

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*



**March 2022,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: Once again, our Dispatch Team has come through! And a "Thank You" to our contributors for meaningful and relevant content. Rev. Gordon Moore's article for this issue is timely and inspirational. And John Kinzinger has contributed a historical overview of Chapter activities. For now, enjoy the balmy end of winter as we prepare for the spring!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch editor

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From the Dispatch Team: Enjoy this issue of the Dispatch, and all the best!

President's Message

By Stan Harrison

Here is what we are up to:

On Saturday, March 26th, there will be an Open House at the VFW Post 423 on Wagner Road from 1000 until 1600. I plan to be there selling



our pins, sweatshirts, and fleeces.

Vice

President

Vance

McCrum

will be there

to talk to

prospective members and sell our new Chapter hats. The AVVA will also be there among other groups attending. There will also be expert help for those with benefits or legal questions. All this and coffee, rolls, and hot dogs, too! Stop by and say "Hi."

Tuesday, March 29th, is Vietnam Veterans Day. We will mark the day by meeting at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township at 1100 hrs. No formal program—just coffee and doughnuts and friendly chit-chat. If the weather is bad, you may find Al Merritt and me sitting in my truck trying to eat our way through dozens of sweet rolls and gallons of coffee.

Sunday, April 3rd, will be our Chapter election day. We will meet at noon for a shortened regular meeting; then, we can cast our ballots any time until 1600 hrs. This takes the place of our regular monthly meeting. There will be no meeting on the 14th of April.

On Saturday, April 23rd, at 1800 hrs,

we will have our annual Awards Dinner at the UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti (corner of Tuttle Hill Road). We are still in the planning stages on this event.

In May, of course, is Memorial Day with our annual ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This is probably the most important day of the year for us. It is a solemn occasion, shared with friends and the community.

On June 12th, we are sponsoring, along with several other organizations, a family picnic at the VFW Post in recognition of Flag Day. Lots of fun things are being planned for that day. Food and pop will be provided (yes, pop, not soda. You are in Michigan now, Kathy Driscoll!).

One more thing. Save the date August 28th for this year's Pig Roast. We will once again have it at the Saline American Legion, by popular demand.

Lots to do. Lots to plan for. In the meantime, stay safe and stay proud.

Chaplain's Corner March 2022

By Rev. Gordon Moore

The last couple of years have reinforced in me some observations I have made through the years regarding humankind. Namely, many people are uncomfortable with other people's opinions if they differ from their own. This is especially important when we consider faith and religions. Which, I suppose, is where I come in.

If I were to ask us to identify Jesus Christ, how would we do so? Would



any of us be able to describe him in such detail that another person could recognize Jesus if he were to suddenly materialize on a street we

lived on? This is important because he has promised to return as described in several instances in the Gospel of Luke. He warns his followers to distinguish between those who will come bearing his name but they won't be the real him in Chapter 21 that you may read for yourselves.

I want to focus on Chapter 24 (one of my favorite texts) which I deem more relevant to us today for it occurs after Jesus has been tried, killed, buried and resurrected and reappearance on earth to those who knew him yet had trouble recognizing him.

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among

the dead? He is not here but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'

And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb, and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

Now behold, two of them traveled that same day to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained so that they did not know Him.

And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is

this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

And He said to them, "What things?"

So, they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see."

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things

and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Then they drew near the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew Him, and He vanished from their sight.

And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" So they rose that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Now, as they said these

things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them and said to them, "Peace to you."

The text continues with the proofs and words that Jesus used to identify himself and confirm who he was. And that is my point. The Living Word is confirmed through the written word, and authenticated through his actions.

Let our hearts burn within us as we come to believe what we know him to be.

Peace be upon you all.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

10 February 2022

Call to Order by Harrison at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Robert 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: James (Jim) Robinett (Air Force) just joined. Bo Brown (Navy) will join tonight.

Guests: None.

Motion to approve the January Minutes postponed because the *Dispatch* has not been published yet.

Officer Reports:

President's Report: The Pig Roast is set for 28 August, during the National Leadership Conference. Flag Day, which we are doing with other organizations this year, is set for 12 June. The Recognition Dinner will be held at 1800 on 23 April at the UAW Hall. Please send your food ideas to Wendy Hibbitts. We have applied for the \$500 gift card from Meijer's again. If we get it, we will use it for the Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner. We have everything we need for the apartment we are furnishing in Dexter, thanks to the great work of Joe Palazzolo, who came in under budget.

Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne. Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports are also available to members and others via email, on request. Non-restricted funds received \$1,700 in donations and \$1,200 in interest. We paid out \$745 of the \$1,500 authorized for the Dexter apartment. The Christmas program has produced over \$22,000 in donations this year. We also presented a \$5,000 check to Kate Melcher at Fisher House. The Finance Committee is studying where to move our bank accounts and how best to invest our surplus cash. No questions.

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see report in the *Dispatch*. We are doing our \$5 wrist bracelet fundraiser for Fisher House. Girls' State returned our excess payment. Lois Perrault Memorial Fund is over \$3,000. We are still

collecting trial-size toiletry items for Fisher House. The no-bake bake sale for Fisher House is in progress.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: We have new inventory coming in. We will have a small sale set up for the Open House here on 26 March.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: The Council's February meeting will be here on the 21th, sponsored by VVA 310.

Michigan State Council: Luker. We should consider our proposal to amend National's Constitution to open membership as dead-on-arrival at National. It turns out that the litigation with the IRS was not just about AVVA members. The IRS has an illegal rule limiting 501(c)(19) organizations to veterans who served during a Congressionally declared "wartime." For various reasons, VVA National will not spend any more money fighting with the IRS over its illegal rule. Therefore, we should consider turning our attention to what we can do locally, with Local Veteran's Alliance.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. We have new crews set up for maintenance this year, but there is not much to do until the weather breaks. We are still trying to get the building built, but we don't have an estimate for when that will happen.

Website: McCrumb. 328,012 hits.

Membership: We lost member Mike Samar recently and gained Jim Robinett, so our number remains at 210 members.

Newsletter: Jane Kinzinger. The *Dispatch* is late this month

because Paulo needed extra time to defend his dissertation. He was successful, earning Doctor of Education (EdD) degree.

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger. The Christmas donors really came through this year. Thank you to the Chapter members who donated generously this year. This year's letter included a flyer from Fisher House. That might explain the increase in donations. As a result, the Committee is considering making another donation as soon as matching funds are offered again.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Bob Bull, seconded by Steve Hitte, to approve the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. Approved.

Motion by Bob Bull, seconded by Larry St. Antoine, to amend Bylaw Article VI, Section 3, Board Meetings, to change the meeting start time from 1730 to 1800. Approved.

Motion by Vance McCrumb, seconded by Dave Draper, to apply for honorary memberships for Bill Vollano and Pham Quang Khiem (Phil Pham's dad). Approved.

Motion by Al Merritt, seconded by Jim Robinett, to hold elections on 3 April 2022, from noon until 1600. Approved.

Recess for Nominations: (Round One)

Nominations for officers:

President: McCrumb (declined), Harrison (accepted)

Vice President: McCrumb (accepted),

Treasurer: Bourne (accepted)

Secretary: Luker (accepted)

Sergeant at Arms: Clarke (declined)

Nominations for two-year Board:

Accepted: Merritt, Bull, Wilson, Hitte

Declined: Wetzler, St. Antoine

Two-year Board members moving to 1-year positions are:

Bauder, Bayha, Hall, Kinzinger, and Driscoll.

Nominations closed; regular meeting resumes.

Good of the Order:

Bull: Flag Day Celebration is set for 12 June. Come on out. We'll have food and several events. The Boy Scouts will help with flag retirement. Dale Throneberry will either broadcast live or will record a program.

Bull: We will hold our next Open House on 26 March from 1000 to 1600 hrs. We will provide coffee and donuts in morning and brats and burgers in the afternoon. A variety of resources will be here to help veterans. Our member organizations will be here, also.

Bull: We have a food distribution here on Saturday from 930 to 1700. We have a lot of food to give away, so please help get the word out. We have turkey, ham, chicken and frozen burgers. Each person who comes out will get two \$10 Meijer's gift cards.

Bull: The ambulance that HVA was going to give us has a blown head gasket which we can't afford to fix. HVA is looking at giving us a different ambulance.

McCrumb: Presented a Chapter hat to new member, Robinett. They are also for sale for \$15.

Bourne: I also have Chapter coins up front for sale.

Wilson: 29 March is Vietnam Veterans Day. There will be many events set for the Wall that day. Veteran's organizations are being asked to donate to the Wall fund.

Wilson: The VVA National Board changed its fourth quarter meeting to 8 and 9 Nov, because this will be the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Events are being planned from 11 through 14 November. If the Chapter wants to do anything down there, we need to be planning it and getting our hotel reservations now.

Hall: The annual Recognition Dinner is set for Saturday, 23 April at the UAW Hall. We'll be using the same caterer. We'll do a little bucket raffle if we can get a few donations. Think about regifting Christmas presents and things like that.

Bayha: Noah South, the pilot who flew with Chuck Kettles, broke his femur and was treated at the U of M, until he was moved to a nursing home, where he caught Covid-19. He is back home now and is doing ok. He would like phone calls.

Merritt: Breakfast will be at 0900 on Friday, 11 Mar 2022: TBD.

Closing Prayer: Robert Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2015 hrs.

Honoring March Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Earl Thomas Hoag

was born on March 9, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. Robert

and Mrs. Mary Hoag of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Earl is a 1966 graduate of East Tawas High School in East Tawas, Michigan. He also attended Alpena Junior



College and Cleary College. Earl worked for United Air Lines as a flight food handler at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Specialist 4 Hoag entered the Army on April 20, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Ord, California and Advanced Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on August 19, 1968 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Earl was killed when his patrol was ambushed and he sustained multiple fragmentation wounds on March 8, 1969. He died just one day before his 21st birthday.

Earl Thomas Hoag is survived by his parents and three brothers. He lived 20 years, 11 months and 29 days. He is resting in Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan. Earl'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 30W Line 076.

—**—

Private First Class Frank Leslie

Keck was born on June 1, 1946.

Frank attended Saline High School in Saline, Michigan for six years, returning to Kalkaska, Michigan after the death of his father. He would have



been in the 1964 graduating class in Saline where he played varsity basketball. He worked in construction before entering the Army in June of 1968.

Private First Class Keck began his tour in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam, on December 22, 1968, serving as an infantryman with C Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He died as a result of enemy small-arms fire on March 29, 1969.

Frank Leslie Keck is survived by his wife and son, his mother, and one brother. He lived 22 years, 9 months and 28 days. Frank'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 28W Line 082.

—**—

Private First Class Lavern Michael

Lamey was born on November 7, 1949 to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph



J. Lamey of Milan, Michigan. Lavern is a 1967 graduate of Lincoln Consolidated High School. He entered the Army on

July 18, 1967 receiving his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed his Advanced Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Private First Class Lamey began his tour of duty in Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam on December 16, 1968 serving as a Grader Operator with the 15th Engineering Company, 299th Engineering Battalion, 937th Engineering Group. Lavern was killed by enemy mortar fire on March 5, 1969.

Lavern Michael Lamey is survived by his parents, his wife, a brother and two sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Marble Park Cemetery in Milan, Michigan. Lavern's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 30W Line 047.

—**—

Corporal Gregory Randall

Shambaugh was born on October 2, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Robert Shambaugh of Toledo, Ohio and Mrs. Geraldine Shambaugh of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gregory attended Carpenter School, Tappan Junior High School and Ann Arbor High School. He went on to graduate in 1966 from Howe Military School



in Howe, Indiana. Gregory attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan before enlisting in the Army on

January 19, 1967.

Corporal Shambaugh began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. According to First Lieutenant McLemore in a letter to Mrs. Shambaugh, "On March 6, 1968, while Gregory was participating in a search and destroy mission with Company D, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, he was struck by an enemy bullet and instantly killed." The Bronze Star Medal was posthumously presented to Mrs. Shambaugh.

Gregory is survived by his parents and his wife. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gregory 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 43E Line 034.

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

Tim Clarke ~ March 2022

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

Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022

Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2024

This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.

Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031

David Marshall ~ June 2022

Sandy Martinez ~ 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

Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022

Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023

Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

03 Mar: Navy Reserve Birthday (1915)

05 Mar: Seabee Birthday (1942)

10 Mar: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1800 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs (Click Here to attend by Zoom)

11 Mar: Chapter Monthly Breakfast

19 Mar: Legion Post 46 sponsored Food Drive, 1000-1600 hrs, VFW Post 423

21 Mar: WCCV Meeting

25 Mar: Congressional Medal of Honor Day (1863)

26 Mar: VRC Open House, 1000-1600 hrs, VFW Post 423. Lawyers, Service Officers, WACU, AVVA 310, others

29 Mar: National Vietnam Veterans Day ((2017)

30 Mar: Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day (2011)

03 Apr: Short Meeting, then Officer and Board Elections, 1200-1600 hrs

14 Apr: NO MEETING

15 Apr: Chapter Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs – TBD

23 Apr: Awards Dinner, 1800 hrs, UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile Rd, Ypsilanti

** Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

Know, We Are All Children of God

Submitted by John F Kinzinger

**From the sister of Ronald Koch,
one of our KIAs**

Thank you for all the hard work and devotion that goes into each edition of 310 Dispatch; I always appreciate looking at it. I suppose you and Jane are at your place in Florida, and I wish you a wonderful winter. I cannot count the ways that knowing and working with you on 310 projects has helped and enriched our lives; it has been so helpful to us and others.

Have fun in Florida, and enjoy

some sun for us!

May you and Jane be blessed abundantly.

Lynda G., Ronald's kid sister

Thank you, Members and Friends

By John Kinzinger



Our VVA 2021 annual VA Medical Center Christmas fundraising was most successful. Donations from many Chapter 310 members and wonderful Friends of the annual program raised enough funds to allow us to donate \$5,000 to Fisher House. That amount was doubled as part of a year-ending matching program.

For our local hospitalized Veterans, we delivered our annual gift of thousands of dollars of needed underwear to the Voluntary Services, to distribute to patients as they need them. We also gave the Voluntary Services office our annual gift of 150 specially embroidered shirts of different styles and sizes. The embroidery includes a Flag and the words "Proud American Veteran, Freedom Is Not Free."

Our VAMC committee sincerely thanks everyone who contributed to make this our best year ever to

help local hospitalized Veterans. Further spending will include upgrading a few special occasion meals to a steak entrée for the hospitalized Veterans.

If you would like to be added to this annual effort, please contact John Kinzinger, 734-645-8647. The first week in November you will receive our annual letter and information to make a gift to the program.

Of Interest to Veterans Food Drive

Submitted by Dave Draper

The Food Drive will be on March 19 from 1000 to 1600 hrs. The VRC will be open that day also; so, we will have company. Donations that will be accepted are the following: canned and boxed dry goods, and personal hygiene items, in travel sizes, like toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash, shampoo, shaving cream, and manual razors.

—**—

Submitted by Phillip Pham

Gentlemen,

I hope all is well with everyone. I wanted to give you a little heads up that I will be sharing my family's escape from Vietnam story at the Saline City Hall in two Sundays, on March 13th and 20th @2pm. If you are anyone you know would be interested in hearing it, then drop by during that time. I would love to see you guys there if you can make it. <https://www.salinehistory.org/events-programs>

—**—

Care Package— Thank You!

By John Kinzinger

On November 2021, we had our annual pre-Christmas Care Package event at the VFW Post 423. The mailing addresses we received came from the Michigan West Point Parents Association.

Our November Care Package mailing was the first time we have had no troops in a war zone. We began sending Care Packages in 2004 (4,414 total packages to date).

We still have many military personnel stationed all over the world, so we still had addresses to send packages to. Those military personnel were going to be away from home for the Christmas holidays. As we Veterans know, they could use the morale boost of a Care Package from caring people whom they had never met. The following is from a card we received dated 12-17-21.

“Dear Vietnam Veterans, I just wanted to write and thank you so much for sending a giant Christmas care package down here to Honduras! I know you all know better than most that it’s tough to be away from home, especially during the Holidays – so the Chaplain and I will make sure it gets to a soldier who needs some cheer. Thanks again from Honduras! Reilly Kissinger”

We should be very proud of our long-term effort to morale boost tens of thousands of military personnel serving overseas. When we began, we swore to send packages until our troops came home from war. Well, we did it. And

our packages were always quite large, and each one was shared with many in their group.

Early on, I remember doing packing in our living room. The earliest packers included Doc and Sandy Martinez, Roy and Bonnie Hall, Lois and George Perrault, Sandy and Gene Morley, and others. George and Roy, especially, did the yeoman’s work over the years. In time, we moved the packing to the VFW Post 423 and opened it up to the public to help. Those patriotic folks, like the Hittes, would bring items, donate funds, help with packing, and join in a potluck meal afterwards.

Early on we received mailing addresses from folks in the community who knew of someone serving overseas, and the addresses came! As the years went on—and with less personnel in the war zone—we would receive mailing addresses from the Michigan West Point Parents Association. Our contact, Lou Steenstra, always came through for us with a list to send packages.

For fundraising, we would hold “Support Our Troops” rallies and sell dog tags for \$5 each to many people. We have had great supporters who donated to most all our packings after that. I would be remiss if I did not mention our member Elmer White, who for most of our last ten years of packing would offer to match up to \$500 at each packing to be used for postage. He personally donated at least \$10,000 of the estimated \$80,000 we spent on just postage to mail all the 4,414 Care Packages.

We mailed some interesting things.

We mailed baseball gloves and balls. I remember sending some golf clubs and even a set of iron horseshoes. But I believe the most important items were over 5,000 Harley Davidson shirts, bandanas, and other items. We had a special connection to a local source, who would contact us when her office had collected boxes of sample shirts sent to them to be approved to be used in Harley stores across the U.S.

In 2005, our family went to Fort Hood, Texas for a 1st Cavalry Reunion celebration. While our son, John Alva, was being given a tour through a Bradley vehicle, I was talking to one of the troopers in charge of the vehicle. They had returned from Iraq a couple months earlier. Looking at this huge vehicle, I thought I recognized the unit number on the vehicle as one we may have sent packages. Out of curiosity, I asked the trooper if they ever received anything really special while deployed. He thought and said, yes, we did. One time we received a large box of Harley t-shirts. He said that meant so much to him that, to that day while back home, he wore his Harley shirt to bed each night. The emotion of that fact about knocked me down. That was the greatest confirmation I could receive that what we were doing really made a difference for our patriots serving overseas.

We made a difference for so many. And I would like to thank everyone who ever came out and helped in anyway. TEAM, TEAM, TEAM! Great job.

AVVA Newsletter -- March 2022

By Kathy Driscoll,
Chapter Representative

March 1st is the start date for the 2022 Fiscal year. This year we made the following charitable donations:

- \$850 to Fisher House Michigan (\$250, 2021 Memorial Day Match; \$500, 2021 Patriot Day Match and \$100, for sweatshirts)
- \$50 AVVA 2021 Project Friendship
- \$820 4 Delegates to 2022 Girls' State Virtual

The AVVA 2022 Recognition Dinner will be Saturday, April 23rd. We will have a raffle table to benefit Fisher House Michigan. Please consider donating an item for our raffle.

2022 is an AVVA Local Chapter Election Year. This year's election for 2-year term Chapter Representative will be **Sunday, April 3rd from noon – 4 pm**. Please plan to attend our 2022 Election meeting to cast your vote.

If you would like to be our Chapter Representative, please review:

https://www.avva.org/documents/policy/section5_rev2020.pdf Page 10 has all of the information for AVVA Unincorporated Chapter Elections. The deadline to commit to run for Chapter Representative is our March 10th Membership meeting. The Chapter Representative is the AVVA 310 voting delegate at State and National Meetings.

Please review the Unincorporated Chapter Representative position responsibilities.

XVI. POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES: Unincorporated Chapter Representative

A. DUTIES

1. Must communicate with the AVVA members in your Chapter.
2. Must communicate with your state president or state representative on a regular basis.
 - a. Part of this communication includes sending reports of your Chapter's activities to your state representative or state president on a quarterly basis, which dates will coincide with the deadline dates for the UPDATES Newsletter. Contact your state representative or president at the end of each calendar year, or periodically, for dates.
 - b. Must register with the national secretary for the National Information Distribution List. (Also known as the Flash Notice email list.)
 - c. Must fill out the We/Email Roster Access Form and submit it to the AVVA National Membership Committee chair after each election to be approved to receive the Chapter roster. (See FORMS/Membership forms at the AVVA website)
3. Must lead the Chapter within the guidelines of AVVA's policies and bylaws.
4. Shall be the voting delegate for their Chapter at AVVA state meetings. Should the Chapter representative be unable to attend the state meeting, he/she may appoint an alternate.
5. Shall be the voting delegate for their Chapter at AVVA national conventions. Should the Chapter representative be unable to attend the national convention, he/she may appoint an alternate.

Revised: 08/24/21 Last Reviewed: July 2021 18

B. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. Must be an AVVA Regular Member in good standing for at least three (3) months prior to election, with no pending disciplinary action against them. Exception: If it is a newly formed Chapter holding their first election.
3. Must have been actively involved in the AVVA Chapter to which he/she belongs, as determined by the majority of the members of that Chapter.

Please encourage all your family and friends to get their vaccines and wear masks!

Covid-19 Update from Health Department Washtenaw County Michigan

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3108/Cases>

Chapter Happenings!

We have 90 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. They are \$5. When we sellout, we will donate an additional \$600 to Fisher House Michigan. To date we have \$192 specified to Fisher House Michigan. Contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. All proceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.



Our total donation to Fisher House Michigan to date is \$12,300.00. Our next donation will be in May 2022 during the 2022 Fisher House Michigan Memorial Day Match.

Our annual **No Bake / Bakeless Fundraiser** letters were emailed to all AVVA members by February 1st. I mailed our fundraiser letter to our members who do not have an email address. Please make your donation payable to VVA 310 with AVVA No Bake on the memo line. The donation form has a check box for you to decide which specified line you want to dedicate your donation. The total to date is **\$210**.

Please consider a \$20 minimum donation. This is our main fundraiser that funds our projects and operating expenses.

Last year we raised \$450.00:

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund	\$ 65.00
Fisher House Michigan	\$ 205.00
Special Projects	\$ 75.00
Operating Fund	\$ 105.00

*

- Our February meeting was in person and on Zoom meeting. Jane, Meni, Bonnie, Shirley, Kate, and I attended. We will meet in person for March 10th. I will set up a Zoom link for our members who are not in the Ann Arbor area and unable to attend in person.
- Members are making Stress Balls for Fisher House Michigan. Email me or call me if you need the pattern.
- We are collecting trail-size shampoo, soap, tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc., for Fisher House Michigan. You can drop off your donations to me or directly at the Fisher House.
- 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 next meeting or contact Kathy to pick up your donation. Please bring donations to our March meeting.
- ➔ Note: If you wish a more complete AVVA Newsletter, please contact Kathy Driscoll, Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310, dkathyr16@gmail.com, 734-355-4897.

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
Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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VVA 310 Dispatch
March 2022

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
P.O. Box 3221
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221
Please forward. Thank you!