

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*



Dec. 2020
Washtenaw Co.,
Michigan



Editor's Note: Born in another country, I have come to admire the splendor of the United States of America. It is a nation of large gestures of grandeur and titanic challenges. Largesse beyond measure coupled with heroic dedication to the common good: America surprises and dazzles. But for hope, the world looks at America. From the United States, nations of the world have come to expect greatness and generosity. May this greatness be preserved.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message

By Stan Harrison



December ushers in the traditional season of giving. Scripture informs us that "it is more blessed to give than

to receive". I have seen the truth of that first hand lately. Whether it was packing boxes for our troops overseas, taking gift cards to Fisher House, or providing Thanksgiving dinner to the residents at Dawn Farm, my heart swelled with the warm feeling of doing a good deed. I was privileged to represent you at these and other functions but you should feel the same satisfaction because it was VVA 310 that made them happen. In October we held an event honoring LTC Charles S. Kettles. The weather was bad but the turn out was good. The Lt. Col.'s wife Ann was there and was reported to have enjoyed it very much. Sadly, she passed away a short time later. That got me to thinking. We all took pride in LTC Kettles' association with us. Recognizing him again brought honor to our Chapter and pride to his family. Surely, it would be appropriate for us to honor other highly decorated Chapter members. I know that we have at least two members that have been awarded a Silver Star. So what I am asking you to do is if you received a Silver Star (or DSC/ Navy Cross/Air force Cross etc) to

make it known to me or any other Chapter officer. Now is not the time for modesty. Stay safe. Be proud.

Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

The year 2020 has been a different kind of year, with all the restrictions in place during the holidays, when so many celebrate with family and friends. I see a silver lining in this, as I have extra time to focus on the real meaning of the holiday that I am celebrating.



Christmas has always been special to my family, both growing up and with Valarie and the children, whether in California, Virginia, or

here at home in Michigan. Reading the account of Jesus' birth and of all that happened around it brings back so many special topics: the annunciation to Mary, the Wise Men, the shepherds in the field, the way Joseph stayed strong and compassionate, Elizabeth and Zacharias, the additional tax imposed by Caesar, which required Mary and Joseph to be where they needed to be for the birth of Christ, Simeon and Anna seeing the fulfillment of prophecy and the joy of welcoming the Savior into the world . . . all bringing together the fulfillment of thousands of years of prophecy at just the right moment in human history as recorded in Galatians:

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (Gal. 4:1-6 New King James Version)

The greatest present to me this Christmas season is knowing that all the history and all the people involved in bringing Christ to this earth as a Savior were just at the right moment of time in history with results that continue reaching into the future and include all of us whom God has called into a life of faith. I shout with the angels on high, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased" (Luke 2:14).

May you bask in His gift of a Savior today and beyond, until you are called home to dwell in His marvelous presence Face to Face. Peace be upon you, Gordon, a servant of the One who dwells on High.

Dawn Farm Thanksgiving

By John Kinzinger

Our VVA 310 Chapter provided the Thanksgiving dinner for the 35 clients and five staff members at Dawn Farm (highly recognized drug and alcohol rehabilitation program) in Ypsilanti. This was our 33rd year of helping out with their dinner.



This year, Roy and Bonnie Hall, Tom and Vicki Stempky, and Jane and I met at the South Maple Kroger in Ann Arbor for our annual dinner shopping. We had great fun going around the store, picking special items for their meal. They raise turkeys; so, instead of turkey, we bought about 35 pounds of ham. Our total purchase was almost \$400.

Over the years, we have received Kroger-discount support for our purchases. Due to Covid-19, the Kroger Division Officer did not process my letter. I had followed their donation letter request process. Kroger employees at their General Office work from home, and their mail processing failed to get our request to the correct person.

Anyway, I made some calls and received a call back from the Kroger Community Relations Director, apologizing. I called too

close to the purchase date, and they were not able to send me a gift card. She was very nice and offered to mail us a gift card for future use. I explained that we just gave Fisher House \$2500 in \$50 gift cards for the use by Fisher House to buy needed food for those staying there. By the time we finished our call, she said she would send us some gift cards to pass on to Fisher House. Two days ago, I received ten \$50 gift cards. The next day, I took the gift cards to Fisher House. That was nice of Kroger. As a regular shopper there, I felt very good about them. And Dawn Farm had a very nice Thanksgiving dinner from VVA 310.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

12 November 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! Three people attended via Zoom.

New Members: None.

Guests: Bruce Freimark, VVA VSO at AAVAHS is now available for filing claims and answering your questions about VA benefits. His office is the first one you come to

in the Veterans Service Officers wing on the first floor in the new part of the building. You may also reach him by text or cell at 810-241-0994 or by email at Bruce.Freimark.VSO@gmail.com. Bruce is also the Post Commander at the Holly American Legion Post 149 and the Region 6 Coordinator for the Buddy-to-Buddy program.
Motion to approve the October Minutes as published in the Dispatch. Bull/St Antoine. Approved.

President's Report:

We helped put up flags along Michigan Ave in Saline for Veterans Day. We dedicated the Kettles Memorial Bench at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We sang happy birthday to Ann Kettles (Chuck's wife) at the dedication. Ann passed away less than a week later. Ann and her family were pleased with the bench design and location. We also had a packing party for deployed troops. We already received a thank you note that is being circulated. The units that use the VFW Post held another open house. And, the committee that handles the fund formerly known as the VAMC fund bought 50 Kroger gift cards which were given to Fisher House to support families of hospitalized veterans. The President asked Bob Bull to report on the open house and the resource center operations. Bull reports that we have had a few people stop by at the VWF open house. Many are members of the organizations that use the building but there are others who came in after seeing the signs on the road. Either way, plenty of services were available and used by those who attended. On Wednesday and Saturday each week, we open

the building to all veterans. Our primary goal is to make sure that veterans who need something have somewhere they can go where they know they will eventually get help. But it is also a great opportunity for veterans to just be themselves with other veterans. They play darts, shoot pool, read, or shoot the breeze while they relax from the stresses of life outside the building.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne provided a written report and brief oral summary. There were no questions.

AVVA Report: Their report is printed in the Dispatch.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Bull. The Council is having difficulty. No quorum was present at the last meeting. The next meeting is set for next Monday.

Michigan State Council: Luker. Last meeting was canceled due to MDHHS restrictions. Next meeting set for 6 December.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt – The crews are still at work, clearing leaves, trimming dead branches and so forth. You heard about the bench dedication. Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo made the decision to let us move into the Township's main auditorium for the dedication, due to the inclement weather outside. Despite the bad weather, there was a great turnout for the dedication. The shed Memorial Building Project project is still underway. We are now waiting for Diversified Excavating to be free to help us out.

Website: McCrumb. No report.

Membership: The official number is now 209.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. We are still looking into health effects on kids of people exposed to toxins while in the military. It is necessary to call your US representatives to let them know they need to make sure the law authorizing the study is implemented.

VAAHHS: Kinzinger. We can't do our usual in-person activities, such as the Halloween party, due to health restrictions. But the committee continues to purchase items for patients, like the pajamas and underwear. It is just that the items are now distributed by hospital staff – mainly nurses – as needed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Draper/Bull to give four Holiday's Restaurant Gift Cards to the Fisher House and four more to Bob Bull to give away as needed from the resource center. Approved.

Good of the Order:

Harrison: We have several members, maybe more, who have earned the Silver Star. Maybe we should honor them, perhaps at an event like the one Bob Bull is working on.

Clarke: There are many members who can't get out very much. Perhaps we should try to visit them. We went out to see Marge and Bill Ballou, who are doing ok but have issues. I'm going to see Dell tomorrow.

Hall: We are going shopping for Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner on the 24th at 1600 at the Maple Rd Kroger. Join us if you like. We will leave to drop the food off at Dawn Farm at 1800. Then we'll go out to eat.

Bull: If there will be enough people, the Navigator's program will

present a "Paint like Bob Ross" session to up to ten people. The four-hour session will include lunch and all painting materials. Contact Bob Bull for more information.

Bull: The Cans for Veterans program is producing results, now that we finally were able to recycle those cans. Rawsonville UAW Veterans Committee came up with more than \$1,000 worth of cans. We are still collecting cans and bottles. We are using the proceeds to provide Fisher House and others with gift cards and cases of drinking water.

Bull: I was watching a movie about a serviceman who died, leaving only dogtags that belonged to somebody else. That movie inspired me to ask you if you have your dogtags and whether you would like to give one to a loved one. It is a way for you to give away a little piece of yourself before you die. Remember, the Honor Guard has a dogtag machine. Perhaps they would make a duplicate for you (at your expense) to give away.

Draper: American Legion 46 funded a couple benches for the garden near the Veterans Memorial Park flag. The City installed them recently. The City is going to move the dedication rock to a spot between the new branches. They are also going to put the branch of service seals for all six branches of services around the new patio. The City also said they would put trash cans by each of the benches.

Frazier: Guitars for Vets is a national 10-week program for veterans who are referred by VA mental health. We will hold a graduation ceremony which includes presenting the veteran with a brand new guitar here at 1100.

Flag Salute

Closing Prayer Bob Bull
Meeting Adjourned at 1952 hrs.
Chapter Breakfast on 11 Dec 2020:
No Chapter breakfast is scheduled
due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Honoring December Anniversaries on the Wall

Private First Class Donald George Bousley was born on March 18, 1949 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Ferris G. Bousley. Donald is a 1968 graduate of Ann Arbor High School.

Private First Class Bousley enlisted in the Army in June of 1968. He



began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on November 20, 1968 serving with C Company, 4th Battalion, 9th

Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Donald was killed by enemy small arms fire during an ambush on December 22, 1968 just one month and two days after arriving "In-Country". He was posthumously awarded two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Private First Class Donald George Bousley is survived by his parents and two brothers. He lived for 19 years, 9 months and 4 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Don is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 36W

Line 063.

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Private First Class Paul Quammen

Etter was born on January 12, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Lester F. Etter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul is a graduate of University High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan



where he lettered in football, swimming and track. He attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he studied art

for two years prior to entering the Marine Corps on April 16, 1968. Private First Class Etter went through Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, California. Paul began his tour of duty in Danang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 2, 1968 serving as an Antitank Assaultman with C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Paul was in combat continuously until he was hospitalized for a foot infection. He returned to duty on December 4, 1968. Paul was killed by small arms fire four days after returning to his unit on December 8, 1968 just two months and six days into his tour of duty "In-Country".

Paul Quammen Etter is survived by his parents, two brothers and four sisters. He lived 22 years, 10 months and 26 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul'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 37W
Line 063

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Sergeant Dannie Lewis Johnson

was born on September 28, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Johnson of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Dannie is a December, 1965 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He enlisted in the Army before graduation and worked at the Fisher Body Plant in Willow Run while he waited for induction into the Army.

Sergeant Johnson entered the Army in 1965 and received his



Basic Training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and completed Paratrooper School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Dannie began his tour of duty in

Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam on September 5, 1966 serving as a Clerk-Typist with Headquarters Company, 5th Special Forces Group. He was killed on December 30, 1967 just a month into his second tour of duty in South Vietnam. He was killed when a mortar round exploded on his position as he was directing artillery support.

Dannie Lewis Johnson is survived by his parents, three brothers, and five sisters. He lived 21 years, 3 months and 2 days. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant. He is resting in Aldridge Grove Cemetery in Harztell in Lawrence County, Alabama. Dannie'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 33E Line 003.

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Sergeant First Class Grady Merrill

Jordan was born on July 25, 1915 in Benton, Arkansas. Jordan Sergeant First Class Jordan enlisted in the United States Army on July 22, 1940 beginning a 26 year career in the Army. Grady



served in World War II where he earned the American Defense Service Medal, Honorable Lapel Button,

the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star and three Bronze Service Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal. He also served in Korea where he earned the United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star, the American Campaign Medal and a Meritorious Unit Citation. He then spent a number of years as a heavy equipment instructor at Fort Lewis, Washington and at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri before leaving for South Vietnam. Grady began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on March 1, 1967 as a Heavy Construction Equipment Operator serving with A Company, 169th Engineering Battalion, 159th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Grady took his own life on Christmas Eve of 1967. According to a posting by Dave Abshire, Sr. who served with Grady, "I remember Sarge very well. I was

a young man 18 years old. Sarge was like a father figure to me at that time. Sometimes we would set and chat over a drink and he would tell me of some of the things he had done and seen in his time in the Army. He looked out for me and was an older friend. It was a bad Christmas that year for sure.

"Sarge, if you have internet where you are and can read this, I still miss you. I didn't know things were that bad, some things you wouldn't talk about, and you were going through a tough time I know."

Grady Merrill Jordan is the oldest person to die in Vietnam that is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. He lived 52 years 4 months and 29 days. He is listed under Ypsilanti. Grady is resting in the Fort Leonard Wood Post Cemetery in Pulaskey County, Missouri. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 32E Line 056.

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First Lieutenant Dean Francis Spaulding, Jr.

was born on December 19, 1946 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Dean F. Spaulding of Marquette, Michigan and Mrs. Estella Woodard of Clearwater, Michigan. Dean is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He earned a scholarship to Rhode Island University in Kingston, Rhode Island. He entered the Army



in January of 1967 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and attaining First Lieutenant in November of 1968.

First Lieutenant Spaulding began his tour in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on October 21, 1968 serving as a Field Artillery Unit Commander with B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 40th Artillery, 199th Infantry Brigade. Dean was killed on December 15, 1968 as a result of an explosive device.

Dean Francis Spaulding, Jr. is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived 21 years, 11 months and 26 days. He is resting in the Largo Cemetery in Largo, Florida. Dean'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 36W Line 028.

AVVA Newsletter December 2020

By Kathy Driscoll, AVVA President

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. The Saline Schools began their 2nd Trimester on November 29th. Hopefully, their 3rd trimester will be in person not virtual.

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 will have Zoom meeting on December 10th. I hope more of our members attend our December meeting via zoom. Please look for my email with the zoom link for the December 10th meeting.

I received AVVA Paper Safes from Nancy Switzer this week. Please let me know if anyone would like a Paper Safe.

Service Projects / Fundraising

Our AVVA members have been busy packing boxes for our Troops; weeding the Memorial flower bed; assisting American Legion Post 46 and VFW Post 423 with their open houses; Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner shopping; and the dedication of LTC Charles S. Kettles bench at the Vietnam Memorial.

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.

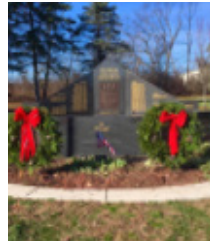
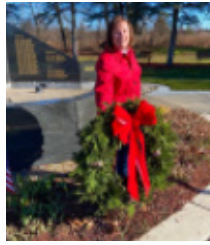
Please review their webpage: www.birthdefects.org for more information.



Christmas Wreaths at the Memorial

Kate Kirkpatrick and her husband, Eric installed two Christmas wreaths at the Washtenaw County

Vietnam Memorial on November 29th. Thank you, Kate and Eric.



- **Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor is looking to raise \$15,000 for their #GivingTuesday on December 1st. Kate Melcher sent this request:**

"Fisher House Michigan is excited to be participating in #GivingTuesday, will you join us?! #GivingTuesday is a day dedicated to generosity and giving. It occurs the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday. It's a day to acknowledge the power of giving, volunteerism, and simple acts of kindness.

Please join Fisher House Michigan on this day when our communities and businesses come together to support the greater good.

You can share the good [news of our campaign](#), sign up to be an [ambassador](#), help your loved ones and neighbors and even give if you can. *Every donation and act of kindness counts... TWICE!*

Ride for Freedom has challenged FHM to match their \$15,000 gift on #GivingTuesday -- and every dollar you give will help reach that goal.

Our fight to keep military and Veteran families together during medical crises is more vital now than ever before. This campaign is one of the many ways we can

make a difference. Please visit [Fisher House Michigan](http://www.fisherhousemichigan.org) for more information and how you too can get involved.

We look forward to "seeing" you on #GivingTuesday. Together, we can make the world a better place for our military and veteran heroes, their caregivers, and loved ones.

Our Contact Information

Fisher House Michigan

PO Box 130466

Ann Arbor, MI 48113

(518) 481-0552

<http://www.fisherhousemichigan.org>

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

November 29, 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, Thursday, October 29, 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 US Congressional Representative to support this bill in honor and memory of them.

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 – 2021 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,283.25. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan has not as yet posted information for Girl State 2021.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting is scheduled for December 6th. I emailed the Executive Board for the Zoom

link. As of today, I received no response. VVA Michigan State Council will have a Zoom meeting on December 6th.

AVVA National

- 2020 –Leadership Conference – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, Ohio. **Canceled.**
- 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 am not sure when the next meeting is scheduled. I believe it will be in January 2021. I will attend via Zoom.

Upcoming Events!

Currently all indoor events are canceled or postponed due to Michigan Covid 19 restrictions.

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

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

07 Dec: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
10 Dec: VVA Board Meetings, 1730 hrs, AVVA 310 Meeting, 1800 hrs, VVA 310 General Mtg, 1900 hrs
11 Dec: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs: No Chapter breakfast due to Covid-19 restrictions
19 Dec: Wreaths Across America Laying of the Wreaths, Great Lakes National Cemetery
25 Dec: Christmas
Team Red, White & Blue: Saturdays @ 0930 meet at the Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for their walk and run
** Visit [Veterans Radio online \(veteransradio.net\)](http://Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net)) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

Important for Veterans

St Joe's Facebook page about Covid-19.

<https://www.facebook.com/95058936975/posts/10157522611911976/>

More about Covid-19:

Covid-19 Vaccines for Veterans
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/81309/when-covid-19-vaccine-comes-va-ready/>

From VVA National: VVA Applauds the Passage of NDAA and Tester/ Harder Amendment. If this is signed into law, bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism will be Added to list of conditions recognized as linked to herbicide exposure.

The November/December issue of The VVA Veteran is now online at www.vvaveteran.org.

From Rev. Robert J. Bull:

If we can get ten people to sign up, a special painting class will be planned. The class is titled "Learn How To Paint Like Bob Ross." Bob Ross was an American painter, art instructor and television host, creator and host of **The Joy of Painting** (1983-1994) on PBS. The proposed class will be held at the Ann Arbor VFW Post on Wagner Road. The date and time will be established once ten people sign up. To sign up, email Bob Bull at theark.ypsilanti@gmail.com. Veterans and caregivers are invited. By the end of this free 4-hour class, you should have created a piece of art to be proud of. All materials will be provided at no cost. There will be a light meal provided during the class period.

From Vance McCrumb

I have re-established the Links page. That link is on the footer of each page. I also added a link to Dave Draper's Flickr page, which has the Kettles Bench Dedication.

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
Tim Clarke ~ March 2022
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021
Edward Fuller ~ September 2023
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021
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

A Different Christmas Poem

Submitted by Ken Rogge

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside, the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy; my breathing was deep.
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.
The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty

years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.
"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said, "Its really all right,

I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night.
So that your family can sleep without fright.
It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,"
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers"

"My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.
I've not seen my own son in more

than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile. "

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
"I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother.

Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall.
So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting, and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.”

From Kate Kirpatrick

The holiday wreaths have been installed at the Memorial. Wreaths were donated by Kate Kirkpatrick and Eric Ericksen (not DAR this year). We are so grateful to be able to honor our heroes in this way. And the weather was perfect!

Regards,
Kate

Poem from a Friend

Submitted by George Perrault

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know the following:
We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew. We learned the basics, and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and a new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race, or creed. We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We picked up both good and bad

habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast--and yet, somehow, we never grew up at all. We fought for our freedom as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen, experienced, and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time-honored ceremonies and rituals with one another, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new, and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with one another, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the

other branches.

We know, however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time, it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran, and they thank them for their service.

When we see one another, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran.

Ending 2020



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

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**VVA 310 Dispatch
December 2020**

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Please Forward. Thank You!