

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*



**October 2022,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: There is something special about the fall season, something that leads us back to memories of years past. What's amazing, though, is the vividness of those memories. On page 11, Jane Kinzinger offers a retrospective of times when members and associates of VVA 310 marched in the Clinton Fall Festival parades. If you identify yourself as someone in those photos, may you be delighted with those memories.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message: October 2022

By Stan Harrison

We had a good time at the Clinton Fall Festival. People really seem to love us there. Not only veterans of all ages but family members and the general public stopped by to tell us of their connection to



the military. Even the Romanian monastery kept sending us food. It was a far cry from what we experienced fifty years ago.

A surprising number of our visitors were doing their Christmas shopping. They would pick up a cap or a pin or a shirt for someone on their list. We made money for our Chapter to benefit veterans and had fun doing it. I was worried at first because the sign-up sheets to help at the sale didn't fill up the way they should have. Still, our VVA 310 Chapter members showed up in force and we had plenty of help. If I missed saying "Thank you" in person to anyone, I apologize. Let me say now how grateful I am for your efforts. I am

very proud of you all.

We have already sent our check in for next year's festival, so plan on showing your support by stopping by our tent to say "Hello." Mark your calendar for next year, September 22, 23, 24, 2023. It is where the cool kids will be hanging out.

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

Chaplain's Corner – October 2022

By Rev. Gordon Moore

I think it is important to remember that God deals justly with individuals, especially when we see so much injustice in our world. That insight can be found in Ezekiel, amongst many places, when we read:



The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, "What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? "As I live," says the Lord God, "you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who

sins shall die.

But if a man is just and does what is lawful and right; if he has not eaten on the mountains, nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, nor defiled his neighbor's wife, nor approached a woman during her impurity; if he has not oppressed anyone, but has restored to the debtor his pledge; has robbed no one by violence, but has given his bread to the hungry and covered the naked with clothing; if he has not exacted usury nor taken any increase, but has withdrawn his hand from iniquity and executed true judgment between man and man; if he has walked in My statutes and kept My judgments faithfully— He is just; He shall surely live!" Ezekiel 18:1- 17 New King James Version

Sometimes it seems difficult to stand upright, yet the rewards are great, for not to die is to really live with eternity in mind. And the satisfaction that comes from doing the right things (as outlined by God in the aforementioned verses) is enormous.

This section also teaches that each person is responsible for their own life and should not blame others for their sins, especially their parents. Now, for our national, state, and local leaders to live by example, this direction will help set our nation on an upright path.

Peace and mercy!



VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary
Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

Regular Membership Meeting Minutes

8 September 2022

Call to Order by Harrison at 1858 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Bob Bull

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

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

New Members: None

Guests: None

Motion by Merritt/Bull to approve the August Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

We had a Pig Roast that went well. The price of food was up, and we bought more hoping to sell more; but, we sold less than last year. Our donations and auction were better than last year, so we came out alright.

Clinton Fall Festival is next. Please sign up to help set up at 1600 on 22 Sep. Or sign up to help sell a few hours between 0900 – 1800 Friday and Saturday and 0900 – 1700 Sunday. We'll start packing up at 1700, and we'll need help for

that, also. There is a sign-up sheet going around.

www.22aday.org is doing their veteran suicide public awareness presentation next to the Memorial until 3 October. We are there every day at noon. The Chapter received a one-hundred-dollar donation there.

There are three sympathy cards going around. Please sign them.

Treasurer's Report:

Berry Bourne. Reports are emailed to the Board and member who wants one. Let me know your email address.

Last year, the Pig Roast sold 390 tickets and earned the Chapter \$9,700. This year, we earned only \$8,700. Although we bought more food, hoping for a bigger crowd than last year, we sold fewer tickets at 325. And the price of the food we bought was significantly higher. The higher prices and lower ticket sales were the most significant adverse factors. However, our donations were greater this year, and the income from the auction was greater than last year. So, the result was not bad at \$8,700. We had an after-event review meeting and have some ideas for how to do things differently next year.

Our other significant expense was our annual insurance bill. This year, the bill was \$969 because we are insuring the Memorial Maintenance Building and its contents. Last year's insurance bill was just over \$400.

No questions.

AVVA Report:

Driscoll. Please see report in the

Dispatch. We have \$500 more dollars to donate to the Fisher House once the Patriot matching challenge begins.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Our gross sales at the Pig Roast were about the same as last year, right around \$900.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: A meeting was held but nothing happened.

Michigan State Council: Will meet later this month.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. The crews are continuing to do good work and are catching on to the new procedures. We have not heard from Diversified Excavating about doing the final grade. We are not going to get irrigation this year, but we are still pursuing that goal.

Website: McCrumb. We are up around 353,000 hits. We get around 3,000 hits a month, most of which are trolls. Average time spent on the website is 47 seconds.

Membership: The official number is 215, since we just lost another member.

Newsletter: No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. The PACT Act did pass, but the law doesn't extend the one-year claim deadline for peripheral neuropathy. But, the VA has observed that peripheral neuropathy related to toxic exposure may very well be present for the first time more than a year after service in the sandbox. The VA has taken it upon itself to study this condition further and to determine whether to extend the deadline on its own.

Also, I have reported before, the VA has decided not to obey that law that requires it to study the effects of toxic exposures on the children and grandchildren of veterans. Since all other approaches to this problem have not produced fruit, the VVA Board of Directors has decided to sue the VA for its failure to obey the law.

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger. No report.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Motion by Merritt, seconded by Palazzolo, to authorize Pereira to spend up to \$1300 to purchase a new computer for creating the Dispatch. This motion was approved by the Board. Membership also approved.

Motion by Bayha, seconded by Bull, to donate \$200 to Veterans Radio toward its upcoming fundraiser. Approved.

Good of the Order:

Bull: The next open house will be 22 October. The Rosie the Riveter group will be there and give a presentation. A group called "Be Smart" will give a presentation about gun safety in homes with children.

Bull: We just had our first tailgate event at the U of M football game. I passed out about 40 cards.

Throneberry: As you know, the PACT Act was passed recently. It added new presumptive diseases to the list—one of which is hypertension, which many of us have. It behooves you to talk to your Veterans Service Officer to review your records

and see whether you should be filing a claim for this or other consequences of your military service.

Throneberry: Veteran's Radio is holding its first official fundraiser. It is called "Radio on the River." Eric Fretz has offered his riverfront property for this event on 25 September from 1400 to 1700. Tickets are required and are available online. Click <https://givebutter.com/radioontheriver> for more details.

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday, 14 October at 09:00 am: TBD.

Closing Prayer Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1934 hrs.



Honoring October Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Donald Sylvester Moses was born on June 20, 1947. Specialist 4 Moses began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam on April 25, 1967, serving as an infantryman with B Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade. Donald was killed on October 25, 1967, as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

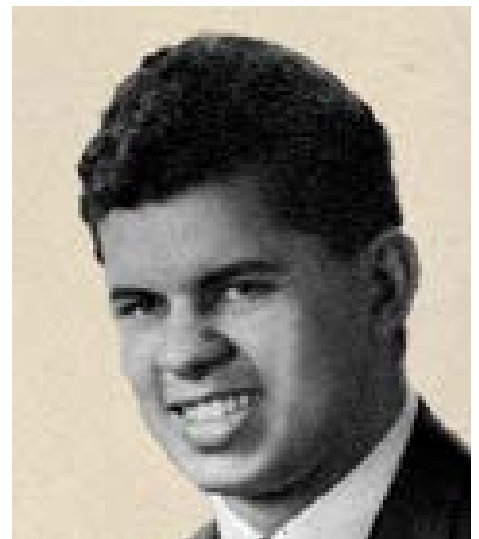
Donald Sylvester Moses lived 20 years, 4 months and 13 days. He is



resting in Magnolia Baptist Church Cemetery in Newellton, Louisiana. Donald'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 28E Line 069.

— ++ —

Eugene Ravn Suarez was born on December 21, 1946, to Mr. Rafael P. and Mrs. Helen Suarez of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also had a paper route with the Ann Arbor Newspaper. He attended Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti, Michigan before entering the Army on



October 4, 1967.

Corporal Suarez began his tour of duty in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on May 24, 1968, serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Eugene died on October 1, 1968, as a result of enemy small arms fire. He was posthumously promoted to Corporal and received the Bronze Star Medal.

Eugene Ravn Suarez is survived by his mother, three brothers, and six sisters. He lived 19 years, 9 months, and 10 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene'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 42W Line 060.

— ++ —

Captain David Raymond Wagener was born on June 22, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Wagener of Saline, Michigan. David is a 1957 graduate of Saline High School where he was an honor student, an outstanding athlete lettering in football, basketball and track. He also attended the University of Michigan prior to enlisting in the Air Force in 1959.



He also attended the University of Delaware. David received his Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He attended Aviation Cadet Training at Harlingen Air Force Base in Texas. He received his pilot flying wings at Williams Air Base, Chandler, Arizona.

Captain Wagener began his tour of duty in Udorn, Thailand serving with the 602nd Fighter Squadron, 14th Air Commando Wing, 7th Air Force. According to a posting from a colleague, Ira Cooperman, "Dave Wagener was a friend and a brave 'Sandy' pilot. While stationed at Udorn RTAFB in 1966, he flew 'cover' for helicopter missions attempting to rescue downed American pilots in Laos, as well as to support friendly forces on the ground in Laos. It was from one of those missions that he did not return." On October 20, 1966, Captain Wagener was shot down and killed about 20 miles north of the DMZ in Quang Binh Province. His body was not recovered.

David Raymond Wagener finally came home on December 5, 1997, when his remains were discovered. David is survived by his wife, mother and two brothers. He lived 27 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, Section 6, Site 595. David's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township in two locations. The first location is on the bench in front of the Memorial listed with two other men listed as MIA. The second location is on the Vietnam Memorial under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in

Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 092.

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Specialist 4 Charles Wesley Bird

was born on January 16, 1943, in Belle, West Virginia. He is a 1961 graduate of Dupont High School in Belle, West Virginia. Charles worked for Ford Motor Company at the Rawsonville Plant and was married three months before entering the Army on October 24, 1966. He lived in Ypsilanti residing with his wife's parents until his induction.

Specialist 4 Bird began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on April 17, 1967, serving with D Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Charles died as a result of enemy small-arms fire on October 14, 1967. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart.

Charles Wesley Bird is survived by his wife and a brother and several sisters. He lived for 24 years, 8 months and 28 days. He is resting in Montgomery Memorial Park in Fayette, West Virginia. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in



Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Charles' name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 27E Line 106.

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Captain C. Robert Arvin was born on January 19, 1943, in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Arvin. C. Robert Arvin graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1961, where he excelled as a straight-A student and was named valedictorian. Captain Arvin excelled in athletics during high school, playing on the varsity football and wrestling teams. In 1961, he wrestled his way to a State high school wrestling championship. During his junior year of high school, C. Robert earned a high school Honors Science Institute scholarship of \$100. He was also Student Council President, and President of his class in 1961. C. Robert Arvin was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1961 as a member of the Corps of Cadets of 1965, where he continued to achieve academic and athletic recognition.



In recognition of his achievements, C. Robert Arvin was appointed as the highest-ranking cadet in the Corps' chain of command with the title of First Captain and Brigade Commander. C. Robert Arvin received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in 1965, graduating as the top cadet of 2,770 in the Corps of Cadets.

First Lieutenant Arvin began his tour in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam, on May 29, 1967, serving with Advisory Team 162, 7th ARVN Airborne Battalion, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). According to a note on the Virtual Wall, "First Lieutenant Arvin received two awards of the Silver Star Medal—the first for an action on September 5, 1967, when the 7th Vietnamese Airborne Battalion came under intense mortar and small-arms fire. Though wounded, Arvin disregarded the fierce fire and was leading his element forward to engage the enemy when his radio operator was also wounded. Arvin dragged the soldier to safety and, undaunted by the perilous circumstances, returned to direct repeated helicopter gunship strikes. He refused his own medical evacuation until the objective was secure and the mission complete."

The note continues, "After a brief period of hospitalization, First Lieutenant Arvin requested an immediate return to duty. The second award resulted from actions which led to his death, 'On October 8, 1967, his unit was completing a sweep of a suspected enemy base when it encountered an entrenched enemy

regiment. Intense enemy fire pinned down Arvin's Battalion in an exposed, untenable position. In full view of the enemy, he valiantly moved through the fire to a forward vantage point. There, as fighting raged about him, he directed extremely accurate, close-range gunship passes onto enemy positions. As he continually moved through fire-swept fields to position himself better to direct the supporting fire, Arvin was mortally wounded. His unremitting attention to duty and superb direction of ground forces and supporting aircraft had enabled his battalion to defeat a strong and determined enemy three times its size." First Lieutenant Arvin was promoted posthumously to Captain.

Captain Carl Robert Arvin is survived by his parents, wife, and a brother. Captain Arvin is resting in West Point Cemetery with two other 1965 classmates who were killed in Vietnam. He lived 24 years, 8 months, and 19 days. In 1988, a new cadet gymnasium at the U.S. Military Academy was named in his honor. C. Robert Arvin'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 27E Line 068.

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Staff Sergeant Rodger Edson Terwilliger was born on January 19, 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. Orin S. Terwilliger. Rodger attended Adams Elementary and Ypsilanti High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, but graduated from Littleton High School in Littleton, Colorado. He worked for the Martin Aircraft Company in Denver, Colorado



before entering the Army in 1961.

Sergeant Terwilliger began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on February 4, 1966, serving as an Intelligence Analyst with the 246th Psychological Operations Company, 6th Psychological Operations Battalion, United States of Army Republic of Vietnam Special Troops, Army Headquarters Area Command. Rodger was killed on October 15, 1966, when the vehicle on which he was riding struck a mine.

Rodger Edson Terwilliger is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, his father, and his stepmother, a brother, six stepbrothers, and four stepsisters. He lived 24 years, 8 months, and 26 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 13, Site 16284. Rodger'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 11E Line 078.

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 2024

Sandy Martinez ~ November 2024

Del Mayes ~ March 2025

Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ January 2023

Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027

Paulo and Ann Pereira ~ October 2024

George Perrault ~ October 2025

Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023

Jim Sharp ~ April 2031

John C. Shook ~ July 2028

Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025

Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023

Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027

Current Events

By Ann D. Pereira

13 Oct: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs

13 Oct: U.S. Navy Birthday (1775)
 14 Oct: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs
 17 Oct: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
 10 Nov: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs
 10 Nov: Marine Corps Birthday (1775)
 11 Nov: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs
 11 Nov: Veterans Day (1918)
 20 Nov: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
 24 Nov: Thanksgiving

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

AVVA Newsletter – October 2022

By Kathy Driscoll

AVVA Newsletter October 2022

We need better communication between our members. We need to set up welfare checkups between our members. Cindy Cox is still recovering. She is at home. Please send her a get-well card. She would love to hear from you! Cindy will have her second skin graph on September 28th. We wish her a quick recovery.

Cindy Cox

150 S. Staebler Rd # 854

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Steve Cox is in Ann Arbor VA CLC. If you are at the hospital, please stop by and say hello. Steve is confined to his bed. He is being treated for a spinal cord injury and dialysis.

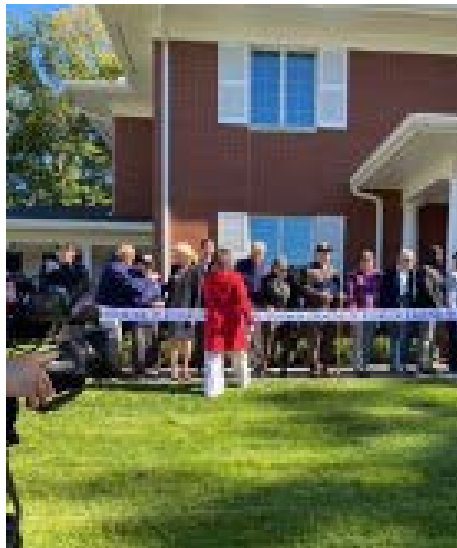
To send Steve a card:

Charles S. Kettles VA Hospital
 Attn: Steve Cox, patient CLC
 Room 37 bed 2
 2215 Fuller Rd,
 Ann Arbor, MI 48105

AVVA 310 raised \$301 at the 2022 Pig Roast 50/50 raffle. Thank you, Bill Vollano for donating your \$151 winnings back to AVVA 310.

Kate Kirkpatrick and I attended the Fisher House Ann Arbor dedication on September 23rd. Kate represented both AVVA 310 and the DAR. Sandie Wilson and Tim Driscoll were ribbon cutters representing Vietnam Veterans of Michigan.

Membership Report:



AVVA 310 has 33 members. If you would like to join AVVA 310, please contact Kathy Driscoll. Our newest Lifetime member is Sandy Martinez. 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 60 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. Suggested donation is \$5. When we sell out, we will donate an additional \$300 to Fisher House Michigan. Contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. All proceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.

AVVA 310 donated \$500 to Fisher House Michigan to their 2022 Patriot Match Fundraiser.

AVVA 310 total donation to Fisher House Michigan to date is \$13,300.00.



We donated \$50 to the Saline Rotary Michigan Avenue Flag Project in August.

We donated \$50 to the 2022 AVVA Project Friendship.

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 Veterans 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 as follows:

Washtenaw County Food Banks

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2022 Girls’ State Update!

We received a \$500 donation for the Lois Perrault Memorial fund. The fund balance is \$3,528.25. We

plan to sponsor four delegates to the 2023 Girl State. Hopefully it will be in person next year.

Requirements are that the delegates will complete their junior year in 2023 in a Michigan High School. Please let me know if you have a granddaughter, niece, or neighbor to sponsor. More information will be given in November 2022.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

I did not attend the AVVA Michigan State Association meeting on Sunday, September 25. As of today, there is no communication received from their meeting.

WCCV

I attended the September 19th meeting. There was no quorum, no business was conducted. Next meeting will be Monday, October 17th at the VFW Post 423, American Legion Post 46 will host.

Upcoming Events!

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

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897



Jocosity

Submitted by George Perrault
Inflation: Food costs so much; it would be cheaper to eat money!

Submitted by Ken Rogge
Moses made a third pilgrimage to Mount Sanai. After much climbing, he arrives at the burning bush and removes his sandals. He kneels down and says a prayer of entreaty:

– “Oh mighty God, your people have sent me back to ask you a question about the Ten Commandments.”

– “What question do they have?” inquired the Deity.

– “They want to know, are these listed by priority?”

PTSD Warrior's Writings

Submitted By John Kinzinger

The following is the third in a series of writings by deceased Charter VVA310 member Paul S. Dumsch. The tortuous stranglehold PTS had on Paul comes out in his writings.

You're Welcome

My first wife left
Shortly before I was drafted.
Pregnant by another man,
The news arrived in AIT.
That I was a father again.
A month into Vietnam
The divorce papers came.
Coming back a year later
I walk the city streets.
There's not a face
To be recognized.
Drunk. A bottle of
Whiskey in hand.
I stagger down the middle
Of the street at 4 in the morning . . .
Howling at the moon.
I yell to deaf ears,
You're Welcome!!



Of Interest to Veterans

Submitted by Various Contributors

Save the Date: Sunday, December 4th

Submitted by John Kinzinger,
wacu.org.

Be at the VFW Post on Wagner Road by 3:00 pm for our annual Christmas Care Package event. Our service members overseas need to know we support them. Since 2004, we have mailed 4,447 large care packages. We may get Elmer White to again offer a match of up to \$500 to help with the postage. More info next month.

* * *

Purple RunWalk

By Dave Draper

This year's Purple Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, October 22nd, at the Duderstadt Center, on U of M's North Campus, located at 2281 Bonisteel Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI.

This is a fun and festive event for the whole family. Registration begins at 8:00 am, with welcoming remarks at 8:40. The run/walk starts at 9:00 am. There will be a band and refreshments.

The post will have our tent out there. So, if you're not a walker or runner, come out still to enjoy the fun.

We have three free registration spots left. Please let Scott Nichols know if you would like one (517) 449 1549.

* * *

The Pact Act: Information for Veterans

On October 1st, the Department of Veterans Affairs expanded eligibility for VA health care for certain veterans of the Vietnam War, Gulf Wars, and Post-9/11 Era under the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

This expansion increases healthcare eligibility for generations of toxic-exposed veterans, giving them access to the healthcare they've earned and deserve.

President Biden signed the bipartisan PACT Act into law on August 10, authorizing one of the largest expansions of VA healthcare and benefits in U.S. history. Veterans can go to www.VA.gov/PACT to apply for healthcare or learn more about what this bill means for them and their families.

Beginning Oct. 1, post-9/11 veterans who did not previously enroll in VA healthcare will have a one-year window to enroll if they qualify as follows:

- Served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War; or
- Served in a combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998, and
- Were discharged or released from active service between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013.

Learn more at VA News and

information.

To learn more about VA healthcare eligibility, or to contact an accredited Veteran Service Officer in your region, contact 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838).

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Million Veteran Program: On Improving Health

VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) is a research program working to improve the health and wellness of Veterans. We aim to enroll one million Veterans in 2023 and want women to have a seat at the table in our research. If more women join MVP, we can strengthen our research findings for women Veterans of all backgrounds.

For more information, please click here: CenterforWomenVeterans@messages.va.gov.

Memories of Years Past

By Jane Kinzinger

(Photos: Vance McCrumb)

The Clinton Fall Festival has always been a good venue for our Chapter to sell merchandise, meet other veterans, and be a patriotic presence. The Clinton Fall Festival



started rather small some years ago, with crafts covering several blocks on Clinton-Tecumseh Road. There were also booths and handmade items for sale on Michigan Avenue in front of the Clinton Inn. I remember taking a break in the Clinton Inn with several other women.

On Sunday about noon, we would form up several blocks further south on a side street (maybe by a school) and march in their nice parade to Michigan Avenue and then west. After marching, we would gather at our merchandise tent and greet festivalgoers.



The Festival has changed somewhat. First, it has grown so much in size. This year there were vendors still further down the main drag of craft booths. This year you could purchase an elephant ear, Mexican food, or cotton candy. There were booths selling jewelry, incense, tie-dyed items, and many other items, not so homemade. The Armenian Church still maintained the tradition of homemade ethnic food and music. So, there was something for everyone. I especially liked the kernel corn and doughnuts.

Things change with time. I am happy to report that the patrons visiting the merchandise booth

have not changed. They are still people who enjoy talking to our Chapter members, looking through the military items displayed, and making that special purchase to put on—right on the spot—to wear home or take to a loved one. They continue to spend money on shirts, hats and pins that represent their service or remind them of a family member or friend. It is still a pleasure to be able to help someone find just the right branch, insignia, or statement that fits them. More than once I heard someone say, "I'm so glad you are here. I look for you every year. You always have what I want." Since we always have the same prime spot, we are easy to locate. Thanks to all the Chapter members who spent time helping with merchandise. You all know how important you are to making someone's day at the Clinton Fall Festival complete.

Ready for Halloween?

By John Kinzinger

There is a fun time Halloween haunted house-type event at Freedom River. This is a fundraiser for a non-profit developing a large project for military Veterans that will include cabins, campsites, a meeting building, fishing, equine therapy, and much more. Go to their website to find out more – www.freedomriverflows.org. They recently bought this large parcel of land with about 1/2 mile frontage on the Huron River. They are looking to start the development as soon as they can. Check it out.

From the Dispatch Team:

Thank You!

All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
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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

Website: <https://www.vva310.org/>
Email: membership@vva310.org
Follow us on 310 [Facebook page](#)
VVA 310 Chapter Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3221
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

Contact Us: Please direct any
communication to Vice President
and Webmaster "Vance McCrumb"
<dogman2@reagan.com>.

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