



The 310 Dispatch

Together We Make A Difference



NOV/DEC 2025

Lest We Forget

Daniel Illi
Donald Roddy
Robert Albertson
Robert Skinner
Robert Kushmaul Jr.
Ricky Sparks
Donald Bousley
Paul Etter
Dannie Johnson
Grady Sparks

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988
Suicide
&
Crisis
Hotline

National Chapter of the Year 1997, 2007, & 2025 - Five Times National Newsletter of the Year! Two National Veterans of the Year!



This year was our 37th year providing Dawn Farm with their Thanksgiving Dinner. Per John K, in 1988 the Chapter was looking for something we could do for the community. Dawn Farm was chosen and we have been supplying their Thanksgiving Dinners ever since.

Our shopping crew was Stan Harrison, Eric Downie, Roy and Bonnie Hall and me. Missing from the picture is Eric. He had a fender bender in the Meijer's parking lot and didn't make it to the Farm. As usual, I'm stuffing my face.

For the last few years Meijer's has donated us gift cards which we put to good use for Dawn Farm. Last year it was for \$500.00. This year it was \$250.00.

The five of us met at the Ann Arbor Saline Road store on November 16th and spent \$444.52 for 100 plus items. Dawn Farm does send us a wish list of items they would like for their dinner. We didn't have to buy any turkeys this year because someone donated a couple to Farm.

After we deliver the chow, we sat in their Great Room and snacked on coffee and cake. They tell us who they are, where they are from and why they are residents of Dawn Farm and how long they have been there. This year there was a Marine veteran resident. We in-turn, introduced ourselves, branch of service, years we served and where we went to high school, etc.

We had our 38th annual Christmas party at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Bill Coleman wore his Santa Claus suit again this year. This is the second year Bill has come as Santa. Photographer Marcin Szczepanski took pictures again this year. I believe this is his third year of recording the event at the VA. Marcin is a professional photographer who has traveled the world as a photographer and is John and Jane's neighbor.

(continued on page 2)



We had a couple riders from Rolling Thunder as well as Chapter AVVA members, Kirk Profit from Ypsilanti and a couple VA employees.



VA Hospital Lobby
Santa and his helpers
Together we did make a difference!



Bill Coleman as Santa, Stacey Mason a 1993 Miss Michigan and Reese Johnson, 2025 Miss Washtenaw County

Santa, Stacy and Miss Washtenaw County created lots of joy and smiles as they made the rounds and passed out special embroidered hoodies, sweatshirts and T-shirts. Both Stacey and Reese Johnson (Miss Washtenaw County) sang patient requested Christmas songs and Stacey made musical magic with her violin.



John and Jane Kinzinger presented Stacey a VVA-MVP Most Valued Performer plaque recognizing Stacey's 32nd year entertaining the patients at the Ann Arbor VA

~

Stan Harrison and I attended the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans December meeting. There is talk about reestablishing the WCCV dinner for next year. More to come later.

Soon, Jon Luker will be sending out a request for volunteers to help with the Memorial Grounds mowing crews when we get closer to spring. We only have to mow the grass in front of the Memorial. The Township has agreed to mow the rest.

(Continued on page 3)



(from page 2)

Our blog is gathering dust. No one seems interested. Too bad because it is a chance to ask/discuss our future as a VVA Chapter or anything else that's on your mind, or just to read what others have written. Contact me (dogman2@reagan.com) for your login and password info.

Our membership is 227 members. There are a few applications out, so we may see an increase.

Roy Hall's brother, Eugene, passed away Tuesday the 23rd. Eugene joined our Chapter in June of 2017.

Fredo is still battling his health issues. Last report is when tested his spot on his liver has gotten smaller by a third. That is great news! Let's keep Fredo and Roy Hall's family in your prayers.

Pastor's Corner - Gordon Moore

Happy and blessed may your New Year be!

A Texas pastor, Tony Evans, once delivered a message entitled, "Same old, same old, same old." It had to do with routine that becomes so routine that it becomes boring. You wake up and roll over to the same old spouse, eat the same old breakfast, drive the same old car to the same old job, hang out with the same old friends, etc., etc., etc.

The idea was not to change your spouse, your job, your friends, etc., but to look at them with fresh eyes and appreciate what you have worked so hard through the years to accomplish.

That is what the new year brings to many...an opportunity to freshen things up. Sometimes called resolutions they become a goal to pursue.

Recently I have been allowed the opportunity to assist others in the loss of a loved one with the encouragement and knowledge that their loved one who had faith is starting a new life, that, according to Revelation 21, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

The He that sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

As we enter the New Year 2026, let us rejoice with starting new things and the removal of the pain that resulted from old things gone wrong.

Peace be upon you as you navigate this new year.



**Vietnam Veterans of America,
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes**

11 December 2025 [November Minutes on-line, click here](#)

Call to Order by President Vance McCrumb at 1900

Flag Salute: Vance McCrumb

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 Throneberry/Clarke to approve the November Minutes published on the website. Approved.

Officer Reports:

President's Report: This month's report is a report by Jon Luker on the Future of VVA as discussed at the recent Michigan State Council meeting. See it online at <https://vva310.org>.

Finance Report: Bourne. Reports were emailed to the board. Reports are also available to members via email upon request. The Board of Directors approved a proposed budget. You may request a copy. Copies will also be attached to the agenda for next month's meeting.

Non-restricted Fund Revenue

\$135 merchandise sales and \$8 donation at Ann Arbor VA with \$63 cost of goods sold for a 53% profit margin on merchandise sales before a \$27 or 20% fee to AA VA.

Non-restricted Fund Expenses:

\$11,776 non-capitalized expenses for Vietnam Memorial Long-term Landscaping project.
\$445 for Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner. Meijer Ann Arbor-Saline Rd donated \$250.

Restricted Funds Revenue:

\$11,470 Christmas Program Fund.
\$564 donations to Deployed Troops Fund.

Restricted Funds Expenses:

\$866 for Deployed Troops Fund, primarily postage
\$560 maintenance expenditures for the Vietnam Memorial.

AVVA Report: The AVVA report is being emailed separately to those who request it. We are back to meeting at night. We are still selling wrist bracelets for our annual fundraiser.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: We held our sale at the VA on Black Friday as the VA requested. The sales were dismal - \$135 gross. We can't do sales on Tuesdays anymore since the new boss decided to only use vendors that can occupy the entire week. We are signed up for the next 3 Fridays.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: We met last month and discussed the annual dinner that will be held at the Saline American Legion on 8 May.

Michigan State Council: VVA National President Tom Burke was present. See the President's report on the website for details. President Burke said that he will do everything in his power to help VVA exist in some form into the future, working with other organizations as necessary. We need to start thinking seriously about this now, for financial, among other reasons. Our 2024 expenses for the year exceed our revenue by one million dollars. All four of our primary fundraising efforts were adversely impacted by changes in the tax laws that mean that over 70 percent of individual taxpayers take the standardized deduction, meaning that they get no



advantage from donating to nonprofits.

Members and chapters should be thinking about what is most important for the VVA National and their Chapter to be doing in the future.

We are hosting the next council meeting here on 14 March.

Memorial Maintenance: Water is off now. We have switched to winter maintenance.

Website: We had 503,827 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

Membership: Membership is holding steady at 227.

Newsletter: Nothing new.

Health Care: We still don't know what Congress intends to do with the VA. All we know for sure is things will be different.

LTCCSKMC: The Christmas program at the VA will be held on 16 December. Meet in the lobby at 1730. We will be passing out embroidered shirts. Santa and Stacey Mason will be there.

We expect the Christmas fundraiser to bring in about \$19,000, most of which goes to the VA in the form of clothes and upgraded dinners. Some goes to the Ann Arbor Fisher House.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order:

McCrumb: Breakfast on Friday will be at 0900 at Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 668-1292.

Driscoll: What about the honor guard? Answer: The board discussed this issue and has decided to create an Honor Guard Committee and to carry insurance on the work the Honor Guard does. The Honor Guard needs younger people to volunteer if the program is to continue. Honor Guard members do not need to be VVA members.

Wilson: I spoke with Jack McManus recently. He went from getting over one hundred phone calls a day, to no calls for the past two weeks. Feel free to contact him.

Bull 1) Be aware of any postcard you get claiming you owe money for overpayment of benefits or anything similar. If you get one, report it to both MVAA and our State Attorney General.
2) Our sock drive is short of our goal, but we gave 1500 to the VA and 250 pairs to the female veterans standdown
3) We sent out our letters for veterans to each hospital in the state and to two veteran homes
4) On Christmas Day, we will be holding an event here for veterans. We will feed them and hand out a gift bag that will include many things including gift cards from Meijer's. Thank you, volunteers, for helping with this event. VCAT is helping to fund the event. VFW is providing space rent free.

Kinzinger Jack McManus is one of the few remaining charter members. He withdrew from running at the convention because he fell at the hotel in DC and then fell at home due to his Parkinson's. He's now getting his healthcare at the VA and is focused on getting better.

Luker 1) The VA's Gerofit program is holding its Christmas Party here instead of the VA because the VA auditorium is being used as a computer lab during the medical records and hardware transition.
2) I am pleased to report that Fredo got good results from his recent test: His cancerous lump has reduced in size by 1/3. He is still tired, weak and losing weight, but is bolstered by knowing that the treatment is working. Please don't call or visit yet.

Lewis Gerofit is the best thing I've ever done.

Closing Prayer: Bull

Flag Salute: McCrumb

Meeting Adjourned at 1957.

Honor And Remember

To Learn More Please Click On Their Underlined Name



Private First Class Daniel John Illi was born on December 6, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Erwin G. Illi at St. Joseph's hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Daniel graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1964.

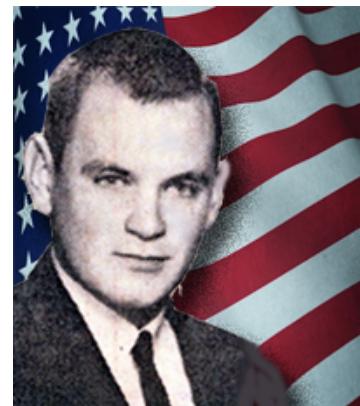
Daniel served with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division operating out of An Khe, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. Daniel was killed by small arms fire on November 1, 1966.

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 12E Line 002.

Private First Class Donald B. Roddy was born on March 7, 1943 to Mr. William Roddy of Gloversville, New York and Mrs. Mary B. Wolfenden of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School.

As a member of the 'Lost Patrol' of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he lost his life along with the rest of his machine gun crew as they fought to cover the withdrawal of their fellow troopers to safer ground.

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 03E Line 061.



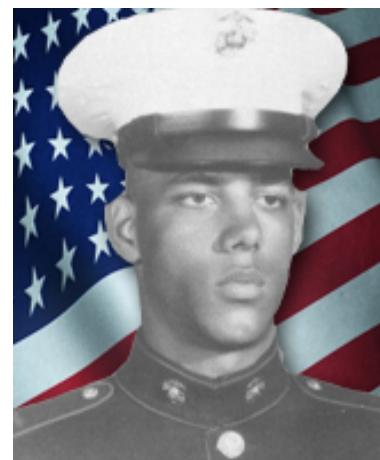
Private First Class Robert Allen Albertson was born on January 1, 1947 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Albertson. Robert graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1966.

Robert died as a result of small arms fire on November 4, 1967 after being In-Country for only 23 days.

His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Robert's name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 29E Line 018.

Private First Class Robert Clarence Skinner was born on June 21, 1951 to Mr. and Mrs. Skinner. Robert attended Ypsilanti High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Private First Class Skinner began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on September 27, 1969 serving as a Motor Vehicle Operator. Robert was killed on November 16, 1969.

Robert'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 16W Line 086.





Engineman Third Class Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr. was born on August 9, 1948 in Adrian, Michigan to Mr. Robert E. and Mrs. Maxine De Verna Kushmaul. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Chelsea High School.

He was killed while on a river boat patrolling on the Song Hkau Giang River South of Siagon on November 16, 1969 from a rocket explosion.

Robert'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 16W Line 084.

Sergeant Rickie D. Sparks was born on July 26, 1947 in Beecher City, Illinois to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sparks from Manchester, Michigan. Rickie is a 1965 graduate of Clinton High School in Clinton, Michigan.

Rickie was killed on November 18, 1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Rickie's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 30E Line 019.



Private First Class Donald George Bousley was born on March 18, 1949 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Ferris G. Bousley. Donald is a 1968 graduate of Ann Arbor High School.

Donald was killed by enemy small arms fire during an ambush on December 22, 1968 just one month and two days after arriving "In-Country".

Don is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 36W Line 063.



Honor And Remember

To Learn More Please Click On Their Underlined Name



Private First Class Paul Quammen was born on January 12, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Lester F. Etter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul is a graduate of University High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Paul was killed by small arms fire on December 8, 1968 just two months and six days into his tour of duty "In-Country".

Paul's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 37W Line 063.

Sergeant Dannie Lewis Johnson was born on September 28, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Johnson of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Dannie is a December, 1965 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

He was killed on December 30, 1967 just a month into his second tour of duty in South Vietnam. He was killed when a mortar round exploded on his position as he was directing artillery support.

Dannie's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 33E Line 003.



Sergeant First Class Grady Merril Jordan was born on July 25, 1915 in Benton, Arkansas. Grady served in World War II and the Korean War.

Grady began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on March 1, 1967 as a Heavy Construction Equipment Operator serving with A Company, 169th Engineering Battalion, 159th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Grady took his own life on Christmas Eve of 1967.

Grady Merril Jordan is the oldest person to die in Vietnam that is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. He lived 52 years 4 months and 29 days.

He is listed under Ypsilanti. Grady is resting in the Fort Leonard Wood Post Cemetery in Pulaski County, Missouri. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 32E Line 056.





Dispatch Patrons

Larry St. Antoine ~ Sept. 2025
James Alford ~ Dec. 2025
Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ March 2026
Stan Harrison in honor of Russ Michalke ~ March 2026
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2026
Elizabeth Wong ~ Sept. 2026
Berryman Bourne ~ Aug. 2026
Sara Rodeck, in memory of her brother (KIA) Michael Hunter ~ September 2026
Glenn Sakcriska ~ Nov. 2026
Ralph Henry ~ Nov. 2026
Gary L. Couture ~ Dec. 2026
Darlene Imus ~ Jan. 2027
Jane & John Kinzinger ~ June 2027
Dave P. & Gloria G, Marshall ~ June 2027
Linda Laey-Leonard ~ In Memory of (KIA) Lavern Lamey ~ July 2027
Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027
Louis Kennedy ~ Sept. 2027
Paulo & Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ Oct. 2027
Chris Wetzler ~ Nov. 2027
Sandy Martinez ~ Nov. 2027
Corrine Gignac - In Memory of her Uncle Neil Gignac USAF - April 2028
Bruce Ross ~ March 2028
John & Mary Laher in memory of John Holenbeck - March 2028
John C. Shook ~ July 2028
Rudoiph Kozole ~ July 2028
George Boone ~ Feb. 2029
Alice Lee ~ March 2031
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031
Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
Ray Hunter ~ Dec. 2032
Hank Woods ~ in memory of Past President Paul Dumsch ~ Sept. 2032
Steve & Shirley Hitte ~ June 2034
George Perrault ~ Oct. 2035

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

We Are 227 Strong, And Growing

Chapter President: Vance McCrumb
Vice President: Stan Harrison
Secretary: Jon Luker
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore
Sergeant-at-Arms: Eric Downie
Membership: Vance McCrumb
Dispatch Editor: Dogman

Website: <https://www.vva310.org>
Follow us on [Facebook](#)
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P.O. Box 3221
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

Please Direct Any Questions 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
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Please Forward. Thank You

