

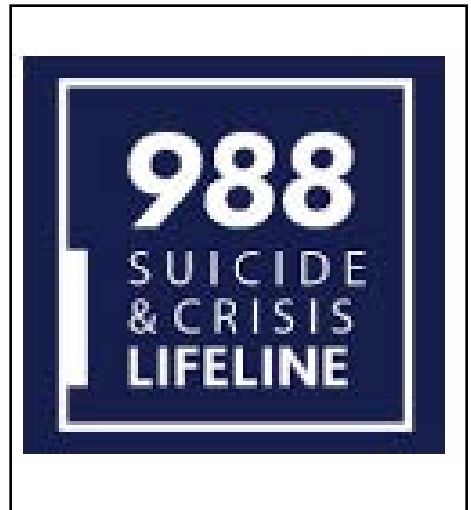
# 310 Dispatch

December 2024



*Together We Make  
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles  
Chapter 310*



**Editor's Note:** As we go through the month of December, we all experience moments of passing from light to darkness and vice versa, showing us the marvelous environment that our Loving Creator established for us. Light always returns.

Thank you for your continued engagement with our activities. To all, Merry Christmas and may God bless us all!!  
-- Paulo Pereira, Dispatch Edit

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# December Prez Report 2024

By Pres. Vance McCrumb



Our November meeting was again well attended, thank you. The Memorial Grounds Committee made a motion at our Board and membership meetings for grounds improvements including a ten-year forecast to implement those plans. The projected cost is \$114,000. There were discussions at both meetings. The motion was approved by both the Board and membership.

Long-term plans to finance this project are in the works and expect a request for donations to help move this project forward. Does anyone out there have any experience in grant writing? Some of the suggested improvements are (1) removing a few trees, (2) installing a concrete patio, and (3) moving the benches to the patio. Hopefully, this helps eliminate the bird droppings on the benches and provide a nice gathering place for us to sit and BS.

Improvements to the berm on the west side to help reduce the weeds and move the Kettles bench to the east side of the sidewalk, between the sidewalk and bushes. They are working with a landscaping company to finalize the plans. If you would like to make a donation, please contact our treasurer Berry Bourne or me. There will be a fundraiser or two in the future.

Veterans Day: I attended the Washtenaw Community College Veterans Day celebration along with Dave Draper, Bob Kurtz, and Bob Bull. If I didn't mention anyone there from our Chapter, it is because I didn't see you. WCC provided coffee and donuts for the flag raising and breakfast afterwards. It was a well-attended event. It's evident that WCC is very supportive of their veteran students. Several of the student veterans attended the service and breakfast.

We held our annual Dawn Farm Thanksgiving dinner shopping on Monday the 25th. Those shopping are pictured below. We clogged up the aisles, and at times they were stacked up three deep behind us. Most of the ladies had smiles on their faces as we tried to figure out where smoked Jowl, smoked hamhocks, and turkey tails were.

**Dawn Farm Shopping: Brian Bayha, Al Merritt, Roy Hall, Eric Downie, Vance McCrumb**



We were looking for turnips and mustard, and a guy waiting for us to get out of the way said we were standing in front of them. And I thought mustard only came in a yellow squeeze bottle? Last year, a young couple saw us with our Chapter jackets/hats on, and several shopping carts full asked who we were shopping for. When we explained who, they made a \$100.00 cash donation.

After delivering the food, we took part in a roundtable discussion in their great room. They and we enjoyed the conversations. If you haven't participated before, please consider doing so next year. The residence and staff are very appreciative of our efforts.

For those not aware, Meijer's has, for the last two or three years, donated a \$500.00 gift card. When you are shopping for 35 to 40 residences at Dawn Farm, Meijer's donation is really appreciated. Thank you, Meijer's!

Don't forget our annual Christmas Party at the VA on December 17th. Meet in the lobby at 1730 hrs. The reigning Miss Michigan, Miss Washtenaw County, and Stacey Mason Miss Michigan 1993 will be there.

Everybody, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! And, if traveling, stay SAFE! Family is waiting for you!

Arf,  
Vance (*Not the V. P. elect*)

P.S. Two out of three voices in my head last night wanted to sleep... the other one wanted to know if penguins have knees.

\*\*\*\*\*

## December Chaplain's Corner 2024

By Rev. Gordon Moore



***"For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given. And the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"*** (Isaiah 9:6).

A prophecy straight forward, profound, simple and yet so powerful. The prophecy regarding Jesus the Messiah is large in scope, yeah, all encompassing in nature as it spans time for thousands of years. And yet it has eternal implications, for Christ has yet to have the government rest on his shoulders. But he did bring a sense of peace at the time of his earthly ministry as he started the reconciliation process between God and man which brings peace to the soul.

With our current elections over and the inauguration set for January for our government, many people have placed their hope on these men and women's shoulders. Yet the world is still at war because so many follow not the mandates of God in how to govern. So, and relief will be short lived. Yet, there is hope for God has established governments for the betterment of those who do good and a punishment of those who do evil. For people of faith who put their trust in the Lord, there is strength to endure whatever befalls them. And a future hope for those who await the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth which will usher an age of unprecedented peace that the world has yet to experience.

I would like for us to focus on the pronoun in the Isaiah prophecy: "us." God's promise is for US to experience, to believe, and to live with as we journey this life. I give to all the blessing of the promise. May peace be upon you and in you as you celebrate this Christmas season.

Gordon

+++++

## VVA310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

**Vietnam Veterans of America**  
**Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310**  
**Regular Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**14 November 2024**

**Call to Order** by President McCrumb at 1902 hrs.

**Pledge** of Allegiance

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Driscoll

**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:** Arthur Skiff was in Vietnam in '69 and '70 doing crash rescue. He left after seven years of active duty service.

**Guests:** Linda Massengill (Gary's wife), and Wendy Hibbitts (AVVA and Friend).

**Motion** by Bayha/Driscoll to Approve the October Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

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

Please see the President's remarks in the Dispatch or online at <https://vva310.org>. Nothing much to report this month..

### **Finance Report: Bourne**

#### Nonrestricted Fund Revenue

\$822 merchandise sales and donations at AA VA with \$337 cost of goods sold, 59% gross margin, before a 20% VA's cut.

Nonrestricted Fund Expenses: \$200 to Saline's New Horizon Band

Restricted Fund Revenue: The first \$400 came in on the VA Christmas Program

Restricted Fund Expenses:

- a. \$146 for pajamas and slippers for women at the AA VA and candy for the Halloween Party
- b. \$1,200 fee for Landscaping Firm to develop a long-term landscaping program for the 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/newsletter>. Driscoll circulated the AAVA needs list. The Bingo program is making progress, and the patients really appreciate it--but it is not ready for units to sign up yet.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Merchandise:** As you heard during the finance report, we had good sales at the VA. Things are gradually getting better there. We have a few people who come by regularly, who bring more people with them.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** No report.

**Michigan State Council:** No report.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt. Cutting teams are done for the year. The water and irrigation system have been drained and turned off. We really appreciate the few people who showed up for our fall cleanup.

**Website:** McCrumb. We have had 450,844 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

**Membership:** McCrumb. We are officially at 220 members. Arthur Skiff is not in the official count yet.

**Newsletter:** No report.

**Health Care:** Wilson. Ann Arbor VA has been offering us great health care for years. We hope it continues.

**LTCCSKMC:** Kinzinger. I mistakenly set our Halloween party at the VA for Halloween which meant many people couldn't make it. But we did have a good time. There was a guy there looking like Beetlejuice – it was Stan. Sandie Martinez and Eric Downie also came. Ron Henley brought his pumpkins. Meet in the lobby on Tuesday, 17 December at 1730 for our Christmas visit. Stacey Mason and Alma Cooper, the current Miss Michigan (who also won the 2024 Miss USA pageant) will join us there.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Motion by Merritt, seconded by Frye to fund the 10-year Memorial Capital Improvement Program. The board approved this motion. Approved.

**Good of the Order:**

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

**Skiff:** I have an electric cart and two walkers on my truck. They are free to whomever (734) 646-2748 needs any of it. They were my wife's, but she just passed away.

**Throneberry:** There are books on the pool table that are free to you. Please take one. This Sunday the program is about jeep shows. A jeep show is a USO show where two or three folks in a jeep go to the front lines for a day or two.

**Davis:** I have a 24' enclosed trailer. I'd like to fill it to take items to North Carolina. It will go to the VFW that was in Chimney Rock. I'd especially like to take food that you add water too. The actual trip would be the middle of January or there about.

**McCrumb:** On 26 November at 1600 we will meet at Meijer's on Ann Arbor Saline Road to do the shopping for the Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner. We need to be at Dawn Farm at 1800.

**McCrumb:** The American Legion has a program called "Buddy Check," which encourages members to call several other members – especially ones who haven't come to meetings in a while. VFW is thinking of doing something like that also. It makes me think that our VVA should do the same thing to make sure our inactive members are okay and to remind them they are welcome at our meetings and activities.

**Wilson:** We have been told that black cooking utensils (spoons and stuff like that) have a non-stick coating that was made with fire retardant in them. As they get used, the fire retardant can get into your food.

**Closing Prayer** Bob Kwiecinski

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned at 1945.**

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## 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 duty In-Country.

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 he waited 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 Merrill 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 Merrill 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.

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## Current Events

*By Ann Dempsey Pereira*

28 Nov: Thanksgiving Day

07 Dec: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)

12 Dec: Monthly Meetings: VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA Regular Mtg 1900 hrs; AVVA 1800 hrs

13 Dec: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast: Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E Michigan Ave, Saline, (734) 316-2084.

13 Dec: Army National Guard Birthday (1636)

16:Dec: WCCV - NO MEETING this month

17 Dec: Merchandise Sales, Ann Arbor VA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800- 1400 hrs

17 Dec:Patient Visit, 1730 hrs, VA Medical Center

20 Dec: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Sinbad Coney Island

25 Dec: Christmas Day

### **\*\* 2025 \*\***

01 Jan:New Year's Day

01 Jan:Navy Seal Birthday (1962)

09 Jan: Monthly Meetings: VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA Regular Mtg 1900 hrs

10 Jan: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Holliday's Restaurant

20 Jan: WCCV - NO MEETING this month

21 Jan: Merchandise Sales, Ann Arbor VA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800- 1400 hrs

27 Jan: Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)

\*\* 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 – December 2024

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.  
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### Recipients

- James Alford ~ December 2025
- George Boone ~ February 2029
- Berryman Bourne ~ August 2026
- Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2026
- Gary L. Couture ~ November 2026
- Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031
- Sara Rodeck, in memory of her brother Michael Hunter
- 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
- John and Jane Kinzinger ~ November 2027
- 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
- Sandra Martinez ~ November 2027
- Del Mayes ~ March 2025
- Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ March 2026
- Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027
- Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2027
- 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
- Chris Wetzler ~ November 2027
- Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027

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## On Paul Dumsch

*Submitted by John Kinzinger*

[The fifth in this series of writings by Vietnam War soldier Paul Stewart Dumsch. You can feel his PTS anguish dealing 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!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Of Interest to Veterans

*Submitted by various*

**Go to our FB page, [www.facebook.com/wacu.org](http://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 there for each other.**

**Get Your 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: <https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX-2lkljoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjExMzAuNjc0NjYzMzEiLC-J1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3RvZ2V0aGVyd2VzZXJ2ZWouY29tL2Jhc2ljcGxhcXVIIIn0.2opJdfzTwsz2hH-PUHiQGLUyyUfvWyZIHxuQWbERLE2Y/s/697588430/br/149259728574-l>**

## Two Notes: Now and Then

*Submitted by John Kinzinger*



### Preparing Boxes To Be Sent To Troops

#### **(Now) Gratitude for Package -- December 7, 2024, 11:01 PM**

Thank you and the rest of the members of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 310. Thank you for the wonderful package! Its contents were all spread amongst the soldiers to be used and appreciated at our small outstation all the way in Syria. Our favorites were the drawings from the children and the signed photo from Miss Washtenaw County.

Thanks again for your service to our country and continued support for those who serve.  
CPT Litman, TF Nighthawk "First to Strike!"

#### **(Then) A Letter From The War Zone: Christmas Letter Home**

December 25, 1966

Christmas Day after the night before -

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm not feeling too good this morning. In fact, I doubt if anybody in common here is. It seems all of us celebrated a little too much last night. What a night! I'll never forget the Christmas eve I spent in Viet Nam. I sure wish I was home to spend it with all of you--but seeing how I can't, what else was there to do? Between several bottles of hard stuff, you can imagine. It's over with, and I slept it off. Sgt. Washington just said to tell you it was in the line of duty. He sure is a number one guy.

It looks like old "Charlie" is sticking to the truce--at least around here he has. But none of us still trusts them. So, we are still on alert. The enclosed program is from a little Christmas show we had here. It's just a bunch of G.I.s who gave it, and it really wasn't bad. Right now it is about 8:30 in the morning here. So, you should be celebrating Christmas eve there right about now. Next year I will be home. So, we'll all be together. I must close for now. I hope you all had a nice Christmas--and a great wish for a Happy New Year.

Love, John

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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, 2009, 2011, & 2015  
E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Vance McCrumb  
Vice President: Marv Rivers  
Secretary: Jon Luker  
Treasurer: Berry Bourne  
Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb  
Sergeant at Arms: Eric Downie  
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore  
Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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Vietnam Veterans of America  
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Please forward. Thank you!