



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*



June 2018

The month of May was filled with activities, as the photos indicate. Doan Constructin did the excavating; Diversified brought the Bobcat; and the parking spaces improvement has continued. Also, please join our Dispatch crew in welcoming our new President, Jon Luker, and all the Officers and Directors. Thank you for serving our VVA310 Chapter.

President's Message

By Jon Luker



When I first joined VVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310, I did so because of three factors: Everywhere I went that had something

to do with veterans, it appeared that many of the people doing the work were members of our VVA Chapter, Whenever I asked for help from the organizations of Washtenaw County, VVA is the one that came through,

Every time Gary Lillie saw my car parked somewhere, he'd put a business card on it telling me I should come to a meeting and meet some great people.

You members are why it is possible for me to even have considered the job of President. You folks make the organization practically run itself. But as I've looked at the work done by our recent past Presidents, I must say I'm a bit nervous. There are some impressive years in our Chapter's history. Still, the Army didn't raise us to be timid in the doing of our duty, so I'm determined to earn my salary.

Much was accomplished since our last election. Our membership reached and exceeded 200. Our merchandise committee served veterans at more than a dozen events (accumulating the highest ever sales, while they were at it). Our financial statements and tax forms are automated and transparent. We helped make sure that Michigan's first Fisher House will be built in Ann Arbor. Plus, we did our usual work of caring for each other and other veterans, through donations, outreach, service at the Ann Arbor VA and other community events, and so on. Although our parking lot project

at the Memorial is not finished, I think the companies that have been pouring time, money, and materials into the project deserve our gratitude and recognition, starting with Doan Construction, who both suggested the idea and volunteered to do the major part of the work, without being asked. Diversified Excavating initially signed up to do the excavation needed, but then volunteered to provide gravel and to do the finish grade. When it became clear that the project would not be done in time enough to use it on Memorial Day, Diversified came through with a bunch of gravel to make the area temporarily useful as planned. They also agreed to remove some of the gravel to make room for asphalt when it is ready to be put down. Ypsilanti Township came through as usual, helping us to find the right partners for this project, including OHM Advisors who drew up the plans, found an inspector, landed the paving company and provided some project management. Cadillac Asphalt has agreed to do the final 4 inches of asphalt paving. Our next big event will be a multi-organization effort: Our annual Veterans Family 4th of July Celebration. This year, the event will be co-sponsored and promoted by Team Red, White & Blue and Ypsilanti American Legion Post 282. The event will follow the parade, and will be held just off the Memorial grounds at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center grounds. As usual, there will be music, food, games for kids and grownups, and plenty of opportunity to get to know one another. There is no charge to attend. The event is open to Washtenaw County veterans (including those with any time of service in the Guard or Reserve, whether deployed or not) and their families and loved ones. This is in

keeping with our motto: Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.

I look forward to building another great year with you.

De Oppresso Liber
Luker

From the Editor's Desk

I would like to thank all of those who have offered feedback about the newsletter, and especially those who have contributed pictures and materials. You are the people who make the Dispatch alive. As always, I would like to thank our Anonymous Donors. We are looking for donors for July. Your generosity is appreciated.

KIA Anniversary -- June

Larry James Eglinsdoerfer (8/ April/1948–7/June/1969) was born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Eglinsdoerfer. A 1966 graduate of Milan High School (Milan, MI), Larry entered the Marine Corps on April

16, 1968. Lance Corporal Eglinsdoerfer began his tour of duty in An Hoa, South Vietnam, on October 5, 1968, serving as an Antitank Assaultman with the 1st Marine Division. Larry



was killed on June 7, 1969 when an enemy rocket hit his bunker. He was 21 years old. Larry is survived by his parents, three brothers, and four sisters. He is resting in the York Township Cemetery near his home in Milan. Larry's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan and appears on the Vietnam Memorial located

in Washington, DC on Panel 23W Linne 099.

H. Neil Stehle (30/March/1945 – 11/June/1968) was born to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Stehle in Ann Arbor, MI. A graduate of Ann Arbor High School (1963), Neil was on the



gymnastics team. He later studied psychology at Eastern Michigan University prior to entering the U.S. Army on April 29, 1967. Neil completed

basic training and communication courses at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and later received paratroop training at Fort Benning, Georgia. On 12/13/1967, Neil was sent to Vietnam, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. On June 3, 1968, Specialist 4 Stehle was wounded by small-arms fire while serving in Thua Thien Province in South Vietnam. He was transported to a hospital in Japan and died on June 11, 1968, at the age of 23. Neil is resting in Washtenong Cemetery in Ann Arbor, survived by his parents and two sisters. Neil is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial and is located on Panel 58W Line 027 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

James Herbert Covey (3/Aug/1949 – 21/June/1969) was born to Herbert H. and Patty Sue Tate Covey. A 1968 graduate of Ypsilanti High School, Private First Class Covey began his tour of duty near Danang, South Vietnam, on June 3, 1969, serving as a rifleman with the



1st Marine Division. James was killed on June 21, 1969 as a result of an explosion from a Rocket Propelled Grenade after being "In-Country" for 18

days. He was 19 years old. James is survived by his mother and father. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor. James Herbert Covey's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti and appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 22W Line 103.

Frank Rudolph Maki (13/March/1928 – 22/June/1971) was born in Rudyard, MI to Mr. Victor



and Mrs. Lemple Ann Maki. A graduate from Rudyard High School, Frank enlisted in the Army in 1946. Frank took part in

the Berlin Airlift while serving at the Rhein Main Air Base. Frank spent time as a civilian and returned to the Army in 1950, serving with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. He accepted a reserve commission as a Second Lieutenant while serving in the Korean War and continued to serve in the Regular Army as an NCO. Frank served at Michigan State University as a military science instructor and taught ROTC at Eastern Michigan University. He accepted a promotion to Captain, serving as a Company Commander at Fort McClellan, Alabama. On May 7, 1971, Captain Maki began his

tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, serving as an Advisor with the Military Assistance Command Vietnam. On his third tour of duty in Vietnam, Captain Maki was killed in Quang Tri Province on June 22, 1971. He was 43 years old. He was posthumously promoted to Major. His awards include the Silver Star For gallantry in action. He is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters. Major Maki is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti and on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 03W Line 086.

Philip Matt Crane II (29/January/1947 – 27/June/1968)



was born to Mrs. Howard P. Gragg and Philip M. Crane of Ypsilanti. A 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School, Philip enlisted in the Army on February 1, 1967,

completing Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Second Lieutenant Crane began his Vietnam tour of duty in Vinh Long Province on May 14, 1968, serving as an Intelligence Staff Officer at Military Assistance Command Vietnam. Second Lieutenant Crane was flying in a helicopter as a special observer when a flare ignited inside the aircraft, causing his death on June 26, 1968, after serving "in country" for six weeks. He was 21 years old. Philip is survived by his mother, his wife, and a sister. He is resting in Crestwood Memorial Gardens in Flint, MI. Philip's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti, and

also on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 54W Line 002.

**LTC Martha Flowers Cothorn,
Ret. USAR**
Part 2

I don't like to talk about losses, blood, and guts. I didn't see much and don't like talking about the losses and don't care to relive those times. We lost some very sick soldiers and a few children too. Most of our guys were able to be evacuated to Japan and to stateside for more extensive care if there was no hope of a return to duty in Vietnam.

There was one friend who was hit by incoming rounds during an attack on his unit while they were playing volleyball. He was transported to our hospital. I visited him in the intensive care unit on his first day up in a chair. I asked about his condition and was told, no response. I went over to him and reached for his hand and squeezed. He looked at me, my name and squeezed just a little as tears appeared in his eyes. He knew me! He was evacuated back stateside for extensive long-term cares. I was able to write to him for a while and received letters back, with the assistance of his mother. Marriage, living overseas, children, life just got in the way of a lot of friendships. I think of some of the soldiers I've worked with and cared for as patients. Vietnam was/is a beautiful country and I have lots of memories. I experienced some of the best nursing, and the hardest nursing I ever experienced was in Vietnam. Yes, I suppress a lot, and I can live with that just fine, thank you.

I returned to Vietnam to visit friends at the Embassy and to celebrate my birthday. I was six months pregnant at the time. It

was changed. The hospitals were closed and destroyed. The marketplaces were still there, with not as many items. I returned to Laos, where I was living at the time. I had my son and, ten months later, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam changed governments and we were evacuated.

Lynda Van Devanter (author of *Home Before Morning*) was a nurse assigned to my unit while a finger she had injured was healing. She and I became good friends. On a slow day, she and I took off half day, which would allow the other nurses to do the same the next day. Lynda had a date one evening and was waiting on the patio when I came out of my hooch. We were talking when a Black man walked



up to us, and she introduced him as her date. Weeks later, he asked me out, and yes, I was accused of taking my nurse's friend. We were married eight months later in Massachusetts where he was attending Harvard Law school and I was assigned to Ft. Devens. Lynda attended the wedding. Lynda and I remained friends until her death because her home in both CA and VA were stop-overs when we traveled in and out of the country. The nurse from Dillard University, Bertha Gray, became my roommate when her hospital closed in Vung Tau, not Nha Trang. There were approximately 50 Black nurses of the 10K that were assigned to

Vietnam. Recordkeeping of that era is inadequate.

The day prior to my departure I decided to celebrate in the Officers' Club next to our hospital. An officer looking for Capt. Flowers came into the Club. I introduced myself and he was a bit surprised to find the officer he sought was a Black female. He informed me that he and I were the ONLY two people in II Core who received the Bronze Star Medal. I asked of the medal, who and why to which he had no answers. At my next assignment, I received the honor (Bronze Star) with little fanfare. It was years later that I understood that I had received the highest medal a non-combatting person could receive and that is what the officers were trying to tell me my last day in Qui Nhon.

I departed Vietnam in August, 1970. I was the only one leaving from the 67th that day, and a friend flew me to Cam Rahn Bay. I went to the staging area early, and only a few soldiers had arrived.

A while later, the door opened on the far side of the auditorium. The sun was bright that day so I was not able to see the person entering. A minute later, he ran toward me, grabbed me in his arms, and said, "I made it, I made it out of the boonies." He started to cry. I held him too as I remembered him from our flight over the water to Nam. We all, 219 men and I, were returning home on a converted Flying Tiger airlines. As the plane left the ground, there were loud yells of joy as a version of "we have Spent Our Time in Hell" went up. The men were all very kind to this little nurse, as they had been my entire tour in Vietnam. There was all way a bad apple, but seldom. As we disembarked, I was told by some of the men to go change into civilian clothes as there would be people

picketing in the airport. I changed and discarded my fatigues and combat boots into the trash can, a move I still regret.

There was a soldier on my flight from Tennessee who changed his ticket to fly to Chicago with me so as to make sure I made it safely to Detroit.

Thanks to all the American soldiers who did their part to make it safe



for us to save lives.

When we returned as nurses, looking for jobs in the private sector, there were some who didn't want to hire us Vietnam Vets, nurse type. We may have PTSD. So, nurses just didn't talk about Vietnam. I didn't while stateside. You see, I married Lynda's friend and we went to Laos and Korea. I remained in the Far East for six years, worked for USAID in Laos and the military hospital in Seoul, Korea. I returned to Ann Arbor, MI with a husband and two children. I have raised my family here for the last 40 years.

I spent my entire career taking care of the Soldier both on active and reserve duty and as a VA nurse. I retired from the military and the VA. I am Proud to Have Served.

Life with Dell

By Fran Mayes

I was a 15-year-old high school student at a pajama party. He was a friend of the hostess's brother. They thought it would be fun to "crash" the party. We bunch of giggling

girls didn't mind at all. We dated on and off for the next four years. Our favorite thing to do was to join a group going for pizza and a coke after church. Everyone chipped in a quarter for gas. At 19 cents a gallon, our joint money took us anywhere we wanted to go. We preferred pizza shops that gave free chips, so those bottomless teen boys could get a head start while the pizza was being prepared.

Dell had a low draft number and decided he would get a better deal by enlisting. By this time, I was a freshman in college. After basic, he was sent to build a road through rice paddies and forest connecting Bangkok, Thailand to the northern hill country. He became well acquainted with water buffalo and elephants. Shortly thereafter, the road was bombed by the U.S. to prevent Vietcong from using it as a supply route.

We were married in 1965. He was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. We lived off base in a little travel trailer. We could have guests for dinner, but you couldn't open the door if the table was folded out. Since I was born and bred in Michigan, it took a while to adjust to the climate in the South, both the temperatures in the 90 to 104 range and the overtly racist culture. Driving around south Georgia with Michigan license plates in the 60's was ...interesting, and a little scary. It was from Fort Benning that Dell was deployed to Vietnam. Before they left the base, they needed all their underwear and socks dyed green. All the green dye from the Gulf to Columbus was gone within days. Some of us mixed blue and yellow to make green. No idea what shade would come of this experiment, but at least nothing was left white.

This was the first large troop build-up of the war. They went by slow

boat to China, er Vietnam. Don't tell the Navy I called it a boat. We wrote to each other faithfully, but the mail could take anywhere from 3 days to three weeks to arrive, so it was often confusing when letters came out of order. I gathered every article I could find in newspaper or magazine into an album. I sent many "care packages," and he always thanked me for the delicious cookie crumbs.

I was a bit of an anomaly at UM during those years, as there were few married women students, let alone women with husbands in Vietnam. I pretty much stayed out of political discussions about the war. My imagination, fueled by television, newspapers, and Dell's letters, was kept under control by my busy student life until a few weeks before he was to return. I was haunted by fear that he would not live to come home, and I was living alone for the first time in my life in married-student housing. I imagined myself a widow before I was legally an adult.

We both survived. He appeared, unannounced, at my door one day, and we began the adjustment to civilian life. We were close to UM hospital, and he startled awake whenever an ambulance wailed or a helicopter flew overhead. Hypervigilance soon settled for him though, and we began a "normal" life as a couple.

But, of course, normal is a myth. We bought our first car, which was complicated by the fact that neither of us had a credit record. We were encouraged to get a credit card, charge something, and pay it off quickly. We bought a stereo record player, the first piece of furniture we owned jointly, having always lived in furnished housing. Dell went through six jobs in the first year he was home, finally settling into Parke-Davis glassware lab.

It was during his first week working there that I called to let him know that I was in the hospital, in labor with our first child. We had written letters to hospital administrators pleading with them to let him into the delivery room. We assured them that he would not faint, contaminate their sterile field, or interfere with their procedures. We were pioneers in this, as only medical-student Dads had been allowed to view their baby's hospital birth. He followed our daughter to the nursery and was able to hold her before I was. We moved to a one-bedroom apartment to make room for the baby. Dell learned quickly how to care for an infant, as I left my screaming newborn with him while I continued my nursing education with four-hour clinical practice sessions. He was always a parent to our four subsequent children, not a babysitter, as we shared the challenges together. Dell has always been my number one supporter as children, grad school (twice!), and church activities created many changes in our lives. We have experienced many marriages in our 53 years as a couple, but Dell is the rock on which our family is built. When he retired from Pfizer, and most of his work friends moved away, I was still working as a researcher and a pastor. He needed friends of his own. Too much of a good thing led me to tell him to "get a life." He first tried going to Veterans for Peace but found people too angry to have peaceful meetings; then he discovered VVA. You know the rest of the story. I was a clinical teacher at UM, then a researcher, then a pastor to three churches. We have 10 grandchildren, two acres, and busy church lives. I go to Nicaragua several times a year to help women and babies. Neither of us can figure

out how we ever had time to go to work.

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Chapter Dispatch Patrons
Please check your dates to see if you are current.
(*Name listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial)

The following members, associates, and supporters have made contributions to support our VVA310 Dispatch Newsletter by offsetting the cost of printing and postage. The month and year specify the date when the subscription expires. Please consider a donation "In Memory of." Please contact us for further information. Our Chapter retains \$9.00 of your yearly \$20.00 dues, and it costs about \$12.00 a year for printing and postage. So, your Dispatch Patron support is appreciated. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to VVA 310 for \$20.00 or more, memo Line Dispatch Patron. You can conveniently use our Paypal facility at www.vva310.org. We will credit one month for every \$1.50 donated. Please mail your check to: VVA 310, P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221. Again, thank you for your continued support!

George F. Boone ~ October 2021
 Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020
 Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2019
 Gary Couture ~ November 2017
 Joseph Flint ~ January 2021
 James Graham ~ February 2019
 Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021
 Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ Jan 2023
 Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ October 2018
 Dick Knight ~ May 2018
 Jane and John Kinzinger ~ September 2018
 Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021
 Dell Mayes ~ May 2019
 Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018

Ron Oliver ~ February 2019
 Ann and Paulo Pereira ~ August 2018
 George Perrault ~ October 2022
 Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
 Ken Rogge ~ May 2019
 Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
 Edith Semark ~ December 2017
 Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019
 Tom & Sandi Sorensen ~ October 2017
 Chris Wetzler ~ December 2017
 Elizabeth Wong ~ June 2018

Donations "In Memory Of":

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 husband, **Tom Prince** ~ April 2023
 Corrine Gignac in Memory of Vietnam Vet Marine **Gary L. West** ~ December 2018
 Bonnie Woods in memory of her Vietnam Veteran husband, **Gary Woods** ~ December 2018
Blessings, All!

**MINUTES – VVA310
 Vietnam Veterans of America
 Charles S. Kettles Chapter
 310 –
 General Membership Meeting – 10 May 2018 –
 By Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Secretary**

Call to Order by President David Draper at 1900 hours.
 Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for POW/MIA's, their families, and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.
 Roll Call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

Guests: Tyler Bowlz and Mike Bowlz, Troop 623, Boy Scouts. Informed about an Eagle Scout project for Tyler. The project is to retire a flag for each name on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial, Ypsilanti. Preferred date is July 17th, with at least one VVA310 member in attendance. Chief George Perrault will provide flags. Pres. Jon Luker suggested coordinating this event with Al (Fredo) Merritt, Memorial Maintenance Coordinator. Motion by Sandie Wilson seconded by Larry St. Antoine to approve retiring of flags by Tyler Bowlz to become Eagle Scout. Approved. Guest Phillip Pham and members of his family presented the story of his father, a First Lieutenant of the South Vietnamese Air Force. His father flew out of Vietnam on April 3, 1975, by flying a C130 airplane, rescuing his family and many other people from the invading Communists. Success for their escape was made possible by a series of felicitous events, some of them appearing miraculous. Phillip indicated his father may visit VVA310 at a later date. Tim Driscoll introduced two guests, Mark Kovach and Dale Brewer, from Disabled American Veterans Chapter 125, Howell, MI. Mark and Dale spoke at length about "The Wall That Heals," a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica and Mobile Education Center. The Replica will be at the Livingston County Spencer J. Hardy Airport in September for free public viewing, 24 hours a day. Members and Associates are cordially invited to participate. President's Report: Outgoing President Dave Draper spoke with deep emotion about the distinctive honor of serving two terms as VVA310 President, pointing out that it takes all of us to achieve the

success that our Chapter enjoys. Pres. Draper encouraged everyone to continue to find ways to serve and volunteer. Meeting was suspended for the installation of officers and directors. Meeting resumed under the direction of newly installed President Jon Luker. Motion by Sandie Wilson seconded by Ken Rogge
NEW BUSINESS:
Motion by Sandie Wilson seconded by Ken Rogge to loan \$4,000 to the General fund for expenses associated with Memorial maintenance, which will later be reimbursed. Approved. Motion by Elmer White seconded by Tim Driscoll to initiate a change to VVA310 bylaws for the purpose of allowing Chapter checks to be signed by only one person and to change the Chapter name to Vietnam Veterans of America, Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310. Approved. Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne presented the treasurer's report, stating that they continue to work with the merchandise committee to calculate monthly and YTD gross margin (merchandise sales less merchandise sold) and operating income (gross margin less operating expenses). Their plan eventually is to project this report on a screen for ease in presentation. AVVA Report: Given by Kathy Driscoll. Please see the attached full report on AVVA activities. Food Pantry: No activity reported. Merchandise Report: Larry St. Antoine reported the last sale at VA Hospital was \$1,024. Marv Rivers will assist with merchandise inventory. Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Jon Luker stated that the May dinner will be at the same location, with contract already

signed. There is a new method for the Trust Fund, which is working well. Memorial Maintenance Report: Al (Fredo) stated that Don Miller is building five benches at the Memorial. Regular maintenance continues. Website Report: No report. Membership Report: Vance McCrumb stated that the Chapter has reached 210 members and the Anonymous Donor project is going well. Newsletter: Paulo Pereira thanked contributors to the Dispatch Newsletter and asked for articles with pictures. A support group has been very helpful with suggestions. VAAHS Report: No report. Old Business: No old business. Next Chapter Breakfast: with be Friday, June 15th at Bombers Restaurant at 306 East Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Closing prayer was given by Tim Driscoll. President Luker led the group in a salute to the flag to close the meeting at 2130 hours.

June 2018 Chaplain's Corner *By Gordon Moore*

When I was but a youth, and as Ernie Harwell would describe a Tigers' home run, those days are long gone, my earthly father introduced to me the concept of discipline. And, as a matter of fact, he actually perfected the concept on my posterior, and I learned first-hand the promise of Scripture: Now no discipline for the moment seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them who are exercised thereby. June is the month of Father's Day, and with it, comes all sorts of memories of the times spent with our fathers. I had many wonderful

experiences with my dad, fishing, hunting, playing sports, working the land, including cutting wood, raising pigs and chickens, working on our orchards (cherry, peach and apple), and the many trips visiting the relatives who lived around the state. As I reflect back, I can appreciate the purpose of the discipline as I watched family members who lacked it and all the negative comments that were directed their way. In my heart of hearts, their behavior just didn't seem right. When I graduated from high school and joined the Marines, I learned again the value of the discipline of my upbringing, for I received far less discipline in boot camp than did many of my fellow marines. And when war finally came, the most earnest value of the discipline became self-evident. All this discipline history made me appreciate my Heavenly Father and His role in my life as reflected by David in Psalm 38:

O Lord, rebuke me not in your wrath; neither chasten me in your hot displeasure. For your arrows stick fast in me, and your hand presses me sore. There is no soundness in my flesh because of your anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities are gone over my head; as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before you: and my groaning is not hid from you. My heart panteth, my strength fails me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.

David would work through this disciplinary process with God, and later make a request of the Lord in Psalm 51:

Restore unto me the joy of my salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will be converted unto Thee. As I reflect this Father's Day on my earthly role of being a father, I hope my children, who are all grown, saw that my intentions were to work with God in molding them into His image and likeness to reflect His glory to a lackluster world in which they live. My children seem to be doing fine despite my many failed efforts.

To God be the glory, great things He has done!
Gordon

AVVA June 2018

By Kathy Driscoll

If you are on Facebook, you can join the AVVA Michigan closed group. Just send a Friend Request to Marilyn Lash and she will accept you as a member of the AVVA Michigan closed group. This is how our AVVA Michigan State Association communicates between the bi-monthly meetings. AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in May. Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Members planted flowers at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial and the VFW Post 423. Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, June 12th, VVA 310 needs our help! Please consider volunteering one or two hours assisting VVA 310 merchandise team!

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 Michigan State Association News

Election will be Sunday, June 10th at 10:30 am at Doubletree Hotel in Dearborn, MI.

Nominations for Michigan Association for 2018 – 2020

President: Kathy

Driscoll Chapter 310

Vice President: Penny Meinhardt Chapter 1083

Secretary: Bobbie Heindenrich Chapter 1083

Treasurer: Cecilia Essenmacher At Large Delegate

AVVA Michigan Association Challenge Coins \$10 donation.

Please contact Kathy Driscoll at 734-355-4897 or dkathyr16@gmail.com. This fundraiser will benefit AVVA Michigan Association. We sold 35 challenge coins at our May meeting. Thank you for supporting this AVVA Michigan Association Fundraiser.

AVVA Michigan State Convention is June 8, 9, 10 at Doubletree Hotel in Dearborn, MI.

AVVA Leadership Conference is July 24th – 28th at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel, Palm Springs, CA.

Fundraising Report

Fisher House Michigan

We donated \$3,000 to Fisher House Michigan. AVVA 310 members Carol Talbot, Jane Kinzinger, Shirley Hitte, Meni Draper, Kathy Driscoll, VVA 310 members Dave Draper, Tim Driscoll, Brian (Too Tall) and Brandon Hitte met Dan Patrick, Karen Kerry, Kathy Hay and Mark Lindke at the future building site at Ann Arbor Healthcare System site on May 7th. This brings our total donation to Fisher House Michigan

in 2017 – 2018 to \$8,000. We need fundraising ideas for Fisher House Michigan. We would like to raise another \$2,000 for



Fisher House Michigan. One idea is to have an Afternoon Tea. Please bring your fundraising ideas to our June meeting.

Save the Date!

Next meeting is Thursday, June 14th.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Watchfire

By Jane Kinzinger

A watchfire is described as a fire maintained during the night



by people keeping watch. Our Chapter's Watchfire was held the night before Memorial Day, and its purpose was to retire the many tattered flags in a respectful manner. Our Watchfire began about 6:00 pm, when members

and friends arrived at the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Veterans Memorial and roasted hot dogs over the wood fire started in two new 55-gallon drum fire containers that would later burn as many as 300 old flags collected and brought that night. Shortly after enjoying the hot dog "pot luck" supper, we began burning the flags, each retired in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. Many of the roughly 40 in attendance stood and dedicated their flags to a special person. This is a very moving and meaningful ceremony, in which we respectfully retire the flags and honorably remember someone who served or died in service to America.

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

– 10 June: Packaging Party, VFW Post 423, 5:30 pm.

– 10 June: AVVA Michigan Association Elections, Kathy Driscoll, AVVA 310, is running for President.

– 12 June: Merchandise Sales, VA Med Center, 3d Floor, Liberty building, 0800-1400 hours.

– 14 June: AVVA Meeting, VVA 310 Board Mtg, 1800 hours, VFW Post 423.

– 14 June: VVA 310 General Membership Meeting, 1900 hours, VFW Post 423.

Vietnam Veterans at Pioneer High School

By John Kinzinger

On May 31st, eight VVA 310 members did a talk for a group of history classes at Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor, MI. This is an annual three-

hour talk we do for the students, sharing our personal experiences and feelings about our service in Vietnam and after. The comments by the teacher, Brent Richards, who organizes this talk each year, tell how important it is that we take the time to do these talks. Thank you all who participated this year. Brent's comments follow below.

Gentlemen,

Thank you again for participating in our talk yesterday. And thank you for the impact you had on all of those in attendance. I explained to them that, for them to be in the presence of so many accomplished veterans from the same war, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

I hope the ovation at the end showed just how much the kids appreciated your presence. Please know that we are infinitely grateful that you took your time to speak with us. So much of what you said on that stage validates the history I had been teaching to them over the previous couple of weeks.

It was particularly moving to me in class today, as we debriefed, to hear a few students say they had come to the event thinking war veterans were "crazy warmonger killers" and yet walked away from that event realizing that veterans are just everyday people like the rest of us. I appreciate the fact that you guys brought that to the table and that students were open-minded enough to allow their feelings to change based on experience. Well done! Always grateful.

Thanks again!

Brent Richards

Ann Arbor Pioneer High School Social Studies Department

Memorial Day 2018

By John Kinzinger

Chapter 310's Memorial Day observance actually begins on the evening before. Watch Fire, started by Gary Lillie years ago, is when we honorably retire flags tattered and not worthy of being flown any longer. We had a group of about 40 of us there. We started the evening with a picnic meal together. Then, as the sun began to go down, we began our flag retirement. Actually, the real start of this event is by George Perrault, who all year long collects flags dropped off at the



Saline American Legion. This year, he had collected 12 large boxes of them. Others brought flags they had to retire also.

We retired 350 or so flags, each in memory of a deceased Veteran. This year, along with the 76 men on our Memorial, we also honored the deaths of our Iraq and Afghanistan men and women from Michigan. This annual event is always special. Thanks to Al Merritt, we had new burn barrels this year. Good job, Al. The next day was Memorial Day. Many in our Chapter members

made it to Saline for what was, I believe, our 30th annual Saline Memorial Day parade. We always receive wonderful applause of appreciation from the crowd as we march by. There was a special remembrance added this year to the great ceremony in the cemetery in Saline, which Tim Driscoll organizes with great skill. This year, a Submarine Historical Group was there to honor all the crew members lost as their boat sank with them in it. The name of the sub was read, along with the date of the sinking and the number who perished in each instance. As that was read, a bell was rung for each boat crew. They started in World War I and went through to the most recent occurrences. The numbers lost in each were quite large. It was a moving addition to that ceremony.

Then, many of us went over to our Vietnam Veterans Memorial for our 27th annual observance there. We have certain things we do every year, including the reading of all the names on our Memorial, the reading of Paul Dumsch's poem "I Knew Them All," the recognition of family members of those listed on



our Memorial, the reading of the words on the plaque on the Memorial, and the dedication of the bricks of members in-good-standing who have passed in the last year. Each year we have a keynote

speaker. This year we were honored to have Phillip Pham, a Vietnamese whose family escaped Vietnam as Saigon fell. His speech was most moving. His Christian beliefs were



wonderfully evident. His pride of being an American was warmly obvious. The story of his father's heroics to save his family and fifty others by stealing a C-130 and escaping to Singapore was one for a great movie. Phillip attended our previous VVA310 Chapter meeting and after that, we invited him to speak at our Memorial. There were many comments to me about how his talk was one of the best we have ever had at our Memorial. Phillip was four months old when his family escaped. He grew up with some guilt about certain things, and he asked for forgiveness. Gordon Moore, in his benediction, made it a point that he was forgiven. That was a most moving moment. If you were not there, you could not appreciate that moment and his speech.

We are fortunate that Phillip's sister videotaped the event. If you would like to view and hear his talk, please go to the following Web address: <https://youtu.be/OXxfQh-K6FtA>. And we were most fortunate to have his beautiful family in atten-

dance too. They live in Dexter and most likely would not be here had it not been for the courage of his father, who was a pilot in the South Vietnamese Air Force. Take a moment and listen to his speech. The weather was beautiful. The Memorial had never looked better. That is thanks to Al Merritt and all his crew and AVVA folks. If you have not visited the Memorial in a while, you really should soon. There have been many changes to the approach; a parking area has been added; many changes with new cement works to make it easier to mow and many more improvements. As the Memorial Chairman, I sincerely thank every one of you who get out there and work to keep our Memorial looking wonderful. It is a statement of our feelings for our brothers listed on our Memorial and their sacrifices. We all should be so very proud of our Chapter, our Memorial, and all we do in our community. Bless you all. John K

[The following was written by an old friend, and VVA Chapter 310 past President, not long before he passed away a few years back. I will never forget him and the anguish I know he went through all those years caused by an accident he was involved in Vietnam. Paul Dumsch, Peace has come to you].

02 June
Then she was gone,
I was left alone
With my thoughts.

"I'll be thinking about you,"
Cheryl said,
And she will.

Thirty one years ago
I hit this mine.
I relive it every day.

Three wounded and three dead.
I can't or won't let it go,
It's impossible to forget.
(or forgive)

Just as I hit the mine,
I'm dancing on one
On and off the edge.

I want to fire
Up the bike
But my back won't let me.

Hank called last night.
He remembers with me
And worries for me.

I talked with Tom.

Chappy will keep me
In his Prayers.

I'll get through another year.

Paul Stewart Dumsch, 2000

Ask / Receive

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Most of the blessings that I received in my life came to me because I asked for them. Once I was walking with a group of friends in a mountain in California. I was part of a walking club, and we would meet every Monday for a long walk. One day we went by a farm, and there were horses nearby. I called one of the horses, very softly and quietly, but he heard me. And also softly, he approached me and allowed me to touch him.

My friends were intrigued as to why to horse had approached me. They asked, "How did you do that?" And I replied, "I asked. . . ." So it is with many things in life. There is magic in asking.

Veterans in Need

The point of this note is to mention that there are many Veterans who

could use some help. And yet, they may find it difficult to ask. It is considered shameful to be needy and to ask. But the universe is filled with abundant blessings, and it is a blessing to receive.

EMU Welcomes Veterans

Lt.. Col. Charles S. Kettles, Military Veteran Services Resource Center
<https://www.emich.edu/veterans/>

Eastern Michigan University (EMU) is ranked 3rd in the United States among the top Military and Veteran Friendly® Universities by GI Jobs® Magazine. The knowledgeable staff at the Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles Military and Veteran Services Resource Center takes pride in helping military and veteran students and their spouses and dependents achieve their educational goals. EMU Military and Veteran Services was also awarded the Gold Standard by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for 2017.

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May 2018, AVVA Check Presentation to Fisher House, Michigan

If You Wish Contact Us

Website: <http://vva310.org/>
President: Jon Luker
Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt
Secretary: Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
Membership: Vance McCrumb
Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Chapter Mailing Address:
VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221
Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday of the Month, 1900 hours.
MEETING LOCATION: V.F.W. Post 423
3230 S. Wanger RD, Ann Arbor MI. 48103

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Please Forward. Thank You!