

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*



June 2020
Ann Arbor,
Michigan



Editor's Note: My heartfelt thanks to the Dispatch contributors for this month's edition. I wasn't sure at first if I was going to have enough material for a full edition, but then the magic happened, and the materials began to arrive. Also, VVA310 held a Chapter election, and the new officers and directors are listed below. Congratulations, and enjoy the early summer!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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Editor's Note: Pres. Tim Driscoll requested that Memorial Day speech should replace his monthly presidential report. Also, he has expressed his thanks for all those who put the Zoom presentation together and those who participated as guests. Another important date for the Driscolls was June 6th, which was their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to the Driscolls and good wishes for happiness and health.

President's Speech for the Memorial Day Zoom Presentation

By Pres. Tim Driscoll

Good Afternoon, everyone! I am Tim Driscoll, President of Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310. It is a great honor to share this Memorial Day with you. First, I must thank Ypsilanti Township for this gift of



local parkland to keep our Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on and the honor that goes with it to local departed

wartime brothers and their families.

To all of you, our worldwide Vietnam War Family, this will always be your safe place to bring your tears and wartime memories to renew our love for one another. We are proud of our honorable service and sacrifice to our Country's people. Never to be denied by anyone, ever again. This is our Lord's special "Welcome Home Memorial." A quiet place to reflect and to be proud and maybe a place to bring



those special 60's/70's radio tunes we all shared together overseas while writing letters home to mom. Please keep all of our departed Brothers and Sisters in your hearts, for we knew each other best and we will always be proud of it.

Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

The year 2020 certainly has brought many revelations to bare, and for some, it has us scratching our heads asking, "Can this be real?" Of course it is real, just like the war we fought. I remember coming home at the end of April 1967 to the family homestead in Manchester and trying to unwind from Vietnam to what I remembered as normal. After a 30-day leave, I went to my new duty station at Camp Lejeune, and by June, I found myself accompanying the Marine Corps rifle and pistol team to Camp Perry, Ohio for a match competition. While there, the riots broke out, and I found a new normal in Toledo trying to quell the populace. Fast forward 53 years, and here we are all over again, . . . history repeating some of its same actions. All this brings to mind a Scriptural passage from 2 Timothy 3:

This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For

men (mankind) shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying its power, from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses and lead captive silly people laden with sins, lead away with various lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

This same scripture came to mind in 1967, but it seems more relevant today, with what is happening in the world, due in part to a different media motive and the inception of new technology putting the "power of the press" into common hands, . . . untrained and sometimes unthinking minds that guide those hands. Add to that the mass lack of critical thinking, and look what we have before and surrounding us.

Now the primary question I leave you is this: "What should we do?" More than ever, may God's peace that passes all understanding guide your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Peace be upon you,
Gordon

AVVA Newsletter, June 2020

By Kathy Driscoll

AVVA Pres. Kathy Driscoll has informed us that there is no report for June 2020.

Honoring June's Anniversaries on the Wall

Second Lieutenant Philip Matt Crane II

Crane II was born on January 29, 1947 to Mrs. Howard P. Gragg and the late Philip M. Crane of Ypsilanti. Philip played the accordion when he was very small. He played Little League Baseball. Philip is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School where he played on the varsity tennis team, was a member of the varsity



debate team, and a member of the National Honor Society. He worked all during high school and college at the A&P Store.

He went on to attend the University of Michigan until he enlisted in the Army on February 1, 1967. He completed Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Second Lieutenant Crane began his tour in Vinh Long Province, South Vietnam on May 14, 1968 serving as a Tactical Intelligence Staff Officer on Advisory Team 52, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV).

Lieutenant Crane was flying in a helicopter as a special observer when a flare ignited inside the aircraft causing him to fall from the

aircraft on June 26, 1968. He was "In-Country" for one month and 11 days.

Philip Matt Crane II is survived by his mother, his wife, and a sister. He lived 21 years, 4 months and 27 days. He is resting in Crestwood Memorial Gardens in Flint, 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 54W Line 002.

—++—

Major Frank Rudolph Maki

was born on March 13, 1928 in Rudyard, Michigan to Mr. Victor and Mrs. Lemple Ann Maki. Frank graduated from Rudyard High School before enlisting in the Army in 1946 where he completed his Basic Training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He took part in the Berlin Airlift serving at the Rhein Main Air Base as an Air Ground Liaison NCO. He returned from Germany and spent some time as a civilian before returning to the Army in 1950 where he served with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea as a rifle and weapons squad leader. Sergeant Maki accepted a reserve commission as a Second Lieutenant while serving in the Korean War. He continued to serve in the Regular Army as an NCO, as he was promoted as a reserve officer. Since Korea, Frank served with the 821st Engineer Aviation Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood,



Missouri then serving with the 820th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Michigan State University as a military

science instructor. According to the Battalion History of the Army ROTC Battalion at Eastern Michigan University, "in 1961, he taught ROTC at Eastern Michigan University for four years, where he led the rifle team to the championship and served as an advisor to Arm of Honor Fraternity. During this time, he accepted his promotion to Captain even though he was rated number one on the list to be promoted to Sergeant Major. He then served as a Company Commander at Fort McClellan where his troops would earn four consecutive Best Company awards."

Major Maki began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1971 serving as an Advisor, Advisor Team 3, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Advisors, MACV. Captain Maki was killed in action at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province while coordinating medical aid to wounded soldiers on June 22, 1971 during his third tour in Vietnam. He was then posthumously promoted to Major. Award of The Silver Star for gallantry in action: Captain Maki distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 20 - 22 June 1971 while serving as Senior Advisor to the 1st Battalion, 2d Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province. Captain Maki heroically participated in the defenses of Fire Support Base Fuller by accompanying and assisting his Vietnamese counterpart against the North Vietnamese Army thrust. After more than two continuous days of intensive direct and

indirect fire and ground attacks, the NVA managed to breach the defenses. Captain Maki then directed many tactical air strikes and aerial rocket artillery against the enemy. During this time he continued to reappraise the tactical situation, adjust supporting fires and coordinate medical aid to the wounded Vietnamese soldiers. Though he had been sixty hours without rest, he continued to assist his counterparts up until the moment he was mortally wounded by an enemy artillery round. His extraordinary example of leadership and valiant courage radiated throughout the Fire Support Base and inspired the Vietnamese to repulse the enemy attack. Captain Maki's conspicuous gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

(As written in Major Maki's Award of the Silver Star announcement, by LTC August G. Seifert)

Frank Rudolph Maki is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, his father, two sisters and two brothers. He lived 43 years, 3 months and 9 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Frank'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 03W Line 086.

—**—

Corporal Richard Mark O'Neal

was born on May 22, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. William O'Neal of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Richard is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He entered the



Marine Corps on July 6, 1966 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California.

He received his Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton, California before being stationed with the Headquarters and Service Company, First Marine Brigade in Hawaii.

Corporal O'Neal began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 31, 1968 serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Richard died on July 26, 1968 of head injuries suffered in a truck accident.

Richard Mark O'Neal is survived by his parents, a brother and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 2 months and 4 days.

According to a posting by Richard's nephew, "I never had the chance to meet you but I just wanted to say that I love you and I appreciate everything that you did for our country. Your brother,..., named me in honor of you. I hold your name in high regard and I continue to work harder every day to be the best person I can be. Every day I wake up is a chance to become better than I was the day before. I have been fortunate enough to marry the woman of my dreams and, thanks to the people that matter to me the most, I have been able to work hard enough to receive my B.A. in Journalism-Public Relations from SHSU. Thank you to everyone on here that has posted something, it was moving to read events that happened in his life. Uncle Richard, I will continue to hold our name in

the highest honor. I love you and I will meet you some day."

Richard is resting in United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, Michigan. Richard'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 50W Line 015.

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H. Neil Stehle was born on March 30, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Stehle in Ann Arbor. Neil is a 1963 graduate of Ann Arbor High School where he was on the gymnastics team. He attended Eastern Michigan University majoring in psychology prior to entering the United States Army on April 29, 1967.

Specilist 4 H. Neil Stehle completed his basic training, and radio and communications courses at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He went to Fort Benning, Georgia where he received training at the paratroop school. Neil was sent to Vietnam on December 13, 1967 where he was assigned to B Company, First Battalion, 503rd Infantry, of the 101st Airborne Division. On June 3, 1968, Specialist 4 Stehle was serving in Thua Thien Province in South Vietnam when he was wounded by small arms fire. Neil was transported to a hospital in Japan where he died of his wounds on June 11, 1968. He lived 23



years, 2 months and 11 days. H. Neil Stehle is resting in Washtenong Cemetery in Ann Arbor. He is survived by his

parents and two sisters including seven nieces and nephews. Neil is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial and is located on Panel 58W Line 027 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

Editor's Note: VVA310 Secretary Jon Luker asked me to publish the minutes of the June Board of Directors meeting (instead of the Chapter minutes) since we do not have Chapter minutes for May. The June minutes for the VVA310 Chapter meeting is receiving final review and will appear in the July newsletter.

Minutes: Board of Directors

By Jon Luker

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Board of Directors Meeting –
11 June 2020

Call to Order by President Driscoll at 1738 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance: Driscoll

Opening Prayer: John Kinzinger

Roll Call: Attendees/Absent - Tim Driscoll, Stan Harrison, Berry Bourne, Jon Luker, Tim Clarke, Roy Hall, Ken Rogge, Marti Cothorn, Horace Frazier, Al Merritt, Dave Draper, Sandie Wilson, John Kinzinger, Steve Hitte and George Perrault. A quorum was established.

Prior Month's Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Harrison/Draper to approve the draft minutes of the May board meeting as distributed. Approved.

Action Step Reports:

Joint Venture with VVA 110 –

Meeting with Joe Mishler on hold due to Governor's Executive Order.

Post-Vietnam Veteran Event – Also on hold due to Executive Order.

DoD - We are still waiting for instructions from DoD.

Finance Report: Berry Bourne. Very little activity. Printed statements available for review.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Motion by Kinzinger, seconded by Harrison to fund the Memorial Shed building project from the building fund.

Motion by Wilson, seconded by Frazier to amend the motion by adding a promise to repay the money. Amendment Approved. Amended Motion approved.

Good of the Order:

Wilson: VA will begin doing appointments on a reduced capacity basis on 1 July. They have not said if they will let us in to sell merchandise.

Kinzinger: I heard that a veterans memorial was damaged in the riot that accompanied the demonstration in one town. That made me wonder if our memorial is insured against vandalism. Brenda Stumbo said they have insurance that will cover vandalism to the monument.

Wilson: Staff and residents at both veterans homes were tested for COVID-19. Up North there were no positive results. In Grand Rapids, where they have 750 residents, 10 staff and 4 residents tested positive. All were treated on site and are healthy now.

Bourne: We had a donor that came to the rescue of Holiday's Restaurant by buying \$1,000.00 worth

of gift cards. They are for feeding veterans and their families.

Closing Prayer: John Kinzinger. Meeting was adjourned at 1826 hrs.

VVA 310 Chapter Elections Results

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Greetings All:

It is my pleasure to announce the following results of the election held at VFW 423 on Saturday, 13 June 2020, by in-person ballots.

President: Stan Harrison

Vice President: Marv Rivers

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Secretary: Jon Luker

Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke

Two Year-Board Members:

Bob Bull

Steve Hitte

Larry St Antoine

Chris Wetzler

Sandie Wilson

People who automatically become One-Year Board Members:

Horace Frazier

Al Merritt

Roy Hall

Marty Cothorn

Ken Rogge

The officers and board members will be sworn in at the July meeting.





Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

09 Jun: Reuben Swisher memorial service, 1100 hrs. Gather at 1000 hrs. Nie Funeral Home, 3767 W. Liberty Rd in the parking lot.

13 Jun: VVA 310 elections, 1200-1600 hrs. 1300 AVVA meeting.

14 Jun: Flag Day (1916)

14 Jun: Army Birthday (1775)

14 Jun: Flag Retirement Ceremony, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1944 Veterans Memorial Drive, Ypsilanti. Brick dedication @ 1600 hrs, hot dogs after; Flag retirement ceremony @ 1730 hrs.

15 Jun: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, American Legion Post 31, 1700 Ridge Rd, Chelsea. Meeting will be outside

24 Jun: Veterans Radio "There I Was" Open Mike, 1800 hrs

04 Jul: Independence Day (1776)

07 Jul: Purple Heart Day (1782)

09 Jun: CANCELED- Merchandising at Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, 0800- 1400

09 Jul: 1730 VVA Board Mtg, 1800 AVVA Mtg, (TBD), 1900 VVA General Meeting

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

20 Jul: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs

22 Jul: Veterans Radio "There I Was" Open Mike, 1800 hrs

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), and make a contribution.

View Our VVA310 Calendar by Clicking [HERE](#).



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 2020

Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023

Stan and Dawn Clark ~ October

2020

Tim Clarke ~ March 2022

Joseph Flint ~ January 2021

Phil and Gena Hecker ~ February 2021

Ralph Henry ~ November 2020

Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024

Darlene Imus ~ January 2021

Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2023

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

Famous Quotes

"We're Airborne. We don't start fights: we *finish* them!"

— Galvan, "Hamburger Hill" (1987)

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You have to think about one shot. One shot is what it's all about."

— Michael, "The Deer Hunter" (1978)

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Spartans, ready your breakfast and eat hearty. For tonight, we dine in hell!" —

King Leonidas, "300" (2006)



Jocosity

BY KEN ROGGE

A young ventriloquist is touring Norway and puts on a show in a small fishing town. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes.

Suddenly, a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype Norwegian blonde women that way? What does the color of a woman's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as people. It's people like you who make others think that all blondes are dumb! You and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general, pathetically all in the name of humor!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde interrupts, yelling, "You stay out of this! I'm talking to that idiot on your lap!"



May-June Celebrations and Rituals

Submitted by VVA310 Members

Old Glory Flag Day.

Happy 245th birthday to the U.S. Army. Still doing its job with honor and distinction. Also, we celebrated the 104th birthday of **Old Glory** in Flag Day. May she ever wave!!

On the same day, VVA 310 sponsored flag retirement at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti. They dedicated four bricks for the four VVA 310 members who passed in the past year, followed by hot dogs and desserts.

Raffle

In June, a raffle drawing was held, but unfortunately no one from Michigan won the grand prize for the War Plane Museum's raffle drawing. Don't throw your ticket away though. Please click on the link to access the drawing on the [Warplane Museum Facebook account](#).

Also, Phillip Pham requested that Dave Draper should be recognized for selling \$1500 worth of tickets for Lady Saigon and getting \$1500 in matching funds. Congratulations to Dave!

National Center for PTSD

Veterans should be aware that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a National Center for PTSD, which you can access online [by clicking here](#).

Honoring Our Fallen Heroes

Hillsdale College had a ritual on Memorial Day to remember "those

who sacrificed their lives for our freedom." [Click here for more information.](#)



Drone Footage of Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti

You can admire excellent views of the Vietnam Memorial [by clicking here](#).



We Are Appreciated: Compliment from a Vietnam Veteran About the Memorial Book

A Note by John Kinzinger

I have mailed my book all over the United States to KIA family members, Veterans, and friends. Once in a while, I get a nice Thank You note like the following from another Vietnam Veteran, to whom I email our Dispatch now.

It was a most accidental connection that I made with him. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia. His short note is great feedback for us. His note follows.

"Comrades, thanks to Chapter 310 for all its good works in service

to the cause and sacrifices we all shared. This gift is unrestricted. Best, PJD.”
He sent us a check for \$100. Thank you, Peter!
I believe we are appreciated more than any of us know.
Let’s keep up the good work!

More Details About the Memorial Day Service

You can find more information about the Memorial Day Service [by clicking here.](#)

See a drone view of the Memorial [by clicking here.](#)



On Memorial Day “Zoom” and the Virus Impact

By Jane Kinzinger

The Covid-19 virus and precautions to avoid contracting this serious and potentially deadly illness have brought many necessary and creative changes to how we interact with others. With the finding that the coronavirus can be transmitted through the air, we have been advised to protect ourselves by wearing a mask, maintaining “social distancing” of 6 feet, and washing our hands often to prevent transmission of the virus. We endured 13 weeks

of staying at home, following orders from our Governor (March 16 to June 15, 2020). These stay-at-home orders caused many events to be canceled--namely, funeral services and memorials, doctors’ appointments and elective surgical procedures, regular meetings of all kinds, air travel and vacations, parties and other gatherings (Recognition Dinner), religious services (Palm Sunday and Easter), and many other important observances. We were forced to isolate ourselves to “flatten the curve” of virus cases and deaths.

Over time and with current internet and computer technology, we were able to devise ways to proceed with some things via “Zoom.” Using this system, people can connect with others anywhere on almost any device. Through Zoom, it was possible to present the annual Memorial Day Observance at the Vietnam Memorial at 1:00pm on May 25, 2020.

There was a “virtual” gathering at the Vietnam Memorial thanks to the efforts and contributions of many. Jon Luker in Brighton had the technical expertise to integrate several videos with the live presentation. Jon and all those who contributed from home made the “meeting” a huge success. Speaking from Saline, Tim Driscoll was excellent as Master of Ceremonies. Gordon Moore gave the meaningful invocation and benediction from Clinton. Daisy Mull’s singing came in loud and clear from Ypsilanti. From Ypsilanti Township, Supervisor Brenda Stumbo spoke words of praise and appreciation for the Memorial. Tom Fifield in Mesquite, Nevada, recited the words on the

Memorial plaque, which he composed. While John Kinzinger read all the names on our Memorial, a photo of each soldier was displayed on the screen with the Memorial in the background. Vance McCrumb and Jon Luker facilitated this, and it was most impressive. Thanks to Phil Pham, an outstanding drone video played at the end of the service showing the beautiful Memorial and grounds from a bird’s eye view. What a fitting end to the observance!

These folks were determined not to let the coronavirus cancel Memorial Day altogether. There is a link on the [vva310.org website](http://vva310.org) to view the Zoom program. This “Baby Boomer” generation stepped up to the challenges. What started as stumbling blocks turned out to be a successful Memorial Day Observance and useful lessons learned for future events. Thank You to everyone involved for making this possible.

They Served With Us

By John Kinzinger

Who among our allied group had the last combat unit in Vietnam? Because I know some readers did not know other countries fought alongside us in Vietnam, I thought I would share more information about our allies. In combat roles, Australians, New Zealanders and South Koreans worked alongside us trying to help the South Vietnamese against a communist invasion from North Vietnam (supported by USSR and China).

As a continuation from the article

in the May 310 Dispatch about Australia's involvement with us in Vietnam, this article will share information about another ally, South Korea (commonly referred to as ROKs, which stood for Republic of Korea).

The following is about our ROK brothers. I came across a December 1989 Veterans magazine that had an article in it about their involve-



ment. Much of the following came from that eight-page article by Dale Andrade.

South Korea had sent some non-combat units, engineers and medical personnel in 1964. In 1965, South Korean soldiers and marines began to take on combat roles. They first patrolled in Vietnam in October 1965. By the end of 1968 there were over 50,000 ROKs serving in Vietnam. They served in three different divisions, the Tigers, the Blue Dragons and the White Horses. By 1972, the ROKs outnumbered U.S. forces. Their final combat operation ended in 1973 when the Paris Peace Accords took effect. By the end of their involvement, over 300,000 South Koreans had served in South Vietnam. South Korea recognized they had just 8 MIAs. The ROKs were the last allied combat unit serving in South Vietnam. The U.S. had pulled our last combat

unit out before that.

We most appropriately called them "ROKs." They were known as fierce fighters and feared most by our enemy. Remember it was not that long after the Korean War. Their hatred of communists was strong. Some of the older ROK cadre and officers had fought against the North Koreans. Their prisoner interrogation methods were notoriously brutal. Some thought their tactics in areas they worked may have even caused many VC recruits.

A captured VC document stated that "contact with the Koreans is to be avoided at all costs unless a VC victory is 100 percent certain." The ROKs operated in small unit operations at a rate of about 150 operations per day. The Korean Tactic Area of Responsibility was within II Corps under the command of I Field Force Vietnam. General Westmoreland reasoned that the ROK units would guard major roadways, like Highways 1 and 19.

ROK casualties in the war were 4,407 dead and almost 10,000 wounded. Their kill ratio of enemies was about 15 enemy to 1 ROK.

The involvement of the ROKs thankfully did mean about 50,000 Americans did not serve in combat. It did take some negotiations with and payments to the South Korean government to get them involved in Vietnam. The Vietnam War actually boosted their economy. Their government gave the soldiers and marines a relatively small portion of what the U.S. gave them. The U.S. provided their weapons and gear. We probably have more than one member who served alongside

them. Some Americans manned choppers with them as passengers. I know Tom Fifield, huey crew-chief later in the war, took loads of Koreans on some operations. Although some of our allies filled non-combat roles, we did have a ten-member coalition in that war. The United States was not alone.

Important Facts of UVA310's History, Continued, Part IV

By John Kinzinger

Later, we discussed the fact that the WWII Veteran and Korean War Veteran voted against the Memorial. It seemed that many of the older



generation Veterans were against us again. This could be evidenced in some of the local editorials during those months. Perhaps it was jealousy, since they had not erected a memorial for all to remember their war dead. A significant difference was that those prior war Veterans came home as heroes, and we were



tagged with not winning our war. We came home to demonstrations and humiliation. Maybe what we wanted in our Memorial was something they wished they had done for their fallen comrades?

To be fair, we did have a few local WWII Veterans speak out in support of our effort.

Letter from former Governor Swainson (WWII Veteran) to the Parks Advisory Commission Chairman stated:

If as reported, the Vietnam Veterans are willing to bear the cost of providing a suitable monument to the sacrifice of those personally involved, then we as citizens should honor their request and support their desire to memorialize those efforts.



I would hope that the Advisory Commission would work with the Washtenaw Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans in providing a suitable location for such a monument, and certainly Ann Arbor Veterans Memorial Park would be that place. Our proposal was for a free-to-the-city, beautiful Memorial, with the promise of a care fund to maintain it in perpetuity. Ann Arbor had been an “anti-war protest capital” during the Vietnam War. Our Memorial would have offered Ann Arbor a way to heal some of its

own wounds suffered by the extreme disturbances it experienced during that war. But to us those anti-Vietnam Veteran feelings had endured. Or, maybe it would have been too much of a reminder for Ann Arborites to have a Memorial honoring all the county men killed in Vietnam. The reasons for those voting against having our Memorial in that park are conjecture by me. Whatever their reason for being so insensitive, it was again quite the slap-in-the-face of Vietnam Veterans and KIA families by the city of Ann Arbor.

Those Parks Advisory Commission members who had the courage to vote to approve our request were Linda Carver, Jane Lumm and Susan Schmunk. It is noteworthy that they were the younger members of the Commission. They seemed to understand the need more than the four older members present at this last meeting.

There were two non-voting City Council members in attendance who seemed split on supporting the Memorial. Councilman Nelson Meade appeared against it and Councilwoman Ingrid Sheldon was definitely for it.

There was great disbelief, rejection and humiliation felt by the Vietnam Veterans, family members and friends who were present. The democratic system these young men had served and died for rejected



them. As proudly as we could, we rose and left the meeting. We felt betrayed by the older veterans. We had experienced an almost evil setup of votes. It was a crushing experience for us. It seemed to open up twenty-year-old Ann Arbor anti-war scars.

May history reflect that the majority of Ann Arbor politicians really did not support this project. And the Parks Advisory Commission voted against approving our proposal to go forward to the Ann Arbor City Council. Let it be known that no Ann Arbor City Council member contacted us after the Advisory Committee rejection.

Letter From WWII Veteran and Reverend, William Hillegonds

(This note to me was attached to the following letter.)

“John: I was a little sorry to see you give up the fight for space at Vets’ Park. But I’m sure your committee knows best. Enclosed is a copy of the letter I sent Ingrid Sheldon and Peg Molin. I also talked with Ingrid and plan to talk with Peg. Thanks for all the affirming words. Bill”

August 22, 1990
Councilperson Ingrid Sheldon

1416 Folkstone
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Dear Councilperson Sheldon, I attended yesterday a meeting of the Parks Advisory Commission in the Conference Room of Gallup Park. I attended in order to show my support to the people present who advocate the placing of a Vietnam War Memorial in Vets’ Park. First, I did not agree with the conclusion to which the Commission

came. But that's democracy. Matters get decided by 4 to 3 votes even though 10 of 13 Veterans organizations in the county endorsed the idea and the staff report of Parks



and Recreation Administration seemed totally insensitive to the real issue involved in the request by the Viet Nam Vets.

Second, I have never before been at a meeting at which the Chair (George Sexton) seemed so preordained not to listen to what members of the Commission or people who were the guests of the Commission were present to say about the matter on the table for discussion. I watched the Chair as the artist's rendition of the proposed Memorial was unveiled (I had seen it before and studied it carefully and therefore was free to watch people's reaction to its unveiling.) and I don't think he gave it the benefit of even the slightest glance. From that moment on it was obvious where the Chair was in his thinking. He



had cast his vote even before a vote was called for.

I am writing to say how much I deplore that kind of public hearing. That people disagree in our kind of society is a given. Thank God for that privilege. But I believe the kind of intellectual stubbornness I witnessed at yesterday's meeting is a threat to the very thing we say is so precious to Americans: the right not only to be listened to but to be listened to in such a way that we are heard.

As a registered Republican and as a resident of the Ward in which you serve as Councilperson, I trust you felt enough of what I felt yesterday to call the matter to your caucus when it next meets.

Sincerely,

Bill Hillegonds

(Bill was the senior minister at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor and was a WWII Army D-Day Invasion Veteran.)

Images as History

Editor's Note: In some ways, the months of May and June have been historical months for the adjustments that VVA310 veterans have made to comply with regulations of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pictures that follow are related to events in the past months.



Let's all stay healthy and full of optimism for the future. Enjoy the summer! Welcome home!

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
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Vietnam Veterans of America

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Please Forward. Thank You!