

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*



**June 2022,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: Let me start out by thanking our readers first. When you pick up the *310 Dispatch* to read it, you make it worth our while to put this newsletter together. Thanks are also due to our Dispatch writers. Besides doing all that you do, you also take the time to describe what is going on, including photos. And speaking about doing things, please look at John Kinzinger's note at the end of page 11. Hint: Pig Roast . . .
Be well and thanks from the Dispatch Team.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

What's New at VVA 310 . . .

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President's Message: Our Chapter Is in Good Shape

By Stan Harrison

Membership-wise:



We have about 215 members (two or three applications are in the pipeline), which is the most we have ever had. Several of the new members are enthusiastic and eager to be involved. An involved membership is the life-blood of any organization, so we plan to welcome them and give them ample opportunities to participate.

(There will be plenty to do when we put on our annual Pig Roast at the American Legion in Saline on August 28th.)

Financially:

We are on reasonably sound footing. We rely primarily on donations (tax deductible – we are a 501c-19 tax ID 38-2931801), and our donors have been generous of late. Most of the donations come as a result of our year-end appeal; and, that money goes 100% to the Restricted Fund, which is only used to help veterans.

- The Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor, where we provide underwear, pajamas, shirts, upgraded meals, and more.
- The Fisher House, providing hotel-like rooms for the families of veterans who are patients at the VA hospital.
- WACU – Warriors and Caregivers United, assisting veterans and their caregivers.
- Michigan Ability Partners, helping veterans with the resources they need to be productive members of society.

None of the Restricted Fund money goes to run our Chapter.

Our merchandise sales opportunities have been limited by Covid-19, but we have been quite successful where we could sell.

Last year's Pig Roast was a big help, and we have high hopes for this year.

We get other donations which go to the General Fund or the Memorial Fund or other special projects.

We are struggling a little to pay for the improvements at the Memorial; but, in the long view, we have a Perpetual Fund to maintain it when we are gone.

Spiritually -

At every meeting we invoke the blessing of Deity.

At every meeting we pledge allegiance to our flag and republic.

At every meeting we talk about helping veterans in one way or another.

At every meeting we try to have some fun.

I'll see you at our next meeting. In the meantime, Stay safe and stay proud!

Chaplain's Corner—June 2022

By Rev. Gordon Moore

I have been trying to learn wisdom the easy way .

.. from Solomon's example. As I have observed life at my beloved University for more than 20 years, one gem has shown brightly: "If you are a giver, know your limits because takers don't have any. They

will suck you dry and then move on to another host to drain."

I have watched it happen numerous times at my beloved University, and somehow the takers also take the credit for the help they received. With summer-time approaching, it reminds me of a cloud of mosquitoes descending on a victim or going swimming in a lake and being covered with leeches. Both are disturbing and somewhat painful.

Yet givers still need to give, because it is in their God-given nature. That is why He places them on earth to be His agents. 1 John speaks to this:

By this we know love because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and

sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

(1 John 3:16-17 New King James Version)

It is a delicate balance to give to those who are in actual need versus giving to those who only perceive they have a need and constantly take. Solomon speaks to the sluggard in his Proverbs and warns against laziness. This is where knowing Scripture, praying, and relying on God's Spirit for direction helps. I want to thank those of you who give for generosity in time and possessions. May God guide you in whom to help and whom to instruct.

Blessings and honor.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes
12 May 2022**

Call to Order by Harrison at 1904

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Rev. 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: Bill Gillespie

Guests: Kim Pham, Honorary Membership Presentation; Bill Vollano, Honorary Membership Presentation; Joe Vallo, Coast Guard; Brenda Stumbo unable to attend to receive Medal of Achievement. Stan Harrison will present to her on Memorial Day.

Motion by Bull/Hall to approve the 3 April 2022 minutes as published in the *Dispatch*. Approved.

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

Several members attended the Saline Chamber of Commerce "Saline Salutes" ceremony where they honored, among others for various awards, Sandie Wilson as Veteran of the Year.

Berry Bourne and I represented VVA 310 at the Michi-

gan Ability Partners (MAP) Annual Awards ceremony whereby we committed a \$2,500 matching gift.

Annual Recognition Dinner held on 23 April was a success whereby 88 dinners were served. Thanks to all who helped in the team effort.

Furniture and other living items were moved into an apartment at Hilltop View Apartments on 6 May in Dexter, MI for homeless vets. Thanks especially to Joe Palazzolo for all his efforts in this project.

"Remember Our Fallen Heroes" will be at Christ Our King Lutheran Church in Saline, MI from 1100 – 1230 on 28 May. Phil Pham will be the guest speaker.

Treasurer's Report:

Stan Harrison presented the Financial Report in Berry Bourne's absence and reported that we lost \$535 on the Annual Recognition Dinner, which was expected. The financial reports are emailed to the Board members each month and are available to all members and others via email on request.

Committee Reports:

AVVA: See *Dispatch* for this report

Merchandise: Challenge coins are available for \$5.00 each

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: A CDL training program is available at no charge to veterans. Contact Michigan Veterans for further info and how to initiate a claim.

Michigan State Council: No report

Memorial Maintenance: Al (Fredo) Merritt stated our mowing crews are now working after the grass has begun to grow. The Maintenance Building is finished. Just waiting for water and electricity hookups and inspections over the next month.

Website: McCrumb. 344,449 hits on the website as of ten minutes ago.

Membership: Three new members, which brings our total membership to 215.

Newsletter: No report.

Healthcare: Sandie Wilson reported that she heard there is a new vaccine in trials.

LTCCSKMC: John Kinzinger reported that three steak dinner upgrades are coming up. They are budgeted at \$825 each.

Good of the Order:

McCrumb/Merritt: They had special hats made for Stan Harrison and Jack McManus. Harrison was presented this evening, but McManus plane was delayed, and he will receive his tomorrow at breakfast.

Harrison: Received a message from a Dexter high

school student who was desiring to interview combat veterans. He said he had interviewed a MASH doctor who was wounded and went into surgery begging not to have his legs amputated. He woke up a double amputee. He also interviewed Marv Rivers, who discussed stepping on a land mine.

Kinzinger: A Call-to-Action message was recently received and requested to contact your Congressman/Congresswoman prior to 17 May and request a positive vote for Honoring our PACT Act, H.R. 1067.

Meni Draper: She stated that the Veterans and Soldiers Advisory Group of Dexter United Methodist Church is hosting an Ice Cream Social from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at the church on Saturday, June 11th. Saline Fiddlers will perform, and Phil Pham will be the guest speaker.

Kinzinger: Stated he will be presenting the "76 Men of Washtenaw County" story to the Salem Township Historical Society on 25 May at 1930 hours.

Harrison: Memorial Day program will begin at 1300 on Monday, 30 May. Watchfire the night before at the Memorial will begin at 1800 and begin retiring flags in 1900.

Harrison: Flag Day ceremony at the VFW on 12 Jun will begin at 1200 and the gates will open at 1000

Harrison: Pig Roast is scheduled for 28 Aug at 1200 at the Saline American Legion

Bull: Nie Funeral Home will be at the VFW on 24 May at 1130 for Peace of Mind

Throneberry: He thanked the Chapter for his award at the Annual Recognition Dinner. He stated on the Veterans Radio show this weekend will be Terry Gould discussing the book *How Can You Mend This Purple Heart*.

Kinzinger: He invited Mr. Pham to march in the Saline Memorial Day Parade

St. Antoine: He stated that John Kinzinger and he are on the Board at Camp Liberty. Improvements are being made to the entire Camp, with a tentative opening on 25 June followed by a catered lunch event. Volunteers are needed at the Camp. The new owner bought the Camp for his corporation and is now leasing it to Camp Liberty at \$1.00 per year.

Merritt: Breakfast will be Friday, 10 June 2022 TBD.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1959.

More Beautiful Than Imagined

By John Kinzinger

In 1986, as we were forming our VVA 310 Chapter, we established a few Chapter goals. One goal was to erect a memorial to honor and remember our local fallen Vietnam War brothers.

We established our Memorial Committee in late 1988. We six original members were divinely guided in the creation of our Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We started with a blank page but with a passion that would not let us fail. We met every week for two years, planned, investigated, designed, and raised money.

Fast forward to the 31st Memorial Day observance at our Memorial last weekend. After the observance, I was talking with fellow original committee member Dennis Davie. We were admiring the Memorial site with the Flags and crosses around the walkways. Al Merritt, Jon Luker, and their work Team members did a fantastic job setting up and preparing the Memorial for the special weekend.

Dennis and I agreed that, when we began back in 1988, our grandest vision for this Memorial could not compare with how beautiful it has become today. We all must take pride in how our fallen brothers are remembered in this beautiful site. Our fallen brothers are probably looking down with great pride in our work and achievement. Thank you to everyone who has ever worked to make it so beautiful.

Honoring June Anniversaries on the Wall

Second Lieutenant Philip Matt Crane II was born on January 29, 1947, to Mrs. Howard P. Gragg and the late Philip M. Crane of Ypsilanti. Philip played the accordion when he was very small. He played Little League Baseball. Philip is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School where he played on the varsity tennis team, was a member of the varsity debate team, and a member of the National Honor Society. He worked all during high school and college at the A&P Store. He went on to attend the University of Michigan until he enlisted in the Army on February 1, 1967. He completed Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.



Second Lieutenant Crane began his tour in Vinh Long Province, South Vietnam on May 14, 1968 serving as a Tactical Intelligence Staff Officer on Advisory Team 52, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). Lieutenant Crane was flying in a helicopter as a special observer when a flare ignited inside the aircraft causing him to fall from the aircraft on June 26, 1968. He was "In-Country" for one month and 11 days. Philip Matt Crane II is survived by his mother, his wife, and a sister. He lived 21 years, 4 months and 27 days. He is resting in Crestwood Memorial Gardens in Flint, 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 54W Line 002.

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Major Frank Rudolph Maki was born on March 13, 1928 in Rudyard, Michigan to Mr. Victor and Mrs. Lemple Ann Maki. Frank graduated from Rudyard High School before enlisting in the Army in 1946 where he completed his Basic Training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He



took part in the Berlin Airlift serving at the Rhein Main Air Base as an Air Ground Liaison NCO. He returned from Germany and spent some time as a civilian before returning to the Army in 1950 where he served with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea as a rifle and weapons squad leader.

Sergeant Maki accepted a reserve commission as a Second Lieutenant while serving in the Korean War. He continued to serve in the Regular Army as an NCO, as he was promoted as a reserve officer. Since Korea, Frank served with the 821st Engineer Aviation Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri then serving with the 820th Engineer

Aviation Battalion at Michigan State University as a military science instructor. According to the Battalion History of the Army ROTC Battalion at Eastern Michigan University, "in 1961, he taught ROTC at Eastern Michigan University for four years, where he led the rifle team to the championship and served as an advisor to Arm of Honor Fraternity. During this time, he accepted his promotion to Captain even though he was rated number one on the list to be promoted to Sergeant Major. He then served as a Company Commander at Fort McClellan where his troops would earn four consecutive Best Company awards."

Major Maki began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1971 serving as an Advisor, Advisor Team 3, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Advisors, MACV. Captain Maki was killed in action at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province while coordinating medical aid to wounded soldiers on June 22, 1971 during his third tour in Vietnam. He was then posthumously promoted to Major.

Award of The Silver Star for gallantry in action: Captain Maki distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 20 - 22 June 1971 while serving as Senior Advisor to the 1st Battalion, 2d Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province. Captain Maki heroically participated in the defenses of Fire Support Base Fuller by accompanying and assisting his Vietnamese counterpart against the North Vietnamese Army thrust. After more than two continuous days of intensive direct and indirect fire and ground attacks, the NVA managed to breach the defenses. Captain Maki then directed many tactical air strikes and aerial rocket artillery against the enemy. During this time he continued to reappraise the tactical situation, adjust supporting fires and coordinate medical aid to the wounded Vietnamese soldiers. Though he had been sixty hours without rest, he continued to assist his counterparts up until the moment he was mortally wounded by an enemy artillery round. His extraordinary example of leadership and valiant courage radiated throughout the Fire Support Base and inspired the Vietnamese to repulse the enemy attack. Captain Maki's conspicuous gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

(As written in Major Maki's Award of the Silver Star

announcement, by LTC August G. Seifert)
 Frank Rudolph Maki is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, his father, two sisters and two brothers. He lived 43 years, 3 months and 9 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Frank'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 03W Line 086.

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Corporal Richard Mark O'Neal was born on May 22, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. William O'Neal of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Richard is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He entered the Marine Corps on July 6, 1966 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received his Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton, California before being stationed with the Headquarters and Service Company, First Marine Brigade in Hawaii.



Corporal O'Neal began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 31, 1968 serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Richard died on July 26, 1968 of head injuries suffered in a truck accident.

Richard Mark O'Neal is survived by his parents, a brother and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 2 months and 4 days. According to a posting by Richard's nephew, "I never had the chance to meet you but I just wanted to say that I love you and I appreciate everything that you did for our country. Your brother named me in honor of you. I hold your name in high regard and I continue to work harder every day to be the best person I can be. Every day I wake up is a chance to become better than I was the day before. I have been fortunate enough to marry the woman of my dreams and, thanks to the people that matter to me the most, I have been able to work hard enough to receive my B.A. in Journal-

ism-Public Relations from SHSU. Thank you to everyone on here that has posted something, it was moving to read events that happened in his life. Uncle Richard, I will continue to hold our name in the highest honor. I love you and I will meet you some day."

Richard is resting in United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, Michigan. Richard'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 50W Line 015.

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H. Neil Stehle was born on March 30, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Stehle in Ann Arbor. Neil is a 1963 graduate of Ann Arbor High School where he was on the gymnastics team. He attended Eastern Michigan University majoring in psychology prior to entering the United States Army on April 29, 1967. Specialist 4 H. Neil Stehle completed his basic training, and radio and communications courses at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He went to Fort Benning, Georgia where he received training at the paratroop school. Neil



was sent to Vietnam on December 13, 1967 where he was assigned to B Company, First Battalion, 503rd Infantry, of the 101st Airborne Division. On June 3, 1968, Specialist 4 Stehle was serving in Thua Thien Province in South Vietnam when he was wounded by small arms fire. Neil was transported to a hospital in Japan where he died of his wounds on June 11, 1968. He lived 23 years, 2 months and 11 days. H. Neil Stehle is resting in Washtenong Cemetery in Ann Arbor. He is survived by his parents and two sisters including seven nieces and nephews. Neil is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial and is located on Panel 58W Line 027 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

When the soldiers came home from Vietnam, there were no parades, no celebrations. So they built the Vietnam Memorial for themselves.
-- William Westmoreland

AVVA Newsletter – June 2022

By Kathy Driscoll

Sunday, August 28th VVA 310 will have their Annual Pig Roast at the Saline American Legion Post 322. AVVA will have one of the hourly 50/50 raffles to benefit Fisher House Michigan. We will not have a raffle table. Please mark your calendars to attend this year's Pig Roast. Tickets are \$15. More information to follow.

On June 12th there is a Flag Day Celebration at noon at the VFW Post 423. Please plan to attend. There will be a Flag Honors ceremony, picnic lunch and lawn games for all to enjoy.

Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 32 members. If you would like to join AVVA 310, please contact Kathy Driscoll. AVVA has changed their membership dues. There is no longer a 3-year membership.

https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new_memberapp_2022.pdf

1 Year \$20

Lifetime membership \$100*

*There is a Lifetime Membership payment plan of \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full

VVA Dual membership \$50

Chapter Happenings! We have 85 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. Suggested donation is \$5. When we sell out, we will donate an additional \$600 to Fisher House Michigan. To date we have raised \$516 specified to Fisher House Michigan. Contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. All proceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.

AVVA total donation to Fisher House Michigan to date is \$12,300.00. We donated \$500 from our 2022 fundraisers; No Bake Bake-less Sale, Wrist Story Bracelets and our Recognition Dinner raffle. This brings our new total donations to Fisher House Michigan to \$12,800.

Paper Safes

We have AVVA Paper Safes from Nancy Switzer. Please let me know if anyone would like a Paper Safe.

Service Projects

Rev. Bob Bull needs volunteers to assist the Veteran Resource Center on Wednesdays and/or Saturdays at the VFW Post 423. The Center is open from 09:30 am to 5:00 pm. You will assist in keeping Post 423 clean and sanitary. Please consider volunteering an hour or

two. Breakfast and lunch provided by Rev. Bob Bull, VVA 310 member. For information on volunteering, please contact Rev. Bob Bull at 734-664-7878.

Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. Our communities still have families who are food insecure due to Covid-19.

Links to local Food Banks:

Saline Social Services:

<https://www.salinesocialservice.com/ways-to-give/donate/>

Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:

<https://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&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>

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

When I toured the Ann Arbor Fisher House in October 2021, their staff mentioned that they need gift cards for Kroger or Sam's Club for weekly food shopping.

We would like to take up a collection to purchase a \$250.00 gift card to be sent to April LaRock, manager of FHM Ann Arbor. Please consider a \$5 or \$10 donation at our next meeting, I will purchase the gift card.

Please mail your donation directly to me. Please make your check payable to VVA 310 with AVVA FHM Gift Card on the memo line.

Kathy Driscoll

172 Oakwood

Saline, MI 48176

Excerpt from email from April LaRock:

"Highest need for gift cards is for groceries: Kroger and Sam's Club (they accept Walmart gift cards too). That's where we shop the most. The larger the quantities too (each trip runs us about \$250-300) and we go at least twice a week. It takes a lot of time to process multiple \$25 gift cards for one trip (if that makes sense just from a donation tracking system)."

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2022 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,028.25. We have three dedicated delegates. Girl State 2022 is virtual this year and all three delegates are committed to attend virtually.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

The next AVVA Michigan Association meeting is Sunday, May 22 at the Doubletree Hotel in Dearborn, MI. This is the Michigan State Association State convention and election of State Officers. I was unable to attend.

2022 – Leadership Conference – Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC

2023 - National Convention – Orlando, FL

WCCV

I attended the WCCV May 16th meeting. The meeting was at the VFW Post 423 hosted by the VFW. The June 20th meeting will be at VFW Post 423. I plan to attend.

Upcoming Events!

7 June 4 – 6 pm Dexter Hilltop View Apartments Open House

9 June 6 pm AVVA Membership meeting

12 June noon Flag Day celebration VFW Post 423

20 Jun 7:30 pm WCCV Meeting VFW Post 423

25 June 3 – 6 pm Camp Liberty Open House

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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734-355-4897

Dialogue With Grandpa

Submitted by William Vollano

A grandchild may ask, "Grandpa, what did you do when you were in the army?"

How will you answer that question? How will you answer if your great-grandchild asks you that question?

Will you be able to refer them, and future generations, to a place where they can learn about your experiences, from you?

The Veterans History Project provides you with an opportunity to tell your story in your own words. The project has interviewed about a dozen VVA 310 veterans. Recently, Eastern Michigan University has agreed to archive all local interviews and make sure they are preserved.

Bill Vollano has done practically all of the VVA 310 interviews. Bill was recently awarded an honorary lifetime membership in VVA 310, so he's one of us. According to Bill, nearly everyone insisted that they didn't do anything special, including Charlie Kettles. Now we know that Charlie was a special guy, but his accomplishments were no more important than those of anyone else who served, regardless of how they felt about their duties.

We are asking you all to consider being interviewed by Bill or his associates, so that a true history is available for all future generations. Ask John Kinzinger, Vance McCrumb, Horace Frazier, Martha Cothorn, or others. They can tell you: It doesn't hurt, and it's important. Email bill at wmjv@ymail.com. If you don't like how the interview went, you're free to have it excluded. Bill and his associates can help you to better understand the project. Give it a chance. Give your family, present and future, a real appreciation of your service.

Important to Veterans

Take a look at this benefit for veterans:

<http://freep.mi.newsmemory.com/?publink=15eb1f-d7e>

See this website also: https://detroitnews-mi.newsmemory.com/?publink=0a0fe18e5_134848c

National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery - May 30 at 12 pm

Information here:

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Media/News/Post/12468/National-Memorial-Day-Observance>

Confidential on VVA310.org

By Vance McCrumb

I would like to mention our Confidential section on our

website. The Confidential section requires a login and password to gain access. If you have not given me your login and password and would like access, email that information to me.

If you have forgotten your login info, email me what you would like your new login and password to be. I can tell what your login was but not your password unless I have your original email with that information.

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Memorial Day Weekend Recap

By Jane Kinzinger

As Chapter member and National VVA President Jack McManus encouraged us before Memorial Day weekend, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." This VVA National motto is essentially the same as that found on the cover of this *Dispatch*. McManus continues . . . "VVA has built a legacy of veterans working for veterans who honor and memorialize their service."

Our Chapter lives that mission statement and legacy, especially on Memorial Day weekend. Much work and time led up to the Sunday evening Watchfire, the Saline Parade, and the Observance at our Vietnam Memorial. (Photos of all these events can be seen on the VVA310.org website.)

Weeks before the official dedication of the names and bricks for the four Chapter members who have died since last Memorial Day, the bricks were ordered, then carefully placed and covered in the arch walkway at the Memorial. The bricks arrived in time to be displayed on Memorial Day as part of the Observance. Family members of the four deceased were contacted and invited to be part of the dedication of these bricks.

Weeks and days before Memorial Day, work teams were at our Memorial. AVVA members Corrine Gignac, Bonnie Hall, Kate Kirkpatrick, and Jane Kinzinger planted colorful petunias in May. Al Merritt, Memorial Grounds Maintenance Leader, had his teams and other volunteers lay new mulch, cut away dead limbs, edge the walkway, and polish the Memorial. Construction of the Maintenance Building was completed. As he has done for many years, Pat Lubomski checked the generator and set up the entire sound system. He also practiced singing to lead the "Star Spangled

Banner" with Annette Kramer. Jon Luker and Al Merritt led the 30-day effort to place 22 crosses a day along Veterans Drive. The trailer, the crosses, and the lights all had to be put in place for suicide awareness.

Someone made sure the flags flying at the Memorial were in good condition. Someone made sure the flags for the five branches of the military [was Space Force there too?] were in order to be displayed at the Memorial after being on Steve Hitté's truck for the Saline Parade. Ypsilanti Township Supervisor, Brenda Stumbo, instructed her staff to place 76 American flags along Veterans Drive.

Burn barrels were placed near the Memorial for the Watchfire the evening before Memorial Day. Wood was collected to the start the fire and cook the hot dogs. George Perrault brought hundreds of flags, which had been collected to be retired due to their tattered, worn, and faded condition. Many Chapter members and friends carefully placed a flag in the fire in remembrance of a deceased veteran. Alice Lee, Sandra Martinez, and Carol Talbot were the first to retire a flag in memory of their deceased husbands, who were Chapter members. Wendy Hibbitts stuck around until nearly 2:00 am to be sure the fire was completely extinguished.

Early on Memorial Day morning, parade participants gathered in Saline to be part of the procession down Michigan Avenue. Tim Driscoll followed four young cadets in his van to lead the way. Bonnie Hall and Jane Kinzinger carried the VVA banner. They wore shirts saying, "Stand Up and Respect Your Flag." A small group marched behind them. Steve Hitté drove his truck adorned with flags and transported those members who were unable to march. VVA President Stan Harrison followed in his truck to complete the VVA 310 contingency. As all were assembled in the cemetery, Tim Driscoll commenced the ceremony and introduced the speakers, Army General, and Saline Mayor. Stan Harrison had the honor of placing the VVA wreath on the grave of Russell Michalke, who was killed in Vietnam and one of the 76 young men listed on our Memorial. The Saline Band played, and the Washtenaw County Honor Guard performed the Rifle Salute, with "Taps" being played by two high school students. At the conclusion of the program, all were invited to the Saline American Legion for a tasty lunch prepared by Legion members.

Driving from Saline to Ypsilanti Township, we were reminded of many times before, 31 times to be exact,

when we went to our Vietnam Memorial where we read the names of the 76 young men from Washtenaw County. The program started with "God Bless America" being played by Bagpiper Thom Kennedy. While attendees traditionally braved the sun to sit in front of the Memorial to hear the speaker, most choose now to put their lawn chairs under the mature trees to the west, which provide welcomed shade. Several benches are also available in the well-manicured area in front of the new maintenance building, which will house lawn equipment. Kate Melcher, Executive Director of Fisher House of Michigan and Army helicopter pilot, addressed the crowd of approximately 150 with her thoughts on Memorial Day. Al Merritt read the Memorial plaque written by Tom Fifield, telling the purpose of our Memorial. Wendy Dumsch-Hibbitts, daughter of the late Paul Dumsch, read his poem "I Knew Them All." This poignant poem was followed by Marv Rivers' reading of those killed in Vietnam on our Memorial. The Memorial Bricks were dedicated by Reverend Gordon Moore in honor of David Brown, Lloyd Lee, Hal Dotson, and Michael Samar, Chapter members who died since last Memorial Day. The program concluded with the Rifle Salute by the County Veterans Honor Guard. The program closed with Thom Kennedy playing "Taps" on his bagpipe. Thus ended a very busy Memorial Day weekend. Much hard work and thought went into making it one of the most meaningful observances in the area and the most important for all Vietnam Veterans, according to Stan Harrison, VVA 310 President, who was the Observance Master of Ceremony. Be sure to thank those involved in making it all happen.

Dispatch Recipients

VVA 310 award-winning newsletter reaches approximately 500 people each month with 100 mailed USPS, 50 hits off the website (www.vva310.org), and 350 emailed. With good stewardship and networking, the cost to print the Dispatch approximates \$1,250 per year.

If VVA 310 members or others receiving the Dispatch via USPS desire to assist with the printing cost, a suggested donation would be: one year at \$12.00, two years at \$22.00, and three years at \$30.00. Payment

can be made payable to VVA 310 and mailed to P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221 indicating Dispatch on the memo line.

All other donations may be made payable to VVA 310 at the same mailing address by indicating Donation on the memo line.

RECIPIENTS

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2023
 Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023
 Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024
 Joseph Flint ~ January 2023
 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 ~ December 2023
 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 ~ November 2024
 Del Mayes ~ March 2025
 Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ January 2023
 Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027
 Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024
 George Perrault ~ October 2022
 Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023
 Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
 Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023
 Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
 Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023
 Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

07 Jun: Dexter Hilltop View Apts Open House, 1600-1800 hrs, 7651 Dan Hoey Rd, Dexter. Please park at one of the elementary schools across the street.

09 Jun: VVA 310 Board Meeting, AVVA 310 Monthly Member Meeting, 1800 hrs

09 Jun: VVA 310 Monthly Member Meeting, 1900 hrs
 10 Jun: Chapter Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs
 12 Jun: Flag Day Celebration, 1200 hrs, VFW Post 423,
 3230 S. Wagner Rd. Gate opens 1000 hrs
 20 June: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, VFW Post 423
 25 Jun: Camp Liberty Open House, 1500-1800, 7044
 Kappler Dr., Brooklyn, MI
 ** Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net -
 click here) and make a contribution to help keep this
 vital program on the air.

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

She had a wedding to go to and needed a wedding gift. Aha, thought she, I have that monogrammed silver tray from my wedding that I never use. I'll just take it to a silversmith and have him remove my monogram and put hers on it. Voila, one cheap wedding present.

So, she took it to the silversmith and asked him to remove her monogram and put the new one on. The silversmith took a look at the tray, shook his head, and said, "Lady, this can only be done so many times!"

VVA 310 Members: Activities in Photos

What is most representative of VVA 310 members attitude of camaraderie and collaboration. Photo 1 shows the watchfire with Stan Harrison and Jon Luker as they retire flags. Photo 2 shows Veterans Wreath on Russell Michalke's Grave.



Photo: Washtenaw County Honor Guard perform at Saline Cemetery with Saline H.S.

"I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

— Abraham Lincoln



"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

--D. MacArthur

Jon Luker and Al Merritt unveil four Memorial Bricks.



"We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us."

-- Winston Churchill

Pig Roast

John Kinzinger reminds us to "Start Thinking Pig Roast." Here's what's to come:

Our Chapter Pig Roast Fundraiser committee has been meeting and planning. And our supportive anonymous donor has again agreed to match up to \$2,000. So, be thinking about making a donation to get that matching donation to our Chapter.

You can get your donation to Berry Bourne, Treasurer, to get recorded for the matching funds. Or, you can mail it to the Chapter, with a note on the memo line "Pig Roast Matching" and mail it to the following:

VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Thank you in advance from the Pig Roast Committee. *****

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: Joe Palazzolo
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore
Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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Contact Us: Please direct any
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<dogman2@reagan.com>.

Vietnam Veterans of America
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Please forward. Thank you!