

310 Dispatch



*Together We Make
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles
Chapter 310*



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

Oct. 2020
Washtenaw Co.,
Michigan



Editor's Note: The fall season has arrived. And with it, our awareness that Michigan is a great place to live. The harvest season, the abundance of all good things that our planet offers us, and the generous climate—all that reminds us of blessings and joy. May we soon find better days of health and prosperity. Be well!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

What's New . . .

President's Message	2
Chaplain's Corner	2
VVA 310 Chapter	2
Meeting Minutes	2
Approved 10 September 2020	4
Courtesy for Township Employees is Essential: A Request	5
Honoring October Anniversaries on the Wall	5
AVVA Newsletter October 2020	7
Dispatch Recipients	10
Current Events	10
Jocosity	11
Members Visited in Florida	11
Volunteers to Place Crosses	11

President's Message

By Stan Harrison

It is political season, and politics seems to be everywhere. The Vietnam Veterans of America, as an organization, does not endorse candidates or involve itself in electoral campaigns. Our Chapter bylaws forbid endorsing candidates. We meet to honor and support veterans in general and Vietnam veterans in particular. Our motto is "NEVER AGAIN SHALL A VET COMING HOME FROM BATTLE BE MADE TO FEEL ALONE AND UNAPPRECIATED." Our purpose binds us together. We each have our own opinions politically, but we won't let our opinions divide us in the pursuit of our cause. VVA 310 meetings are OFF LIMITS to partisan politics.

In September -

- Our riding mower conked out, but members and friends stepped up with donations, so the Memorial Committee was able to purchase a new one.
- We completed our veteran suicide awareness project, in which we placed 22 crosses a day to symbolize the number of veterans we lose each month.
- Progress was made on the building of the new shed at the Memorial. Though we still have a long way to go to cover the cost, donations are coming in at an encouraging rate.
- We were able to have a merchandise sale under our big tent at Ann Arbor Arms.

All of these projects required volunteers and/or

donations to be successful. Thanks to all who pitched in. Once again members and friends answered the call.

Be proud.

Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Veterans either are assigned to war or in support of those who go to war. As such, both groups are serving a need that our nation imposes on our families and us. The country called, and we answered in times of crisis. Our nation is now in a time of crisis here at home from those who would make radical changes in the country through various means: peaceful protests, rioting, looting, killing, and disruption. We look around and see ground swells of people stepping up to bring peace to chaos both from veterans and non-veterans alike. Some of the confusion reminds me of what I saw in Vietnam, where atrocities abounded.

It is once again time to step up to the nation's call. There are several ways to do this. Peaceful support of those assigned the task of maintaining stability in society is the right starting place. Another means will soon be upon us in November, at the voting booth or through absentee ballots. The task seems daunting as we sort through fiction to find truth in the election process.

As daunting as the task seems, I remain confident of one truth: God promotes and demotes leaders, and His eyes go to and fro throughout the earth to support



those who give their hearts to Him. As in times of old, many have the name of God close to their lips but far from their hearts,

as seen through their actions. I have watched our VVA and other veteran's groups struggle with finding normalcy and truth in the political process. God sees and judges the heart, and if we seek His face, he will bring peace and wisdom to know whom to vote for in these turbulent times. Let us seek His face together as we move forward to address the important issues of our nation, and by extension, the world. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May he lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace, Gordon



VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting

Minutes

10 September 2020

Call to Order by President Harrison at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Robert 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! One person attended via Zoom.

New Members: None.

Guests: None

Motion to approve the August Minutes by Merritt/Bull. Approved.

President's Report:

- Many things going on, mostly being done by the Memorial Committee. They will report on all of that later.
- At the board meeting we voted to create a strategic plan that would take effect on 1 March 2021.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne. \$470 receipts this month. We had lots of large transactions related to the shed. We have spent \$9,600 on the shed so far. We will submit a request for reimbursement from the Ann Arbor Community Fund Foundation through Ypsilanti Township. There is a shed funding project underway. Some checks are being sent directly to the Chapter and some donations are being made through the GoFundMe website.

AVVA Report: Their report is printed in the Dispatch.

Food Pantry: No report.

Merchandise Report: Harrison: On 26 September, Ann Arbor Arms is going to have an open house from 0900 to 1500. Volunteers are needed. We will begin to set up at

0700.

Washtenaw County Council of

Veterans: Harrison. I attended the meeting. We talked about some scholarship money being available for children.

Michigan State Council: Luker.

The next meeting is set for 27 September in Holly.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt

The lawnmower blew its crankshaft seal. The mower is not worth repairing. Enough donations have been received to pay for a new riding lawnmower. Doan Construction did a great job doing concrete for the Kettles bench, the backside of the Memorial and for the kneeling soldier. They are standing by to do the foundation for the shed when the time comes. DTE announced that they will install a transformer during the week of 14 September. Al Walk found a contractor who gave us a great price for doing the underground plumbing to get water to the shed. Al is donating his labor to do all the plumbing work inside the shed.

The committee has also organized the now annual Veterans Suicide Prevention Demonstration which places 22 crosses every day of the month of September. The committee is also working with Fowlerville Baptist Church and Veterans Refuge Network to build replacement crosses.

Website: McCrumb. The website is working and has had 216,000 hits.

Membership: The official number is now 207.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. Although VA says you can now get your flu shot, you still can't get it at the VA. You must show your VA card at most

pharmacies to get a free flu shot. Remember to ask for the senior flue shot, if you qualify.

VAAHS: Kinzinger. Nothing will be going on until they open up. They are starting to let a few volunteers return to work.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Kinzinger, seconded by Rivers to sell the dog tag machine to the Honor Guard for \$750.

Motion failed.

Motion by Kinzinger, seconded by Throneberry to give the dog tag machine to the Honor Guard. Approved.

Good of the Order:

Wilson: Veterans Voice of America is an organization started by younger VVA employees (inspired by President John Rowan) that will operate the Household Goods program. President Rowan is convinced that younger veterans do not want to join VVA.

Wilson: The grand opening of the Fisher House has not been scheduled. Fisher House Ann Arbor does not want us to donate dinners anymore, even though the house is being used regularly.

McCrumb: John K and I visited Mrs. Kettles. She'll be 90 on 3 November. She looked good and was glad to have us visit.

Chief: Happy 73rd birthday to the Air Force

Bull: The organizations that use the VFW 423 hall are having another open house on 24 October. There will be a couple service officers there to help with claims and at least one Navigator from Community Mental Health. The hours for this one are 10 to 1700 because it is getting dark earlier.

Bull: American Legion Post 46 is hosting a drive-through food drive

here on 3 October from 0900 to 1400. We are accepting toiletries, such as the sample sized ones you might get from Kroger or a dollar store, as well as canned or boxed food.

Wilson: I soon will have some cloth face masks for sale for \$2 that say, "Agent Orange Next Generation."

Draper: There are two dumpsters near the front gate that were donated by a local area church. I cleaned and painted them. They are a place for people to put flags that need to be retired. The local boy scout troop said they would conduct flag retirement ceremonies as needed.

Kinzinger: WACU is hosting a packing party at 1000 on 12 September. The packages will go to local veterans. Then, on 1 November, there will be another packing party. This one will begin at 1500 and will be the usual VVA Christmas packing party. This time, WACU will fund it, including the postage.

Bull: Based on feedback I've received, the "Cans for Troops" program has been changed to benefit the Fisher House Ann Arbor. We've donated \$400 of gift cards to them, so far.

Throneberry: Veterans Radio will hold a live "There I was" program via telephone on 20 September from 1700 to 1800. This time, the theme will be "Why I joined the military." The show will be available for podcast by 1700 on Monday.

Bourne: I still have several food cards from Holidays.

Bourne: When we passed the hat, we collected \$440 toward buying the new lawnmower.

Hall: I'd like to give a shout out

to American Legion Post 46 for buying steak dinners for all the patients at the Ann Arbor VA for POW-MIA day.

Flag Salute

Closing Prayer Bob Bull

Meeting Adjourned at 1955 hrs.

Chapter Breakfast on Friday, 9 October at 0900: : Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Approved 10 September 2020

The Mission of the Memorial Maintenance Committee is to encourage respect and reverence for Washtenaw County's fallen Vietnam Veterans through the following means:

1. Maintain and improve the Memorial and the surrounding grounds
2. Ensure that services and other events are conducted with respect and without damage to the Memorial or grounds

The Goal: The Memorial and grounds will perpetually be clean, well-kept and serene.

The Measure of Success: The grounds will be inspected by at least one Chapter Officer on an unannounced basis more than 15 times a year. The inspections will reveal that there is no trash, the lawn and other vegetation are well maintained, and that physical property is in good repair. The grounds will also be inspected within two days after any significant event.

An annual maintenance plan is developed that shows when routine maintenance will be performed and by whom. The

plan will include both paid and volunteer duties. The plan will be implemented as planned except when interrupted by weather or illness.

In addition, comments from the public, especially those from the families of the people named on the wall, will be favorable.

Resources Provided: The Chapter will maintain a restricted account for funding Memorial Maintenance and Improvement. The Chapter will contribute general funds to the Memorial Maintenance Restricted Fund on an annual basis in an amount determined after the Finance Committee and the Memorial Maintenance Committee discuss the Memorial Committee's tactical plan for the following fiscal year.

The funding provided shall be sufficient to maintain necessary equipment including a riding mower, a trailer, a self-propelled walk-behind mower, a weed whip, a leaf blower, a generator and accessories.

Authority Granted: The Chair of the Memorial Maintenance Committee is authorized to sign contracts for Memorial maintenance and improvement as outlined in the Committee's annual tactical plan as budgeted. The chair is also allowed to disperse funds from the Memorial Maintenance Restricted account for budgeted expenses necessary to accomplish the above described mission.

The Chair of the Memorial Maintenance Committee has supervisory authority over all volunteer individuals and organizations that support Memorial Maintenance.

The Memorial Maintenance Committee makes all final

decisions concerning the Memorial, its use, landscaping and so forth within budget parameters. Limitations Imposed: No plaque or other commemorative device may be placed for any business nor for any person who is not a Vietnam Era Veteran or AVVA Member or Friend. Nor may such a device be placed for a living person.



Courtesy for Township Employees is Essential: A Request

By Al Merritt and Jon Luker

An incident occurred at the Memorial that makes it necessary to remind readers of the importance our Chapter places on our relationship with Ypsilanti Township and its employees. The bottom line is that, if there is ever anything you don't like about the Memorial, what goes on at the Memorial, or if there is anything about the Memorial that distresses you in any way, there are only two people in the world you need to talk to about it: Al Merritt or Jon Luker. They are in contact with anybody else who has anything to do with how things work at the Memorial. If the problem needs to be fixed, Al and Jon know whom to contact to get that problem solved. Ypsilanti Township has bent over backwards to accommodate VVA 310 and the Washtenaw County

Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Even though we have occupied a bit more land than the lease calls for, and even though we have increased the Township's workload—both administratively and by asking more of their grounds crews than originally expected—the Township continues to treat us and our Memorial as a priority. They honor us and our fallen with respect, with prompt responses, and with praise for our work at the Memorial. The very least we can do in return is to make sure we treat the Township employees with the courtesy and respect they deserve.

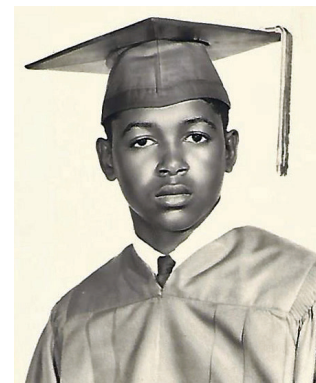
One person who claimed to be a Township resident recently complained to one of the grounds crew managers about the pile of brush Team One placed out by the curb near the Memorial grounds. It is one thing to complain, but the resident acted as if the grounds crew was an indentured servant with nothing better to do than to respond instantly to the resident's complaint. That interaction jeopardized the great working relationship the Memorial Maintenance Committee has with the Township and its employees. It is okay to be disappointed or upset about something happening at the Memorial, but it is best if you address the correct people with your issue rather than letting your emotions lead you to take it out on an innocent party.

We were the problem in that case, not the Township. If anyone who reads this ever has a problem with anything about the Memorial, the Township is not to blame. The problem belongs to Al Merritt, who is in charge of the Memorial Maintenance Committee, or to

Jon Luker, who most likely caused the problem. Speak to us about your issue and let us figure out how to deal with it. We will get the job done without jeopardizing our relationship with one of the Chapter's best long-term partners. You may text or phone Al Merritt or Jon Luker or email them. Al Merritt's phone and email are (734) 904-4499 and harleyman_1948@comcast.net. Jon Luker's phone and email are (734) 260-2211 and JonLuker9@outlook.com. Again, we appreciate your passion and concern for the Memorial, but please let us deal with whatever issues you may have.

Honoring October Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Donald Sylvester Moses was born on June 20, 1947. Specialist 4 Moses began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province,



South Vietnam on April 25, 1967 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 4th

Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade. Donald was killed on October 25, 1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds. Donald Sylvester Moses lived 20 years, 4 months and 13 days. He is resting in Magnolia Baptist Church Cemetery in Newellton, Louisiana. Donald'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 28E Line 069.

___+++___

Corporal Eugene Ravn Suarez was born on December 21, 1946 to Mr. Rafael P. and Mrs. Helen Suarez of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also had a paper route with the Ann Arbor Newspaper. He attended Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti, Michigan before entering the Army on October 4, 1967.

Corporal Suarez began his tour of duty in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on May 24, 1968 serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Eugene died on October 1, 1968 as a result of enemy small arms fire. He was posthumously promoted to Corporal and received the Bronze Star Medal.

Eugene Ravn Suarez is survived by his mother, three brothers and six sisters. He lived 19 years, 9 months and 10 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene's name



is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington,

DC on Panel 42W Line 060.

___+++___

___+++___

Captain David Raymond Wagener was born on June 22, 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Wagener of Saline, Michigan. David is a 1957 graduate of Saline High School where he was an honor student, an out-standing athlete lettering in football, basketball and track. He also attended the University of Michigan prior to enlisting in the Air Force in 1959. He also attended the University of Delaware. David received his Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San



Antonio, Texas and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He attended Aviation Cadet

Training at Harlingen Air Force Base in Texas. He received his pilot flying wings at Williams Air Base, Chandler, Arizona.

Captain Wagener began his tour of duty in Udorn, Thailand serving with the 602nd Fighter Squadron, 14th Air Commando Wing, 7th Air Force. According to a posting from a colleague, Ira Cooperman, "Dave Wagener was a friend and a brave 'Sandy' pilot. While stationed at Udorn RTAFB in 1966, he flew 'cover' for helicopter missions attempting to rescue downed American pilots in Laos, as well as to support friendly forces on the ground in Laos. It was from one of those missions that he did not return." On October 20, 1966, Captain Wagener was shot down and killed about 20 miles north of the DMZ in Quang Binh Province.

His body was not recovered.

David Raymond Wagener finally came home on December 5, 1997 when his remains were discovered. David is survived by his wife, mother and two brothers. He lived 27 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, Section 6, Site 595. David's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township in two locations. The first location is on the bench in front of the Memorial listed with two other men listed as MIA. The second location is on the Vietnam Memorial under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 092.

___+++___

Specialist 4 Charles Wesley Bird was born on January 16, 1943 in Belle, West Virginia. He is a 1961 graduate of Dupont High School in Belle, West Virginia. Charles worked for Ford Motor Company at the Rawsonville Plant and was married three months before entering the Army on October 24, 1966. He lived in Ypsilanti residing with his wife's parents until his induction.

Specialist 4 Bird began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on April 17, 1967



servicing with D Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Charles died as a result of enemy small arms

fire on October 14, 1967. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. Charles Wesley Bird is survived by his wife and a brother and several sisters. He lived for 24 years, 8 months and 28 days. He is resting in Montgomery Memorial Park in Fayette, West Virginia. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Charles' name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 27E Line 106.

___+++___

Captain Carl Robert Arvin was born on January 19, 1943 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Arvin. C. Robert Arvin graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1961 where he excelled as a straight-"A" student, and was named as Valedictorian. Captain Arvin excelled in athletics during High School playing on the varsity football and wrestling teams. In 1961, he wrestled his way to a State high school wrestling championship. During his junior year of High School, Carl earned a High School Honors Science Institute scholarship of \$100. He was also Student Council President, and President of his class of 1961. Carl Robert Arvin was accepted to the United



States Military Academy at West Point in 1961 as a member of the Corps of Cadets of 1965 where he continued to achieve academic and

athletic recognition. In recognition of his achievements, C. Robert Arvin was appointed as the highest ranking cadet in the Corps' chain of command with the title of First Captain and Brigade Commander. Carl Arvin received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in 1965 graduating as the top cadet of 2,770 in the Corps of Cadets. First Lieutenant Arvin began his tour in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on May 29, 1967 serving with Advisory Team 162, 7th ARVN Airborne Battalion, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). According to a note on the Virtual Wall, "First Lieutenant Arvin received two awards of the Silver Star Medal, the first for an action on September 5, 1967 when the 7th Vietnamese Airborne Battalion...came under intense mortar and small arms fire. Though wounded, Arvin disregarded the fierce fire and was leading his element forward to engage the enemy when his radio operator was also wounded. Arvin dragged the soldier to safety and, undaunted by the perilous circumstances, returned to direct repeated helicopter gunship strikes. He refused his own medical evacuation until the objective was secure and the mission complete.

___+++___

Staff Sergeant Rodger Edson Terwilliger was born on January 19, 1942 to Mr. and Mrs. Orin S. Terwilliger. Rodger attended Adams Elementary and Ypsilanti High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, but graduated from Littleton High School in Littleton, Colorado. He



Arvin Aircraft, Colorado before entering the Army in 1961. Sergeant Terwilliger began his tour of duty in South Vietnam

on February 4, 1966 serving as an Intelligence Analyst with the 246th Psychological Operations Company, 6th Psychological Operations Battalion, United States of Army Republic of Vietnam Special Troops, Army Headquarters Area Command. Rodger was killed on October 15, 1966 when the vehicle he was riding struck a mine.

Rodger Edson Terwilliger is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, his father and his step-mother, a brother, six step-brothers, and four step-sisters. He lived 24 years, 8 months and 26 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 13, Site 16284. Rodger's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 078.

AVVA Newsletter October 2020

By Kathy Driscoll

I hope everyone is feeling well, wearing a mask, and staying socially distanced, as we all help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus in Michigan. This

is the only way we can ensure our grandchildren and great-grandchildren complete the 2020-2021 school year. All of Michigan students are looking forward to this school year. Hopefully all can complete this school year successfully.

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.

We had a Zoom meeting on September 10th. Six members attended. Thank you, Bonnie, Jane, Kate, Meni and Shirley for attending. I hope more of our members attend our October 8th meeting via zoom. Please look for my email with the zoom link for the October 8th meeting.

Service Project Fundraising Agent Orange Face Masks

Birth Defects Research for Children have Face Masks for a \$10 donation. Please contact me to order one. Please make all checks payable to Birth Defects Research for Children.

Please review their webpage: www.birthdefects.org for more information.



Since we will not have a bucket

raffle this fall, please consider donating to the **"Fisher House Michigan 2020 Donors to give \$20 this year Fundraiser."** Please make your \$20 donation in honor of AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310.

Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor

- **Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor is looking to connect with 2020 donors to give \$20.00.** Please consider helping Kate Melcher by donating \$20.00 to Fisher House Michigan.

https://www.fisherhousemichigan.org/news/20for2020?blm_aid=919575

Kate Melcher sent this request: "Fisher House Michigan has been hard at work, connecting Veteran families with their hospitalized loved ones. In fact, since the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House opened on June 1, 2020, over 140 families have found peace and comfort there.

Our partnership with the VA means that we have the privilege of providing the comforts of a well-stocked kitchen, while privately raising funds and awareness to build a Fisher House in Detroit. As you can see, **the mission continues**, and we need your help now more than ever. With your [donation today](#), you can provide a silver lining to a family enduring the stress of a medical crisis. It's that easy to make a difference today... because a **family's love** is good medicine.

Connecting two thousand twenty donors with the Fisher House mission is no small task, so we're incredibly grateful to have friends helping us promote the \$20 for 2020 campaign."

Kate Melcher, Director, Fisher

House Michigan

- Fisher House Michigan is looking to raise \$6,000 for a Golf Cart. Please consider donating to their cause. Donations up to \$6,000 will be matched by "Tee It Up For The Troops."

https://givebutter.com/golfcart?blm_aid=70609921

Kate Melcher sent this request: "Gifts in excess of \$6000 will allow us to customize the cart and add amenities like covers, doors, heat, and air conditioning. Donate by September 30, 2020 so we can get our custom cart built!"

Legislation Action! Please take action and support Tester/ Harder Amendment in the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

September 23, 2020

The House and Senate Armed Services committee will soon meet to reconcile legislative differences in the House (H.R. 6395) and Senate (S.4049) version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) recently passed in both chambers.

Vietnam Veterans of America joins Congressman Josh Harder (D-10th-CA) in his push to conferees--the Honorable Adam Smith, Chairman, Armed Services Committee; Mac Thornberry, Ranking member, House Armed Services Committee; Senator James Inhofe, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee; and Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee--to retain the bipartisan Harder/Tester amendment that would add three diseases, bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism as service-connected conditions.

Each of these diseases has met the scientific threshold of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, to be credibly linked to Agent Orange. What remains is the addition of these conditions to the list of Agent Orange-presumptive diseases.

Our Vietnam veterans should not have to wait any longer for the recognition they deserve and the benefits they are owed. Ensuring this bipartisan and bicameral amendment remains in the final NDAA bill will mean that thousands of veterans will finally get the support they need for putting on the uniform and honorably defending this great nation. VVA thanks Congressman Harder for his leadership on this issue. Please use the prepared letter on the site and contact your Representative NOW to request their support for the bipartisan Harder/Tester amendment to end the wait for many of our nation's Vietnam veterans, so they can receive their disability benefits for their service and sacrifice to our great nation.. Also follow-up with a call to your members office.

Vietnam Veterans of America is A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

www.vva.org

<https://vva.org/what-we-do/veterans-advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

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

As of today, Sunday, August 23, 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. Our AVVA 310 has widows, whose Veteran husbands suffered and died from Liver Cancer. Please consider writing your Representative to support this bill in honor and memory of them. You can use this link from DAV to send your congressional representative a letter to support this bill. Click on the Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other Toxic Exposures link on the right then scroll down to H.R. 2568, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act and click on the "Write" button.

<https://dav.quorum.us>

This DAV webpage has links to contact our US Congressional Representatives for other Veteran concerns, which include:

- Appeals, benefits and Claims
- Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other Toxic Exposures
- Caregiver
- Education and Employment
- Healthcare
- Homeless Veterans
- Survivor Benefits and Cemeteries
- Women Veterans

Please know that all of these Legislative Campaigns need our support. Please select all and hopefully Congress will recognize that the cost of war includes supporting Veterans education, employment, healthcare, caregivers, and especially our "Women Veterans."

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 50 bracelets left. Selling all 50 bracelets will raise \$250 to benefit Fisher House Michigan.



No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:

- Our "2020 No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraiser" raised \$403.00. Thank you to everyone who donated. This fundraiser benefitted our Operating and Special Projects Funds. We plan to have our "2021 No Bake Bakeless Sale Fundraiser" in January 2021.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2020 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,283.25. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan cancelled 2020 Girls State.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

I was unable to attend the AVVA Michigan State Association meeting held on September 27th. No Zoom meeting was setup.

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/associates/>

AVVA National

- 2020 – Leadership Conference – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, Ohio. Cancelled.
- 2021- National Convention – Sheraton Greensboro At Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC
- 2022 – Leadership Conference

- Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC
- 2023 - National Convention - Orlando, FL

WCCV

I was unable to attend the WCCV meeting via Zoom as I did not get back for the Ann Arbor VA with Tim until after 7:30 pm.

Upcoming Events!

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 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
Past President, AVVA Michigan Association - dkathyr16@gmail.com - 734-355-4897.

Dispatch Recipients

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. If a VVA 310 member or others receiving the Dispatch via USPS desire to assist with the printing cost, a suggested donation would be: one year at \$12.00, two years at \$22.00, and three years at \$30.00.

Payment can be made payable to VVA 310 and mailed to P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221 indicating Dispatch on the memo line.

All other donations may be made payable to VVA 310 at the same mailing address by indicating Donation on the memo line.

RECIPIENTS

- George F Boone ~ October 2021
- Berryman Bourne ~ August 2023
- Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023
- Stan and Dawn Clark ~ October 2020
- Tim Clarke ~ March 2022
- Joseph Flint ~ January 2021
- Edward Fuller ~ September 2023
- Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021
- Ralph Henry ~ November 2020
- Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024
- Darlene Imus ~ July 2024
- Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2021
- Mary Kate Kirkpatrick ~ September 2021
- Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022
- Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of Lavern Lamey* ~ July 2021
- David Marshall ~ June 2022
- Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021
- Del 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 2023

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

- VVA 310 News Flash
- UPCOMING
- 08 Oct: 1730 VVA Board Mtg, 1900 VVA General Meeting
- 08 Oct: 1800 AVVA Zoom meeting
- 09 Oct: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs
- 13 Oct: U.S. Navy Birthday (1775)
- 19 Oct: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, Location TBD
- 28 Oct: Veterans Radio "There I Was" Open Mic via telephone 1700 - 1800 (TBD).
- 01 Nov: VVA 310 Pre-Christmas Packing Party 1500 hrs at VFW. No potluck.
- 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.
- Of Interest to Members
- 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.



Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

"I can hear just fine!"

Three retirees, each with some hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other,

"Windy, isn't it?"

"No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday"

And the third man chimed in:

"So am I. Let's have a beer."

Members Visited in Florida

By John Kinzinger

Jane and I visited the Kwiecinskis recently at their Sebastian, Florida, beautifully landscaped home. That is on the Atlantic side of the state, south of Melbourne. Bob enjoys doing the landscaping.



For you newer members, Bob is a past President of Chapter 310 and past Chapter Member of the Year. And Sharon was active with the Chapter Friends group. They moved down to Florida about six years ago, and they love it. Sharon and Bob are excellent hosts. Bob and I went fishing nearby. We did not catch anything worthy of bringing home for dinner—so we had steak: not a bad alternative.

Of course, we thoroughly enjoyed some of Sharon's fabulous creations for meals and dessert. Their pool is nice too. We just relaxed and caught up on what each of us has been doing and planning.

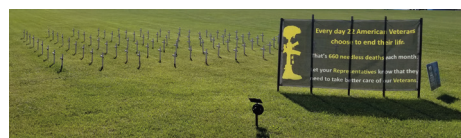
"Bob and Sharon, thank you for such a nice time." They expect to be coming up to Michigan for the Christmas holidays. Jane took this selfie right before we left.

Volunteers to Place Crosses

By Jon Luker

The Veteran Suicide Prevention Demonstration is moving to Howell, Michigan. The Demonstration will be on display at American Legion Post 141 at the corner of M-59 and Grand River Ave. This project is all thanks to members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310.

The Memorial Maintenance Committee will be looking for volunteers to help place the crosses. Volunteers can choose to work one day or more. There is no cost. Just show up and help with the work of placing 22 crosses—that's it! There will be a person on site with crosses and tools, guiding volunteers through the process. The photo depicts the



demonstration after day four at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center. If you would like to participate in this project, please [click here](#)

or call me for more information at 734-260-2211. If you call my phone, and your number is not in my contacts, please leave a voicemail so I'll know you are not calling to give me one last chance to buy an extended warranty on my 14-year-old car.

Mystery Member

This mystery member is a current member of VVA 310. See if you can guess who this person is, and consider sending us an early picture of you, for others to guess.



Twenty-Two per Day



May each cross be a hope and a prayer that our fellow veterans will find solace and comfort in our community for prosperity and health. Be well, All!

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: Stan Harrison

Vice President: Marv Rivers

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb

Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke

Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore

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

October 2020

Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

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

Please Forward. Thank You!