

# 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 2021**  
Washtenaw Co.,  
Michigan



**Editor's Note:** The 310 Dispatch reaches readers in digital as well as print formats. Readers can access the digital format at [vva310.org](http://vva310.org). There, you also find the latest information about current events. A unique feature this month is the Memorial Day celebration (see page 11). Special recognition goes to the well-prepared rituals and the carefully maintained Memorial grounds.

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor--and the Dispatch Team

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## President's Message

By Stan Harrison

Our own LTC Charles Kettles, whose name our Chapter proudly bears, will be honored again. The Ann Arbor VA has changed its name to the LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center. The formal ceremony will take place on the hospital grounds on Friday, June 18th, at 1300 hrs. VVA 310



member John Kinzinger is slated to be one of the speakers. We should also give a nod to Rev. Bob Bull for initiating the name change. You can read the story of LTC Kettles' actions that resulted in his being awarded the Medal of Honor in the book, "We Answered the Call" (copies available from Vice President Vance McCrumb). The book is made up mostly of short stories written by Chapter members of their time in Vietnam. Another book that is sure to be of interest is "Sacrifices Not Forgotten," by John Kinzinger. It contains short character sketches of all 76 men listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as well as the very interesting story of the struggle to bring the Memorial into being. On June 13th, there will be an "Almost Flag Day" picnic at the VFW Post 423 grounds on Wagner Road. All area veterans, their

families and caregivers are invited. It is advertised as a family-friendly event, like an "old-fashioned church picnic" (except we will have beer.... don't tell Rev. Bull).

Until next time, stay proud!

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## Chaplain's Corner June 2021

By Rev. Gordon Moore

I enjoy seeing the pictures from Mars and the rising earth from the moon taken from the Chinese rover to see all the darkness around our planet, and yet from our planet there is so much light out in space. Creation is marvelous, with so much to discover, even after all these years.

I want to talk about the preeminence of Christ in creation as recorded in Hebrews 1:

**God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"?**



And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"? And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." But of the Son, He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS." And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END." But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit

**salvation?  
(Hebrews 1:1-14).**

That last phrase shows that all of creation has as its vision our salvation. Angels are sent to help lead us to Him and His salvation as servants of God Most High. If that doesn't make us praise His name for His goodness toward us, I don't suppose much will.

Cherish the thought that we are children of God through the redemption brought about by the shed blood of His Son. Hallelujah, He is risen and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Praise be to Him.

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## Honoring June Anniversaries on the Wall

### **Second Lieutenant Philip Matt 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.

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### **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.

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**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.

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## VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

13 May 2021

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Opening Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Moment of Silence** for POW/MIA'S, their families and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

**Roll Call:** A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

**New Members:** None.

**Guests:** None.

**Motion** to approve the April Minutes as published in the Dispatch. Bull/St. Antoine. Approved.

**Swearing in of Officers and Board Members:** Wilson

**New Business:**

**Motion** by Luker, seconded by Bourne, to name the new corporation "Local Veterans Alliance." Approved.

**Motion** by McCrumb, seconded by Perrault, to conduct Watch Fire on 30 May approved without objection.

**Motion** by Wilson to limit the number of flags burned to six died for lack of a second.

**Officer Reports:**

**President's Report:** Memorial Day planning is underway. The ceremony will begin at 1300, followed by unveiling the member bricks.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports were

also made available to members and others via email on request. We received \$3,500 for Pig Roast donations, which qualifies us to receive the \$1,000 matching fund gift as well.

**AVVA Report:** The report is printed in the Dispatch.

**Committee Reports:**

**Merchandise:** Harrison. No activity, but I do have challenge coins with me tonight.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Harrison. We learned that there is now \$70,000,000.00 in the Veterans Trust Fund, so make sure that veterans who have needs know about that and apply for it.

**Michigan State Council:** Luker.

DAV is no longer doing VSO work. VVA hired most of their employees and is picking up where DAV left off. The State Council is also getting ready for the Region 5 preconference to be held in Columbus, Ohio 24 – 26 September.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt.

Lawns crews are out and doing good work. The changes we made to drainage are showing now in that the boxwood bushes have grown 3 inches since this spring. The building project is underway. Diversified Excavation installed water, did some initial grading, dug footers for the building and the trench for the electricity and then regraded and reseeded the area. Doan Construction expects to pour the foundation in the first week of June.

**Website:** McCrumb. Almost 8,000 hits this month, so we are up to 277,483 hits. 3,000 people hit the Memorial page on Google Maps, 5 of whom clicked through to the website.

**Membership:** McCrumb. We are at

209 again.

**Newsletter:** Pereira. No report.

**Healthcare:** Wilson. You may now take your family members with you to the VA when you get your vaccine and they will be vaccinated also. If you haven't been vaccinated, wear your d\*\*n mask. But, if you have been fully vaccinated for at least two weeks, you don't need to wear a mask anywhere anymore. Office workers will be allowed to return to work in a couple weeks.

**CSKMC:** (Formerly VAAHS, Formerly AAVAMC) Kinzinger. The evening meal on the Fourth of July is being upgraded to steak. The meal is being paid for out of the Support for Hospitalized Veterans Fund.

**Old Business:** None

**Good of the Order:**

**Dunlap:** There will be a three-hour pepper spray class here at 1000 on 12 June 2021 for people who are 18 years old or older. The fee is \$10. The VFW will provide food. There will be a CPR class on 25 July 2021.

**Draper:** As you may have seen in our April Dispatch, several of our members were honored for the volunteer work at the VA hospital. The highest awards were received by our Chapter members.

**Merritt:** Breakfast tomorrow will be at 0900 at Holiday's Restaurant in Ann Arbor.

**Bourne:** Not many of the veterans who are food insecure are able to get to Holiday's Restaurant to take advantage of the gift cards that were donated to us for that purpose. Therefore, we have decided to sell the gift cards at face value and use the funds from those sales to purchase gift cards from places like Meijer's and

Kroger's that can be more easily used by the intended beneficiaries of the gifts.

**Kinzinger:** Our guys are being remembered. Jane and I went to Larry Prosocki's funeral at Holly. While we were there, we visited Dave Hizer's grave and then went to the columbarium to see the final resting place of Pete Belaire, and then his brother, David Belaire. Wilson: I was working with a doctor who is researching disease among Vietnam veteran children. Her research has shown that there are many more cases of ADHD and Autism in veteran families than there are in civilian families. As you may remember, there are 91,000 specimens in storage at Wurtsmith Air Force Base that came from the Operation Ranch Hand research. Linda Swartz must find a new place for them because the Air Force is no longer authorized to do non-war activities. I will be doing an Agent Orange presentation up north once people are permitted to come.

**Wilson:** Need to do early registrations for the convention if we can. Rubber chicken for the Saturday night banquet. Delegates should apply soon.

**St. Antoine:** There are several lawsuits going against California Air Force bases for cancer caused by PFOS and other water pollutants.

**Bull:** The VA hospital is already using its new official name. There will be a public name change ceremony in June, probably.

**Bull:** We and Team Red, White & Blue are cohosting a Flag Day event here at the post on 13 June. We will hold an old-fashioned picnic like the churches used to do. There is not a set itinerary. It is

just a time for families to relax and mingle with others. There will be games for all generations of kids from 3-legged sack races to corn hole and games the whole family can enjoy. We will serve traditional picnic fare, including pop, water and beer. Bring a lawn chair and any special food or beverage you want. We will have a campfire going until closing. At some point, we will have a flag retirement ceremony as well.

**Hall:** We lost our last Gold Star mother, Mrs. Eugenia Fuller. She was the last mother to survive the people on our wall.

**Luker:** On some of the copies of the April Dispatch, the name of the funeral home that donated our dinner for the April meeting did not show through. For the record, the meal was provided by Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Saline.

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1954 hrs.  
**Chapter Breakfast** (11 June 2021): TBD.

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**"We sleep safely  
at night because rough  
men stand ready to  
visit violence on those  
who would harm us."  
-- Winston Churchill**

# AVVA Newsletter June 2021

(Reflecting activities for May 2021)

By Kathy Driscoll,  
AVVA President

The Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccine have emergency use approval from the FDA. All Michigan residents over 12 are being vaccinated. The Ann Arbor VA Healthcare system is now vaccinating veterans and their volunteers. Henry Ford, U of M and St. Joseph (IHA) are rolling out their vaccinations. You can also apply to Washtenaw County Health Department to get your shots. You will get a message via email or on the portals. As soon as you receive your invitation, schedule your vaccination. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to be vaccinated. If you have concerns regarding the vaccination and your health, please check with your primary physician. Here are the websites to request a vaccination:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3269/COVID-19-Vaccination>

<https://www.uofmhealth.org/coronavirus/vaccine-info-update>

<https://www.stjoeshealth.org/health-and-wellness/covid-19/vaccine>

<https://ihacares.com/resources/covid19/covid-19-vaccine>

Meijer, CVS, and Kroger Pharmacies are taking vaccine registrations. If you shop at Meijer, CVS or Kroger, please check the pharmacies for more information. Please let me know if you need anything. AVVA and VVA 310 have resources available to assist you. Our in-person meeting on May 13th

went well. Six members attended. No one signed on to the Zoom session. If you are unable to attend our June 10th meeting, please use our Zoom link. We would love to have as many members attend our monthly meetings.

## Fundraising Projects

- Wrist Story Bracelets are available for \$5 donation. We have 45 available. Proceeds will benefit Fisher House Michigan. Please contact me.

If you can, please consider purchasing a second bracelet. If we sell out, we will have \$430 to donate to Fisher House Michigan.



- Our Fisher House Michigan specified line has a balance of \$0. We sent a \$250.00 donation to Fisher House Michigan. Our donation will be matched 100%. May 2021 is Fisher House Michigan \$300K Memorial Day Match! The Memorial Day match will run through June 30, 2021.

I receive an email from Kate Melcher:

“NEW this Memorial Day, you can [honor the memory of a Service Member or Veteran](#) with your gift, and a public listing of your loved one’s name, photo, story. Using our [Givebutter](#) site allows you to make a public post of your choosing. Further, [Givebutter](#) also allows you to give via PayPal, Venmo, and to let us know you would prefer to mail a check.”

[“Donate today and double](#)

[your impact](#), as corporate and individual donors have challenged Michiganders to match their \$300,000 gift! This means that every dollar you donate will be doubled, bringing Fisher House Michigan closer to breaking ground!”

“Please help honor those who have served, remember those we lost; and, as Zachary Fisher once put it, make a difference in the lives of Michigan’s 650,000 military service members, veterans, and their families who have so selflessly given so much for our country.” “We are truly grateful you are part of the Fisher House Michigan community, supporting the mission to care for our military Service Members, Veterans and their families, ensuring all are allowed access to the care they have earned.”

- Agent Orange Masks \$10 donation. Please make your check payable to “Birth Defects Research for Children.” I have a few, but Sandie Wilson is the main contact for this fundraiser for [Birth Defects Research for Children](#). Please contact me for a mask.



## Paper Safes

We have AVVA Paper Safes from Nancy Switzer. Please let me know if anyone would like a Paper Safe.

## Service Projects

- Fisher House Michigan is requesting travel-size items of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, body wash, etc.,



as well as pocket-size tissues. You can bring your donations to our June meeting or contact Kathy to pick up your donation.

I delivered collected items to Fisher House Ann Arbor from our members. I was given a tour, and the home is beautiful.

- Fisher House Michigan would like volunteers to make stress balls using large loop yarn. If you need a copy of the pattern, please email Kathy at [dkathyr16@gmail.com](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com). Please either drop off your donation directly to Fisher House Michigan or to Kathy Driscoll. I will be happy to drop them off for you.
- Rev. Bob Bull needs volunteers to assist the Veteran Resource Center on Wednesdays and/or Saturdays at the VFW Post 423. The center is open from 09:30 am to 5:00 pm. You will assist in keeping Post 423 clean and sanitary. Please consider volunteering an hour or two. Breakfast and lunch provided by Rev. Bob Bull, VVA 310 member. For information on volunteering, please contact Rev. Bob Bull at 734-664-7878.
- Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. Our communities still have families who are food insecure due to Covid 19.

Links to local Food Banks

Saline Social Services:

<https://www.salinesocialservice.com/ways-to-give/donate/>

[Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:](#)

SOS Community Services Ypsilanti, MI:

<https://soscs.org/ways-to-give/Catholic-Social-Services>

Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=washtenaw+county+food+banks>

### **Legislation Action!**

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

The last movement of this bill was on May 29, 2019. This bill was referred to the Subcommittee of Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. As of today, Thursday, December 17, 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 US Congressional Representative to support this bill in honor and memory of them.

#### **AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report**

As stated above, we have wrist bracelets for a \$5 donation. All proceeds go to Fisher House Michigan.

When I toured the Ann Arbor Fisher House, their staff mentioned that they need gift cards for Kroger or Sam's Club for weekly food shopping. I would like to take up a collection to purchase a \$250.00 gift card to be sent to April LaRock, manager of FHM Ann Arbor, in August 2021. Please consider a \$5 or \$10 donation at our June and July meetings. I will purchase the gift card. You can mail me your donation directly. Please make your check payable to VVA 310, with AVVA FHM Gift Card on the

memo line.

Kathy Driscoll  
172 Oakwood  
Saline, MI 48176

Excerpt from email from April LaRock:

"Highest need for gift cards are for groceries: Kroger and Sam's Club (they accept Walmart gift cards, too). That's where we shop the most. The larger the quantities, too (each trip runs us about \$250-300), and we go at least twice a week. It takes a lot of time to process multiple \$25 gift cards for one trip (if that makes sense just from a donation tracking system)."

#### **Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2021 Girls' State Update!**

The fund balance is \$3,348.25. We will not be sponsoring delegates to Girls State 2021 We plan to sponsor two delegates next year. (Girls State 2022)

#### **AVVA Michigan State Association News**

The April AVVA meeting was cancelled. I will only attend a Zoom meeting.

#### **AVVA National**

- **2021 National Convention, November 2 – November 6, 2021 at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC.**
- Our budget will pay the delegate fee and AVVA luncheon for one voting delegate. I submitted my Delegate Registration. Please note that the actual VVA convention registration and hotel reservations are a separate form from the AVVA Delegate/Alternate Delegate form.

Candidates for National Office:  
President Sharon Hobbs  
Vice President Kathy Andras



Secretary Nina Schloffel  
Treasurer Kaye Gardner  
Don Jones

Reg. 5 Director Penny Meinhardt  
Reg. 5 Dep. Director Vivian  
Heidenrich

- 2022 Leadership Conference – Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC
- 2023 National Convention – Orlando, FL

### WCCV

I attended the May 17th meeting via Zoom. WCCV elections were held. The 2021-2022 Board was sworn in. We need an alternate delegate for WCCV. Please let me know if you would like to be my alternate. Responsibilities are to attend a monthly meeting if I am unable to attend.

### Upcoming Events!

Next meeting will be in person at 6:00pm on June 10th. I will have a Zoom session for members who are unable to attend in person.

May 30th 5:00 pm Watch Fire at Vietnam Memorial, Ypsilanti, MI. There will be a BBQ. Please bring your hotdog or burger to grill. The flag retirement will be at 7:00 pm. May 31st 11:00 am Memorial Day Ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery, Saline, MI.

May 31st 1:00 pm Memorial Day Ceremony at Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Ypsilanti Twp, MI.

June 12th 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Pepper Spray Class at Veterans Resource Center, VFW Post 423. Cost is \$10.

June 13th 10:00 am Veterans Picnic at VFW Post 423. Open to all Washtenaw County Veterans and their families. This will be a great family event with lawn games and great food. I hope to see our AVVA members at the picnic.

**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 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

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734-355-4897

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### Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

An elderly husband and wife are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things

down to help them remember. Later that night, while watching TV, the husband gets up from his chair and asks his wife,

– “Want anything while I’m in the kitchen?”

– “Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?” she asks.

– “Sure.”

– “Don’t you think you should write it down so you can remember it?” she inquires.

– “No, I can remember it.”

“Well, I’d like some strawberries on top, also. Maybe you should write it down so as not to forget it.”

He says, “I can remember that.

You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.”

“I’d also like whipped cream. I’m sure you’ll forget that! Write it down!” she insists.

Irritated, the husband says, “I don’t need to write it down; I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream. I got it, for goodness’ sake!”

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the helpful husband returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment and says, “You forgot my toast!”

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### Food Distribution

The Ann Arbor VA sponsors a food distribution at the front of the hospital twice a month. Food is available every first and third Thursday of the month. If you know of any vet who may need food items, let them know about this event.

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## Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

10 June: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 hrs. ([Click here to attend by Zoom.](#))  
AVVA Monthly Meeting, 1800 hrs  
11 June: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs - location TBD  
12 June: Pepper Spray Class, VFW 423 Post, 1000-1300 hrs, \$10 Fee  
13 June: Veterans Picnic, VFW Post 423, open to Washtenaw Veterans and families, 1000 hrs  
14 June: Flag Day  
17 June: VA Food Distribution at VAMC Front Entrance, 0900-1200 hrs  
18 June: Formal naming of VAMC as LTC Charles S. Kettles Medical Center, 1300 hrs  
19 June: Armed Forces Day (1949)  
21 June: WCCV Meeting, Milan American Legion Post, 1930 hrs  
08 July: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 hrs ([Click here to attend by Zoom](#))  
09 July: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs - location TBD  
19 July: WCCV Members Only Dinner and Meeting, 1730 hrs, Saline American Legion Post  
25 July: CPR Class by Stephanie Hall of WACU, VFW Post 423, Time TBD  
Team Red, White & Blue: Saturdays @ 0930 meet at the southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for their walk and run  
\*\* Visit Veterans Radio online ([veteransradio.net](http://veteransradio.net) - [click here](#)) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 2023  
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023  
Tim Clarke ~ March 2022  
Joseph Flint ~ January 2022  
Edward Fuller ~ September 2023  
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031  
Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024  
Ralph Henry ~ November 2023  
Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024  
Darlene Imus ~ January 2027  
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2024  
Mary Kate Kirkpatrick ~ September 2021  
Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022  
Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2024

This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.

David Marshall ~ June 2022  
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021  
Del Mayes ~ March 2022  
Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ January 2023  
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 ~ September 2023  
Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022  
Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023  
Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

\*\*\*\*\*

## Photo Contest From VVA National

We are excited to announce the launch of the VVA Calendar Photo Contest! Every year, VVA celebrates our members, chapters, and state



councils with a unique, limited-edition calendar showcasing photos submitted by members like you.

We're looking for photos that celebrate moments of VVA camaraderie and community—photos that show veterans

volunteering, participating in chapter and state council activities, or celebrating events that honor our fellow veterans.

Since VVA's founding more than 40 years ago, the work being done by members in communities across the country has been a cornerstone of our mission.

We look forward to seeing and sharing photos of these inspiring efforts and hope to include yours.

[Click here to sign up today.](#)

Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Memorial Day Celebration, 2021

By John Kinzinger

Our 30th Memorial Day observance at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial went very well. The weather was near perfect. The grounds were looking outstanding. Thank you to Al Merritt and his group of volunteers.

The eve before, we held our annual **Watch Fire' and Flag Retirement** event. We had a large turnout. We cooked brats and hotdogs and had all the other snacks and desserts to go along with them. Then we honorably burned about 150 flags that evening, each in memory of a specific deceased Veteran.



Flag burning ceremony



Rev. Gordon Moore, Chaplain

As John K reads off a name, another Flag is put in the fire as others hear the name and watch as the Flag is put in.

The next afternoon, always 1pm, the sound of the bagpiper started the event. While playing, Thom Kennedy marched the walkway up to the Memorial and down the other side. Chapter President Stan Harrison welcomed everyone and got the program going.

Every year we have speakers, the reading of the 76 names on the Memorial, a reading of the words on the Memorial plaque, the reading of Paul Dumsch's poem "I Knew Them All," and Gordon Moore so very well does the Invocation and Benediction.

This year we honored six of our deceased Chapter 310 members and unveiled bricks with their names on them, which had been laid along the path to the Memorial. We had many of their family members present to witness the dedication of the bricks.

This appeared to be one of the largest crowds we have ever had. Annette Kramer and Pat Lubomski sang a duet, leading us in singing the Star Spangled Banner. And we all left knowing we remembered those Veterans who have gone before us. They are not forgotten. Thank you to all who were able to

attend, and especially those who worked to make our Memorial so beautiful for the event and all the volunteers who made the event so special. Thank you Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo for joining in our observance and for all the support you give us throughout the year.

Yes, this year will be the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of our wonderful Memorial. An anniversary celebration will be in order.

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## Historical Retrospect VVA 310



Kokomo Reunion



Chapter Flag -- July 4, 2002



Jane Kinzinger and Rebecca Rinkoski

# 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

Chapter President: Stan Harrison

Vice President: Vance McCrumb

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb

Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke

Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore

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**VVA 310 Dispatch  
June 2021**

Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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Please Forward. Thank You!