

310 Dispatch

Together We Make A Difference



January 2025

Lest We Forget

Walter E. McIntire Jr.
Michael D. Cribeler
John D. Eddy
Eddie Wallace
Larry G. Gray
George F. Vlisides
Michael W. Hunter

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&
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National Chapter of the Year 1997 & 2007 - National Newsletter of the Year 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015 and Email Newsletter of the Year 2017



Editor's Note: --There is much to rejoice in the new year. Rev. Gordon Moore has mentioned some of the reasons for optimism – namely, chapter 21 of the Book of Revelation. The promise is that the old order of things will pass away. God's dwelling place will now be among the people. God himself will be with us, and we will be God's people. He will wipe away people's tears. With our faith, we can answer to

God's providential love.

All the best and keep warm. -- Paulo Pereira, Dispatch Editor

Memorial Site Beautification

John Kinzinger

Many of you have received a letter about our efforts to beautify our Memorial site on into the future. At our November VVA meeting, a ten-year budgeted program was approved to beautify the Memorial site and to make it easier for the Township to care for after we are no longer able. The total estimated cost is \$120,000 over ten years. Included in this project: all trees being replaced, major drainage issue fix, landscaping for ease of mowing, and a nice patio seating area. Our plan is to do as much in-kind work as possible to reduce the total cost.

At our January meeting, \$50,000 from our investment fund was approved to get the project started. A fundraising committee was formed to seek the remaining costs to complete the project as soon as we can. We also received an anonymous offer to match up to \$5,000.

If you did not receive a letter and would like to support this site beautification project, please send your gift made out to VVA310 Memorial to VVA310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Thank you in advance.





January President's Report

Vance McCrumb

VA Christmas Party: A big thank you goes out to member Bill Coleman, who came to our annual VA Christmas party dressed as Santa. Santa is pictured with Miss Michigan 2024, Je- nae Lodewyk, left, and Miss Washtenaw County 2024, Madalyn Poupard, right. When they entered a patient's room, a huge smile greeted the ladies. The ladies and Santa were a big hit.

Stacey Mason, Miss Michigan 1993, brought cheer and joy to the patients with her musical talents. I believe this was her 30th year.

Stacey asked a 90-year-old patient what his favorite Christmas song was. When she played it on her violin, he closed his eyes with a smile and tears came down his cheeks. It was quite moving. We accomplish more than just

handing out individually embroiders shirts and windbreakers. By the way, AVVA member Linda Colby annually embroiders 150 plus shirts and windbreakers. That, my friend, is a huge job. Thank you, Linda!

Our monthly meeting was well attended; thank you! We discussed the improvements to the Memorial grounds and the ten-year plan to do so. A committee has been formed to address fundraising going forward. We do have an anonymous donor who will match up to \$5,000.00. If you are interested in helping financially, please contact our treasurer, Berry. For those not aware, the Memorial grounds committee came up with a ten-year plan for improvements to the Memorial's grounds. This was approved by the Board and membership at our November meeting. Milton Davis suggested we partner with VFW Post 423 and send non-perishable goods to storm damage residences in North Carolina. A motion to donate \$1,000.00 was seconded with discussion and passed. This expense will come out of our Impulse Donations expense line item. Milton volunteered to do the shopping and deliver to NC. Thank you, Milton!

We held our first Memorial grounds improvement fundraising meeting at the Kinzinger's on December 26th. Fundraising committee members are: John Kinzinger, Brian Graef, Jon Luker, Wendy Hibbitts, Berry Bourne, Stan Harrison, Brenda Stumbo and me.

Per Luker's research and his discussions with folks who are experts in this field, the pine trees were planted in clay soil which apparently stunted their growth, and they were slowly dying. The first stage to remove all the pine trees is complete.

I visited the Memorial about a week before Christmas and was shocked. Where the hell did that green building come from? The grounds never looked so bad! But improvements are on the way; see below.

First tree plantings (to replace the blue spruce) (8) River Birch (not White Birch) 10 to 12 feet high (2) Autumn Blaze Maple, 2.5" caliper at breast height (1) Eastern Red Bud 10 to 12 feet high. Second tree plantings (behind the Memorial) (4) Royal Star Magnolia, 5' high (3) Green Giant Arborvitae, 7'-8' high (2) Dwarf Lilac, 24-36" high.

There was a lot of effort in locating a contractor, tree and soil research and a plan for the improvements. Applause for the Memorial grounds committee!

We tossed around the idea of creating a 501 (c) 3 with no support, raffles, a fundraising musical event at the Freight House in Depot Town in June or July, and the need for immediate funding to get the grounds ready for this year's Memorial Day event. We will be mailing a donation request to all Chapter members.

(Continued on page 3)

(From page 2)

To accomplish the shorten deadline, the committee agreed to bring to the January Board meeting a motion to withdraw \$50,000 from our LPL Financial investment account. If our Board approves, we'll bring the motion to membership at our January meeting.

If anyone would like to see the contractor's rendition of the improvements, send me an email (dogman2@reagan.com). I'll forward you their concept. The patio area looks really nice and will make a great addition to the grounds along with the new trees. By the way, changes are in the works for the berm, too.

I will be submitting our Chapter for Chapter of the Year consideration, as well as Website of the Year and Newsletter of the Year at the upcoming VVA convention. For those interested in attending the convention, it will be held at the Marriott in New Orleans the first week of August 2025.

Arf, and Happy New Year – Vance (Not the Politician)

PS. Be humble and never think you are better than anyone else. We all leave this earth with nothing.

Chaplain's Corner January 2025

Rev. Gordon Moore

Welcome 2025! So thankful you finally made it. We are due for a refreshing change in direction as individuals and collectively as a community and a nation. Many people make resolutions for personal change, which is a recognition that change is needed. All too often those resolutions soon fall by the wayside. But making those resolutions brings with it a certain hope that things will be better.

There is a change coming that will most assuredly bring a permanent and better change for all who will experience it. That change is recorded in Revelation 21. Let us rejoice in its completeness and unifying effect on individuals and the community of the redeemed. "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride made ready for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; for the first things have passed away."

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." The He said to me, "It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son."

What a promise of hope, that although future in nature, still has a current encouragement to overcome life's obstacles that seek to prevent us from drawing close to God.

A most blessed and joyous New Year to all.



Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Regular Membership Meeting Minutes 12 December 2024 Jon Luker

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 - None

Motion by Budd Frye/Brian Bayha to Approve the November Minutes published in the Dispatch.

President's Report -

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

Finance Report – Bourne.**Nonrestricted Fund Revenue** - \$766 merchandise sales and donations at Ann Arbor VA with \$341 cost of goods sold, 55% gross margin, before a 20% fee to the VA.

Nonrestricted Fund Expenses - We experienced a 100% increase in cost per copy to print the Dispatch for mailing due to ownership change at OfficeMax and policy changes.

Restricted Fund Revenue -

a. \$12,300 donated for Ann Arbor VA Christmas Program. a.\$980 donated for Support the Troops packing party

Restricted Fund Expenses

- a. \$972 for packing party postage which resulted in an \$8 surplus
- b. \$866 for the second of four budgeted steak dinner upgrades at Ann Arbor VA
- c. **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.

Committee Reports -

Merchandise - Harrison - Realized \$754 of merchandise sales plus \$12 donations. We are limited on the space that we have near the canteen. Next sales date is Dec. 17th from 0800 to 1330. Any help is appreciated.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans - Bull - Commented that the sleeping bag program has collected 20 bags to date. Police approval is required to allow homeless Veterans to sleep in their cars in the lower parking lot at Saline American Legion.

Michigan State Council - Driscoll/Wilson – Tim reported that VVA national membership has increased by over 2,000 in the last year. As of September 30, there were 92,126 members and increasing each month. Sandie stated that a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is awaiting Jack McManus' signature. This MOU states that 91,000 specimens collected from Operation Ranch Hand participants will be transported from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to medical facilities in California. This is a step forward as birth defects research work continues related to toxic exposure.

(Continued on pag 5)

(From page 4)

Memorial Maintenance - No report

Website: McCrumb. We have had over 454,700 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

Membership - McCrumb. We are officially at 220 members.

Newsletter - We have experienced increased copying costs and encourage all to receive the Dispatch via email.

Health Care - Wilson. Ann Arbor VA has been offering us great health care for years. They are waiting to service your needs.

LTC. Charles S. Kettles Medical Center - Kinzinger - Christmas Party is scheduled for Tuesday, 17 December. Meet in the lobby at 1730 for our Christmas visit. Stacey Mason and the current Miss Michigan will join us there.

Old Business - None.

New Business - None

Good of the Order:

Milton Davis – Reported that a North Carolina flood relief semi-truck is leaving Michigan on Dec 15/16 to take formula, hygiene items, winter coats, etc., to the Asheville, NC area. Motion made by Throneberry/Bayha to fund \$1,000 towards this effort. Motion approved.

John Kinzinger – Stated that we need to organize a fund-raising team to generate funds to support the Vietnam Memorial Long-term Landscaping Plan. Contact John if you are interested in joining this team. Throneberry mentioned combining this effort with another organization to maximize the effort.

Ann Arbor VA – There was discussion, pro and con, about the medical services provided at the VA. The consensus was that a combined effort of various veterans' organizations should meet with the VA to express their concerns.

Bob Bull – Stated that suicides last year were the highest since the Civil War. He further stated that it takes all of us to assist in suicide prevention.

Brian Bayha – Commented what a great job the National Cemetery in Howell is doing to meet the veterans' needs. He said he has executed a prepaid cremation arrangement with the cemetery.

McCrumb - Breakfast on Friday at 0900 will be at Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176, (734) 316-2084

Closing Prayer - Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1950.

As of May 2021, to qualify for Agent Orange-related benefits, a veteran must have one or more of the 17 conditions VA presumes to have been caused by exposure to the herbicide, which are:

The below are links (if you have an electronic copy) to the VA's information on these diseses. If you don't have an electronic copy go to www.publichealth.va.gov.

Chronic B-cell Leukemia

Hodgkin's Disease

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Multiple Myeloma

Prostate Cancer

Respiratory Cancers

Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Chioracne

<u>Diabetes Melllitus Type 2</u>

Al Amyloidosis

Ischemic Heart Disease

Parkinson's Disease

Early onset Peripherl Neuropathy

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

Bladder Cancer (added by NDAA of 2021)

Hypothyrolidism (added by NDAA of 2021)

Parkinsonism (added by NDAA of 2021)

Veterans who served in or off the coast of Vietnam or Thailand are urged to contact a VA-accredited service officer to discuss whether they are eligible for disability benefits related to agent Orange Exposure.

The following information is from our chapter Secretary, Jon L

There are several ways to get compensation for exposure to agent orange or other toxins. One way is to serve in Vietnam or a few other places and get one of the 14 diseases that are presumed to be caused by toxic exposure – but only if you were in one of the places the military admits to having used toxins.

If you weren't in one of the areas, but you got one of the 14 presumptive diseases, then you have to prove you were exposed to toxins to get benefits.

If you get some other kind of disease then you have to prove you were exposed to toxins and you have prove that it is at least as likely as not that the toxic exposure is the cause of whatever illness you have. If you do that, you get compensation.



Private First Class Walter E. McIntire was born on October 2, 1943 in Laredo, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. McIntire of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter graduated in January of 1964, from Ann Arbor High School where he was active in Junior Achievement and was the Vice-President of his JA company. He was also active in the Cooperative Occupa- tional Training Program at Ann Arbor High School and worked part-time for S. S. Kresge Company.

Private First Class Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on August 21, 1965, serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. On September 18, 1965, Walter earned a Purple Heart when he was wounded by shrapnel in his leg. He recovered from those wounds and returned to his unit four

week later. On January 2, 1966, Walter was killed by small arms fire in action near the Bien Hoa Air Base.

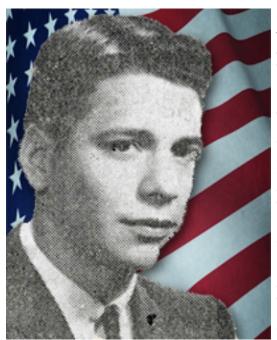
Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. is survived by his parents, three brothers and two sisters. He lived 22 years and 3 months. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 04E Line 051. Rubbing from The Wall below.

Warrant Officer John David Eddy was born on March 1, 1950, to Mr. and Mrs. Delvord Eddy of Ann Arbor, Mich- igan. John is a 1968 graduate of Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. He loved team sports, the out-of-doors, and camping trips to Lake Huron when he was young. John's ambition was to fly. Warrant Officer Eddy enlisted in the Army in 1970. He completed helicopter flight training at Fort Wolters, Texas. He went through advanced flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Warrant Officer John David Eddy began his tour in An Xugen Province, South Vietnam, on June 16, 1971. John was the copilot of a helicopter gunship when it was struck by enemy gunfire and crashed. Warrant Officer Eddy died with three other crew members on January 11, 1972. Warrant Officer John David Eddy earned the Air Medal for heroism, the



Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Air Medal, National Defense and Vietnam Service Medals, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. The South Vietnamese Government presented him with the Military Merit Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm.

John David Eddy is survived by his parents, a wife, two daughters and a son, and two sisters. He lived 21 years, ten months, and ten days. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 02W Line 096.



Warrant Officer Michael Woodrow Hunt was born on January 23, 1944, in Durham, North Carolina, to Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow W. Hunter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also attended Western Michigan University. Warrant Officer Hunter entered the Army in 1967 going through

Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was trained as a paratrooper and a helicopter pilot. Michael received his Wings as an Army Aviator in April of 1968, graduating tenth in his class. He began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam, on July 14, 1969, serving as a helicopter copilot on an AH-G with C Troop, First Squadron, Ninth Cavalry, First Air Cavalry Division. On January 28, 1970, Michael was killed when the helicopter he was co-piloting

was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire during a gun run. The aircraft was struck by a 50-cal. round causing the main rotor to separate. He received the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Air Medal. Michael Woodrow Hunter is survived by his parents, two sisters, and a son. He lived 26 years and five days. He is resting in the Swedish Mission Cemetery located in Centerville Township, Leelanau County, Michigan. Michael'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 14W Line 075.

Major George Frederick Vlisides was born on December 31, 1924, in Detroit, Michigan to Mrs. Elena Vlisides of Ann Arbor, Michigan. George is a 1943 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. George enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and received his Second Lieutenant's commission and Bombadier Wings in 1944. He flew heavy bombers, but never made it overseas. He graduated from the Military Academy at West Point near the top of his class in 1950 where his classmates called him, "Gorgeous One". George enlisted in the Air Force after graduation from West Point. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal with two clusters flying 84 missions in the F-84 during the Korean War. He graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 1961.



Major Vlisides began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South

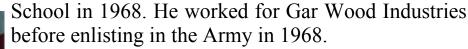
Vietnam on November 5, 1964, serving with the 1st Air Commando Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, 13th Air Force. George earned another Air Medal in Vietnam. He also was shot down

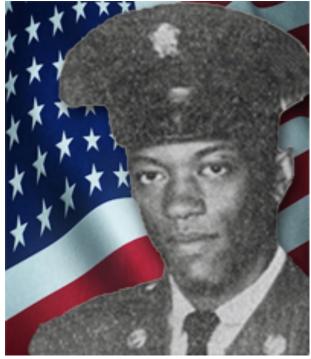
twice with the last time occurring on December 29, 1964. He celebrated his 40th Birthday on December 31, 1964. George died on January 27, 1965, when his A-1E Skyraider crashed in a landing attempt at Bien Hoa Air-field. He earned another Distinguished Flying Cross and two more Air Medals during his tour.

George Frederick Vlsides is survived by his mother, a brother and a sister. He lived 40 years and 26 days. He is resting in the Greek Orthodox Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. George'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 01E Line 084.

<u>Corporal Eddie Wallace</u> was born on January 12, 1949, in Birmingham, Alabama to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lee of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Eddie graduated from Ypsilanti High





Corporal Wallace began his tour of duty in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam on December 20, 1968, serving as a Petroleum Supply Specialist with the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Company, 307th Aviation Battalion, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. Eddie was killed on January 13, 1969, when a hand grenade was thrown at him while he was on guard duty. Eddie had been "In-Country" for only 23 days.

Eddie Wallace is survived by his parents, four brothers and a sister. He lived 20 years and 1 day.

Eddie is resting in Westlawn Cemetery in Inkster, Michigan. Eddie'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 35W Line 086.



Private First Class Michael Dean Cribelar was born on June 27, 1949, to Mr. Woodrow Dean Cribelar and Mrs. Virginia Cribelar. Michael attended Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He worked for Ford Motor Company at the Ypsilanti Plant prior to entering the Army on June 9, 1967.

Private First Class Cribelar completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He began his tour of duty in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division on November 22, 1967. Michael was killed on January 11, 1968, from small arms fire after being "In-Country" for one month and eleven days.

Michael Dean Cribelar is survived by his parents, his wife and two-year old son, and two sisters. He lived 18 years, 6 months and 14 days. He is resting in

Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael'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 34E Line 028.

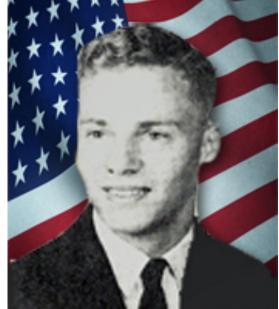
Private First Class Larry Gene Gray was born on March 19, 1945, in Missouri to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray. Larry is a 1963 graduate of Dundee High School located in Dundee, Michigan. Private First Class Gray entered the Army on July 18, 1966 receiving his Basic Training and Cook's School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Larry began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on January 5, 1967, serving as a Food Service Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

He was killed on January 17, 1967, when the helicopter he was riding on during a combat support mission disintegrated in flight. He was "In-Country" for only 12 days.

appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 14E Line 044.

Larry Gene Gray is survived by his wife, his parents, a brother and three sisters. He lived 21 years, 9 months and 28 days. He is resting in the London Township Cemetery located near Milan, Michigan.

Larry's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also



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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.

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.

Who We Are

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Please Direct Any Quetions About Membership or Our Website To: membership@vva310.org
Thank You!

- VVA's Founding Principle -

"Never Again Will One Generation Of Veterans Abandon Another!"

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 P.O. Box 3221 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

Please Forward. Thank You

