

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*



July 2021

Washtenaw County,
Michigan



Editor's Note: My gratitude to the Dispatch contributors. As usual, there was an abundance of materials and pictures. On this issue, the pictures are linked to website pages, where you can see the events. Of special interest this month is an article by Sandie Wilson reviewing historical landmarks of the VVA 310 Chapter. For events that are coming up, please keep in mind the Pig Roast. John Kinzinger needs volunteers. Please call 734-645-8647 to volunteer.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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Charles S. Kettles VVA Chapter 310 – Annual Pig Roast – Pork Dinner
When: Sunday, August 29th, Noon to 4PM -- Volunteers are welcome!
Where: Saline American Legion (corner of Mich Ave and Mill St.)
Enjoy A Wonderful Pork Dinner and Help Raise Funds for VVA 310
--> Meal Ticket Prices: \$15.00, Ages 6-12 \$5.00, Under 6 FREE

President's Message

By Stan Harrison

In honor of Flag Day last month, we had a picnic at the VFW Post 423 grounds on Sunday, June 13th. While we did not attract younger Veterans in numbers we had hoped, we did have participants from Team Red, White, and Blue and friends from Warriors and



Caregivers United. They pitched in to make the event happen. Representative Debbie Dingle was unable to attend due to health reasons, but she sent over a copy of the bill, signed by then President Donald Trump, that re-named the Ann Arbor VA hospital. A guest from Fisher House attended and expressed thanks for the strong support from the Veteran community.

On June 18th, many of our members were on hand at the re-naming ceremony for the LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center. Remember, our Rev. Bob Bull promoted the name change; our own John Kinzinger was one of the speakers. Other speakers were U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Representative Debbie Dingle, Mayor Christopher Taylor, VA dignitaries, and Kettles family members. We felt that LTC Kettles had been suitably honored. We still cannot get into the VA hospital to make our merchandise

sales, but we are hopeful. In the meantime, planning continues for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Pig Roast. This year, it will be on August 29th at the Saline American Legion. Then, in October, we will resume tradition with a Recognition Dinner at the UAW Hall in Ypsilanti Township.

On July 24th, from 10 am until 5 pm, the VFW Post 423 will be hosting an open house. We will be there, along with several other organizations. It will be an excellent opportunity to get questions answered (VSOs, lawyers, and others on-site) or chat and get free stuff. You may even buy a new pin for your cap. Until then, stay safe. Stay proud.

Chaplain's Corner July 2021

By Rev. Gordon Moore

During the time of the Judges of Israel, it is recorded: "Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred and ten. And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel." . . . "In those days there was no kind (leader) in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own eyes." (Judges 2:8-10; 21:25 New American Standard Bible)

What struck me as I read through Judges was what happens when one generation who knows God

lives in such a way that their children did not learn about God or the things God had done for them as a people. I asked myself the questions: "How could this be?" "What went wrong in this older generation's life that led to their becoming practical atheists (saying they believe in God but living as though He didn't exist)?" And then I look at our nation—and world—and see so many people doing what is right in their own eyes with little regard to the welfare of others or where the blessings flow from. And, I wonder, are we living in a similar time as the Judges where people cry out to God to be delivered only to turn from God as soon as the deliverance comes to do what they good and well want to do. Is it because righteous people don't exist? Is it because righteous people do exist and do nothing to stem the tide of evil? Is it because righteous people do exist and do try to change the course of a nation but have leaders so corrupt that the righteous people's efforts are constantly repelled? So many things to contemplate as we seek to return our nation to its foundations of believing in and trusting in the God of all creation. Won't you join me in the quest of reestablishing a righteous nation? Blessing and honor to all!

Honoring July Anniversaries on the Wall

Private First Class Douglas Paul Atkins was born on September 14, 1950 in Ann Arbor to Mr. and Mrs. Variell L. Atkins. Douglas is a 1968



graduate of Ann Arbor High School in Ann Arbor. He also attended If I have a Community College prior to his entry into the

Army August of 1969.

Private First Class Atkins started his tour in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on July 6, 1970 serving as a Medical Corpsman with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Douglas' unit was operating in an area that was full of "booby-traps." Private First Class Douglas Paul Atkins was killed by a booby-trap explosion on July 27, 1970, just 23 days into his tour in Vietnam. Douglas earned the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Expert Badge with Automatic Rifle Bar, and the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar prior to his death. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Medical Badge. Doug is survived by his parents, family and friends. He lived 19 years, 10 months and 13 days. Douglas Paul Atkins 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 08W Line 058.

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Lance Corporal David Dayle McKenzie was born on February 13, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. David D. McKenzie of Ann Arbor, Michigan. David attended Mary Magdalene Parish School in Melvindale, Michigan until 1959. He attended St. Francis Xavier Parish School for one year.



His family moved to Ann Arbor where he attended St. Thomas High School. He was the captain of his football team and was on the All-City and All-Southwest

football teams. He also lettered in basketball, baseball and track. David enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school. Lance Corporal McKenzie began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam in June of 1965 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. David was killed early in his tour on July 12, 1965 when his unit was conducting a search and clear mission just south of Da Nang along the Song Cau Do River where mines were numerous. David Dayle McKenzie is survived by his parents and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 29 days. He is resting in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, Michigan. David'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 02E Line 035.

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Airman Second Class Charles Frederick Boss was born on July 16, 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. John M. Boss of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1965. He was very proud of a First Place Trophy he won at Milan Dragway for driving a 1959 VW to victory.

Airman Second Class Charles Frederick Boss entered the Air Force in August of 1965. He underwent basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Charles received specialist training as a fire protection specialist at Kincheloe

Air Force Base in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Airman Second Class Charles Frederick Boss began his tour in Vietnam on



December 15, 1966. He was stationed at the Da Nang Air Base in Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam with the 366th CE Squadron, 366th Combat Support Group, 366th Tactical Fighter Wing of the Seventh Air Force. Charles was killed during a rocket attack on July 15, 1967 along with seven others. One-hundred-seventy-three men were also wounded during the attack and forty-two aircraft were damaged.

Charles Boss is survived by his parents, a brother and two sisters. He lived 19 years, 11 months

and 29 days. Charles is resting in Forest Hills Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His name is located on the Vietnam Memorial located at the Ypsilanti Township Hall under Ann Arbor. His name is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 23E Line 073.

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Specialist 4 Philip Glenn Spencer

was born on March 3, 1946 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Glenn F. and Mrs. Jessie K. Spencer. Philip is a 1964 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he was on the 1963 State



Championship Football Team. He also was on the wrestling team, student council, Varsity Club and attended Wolverine Boys' State

in 1963. He was also in Scouting. Philip attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan for a year before transferring to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan majoring in mechanical engineering.

Specialist 4 Spencer enlisted in the Army on October 25, 1967 taking his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Philip began his tour of duty at Camp Carroll in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on April 21, 1968 serving as a Field Artillery Surveyor with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery, 108th Artillery Group, XXIV Corps. He died of a very rare blood disease

called agranulocytosis at the 108th General Hospital at Kishine Air Force Base in Japan on July 10, 1968.

Philip Glenn Spencer is survived by his parents and his wife. He lived 22 years, 4 months and 7 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Philip's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 52W Line 011.

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Lieutenant William Lennington Brown

was born on on October 5, 1935 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Robert S. and Mrs. Patricia Lennington Brown. William graduated from Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In June, 1955, he received a Congressional Appointment to the United States Naval Academy in



Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated from the Naval Academy on June 3, 1959. According to Captain John A.

Standish, USN (Ret), "I met Bill Brown when I reported aboard my first ship, the Destroyer, USS Braine (DD-630)...in San Diego. I was assigned as Gunnery Officer; Bill was the Weapons Department Head. Bill was a very conscientious, fun loving young officer, and quickly pulled me under his wing. He was a great

mentor and coach, and much of my love for the Navy and its traditions were as a result of Bill's attitude and instruction . .

. Bill also became a good friend . . . Bill was very religious and tempted me with pizza if I would go to evening services with him, which I did on occasion. At some point, Bill picked up the nickname, 'Squirrel's.'"

Lieutenant Brown served with the 15th Republic of Vietnam Navy, River Assault Group, Naval Advisory Group, MACV. He was acting as a Naval Advisor to the Marine Corps in Chu Lai, South Vietnam when the island of Ky Hoa was attacked by a large force of Viet Cong. Bill Brown was killed as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds on July 9, 1965 along with four other Americans.

Lieutenant William Lennington Brown is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived for 29 years, 9 months and 4 days. He is resting at the Brookside Cemetery in Tecumseh, Michigan. According to USNA Classmate Greg Nolan, "He (Bill) is remembered in Memorial Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy with other 1959 Classmates while serving our Country." Bill'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 02E Line 033.

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Hospitalman David Scott Palmer

was born on October 6, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. David E. Palmer of Ypsilanti, Michigan. David is a 1963 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he received honors in math. He was



also the co-captain of the swimming team. David attended the University of Michigan before enlisting in the Navy in

December of 1965.

Hospitalman Palmer began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. David was killed on July 5, 1967 due to an explosive device.

David Scott Palmer is survived by his parents, a sister and a brother. He lived 21 years 8 months and 29 days. David'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 23E Line 014.

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Thomas Leonard Cleland was born on November 5, 1941 to Mr. Leslie and Mrs. Coryell Cleland. His sister Andrea (Coron) remembered him as being very tall and thin. She writes, "To me it was like looking up at a very tall tree. He was very kind and protective of those he loved. He called me 'Honey.' He was well liked by everyone. He had lots of friends and loved to laugh." Thomas played baseball for Lincoln High School. His statement for his class yearbook was, "One today is worth two tomorrows." He loved to go fishing and swimming. There was a gravel pit behind his street. It was very deep and,

even though Thomas was a good swimmer, his mother was always worried about him when we went swimming in the pit. Thomas, his brother Dale and his friends went to the pit often.

Andrea continued, "Tom really liked to eat, and loved most foods. Mom used to say he had two hollow legs because she couldn't seem to fill him up. Dad had a garden and Tom and Dale would often help their father. If Dad needed help and couldn't find Tom, he'd always go to the Ford Lake



Dam and find Tom there fishing. When he was in the 11th grade, he got a job on a farm that had milking cows. Tom would have to get up and milk the cows by 5 AM each morning. Mr. and Mrs. Maleski, who owned the farm, invited Tom to stay with them during the week to make the milking easier. He would take the school bus from the farm. Tom worked at the farm until he graduated from Lincoln Consolidated High School 1959." The Fulton family lived across from the Maleski's farm. Ken Fulton was Tom's best friend. Ken was killed in Vietnam a couple months after Tom was killed. They both are listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial. After graduating from high school, Tom joined the Army; and, while in the service, he married a former classmate, Sharon Hubbard. Following Basic he was sent to Korea. His brother Dale enlisted the following year and was also

sent to Korea. Dale discovered that Tom was only two miles away. They were always close so this reunion was an especially happy time. When Tom's time was up, he reenlisted for four more years. When he came home on leave, he told his family that he had volunteered to go to Vietnam. He had a choice to go to Korea as General Westmoreland's driver, or go to Vietnam. He chose Vietnam because he told his family that he would rather go back than for a seventeen year old to be sent there.

"The last time we heard from him was through a radio phone patch from Vietnam," reports Andrea. "We talked and teased a little, and then he spoke to mom. She was so happy to hear his voice. Since his unit was ready to move out, he said it might be a while before we heard from him again. Two months later they got the news he had been killed."

Thomas began his tour of duty in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1966 serving as an Antenna Installer Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, First Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He was killed on July 11, 1967 after serving "In-country" for one year, two months and four days. Tom's commanding officer wrote to the family saying that he needed someone to take a message to the front lines. Tom was killed while returning to his unit by someone from his unit. His commanding officer wrote the family that he had told Tom the password and to go in the back way, but Tom went in the wrong way. A soldier on the perimeter asked for the password and Tom did not respond and crouched

down. The soldier asked again and again and Tom crouched down more and the soldier fired and hit Tom. His sister Andrea stated, "I hope he reads this, to know that no one in our family resents or blames him. Our tears are for him, too! I wish I knew him. I would love to be able to tell him, so he could look in my eyes and see how sincere I am and hug him. I am so sorry for him too."

After he was killed, "we received what turned out to be a prank Red Cross call. The person said that it was a mistake and it wasn't Tom who was killed. They said they would come out the next day and explain everything. Three days later they had not come. You can imagine how we were feeling. So dad called the Red Cross. They told him that they would not have called but would have come out to the house to tell them. It was a terrible dirty prank that someone played. At the funeral his casket was open, or to this day I would not have believed it. He will always be remembered with laughter, tears and a lot of pride for a very gentle man. These many years later the healing goes on for all of us." Specialist 4 Thomas Leonard Cleland was survived by his parents, his wife Sharon, two brothers (Dale and Terry) and a sister (Andrea Coron). He lived 25 years, 8 months and 6 days. He is resting in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Whittaker, Michigan. Thomas' 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 23E Line 049.

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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

10 June 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 May Minutes as published in the Dispatch. Merritt/Bull. Approved.

Swearing in of Officers and Board

Members: Sandie Wilson

Officer Reports:

President's Report: I represented VVA 310 at the Saline Memorial Day Ceremony, the Washtenaw County Memorial Ceremony, and the Watch Fire. John K and I helped to clean out a deceased Veteran's house. Some goods were donated to charity.

I appointed Tim Driscoll to the vacant position on the Board. The Board decided to hold our Recognition Dinner. Sense of the house was conducted to determine date of 15 October at 1800. Al Merritt will check to see if the UAW Hall is available. Caterers are still holding our deposit.

Treasurer's Report: Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports were also made available to members

and others via email on request. Net cash gain of about a thousand. We received a \$1872 check from National for our life membership dues share. If anybody needs anything over the next 10 days, I'll be out of town.

AVVA Report: The report is printed in the Dispatch.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: No activity except for a few challenge coin sales.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Harrison. ALS is considered service connected no matter when you served nor where you served.

Michigan State Council: Luker. The State Council meeting is 27 June. We are still working on the Region 5 preconference to be held in Columbus, Ohio 24-26 September.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. Lawns crews are out and doing good work. Received many compliments over the Memorial Day weekend. Doan is still committed to doing the concrete, but they don't know when.

Website: McCrumb. We are up to around 189,000 hits.

Membership: We are at 209 again.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Sandie Wilson. On your behalf, I participated in a Zoom meeting with people from Wayne State University Medical School and the Detroit VA about improving patient care. We discussed the things about being a Veteran that make it matter how a medical person approaches them and how they work with you to address your medical issues.

I am also still working with Jack McManus and Dr. Linda Schwartz on Agent Orange. There is still much to learn. You and your children and grandchildren can

help by becoming listed on the toxic research registry at www.birthdefects.org. The registry compares Veteran offspring with non-Veteran offspring to notice the differences that could be caused by the higher toxin exposures of Veterans. The best help you can be to your offspring is to get on that registry.

VAAHS: Kinzinger. We didn't get any feedback from the VA about upgrading the evening meal to steak. Although patients are now allowed to have one visitor at a time (instead of only on visitor per day), volunteers are still not allowed to do much. We have no plans in the works at the moment.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kinzinger, to use two of the Holiday's Restaurant gift cards as prizes at the Flag Day Celebration on the 13th. Approved.

Good of the Order:

Harrison: We received a thank you note from Steven Spar, Chief of Voluntary Services, for blankets that we donated. You should know that Larry St. Antoine is the one who arranged the donation and that the blankets were crocheted by a group called "Chain Gang" in Manchester that makes items to donate.

Bull: In my role as director of the Resource Center, I met with the home Board – that's the group of all the member organizations that use the VFW hall. To make the Resource Center something we could all be proud of, I asked them for permission to do many things and they said "yes." We will build a walking path (half mile or one mile) through the property. We will build a bridge. We will put

ten benches along the pathway for \$300 each. Two have been paid for by donations so far. We will put two permanent basketball hoops out in the parking lot. And we will put a small poppy patch just inside the gate along with a sign that has the Flanders Field poem on it.

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

Bull: Don't forget to come for our Flag Day event, opening at 1000 and going until closing. We will be giving away raffle tickets when people come and to winners of certain games. We take care of everything, but you might want to bring a lawn chair and anything special you need, such as if you have a special diet or want a specific beverage.

We would also like your help with some preliminary setup on Saturday, especially with moving the picnic tables out from under the pavilion. We'll start work as soon as RWB shows up after their 0900 Walk Run.

Throneberry: MOH receipts program being planned. Thanks to Bill Vollano for helping Charles Kettles. We are also doing a PTS show for Eisenhower Center, since this is PTS awareness month. We are also planning another program about VA benefits with Michael Smith and others. Finally, we are looking at getting "There I was" up and running again.

Harrison: Breakfast on July 9th: Holiday's Restaurant - 2080 West Stadium - Ann Arbor.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull
Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1949 hrs.

AVVA Newsletter July 2021

By Kathy Driscoll, AVVA President

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

Here are the websites to request a vaccination:

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

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

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

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

Meijer, CVS, and Kroger Pharmacies are taking vaccine registrations. If you shop at Meijer, CVS, or Kroger, please check the Pharmacies for more information. Please let me know if you need anything. AVVA and VVA 310 have resources available to assist you.

Chapter Happenings

Our in-person meeting on June 10 went well. Four members attended. I will be in New Jersey the week of July 6th to July 13th. We need someone to lead the meeting. If no-one is available to lead the meeting, then we can forego our July meeting and meet on August 12th. Please let me know if anyone would like to lead the July 8th meeting.

The all-unit family picnic on June 13th was a success! Jane, Shirley, Kathy, Wendy Hibbits, and Bonnie Hall attended.

Jane and Shirley attend the renaming ceremony of the Ann Arbor VA to the LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center on June 18th.

Fundraising Projects

- Wrist Story Bracelets are available for \$5 donation. We have 41 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 \$20. Four bracelets were purchased at our June meeting.
- 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 July meeting, or contact Kathy to pick-up your donation. Please bring donations to our August 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](#) [Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor](#) [SOS Community Services](#) [Ypsilanti, MI.](#)

[Catholic Social Services](#)

[Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County](#)

Legislation Action!

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

The last movement of this bill was on May 29, 2019. This bill was referred to the Subcommittee of Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. As of today, Thursday, December 17, 2020, there are 17 co-sponsors to this bill. Tim Walberg (R-17) is the only Michigan US Congressman to co-sign this bill. If you live in another congressional district, please contact your representative to have him or her co-sign this bill. Our AVVA 310 has widows whose Veteran husbands suffered and died from liver cancer. Please consider writing your US Congressional Representative to support this bill in honor and memory of them.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

As stated above, we have Wrist Bracelets for a \$5 donation. All proceeds go to Fisher House Michigan. When I toured the Ann Arbor Fisher House, their staff mention that they need gift cards for Kroger or Sam's Club for weekly food shopping. I would like to take up a collection to purchase a \$250.00 gift card to be sent to April LaRock, manager of FHM Ann Arbor, in August 2021. Please consider a \$5 or \$10 donation at our August 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. (Girls' State 2022)

AVVA Michigan State Association News

I was not able to attend the June 13th AVVA meeting in Davidson.

- **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. Please note that the actual VVA convention registration and hotel reservations are a separate form from the AVVA Delegate/Alternate Delegate form.

Candidates for National Office

President	Sharon Hobbs
V. President	Kathy Andras
Secretary	Nina Schloffel
Treasurer	Kaye Gardner, Don Jones

Region 5

Director	Penny Meinhardt
Dep. Dir.	Vivian Heidenrich

- 2022 – Leadership Conference

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

WCCV

I attended the June 21st WCCV meeting in Milan. 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. The July 19th meeting will be held at the Ypsilanti American Legion Post 282. I plan to attend.

Upcoming Events!

Next meeting will be in person at 6:00 pm on July 8th, if we have a meeting leader, or August 12th. July 24th Open House at the VFW Post 423. AVVA 310 will setup a table with membership applications and distribute Paper Safes.

Keep up to date with our Chapter:

All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on [our Chapter's webpage](#), 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

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night, we went out to a new restaurant, and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

08 July: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs (Click [here to attend by Zoom](#))
09 July: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 West Stadium - Ann Arbor
19 July: WCCV Meeting, Ypsilanti American Legion Post 282, 1930 hrs
24 July: All Organization Open House, VFW Post 423, 1000–1700 hrs
25 July: CPR Class by Stephanie Hall of WACU, VFW Post 423, Time TBD
12 Aug: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly

Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs
([Click Here to attend by Zoom](#))
13 Aug: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs

16 Aug: WCCV Members Only
Dinner and Meeting, 1900 hrs,
Saline American Legion Post

Vet Fest August 7, 2021

Registration is now open for Vet Fest 2021. Reserve your tickets today!

Vet Fest is a FREE event for all active duty, retired, or military Veteran families. Veterans can enjoy a day of camaraderie while learning about a wide variety of Veteran-specific resources. This event is family orientated and Veteran's family members can enjoy food, bounce houses, live music, backpack and school supply giveaways, and more. All Veterans in attendance are also eligible to win a wide variety of prizes valued from \$300-\$1500. [For information on Vet Fest, click here.](#)

All About Vaccines for Covid-19

Four Easy Ways for Veterans to get the vaccine:

1. Just walk into a VA Medical Facility, even if you are not a VA customer. No appointment is needed. Find one near you.
2. Sign up to have your local VA contact you or send your care team a secure message on MyHealthVet.
3. Call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) and press 8 for more information, or press 0 to speak to an agent.
4. Search for other vaccine

options at vaccines.gov, text your zip code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233.

Picnic Pictures: June 13, 2021

A beautiful Sunday afternoon for a picnic. Various groups of veterans came together to celebrate the day before Flag Day.

Vance McCrumb took pictures at the picnic. For those in the VFW and VVA, Vance McCrumb may have more pictures to share later. Everyone seemed to have a great time and the food was great [Click HERE to see the album.](#)

VA Medical Center Name Change

By John Kinzinger

The VA Ann Arbor Medical Center Renaming Ceremony in honor of United States Army LTC Charles S. Kettles was held on June 18th, 2021. It was very nice to see many members of our Charles S. Kettles



VVA Chapter attend the VA Medical Center renaming ceremony. I was honored and blessed to speak representing VVA Chapter 310 and all Veterans, and on behalf of my friend, LTC Kettles.

I could have talked for hours about him from my perspective. There were two things I needed to state



in my 3-5 minutes. One was that, yes, he definitely deserved the Medal of Honor for his actions that heroic day. However, he commanded Hueys and gunships during his two tours. Doing combat insertions and extractions daily with the 101st Airborne Division, I am sure he was doing heroic things quite often. It was not just that one day that he flew into the jaws of hell for troops on the ground. He just considered it his responsibility and did it. Moreover, the fact that he never lost a man serving under him is a most astonishing and divine fact. Secondly, at the end of my talk, I addressed the Medical Center Director, Dr. Ginny Creasman. As I gave her a copy of our book with LTC Kettles on the cover, I challenged her and the Medical Center staff to perform up to the expectation of LTC Charles S. Kettles in taking care of our troops, as he did every day in Vietnam. It was a proud day for all of us. Thank you, Lord, for the life of LTC Charles S. Kettles, a leader and example for all.

Images of the Renaming Event

Vance McCrumb has posted images of the renaming event. To view images, please click here: [Images of the Renaming Event.](#)

Past and Future of VVA 310

By Sandie Wilson



The Vietnam Veterans of America came about through two groups: the Veterans groups in universities and the Veterans against the war.

That was an unlikely combination, but it came together. Let us recall that the "Greatest Generation" had denied our combat experience, and posts had denied our requests for membership. The World War I Veterans had secured benefits for the World War II Veterans. The existing Veterans' organizations refused to recognize our issues or our membership.

After the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and after the VVA convention in Detroit, a few Vietnam Veterans in Washtenaw County decided to form a Chapter. With the help of leaders in the State Council and Chapter 9 in Detroit, we managed to bring enough Veterans out of the shadows and obtain a Chapter charter. Those leaders educated us on the missions and how to support our issues financially. We attempted to join the county Veterans group. Every Veterans organization, except the Saline American Legion, voted against us. The Legion extended its support of us by letting us meet there without charge.

The Ann Arbor City Council rejected our request to build a Vietnam Veterans Memorial at



Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor. Ypsilanti Township offered us the land on which our Memorial stands.

We developed a lasting relationship with the Ann Arbor VA Hospital, now known as the LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center. The new name honors one of the members of VVA 310. We came to realize that the VA could only address our issues with the rules directed by Congress. When we were younger, we frequently traveled to other Chapters for social and recognition events in the early days. Those contacts helped us understand what similar Chapters were doing to help Veterans. I remember one Veteran, who would call me on Wednesday to ask what Veteran activity we had planned for the following weekend. Another would start each phone conversation with "What have you done for Veterans this week?"

Vietnam Veterans of America is not a political organization. That means we do not, as an organization, campaign or support a candidate for public office. We do, however, have a responsibility to lobby our government to develop solutions for Veterans' issues related to their service. We do this at the national, state council, and local levels. We also assist Veterans in receiving appropriate benefits. These "benefits" are not handouts: they are the continued cost of war.

Members of VVA 310 have held and continue to hold leadership roles in the national and state organization. Each has a role in achieving the desired mission. But we are aging. The question now is how to continue with our success when members who have worked so hard are no longer here or no longer able. We need to identify what organizational missions should continue and how we will continue them at the national level. In my opinion, identifying and lobbying for unsolved issues, benefits, health care, and teaching others to continue in the effort—all that needs to continue.

At the state level, the focus is on health care and assisting Veterans to obtain benefits. Our Chapter members have served on the Agent Orange Commission, the Veterans Trust Fund, and other appointments. At the Chapter level, we must ask if we can continue our support of the VA Hospital, the community, the county Veterans office, and other Veterans while receiving community recognition. We need to provide social activities and a sense of belonging. We also must support Veterans of all conflicts and support their families. We must educate; we must honor; we must evaluate—and then determine the best way to provide continued service to a declining number of those who have fought for our freedom. To do these tasks, we must also provide for the financial status of the Chapter. We must also ensure that the success we have had at the state and federal levels does not blow away in the wind.

A Great Summer to All!

All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

National Chapter of the Year - 1999 & 2007

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

E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Stan Harrison

Vice President: Vance McCrumb

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb

Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke

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**VVA 310 Dispatch
July 2021**

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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Please Forward. Thank You!