



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

310 Dispatch

Newsletter

June 2019

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

From the Editor's Desk:

Summer is in sight, and a feature of this issue is to show photos of work being done at the Memorial grounds. Please keep in mind that Fredo is still in need of other volunteers.

Also, "Happy News" has been added as a feature. If you have happy news to report, please let me know—with photos, of course.

On page eleven you'll find interesting information about enhancements to the VA healthcare service. The offered links will take you to lots of details. Thanks for your contributions, and keep sending pictures.

— Paulo-Juarez Pereira



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President's Message

By Tim Driscoll

(Photo: Copyright The Saline Post)

We honor and salute our 11 deceased VVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 members in 2018 – 2019. We remember:

Waldomar Roeser, DOD 6-25-18

Pete Belaire DOD 9-23-18

Willy Lee, Jr. DOD 9-24-18

John Kuclo DOD 10-13-18

Henry Koski DOD 11-12-18

David Foerster DOD 11-30-18

Charles S. Kettles DOD 1-21-19

Roger Goodman DOD 2-12-19

James Talbot DOD 2-27-19

Ken Moldovan DOD 3-14-19

Tom Sorensen DOD 4-16-19



Tim Driscoll. CREDIT: The Saline Post

Do you know what sets this great Chapter 310 apart from other chapters? our female members—our country's female veterans of all of our armed services, all Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) and ranks. They earned all the pride and honor, and they stand tall with all of us.

Yes, we will always be arm in arm as brothers and sisters for our country's troops in harm's way at home and abroad. Our outstanding AVVA members and veteran spouses in our chapter are always there with us, side by side, supporting all of our projects, large and small.

We are blessed to have our widowed veteran wives to share

this journey together and inspire us in spite of their greatest loss, their veteran husbands. Our entire VVA 310 family, VVA members, AVVA members, and family members support all of our projects large and small:

Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial spring cleanup and planting;

All VVA Merchandise sales at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare and outside venues;

Inventory reconciliation of merchandise sales;

All raffles and 50/50 fundraising;

Pig Roast setup, food line, cleanup;

Support the Troops packing parties;

Pot luck at our monthly meetings;

Carrying our banner at our parades in Saline, Milan, and Ypsilanti;

Articles for our award-winning newsletter, "The 310 Dispatch";

Hospital visits at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare for Halloween and Christmas, distributing t-shirts, underwear, and pajamas;

Gift baskets for the nursing stations at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare;

Distributing handmade cards and giving encouragement to patients;

Sponsoring fundraisers and donating \$11,000 to Fisher House Michigan.

All of our chapter projects are successful with the magnificent men and women of the VVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 family working together. They all are run with much heart and soul. Together we work hand in hand as one team. I look forward to all future VVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 2019 – 2020 projects. With which projects will you assist?

734-355-4897; Timaok032@gmail.com.

June 2019 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

As I look at the names this past Memorial Day of those who were part of us but no longer walk among us, I am struck by all they accomplished on this earth. We have been honored as a Chapter to remember those who died in combat and those who returned home, lived a life, raised a family, dedicated themselves to many areas of involvement, and did so with honor.



Rev. Gordon Moore

I focus this June on our foundations—those areas that we build our lives around and what happens when we build on the right foundation. I quote Psalm 11:

In the Lord I put my trust; how can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? For look! The wicked bend their bow; they make ready their arrow on the string, that they might shoot secretly at the upright in heart. If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven. His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The Lord tests the righteous, but the wicked and the ones who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain coals, fire, and brimstone—and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup. For the Lord is righteous; He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

Many things are happening in our nation that cause the upright concern. Laws are being passed that trouble the soul of those who love and obey the Lord, and the tendency for the upright is to take matters into their own hand in an effort to "right the scales." We have an obligation to live our lives in such a way as others will see our good works and glorify our Father, who is in heaven. When we don't see God "raining down fire on the evil doers," assumptions can be made whereby we rationalize doing things in the Name of God that actually do not produce good fruit and give others outside the family of God reason to look elsewhere for their guidance. The question before us is, "How do we strike a balance of involvement and maintaining Scriptural integrity whereby we actually demonstrate our trust in the Lord who lives and reigns on High"? Perhaps the answer comes in a test whereby we ask others for insight into our thoughts before we strike out and do something that may be counterproductive to our true intentions. This article is meant to challenge the status quo and provoke insightful questioning of our motives so that when we stand before the Lord to give account of our actions, we will hear, "Well done, you good and faithful servant. Enter now into the rest that is prepared for you!" Isn't that what Memorial Day is really about, honoring those who are now at rest?

Peace and blessing to all.



AVVA Newsletter June 2019

By Kathy Driscoll

VVA310 past president Phil Hecker is very ill. Please keep him and Gena in your prayers. You can send a Get-Well card to Phil:

Phil Hecker
3309 Derby Crossing Ct SW
Grandville, MI 48418

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 April.

Wendy St. Antoine, and Kathy Driscoll supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System

Corrine, Shirley, Carol, and Kathy attended the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Retirement celebration for Beverly Conatser, VAVS Director.

Kathy attend the AVVA May meeting in Sault Ste Marie, MI.

Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, June 11th. 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-hand column of the homepage.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

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 18 left! To date we raised \$410.00.



Our Recognition Dinner Raffle raised \$136.00 and we received a \$200.00 donation to Fisher House Michigan from an AVVA member.

Fisher House Michigan Project AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter is donating \$1,000 to Fisher House Michigan. This brings our total donation to \$11,000.00. Our donation will be matched dollar for dollar by participating in the Fisher House Michigan 2019 Memorial Day Match. We presented our donation to Kate Melcher at the Saline Memorial Day Parade.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2019 Girls' State Update!

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

AVVA Michigan State Association News

You can view the Bylaws at <http://vvamsc.org/associates/documents.html>

AVVA Michigan Association donated \$250.00 to the AVVA 2019 Project Friendship, Volunteers of America of Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho. All Michigan AVVA and VVA chapters are encouraged to donate to Project Friendship.

Susan Brown is the POC for AVVA Chapter 180, Sault Ste Marie.

AVVA Michigan Association has 17 chapters with either elected Chapter Representatives or Chapter Point of Contacts. 54.8% of the AVVA Michigan Chapters are represented. 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! 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!

Upcoming Events!

13 Jun AVVA Membership Meeting

14 Jun Groundbreaking for Fisher House Michigan

17 Jun WCCV Meeting

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.

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Honoring June's Anniversaries on the Wall

Second Lieutenant Philip Matt Crane II was born on January 29, 1947 to Mrs. Howard P. Gragg and the late Philip M. Crane of Ypsilanti.

Philip played the accordion when he was very small. He played Little League Baseball. Philip is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School where he played on the varsity tennis team, was a member of the varsity debate team, and a member of the National Honor Society. He worked all during high school and



college at the A&P Store. He went on to attend the University of Michigan until he enlisted in the Army on February 1, 1967. He completed Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Second Lieutenant Crane began his tour in Vinh Long Province, South Vietnam on May 14, 1968 serving as a Tactical Intelligence Staff Officer on Advisory Team 52, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV).

Lieutenant Crane was flying in a helicopter as a special observer when a flare ignited inside the aircraft causing him to fall from the aircraft on June 26, 1968. He was "In-Country" for one month and 11 days.

Philip Matt Crane II is survived by his mother, his wife, and a sister. He lived 21 years, 4 months and 27 days. He is resting in Crestwood Memorial Gardens in Flint,

Michigan. Philip'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 54W Line 002.

__++__

Major Frank Rudolph Maki was born on March 13, 1928 in Rudyard, Michigan to Mr. Victor and Mrs. Lemple Ann Maki. Frank graduated from Rudyard High School before enlisting in the Army in 1946 where he completed his Basic Training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He took part in the Berlin Airlift serving at the Rhein Main Air Base as an Air Ground Liaison NCO. He returned from Germany and spent some time as a civilian before returning to the Army in 1950 where he served with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea as a rifle and weapons squad leader. Sergeant Maki accepted a reserve commission as a Second Lieutenant while serving in the Korean War. He continued to serve in the Regular Army as an NCO, as he was promoted as a reserve officer. Since Korea, Frank served with the 821st Engineer Aviation Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri then serving with the 820th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Michigan State University as a military science instructor.



According to the Battalion History of the Army ROTC Battalion at Eastern Michigan University, "in 1961, he taught ROTC at Eastern Michigan University for four years, where he led the rifle team to the championship and served as an advisor to Arm of Honor Fraternity. During this time, he accepted his promotion to Captain even though he was rated number one on the list to be promoted to Sergeant Major. He then served as a Company Commander at Fort McClellan where his troops would earn four consecutive Best Company awards."

Major Maki began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1971 serving as an Advisor, Advisor Team 3, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Advisors, MACV. Captain Maki was killed in action at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province while coordinating medical aid to wounded soldiers on June 22, 1971 during his third tour in Vietnam. He was then posthumously promoted to Major.

Award of The Silver Star for gallantry in action: Captain Maki distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 20 - 22 June 1971 while serving as Senior Advisor to the 1st Battalion, 2d Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province. Captain Maki heroically participated in the defenses of Fire Support Base Fuller by accompanying and assisting his Vietnamese counterpart against the North Vietnamese Army thrust. After more than two continuous days of intensive direct and indirect fire and ground attacks, the NVA managed to breach the defenses.

Captain Maki then directed many tactical air strikes and aerial rocket artillery against the enemy. During this time he continued to reappraise the tactical situation, adjust supporting fires and coordinate medical aid to the wounded Vietnamese soldiers. Though he had been sixty hours without rest, he continued to assist his counterparts up until the moment he was mortally wounded by an enemy artillery round. His extraordinary example of leadership and valiant courage radiated throughout the Fire Support Base and inspired the Vietnamese to repulse the enemy attack. Captain Maki's conspicuous gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

(As written in Major Maki's Award of the Silver Star announcement, by LTC August G. Seifert)

Frank Rudolph Maki is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, his father, two sisters and two brothers. He lived 43 years, 3 months and 9 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Frank'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 03W Line 086.

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Corporal Richard Mark O'Neal was born on May 22, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. William O'Neal of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Richard is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He entered the Marine Corps on July 6, 1966 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California.

He received his Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton, California before being stationed with the Headquarters and Service Company, First Marine Brigade in Hawaii.

Corporal O'Neal began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 31, 1968 serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Richard died on July 26, 1968 of head injuries suffered in a truck accident.



Richard Mark O'Neal is survived by his parents, a brother and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 2 months and 4 days.

According to a posting by Richard's nephew, "I never had the chance to meet you but I just wanted to say that I love you and I appreciate everything that you did for our country. Your brother,..., named me in honor of you. I hold your name in high regard and I continue to work harder every day to be the best person I can be. Every day I wake up is a chance to become better than I was the day before. I have

been fortunate enough to marry the woman of my dreams and, thanks to the people that matter to me the most, I have been able to work hard enough to receive my B.A. in Journalism-Public Relations from SHSU. Thank you to everyone on here that has posted something, it was moving to read events that happened in his life. Uncle Richard, I will continue to hold our name in the highest honor. I love you and I will meet you some day.”

Richard is resting in United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, Michigan. Richard'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 50W Line 015.

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H. Neil Stehle was born on March 30, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Stehle in Ann Arbor. Neil is a 1963 graduate of Ann Arbor High School where he was on the gymnastics team. He attended Eastern Michigan University majoring in psychology prior to entering the United States



Army on April 29, 1967.

Specialist 4 H. Neil Stehle completed his basic training, and radio and communications courses at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He went to Fort Benning, Georgia where he received training at the paratroop school. Neil was sent to Vietnam on December 13, 1967 where he was assigned to B Company, First Battalion, 503rd Infantry, of the 101st Airborne Division. On June 3, 1968, Specialist 4 Stehle was serving in Thua Thien Province in South Vietnam when he was wounded by small arms fire. Neil was transported to a hospital in Japan where he died of his wounds on June 11, 1968. He lived 23 years, 2 months and 11 days.

H. Neil Stehle is resting in Washtenong Cemetery in Ann Arbor. He is survived by his parents and two sisters including seven nieces and nephews. Neil is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial and is located on Panel 58W Line 027 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

MINUTES: Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

**Annual Membership Meeting –
9 May 2019**

Call to order by President Luker at 1902

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

Roll call: A quorum was established.

Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: Nick Dauber,
Ferris Heart

Guests: None.

Motion to Approve the April Minutes by Wilson and Rogge. **Approved.**

Meeting Suspended for Swearing in of Officers and Board Members, conducted by Wilson.

Meeting Reconvened by President Driscoll.

President's Report: Who will run the Pig Roast? Most of the money we earn from the Pig Roast comes from donations. It takes months of work to solicit and collect those donations. The event day itself is not that big a deal. Also, who will run the Heritage Festival 23 to 25 August? We need at least to run the raffle and do a membership drive. Vance McCrumb volunteered to be in charge.

Treasure's Report: Bourne. Year to date financials reported. Budget review in progress. Questions were answered.

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see attached report.

Food Pantry: Miller. No Report.

Merchandise Report: St Antoine. We will be at Ann Arbor Arms from 1000 to 1800 on 7 September. Please come out to purchase or to help. We also still need help at the VA, especially for loading and unloading the merchandise. Our next sale at the VA is 14 May.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Luker. The new appeal process is in place and is no longer optional.

Michigan State Council: The next meeting is in Sault Sainte Marie. It will be devoted primarily to work on the new National strategic plan.

Memorial Committee Report: Merritt. The new teams are in place and the maintenance season has begun. The place looks great. However, we could still use a few more volunteers. Our shed construction project is still in the

planning stage. Actual construction is not expected to begin until next Spring.

Website Committee Report: McCrumb. All the bits and bytes are biting and biting.

Membership Report: McCrumb. National shows us at 204 members. Newsletter: Pereira. No report Health Care: Wilson. Michigan has more sites contaminated by PFAS than any other state. Another emerging health issue is lead contamination. Lead has been shown to impact calcium. Decreased calcium impacts bone. There is now a test to see if you have that happening, but the VA does not administer that test yet. You may be able to get the VA to pay for the test if you ask your primary care doctor to request the test under the new Mission Act. If you test positive, the VA can administer the two-year treatment course.

VAAHS Report: Kinzinger. The new lobby is open and most of the people are moved into the new offices there. Beverly Conatser retires at the end of this month. She really appreciated the way we treated her at our 32nd annual recognition dinner. Our next VA event will be the Halloween Party, at 1730 on Saturday 26 October. As always, it is a costume event and we will spend some time together at the Side Track afterward. 17 December will be the Christmas Party.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion: Perrault/Brooks-Miller to pay 1/3 of the cost of rehabilitating the VFW's flagpoles in an amount not to exceed \$236. **Approved.**

Good of the Order:

Kinzinger: Thanks to the new Dispatch Patrons. Also, Kate

Melcher, Director of Fisher House Michigan, will be the keynote speaker on Memorial Day. The program begins at 1300. Finally, the Memorial book is now published. Everybody who shows up for the Memorial program will receive a free copy of the book.

Perrault: Watchfire will be conducted at 1830 on 26 May. Preparation will begin at 1630.

Rogge: Two Dexter high school students would like to interview a Vietnam Veteran for a project that is due soon. If you would be willing to be interviewed, please contact me right away.

Driscoll: The annual Patriotic Concert is scheduled for 15 May 2019 at 1830 at Cornerstone/Anchor Elementary School in Dexter.

Driscoll: Chapter Break-fast is on Friday, June 14th, 0900 hours, Brewed Awakenings Cafe - 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176.

Closing Prayer: Kinzinger

Salute the Flag

Adjourned 2019.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker

Memorial Grounds Activities

By Al (Fredo) Merritt

The work at the Memorial grounds is going on schedule. The new teams are in place, and they are working above and beyond to make the Memorial look pristine. The place looks great, but we could use a few more volunteers. We will schedule a work party for after Memorial weekend to put down new bark chips and tidy up the place. New flags are up and looking

good, thanks to Jon Luker's help. When you come to help with clean-up, please bring buckets and soft rags to clean the Memorial and the POW/MIA bench.

Memorial Flowers

By Jane Kinzinger

AVVA members Corrine Gignac, Shirley Hitte, Kathy Driscoll and Jane Kinzinger planted flowers at the Memorial in preparation for the upcoming Memorial Day Observance. Not shown were Steve Hitte and Tim Driscoll who helped on May 15.



Assistance for Huey - Yankee Air Museum

Submitted by Chief George Perrault

COL Ray Hunter, USAF (Ret.) has informed us that the Yankee Air Museum will be acquiring a flyable Huey later in the summer (2019). This is a UH-1H that served in Vietnam with the 240th AHC at Bearcat. They were known as the Greyhounds. This Huey has tail number N240GH.

COL Hunter tells us that they are currently looking for mechanics and ground



crew - no need to be licensed.

Volunteers at the museum should be service-trained, with experience of work on Hueys. For more information, please contact COL Ray Hunter at ray.hunter@yankeemuseum.org.

Photo Credit: J.Hannan-Briggs, Creative Commons License.

Happy News

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Vietnam veteran Lt. Col. Donald



O d e l l
s e r v e d
o v e r
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o f w a r,
i n c l u d i n g
i n "Hanoi
Hil ton."

Odell will be inducted into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor. This is an amazing story. Please click here for more information: <http://bit.ly/2ELwOrH>. [Photo By: Staff Sgt. Teresa J. Cleveland, Public Domain]

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Congratulations to Chief George Perrault, Proud Grandpa!

Chief Perrault has shared the following great news:

Let me tell you about my twin grandchildren, Brandon and Taylor. Born July 18th, 1997 as preemies with a combined weight of 7 lb 11 oz. Some of you might remember them as various Chapter 310 festivities, such as the packing parties and even taking the boxes to the Saline Post Office. Brandon has just graduated from Lake Superior State University in Sault St. Marie, MI majoring in Fire Science/EMT on April 27th. His twin sister, Taylor,



graduated the following Saturday May 4th from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL majoring in Anthropology/Social work.

Along with their parents, I had the pleasure of attending both of their graduations and as of this writing still resting up. Driving to the "Soo" and back, spending 2 days there, and then flying via Atlanta 4 days later to Alabama, spending 3 days there. Note: Arriving at the "Soo" with 24 degrees and 25 MPH winds and still a few mounds of snow on the ground, and then going to 87 degrees in Alabama, was an eye opener.

As a very pleasant surprise, known



only to one person at the time, Taylor flew in from A l a b a m a and jumped in the car and went to her brother's graduation

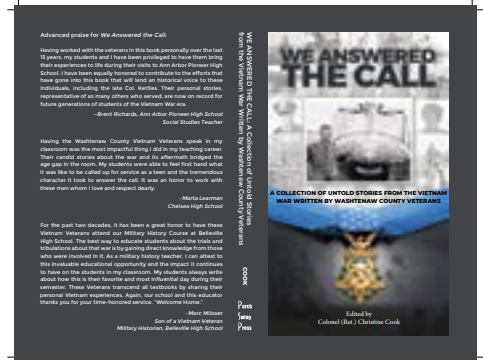
at the "Soo" with her parents and me. Brandon's twin sister even brought her cap and gown from the University of Alabama with her to take photos with her brother. Now that is togetherness! Just wanted to share my tail of "Pomp and Circumstance" with you all.

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The Kettles Book:

"We Answered the Call"

We are proud to announce that the Kettles book is being printed



and will be ready for distribution within weeks. Those who have had a chance to read the manuscript for this book have praised it as interesting and important for our Vietnam War generation. I believe you will find the design splendid and the content amazing. We have to have this book at every high school in Washtenaw County. Distribution starts soon.

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Paulo Pereira's Daughter: Master of Science

I am proud to announce that my daughter Limi Marie Bauer has received her Master of Science degree from Oxford University while raising three children and holding a full-time job. Married to an Austrian, Limi lives in Austria with her husband and three children, who are bilingual in English and German.



Limi teaches English. Getting a degree was a protracted adventure, and it is good to see that Limi has succeeded in her endeavors.

Members Doing Other Veteran Things

By John Kinzinger

Most of us are involved in other Veterans activities that other members are not aware. This is an example of one of those activities. I hope others share a little something about some Veteran thing(s) they do.

The Veterans group of the Dexter United Methodist Church on May 17th held an ice cream social. All the proceeds will be matched as part of their Fisher House fund raising. Chapter members Dave Draper and Tony Keezer were members of the planning and work committee.

Tony and I joined Jean Klark, the Chairwoman, and had great fun that evening. My face painting was the result of a challenge by Tony. We had great ice cream and a nice talk by a Fisher House Board member. What are you doing outside the Chapter to help others?

Michigan State Council Report

By Jon Luker

The Vietnam Veterans of America Michigan State Council held its quarterly meeting in Sault Saint Marie. It was cold, gray, and rainy; so, I felt at home up there with those yoopers.

Although attendance was not as great as it is when we meet near where people live (half of the State Council lives in Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb counties), a quorum was established.

At a meeting before the official meeting, strategic planning was discussed. Some highlights of that meeting are as follows:

No matter what National does, there is no need for Michigan State Council and the chapters within Michigan to follow the same strategic plan as chosen by National in July. The reason is that Michigan State Council and the chapters within Michigan are Michigan nonprofit corporations.

There are more strategic options available to National than just the two that have been proposed. The two options proposed are

1. closing VVA when, or just before, the last Vietnam Veteran can no longer operate it; or
2. starting up a new organization that will carry on with the mission (plus whatever else they want to do).

Some of the other options are as follows:

- Spend down our assets doing the great work we've been doing so that there is nothing left to pass on to somebody else.
- Just give everything to the VFW or American Legion.

- Do not alter the National governing documents but develop memorandums of understanding with sandbox veterans or their organizations, delegating to them the duties VVA National performs and granting to them the authority to use VVA National assets to perform those duties.
- Don't decide now; instead, recommission the groups to keep working and decide later.

There are even more options available to Region 5 State Councils and to the local chapters. The reason is that changing their governing documents would not require an act of Congress (literally) and political action at the National level. The primary example is that local nonprofits can expand their membership criteria to accept people that VVA National cannot. The only thing required is a change to their Articles of Incorporation, which can be done by a vote at a regular meeting.

It has been suggested that Region 5, or Michigan State Council, could pick up where National chooses to leave off, so that local chapters would continue to have some support.

A few of the proposals that will be voted on in July were handed out, as follows:

Change the name to a name that would entice the next generation veterans to join.

Require the National Board to identify or create a new organization that will run the Veterans Benefits Department of VVA into the future. Form a new organization that will take on all of VVA's duties.

Form a committee to figure out how to do suggestion "c."

You can get details about these and

other proposals from the National website. The proposals will be presented in a PDF file you can download.

Click here for [proposed Constitutional Amendments](#); or here for [proposed convention resolutions](#). The strategic plan conversation will be continued in Indianapolis on 7 and 8 June. In addition, some of the candidates for National offices will be present to explain why your delegates should vote for them. While people must be delegates to vote at the Region 5 meeting in Indianapolis, you do not need to be a delegate to sit in some of the conversations and campaign speeches if you happen to be in the area.

In other news, VVA is the only main veteran service organization that is still growing, even though the death rate for Vietnam Era veterans is rising.

Although the law was passed requiring the VA to set up a committee to study the impacts of toxic exposure on children and grandchildren of veterans, the VA has not yet set up the veteran group that is supposed to oversee the study.

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 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
Ralph Henry ~ November 2020
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 ~ 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

06 Jun: 75th Anniversary of D-Day (Normandy landing 1944; largest seaborne invasion in history)

11 Jun: Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, 3rd floor, 0800- 1600 hrs

13 Jun: Monthly VVA/AVVA 310 Meetings: VVA Board 1730 hrs; AVVA 1830 hrs; VVA Member Meeting 1900 hrs

14 Jun: Chapter Breakfast: Friday, June 14th, 0900 hours, Brewed Awakenings Cafe - 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176.

14 Jun: Fisher House Groundbreaking, 1000 hrs

14 Jun: Flag Day (1916)

14 Jun: U.S. Army Birthday (1775)

23 Jun: Troop Packing Party, 1700 hrs, VFW Post 423; potluck to follow 19- 21 Sept: Kokomo

Ongoing: Saturdays @ 0930: Meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue

Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

Enhanced VA Options Under the MISSION Act

From Communication by Richard Stone, MD, Office of the Under Secretary for Health Effective immediately, veterans at the VA can benefit from a new law, called the MISSION Act. This law includes a network of providers with new technology. This service will result in enhanced VA care, providing the right care at the right place and the right time. This new service will include telehealth.

We have created a booklet to provide information on the following topics:

- Enrollment and eligibility;
- Community care eligibility;
- Urgent Care benefits for minor illnesses;
- Copayments and insurance;
- Quality standards and how those relate to you;
- Complaints and appeals process;

[Click here to view the booklet.](#)

For further information about the MISSION Act, [please click here.](#)

You can stay up to date about health benefits by subscribing to [My HealtheVet Update.](#)

Memorial Grounds: Work in Pictures

Note From the Editor: From Al (Fredo) Merritt, the Memorial Grounds Work Director, I received several pictures showing how well the grounds work is progressing. But I would like to point out that Fredo continues to need additional volunteers. Please let Fredo know if you wish to volunteer. I am including several photos to give a flavor of the kind of work that is being done.

Various pictures, showing work in progress at various stages. Thank you to all volunteers!



Jocosity

By Ken Rogge



As a special treat to students, a teacher took her class to visit a museum of natural history. The children had a great

time and returned home excitedly, On rushing into the house, one of the little boys greeted his mother by exclaiming, "Guess what we did today, mom? The teacher took us to a dead circus!"

If You Wish to Contact Us

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

General Information:

President: Tim Driscoll

Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt

Secretary: Jon Luker

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 Thursday 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!