



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

310 Dispatch

Newsletter

February 2020

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



Editor's Note:
February is a month of new beginnings and new hope. I wish all of us good health, happiness, and all the best. And my gratitude to the Dispatch Team, patrons, and contributors.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira



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President's Message

By Tim Driscoll

May all of you be filled with the joy and blessings of our 2019 Holiday Season. Speaking of joy, Dale Thornberry's Veteran's Radio Show has an Open Mic program called "There I was." This is where you can tell your stories of deployments in our country's Armed Forces around the world in war and peacetime service.



In December 2019, the show was recorded on December 18th in

the Event Room at our Ann Arbor Medical Center from 6 – 8 pm. In January, the show was held at the VFW Post 423 on January 29th. The next Open Mic will be on Wednesday, February 26th 6 – 8 pm. For more information, you can email Dale at dale@veteransradio.net. Best to arrive between 5 – 5:30 pm.

VVA 310 Chapter Elections

We need an Election Chair for the 2020 Chapter Elections. The first round of nominations begins at our February 13th Chapter meeting. The elections will be held on one of the Sundays in April from 12 noon – 4 pm at the VFW Post 423; we will determine the date at our February meeting. Please let me know if you are interested in this position. Our 2020 Chapter Officers will be sworn in at our May 14th regular Chapter meeting.

Tree Removal

Please be mindful that there is construction scheduled for the intersection of Ann Arbor-Saline

Road and Wagner Road. They will remove a few trees to prepare for the work. Improvements will be significant, and you can read more about the work here: <https://tinyurl.com/WagnerRoadWork123>.

If you have any questions, please contact **Michele Ford**, project manager, (734) 327-6652, or via email at fordm@wccroads.org.

Personal Note

On a personal note, our great Ann Arbor VA Hospital is working on me for cataract surgery on both eyes, a hearing aid, and new compression socks for my legs. This is a real blessing for a Vet nearing 75 this July 5th. Do you have your VA Medical Team helping you have the best care you need? The wonderful team of doctors and technicians, with their modern equipment, is everything you earned because of your time served. Please sign up and get yourself to our Ann Arbor VA Hospital. In today's world, it takes less than a day to work with the great team to process your medical future. If you need help with this, call me at 734-355-4897.

Bingo Games

Yes, on January 13th we had a great time at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital running the Bingo games with the WCCV units and nursing staff. It's never boring, and it puts a smile on my heart every time.

Merchandise

On January 14th, the merchandise team had sales on the 3rd floor. Yes, we are selling hoodies, sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats, and pins with all of the Armed Forces logos. But it is the interaction with our fellow brother and sister Vets and their families and friends that's the best part. A few questions I always ask: "What branch of service?" "Where were you stationed?" "What was

your MOS?" "What job did you do besides that MOS?" Lots of teasing and picking on each other's branch of service. Every customer is our brother or sister. How sweet it is!

Thank you so much, Merchandise Team, for all of your hard work putting this great display together every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Stan Harrison is the point man, and he is asking for everyone to help in this endeavor. This project gives so much to our hospital patients and families. Stan brings the VVA 310 merchandise trailer at 6 am at the front entrance of the Hospital for unloading and setup of the display by 8 am. Take down is at 2 pm. Please contact Stan at 734-358-8220 to join the Merchandise Team.

"Must Do" Projects

We need chairpersons and team members for our 2020 "Must Do" Projects:

- VVA 310 Election Chair. Election date is to be announced at the February 13th meeting.
- VVA 310 Recognition Dinner Chair. Event is Saturday, May 2nd. Tickets will be \$15 each and available at the February, March and April meetings. Angel Food Catering will be our caterer with a Pork and Chicken buffet meal. We need members to help with setup, Bucket Sales, collecting raffle items and 50/50 tickets.
- NEED CHAIR and Sub-Chairs for the 2020 VVA 310 Pig Roast. Our Chapter cannot operate without the proceeds from the Pig Roast.
- Stan Harrison will need Merchandise help at the Pig Roast as well as the 2nd Tuesday monthly Ann Arbor VA Kiosk sales location.

Chaplain's Corner

By Gordon Moore

I realize that February this year is Leap Year. So, let us leap into this month's topic of wisdom and how it comes about.

James, the brother of Jesus, addresses many issues, not the least of which is wisdom and trials that appear to be related:

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:2-8:)

We should view trials as the means



to perfection, and often we realize our failures through trials, which should lead us to humility, wherein we ask

God for wisdom to help us through the trials by the giving of endurance. Think of your military training and service or the giving of birth, both requiring great endurance and wisdom because no amount of training of childbirth classes can prepare a person for what they will encounter during the trial. When I reminded my wife during the birth of our children to consider it all joy, I was met with a quick and stern look that told me I lacked wisdom in this situation. "How may I assist you?" was my wisdom learned response after that.

So, as a means of celebrating all things sweet this month, including but not limited to Valentine's Day, let us improve our roles through wisdom.

Worthy of Notice

Washtenaw Community Concert Band

Help Needed for an Upcoming Special Concert to be held at the Michigan Theater on Sunday, May 17th, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. We need help in finding surviving WW2 vets and civilians who helped in the war effort.

Larry Gray – Washtenaw Community Concert Band

www.wccband.org

(734) 646-3924

—**—

Dorie Miller, War Hero

The National Archives paid tribute to Dorie Miller, in honor of African American History Month. Doris ("Dorie") Miller was a sailor on board the USS West Virginia during the attack on Pearl Harbor. He fired at Japanese warplanes with a 50

caliber gun and shot down two Japanese planes, possibly four. This is a compelling story; find more information here:

[Dorie Miller story.](#)

Honoring February Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Stanley James Thompson was born on December 2, 1942 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. James B. and Mrs. Mildred Thompson. Stanley is a graduate of Ann Arbor High School and the Alexandra School of Cosmetology. He was also a former Washtenaw County Junior Deputy. He entered the Army and spent two years in Germany before re-enlisting in 1962.

Specialist 4 Thompson began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam, on September 21,



1965, with 3rd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Stanley was killed on February 4, 1966 when he

stepped on a Viet Cong land mine. Stanley James Thompson is survived by his parents and wife. He lived 23 years 2 months and 2 days. Stanley'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 05E Line 001.

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Warrant Officer James Eugene Kirby was born on October 27, 1941 to Mr. and Mrs. Grover P. Kirby of Ann Arbor, Michigan. James graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1958. James Kirby was a professional serviceman serving in the Marine Corps for four years before enlisting in the Army in November of 1964. He attended jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia, and later attended Air Force Flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Warrant Officer Kirby was assigned to the 203rd Aviation Company, 223rd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group of the First Aviation Brigade in Phu Hiep, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam.

Warrant Officer James Eugene Kirby began his tour of duty in Vietnam on November 2, 1968. James was flying a mission on February 11, 1969 when his aircraft was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire and the aircraft crashed killing James instantly.

James Eugene Kirby is survived by



his parents, his wife, a son, and a daughter. He lived 27 years, 3 months and 14 days. James is

resting in the Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located at the Ypsilanti Township Hall under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 32W Line 013.

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Captain Clark Newell Woodworth, Jr. was born on September 19, 1934

in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Clark and Rose Woodworth, Sr. Clark graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1952, and from Michigan State University in 1958.

Captain Woodworth, Jr. began his career in the United States Army on January 2, 1959. He was assigned as the Drone Section Commander in the 503rd Aviation Company of the Third Armored Division, United



States Army, Europe (Germany). He was based at Fliegerhorst Airfield, Hanau, Germany from

September, 1961 to January, 1964. He also commanded C Company Seventh Battalion, Third Training Brigade at Fort Gordon, Georgia from December, 1964 to December of 1965.

Clark began his tour in Vietnam on January, 3, 1966 serving as an advisor with the 10th ARVN Infantry Division, Advisory Team 87, HQ, MACV Advisors, MACV. Captain Clark Newell Woodworth, Jr. was killed on February 28, 1966 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds in Binh Thuy Province, South Vietnam.

Captain Woodworth, Jr. is survived by his wife and a sister. He lived 31 years, 5 months and 9 days. A memorial fund was set up in Clark's honor. The Woodworth Library is a 40,000 volume library located inside the entrance at Fort Gordon, Georgia which is named in honor of Clark. There is a portrait of Clark that is hung in the library that was painted by Norman Adams.

Clark Newell Woodworth, Jr. is at

rest in Arlington National Cemetery. His name is located under Ann Arbor on the Vietnam Memorial located at the Ypsilanti Township Hall, and is located on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 05E Line 092.

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Specialist 4 Larry Adams was born on May 3, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan to Foster Adams and Merlin King. Larry attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 29, 1967.

Adams went through Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood before attending a helicopter maintenance course at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Larry started his tour of duty in An Kye, South Vietnam in August, 1967. He served with the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division. Though a helicopter mechanic, Larry was flying as a gunner when the helicopter was struck by small arms fire killing him instantly on February 23, 1968.

Specialist 4 Larry Adams lived 18 years, 9 months and 20 days. He left behind his parents, a brother and a sister. Larry is resting in United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, Michigan. His name is located on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His



name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 40E Line 072.

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Private Keith Arthur Stoddard was born on September 20, 1950 to Mr.

and Mrs. Kenneth R. Stoddard of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Keith is a 1968 graduate of Ypsilanti High School. After graduation, he worked in the laboratory of the State Highway Department. He entered the Army in March of 1970.

Private Stoddard began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam serving as an Armor Crewman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. Keith was killed on February 1, 1971 due to the accidental self-detonation of an explosive device.



Keith Arthur Stoddard is survived by his parents, one brother and five sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 11 days. He is

resting in Union-Udell Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Keith'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 05W Line 073.

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Private **First Class Roger Dean Bulifant** was born on April 6, 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. Forrest L. Bulifant, Jr.. Roger attended Belleville High School in Belleville, Michigan.

Private First Class Bulifant enlisted in the Marine Corps in July of 1965. Roger was serving with F Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 3rd Marine Division in the Hue - Phu Bai area of Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam as a rifleman. He died as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds on February 28, 1966.



Roger Dean Bulifant is survived by his parents and one sister. He lived 18 years, 10 months and 22 days. Roger'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 05E Line 084.

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Specialist 5 Kenneth Lige Fulton

was born on September 7, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Lige Fulton, Jr. of Willis, Michigan. Kenneth is a 1964 graduate of Lincoln High School where he was the senior class president and recipient of the Willie Heston Sports Hall of Fame Award as the school's outstanding scholar-athlete. He played football, basketball and track. He attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan prior to entering the Army in 1966.

Specialist 5 Fulton began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on February 28, 1967 serving as a Medical



Non-commissioned Officer with B Company, 588th Engineering Battalion, 79th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Kenneth was on a convoy in the Mekong Delta when it was ambushed. He was killed on February 15, 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation

wounds.

According to a posting from Jack Engle, "...a plea for help was made and SP5 Fulton answered the call without concern for himself, as he always had for the last year. 'Doc' did not have to be in the position he was in, he could and should have been in the rear until the area was secured. He had less than 15 days before going back to his earthly home, but yet chose to be where his 'duty' was. Instead, he went to his heavenly home. Going to the aid of a fellow soldier in need, he was killed in action."

Kenneth Lige Fulton is survived by his wife, a daughter and his parents. He lived 21 years, 5 months and 8 days. He is resting in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, Michigan. Kenneth'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 39E Line 047.

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Private First Class Ronald Lee Koch

was born on December 17, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Koch of Lima Township, Michigan. Ronald is a 1966 graduate of Chelsea High School in Chelsea, Michigan. He worked for the Larowe Feed Company in Chelsea before entering the Army on March 2, 1967. He received his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Advanced Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Private First Class Koch began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on July 27, 1967 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Ronald was killed on February 6, 1968 from shrapnel wounds sustained in an



explosion. Ronald Lee Koch is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. He lived 20 years 1 month and 19 days. He

is resting in Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Ronald'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 37E Line 060.

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Lieutenant Robert Clarence Marvin was born on February 10, 1940 in Boone, Iowa to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Marvin of Dexter, Michigan. Robert is a 1958 graduate of Greenville High School in Boone, Iowa. Bob earned a Navy Scholarship and attended the University of Michigan where he was a member of the Naval ROTC program. He was commissioned upon graduating in 1962.

Lieutenant Marvin flew 111 missions from the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk before going to the U.S.S. Hancock with VA-115, Task Force 77, 7th Fleet operating in the Gulf of Tonkin, North Vietnam. According to a synopsis written on the POW Network, "On February 14, 1967, Marvin flew an A1H (Skyraider) from the Hancock on a mission. His plane developed trouble shortly after takeoff. He and his wingman turned to return to the carrier, but Bob's engine stalled and cut off all electrical power, so no radio messages were received from him. His wingman tried to set a glide

path to conform to the powerless glide Marvin's plane would be in, but never caught sight of Marvin's plane. The day was overcast. The Navy searched the area for two days but did not find any debris or sign of Marvin or his plane."

Robert Clarence Marvin is survived by his parents, wife, a son, and a brother. He lived 27 years, 3 months and 14 days. He was awarded 10



Air Medals, the National Defense Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and the South Vietnamese Government's Armed Services Expeditionary Medal. Robert's

body was never recovered, but his name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial as "Missing In Action (MIA). His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 15E Line 028.

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Specialist 4 Jimmie Sherrill Warren was born on December 30, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill Warren of Milan, Michigan. Jimmie is a 1967 graduate of Dundee High School in Dundee, Michigan. He entered the Army in January of 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Specialist 4 Warren began his tour of duty in Cu Chi, Tay Ninh Province on August 16, 1968 serving as a Radio Operator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. Jimmie was killed on February 23, 1969 as a result of enemy small arms fire.



Jimmie Sherrill Warren is survived by his parents. He lived 20 years, 1 month and 23 days. He is resting in Shephard Memorial Park

in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Jimmie'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 31W Line 029.

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Specialist 4 William David Gouger, Jr. was born on May 3, 1949 to Mr. and Mrs. William D. Gouger, Sr. of Ypsilanti, Michigan. William is a 1967 graduate of Lincoln High School. He attended Eastern Michigan University before entering the Army.

Specialist 4 Gouger began his tour of duty in Long An Province, South Vietnam on October 26, 1968 serving as an infantryman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. William was killed on February 11, 1969 from enemy small arms fire. According to a posting by Joseph Bogucki, "I served in Nam with Bill Gouger with Recon 2nd/60th Inf. 9th Inf Div. We called him 'Big G'. An avid



hunter and outdoorsman, Bill was our platoon's unofficial armorer. 'G' was a big man, but as kind and gentle as any you would

ever meet. Rest in Peace, Big G.”
William David Gouger, Jr. is survived by his parents and a brother. He lived 19 years, 9 months and 8 days. He is resting in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, Michigan. William’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 32W Line 012.

Mystery Member

The mystery member last month was Elmer White. Feel free to make suggestions for mystery member. Very briefly, Elmer did the following in the service:

- Air Force 1964-1967
- Judge Advocate
- 494th Bomb Wing
- Strategic Air Command
- Sheppard AFB, Texas



VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By *Berryman Bourne*

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Meeting Minutes
9 January 2020**

Call to Order by President Driscoll at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Bob Bull

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: None

Guests: None

Motion to approve the December Minutes by St. Antoine/Bull. **Approved.**

President’s Report:

He stated that it would be appropriate for all members to bring some additional food so enough food is available for dinner. All the extra food could go home with those without adequate cooking facilities.

In addition, he presented John Kinzinger a framed certificate of appreciation from Task Force Lincoln Team Blackhawks 108th Sustainment Brigade for VVA 310’s support from its Deployed Troops Care Boxes program.

Treasurer’s Report: Bourne handed out the printed financial report. The major event in the month was the Christmas Program for the AA VA patients whereby the funding totaled a record \$15,000. Then he discussed an overview of the financial report.

AVVA Report: See Kathy Driscoll’s report as part of Dispatch newsletter.

Food Pantry: Miller – No report

Merchandise Report: Stan Harrison stated that the next sales at the AA VA will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 14th. December sales were \$830 with a \$440 gross margin.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Luker – No report
Michigan State Council: State meeting in May to be held in

Dearborn

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt – No report

Website: Vance McCrumb stated that the website is up and running. He is anticipating a quote to upgrade the site.

Membership: Vance stated that there are 209 Chapter members

Newsletter: Pereira – No report

Healthcare: Sandie Wilson stated that approval has been secured for the shingles vaccines.

AA VA HS: John Kinzinger stated that VVA 528 held their Christmas program on Dec. 17th. VVA 310 held their Christmas program on Dec. 20th. The shirts given to the veterans had embroidered a statement that “Freedom is Not Free”. Underwear had recently been given to Voluntary Services to dispense as needed.

Old Business: Motion by St. Antoine/Rogge to approve the Amended Bylaws as emailed to Chapter members by Jon Luker on Dec. 14th. **Approved**

New Business: Motion by Bourne/Harrison to approve the 2021 Operating Budget as presented. **Approved.**

Good of the Order: George Perrault stated that Al Merritt, in charge of Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti, desires to have four three-man teams to cut the grass at the Memorial site. See George after the meeting to sign up.

Veterans Radio will have an open mic for “Memorable Moments” on Jan. 29th from 1900 to 2100 hrs. at the VFW.

Bob Bull stated he is hosting a fund-raising event on Sunday, February 9th, at the VFW to assist homeless veterans and provide additional funding for suicide prevention efforts. Church service at 1000 hrs.

followed by luncheon at 1200 hrs. and a silent auction at 1400 hrs. Sandie Wilson commented that Senators Peters and Stabenow and Representatives Dingell and Walberg have been contacted to support the name change of the AA VA to Charles S. Kettles.

Annual Recognition Dinner will be held May 2nd beginning at 1800 hrs. at the UAW Hall in Ypsilanti.

Coming Events:

Selfridge Air Show honoring Vietnam Veterans to be held June 6-7, 2020.

Leadership Conference to be held at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, OH from July 14-18, 2020.

VVA National Convention to be held in Greensboro, NC in July 2021.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Meeting Adjourned at 2002 hrs. after salute to the flag

Chapter Breakfast: Friday, February 14th, 0900 hours, at Bomber's Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI.



AVVA Report

By Kathy Driscoll

Eight members attended our January membership meeting. 2020 is AVVA Chapter Elections for AVVA 310 Chapter Representative two-year term. We will open nominations

at our February meeting. Chapter Election will be Sunday, May 2nd at the UAW Local 898 on Textile Rd, Ypsilanti, MI. Please let me know if you can donate a raffle item for the AVVA 310 bucket raffle at the Recognition Dinner. To date I have four auction items. All proceeds go to our Operating and Special Projects Funds.

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

As of today (Friday, January 24, 2020), there are 16 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.

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

- Support VVA 310 Member Rev Bob Bull's Homeless Veteran Fundraiser at VFW Post 423 on Sunday, February 9th. 12:00 noon is a Spaghetti Lunch for \$10 donation and at 2:00 pm is a silent auction.
- Volunteer one or two hours on Tuesday, February 11th, supporting VVA 310 Merchandise sales team at the Ann Arbor VA 3rd floor.
- If you haven't already donated, please send Kathy your donation to our No Bake sale fundraiser. This is our main fundraiser that supports the operating and special projects.
- We have 58 Veterans Wrist Bracelets left. They are \$5.00 and all proceeds will go to purchase items for Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor Amazon

Wish List. I will have more information at our February meeting. If you would like to make a personal donation, click the following link: [Charity Lists](#).

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. We have 58 bracelets left. Selling all 58 bracelets will raise \$290 to purchase items for Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor Amazon Wish List.



No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:

- Our 2019 "No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale" fundraiser letters were emailed to our members with email addresses. Please consider making a donation. All proceeds go to our General Funds specified treasury lines. To date we have raised \$283.00.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2020 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,083.25. We donated \$1,200 to the American Legion Auxiliary Post 322 to sponsor three delegates to the 2020 Girls State. Girls State will be held June 14 – 20 at Michigan State University.

Eligibility for Girls State 2020:

- At American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, high school

female students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected to participate in a seven-day mock government program where they learn about civics and American government in a fast-paced, interactive program of campaigning, debating, voting, and electing mock local and state leaders.

- Please let Kathy know of any high school girl who will complete their junior year this June 2020. Our three sponsored delegates do not have to be from Saline High School. They can be students in any Michigan high school.
- Applications can be downloaded from <https://michalaux.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2020-Delegate-Application.pdf>

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Penny Meinhardt appointed Betty Pike, Past President of AVVA Michigan as Vice President. The AVVA Michigan Association elections will be in May 2020 at the VVA Michigan State Convention in Dearborn, MI.

The next scheduled Associate Vietnam Veterans of America Michigan Association meeting will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Arenac Community Center
583 E. Cedar Street
Standish, MI 48658

Darcy Andrews, VVA VSO, gave a brief report about her plans to organize a National Vietnam Veteran's Day event at the Arenac Community Center in Standish, MI following our March 29th meeting

at that location. A free meal will be provided to all Vietnam era veterans and a pinning ceremony is planned. Darcy will be working with Chapter 390 members and other area groups.

AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

- AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2020.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

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

- 2020 –Leadership Conference – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, Ohio.
- 2021- National Convention – Sheraton Greensboro At Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC
- 2022 – Leadership Conference – Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC
- 2023 - National Convention – Orlando, FL

Upcoming Events!

9 February Homeless Veteran Fundraiser VFW Post 423, Spaghetti Lunch at 12:00 noon is \$10 donation and a Silent Auction at 2:00 pm

11 February VVA 310 Merchandise Kiosk at Ann Arbor VA

13 February AVVA Membership Meeting

17 February 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.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310
President, AVVA Michigan State Association
dkathyr16@gmail.com
734-355-4897

Dispatch Patrons

[Editor's Note: Our Dispatch Team is diligently developing an updated Master Dispatch electronic list and USPS mailing list for the printed Dispatch. Our Dispatch newsletter reaches over 400 individuals and organizations. When they are ready, our team members will submit a report detailing costs, procedures to donate, and other information about our efforts to keep our 310 Dispatch great and getting better always. Special thanks go to our Dispatch contributors and patrons—and also to our Dispatch readers. You are the reason why our 310 Dispatch is great.

So, more detailed information is to come.]

List of Patrons

George F Boone ~ October 2021
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2020
Stan and Dawn Clark ~ October 2020
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021
Edward Fuller ~ March 2020
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021
Ralph Henry ~ November 2020
Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024
Darlene Imus ~ January 2021
Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2021
Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022
Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of **Lavern Lamey*** ~ July 2021

Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021
 Ronald Oliver ~ November 2021
 Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2021
 George Perrault ~ October 2022
 Mira and Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
 Helena Prince in memory of deceased member **Tom Prince** ~ April 2023
 Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
 Edith L. Semark ~ June 2021
 Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2020
 Chris Wetzler ~ February 2021
 Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2020

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

03 Feb: VAVS Meeting, Ann Arbor VA Medical Center Auditorium, 1400 hrs
 09 Feb: Homeless shelter fundraiser, VFW Post 423
 11 Feb: Merchandising at the VAMC, 3rd Flr. 0800-1400 hrs
 13 Feb: Monthly VVA/AVVA 310 Meetings: VVA Board 1730 hrs; AVVA 1800 hrs; VVA Member Meeting 1900 hrs
 14 Feb: Chapter Breakfast, Friday, February 14th, 0900 hours, at Bomber's Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI
 17 Feb: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
 17 Feb: Presidents Day
 19 Feb: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday (1941)
 26 Feb: Veterans Radio Open Mic, VFW Post 423, 1830 hrs
 Team RedWhite & Blue: Saturdays @ 0930 meet at the Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for their walk and run
 ** Visit Veterans Radio online [veteransradio.net - click here] and make a contribution to help keep

this vital program on the air. View Our Calendar by Clicking [HERE](#).

Local Soldiers: Three Stories, 1969

By John Kinzinger

This is a story of **three local soldiers** who experienced a terrible day long ago, and recently came together again during their reading of *Sacrifices Not Forgotten*. It took place at our large U.S. Army base camp at Quan Loi, Vietnam, on May 12, 1969. That day, three local soldiers were in Quan Loi. In the early morning hours that day, there was a massive enemy attack, with sappers inside the perimeter.

Soldier One: Harter

Soldier One was 21-year-old combat engineer James Wilson Harter, from Dexter, Michigan, who was killed during this attack. James had been in-country for ten months, a short-timer. As was noted in an Ann Arbor News article, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism, "He engaged the enemy with a heavy and accurate volume of automatic weapons fire . . . stalling the enemy and giving his comrades time to reinforce the perimeter line . . . an enemy round detonated inside his position instantly killing him."



Soldier Two: Drake

Soldier Two was twenty-year-old

Ann Arborite Tom Drake. He was a rifleman whose company position on the perimeter was just around the perimeter from where James' unit was. His story of that attack is included in *Sacrifices Not Forgotten*. There had been skirmishes in the area the previous few days, with an enemy force of 400-500 VC and NVA soldiers. An attack was imminent. Tom describes what happens shortly after midnight on May 12th, as enemy sappers were mistaken for friendly forces by rear echelon soldiers guarding that perimeter area. The sappers just walked in and began blowing up mortar, artillery bunkers and such. It was hours of battle before the enemy was completely terminated, but at a high cost to U.S. forces. It was not until 2013 that Tom found out that James Harter was one of the soldiers killed in that attack.

Soldier Three: Throneberry

Soldier three was twenty-two-year-old helicopter pilot Dale Throneberry, who today produces the [Veterans Radio program](#). Upon reading *Sacrifices Not Forgotten*, Dale realized he also was there in Quan Loi on May 12th. They had flown in that morning to support a special operation. His Huey was to be available to respond to any emergency needs of a recon unit that was outside the Quan Loi base. If it had not been for their needing to be there for that unit, Dale and the helicopter crew would not have been there with the possibility of further attacks. As Dale describes it, they flew in that morning to the wreckage of the camp and Hueys flying out the dead and wounded. It was a day he would never forget. During the day of May 12th, there

was more incoming enemy mortar rounds and rockets. Dale and his helicopter crew spent much of that day in a bunker. Dale reports that it was the most scared he had been in Vietnam. The concern of another ground attack and their not being able to fly out of the area and only being armed with a 38-caliber pistol was not that comforting.

The stories of these three young soldiers, not long out of high school, collided as they experienced death and the nightmare of war on the same day and location, some 10,000 miles away from Ann Arbor. That was May 12, 1969, and Tom and Dale are still here to share it.

James Wilson Harter, you are remembered as a hero. Rest in peace.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Review and New Plans

By Al (Fredo) Merritt and Jon Luker

[Editor's Note: Fredo and Jon will be needing a steady pool of volunteers for the new season of Memorial maintenance. If you feel inspired to work at the Memorial, please contact Fredo at (734) 904-4499.]

- 25 January, Acquired new mailing address for the Memorial of 1944 Veterans Memorial Drive, Ypsilanti MI

48197

- February, Made certificates and awards for significant contributors to the Memorial Parking Lot project.
- Developed and circulated a policy stating when the US Flag would be lowered to half-staff.
- Acquired data for value to parking lot in-kind contributions.
- Acquired legal description for Memorial Land Lease.
- Start work with DTE about getting power to the new shed.
- Once the Ford Foundation Grant became unavailable to us, we switched to working with NEW (Nonprofit Enterprise at Work), who offered to help us find better, local grants.
- 15 March. Title Research required by DTE done by Absolute Title
- 13 April, Began work on the Suicide Prevention Demonstration.
- April, Create Lawn Care Crews and begin implementing routine maintenance schedule
- Tried to arrange to have mail addressed to the Memorial forwarded to Jon Luker (required so that Google will put Memorial on the map).
- Acquired bricks for the 10 VVA members in good standing who passed away since Memorial Day 2018
- 4 May, Awarded the previously discussed awards and certificates at our annual recognition dinner
- 23 May, Memorial Clean-up Party
- 27 May, Memorial Ceremony
- June, Begin process to get estimates and advice on repairing the Memorial and the podium

- 13 June, Approved motion to use **Kettles Memorial Fund** to buy a granite bench in his honor to be installed at the Memorial.
- July, Received two full sets of flags from two different Navy ship associations
- August, Suicide Prevention Project Planning finally started to get somewhere.
- 4 Sep through 11 October Suicide Prevention Demonstration
- 8 October, Trimming the grass at the Suicide Prevention Demonstration
- 17 October, Fall Cleanup Day at the Memorial
 - -- Removed bark from bushes and replaced it with egg rock
 - -- Removed spotted rock from beside the Memorial, reclaimed original rock garden shape and placed egg rock
 - -- Placed two pallets of bark chips around the trees behind the Memorial
 - -- Cleaned the Memorial and the benches
 - -- Weeded and cut back the Memorial garden
 - -- Plus all of the usual maintenance tasks (cutting, weeding, raking leaves, etc.)
 - -- October Began search for volunteers to replace 660 crosses and add a foot spike
- 30 October, Repair: Commission Memorial repair work for \$2,495.00
- 23 November, Preliminary approval of Charles Kettles bench.



All About VVA 310

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

Chapter President: Tim Driscoll

Vice President: Stan Harrison

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb

Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke

310 Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Website: <https://www.vva310.org/>

Email address: membership@vva310.org

VVA310 Facebook Page: [Click here.](#)

VVA 310 Chapter Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3221

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

**VVA 310 Dispatch
February 2020**

Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Please Forward. Thank You!