepts.

Vice President: Marv Rivers, accepts; Tim Driscoll declines.

Secretary: Jon Luker, accepts.

Treasurer: Berry Bourne, accepts.

Two-Year Board members (five to be elected).

The following individuals will transition from two-year terms to one-year terms: Horace Frazier, Al (Fredo) Merritt, Roy Hall, Marty Cothorn and Ken Rogge. They are therefore not eligible for nomination.

The nominees are: Bob Bull, accepts; Steve Hitte, accepts; Larry St. Antoine, accepts; George Betz, accepts; George Perrault, declines; Chris Wetzler, accepts; Nick Mauder, accepts; Sandie Wilson accepts; Dave Draper declines. Sergeant At Arms: Tim Clarke, accepts; Horace Frazier, declines. There were no new nominations.

**Nominations were closed.**

**Meeting Resumed.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Bourne. Very little activity. Printed report available. No questions.

**AVVA Report:** No report.

**Food Pantry:** No report.

**Merchandise Report:** No activity

due to restrictions.

#### **Washtenaw County Council of**

**Veterans:** Luker. Next meeting will be outdoors at American Legion Post 31 in Chelsea on Monday, 15 June 2020.

**Michigan State Council:** Luker. Everything on hold since March.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt – There will be a cleanup on Saturday morning to put finishing touches on the Memorial for Watch Fire and the brick dedication that will happen Sunday. The kneeling soldier silhouette was installed.

We are continuing to move forward with plans for the new maintenance building.

**Website:** McCrumb. The website has had 202 thousand plus hits. This could be attributable to the updated Coronavirus information we post or to the upgraded software that runs our website or a combination of the two.

**Membership:** The official number is now 209.

**Newsletter:** Pereira. No report.

**Healthcare:** Wilson. No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Motion:** By Harrison, seconded by Draper to fund the Memorial Maintenance Building from the Building Fund, with a promise to repay the Building Fund. The board previously approved this motion. Membership **approved** the motion.

**Good of the Order:**

**Kinzinger:** On Flag Day this year, we are giving every patient at the VA a steak dinner.

**Kinzinger:** We went to Reuben Swisher's funeral on Tuesday. It was a beautiful ceremony for a great guy. He volunteered at age 17 and went to Korea where he was wounded providing heroic service. He then joined the Air

Force in time to go to Vietnam where he received additional commendations and awards. His whole life was one of service. He always had a smile for you as well. He will be missed.

**Merritt:** We have bricks that were made by mistake – they have the member's branch of service instead of the date. I'd like to give them to a member of the family.

**Kinzinger:** We are passing the hat to help pay for gas for a member whose son is in hospice in Saline.

**Kinzinger:** Folks are taking jugs of water to the flower garden at the Memorial. Once we get the water to the new shed, that task will be made much easier.

#### **Coming Events**

13 June noon to 1600

Elections at VFW Post 423

14 June 1600 Member

brick dedication at Memorial

1730 Flag

retirement and Watch Fire

Ceremony

15 June Washtenaw County

Council of Veterans AL Post 31,

1700 Ridge Rd, Chelsea, MI 48118,

(734) 475-1964

9 July 1730 VVA Board meeting

1900 VVA Chapter

meeting

14-21 Sep 38th Annual

Veterans Reunion at Kokomo,

Indiana

July 2021 VVA National

Convention, Greensboro, NC

**Flag Salute**

**Closing Prayer:** Horace Frazier

Meeting Adjourned at 1955 hrs.

Chapter Breakfast: tomorrow

morning at 0900 at Holiday's

Restaurant 2080 W Stadium Blvd,

Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 668-

1292

## They Served With Us: Philippines

By John Kinzinger

This is the third in a series of articles I have shared in the *310 Dispatch* about the others who served with us in Vietnam. They included Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea. One you may not have heard of is the Philippines; see the following.



The involvement by the Philippines was a limited one. They sent civil engineers, military forces, and medical personnel. From 1954-56, they had doctors and nurses in Vietnam under Operation Brotherhood. This people-to-people program continued its charitable operation until the head doctor and nurse died in a boating accident. For a few years, there was a dispute in the Philippines about what role they should play in Vietnam. Philippine President Marcos pointed out that they had a long-standing commitment to SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization), which at that time could not be ignored. Their country's traditionally strong anti-Communist stance was also involved in their decision to get involved in South Vietnam. The Filipino support consisted of civil and medical operations. Their initial deployment in 1964

amounted to 28 military personnel, including nurses and six civilians. The number of their troops who eventually served in Vietnam swelled to 182 officers and 1,882 enlisted personnel during the period of 1966-68.

However, as the United States in 1968 began talks of reducing involvement in South Vietnam, the Philippines government began to consider their options. By the end of 1968, Marcos publicly discussed the possibility of withdrawal of the United States and their need to be prepared.

The Nixon Doctrine in July 1969 was intended to reassure the allies of the United States of our intent to honor our commitments. It also indicated the reduction of the United States presence in South Vietnam. Because of this indication of our withdrawal, in November 1969 the Philippines Secretary of foreign affairs announced at the American embassy in Manila that they would be withdrawing from Vietnam completely.

After the fall of the South Vietnam government in 1975, camps were set up in the Philippines to aid and shelter Vietnamese refugees prior to their resettlement in the United States, Canada, Australia, etc. They did their best to accommodate the overwhelming needs of the Vietnamese asylum seekers. Also, the Philippines hosted United States military bases for decades and that role cannot not be ignored.

Recently I made friends with a California 1st Cav trooper. He served as a medic with the 2/5 Cavalry, 1st Airmobile Cavalry Division from late 1968 to late 1969. At that time the division was working out of the Tay Ninh

area, west northwest of Saigon. He reported there were several Filipinos working out of that base area as engineers, supply and medical personnel. What he also informed me was the Filipinos were for them a source of great beer, San Miguel.

How great that would have been to have had that over there, instead of the Import 33 and like beer we came across once in a while. San Miguel is a great beer, as I have had a few on my six mission trips to the Philippines from 2000-2010. Thank you, Filipinos.

We were not alone in South Vietnam in the attempt to help them have their own free nation. The outcome from the Korean War with that divided nation was the overall goal. A free and independent South Vietnam.

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## Dispatch Recipients

VVA 310 award winning newsletter reaches approximately 516 people each month with 115 mailed USPS, 52 hits off the website ([www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org)), and 349 emailed. With good stewardship and networking, the cost to print the Dispatch approximates \$1,380 per year. If a VVA 310 member 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

George F Boone ~ October 2021  
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020  
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023  
Stan and Dawn Clark ~ October 2020  
Tim Clarke ~ March 2022  
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021  
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021  
Ralph Henry ~ November 2020  
Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024  
Darlene Imus ~ January 2021  
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2021  
Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022  
Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of Lavern Lamey\* ~ July 2021  
David Marshall ~ June 2022  
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021  
Dell Mayes ~ March 2022  
David L. Ney ~ April 2021  
Ronald Oliver ~ November 2021  
Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2021  
George Perrault ~ October 2022  
Mira and Bob Pierson ~ October 2021  
Helena Prince in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023  
Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026  
Edith L. Semark ~ June 2021  
Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022  
Chris Wetzler ~ February 2021  
Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2020

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## Honoring July Anniversaries on the Wall

### Private First Class Douglas Paul

**Atkins** was born on September 14, 1950 in Ann Arbor to Mr. and Mrs. Variell L. Atkins. Douglas is a 1968 graduate of Ann Arbor Senior High School in Ann Arbor. He also



attended Washtenaw Community College prior to his entry into the Army August of 1969.

Private First

Class Atkins started his tour in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on July 6, 1970 serving as a Medical Corpsman with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Douglas' unit was operating in an area that was full of "booby-traps". Private First Class Douglas Paul Atkins was killed by a booby-trap explosion on July 27, 1970, just 23 days into his tour in Vietnam. Douglas earned the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Expert Badge with Automatic Rifle Bar, and the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar prior to his death. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Medical Badge. Doug is survived by his parents, family and friends. He lived 19 years, 10 months and 13 days.

Douglas Paul Atkins 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 08W Line 058.

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### Lance Corporal David Dayle

**McKenzie** was born on February 13, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. David D. McKenzie of Ann Arbor, Michigan. David attended Mary Magdalene Parish School in Melvindale,



Michigan until 1959. He attended St. Francis Xavier Parish School for one year. His family moved to Ann Arbor where he attended St. Thomas High School. He was the captain of his football team, and was on the All-City and All-Southwest football teams. He also lettered in basketball, baseball and track. David enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from High School.

Lance Corporal McKenzie began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam in June of 1965 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. David was killed early in his tour on July 12, 1965 when his unit was conducting a search and clear mission just south of Da Nang along the Song Cau Do River where mines were numerous.

David Dayle McKenzie is survived by his parents and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 29 days. He is resting in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock,

Michigan. David'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 02E Line 035.

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### **Airman Second Class Charles**

**Frederick Boss** was born on July 16, 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. John M. Boss of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1965. He was very proud of a First Place Trophy he won at Milan Dragway for driving a 1959 VW to victory.

Airman Second Class Charles Frederick Boss entered the Air Force in August of 1965. He underwent basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Charles received specialist training as a fire protection specialist at Kincheloe Air Force Base in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Airman Second Class Charles Frederick Boss began his tour in Vietnam on December 15, 1966. He was stationed at the Da Nang Air Base in Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam with the 366th CE Squadron, 366th Combat Support Group, 366th Tactical Fighter Wing of the Seventh Air Force. Charles was killed during a rocket attack on July 15, 1967 along with seven others. One-hundred-seventy-three men were also wounded during the attack and forty-two aircraft were damaged.

Charles Boss is survived by his parents, a brother and two sisters.



He lived 19 years, 11 months and 29 days. Charles is resting in Forest Hills Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His name is located on the Vietnam Memorial located at the Ypsilanti Township Hall under Ann Arbor. His name is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 23E Line 073.

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### **Specialist 4 Philip Glenn Spencer**

was born on March 3, 1946 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Glenn F. and Mrs. Jessie K. Spencer. Philip is a 1964 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he was on the 1963 State Championship Football Team. He also was on the wrestling team, student council, Varsity Club and attended Wolverine Boys' State in 1963. He was also in Scouting. Philip attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan for a year before



transferring to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan majoring in mechanical engineering.

Specialist 4 Spencer enlisted in the Army on October 25, 1967 taking his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Philip began his tour of duty at Camp Carroll in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on April 21, 1968 serving as a Field Artillery Surveyor with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery, 108th Artillery Group, XXIV Corps. He died of a very rare blood disease called agranulocytosis at the

108th General Hospital at Kishine Air Force Base in Japan on July 10, 1968.

Philip Glenn Spencer is survived by his parents and his wife. He lived 22 years, 4 months and 7 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Philip'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 52W Line 011.

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### **Lieutenant William Lennington**

**Brown** was born on on October 5, 1935 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Robert S. and Mrs. Patricia Lennington Brown. William graduated from Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In



June, 1955, he received a Congressional Appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated from

the Naval Academy on June 3, 1959. According to Captain John A. Standish, USN (Ret), "I met Bill Brown when I reported aboard my first ship, the Destroyer, USS Braine (DD-630)...in San Diego. I was assigned as Gunnery Officer, Bill was the Weapons Department Head. Bill was a very conscientious, fun loving young officer, and quickly pulled me under his wing. He was a great mentor and coach, and much of my love for the Navy and its traditions were as a result of Bill's attitude and instruction...Bill also became a good friend...Bill was very religious



and tempted me with pizza if I would go to evening services with him, which I did on occasion. At some point, Bill picked up the nickname, 'Squirrel's.'

Lieutenant Brown served with the 15th Republic of Vietnam Navy, River Assault Group, Naval Advisory Group, MACV. He was acting as a Naval Advisor to the Marine Corps in Chu Lai, South Vietnam when the island of Ky Hoa was attacked by a large force of Viet Cong. Bill Brown was killed as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds on July 9, 1965 along with four other Americans.

Lieutenant William Lennington Brown is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived for 29 years, 9 months and 4 days. He is resting at the Brookside Cemetery in Tecumseh, Michigan. According to USNA Classmate Greg Nolan, "He (Bill) is remembered in Memorial Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy with other 1959 Classmates while serving our Country." Bill'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 02E Line 033.

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**Hospitalman David Scott Palmer** was born on October 6, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. David E. Palmer of Ypsilanti,



Michigan. David is a 1963 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he received honors in math.

He was also the co-captain of the swimming team. David attended the University of Michigan before enlisting in the Navy in December of 1965.

Hospitalman Palmer began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. David was killed on July 5, 1967 due to an explosive device.

David Scott Palmer is survived by his parents, a sister and a brother. He lived 21 years 8 months and 29 days. David'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 23E Line 014.

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**Thomas Leonard Cleland** was born on November 5, 1941 to Mr. Leslie and Mrs. Coryell Cleland. His sister Andrea (Coron) remembered him as being very tall and thin. She



writes, "To me it was like looking up at a very tall tree. He was very kind and protective of those he loved. He called me 'Honey'. He was well liked by everyone. He

had lots of friends and loved to laugh. "

Thomas played baseball for Lincoln High School. His statement for his class yearbook was, "One today is worth two tomorrows." He loved to go fishing and swimming. There was a gravel pit behind his street. It was very deep and, even though Thomas was a good

swimmer, his mother was always worried about him when we went swimming in the pit. Thomas, his brother Dale and his friends went to the pit often.

Andrea continued, "Tom really liked to eat, and loved most foods. Mom used to say he had two hollow legs because she couldn't seem to fill him up. Dad had a garden and Tom and Dale would often help their father. If Dad needed help and couldn't find Tom, he'd always go to the Ford Lake Dam and find Tom there fishing. When he was in the 11th grade, he got a job on a farm that had milking cows. Tom would have to get up and milk the cows by 5 A.M. each morning. Mr. and Mrs. Maleski who owned the farm, invited Tom to stay with them during the week to make the milking easier. He would take the school bus from the farm. Tom worked at the farm until he graduated from Lincoln Consolidated High School 1959". The Fulton family lived across from the Maleski's farm. Ken Fulton was Tom's best friend. Ken was killed in Vietnam a couple months after Tom was killed. They both are listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial. After graduating from high school, Tom joined the Army, and while in the service he married a former class mate, Sharon Hubbard. Following Basic he was sent to Korea. His brother Dale enlisted the following year and was also sent to Korea. Dale discovered that Tom was only two miles away. They were always close so this reunion was an especially happy time. When Tom's time was up, he reenlisted for four more years. When he came home on leave, he told his family that he had

volunteered to go to Vietnam. He had a choice to go to Korea as General Westmoreland's driver, or go to Vietnam. He chose Vietnam because he told his family that he would rather go back than for a seventeen year old to be sent there.

"The last time we heard from him was through a radio phone patch from Vietnam", reports Andrea. "We talked and teased a little and then he spoke to mom. She was so happy to hear his voice. Since his unit was ready to move out, he said it might be a while before we heard from him again. Two months later they got the news he had been killed."

Thomas began his tour of duty in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1966 serving as an Antenna Installer Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, First Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He was killed on July 11, 1967 after serving "In-country" for one year, two months and four days. Tom's commanding officer wrote to the family saying that he needed someone to take a message to the front lines. Tom was killed while returning to his unit by someone from his unit. His commanding officer wrote the family that he had told Tom the password and to go in the back way, but Tom went in the wrong way. A soldier on the perimeter asked for the password and Tom did not respond and crouched down. The soldier asked again and again and Tom crouched down more and the soldier fired and hit Tom. His sister Andrea stated, "I hope he reads this, to know that no one in our family resents or blames him. Our tears are for him too! I wish I knew him. I would love to be

able to tell him, so he could look in my eyes and see how sincere I am and hug him. I am so sorry for him too."

After he was killed, "we received what turned out to be a prank Red Cross call. The person said that it was a mistake and it wasn't Tom who was killed. They said they would come out the next day and explain everything. Three days later they had not come. You can imagine how we were feeling. So dad called the Red Cross. They told him that they would not have called, but would have come out to the house to tell them. It was a terrible dirty prank that someone played. At the funeral his casket was open, or to this day I would not have believed it. He will always be remembered with laughter, tears and a lot of pride for a very gentle man. These many years later the healing goes on for all of us."

Specialist 4 Thomas Leonard Cleland was survived by his parents, his wife Sharon, two brothers (Dale and Terry) and a sister (Andrea Coron). He lived 25 years, 8 months and 6 days. He is resting in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Whittaker, Michigan. Thomas' 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 23E Line 049.

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## Current Events

*By Ann Dempsey-Pereira*

09 Jul: 1730 VVA Board Mtg, 1900 VVA General Meeting

10 Jul: Chapter Breakfast, 0900,

Bomber Restaurant, 306 E. Mich Ave, Ypsi

14 Jul: Merchandising at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, 0800-1400 (canceled)

20 Jul: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, American Legion Post 282, Ypsilanti

22 Jul: Veterans Radio "There I Was" Open Mic, 1800 hrs (TBD)

25 Jul: Open House, 1000- ??, VFW Post 423

04 Aug: Coast Guard Birthday (1790)

07 Aug: Purple Heart Day (1782)

11 Aug: Merchandising at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, 0800-1400

13 Aug: 1730 VVA Board Mtg, 1900 VVA General Meeting

17 Aug: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs

26 Aug: Veterans Radio "There I Was" Open Mic, 1800 hrs

29 Aug: Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (1916)

4-6 Sept: Heritage Festival, Ypsilanti (canceled)

Team RedWhite & Blue: Saturdays @ 0930 meet at the Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for their walk and run.

\*\* Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

View Our Calendar by Clicking [HERE](#).

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## USA Adjusts to New Reality U of M Letter

Dear Alumni and Friends of Michigan:

I am pleased to share our news that the University of Michigan plans to offer a public health-

informed in-residence semester this fall in Ann Arbor. It will consist of a mixture of in-person and remote classes structured to reflect our commitment to promoting public health while fulfilling our fundamental mission of transformative undergraduate, graduate and professional education.

Thanks to the thoughtful and deliberate efforts of hundreds of members of the U-M community, our cautious optimism about the fall has coalesced into a path forward. Their work has given me confidence that we can do this safely and uphold our high standards for excellence. We now have the opportunity to begin a new journey together, equipped with the very best guidance and ideas from our leading scholars, innovative students, and expert staff.

The primary components of our fall plan for the Ann Arbor campus are described in this message to U-M faculty, staff and students. We also have launched a Campus Maize and Blueprint website with more information. It will be updated regularly as more details are finalized and adapted as needed. Because of the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, the semester ahead will look and feel different than anything we have seen before – and we're bringing our full intellectual power to bear on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We will make full use of our longstanding excellence in teaching and learning, both in person and online, and tap our innovative spirit to deliver a world-class Michigan educational experience in these most unusual

times. And we will ask our entire community to join in prudent health and safety actions that will embody our commitment to caring for one another.

Although not all courses will be available in every format, most students can choose whether to return to Ann Arbor for a hybrid learning experience or study from home in a fully remote mode. Our Ann Arbor campus will open its residence halls for housing and dining, and will offer many on-campus programs and activities that enhance the college experience. UM-Dearborn and UM-Flint have campus-specific plans for hybrid instruction that their chancellors will share with their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been substantially contained in many parts of the country including Michigan. Nonetheless, the potential for new infections, whether students are at home or in residence, will likely continue throughout the coming academic year. Our plan to conduct an in-person semester relies on basic public health strategies including social distancing, minimizing out-of-area travel, wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, symptom screening, clinical testing, contact tracing and quarantine that add up to a highly effective way to limit spread of this illness, allowing students to pursue their Michigan education. I know there will be many questions as we continue to prepare for the semester ahead, and we'll refine the details in the coming weeks.

As the nation's top public research university, we have an opportunity to show the world that this can be

done. I have every confidence that we will rise to this occasion, this singular moment in our history, to challenge the future and emerge, as always, as leaders and best.

Thank you, as a member of our extended Michigan family, for supporting our efforts along the way. There is no community I would rather be a part of as we begin this journey.

Sincerely,  
Mark S. Schlissel, M.D., Ph.D.  
President

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## VVA 310 Images



# 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, 09, 11, & 15

E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

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Vice President: Marv Rivers

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

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**VVA 310 Dispatch  
July 2020**

Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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Please Forward. Thank You!