

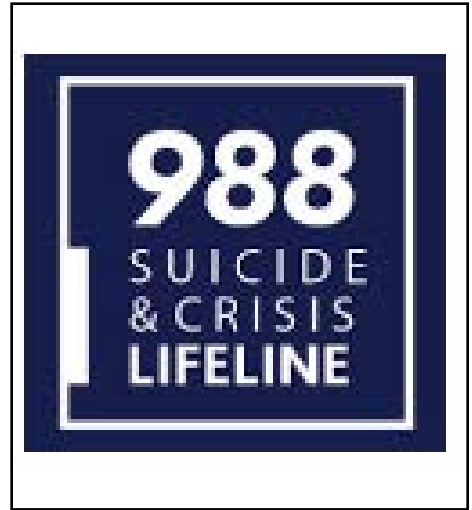
# 310 Dispatch

September 2024



*Together We Make  
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles  
Chapter 310*



**Editor's Note:** It is amazing to note how the range of topics have been changing as time goes by. Writers seem more interested in a historical perspective, remembering the way we were. Meanwhile, I would like to express my thanks to the Dispatch Team and to others for your continued interest in the activities of the VVA 310. Enjoy the gentle turn to autumn.

-- Paulo Pereira, Dispatch Editor

## WHATS NEW IN VVA 310

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## September 2024 Prez Report

By Vance McCrumb



We held our 21st annual pig roast on the 24th of August. Attendance was down slightly from last year and when attendance is down, so were donations and 50/50 proceeds. That said, we still cleared a decent profit thanks to some generous donations prior to the pig roast. To those that reached deep onto their wallets and purses, THANK YOU!

If you would like to see the financial report on the pig roast, contact our Treasurer, Berry or attend our membership meeting, September 12th.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Saline American Legion. At times there were more Legion members setting-up than us because of a lack of coordination between the Legion and us. That's something we'll rectify next year.



Roy Hall brought his restored 1951 Jeep for folks to check out.

Kudos to those members who did the shopping, butt rubbing Eric's secret flavor mix Thursday evening. To the crew who mixed the coleslaw. To those that got the beans and bacon in the crockpots. The merchandise booth volunteers, kitchen crew, meal tickets sellers, and those that collected those tickets so our guest could get their pig roast dinners. THANK YOU!

To the crew who kept watch on the 330 pounds of pork cooking overnight starting Friday night at 10 pm. To the set-up and tear down crews. To the corn on the cob shuckers who shucked four large bags of corn on the cob. THANK YOU. Made me think of; *how much corn could a woodchuck shuck, if a woodchuck could shuck corn?*

To the AVVA and DAR teams whose efforts kept the food and dessert lines moving, we couldn't have done it without you. To the 50/50 raffle ticket sellers THANK YOU!

The Boy Scout Troops were a huge help. Stan and I will pay them a visit at their next Scout meeting to personally thank them.

The bulk of the bone-in Boston butt ham was cooked in our large pig roaster. Plus, there were four butts cooking in an upright electric cooker as well as four or five crockpots in use in the hall.

As you can see, a lot goes into putting on a pig roast including, four meetings prior to the event and one to be held after.

I was disappointed in the number of members who attended. That may be due to the fact that the pig party

was one week before the long Labor Day weekend. Should we think about scheduling a week earlier? We still need to do a better job of supporting our chapter with events like this. With that in mind, Clinton Fall Festival is September 27, 28, 29. Please consider paying a visit to our Merchandise Booth and replace your old, ragged veterans hats and T-shirts. There will be chapter hats there for \$15.00 as well. If yours is like mine, it needs to be replaced. Chapter hats won't be on the tables with the others. See me or Stan.

Sick Call: Member Doug Short had a kidney removed on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Prognosis is good and there is no need for any chemo or radiation treatments. He said the first couple days were very painful getting into and out of a chair at home. He said he is walking around the house and trips up and down the driveway. Teresa, his wife, is keeping him on a short leash.

Spoke with Jim Sharp (Animal) and he said he has finished his cancer treatment and is on the mend. Sounded good but he said his energy level is a bit off.

A look back in time: Some of you old timers will remember the below cartoon by Doc Martinez. This was published in our Dispatch probably twenty plus years ago.



Arf,

Vance (Not the politician)

*P.S. Politics is the only profession where one can lie, cheat, and steal and still be respected. - Mark Twain -*

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## Chaplain's Corner – September 2024

By Rev. Gordon Moore

### Perseverance



Societies are in flux due in part to all the changes that are thrown their way. Changes, like those of scientific advances, mores brought about by a transient migration among nations, religious changes as religions interact and the societal mores shift often producing less rigidity of religious standards, and the generational baton passing as one generation analyses the preceding generation and makes what they deem appropriate and necessary changes. Knowledge has sped up with technological advances (think growing up with encyclopedias versus internet-based information), and with the speed up, there is a tendency to spend less

time on analysis of the information. As we browse the internet, we can see posts that do not pass the test for truth being accepted as truth by people in a society that rush to believe without going through the process of critical thinking. Where does this leave us? For those of us who are older, it often leaves us in flux as well trying to figure out how to shift our mores back to what we were taught was correct. But if we are truth seekers, we

should be open to having our beliefs questioned, and we should be better able to account for the belief we hold so dear. This process requires an open mind and much perseverance, much like we learned through our time in service to our nation. Which brings me to the process that God uses to test our heart as He searches it looking for followers who are totally given to Him so that He might strongly support them (2 Chronicles 16:9). This process involves the interaction between a person, the word of God, and the Spirit of God, which He has given to us as found in Romans 5:3-5: Not only that, but we also celebrate in our suffering (the mental angst that we talked about earlier).

We know this because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces proven character; proven character produces hope; and hope does not disappoint. That is so because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who was given to us. We use the phrase often: "Trust the journey." Sometimes the journey is frustrating, requiring even more perseverance.

Here's to its development, especially as we seek to honor God through the navigation of all these changes. Peace to all.

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## **VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

*By Jon Luker, Secretary*

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310  
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes  
8 August 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:** American Legion Post 46 member who served in the Marine Corps.

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

**President's Report:**

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;

\$464 merchandise sales and donations at the AA VA.

Nonrestricted Fund Expenses:

\$286 office supplies for Dispatch Adobe software

Restricted Fund Revenue: No significant activity.

Restricted Fund Expenses:

\$10,000 donation to Fisher House

\$2,804 for underwear and women's pajamas at AA VA

**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 sold \$462 at the VA last month. We'll be there again on the twentieth. We also sold about \$480 at Vet Fest. Our next event will be the Pig Roast. I'm sending around a notebook with signup sheets for the different shifts and types of work. Please sign up. I have challenge coins for sale with me tonight as well.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Our last council meeting came out well and was the best attended meeting in a long time. The millage is up for renewal. We have yard signs that member units are going to place in strategic locations in September.

**Michigan State Council:** No report.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt. Things are going well. We painted the new shed. We are still working on a new landscape plan and an additional drain plan. Jerry Hoag road his motorcycle up from Texas. He said he's been to several veteran memorials and that ours really touches his heart. Mike Chase has been doing our lights since the memorial was built. He sent us a note saying something similar.

**Website:** McCrumb. We have had 440,400 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

**Membership:** McCrumb. We are up to 220 members.

**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 starting up its bingo program again. The American Legion is doing it once a month already. The next VVA event at the hospital is Halloween.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Motion by Bourne, seconded by Kinzinger, to transfer \$2,000 from the General Fund to the Memorial Maintenance Fund. This action was approved by the Board. Membership approved.

**Good of the Order:**

**Throneberry:** The third annual Veterans on the River Fundraiser will be held on 22 September from 1400 to 1700 at John Fritz's house on Geddes. There are flyers on the pool table. Doug Bradley, who wrote a book about Vietnam music will be there. The Director of the Marine Museum will also be there.

Remember, we are on WAAM radio at 1700 on Sunday. Please also listen to our story on Army nurses that aired two weeks ago. Everything else we've done is on the website also. <https://veteransradio.org>. For those who would like to help get the word out about Veterans Radio, I have decals with me that you can put up.

**Merritt:** Breakfast on Friday (13 Sept 2024) will be at 0900 at Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E Michigan Ave, Saline, MI 48176, (734) 316-2084.

**Kinzinger:** I have flyers to pass out for Pig Roast. The Pig Roast date is also being announced on the radio now.

**Draper:** The Legion is thinking about doing a free meal for veterans at the VFW, something like what the VRC used to do here. If they do, they'd like to borrow our grill from time to time.

**Merritt:** I had a long talk with David Saims about the food program. He said it is not going to happen anymore because it would cost over 1.5 million to do it this year. Instead, the county is going to work specifically with low-income families, to get them fed.

**McCrumb:** Sandy brought in two DVD's from Doc Martinez's collection that are available up here for free.

**Bull:**

- The U of M is now offering a new dental program for veterans. They will provide you with a root canal or a crown restoration on a molar tooth. You need to have your dentist fax a referral to the U of M Dental School. That number is 734 763-6888.
- Vet Fest, what did you think? If you have feedback about Vet Fest, please let me know before our meeting coming up this week. This year, we presented those veterans in attendance with the Washtenaw County proclamation making September Veterans Suicide Prevention Month.
- The VA has put out press releases saying that the benefits program is going to be three billion dollars short. If the budget is not fixed, the shortfall will be twelve billion dollars next year. This could impact our compensation checks as soon as October. Call your representatives and tell them to get back to work.
- A recent non-VA study of veteran suicide estimates the actual rate is between 40 and 44 veterans per day, much higher than the VA's current estimate of 17 per day. I just returned from a two-day seminar on veteran suicide. One of the more depressing take-aways is that a program has been developed to combat suicide among K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children of veterans.
- The VA has announced a new project called Transportation Navigation Hub. There is one phone number to call for all of your VA healthcare related transportation needs:(877) 828-5438. Unlike the transportation programs of the past, the VA will now transport you across county lines. However, you still need to give them a three-day notice, and the program operates only Monday through Friday from 0700 to 1700.
- The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be in Hamburg from 12 through 15 September. Kate Melcher will be keynote speaker on Saturday.
- The Veterans Resource Center Van will be at the U of M football games starting this Saturday, 31 August
- There will be a free breakfast for veterans at Harvest Moon Café next Tuesday.

**M Draper:** DAR is sending volunteers to staff the food line. Please volunteer to relieve them from time to time.

**McCrumb:** Vet Fest in Fowlerville is going to be huge. It's this weekend.

**McCrumb:** We still have a deal going with the embroiderer that Fredo found for us. If you want a chapter shirt, let us know.

**Kwiecinski:** Please keep my son in your prayers. I told you last month that his carrier, the Abraham Lincoln, was dispatched to the West Pacific. However, his carrier was recently diverted from Guam to the Middle East because Iran said they were going to attack Israel.

Closing Prayer Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1948.

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## Honoring September Anniversaries on the Wall



**Lance Corporal Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr.** was born on March 9, 1947, in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Hermon E. and Mrs. Eugenia Fuller of Ypsilanti. Hermon is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School, where he ran cross country and played football. He gained a nickname in high school of “Flea” because there was a flea on the Soupy Sales Show named Herman. He also was a member of the Boy Scouts, and he worked on the stage crew for high school plays.

Lance Corporal Fuller enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 27, 1965, and received his infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. Hermon was stationed in Okinawa before being deployed to Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, serving as a rifleman with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. He died on September 25, 1966, as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds from a mortar attack. Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother, and three sisters. He lived 19 years, 6 months, and 16 days. Hermon’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 014.

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**Hospital Corpsman Third Class Gary Robert Shepperdson** was born on July 13, 1946, to Mr. John and Mrs. Margaret Shepperdson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary is a 1965 graduate of St. Thomas High School in Ann Arbor. He also attended Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Navy in September of 1966.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Shepperdson began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, on July 10, 1968, serving as a Hospital Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Gary was killed on September 30, 1968, as a result of a gunshot wound from enemy rifle fire while participating in Operation Mameluke Thrust.

Gary Robert Shepperdson is survived by his mother, a sister, and three brothers. His father preceded him in death in 1957. He lived 22 years, 3 months, and 17 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary’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 050.

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**Hospital Corpsman Third Class Scott Philip Smith** was born on May 30, 1947, in Ann Arbor to Mr. Philip H. Smith of Grass Lake, Michigan, and Mrs. Ralph (Jeane) Foreman, Jr. of Northville, Michigan. Scott is a 1965 graduate of Chelsea High School, where he was on the track team and the high school band. He also attended Grand Valley Junior College in Grand Rapids, Michigan before he entered the Navy on March 17, 1967.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Smith began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, on June 3, 1969, serving as a Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Scott was killed on September 17, 1969, as a result of an explosive device.

Scott Philip Smith is survived by his parents, a half-brother, and a half-sister. He lived 22 years, 3 months, and 17 days. Scott's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Chelsea. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18W Line 106.

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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
- 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

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## Current Events

By Annie Dempsey Pereira

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 Post 322



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

18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)

20 Sep: POW/ MIA Recognition Day (1990)

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

11 Oct: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Holiday's Restaurant

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

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

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## Save The Date: Packing Care Packages

By John Kinzinger

Our Chapter 310 annual early Christmas packing party is scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd, 2024. Please join us for this fun Chapter event, as we pack Care Packages for service men and women serving overseas. This is an early Christmas wish from us for those who will probably be serving overseas over the Christmas Holidays. We began packing boxes for the troops back in 2003 in the Kinzinger's living room. From that start, we have shipped 4,496 packages. The postage to mail them has cost us more than \$80,000.00. We have done much to boost the morale of those serving overseas.

So, on Sunday, November 3rd, be there by 2:45 if you want to pack a box. We will begin at 3:00pm with prayer. After packing, we will enjoy a potluck dinner, so please consider bringing something to share. This is always a rewarding event, knowing we are thanking those who are serving for us overseas.

Our group is a packing machine! Our record (that is, the packing, taping, and custom form completed) is 104 packages in less than 50 minutes, and these are large boxes. You can imagine the hustling that was going on. Over the years, many of our original packers are no longer with us or unable to do it anymore.

Please consider bringing a donation to help with the postage costs. Thank you in advance.

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## Burn Pits or Other Toxins

*Submitted by Dave Draper*

Newly enacted legislation may be of interest to you if you were exposed to burn pits or other toxins during military service. This legislation expands presumptive disabilities, VA care, and benefits to Veterans as related to exposure to more than 20 toxic conditions. You can obtain more information by accessing the VA.gov PACT page or calling 1-800-MyVA411.

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## A Poem By Jim Slater

threw my eye`s  
threw my eyes I see a man screaming at me.  
threw my eyes I see pain and sorrow.  
threw my eyes home and hate.  
threw my eyes I love and marriage.  
threw my eyes I see things order.  
threw my eyes I see others passing  
threw my eyes I see mans kindness and caring.  
by kindness, I see

\*\*\*\*\*

## Put Up a Cross; Save a Life - Reprint

By Wendy Hibbitts, Alfred (Fredo) Merritt, and Jon Luker



The organization [22aday.org](http://22aday.org), together with Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Vietnam Veterans of America, is performing a veteran-suicide awareness presentation every day at noon, beginning on 3 September 2022. This is in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month.

If you would like to know more, please see the website at [www.22aday.org](http://www.22aday.org). In short, we put up 22 crosses a day to give the public a visual presentation of the cost of not taking proper care of our veterans. We do that every day for 30 days so the public can see how

terrible the cost is when it adds up.

If you would like to help put up the crosses—or help put the name of a veteran who committed suicide on one of the crosses—or if you would like to learn what you can do to help veterans choose something other than suicide, please go to the “Signup Genius” website at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B48AEAD-2FA7F94-veteran5>. If the time of your choice is filled up, please feel free to come anyway. But we do need at least two other people to help us each day. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions the website doesn’t answer for you.

Thank you for your interest and support.

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## Ann Arbor Kiwanis Resale Shop

By John Kinzinger



Located at 100 N. Staebler Road, almost across from Menards on Jackson Avenue in Ann Arbor.

Many of you are probably not aware of the vast array of resale items the Ann Arbor Kiwanis sells every weekend. Items are priced to sell—and best of all, they give a 20% discount for Veterans on everything you purchase. They are open from 9am to 1pm on Friday and 9am to 3pm on Saturday. I am a member, and Jane and I volunteer restocking shelves after the Friday sale. So, on Saturday, there will be new things on the shelves, things that were not there on Friday. Also, they are always looking for more volunteers.

The sales every weekend exceeds \$30,000. There are about 125 volunteers who work throughout the week getting items ready for the coming weekend sales. In 2023, Ann Arbor Kiwanis donated over \$1,000,000 to help children’s programs all around the area.

See the Kiwanis sale website for more information ([kiwanissale.com](http://kiwanissale.com))

Kiwanis receives donated items only on Saturday morning.

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Greetings from the *310 Dispatch* Team!

## "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  
Vice President: Marv Rivers  
Secretary: Jon Luker  
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Please forward. Thank you!