



# The 310 Dispatch

Together We Make A Difference



## MAY/JUNE

### Lest We Forget

#### MAY

- George V. Airey, Jr.
- Roy L. Branham
- James W. Harter
- Paul D. Harter
- Charles I. Miller
- James M. Bryan
- Robert L. Freeman
- Charles E. Brown
- Peter L. Valencich
- Russell A. Michalke
- Alen H. Parks
- Billy Farrell

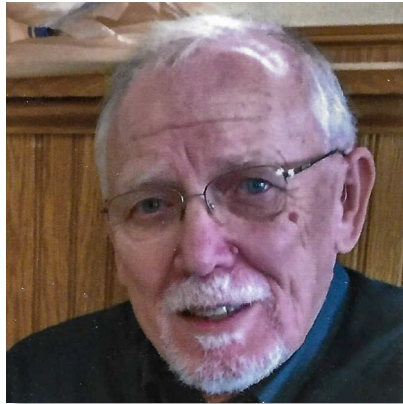
#### June

- Larry Eblinadoerfar
- H. Neal Stehle
- James H. Covey
- Frank R. Maki
- Philip M. Creane III

### What's Inside:

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



This is my final President's Report. My gratitude to our members, the board and officers for their continued support. Without that support and that of our membership, my time as your President a very enjoyable experience. Thank you! Together we did make a difference.

Your new President is, Allen F. Knecht. He is a fairly new member and will need the same support I received. Al's bio is on page 2.

We accomplished what I set out to do when I followed Stan Harrison as President. That was for our Chapter to acknowledged and receive our third National Chapter of the Year award! Our third award isn't because I was our President. But, **'Together We Made A Difference.'** During my first year I didn't submit for consideration because I hadn't gathered enough information and in year two there wasn't a convention. The last year of my presidency was a convention year so I gathered my ducks in a row and started putting some thoughts to paper. The process also involves getting concurrence from Michigan State Council President, John Riling III. Big shout out to the Kinzinger's and Berry Bourne for editing my submission. They took it over the top.

I also submitted our website for VVA Website of the Year and Tim Driscoll for the VVA National Veteran of the Year awards. They didn't like our website but as you know Tim became the second Chapter member to be recognized as the VVA National Veteran of the Year! The first one was John Kinzinger in 2007. Much of the information for Tim's write up came from his wife, Kathy and some insight from Sandy Wilson. Kathy and Sandy were more aware of his work on a State and National level than I. I wonder how many Chapters have three VVA National Chapter of the Year awards and two VVA National Veterans of the Year. Not many I sure.

While on the topic of awards our chapter has the distinction of having four members as Saline Area Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Veteran of the Year. They are, Sandy Wilson, Tim Driscoll in 2016, the late Gerald Austin in 2025, and Stan Harrison this year. More on Stan's recognition is on page two.



President Allen F. Knecht



Allen F, Knecht, DOB March 11, 1945 Cleveland, OH  
High School: St. Ignatius, Graduation 1963

College: University of Dayton, Bach Chem Eng. 1969  
University of Dayton, MBA, 1983

Married 1973 Marlene V. Knecht, Son and Daughter

Military: ROTC 2nd Lt. 1969

Basic ROTC Training: Indiantown Gap, PA 1968

Engineers Officer Training: Fort Belvoir, VA 1969

Fort Riley KS 35th. Engr.Construction Bn - Heavy Equipment Platoon  
Leader

1969-1970

Chemical Biological Radiological Emergency Response Team Leader  
Fort Sherman Colon, Panama Jungle Operations and Survival School 1970

South Vietnam:

19th Combat Engineer Bn (18th Engineer Brigade) S3 Assistant Operations Officer - Central  
Highlands, 1970 - 1971

Battalion Procurement Officer - Cam Rhan Bay Annex 1971

Civilian:

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

Inland Div of General Motors

Sheller Globe Corp

Toyota Gosei N.A.

Hwaseung Rubber Corp

Interests:

Choir St. Francis Of Assisi Parish Ann Arbor

Deer Hunting

Walleye Fishing

Gardening

Cooking / Baking

**Distinguished Veteran Award**

George Perrault, Berry Bourne, Ed Scruggs, the Kinzinger's, Draper's, Driscoll's and McCrumb's attended the Saline Area Chamber of Commerce awards dinner to witness Stan Harrison receive the Distinguished Veteran Award. Stan is the fourth Chapter member to be recognized. The others are Sandy Wilson, Tim Driscoll, the late Gerald Austin.



Stan and Claudia Harrison

I recorded Stan's presentation as well as his remarks and posted it on You Tube. The video's duration is five minutes and 19 seconds. If you are reading an electric copy on your computer, click [here](#). If you are reading a printed copy, open your browser and type in this address, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0znYWyfei5U>.



You've heard mention of Mission 75 from Jon Luker and Sandy Wilson. Below is from our National President Tom Burke, the author of Mission 75.

## **Mission 75**

I introduced what I call Mission 75 or (Veterans Victory Alliance) to the CSCP and the BODs at the recently passed BOD meeting. The name above has been suggested as another name for the project. I put it out there for reference. However, it was my attempt to provide to the membership what they have been asking for over the last several years. That being moving forward, first, how do we keep our name. Second how do we go past the March 1, 2028, date, which everyone viewed as a drop dead date for VVA. Well, I simply don't see it that way. The date became a planning date, because without one you cannot plan for anything, going away, or staying around. In this case I believe that we may have hit upon something that will work for both. Mission 75 will be a division of VVA, a visible promise that the mission will be protected and carried forward with honor and discipline. It may stand as a promise made visible – that the work begun by Vietnam Veterans so long ago, will endure beyond time, safeguarded by those who followed us and bided by the principles that founded our organization.

### **Purpose and Strategic Imperative**

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) was founded to correct abandonment and to ensure that veterans were never again left behind or turned against one another. Today, VVA faces different challenge – not of relevance or mission, but of time. Demographics alone demand responsible planning. Mission 75 ensures the mission, authority and legacy of VVA will endure without disruption.

### **Not a Merger, Not an Acquisition, Not a Takeover**

The Mission 75 initiative is not a merger, acquisition or consolidation. It is a long-term phased transfer of operational capacity and institutional knowledge. Vietnam Veterans retain leadership authority for as long as any are willing and able to serve. This transition is measured in years, not moments and is designed to be calm, respectful and controlled.

### **Training future Generations of Leadership**

Mission 75 creates a structured environment to train and prepare future generations of veterans to assume increasing responsibility within VVA. Rather than abrupt succession, it allows veterans to ease into advocacy, governance support, and leadership roles under the mentorship and stewardship of Vietnam Veterans, preserving institutional memory and culture.

### **Growing Membership without Diluting Identity**

Mission 75 provides a pathway to grow membership by welcoming veterans who served after 1975 into a non-judgmental community focused on service and advocacy rather than so called era or that of combat distinctions. This expands VVA's reach and relevance while keeping Vietnam Veterans at the center of authority and identity. This expansion also allows VVA to remain a totally veteran organization.

### **Operating within the existing 501 (c) 19 Congressional Charter**

This plan operates fully within the existing 501 (c) 19 status and Congressional Charter. It does not require a full charter rewrite or organizational reform. Only minimal technical adjustments – such as name continuity provisions – would ever be required and only at the point when no Vietnam Veteran remains eligible to serve in National Leadership.



## **Preserving the strength of the 501 (c) 19 Model**

Maintaining 501 (c) 19 status preserves VVA's unique strength as a veterans's service organization, including its advocacy authority, and Congressional recognition. Transitioning to a 501 (c) 3 would forfeit the hard won status, something VVA fought decades to achieve and must protect.

## **Clarifying the role of AVVA 501 (c) 3**

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) properly operates as a 501 (c) 3 and remains a critical partner. AVVA can continue to grow in its associate and charitable role, but it cannot inherit or transfer the Congressional Charter, Mission 75 operating under the VVA umbrella, is the only lawful and practical continuity path.

## **Charter Continuity and Legal Reality**

Under Congressional charter law, the charter cannot be transferred to a 501 [c] (3). Mission 75 as a National Division within VVA's existing structure, allows for seamless continuity when the time comes, without legal risk or loss of standing.

## **Permanent Stewardship of VVA's Legacy**

Mission 75 is designed to be the caretaker of all VVA history, titles, name copyright, trademarks, word marks, and symbols. This guarantees the perpetual existence of Vietnam Veterans of America, not just as a memory, but a living institution.

## **A mission with no expiration date**

This plan declares unequivocally that VVA's mission has no expiration date. It ensures future generation of veterans do not abandon or work against one another. Instead we stand together under the same principle that founded "VVA." "NEVER AGAIN SHALL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER. "Generational Brothers forever."

Q. What happens when no Vietnam Veteran can serve in national leadership?

A. Only then would Mission 75 step in as the continuation of force, through minimal technical changes that preserve everything that VVA stands for.

Q. What happens to VVA's History, name and symbols?

A. They are permanently protected. Mission 75 is charged with stewardship of all VVA history, trademarks, copyrights, and symbols.

Q. What principle guides this entire plan?

A. NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER.

*Be aware, in order for this plan to have any chance of working, the members of VVA will need to change our Constitution to reflect and allow that we will open our membership to new veteran members beyond 1975. Iraq, Afghanistan, Gulf War. These veterans are waiting to join us when we make this move.*



### **Pastor's Corner - Reverend Gordon Moore**

As we approach Memorial Day and we observe and remember those who have gone before us either through the ultimate sacrifice or recently through the end of the work God had for them our hearts naturally turn toward God who gave them life and allowed them to live among us. And to those of faith, there will be a resurrection like the one recorded in John 11.

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair. So, the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick."

But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God, may be glorified by it."

Fast forward to verse 11 where Jesus said to his disciples "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep." To which the disciples responded, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. So, Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."

Jesus later said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus then goes to the tomb, had people roll the stone away and raises Lazarus from the dead.

And that is our hope. Even though we have lost loved ones, to those who believed in the work of Jesus, they will be raised to newness of life, much like us coming out of a long winter and cold spring watching the earth arise from its sleep.

Praise be to God for His mercy. Peace be upon you.

### **May Meeting Minutes**

**14 May 2026**

**Call to Order** by President Vance McCrumb at 1900

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Vance McCrumb

**Opening Prayer:** Berry Bourne

**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!

**Introduction of New Members:** None

**Introduction of Guests:** Thee, a Laotian refugee, told us about her time in Laos during the Vietnam War as a teenager and the years following. She really appreciates being in America and what Vietnam Veterans did for her and her family. She is hoping now to help people learn more about the history from the perspective of Laos and Cambodia.

**Swearing in of Officers and Directors:** Vance McCrumb

**Welcoming of new President Allen Knecht:** Allen is an Army ROTC graduate engineer. After graduation, he



worked for Goodyear while waiting for orders. When called to active duty, he selected Engineering as his branch of service knowing that meant he would go to Vietnam. Before deployment, he received engineer officer's training and then had 8 months of OJT before being sent to Jungle School in Panama. After two weeks of leave, he was sent to Vietnam where he helped design and build two bridges in II core. Once the projects were accepted by area command, he was given two months early out. When he got back in the world, he worked in the automotive industry.

**Motion** by Budd Frye/Dale Throneberry to Approve the minutes of our last membership meeting published on the VVA310.org website.

### **Officer Reports:**

**President's Report:** See report on VVA310.org/newsletter website in *The 310 Dispatch*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports are also available to members via email upon request.

### **Non-restricted Fund Revenue:**

- a. \$2,000 Pig Roast donations
- b. \$507 merchandise sales at Ann Arbor VA with \$216 cost of goods sold for a 57% profit margin before a 20% fee of \$101 to Ann Arbor VA plus \$526 donations

### **Non-restricted Fund Expenses:**

- a. \$2,000 donation to Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- b. \$1,000 donation to Veterans Radio of America, Inc.

**Restricted Funds Revenue:** \$2,000 donation from VVA 310 for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Maintenance Fund

**Restricted Funds Expenses:** Nothing significant

**AVVA Report:** Please see the AVVA report published on our website <https://www.vva310.org/newsletter>.

Kathy Driscoll gave a brief report on a funding raising effort with new bracelets to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States of America. All proceeds support Fisher House – Ann Arbor. AVVA is also working on getting donations to food banks.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Merchandise:** Stan Harrison –Sales tomorrow morning at 0800 – 1330 at Ann Arbor VA tomorrow. Next major sales event will be Vet Fest Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. We could use help at both activities.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Stan Harrison – The May 8<sup>th</sup> dinner was a success. Representative Dingle did attend, but Brenda Stumbo was already committed elsewhere.

**Michigan State Council:** Luker – Michigan State Council is conducting a raffle. Tickets are \$10.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Luker – We had a good turnout for our Spring cleaning. The new plants are coming in well, except on the berm. Plants were deadheaded, the Memorial was washed, AVVA planted flowers in front of the Memorial, the sidewalk was edged and washed. The barn was cleaned and so forth. Thank you to all those who showed up! Thanks to our anonymous donor for lunch!

**Website:** We have had 523,980 hits since the website was updated.

**Membership:** Official membership is at 227 total. We received a call from Holly Green, daughter of Jim



Green who recently passed away. Since it is too late to get a brick engraved for him, his brick will be placed next year.

**Newsletter:** See newsletter on website. The next issue is in progress.

**Health Care:** Wilson – Be on the lookout for the VA to tell you that you are too old to get the healthcare you need, deserve and already paid for.

Yale Law School's Veterans Legal Services Clinic is representing Ron Christoforo and his daughter, Michele, in a suit against the VA because Michele has a form of dwarfism linked to her father's toxic exposure in Vietnam. The Pact Act recognizes chromosome damage passed on to children by women, but not by men. The case alleges unconstitutional sex discrimination.

In related news, Representative Rashida Tlaib introduced House Resolution 3052. If made law, this bill would, among other improvements, make toxic exposure benefits available to children who suffer from their father's toxic exposures.

Both the Resolution and the lawsuit are based on science that shows that children of men exposed to toxins in Vietnam are much more likely to have dwarfism than children whose fathers were not exposed.

**LTCCSKMC:** No report

**Old Business:** None

**Good of the Order:**

**Bourne** – I would like to thank Dogman for three years of outstanding service.

**Hall** - My sister-in-law (my brother Eugene's wife) came to the Memorial cleaning today. She handed me a note (which was read). The note included two checks. One check was for \$2,000 restricted for Memorial Maintenance. The other check was for \$250 for our general fund.

**Harrison** – Vet Fest is coming up at Washtenaw Community College. It is free to attend. We will be selling merchandise there.

**McCrum** – I'd like to thank the officers and board members for their support during my three years in office. I could not have done it without their support. They and AVVA are why we earned "Chapter of the Year" award for the third time. Having their support made my job so much more fun.

**Knecht** – I must say I'm impressed with what you have done so far. You have left tough shoes to fill.

**Throneberry** – Freedom River had their official opening today. It was well attended. However, they are still growing. For example, they are fundraising for their new treatment center. Veterans Radio held a successful fundraiser there and plan to be back there again next year.

**Driscoll** – You'll still have time to make it to the VVA Memorial Day Observance if you come to Saline first. We'll kick off a parade around 0950 which will proceed west to the end of town. We will have our usual observance at the cemetery then cross the street to the Legion for hotdogs.

**Luker** – The bottom line is that there is much going on, the outcome of which depends on you. What is the future of VVA national? Or of Michigan State Council? Or of our chapter? It's up to you. Are all your questions answered? If not, you can send them to me or put them on the VVA 310 blog so others can contribute. Dogman wants to help you with that.

- 1) VVA 310 continues to find solutions to the most important unmet needs of Washtenaw County Veterans. We are acting in two areas:
  - a. To end the practice of denying outpatient surgery to veterans who don't have somebody who can sit with them. The AA VA Healthcare System just put out a new flyer reminding us that each of us has a social worker assigned to us who is paid to help solve problems such as how



to get to and from appointments and having appropriate people to sit with us.

- b. There are too few practitioners who understand military culture and offer mental health treatments. Most of them do not work for the VA. We want to create a foundation of the veterans service organizations in Washtenaw County. The foundation would use the interest from the investments to pay for mental health services that aren't covered by the VA or insurance. Once the vets organizations have the fund started, it will be possible to go to other grant funding sources to get the fund increased to a reasonable size.
- 2) The future of VVA. There was talk about merging AVVA and VVA, so we'd be like we were before the IRS made us split the two. That won't work because the IRS rules still don't allow it. The most likely plan is Mission 75, where we change our membership requirements to allow veterans who served after 1975 to join. By the time we have passed away, they will carry our attitude, know our history and operating procedures, and will be motivated to keep our promise. What young whippersnapper will want to join an organization called Vietnam Veterans of America, you ask? Only the ones we need. Even if we only recruit one half of one percent of those who served after 1975, our membership will reach 400,000 – more than four times as many members as we have now. John Riling had 50 veterans at one event who said they would join if they could. Who would join? The elite. The ones who know how they got where they are.
- 3) There is more going on. Check out the website or contact me with your questions, comments or concerns. Use the blog as well.

**Breakfast** tomorrow morning will be at 0900 at Sinbad's Coney Island Restaurant, 2563 Ellsworth Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, (734) 528-5800.

## **Salute the Flag**

**Closing prayer:** Berry Bourne

**Adjourned** 2017

Meeting to adjourn NLT 2030


## **Annual Recognition Dinner Replace by Family Picnic**

During my absence from the April meeting I was assigned to plan a picnic instead of the recognition dinner. Our attendance at the recognition diner has been declining over the years. A family picnic at the VFW Post was tossed around as a replacement so I blocked out Saturday, June 20th for the picnic on their calendar. Flag Day was suggested but that date wasn't available.

Would you and your family attend? If yes, should the chapter supply all the food, or just the main course, (burgers & dogs or something else?), and everyone bringing a dish(s) to pass? The Chapter has a nice grill.

I sent out an email blast to 131 address I have and as of this writing I've received 4 can't attend and 12 that can. Please send me an email (dogman2@reagan.com) that you will attend the picnic.. We need this info to continue with the planning. Thank you!

Vance



## Dispatch Patrons

Cynthia Alfred 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  
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  
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  
Rudolph Kozole ~ July 2028  
George Boone ~ Feb. 2029  
Stan Harrison in honor of Russ Michalke ~ March 2029  
Darlene Imus ~ Jan. 2030  
Alice Lee ~ March 2031  
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031  
Jim Sharp ~ April 2031  
Eric Downie ~ February 2032  
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](http://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: Allen F. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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