

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*



**April 2024,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: Our Dispatch Team this month received plenty of materials for the Dispatch. Creative editing enabled us to include the essential materials even in a shorter version. Our thanks go to our team members for generous help in bringing this work to completion.

Spring season is as beautiful as it is fleeting. Enjoy!

-- Paulo J. Pereira, 310 Dispatch editor.

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April 2024 Prez Report

By Vance McCrumb

I'm writing my prez report early because we will be enroute to Montana when I would normally be pounding on the keyboard. Our great granddaughter will turn 1, and she can't wait to see us—Oh wait: It's us who can't wait to see her. Plus, turning it in early will keep our editor Paulo happy.

Al Merritt sent me a picture of the new Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial sign on East bound I-94, just before West bound Michigan Ave exit. Click [here](#) to visit the Memorial Highway page. You can also link to it via our website under the Events tab.

At our Wednesday TLC Coffee, we had a surprise visitor, Lloyd Carr, who was the head coach of the U of M Football team from 1995-2007. Per Wikipedia, he compiled a record of 122-40. His 1997 team was undefeated and declared National Champions by the *Associated Press*. With Lloyd was Richard Hewlett, who was the back-up QB on the 1980 team that won the Big Ten. He is best known as a true freshman starting quarterback in 1979 against Ohio State. Michigan lost 18-15. We gave both our newest challenge coin.

Speaking of challenge coins, our newest ones are for sale for \$5.00 each. See Stan Harrison to get yours.

April 13th is our Chapter's 37th annual recognition dinner. Doors will be open at 5:30 pm. Tickets will be available at the door. This year, we will have musical entertainment starting at 6:00 pm. As usual we will have silent auction items thanks to Roy Hall. Our usual 50/50 tickets will be available, as well as challenge coins, at the door.

Washtenaw County Community College VetFest – Saturday, August 3rd, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission and parking. To RSVP, click [here](#). When you enter the event, you will be issued a wristband for the free lunch and prize raffles. Last year, they had a Chinook helicopter on display; and, this year, Yankee Air Museum will fly in their Huey "Greyhound" for a static display. Bring your grandkids. They can climb in and experience what you moved around the country in. Well, sort of.

This Huey is frequently flown by Chapter member Bill Stuart to events around the state. Bill was also instrumental in arranging access for me to talk with the Chief Pilot, Jim Wise, about flying it to VetFest. There was an anonymous donor for the Huey's appearance fee.

Our annual Memorial spring clean-up was held on Saturday the 16th. We had a good crew from the Chapter show up, as well as three employees from Home Depot. Home Depot delivered about 200 bags of bark, and they donated a power washer. We spread the bark, picked up twigs, cleaned the benches and picnic table, and edged the sidewalks. We also washed and wiped down the Memorial and weeded the stone beds around the bushes. Wendy weeded the berm on the west side and also cooked the tube steaks. The grounds are again in top-notch shape thanks to the leadership of Al Merritt and Jon Luker. When I left, Luker and Downie were power washing the sidewalks.

Pictured is the spring clean-up crew. Some that you don't recognize are, second from the left, Darrell Hill, and kneeling left is Sabrina Wheeler. Sabrina's father was a Chapter member who passed away last year. Back row, left, are Garry Massengill and his wife, Linda. The tall guy in the yellow sweatshirt is member Rick Wagner.

From Home Depot, front row middle, are Dennis McFarland, Jacob Anderson, and Candy Cooke. There was a fourth from Home Depot, but I failed to get his name. We did give them our new challenge coin. Not pictured were Dave Draper, Ed Scruggs, and Bill Coleman.



Sick Call: Bill Stuart had surgery this month, and per Bill, it was successful. Sandie Wilson and Stan (The Donald) Harrison are well on the road to recovery from their knee and shoulder replacements.

Arf, V

P.S. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes--then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?

April 2024 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore



The ascension of Christ plays such a pivotal role in Christianity because it verifies the mission of Jesus and paves the way for the coming of the Spirit, which gives Christians the power to lead the life of a follower of Christ.

That path is spelled out in Luke:

And as they (the two disciples who met Jesus on the Emmaus Road) spoke, Jesus himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be upon you." But they were terrified and afraid, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

And he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not yet for joy, and wondered, he said to them, do you have any meat here? So, they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and some honeycomb. And he took it and ate it before them.

Then he said to them, "These are the words that I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me." Then he opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

And he said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: and stay in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted his hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while he blessed them, that he was parted from them and carried up to heaven. And they worshipped him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

(Luke 24:36-23)

Let us await his second coming with power from on high, and with great joy, praising and blessing God. Amen.

VVA310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By John Luker, Chapter Secretary

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes, 14 March 2024
Call to Order by President McCrumb 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 world.

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

New Members: John Sariani, Navy CB's '69-'70, heavy equipment operator

Guests: None

Motion: by Merritt/Hitte to approve the February Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

Adjourn to Nominations

**President: Vance McCrumb (accept),
Vice President: Marv Rivers (accept)
Treasurer: Berry Bourne (accept)
Secretary: Jon Luker (accept)
Sergeant at Arms: Eric Downie (accept)**

**Two-year board members moving to one-year positions are:
Bill Stuart, Dale Throneberry and John Kinzinger**

**Two-year board nominees (Need at least three)
Accepting: Brian Graef, Bob Bull, Tim Driscoll
Declining: Bill Cole, Garry Massengill
State Council Delegates: (We need up to 5)**

Recall to Order

President's Report:

Please see my remarks in the *310 Dispatch*.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne

Reports were emailed to the Board and to members who wanted one. Let Bourne know your email address if you desire these reports.

Nonrestricted funds revenue increased by a \$500 donation earmarked for WACU and by \$1,090 merchandise sales at the VA (less \$776 cost of goods sold). The only significant expense was \$500 sent to Washtenaw Community College for VetFest happening on 3 August. On restricted accounts, the Christmas fund revenue reached \$19,232 making it the second-best year so far.

For the fiscal year, our total revenue was \$8,368 more than our budget predicted while our expenses were

\$9,999 less than our budget predicted. approved by the Board

Our annual financial reports have been sent to VVA National and to Michigan State Council. We will next perform our internal audit as per Board approved policy.

AVVA Report: Please see the report in the Dispatch.

Committee Reports

Merchandise: Merchandise annual physical inventory was completed. The next merchandise sale at the AA VA will be Wednesday (instead of our usual Tuesday), 20 March 2024. We always could use help. We load in at 0730 and sell from 0800 until 1400. Also, our new tent is in and is easier to set up, but it still takes 4 or 5 people so we will still need volunteers. And our new challenge coins are in. We sell them for \$5 each. We do take a few cents loss on each sale, but we spread the word, so it is worth it. Last time we bought coins, we made a few cents on each.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: The next meeting is 18 March.

Michigan State Council: Wilson. The National Board voted to do away with in-house attorneys. The move save \$600,000 a year. The work is now being hired out.

The State Council's annual meeting and convention will be 1-2 June in Marquette. The \$50 registration fee includes lunch and supper. Big Mac is under construction so expect a delay.

Memorial Maintenance: Annual Spring Cleanup will be at 1000 on 16 March. Home Depot is helping again this year with a donation of equipment and supplies, and they will send volunteers to the clean-up day as well.

On 29 March (Vietnam Veterans Day) at 1000, we'll have a dedication ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial for the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway signs.

Website: We have had around 422,000 hits since the website was last rebuilt. We've stopped the front-page slide show and made a few other small changes.

Membership: We are at 218 members.

Newsletter: McCrumb. The newsletter is being redesigned. Paulo and I are working on a new front-page design. Also, there is now only one column. If you click on the picture of those named on the wall, you will be taken to the website page that tells what we know about that person.

Health Care: Sandie Wilson – As you know, VA Secretary Denis McDonough has refused to implement federal law requiring the VA to study toxic exposures. He now claims that there is not sufficient information about birth defects to perform the research. That means there is yet another reason to encourage anyone who has a child with a birth defect to register that child with Birthdefects.org. It is not just for veterans, but civilians also. Another reason is because the registry makes it possible to do other research that can't be done any other way. For example, researchers learned that 60% of those diagnosed with autism were born of women who took Tylenol for pain during pregnancy.

LTCCSKMC: No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Bull to approve the proposed FY 24/25 budget approved by the Board.

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Driscoll to amend the proposed budget by increasing the WCCV line

item to \$250. Amendment approved.

Motion by Wilson, seconded by Driscoll to amend the proposed budget by adding \$3,000 to a new line item for two people to attend the Leadership Conference in Reno, NV. Amendment denied.

Motion by Wilson, seconded by Driscoll to amend the proposed budget removing the Way Forward Fund line item. Amendment denied.

The motion to approve the amended proposed budget was approved.

Motion by Luker, seconded by Harrison to authorize the Finance Committee to donate the unused funds from the 23/24 Way Forward Fund to veterans' organizations doing good work in Washtenaw County. Approved

Motion by Harrison, seconded by Driscoll to purchase 20 hats at \$12.50 per hat. Approved.

Motion by Throneberry, seconded by Rivers to make a way for families to buy a brick for their deceased Vietnam veterans.

Motion by Luker, seconded by Harrison to refer the matter to the Executive Committee and the Memorial Maintenance Committee to prepare a specific proposal. Approved.

Good of the Order:

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday (APR 12, 2024) will be at 0900 at Sinbad's Coney Island Restaurant, 2563 Ellsworth Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, (734) 528-5800.

Bull: Bob Bull is introducing a resolution for all Michigan State Police to display the "988 Badge" on their patrol cars. The American Legion and the VFW have provided signed resolutions. VVA will do so shortly. David Saims, Director of the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs, said his department will pay the cost of producing the needed signs if the signs contain a small statement that the project is supported by WCDVA.

Draper:

- VetFest will be on 3 August at Washtenaw Community College. Donations are being accepted. There is a donation link at the bottom of the flyer.
- A person has a stair lift to donate. It must be removed from her house so she can move her furniture. I have a list for people to volunteer to help remove it.
- The American Legion is now hosting its meetings in the same area the VVA uses. As a result, we needed to buy new equipment for zoom meetings. The Legion offers VVA the use of the equipment when it wants to do zoom meetings.

Luker: Bob Kwiecinski asked me to give you his warm greetings and to say he misses you. Bob was instrumental in helping 22aday.org be able to present its Veteran suicide prevention campaign for 30 days in Vero Beach, Florida, and to arrange two more possible locations in Florida. 22aday.org started out doing only two campaigns a year. We will do at least seven this year and maybe as many as ten.

McCrum: Recognition Dinner tickets are here and on sale for \$15 each.

Closing Prayer Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2030.



Honoring April Anniversaries on the Wall

Corporal William Henry Johnson was born on December 9, 1943, in Union City, Tennessee to Jewell and Johnnie Johnson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. William is a 1961 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. A caption in the Ann Arbor High School Yearbook for 1961 states, "Willie came to Ann Arbor High from Slauson. While at the High School, he participated in all intramural sports. He also likes to swim. His plans for after graduation are not yet definite. He will either work or join the Army." William enlisted in the Marine Corps in August of 1963 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received further training at Camp Pendleton, California before going to Okinawa.

Corporal Johnson began his tour of duty near Danang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. William was killed on April 17, 1966, because of small arms fire from a sniper while manning a defensive position.



William Henry Johnson is survived by his parents, a sister, and a brother. He lived 22 years, 4 months, and 8 days. William'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 06E Line 119.

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Private First Class Clive Vere Mosier was born on January 3, 1943, in Campbell, Missouri to Mr. and Mrs. John Mosier of Chelsea, Michigan. Clive was employed as a foreman with Seller's Construction Company before entering the Army on September 1, 1966. According to his wife, "he was known as "Buster" by all his family and friends. Clive loved baseball. His favorite foods were chocolate chip cookies and fried chicken. He sent a picture of him holding a little Vietnamese girl. He said in his letter, 'Honey, I miss you greatly, but these people need us. No one else will help them. We have to.'"

Private First Class Mosier began his tour of duty in Military Region 3, South Vietnam on February 16, 1967, serving as an infantryman with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Clive was killed on April 24, 1967, because of an explosive device.



Clive Vere Mosier is survived by his wife, parents, and four brothers. He lived 24 years, 3 months, and 21 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Clive'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 18E Line 080.

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First Lieutenant Robert John Crabbe was born on June 12, 1941. First Lieutenant Crabbe began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on January 11, 1966, serving as a Field Artillery Unit Commander with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. According to a posting by fellow Field Artillery Officer Candidate School Alumni from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Randy Dunham, "First Lieutenant Crabbe served as an Aerial Observer with the First Cavalry Division. He was in a UH-1C Helicopter Gunship from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry that was shot down while making a rocket run on a Viet Cong position. All five men on board the aircraft died in the incident." He was killed on April 18, 1967, after serving one year, three months and seven days "In-Country."

Robert John Crabbe lived 25 years, 10 months, and 6 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 4, Site 2969-C. Robert'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 18E Line 045.



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Sergeant First Class Michael Jon Wallace was born on November 21, 1939, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sergeant First Class Wallace began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam at Camp Evans serving as a CH-47 Helicopter Repairer with B Company, 228th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division. On April 19, 1968, three Army helicopters were shot down in the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam. All three were making supply runs to Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province. Five men survived the three crashes, and nine men remain missing. On April 19, 1968, Michael was a crew chief on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flying a mid-day supply mission. The helicopter was descending through an overcast sky and was on its final approach to Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province when it was struck by enemy .50 cal and 37mm ground fire, caught fire and began to burn. The gunner witnessed Michael and the flight engineer, Anthony Housh, jump from the helicopter when it was about 100 feet off the ground. The aircraft crash landed, and the remainder of the crew was rescued. Michael's body was never recovered, and he was listed as Missing In Action (MIA). On February 6, 1974, Michael's status was changed to "Died While Missing In Action."



Michael Jon Wallace is survived by his wife and two children, and a sister. He lived 28 years, 4 months, and 28 days. He is remembered with a Military Marker in East Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township as MIA. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 51E Line 002.

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Private First Class James Roy Bihlmeyer was born on November 12, 1946, in Manchester, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Bihlmeyer. James is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He worked at the Saline Plant for Ford Motor Company prior to entering the Army on May 16, 1966.

Private First Class Bihlmeyer went through Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas. James began his tour of duty in Long An Province, South Vietnam on December 1, 1966, serving with A Company, Second Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division as an infantryman. He died because of enemy small arms fire on April 15, 1967.

Private First Class James Roy Bihlmeyer is survived by his parents, a brother, and a sister. He lived for 20 years, 5 months and 3 days. He is resting at the Bethel Church Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. James Roy Bihlmeyer also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18E Line 028.

The 22aday.org Project

By Bob Kwiecinski

As a Past President of VVA Chapter 310, I am very proud to be writing this article for our award-winning Dispatch! When Al Merritt first contacted me last November, he told me about a project that our Veteran organizations in Sebastian, Florida might be interested in, "22aday.org." I was taken at such a wonderful program to create awareness and to alert the public about how serious the veteran suicide rate is.

I communicated to each local Sebastian Veteran organizations, and they responded they either had no property or were too busy for such a project. I then thought about our Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assemblies. Their main charge is Patriotism. I am the District Deputy for Florida District 62, which is in Indi-



an River County, Vero Beach, and Sebastian. We have three 4th Degree Assemblies and four 3rd Degree Councils that I have jurisdiction over.

I introduced the project at my K of C home Assembly 2194 membership meeting in Sebastian. It was immediately met with resounding enthusiasm and instant unanimous approval! Subsequently I brought up this project at all our K of C Assemblies and Councils in District 62. Same result: they said this is a project that they would sponsor and support! No one could remember if there ever was any project in the district that was a joint effort amongst all the K of C organizations!

Jon Luker and Wendy Hibbits said they would come down with the equipment trailer after they picked it up in North Carolina. We kicked off the project with a Sunday dinner at my house. They hadn't had a home cooked meal in several days. We had a fun time reminiscing and starting to make final plans for our local display.

On the following Monday we began the grounds preparation. The layout would be challenging as the St. Helens Catholic Church property was not a rectangle, but a triangle. Jon was able to figure out a layout that would take advantage of the Church front property that bordered along a very busy intersection in Vero Beach. Ron Hunkapiller, Faithful Navigator (president) of K of C Assembly 1932, volunteered to be the St. Helens contact. We were also very fortunate to have a very dedicated new member of his Council, Chuck Roach, help with the initial layout. I was amazed at the amount of preparation necessary to insure we had a very military like precision layout. We spent most of that entire Monday measuring right triangles and laying a few hundred yards of stringlines and stakes.

On Tuesday we had a very good turnout of about 20 volunteers present for the training necessary to understand how to place the 22 crosses daily. Then, for the next 30 days at St. Helen Catholic Church, Vero Beach, Brother Knights, their families, and friends placed 22 crosses a day for an impactful total of 660 crosses. They created an experience that gave the community a visual idea, helping us all understand the significance of the veteran suicide problem, and to challenge us to pray and discern what we can do to combat this unnecessary loss of lives.

The project went very smoothly, with plenty of daily volunteers. However, we did have one scare as the City of Vero Beach issued a Code Violation for too large of an advertising display in public view. To complicate it more, they ticketed the Bishop of West Palm Beach (Church property was in his name)! We were fortunate that Ron Hunkapiller knew a police lieutenant who talked with the City Code Enforcement division to allow us to continue. They said they supported us and to ignore the daily \$50 fines.

Citizens visited the site to learn more about veteran suicide and what can be done to prevent it and were encouraged to write a veteran's name on a cross so that we will never forget them. Many stopped by to recite prayers and rosaries, as well as thanking Veterans present. Monetary donations were accepted for the Veterans 501(C)3 "22aday.org" organization. It is estimated over 200-man hours of labor supported this faithful and patriotic awareness project! In the end we all hoped that we made a difference, and we believe we did!

Thank you, Jon Luker, Wendy Hibbits, and Al Merritt, for giving us such a wonderful project! Here is the link to Bobski's shared drive with all the project photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1xj-00xsGAyx1NCClccx7ZrBjEEuMWI0B>

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

James Alford ~ December 2025; George Boone ~ February 2029; Berryman Bourne ~ August 2026; Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2026; Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024; Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031; Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024; Stan Harrison to honor Russ Michalke ~ March 2026; Ralph Henry ~ November 2026; Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024; Ray Hunter ~ December 2032; Darlene Imus ~ January 2027; Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2024; Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2027 (This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.); Alice Lee ~ March 2031; David Marshall ~ June 2024; Sandy Martinez ~ November 2024; Del Mayes ~ March 2025; Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ March 2026; Gwen Park Olds in honor of John C. Park, Vietnam Vet ~ September 2033; Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027; Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024; George Perrault ~ October 2025; Bruce Ross ~ March 2028; Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026; Jim Sharp ~ April 2031; John C. Shook ~ July 2028; Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025; Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2026; Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027.



What is WACU?

By John Kinzinger

Perhaps many people wonder what WACU is all about. Let me explain how it came to be.

I began my involvement with Veterans in 1986, when I joined VVA310. For years, an issue that hauntingly developed within me was how I might be able to impact the Veteran suicide issue. Survivor guilt seemed to be my motivator. Maybe I could somehow save one Veteran. I attended symposiums and lectures; I met with doctors and combat Veterans; I gathered my thoughts about that issue—and all the while I kept on asking: What might I do?

Our Lord directed me to a friend at the VA hospital. She was a mental health supervisor. My question for her was, “What does the VA do for the caregiver who is there when the warrior has a post traumatic stress episode?” At that time it was 2014--and they were doing very little for caregivers. My search was over. That is when I began Warriors And Caregivers United. Since then, I have come to believe that, truly, we are the first organization in the United States to consider both warrior and caregiver as equals in addressing the suicide issue.

In fact, recently at a WACU caregiver retreat, nearly half of the caregivers admitted they had considered suicide in the past six months. That discovery highlighted the importance of our work directing our efforts for the warrior through the family versus just the warrior.

We have put on events around lower Michigan for our WACU community, for just the warriors, and also for just the caregivers. Our primary focus is events for the family. We have testimonials from several, in which they admit that WACU has made a difference in their lives. And several admitted that, had it not been for WACU, they would have attempted suicide. We, Board members, have adopted the saying, “Let us save One more” as our mantra. That is the name of our May 17th fundraiser at the Ypsilanti Depotown Freighthouse. The program will be 6-9pm with wonderful entertainment, testimonials, and a live auction. There will be a \$15 cover charge.

If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, please make your gift out to W.A.C.U. and mail it to

WACU, PO Box 1586, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Check out our website, wacu.org, and our FB page. Thank you in advance.

Abbreviated AVVA Newsletter April 2024

By Kathy Driscoll

We have two new members. Welcome Linda Colby and Janice Fullerton.

We agreed to donate \$700 to the Veteran Service Dogs in Howell. We received \$50 from Gena in memory of Phil Hecker. Thank you, Gena! We have raised \$579 for this fundraiser.

We would also like to participate in the Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor Meal Train in September.

Our April 11th meeting will be at 6 pm at the VFW Post 423. This is our Bi-Annual election meeting for Chapter Delegate. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to pass.

The Recognition Dinner will be April 13th. See the President's Report for details.

I will be sending out our annual fundraising appeal letter this month. Please mail your donation to Kathy Driscoll. This is our main fundraiser, which funds our Chapter.

VISTA Report: Please email me your VISTA hours.

Membership Report: AVVA 310 has 35 Members. For more information, please [click here](#).

Chapter Happenings!

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

- Our Annual "No Bake, Brakeless" Bake Sale Fundraiser letters will be emailed, and snail mailed this month. Please consider making a donation.
- We plan to have a raffle table at the recognition dinner. Please consider donating an item for the raffle.
- Linda Colby, our newest member, is making Pocket Prayer Quilt blocks. We will have a basket at the Recognition Dinner available to all, requesting a donation.
- We have 40 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.

Service Projects: Please consider donating food to your local community food banks.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2024 Girls' State Update! The fund balance is \$1,913.25. We are sponsoring three delegates to Girls' State 2024. We sent the Saline American Legion Auxiliary Post 322 \$1275. Rilee London is one of our delegates this year. Rilee and her mom and dad will be our guests at our Recognition Dinner.

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. Our next AVVA Michigan State Association meeting is our State Convention in Marquette, MI May 31 to June 2nd. I plan to attend. We will be electing our State Officers. Our AVVA National Leadership Conference is August 20-24th in Reno, NV. I do not plan to attend.

Kathy Driscoll; Chapter Representative, dkathyr16@gmail.com; 734-355-4897.

Keep Up With Our Chapter: All About AVVA and VVA

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
National Chapter of the Year:
1999 & 2007
Newsletter of the Year:
2007, 09, 11, & 15
E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Stan Harrison
Vice President: Vance McCrumb
Secretary: Jon Luker
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb
Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore
Dispatch Editor: Paulo 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 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!

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