



*Together We  
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles  
Michigan Chapter 310*



Above, AVVA associates show Toys for Tots at their December meeting. To the right is a photo from the service conducted for a WWII veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force.



Above right are photos of LTC Charles Kettles, including one at the Medal of Honor ceremony in Washington, D.C.

## **Dispatch Newsletter – January 2019 – Happy New Year!**



**From the Editor's Desk:** May the new year of 2019 be filled with blessings for us all! As usual, great articles this month. Rev. Moore's "Chaplain's Corner" resonates with Pres. Jon Luker's presidential message, with appropriate themes at the beginning of a new year. Of special note is a fundraiser for WACU (Warriors and Caregivers United), headed by John Kinzinger, which focuses on helping prevent military suicides. I have received great photos this month; please keep sending them. Admirable, also, is the work that Don Miller is doing to help veterans in need. Happy New Year!

## Now Cometh the Season of "New Year's Resolutions"

By Jon Luker

First, let me wish you and your families the very best of new years. I mean, I hope your next year is even better than any year that has gone before it. I hope your holiday season has been wonderful.

But I am torn by the idea of new year's resolutions. When I was young, my parents and my church taught us that integrity was about behaving in secret the same way you would behave when everybody is watching. They taught us that you can't act one way on Sunday and a different way throughout the week. Not that we were supposed to be working our way to heaven, or anything like that. But I think their point was that we were supposed to be doing the right thing all the time solely because it was the right thing to do.

If I am doing that, what use do I have for a promise to do things differently starting at some point in the future? Why would I wait? Is there some



magic to starting a new behavior on the first day of a new year?

That might sound good. Everything has to start sometime, and starting one thing

at a time when the whole country is starting something new may have an appeal, because it means you are not alone in making changes. But the sad fact seems to be that we don't do a very good job of keeping new year's resolutions. In fact, it has been more than 50 years since I heard the first joke about broken resolutions, and I've heard them nearly every year since. Maybe

breaking new year's resolutions is the real tradition.

Anyway, the new year does seem to be a reasonable time, but not the only reasonable time, to make an assessment of how things are going so far and to look at what we might be able to do better from now (or the new year) on. The Chapter's Board of Directors is guiding the Charles S. Kettles Chapter in a way that encourages me. They are looking out for our best future while taking care of what is right to do today.

I would like to be able to put my finger on the numbers, but let me instead just list the kinds of things we did this year and many years in the past. Let me start with the things we do to directly benefit veterans. Our members volunteer many hours at the VA hospital, helping patients get to their appointments and so forth. We provide cash to buy coffee and as bingo prizes. We visit patients throughout the year, including on special occasions. We give away thousands of dollars' worth of underwear and pajamas to VA patients. We bring them entertainment, even showing up in costumes on Halloween. Many of our members have developed one-on-one relationships with patients, helping them get connected to veteran service officers and other resources they need when they get out of the hospital.

Every year we spend hundreds of dollars on postage sending care packages to servicemembers who are in uniform downrange. Whether they are actively involved in the war on terror or are keeping the peace around the world, they get the message that they are not alone and are not making their sacrifices for an ungrateful nation.

We conduct public-awareness

operations during the year to provide veterans with a chance to meet and associate with other veterans. As you know, we all tended to stay alone when we were transitioning to civilian life. Our events remind veterans that they are not as alone as they might feel. These efforts are often led by our merchandizing committee, but also include breakfasts in the community, volunteer work with other veteran organizations, and so forth. As I stated last month: If you find a congregation of veterans doing something good in Washtenaw County, most likely you will see many members of our Chapter doing the work, often in a leadership role.

We also support veterans indirectly. We have a program to provide financial support to other local organizations, such as Warriors and Caregivers United, who are themselves meeting one or another unique need of the veteran. As we watch and learn from these organizations, we've learned also of the need to provide support for the civilians who are dedicated to one veteran or another. We call them "caregivers." As a result, our giving program now includes such things as contributing toward getting a Fisher House placed on the Ann Arbor VA campus.

I could go on. but you get the point. We actually have been doing the work in private that we say in public that we will do. That's one of the things I like most about this Chapter. Our Chapter's motto is, "Never again, shall a vet coming home from battle be made to feel alone and unappreciated." Certainly we have not allowed a vet we knew about to stay feeling that way on our watch. But as I look toward next year, I

notice the words "Never again." They are found in the National VVA motto as well: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." Never is a long time, for sure. It clearly is a time that will last longer than any of us will live. So, that makes me wonder: What are we doing TODAY to find and train our replacements? What are we doing TODAY to help Gulf War and current servicemembers understand their responsibilities for the veterans who will follow them into and out of battle and into civilian life?

So, if we were to make a new year's resolution, I would hope that it would be to develop a plan to find, recruit, and train our replacements so that the next generation of veterans does not abandon those who follow and instead supports those who follow so that they do not feel alone or unappreciated.

I do not advocate waiting until next year. As someone much wiser than I asked me one time, "When is the best time to plant an Oak tree?" I was wrong. The answer was, "60 years ago." "When is the next best time?"—he asked. "Today."

De Oppresso Liber

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### January 2019 Chaplain's Corner

When I think of any New Year, I am reminded of how our family embraced needed changes by using resolutions and encouraging one another to make individual changes for the good of the family. Each family member would seek input from the others as to what changes would be beneficial to the individual and to the family group.

I found this refreshing, as there were times an individual would think of a certain weakness they

wanted to address only to find out from the group that the "weakness" was actually a strength to the whole family; thus, no change was needed. This brings me to my point in our



military family. We sometimes perceive an area we think we need addressing and set up processes to make necessary changes as individuals. Perhaps these areas are valid and need changing, but perhaps, if we consult and share our feelings, we would find out that the group as a whole appreciates who we are and views our perceived weaknesses as strengths. We would have assumed the need for certain changes when, in reality, we would be taking away from the good of the group by making changes.

We have heard the phrase from math/logic that the whole is equal to the sum of its parts, but we often view ourselves as individuals apart from our unique roles in the whole of a unit, be it family, military, work, etc. I think this is magnified in our society today, where social media all too often advances the "me" apart from the whole, a.k.a. our current national addiction to unsubstantiated reality that is promulgated by individuals as truth, when indeed it is falsity.

I share this because, as I work with individuals, I often see individuals and groups adopt as truth that

which is false and then champion the cause as reality. When this happens, I sit back and ask myself how I have done the same, knowing that God has clearly said, "32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31 New King James Version).

It is then that I have to make the necessary changes in my life to get back on the road to truth and the good of the group.

Let us take up the challenge of seeing ourselves as part of the group and seek its good as we address the changes needed in our lives this and every New Year.

For a better America,  
Gordon

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### Honoring January Anniversaries on the Wall Private First Class Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr.

was born on October 2, 1943 in Laredo, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. McIntire of Ann Arbor,



Michigan. Walter graduated in January of 1964 from Ann Arbor High School where he was active in Junior Achievement and was the Vice-President of his JA

company. He was also active in the Cooperative Occupational Training Program at Ann Arbor High School and worked part-time for S. S. Kresge Company.

Private First Class Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on August 21, 1965 serving as an

infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. On September 18, 1965, Walter earned a Purple Heart when he was wounded by shrapnel in his leg. He recovered from those wounds and returned to his unit four weeks later. On January 2, 1966, Walter was killed by small arms fire in action near the Bien Hoa Air Base. Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. is survived by his parents, three brothers and two sisters. He lived 22 years and 3 months. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 04E Line 051..

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**Warrant Officer John David Eddy**

was born on March 1, 1950 to Mr. and Mrs. Delvord Eddy of Ann Arbor, Michigan. John is a 1968 graduate of Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. He loved team sports, the out-of-doors, and camping trips to Lake Huron when he was young. John's ambition was to fly.

Warrant Officer Eddy enlisted in the Army in 1970. He completed helicopter flight training at Fort



Walters, Texas. He went through advanced flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Warrant Officer John David Eddy began his tour in An Xugen Province, South

Vietnam on June 16, 1971. John was the copilot of a helicopter gunship when it was struck by enemy gunfire and crashed. Warrant Officer Eddy died with three

of crew members on January 11, 1972. Warrant Officer John David Eddy earned the Air Medal for heroism, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, National Defense and Vietnam Service Medals and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. The South Vietnamese Government presented him with the Military Merit Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm.

John David Eddy is survived by his parents, a wife, two daughters and a son, and two sisters. He lived 21 years, 10 months and 10 days. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 02W Line 096.

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**Warrant Officer Michael Woodrow Hunter**



was born on January 23, 1944 in Durham, North Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow W. Hunter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also attended Western Michigan University.

Warrant Officer Hunter entered the Army in 1967 going through Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was trained as a paratrooper and a helicopter pilot. Michael received his Wings as an Army Aviator in April of 1968 graduating tenth in his class. He began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam on July 14, 1969 serving as a helicopter co-pilot on an AH-1G with C Troop, First Squadron, Ninth Cavalry, First Air Cavalry Division. Michael was killed on January 28, 1970 when the helicopter he was

co-piloting was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire during a gun run. The aircraft was struck by a 50-cal. round causing the main rotor to separate. He received the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal.

Michael Woodrow Hunter is survived by his parents, two sisters, and his son. He lived 26 years and 5 days. He is resting in the Swedish Mission Cemetery located in Centerville Township, Leelanau County, Michigan. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 14W Line 075.

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**Major George Frederick Vlisides**

was born on December 31, 1924 in Detroit, Michigan to Mrs. Elena Vlisides of Ann Arbor, Michigan. George is a 1943 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. George enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and received



his Second Lieutenant's commission and Bombardier Wings in 1944. He flew heavy bombers, but never made it overseas. He graduated from the Military

Academy at West Point near the top of his class in 1950 where his classmates called him "Gorgeous One." George enlisted in the Air Force after graduation from West Point. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal with two clusters flying 84 missions in the F-84 during the Korean War. He graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 1961.

Major Vlisides began his tour of duty

in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1964 serving with the 1st Air Commando Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, 13th Air Force. George earned another Air Medal in Vietnam. He also was shot down twice with the last time occurring on December 29, 1964. He celebrated his 40th Birthday on December 31, 1964. George died on January 27, 1965 when his A-1E Skyraider crashed in a landing attempt at Bien Hoa Airfield. He earned another Distinguished Flying Cross and two more Air Medals during his tour.

George Frederick Vlisides is survived by his mother, a brother and a sister. He lived 40 years and 26 days. He is resting in the Greek Orthodox Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. George's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 01E Line 084.

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**Corporal Eddie Wallace** was born on January 12, 1949 in Birmingham, Alabama to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lee of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Eddie graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1968. He worked for Gar Wood Industries before enlisting in the Army in 1968.



Corporal Wallace began his tour of duty in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam on December 20, 1968 serving as a Petroleum Supply Specialist with the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Company, 307th Aviation Battalion, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. Eddie was killed on January 13, 1969 when a hand

grenade was thrown at him while he was on guard duty. Eddie had been "In-Country" for only 23 days.

Eddie Wallace is survived by his parents, four brothers and a sister. He lived 20 years and 1 day. Eddie is resting in Westlawn Cemetery in Inkster, Michigan. Eddie's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 35W Line 086.

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



Private First Class Cribelar completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

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

Michael Dean Cribelar is survived by his parents, his wife and two-year-old son, and two sisters. He lived 18 years, 6 months and 14 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam

Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 34E Line 028.

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**Private First Class Larry Gene Gray** was born on March 19, 1945 in Missouri to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray. Larry is a 1963 graduate of



Dundee High School located in Dundee, Michigan.

Private First Class Gray entered the Army on July 18, 1966 receiving his

Basic Training and Cook's School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Larry began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on January 5, 1967 serving as a Food Service Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He was killed on January 17, 1967 when the helicopter he was riding on during a combat support mission disintegrated in flight. He was "In-Country" for only 12 days.

Larry Gene Gray is survived by his wife, his parents, a brother and three sisters. He lived 21 years, 9 months and 28 days. He is resting in the London Township Cemetery located near Milan, Michigan. Larry's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 14E Line 044.

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## **AVVA Newsletter, January 2019**

*By Kathy Driscoll*

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.  
Happy New Year!



I hope everyone enjoyed

Christmas and wish all a joyous new year.

AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in December.

- Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System

- AVVA, VVA, and DAR members donated toys, which Tim and I delivered to Mancino's Pizza on Zeeb Road after our December meeting. The Sarah Caswell Angell DAR donated 55 toys for our drive. Thank you, Kate Kirkpatrick, for collecting the gifts. We appreciate the Sarah Caswell Angell DAR contribution to this community service project.

- Kate Kirkpatrick, representing the Sarah Caswell Angell DAR, presented Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Pins to VVA members at our November and December meetings.

- Members visited the patients at the Ann Arbor VA on December 21st.

- Next VVA 310 VA

Merchandising sales is Tuesday, January 8th. 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](http://www.vva310.org) in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

AVVA 310 Chapter Special Projects & Operating Funds

- Please email or call me with fundraising ideas for 2019.

- We will have a raffle table at the May 4th Recognition Dinner. All proceeds will benefit our Operating Special Project Funds.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2019 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,283.25. We are sponsoring three delegates this year. Girls-State 2019 is June 16 through June 22, 2019 at Michigan State University.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting is Sunday, March 17 in Detroit MI. VVA / AVVA Chapter 9 is hosting this meeting.

AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

- AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2019. One idea submitted by a member of AVVA Chapter 1083 is to have AVVA Michigan Association Statewide Raffle for a Yeti cooler. Suggested ticket price is \$5 or \$10. Please let me know if you would be able to sell 1 – 5 tickets and the price point for each ticket. I hopefully will have more information at our January 10th meeting. AVVA Michigan Association will need each

of our chapters to sell a minimum of 75 tickets to make this a successful raffle. Cost of a Yeti Cooler is \$199.00.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage is launched! The Association has a tab on the new VVA Michigan State Council webpage: <http://vvamsc.org/associates/> It is still being updated. The About Us, Contacts, Events, Chapter Locator has current content. More to be uploaded in the near future!

National AVVA

National AVVA is officially a 501c3 Charitable organization. I completed the Amendment filings for AVVA Michigan Association Articles of Incorporation to be a 501c3. This change will allow us to receive donations and gifts that are tax deductible for the donors.

Upcoming Events!

6 January Underwear Party at Ann Arbor VA. Please meet at VA Ann Arbor Lobby at 1:30 pm.

8 January VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor VA

8 January Annual WACU Fundraiser at Sidetrack Bar & Grill, Depot Town, Ypsilanti, MI, 5:00-9:00 pm.

**Kathy Driscoll**

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association President

[dkathyr16@gmail.com](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com)

734-355-4897

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## **Cooker Report**

*By Don Miller*

A 36-inch 4-burner propane gas grill was donated to our VVA310 Chapter. This cooker was donated as a Christmas gift from a great patriot from Dexter, Michigan. The

donor is the same person who built the big pig cooker that was used for the 2018 VVA310 Pig Roast. The value of this cooker is estimated at \$270-\$369. Dave Draper will be getting a cover for it. I expect we will make good use of it.

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### Various Reports

By John Kinzinger

#### Thanksgiving For Dawn Farm

From the beginning of our Chapter, we have provided Thanksgiving dinner for the residents and staff at Dawn Farm. Former VVA 310 member, Milton Davis, suggested that Dawn Farm should be the community program we would support. This year the resident number attending the dinner exceeded 35. We figured back then that, since we had been often considered as "druggies and alchies," what better place to support. Their drug and alcohol abuse program is widely recognized for its success rate. We received the following thank you note from the Director, Jim Balmer:

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#### Letter from Dawn Farm December 7, 2018

Friends,  
I wanted to drop you a note and thank you again for your wonderful gift of Thanksgiving food to the men and women of Dawn Farm. Over the years you have contributed your time and funds with real generosity - and you have advanced our mission in the process. All of us here are very grateful for everything that you brought to our humble organization. We are a better place because of you. Thanks for being such good friends. A Blessed Holiday to you all!  
Peace - Jim

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#### From The Front: Making a Difference

Dear Charles S. Kettles Chapter,  
My name is First Lieutenant Cameron Field, and from my deepest sense of gratitude, I wanted to offer my thanks for the packages you have sent me and my Marines throughout our deployment. We have been on the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit for the last 6 months out in the Western Pacific and it was very tough for my guys to be away for that long. Anything from home made a difference. Getting the boxes in the mail while on ship was the highlight of our month. We could tell that each box was carefully filled with the thing that Marines loved. The quality of the packages was a testament to your genuine support and compassion for servicemen and women. Your efforts truly improved morale of my Marines while on ship, and for that I am grateful.

We just returned to the States safely, and the Marines are finally back to spending time with their family and friends. They still mention to me from time to time how nice those packages were and how much they appreciated them. I think what you are doing is a true service to your country, and I hope that all forward deployed service members get the opportunity to have the same experience we did with your program.

Thank you,  
Semper Fi,  
C. L. Field, 1stLT USMC

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### Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

- 06 Jan: Underwear Party, VA Medical Center, arrive by 14:00 in the lobby;
- 08 Jan: Merchandising at the VA Medical Center, 08:00-14:00;
- 08 Jan: WACU Fundraiser at Sidetrack Bar & Grill, Depot Town Ypsilanti, 17:00-21:00;
- 10 Jan: VVA 310 Board Meeting, 17:30 at VFW Post 423; AVVA Meeting, 18:00 at VFW Post 423; and VVA 310 General Membership Meeting, 19:00 at VFW Post 423;
- 11 Jan: VVA 310 Chapter Breakfast, Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI; time: 09:00;
- 21 Jan: WCCV Meeting;
- 14 Feb: Serve Lunch to Patients at VAMC in the CLC, 12:00;
- Saturdays @ 0930: Meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue
- Sept 19-21: Kokomo. Registration: now through June;
- Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net) and consider making a contribution.

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#### Rokomo 2019

By Jon Luker

The 37th Annual All veterans reunion at Kokomo Indian will be held from 19 through 21 September 2019. The gate pass is still only ten bucks and is good for the entire time. The camping fee is still ten bucks a day. If you paid when you were down there last year, they should send you a card that shows your campsite number, the number of wrist bands you paid for and the number of ice chits you will get. Members with campsites last year that haven't paid yet will eventually receive a short form application in the mail, but you can use last year's

form to apply now, if you want. Either way, you need to make sure they have your application not later than 1 June 2019. That's on you.

Ten days later, HCVVO will begin to assign unused campsites to new campers on a first come -- first served basis.

If you have questions, you may contact me or contact HCVVO at 765 628-0297.

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## **A Visit With Colonel Kettles**

*By Vance McCrumb*

Gen. William Henderson (retired), John Kinzinger, Larry St. Antoine and I visited LTC Charles Kettles (retired) for a couple hours on December 26th. We had a delightful two hours chatting and listening to two aviators discuss their tours

reagan.com) for his phone number. It was a pleasure listening to the Colonel explain to Gen. Henderson about how many troopers a Huey can normally carry. Then he went on to explain how he managed to coax his Huey to lift off while severely overloaded on his sixth and final trip in and out of Chump Valley on 15 May, 1967. Chump Valley was what the Huey pilots called the valley they flew into, sometimes up to six times a day—and that was because you had to be a chump to fly into that valley that often.

Colonel Kettles went on to say that nineteen Hueys were grounded after he and his fellow pilots flew in and out of Chump Valley that day. He flew six rescue mission that day, at times borrowing Hueys from a

said he was glad he stayed with the F-4 Phantoms.

Larry explained what his Seabee group did, and he talked about a Chinook he was on, which broke in half at five feet above the ground. He said it was an air-frame failure, and no one was injured—but there was a handler with his dog on board, and the dog didn't even bark. If I had been on that Chinook, they would not have heard Dutch bark either: I'd be screaming louder than he barked.

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## **Jocosity**

*By Ken Rogge*

Little Johnny asked his grandma how old she was. Grandma answered, "I'm 39 and holding." Johnny thought for a moment and then asked, "And how old would you be if you let go?"

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## **Chapter/Dispatch Patrons**

[Please check your dates to see if you are current.]

\*NAME LISTED ON THE WASHTENAW COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The above 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 an "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



in Vietnam. We also talked about his Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House and Pentagon. Colonel Kettles was in good spirits and seemed to really enjoy our visit. I know we did. The Colonel is open to phone calls but please limit them between the hours of 10am and 2pm. Send me an email (dogman2@

sister company.

Gen. Henderson said he originally wanted to fly choppers, but his flight instructor, a veteran Huey pilot, advised him to continue his jet training, explaining that he could transition to Hueys from being a jet pilot, but it was difficult to go from Hueys to jets. After listening to Colonel Kettles, Gen. Henderson



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

George F Boone ~ October 2021  
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020  
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2019  
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  
Steve and Shirley Hitte: June 2024  
Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020  
Dick Knight ~ May 2018  
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019  
Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020  
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021  
Dell Mayes ~ May 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 ~ April 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

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## Chapter Minutes, VVA310

By *Berryman L. Bourne*,  
*Acting Secretary*

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 General Membership Meeting – 13 Dec 2018

**Call to Order** by President Jon Luker at 1900.

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for POW/MIA's, their families, and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

Opening Prayer: Tim Driscoll gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Welcome Home Everyone!

50th Anniversary Pins: Kate Kirkpatrick from AVVA, but as a representative of the Washtenaw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented pins to those that had not previously received them.

New Members: None

Guests: None

November Meeting Minutes: A **motion** was made by Elmer White to accept the 8 Nov 18 meeting minutes as posted in the Dispatch. Seconded by David Draper. **Motion passed.**

Board Nominations:

At this time the meeting was recessed to act on a Board Nomination for Secretary. President Jon Luker stated that there was an opening to complete a one-year term on Board of Directors as Secretary. There being no nominations, President Jon Luker appointed Chris Wetzler as Secretary. The meeting was reconvened.

**President's Report:**

VFW Post 423 has changed its internet service provider to Comcast from AT&T. In line with the reduced rate, the Board has decided to give VFW Post 423 \$50.00 per month vs. the \$71.41 monthly payment to AT&T.

President Luker discussed certain arrangements for the Annual Recognition Dinner. He then stated that the dinner will take place on 4 May 19 at UAW Local 898 Hall in Ypsilanti. There will be no charge for tickets. David Draper is chairperson of the committee. It is anticipated that a Bucket Raffle will be held this year as last year and a donation box will be available.

The Board has agreed that an Annual Events Calendar is required to avoid conflicts, increase attendance, and improve cooperation between veteran organizations. Notify David Draper of any events that should be placed on the calendar. He is in charge of developing the calendar for insertion on the vva310.org website and the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs website.

If you would like to suggest a person to receive one of the three awards; John Thompson Member of the Year; Jerry Sims Always There; and the Doc Martinez President's Award, at the 2019 Annual Recognition Dinner, please forward you suggestions to President Luker (JonLuker9@outlook.com).

**Treasurer's Report:**

Berry Bourne reviewed the salient points on the Financial Report handout. He stated no unusual activity in the revenue and expense accounts occurred during the month. At month-end the chapter had \$80k cash and certificates of deposits with a \$65k unrestricted fund balance.

In addition, he stated that the Board of Directors approved the 2019/2020 operating budget at the recent board meeting. This budget will be emailed to the general membership members for their review prior to the 10 Jan 19 meeting.

He further mentioned no further activity on the certificate of deposits based on a possible \$20,000 capital expenditure project at the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti. Jon Luker reviewed this project as the addition of a shed on site and as well as the addition of water to the site. It is anticipated to file the construction application in April with construction to begin in June and completed by August. We will be able to recover \$4,000 from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and possibly funds from the Ford Foundation. Certificates of Deposits position will be reevaluated as soon as the 2019/2020 budgeted cash flow is calculated.

**AVVA Report:** Membership roster lists 36 members. On 27 Nov 18 they presented Reinhart Realtor's a \$2k check for Fisher House Michigan which was matched by Reinhart ownership company. That makes a \$10k total contribution to this project from AVVA. See Kathy Driscoll's full report on AVVA activities as part of the monthly Dispatch newsletter.

**Food Pantry:** No report

**Calendar Committee:** David Draper is chairperson of this committee. If you have a date that should be on this report, please contact David and he will make sure it gets posted to our chapter calendar.

**Merchandise Report:** Larry St. Antoine stated that total November sales were \$3,110 which resulted in a \$1,362 gross margin plus

\$172 donated. He further stated that he has negotiated with the AA VA Administration to reduce the commission paid them from 20% to 15%, although the agreement has not been signed.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report:** Jon Luker reported that Senate Bill 1042 has been canceled.

**Michigan State Council Report:** President Jon Luker requested that anyone who wants to be a delegate to the July 16-20, 2019 National VVA meeting in Spokane, WA should inform him at this time.

**Memorial Maintenance Report:** Jon Luker reported that the site looks in great shape. The proposed capital expenditure project will add a shed to the site and investigate the possibility of bringing water to the site. Thanks to all who contributed their time maintaining the site this year.

**Website Report:** Vance McCrumb stated that over 115,000 hits have been recorded on the site since inception. Some of these hits have come from China.

**Membership Report:** Vance McCrumb stated that we have 204 members. We have lost four members this year.

**Newsletter:** No report

**VAAHS Report:** Fundraising: John Kinzinger stated that this is the 32nd year for the fundraising effort which brings in between \$11k-\$14k.

**Christmas Party:** Dec. 21st VVA Chapter 310 will host the Annual Christmas Party where shirts, jackets, pullovers, and blankets will be giving to the veterans. Meet in the lobby no later than 1730. It is anticipated that Ms. Michigan and Ms. Washtenaw County will be in attendance.

**Underware Party:** Sunday, 6 Jan 19, will take place at the VA. Meet in the lobby no later than 1400.

**Funds to Warriors and Caregivers Unit (WACU):** A special fundraiser evening sponsored by VVA Charles S Kettles Chapter 310 will be held from 5-9pm on 8 Jan 19 at Frenchie's restaurant in Ypsilanti. At that time a check for \$3,000 from the AA VA HS Restricted Fund will be given to WACU

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Colonel Kettles is nearing end of life and would appreciate a card from his fellow Chapter 310 members. See Vance McCrumb for an address.

**Good of the Order:**

A group will be leaving from Al Merritt's house at 0600 tomorrow to travel to Howell to participate in the Wreaths Across America program.

Jane Kinzinger commented that while watching President George H. W. Bush's funeral and his lying in state in the U. S. Capitol Rotunda, she thought about George Perrault when he performed honor guard service during President John F. Kennedy's funeral and his lying in state in the U. S. Capitol Rotunda.

John Kinzinger stated that after shopping at Kroger's the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, 30-40 residents were fed a dinner at Dawn Farm. In addition, Kroger contributed \$100.00 towards the evening. We have received a Thank You card from Jim Balmer, Manager of Dawn Farm, for our involvement in the evening festivities.

Each year we sign and mail Christmas cards to the widows and families of the veterans named on our Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti. Please be sure to sign these cards this evening before you leave. They will be mailed tomorrow.

**Motion** made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Tim Driscoll led the closing prayer and Jon Luker led the salute to the flag. Meeting adjourned at 1958. Each year we sign Christmas cards for widows on our Vietnam Memorial Wall in Ypsilanti. Please sign these cards before you leave this evening.

The next **Chapter breakfast** will be at Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI at 0900 hours on January 11, 2019.

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### **Tide Changing for U.S.-Latin American Relations**

*By Paulo-Juarez Pereira*

It was my first day upon returning to San Francisco after spending a year in Vietnam. I had taken some time to recover my car from a friend's place and to rent an apartment on 47th Avenue in San Francisco, walking distance from the ocean. So, on my first day of being settled, I went out, and I met a group of people that were engaged in teaching an alternative to Communist theory. They were a group later known as the Unification Church. After learning their theory for two years, I went to Brazil and later to most countries of South and Central America. I became a trilingual interpreter and lecturer, speaking to military personnel and political leaders. It was the early 1980s. I was part of a lecturing team that included a Jesuit priest, journalists, and several scholars. We were all multilingual. Among the people hearing our lecturers were

former presidents and dignitaries. Our message to them was to show theories and data as to why the Soviet Union was about to collapse, and therefore, it was not advisable for them to join the Communist world.

So, I went from military warfare, working with the 4th Infantry Division in An Khe, Central Highlands, to ideological warfare, working in places like Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Honduras. I exchanged fire arms for chalk boards and charts, traveling through country roads and small

towns. As predicted, the Soviet Union fell, but not so the ideology. Communist ideologues settled about invading local political organizations, political parties, unions, and academic institutions. Thus, we have seen the struggle against Communism in Latin America.

Meanwhile, the tide has turned. Brazil, for instance, has elected a government that, for the first time in several years, has opened positive relations with the United States. May the new year bring peace and prosperity worldwide.



#### **GREAT ENTERTAINMENT**

By former Miss Michigan Entertainer Stacey Mason and Phil, her band's keyboard player. Stacey has been a supporter of VVA 310 for 25 years.

**Dine And Be Entertained**  
**While Helping PTSD Warriors**  
**And Their Caregivers (wacu.org)**

**Tues., January 8<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm** at  
**Frenchies**, next to the Sidetrack Bar and Grill in Ypsilanti's Depot Town at the corner of E. Cross and River Streets.  
 Don't miss this special fundraiser evening sponsored by the Charles S. Kettles VVA Chapter 310.

**SIDETRACK'S GREAT FOOD** – Half the dinner receipts, all the tips and donations (100%) will go to programs for this group of PTSD warriors and their caregivers.  
**GREAT AUCTION ITEMS** - 4 choice Red Wing tickets and parking pass to either of two games (Tues Feb. 26 vs. Montreal at 7:30, or Sun. March 31 vs. Boston at 7:30) face value of \$464., 4 Tiger tickets, polished stone pendants, a beautiful USA golf bag, autographed items, tenderloin grilled dinner and much more.  
*Come eat, contribute and meet Warriors And Caregivers United (WACU) members.* Our 4 year-old Michigan based organization helps warriors with PTSD learn to deal with it, and work toward a life of new normalcy since returning from war. Unique WACU aspect ... the caregiver is equal to the warrior and we also include the children in most all events.



**If You Wish to Contact Us**

Website: <http://vva310.org/>

General Information:

President: Jon Luker

Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt

Secretary: Chris Wetzler

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Membership: Vance McCrumb

Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Chapter Mailing Address:

VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

Monthly Meetings: Second Thur sday of the Month, 1900 hours.

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310  
P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106  
Please Forward. Thank You!