

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*



Nov. 2020
Washtenaw Co.,
Michigan



Editor's Note: The year 2020 is approaching its end, and indeed, it's been a privilege to be part of so many historical moments that occurred this year. The pandemic has brought us challenges that the country had not seen for a whole century. And it is a credit to human resilience that we have found ways to adapt, survive, and help one another through our difficulties. An outstanding credit is due to health-care workers, who have faced personal risk to help people receive health treatment.

Be well!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

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President's Message

By Stan Harrison

We are aging. As we grow older, we have to work harder to accomplish what we used to do with ease. To minimize the effects of aging, our doctors advise us to stay active, engage with others, socialize. Fortunately, we belong to an organization that inspires us to become involved and answer the call to serve a cause bigger than ourselves.

We will have to plan to continue to serve this cause as we age. We have a Strategic Planning Committee working on how to move forward as our situation changes. If you have suggestions for this committee, give them to any Board member or officer. In a future *Dispatch*, I'll let you know what they come up with. In the meantime, I am confident we will continue to volunteer what we can—be it time, talent, or treasure—to keep VVA 310 a vital organization. We ain't dead yet. Be Proud.

Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

As I write this article, the national election is still 12 days away—yet to be determined, as we say in military terminology. Many changes are forthcoming at all levels of government. By the time you read this, many questions may have been answered as far as people in place in our government. We will all have to await on what policies will follow and how they will affect our lives and those of our families.



With all the uncertainties, I am peacefully reminded of the Lord's words in Proverbs 3: 5-6: **“Trust in the Lord with all your**

heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Psalms 121:

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun will not smite you by day. Nor the moon by night. The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.

And Jesus words after His return from the dead and before his ascension should bring comfort still as we continue to focus on our objective: **“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:**

18–20).

“These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor allow it to be fearful” (John 14:25–27).

These are all comforting words to remind us that God is still with us and has not abandoned us for the times in which we find ourselves. May peace be with us all.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

8 October 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: None

Motion to approve the September Minutes as amended by Bull/

Bourne. **Approved.**

President's Report:

We had a sale at Ann Arbor Arms. Plenty of you volunteered to help. We also had plenty of help doing the Veteran Suicide Prevention Demonstration. We are doing our work and we are doing it well.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne.

Please see printed report. The major activity this month was receipt of \$5,600 in donations. So far, we have spent \$9,575 on the new shed. We have applied to get reimbursed for \$4,599 of that amount from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. You'll also notice a new style balance sheet. Our next change will be to report in-kind contributions as the shed project will probably involve significant ones.

AVVA Report: Their report is printed in the *Dispatch*. More veterans wrist bracelets are on order. They will be sold for \$5 each to raise money for Fisher House Michigan. And the Agent Orange masks are available now.

Merchandise Report: Harrison: The 26 September, Ann Arbor Arms sale was a success. Bourne reports \$473 in sales, producing \$300 profit. We also collected \$59 in cash donations.

Washtenaw County Council of

Veterans: Harrison. The scheduled meeting was canceled at the last minute. A replacement meeting has been tentatively set for a week from Monday.

Michigan State Council: Luker. National tried to find a way to interest younger veterans to learn from us, take our mission and assets and knowledge, but the younger veterans say they want to go their own way. As a result, the National organization is a last man

standing operation. Once VVA National closes, state and local chapters will be able to operate more independently, if they have their own corporations established. Michigan State Council would like to see the chapters embrace new members and would like to help chapters learn to survive without National's support. That is why local strategic thinking and planning is needed now.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt The new lawnmower was completely paid for through donations. All four crews used it and think it is much better than the mower it replaced. The stronger motor and wider cutting path make cutting the grass a much faster job than it was before. Things are going along well, with the exception of the incident you can read about in page five of the September *Dispatch*. If you ever have a problem at or about the Memorial, don't bother the Township with it. Call Al or Jon and let us deal with the Township. Finally, Col Kettles' Memorial Bench has now been installed. It is covered. You may look at the bench and take pictures, but we ask that you do not share the pictures with anybody prior to the official unveiling. The bench will be unveiled at 1100 on 1 November 2020. It will be a short ceremony, with a few words by Vance McCrumb and then the unveiling.

Website: McCrumb. The website has a new page on it that highlights the 14 medical problems that the VA presumes to be caused by Agent Orange. There are links that take you to appropriate pages on the VA website about the 14 presumptive diseases.

Membership: The official number is now 208 because we added a Navy Chief.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. Remember to ask for the senior flu shot, if you qualify. The shot is available at the VA now.

VAAAHs: Kinzinger. No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Wilson: The Agent Orange masks are to advertise that Agent Orange is still harming our children and that we need to understand it better so we can reduce the long-term damage. Buy a mask for \$10 and help keep a kid from suffering. Throneberry: Although PDC (which comes from the river flukes in Vietnam) is not one of the presumptive conditions, the VA has recognized that there is connection between PDC and service in Vietnam. Therefore, if you have PDC, you should file a claim.

Bull: There will be an open house on 24 October from 1000 to 1700. There will be lots of support available for veterans. We are doing a more extensive publicity process for this event, so we hope we get a much better turnout. We will have free food and refreshments.

Bull: VFW 423 is opening their hall for drop-in veteran visits from 0930 to 1700 on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There is no agenda. It is an opportunity to drink coffee with other veterans, or to use the internet, or play pool and so forth. Think of it like a day room.

Draper: The food drive did well, even though not many cars came through. Those that came brought many donations: 19 bankers boxes full of food along with two

drums of food as well. I want to thank those who staffed the event all day and those who donated. Thanks also goes to the Boy Scout troop that helped us. Bourne: The gate is drawing more public attention with those two receptacles for collecting flags for retirement. But the front gate looks like it has not been painted in 10 years. That's not the kind of statement the VFW Post wants to make, I'm thinking.

Flag Salute

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Meeting Adjourned at 1935 hrs.

Chapter Breakfast on Friday, 13 November, at 0900: Brewed Awakenings, 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176 (734) 681-0078.

Honoring November Anniversaries on the Wall

Private First Class Daniel John Illi

was born on December 6, 1945



to Mr. and Mrs. Erwin G. Illi at St. Joseph's hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Daniel graduated from Ann Arbor High School in

1964 where he played football and was a member of the Troubleshooting Mechanics Team. Before entering the Army on November 3, 1965, Daniel was a rental manager for Liberty Land Company affiliated with Butcher and Willits

Building Company of Ann Arbor. He married Shirley (Smith-Lowery) on February 5, 1966.

Daniel Illi completed his basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado and was stationed there until transferred to Vietnam on August 2, 1966. Daniel served with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division operating out of An Khe, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. Daniel was killed by small arms fire on November 1, 1966.

Daniel John Illi is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Shirley, parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived 20 years, 10 months and 25 days. Daniel is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 12E Line 002.

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Private First Class Donald Barrett Roddy

was born on March 7, 1943 to Mr. William Roddy of Gloversville, New York and Mrs. Mary B. Woolfenden of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High



School after attending Shaker High School in Latham, New York for his freshman and sophomore years. He also attended Northern Michigan

University in Marquette, Michigan where he was a member of the Chi

Sigma Nu social fraternity. Donald entered the Army on January 13, 1965.

Private First Class Roddy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on August 18, 1965 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Donald was killed on November 15, 1965 as a result of enemy small arms fire during the Battle for the Ia Drang Valley. According to an Ann Arbor Newspaper article written by Gary Lillie, "Taking part in the first battle of LZ X-Ray, was Pfc. Donald B. Roddy, a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. As a member of the 'Lost Patrol' of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he lost his life along with the rest of his machine-gun crew as they fought to cover the withdrawal of their fellow troopers to safer ground."

The account can be found on page 87 (We Were Soldiers Once...and Young by Joseph L. Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore). Donald was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Donald Barrett Roddy is survived by his parents, his stepfather, and a brother. He lived 22 years, 8 months and 8 days. 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 03E Line 061.

—**—



Private First Class Robert Allen Albertson was born on January 1, 1947 in Ypsilanti,

Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Albertson. Robert graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1966. He worked at the Ypsilanti Plant of the Ford Motor Company prior to entering service in the Army on May 3, 1966.

Private First Class Robert Allen Albertson started his tour of duty in South Vietnam on October 11, 1967 serving as an infantryman with A Company, First Battalion, 8th Cavalry, First Cavalry Division. Robert died as a result of small arms fire on November 4, 1967 after being In-Country for only 23 days.

Robert Albertson is survived by his wife, parents and two brothers. Robert lived 20 years, 10 months and 3 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Robert's name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 29E Line 018.

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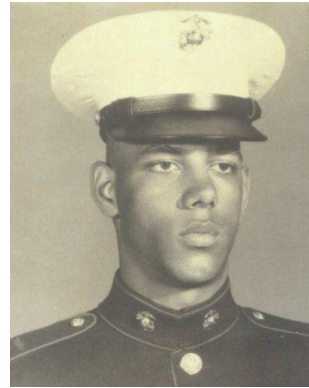
Robert Clarence Skinner was born on June 21, 1951.

Private First Class Skinner began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on September 27, 1969 serving as a Motor Vehicle Operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Shore Party Battalion, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Robert was killed on November 16, 1969.

According to a posting left by Sergeant Eddie G. Hammonds, Jr., "I served with PFC Skinner in Vietnam. He was killed on his first night patrol. I will never forget the night or his courageous valor. You will not be forgotten, because I

remember."

Robert Clarence Skinner lived 18 years, 4 months and 25 days. He is resting in the Platte Township Cemetery, Benzie County, Michigan. Robert's name is listed



on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam

Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 16W Line 086.

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Sergeant Rickie D. Sparks was born on July 26, 1947 in Beecher City, Illinois to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sparks from Manchester, Michigan. Rickie is a 1965 graduate of Clinton High School in Clinton, Michigan where he played varsity basketball and football. He entered the Army on September 1, 1965 and completed his Basic Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He completed his advanced training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Sergeant Sparks began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on February 20, 1967 serving as an Armor



Reconnaissance Specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Rickie was killed on November 18, 1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Rickie D. Sparks is survived by his parents, a wife, and three brothers. He is resting in the Riverside Cemetery in Clinton, Michigan. Rickie'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 30E Line 019.

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Engineman Third Class Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr.

was born on August 9, 1948 in Adrian, Michigan to Mr. Robert E. and Mrs. Maxine De Verna Kushmaul. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Chelsea High School where he was the President of his Class, a Charter Member of the Key Club, a member of the Student Council, and President of FFA. Engineman Third Class Kushmaul entered the Navy on February 2, 1967. He began his tour of duty in Kien Giang Province, South Vietnam on February 15, 1969 serving with Patrol Boat River 8131, Task Force 116, United States Naval Forces Vietnam. He was killed while on a river boat patrolling on the Song Hkau Giang River South of Siagon on November 16, 1969 from a rocket



explosion.

Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. He lived 21 years, 3 months and 7 days. He is resting in Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Robert's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Chelsea. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 16W Line 084.

AVVA Newsletter November 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 will have Zoom meeting on November 12th. I hope more of our members attend our November meeting via zoom. Please look for my email with the zoom link for the November 12th meeting.

I received AVVA Paper Safes from Nancy Switzer this week. Please

let me know if anyone would like a Paper Safe.

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.



Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor

- **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](#) 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.

October 26, 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

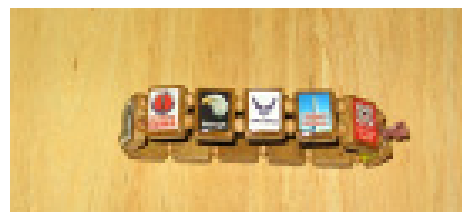
As of today, Thursday, October 29, 2020, there are 17 co-sponsors to this bill. Tim Walberg (R-17) is the only Michigan US Congressman to co-sign this bill. If you live in another congressional district, please contact your representative to have him or her co-sign this bill. Our AVVA 310 has widows 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 location to be determined. A vote for the adoption of the Policies & Procedures is scheduled.

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

Next meeting is Monday, November 9th.

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 2023
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

10 Nov: Marine Corps Birthday (1775)
11 Nov: Veterans Day (1918)
12 Nov: VVA 310 Board Meeting, 1730 hrs
12 Nov: VVA 310 Monthly Meeting, 1900 hrs
12 Nov: AVVA 310 Monthly Meeting, 1800 hrs
13 Nov: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs
16 Nov: WCCV Meeting – Canceled
26 Nov: Thanksgiving
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.



Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang.

Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him:

-- "Herman, I just heard on the news: There's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!"

-- "Heck," said Herman, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

Information for Veterans

[Veterans Week 2020!](#)

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in collaboration with U-M Flint, U-M Dearborn and Eastern Michigan University, is proud to offer a week of events that educate and celebrate the experiences and sacrifice of those who have served our country.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and for the concern for the health of our community and our veterans, we are unable to offer these events in person. Please join us

for respectful, educational and inspirational panels, lectures and stories via the links below each program.

All events are free and are open to the entire university community and to the general public unless otherwise noted. We encourage you to attend as many of these events as you can.

If you have any questions about this year's events, please email Philip Larson, Program Director Veteran and Military Services, at pnlarson@umich.edu. Also, watch vets.umich.edu/vetsweek for updates and information, including a full schedule of events.

Opportunities for Veterans



An initiative by the Department of the Interior enables Veterans and Gold Star families to visit national parks and public lands for free. Currently that privilege is granted to active-duty service members and their families, but the announcement extends these benefits to all veterans and Gold-Star families.

Find out [more information here](#).



Gift to Fisher House

By Stan Harrison

Thanks to the efforts of John Kinzinger and Dave Draper, your Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 donated 50 gift cards to the Ann Arbor Fisher House. Each card had



the value of \$50.

These gift cards will help Fisher House to further its mission of providing a safe place to stay for veterans and their families from out of town who are receiving treatment at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital. Specifically, they will use these gift cards to purchase cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, and bottled water.

As you know, the Fisher House is a real asset to our veterans. Studies show that patients respond much better to treatment when they know that their families are safe and cared for. The Fisher House provides that care. This \$2500 is money well invested.



Veterans Day 2020 Discount

Looking for discounts on Veterans Day? Here's some information that may be useful: [\[Click here.\]](#)

Honoring the Kettles Legacy

By Vance McCrumb

The much-awaited Kettles Bench Dedication happened on the 1st of November, under cloudy, windy, and cold skies. Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo was to provide twenty or so folding chairs for us to use at the Memorial for guests and the Kettles family. When Brenda and I went inside to get the chairs, she said, "Should we hold the dedication in the auditorium?" We did, and President Harrison directed arriving guests to the Township Auditorium.

Ann Kettles attended the dedication with her daughters, Dr. Maria Heck from Saline and Cathy Nezwek, from Grand Rapids, and other family members. Guest speakers were Congresswoman Debbie Dingle and Chapter member Major General (retired) Bill Henderson.

With 44 people in attendance, the event was slightly under the

state's maximum of 50 people for an indoor function. Attendees maintained social distancing and wore masks. After the speakers concluded, everyone sang Happy Birthday to Ann, and we went outside, where Al Merritt and Jon Luker uncovered the Kettles Bench. Several Chapter members were present, and VFW Commander Doug Brinker, Junior Vice Commander Wayne Doyle, and Dave Draper in a dual capacity as American Legion Commander and



Chapter member. I should add that the Memorial grounds committee (Fredo & Jon) did a great job in designing the Kettles bench, and it will be a wonderful addition to the memorial grounds!

Historical Background and Link to Photos

The link below goes to the pictures I took of the bench dedication ceremony that took place at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti. The bench was placed in memory of Medal of Honor Recipient LTC Charles S. Kettles, who was a member of VVA Chapter 310. Chapter 310 was renamed in his honor in 2018. Also, the Ann Arbor VA Hospital is in legislation to rename their facility in honor of Kettles also. He was one of the most genuine, humble, and generous person I have ever met. He deserves the

accolades. Though I am not a professional, I hope you enjoy the pictures. [\[Click here for the pictures.\]](#)

Mystery Man, November 2020

The Mystery Member for October was Chief George Perrault, USS Tioga County (LST-1158), a United States Navy landing ship tank (LST) in commission from 1953 to 1970. Thank you, Chief!

Here's the Mystery Member for November



Pre-Christmas Care Packaging

By John Kinzinger

On November 1, a combined effort of VVA 310 and WACU members packed 129 Pre-Christmas Care packages. By the time you read this, most of the packages will have been received by military personnel overseas at many locations.

This has been an annual event for about 12 years. This year Warriors And Caregivers United (WACU)

provided the funds to cover the costs. WACU puts on events around lower Michigan for the associates. They received a grant to specifically pay for this event. It was much fun working together to bring a morale boost to troops serving for us away from home during the Christmas holidays. Each package had, besides the candy and snack goodies, a handmade Christmas stocking, a warm handmade scarf, cards, letters and more. Thank you WACU and all who came out and joined us in this effort.

VA Medical Center Supporters

By John Kinzinger

Some of you may not be aware of the following. This Christmas will be our Chapter's 33rd year of organizing an event for patients of the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center (VAMC). Each year our Chapter VAMC committee mails out letters to contributors asking if they would like to support our program. All (100%) of the donated funds go to provide support for Veterans receiving medical treatment at our local VAMC.



Our committee sincerely thanks you members who have been supporting this program. We invite anyone else to join us by contacting me at johnalva@aol.com. Our letters are going out now to past donors. The following are excerpts from the letter that will be going out soon to past donors.

This, our 33rd annual program, because of Covid-19 had to change. We are just not allowed to visit them. We still plan to donate the specially embroidered shirts and t-shirts and underwear. We will rely on the nurses from the different nursing stations to give them out.

The following are costs for our VA programs for the coming year:

- 150 special patriotic embroidered shirts.
- 150 packages of t-shirts and 150 underwear.
- 4 steak dinner upgrades on 4 special occasions for all hospitalized Veterans.
- If Covid-19 allows in 2021, Halloween party and other special events.
- Support for Warriors and Caregivers United, wacu.org, working to impact reducing suicide.
- Food donation for Fisher House residents waiting during their Veteran's medical treatment.
- Monthly donation to the coffee fund for patients.
- Our Chapter saying is "Together we make a difference." Your support helps make that difference for our local hospitalized Veterans. .

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A Year in Photos

[Editor's Note: The end of the year is a time for retrospection or even introspection. Here are memorable photos of 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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Please Forward. Thank You!