

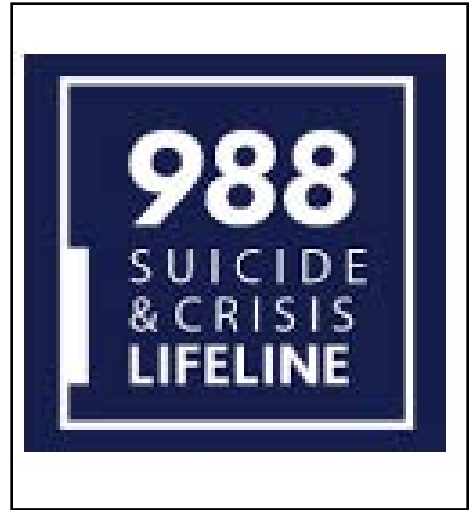
# 310 Dispatch

August 2024



*Together We Make  
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles  
Chapter 310*



**Editor's Note:** Speaking for the Dispatch Team, I would like to thank those who have collaborated to produce this Dispatch edition. Indeed, it takes a team! On page 10, you'll see that John Kinzinger shared a poem. If you have a poem that you'd like to contribute, please let John know. Enjoy the glorious sunshine!

-- Paulo Pereira, Dispatch Editor

## WHATS NEW IN VVA 310

August Prez Report 2024 . . . . .	2
August 2024 Chaplain's Corner . . . . .	2
VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes -- July 2024 . . . . .	4
Honoring August Anniversaries On The Wall . . . . .	6
Current Events . . . . .	7
Dispatch Recipients . . . . .	8
VVA 310 At Earlier Times: The Pig Roast In Photos . . . . .	9
Vietnam Veterans Poetry: A Proposal By John Kinzinger . . . . .	10
About VVA 310 . . . . .	12

# August Prez Report 2024

By Vance McCrumb



VVA 310 Treasurer Berry Bourne and John Kinzinger, fundraising Chairman, presented Kate Melcher, Director of Fisher House Michigan, a check for \$10,000. The check will help keep the refrigerators and freezers full at the Ann Arbor Fisher House. The donation will be matched and will cover the food cost for the next three months.

Along with that donation, John recently delivered \$5,200 worth of underwear to Volunteer Services. As noted, We Continue to Serve.

We held the Jim Shepard's second annual birthday gathering this month. Pictured are Stan Harrison, Dave Draper, Jim Shephard, Jane Kinzinger, Jim's wife Mary, John Kinzinger and Meni Draper for our annual birthday visit with long-time member Jim Shephard. Jim suffered a stroke several years ago and has made remarkable improvement. There is a marked improvement in his ability to verbally express himself over last year. Jim said to me he's going to beat this.



Jim is an Air Force Veteran as well as a Michigan Bell retiree. So are the rest of us with the exception of that 1<sup>st</sup> Cav dude who put this birthday gathering together.

Merchandise Sales: Merchandise Chair Stan Harrison along with the usual suspects, Al Merritt, Ed Scruggs, Tim Driscoll and myself, setup our monthly merchandise sales at the Ann Arbor VA Charles S. Kettles hospital. Last month, one of the staff members from the MRI unit purchased five hats, one for each branch of service in June. She did so again this month. When asked, she (pictured right) said she was creating a display for the MRI lobby area. She also said, if a vet asked for a hat, she would give it to him or her and purchase a replacement.



Arf,

V

*PS: Time is the coin of your life. It's the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.*

*Carl Sandburg*

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## August 2024 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore



King Hezekiah of Judah was a godly king who was sensitive to the word of God and did things in his power to overthrow the evil of previous kings. His son Manasseh, however, was a very evil king, undoing much of his father's accomplishments and bringing his nation to the point of ruin.

Manasseh's story is told in 2 Kings 21:1-18 and 2 Chronicles 32:33-33:20 and is also mentioned in Jeremiah 15:4. His father, King Hezekiah, had undertaken reforms in Judah to rid the land of idolatry. Manasseh, a wicked king, reversed

those reforms and did much worse. The first five verses of 2 Kings 21 are a frank and stunning account of Manasseh's apostasy--summarized here.

Merely at 12 years old, Manasseh became king. His reign in Jerusalem lasted 55 years. During his reign, he did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah pole, as King Ahab of Israel had done. Manasseh bowed down to all the stary hosts and worshipped them. He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "My name will stay in Jerusalem forever (2 Chronicles 33:4)". In the two courts of the temple of the Lord, Manasseh built altars to all the stary hosts. He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing His anger. "Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end" (2 Kings 21:16). He was pronounced by God to be more wicked than the Amorites, who had lived in Canaan before they were displaced by Israel in an act of God's judgement (2 Kings 21:11; see also 2 Chronicles 33:9).

Besides sinning personally, Manasseh, as king, also led Judah in forsaking the Lord and worshipping idols. Such was the extent of their sin that God declared He would wipe out Jerusalem as He had done with the northern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 21:13-15). Jeremiah 15:4 notes that it was the sin of Judah, initiated by Manasseh, that brought the judgement that Jeremiah had proclaimed (the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple and the exile of the people). According to Jewish tradition, it was Manasseh who murdered prophet Isaiah. 2 Chronicles 33 adds more information not recorded in 2 Kings. God reached out to Manasseh and the people, but they would not listen. So, God sent the Assyrians, who captured Manasseh and took him away to exile (2 Chronicles 33:11). While in exile, "In his distress, Manasseh sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. And when Manasseh prayed, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea. So, God brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to the kingdom of Judah. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God."

The repentant Manasseh was restored to his kingdom and started to rebuild Judah militarily, and he also began to institute religious reforms. "He got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the Lord, as well as all the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he threw them out of the city. Then he restored the altar of the Lord and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thanks offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel" (2 Chronicles 33:22-23).

Even though Manasseh had a personal conversion, he was never able to lead Judah out of the sin that he had previously led them into. They did not follow in his reforms. The people continued in their idolatry; and, when Manasseh died, his son Amon "did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. Amon worshipped and offered sacrifices to all the idols Manasseh had made. But unlike his father Manasseh, Amon did not humble himself before the Lord."

Manasseh is a tragic figure in Scripture. Although he repented of his sin, he was unable to undo the damage he had done to the nation or to his own son who followed him. Manasseh demonstrates that, while any sin may be forgiven when we repent, forgiveness does not necessarily remove the natural consequences that flow from disobedience.

Let us remember this lesson as we go to the poles to elect our leaders.

Peace to all.

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# VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes – July 2024

By Jon Luker, Secretary

## Vietnam Veterans of America

### Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

### Regular Membership Meeting Minutes

11 July 2024

**Call to Order** by Treasurer Bourne 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:** David Trusdale spent 18 months in 'Nam during 1965 and 1966 patrolling rivers on an amphibious attack ship. We also welcome Bob Kwiecinski to the Board.

**Guests:** Garry Massengill's wife, Linda

**Motion:** by Clarke/Frye to approve the June Minutes published in the *Dispatch*. Approved.

### **President's Report:**

Bourne is standing in for President McCrumb because McCrumb had a tooth fall out and was just getting out of the dentist's office when the meeting started. Please see the President's remarks in the *Dispatch* or online at <https://vva310.org>.

### **Treasurer's Report:** Bourne

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

#### Nonrestricted Fund Revenue

- a. \$2,350 Pig Roast donations
- b. \$576 merchandise sales and donations at the AA VA

#### Nonrestricted Fund Expenses:

Three \$2,500 disbursements from Prior Year Way Forward Fund to the following organizations: 22aday.org, Veterans Radio America, Inc., and Fisher House – Michigan for Ann Arbor site

- b. \$986 annual insurance premium

Restricted Fund Revenue: No significant activity.

#### Restricted Fund Expenses

- a. \$2,524 for underwear and t-shirts for AA VA patients
- b. \$516 normal maintenance at Vietnam Memorial site

**AVVA Report:** The AVVA report is no longer being printed in the *Dispatch* but is being emailed separately to

those who request it. The AVVA report is also online at <https://vva310.org>.

Committee Reports:

**Merchandise:** Harrison. We had good sales at the VA given the limited room and limited inventory they permit us on the third floor. We'll be there again next Tuesday at 0800 to set up. We'll pack up at 1300. We'll need help to set up, sales throughout the day and packing up. The Camp Liberty fundraiser on 29 June was rained out. Our next event is the Pig Roast on 24 August. I'll bring signup sheets to the next meeting. We will have a planning meeting at the Saline American Legion at 1500 on 17 July. You are welcome to help with planning. I also have challenge coins for sale at tonight's meeting.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Bull. Meeting start time has been changed to 1830 for those who want to eat. The meeting starts at 1900. We are talking about yard signs for the upcoming election to renew the veterans millage. We also will be discussing housing. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved a proclamation declaring Sep 2024 as Veterans Suicide Prevention Month.

**Michigan State Council:** No.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt. Team three did a great job today. Blacy Tree Transplant volunteered to provide a new long-term landscape plan for the Memorial with the idea of contributing to the implementation of the plan as well. We are also working with the township and OHM consultants to address increased waterflow from the property to the west.

**Website:** Bourne. We have had 437,848 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

**Membership:** Bourne. No report

**Newsletter:** No report.

**Health Care:** Bull. Please remember that your VA compensation depends on you attending your annual meeting with your primary care physician.

**LTCCSKMC:** Driscoll. The VA is asking for sock donations.

**Old Business:**

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

"Section 3 – Annual Meeting

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

- A. Elections – Voting shall be by ballot.
- B. Quorum for Elections – Shall be at least 15 members.
- C. Voting Time – Ballots for elections will be available for two hours on the day of the Annual Meeting."

Approved.

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:**

**Merritt:** **[Brewed Awakenings?]** Breakfast on Friday will be at 0900 at the Bomber Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, (734) 482-0550.

**Bull:** We will be conducting a sock drive from 1 August through 30 September. We are asking you to donate new, ordinary, solid color socks. Nothing fancy. We need everything from child to adult.



Take a ball point pen with 988. There is a card there that helps you respond if you get a call.

Breakfast in Ypsi Harvest Moon is 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. We had 22 people but need more to come for a free breakfast.

**Throneberry:** Check under the book reviews in the Veteran magazine. We are starting to use those on Veterans Radio. Next Sunday's show will be all about nurses and the things they went through and about the new nurse's memorial in Washington DC.

Veterans Radio is on WAAM at 1700 on Sunday. You can also listen to 20 years worth of podcasts of the show on our website, <https://veteransradio.org/>

**Kwiecinski:** I was wondering if anybody knows anything about rheumatology at the VA? If so, please contact me.

My son left San Diego today. He's a command master chief on attack helicopter squadron 14 on the Abraham Lincoln which will be patrolling the west Pacific. Prayers will be appreciated.

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1932.

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## Honoring August's Anniversaries on the Wall



**Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr.** was born on February 22, 1948, to Mr. and Mrs. Kendal L. Benney of Ypsilanti. Kendal lived with his father and step-mother in Big Rapids, Michigan until September of 1965, and after that, he attended Ypsilanti High School. He left Ypsilanti High School during his Junior year and enlisted in the Marine Corps in March of 1966.

Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr. began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam in December of 1966 serving with C Company, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division as a machine gunner. Kendal was killed on August 20, 1967, while standing watch when he suffered multiple fragmentation wounds from a bomb.

Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr. is survived by his mother, father, stepmother, two sisters and one brother who was serving in South Vietnam when Kendal was killed. Kendal's brother was discharged from the Army and escorted his brother back to the "World" for internment. Kendal lived 19 years, 5 months, and 28 days. He is resting in the Altona Cemetery in Altona, Michigan. Kendal'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 25E Line 018.

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**Private First Class James William Davis** was born on March 24, 1947, in Erie, Pennsylvania to Mr. and Mrs. William A. and Gretchen Raub Davis. James grew up in Belleville, Michigan, but lived in Ypsilanti. He is a 1965 graduate of Belleville High School where he lettered in football and swimming. James attended Michigan State University and Cleary College. James was employed as a customer agent for Trans World Airlines at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Wayne, Michigan prior to entering the Marine Corps on December 13, 1968.

Private First Class Davis began his tour of duty in An Hoa, Quang Nam Province,

South Vietnam on July 7, 1969, serving as a rifleman with I Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. James was killed on August 13, 1969, as a result of small arms fire just one month and six days into his tour of duty "In-Country."

James William Davis is survived by his wife, an 11-month-old son, his parents, and two brothers. He lived 22 years, 4 months, and 10 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. James' 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 19W Line 029.

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## Current Events

By Ann D. Pereira

30 Jul: Vet Fest Planning Meeting, WCC, TI Bldg, Rm 131

03 Aug: Vet Fest 2024, 1000- 1500 hrs, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. Prior registration appreciated.

04 Aug: Coast Guard Birthday (1790)

07 Aug: Purple Heart Day

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

09 Aug: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Sindbad Coney Island, 2563 Ellsworth Rd, Ypsilanti

14 Aug: Pig Roast Planning Meeting, 1400 hrs, Saline American Legion

19 Aug: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs, Saline American Legion

20 Aug: Merchandise Sales, Ann Arbor VA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800- 1400 hrs

23 Aug: Pig Roast Setup, 1600 hrs, Saline American Legion

24 Aug: Pig Roast, 1200- 1700 hrs, Saline American Legion

29 Aug: Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (1916)

11 Sep: Patriot Day (2002)

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

13 Sep: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Brewed Awakenings, 7025 E Michigan Ave, Saline

16 Sep: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs, Saline American Legion

18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)

20 Sep: POW/ MIA Recognition Day (1990)

\*\* Visit Veterans Radio online ([veteransradio.net](http://veteransradio.net) - click here) and contribute to help keep this vital program on the air.

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## 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](http://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

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 2034

Ray Hunter ~ December 2032

Darlene Imus ~ January 2027

Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2024

Mary Kate Kirkpatrick ~ December 2023

Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2027

This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.

Alice Lee ~ March 2031

David P. and Gloria G. Marshall ~ June 2027

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

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## VVA 310 At Earlier Times -- The Pig Roast In Photos

By Jane Kinzinger

If you have attended one of VVA 310's Pig Roast dinners lately—that is, at the Saline American Legion Post 322, well, our Pig Roast event wasn't always like that. Here I reminisce about how Pig Roasts were in earlier times.



Our great Pig Roast Fundraiser has been the major fundraiser for the Chapter for many years. With this being the 21st Annual Pig Roast conducted by VVA 310 (at the Saline American Legion Post three years), we have seen some changes in how it has been done.

In earlier Pig Roasts, we actually roasted several whole pigs acquired through a Milan butcher meat processing company. The pigs would be picked up early evening of the night before we served the pork. It took 24 people to keep a charcoal fire going through the approximately 12 hours it

took to cook the entire pig. It took four veterans every 20 minutes to manually turn the pigs over. VVA members took two-hour shifts through the night, turning the two pigs weighing about 125 pounds each. Many stories were told through the night. The wonderful aroma greeted workers as they arrived on the morning of the day of serving. There were still many jobs to be done before customers arrived at the VFW Post 423 on Wagner Road. Side dishes of baked beans, coleslaw, corn on the cob, and cakes had to be prepared. Many years there were bushels of tomatoes donated, which made a wonderful accompaniment to



the pork, beans, and famous "Roy's" cole slaw. We can brag that we never got marked up for any violation by the health inspector.



The food was served on a serving line inside the VFW Post. Patrons carried their plates to the tables inside and outside. Live local bands performed on the patio, along with a magician for the children. After working four hours and serving between 300 and 350 customers, servers and clean-up crew were ready to drop. But the fun continued with the drawings for donated items and the raffle for a new grill.

We have been joining the Saline American Legion the past three years in a combined effort to keep up the tradition of serving a wonderful pork dinner. We have switched to seasoned pork butts (approximately 320 pounds) cooked slowly overnight in a barbecue cooker. The Legion workers have made it possible to continue offering this Pig Roast as they also supply helpers for the event. We also are blessed to have the Daughters of the American Revolution group serving the food. Stan Harrison will be there with merchandise to sell. Cynthia Olcott will once again be there to work her face painting artistry.



Please plan to attend on August 24, noon to five, to enjoy a wonderful meal and to help this fundraiser. Your Chapter needs your participation. Meanwhile, bon appétit!

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## A Report from John Kinzinger:

July 11, 2024, VVA 310 members Berry Bourne, Chapter Treasurer, and John Kinzinger, fundraising Chairman, presented Kate Melcher, Director of Fisher House Michigan, a check for \$10,000. We are standing in front of one of the refrigerators and freezers kept full at this facility. Our continuing support gift will be matched and will cover the food costs at the Ann Arbor Fisher House for over three months.



This food is provided free for the guest family members of Charles S. Kettles Medical Center Veteran patients. This Fisher House, next to the Medical Center, has 16 beautiful guest units and maintains nearly a 90% occupancy rate. It is a beautiful, four-year old blessing for family members of hospitalized Veterans.

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## Vietnam Veteran Poetry

*A Proposal by John Kinzinger*



Among the Vietnam Veterans who receive our 310 Dispatch, there may be poets who have done writing as an expression of their military service and its impact.

There may be others of you Vietnam Veterans who have done some writing, as an expression of your military service and its impact on you. For the next several months, I am going to share with you writings by long-time friend Paul Stewart Dumsch (1946-2009). Paul was a member of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, who erected our local Memorial. Paul served in D Troop, 17th Cavalry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam from 1968-1969.

For his entire life after Vietnam, Paul was haunted by a mistake he made by hitting a land mine when he was leading a group of personnel carriers on an operation in Vietnam. Several Americans were injured and killed. They had completed that day's operation and were going back to camp with infantrymen sitting on his carrier. He forgot about the suspicious spot in the trail he had avoided on their way out that morning.

You may be able to feel the guilt in his writings, which he wrote some 25 years later. Paul did not know the men who were riding on his vehicle that day. For many years, he tried to bring some closure by searching for the names of those killed. He was also injured in

that explosion and became unconscious for some time. I hope that, through Paul's writings, other people can understand what many who returned home from combat went through. Here's the poem:



Dancing on a Land Mine  
By Paul Stewart Dumsch (2/99)  
How 'bout you?  
Still looking for the edge?  
D'you long for it?

Miss it?



Seek it out at every opportunity?  
The razor's edge!!!  
Hair-line slice of the psyche  
Found in combat.  
That RUSH!!!  
Adrenaline-electric hairs  
At attention on the back of a neck.

How d'you find it again?  
I know you continue to look .  
As it looks for you...  
The booze?  
The drugs?  
A motorcycle?  
Fast car?  
A parachute jump?  
Or maybe the last bar fight?  
Is it the edge that scares us?  
Or knowing we're dancing on a land mine?

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# "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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Vice President: Marv Rivers  
Secretary: Jon Luker  
Treasurer: Berry Bourne  
Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb  
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Please forward. Thank you!