

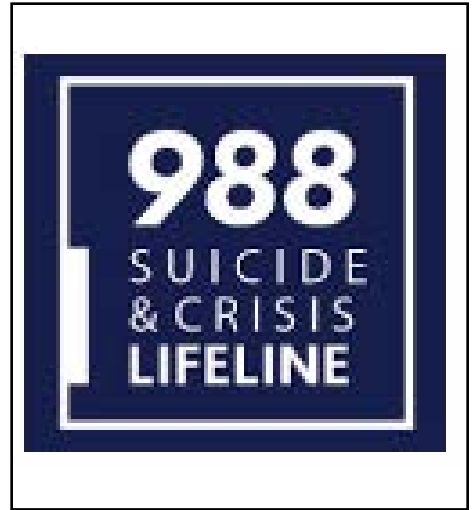
# 310 Dispatch

June 2024



*Together We Make  
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles  
Chapter 310*



Editor's Note: Welcome to Summer. As usual, this issue contains interesting materials. For Anniversaries On The Wall, associated photos have a flag on the background--work provided by Prez, as he designates himself. Memorial maintenance is featured well--and deservedly so. And SDIT at 35 features an important organization that deserves a wide focus. On behalf of the Dispatch Team, thank you for your articles.  
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch Editor

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## June Prez Report 2024

By Vance McCrumb



There was a cleanup at the Memorial just prior to our Memorial Day event. A good number of us showed up, and we got the grounds ready for a white-glove inspection.

Just prior to our Watchfire, we held an Elmer White Remembrance. As you know, Elmer passed away on May 11th at Bettendorf IA. Elmer's daughter, son-in-law, and brother were in attendance. An attorney who was a friend of Elmer's spoke as well as me representing VVA and Dave Draper representing American Legion. There were cookies and Washtenaw Dairy ice cream for all.

Our annual Watchfire following the Elmer remembrance was rained out with only one flag retired. It was rescheduled.

Memorial Day Observance. Someone suggested the attendance was around 200. I believe it was the largest crowd we've had in several years. This image did not capture all in attendance.

Bagpiper Tom Kennedy and the Ypsilanti Community Choir performed and were outstanding.

Kudos to John Kinzinger for convincing Col. Coolican (left) to speak and to create the program. Thanks to Jane Kinzinger for her picture of the Memorial with the new flowers. For the record, John called wanting my favorite picture of the Memorial for the program. I suggested he use Jane's.



Our speaker was a retired Marine Corps Colonel, Jim Coolican. His talk was very moving, and some suggested they were close to tears. Colonel Coolican received the Navy Cross for his action during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The man is a true hero and, like Chuck Kettles, looked like he can still get into his uniform.

Comments by Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo were typical Brenda, outstanding.

Sidebar – I was sort of directing traffic for the handicap parking in front of our Memorial. A car with a large Marine Eagle, Globe, and Anchor attached to the front of his grill pulled up. I, with a

grin, said, "Sir, this area is reserved for Air Force." He chuckled and parked anyway! As it turned out, he was our keynote speaker.

The merchandise team was at the VA again. Per Stan, they had a good day with gross sales of \$530. The usual suspects, Driscoll, Merritt, Scruggs, and I, were there to help.

Sick Call – Jim Sharp had surgery and is well on the road to being the normal Animal we all know.

Arf,  
V

P.S. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

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## June 2024 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

### Summertime



Summertime and the living is easy, or so the song goes. It sure seems easier unless you are a farmer or work in the out of doors performing some occupation.

I love summer for the lengthening of daylight hours, the beauty of nature in full array as the following two poems declare:

*Golden Sun* by Lenore Hetrick:

"Great, glorious, golden sun,  
Shine down on me today.  
You are the life of all this earth,

You and your magic ray.  
You are the life of bird and plant,  
All must depend on you.  
Shine down, great sun, the whole day long!  
Shine from the heaven's blue.  
And I will welcome your golden rays,  
For you mean life to me,  
And you mean happiness and health,  
Strength and energy.  
Shine down, great sun, on flower and field,  
And never say goodbye.  
Forever and ever give us your light  
From out the side, blue sky."

*Summertime* by Katherine Smith Matheney:

"Summertime is all dressed out  
In the latest style,  
Roses make a grand debut,  
Flowers growing wild.  
All along a country road,  
Daisies take a nod,  
Seeds are planted in a field  
By the hand of God.

I'm sure as I can be  
That He must have planned,  
Angels with their color brush  
Paint the flowers grand.

Tiny, little buttercup  
In a bright array,  
Angels must have painted you  
On a sunny day."

Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

**Numbers 6: 24-27**

The Lord bless you, and keep you;  
The Lord cause His face to shine on you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His face to you,  
And give you peace.

Knowing the sun is part of God's creation and that it is a blessing to us as it brings life to so much of creation does bring peace to the soul.

Blessing and honor as you enjoy God's gift of summertime. May your living be made easier.

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## **VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2024**

*By Jon Luker, Secretary*

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310  
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes  
9 May 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 around the world.

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

**New Members:** None

**Guests:** David Trisdale

**Motion:** by Clarke/Bull to approve the April Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

**President's Report:** Please see my remarks in the Dispatch.

**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 funds: Big event for the month was the Annual Recognition Dinner. Revenue was \$1,255 compared with \$1,140 last year due to increased ticket sales and greater 50/50 than last year partially offset by less bucket raffle. Expenses were \$2,162 compared with \$3,187 last year, primarily decreased food costs.

Restricted funds: We expended \$3,109 for primarily underwear for VA patients plus \$694 on Memorial maintenance.

\$1,055 was expended as a capital expenditure for a pine tree at the Memorial.

**AVVA Report:** (Kathy will distribute separately to AVVA members.)

## **Committee Reports:**

**Merchandise:** Harrison. Good sales at VA in April. May 21<sup>st</sup> from 0800-1330 will be next sales effort at the VA. Also, June 29<sup>th</sup> at Camp Liberty.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Bull. Meeting start time has been changed to 1830. He encouraged all members that are aware of an organization that has a veterans committee, to ask that committee chair to attend this monthly meeting.

**Michigan State Council:** Wilson. No meeting.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt. Daily maintenance is going well. Site really looks good. One dead tree was removed and replaced with a pine tree. A certain mowing team needs a new member.

**Website:** McCrumb. We have had around 429,491 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

**Membership:** McCrumb. We are at 216 members. Since last Memorial Day, we have lost 11 members.

**Newsletter:** McCrumb. I will be meeting with Paulo about limiting the Dispatch to 12 pages and other issues regarding the format.

**Health Care:** Wilson. Medical research at University of Michigan has made significant strides in neutralizing cancer cells. Some patients with Alzheimer's have received a gene replacement which slows the progression of the disease. Sandie encouraged all to register on the National Birth Defects register so the VA has a large enough data base to do some research. The small size of the data base has limited their research.

**LTCCSKMC:** Kinzinger. Next big event at the VA will be the Halloween Party in October. We have offered four steak dinner upgrades this year with none to date. Elmer White has been transported to a nursing home in Iowa to be close to family.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** McCrumb. At the Annual Recognition Dinner, the recipient of the Always-There Award was not there. George Betz was presented with the award at the meeting.

Throneberry. Veterans Radio has been on the radio on Sunday evenings for over 20 years. On May 26<sup>th</sup> they will host a fundraiser at Carlyle Grill on Jackson Rd. in Ann Arbor from 1100-2130 hrs. A portion of the dinner proceeds will be paid to Veterans Radio.

**Good of the Order:** Kinzinger – Warriors And Caregiver United (WACU) will host a fundraiser on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Ypsilanti Depot Town Firehouse from 1800-2100 hrs.

Bull – New brochures have been printed displaying 988 emblem and have been placed in doctor's offices and at the VA. There has been an increase in suicides daily more than the 22 a day and it has reached children as young as six years old.

Bull – Breakfast next Tuesday from 0830-1000 at Harvest Moon on 5484 W. Michigan Ave. near Carpenter Rd. in Ypsilanti.

**Closing Prayer** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1937.

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## Honoring June Anniversaries on the Wall



**Second Lieutenant Philip Matt Crane II** was born on January 29, 1947 to Mrs. Howard P. Gragg and the late Philip M. Crane of Ypsilanti. Philip played the accordion when he was very small. He played Little League Baseball. Philip is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School where he played on the varsity tennis team, was a member of the varsity debate team, and a member of the National Honor Society. He worked all during high school and college at the A&P Store. He went on to attend the University of Michigan until he enlisted in the Army on February 1, 1967. He completed Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Second Lieutenant Crane began his tour in Vinh Long Province, South Vietnam on May 14, 1968 serving as a Tactical Intelligence Staff Officer on Advisory Team 52, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV).

Lieutenant Crane was flying in a helicopter as a special observer when a flare ignited inside the aircraft causing him to fall from the aircraft on June 26, 1968. He was "In-Country" for one month and 11 days.

Philip Matt Crane II is survived by his mother, his wife, and a sister. He lived 21 years, 4 months and 27 days. He is resting in Crestwood Memorial Gardens in Flint, Michigan. Philip'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 54W Line 002.

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**Major Frank Rudolph Maki** was born on March 13, 1928 in Rudyard, Michigan to Mr. Victor and Mrs. Lemple Ann Maki. Frank graduated from Rudyard High School before enlisting in the Army in 1946 where he completed his Basic Training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He took part in the Berlin Airlift serving at the Rhein Main Air Base as an Air Ground Liaison NCO. He returned from Germany and spent some time as a civilian before returning to the Army in 1950 where he served with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea as a rifle and weapons squad leader. Sergeant Maki accepted a reserve commission as a Second Lieutenant while serving in the Korean War. He continued to

serve in the Regular Army as an NCO, as he was promoted as a reserve officer. Since Korea, Frank served with the 821st Engineer Aviation Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri then serving with the 820th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Michigan State University as a military science instructor. According to the Battalion History of the Army ROTC Battalion at Eastern Michigan University, "in 1961, he taught ROTC at Eastern Michigan University for four years, where he led the rifle team to the championship and served as an advisor to Arm of Honor Fraternity. During this time, he accepted his promotion to Captain even though he was rated number one on the list to be promoted to Sergeant Major. He then served as a Company Commander at Fort McClellan where his troops would earn four consecutive Best Company awards."

Major Maki began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1971 serving as an Advisor, Advisor Team 3, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Advisors, MACV. Captain Maki was killed in action at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province while coordinating medical aid to wounded soldiers on June 22, 1971 during his third tour in Vietnam. He was then posthumously promoted to Major.

Award of The Silver Star for gallantry in action: Captain Maki distinguished himself by gallantry in action on

20 - 22 June 1971 while serving as Senior Advisor to the 1st Battalion, 2d Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province. Captain Maki heroically participated in the defenses of Fire Support Base Fuller by accompanying and assisting his Vietnamese counterpart against the North Vietnamese Army thrust. After more than two continuous days of intensive direct and indirect fire and ground attacks, the NVA managed to breach the defenses. Captain Maki then directed many tactical air strikes and aerial rocket artillery against the enemy. During this time he continued to reappraise the tactical situation, adjust supporting fires and coordinate medical aid to the wounded Vietnamese soldiers. Though he had been sixty hours without rest, he continued to assist his counterparts up until the moment he was mortally wounded by an enemy artillery round. His extraordinary example of leadership and valiant courage radiated throughout the Fire Support Base and inspired the Vietnamese to repulse the enemy attack. Captain Maki's conspicuous gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

(As written in Major Maki's Award of the Silver Star announcement, by LTC August G. Seifert)

Frank Rudolph Maki is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, his father, two sisters and two brothers. He lived 43 years, 3 months and 9 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Frank'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 03W Line 086.

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**Corporal Richard Mark O'Neal** was born on May 22, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. William O'Neal of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Richard is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He entered the Marine Corps on July 6, 1966 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received his Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton, California before being stationed with the Headquarters and Service Company, First Marine Brigade in Hawaii.

Corporal O'Neal began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 31, 1968 serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Richard died on July 26, 1968 of head injuries suffered in a truck accident.

Richard Mark O'Neal is survived by his parents, a brother and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 2 months and 4 days.

According to a posting by Richard's nephew, "I never had the chance to meet you, but I just wanted to say that I love you and I appreciate everything that you did for our country. Your brother named me in honor of you. I hold your name in high regard and I continue to work harder every day to be the best person I can be. Every day I wake up is a chance to become better than I was the day before. I have been fortunate enough to marry the woman of my dreams and, thanks to the people that matter to me the most, I have been able to work hard enough to receive my B.A. in Journalism-Public Relations from SHSU. Thank you to everyone on here that has posted something, it was moving to read events that happened in his life. Uncle Richard, I will continue to hold our name in the highest honor. I love you and I will meet you some day."

Richard is resting in United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, Michigan. Richard'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 50W Line 015.

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**H. Neil Stehle** was born on March 30, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Stehle in Ann Arbor. Neil is a 1963 graduate of Ann Arbor High School where he was on the gymnastics team. He attended Eastern Michigan University majoring in psychology prior to entering the United States Army on April 29, 1967.

Specialist 4 H. Neil Stehle completed his basic training, and radio and communications courses at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He went to Fort Benning, Georgia where he received training at the paratroop school. Neil was sent to Vietnam on December 13, 1967 where he was assigned to B Company, First Battalion, 503rd Infantry, of the 101st Airborne Division. On June 3, 1968, Specialist 4 Stehle was serving in Thua Thien Province in South Vietnam when he was wounded by small arms fire. Neil was transported to a hospital in Japan where he died of his wounds on June 11, 1968. He lived 23 years, 2 months and 11 days.

H. Neil Stehle is resting in Washtenong Cemetery in Ann Arbor. He is survived by his parents and two sisters including seven nieces and nephews. Neil is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial and is located on Panel 58W Line 027 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

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## **Current Events**

*By Ann Dempsey Pereira*

13 Jun: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1200 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs

14 Jun: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Holiday's Restaurant, Ann Arbor

14 Jun: Flag Day (1916)

14 Jun: U.S. Army Birthday (1775)

17 Jun: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs (NEW TIME), Saline American Legion

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

04 Jul: Independence Day (1776)

11 Jul: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs

12 Jul: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Bomber Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsi

15 Jul: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs, Saline American Legion

16 Jul: Merchandise Sales, Ann Arbor VA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800- 1400 hrs

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## **Jocosity**

*By Ken Rogge*

A Brunette, a Redhead, and a Blonde escape a burning building by climbing to the roof. Firemen are on the street below, holding a blanket for them to jump in.

The firemen yell to the Brunette, "Jump! Jump! It's your only chance to survive!" The Brunette jumps and



SWISH! The firemen yank the blanket away...the Brunette slams into the sidewalk like a tomato.

“C’mon! Jump! You gotta jump!” say the firemen to the Redhead.

“Oh no! You’re gonna pull the blanket away!” says the Redhead.

“No! It’s Brunettes we can’t stand! We’re OK with Redheads!”

“OK” says the Redhead, and she jumps. SWISH! The firemen yank the blanket away, and the lady is flattened on the pavement like a pancake.

Finally, the Blonde steps to the edge of the roof. Again, the firemen yell, “Jump! You have to jump!”

“No way! You’re just gonna pull the blanket away!” yelled the Blonde.

“No! Really! You have to jump! We won’t pull the blanket away!”

“Look,” the Blonde says. “Nothing you say is gonna convince me that you’re not gonna pull the blanket away! So, what I want you to do is put the blanket down, and back away from it...”

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## Memorial Maintenance

By George Perrault



Every time I visit the Vietnam Memorial site at the Ypsilanti Township Center, I am very impressed how nicely groomed and manicured the grounds are. All this effort has been under the direction of Al (Fredo) Merritt with support from Jon Luker and Wendy Hibbitts. It is a very solemn place to reflect on one’s service and remember those that have given all.

Many accomplishments have been made under Fredo’s leadership since 2015 as follows:

1) Entire new sod replacement in front of the Memorial replacing the original sod from 1991, 2) a brand new water sprinkler system, 3) replacement of the original storage shed with a new storage shed by obtaining a donation and work assistance from Home Depot, 4) initiated plans for a new Memorial building that houses all the major equipment for the lawn crews, 5) communicated with local government officials on assistance with the major projects like the sprinkler system and the Memorial building, and 6) maintained a proper maintenance program for all the equipment.

A well-deserved thank you from the entire VVA 310 Chapter membership goes out to Fredo, Jon, Wendy and numerous lawn crews that have maintained the site in tip-top shape.

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## Spotlighting VVA 310's Many Activities

By Jane Kinzinger



Spotlighting the activities at our Vietnam Memorial during the month of May shows a very busy place, with many people involved. It starts with the dedicated work of the grounds crew, led by Al Merritt. George Per-rault has highlighted the work of Al and his helpers in another article in this *Dispatch*. Al also works with AVVA members, who plant flowers in the flowerbed in front of the Memorial. That work started mid-May, when pansies were planted while it was still cool. About a week before Memorial Day, AVVA members planted flowers in keeping with the guidelines for that area: low plants that do not hide the MIA names on the back of the seating area. Jane purchases red, white and blue flowers from Turners.

This spring was unusually hot, and the young plants survived to be an amazing display of color for the Memorial Day Observance held there. As Vance mentioned in his President's Report, we had possibly a record attendance at the 33rd annual program. The day was clear and sunny, after a "gully washer" the night before, which washed out the Watchfire and retirement of flags planned for that evening. (The flag retirement was rescheduled and accomplished on June 1, though only about half of the 600 or so accumulated flags were retired.)



Jon Luker, Wendy Hibbitts, and team lead the effort to post 22 crosses daily for the month preceding Memorial Day. It was a sad reminder of the losses we suffer each day. Those 660 crosses, and the 76 crosses bordering the Memorial walkway, stood out that sunny Memorial Day. Jon and Wendy and many regular helpers took down this display on May 30.



Another event that took place at our Vietnam Memorial was the Elmer White Remembrance on May 26. VVA 310 member Elmer White died May 11 in Iowa with his family. He will be remembered for his very generous financial donations toward postage for the many packages sent to deployed troops, as well as his legal advice for many members. We said goodbye to Elmer, who had lived in Ann Arbor and was an attorney for many years. Elmer had a brick placed at the Memorial, along with 10 other Chapter members who died in the previous year.

Family members of deceased VVA members were invited to the unveiling of their loved one's brick at the Memorial Day Observance. There were perhaps 25-30 family members, who were able to view for the first time the brick with their loved one's name and year of death. In keeping with the "Bugles Across American" National Moment of Remembrance at 3pm on Memorial Day, the Ann Arbor Concert Brass Band played a special rendition of "Taps" at our Memorial.



## SDIT at 35...

By Jane Kinzinger



SDIT stands for Sons and Daughters In Touch. Since I regularly receive information of this organization, I would like to report to *310 Dispatch* readers about the interesting and important work that SDIT does. In fact, this Father's Day marks the 35th anniversary of the efforts to form America's first organization dedicated to serving America's Gold Star Children from the Vietnam War. Below there is a video with more information.

On June 18, 1989, Maria Shriver reported for NBC Sunday Today on a simple Father's Day Rose Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and how that day impacted three Gold Star Children from the Vietnam War. But then, on Father's Day 1989, SDIT members celebrated "The First Rose Ceremony and the beginning of SDIT."

In fact, Sons and Daughters In Touch is proud to be the nation's first organization of its kind. For 35 years, SDIT has set an example and forged a path. Those who attended the inaugural Father's Day celebration in 1992 will recall the "Sharing Circles," in which groups of attendees gathered to support each other when sharing life stories with those who lived the same experiences during and after the Vietnam War.

Today, those exercises are referred to as "Peer Mentorship" and are commonly used as a component of mental health and wellness.

SDIT is proud of its place in the community of Gold Star Families organizations and its many notable accomplishments which include:

- Providing care, community, and connections to more than 5,000 Gold Star "sons and daughters" from the Vietnam War;
- Sharing its story with more than one million Gold Star Family members, veterans, active-duty service members, military families, and the general public;
- Honoring to help make Father's Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial a picturesque scene each year;
- Forging an unprecedented partnership with the veterans of the Vietnam War who served with the fallen fathers of those in the SDIT community;
- Leading the historic and largest-ever Gold Star pilgrimage to Vietnam in 2003;
- Conducting a groundbreaking "Census Survey" of extensive, in-depth questions to learn more about and document the life experiences of those children whose fathers did not return from the Vietnam War;
- Continuing to forge bonds with Gold Star Families from WWII and the Korean War, and younger Gold Star Families from conflicts occurring after the Vietnam War.

Another aspect of these celebrations is what they call "Father's Day At The Wall." This year marks the 35th year in which red and yellow roses will be placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Father's Day. Beginning with an effort by the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (under which SDIT operated for a few years), Father's Day is now a most picturesque day at "The Wall."

SDIT estimates that 20,000 Gold Star Children lost their fathers in the Vietnam War. Those fathers are among the 58,281 remembered on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. While there is not a national Father's Day celebration in Washington, DC this year, you can still order a rose for your father and attend the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's rose laying event on the morning of June 16th.

More information about SDIT: [Click here.](#)

# 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

Chapter President: Vance McCrumb  
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Secretary: Jon Luker  
Treasurer: Berry Bourne  
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Please forward. Thank you!