

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*



March 2021
Washtenaw Co.,
Michigan



Editor's Note: The rigors of winter subside, the days become longer, and new hope comes with young life at the spring season. Again the topic of "what's next?" for VVA members surfaces, as we see in John Kinzinger's article about the "good run." Meanwhile, Ken Rogge provided a bit of military history and also humor. And on March 20th, an open house is scheduled (p. 11). To all, be well!

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

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President's Message: Forward, March!

By Stan Harrison

Yes, forward, march! You haven't heard that in a while, have you? As we move forward into spring—and the incidence of Covid-19 goes down as more of us are vaccinated—optimism is on the rise. Our March meeting will be in person (at last!), as well as on Zoom.



Already, some of our members are meeting at Holiday's Restaurant in Ann Arbor on Tuesdays for break-

fast. Others meet on Wednesdays at Brewed Awakenings in Saline for coffee (the appropriately named "Liars Club"). And, of course, every Wednesday and Saturday, from 0930 to 1700, Rev. Bob Bull hosts Veterans Resource Center at the VFW Post on Wagner Road in Ann Arbor. He provides coffee, sweet rolls, lunch, games, darts, pool, TV, cards—and, yes, help if you need it. But, mostly, it is talk, humor, and fellowship with other Veterans. We are looking at making plans for a more normal Memorial Day celebration at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township for the coming summer. We also want to do a family picnic at the Memorial sometime around the 4th of July, with a special invitation to younger Veterans to join us. And we are moving ahead

with planning a Pig Roast at the end of August. If you have an idea for something we should be doing, just let any Chapter officer or Board member know. Better yet, attend a meeting in person or via Zoom, and spout off. We will listen. In the meantime, stay safe, stay proud!

March 2021 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

How ironic that at work I was listening to WOMC HD2 with the Jackson Five singing "I'll Be There," with the phrase, "I will be there to protect you," while making Covid-19 entries into the computer, thinking about all who have been inoculated with one of the new vaccines and reporting their experiences. I hope this works as well as polio or MMR vaccines.

Which brings us to the topic at hand: From where does our protection come? David, who was well acquainted with war and conflict at home and abroad, gave his answer in Psalms:

**I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
(Psalm 121:1-2)**

Goliath, mad King Saul, wayward son Absalom trying to take his kingdom and life, a wife publicly ridiculing him—these are trying events, let alone going to multiple deployments at war. Yet, through it all, David was a man after God's own heart—even through his

adultery with Bathsheba and loss of their son because of his sin. It certainly takes a lot of faith to trust in a God outside of ourselves and invisible. But God speaks to those who search for Him with all their hearts through the inner voice of His Spirit and His written Word lived out in front of humans by His Living Word Jesus, the Messiah. Here we are today, concerned with multiple viruses and a broken political system where so many people openly ridicule those in authority. We have the right to love people who are different in various ways and to communicate our interests in mending the political system. Yet, the world system is influenced by the prince of darkness, who is greater and more intelligent than any of us. It is, therefore, imperative that we look to God to deliver us in whatever way(s) He chooses.

Let us commit to giving Him



priority and preference in our decision-making, and let us pray for the healing of our nation. Spring will soon be upon us—and with it, change and a

newness to life. May His newness reside in each of us and bring with it a strong assurance that He still resides on His throne—and with that knowledge, comes a peace that the world knows not. Peace be upon each of us.

Honoring March Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Earl Thomas Hoag

was born on March 9, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. Robert and Mrs. Mary Hoag of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Earl is a 1966 graduate



of East Tawas High School in East Tawas, Michigan. He also attended Alpena Junior College and Cleary College. Earl worked for

United Air Lines as a flight food handler at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Specialist 4 Hoag entered the Army on April 20, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Ord, California and Advanced Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on August 19, 1968 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Earl was killed when his patrol was ambushed and he sustained multiple fragmentation wounds on March 8, 1969. He died just one day before his 21st birthday.

Earl Thomas Hoag is survived by his parents and three brothers. He lived 20 years, 11 months and 29 days. He is resting in Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan. Earl'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 30W Line 076.

—++—

Private First Class Frank Leslie Keck

was born on June 1, 1946. Frank attended Saline schools in Saline, Michigan for six years, returning to Kalkaska, Michigan after the death of his father. He would have been in the 1964 graduating class in Saline where he played varsity basketball. He worked in construction before entering the Army in June of 1968. Private First Class Keck began his tour in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam, on December 22, 1968, serving as an infantryman with C Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He died as a result of enemy small-



arms fire on March 29, 1969.

Frank Leslie Keck is survived by his wife and son, his mother, and one brother. He

lived 22 years, 9 months and 28 days. Frank's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Saline. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 28W Line 082.

—++—

Private First Class Lavern Michael Lamey

was born on November 7, 1949 to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Lamey of Milan, Michigan. Lavern is a 1967 graduate of Lincoln

Consolidated High School. He entered the Army on July 18, 1967 receiving his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed his Advanced Training at Fort Polk,

Louisiana. Private First Class Lamey began his tour of duty in Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam on December 16, 1968 serving as a Grader



Operator with the 15th Engineering Company, 299th Engineering Battalion, 937th Engineering Group. Lavern was killed by enemy mortar fire on March 5, 1969.

Lavern Michael Lamey is survived by his parents, his wife, a brother and two sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Marble Park Cemetery in Milan, Michigan. Lavern's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 30W Line 047.

—++—

Corporal Gregory Randall Shambaugh

was born on October 2, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Robert Shambaugh of Toledo, Ohio and Mrs. Geraldine

Shambaugh of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Gregory attended Carpenter School, Tappan Junior High School and Ann Arbor High



School. He went on to graduate in 1966 from Howe Military School in Howe, Indiana. Gregory attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan before enlisting in the Army on January 19, 1967. Corporal Shambaugh began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. According to First Lieutenant McLemore in a letter to Mrs. Shambaugh, "On March 6, 1968, while Gregory was participating in a search and destroy mission with Company D, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, he was struck by an enemy bullet and instantly killed." The Bronze Star Medal was posthumously presented to Mrs. Shambaugh. Gregory Randall Shambaugh is survived by his parents and his wife. He lived 20 years, 5 months and 4 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gregory'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 43E Line 034.



VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

11 February 2021

Call to Order by President Harrison at 1908 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. Everyone attended via Zoom. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: None.

Guests: None.

Motion to approve the January Minutes as published in the Dispatch. Bull/Merritt. Approved.

Meeting Recessed for

Nominations for Elected Offices:

(First Round) Wilson

For President: Harrison (accepted)

Vice President: Rivers (declined)

Secretary: Luker (accepted)

Treasurer: Bourne (accepted)

One Year Board: Moving from two-year board to one-year board are: Bob Bull, Sandie Wilson, Steve Hitte, Chris Wetzler and Larry St Antoine.

Two-Year Board

(accepted) Bauder

(declined or not present to accept) Kinzinger

(declined) Hall, Perrault, Henry, Driscoll, Merritt

Sgt at Arms: (none)

Regular Meeting Resumes

President's Report:

I attended several meetings on

your behalf. I also collected our artifacts from storage. Milt Davis expressed his thanks for our letting him take care of the artifacts and for letting him display the artifacts appropriately over the past many years. Next month's meeting will be both live and zoom.

Treasurer's Report: Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports were also made available to members and others via email on request. Quiet month. The main revenue was \$2,600 for the Christmas program. No expenses. We have collected \$1,500 more than we've spent so far on the Memorial Building, but we can't be happy with that yet because we still don't know how many in-kind donations we will get. We will only get 92% of the GoFundMe account donations because we had to pay service charges totaling 8% of gross. Our unrestricted fund net is almost \$3,200 better than we projected in our last budget.

AVVA Report: The report is printed in the Dispatch.

Merchandise: No activity since the last meeting. We are planning to do an inventory on 21 February. We will have something to sell at the Open House here in March.

Washtenaw County Council of

Veterans: No Report. The next council meeting is set for 15 February.

Michigan State Council: Luker. No report.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. With help from Howell American Legion Riders and the Fowlerville Baptist Church, we completed the effort to build 700 new crosses to be used for the Veteran Suicide Prevention Awareness Demonstration. We are now in the process of acquiring a 6x12 trailer

to haul and store the new crosses.

Website: McCrumb. I moved several things off the front page to other pages on the website to make navigation easier. We have had a total of 256,000 hits.

Membership: The official number will go up to 209 when National processes our newest member, Stan Harrison's brother-in-law, Ed Scruggs.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. The VA ran out of the first vaccine dose but is still giving the second dose to people with appointments. You can still get the first and second dose from pharmacies around town. Even after you get vaccinated, you should still wear your mask because you can still be a carrier even if you are immune. Bourne added that St. Joseph Hospital stopped doing the first dose immunization at its facility so it could help with the County project taking place at the EMU Convocation Center. Wilson also said that a small committee is looking at what needs to be done to force the VA to comply with the Toxic Exposure Research law passed back in 2016.

CSKMC: (Formerly VAAHS) Wilson. The VA is still admitting non-Veteran patients from other hospitals, so those other hospitals have room for Covid-19 patients.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Luker, seconded by Bourne, to approve the amended FY 21-22 budget. Approved.

Good of the Order:

Harrison: The Pig Roast is a go. There are still many details to be worked out. We don't know what restrictions will be in effect and we haven't struck a deal with the

Saline American Legion yet. We do plan to move the event to the Saline American Legion. But we don't know if the event will be a drive through only, or if we can have some outdoor dining or if we might even be able to have indoor dining. The Board did authorize the Pig Roast Committee, headed by John Kinzinger, to develop and execute a plan for the Pig Roast, not to exceed \$2,500. We will be asking our members to make private donations so that we do not need to use our general fund. A donor has already offered to match donations we get up to \$1,000, so each dollar you give will be worth \$2 to us, up to the first \$1,000. Also, what we do will depend on how many volunteers we can count on to help. Please let John Kinzinger know if you will be able to help with any of the preparation or with any of the work on the day of Pig Roast. We are thinking the Piggy will be on a Sunday, most likely on one of the last two Sundays of the month of August. The committee's goal is to have the Pig Roast net \$2,000.

Driscoll: The list of Agent Orange Presumptive conditions was expanded by three conditions: Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism. Although the VA had 100 days to implement the additions from when the law passed (1 Jan 2021), vets are asked to submit their claims now or to submit a notice of intent to file a claim now so that the effective date of the award is sooner (resulting in a larger back-pay check).

Bourne: I still have food cards from Holiday's Restaurant.

Bull: There will be paczki at the Resource Center Wednesday. The

Center is open from 0930 to 1700.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2009 hrs.

Chapter Breakfast (12 Mar 2021):

TBD.



AVVA Newsletter March 2021

By Kathy Driscoll, President

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are approved, and Michigan residents over 65 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. Vaccine supply is very limited. You will get a message via email or on the portals. As soon as you receive your invitation, schedule your vaccination. Please check with your primary physician if you have concerns regarding the vaccination and your health.

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)

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

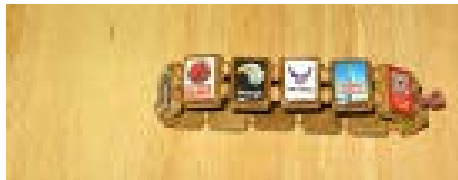
I received my vaccination from Washtenaw County Health Department at their clinic at EMU. My 2nd dose will be March 10th. This week I was notified that both Henry Ford and U of M have open appointments. Please register everywhere you have a healthcare provider, not just where your Primary Care Physician practices. Meijer Pharmacy is also taking registrations. If you shop at Meijer, please check the Pharmacy for more information.

Today, Johnson & Johnson is a step closer to Emergency Use Authorization approval. So, hopefully, a one-shot vaccination will be available in the late spring early summer.

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. Our Zoom meeting on January 14th went well. Six members attended. I upgraded my personal Zoom account. This way we can have longer meetings. We need more than 40 minutes for our meetings.

Fundraising Projects

- Wrist Story Bracelets are available for \$5 donation. We have 50 available. Proceeds will benefit Fisher House Michigan. Please contact me.



- 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. <https://birthdefects.org/> Please contact me for a mask.



- "No Bake/Bakeless" Fundraiser mailings were mailed. So far, we raised \$290. Proceeds will benefit our specified line items, Operating, Special Projects, Fisher House Michigan or Lois Perrault Memorial Fund. There will be a check box to select which specified line item for your donation. This will be our main fundraiser for 2021. We will not have our raffle tables at the Recognition Dinner or Pig Roast. Please consider increasing your donation and adding \$10 to your donation in lieu of the 6/\$5 raffle tickets at the Recognition Dinner and Pig Roast. Thank you to everyone who has donated.

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. They would like volunteers to make stress balls using large loop yarn in Red, White and Blue. I will forward the pattern from Meni from her church member, who is the spouse of a VVA 310 member. You can drop off your donations to me or Meni. We will get your donations to Fisher House Michigan.
- Meni needs volunteers to assist the Veteran Resource Center on Wednesdays 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 more information, please contact Meni at 734-214-0664.
- Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. American Legion Post 46 is having their 2nd Food Drive on Sunday February 28th at the VFW. AVVA 310 donated \$50 to the Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor in honor of American Legion Post 46. Please drop by the VFW Post and donate either food items or a cash donation. All checks should be payable to Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor, with American Legion Post 46 on the memo line.

Legislation Action!

Representatives Dingell and Walberg, Senators Peters and

Stabenow applauded Passage of Bill to Rename Ann Arbor VA Facility after Lt. Colonel Charles S. Kettles. President Trump signed the bill in January 2021.

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

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2021 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,283.25. We will not be sponsoring delegates to Girls' State 2021 as it is unclear if this program will be held this year. We plan to sponsor delegates next year (Girls' State 2022).

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting is scheduled for February. Location to be determined. I will only attend a Zoom meeting.

AVVA National

- 2021 National Convention – Virtual Convention, more information to follow
- 2022 Leadership Conference –

Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC

- 2023 National Convention – Orlando, FL

WCCV

Next Meeting is Monday, March 15th. I will attend virtually.

Upcoming Events!

Currently most indoor events are canceled or postponed due to Michigan Covid-19 restrictions.

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 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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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

Tim Clarke ~ March 2022

Joseph Flint ~ January 2022

Edward Fuller ~ September 2023

Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024

Darlene Imus ~ July 2024

Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2021

Mary Kate Kirkpatrick ~ September 2021

Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022

Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2021

This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall and in this issue of the Dispatch.

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

Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023



It Has Been a Good Run

By John Kinzinger

I joined VVA in August of 1986 as a Charter member of our twice National Chapter of the Year. I am



very proud of my military service and our Chapter. In Vietnam, I was about as close to combat as one could be without actually pulling the trigger of my M-16. I served with those men as a Battalion radio operator. I was direct support for them and their tasks. Others I trained with and went over together, but were assigned to different 1st Cavalry units, did not make out as well as I did. Why not me, is a question all of us who made it back safely must ask of

ourselves once in a while. Almost twenty years later, I was talked into attending a meeting of Vietnam Veterans trying to form a Chapter in Washtenaw County. From that first meeting on, VVA became a significant aspect in my life.

Now, almost 35 years later, I reflect back on our Chapter's success and local Veteran's significance, its many members and wonderful times with our faithful members (like Gary Lillie, Pete Belaire, Paul Dumsch and my very good friend Doc Martinez, to name a few), who are no longer with us. When we first started, there were many members who seemed to feel that, if you had not taken lead in combat, you really were not a Vietnam Veteran. Those particular members realized we were not building that type of organization, and they either moved on or passed on. When others saw that alcohol and "weed" were not our basis, they moved on for that and other reasons.

I am happy with the development of our Chapter and the diverse personalities of members who come together. The pride we feel in our military service—whether in Germany, Vietnam, Korea, Texas, or elsewhere—is the common denominator that has made our Chapter great and growing over the years. We all should be proud of our service, our Chapter, and its legacy.

Now it is time to decide our future direction. We all should make our desires and opinions known so our Chapter can move forward together. For me personally, our legacy, which will live on forever, is our Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Because of our remembrance of

our brothers who did not make it home from Vietnam, VVA 310 will be remembered forever. Now, just where we go from here as VVA National works toward shutting the lights off of the organization, that will be up to us. Personally, we are a locally based, well-known Veterans organization. And, for me, staying local is where I hope we conclude. We could establish our own organization, open to all who served at anytime and anywhere. The above is my two cents' worth. I hope others will throw in theirs, as we work to decide our future.

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

- 03 Mar: Navy Reserve Birthday (1915)
- 05 Mar: Seabee Birthday (1942)
- 11 Mar: AVVA 310 Meeting, 1800 hrs, VVA 310 Board Mtg (link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86284905949?pwd=eUpYNTFzY3IKT1Fha2haaW9BcXBpQT09>), 1730 hrs, VVA 310 General Mtg (link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85140101401?pwd=T0xHdHJZK1NVSVBEaC9TZW80MDJPUT09>), 1900 hrs (All will be Zoom meetings.)
- 12 Mar: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Location TBD
- 15 Mar: WCCV Meeting, American Legion Post 46, 1930 hrs
- 20 Mar: Open House, VFW 1000 to 1700 hours
- 29 Mar: National Vietnam Veterans Day (2017)
- 30 Mar: Welcome Home Vietnam Vet Day (2011)
- 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 - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

IMPORTANT FOR VETERANS

VA Debt Collection

While President Trump was in office, he placed an order to delay VA debt collections. According to the linked article here, President Biden has asked for the same thing. Read on.

<https://www.military.net/new-executive-order-signed-to-delay-va-debt-collections/>



Jocosity – and Interesting for Members

By Ken Rogge

On old war ships, it was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The storage method devised was to stack them as a square-based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem: how to prevent

the bottom layer from sliding from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass—hence, Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.

Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, most folks thought that was just a vulgar expression!

Information About Covid-19 and More

Submitted by Dave Draper

[Editor's Note: The article that follows is a summary of an important communication submitted by Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency Director Zaneta Adams. The article shows the abundance of resources available to Veterans in Michigan. There is no doubt that much help is available to Veterans in Michigan—and it is good to be informed about all of these resources.

-- Paulo Pereira, Editor]

The COVID-19 pandemic made our job of connecting Michigan Veterans to the benefits they earned for their service very

challenging in 2020. But we were still able to make significant gains to reach and serve Veterans and their families, thanks to the determination and perseverance of every responsible person.

Working almost exclusively in the virtual space in fiscal year 2020 (FY20), MVAA staff forged many new partnerships, launched innovative programs, and enhanced our customer service capabilities to advance our mission of linking Veterans to the full array of benefits and resources.

At the "front door" of our agency is the Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center, staffed by our team of technicians who work the 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) hotline. The Resource Service Center handled nearly 17,000 Veteran inquiries in FY 20 on everything from DD-214 retrieval, to employment and education assistance, to help finding emergency aid during the pandemic. Calls to the hotline are answered 24/7/365; and, as a state agency, all of our services are free of charge.

Because COVID-19 proved significantly harder on the fragile and medically vulnerable population, including some of our Veterans, we started a new online program called Check on MIVet. This service allows Veterans themselves, family members or friends to ask for a "check" to be conducted by our call-center technicians to the Veteran. Just go to MichiganVeterans.com, click on the CHECK ON MIVET form at the top-center of the page, fill out, submit the form, and we will contact you to set up a benefits consult.

Strategic Outreach

Our strategic outreach included launching our CORE Initiative, in partnership with several federal and state organizations and Veterans' groups. CORE, which stands for Community Outreach and Regional Engagement, is a first-of-its-kind Veteran outreach initiative that establishes teams of Veterans' benefits experts and advocates in 10 regions covering the state.

These are just a few of our accomplishments in FY20. In addition, we awarded more than \$5 million to Michigan counties through the County Veteran Service Fund (CVSF) Grant program, including \$1.6 million in emergency relief for Veterans, and worked closely with Meijer, Inc., to distribute \$300,000 in food vouchers to Veterans and their families. And finally, MVAA's five Veteran Service Officers submitted about 1,000 applications for Veterans' benefits and realized nearly \$14 million in recoveries for Michigan Veterans.

For the road ahead, where do we go from here? Our priorities over the next year include:

- Connecting with Veterans and family members by lining up Veterans to earned benefits.
- Veteran suicide prevention advocacy/policy efforts through the Governors Challenge and the Suicide Prevention Commission.
- Continuing our "She is A Veteran" campaign, which highlights a diverse group of women Veterans across Michigan and the issues they face while serving and transitioning from the military.
- Working to strengthen

relationships with education counselors, other State of Michigan agencies focusing on Veteran needs, key transition points for service members leaving active duty and DMVA leadership to support those serving in the Michigan National Guard.

- Continue our targeted outreach through CORE while striving to increase federal funding coming to Michigan in support of our state's Veterans.

In addition, our Michigan Veterans Trust Fund – which turns 75 this year – continues to expand its offerings beyond emergency assistance. This includes offering Veterans and their families access to free financial counseling through the nonprofit GreenPath Financial Wellness, partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Michigan to get more house repairs for Veterans, and donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to food assistance efforts for Veterans. To learn more about the many programs within the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, just give us a call at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) or visit our website at MichiganVeterans.com. Today, as always, you can lean on us at the MVAA.

Packages for Troops

By John Kinzinger

On November 1, 2020, VVA 310 did a pre-Christmas care package event at the VFW with Warriors and Caregivers United, with a grant from the Graef Family Foundation. An annual program for VVA310

the past 12, we packed 129 Care Packages at that event.

Since 2004, VVA 310 members have mailed over 4,300 packages to military personnel overseas. Now and then we receive a thank you note. The following is a classic example, which needed to be shared. (From the Department of the Army, Task Force Eagle Assault, Romania, dated December 29, 2020).

Greetings from Romania! The Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are soaring in Europe once again, adding to our rich legacy in the European theater. As our Soldiers endure hardships, your support is greatly appreciated. The items sent spread cheer throughout the formation and are a reminder that they are supported by the American people.

Soldiers and their families make significant sacrifices in service to the nation. Your tokens of appreciation and support help keep the bond between the US Army and the American people strong. Thank you!

In our day and age, many young soldiers have limited experience addressing envelopes and mailing letters. Consequently, you might not always receive a reply from those you support. Please always know, however, that your efforts are received and appreciated. They make a difference!

As a Chaplain, I tell Soldiers that I am here to support them on behalf of a grateful nation. Your efforts provide proof of that very claim. Thanks again for your support. In Deepest Gratitude, Rev. Klay A. Aspinwall, Chaplain, U.S. Army



VFW

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

WELCOME HOME!

COME SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

VETERANS AND FAMILIES WELCOME

OPEN HOUSE

March 20th

10am to 5pm

VFW Post 423

3230 S Wagner Rd

Ann Arbor

We will be practicing social distancing
for everyone's safety

Food and refreshments will be available!

VSO's and Veteran Navigators will be present
Along with a legal team for POAs and Wills

Please refer any questions to
cmdrvfw423@gmail.com

Have nothing to do on Saturdays? Want to just sit around and chat with other service members? Have questions/want help about your benefits? Like free stuff? Want to be sure that your family is prepared for you? Come on down to our Open House, at the Ann Arbor VFW at 3230 S Wagner Rd on March 20th between the hours of 10a and 5p. Coffee & donuts, hotdogs/chips/pop; benefits reps, legal help, veterans/caregivers services, and so much more.

Everything is free. (For more information call Chaplain Bob at 734 664-7878)

Sponsored by Ann Arbor VFW Post 423 and American Legion Post 46.

All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

National Chapter of the Year - 1999 & 2007

Newsletter of the Year 2007, 09, 11, & 15

E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

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Vice President: Marv Rivers

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

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VVA 310 Dispatch
March 2021

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Please Forward. Thank You!

