

# 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*



**September 2021**

Washtenaw County,  
Michigan



**Editor's Note:** August displayed VVA 310 members' activities: the crosses project, the Pig Roast dinner, and various celebrations. A reprint of an article describes the work to raise a flagpole at the Veterans Park in Ann Arbor. John Kinzinger's description of a donation from the Prososki's estate to the VVA 310 Chapter is remarkable. And as always, Kathy Driscoll's AVVA report contains a treasure trove of vaccine and health care resources. The Dispatch Team thanks you for your support.  
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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## President's Message

By Stan Harrison

We are busy making plans for upcoming events. There should be lots of opportunities for you to help your Chapter.

On August 29th, at the Saline American Legion, we will have our VVA 310 Pig Roast. This is our major fundraiser of the year. We will need many hands to make it as successful as it has been in the past.



In September, on the 11th, there will be a 9/11 remembrance at the VFW Post in remembrance of that terrible day in 2001.

This event is being co-sponsored by the American Legion Post 46 and the Veteran Resource Center. This will be the twentieth anniversary. We said that we would never forget, so let's take this opportunity to prove it.

On September 24th, 25th, and 26th, we will have our merchandise tent set up at the Clinton Fall Festival. This small-town event is a very pleasant place to spend some time; so, plan to stop by and see us there.

October will bring our Gary Lillie Recognition Dinner on the 15th at the UAW Hall in Ypsilanti Township. Angel Food Catering did such a good job at our last one that we are bringing them back for an encore.

In more normal times, October would also have us looking forward to Halloween at the VA Hospital;

but, this year, who knows? I'm sure we will come up with something for the patients there, even if we can't do an "in person" event. So put us on your calendar. Help support us as we support our Veteran community. In the meantime, stay well and stay proud.

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## Chaplain's Corner – September 2021

By Rev. Gordon Moore

There is a Scripture that explains how the body of Christ works (analogous to the human body). This explanation fits military organizations in general and our VVA Chapter 310 in particular—so



much so that I would like to share it for September. This passage is found in Romans Chapter 12 and reads like this:

I beseech you therefore,

brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to every man (and woman) who is among you, not to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think; but to think soberly, according as

God has dealt to every person the measure of faith.

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teaches, on teaching; or he that exhorts, on exhortation; he that gives, let him do it with simplicity, he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor what is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord. Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for in so doing, you shall heap blessings on

his head. Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:1-21)

This is sage advice for anytime, but particularly for the time in which we find ourselves with polarity dividing our nation. Let's not allow it to undo our love for, and commitment to, God. Blessing and honor abounds to you.

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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 23 August 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 June and July Minutes as published in the respective *Dispatch* issues **Officer Reports:**

**President's Report:**

President Harrison stated that John Kinzinger and he continue to help clean out a deceased veteran's house. Some goods were donated to charity.

DoD: Waiting (again) to hear from TACOM

**Treasurer's Report:** Berry Bourne.

Donations for Pig Roast are \$5,800 now. We are beginning to incur some Pig Roast expenses. Meijer's at Ann Arbor/Saline Road donated \$500 to be used as needed for any purpose.

Annual insurance premium of \$489 was paid.

My current projection for the fiscal year ended 28 Feb 2022 is an unrestricted fund surplus of \$3,600 compared to a \$2,100 deficit. Questions were answered.

**AVVA Report:** Jane Kinzinger stated that the report is printed in the *Dispatch*.

**Committee Reports:**

**Merchandise:** Sold 79 pins only at VetsFest in Fowlerville.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Harrison. Attended meeting with nothing of significance to report.

**Michigan State Council:** Luker. Region 5 preconference to be held in Columbus, Ohio, 24 – 26 September.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt. Lawn crews continue to do excellent work on mowing and maintaining facility.

**Memorial Building:** Construction will see some progress this month via volunteer time from a trade union.

**Website:** McCrumb. We have received 302,560 hits since inception as of today.

**Membership:** We are still at 209.

**Newsletter:** Pereira. No report.

**Healthcare:** Wilson. Encourages everyone to either get a COVID-19 vaccine shot or wear a mask.

**VAAHS:** John Kinzinger noted that nothing is scheduled at the VA at this time. He mentioned arrangements for the pig roast.

Volunteers are still needed to erect some event tents on Friday,

and set up merchandise tent and display goods to be sold on Saturday. Steve Hitte stated at 10:30pm on Saturday the cooker would be fired up. Serving hours the next day are noon to 4:00 pm.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Motion** by McCrumb/Wilson to put maturing CD into interest bearing savings account. Approved.

**Motion** by Bourne/Luker to prohibit soliciting funds from Chapter members without prior Board approval. Approved.

**Good of the Order:**

**Bull:** He reviewed several events and happenings:

Suicide prevention communication efforts continue at the Veteran Resource Center

Patriot's Day – Will be celebrated on Sept. 11th at the VFW with an opening ceremony at 11:00 am

followed by refreshments and games.

He has published 2022 dates for Open Houses at the VFW on the calendar

Gun shows at the fairgrounds in September

A contest has been opened to name the trail in the woods at the VFW

**Throneberry:** He stated that

Podcasts will resume on September 16th from 6:00-9:00 pm.

**Harrison:** Breakfast on Friday 10 Sep 2021: TBD

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 2005 hrs.

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## AVVA Newsletter

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.

### Chapter Happenings

We had a table at the Open House on July 24th. Shirley, Corrine, Kathy, Wendy Hibbitts, Jane and



Meni attended. Meni set up a scrapbooking table at the event, and she was the photographer. Thank you to all who attended. We received

\$35 on donations for 7 Wrist Story bracelets. We distributed Paper Safes, Agent Orange pins and Vietnam Poppies to those who visited our table.

### Fundraising Projects

- Wrist Story Bracelets are available for \$5 donation. We have 34 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 \$55. Seven bracelets were purchased at the Open House. Please let me know if you would like one.
- 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 September meeting or contact Kathy to pick up your donation. Please bring donations to our September 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](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 9:30 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&slID=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 today, 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. Please consider a \$5 or \$10 donation at our September 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 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 plan to sponsor two delegates next year. (Girl State 2022)

**AVVA Michigan State Association News**

- **2021 National Convention, November 2 – 6, 2021 at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC.**

- I submitted my Delegate Registration and Shirley Hitte as our Alternate Delegate.

**Candidates for National Office**

**President** Sharon Hobbs  
**Vice Pres.** 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 July 19th WCCV meeting in Ypsilanti. 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 September 9th.  
*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  
[dkathyr16@gmail.com](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com)  
 734-355-4897

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## Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

10 Sep: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs. Location TBD.

11 Sep: Patriot Day (2002)

11 Sep: 9/11 Remembrance, VFW Post 423, ceremony 1100 hrs followed by refreshments and games. Gate opens at 0930

17 Sep: POW/MIA Recognition Day (1990)

18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)

20 Sep: WCCV Members Only Dinner and Meeting, 1900 hrs, Saline American Legion Post 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.

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### Of Interest to Members

By Various Contributors

A bill signed into law will allow some veterans with mental health conditions to receive service dogs. A five-year pilot program will provide service dog training to benefit veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Previously, the VA only covered some costs of service dogs for veterans with certain physical disabilities, such as blindness, hearing impairment, and mobility issues – but not mental health conditions. More information here: Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act.

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## September Crosses

VVA 310 Chapter members are going to put crosses up at Ypsilanti Township Hall during September, Suicide Prevention Month. The crosses are bigger, better lit, and installed with improved technique. The plan is to put up 22 crosses a day, every day for 30 days. To take part in this project, please sign up as a volunteer by clicking here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B48AEAD2FA7F94-veteran3>

Feel free to stop out at the field anytime, and walk among the crosses. The following web page may be of interest to you also: <https://22aday.org>.

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## Larry Prososki's Estate and Donation to VVA 310

By John Kinzinger

Only a couple of you could have known Lawrence Prososki. Larry was a member of Mount Clemens VVA Chapter 254. Larry accumulated over 15,000 volunteer hours at VA Medical Centers in Battle Creek and Detroit.



[Photo: Larry

Prososki receives one of his many awards for

## his volunteer work at VA Medical Centers around Michigan.]

Larry was passionate about this work. He put on many significant events for Veterans at those locations, such as Detroit River Boat Cruises, chicken barbecues, and Tiger and Pistons games for large groups of Veterans.

Larry was never married, and he had no children. In 2019, Larry asked me to be the trustee of his estate. To avoid a quarrel with his siblings, I did not want my name in any paperwork as a beneficiary. So, he said he would leave some money to our Chapter for my work as trustee. That stated benefit to our Chapter amounts to \$10,000 once the procedures take their course.

Larry lived in Sterling Heights, which made it a 120-mile round trip to do work there. Several folks helped clean out the house, sorting, pricing, and getting ready for our August 21 estate sale. Well, we did it. We had great weather, a good crowd of buyers, and we sold and sold.

I wish to thank the following for all their work and time helping make the sale an excellent success. Larry and Wendy St. Antoine, Roy Hall, Stan Harrison, John and Jane Kinzinger, and friends Theresa and Cecilia.

As Larry Prososki's trustee, I will be sure that VVA 310 receives the \$10,000 directed for our Chapter, which will certainly help with our 2022 budget. Thank you, Larry Prososki, and all who helped with the sale.

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# Veterans Honor Guard of Washtenaw County

By John Kinzinger

In the mid-1990s, local Veterans organizations were unable to put together an honor guard unit to provide a good military funeral. And, if they had one, they would generally only do one for their members.

Around 1995, the Ypsilanti American Legion, led by Jerry Sims and Tom Ernst, formed up a group who would do any honorably discharged Veteran in the area. We were not all Veterans, but we did the best we could. We used a boombox with a cassette recording of Taps. In the beginning, we might only get 3 or 4 members out to do the entire service. And, on cold winter days, or when the batteries ran down, the boombox would not play right. It just froze up some or played very slowly.



In the beginning, we were an honorable but somewhat ragtag group. We did our best and I believe those we honored looked down and said thank you. Then, things began to improve. We eventually had our own set of rifles and did not have to borrow from different organizations. We established a protocol, uniform design, and started a nice esprit de corps among our group.

In 2000, we were contacted by a local former music teacher, Ralph Harris, who had read about "Bugles Across America." They had written about units like ours needing live buglers. He has been with us ever since and has performed more than 2,000 funerals in our county. Since 2000, we added three other buglers, which makes us a most versatile unit. We also moved the group under the auspices of the VVA Chapter 310, the only county wide Veterans group. We still bring along an electronic bugle, just in case. We also carry a defibrillator to each service, just in case the need arrives.

Our Veteran ranks grew and now today, it is not unusual for us to have 15 Veterans show up to perform military honors. We fire rifles, fold the Flag, present the Flag, and we adopted an educational narrative performed during the Flag folding. It covers the history and words for Taps and the meaning of the 13 folds in the Flag. This has become a most important aspect of the service we provide.



During non-Covid years, we average 140-160 funerals per year. We have been known to cover up to four funerals in one day. These funerals are just in Washtenaw County.

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**First Photo:** (May 31, 1993): Jim Shepherd, "Buzz" McElroy, Ron Brown, and Richard Dunn leading. Others not identified.

**Second Photo:** 2021 Washtenaw County Honor Guard at Holly National Cemetery. Pictured: Ron Harris, bugler; Roy Hall, Evan Eschenburg, Kirk Eschenburg, Steve Progar, Harry Pendergrass, Jim Wood, Randy Johnson. There are others not pictured.

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## Pig Roast Report, 2021

By Jane Kinzinger



Our 18th Annual Pig Roast was a pork lover's dream! Not only was the pork tender, juicy and flavorful, but it was also generously served, along with delicious sides and cake. The outside serving line moved quickly, manned by four DAR volunteers, two WACU representatives, Chapter and AVVA members and friends, who greeted the hungry customers with a smile, despite the extreme heat and sometimes long shifts before being relieved. The new location was well publicized and drew in about 350 diners, who sat outside under umbrellas or ate inside to escape the heat. Others got their dinners "to go" and enjoyed the delicious meal elsewhere. A few even had their carry-out meals delivered to their cars. During early Pig Roast planning, it was almost impossible to predict Covid-19 restrictions. The Saline American Legion,

with a commercial kitchen, had been holding very successful drive-through saurkraut dinners. They welcomed VVA 310 to use their facility since Covid-19 restrictions were apt to limit contact. Also, the construction on Wagner Road near the VFW 423 Post made it a nightmare to try to get to. Fortunately, Covid-19 restrictions opened up, and guests were permitted to go without masks and shorten the "social distance" between friends. The Legion members were equally committed to the event because they sold beer, wine, seltzers, pop, and water. They were a strong force in assembling canopies, tables and chairs. They were on hand during Saturday's start-up of the huge pork roaster that held the 230 pounds of pork butts. To make it tender, the pork was cooked at a low temperature from 11pm Saturday to 12 noon Sunday. At least 5 faithful members took two-hour shifts during the night to prevent the cooker flame from going out. Steve Hitte was the master chef who knew exactly the correct temperature at which to hold the meat to get it to perfection by serving time. Marv Rivers and a Legionnaire did the pork pulling. Things picked up Sunday morning when the sun got high in the sky and people started lining up at the ticket table. There were many compliments about the tasty pork and the delicious cake. One Chapter friend cut all 6 cakes and kept the dessert plates coming. The last dinners were served after 4:15, and only 5 small bags of pork remained, which were sold to those who wanted to have pork again the next day (and it tasted even better!).

Several hardy Chapter members set up merchandising and had a brisk business. Riley London was doing face painting on the porch. There was upbeat DJ music all afternoon, which drew several women to dance. Others simply enjoyed their dinners, visited with old friends, new friends, and learned a little more about our VVA Chapter 310 and the Saline American Legion. These groups worked well together to pull off a very successful dinner, the proceeds of which allow the Chapter to continue its programs and projects in the future. Because of Covid-19, there had not been any fundraising events for quite a while.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Pig Roast. Our next get together is October 15 for the Recognition Dinner at the Rawsonville UAW Hall. Get your palets ready for another great dinner.

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## Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

First: Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

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Second:

Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is." His friend stared at him for at least three minutes -- he just stared and stared at him. Finally, he said, "How soon do you need to know?"

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## Honoring September Anniversaries on the Wall

**Lance Corporal Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr.** was born on March 9, 1947 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Hermon E. and Mrs. Eugenia Fuller of Ypsilanti. Hermon is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School



where he ran cross country and played football. He gained a nickname in High School of "Flea" because

there was a flea on the Soupy Sales Show named Herman. He also was a member of the Boy Scouts, and he worked on the stage crew for high school plays.



Lance Corporal Fuller enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 27, 1965 and received his infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. Hermon was stationed in Okinawa before being deployed to Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam serving as a rifleman with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. He died on September 25, 1966 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds from a mortar attack.

Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother and three sisters. He lived 19 years, 6 months and 16 days. Hermon's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 014.

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### Hospital Corpsman Third Class

**Gary Robert Shepperdson** was born on July 13, 1946 to Mr. John and Mrs. Margaret Shepperdson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary



is a 1965 graduate of St. Thomas High School in Ann Arbor. He also attended Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Navy in

September of 1966.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Shepperdson began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on July 10, 1968

serving as a Hospital Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Gary was killed on September 30, 1968 as a result of a gunshot wound from enemy rifle fire while participating in Operation Mameluke Thrust. Gary Robert Shepperdson is survived by his mother, a sister and three brothers. His father preceded him in death in 1957. He lived 22 years, 3 months and 17 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 42W Line 050

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### Hospital Corpsman Third Class

**Scott Philip Smith** was born on May 30, 1947 in Ann Arbor to



Mr. Philip H. Smith of Grass Lake, Michigan and Mrs. Ralph (Jeane) Foreman, Jr. of Northville, Michigan. Scott is a 1965 graduate of Chelsea High School

where he was on the track team and the high school band. He also attended Grand Valley Junior College in Grand Rapids, Michigan before he entered the Navy on March 17, 1967.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Smith began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on June 3, 1969 serving as a

Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Scott was killed on September 17, 1969 as a result of an explosive device. Scott Phillip Smith is survived by his parents, a half-brother and a half-sister. He lived 22 years, 3 months and 17 days. Scott's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Chelsea. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18W Line 106.

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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  
 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.  
 Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031  
 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  
 Jim Sharp ~ April 2031  
 Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022  
 Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023  
 Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

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## Remembering the Flagpole Raising at Veterans Memorial Park

*Originally Written by Dave Draper*

**[This article is a repeat from two years ago, with a recent photo.]**

Over the past several years, there have been at least two attempts to erect a flagpole dedicated to veterans at Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Between politics and insufficient funds, those attempts were in vain. In June of 2018, then commander of American Legion Post 46 Oleg Michjalenko mentioned to fellow member Doug Harvey about how there was no American flag flying at the Memorial Park. Doug followed up by checking with a flag company to see what the price of a forty-foot flagpole, including its installation, would be. They quoted him \$5,000. Doug presented his idea and the price to Legion Post 46, where they approved the project. Doug then approached City of Ann Arbor officials to see if they would let Post 46 have the pole installed at Memorial Park. He was referred to the Parks and Recreation Department, where they arranged a meeting. Several members of Post 46 and the Parks and Recreation met at the proposed site, where the members of the Parks and Recreation looked over the Post's plans. They determined that the plans were a great idea and would be a showcase for Ann Arbor, as the flagpole would be erected in a visible, highly trafficked

area. Several meetings over the following few months with Doug, Oleg, and Parks and Recreation officials took place, and the price tag started to grow. At first, the price tag rose to \$10,000. That seemed manageable, and Legion Post 46 approved the additional funds. Not much later, the price tag rose again, this time to a total of \$20,000, with the addition of landscaping, pavers, and sidewalks. Legion Post 46 decided they still wanted to continue with the project, and they began to fundraise for it. Doug approached Ann Arbor's VFW Post 423 to see if they would contribute to the project. Surprisingly, VFW Post 423 voted to cover the entire remaining \$10,000. On August 9 of 2019, the flagpole was finally erected. It took only three and a half hours from beginning to end. A ceremonial groundbreaking was performed by the members of Legion Post 46, VFW Post 423, and family members. The following day,



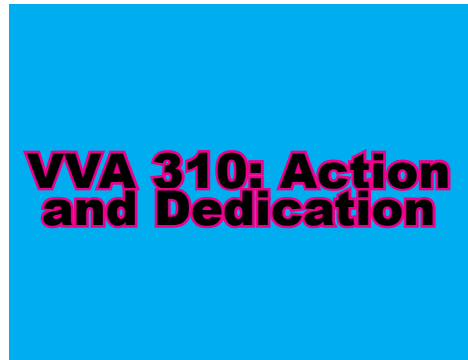
about twenty veterans and family members gathered to perform an

informal flag-raising ceremony. The flag was raised, and a prayer and a couple of songs were performed. But the flag had to be lowered that same day, as the lights had not yet been installed. The flag was folded, and photo ops ensued. There was enough pride on that day to last most people a lifetime. Plans are in the works to have a formal dedication ceremony towards the end of September.

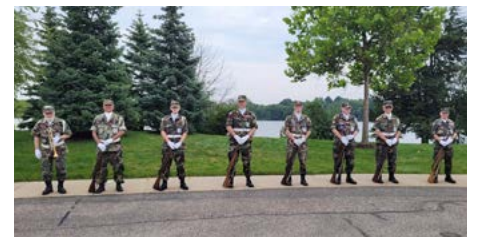
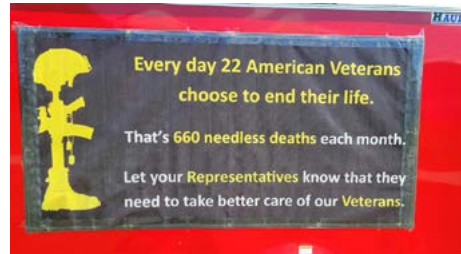
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**The Highest Price**  
**Words of a Dead Soldier's Wife**  
*Shared by John Kinzinger*

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



husband paid be in vain!"



# All About VVA 310

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