

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*



**December 2022,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: This issue of the 310 Dispatch comes out a few days from the winter solstice and but a few weeks from the new year. It is a time for reconsidering and remembering, Also, a special thanks to Jane Kinzinger for collaborating in recapping the salient events of our Chapter's 2022 activities. From the Dispatch Team, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Blessings and good health!
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message

By Stan Harrison

The holiday season is again upon us, and we here at Chapter 310



are in full swing. Just before Thanksgiving, we purchased and delivered the makings of a fine holiday dinner—complete with turkeys, hams, and the works—for the folks at Dawn Farm. After a glitch at the checkout stand (I had failed to properly activate the gift card; the Meijer store director let us slide on payment until the next morning), we were able to make delivery and then go, sit down, and talk for the first time since Covid-19 hit. This is the 35th year that we have been able to provide this service to Dawn Farm clients. Once you have participated, gone in, and talked with the clients, you understand why we do this every year. Thanks again to Meijer for their generous support.

As I write this, we are making ready for a packing party at the Post. This is where we pack boxes of goodies for troops stationed overseas. This is also a longstanding tradition. Over the years, we have literally

sent thousands of packages to overseas troops.

We are also making plans to get back into the Ann Arbor VA Hospital for Christmas. John Kinzinger has once again arranged for finely embroidered shirts to be given to each patient. The VA is allowing us in on a limited basis due to Covid. Only ten people total may go in—and that includes other organizations that have been part of this event over the years.

Berry Bourne, our treasurer, is already working on next year's budget. If you have any suggestions or concerns, contact any Board member so that we can give proper consideration.

I'll see you at our next meeting.

In the meantime, stay safe and stay proud.

December 2022 Chaplain's Corner

By Gordon Moore

Here we are at the end of 2022, and what a year it has been! Unlike the time of Christ's birth, it has not been a year filled with good news. Yet, God has been faithful to preserve us and pour down His blessings upon us. He is ever good to those who love Him and are



called by His name.

Let us recall together the glorious moment of Jesus' birth as recorded in Matthew:

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So, all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

(Matthew 1:18-25 New King James Version)

I am amazed that so few words were filled with so much emotion. Had it not been the assurance from the angel of the Lord, I am not sure either Mary or Joseph would have headed the instruction. And I am not sure they were fully convinced at that, but they were willing to believe the angel's word. Partly because it was foretold through the prophet, which was part of their teaching from their youth, and partly because of Mary visiting her cousin, Elizabeth, and having her baby jump in the womb as a finishing sign for her belief.

I often ask how I would have responded. What about you?

A blessed Christmas to you all. Peace be upon you,

Gordon

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VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

10 November 2022

Call to Order by Harrison at 1900 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 Bayha/Rivers to approve the October Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

Del Mayes is at home on hospice care and would welcome visitors at his house. I went to an interment ceremony for Sam Wheeler. We had a meeting with VFW. VFW had some security concerns that caused them to change the locks. VFW officers now take care of the building event calendar. We can still use the building as before, but we must now have a VFW officer put our events on the calendar for us. VVA and VFW will meet quarterly. Things seem to be okay between us now. They wanted to raise money for building maintenance and improvements but understand our situation.

Treasurer's Report:

Berry Bourne's report was read by Harrison. Reports were emailed to the Board and to members who wanted one. Let Bourne know your email address.

Tim Clarke audited the books for FY 2021 and FY 2022 and the audit showed no errors.

There was no significant unrestricted revenue for October. We had two significant expenses: The donation to Veterans Radio and the purchase of the new Dispatch computer. We had no significant restricted revenue, and the only expense was the upgrade

for the VA hospital patients so they could have a steak dinner.

No questions.

AVVA Report:

Driscoll. Please see report in the *Dispatch*. We have \$500 more to donate to the Fisher House once the Patriot Matching Challenge begins.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Meni Draper did a complete inventory for us. While she was at it, she put everything back in a much more orderly and organized fashion. **Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** No meeting.

Michigan State Council: No meeting.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. We did our fall cleaning earlier today. Thank you to everybody who participated. We hauled a truck load of compacted dirt from the garden plot and replaced it with fresh compost. It should be ready for replanting in the spring. We cleaned up the wind damage and picked up all the leaves. Work crews should be done for the season.

The building project continues. The irrigation plan is in its final review for submission to the Township for our permit. The plan is to remove the current sod, install the irrigation system and then resod the front lawn. We will also review the question of whether we need to hide the building behind arborvitae trees once we see how it looks with the trees completely bare. Of course, we are also working on the plan to put a berm in on the property line.

Website: McCrumb. We are up around 359,000 hits. We get around 2,500 hits a month, most of which are trolls from China and other countries.

Membership: The official number is at 215. We have lost three members so far this year.

Newsletter: No report.

Healthcare: Bull. The PACT Act included the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 which allows certain folks to sue the United States for damage caused by 30 days or more of exposure to Camp Lejeune water. But, if you win, your award must be offset by any payment you receive from the VA, Medicaid or Medicare. So, the rumor of the "giveback" is partly true, but it only applies to Camp Lejeune water lawsuits against the US. It does not apply to toxic exposure lawsuits against other defendants. The giveback is also more limited than the rumor indicates. It only takes back payments made to the veteran or veteran's representative (for example, the veteran's representative payee or trustee). It does not take back payments made to surviving spouses or dependents. The take back is limited to the amount the US pays a veteran. For example if you win \$100,000 in the lawsuit, but you only get compensation for a 10% disability, the US will not come after any other assets nor any other types of income to make up the difference. The take back will be from your VA benefits, Medicaid and Medicare only.

LTCCSKMC: Harrison. We are going to be allowed to have 10 people go inside the hospital to deliver underwear. The process will

be carefully regulated so as not to disrupt patient care.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Notice of Proposed Motion to amend Article VI Section 1 to reduce the Board size from 10 directors to 6 by eliminating 2 two-year members and 2 one-year members.

The amended section would then read:

"Section 1 – Board Composition

The officers and six directors shall constitute the Board of Directors. Three of the directors shall be elected annually to serve a term of two years or until their successors are elected. In this way, the Board of Directors will maintain three members with two years and three members with one year remaining in their term of office."

The motion and vote will occur at the December meeting.

Good of the Order:

Throneberry: Thanks to your support, we are celebrating our 19th anniversary. Bob Gould's 80th birthday is coming up soon. Feel free to email him at bob@veteransradio.org. Anyone heard from Ken Rogge lately? He was in on this from the beginning. We are going to have a show devoted to VA benefits coming soon.

Bull: Lots of things going on tomorrow for Veterans Day. Some of you might want to stay home, but please go out so that you can talk to the younger veterans. You can help them get through some of the stuff that you went through. Attending even just one event would help. We'll be at Texas

Road House from 1100 to 1400 tomorrow to give stuff away, while the manager gives away vouchers for steak dinners.

Merritt: We have jackets in. They are \$95 each.

Bull: Over the next year, I will not be doing any more open houses here. Our next one will be in Ida, in Monroe County. Then, one after that will be in Lenawee County. We want to make VetFest bigger this year.

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday, December 9th: TBD.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1940 hrs.

Honoring December

Anniversaries on the Wall

Private First Class Donald George Bousley was born on March 18, 1949 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Ferris G. Bousley. Donald is a 1968 graduate of Ann Arbor High School.

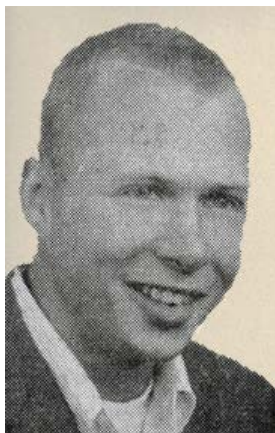


Private First Class Bousley enlisted in the Army in June of 1968. He began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on November 20, 1968 serving with C Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Donald was killed by enemy small arms fire during an ambush on December 22, 1968 just one month and two days after arriving In-Country. He was posthumously awarded two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Private First Class Donald George Bousley is survived by his parents and two brothers. He lived for 19 years, 9 months and 4 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Don is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 36W Line 063.

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Private First Class Paul Quammen Etter was born on January 12, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Lester F. Etter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul is a graduate of University High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he lettered in football, swimming and track. He attended Eastern



Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he studied art for two years prior to entering the Marine Corps on April 16,

1968.

Private First Class Etter went through Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, California. Paul began his tour of duty in Danang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 2, 1968 serving as an Antitank Assaultman with C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Paul was in combat continuously until he was hospitalized for a foot infection. He returned to duty on December 4, 1968. Paul was killed by small-arms fire four days after returning to his unit on December 8, 1968, just two months and six days into his tour of in-country duty.

Paul Quammen Etter is survived by his parents, two brothers, and four sisters. He lived 22 years, 10 months, and 26 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul'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 37W Line 063.

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Sergeant Dannie Lewis Johnson was born on September 28, 1946, to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Johnson of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Dannie is a December 1965 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He enlisted in the Army before graduation and worked at the Fisher Body Plant in Willow Run while waiting for induction into the Army.

Sergeant Johnson entered the Army in 1965 and received his Basic Training in Fort Knox,



Kentucky, and completed Paratrooper School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Dannie began his tour of duty in

Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam, on September 5, 1966, serving as a clerk-typist with Headquarters Company, 5th Special Forces Group. He was killed on December 30, 1967, just a month into his second tour of duty in South Vietnam. He was killed when a mortar round exploded on his position, as he was directing artillery support.

Dannie Lewis Johnson is survived by his parents, three brothers, and five sisters. He lived 21 years, 3 months, and 2 days. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant. He is resting in Aldridge Grove Cemetery in Harzell in Lawrence County, Alabama. Dannie'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 33E Line 003.

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Sergeant First Class Grady Merril Jordan was born on July 25, 1915 in Benton, Arkansas. Sergeant Jordan enlisted in the United States Army on July 22, 1940, beginning a 26-year career in the Army. Grady served in World War II, where he earned the American Defense Service Medal, Honorable



Lapel Button, the European-African Middle-Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star and three Bronze Service Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal. He also served in Korea, where he earned the United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star, the American Campaign Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Citation. He then spent a number of years as a heavy equipment instructor at Fort Lewis, Washington, and at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, before leaving for South Vietnam. Grady began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on, March 1, 1967, as a Heavy-Construction Equipment Operator, serving with A Company, 169th Engineering Battalion, 159th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade.

Grady took his own life on Christmas Eve of 1967. According to a posting by Dave Abshire, Sr., who served with Grady, "I remember Sarge very well. I was a young man, 18 years old. Sarge was like a father figure to me at that time. Sometimes we would set and chat over a drink, and he would tell me of some of the things he had done and seen in his time

in the Army. He looked out for me and was an older friend. It was a bad Christmas that year for sure. "Sarge, if you have internet where you are and can read this, I still miss you. I didn't know things were that bad, some things you wouldn't talk about, and you were going through a tough time, I know."

Grady Merril Jordan is the oldest person to die in Vietnam that is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. He lived 52 years, 4 months, and 29 days. He is listed under Ypsilanti. Grady is resting in the Fort Leonard Wood Post Cemetery in Pulaskey County, Missouri. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, on Panel 32E, Line 056.

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First Lieutenant Dean Francis Spaulding, Jr.

was born on December 19, 1946, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, to Mr. Dean F. Spaulding of Marquette, Michigan, and Mrs. Estella Woodard of Clearwater, Michigan. Dean is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He earned a scholarship to Rhode Island University in Kingston, Rhode Island. He entered the Army in January of 1967, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and attained First Lieutenant in November of 1968.



First Lieutenant Spaulding began his tour in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam, on October

21, 1968, serving as a Field Artillery Unit Commander with B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 40th Artillery, 199th Infantry Brigade. Dean was killed on December 15, 1968 as a result of an explosive device.

Dean Francis Spaulding, Jr. is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived 21 years, 11 months, and 26 days. He is resting in the Largo Cemetery in Largo, Florida. Dean'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 36W Line 028.

AVVA Newsletter

December 2022

We need better communication between our members. We need to set up welfare checkups between our members.

Cindy and Steve Cox are back at home. Please send them a card to lift their spirits. Welcome Home Steve and Cindy!

Cindy and Steve Cox

150 S. Stabler Rd # 854

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Please Note

AVVA 310 will have an in-person meeting on December 8th at the VFW Post 423. Please bring a Toys for Tots donation.

Our AVVA 310 January, February and March meetings will be via Zoom. I will send out links before each meeting. If you would like to meet in person in January, February, or March, please let

me know. I can host the Zoom meetings from the VFW Post.

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!

Jane is requesting help to decorate the VFW Post on Friday, December 9th with the VFW Auxiliary. Please let Jane know if you would like to attend. This is the day after our December Christmas meeting.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

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.

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.

--> Bob Bull has set up a Toys for Tots donation box at the Veterans Resource Center at the VFW Post 423. We will collect our donations at the December 8th meeting. Please drop off your donations on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

--> 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>

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2022 Girls’ State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,528.25. We plan to sponsor four delegates to the 2023 Girls’ State. Hopefully, it will be in person next year. Please forward me the name of any junior high school student who is interested in attending 2023 Girls’ State.

Requirements are that the delegates will complete their junior year in 2023 in a Michigan high school.

Link to the American Legion Auxiliary Girls’ State Brochure.

https://michalaux.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ALA_Girls_State_Brochure-lp.pdf

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

WCCV

The October 17th meeting was cancelled. I plan to attend a November meeting, if one is scheduled.

Upcoming Events!

Keep up to date with our Chapter:

All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our Chapter’s webpage (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

Current Events

by Ann D. Pereira

04 Dec: VVA 310 Christmas Care
Package Event, 1500 hrs

08 Dec: Monthly Meetings: AVVA,
1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA
General Mtg 1900 hrs

09 Dec: VVA 310 Monthly
Breakfast, 0900 hrs

20 Dec: Christmas at VA, Shirt
Distribution, 1730 hrs

25 Dec: Christmas Day

01 Jan: New Year's Day

01 Jan: Navy Seals Birthday (1962)

12 Jan: Monthly Meetings: AVVA,
1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA
General Mtg 1900 hrs

13 Jan: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast,
0900 hrs

16 Jan: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs

27 Jan: Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)

Dispatch Recipients

The VVA 310 newsletter reaches about 500 people each month with 100 mailed USPS, 50 hits off the website (www.vva310.org), and 350 emailed. 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 Dempsey 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

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

George looks like a golf pro in his
designer outfit, but he slices his
first drive deep into the woods.
Rather than accept a penalty, he
decides to try using an iron to get

back on the fairway. But his ball ricochets off a tree and strikes him on the forehead, killing him instantly.

When he arrives at the Pearly Gates, St. Peter greets him. "You look like a golfer. Are you any good?"

George replies, "I got here in two, didn't I?"

Veterans Day Observance

By John Kinzinger

On November 11, several VVA Chapter 310 members and other Veterans attended a special Veterans Day observance at Saline High School. The students and staff at the school really made us proud of our military service. The school chef and staff made some of the greatest desserts and foods for us.

We broke into smaller groups and visited classrooms to discuss our service with students. They were attentive and appreciated our being there. It is a wonderful annual event. And it was all organized by the granddaughter of our Chapter member Robert Glaspie. You have to be proud of her, Bob!

Pictured here are Tom Stempky, Tom Power, John K, Rep. Debbie



Dingell, and Bill Henderson. Rep. Dingell thanked each of us for our service.

It was just a great way to observe Veterans Day!

On Paul Dumsch

Submitted by John Kinzinger

[A note: This is the fifth in the series of writings by Vietnam War soldier Paul Stewart Dumsch. You can feel Paul's PTS anguish as he dealt with the demons that would not let him go. My friend Paul is now resting in peace.]

S3

How many bars, trucks,
Motorcycles, jails, wives

Do we go through

Before we let those

That truly do care "in?"

Much like Harrison's Tristan

In Legends of the Fall,

There's a pull to board the schooner

And abandon "Them."

(To ride the Harley into the wind,

With no destination in mind

Or plans for coming back.)

To let "them in" is danger

Hurt and loss.

Caring causes misery.

I have enough pain . . .

You don't get close.

You NEVER NEED!

Last Call

By John Kinzinger

Warriors And Caregivers United is holding our annual Christmas party for OEF/OIF Veterans, their caregivers and children next Saturday, December 10th, at the Ann Arbor VFW Post. [Be there by 1pm](#). Come out and see what we are about, family. WE NEED BY COB WEDNESDAY a headcount for gifts and catered food. And we need some information on the ages of attendees. Please email President Stephanie Hall at stephanie@wacu.org to pass along that information and questions.

Go to our FB page, www.facebook.com/wacu.org, to learn more about our Michigan local organization. Most commo is through our closed FB page. We do not have membership. We are simply family; we are simply there for each other.

If you can make it, see you there. If not, we wish you and yours the best for Christmas and the coming year.

John Kinzinger, WACU Director
Past Ann Arbor Post Commander

Get a Free Military Service Plaque

In time for the holidays, **Together We Served** is offering all Veterans a free, high-quality 11"x 6" plaque of their military service, which can be printed out and framed. More information [here](#).

Memories of Years Past

By Jane Kinzinger



December is the time when people have memories of years past. Here are a few memories.

This image shows Randy Johnson and John Kinzinger at The Washington Monument on 11-11-02, at the 20th Anniversary of The Vietnam Wall.



Nov. 11, 2002, twentieth anniversary of The Vietnam Wall, Washington, D.C. The Women's Memorial with Randy Johnson, John Kinzinger, and Gary Lillie.



Stage performance in VA Hospital Auditorium for hospitalized Veterans in the 1990s. The stage

shows involved magicians, musicians, and often "Fat Bob" Taylor. The Singing Plummer would be the MC.

What these images show is the dedication that VVA 310 members, associates, and friends display in their dedication to community issues, especially when Veterans were involved, with typical generosity.

Performances at the VA Hospital were especially elaborate, displaying a level of expertise that rivaled professional shows, all of it



out of generosity.

This picture, for example, shows the VVA members and friends who performed the many duties required to host a stage show for the hospitalized Veterans. Duties included setting up, cleaning up, serving home made cookies, replenishing beverages, handing out gifts, and transporting patients from and to their rooms. A few of those photographed here have since passed away.

At Christmas time, performers would visit all the rooms at the VA hospital, beginning on Tuesday before Christmas. These were two of the very talented musicians who were part of the Saline Fiddlers organization. They played upbeat music. They have made many CDs. One of their CDs is entitled "Better than Bingo" because at one of their performances, a patient said, "This is better than bingo." Patients loved having young people play for them. The players were always good students who came, played, entertained, and rushed back home to finish their assignments. They loved performing and playing their music.

Reviewing 2022

In **January**, VVA 310 members assisted with a fundraiser at the Ypsilanti Sidetrack Grill. The event was an effort to raise funds for WACU.org. It was quite successful due to the live auction (people donated things) and the generosity of the waitstaff, who donated all their gratuities generated from our group.

In **February**, we enjoyed an unusually robust winter season.

In **March**, we celebrated Vietnam Veterans Day by meeting at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. No formal program—just a friendly get-together for coffee and donuts. Memorable also was the VFW Post 423 Open House, at which event VVA members sold pins, sweatshirts, and fleeces.

In **April**, Chapter elections were held at the month's first Sunday.

In **May**, Chapter members read about the year's award recipients at the 34th annual recognition dinner, including Dale Throneberry, Eric Downie, Joe Palazzolo, Alice Lee, Jim Robinson, Jr., and Jim's son Steven.

In **June**, Chapter members read about celebrations for Memorial Day, including placing bricks for the four VVA 310 Chapter members who had passed the previous year.

In **July**, VVA 310 members had a celebration of patriotism, remembering important documents and events at the founding of the United States of America.

In **August**, the 19th annual Pig Roast was held on August 28, from noon to five. For the second year in a row, we had Write that OK so what do I give me some words to searchve held the Pig Roast at the Saline American Legion Post. Holding the Pig Roast there has allowed us to use their commercial kitchen and refrigeration, which has led to greater efficiencies. A real asset is the support and help we received from the American Legion Post members there.

Putting up tents and providing tables and seating reduced the physical work of the event. We have been roasting about 40 pork butts in our big cooker, which has



to be towed from the VFW Post 423 to Saline. Pork is cooked slowly for 12 hours until it is tender and tasty. This is our Chapter's largest fundraiser of the year. It takes many hands to cover all the duties and tasks involved in preparing the meat, the side dishes, drinks, and dessert for more than 300 customers. Many people purchase the meal to go, especially when the weather is very hot, as it was in 2021. This year it was not as hot and humid.

On August 11, our Chapter received recognition for financial donation to Fisher House. Tim Driscoll accepted the Patriots Award trophy at the Yankee Air Museum event.

In **September**, our Chapter sponsored another demonstration project by "22aday.org." Each day for the month of September, 22 crosses were placed near the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. Al Merritt, Jon Luker, and Wendy Hibbitts led this project to bring awareness to the problem of Veteran and active-duty suicide. The cumulative effect of placing 22 crosses a day demonstrates the magnitude of loss each month. We



had good merchandise sales at the Clinton Fall Festival held the end of the month. The Fisher House dedication and ribbon-cutting event was September 23, attended

by Sandie Wilson, Tim and Kathy Driscoll, and Kate Kirkpatrick.

In **October**, Chapter member Rev. Bob Bull hosted an Open House for veterans at Post 423. The event provides information to Veterans, and the focus is helping Veterans. This is in addition to the twice-a-week Veterans Resource Center that is open 9:30-5:00. Coffee and donuts are available in the morning, and hot dogs are offered for lunch.

In **November**, we took the ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner to the 30 residents at Dawn Farm. This is a very successful rehab working farm. They were very appreciative of the food. This year, a small group of those who did the shopping were able to go inside Dawn Farm building and chat with the residents. (photo November 2021 Dispatch page 11.)

In **December**, we packed around 50 boxes to be sent to those active



military. The boxes contained candy, snack food, and a hand-made Christmas stocking. Miss Washtenaw County helped and autographed photos to be included in each box.

On December 20, we will deliver specially embroidered shirts to the patients at the VA Hospital.

Merry Christmas and

Happy Holidays!

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

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Please forward. Thank you!