

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*



November 2021

Washtenaw County,
Michigan



Editor's Note: Veterans Radio is celebrating 18 years of broadcasting on Sunday, November 14. Dale and Jim would like YOU to participate. For more information, call Dale at (734) 646-8673. And if you wish to congratulate them, call (248) 912-3315, and leave a congratulatory message. They will play your message during the celebration. Veterans Radio is also looking for a sole sponsor. If you wish to be a sponsor, contact Dale at the indicated phone number.

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch Editor

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President's Message

By Stan Harrison

As I write this, Veterans Day is approaching, and I am reminded once again of how society honors us as veterans. Chapter member Nick Bauder sent in information on free dental care on Veterans Day. That made me think of other tributes, from free car washes to



discounted meals, that we enjoy on that day. Some discounts from local businesses, as well as big chain stores, are available all year long. It seems a far cry from how we were treated years ago.

Our Chapter is the beneficiary of many generous contributions from individuals and local businesses that enable us to do our charitable or veterans. We are very grateful for all of these and try to use them wisely.

Often there will be an unexpected need somewhere, and Dave Draper or Vance McCrumb will send out an e-mail looking for whatever is required. It could be anything from home medical equipment to household goods or kitchenware. If you are not getting these requests now, make sure we have your email address. You can call me and I'll get you on the list. It is another way to be proud of your Chapter and to be a part of your Chapter.

One more thing. Chapter member

Dave Draper has been named MVAA (Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency) "Veteran of the Year." This is a big deal. He will be honored at a gala at Selfridge ANG and featured at the Michigan Heroes Museum in Frankenmuth for one year. Dave is not only a Past President of our Chapter, but I hear that he may also belong to other organizations as well (although I can't confirm it). Join me in congratulating Dave on this great honor.

Stay safe and stay proud

Chaplain's Corner – November 2021

By Gordon Moore

I have observed over the years that people often give praise when thankful. The two concepts are linked by a person's soul and mind. With Thanksgiving approaching, there is much to be thankful for



in our lives and that of the nation as observed by the recent COVID pandemic. Amazingly, we trained for quite a while for a pandemic at the University of Michigan; and,

when it came, we had to do a lot of adjusting as the data came in. And so did you and the world. I am thankful that most of the people I know have survived. I lost a few as family and friends.

When I reflect on their lives and ours, I am really thankful to have

known them and each of you. So it is with praise in my soul that I offer this Word of the Lord...from His heart to yours as a means of encouragement to praise Him for His goodness and lovingkindness. Hear now the Word of the Lord from Psalm 9:

I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You: I will sing praise to Your name, O Thou Most High. When my enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at your presence. For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sit in the throne judging rightly. You have rebuked the heathen, you have destroyed the wicked, You have put out their name for ever and ever.

O you enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and You have destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. But the Lord shall endure forever: He has prepared His throne for judgment. And He shall judge the world in righteousness; He shall minister judgement to the people in uprightness.

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble (and we certainly have been going through times of trouble in mass). And they that know Thy name will put their trust in you: for You, Lord, have not forsaken those that seek you. Sing praises to the Lord, which dwells in Zion: declare among the people His doings. (Psalm 9:1-11)

What follows is from 2 Chronicles 16:9:

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He might strongly support those

whose heart is completely His.

Praise His name with thanksgiving.
Peace be upon you and those you love.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

14 October 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 by Bull/Merritt to approve the September Minutes as published in the *Dispatch*.
Approved.

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

The Clinton Fall Festival sale went well. The more important event now is the Recognition Dinner tomorrow. We are going to start setting up at 1000 at the UAW Hall on Textile Road. We will open up to the public at 1700 and serve dinner at 1800.

Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne. Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports are also available to members and others via email on request. We sold \$3,400 of

merchandise at the Clinton Fall Festival. Our total cash increased by \$2,400. We received \$1,500 COVID relief grant money from National. We are expecting a \$600 grant from Michigan State Council to help with Convention expenses. I currently project an \$11,000 surplus for the year.

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see report in the *Dispatch*. We are still selling wrist bracelets to support Fisher House. We are also still collecting small-size personal items for Fisher House. Kathy and Shirley will represent AVVA at the National Convention. AVVA is helping to clean up and sanitize the VRC. We are sending four girls to Girls State this year.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Harrison. Clinton Fall Festival went very well.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: The dinner is planned for the 18th to be held at the Saline American Legion hall.

Michigan State Council: Luker. We met in Cheboygan to discuss the Convention and to report on what happened at Columbus. The next meeting will be in Howell. We discussed a petition the VVA National is circulating that opposes VA Secretary McDonough's contention that studying Toxic Exposure damage to children and grandchildren is not practical.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt.

The lawncare season is winding down. I'd like to thank the lawn crews for doing such good work throughout the year.

Memorial Building: Due to circumstances beyond his control, our contractor had to bow out of building the building. We have a plan B in mind and will call it into

play right away.

Website: McCrumb. Our hit count is 313,018.

Membership: We are at 213, which includes a new member recruited at the Clinton Fall Festival.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. No report

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger. Don Miller called to say that there was an emergency need for underwear at the hospital, so we sent them \$800 worth, paid for from the Restricted Fund account.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion by Kinzinger, seconded by Driscoll, to authorize Bob Bull to purchase \$1,000 of emergency food.
Approved.

Good of the Order:

Kinzinger: There will be a packing party on Sunday 7 November at 1500. Our goal is to pack 25 boxes. We will have a potluck dinner after that. Elmer White is providing a matching donation up to \$500, which helps cover the cost of postage.

Mays: I was given an electric wheelchair. Thank God, I don't need it anymore. It is available in case anybody else needs it.

St. Antoine: Michigan Woodcarver's Association is still hand carving customized wood canes for Veterans who were deployed to combat zones. Pick up a flyer for more information. Be sure your DD-214 is complete and up to date because that is what they use to decide what to put on your cane.

Throneberry: This week's Veterans Radio will be about sandbox veterans that were awarded the Medal of Honor.

We do the "There I was" story telling event on the third Thursday

of every month. Even if you were not sent to Vietnam and even if you don't have a "war" story to tell, we still want to hear your story. This time, we'd like to hear your story about heroes you met during your time in service.

Finally, please remember that Veterans Radio is a charity that relies on donations from supporters like you.

Bull: Our next Open House 23 October from 1000 to 1600. We will have the usual resources, but MVAAs asked to attend so they can help you with the unusual situations you have.

Bull: I now am the peer support specialist for several local counties. It is a fun job, and I get to work with Erika Behm.

Bull: You may have seen the bench just to the right of the door as you were coming in. That will be the first bench we place on the new walking path through the woods. We have to thank Stan Harrison for that bench. I have a new volunteer who will be coming to the Resource Center on Wednesdays to build the trail.

Driscoll: Remember, we need three flags and a flag stand for dinner tomorrow.

Harrison: Lloyd Lee seems to be doing better. I see him nearly every day. His name is on the new bench Bob Bull was talking about. It also shows his rank and that he earned a Silver Star, three Bronze stars, and two Purple Hearts.

Chapter Breakfast: Date: Friday, 12 Nov 2021: TBD.

Closing Prayer Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1950 hrs.

AVVA Newsletter

By Kathy Driscoll

COVID-19 Update from Health Department Washtenaw County Michigan

- COVID-19 vaccines are free, safe, effective, and easy to get! Expanded, drive-through clinics are available during October (see details below). Regular, walk-in clinics continue at the Health Department Tuesday through Friday.

A parent or guardian must be present when minors are getting vaccinated. Identification is helpful for the parent or guardian, but NOT required. Identification is not required for adolescents. Adolescents must be 12 years of age or older by the vaccination date.

Vaccines for 5-11 year old's: We cannot vaccinate this age group until 1-2 business days *after* the CDC recommends it. Our current availability estimate is the week of Nov 9. We cannot pre-schedule. Remember, it may also be available from your pediatrician or pharmacy.

You do not need to live or work in Washtenaw County to be vaccinated at our clinics. Everyone is welcome, including individuals who are not U.S. residents. Boosters and Additional Doses **The Washtenaw County Health Department is now offering Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson booster doses at our 555 Towner clinics in Ypsilanti. Please bring your vaccination card and identification, if possible.** See pop-up clinic details to see which vaccines are available at specific pop-ups.

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be widely available from local [providers and pharmacies](#). See the CDC's statement on vaccine boosters [here](#).

For those who received an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine: [The following groups are eligible](#) for a booster shot at six months or more after their initial series: adults 65+, adults 18+ who live in long-term care settings, adults 18+ who have underlying medical conditions, and adults 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings.

For those who received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine: Individuals should get a COVID-19 booster dose at least two months after their initial dose. For those with moderately to severely compromised immune systems who received Pfizer or Moderna initially: [As previously recommended](#), people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

Those eligible for a booster may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose from the Health Department. For questions about which booster to receive, we recommend speaking with your own health care provider for advice. As stated above, pop-up clinics may not have all three boosters available.

Washtenaw County Health Department Ongoing Vaccine Site

Every Tuesday: 9-11:30am,
1-3:30pm, and 5-7pm
Every Wednesday, Thursday, and
Friday: 9-11:30am and 1-3:30pm
*Fri, 10/29 clinic will be open from
9am-3:30pm*

**@ Washtenaw County Health
Department (555 Towner in
Ypsilanti)**

- Open to anyone age 12+. A parent or guardian must be present when minors are getting vaccinated.
- Pfizer (2 doses, age 12+), Moderna (2 doses, age 18+), or Johnson & Johnson (one dose, age 18+) available
- Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson boosters available to those eligible, please bring vaccine card if possible
- Walk in during clinic hours, no appointment needed
- 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.

Chapter Happenings

 Thanks to all who supported our Wrist Story Bracelet and Raffle at the Recognition Dinner, AVVA 310 will be donating \$500 to Fisher

House Michigan Patriot Fundraiser. This brings our total donations to Fisher House Michigan to \$12,200.00.

We sold out all Wrist Story Bracelets. I will be ordering 100 bracelets when I return from the AVVA Convention.

- Meni and Corrine are volunteering hours on Wednesday and/or Saturdays at the Veteran Resource Center. If you would like to volunteer, stop by the VFW on Wednesday or Saturday.
- Meni has also volunteered time returning bottles and cans donated to the Veteran Resource Center.
- Members are making Stress Balls for Fisher House Michigan. Email me if you need the pattern.
- We are collecting trail-size shampoo, soap, tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc., for Fisher House Michigan. You can drop off your donations to me or directly at the Fisher House. I delivered all collected items to April LaRock at Fisher House Michigan on October 27th.

Fundraising Projects

Our Fisher House Michigan specified line has a balance of \$440. We received donations totaling \$145 from our raffle for Fisher House Michigan and \$140 from Wrist Story Bracelets donations in October. The last 10 bracelets were sold this week. We will be donating \$500 to Fisher House Michigan to their 2021 Patriot Match. 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.

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 November meeting or contact Kathy to pick-up your donation. Please bring donations to our November meeting.
- 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. 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:

<https://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&slD=donate-funds>

SOS Community Services Ypsilanti, MI:

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

Catholic Social Services

<https://csswashtenaw.org/family-children/cssw-food-pantry/>

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 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

When I toured the Ann Arbor Fisher House, their staff mention that they need gift cards for Kroger or Sam's Club for weekly food shopping. We 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 November or early December 2021. Please consider a \$5 or \$10 donation at our November meeting, 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 is 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 – 2022 Girls State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,848.25. We received a \$500 donation to our Lois Perrault Memorial Fund. This fund is dedicated to sponsor delegates to the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State in memory of Lois Perrault. We plan to sponsor four delegates to Girls State 2022. We are proud to continue our sponsorship to Girls State 2022 in Lois' memory.

If you know of a high school

student who will complete their junior year, please have them contact their Guidance Counselor for the application to Girls State. One of our four delegates to Girls State is Ella Racetti, granddaughter of Joe Palazzolo. Ella is a Junior at Milan High School. I emailed our contact for Girls State and should have more information at our November 11th membership meeting.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

- 2021 National Convention – November 2-6, 2021, at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC. Shirley and I will attend the Convention.
- 2022 Leadership Conference – Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC
- 2023 National Convention – Orlando, FL

WCCV

I attended the October WCCV dinner meeting at the American Legion Post 322, Saline. 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. The next WCCV meeting is January 17, 2022. I plan to attend.

Upcoming Events!

Next meeting will be in person at 6:00 pm on November 11th. If you would like a zoom session, please let me know. I can schedule one for you to attend our November meeting.

10 November 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial Commemoration

18 November WCCV Saline American Legion Post 322

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

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Honoring November Anniversaries on the Wall

Private First Class Daniel John Illi was born on December 6, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Erwin G. Illi at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Daniel



graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1964 where he played football and was a member of the Trouble-shooting

Mechanics Team. Before entering the Army on November 3, 1965, Daniel was a rental manager for Liberty Land Company affiliated with Butcher and Willits Building Company of

Ann Arbor. He married Shirley (Smith-Lowery) on February 5, 1966.

Daniel Illi completed his basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado and was stationed there until transferred to Vietnam on August 2, 1966. Daniel served with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division operating out of An Khe, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. Daniel was killed by small arms fire on November 1, 1966.

Daniel John Illi is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Shirley, parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived 20 years, 10 months and 25 days. Daniel is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 12E Line 002.

__+__

Private First Class Donald Barrett Roddy

was born on March 7, 1943 to Mr. William Roddy of Gloversville, New York and Mrs. Mary B. Woolfenden of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School after attending Shaker



High School in Latham, New York for his freshman and sophomore years. He also attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette,

Michigan where he was a member of the Chi Sigma Nu social fraternity. Donald entered the Army on January 13, 1965.

Private First Class Roddy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on August 18, 1965 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Donald was killed on November 15, 1965 as a result of enemy small arms fire during the Battle for the Ia Drang Valley. According to an Ann Arbor Newspaper article written by Gary Lillie, "Taking part in the first battle of LZ X-Ray, was Pfc. Donald B. Roddy, a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. As a member of the 'Lost Patrol' of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he lost his life along with the rest of his machine-gun crew as they fought to cover the withdrawal of their fellow troopers to safer ground."

The account can be found on page 87 (*We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* by Joseph L. Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore). Donald was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Donald Barrett Roddy is survived by his parents, his stepfather, and a brother. He lived 22 years, 8 months and 8 days. Donald'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 03E Line 061. Rubbing mfrom The Wall below.

__+__

Private First Class Robert Allen Albertson was born on January 1, 1947 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Albertson. Robert graduated from Ypsilanti



High School in 1966. He worked at the Ypsilanti Plant of the Ford Motor Company prior to entering service in the Army on May 3, 1966.

Private First

Class Robert Allen Albertson started his tour of duty in South Vietnam on October 11, 1967 serving as an infantryman with A Company, First Battalion, 8th Cavalry, First Cavalry Division. Robert died as a result of small arms fire on November 4, 1967 after being In-Country for only 23 days.

Robert Albertson is survived by his wife, parents and two brothers. Robert lived 20 years, 10 months and 3 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Robert's name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 29E Line 018.

__++__

Robert Clarence Skinner was born on June 21, 1951.

Private First Class Skinner began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on September 27, 1969 serving as a Motor Vehicle Operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Shore Party Battalion, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Robert was killed on November 16, 1969. According to a posting left by Sergeant Eddie G. Hammonds, Jr.,



"I served with PFC Skinner in Vietnam. He was killed on his first night patrol. I will never forget the night or his

courageous valor. You will not be forgotten, because I remember." Robert Clarence Skinner lived 18 years, 4 months and 25 days. He is resting in the Platte Township Cemetery, Benzie County, Michigan. Robert'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 16W Line 086.

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Sergeant Rickie D. Sparks was born on July 26, 1947 in Beecher City, Illinois to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sparks from Manchester, Michigan. Rickie is a 1965 graduate of Clinton High School



in Clinton, Michigan where he played varsity basketball and football. He entered the Army on September 1, 1965 and completed his Basic Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He completed his advanced training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Sergeant Sparks began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on February 20, 1967 serving as an Armor

Reconnaissance Specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Rickie was killed on November 18, 1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Rickie D. Sparks is survived by his parents, a wife, and three brothers. He is resting in the Riverside Cemetery in Clinton, Michigan. Rickie's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 30E Line 019.

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Engineman Third Class Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr. was born on August 9, 1948 in Adrian, Michigan to Mr. Robert E. and Mrs. Maxine De Verna Kushmaul. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Chelsea High School where he was the President of his Class, a Charter Member of the Key Club, a member of the Student Council, and President of



FFA. Engineman Third Class Kushmaul entered the Navy on February 2, 1967. He began his tour of duty in Kien Giang Province, South Vietnam on February 15, 1969 serving with Patrol Boat River 8131, Task Force 116, United States Naval Forces Vietnam. He was killed while patrolling on a river boat on November 16, 1969.

Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. He lived 21 years, 3 months and 7 days. He is resting in Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Robert's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Chelsea. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 16W Line 084.

Fisher House Stars

by Dave Draper

Some of you were asking what the stars on the Fisher House donor plaque broke down to, so I went to the best source. Below is Kate Melcher's response. She is the Executive Director of Fisher House Michigan.

\$100K is 1 star

\$200K is 2 stars

\$300K is 3 stars

\$500K is 4 stars

\$1 million is 5 stars

Some donors elected to break up their stars among levels on the Ann Arbor House to honor someone as well as have their own place on the plaque. Other donors (AL Department of Michigan Family, for example) elected to split their stars between the Ann Arbor and future Detroit Houses.

Does that help? It's a most impressive plaque – **biggest one ever hung in a Fisher House!** It really shows the heart of the community that built the house and will continue to support it



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

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

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.

Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031

David Marshall ~ June 2022

Del Mayes ~ March 2022

Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ January 2023

Ronald Oliver ~ November 2021

Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024

George Perrault ~ October 2022

Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023

Jim Sharp ~ April 2031

Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022

Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023

Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

Awards at the Recognition Dinner

Photos: Vance McCrumb



-- John Thompson Member of the Year: Rev. Bob Bull.

-- Jerry Sims "Always There" Award: Chris Wetzler.

Congratulations for your exemplary dedication and availability.



Recognizing Local 499

By Vance McCrumb

This image is of Local 499, who donated time and material to our Memorial building project—including Chapter members Al (Fredo) Merritt, Stan Harrison, and Jon Luker.

Memorial Anniversary

By Vance McCrumb

November 10, 2021 is the **30th anniversary** of the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Celebration date, time and location are as follows:

When: November 10, 2021

Time: 1900 hours

Where: Auditorium, Ypsilanti Township office.

A new Memorial Challenge Coin is available to commemorate the 30th Anniversary. For details and availability, please contact President Harrison.



Pre-Christmas Care Package Event

By John Kinzinger

If you are planning to join in our Pre-Christmas Care package event, please be there by 2:45 pm at the Ann Arbor VFW Post on Wagner. Potluck afterwards.

Remember to turn your clocks back to be on time. Bring items or cards to put in the packages. Hope you can make it.

Please recall that we have a \$500 match offer to help cover postage.

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

07 Nov: Packing Party for Troops 2:45 pm VFW Post 423

10 Nov: Marine Corps Birthday (1775)

11 Nov: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs (Click Here to attend by Zoom)

11 Nov: Veterans Day (1918)

12 Nov: Chapter Monthly Breakfast

15 Nov: WCCV Meeting- NO MEETING

07 Dec: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)

09 Dec: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs (Click Here to attend by Zoom)

10 Dec: Chapter Monthly Breakfast

20 Dec: WCCV Meeting- NO MEETING

20 Dec: Space Force Birthday (2020)

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.

News of Interest to Veterans

Celebration -- Nov. 08

All are welcome. Atrium open at 5 pm. Celebration starts 7:00 pm in Lazy Boy Theater.

Entertainment, displays, programs, snacks from 5-7 pm

AMVETS--Tribute to Fallen 1555 S. Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI 48161

Gary Lillie: A Proud Seabee

By Jane Kinzinger

Gary Lillie was a proud Seabee during the Vietnam War. He served in Chu Lai, doing construction work. Gary was somehow able to bring home this canvas sign that currently hangs on the VVA Chapter 310 wall in the VFW 423 Post. This sign originally hung on the doorway of the E.M. Club for his unit in Chu Lai. It reads, "Chu Lai Yacht & Country Club - Enjoy clean luxury."

Signs like this brought some humor to the day-to-day work life in Vietnam for him and his fellow Seabees. He often spoke of



working 16-hour days in extreme Vietnam heat of 120 degrees, seven days a week. Note the MCB-3 Seabees Can Do unit sign over Gary's right shoulder. Gary is standing in his Real Estate Office on Pauline Boulevard in Ann Arbor. Gary returned after serving in Vietnam to have his own real estate business specializing in the sale of vacant land. He started Veterans Radio with Dale Throneberry and hosted many broadcasts on WAAM Radio. Gary died while on a late night walk along the dirt road near his home when struck by a vehicle that hot evening of August 4, 2011. This legendary sign reminds us of Gary and his strong support of, and benevolence to, his fellow veterans.

November Highlights

By Jane Kinzinger

Several important days occur in November. The first is the annual **"fall back" tradition**, which takes place this year on Sunday, November 7 at 2:00 am. At that time, we will dutifully move our clocks back one hour to gain an hour of sunlight each morning. Your cell phone does this automatically. If you are relying on a traditional clock set manually, please consider doing it early on Saturday. That will allow you to get to the Packing Party at the VFW Post 423 on time a little before 3:00. (Bring any items you have to send to the troops and something for the potluck afterward.) The next important November day on the calendar is **Thanksgiving**,

which occurs this year on November 25. Many people especially love this holiday because it brings families together for a meal without the stress of gifts. --> **Volunteers at Dawn Farm**

It is meaningful for VVA 310 because we have been providing Thanksgiving dinner for **Dawn Farm** residents since 1987. Chapter members meet at Kroger grocery store the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and purchase Thanksgiving dinner with all the



trimmings for the 30-40 residents at this local drug/alcohol rehab facility. Dawn Farm is a very successful program started by Jim Balmer for those of any age, some in their teens and some with grandchildren. These folks would not be joining their families at home for Thanksgiving. Chapter 310 wished to show support by providing a wonderful dinner and sharing their own stories of struggles and how they coped. This Thanksgiving we will again purchase groceries on Tuesday, November 23 at 4:00, then travel to Dawn Farm on Stony Creek Road. Due to Covid-19 restrictions last year and this year, we will drop off the food but not gather in their

large living room to meet with the residents. They have always been so appreciative of our efforts, and we have been thankful that we could be a very small part of their recovery. We hope you will join us in this very meaningful evening.

Jocosity - Liking Retirement

By Ken Rogge

Question: How many days in a week? Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime? Answer: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees? Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors? Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees, what is considered formal attire? Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies? Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire? Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage? Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch? Answer: Normal.

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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November 2021

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