



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*



We welcome the spring and the start of a new year for the Board of Directors and Officers of VVA310, with elections in April. Please see Pres. Luker's message and request for new members to get involved in Chapter business. Opportunities abound.



This year the Recognition Dinner will be on May 4th. Please plan to attend, and if you have gifts for the raffle, please let VVA310 officers know.



Dispatch Newsletter — March 2019 — Happy Spring Season!



From the Editor's Desk

In his presidential message, Jon Luker considers the theme of change. Since VVA310 is a unique organization, the question of posterity becomes crucial. Pres. Luker considers various options.

Rev. Gordon Moore quotes Psalm 145 to fill his readers with inspiration.

John Kinzinger has submitted a letter from a high school teacher, in appreciation for veterans coming to give talks about their experiences in Vietnam.

Shirley Hitte has submitted pictures of several of her quilts, showing fine artistic work. Thank you for your contributions to the Newsletter. It's all about you!

— Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

President's Message

By Jon Luker

There is an old saying that, if you keep doing what you've been doing, you'll keep getting what you got. This saying is often used to help managers get the idea that, if they don't like what they are seeing, they must embrace change. If they still don't get it, we'll tell the managers that one way to determine insanity is to do the same thing again, expecting a different result.



Why do I bring that up now?

Although I'm happy with most of what I see, I wonder what we would see if different people were helping to call the shots. Actually, that's not the honest truth. The real reason I said that is because elections are coming up, and it is time for the membership to nominate and elect new people who are willing to serve. And it is time for new people to make themselves known and to show their interest in helping the Chapter continue its growth and its tradition of service to the veteran community.

I don't mean any offense to any current office holder or past or present board member when I say that the one exception to the above is that I hope we elect Berry one more year. The change he has been leading the past several years have given us a much better

understanding of our financial picture. The tools he uses to log day-to-day operations lead to nearly automated monthly financial reports and fill out the annual tax return properly. Our merchandizing operation has been included in the accounting process now as well. I think if he is willing and able to stay on the job one more year, that will give us time to become more familiar with our finance records and to train somebody to do the day-to-day bookkeeping.

We have only one officer who has not been on the job very long, but he has been an active member of the Chapter for some time. Unfortunately, I fear his health is not going to permit him to accept nomination to office again. Everybody else has held more than one job and has served on the board or as an officer (or both) for several years.

Not that there is anything "wrong" with having the same people run the show year after year, but we could be missing out on things because we tend to just keep doing what we've been doing. Well, not really. We cater the Annual Dinner now. We don't do public awareness events anymore. We don't do merchandize except at the VA and one other place. It looks like we don't do the Pig Roast anymore. We will downsize our presence at the Heritage Festival. Very few people "march" in parades anymore. That's not a complaint. We are just not as physically fit as we once were, and we are spending more time with grandkids than before.

I've spoken before about the vote that will take place at the Convention in Spokane in July. That will shake things up at the Chapter in a few years, if not sooner. Voters will hear

from two groups. One group will explain how VVA will finally close its doors. Because the federal charter can't be amended, we will, in time, not have enough members left to get things done. In order to do right by the people who have claims in the system, and also do right by donors, we can't just wait for the last person living to turn out the lights. Group One is making the plan to wind down service operations and to address "property rights" and so forth. There is another work group that is figuring out how Vietnam Veterans and their supporters can transfer the mission of the VVA to people who are not allowed to join VVA, so that the mission continues. Members will vote on whether to implement a plan that will transfer our mission, our income sources, our processes, and our property to a brand-new service organization.

No matter how that vote comes out, every State Council and every Chapter faces a changing future. They will run out of members, and the mission will remain undone. Something different is in our future, guaranteed. Fortunately, the Great Lakes Councils have already begun planning for what comes next. Also, fortunately, the Councils and Chapters don't have to do exactly the same thing the National organization chooses to do.

It may seem like I'm wandering a bit here. So, let's bring it back to the basics. Elections are coming up for the Chapter in April. I believe now would be a great time for a few newer members to step into leadership roles, partly to share the load with those who have been doing the work for decades, and partly to bring new energy and new ideas to the table as we look forward to the next few years of change at

the national level that will impact what we do locally.

Our membership continues to grow in part because people recognize that we do important work, and we do it well. Once people find out about it, they want to be a part of it. After you join, becoming an officer or a board member is your next step. There is a lot that we are doing well and don't need to change. Make no mistake about that. I'm proud of the Chapter and AVVA, and I'm grateful for our donors, who recognize and support the good we do. However, like it or not, change is coming. I think it would be great if we could get a couple new people in leadership roles who are excited about helping the Chapter embrace change and carry the good work we do into the next phase of our existence.

March Chaplain's Corner 2019

By Rev. Gordon Moore

I enjoy some of the Psalms for their positive attitude. Being around positive people is refreshing, uplifting, and otherwise an enjoyable experience. And we have experienced the opposite being around negative people and feeling drained.



Let's listen together to the words of Psalm 145 and track our senses, our feelings, and our mind set as the words of Scripture come alive

within us:

I will extol you, my God, O King; and I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desires of those who fear Him; and also will hear their cry and save them. The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever (Psalm 145).

I am energized as God's Spirit quickens His Word on the soft tissues of my heart, and I hope you are likewise refreshed and invigorated by the goodness of our Lord.

Peace upon all who read His Word,
Gordon



Honoring March Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Earl Thomas Hoag was born on March 9, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. Robert and Mrs. Mary Hoag of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Earl is a 1966 graduate of East Tawas High School in East Tawas, Michigan. He also attended Alpena Junior College and Cleary College. Earl worked for United Air Lines as a flight food handler at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Specialist 4 Hoag entered the Army on April 20, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Ord, California and Advanced Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on August 19, 1968 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Earl was killed when his patrol was ambushed and



he sustained multiple fragmentation wounds on March 8, 1969. He died just one day before his 21st Birthday. Earl Thomas Hoag is

survived by his parents and three brothers. He lived 20 years, 11 months and 29 days. He is resting in Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan. Earl'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 30W Line 076.

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Private First Class Frank Leslie Keck

was born on June 1, 1946. Frank attended Saline High School in Saline, Michigan for six years returning to Kalkaska, Michigan after the death of his father in 1965. He would have been in the 1964 graduating class in Saline where he played varsity basketball. He worked in construction before entering the



Army in June of 1968.

Private First Class Keck began his tour in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on December 22,

1968 serving as an infantryman with C Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He died as a result of enemy small arms fire on March 29, 1969.

Frank Leslie Keck is survived by his wife and son, his mother, and one brother. He lived 22 years, 9 months and 28 days. Frank's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Saline. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 28W Line 082.

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Private First Class Lavern Michael Lamey

was born on November 7, 1949 to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Lamey of Milan, Michigan. Lavern is a 1967 graduate of Lincoln Consolidated High School. He entered the Army on



July 18, 1967 receiving his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed his Advanced Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Private First Class Lamey began his tour of duty in Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam on December 16, 1968 serving as a Grader Operator with the 15th Engineering Company, 299th Engineering Battalion, 937th Engineering Group. Lavern was killed by enemy mortar fire on March 5, 1969.

Lavern Michael Lamey is survived by his parents, his wife, a brother and two sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Marble Park Cemetery in Milan, Michigan. Lavern'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 30W Line 047.

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Corporal Gregory Randall Shambaugh

was born on October 2, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Robert Shambaugh of Toledo, Ohio and Mrs. Geraldine Shambaugh of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gregory attended Carpenter School, Tappan Junior High School and Ann Arbor High School. He went on to graduate



in 1966 from Howe Military School in Howe, Indiana. Gregory attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan

before enlisting in the Army on January 19, 1967.

Corporal Shambaugh began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. According to First Lieutenant McLemore in a letter to Mrs. Shambaugh, "On March 6, 1968, while Gregory was participating in a search and destroy mission with Company D, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, he was struck by an enemy bullet and instantly killed." The Bronze Star Medal was posthumously presented to Mrs. Shambaugh.

Gregory Randall Shambaugh is survived by his parents and his wife. He lived 20 years, 5 months and 4 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gregory'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 43E Line 034.

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MINUTES

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 General Membership Meeting - 14 Feb 2019

Call to Order by President Jon Luker at 1910 hrs.

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: Assistant Chaplain Dell Mayes gave the opening prayer.

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

New Member: None

Guests: None

50th Anniversary Pins: Jon Luker asked if there was anyone that had not received a 50th Anniversary Pin. Kate Kirkpatrick from AVVA, a representative of the Washtenaw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is available to present pins to those that had not previously received them.

January Meeting Minutes: A **motion** was made by Marv Rivers to accept the 10 Jan 2019 meeting minutes as posted in the Dispatch. Seconded by Marty Cothorn. **Motion passed.**

President's Report:

Jon Luker discussed three items. 1) Reference to LTC Kettles death

and a memorial, yet be to decided, to be erected on site sometime in the future; 2) A card is being passed around to send to Mrs. John Dingell in honor to his service to his country first as a veteran, then 59 years in the U.S. House of Representatives; and 3) the flag at the VVA 310 Memorial in Ypsilanti will remain at full staff except for the following three occurrences: 1) a sitting U.S. President has died; 2) a sitting U.S. President is lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda; and 3) a sitting U.S. President is buried.

Treasurer's Report:

Berry Bourne reviewed the salient points on the Financial Report handout. He covered four significant events/transactions: 1) Certificate of Deposit transactions were completed in mid-January; 2) \$900 Memorial donations were received for LTC Charles S Kettles memorial yet to be determined. It is anticipated that over \$2,500 will ultimately be received, 3) A \$3,000 payment to WACU was made from the AA VA HS restricted account, and 4) \$3,500 was received today from the Merchandise Committee generated from sales in excess of their working capital requirements. Merchandise has contributed \$7,480 to the Chapter this fiscal year.

AVVA Report: In Kathy Driscoll's absence, Meni Draper gave the report. See Kathy Driscoll's full report on AVVA activities as part of the monthly Dispatch newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Food Pantry: No report

Calendar Committee: David Draper reported that a few items have been inserted. He requested to contact him on all pertinent meetings dates so he can update the calendar. Beverly Conatser will be given a

special gift at the Recognition Dinner on May 4th.

Merchandise Report: Marv Rivers stated that February merchandise sales were low due to the ice storm in the area. He also thanked all that have assisted the Merchandise Team this fiscal year.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report:

Jon Luker reported the Annual Appreciation Dinner will be March 18th. The Chapter has purchased 10 tickets at \$10 each for VIP's that will probably go unused due to federal employees buying their own tickets pursuant a conflict of interest policy.

Michigan State Council Report:

President Jon Luker stated that the next meeting is in March. The National VVA Convention is in Spokane, WA this year whereby the delegates will vote on a strategic plan. Ken Rogge stated that two groups are reviewing a possible strategic direction. Group 1 is simply "turn out the lights" and shutdown all the Chapters; while Group 2 will review the possibility of continuing under a very different format. No plan has been developed yet.

Memorial Maintenance Report:

Al Merritt reported that there is consideration of adding a shed to the site and investigating the possibility of bringing water to the site. Project magnitude depends on funding.

Website Report: Vance McCrumb stated that website is working well. He is working to make the site secure.

Membership Report: Vance McCrumb stated that with the addition of Barry Harrand less LTC Kettles and Al Merritt's brother, the chapter membership totals 203.

Newsletter: Any software was purchased to enhance presentation

in the letter. Paulo-Juarez Pereira is training on how to use this new software.

Health Care: It was mentioned by Jon Luker that Blue Water Navy won its lawsuit.

VAAHS Report: In John Kinzinger's absence, Dave Draper commented that the Valentine Party was held today at the VA with Ms. Washtenaw County in attendance. She is a strong supporter of Veterans. The event was well received by the Veterans.

Dinner Committee: May 4th Recognition Dinner will feature a choice of Beef or Pork, mashed potatoes, veggies, and rolls. A special etched glass will be presented to Beverly Conaster as she is leaving the VA in April.

Old Business: Vance McCrumb is still gathering costs on a new chapter hat.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: WACU is having a fund raiser this Saturday, Feb. 16th, at the Quarter Bistro on S. Maple in Ann Arbor

Vance McCrumb stated that the Lugnuts baseball team will wear our names on their jersey's when they participate in a tournament in Western Michigan on May 30th.

Jon Luker stated that you must register now for the Rolling Thunder trip to Washington, DC and the Pentagon.

Elmer White is having cancer surgery on February 21st.

Chapter Breakfast: The next breakfast (March 15th) will be at Brewed Awakening at 0900 hrs. Address: 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176 .

At this time the meeting was suspended to receive a report from the Nominating Committee leading up to the election in April.

Meeting reconvened.

Closing Prayer: Dell Mayes led the closing prayer and Jon Luker led salute to the flag.

Meeting adjourned at 2010 hrs.

Belleville High Vietnam Talks (Letter from a high school teacher)

Submitted by John Kinzinger

It is a great honor and privilege that we have had the opportunity to have Vietnam Veterans visit our Military



History Courses for the last two decades at Belleville High School. The best way to educate students about the trials & tribulations from the war is gaining direct knowledge from these living veterans. 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. Students are asked to write a reflection at the end of our course, and many of our students share that these classroom visits are their favorite and most influential portion of our class. The Veterans are held in the highest regard and transcend all textbooks by sharing their own Vietnam experiences. As a son of a Vietnam Veteran myself, I have the utmost respect for EVERY Vietnam Veteran.

Not a day passes in my own life and in my classroom when we do not appreciate and even praise the impact these veterans have made in the modern era. It is the heartfelt welcome that these veterans were so disrespectfully denied, and we admire these Veterans who have made it their mission to ensure every military member receives support upon returning home. On behalf of Belleville High School, I would like to thank you, our Vietnam Veterans, for your time-honored service. For all those who served during the Vietnam War, "Welcome Home."

Best Regards,

Marc Miloser

Son of a Vietnam Veteran

Military Historian

Belleville High School

Van Buren Public Schools

AVVA Report, March 2019

By Kathy Driscoll

All of our prayers and thoughts are with Carol Talbot and family on the death of Jim Talbot on February 27, 2019. May his soul rest in peace. AVVA 310 is making a donation in memory of Jim to the Alzheimer Organization. You may send Carol Talbot a sympathy card to:

Carol Talbot

2497 Lakeshore Blvd #808

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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 Members were busy

volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in January.

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

-- Members attended the funeral services for Jim Talbot

Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, March 12th. 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

-- Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets

AVVA 310 has Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets for a \$5 donation. Please contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. Proceeds will benefit AVVA 310 Operating and Special Projects



Funds.

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 and 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. Girl 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. If you would like to attend, please contact Kathy Driscoll.

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 next 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 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:

12 March VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor VA

9 April VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor VA

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA

Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association President

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

A Texas State trooper pulled a car over on I-35 about 2 miles south of Waco, Texas. When the trooper asked the driver why he was speeding, the driver said he was a Magician and Juggler and was on his way to Austin, Texas, to do a show for the Shrine Circus. He didn't



want to be late.

The trooper told the driver he was fascinated by juggling and said if the driver would do a little juggling for him, then he wouldn't give him a ticket. The driver told the trooper he had sent his equipment ahead and didn't have anything to juggle.

The trooper said he had some flares in the trunk and asked if he could juggle them. The juggler said he could, so the trooper got 5 flares, lit them, and handed them to the driver.

While the driver was juggling, a car pulled in behind the State Trooper's car. A drunken good old boy from central Texas got out, watched the performance, then went over to the Trooper's car, opened the rear door, and got in. The trooper observed

him and went over to the State car, opened the door, asking the drunk what he thought he was doing. The drunk replied, "You might as well take me to jail, cause there ain't no way I can pass that test."



Vietnam, Iran, and Brazil: What Was and What Could Have Been in 1964

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

This year, 2019, the world remembers the Iranian Revolution, carried out under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini. The Iranian Revolution gave origin to the Islamic Republic of Iran after overthrowing the Shah of Iran, who was Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. I am mentioning these points of Iranian history in order to show that, as far back as 1964, Ayatollah Khomeini had attempted to overthrow the Shah of Iran, and he failed. I will make a connection between the historical facts in Iran and the Vietnam War. My goal in this note is to show how the Vietnam War made a difference, both in Iran and in Brazil.

The Ayatollah Khomeini did not succeed in his revolutionary efforts in 1964 due to lack of assistance. In this context, one could question why the Soviet Union did not intervene to assist Ayatollah Khomeini in his effort to depose the Shah in 1964, since Khomeini was against the

United States, and Iran has always been viewed as a potential ally of the Soviet Union, and later Russia. I present two reasons why the Soviets did not offer assistance to Khomeini. First, the leadership of the Soviet Union was in transition, as power was being transferred from Nikita Khrushchev to Leonid Brezhnev. But there was a second reason—and this is the one I am interested in, because it involves the Vietnam War. Contrary to expectations after the death of Pres. John F. Kennedy, the new U.S. leader, Pres. Lyndon Johnson, did not withdraw U.S. advisers from South Vietnam but instead began to strengthen the U.S. presence in South Vietnam. Therefore, Soviet attention became strongly focused on Southeast Asia, not the Middle East.

In fact, things in the United States were happening fast in 1964, but it was clear that the U.S. resolve to engage North Vietnam militarily was strong and growing. Just a few months before Khomeini's attempt to overthrow the Shah of Iran, U.S. Pres. Lyndon Johnson had moved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution through Congressional approval, which authorized Pres. Johnson to use military force in Southeast Asia. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution must have shocked the Communist world, who expected no such resolve from Pres. Johnson. In mercurial fashion, the United States began to amass military forces in South Vietnam, with U.S. allies' support. This forced the Soviets to focus on South Vietnam rather than Iran. I attribute, therefore, to the Vietnam War the fact that the Soviets did not support Ayatollah Khomeini in his efforts to depose the Shah of Iran in 1964.

What is, then, the significance of Ayatollah Khomeini's failure to depose the Shah in 1964? The significance is that Khomeini was relatively young then, a charismatic individual who could have united the Islamic world with the support of the Soviet Union, to create a formidable axis of power against the United States. As it turned out, Ayatollah Khomeini had to wait 14 years to defeat the Shah, when the United States was already out of Vietnam, and the Soviet Union was showing signs of weakening. I attribute these historical facts to the Vietnam War; again, this shows that the Vietnam War was the stitch in time that saved nine. Next, I will mention an event in Brazil.



Brazil's Revolution Against Communism in 1964

There was something else that did not happen in 1964. Again, I attribute these results to the Vietnam War. Following the resignation of then Brazilian President Jânio Quadros, Vice President João Goulart, from the Communist Workers Party, assumed power while he was visiting Mao Zedong in China. Pres. Goulart was, however, a weak president, and the country quickly fell into chaos. Thus, in 1964, U.S. Pres. Lyndon Johnson provided assistance to Brazil's revolutionary movement to depose Pres. João Goulart and install a military regime, in accordance with the Brazilian Constitution, which foresees that the Brazilian Armed Forces are

authorized to take over power in case of national chaos. Without U.S. assistance, it is unlikely that Brazil would have pushed away the Maoist revolution that was taking place all over the country, and Brazil could have become a Communist bastion in South America. And here is the connection to Vietnam: What gave Pres. Johnson the credibility that he was motivated to defeat Communism was his decision to become involved in South Vietnam. Seeing U.S. resolve in South Vietnam, Brazilians became emboldened to take action and thwart the Communist revolution in Brazil.

In conclusion, I come back to a point I have made in other notes: The purpose of the Vietnam War was to make things not happen; in other words, to prevent bad things. I believe the U.S. warriors in Vietnam succeeded in more ways than people realize, and therefore, they deserve credit.

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 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
- 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

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

- 03 Mar: Navy Reserve Birthday (1915)
- 05 Mar: Seabee Birthday (1942)
- 05 Mar: Jim Talbot funeral service, First Presbyterian Church of Saline, 1800 hrs
- 14 Mar: VVA 310 Board Meeting, 1730 hrs, VFW Post 423
- 14 Mar: AVVA Meeting, VVA 310 Board Meeting, 1800 hrs, VFW Post 423
- 14 Mar: VVA 310 General Membership Meeting, 1900 hrs VFW Post 423
- 15 Mar: VVA 310 Chapter Breakfast, Location: Brewed Awakening; Time: 0900 hrs. Address: 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176
- 18 Mar: WCCV Dinner, Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Bldg
- 22 Mar: Military Appreciation Event, USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, 1700 hrs
- 29 Mar: National Vietnam Veteran Day (2017)
- 30 Mar: Welcome Home Vietnam Vet Day (2011)
- 31 Mar: Fisher House Fundraiser Sponsored by Bethlehem UCC at Knights Steakhouse, 1300-1500 and 1530-1730 hrs
- 09 Apr: Merchandising at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, 3rd Floor, Freedom Bldg, 0800-1400 hrs
- 11 Apr: VVA 310 Board Meeting, 1730 hrs, VFW Post 423
- 11 Apr: AVVA Meeting, VVA 310 Board Meeting, 1800 hrs, VFW Post 423

11 Apr: VVA 310 General Membership Meeting and Officer Nominations, 1900 hrs VFW Post 423

12 Apr: VVA 310 Chapter Breakfast, Location: Brewed Awakening, 0900 hrs

15 Apr: WCCV Meeting, Location TBD

17 Apr: Fundraiser at Brewed Awakenings, Saline. 20% of proceeds go to VVA 310

Kokomo registration: Now through June 1

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

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

Fisher House: Serving Military and Veterans Families

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira



Our VVA310 Chapter members and AVVA Associates have made admirable efforts toward building a Fisher House in Ann Arbor. Thus, members and Associates are likely familiar with the remarkable



programs implemented by the Fisher House Foundation. But the Foundation's story of success and generosity deserves retelling, for their amazing vision and remarkable accomplishments.

Founded in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, the non-profit



organization Fisher House Foundation focuses on assisting service members,

veterans, and their families by providing comfortable temporary housing facilities near hospitals and VA medical centers while their loved ones are receiving medical treatment. Thus, they have touched the lives of many military and veterans families. Their services are especially useful for family members who need to travel from distant locations in order to be with loved ones in hospitals and VA health facilities.

With the assurance that there is never a lodging fee, Fisher House saves military and veterans' families in costs for housing and transportation during hospitalization of a loved one.

The average stay is 10 days, but it can last longer, depending on need. The Fisher House Foundation even facilitates transportation to bring family members from distant

locations. For that, they use donated frequent flyer miles. They may even use donated hotel points to arrange for family members to stay at hotels near hospitals and VA medical centers.

In difficult times, when family members need to travel and make arrangements for accommodations, Fisher House is there for them, with understanding, caring, comfortable accommodations, and smart travel arrangements.

Hundreds of thousands of current and former military families have made use of the many programs offered by the Fisher House Foundation. Since its inception, the Fisher House Foundation has helped families save an estimated half a billion dollars in costs.

By using their own expertise, the Fisher House Foundation builds homes in government property. Once the homes are ready for



occupation, the Foundation donates the homes to the VA or the military. From that point on, the VA or military will take over the operation and maintenance of the homes.

Through their inspiring vision and generosity, Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher have created a charity model that has escalated into many different areas. By collaborating with other charities, the Fisher Foundation can touch the lives of service members and veterans in many different areas, showing how generosity is like flowers in spring: It grows and multiplies.

Spotlight on Associate: Shirley Hitte

These quilts have been created by Shirley Hitte and will be donated to the Fisher house. These are meant to be lap quilts for veterans.



Recognition Dinner -- May 4, 2019

One of VVA310's favorite yearly celebration is the Annual Recognition Dinner, which will be on May 4th this year. This event is a chance to reward those VVA310 members and Associates who have excelled in their work for other veterans during the previous year. Also, it is an opportunity to enjoy camaraderie while savoring great food. A raffle with great surprises is part of the fun. Please get your tickets early and come join us for an evening of friendship and recognition.

If You Wish to Contact Us

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Please Forward. Thank You!