

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*



May 2021
Washtenaw Co.,
Michigan



Editor's Note: As the country returns to a level of normalcy, and the rain keeps on gracing us with its bounty, may we all count our blessings. Again this month, the AVVA report contain links to important information about Covid-19 vaccines. Finally, to the Dispatch recipients and contributors, my cordial thanks, assuring you that you make this newsletter valuable with your contributions and suggestions.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor--and the Dispatch Team.

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Current Events

13 May: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs (Click [Here](#) to attend by Zoom).
AVVA meeting 1800 hrs. 14 May: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Location TBD -- 15 May: Armed Forces Day (1949)
31 May: Memorial Day (1868) -- Team Red, White & Blue: Saturdays @ 0930 meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for the walk and run ** Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net - click here) and make a contribution to help. More information [here](#).

President's Message

By Stan Harrison

On April 18th, staff members at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center held their annual Volunteer Recognition.



This year it was done by drive-through awarding. The volunteer would drive up to the front of the hospital, and

a staff of the Volunteer Services would greet that volunteer. The team would present the volunteer with pins or certificates and a couple of goodie bags. There were several VVA 310 and AVVA 310 members listed, on looking through their booklet of award winners.

Here is how we stacked up:

- Outstanding Volunteer of the Year: Don Miller with 7500 hours
- Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award: Carol Talbot with 3750 hours
- 300-Hour Award: Tim Clarke
- 100-Hour Award: Tim Driscoll and Dave Draper

Congratulations to our hard-working VVA 310 members who help keep the VA and the Fisher House operating smoothly with their selfless dedication to our veterans and their families. The month of May will lead us into Memorial Day. We hope and plan to resume our tradition of gathering at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial at one o'clock (1300 hrs) on Monday, May 31st. We will honor those veterans who

lost their lives in America's wars, but more especially those Washtenaw County Vietnam War veterans listed on our wall. We will remember those VVA 310 members who passed in the last year by unveiling their Memorial bricks. We invite all to join us on this day of remembrance and reverence. In the meantime, stay safe, and stay proud. I'll see you on Memorial Day.

Chaplain's Corner – May 2021

By Rev. Gordon Moore

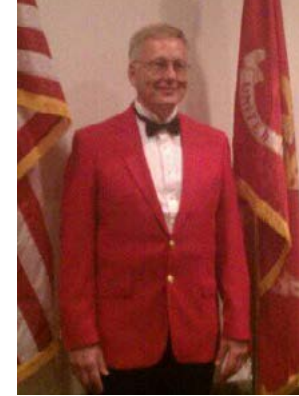
I hope 2021 will be a healthier year for us all and we can get back to doing what we do best in person, with the vaccines doing their work. It reminded me a bit of the service when I would do a couple of pushups after the shot to mitigate less pain. I didn't feel the first shot and anticipate the follow-up shot, May 7, to be a bit more challenging. But . . . here's to better health for our society.

This whole year, with its many challenges, reminded me a tiny bit of what Christ must have thought as he walked the earth, sometimes shaking his head, sometimes laughing, sometimes casting out money changers from the temple. He always kept his vision on the Prize set before him; he endured the cross, despising its shame. Scriptures remind us that we are the examples for a suffering world, as Paul records in Philippians 2: **Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection**

and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfish or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own

personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason, also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:1-11).

I found in life that self-humility beats being humbled any time. Here's to being the example that our Chapter is noted for as we help



others to navigate through our nation's many problems.

Blessing and honor to you all!

Honoring May Anniversaries on the Wall

Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown was born on December 27, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Brown. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1966. His friends called him "Chuckie." He enlisted in the Army in 1965, but delayed entry until June 29, 1966 after his High School graduation.

Sergeant Brown completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Ord, California and Paratrooper Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Charles served a tour of duty in



Alaska where his parachute failed to open during a jump landing him in the hospital for six weeks. Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown

began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1967 serving with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division as an infantryman. Charles was wounded twice during combat operations, and recovered from malaria two times. He just returned to his unit in April after being discharged from the hospital when he was killed on May 21, 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation

wounds.

Charles Patrick Brown is survived by his parents and one sister. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 24 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 64E Line 012.

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Sergeant Charles Irvin Miller was born on March 2, 1946 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Miller of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles is a 1964 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He attended the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Army in March of 1966. He



received his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Advanced Training at Fort Hood, Texas. Sergeant Miller began his tour in

Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 6, 1967 serving as a Military Policeman with MP Platoon, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Charles was killed by an explosive device on May 13, 1968. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart. According to the Bronze Star Medal Citation, "He was quick to grasp the implications

of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the U.S. Army." Charles Irvin Miller is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 22 years, 2 months and 11 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 59E Line 029.

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George Vernon Airey, Jr. was born on July 21, 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. George V. Airey, Sr. of Ann Arbor. George, Jr. is the son of the President of G.V. Airey Building



Company. When George was ten years old in 1955, he became a pogo stick jumping champion by setting a record of 4,210 jumps

without using his hands! He loved to water and snow ski, scuba dive, play guitar, and collect items such as tropical fish. He is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School, and also studied construction and building at Ferris State University and Lansing Community College prior to enlisting in the Army. Specialist 4 Airey, Jr. enlisted in the Army in 1966 and received his training at Fort Carson, Colorado as an Armored Reconnaissance

Specialist. George was assigned to the First Cavalry Division at Fort Carson. George started his tour in November of 1967 as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with D Company, First Battalion, Fifth Cavalry Regiment of the First Cavalry Division. "On the night of 08/09 May 1968, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, was operating in western Quang Tri Province from a temporary base. At 0705 on 09 May, the Battalion came under attack by North Vietnamese Army forces - initially by mortar fire, then a full-fledged ground attack . . . Charlie Company was cut off from the other companies and bore the brunt of the attack. The NVA were fended off, but not without cost, and the aggressive patrolling which brought more US losses." A total of nineteen (19) men died in this action including Specialist 4 George Vernon Airey, Jr., who died of multiple fragmentation wounds. He lived 23 years, 9 months and 18 days.

George Vernon Airey, Jr. is resting now in Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor. George left behind his parents and two sisters. George was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Expert Rifleman's Badge and posthumously awarded a second Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. His name is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial, and on Panel 57E Line 012 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

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Private First Class Paul Dean Elwart was born on June 14, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. David G. Elwart of



Ypsilanti, Michigan. Paul is a 1964 Honor graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Dearborn, Michigan.

He also attended the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and the University of Detroit before entering the Army in September of 1968.

Private First Class Elwart began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on February 9, 1969 as an infantryman serving with C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Paul was killed on May 12, 1969 due to multiple fragmentation wounds just three months and three days into his tour of duty "In-Country." Paul Dean Elwart is survived by his parents and a brother. He lived 22 years, 10 months and 26 days. Paul'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 25W Line 067.

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Specialist 4 Billy Ferrell was born on February 27, 1951 in Prestonburg, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Ferrell of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 27, 1969. Specialist 4 Ferrell completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then attended Parachutist School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Billy began his tour



of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on November 24, 1969 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Bat-

talion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was killed as a result of a severe gun shot wound to his chest on May 29, 1970.

Billy Ferrell is survived by his parents, three brothers and eight sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 2 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy'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 10W Line 117.

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Specialist 5 Robert Lee Freeman was born on April 2, 1948 in Harlan, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Olin Gilbert. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He also attended Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan.



Specialist 5 Freeman entered the Army in April of 1967. Robert began his tour of duty in Long Khanh

Province, South Vietnam on April 9, 1969 serving as a Cannon Fire Direction Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery, 54th Artillery Group, II Field Force. Robert was killed as a result of enemy heavy arms fire on May 18, 1969 after serving "In-Country" for one month and nine days.

Robert Lee Freeman is survived by his parents and a sister. He lived 21 years, 1 month and 16 days. He is resting in Knollwood Memorial Park in Wayne 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 24W Line 040.

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Private First Class Roy Lee

Branham was born on March 28, 1949 in Lancer, Kentucky to Mrs. Edra Sester. Roy lived in Ypsilanti for ten years before moving to Dexter where he lived for seven years.

Private First Class Branham entered the Army on September 1, 1966 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He received advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Gordon, Georgia. Roy began his tour of duty

in South Vietnam on April 2, 1967 serving as a Wire Systems Installer with A Company, 1st Bat-



talion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Private First Class Branham died on May 11, 1967 at the 106th General Hospital in Japan of wounds received in April. Roy was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal recognizing his meritorious service while participating in combat operations in Vietnam.

Roy Lee Branham is survived by his mother, one brother and a sister. He lived for 18 years, 1 month and 13 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Roy Branham is the youngest person from Washtenaw County killed in Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 089.

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Specialist 4 James Wilson Harter

was born on May 16, 1947 to Mr. Henry W. and Mrs. Helen G. Carey Harter of Dexter, Michigan. James is a 1967 graduate of Dexter High School in Dexter, Michigan. He entered the Army on February 13, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed advanced training as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on June 14, 1968.

Specialist 4 Harter began his tour of duty in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam on July 13, 1968



as a Combat Engineer serving with B Company, 31st Engineering Battalion, 79th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Larry was killed during a fire-fight with two enemy platoons on May 12, 1969. According to an Ann Arbor News article, "he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for exceptionally valorous actions on May 12 while serving as a perimeter guard at Quang Loi Base Camp. Two enemy platoons launched a ground assault on the camp, . . . he engaged the enemy with a heavy and accurate volume of automatic weapons fire . . . stalling the enemy and giving his comrades time to reinforce the perimeter line . . . despite his valiant efforts . . . an enemy round detonated inside his position instantly killing him." Specialist 4 Harter also earned the Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign ribbon. James Wilson Harter is survived by his parents, two sisters and a brother. Two of his brothers preceded him in death in 1961 and 1968. He lived 21 years, 11 months and 26 days. He is resting in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Dexter, Michigan. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 25W Line 070.

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Corporal Alan Hugh Parks was born on November 13, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Max Parks of Bronson, Michigan. Alan graduated from Union City High School in 1966 and was a member of the 1965-1966

State Champion Debate Team. In 1965, Alan represented Union City High School at Wolverine Boys State. His skills in debating won him further honors. In August of 1966, Alan won first place in the 4-H state public speaking contest, and he later won state honors as a champion debater at Kellogg Community College, which he attended for two years. Alan Parks also was elected to the office of student vice-president of the Phi Rho Pi Honor Society and the National Organization of Junior College Debating and Forensics in 1967-1968. Alan worked for the Shell Oil Company before entering



military service. Corporal Alan Hugh Parks entered the Army on August 21, 1969. Alan was trained as an Armor

Reconnaissance Specialist and served with A Troop, First Squadron, First Cavalry, Americal Division in Vietnam, beginning his tour on January 11, 1970. Corporal Parks was stationed at Chu Lai and died as a result of burns when the vehicle he was driving was hit by enemy fire on May 27, 1970 in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. Corporal Alan Hugh Parks is survived by his parents, wife, daughter, sister, and three brothers. He lived 21 years, 6 months and 14 days. Alan is resting in Sherwood Cemetery in Union City, Michigan. Alan Hugh Parks name is listed under Manchester on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township, and on the Vietnam

Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 10W Line 110.

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Sergeant Peter Lyle Valencich was born on January 1, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Naomi Gidley Valencich of Manchester, Michigan. Peter is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School where he was a member of the Varsity Basketball Team. He was employed with the Double A Product Company in Manchester before entering the Army on May 16, 1966. He went through Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was awarded the medal for the



highest scorer on the Army's Proficiency Test while in Basic. Sergeant Valencich began his tour of duty near Tan Tru,

South Vietnam on December 1, 1966 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Peter was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action having carried a helpless wounded comrade 75 meters to safety from an unprotected open area. He was killed on May 22, 1967 when he was helping to clear a mangrove by burning reeds when the fire set off a friendly mine. Peter Lyle Valencich is survived by parents, a brother, and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 21 days. He is resting in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. Peter'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 20E Line 088.

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Storekeeper Third Class James Michael Bryan was born on

November 2, 1946 in Portsmouth, Ohio to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Bryan. James is a 1964 graduate of Milan High School. He attended Cleary College prior to entering the Navy on December 29, 1965. Storekeeper Third Class Bryan was stationed at Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam where he served with Supply Operations,



Naval Support Activity Danang. On May 14, 1967, James was riding in a truck as a passenger returning to base

when the truck became involved in an accident. He was thrown from the truck receiving multiple concussions and died before he arrived at the Base Hospital. James Michael Bryan is survived by his parents and one brother. He lived 20 years, 6 months and 12 days. James was posthumously awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the National Defense Medal and the Vietnamese Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The Navy Unit Commendation citation reads, "For exceptionally meritorious service from May 1966 to 1967, in carrying out the vital and constantly

mounting task of unloading, moving and storing supplies to support the expanding tactical forces...despite extremely adverse climatic conditions, shortages of equipment and personnel, . . . continuous exposure to attack.” James Bryan is now resting in Memorial Burial Park in Wheelsburg, Ohio. James’ name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 115.

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Corporal Russell Arthur Michalke was born on July 24, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Art Michalke of Saline, Michigan. Russell graduated from Saline High School in 1966 where he lettered in varsity football for two years, and lettered in baseball and golf for one year. He belonged



to the “S” Club for two years, Spanish Club, Chorus, and the Key Club. Russell attended Washtenaw

Community College for a year prior to entering the Army on August 8, 1967. He completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Edwards, Louisiana.

Corporal Michalke began his tour of duty in Chu Lai, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on January 20, 1968 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Russell was killed on May 24, 1968

as a result of enemy small arms fire.

Russell Arthur Michalke is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 19 years and 10 months. He is resting in Oakwood Cemetery in Saline, Michigan. Russell’s name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Saline. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 68E Line 005.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

8 April 2021

Call to Order by President Harrison at 1901 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. Two or three attended via Zoom. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: None.

Guests: None.

Motion to approve the March Minutes as published in the Dispatch. Bull/Clarke Approved.

Meeting Recessed for

Nominations for Elected Offices: (Third Round) Wilson

For President:

Harrison (accepted)

Vice President:

Rivers (declined)

McCrum (accepted)

Secretary:

Luker (accepted)

Treasurer:

Bourne (accepted)

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

Two-Year Board

(accepted) Bauder, Betz, Bayha, Kinzinger (declined) Hall, Perrault, Henry, Driscoll, Merritt, Draper

Sgt at Arms: (accepted) Clarke

Regular Meeting Resumes

President’s Report:

- The Pig Roast committee has been meeting. \$1,000 has been put up as a matching donation, so we need members to step up and make donations. We don’t want to take money out of general fund, but we need a total of \$3,200 for the event. We are trying not to ask our usual Pig Roast donors.
- We received a thank you note from Dawn Farm for the Thanksgiving dinner we sent them. The note came with a report that they will be getting a new director.
- Three of us from the Chapter met with WACU at Camp Liberty. WACU members volunteered to help with the Merchandise Committee, to help plan events that we hope would be family friendly and attractive to PVVs, and they said they would like to be invited to participate in VVA events. They are willing to help put on the events as well as to attend them.

Treasurer’s Report: Bourne.

Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports were also made available to members and others via email on request. The major activity this month was \$324 of merchandise sales at the 20 March Open House of clothing, pins, and Chapter challenge coins.

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

Merchandise: No activity other than the Open House. I do have challenge coins with me tonight.

Washtenaw County Council of

Veterans: Harrison. The next council meeting is set for 19 April and will be on Zoom and in person. The council is discussing holding a dinner in Saline.

Michigan State Council: Luker. Next meeting is to be in person in Howell on 19 April.

Memorial Maintenance: Luker for Merritt. The maintenance building could be under construction soon. Everything is set for permits to be completed and we have contractors nearly ready to get to work. Lawn crews are back at work. Though the grass hasn't grown much, crews are clearing dead branches, pulling weeds and so forth.

Website: McCrumb. We get about 210 hits a day. Total is around 269,000.

Membership: McCrumb. The official number is lagging. We are at 210 even though Dave Hizer had a heart attack and died. We received a new member's paperwork today.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. You may now take your family members with you to the VA when you get your vaccine and they will be vaccinated also. The VA has not yet begun to act on the new presumptive agent

orange injuries. The VA has also not started to do the research on the effects of adult toxin exposure on children.

CSKMC: (Formerly VAAHS, Formerly AAVAMC) Kinzinger. The VA is not allowing volunteers to do much yet. However, Don Miller is back to driving the cart.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Luker, seconded by McCrumb, to form a new corporation in such a way that:

1. It would be able to apply for tax exemption as a 501(c)(3) that will admit any veteran, any veteran's family, and any veteran's caregiver from any geographic location; and
2. All VVA 310 members and all AVVA members are members of the new corporation unless they opt out; and
3. All Officers and Board members of VVA 310 are the Officers and Board members of the new corporation until the new corporation has enough members to change that; and
4. VVA 310 is a Board member with a right of veto for 3 years; and
5. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at the meeting or if 60 members vote for the change, whichever is greater.

Motion by Wilson, seconded by Driscoll to amend the motion to add subparagraph six which reads as follows: "We do not fund the new organization except when membership approves an appropriation at a regular VVA membership meeting. Amendment

Approved. Motion approved.

Good of the Order:

Mullins: Our embroiderer is going out of business. If we order jackets and pay the going rate for embroidery, the \$75 jacket price will not cover the costs anymore. I will not order new jackets for the time being to give us time to find a new way to get it done.

Bull: "Paint Like Bob Ross" class will be at 1300 on Saturday. There is no cost to the veteran and all necessary materials are provided. Erika Behm is providing breakfast for the group that day.

Throneberry: "The People vs Agent Orange" is a new documentary about Agent Orange and its effects on people and on the planet. We did a show on the documentary. You can find a link to this and to other documentaries on the Veterans Radio webpage. For example, there is a new one called "Wounded Heroes" about the treatment of PTSD. That video is free for streaming and there is a link on our webpage.

Also, Jim Fausone will be the main speaker on our next program. He will be talking about tinnitus. It is such a serious problem that some people have chosen suicide over living with it.

Bull: We are planning a family picnic for the families of all four organizations that meet at the VFW hall.

Harrison: Tonight's pizza dinner was donated by:
301 East Michigan Ave. Saline, MI 48176
Phone: 734-429-9760 Fax: 734-944-5022

Bull: Starting on 1 May, we will have a birthday party on the first Saturday of the month at the

Veteran Resource Center. The VRC is functioning well and now also has a webpage.

Driscoll: Let's have a round of applause for Bob Bull for all he does for us and our veterans.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2019 hrs.

Chapter Breakfast (14 May): TBD.

AVVA Report – May 2021

*By Kathy Driscoll,
AVVA President*

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are approved; J&J vaccine is still paused as of today, Friday, April 23rd. All Michigan residents over 16 are being vaccinated. The Ann Arbor VA Healthcare system is now vaccinating veterans and their volunteers. Henry Ford, U of M and St. Joseph (IHA) are rolling out their vaccinations. You can also apply to Washtenaw County Health Department to get your shots. Vaccine supply is still limited. You will get a message via email or on the portals. As soon as you receive your invitation, schedule your vaccination. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to be vaccinated. If you have concerns regarding the vaccination and your health, please check with your primary physician. Here are the websites to request a vaccination:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3269/COVID-19-Vaccination>
<https://www.uofmhealth.org/coronavirus/vaccine-info-update>
<https://www.stjoeshealth.org/health-and-wellness/covid-19/vaccine>

<https://ihacares.com/resources/covid19/covid-19-vaccine>
Meijer, CVS, and Kroger Pharmacies are taking vaccine registrations. If you shop at Meijer, CVS or Kroger, please check the pharmacies for more information. Please let me know if you need anything. AVVA and VVA 310 have resources available to assist you. Our Zoom meeting on April 8th went well. Six members attended. I upgraded my personal Zoom account. This way we can have longer meetings. We need more than 40 minutes for our meetings.

Fundraising Projects

- Wrist Story Bracelets are available for \$5 donation. We have 45 available. Proceeds will benefit Fisher House Michigan. Please contact me.
- If you can, please consider purchasing a second bracelet. Our Fisher House Michigan specified line has a balance of \$205. If we sell out, we will have \$430 to donate to Fisher House Michigan in May. The last few years Fisher House Michigan's Memorial Day Match ran during May and June. Our donation hopefully will be matched by their corporate matching donors.
- 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 May meeting or contact Kathy to pickup your donation.
- Fisher House Michigan would like volunteers to make stress balls using large loop yarn. --> ** Correction: Meni Draper's sister purchased and donated the stress ball pattern.** We all thank her and everyone of our members for making the stress balls. 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/>

<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 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

****Correction!****

I unfortunately misunderstood that the Creative Memories Fundraiser on Sunday, April 18th, was an AVVA Fundraiser chaired by one of our members. The event proceeds were donated directly to Fisher House Michigan by the Creative Memories Advisors who

participated. I want to thank any of our members who participated either by attending or placing an order. Bottom line is Fisher House Michigan received a donation.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2021 Girls' State Update!

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

AVVA Michigan State Association News

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

AVVA National

- **2021 National Convention, November 2-6, 2021 at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC. More information to follow.**
- Our budget will pay the delegate fee and AVVA luncheon for one voting delegate. Please let me know if you plan to attend. I need to submit our Delegate and Alternate Delegate Registration by September 30, 2021. Please note that the actual VVA convention registration and hotel reservations are a separate form from the AVVA Delegate/Alternate Delegate form.

Candidates for National Office President Sharon Hobbs

Vice President Kathy Andras

Secretary Nina Schloffel

Treasurer Kaye Gardner, Don Jones

Region 5 Director Penny Meinhardt

Region 5 Deputy Director Vivian Heidenrich

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

WCCV

I attended the April 19th meeting via Zoom. WCCV elections will be at their May meeting. I plan to attend that meeting. 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 May 13. Hopefully we can meet outside on the patio. May 31 Memorial Day Ceremony at Vietnam Veteran Memorial, Ypsilanti Twp, MI.

Keep up to date with our Chapter: All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our Chapter's webpage, www.vva310.org in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 proudly supports the AVVA Mission and Vision Statements.

AVVA Mission Statement:

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA Vision Statement:

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

Past President, AVVA Michigan Association

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Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

A cowboy appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Following protocol, St. Peter inquired,
 –“Have you ever done anything of particular merit?”
 Hesitating a bit, the cowboy replied,
 –“Well, I can think of one thing. On a trip to the Black Hills out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of bikers threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn’t listen. So, I approached the largest and most tattooed biker of the bunch, smacked him in the face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. And then I yelled, ‘I said, back off!’”
 – “Wow,” said St. Peter, visibly impressed. “When did all this happen?”
 – “Couple of minutes ago,” replied the gallant hero.

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 2021
 Mary Kate Kirkpatrick ~ September 2021
 Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022
 Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2024
 This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.
 David Marshall ~ June 2022
 Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021
 Del Mayes ~ March 2022
 Ronald Oliver ~ November 2021
 Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2021
 George Perrault ~ October 2022
 Mira and Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
 Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~

April 2023

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023

Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022

Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023

Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

Eugenia Fuller Passed Away

By Jane Kinzinger

John Kinzinger received a card from Charles Fuller that Eugenia Fuller, his mother, passed away on January 29 peacefully at his home in Maryland. He expressed appreciation for her association with VVA 310 and all that meant to her to connect with veterans. Eugenia was one of the last Gold Star Mothers of those KIA in Washtenaw County. She always attended our Gold Star Mothers’ Luncheons at Weber’s until she passed away at 93. Bonnie, Roy, John, and I celebrated her 90th birthday before Eugenia moved to live with her son. You might remember her daughter, Emerald. Eugenia was a gracious woman—so kind, with a beautiful smile. Thank you for your part in honoring our Gold Star Mothers. Unfortunately, we have no living Gold Star Mothers from the Vietnam War that we can host. You will remember our “regulars:” Eugenia, Lois Brown, Della McIntire, Johnnye Johnson, Mary Hogue, Elizabeth Bulifant, and Laura Eglinsdoerfer. May they all rest in peace.

All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

National Chapter of the Year - 1999 & 2007

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

E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Stan Harrison

Vice President: Vance McCrumb

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb

Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke

Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore

310 Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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**VVA 310 Dispatch
May 2021**

Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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Please Forward. Thank You!