



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

310 Dispatch

Newsletter

September 2019

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



From the Editor's Desk:

The fall season is bringing new vibrancy to our activities. Of special note is the raising of an American flag at Veterans Memorial Park (see Dave Draper's report). Also, be sure to see Gordon Moore's seasonal spiritual message and John Kinzinger's historical review. Thanks to all Contributors.

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message, September 2019

By Tim Driscoll

Greeting to everyone in our wonderful extended veterans family. The caring letters and phone calls I've received lately from our annual Pig Roast donors are very heartwarming. This year's Pig Roast will be on Sunday, September 8th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, and it will be our 17th Annual Pig Roast. It will be held at our Multi-Veteran Organization VFW Post 423 on Wagner Road in Ann Arbor.

There will be a band for music, face painting for the young at heart,



AVVA and VVA Raffles of all kinds, a great-tasting pork meal, soft drinks, desserts, plus a magician. All for a great family get together! This is an event for our whole veteran community to get to know one another even better.

Having said all of that from my heart, I must press on to the work part of the "PIGGY." From the cooking of the pork for 12 hours, starting about 11:00 pm on Saturday night, September 7th, to serving our guests from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, you and I, dear members and all of our community volunteers, really show what teamwork is all about. Here is a great way to start the "2019 PIGGY" experience!

This year we will also have the 2nd All Veteran Units Pancake Breakfast at 09:00 am – 11:00 am at the VFW

Post 423 on Saturday September 7th. This is the cross-organization Camaraderie of all Veteran Organizations, American Legion, DAV, VFW, VVA and AVVA, who meet at the VFW POST 423. This will put a great smile on everyone's attitude and fill our stomachs.

After the breakfast, it's cleanup. We will ask of everyone who is able to please help the work details of setting up the "PIGGY." We need helpers for a little broom sweeping, table settings, bucket raffle setup for both AVVA and VVA, setting up the merchandise tents and the "PIGGY" cooking station to be ready for all the things it takes to feed everyone on Sunday!

This is never meant to be a chore. The VFW building is beautiful inside and out. Of course, we will need volunteers to act as "ALL HANDS ON DECK" to cleanup afterwards to bring the VFW hall and grounds back to its beautiful self.

As always, thank you to everyone who brings their "CAN DO – WILL DO – DID DO" attitude, heart and soul, to this 17th Annual VVA 310 Pig Roast!

Hope to see everyone at the "PIGGY"
Tim Driscoll
President, VVA 310
734-355-4897

September 2019 Chaplain's Corner

by Rev. Gordon Moore

Autumn. . . . Changing colors on leaves and plants, harvesting, college sports—and oh . . ., let's forget about the Lions and Pistons and Red Wings for a couple of years, just as we have about the Tigers. What Tigers, you ask? See,



your forgetting is working already.

I like autumn and all it brings. Especially I enjoy the fruits of a farmer's labor from the field to our table, with the

scrumptious goodness and flavors to please the palate. I relish the visual changes, the crispness in the air, and the smell that late summer and early autumn bring with them. There is so much to give thanks for, including our freedom as a nation, which is such an attraction to so many people, who seek to flee oppression and poverty for a better way for themselves and their families. Doesn't it seem strange that this brings so much conflict to so many nations, including our own?

Which brings me to my point: What if Heaven felt the same way about us and our desires for a better way of living, devoid of death and illness, indifferent to people's plights, and the replacing of life's struggles with fullness of joy forever more? I am so thankful for the words of our Savior when he said he had come to seek and save His own, so that you might have an abundance of life, both now and forever. He said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27 New King James Version). Our Savior left us his peace, which comes in the midst of turmoil and stays through the calm times as well.

And He wants us to follow His example and demonstrate to the world a better way, so that they might see our good works and

glorify our Father in heaven . . . as a sweet smelling savor (just as we enjoy in autumn; think fresh apples, pumpkin pies, turkey cooking for Thanksgiving, and all the good things of the season)—a savor that draws people to Him, as they seek His salvation.

We have different personalities. So, this will flesh itself out in our lives in different ways. I would like for us to concentrate on this thought as we head into autumn and ask God to reveal the purposes for which He has crafted us, so that we might better serve Him...You know, "God, what can I do better, or what can I do differently to draw people to You?"

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, put a garrison around your hearts and minds in this moment and in the days to come. Savor His goodness to you, and share the bounty.

Peace upon you all,
Gordon



VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting –
08 Aug 2019**

Call to order by President Driscoll
at 1902

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Kinzinger

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

Roll call: Aquorum was established. Welcome Home, Everyone!

New Members: None

Guests: Bob Kwiecinski was here for his birthday! Bill Gibson who lives in Munith and doesn't get to Ann Arbor often got a chance to make the meeting tonight. Welcome home both of you.

Motion to Approve the May Minutes by Brooks-Miller/Merritt. **Approved.**

President's Report:

The Piggy is going to happen this year. It is because many members and AVVA are working on making it happen. Sponsors are showing up. Saline Chamber of Commerce has had a change of command. They are encouraging us to put out veteran information on their new information racks.

Next year's Memorial Day ceremony is already on the books for Saline.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne. Year-to-date financials reported. Cash position explained. No Questions. AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see attached report.

Food Pantry: Miller. No Activity.

Merchandise Report: St Antoine. We'll need help at the Pig Roast, then at Ann Arbor Arms, then at the Clinton Fall Festival, as well as at the VA. Signup sheets are going around. We also need people who will help us take things down. We still need somebody to take over the operation after we finish in September. If nobody does, we close the second week of September.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Luker. August

Wallman, Commander of DAV 13 and representative to the Council, died suddenly. The Council is also investigating reports that the US Department of Labor is canceling or refusing to issue contracts under the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.

Michigan State Council: Sandie Wilson won a landslide reelection to the Board Member at Large position she has held for many years. Jack McManus won the election for the National Treasurer, assuring us that we will finally get a finance report that people can actually understand. Long time Michigan State Council President, John Riling, was elected to be the Region 5 Director as well. The members voted to order the Board of Directors to prepare a plan for approval by the members changing the name of the VVA and to change qualifications so that all veterans may join. The new plan must be presented for member approval at the 2021 convention.

A plan calling for a specific closing date was defeated. A plan authorizing (but not requiring) the Board to take such action as necessary to close the VVA was also defeated.

Memorial Committee Report: Merritt. Harrison is going to give us an edger that should last the rest of the year, so we are not going to replace the weed whip yet. We are going to wait until cooler weather to change the wood chips around the bushes for rocks.

Website Committee Report: McCrumb. Our site does get visited. 140,000 hits so far.

Membership Report: McCrumb. 210 members.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Health Care: Wilson. No report.

VAAHS Report: Kinzinger. 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 Sidetrack afterward. 20 December the Christmas Party embroidered shirts giveaway. 26 Nov is Dawn Farm. We meet at Kroger on Maple Road at 1600 and then meet at Dawn Farm at 1800.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Luker: Lloyd Lee's nephew is offering a great discount to veterans who need a golf cart at Kokomo. You can reserve yours by calling Paul (the nephew) at 765-464-9760. Kinzinger: 10 pallets of Girl Scout cookies will be here at the VFW at 1600 on Monday. We will need help to unload the trucks and distribute the cookies.

Brooks-Miller: There is a flyer available for a Veterans Radio event called "There I was." It is an open mic night where veterans can tell their stories. These nights will be the last Wednesday of the month for the next four months. The first one was "How you got into the service." The next one is your story about basic training. These events will be conducted at the VFW 423 Hall from 1800-2000. The next one is 28 August. The stories are recorded and made available as a podcast on Veterans Radio. They will also be donated to the Smithsonian Institute as part of the National Oral History Project.

White: There will be a groundbreaking at Veterans Memorial Park for a new 40-foot-high flagpole being paid for by VFW and American Legion (\$10K each). John K will be one of the people with a shovel at the event, representing

the VFW. The City will be doing the landscaping. After construction is finished, a dedication for the flagpole will be scheduled.

Driscoll: September Chapter Breakfast: Friday, September 13th, 0900 hours, Brewed Awakenings Cafe - 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline.

Closing Prayer: Kinzinger

Salute the Flag

Adjourned 2002.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker

Honoring September's Anniversaries on the Wall

Lance Corporal Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr.



was born on March 9, 1947 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Hermon E. and Mrs. Eugenia Fuller of Ypsilanti. Hermon is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School where he ran cross country and played football. He gained a nickname in high school of "Flea" because there was a flea on the Soupy Sales Show named Herman. He also was a member of the Boy Scouts, and he worked on the stage crew for high school plays.

Lance Corporal Fuller enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 27, 1965 and received his infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. Hermon was stationed in Okinawa before being deployed to Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam serving as a rifleman with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious

Forces. He died on September 25, 1966 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds from a mortar attack.

Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother and three sisters. He lived 19 years, 6 months and 16 days. Hermon'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 11E Line 014.

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Hospital Corpsman Third Class Gary Robert Shepperdson



was born on July 13, 1946 to Mr. John and Mrs. Margaret Shepperdson of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Gary is a 1965 graduate of St. Thomas High School in Ann Arbor. He also attended Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Navy in September of 1966.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Shepperdson began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on July 10, 1968 serving as a Hospital Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Gary was killed on September 30, 1968 as a result of a gunshot wound from enemy rifle fire while participating in Operation Mameluke Thrust.

Gary Robert Shepperdson is survived by his mother, a sister and three brothers. His father preceded him in death in 1957. He lived 22

years, 3 months and 17 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary'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 42W Line 050

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Hospital Corpsman Third Class



Scott Philip Smith was born on May 30, 1947 in Ann Arbor to Mr. Philip H. of Grass Lake, Michigan and Mrs. Ralph (Jeane) Foreman, Jr. of Northville, Michigan.

Scott is a 1965 graduate of Chelsea High School where he was on the track team and the high school band. He also attended Grand Valley Junior College in Grand Rapids, Michigan before he entered the Navy on March 17, 1967.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Smith began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on June 3, 1969 serving as a Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Scott was killed on September 17, 1969 as a result of an explosive device.

Scott Phillip Smith is survived by his parents, a half-brother and a half-sister. He lived 22 years, 3 months and 17 days. Scott's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Chelsea. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington,

DC on Panel 18W Line 106.

AVVA Newsletter

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

August 31, 2019

Legislative Action:

H.R. 2568 Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

As of today, Thursday, August 22nd, there are 12 co-signers to this bill. Tim Walberg (R-17) is the only Michigan US Congressman to co-sign this bill. If you live in another congressional district, please contact your representative to have him or her co-sign this bill.

You can [use this link](#) to send your congressional representative a letter to support this bill.

H.R. 2333 Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act

passed the US House of Representatives on May 21, 2019. The Senate version is S. 1392 Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act. As of today, Thursday, August 22nd there are three co-sponsors, neither Michigan US Senators Debbie Stabenow or Gary Peters are co-sponsors. [Please click here](#) to send a message to both to support this bill.

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

- Wendy St. Antoine, Shirley Hitte, Jane Kinzinger and Kathy supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.
- Kathy attended the AVVA Michigan Association meeting in Battle Creek on August 18th.
- Kathy attended the WCCV meeting on Monday, August 19th.

How can AVVA 310 members support VVA 310 and AVVA 310 in September?

- September 7 Pancake Breakfast Assist setting up the AVVA raffle table and Pig Roast Dining hall.

- September 8 Volunteer to help at the 17th Annual VVA 310 Pig Roast.

- September 10 VVA 310 VA Merchandise sales needs our help. Please consider volunteering one or two hours assisting VVA 310 merchandise team at the Ann Arbor VA.

- September 14 VVA 310 VA Merchandise sales at Ann Arbor Arms, 45 Metty Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

- September 27 - 29th VVA 310 VA Merchandise sales at the Clinton Fall Festival.

Keep up to date with our chapter:

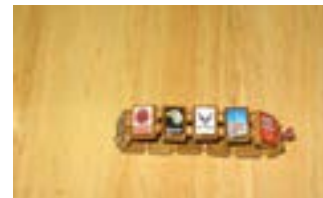
All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our chapter's webpage, www.vva310.org, in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

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

Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets

AVVA 310 has Veteran Wrist Story



Bracelets for a \$5 donation. Please contact Kathy

Driscoll if you would like one. To date we raised \$490.00, which was donated to Fisher House Michigan in May. We have an additional 100 bracelets to sell. All proceeds to be donated to Fisher House Michigan.

2019 Pig Roast Basket Raffle:

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

No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:

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

Creative Memories Scrapbooking for Soldiers Fundraiser:

- The Creative Memories Fundraiser for Fisher House Michigan will be Saturday, October 19th at the VFW Post 423 from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, \$10 donation. Please contact Meni to order items for your scrapbooks. Meni is donating all proceeds to AVVA 310 Fisher House Michigan Project.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2019 Girls' State Update!

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

AVVA Michigan State Association News

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.

- You can view the AVVA Strategic Plan at <http://vvamsc.org/associate/>
- AVVA Michigan Association next meeting will be Sunday, October 20th. More information at our September meeting.
- We will review our AVVA State Bylaws to conform with the new AVVA National Bylaws.

AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

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

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

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

AVVA National

AVVA 2019 Project Friendship raised \$17,561.00 for the Volunteers of America, Spokane, WA.

Our new National Board of Directors:

President Joanna Henshaw

Vice-President: Kaye Gardner

Secretary: Nina Schloffel

Treasurer: Kathy Andras

Region 5 Director: Don Jones

Region 5 Deputy Director:

Cecilia Essenmacher

Our National Bylaws were approved.

Please review the current AVVA Bylaws at <http://www.avva.org/documents/general/currentbylaws.pdf>.

Upcoming Events!

7 Sep 09:00 am Cross Organization Camaraderie Pancake Breakfast at VFW Post 423 patio area. All members and their immediate families of VVA and AVVA 310, VFW and Auxiliary Post 423, American

Legion Post 46 and DAV are invited. Come and meet the members of all of the veteran organizations who meet at the VFW Post 423. Cost is a donation. (Profits to the VA.)

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

8 Sep 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Volunteer 1 hour and attend the 17th Annual VVA 310 Pig Roast. Help needed setting up and cleanup.

10 Sep 08:00 am – 2:00 pm VVA 310 Merchandising at 3rd Floor, Ann Arbor Healthcare Freedom Building.

12 Sep 6:00 pm AVVA 310 Membership Meeting

14 Sep 09:00 am – 2:00 pm VVA 310 Merchandising at Ann Arbor Arms, 45 Metty Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

16 Sep 7:00 pm WCCV meeting at American Legion Post 322, Saline, MI

19-21 Sep 37th Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization Reunion, Kokomo, IN

27-29 Sep VVA 310 VA Merchandise sales at the Clinton Fall Festival AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 proudly supports the AVVA Mission and Vision Statements.

AVVA Mission Statement:

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA Vision Statement:

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

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

President, AVVA Michigan State Association

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Thinking Back on

Chapter 310's History

By John Kinzinger

In the beginning, we wanted our own Chapter motto. What is its origin? Here's how this motto came about:

We held a motto-writing contest. We had several entrants. Overwhelmingly, the motto below was the winner. Who was the writer? The writer was Chapter charter member Dennis Davie. Here's the winning motto:

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

(Note: The VVA National motto is, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.")

Also, in the beginning we thought we needed a name for our monthly newsletter. Who came up with the name **310 Dispatch** for our newsletter?

It was long-time member Jim Wallace.

Thank you both in our beginning for branding our National award-winning Chapter like that.

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 an "In Memory Of." Our Chapter retains only \$9.00 of annual member dues (\$20.00),

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

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

George F Boone ~ October 2021

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020

Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2020

William Christophersen ~ October 2019

Edward Fuller ~ March 2020

Gary Couture ~ July 2019

Joseph Flint ~ January 2021

James Graham ~ February 2019

Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021

Ralph Henry ~ November 2020

Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024

Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020

Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019

Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020

Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022

Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021

Dell Mayes ~ December 2019

Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018

Ron Oliver ~ February 2019

Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ January 2020

George Perrault ~ October 2022

Mira and 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



[Photo: Public Domain]

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

07 Sep: All Posts Pancake Breakfast, 0900- 1100 hrs, VFW 423 Hall. All organizations that meet at the VFW Hall and their families are invited.

08 Sep: VVA 310 Pig Roast, 1200-1600 hrs, 3230 Wagner Rd, Ann Arbor

08 Sep: Camp Liberty Open House, 1200-1700 hrs, 7044 Kappler Dr., Brooklyn, Michigan.

13 Sep: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Brewed Awakening.

14 Sep: Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor Arms, 0730 Setup, 0900-1600 hrs Sales.

14 Sep: 2pm Flag Retirement.

26 Sep: Clinton Fall Festival

Merchandise Setup.

27-29 Sep: Clinton Fall Festival

Merchandise Sales, 1000-1800 hrs

08 Oct: Merchandising at the VAMC,
3rd Fl, 0800 - 1400 hrs.

10 Oct: Monthly VVA/AVVA Meeting,
VVA Board 1730 hrs; AVVA 1800
hrs; VVA member meeting 1900
hrs.

11 Oct: Chapter breakfast 0900 hrs.

NEED TO KNOW

11 Sep: Patriot Day (2002)

18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)

20 Sep: POW/MIA Recognition Day
(1990)

19-21 Sep: Kokomo.

T.L.C.: A Buddies Group

By Lloyd Lee

A little over three years ago, after one of our VVA 310 meetings, Pete Belaire suggested that he and I should go have coffee together some day. I replied, "Sure, we could do that some day." The following month, we had the same conversation; . . . and the month after that. By the third time, my reply was, "Name a day and place!" We decided on Wednesday at Brewed Awakenings Café on Michigan Ave, Saline. That was the beginning of TLC, and the rest is history.

Pete and I met each Wednesday for a few weeks. We talked mostly about Pete's cancer and about music. We both liked the same



kind of music. We were then joined by George Perrault. Then came Al (Fredo) Merritt. After that, we were also joined by, in no particular order, Bob Kurtz, Vance McCrumb, Sandie Wilson, and Tim Driscoll. My wife, Alice, every Wednesday morning would ask me if I was going to the Liars Club. And of course, I was! So, I informed everyone that my wife had dubbed us "The Liars Club," or "TLC."

A few weeks later, Fredo showed up at our usual time with a few hats. Emblazoned in those hats were the letters "TLC." It seemed very fitting. He handed out hats to everyone in attendance, and those hats became "our hats."

Alice Lee was given a hat as an honorary member of TLC. As it turned out, Fredo had to get even more hats: new people kept coming—Stan Harrison, Hal Losey, Ferris Hurst, Gary Chriscinske, and Paulo-Juarez Pereira. As they started attending, each was given a hat. I talked Stan, Hal, and Gary into coming to our little get-togethers, and Vance handed each of them an application to join our Chapter. They did so. As for TLC, we have only one hat left.

Our conversations have run the complete gamut. Military, sex, cars, vacations, jokes—you name it. George would talk about his experiences on navy ships, and Vance would correct him by calling the ships boats! George would retaliate in some appropriate way, and the dialogue would continue. That still goes on. Some conversations revolve around our experiences in The Nam. Sometimes we only have three or four show up, but all in all, it's a good time.

Kim Kasten, Brewed Awakening's



owner, allows us and other veterans to have refills at no cost. Other customers must to pay. She said she likes having us around. At one point in 2018, Kim donated a percentage of her sales for the day to our Chapter. On that day, a few of us hung out for the day and passed out literature about our Chapter, and many customers made donations to our Chapter. Also, on that day, we had a visit by LTC Charles S. Kettles. It's been only about three years that our TLC group has been meeting, but we already have special memories.



Retiring of Flags

By John Kinzinger

On September 14th at 2pm, VVA 310 will be retiring flags at VFW Post 423.

We want to retire flags to reduce the amount of time spent at the Memorial after our annual Memorial Day watchfire event. Retired flags are collected from the American Legion in Saline, from Ypsilanti Township Hall, from the public, and from other places. Because of the large number of flags, a few of our volunteers have found themselves having to stay at the Memorial until 4 am, due to the enormous number of flags collected throughout the year.

The primary purpose of retiring these flags is to reduce the number of flags to be retired at the Memorial Day eve watchfire. Over the past few years, the number of flags given us to retire has increased dramatically. If we do this, there will still be an ample number of flags for next year's watchfire. The number to be retired at the VFW amounts to about 1/3 of the flags we retire at our Memorial.

The firepit at the VFW won't be used for hotdogs, marshmallows, etc.; but there will be a BBQ available for anyone's use should one want to use it. There are ample benches, picnic tables, and facilities at the VFW post.

You are more than welcome to



come to the VFW post for this retirement on September 14th, starting at 2pm.

Flagpole Raised at Veterans Memorial Park

Legion Post 46 and VFW Post 423 Procure a Flagpole for Veterans and the Community in Ann Arbor, MI

By Dave Draper, Commander, Legion Post 46

Over the past several years, there have been at least two attempts to erect a flagpole dedicated to veterans at Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Between politics and insufficient funds, those attempts were in vain. In June of 2018, then commander of American Legion Post 46 Oleg Michjalenko mentioned to fellow



member Doug Harvey about how there was no American flag flying at the Memorial Park. Doug followed up by checking with a flag company to see what the price of a forty-foot flagpole, including its installation, would be. They quoted him \$5,000. Doug presented his idea and the price to Legion Post 46, where they approved the project.

Doug then approached City of Ann Arbor officials to see if they would let Post 46 have the pole installed at Memorial Park. He was referred to the Parks and Recreation Department, where they arranged a

WALK OR RUN!

Saturdays at 0930

Meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with **Team Red White & Blue**

Also:

Visit *Veterans Radio* online and make a contribution to keep this vital program on the air. Please [click here](#).

Finally, be informed!

Stay current with latest events by visting VVA 310's calendar. Please [click here](#).

meeting. Several members of Post 46 and the Parks and Recreation met at the proposed site, where the members of the Parks and Recreation looked over the Post's plans. They determined that the plans were a great idea and would



be a showcase for Ann Arbor, as the flagpole would be erected in a visible, highly trafficked area. Several meetings over the following few months with Doug, Oleg, and Parks and Recreation officials took place, and the price tag started to grow. At first, the price tag rose to

\$10,000. That seemed manageable, and Legion Post 46 approved the additional funds. Not much later, the price tag rose again, this time to a total of \$20,000, with the addition of landscaping, pavers, and sidewalks. Legion Post 46 decided they still wanted to continue with the project, and they began to fundraise for it. Doug approached Ann Arbor's VFW Post 423 to see if they would contribute to the project. Surprisingly, VFW Post 423 voted to cover the entire remaining \$10,000. On August 9 of 2019, the flagpole was finally erected. It took only three and a half hours from beginning to end. A ceremonial groundbreaking was performed by the members of Legion Post 46, VFW Post 423, and family members. The following day, about twenty veterans and family members gathered to perform an informal flag-raising ceremony. The



flag was raised, and a prayer and a couple of songs were performed. But the flag had to be lowered that same day, as the lights had not yet been installed. The flag was folded, and photo ops ensued. There was enough pride on that day to last most people a lifetime. Plans are in the works to have a formal dedication ceremony towards the end of September.

Memorial Grounds: Steady Work



Work at the Memorial Grounds proceeds on a regular basis. Please contact Al (Fredo) Merritt to volunteer with this great task.



Veteran's organizations wreaths and colors are welcome.

Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The POW Committee of Michigan has send an invitation to attend the 40th annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony Honoring Michigan's Unreturned Veterans

Date: Friday, September 20, 2019 6:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Former Air force Captain Richard Luterman, Chief meteorologist, Fox 2

Location: Michigan Remembers POW/MIA Memorial Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens Twelve Mile & Novi Roads

RSVP to: Debbie McClain , President or Marty Eddy, Secretary/Treasurer powmiapineau@outlook.com



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHARLES S. KETTLES CHAPTER 310**

ANNUAL PIG ROAST

When: Sunday, September 8th, Noon to 4 PM
Where: VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd. Ann Arbor

*Enjoy A Wonderful Pork Dinner,
Have Fun and Help Raise Funds for:*

- Caring for our County Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Parties for local hospitalized veterans
- Thanksgiving Dinner for Down farm residents
- And many more

**TICKET PRICES: ADULTS \$10.00. AGES 6-12 \$5.00.
UNDER 6 FREE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GATE**

Activities:

- Live Musical Entertainment
- Children's Face Painting
- Army Helicopter and Military Vehicles
- Bucket drawings for many wonderful items
- Military Merchandise Sales

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Tim Driscoll
734 355 4897
Tim.AOK.032@gmail.com

All About VVA 310

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

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

National Chapter of the Year - 1999 & 2007

Newsletter of the Year 2007, 09, 11, & 15

E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

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**VVA 310 Dispatch
September 2019**

Vietnam Veterans of America
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Please Forward. Thank You!