

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 2022,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: A major feature of the month of May is the planning of the 2022 Memorial Day celebration—see Jane Kinzinger's note below. Whether marching or riding on provided vehicles, participants are sure to have a memorable experience. A special ceremony will be held at 1:00 pm at the Vietnam Memorial, including the dedication of Memorial Bricks. On another note, many thanks from all members of the Dispatch Team.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch Editor

What's New at VVA 310 . . .

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Memorial Day Weekend is a busy one for VVA 310. We start with the Watch fire on May 29th. We gather around 6:00 pm at the Memorial for hot dogs and refreshments. Bring your own plus something to share if you are so inclined. Around 7:00 pm, we start retiring flags, remembering a friend or a family member who has died. On Memorial Day at 10:00 am is the Saline Parade—canceled for several years due to Covid-19. There will be vehicles to ride instead of marching for those who cannot make the walk through town. Please arrive early. After ceremonies, lunch at the American Legion. At 1:00 pm at the Vietnam Memorial, a speaker and a reading of all 76 names plus Memorial Bricks dedication for recently deceased Chapter members.

-- From Jane Kinzinger, Dispatch Team member

President's Message

By Stan Harrison



Last month, the “Gary Lillie Recognition Dinner” and awards ceremony came off successfully once again. The meal from Angel Food Catering was delicious. We served about 88 dinners, and that event had the largest number of guests in recent memory. We owe a big

“Thank You” to Wendy Hibbits, who chaired the event and tended bar; to Roy Hall, who put on the bucket raffle, silent auction, and 50/50 drawing (which together raised over \$1000); to Kathy Driscoll, who headed up the AVVA part of the evening; and to all of the many volunteers, who pitched in with the setup, cleanup, and during the meal tasks that made the event go. Cory Frost and UAW Local 898 earned our gratitude once again for granting us the use of their hall. Jim Robison, of Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home and Cremation Services, gave a generous donation, along with his in-person support. My thanks to all involved.

Things are happening at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township, too. Our new building is going up! The grounds are a little out of sorts right now, but I promise you that it will continue to be a place to take pride in when we are done. Last year we had a big problem with ground moles tearing up the “infield” lawn right in front of the Memorial. We tried having Al “Fredo” Merritt sit out there with a large mallet but that proved ineffective. This year, we hired a professional to coax them away. Let’s hope it works. When the building is completed, we want to install a sprinkler system and sod on the infield. We just have to figure out how to pay for it (hint, hint). We want and expect this to be the finest memorial around. Those honored there deserve nothing less.

By the way, the part about Fredo and the mallet was a joke. No actual moles were harmed during the writing of this message.

Our most important day of the year is coming up. I hope to see all of you who can make it at the Me-

morial at 1300hrs on Memorial Day for our formal program. As is our custom, on the evening before Memorial Day, we will have a watch fire where we respectfully dispose of (burn) worn flags, each dedicated to a veteran who is no longer with us. Bring a lawn chair and join us.

In the meantime, stay safe. Stay proud.

Chaplain's Corner—May 2022

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're a giver, know your limits because takers don't have any. They will suck you dry 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 summertime 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. The First Epistle of John speaks to this:

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 John 3:16-17).

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 guidance helps.

I want to thank those of you who give with 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 3 April 2022

Call to Order by Harrison at 1200 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Gordon Moore

Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S, their families and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

Roll Call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: None.

Recess for nominations: (Round Two)

The only nomination on the third round was for Joe Palazzolo for Sergeant at Arms. He accepted. The outcome is as follows:

Officers:

President: McCrumb (declined), Harrison (accepted)

Vice President: McCrumb (accepted),

Treasurer: Bourne (accepted)

Secretary: Luker (accepted)

Sergeant at Arms: Clarke (declined), Palazzolo (accepted)

Nominations for two-year Board:

Accepted: Merritt, Bull, Wilson, Hitte

Declined: Wetzler, St Antoine, Throneberry

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

Bauder, Bayha, Hall, Kinzinger, and Driscoll.

State Council Delegate, Driscoll, Wilson, accepted, Luker declined

Regular meeting recalled to order.

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

We had a good get together at the Memorial for Vietnam Veterans' Day. Thanks to Fredo for bringing the donuts. Thank you to everybody who came out. It was a good turnout.

Also, the planning for the Recognition Dinner is well

underway. I have tickets for sale here at the desk for \$15 each.

Treasurer's Report:

Berry Bourne. Reports will be emailed to the Board shortly. I still have a few schedules to finish for the annual tax return. Reports are also available to members and others via email on request. This month lowered our cash on hand a little over \$4,000 due in part to paying the caterer \$1,000 deposit for the Recognition Dinner and paying VFW our donations for the full year (\$1,800) instead of writing checks each month.

No questions.

New Business:

Motion by Sandie Wilson, seconded by Tim Driscoll to amend Bylaws Article V, Section 3, subparagraph C. by deleting the word "four" and replacing it with the word "two." Amended bylaw would read:

"Section 3 – Annual Meeting

Annual meetings will be held during the month of April. The primary purpose of these meetings is the election of Chapter Officers and Board Members for the coming year.

Elections – Voting shall be by ballot.

Quorum for Elections – Shall be at least 15 members.

Voting Time – Ballots for elections will be available for two hours on the day of the Annual Meeting."

This motion will be voted on at the 12 May 2022 regular meeting.

Good of the Order:

Harrison: The Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Organizations made it known that the Michigan Trust Fund is now up to \$70,000,000. As a result, the State is now ready to provide service to non-wartime veterans over the age of 65. The fund focus is still on meeting emergency needs only.

Driscoll: The Saline Chamber of Commerce is holding their annual recognition dinner on 14 April 2022 at the Lake Forest Golf Club on Ellsworth Road. The really great thing about this is that Sandi Wilson is being recognized as the Distinguished Veteran of the Year! If you want to show your support, tickets are still available for \$25 for a single ticket, \$45 for a pair. The meal and program will run from 1800 to 2100.

Merritt: Breakfast will be Friday, 13 April at 0900 at Bomber Restaurant, 306 East Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI — 734-482-0550.

Closing Prayer Gordon Moore
Flag Salute
Meeting Adjourned at 1923 hrs.

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 Battalion, 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 Battalion, 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 Basket-



ball 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.

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

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
Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023
Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

AVVA Newsletter May 2022

By Kathy Driscoll, AVVA

2022 Chapter Recognition Dinner

Eleven AVVA members attended our Recognition Dinner. That is 1/3 of our membership. Thank you everyone for supporting our Chapter's Recognition Dinner. We presented AVVA Certificates to our three delegates to Girls' State, Carmen Lauchu, Caroline Pangilinan and Ella Racetti. All three delegates, their parents and their grandparents attended the Recognition Dinner. We raised \$202 for Fisher House Michigan from our AVVA Raffle. Thank you, Shirley, Jane, Meni and Kathy for the raffle donations. Our next raffle for Fisher House Michigan will be at the Pig Roast in August. Please consider a donation for our Pig Roast Raffle.

Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 32 members. Our newest Lifetime member is Jackie McManus. Jackie, 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

COVID 19 Update from Health

Department Washtenaw County Michigan
Washtenaw County Transmission level is LOW!

<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 addition-

al \$600 to Fisher House Michigan. To date we have raised \$235 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. We have a goal to donate \$500 to Fisher House Michigan in May 2022.

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 to which specified line you want to dedicate your donation. The total to date is **\$290**. \$265 from AVVA 310 members and \$25 from VVA 310 members.

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&SID=donate-funds>

SOS Community Services Ypsilanti, MI:

<https://soscs.org/ways-to-give/>

Catholic Social Services

<https://csswashtenaw.org/family-children/cssw-food-pantry/>

Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=washtenaw+county+food+banks>

Legislation Action!

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

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

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

When I toured the Ann Arbor Fisher House in October 2021, their staff mentioned the need for 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, in February 2022. Please consider a \$5 or \$10 donation at our upcoming meeting, I will purchase the gift card. Please mail me your donation directly to me as our upcoming meeting will be on Zoom. 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 sponsored four delegates to the Girls' State 2022, which is \$820. The American Legion Auxiliary Post 322 returned our original donation check as Girls' State 2022 is virtual.

We have three dedicated delegates. Girls' 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 am unable to attend.

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

WCCV

I attended the WCCV March 18th via ZOOM. The meeting was at the Ypsilanti American Legion Post hosted by The Order of Purple Heart.

Upcoming Events!

12 May 6:00 pm May Membership Meeting at VFW Post 423

16 May 07:30 pm WCCV May Meeting at VFW Post 423. I plan to attend.

29 May Watch fire 6:00 pm.

30 May 10:00 am Saline Memorial Day Parade. If you plan to march in the parade, please be at the Saline Presbyterian Church, Michigan Ave. and N. Harris St. by 08:30 for line-up. Sandie Wilson and Major General Rodney Faulk will speak at the Oakwood Cemetery Memorial Service.

30 May 1:00 pm VVA 310 Memorial Day Ceremony at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Twp, MI. Kate Melcher is the speaker this year.

12 June 12:00 pm Flag Day Celebration picnic at VFW Post 423. Please plan to attend.

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

Recognition Dinner 2022

By Vance McCrumb

Adding to President Stan Harrison's report, here are photos and names of the honorees of the 2022 Recognition Dinner.

John Thompson Veteran of the Year 2021 - Dale Throneberry.

Jerry Sims Always There Award - Eric Downie.

Dave "Doc" Martinez President's Award - Joe Palazzolo, Alice Lee, and Jim Robison, Jr. and his son, Steven.



Kathy Driscoll and AVVA Girls' State: Ella Racetti, Carmen Lauchu, Caroline Pangilinan.

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

08 May: VE Day (1945)

12 May: VVA 310 Board Meeting, AVVA 310 Monthly Member Meeting, 1800 hrs

12 May: VVA 310 Monthly Member Meeting, 1900 hrs

13 May: Chapter Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs

Bomber Restaurant, 306 East Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti

16 May: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, VFW Post 423

21 May: Armed Forces Day

25 May: National Poppy Day

29 May: Watch fire at the Vietnam Memorial, 6:00 pm

30 May: Memorial Day (1868), Saline Parade—march or ride, 9:30 am arrival for 10:00 am step off.

Vietnam Memorial Observance 1:00 pm.

30 May: Memorial Day (1868)

12 Jun: Flag Day Celebration, 1200 hrs, VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd hosted by VRC.



On Saturday May 23rd we held our 35th Gary Lillie Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony at UAW 898 Union Hall. Again this year, we used Angel Food Catering and the meals were delicious.

Over eighty dinners were served. The turnout was the largest in recent memory.



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
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Please forward. Thank you!