Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 National Chapter Of The Year 1999, 2007 & 2025

Nov/Dec

Lest We Forget

Daniel Ili 11/1/66
Donald Roddy 11/15/65
Robert Albertson 11/16/67
Robert Skinner 11/26/69
Robert Kushmaul, 11/16/69
Ricky Sparks 11/18/67

Donald Bousley 12/22/68
Paul Etter 12/8/68
Dannie Johnson 12/30/67
Grady Jordan 12/24/67

To learn more about the above KIAs, visit www.vva310.org/memorial

What's Inside

President's Desk - 1
Membership -1
Pastor's Corner - 2
Family Know? - 2-3
VVA's Voters Voice - 4-5
Memorial's Anniversary- 6-8
Patrons - 9 Please check to see if you are current!

988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline



Here we are approaching the ending of the year Holidays . As Thanksgiving draw near I wish to thank all the active members who have given so much of themselves to the benefit of Chapter 310. I greatly appreciate your efforts in all the various aspects which make our Chapter a very active and meaningful organization. I SALUTE all of You!

Again I wish to mention the importance of recruitment . As time marches on recruitment becomes even more important. Please always keep this in mind.

As the year comes to an end, let's us not forget our Country. Please keep America in your Prayers!

God Bless!

Allen

Membership

Vance McCrumb

We've held our own this year, barely. We started the year with 218 members and as of November we are at 222. Previously I reported our total as 227 but HQ was also including those that passed away although noted as deceased, in their monthly reports. Removing the five deceased brings our total to 222. Per State Council President John Riling III our Region 5 showed an increase but not for Michigan in October.

If you need an application, or a brochure, click here>Application and Brochures

Gordon Moore's Paster's Corner

Thanksgiving and Christmas are two family-centered holidays for those fortunate enough to have families to celebrate. As a family we are seldom together with our children all at the same time due to distance, work schedules and various other celebrations (like birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) that often hold family members in tension.

We do get together with each other via Face Time chats for those that cannot make the events that we have on each holiday, inviting friends to share in the joy of the occasions for which we celebrate. The food and merriment flow freely with the conversations that bring us back as dedicated family members, remembering the highlights of the past while making new ones for years to come.

All this makes me aware of God who made it all possible. His love, goodness and rich blessings flow as freely as our conversations. This year we are blessed with each child making it home for various holidays, being freed from work responsibilities. This year, Stephanie, our oldest, will host Thanksgiving with Jeremy, our Executive Pastry Chef from New York, finally having a holiday off to join us along with siblings.

Our youngest, Courtney from Arlington, Virginia, will be in the week before from a very high stressed job and return from a South Korean vacation to share in family merriment.

Our number two, Tiffany and her boyfriend Tim, from Baltimore, will join us for Christmas. They along with Valarie, Stphanie and I will celebrate Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village with a special 90-minute multi-course meal at Eagle Tavern, complete with music and 150 year traditions from what was Clinton Inn.

All this makes me appreciate God's family, all of which we are a part, and His grace that made our lives possible. And to think that our celebrations will continue throughout eternity because of Jesus' promise, I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

With elections past and our country on a wayward course away from God, may we rejoice and set sail with a firm direction toward a know course of Heaven where we will celebrate for all eternity.

A blessed holiday season to all.

Is your family aware?

John Kinzinger

If you would like to be remembered at our Memorial for your military service, your family needs to know that. Our deceased members have their names on a brick leading up to the Memorial. If you would like to be remembered for your military service, be sure your family knows.

For several years I have kept in touch with Louis Kennedy, Navy Vietnam Veteran. Because he was a truck driver on the road all the time, about the only time we saw him was at our Ypsilanti Heritage Festival booth. He would stop and buy raffle tickets, and we would talk for a while. He was very proud to be a Chapter 310 member. He was one of us. The past few years, maybe due to his health issues, he has attended just some of our monthly meetings. It was always good for me to see him.

I just wanted to share this with all our Chapter members.

At our age, we should keep in touch with other members. It only takes a few minutes to do a “Buddy Check.” Your family may not know certain things about your Veteran group interests.

Make sure your family knows your wishes. Let them know to contact VVA 310. In order for your loved ones to contact VVA 310 when that time comes, they will need contact information.

For those active members especially, if a member does not attend a meeting for a couple months, someone should call them. If they attend meetings, you know it is quite important to them.

Recently I was trying to get in touch with Louis Kennedy. He attended his last meeting in June/July. I talked with him at that meeting. I kept in touch with him just doing a “buddy check.” I visited him when he was a patient in the VA for his cancer surgery and just called him every few weeks. He was on dialysis for a while, too. The last I talked with him in mid-September, he was doing okay.

Early October I left a phone message. Then again a week later with no reply. Today, I received a call from his stepdaughter, Kathy. Louis had died September 27th of a pulmonary issue. His obituary listed several Veterans groups of which he was a member. Unfortunately, VVA was not mentioned. I think he was most proud of being a member of our Chapter 310, but his family did not know that. Which brings up a question: how many other members may have passed that we were not made aware of their passing?

He was cremated and no one let us know. His wife will be made aware of our Memorial Day honoring his name on a brick at our Memorial. There will be a card to pass around for signing at the next meeting.

Your Voice Still Matters: Why Every Michigan VVA Member Should Join VVA's Voters Voice Network

By Jon Luker, Michigan State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America

For most of us, serving our country did not end when we took off the uniform. Through our involvement in Vietnam Veterans of America, we have continued to serve veterans, their families, and our communities for decades. We have fought for recognition of Agent Orange illnesses, improved VA healthcare, better benefits, and fair treatment for all who served.

Today, we have another opportunity to make a difference, and it takes only a few minutes.

Veterans Have Always Been Our Best Advocates

Every significant advancement for veterans has one thing in common: veterans spoke up. Whether the issue was PTSD recognition, Agent Orange compensation, toxic exposure legislation, healthcare access, or support for military families, progress occurred because veterans were willing to tell their elected representatives how legislation affected real people.

What Is Voters Voice?

Voters Voice is a grassroots advocacy tool that enables members to communicate directly with their federal and state elected officials regarding legislation affecting veterans, military families, caregivers, and survivors. You do not need to be a policy expert or travel to Lansing or Washington. You simply need to add your voice by clicking a button when veterans need it most.

Why It Matters

JonLuker

Elected officials hear from lobbyists every day. What gets their attention is hearing from constituents back home. When hundreds or thousands of veterans contact their representatives about the same issue, lawmakers take notice.

Some members ask whether contacting a legislator really makes a difference. Research conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation has consistently found that communications from constituents influence elected officials, particularly when those messages come from voters in their own districts. Congressional offices routinely track constituent contacts and use that feedback to gauge public interest in issues before them. One veteran's message can make a difference. Hundreds of veteran voices speaking together can make an even greater impact.

Voters Voice makes it easy for Michigan VVA members to participate in that process.

Why Michigan Veterans Need to Participate

Michigan has one of the strongest traditions of veteran advocacy in the nation. But our influence depends on participation. The strength of VVA has never been our national office alone. It has always been our members.

This Is Not About Politics

Voters Voice is not about Republicans or Democrats. It is not about supporting candidates. It is about supporting veterans and ensuring elected officials understand how their decisions affect veterans and their families.

A Message from the Michigan State Council

Joining Voters Voice is another way to serve. When an alert arrives, taking action may only require a few minutes, but those few minutes can help protect benefits, improve services, and strengthen support for veterans across Michigan and throughout the nation.

Take Action Today

Every major veterans' victory has been achieved because veterans chose to get involved.

Sign up today through the Vietnam Veterans of America Legislative Action Center:

Click here to send your voice

Michigan veterans have never backed away from service. This is another opportunity to serve. Sign up today, stay informed, and help ensure that veterans continue to have a

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washtenaw County was dedicated on November 10, 1991, 35 years ago this November.



The Committee: Tom Fifield, Dennis Davie, Tom Smith, Paul Dumsch, Jack McManus, John Kinzinger and Milton Davis
Below are construction images as well as the covered Memorial prior to the unveiling.









Excerpts from John Kinzinger's Book *"Sacrifices Not Forgotten."*

One of the initial goals of our Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans of America, founded in May 1986, was to erect a memorial to those from our county who had died in the Vietnam War. It was our responsibility to do that for our fallen brothers. About three years after VVA Chapter 310 started, the first meeting of our Memorial Committee was called, which began our two year effort to erect our Memorial.

It was a two-year effort of love, honor and dedication which began in the early fall of 1989. We met on a weekly basis. None of us had any experience doing anything like this. But we were determined to succeed. We, along with the support of our local Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 310, made this project a tremendous success. Just three of our Memorial committee members actually knew any of the men who are listed on this Memorial. But we knew they were not much different than we were. We were blessed to make it back to "The World" to pursue our dreams.

There is an important expression which came from another VVA Chapter member, Jim Uphouse. While visiting the Wall in Washington, D.C., with all of its 58,400 plus names listed on it, Jim was approached by a woman who simply asked if he had known anyone listed on the Wall. Little did she know that Jim had many 101st Airborne military friends and Manchester hometown friends listed on the Wall. He simply told the woman, "*Yes, I knew them all.*"

Little did he know his response would live on forever. Paul Dumsch, Memorial committee member, was moved by that statement so much so that he wrote a very special poem. Paul was with D-Troop 17th Cavalry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade from 1968-69. Paul, a decorated veteran, had lost several good friends he served with in Vietnam. The poem he authored is titled, "*I Knew Them All.*" It explains how our committee felt about our lost brothers. Thanks Jim for the idea. And thanks Paul for putting the thoughts of our committee into this very moving poem.

Editor's Note: On page 8 is Paul's poem "I Knew They All" with Mrs Fuller touching the name of her son Hermon, on the Memorial. This photograph was taken when the memorial was dedicated, 11/10/1991.

I have a short video on the history of the Memorial . Click here to view on Youtube.

I KNEW THEM ALL

By Paul Dumsch

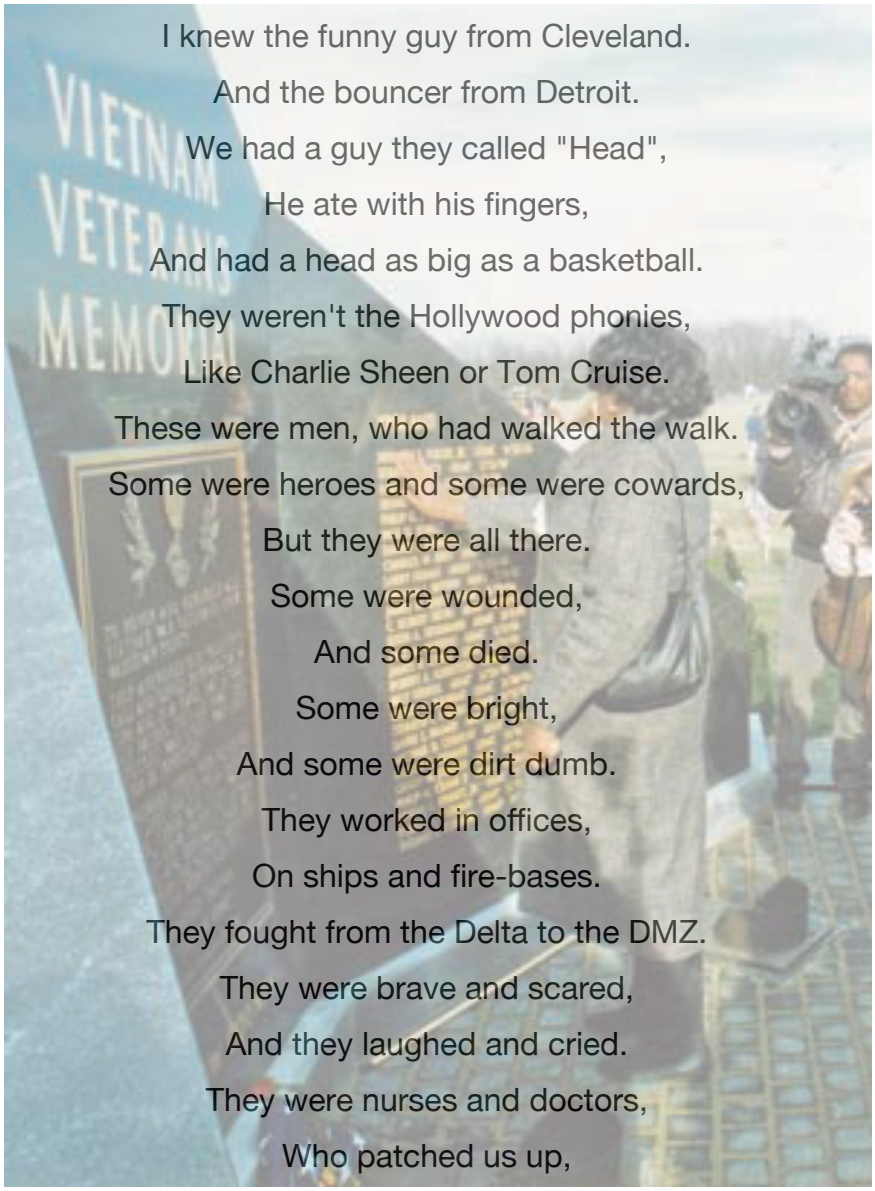
"Did you know anyone on this wall?" She asked. " I knew them all." I said

The kid from Boise whose helmet was too big.

The guy whose pants didn't fit.

And the one whose feet hurt,

Cause his boots were too small.



I knew the funny guy from Cleveland.

And the bouncer from Detroit.

We had a guy they called "Head",

He ate with his fingers,

And had a head as big as a basketball.

They weren't the Hollywood phonies,

Like Charlie Sheen or Tom Cruise.

These were men, who had walked the walk.

Some were heroes and some were cowards,

But they were all there.

Some were wounded,

And some died.

Some were bright,

And some were dirt dumb.

They worked in offices,

On ships and fire-bases.

They fought from the Delta to the DMZ.

They were brave and scared,

And they laughed and cried.

They were nurses and doctors,

Who patched us up,

And we went out again.

They were the best people I'd ever met in my life.

"Did I know any of them?"

"I knew them all."

And so did you.

Dispatch Patrons

We Thank You For Your Support!

Elizabeth Wong ~ Sept. 2026
Sara Rodeck, in memory of her brother (KIA) Michael Hunter ~ September 2026
Glenn Sakcriska ~ Nov. 2026
Gary L. Couture ~ Dec. 2026
Jane & John Kinzinger ~ June 2027
Dave P. & Gloria G, Marshall ~ June 2027
Linda Lamey-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
Bruce Ross ~ March 2028
John & Mary Laher in memory of John Holenbeck - March 2028
Corrine Gignac - In Memory of her Uncle Neil Gignac USAF - April 2028
John C. Shook ~ July 2028
Rudolph Kozole ~ July 2028
George Boone ~ Feb. 2029
Stan Harrison in honor of Russ Michalke ~ March 2029
Cynthia M. Calhoun ~ April 2029
Berryman Bourne ~ Aug. 2029
Darlene Imus ~ Jan. 2030
Alice Lee ~ March 2031
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031
Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
Ralph Henry ~ Nov. 2032
Ray Hunter ~ Dec. 2032
Hank Woods ~ in memory of Past President Paul Dumsch ~ Sept. 2032
Eric Downie ~ Feburary 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 222 Strong, And Growing

Chapter President: Allen Knecht
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
Contact: membership@vva310.org
USPS: VVA 310
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 Shall A Vet Return Home From Battle To Be Made To Feel Alone And Unappreciated"