

310 Dispatch

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



*Together We Make
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles
Chapter 310*



May 2020
Ann Arbor,
Michigan



Editor's Note: Vance McCrumb designed a new set of logos for the 310 Dispatch; hence the new look.

If you wish to donate to the 310 Dispatch, please see "Dispatch Recipients" on page 10 for further information. Of note this month is the Brick Dedication (see page 11) and the various activities by Zoom, as the VVA 310 Chapter adapts itself to new technologies. Be well, and enjoy the lovely weather!

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President's Message

By Tim Driscoll

Dear Veteran Family of VVA & AVVA
310 Members!

This virus COVID-19 changes our lives from hour to hour. Members of your Board of Directors are addressing the whirl of necessary changes and problems all around



us every day. Please remember: If you have a need that you cannot overcome, such as a health need, a place to live, a problem with transportation, or a food need, please call Tim and Kathy Driscoll at 734-355-4897. Together we will come up with a proper and sane workaround answer.

We are blessed to have brother and sister VVA and AVVA 310 members, who have the greatest hearts to help one another and members of the communities where we live. As VVA and AVVA 310 members, we are hardwired by our veteran history and the promise of our good deeds done around the world. We know how to approach all problems quickly and resolve them with compassion and intelligence.

We are working on a board meeting on Zoom or a conference call any day now. We are unable to schedule a membership meeting to complete our 2020 election of new officers and board of directors due to the VVA National Constitution. We are

holding steadfast with the current board members. Our Treasury Report and an Election report with the current board members will be submitted by the due date of July 19th. We plan to have our 2020 elections as soon as we are allowed to meet safely.

The Saline Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Day prayers at Oakwood cemetery are cancelled. Our Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial Day brick dedication and flag retirement are postponed, with the tentative date of Flag Day June 14, 2020. However, there will be an Zoom Memorial Day ceremony at 1300 on 25 May, 2020.

We will not be beaten; we will move forward as much as we need to, with strength and compassion.

Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Who would have imagined or seen 2020 coming in like a lion before March and spring arrived?

Oh, what a lead into this month's topic of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah! With Easter just finished, so many clergy rightly made note of Jesus coming to the Mount of Olives and proceeded to ride a donkey's colt at what is now called Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry. Expectations were high that the Lion of Judah would roar, dismantle a cruel and wicked regimen, and establish righteousness again on earth. They failed to



realize that He must first come as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world, and as such, to suffer and die for them. They didn't want that part of the message. The next time He returns on Mount of Olives He will do so as the Lion and Conqueror.

In the meantime, He instructed His followers to proclaim peace to a world that so lacked it. I find myself often wondering how this plays out in my life, namely, what am I to do (respond) in any given situation, especially in this venomous times, in which people often take sides awaiting a 'lion' of their choosing to take over government and rescue them from the oppressors in their lives, all the while failing to see that they have a part in their own circles to help bring order to others' chaos. That is why I am so proud of veterans' organizations for helping in their own way to make sense of things and come alongside others in pain with assistance. Yes, Dorothy, there are those who will help you on your journey to return to Kansas after finding Oz in the Emerald City. But Dorothy had it within her all the time to return home to normalcy by simply clicking her red heals together. But she didn't know it until others around her helped her discover the answer to her dilemma. We need one another in the various skill sets that are within us to help. Thank you, VVA 310, for having led by example in people's desire to find peace. Let us, in our helping, point them to God as their salvation instead of looking to the government.

Honor and blessing to all!
Gordon

AVVA Newsletter May 2020

By Kathy Driscoll

I hope everyone is feeling well and staying socially distanced as we all help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Please let me know if you need anything. AVVA and VVA 310 have resources available to assist you. We have an anonymous AVVA member willing to deliver cereal and drinks on Wednesdays and a hot meal on Fridays to any AVVA or VVA family in the Dexter, Ann Arbor, Saline, Chelsea, Whitmore Lake, or Pinckney area.

2020 AVVA 310 Chapter Election Update

I completed the election forms with proper signatures and mailed them to AVVA Michigan Association President, Penny Meinhardt. I will be our Chapter Representative for the next 2 years. We still need an Alternate Chapter Representative. This is an appointed position. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer.

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

As of today, Monday, March 30, 2020, there are 17 co-sponsors 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 from DAV to send your congressional representative a letter to support [this bill](#).

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 \$325.00 specified for Fisher House Michigan and \$674.00 in our Operating and Special Projects specified line items. I need to know if our members want to send a donation to Fisher House Michigan for "Fisher House Family Support" from AVVA 310. Please email me your approval to send \$300.00 to Fisher House Michigan. April LaRock, Ann Arbor Fisher House Manager, has the following Volunteer opportunities available:

Volunteers:

VA Ann Arbor Fisher House has a Wish List: Supplies and Volunteers

VA Ann Arbor Fisher House will need some regularly scheduled volunteers (those who would be able to commit to a few hours each week or bi-weekly) for the following positions:

- **Kitchen Coordinator:** someone who is extremely organized, loves to cook who will help keep the kitchen organized, help with the weekly grocery list/inventory, maybe do some light baking in the kitchen—cookies, muffins, bread, etc.
- **Gardening/Outdoor Assistant:** this would actually be more seasonal but would involve keeping the porches/back patio swept, patio furniture wiped down, perhaps planting/watering potted plants – expect to need a volunteer for this position at this time who could come 1-2 x's per week for a few hours.

We have already recruited enough volunteers for the **Guest Relations Assistant** for now (who will work with our staff to help check in/out guests, drive the golf cart to shuttle

guests to/from the medical center as needed, etc.). We may want to recruit more volunteers later as the program grows but not now.

For these positions, interested volunteers would need to contact April LaRock directly. The VA Ann Arbor Fisher House staff will be arranging "interviews" to discuss further since regularly scheduled volunteers would actually need to complete an application with our Voluntary Services office and complete a Volunteer Orientation session, receive credentials, etc.

The other volunteer opportunities will be those who are intermittent, maybe want to volunteer less than once per month or only for special occasions such as the Dedication on June 19th, decorating for the holidays, signing up to cook meals for the families, etc. Those intermittent volunteers would not have to complete an application or register with Voluntary Services. April is presently collecting names/contact information of these individuals so that the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House staff can just reach out to them as needed.

If you want to volunteer, you can contact April at 734-845-3055

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 57 bracelets left. Selling all 57 bracelets will raise \$285 to purchase items for Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor Amazon Wish List.



No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:

Our 2020 "No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale" fundraiser letters were mailed to our members, who are unable to attend our monthly meetings. Please consider making a donation. All proceeds go to our General Funds specified treasury lines. To date we have raised \$403.00. Thank you to everyone who has donated.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2020 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,083.25. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan cancelled 2020 Girls State. Michigan State University campus is closed. Per <https://michalaux.org/girls-state/>, more information will be available soon. Hopefully I will have more information in June.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

The March 29th meeting was canceled. I will email our AVVA 310 members with any updates I receive from AVVA Michigan Association.

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!

All May events are canceled due to the Covid-19 virus.

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.

A Special C-130

By Dave Draper,
Aircraft Loadmaster

As many of you know, I was a C-130 Loadmaster during the Vietnam War. So, my interests lie with anything having to do with C-130s. I am also interested in the F-4C Phantom, which was THE fighter aircraft of that time.

A few days ago, I was online searching for the date when the dedication ceremony was to take place for the C-130 that Phil Pham's father "borrowed" to evacuate his family out of South Vietnam under the imminent takeover by the Communists. You may have heard that it will be on static display at the National Warplane Museum in Upstate New York. I had hoped to be there with my wife, but as luck would have it, the ceremony got delayed. I saw that the museum was selling raffle tickets to get that aircraft restored.

Acting on an epiphany, I emailed them to see if I could acquire some of the tickets to sell to the veteran organizations I belong to in Ann Arbor. They were ecstatic that I would do that and asked how many

I wanted. I asked for fifty. By the time you read this article, I believe I will have sold all of the original fifty. I just asked for and received another fifty. Thanks to all those who purchased them so far. I'm sure the \$10,000 grand prize had nothing to do with your decision. I will probably be selling them for another couple of months; so, if you would like to purchase some, please contact me at <mailto://dave.draper@reagan.com>, and we can discuss how and where to meet for me to deliver them. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. The National Warplane Museum is estimating that it will cost around \$450,000 to restore the aircraft. If you are reading this on your computer or phone, you can click this link <https://www.wellsvilledaily.com/news/20190826/vietnam-c-130-arrives-at-national-warplane-museum/1> and view a story from the Wellsville Daily Reporter about the arrival of the aircraft at the museum. If you are reading this on a paper copy, just type in that link address into your computer to view it.

A special note of thanks to Phil Pham for matching the VVA and AVVA donations from our last meeting. On Saturday, February 22, Meni and I met with Phil, and he presented me with a check for \$240. That gave me the inspiration to try to find additional matching donors. If you have ideas about who



might want to take the challenge, please speak to me personally. I know some donors like to remain anonymous.

They Served With Us

By John Kinzinger

You readers may not know some of the following. In the next couple of issues, I plan to write about our combat allies, who worked alongside us helping the South Vietnamese against a Communist invasion from North Vietnam. In 1965, as our involvement grew, President Lyndon Johnson put out a call for other countries to help. Soon after, there were combat troops working with us from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, and South Korea. There were smaller, non-combat units from other countries also.

A close ally was Australia, and a friend of our Chapter, Alan Wood, is an Aussie who served there with us. He lives in Tasmania and wrote the message that follows.

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A little more than half a century ago, I was drafted into the Australian army for two years to fight in the war in Vietnam. I soon found myself in an infantry platoon including three black Labrador retrievers. We were part of the 4th Infantry Battalion (4RAR, 4th Royal Army Regiment).

The so-called 'Tracker' platoon teams of our unit normally consisted of six men and one dog, but we were sometimes down to as few as two men and one dog for various reasons. The two men would be the dog-

handler and his cover-man/ radioman (that was my job). We were usually deployed out-front of the rifle company we were assigned to, detecting IEDs, blood trails, tripwires, etc., all "fun stuff." No wonder I was diagnosed with PTSD in later years. Our three Black Labs, named Milo, Trajan, and Marcus, all gave to us sterling service. When our tour ended, it was a pity that our dogs had to remain behind 'in-country'.



Our Aussie base was permanently located at Nui Dat, (or 'Dirt Hill' in Vietnamese), north of Vung Tau (where our unit first came ashore on June 1st 1968), Baria, and somewhere southeast of Saigon, in Phuoc Tuy Province. I think our nearest U.S. neighbors were the 11ACR somewhat north of us in their base-camp at Blackhorse, which we frequently passed over when going out on a mission. Our battalion included two rifle companies of New Zealanders, better known as Kiwis. They were damn good soldiers. On numerous occasions, we found ourselves "outside the wire" and deployed alongside your U.S. Armed Forces, be it (amongst others as I recall) - 11ACR, 101st Airborne, the "Big Red One," and the 199th Infantry. We also worked with 2/35 Artillery (B Battery). They operated six 155mm self-propelled guns.

Damn noisy on a fire mission during the night when trying to sleep if you were nearby.

During the time our Australian forces were involved there, we had over 60,000 personnel serve. We lost over 500 brave souls between 1962-72. That included 18 killed-in-action from our unit during our tour of duty from 1968-69.

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Thank you, Mate, for the above. Did you know we even had some Canadians come across our border and serve in American units in Vietnam? About 120 Canadians died serving with us. If you ever get a chance while in Detroit, or going over to Windsor, stop and visit the Memorial in the park on the Canadian side below the Ambassador Bridge. Some American Vietnam Veterans raised the money to erect what is sometimes referred to as the North Wall. It honors our Canadian brothers who served with us and made the ultimate sacrifice. VVA Chapter 310 had a parade color guard group there to participate in the Dedication ceremony. That was special. Not to mention going to the local Canadian Legion for a few drafts and joking with them.

We were not alone over there. Another ally will be covered next month.



Honoring May's Anniversaries on the Wall

Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown was born on December 27, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Brown. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1966. His friends called him "Chuckie". He enlisted in the Army in 1965, but delayed entry until June 29, 1966 after his High School graduation.



Sergeant Brown completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Ord, California and Paratrooper Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Charles served a tour of duty in Alaska where his parachute failed to open during a jump landing him in the hospital for six weeks.

Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1967 serving with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division as an infantryman. Charles was wounded twice during combat operations, and recovered from malaria two times. He just returned to his unit in April after being

discharged from the hospital when he was killed on May 21, 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Charles Patrick Brown is survived by his parents and one sister. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 24 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 64E Line 012.

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Sergeant Charles Irvin Miller was born on March 2, 1946 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Miller of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles is a 1964 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He attended the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Army in March of 1966. He received his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Advanced Training at Fort Hood, Texas.

Sergeant Miller began his tour in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 6, 1967 serving as a Military Policeman with MP Platoon, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Charles was killed by an explosive device on May 13, 1968. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart.



According to the Bronze Star Medal Citation, "He was quick to grasp

the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the U.S. Army."

Charles Irvin Miller is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 22 years, 2 months and 11 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 59E Line 029.

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George Vernon Airey, Jr. was born on July 21, 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. George V. Airey, Sr. of Ann Arbor.



George, Jr. is the son of the President of G.V. Airey Building Company. When George was ten years old in 1955, he became a pogo stick jumping champion by setting a record

of 4,210 jumps without using his hands! He loved to water and snow ski, scuba dive, play guitar, and collect items such as tropical fish. He is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School, and also studied construction and building at Ferris State University and Lansing Community College prior to enlisting in the Army.

Specialist 4 Airey, Jr. enlisted in the Army in 1966 and received his training at Fort Carson, Colorado as an Armored Reconnaissance Specialist. George was assigned

to the First Cavalry Division at Fort Carson. George started his tour in November of 1967 as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with D Company, First Battalion, Fifth Cavalry Regiment of the First Cavalry Division. "On the night of 08/09 May 1968, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, was operating in western Quang Tri Province from a temporary base. At 0705 on 09 May, the Battalion came under attack by North Vietnamese Army forces - initially by mortar fire, then a full-fledged ground attack . . . Charlie Company was cut off from the other companies and bore the brunt of the attack. The NVA were fended off, but not without cost, and the aggressive patrolling which brought more US losses." A total of nineteen (19) men died in this action including Specialist 4

George Vernon Airey, Jr who died of multiple fragmentation wounds. He lived 23 years, 9 months and 18 days. George Vernon Airey, Jr. is resting now in Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor. George left behind his parents and two sisters. George was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Expert Rifleman's Badge and posthumously awarded a second Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. His name is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial, and on Panel 57E Line 012 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

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Private First Class Paul Dean Elwart was born on June 14, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. David G. Elwart of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Paul is a 1964 Honor graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Dearborn, Michigan.

He also attended the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and the University of Detroit before entering the Army in September of 1968.



Private First Class Elwart began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on February 9, 1969 as an infantryman serving with C Company, 1st

Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Paul was killed on May 12, 1969 due to multiple fragmentation wounds just three months and three days into his tour of duty "In-Country".

Paul Dean Elwart is survived by his parents and a brother. He lived 22 years, 10 months and 26 days. Paul'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 25W Line 067.

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Specialist 4 Billy Ferrell was born on February 27, 1951 in Prestonburg, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Ferrell of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 27, 1969.



Specialist 4 Ferrell completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then attended Parachutist

School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Billy began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on November 24, 1969 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was killed as a result of a severe gun shot wound to his chest on May 29, 1970.

Billy Ferrell is survived by his parents, three brothers and eight sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 2 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy'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 10W Line 117.

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Specialist 5 Robert Lee Freeman was born on April 2, 1948 in Harlan, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Olin Gilbert. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He also attended Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan.



Specialist 5 Freeman entered the Army in April of 1967. Robert began his tour of duty in Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam on

April 9, 1969 serving as a Cannon Fire Direction Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery, 54th Artillery Group, II Field Force. Robert was killed as a result of enemy heavy arms fire on May 18, 1969 after serving "In-Country" for one month and nine days.

Robert Lee Freeman is survived by his parents and a sister. He lived 21 years, 1 month and 16 days. He is resting in Knollwood Memorial Park in Wayne County, Michigan. Robert'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 24W Line 040.

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Private First Class Roy Lee Branham was born on March 28, 1949 in Lancer, Kentucky to Mrs. Edra Sester. Roy lived in Ypsilanti for ten years before moving to Dexter where he lived for seven years.



Private First Class Branham entered the Army on September 1, 1966 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He received a d v a n c e d

training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Gordon, Georgia. Roy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on April 2, 1967 serving as a Wire Systems Installer with A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Private First Class Branham died on May 11, 1967 at the 106th General Hospital in Japan of wounds received in April. Roy was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal recognizing his meritorious service while participating in combat operations in Vietnam.

Roy Lee Branham is survived by his mother, one brother and a sister. He lived for 18 years, 1 month and 13 days. He is resting in Washtenong

Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Roy Branham is the youngest person from Washtenaw County killed in Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 089.

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Specialist 4 James Wilson Harter

was born on May 16, 1947 to Mr. Henry W. and Mrs. Helen G. Carey Harter of Dexter, Michigan. James is a 1967 graduate of Dexter High School in Dexter, Michigan. He entered the Army on February 13, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed advanced training as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on June 14, 1968. Specialist 4 Harter began his tour of duty in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam on July 13, 1968 as a Combat Engineer serving with B Company, 31st Engineering Battalion, 79th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Larry was killed during a fire-fight with



two enemy platoons on May 12, 1969. According to an Ann Arbor News article, "he was awarded the Army Com-

mendation Medal for Heroism for exceptionally valorous actions on May 12 while serving as a perimeter guard at Quang Loi Base Camp. Two enemy platoons launched a ground assault on the camp, . . . 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 . . . despite his valiant efforts . . . an enemy round detonated inside his position instantly killing him." Specialist 4 Harter also earned the Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign ribbon.

James Wilson Harter is survived by his parents, two sisters and a brother. Two of his brothers preceded him in death in 1961 and 1968. He lived 21 years, 11 months and 26 days. He is resting in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Dexter, Michigan. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 25W Line 070.

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Corporal Alan Hugh Parks was born on November 13, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Max Parks of Bronson, Michigan. Alan graduated from Union City High School in 1966 and was a member of the 1965-1966 State Champion Debate Team. In 1965, Alan represented Union City High School at Wolverine Boys State. His skills in debating won him further honors. In August of 1966, Alan won first place in the 4-H state public speaking contest, and he later won state honors as a champion debater at Kellogg Community College, which he attended for two years. Alan Parks also was elected to the office of student vice-president of the Phi Rho Pi Honor Society and the National Organization of



Junior College Debating and Forensics in 1967-1968. Alan worked for the Shell Oil Company before entering military service.

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks entered the Army on August 21, 1969. Alan was trained as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist and served with A Troop, First Squadron, First Cavalry, Americal Division in Vietnam, beginning his tour on January 11, 1970. Corporal Parks was stationed at Chu Lai and died as a result of burns when the vehicle he was driving was hit by enemy fire on May 27, 1970 in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks is survived by his parents, wife, daughter, sister, and three brothers. He lived 21 years, 6 months and 14 days. Alan is resting in Sherwood Cemetery in Union City, Michigan. Alan Hugh Parks name is listed under Manchester on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township, and on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 10W Line 110.

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Sergeant Peter Lyle Valencich was born on January 1, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan



to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Naomi Gidley Valencich of Manchester, Michigan. Peter is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High

School where he was a member of the Varsity Basketball Team. He was employed with the Double A Product Company in Manchester before entering the Army on May 16, 1966. He went through Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was awarded the medal for the highest scorer on the Army's Proficiency Test while in Basic.

Sergeant Valencich began his tour of duty near Tan Tru, South Vietnam on December 1, 1966 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Peter was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action having carried a helpless wounded comrade 75 meters to safety from an unprotected open area. He was killed on May 22, 1967 when he was helping to clear a mangrove by burning reeds when the fire set off a friendly mine.

Peter Lyle Valencich is survived by parents, a brother, and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 21 days. He is resting in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. Peter's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 20E Line 088.

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Storekeeper Third Class James Michael Bryan was born on November 2, 1946 in Portsmouth, Ohio to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Bryan. James is a 1964 graduate of Milan High School. He attended Cleary College prior to entering the Navy on December 29, 1965.

Storekeeper Third Class Bryan was stationed at Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam where he served with Supply Operations,



Naval Support Activity Danang. On May 14, 1967, James was riding in a truck as a passenger returning to base when the truck became involved in an accident.

He was thrown from the truck receiving multiple concussions and died before he arrived at the Base Hospital.

James Michael Bryan is survived by his parents and one brother. He lived 20 years, 6 months and 12 days. James was posthumously awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the National Defense Medal and the Vietnamese Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The Navy Unit Commendation citation reads, "For exceptionally meritorious service from May 1966 to 1967, in carrying out the vital and constantly mounting task of unloading, moving and storing supplies to support the expanding tactical forces... despite extremely adverse climatic conditions, shortages of equipment and personnel, . . . continuous exposure to attack."

James Bryan is now resting in Memorial Burial Park in Wheelsburg, Ohio. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 115.

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Corporal Russell Arthur Michalke was born on July 24, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Art Michalke of Saline, Michigan. Russell graduated from Saline High School in 1966 where he lettered in varsity football for



two years, and lettered in baseball and golf for one year. He belonged to the "S" Club for two years, Spanish Club, Chorus, and

the Key Club. Russell attended Washtenaw Community College for a year prior to entering the Army on August 8, 1967. He completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Edwards, Louisiana.

Corporal Michalke began his tour of duty in Chu Lai, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on January 20, 1968 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Russell was killed on May 24, 1968 as a result of enemy small arms fire.

Russell Arthur Michalke is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 19 years and 10 months. He is resting in Oakwood Cemetery in Saline, Michigan. Russell'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 68E Line 005.



Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

Note that the Covid-19 pandemic season still continues, and schedules change at a moment's

notice. Please check the [VVA310 website](http://www.vva310.org) to confirm events.

08 May: VE Day (1945)

14 May: VVA 310 Board of Directors: Zoom meeting. Passed amended budget.

16 May: Armed Forces Day (1908)

18 May: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs
25 May, 1300 hrs: Memorial Day – VVA 310 Chapter to hold a Zoom Memorial Day Ceremony at 1300 on 25 May 2020.

11 June, 1900 hrs: VVA 310 Regular membership meeting—in person or via Zoom.

14 June, 1600 hrs: Watchfire at Memorial. Brick Dedication Ceremony: online or in person.

19 June: VA Ann Arbor Fisher House Dedication.

Dispatch Recipients

Note: VVA 310 award winning newsletter reaches approximately 516 people each month with 115 mailed USPS, 52 hits off the website (www.vva310.org), and 349 emailed. With good stewardship and networking, the cost to print the Dispatch approximates \$1,380 per year.

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Recipients:

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- Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020
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- 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
- Dell Mayes ~ March 2022
- David L. Ney ~ April 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 2022
- Chris Wetzler ~ February 2021
- Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2020

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

"Oh, I sure am happy to see you," the little boy said to his grandmother on his mother's side. "Now, maybe daddy will do the trick he has been promising us." The grandmother

was curious: "What trick is that?" she asked. "I heard him tell mommy that he would climb the walls if you came to visit," the little boy answered.

Important Facts of DVA310's History, Continued, Part III

By John Kinzinger

World War II veteran and Advisory Commission member, George Sexton, who had vocally protested against the project in the prior meetings, substituted for the absent Chairperson. During this final meeting, Mr. Sexton seemed to be gloating during our presentation and the unveiling of our artist's rendition of our proposed Memorial. Mr. Sexton's responses were very similar to the reception we had received by many WWII Veterans when we came home from Vietnam. It seemed as though he knew how the vote was going to go before the meeting started. He was against our proposal from the beginning and conveyed his remarks in a very inconsiderate and unprofessional, conspiratorial manner. It was the old "better-than-thou" WWII Veteran cold-shoulder to Vietnam Veterans. At one point he compared the mustard gas used in WWI to agent orange used in the Vietnam War. Mr. Sexton seemed to kill time, babbling about other things, waiting for the arrival of Austin Anderson, the seventh and deciding vote that day, to get to the meeting. Mr. Anderson was late and voted against our project without even hearing our presentation, or seeing the artist's rendition of our proposed Memorial. Mr. Anderson

said, "We have covered this enough, let's vote on it." By his tone, it was obvious to all of us he was going to vote against it. It all appeared to be an ambush we walked into.

After we completed our presentation, the Advisory Committee voted whether or not to recommend to the City Council to allow the erection of our, free-to-the-city, Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Veterans Memorial Park. As the votes of the Advisory members proceeded around the table, I held the hands of Mrs. McIntire and Mrs. Brown. We hoped and prayed for a "thumbs up" vote. These mothers, and all family members, were afraid their sons' sacrifice would be forgotten. The vote was quite even as it went around the table. Bob Elton and Charlene Berels were neutral up to this time. But they appeared to vote the way they thought the absent Chairperson and Mr. Sexton wanted them to vote.

As it got to the last voters, Mrs. McIntire's grip on my hand tightened dramatically as her nails dug into the back of my hand. It was obvious to me how much this vote meant to her and Mrs. Brown. The final dissenting vote came from the Acting Chairperson, George Sexton. Our request was defeated 4 against and 3 for recommending it go to the City Council. At that moment Mrs. McIntire's face reddened and she began to breathe harder. She began to get up I believe wanting to hit Mr. Sexton with her umbrella, but I held her back. Those who voted against our request were Austin Anderson, Charlene Berels, Bob Elton and George Sexton. Their votes were obviously fixed before the meeting. This had been a premeditated farce. The humiliation we all felt

was unbearable.

I thought I had been quite professional during my presentations to the Parks Commission, and I made no negative remarks. I answered every question the best I could. I was practically on my knees begging for a vote of approval for history's sake and to stop the pain that the mothers from Ann Arbor had been going through. Why should we have had to beg for a little piece of ground for our Memorial in Veterans Memorial Park?

Mystery Member

The mystery member for April was Pres. Tim Driscoll. If you have a suggestion for a mystery member, please send your suggested picture to Vance McCrumb.

Flag Day Activities and Brick Dedication

By John Kinzinger

We have postponed our Flag Retirement event and our Brick Dedication to Flag Day, June 14th, 1600 hrs. The Brick Dedication will honor four of our members who passed since Memorial Day 2019: Richard Knight, Phil Hecker, Albert Cardenas, Jr., and Farris Hurst. At 1730 we will start the Watchfire and will retire flags. Hot dogs and chips provided; bring your own beverage.



All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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

E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

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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
April 2020**

Vietnam Veterans of America

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

Please Forward. Thank You!