

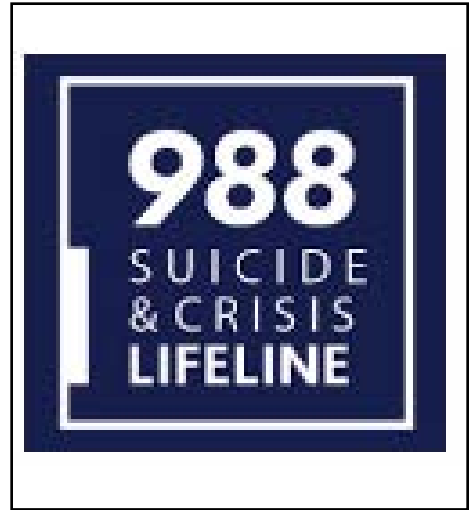
310 Dispatch

October 2024



*Together We Make
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles
Chapter 310*



Editor's Note: Our Dispatch Team will miss having Chief *George Perrault* for his excellent work. Also, we will miss the Chief's humor. All the best, Chief, and plenty of blessings!
On another note, please take a look at a tribute written by Dispatch Patron *Darlene Imus* as she recalls *Lance Corporal David McKenzie*, who is memorialized in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Ypsilanti, Michigan.
-- Paulo Pereira, Dispatch Editor

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October Prez Report 2024

By Vance McCrumb



John Kinzinger received a call from EMU's Arm of Honor Alumni Association member Kirk Profit about EMU's ROTC honoring Major Maki. John called and asked if I was aware. I wasn't. John and I attended the service on September 4th in front of the Roosevelt Hall. See below.

Eastern Michigan's ROTC Cadets honored one of our KIA's on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in September. The Cadets honored Major Frank Maki (right) with a bench placed in front of Roosevelt Hall. 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.



To read more about Maj. Maki, click on his picture if you are reading an electronic copy of our newsletter. If you have a printed copy, go to [our website](#) and click on Memorial, scroll down below the image of the memorial and under Ypsilanti, select Frank Maki. If you like, here's the direct link to put in your browser, <https://www.vva310.org/frank-maki>.

Speakers were: President of EMU James M Smith, Ph. D., LTC Aaron Peters, Professor of Military Science and Leadership, Kirk Profit, Arm of Honor Alumni Association, Patti Tye, Frank's daughter, and John Kinzinger.



LTC Peters, unknown, President Smith, seated Kirk Profit, & Patti Tye

Kirk Profit purchased 20 of our Chapter challenge coins. He will be handing them out to members of the boards he serves on. Thank you, Mr. Profit!



The Moving Wall was at Hamburg's Manly W. Bennett Memorial Park in September. They had a very nice setup for the Wall. It was nicely landscaped with many military displays for visitors to check out.

Michigan Flight Museum (Yankee Air Museum) was giving rides in their UH-1 Huey, The Greyhound. The Huey was very popular as it flew over the park frequently while I was there. As shown above, the Greyhound hovered behind the Moving Wall, posing for those

with cameras to capture an image or two. Above is an enhanced extracted frame from my iPhone video.

In The VVA Veteran on page 30 Membership Notes, is a note about our \$10,000 donation to Fisher House, Ann Arbor. Picture I submitted with the note for the donation apparently made the cutting room floor.

Interesting article from National President Jack McManus about National Service, think the draft. There's a QR code, page 3 in The VVA Veteran for a VVA survey on National Service. Scanning the code with your cellphone will take you to the survey. If the survey shows that we would be in favor of National Service, a resolution will be introduced at the 2025 National Convention. The survey only took a couple minutes.

From the Leadership Conference in Reno: Former VVA VP Jack Devine, chair of the newly formed VVA Legacy Task Force discussed the group's efforts to create a mechanism to professionally archive the organization's chapter, state council, and national records and achievements. Jack will create a white paper that will go out to all chapters to start the process of preserving our records and recording the war and post-war stories of our members.

Our legacy is something I've wanted our Chapter to consider doing since we published our website. If you would, please consider writing your bio with images about your service time, including both pre and post as a nephew of Uncle Sam. This will give your children

and grandchildren a chance to then checkout your service to our country. Email me your Word document and with permission I'll add to our website. I have a few online now. Go to About Us > Member Pictures. If a member's name is underlined, it's a link. Click on it and read their bio. Some pictures are hyperlinked too. I'll have to clean that option up so all are the same.

Most of you have the book *We Answered The Call*; if not, see me. Review it and get a feel about how to write about yourself. This applies to all of us, not just in-country veterans. Wives of deployed, your experiences while hubby was deployed is important as well.

Sick Call: Chris Wetzler reports that his surgery was successful and he is home doing some R & R. Meni Draper is having some R & R time as well, after her recent neck surgery.

Arf,

Vance (Not the politician)

P.S. I intend to live forever . . . So far, so good.

Chaplain's Corner – October 2024

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Leadership often determines the direction of those they lead, either directly or indirectly, by their actions and the plans they set into motion. It is important to choose good leadership when given the opportunity.

Ahab was the son and successor



of King Omri and the husband of Jezebel who certainly had an influence on his leadership as outlined in 1 Kings 16:29-33. Under her influence he abandoned Yahweh and established Baal and Asherah cults in Israel. He also allowed Hiel the Bethelite to rebuild Jerico even though it was destroyed by Yahweh to help Israel to enter and gain control of the Promised Land (1 Kings 16:34). He also helped his wife kill off opponents such as the Servants of God (1 Kings 18: 3-16).

This year's election cycle finds us with the opportunity to help choose our direction as a nation to a lesser extent. We realize for too many years that those making promises often do so to tickle the electorates ears by saying things that people want to hear, and then fail to deliver on the promises. Yet, we didn't really have the opportunity to choose who wanted to run. That was stolen from us by the political parties set on preserving their hold on power. This will take prayer and a turning from the corruption that we are mired in and to the Lord and His desire to follow His instructions.

So how did we get here? I think in part a poem by Rose Marie Juan-austin, entitled "Weed Out the Indolent and Corrupt," might give us some insight.

You got your seat
Without any drop of sweat
Relied on your grandfa-
ther
Your namesake
And full time provider.

Your platform of govern-
ment
Was capitalized
On his exemplary service
Integrity beyond reproach
His sacrifice for the oppressed
Utmost care for the youth.

With lavishness
Excessive grandstanding
Amazed the people
With highfalutin words
That were all Greek to you.

Ancestor shed blood
To restore freedom
Burnt eyebrows
To frame people's rights
Built the foundation
Of the nation.

Encaged yourself in a crib
Made of glass
People could not approach you
Except your men in uniform
And women in pumps.

Ascendant ruled the country
In tranquility
Freedom from all oppressed
Freedom from corruption
Abundance in life.

The leadership in you
Robs peace and liberty
Breeds laziness and poverty
Allows the corrupt
To manipulate
Drives the good people to seek
refuge
In a far away country.

Your grandfather
Wished he was dead
The shame that you caused
To his name
Took him into his grave.

The people rise en masse
To take away the seat
They granted
Exact payment
For the wickedness they reaped.

They safeguard
Their beloved Motherland
Assure the future of the youth
Freedom from indolence
Freedom from corruption.

Let us seek His face in repentance.
Peace to all.

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

Call to Order by President Mc-
Crumb 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 haz-
ardous places around the
world.

Roll Call: A quorum was estab-
lished. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: None

Guests: William H Luker (Jon's
brother) served 30 months in

Thailand with the Army Security
Agency during the Vietnam era and
served a year in Iraq with the 3rd
Civil Affairs after being called out
of retirement during OIF.

Motion: by Bull/Merritt to approve
the August Minutes published in
the Dispatch. Approved.

President's Report:

Please see the President's
remarks in the Dispatch or
online at <https://vva310.org>.

Finance Report: Bourne. August
was a busy month.

Nonrestricted Fund Revenue:

- a. We received \$4,649 revenue
for the Pig Roast this
month. Since June, our
total Pig Roast revenue is
\$8,799. During this time,
our total expenses were
\$2,642, producing a profit
of \$6,157. That result is
17% less than last year. In
September we received
\$1,500 from an anony-
mous donor which in-
creased total profit \$225
more than last year.
- b. Merchandise was busy sell-
ing at the Pig Roast, the
VA and at Vet Fest. The
events brought in \$1,400
with about 45% of that
being profit.

Nonrestricted Fund Expenses:

- a. \$2,440 of the above-men-
tioned Pig Roast expenses
were from August.

Restricted Fund Revenue: No sig-
nificant activity.

Restricted Fund Expenses:

- a. We paid \$562 for tree service from the Memorial Maintenance fund.

Also keep in mind that last month we voted to approve transferring \$2,000 from the general fund to the Memorial Maintenance Restricted Fund.

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/news-letter>. AVVA donated many socks to the VA Sock Drive.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: As you heard during the finance report we had three events. I want to thank everybody who helped with these events, especially to those who helped at the Pig Roast. AVVA and DAR were very busy helping us all day making sure we didn't run out of food and serving the food. We are going to the VA on 17 September from 0800 to 1330. Help is always appreciated there. The next big thing is the Clinton Fall Festival. It will be starting Friday, 27 September and runs through Sunday the 29th. We'll need help on many different things starting Thursday. Please review the signup book being passed around and sign up to help. I have challenge coins here if anybody wants to buy one. Although the Pig Roast didn't draw as many people as we

wanted, and we didn't bring in the revenue we hoped, we the Pig Roast Committee will start meeting early next year to see what we need to do differently for next year.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Our next meeting is Monday night. Our focus is still on the millage that is up for renewal. There are still yard signs available for those who want one.

Michigan State Council: We held the State Convention with great attendance from Michigan Chapters.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. Cutting teams are still hard at work. I keep hearing good things from people who pass by while I'm there. Things are going well. We are working on building a long-term landscaping plan that will include replacing the aging Blue Spruce trees. Sandie Wilson has donated two pine trees which will be planted in the fall.

Website: McCrumb. We have had 444,634 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

Membership: McCrumb. We are up to 220 members.

Newsletter: After many years of service as Dispatch distributor, George Perrault is retiring. Paulo's wife Anne Dempsey Pereira has volunteered to take over following her apprenticeship with the Chief. Since Paulo

is the Dispatch editor, Anne will be in good hands.

Health Care: Wilson. A recent study done in Sweden indicates that senior citizens who use Tylenol have increased brain problems. A different study shows that women who were exposed to Roundup or its generic equivalents are at a higher risk of cancer. Despite knowledge of that, Congress has approved using roundup on many kinds of food crops, such that you can now detect roundup in breakfast food and baby food.

LTCCSKMC: Driscoll. The VA is starting up its Bingo program again. The American Legion is doing it once a month already. Driscoll is working with volunteer services to plan the rollout of the expanded Bingo program, opening the door for VVA and others to begin sponsoring their own VA bingo nights.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Motion by Bull, seconded by Wilson, to donate \$100 from the VAMC Restricted Fund to the VA Sock Drive. The Board approved. Membership Approved.

Good of the Order:

Throneberry: I'm pleased to announce that we have already reached our fundraising goal for the third annual Veterans on the River Fundraiser. I still

have tickets, but they are now free. The event will be held on 22 September from 1400 to 1700 at John Fritz's house, 5860 Geddes Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. He has a big M near his driveway made from rocks. Doug Bradley, who wrote a book about Vietnam music will be there. The Director of the Marine Museum will also be there. We have 3 CD's of good music we will be playing as well.

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday (Oct 11, 2024) will be at the Bomber Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, (734) 482-0550.

McCrumb: Meni Draper had throat surgery. One result will be that she will be able to speak louder.

Perrault: The US Air Force will celebrate its 77th birthday on 18 September. Happy birthday Air Force!

Kinzinger: Kirk Profit leads a group of former ROTC cadets who meet regularly. They recently placed a bench at the EMU ROTC gun range to honor the life and service of Washtenaw County Vietnam KIA Frank Maki.

McCrumb: When I ran into Kirk Profit, I gave him a chapter coin. He appreciated it, and said he was hoping to get one. The he decided to buy 20 of them.

Davis: I have a memory of Frank Maki. When I was a kid, I

used to visit my mom while she was at work at Eastern. I saw Frank Maki in uniform a few times during those visits. He was impressive.

Bull:

- September is Suicide Prevention Month. The US Department of Health and Human services said that 49,000 people died from suicide this year. The Department of Defense says that on average one servicemember commits suicide each day. The Centers for Disease Control says that suicide is the number two cause of death of 10-year-olds. A big reason for that is that cellphones give kids much more bad news than they can handle, including personal insults from other children. I have 988 signs and things here if you want them.
- The Michigan American Legion passed a resolution calling on state legislature to pass a law creating a Green Alert system that would get the word out when a veteran is reported missing.
- Several sources are reporting that unless Congress does its job of funding government, you may not get your October VA benefits check.
- Moving wall is in Hamburg at Manly W. Bennett Park for this weekend. Talk to a veteran while you are there to see what they need. The Michigan Flight Museum (formerly known as Yankee Air Museum) will have helicopter rides and display vehicles there. Kate Melcher

will speak about female veterans. Throneberry will speak at 1600 on Sunday, and Phil Pham will tell the story of his father's efforts to get his family out of Vietnam.

- Free breakfast second Tuesday of the month at Harvest Moon Café on Michigan Ave near Carpenter. Please come out. I want to fill the place. It holds 120 people.

Perrault: You may have heard that James Earl Jones just passed away. Did you know that he was an ROTC cadet at the U of M for several years?

McCrumb: We received a thank you letter from Kate Melcher and Fisher House Michigan for the \$10,000 gift we sent to them. That gift was doubled because we donated it during a match gift fundraiser event.

McCrumb: As a reminder, I appointed Bob Bull to be our chapter service officer back when we initiated the Way Forward Fund. Bob is here to help you get connected to the people and resources you need. He doesn't do claims work directly, but he will help you get in touch with somebody who can, and he will help you prepare for those visits. I will update the website to show that he is our Chapter Service Officer.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1954.

Honoring October Anniversaries on The Wall

Specialist 4 Donald Sylvester

Moses was born on June 20, 1947. Specialist 4 Moses began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province,



South Vietnam on April 25, 1967 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 4th

Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade. Donald was killed on October 25, 1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds. Donald Sylvester Moses lived 20 years, 4 months and 13 days. He is resting in Magnolia Baptist Church Cemetery in Newellton, Louisiana. Donald'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 28E Line 069.

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Corporal Eugene Ravn Suarez was born on December 21, 1946 to Mr. Rafael P. and Mrs. Helen Suarez



of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also had a paper route

with the Ann Arbor Newspaper. He attended Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti, Michigan before entering the Army on October

4, 1967.

Corporal Suarez began his tour of duty in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on May 24, 1968 serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Eugene died on October 1, 1968 as a result of enemy small arms fire. He was posthumously promoted to Corporal and received the Bronze Star Medal.

Eugene Ravn Suarez is survived by his mother, three brothers and six sisters. He lived 19 years, 9 months and 10 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene'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 42W Line 060.

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Captain David Raymond Wagener

was born on June 22, 1939 to Mr.



and Mrs. Lawrence L. Wagener of Saline, Michigan. David is a 1957

graduate of Saline High School where he was an honor student, an outstanding athlete lettering in football, basketball and track. He also attended the University of Michigan prior to enlisting in the Air Force in 1959. He also attended the University of Delaware. David received his Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He attended Aviation Cadet Training at Harlingen Air

Force Base in Texas. He received his pilot flying wings at Williams Air Base, Chandler, Arizona.

Captain Wagener began his tour of duty in Udorn, Thailand serving with the 602nd Fighter Squadron, 14th Air Commando Wing, 7th Air Force. According to a posting from a colleague, Ira Cooperman, "Dave Wagener was a friend and a brave 'Sandy' pilot. While stationed at Udorn RTAFB in 1966, he flew 'cover' for helicopter missions attempting to rescue downed American pilots in Laos, as well as to support friendly forces on the ground in Laos. It was from one of those missions that he did not return." On October 20, 1966, Captain Wagener was shot down and killed about 20 miles north of the DMZ in Quang Binh Province. His body was not recovered.

David Raymond Wagener finally came home on December 5, 1997 when his remains were discovered. David is survived by his wife, mother and two brothers. He lived 27 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, Section 6, Site 595. David's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township in two locations. The first location is on the bench in front of the Memorial listed with two other men listed as MIA. The second location is on the Vietnam Memorial under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 092.

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Specialist 4 Charles Wesley Bird

was born on January 16, 1943 in



Belle, West Virginia. He is a 1961 graduate of Dupont High School in Belle, West Virginia. Charles

worked for Ford Motor Company at the Rawsonville Plant and was married three months before entering the Army on October 24, 1966. He lived in Ypsilanti residing with his wife's parents until his induction.

Specialist 4 Bird began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on April 17, 1967 serving with D Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Charles died as a result of enemy small arms fire on October 14, 1967. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart.

Charles Wesley Bird is survived by his wife and a brother and several sisters. He lived for 24 years, 8 months and 28 days. He is resting in Montgomery Memorial Park in Fayette, West Virginia. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Charles' name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 27E Line 106.

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Captain C. Robert Arvin was born on January 19, 1943 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Arvin. C. Robert Arvin graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1961 where he excelled as a straight-"A" student, and was named as Valedictorian. Captain Arvin



excelled in athletics during high school, playing on the varsity football and wrestling teams.

In 1961, he wrestled his way to a State high school wrestling championship. During his junior year of high school, C. Robert earned a high school Honors Science Institute scholarship of \$100. He was also Student Council President, and President of his class of 1961. C. Robert Arvin was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1961 as a member of the Corps of Cadets of 1965 where he continued to achieve academic and athletic recognition. In recognition of his achievements, C. Robert Arvin was appointed as the highest ranking cadet in the Corps' chain of command with the title of First Captain and Brigade Commander. C. Robert Arvin received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in 1965 graduating as the top cadet of 2,770 in the Corps of Cadets.

First Lieutenant Arvin began his tour in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on May 29, 1967 serving with Advisory Team 162, 7th ARVN Airborne Battalion, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). According to a note on the Virtual Wall, "First Lieutenant Arvin received two awards of the Silver Star Medal, the first for an action on September 5, 1967 when the 7th Vietnamese Airborne Battalion...came under

intense mortar and small arms fire. Though wounded, Arvin disregarded the fierce fire and was leading his element forward to engage the enemy when his radio operator was also wounded. Arvin dragged the soldier to safety and, undaunted by the perilous circumstances, returned to direct repeated helicopter gunship strikes. He refused his own medical evacuation until the objective was secure and the mission complete."

The note continues, "After a brief period of hospitalization, First Lieutenant Arvin requested an immediate return to duty. The second award resulted from actions which led to his death, 'On October 8, 1967, his unit was completing a sweep of a suspected enemy base when it encountered an entrenched enemy regiment. Intense enemy fire pinned down Arvin's Battalion in an exposed, untenable position. In full view of the enemy, he valiantly moved through the fire to a forward vantage point. There, as fighting raged about him, he directed extremely accurate, close-range gunship passes onto enemy positions. As he continually moved through fire-swept fields to position himself better to direct the supporting fire, Arvin was mortally wounded. His unremitting attention to duty and superb direction of ground forces and supporting aircraft had enabled his battalion to defeat a strong and determined enemy three times its size." First Lieutenant Arvin was promoted posthumously to Captain.

Captain Carl Robert Arvin is survived by his parents, wife and

a brother. Captain Arvin is resting in West Point Cemetery with two other 1965 classmates who were killed in Vietnam. He lived 24 years, 8 months and 19 days. In 1988, a new cadet gymnasium at the U.S. Military Academy was named in his honor. C. Robert Arvin'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 27E Line 068.

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Staff Sergeant Rodger Edson

Terwilliger was born on January 19, 1942 to Mr. and Mrs. Orin S. Terwilliger. Rodger attended



Adams Elementary and Ypsilanti High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, but graduated from Littleton High School in Littleton,

Colorado. He worked for the Martin Aircraft Company in Denver, Colorado before entering the Army in 1961.

Sergeant Terwilliger began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on February 4, 1966 serving as an Intelligence Analyst with the 246th Psychological Operations Company, 6th Psychological Operations Battalion, United States of Army Republic of Vietnam Special Troops, Army Headquarters Area Command. Rodger was killed on October 15, 1966 when the vehicle he was riding struck a mine. Rodger Edson Terwilliger is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, his father and his step-mother, a

brother, six step-brothers, and four step-sisters. He lived 24 years, 8 months and 26 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 13, Site 16284. Rodger'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 11E Line 078.

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

September: Suicide Prevention Month

22 Sep: Veterans Radio On The River, 1400- 1700 hrs, 5860 Geddes, Ypsi

27- 29 Sep: Clinton Fall Festival & Merchandise Sales, E. Michigan Ave & Tecumseh Rd, Clinton

05 Oct: Fall Festival, [Camp Liberty](#), 1200- 1600 hrs, [7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn](#)

10 Oct: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs

11 Oct: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, at the Bomber Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, (734) 482-0550.

13 Oct: U.S. Navy Birthday (1775)

15 Oct: Merchandise Sales, Ann Arbor VA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800-1400 hrs

21 Oct: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs, Saline American Legion Post 322

31 Oct: VVA 310 Halloween Party, 17:30 hrs, VA Medical Center. Meet

in the main lobby in your favorite Halloween costume.

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

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.

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
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
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

My Tribute to Lance Corporal David McKenzie

By Darlene Imus

When I was a freshman at St. Thomas the Apostle High School in Ann Arbor, David McKenzie was a senior. He was regarded as a "celebrity" among the students. He had a charismatic personality, achieved academic excellence, and was an exemplary student athlete. He lettered in basketball, track, and baseball. In his senior year, he was the captain of the football team. He also made the all-city and all Southwest teams. These were great accomplishments! After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

My sophomore year, I was in the seventh-hour class (the last class of the day). Mother Stephanie (the superior head of the sisters was addressed as "Mother") came on the PA /system. She announced that David had been killed in action over in Vietnam. A "hush" came over my classmates in the room. Mother Stephanie stated that she had received this tragic news earlier in the day. However, she did not want to upset our day. She asked if we would say a silent prayer for him and his family. We did. Then, the bell rang, and we went to our lockers and gathered our belongings and headed for our final dismissal from our homerooms. Usual after the last bell rang, there was loud talking, lockers banging, and the rushing to our homerooms.

That day was different! There was complete silence in the hallways. The students opened their lockers quietly. We were all in a state of SHOCK! When we arrived at our homeroom, Sister had tears in her eyes (David was

well respected and liked by everyone!). We sat down, and shw asked us to keep David and his family in our evening prayers. Then we were dismissed.



Reality had set in about the Vietnam War with all of us students. One of our own had been killed early in his tour of duty. It happened while he was helping to conduct a search and clear mission just south of Da Nang along the Song Cau Do River, where mines were numerous. David probably had received an athletic scholarship to attend a college or university. Instead, David enlisted in the Marine Corps. He felt that he needed to serve his Great Country!

The following week, we had an all-school mass (high school) in honor of David's passing. At the high school level, the students' conduct at mass was good. This mass seemed to be more solemn than those in the past. Throughout the mass, many things were brought out about David. Because this mass was published in the "St. Thomas Apostle ddSunday Bulletin," the church was packed with other parishioners. It brought about a closure for us as we honored David and his memory.

After I graduated from college with a VA in education, I eventually obtained a position teaching third grade at St. Francis of Assisi School in Ann Arbot. I had taught there a few years, when there was an opening for two first-grade positions. One of those positions was filled by David's sister, Colleen. I had known Colleen (she was younger) while I attended St. Thomas. I sat one time at her table during our lunch time. I asked her if she minded if I talked about David. She said she was "okay" with it. I told how we at St. Thomas High School felt about him and his passing. I thought that she should have known how we all felt at that time. Then, she shared with me how her family reacted.

Everyone was devastated! They all were so proud of him when he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He chose to serve his Great Country and gave his ALL for it with his service!

Recently I visited the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti with Ann and Paulo Pereira. I was extremely impressed with the Memorial and its attractive surroundings. I was aware of how much time and effort had been spent on the beautification of this area. I found David's name on the Memorial Wall and took a picture of it. I placed some artificial red roses below his name and taped a card tha read: "Thank you, David!" I signed my name and my cousin's name (she knew him, too).

Many years have passed since his death; however, when I visited this Memorial, I felt a final closure. This was something that I needed, and I felt at peace.

God Bless You, David!



"ABOUT VVA 310"

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
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1999 & 2007
Newsletter of the Year:
2007, 2009, 2011, & 2015
E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

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Please forward. Thank you!