



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

310 Dispatch

Newsletter

August 2019

**Never again shall a
veteran coming home
from battle be made
to feel alone and
unappreciated!**

From the Editor's Desk:



My thanks to Dispatch contributors for timely submissions. A tone of sadness this month, as we mourn the loss of fellow veterans. The Kettles book (*We Answered the Call*) is ready for distribution. Pig Roast will be September 8th: Please volunteer if you can. Enjoy the lovely summer!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message

We honor and salute a deceased Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 member:

Phil Hecker, June 29, 1947 July 2, 2019

By Pres. Tim Driscoll

It's more than sad to write that we lost another of our VVA 310 Vietnam Veteran brothers, Phil Hecker. Phil loved his wife, Gena, his sons and daughter and grandchildren. Phil, Member ID 005517 and a Past President, was



Treasurer of Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles 310 from 2013 – 2015, and I believe one of our Charter Members.

Phil grew up in Cleveland, OH, home of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. He loved watching great movies on his big screen television at his home. He was an avid bowler with many 300 games and worked at the Maplewood Lanes Bowling Alley in Saline, MI. He even had his own custom bowling ball drill machine in his garage. Also, you could find a fishing boat on a trailer all equipped and ready to go. Some years there was a second fishing boat even larger next to the garage also on a trailer ready to go fishing.

He was an avid gun enthusiast and a terrific marksman with a pistol,

shotguns, and rifles. Phil was a great advocate for all gun safety and training. He always kept his firearms in wonderful shape, all with trigger locks and proper safety safes. He taught many friends the proper gun safety and led them to the gun range.

Phil had been 'In-Country", where he was a mechanic. He served his time and was blessed to come home.

Phil and Gena had many trucks, all equipped with trailer hitches, and pulled their boats as well as VVA 310's flags in the parades in Clinton, Milan, Saline, and Ypsilanti.

As you can see by now, Phil was a kind and thoughtful Veteran. He loved his country, family, and friends, especially his brother and sister VVA 310 members.

Phil was the Commander of the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans and the William B. Lutz American Legion Post 322 in Saline. He was a lifetime member of the DAV. He always welcomed new members and was always at the ready to serve in any way he could, especially at the monthly Pancake Breakfasts, where he made delicious omelets. He also loved to carve the "Piggy" at our Annual Pig Roast.

Gena and Phil served their community side by side with all of us at the unit's packing parties for our troops serving in harm's way all over the world. Phil brought a smile to my veteran heart. His family values were a site to behold and emulate.

God bless you, brother Phil Hecker, your wife Gena, and all your family. They were the true love of your life. Tim and Kathleen Driscoll

Tim Driscoll
President, VVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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Phil Hecker's Memorial Service

By Dave Draper

Meni and I attended the Celebration of Life and the Internment of Phil Hecker. Below are a few pictures we put together from the internment. The Celebration of life was attended by VVA/AVVA members Dave & Meni Draper, Tim & Kathy Driscoll, and Dell Mayes. John & Jane Kinzinger and Roy & Bonnie Hall joined us at the internment. As you might imagine, Gena was also surrounded by many members of both Phil's and Gena's families.



August 2019 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

With the world and political climate being what it is, I thought we can find refreshment in God's promises as contained in Holy Scriptures:

Psalm 40:

I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and trust in the Lord. How blessed is the man who has made the Lord his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood. Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which you have done, and your thoughts toward us; there is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count. . . . You, O Lord, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me. For evils beyond number have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see. They are more numerous than the hairs of my head (and for those who are bald or balding, I suppose you get a bit of a reprieve here), and my heart has failed me. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; make haste, O Lord, to help me. Let those be ashamed and humiliated together who seek my life to destroy it; let those be

turned back and dishonored who delight in my hurt, . . . let those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" (Psalm 40:1-16)

I think of the practical application of Jesus here when he was falsely accused and stood silent because He was about His Father's business and had full confidence in the Lord. I hope our nation returns to the Lord, or in many cases, turns to the Lord, so that we can confess our sins, turn from our wicked ways, and our land can be healed.

Peace upon you all this summer and beyond.

Gordon

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Regular Membership Meeting – 11 July 2019

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Call to Order: President Driscoll called the meeting to order at 1904 hours

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Opening Prayer: President Driscoll

Roll Call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: Stanley Clarke was introduced by Vance McCrumb and Stanley gave a brief overview of his military service.

Ron Ayotte was introduced by Larry St. Antoine. Ron has filed

application of membership. He gave a brief overview of his military service.

Steve Cox, who has been a member for a year, was introduced by Vance McCrumb and Steve gave a brief overview of his military service.

Kate Kirkpatrick from AVVA, but as a representative of the Washtenaw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented Vietnam 50-year anniversary pins to these three individuals.

Guests: None

Minutes: **Motion** made by Sandie Wilson to approve 13 June 2019 meeting minutes as presented in the Dispatch. Seconded by Larry St. Antoine. Motion carried without objection.

President's Report: Tim Driscoll reviewed the memorial service arrangements for Phil Hecker's funeral this Saturday.

Tim Driscoll stated that much help is needed to have a successful Pig Roast. He passed out sign-up sheets for all to volunteer for some duty. He reviewed the sign-up sheets for the numerous vendors that have contributed raffle prizes in the past. He stated that we need at least one/two volunteers for each city. AVVA members have stated that they will contribute to this effort. Roy Hall has requested help to organize and handle the raffle.

Roy Hall stated that six pallets of Girls Scout Cookies are to be delivered to the VFW at 1600 hours on August 12. Individuals are needed to assist in unloading the truck and storing the cookies in the VFW. In addition, we need to assist the VFW in distributing these boxes. John Kinzinger to discuss with VFW Commander Doug Brinker their plan to distribute these boxes and how we can assist. Sandie Wilson has

been in contact with Keith Edwards at VVA Chapter 154, 18025 E. 15 Mile Rd., Clinton Township to supply cookies for their Food Bank. Any questions call their Veteran Center at 586.776.9810.

Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne passed out the financial report. He stated the only event held in June, outside of selling merchandise at the AA VA, was the packing party. Revenues of \$821 and expenses of \$1,429 resulted in a \$608 loss. Last year's June packing party realized at \$668 loss.

AVVA Report: See Kathy Driscoll's report in the Dispatch, the chapter monthly newsletter on the website. Committees:

Food Pantry – One expenditure in June for \$122.

Calendar – No report

Merchandise – Larry St. Antoine commented that July sales this week at the AA VA were down slightly to \$900 plus. He continues to solicit for additional help at the AA VA on the second Tuesday of the month, primarily between 1400-1600 hours, to tear down the displays and load the van.

He further commented that September is going to be a very busy month with the following four events to sell merchandise: 1) Pig Roast on Sept. 8th; 2) AA VA on Tuesday, Sept. 10th; 3) Ann Arbor Arms on Sept. 14th at 0900 hours; and 4) Clinton Festival on Sept. 27-29th with set-up on Thursday evening.

The chapter needs someone to assume Larry's responsibilities beginning next calendar year.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans – No report

Michigan State Council Memorial –

Alfred Merritt commented that good

work has been performed by all that have assisted in maintenance, mowing, and landscaping this year. There will be work party the last week of July to replace all the wood chips with river rocks.

He mentioned that George Perrault secured a \$250 contribution from the USS Washtenaw County Veterans Association to purchase flags for the memorial.

Alfred Merritt reviewed discussions about a LTC Kettles memorial bench at the site. He has been in discussions with Inch Memorials in Northville, MI regarding a granite bench and engraving. John Kinzinger made a **motion** to authorize the individual in charge of the memorial, Alfred Merritt, to expend a maximum of \$2,673 on a bench to be placed at the memorial. Motion seconded by Vance McCrumb. **Motion carried** without objection.

George Perrault gave Alfred Merritt the shovel used at the original memorial ground breaking on November 1, 1990. Alfred Merritt to work with our representative at the township to display this in a glass case in the township building lobby.

Website Committee – Site is up and running.

Membership – Three new members as discussed above in the New Members section have been added to the rolls. Chapter now has 210 members. Several months ago, an individual gave us a check for membership dues and never followed up from that point forward. Check was returned to her. Larry St. Antoine has seen her at the AA VA and she still desires to join. Vance McCrumb to contact her.

Newsletter – No report

Health Care – Sandie Wilson stated nothing of significance to report.

Veterans Administration Ann Arbor Health Services ("VAAAHS") –

John Kinzinger stated that the Fisher House Ground Breaking ceremony was a wonderful event. VVA 310 was well represented at the event.

John further stated that the Halloween Party at the VA is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th. Meet in the lobby at 1730 hours.

In addition, John further stated that the Christmas Party at the VA is scheduled for the third Tuesday in December, Dec. 17th. Meet in the lobby at 1730 hours.

Old Business: Heritage Festival – We will not present at this year's festival. A deposit was made to reserve a tent space. Marv Rivers to inquire if deposit can be refunded.

New Business: Dale Throneberry stated that Veterans Radio will have a special night on Wednesday, 31 July 2019, from 1800-2000 hours for veterans to tell a story of their service. If you desire to be a storyteller, arrive at VFW Post 423 no later than 1730 hours.

Good of the Order: John Kinzinger stated that a new book, with LTC Kettles on the cover, consisting of stories of guys who served in Vietnam will be available soon. In fact, it will be in the schools before they start in September.

John Kinzinger stated a Pancake Breakfast will be held Aug. 10th at VFW Post 423 from 0900-1100 hours for those veteran organizations (American Legion, DAV, VFW, and VVA) that meet at the post to develop some cross-organization camaraderie. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee. Invitees are members, auxiliary members, AVVA, and immediate

family members. Cost will be a donation.

Meni Draper thanked all that participated on July 5th in the ramp installation on the house next to theirs in Scio Farms where a veteran's widow lives.

Vance McCrumb thanked Don Miller and George Perrault for rearranging the VVA wall at the VFW so a nice framed picture of LTC Kettles receiving the Medal of Honor from President Obama on July 18, 2016 could be placed on the wall. In addition, the Citation that LTC Kettles received that day is framed and on the wall.

Next Chapter Breakfast: will be Friday, August 9th, 0900 hours, at Bomber's Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI.

Closing Prayer: Before President Tim Driscoll gave the closing prayer, he discussed a Monument for Vietnam Veterans in his home town of Avon, NJ. A poem titled "We're Finally O.K." is inscribed in the wall. Salute the Flag

Adjourned – Meeting adjourned at 2033 hours

Honoring August's Anniversaries on the Wall

Private First Class James William Davis was born on March 24, 1947 in Erie, Pennsylvania to Mr. and Mrs. William A. and Gretchen Raub Davis. James grew up in Ypsilanti, Michigan, just inside the county line. He is a 1965 graduate of Belleville High School, where he lettered in football and swimming. James attended Michigan State University and Cleary College. James was employed as a customer agent for Trans World Airlines at the Detroit



Metropolitan Airport in Wayne, Michigan prior to his to entering the Marine Corps on December 13, 1968.

Private First Class Davis began his tour of duty in An Hoa, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on July 7, 1969 serving as a rifleman with I Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. James was killed on August 13, 1969 as a result of small arms fire just one month and six days into his tour of duty "In-Country".

James William Davis is survived by his wife, an 11 month old son, his parents, and two brothers. He lived 22 years, 4 months and 10 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. James' 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 19W Line 029.

—++—

Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney,

Jr. was born on February 22, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Kendal L. Benney of Ypsilanti. Kendal lived with his father and step-mother in Big Rapids, Michigan until September of 1965, when he attended Ypsilanti High School. He left Ypsilanti High School during his Junior year and enlisted in the Marine Corps in March of 1966.

Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr. began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam in December of 1966 serving with C Company, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division as a machine gunner. Kendal was killed on August 20, 1967 while standing watch when he suffered multiple fragmentation wounds from a bomb.

Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney,



Jr. is survived by his mother, father, step-mother, two sisters and one brother who was serving in South Vietnam when Kendal was killed. Kendal's brother was discharged from the Army and escorted his brother back to the "World" for internment. Kendal lived 19 years,

5 months and 28 days. He is resting in the Altona Cemetery in Altona, Michigan. Kendal'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 25E Line 018.

AVVA Newsletter August 2019

By Kathy Driscoll

Phil Hecker, past president of VVA 310, passed away on July 2nd, 2019. Kathy, Bonnie, Meni, and Jane attended his memorial service at Fort Custer Veterans National Cemetery. We donated \$50 in Phil's memory to Fisher House Michigan. You can send Gena a sympathy card:

Gena Hecker
3309 Derby Crossing Ct SW
Grandville, MI 48418



Photo taken by Dave Draper,
Presentation of Flag.

If you are on Facebook, you can join the AVVA Michigan closed group. Just send a Join Group request and the admin will accept you as a member of the AVVA Michigan closed group. This is how our

AVVA Michigan State Association communicates between the bi-monthly meetings.

AVVA 310 Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in July.

- Wendy St. Antoine, Shirley Hitte, Carol Talbot and Kathy supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
- Wendy Hibbitts attended the AVVA National Convention in Spokane, WA.
- Kathy attended the WCCV meeting on Monday, July 15th.

Next VVA 310 VA Merchandise sales is Tuesday, August 13th. VVA 310 needs our help. Please consider volunteering one or two hours assisting VVA 310 merchandise team at the Ann Arbor VA.

Keep up to date with our chapter: All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our chapter's webpage, www.vva310.org in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

We have five ongoing and future fundraisers! Please consider supporting our fundraisers in August, September and October. Our goal is to raise an additional \$500 for Fisher House Michigan for their 2019 Patriot Match Fundraiser: September 11, 2019 through November 30, 2019. Your donations and support of our fundraiser will assist us in surpassing our goal.

Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets

- AVVA 310 has Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets for a \$5 donation. Please contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. We have 3 left! To date we raised \$450.00, which was donated to Fisher House Michigan in May.



2019 Pig Roast Basket Raffle:

- We will have a basket raffle at the VVA 310 Pig Roast on September 8th. Please consider donating an item for our raffle table. You can drop off your items to Kathy or bring them to the VFW Post on Saturday, September 7th after 9:00 am. Last year we raised \$110.00.

No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:

- Our 2019 "No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale" fundraiser letters will be mailed in August. Please consider making a donation. All proceeds will be divided equally between our General Funds and our Fisher House Michigan Fundraising Project specified treasury lines.

Creative Memories Scrapbooking for Soldiers Fundraiser:

The Creative Memories Fundraiser for Fisher House Michigan will be Saturday, October 19th at the VFW Post 423 from 9 am – 3:00 pm, \$10 donation. Please contact Meni to order items for your scrapbooks. Meni is donating all proceeds to AVVA 310 Fisher House Michigan Project.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2019 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,283.25. We sponsored three delegates to Girl State 2019.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

- You can view the AVVA

Strategic Plan at <http://vvamsc.org/associate/>

- AVVA Michigan Association next meeting is Sunday, August 18th in Battle Creek, MI.

AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

- AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2019.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage is launched! Check out the AVVA Michigan Association tab <http://vvamsc.org/associate/>

AVVA National

Wendy Hibbitts attended the AVVA National Convention in Spokane, WA. Thank you, Wendy for attending the AVVA 20th Anniversary Celebration at the 2019 Convention in Spokane.

Upcoming Events!

8 Aug AVVA 310 Membership Meeting

10 Aug 09:00 am Cross-Organization Camaraderie Pancake Breakfast at VFW Post 423 patio area. All members and their immediate families of VVA and AVVA 310, VFW and Auxiliary Post 423, American Legion Post 46 and DAV are invited. Come and meet the members of all of the veteran organizations who meet at the VFW Post 423. Cost is a donation.

13 Aug 08:00 am – 2:00 pm VVA 310 Merchandising 3rd Floor VA Ann Arbor Freedom Building. Please consider volunteering an hour.

19 Aug 07:30 pm WCCV meeting.

7 Sep 09:00 am Set up VVA 310 Pig Roast; Set up AVVA 310 Bucket Raffle

AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 proudly supports the AVVA Mission and Vision Statements.

AVVA Mission Statement:

To provide support to Veterans and

their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA Vision Statement:

To Create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

President, AVVA Michigan State Association

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897



From The Front

By John Kinzinger

We received the following letter, postmarked July 6, 2019, from one of the recipients of a Care package we mailed after our last packing party.

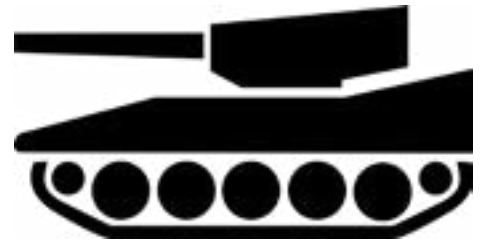
VVA Chapter 310

I'm the Chaplain at the Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component here at Bagram, Afghanistan.

You recently sent us some gifts for the troops. I wanted to personally thank you on behalf of all our personnel here. My team

cares for about 500 Airmen and Soldiers. A big thank you to you and the crew that helped. By nature of our mission, we cannot send many pictures or disclose information regarding our mission here. Suffice it to say, our commandos are serving at the tip of the spear and the gifts you sent are a tremendous boost to morale. You certainly sent the "good stuff." It immediately FLEW out the door!

Thank you, thank you and thank you! We appreciate



your service to us tremendously.

Have a blessed day!

Ch Tom West

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

Chapter/Dispatch Patrons

Please check your dates to see if you are current

*NAME LISTED ON THE WASHTENAW COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The following have made a contribution in a continuing effort to support our Chapter by offsetting the cost of printing and postage. The month and year are when the patron subscription expires. You may also consider a "In Memory Of." Our Chapter retains only \$9.00

of your yearly \$20.00 dues and it costs about \$12.00 a year for printing and postage. If you would like to support your newsletter, please make a check payable to VVA 310. We will credit 1 month for every \$1.50 donated. Note on the Memo Line Dispatch Patron. Please mail your check to: VVA 310, P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

- George F Boone ~ October 2021
- Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020
- Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2020
- William Christophersen ~ October 2019
- Edward Fuller ~ March 2020
- Gary Couture ~ July 2019
- Joseph Flint ~ January 2021
- James Graham ~ February 2019
- Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021
- Ralph Henry ~ November 2020
- Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024
- Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020
- Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019
- Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020
- Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022
- Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021
- Dell Mayes ~ December 2019
- Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018
- Ron Oliver ~ February 2019
- Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ January 2020
- George Perrault ~ October 2022
- Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
- Ken Rogge ~ May 2019
- Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
- Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019
- Chris Wetzler ~ October 2019
- Elizabeth Wong ~ November 2019
- Bob Kurtz ~ December 2019
- Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2020
- Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of **Lavern Lamey*** ~ July 2021

- Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, **David S. Palmer*** ~ October 2018
- Helena Prince in memory of deceased member **Tom Prince** ~ April 2023
- Corrine Gignac in memory of Vietnam Vet Marine **Gary L West** ~ January 2020
- Bonnie Woods in memory of her VN vet husband **Gary Woods** ~ December 2018

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira
[Photo: Public Domain]

- 09 Aug: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs
- 10 Aug: Pancake Breakfast at VFW Post 423 at 0900 hrs. All members of VVA 310, AVVA310, VFW 423, VFW Auxilary and Legion 46 are welcome



- 12 Aug: VAVS Meeting, 1400 hrs, VA Medical Center auditorium
- 13 Aug: Merchandise Sales, 0800-1400 hrs, VA Medical Center, 3rd Floor
- 19 Aug: WCCV Meeting, 1730 hrs
- 08 Sep: VVA 310 Pig Roast, 1200-

- 1600 hrs, 3230 Wagner Rd, Ann Arbor
- 12 Sep: Monthly VVA/AVVA 310 Meetings: VVA Board 1730 hrs; AVVA 1800 hrs; VVA Member Meeting 1900 hrs
- 13 Sep: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs
- 14 Sep: Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor Arms, 0730 Setup, 0900-1600 hrs Sales
- 26 Sep: Clinton Fall Festival Merchandise Setup
- 27-29 Sep: Clinton Fall Festival Merchandise Sales, 1000- 1800 hrs
- Other Information:

- 04 Aug: Coast Guard Birthday (1790)
- 29 Aug: Marine Corp Reserve Birthday (1916)
- 11 Sep: Patriot Day (2002)
- 18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)
- 20 Sep: POW/MIA Recognition Day (1990)
- 19- 21 Sept: Kokomo Saturdays @ 0930: Meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue
- ** Visit Veterans Radio online <http://www.veteransradio.net/> and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air. View VVA310's Calendar by clicking HERE--> <https://www.vva310.org/events/calendar/month.calendar>.

Photo: Public Domain



Seasons: A Time for Everything

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

A treasured presence suddenly is no more. Persons whom we have come to appreciate over the years are no longer available. People are guided to other places, other endeavors. Or they pass away. The moment is fleeting, and we treasure every presence, never taking anyone for granted.

Those who have graced us with their company may at an instant be gone. Perhaps it was not at an instant, but it seems so. This brings to mind Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, which I connect with a poem about the death of a veteran, quoted below. Ecclesiastes tells us that there is a season for everything, including a time to be born and a time to die. And the poem that I mentioned ends with a simple homage to a veteran who has died, as follows:

Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper might say, "Our country is in morning. A veteran died today."

[Find [whole poem here](#).]

[Note of the Editor: The Australian Vietnam veteran Alan Wood is a friend of VVA 310. He was a member of the 4th Royal Australian Regiment, in country 1967-1968. Alan's story appears in the Kettles book (*We Answered the Call*), page 177.]

Photo Credit: Alan Wood



Collaboration Between U.S. and Australian Forces, Vietnam War

By Alan Wood, Australian Vietnam Veteran

Photo Credit: Alan Wood



Our Australian 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, had 6-man tracker teams, each equipped with a black Labrador dog, who served on numerous operations alongside U.S. forces in Vietnam, during my term there (1968-1969). This work started with the integration with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade as base-perimeter defence, to protect two M114 155 mm M1 howitzers, of the 35th Field Artillery Regiment, at Fire Support Base "Concord," outside Bien Hoa. This involved serving alongside the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment on Operation Federal, during February-March 1969, when I returned home. Our 4th Infantry battalion was known as an ANZAC battalion, as it included two rifle companies (approx. 250 men) of the New Zealand Army, which was commonly referred to as "Kiwi's." The term ANZAC ("Australian & New Zealand Army Corps") was first used in World War I, over a century ago.

Armed with my small, trusty

½-frame Canon camera, I took several hundred images during my time in Vietnam, including the one attached here, showing Fire Support Base Concord. We were conducting a river patrol alongside the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment on Operation Federal. Those were my last weeks "in country." Members of our team and guys from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted a frontal assault on a suspected bunker system. We had protection from U.S. M113 Armored Personnel Carriers.

I still have that small, trusty ½-frame Canon camera, long since retired.

Become a 310 Dispatch Contributor!

We, the "Dispatch Team," are always looking for VVA 310 member stories and articles.

So, please, join us with your contributions of stories and news.

Send more rather than less: Our Dispatch Team will sort them out.

Thanks!

"The Dispatch Team"

Photo: Public Domain



Advanced praise for *We Answered the Call*:

Having worked with the veterans in this book personally over the last 15 years, my students and I have been privileged to have them bring their experiences to life during their visits to Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. I have been equally honored to contribute to the efforts that have gone into this book that will lend an historical voice to these individuals, including the late Col. Kettles. Their personal stories, representative of so many others who served, are now on record for future generations of students of the Vietnam War era.

—Brent Richards, Ann Arbor Pioneer High School
Social Studies Teacher

Having the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans speak in my classroom was the most impactful thing I did in my teaching career. Their candid stories about the war and its aftermath bridged the age gap in the room. My students were able to feel first hand what it was like to be called up for service as a teen and the tremendous character it took to answer the call. It was an honor to work with these men whom I love and respect dearly.

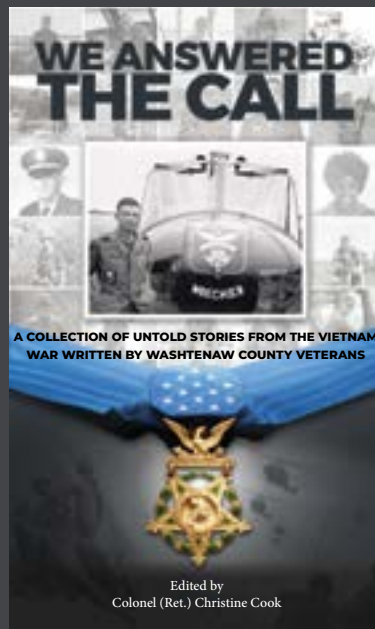
—Marta Learnan
Chelsea High School

For the past two decades, it has been a great honor to have these Vietnam Veterans attend our Military History Course at Belleville High School. The best way to educate students about the trials and tribulations about that war is by gaining direct knowledge from those who were involved in it. As a military history teacher, I can attest to this invaluable educational opportunity and the impact it continues to have on the students in my classroom. My students always write about how this is their favorite and most influential day during their semester. These Veterans transcend all textbooks by sharing their personal Vietnam experiences. Again, our school and this educator thanks you for your time-honored service. "Welcome Home."

—Marc Miloser
Son of a Vietnam Veteran
Military Historian, Belleville High School

WE ANSWERED THE CALL: A Collection of Untold Stories from the Vietnam War Written by Washtenaw County Veterans

COOK
Porch
Swinning
Press



Edited by
Colonel (Ret.) Christine Cook

be available for many more years. We became aware of this reality and have discussed the need to preserve our talks for future students. Historians may present factual information, but they cannot share with the students the personal experiences that veterans can. Hence, the idea of this book.

This book started out with a simple dialogue with Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Charles S. Kettles—may he rest in peace. I approached him after one of his school talks, with the idea of a book about his life experiences. I stayed in contact with Lt. Col. Kettles over a few months, and eventually the decision was made to write a book that could serve as supporting material for high school students as they study the Vietnam War. It would include the personal stories of most of the Vietnam veterans who did classroom talks, led by Kettles and his Medal of Honor story.

We were embarking on a journey. Others joined that effort, and we formed an organizing group. Our journey turned out to be long and sometimes arduous, but all along we kept taking that "next step" and making progress.

Initially, our organizing group included, Lt. Col. Kettles, Vance McCrumb, John Kinzinger, and myself. John and Vance were both classroom-talk organizers. We conducted a series of monthly meetings at the Kettles residence. Those were unique, memorable events. The Kettles home was for us a sanctuary, with tasteful display of his Medal of Honor memorabilia. Meeting there became a source of inspiration and vision; it kept us on track. Coffee and fresh donuts

I am delighted to announce that the Kettles book ("We Answered the Call") has been printed and is ready for distribution. Please make sure you get your copy.

Below is part of the "Acknowledgments," a piece that appears at the beginning of the book. This was indeed a group effort.

— Editor

Acknowledgments: Thanks From All of Us to All of Us

This book (*We Answered the Call*) has roots in the 1990s. Many have contributed to the success of this work, and I would like to acknowledge their efforts and contributions.

Back in 1998, our Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 310 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, began receiving requests to give classroom talks about our personal Vietnam War experiences. Veterans started out with talks at elementary and middle schools, expanding later to high schools, such as Ann Arbor Pioneer, Chelsea, Willow Run, Lincoln, Belleville, Milan, and Saline. The talks have continued and are successful. The teachers find that the Vietnam War talks are informative and beneficial to their history students. The feedback we receive is that the veterans' talks are the most informative and memorable classroom event the students had that school year. We later started including presenters with a variety of military occupations and different periods of time in Vietnam. Students and teachers appreciated hearing about our historical experiences. Getting to know us was a unique event for the students, but this may not

were always available, and the Lieutenant Colonel made sure we understood the donuts had come from his favorite donut shop. Those meetings became a monthly ritual for us, as we worked to collect veterans' stories and to report on our progress in putting the book together.

In time, our organizing group included additional members. Unstructured, talented, and experienced, the members of the organizing group persevered through many months, working with the various aspects of the book project. All of us in our own ways were ready to meet, discuss, contribute ideas, suggest, decide, and accomplish what was needed, in order to move the project forward. This book is indeed fruit of group work.

I would like to highlight a few of the experiences that our group members contributed. John Kinzinger has more than thirty years' experience organizing classroom talks and working with veterans. He encouraged veterans to write their stories, and in some cases he helped them write their stories. Years ago, he encouraged Lt. Col. Kettles to start giving classroom talks, and over time he became a good friend of Charles Kettles. He and Vance McCrumb were fortunate to be invited by Kettles to attend his Medal of Honor award ceremony in Washington, DC in the summer of 2016.

Vance McCrumb collected donations for the book. He followed up with the story writers. He gathered photos and did magical improvements to photos taken decades ago, before digital cameras. He visited printing companies and gathered a

spectrum of offers from vendors. Scott Brooks-Miller has graduate degrees in history and architecture. In addition to his own story, Scott worked with Brent Richards on the preface. He also wrote the introduction and the chapter on "The Cost of War."

Colonel (Retired) Christine Cook is daughter of a Vietnam veteran and is completing a Ph.D. program. Colonel Cook has a unique perspective as someone who felt the war from home, so to speak, while her father fought in Vietnam. She has garnered broad experience in editing and publishing books. Colonel Cook offered to do the arduous work of editing this book. Major General (Retired) William Henderson wrote his story and contributed his ponderous points of view in crucial moments of decision. He attended meetings, took part in discussions of various issues, and provided valuable advice.

Special thanks go to Brent Richards, history teacher at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. Brent's involvement with Vietnam veterans has spanned the last 15 years, during which time most of the authors in this book were a presence during classroom studies of the Vietnam War. Brent provided a sense of history to the book by co-authoring the preface and some other historical notes.

Dale Throneberry, with his experience as Director of Veterans Radio (<http://www.veteransradio.net/>), brought to bear a unique perspective from dealing with veterans' stories. Dale also found a designer to do the book cover. A fellow helicopter pilot, Dale found easy comradeship with Lt. Col. Kettles.

Bill Vollano contributed his experience from working with

veterans as they told their stories for digital archives. Also, Bill was instrumental in shepherding the Kettles application for the Medal of Honor through the halls of Congress and Pentagon offices. Bill's long and painstaking effort behind the scenes was crucial in bringing our group together.

Very special mention should be made of the gracious gift by the Gupta Family Foundation, Website: <http://www.guptafamilyfoundation.org/>. Foundation representative Carmen Baumann has been a model of efficiency and prompt communication. The Gupta Family Foundation gift has propelled our book project into high gear and has infused our organizing group with new vigor and enthusiasm, following the recent death of Lt. Col. Kettles. More than ever, our resolve is strong to make this book broadly available to high school students in Washtenaw County, Michigan. Our sincere thanks to the Gupta Family Foundation.

In conclusion, what distinguishes this book from other Vietnam stories is the collection of personal accounts of how veterans actually experienced the war. In some cases, veterans have also added their post-war experiences. And in a sense, all veterans are honored in this book. It is a recognition to those who answered the call.



All About VVA 310

Never Again Shall A Veteran Coming Home From Battle Be Made To Feel Alone And Unappreciated!

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Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
National Chapter of the Year - 1999 & 2007
Newsletter of the Year 2007, 09, 11, & 15
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Please Forward. Thank You!