

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*



Sept. 2020
Washtenaw Co.,
Michigan



Editor's Note: I would like to express my thanks to all contributors for this month's Dispatch. I also received plenty of high-quality photos. This month I would like to highlight a project at the Memorial grounds—a shed. Jon Luker tells us about the shed on page 11. On another note, John Kinzinger tells us about another group of allies at the Vietnam War: Thailand. Be well, All!
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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President's message

By Stan Harrison

As I write this, we still face uncertainty. A lot depends on what this #@!\$%&!! virus does, what our government does, and what we decide we can do. But we still make plans and do what we can. The most active area this time has been the Memorial committee.



Volunteers held a workday at the Memorial that was well attended by Chapter members, family, and friends. They moved a lot of dirt around in preparation for landscape changes. It was hard work, and I saw smiles all around. Al (Fredo) Merritt and Jon Luker are pushing ahead on the construction of the new shed at the Memorial site. They have set up a "GoFundMe" page online to help defray the cost. Also, by the time you read this, Memorial volunteers will be placing 22 crosses a day representing veteran suicides in the United States. At this pace, we expect this work will make for quite an impressive display. On Saturday the 9/26, we will be setting up a merchandise tent at Ann Arbor Arms, just as we did last year. As always, we need volunteers. Setup will start at 7:30 am; takedown will start at 3 pm. Looking ahead to October, the VFW will be conducting another open house on 10/24. Rev. Bob

Bull reports that representatives from the VA will again be on hand to assist veterans with benefits questions. It will be a good chance to stop by and socialize a bit. Stay safe. Be proud,

Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

We are nearing elections, and our nation's crazy seems to intensify with every day's sunrise and sunset. So, as a means for us to refocus and remember our roots as warriors and friends and family, I decided to offer 2 Timothy as iron sights on our mind's rifle.

You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit yourself to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. You therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that is at war entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is not recognized, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that labors must be first the partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give you understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to the gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even



unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: for if we are dead with him, we shall also live with him. If we suffer, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us. {2 Tim 2:1-12}

As men and women of faith, our righteous souls grieve night and day, like Lot in Sodom, for all that goes on around us. Yet we are instructed not to grow weary in doing good and to remember that we are fulfilling our responsibility to train others in the faith that they may share in Christ's salvation. Well done, faithful women and men. Soon we will enter into our eternal rest. But until then, we still have work that God has given us in our generation. Peace and blessings to all,
Gordon



The Highest Price

Word of a Dead Soldier

Shared By John Kinzinger



The roar of the guns, the cries of the men,
From the Communist terror in Vietnam,
Haunts me by day and night,
For t'was there my husband gave his life,
But for freedom he knew he must fight.
As I look with tear filled eyes today,
At internal conflicts in America, I say,
"The price that he paid was too high!"
When white and Negro cannot agree,
And long-haired beatnicks, that disgraceful breed,
Stir up confusion within our own land,
I wonder, "Is this a part of the Communist plan?"
Are we so blinded we cannot see,
That Communism is very close indeed?
If we are to win the battle of freedom,
First we must clean up our own kingdom.
"PLEASE! Don't let the price my husband paid be in vain!"
The wife of a dead soldier.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

13 August 2020

Call to Order by President Harrison at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Robert 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: None.

Guests: None

Motion to approve the July Minutes by Merritt/Lee. **Approved.**

President's Report:

- Tim Driscoll and I, with the Saline American Legion, took down the US flags that lined US 12 in Saline.
- The VFW had an open house here on the 25th. Bob Bull reports: We had 20 visitors. 8 vets were helped by 2 VFW service officers. Erica Behm, Navigator from Community Mental Health helped three veterans. We served hotdogs, potato chips and condiments. Very little food handling was required because everything was individually bagged except the hotdogs. VFW will do it again on 24 October from 1000 to 1700. Gary Easterling will send a couple more VSO's. Erica Behm will be here again. What would the VVA like to do at the next open house?

- Several VVA members attended a funeral for the son of one of our members.
- Larry St Antoine is working with an 81 year old Vietnam Era veteran whose house was severely damaged when a 200 year old tree fell on it. The insurance company is not helping with anything and is only offering \$24,000 for full settlement of the claim. Channel 2 TV is trying to help but is not having much luck. The veteran had to move to a rental house. Since then the house is getting worse. Animals live in the house now. Plaster is falling off the wall. There are water leaks and electrical problems. The veteran has a GoFundMe project: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-mr-william-fix-his-house>. Be careful. There is a scam artist who claims to be raising funds on GoFundMe for Mr. Williams, but the funds go to somebody else. Bob Bull is going to help the veteran get connected to the resources he needs.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne. Two major transactions in July: We got our second payment from National; and, we paid our annual property insurance premium. I added a new section on the report concerning the nonrestricted funds. We originally budgeted a surplus. Then we had to amend the budget due to our curtailed activities. The revised budget predicted a deficit of just over \$2,000. My current prediction is now \$700 more deficit.

AVVA Report: No report.

Food Pantry: No report.

Merchandise Report: Stan

Harrison: On 26 September, Ann Arbor Arms is going to have an open house. We will be there again this year.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Luker. Last month's meeting was canceled. This month's meeting will be held at VFW 423. VVA 310 has new delegates to the county, including Nick Bauder.

Michigan State Council: Luker. This quarter's meeting was canceled. The next meeting has not yet been set.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt – The bench is finished. Doan Construction is going to have its local crew help with the concrete on an as available basis. They hope to be able to take care of us in the next two weeks, so we were out at the Memorial today, preparing the areas where we need concrete. We need your help on Saturday at 10 to finish the preparations.

Also, Inch Memorial completed their repair work and caulking at the Memorial. They also resurfaced the brass plaque on the podium.

Website: McCrumb. The website is working and has had 116,000 hits.

Membership: The official number is now 206.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. 50% of all patient visits will happen via phone or video. The Children of Veterans study now has a fully formed committee – many months late. They are not doing anything yet. But the group that put up the Vietnam Memorial in Arlington is hosting a major Agent Orange event.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Bull:

1. The letters program is doing so well that the hospital says not to send anymore. They have enough. But the two veteran homes still want to receive them.
2. The can project is going well. It has now produced the second \$100 gift card.
3. Michigan Veterans Affairs Committee has a program they call CORE – the Community Outreach and Regional Engagement Initiative. CORE is establishing teams of veteran benefits experts and advocates across the state. I've been talking with Debbie Dingle to get included on the CORE team so I can help them make sure they reach out to places like senior apartments where veterans are found that are often not serviced by current outreach efforts.
4. There is a program designed to replace the Grand Rapids 750 beds with several smaller homes located in communities with larger veteran populations. One of those is to be on Clark Road in Ypsilanti. But do not expect to see any construction going there any time soon. There is one being built at Selfridge Air National Guard base, though.

St Antoine:

When a veteran died, I was given his CPAP machine and all of the accessories to give to another veteran in need. If you need one or know a veteran who does, contact me.

Throneberry:

Due to the restrictions in the

Executive Orders, we have had to stop doing the "Tell Your Story" events. We are working on a way to do them virtually or as a call-in show. Meanwhile, we are still on the air live every Sunday and those programs are still available online anytime.

Lee:

Thank you, Sandie Wilson, for the great oatmeal cookies!

Flag Salute

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull
Meeting Adjourned at 1945 hrs.

Chapter Breakfast: Friday, September 11, 0900 hours, at Bomber's Restaurant (if open), 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI.

If Bomber's is not open, please go to Brewed Awakenings Cafe - 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176.

Honoring September Anniversaries on the Wall

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 is 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.

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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 is 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

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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 is 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.

AVVA Report September 2020

By Kathy Driscoll, President

I hope everyone is feeling well, wearing a mask, and staying socially distanced as we all help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus in Michigan. This is the only way we can ensure our grandchildren and great-grandchildren complete the 2020-2021 school year. All of Michigan students are looking forward to this school year. Hopefully all can complete this school year successfully.

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.

We had a Zoom meeting on August 13th. Six members attended.

Thank you, Bonnie, Jane, Kate, Meni and Shirley for attending. I hope more of our members attend our September 10th meeting via zoom. Please look for my email with the zoom link for the September 10th meeting.

Fundraising

Since we will not have a bucket raffle this fall, please consider donating to the "Fisher House Michigan 2020 Donors to give \$20 this year Fundraiser." Please make your \$20 donation in honor of AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310.

Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor is looking to connect with 2020 donors to give \$20.00. Please consider helping Kate Melcher by donating \$20.00 to Fisher House Michigan. Click [here for more information](#).

Kate Melcher sent this request:

"Fisher House Michigan has been hard at work, connecting Veteran families with their hospitalized loved ones. In fact, since the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House opened on June 1, 2020, over 140 families have found peace and comfort there.

Our partnership with the VA means that we have the privilege of providing the comforts of a well-stocked kitchen, while privately raising funds and awareness to build a Fisher House in Detroit. As you can see, the mission continues and we need your help now more than ever. With your donation today, you can provide a silver lining to a family enduring the stress of a medical crisis. Please [click here to donate](#).

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

Connecting two thousand twenty donors with the Fisher House mission is no small task, so we're incredibly grateful to have friends helping us promote the \$20 for 2020 campaign."

Kate Melcher, Director, Fisher House Michigan

Active Legislative Campaigns H.R. 2568 Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

As of today, Sunday, August 23, 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. Our AVVA 310 has widows, whose Veteran husbands suffered and died from Liver Cancer. Please consider writing your Representative to support this bill in honor and memory of them. You can use this link from DAV to send your congressional representative a letter to support this bill. Click on the Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other Toxic Exposures link on the right then scroll down to H.R. 2568, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act and click on the "Write" button.

<https://dav.quorum.us>

This DAV webpage has links to contact our US Congressional Representatives for other Veteran concerns, which include:

- Appeals, benefits and Claims
- Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other Toxic Exposures
- Caregiver
- Education and Employment
- Healthcare

- Homeless Veterans
- Survivor Benefits and Cemeteries
- Women Veterans

Please know that all of these Legislative Campaigns need our support. Please select all and hopefully Congress will recognize that the cost of war includes supporting Veterans education, employment, healthcare, caregivers, and especially our "Women Veterans."

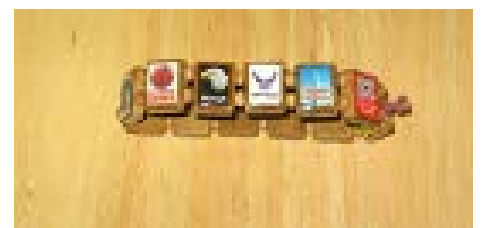
Keep up to date with our Chapter:

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 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 donated. This fundraiser benefitted our Operating and Special Projects Funds. We plan to have our "2021 No Bake Bakeless Sale Fundraiser" in January 2021.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2020 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,283.25.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan canceled 2020 Girls State. Michigan State University campus is closed. We received \$1,200.00, our refund from American Legion Auxiliary Department Michigan. American Legion Auxiliary Post 322 will contact us in November with the plans for the 2021 Girls State.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Plans are for AVVA Michigan Association to meet on Sunday, September 27th at the American Legion Post 149, 408 S. Saginaw St, Holly, MI. Hopefully there will be a zoom meeting that I can attend. I medically cannot attend in-person gatherings due to COVID-19.

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 here!](#)

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

WCCV

I attended the August 17th meeting via Zoom. The 2020-2021 Officer slate was sworn in. Ann Arbor VA is in the process of having their volunteers return. All volunteers need to complete COVID-19 training.

Upcoming Events!

- All August and September events are canceled due to the Covid-19 virus.
- Our next meeting hopefully will be via Zoom on Thursday, September 10th at 6:00 pm. I will email the Zoom link next week. I encourage all to attend.
- We decided to postpone our in-person meetings until State of Michigan and especially Region 1 will allow us to meet safely indoors. We can meet via ZOOM.

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

Thailand in Vietnam

By John Kinzinger

As a fourth in my series of reminding and informing readers that we were not alone in Vietnam, this issue I will cover the involvement of Thailand.

Thailand took an active role in the Vietnam War both with the use of airbases for our strategic air war use. At the height of the war there were almost 50,000 Americans serving in Thailand. American presence in Thailand began in April 1961. As the Vietnam War

expanded the USAF presence grew rapidly. The US would eventually use eight airbases in Thailand. They included Don Muang, Korat, Nakhon Phanom, Nam Phong, Takhli, Ubon and U-Tapao. From there American aircraft daily struck targets in Laos, North and South Vietnam. These planes were responsible for the majority of the USAF air strikes over North Vietnam.

They were also the third-largest provider of ground forces in Vietnam. They had about 40,000 Thai military personnel who served there. Thailand first got involved in Vietnam in 1963. Overall, they had 351 killed and 1,358 injured.

Because of how close Thailand was to the war and their concern for the spread of Communism, the war was easily monitored by Bangkok. In October 1967 their Royal Thai Volunteer Regiment, the Queen's Cobras, were sent to the camp at Bearcat at Bien Hoa. There they worked with Americans, Australians, New Zealanders and South Vietnamese. A year later, their unit was replaced by the Royal Thai Army Expeditionary Division, Black Panthers.

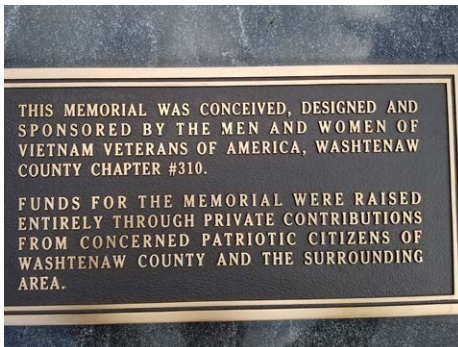
Because of the U.S. withdrawal, in November 1972, the Thai government began pulling their ground troops out of Vietnam. In April 1975, with the fall of Cambodia and Vietnam, the political climate between the U.S. and Thailand had soured. Over the war, the U.S. poured \$1.1 billion in economic and military aid into Thailand. The Thai government wanted the U.S. out by the end of the year. The SAC units left, however the one base remained under U.S. control until June 1976. That ended Thailand's involvement

in the Vietnam War.

Random Images of the Memorial Grounds

Submitted by Al (Fredo) Merritt
and Vance McCrumb

Celebrating developments at the Memorial grounds, including the people who have come forward to help get the work done. Our thanks to all of them.



Volunteers dedicate time and effort to work on maintaining the Memorial grounds. See below for more information about a shed that is in planning stages and will greatly improve the maintenance work.

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), 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 2023
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

Del 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 2023

Celebrate World War 2 in 2021

*Submitted By Vance McCrumb,
 -- Based on Email by Teina
 Woodburn*

We are pleased to invite veterans and their families to join us in commemoration of the anniversaries of two of the world's most significant WWII events. Imagine standing on the beaches of Normandy on June 6th, D-Day and taking part in a ceremony in remembrance of those who stormed those beaches in 1944. Or imagine participating in a commemoration in Hawaii in memory of the brave men and women of our military who were at Pearl Harbor on that "day that would live in infamy," December 7th, 1941. Historic Programs, a non-profit organization, produces and hosts such important events each year. They do this not only to give recognition to our Veterans, Active Duty, and Military Families, but also to help everyone from the "Greatest Generation" to our

youngest generation to remember our past while celebrating our future.

We look forward to welcoming Veterans from across the nation to join in these historic commemorations. As you stand with other Veterans on the anniversary of the actual event and in the location where history was made, your experience will be heartfelt and life changing. These programs honor and salute the millions of Americans who have worn the uniform in defending the freedom we enjoy every today. We humbly recognize the families and loved ones for their support for our Veterans and Active Duty military through the years.

Please join Historic Programs and be a part of the 2021 WWII Events and Commemorations:

- Normandy, D-Day Memorial Parade - June 3-10, 2021
- Honolulu, Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade December 4-9, 2021

For more information, do the following:

-- Please contact Teina Woodburn, Director of Veteran Relations, teina@historicprograms.org or 800.626.8590.

-- Please visit www.historicprograms.org.

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

10 Sep: 1730 VVA Board Mtg,
 1900 VVA General Meeting
 10 Sep: 1800 AVVA Zoom Mtg
 11 Sep: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs
 11 Sep: Patriot Day- 9-11 ((2002)
 18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)

18 Sep: POW/MIA Recognition Day (1990)

21 Sep: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, Location TBD

23 Sep: Veterans Radio "There I Was" Open Mic, Postponed to Jan 2021

26 Sep: Merchandising at Ann Arbor Arms, Corner of Metty Drive & Jackson Rd. Setup at 0730, Sales from 0900- 1600.

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](#).

Items of Interest to Veterans

Wreaths

Submitted by Dave Draper

Veterans organizations sponsor wreaths each year to be placed on the graves of veterans who are buried at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. I plan on being there to place some of the wreaths.

If any of you have relatives or friends that are buried there, we can make sure that we place a wreath on those first. Phil Hecker, for example, is buried there. I have three other names: Army Captain Franklin Nagy, WWII Army Air Forces Sgt Clarence Reed, and WWII Navy SD1 June Cole. If anyone else has names, please send them to me so I can research where they are located within the cemetery. I am proud that we honor our dead, both at Great Lakes Cemetery and at Bethlehem

Cemetery. here in Ann Arbor.

Volunteers Needed to Call Attention to Veteran Suicide

Submitted by Kathy Driscoll

There was an article in the *Saline Post*, written by Tran Longmoore, about the effort to raise awareness about suicide among veterans. Please [click here for information about the article](#).

More Information: Crosses and Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention

By Jon Luker

Once again, Vietnam Veterans of America, Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310, is teaming up with Ypsilanti Township to put on the Veteran Suicide Prevention Demonstration. Starting on 1 September, we will



put out 22 crosses every day for 30 days. We have a process for accomplishing that goal—and this process makes the task fairly simple to do well in less than a half hour. It goes better with teams of two people, and the more teams the merrier. If you would like to help put up crosses, please sign up for an open

date. We would prefer for crosses to be put up at 10:00 a.m. each day so that the progression appears as relentless as the suicide rate. But a different time is fine also. [Here is the link](#).

There will be other work that needs to be done to make this work, such as preparing and marking the ground, picking up the supplies, returning supplies later, and other tasks. If you want to help with any of that, please let Fredo know. If you have any questions or comments, please you may direct them to Fredo or me.

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

Two elderly gentlemen had been



friends for decades. Over the years, they had shared activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited—a meeting once or twice a week, mostly to play cards.

One day, the old friends were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, “Now, don’t get mad at me, but I’ve got to admit. We’ve been friends a long time, and I just can’t think of your name! I’ve tried and tried, but no good. Could

you just tell me what your name is?”

His old pal stopped shuffling cards, reflected for a moment, stared, and then said, “How soon do you need to know?”

VA Rx Refill App

Submitted by Dave Draper



As COVID-19 spreads, people who regularly take prescription drugs for chronic conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure may be wondering what will happen with their refills. VA wants you to know we’re working hard to make sure you get your prescriptions on time, and when you need them.

We ask that you request refills of your VA Prescriptions as soon as possible. VA will process your refill request and have it sent to you before you’re scheduled to run out. Please [click this link for more information](#). *****



A new shed for our Memorial

By Jon Luker

Ever since the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated 10 November 1991, VVA and AVVA Chapter members (and Friends) have taken care of the Memorial grounds. But time and mice have taken a toll on the shed where we store our supplies and equipment. Also, the shed is too small to contain the tools and equipment we use. There are items in the shed that you can on bring out of the shed only by nearly emptying the shed of other things first.

Once you get what you want, you must haul it about a half mile to the Memorial before you can use it. Forgot something? That will add 20 minutes to your work.

It is time to build a shed that is closer to the Memorial but positioned and built in such a way that it does not detract from the experience of visiting the Memorial. It needs to be designed in such a way that it can contain the supplies and equipment we need and that will allow people with bad backs, walkers, and other challenges to retrieve and use them.

Now is the time to bring water to the Memorial. For years, Wendy Hibbitts carried seven gallons of water to the Memorial twice a week to water the flowers. She had to stop doing that about a year ago, and it shows. Once we bring water to the shed, we can water the lawn and garden. We will also have a better way to wash the Memorial and to clean equipment.

While we are at it, we will also bring electricity to the shed. That will allow us to switch to battery operated equipment as we replace things that wear out. It will make it easier for us to provide sound and lights for events we hold at the Memorial or on nearby grounds. Having electricity in the shed will also make it easier to perform equipment repair and maintenance.

For many years, folks have said the Memorial looks better than ever. We'd like to hear that for many years to come. Having a newer, closer, bigger, and more accessible shed with lights, water, and power will significantly increase our ability to keep improving the Memorial and grounds.

We developed a project plan that was based in large part on grant funding. Most grants are only available to nonprofits that hold the "charity" designation, 501(c)(3), while our Chapter is a "membership organization," a 501(c)(19). Therefore, we signed a fiscal sponsorship agreement with Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), a 501(c)(3) that has several strategies for helping nonprofits operate more efficiently and more effectively. Through this arrangement, grant funds are given to NEW and then NEW uses 95% of those funds to pay bills for the new shed. NEW uses the other 5% to do the financial reports and bookkeeping the funders require. The Memorial was not built just as the result of kind corporate sponsors. The project also received many private donations from generous Washtenaw County Residents. In order to help crowd fund our current project, we have created a GoFundMe page so that

anybody who wants to support the new shed can donate. The GoFundMe website will collect an additional 15% from donors for GoFundMe's making their marketing and accounting website available to us (and profit, of course). Gifts that are sent directly to us at VVA 310 PO Box 3221 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221 will avoid that surcharge. Please put "new shed" on the memo line of your check. For those who would rather click a link and contribute than to write a check and mail it, here is the GoFundMe link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/memorial-maintenance-accessible-shed?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1. Let's see which way works best for us. Thank you for your support!

A Thank-You Note

By Al (Fredo) Merritt

The names below are the crew from Doan's that worked all Friday afternoon to do the concrete work at our Memorial. I would like to express my thanks for all they did. It was a pleasure working with them, and I am glad they appreciate the work we do. Here are their names, and I look forward to doing more work in the future.

- Joel Enriquez (Finisher)
- Alfonso Carrillo (Truck Driver)
- Zack Stewlow (Operator)
- Tanner Thygesen (Laborer)
- Jake Stewlow (Foreman)

To all, our sincere thanks!

Be well, All!

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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**VVA 310 Dispatch
September 2020**

Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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Please Forward. Thank You!