

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*



December 2021

Washtenaw County,
Michigan



Editor's Note: With good wishes for the season and blessings for family and friends far and near—may the technology of long-distance communication bring us again together to enjoy those magic moments of closeness. The distances are vast, but the magic of heart brings us close. May we experience what unites and find in our diversity a reason to celebrate. In this season of blessings, may our wishes come true in miracles and renewal. Behold, a Savior is born. Merry Christmas!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch Editor

What's New . . .

Vice President's Message	2
Chaplain's Corner - December 2021	2
VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes	3
AVVA Newsletter December 2021	5
Honoring December Anniversaries on the Wall.....	5
Dispatch Recipients	7
Current Events.....	7
Of Interest to Veterans.....	7
Veteran of the Year	8
News Release from VVA.....	9
Jocosity	9
Notable Events in 2021	9

Vice President's Message

By VP Vance (Dogman)
McCrum

Our President is a bit under the weather; so, as your VP, I was asked to bang on a keyboard and write a President/VP Message. Problem is, my computer failed to boot, so I am finger pecking on my iPhone.



Our Memorial turned 30 on November 10th. A celebration was held at the Ypsilanti Township auditorium on the 10th with between 50-60 in attendance. Opening remarks were by President (Shiny Head) Harrison. John (Screaming Eagle) Kinzinger was the MC. Chapter member Dale (Tberry) Throneberry was the keynote speaker and did a wonderful job. The KIA names were read by Marvin Rivers with a bit of Marine Corps flair. Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo spoke about the Memorial's history with the Township. She also mentioned a bill was introduced to rename a seven-mile stretch of I94 between US 23 and Rawsonville Road The Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. In regards to the Memorial, we have a new Memorial challenge coin marking its 30th anniversary. Contact President Harrison to purchase yours. The cost is \$6.00

each. The merchandise trailer has new logos and lettering to reflect our current name (Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310) on both sides and the rear. Next time you are at the Post, check it out.

We have new Chapter hats. The membership voted to change the color from navy blue to black. VVA 310 is on the front and the Vietnam ribbon is on the back. New members can pick up theirs at a Chapter meeting. The cost to replace an existing hat has yet to be determined.

For the 33rd year, our Chapter purchased and delivered Thanksgiving Dinner to Dawn Farm. Meijer's donated a \$500 gift card for the occasion. That card was used when the shopping squad--that is, Stan Harrison, Roy and Bonnie Hall, Al Merritt, and Steve and Shirley Hitte--shopped at Meijer's. Per President Stan, Roy remembered everything we previously purchased; so, they didn't need a shopping list. Thank you, Meijer!

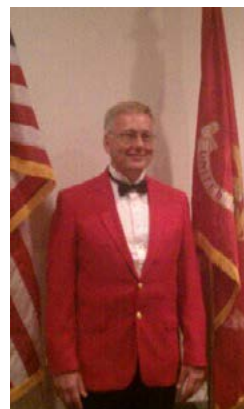
Please take a moment to pray for the victims of the school shooting at Oxford HS.

As Stan would end his message, Stay well and stay Proud.

Chaplain's Corner – December 2021

By Gordon Moore

Christmas is a glorious time of the year, when we think that the foundations for the first Christmas were so many fulfilled Scriptures regarding the coming of Messiah. The angels' presence and promises heralded it. When Messiah arrived,



the heavenly chorus announced to those present the good news that God was receiving glory and that Scripture's fulfillment was blessing humankind.

Listen to the message to Elizabeth and Zacharias as recorded in Luke 1: 8 ff:

Now it happened that, while Zacharias was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people prayed outside at the hour of the incense offering. And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar on incense. Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine

or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient back to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news." Fast forward to verses 26 and following:

Now, in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendant of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. (Obviously this news was

hard to wrap the head around). The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Moreover, in chapter two, we find the blessing to humankind stated in the following way to the shepherds:

In the same region, some shepherds stayed out in the fields and kept watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "This will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in

the highest, and on earth peace among men with who He is pleased."

All this good news when Rome was taxing the people to poverty must have been met with mixed emotions. I thought we could relate as we live in a world similar in some of the same ways: high taxation, the government concerned with their agenda more than that of the people they serve, many undue restrictions, and more. Because their story is OUR story, I hope that we can find reasons to rejoice as the heavenly host did-- for the Messiah is ours, too. Peace be upon you and those you love.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

by Jon Luker, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting
Minutes -- 11 November 2021

Call to Order by President Harrison at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Bob 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!

New Members: None.

Guests: None.

Motion by Bull/Hitte to approve the October Minutes as published in the *Dispatch*. Approved.

Officer Reports:**President's Report:**

We held our Annual Recognition Dinner. It went well, except that it cost us about \$1,200 more than we brought in. I helped put flags up in Saline. We had a packing party on the 7th. We had the 30th anniversary of the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial last night. Dale Throneberry was the keynote speaker. I'll be gone for a week. I'll be back on the 21st. On the 23rd, we'll do Dawn Farm. We'll use our \$500 gift card to go shopping at 1600 hrs, at Meijer's on Saline-Ann Arbor Road.

Treasurer's Report:

Berry Bourne. Reports were emailed to the board. Reports are also available to members and others via email on request. We received \$3,100 in donations; \$1,500 from National and \$600 from State Council. We incurred a \$1,233 loss from the Recognition Dinner. Merchandise did sell some of the new 30th anniversary challenge coins, but we need to sell 29 more of them to break even. I project a fiscal year-end surplus of \$9,374 instead of a \$2,147 budget deficit. No questions.

AVVA Report:

Driscoll. We sold the last of the wrist bracelets, so we were able to give \$500 more to Fisher House. We have 30 members now. Shirley went to the National Convention as our delegate, because I became ill at the last minute. We'll be cleaning the Memorial flower beds Monday or Tuesday. The next weekend, Kate will put up the wreaths. On 1 Dec we are going to put up a Christmas tree here in the VFW Post. It will be decorated by our 9 Dec meeting. AVVA will provide

food for the December meetings.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Harrison. We got the new decals on the trailer, so we don't have to be embarrassed by our trailer anymore. Our next activity is to conduct inventory.

Washtenaw County Council of

Veterans: The Council did not meet.

Michigan State Council: Luker. The National Convention had some surprises. The best one being that Jack McManus was elected President. Another was that the administration's effort to retire GA-21, (which required the board to present a plan for changing our name and expanding membership), failed. That means the board still is under that duty. But another resolution, GA-11, prohibits the board from doing that work, but allows the membership to do it instead. We also heard from VA Secretary McDonough. He did not discuss Agent Orange nor the research obligation that the VA is stubbornly refusing to perform. But he did spend a lot of time thanking VVA for keeping VA's feet to the fire concerning burn pits, the claims process, the GI Bill revisions and so forth. We did not get a briefing about Veterans Voices of America.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt.

The lawncare crews are continuing to maintain the Memorial, which is still green late into the season. We are told our mole problem is partly due to the construction activity.

Memorial Building: We have been told "no" by three construction companies so far, but the Michigan Laborers Training and Apprenticeship Institute (MLTAI) and Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 499 is considering helping us out.

We are looking into shutting off the water and waiting until spring to begin building.

Website: McCrumb. Our hit count is 313,915, up 3,800 from last month.

Membership: We are at 211.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. COVID booster shots are now available. So are new flu shots.

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger. No report.

Old Business: None**New Business:**

Motion by Wilson, seconded by Driscoll, to purchase 50 new Chapter hats, black, with "VVA 310" on the front and the Vietnam campaign ribbon on the back, to be issued to new members, including those who didn't get a new hat during the past year or so. Approved.

Motion by Luker, seconded by St. Antoine, to amend VVA National Constitution Article I, Section 3, Subsection A, by deleting the words "during the dates established by federal law for the Vietnam War." Approved.

Good of the Order:

Bull: Thank you, VVA 310, for donating the \$1,000 food bank money. We are expanding the food pantry as a result.

Also, the decision has been made to keep the Veterans Resource Center open on Christmas and New Years Day. That's the result of a survey. On Christmas, we will have honey baked ham for lunch and all the fixings. On New Year's Day, will have the bowl games on TV.

Dempsey: Read a letter from Michael Smith asking VSO's like us to agree to furnish one veteran apartment in the new Hilltop Housing Project in Dexter. Six out

of 24 apartments are for homeless veterans. American Legion said they would do one. The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund is going to contribute \$10,000 to make improvements to the "as built" plan for the facility.

Wilson: We had planned to present Secretary McDonough with the signed Agent Orange petitions when he spoke to us at the National Convention. However, President Rowan said we couldn't do that. So, we found a way to give him the petitions as he was leaving the building. We also had the first two rows of people in the convention hall wearing Agent Orange face masks during his speech. Secretary McDonough got the message, but he is still not convinced that the research needs to be done. I have been reelected to the National board and appointed Chair of the Agent Orange Committee, so you have not heard the final word yet.

Harrison: Breakfast tomorrow will be at Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 668-1292.

Closing Prayer Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1941 hrs.

ADVA Newsletter December 2021

No report this month

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 Harzell 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. Sergeant 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, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and attained 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.

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

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2023
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023

Tim Clarke ~ March 2022
Joseph Flint ~ January 2022
Edward Fuller ~ September 2023
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031
Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024
Ralph Henry ~ November 2023
Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024
Darlene Imus ~ January 2027
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2024
Mary Kirkpatrick ~ December 2023
Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022
Linda Lamey-Leonard, in memory of Lavern Lamey ~ July 2024
This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.

Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031
David Marshall ~ June 2022
Sandra Martinez ~ November 2024
Del Mayes ~ March 2022
Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ January 2023
Ronald Oliver ~ November 2021
Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024
George Perrault ~ October 2022
Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023
Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023
Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022
Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023
Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

07 Dec: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
09 Dec: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs

(Click Here to attend by Zoom)
10 Dec: Chapter Monthly Breakfast
20 Dec: WCCV Meeting- NO MEETING
20 Dec: Space Force Birthday (2020)
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 - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

Of Interest to Veterans

Submitted by various

Pres. Stan Harrison and VP Vance McCrumb reported on the Dawn Farm shopping that took place. The VVA 310 Chapter donated a \$500.00 gift card, so shoppers did not need to contribute cash but only provide their shopping skills or ability to push a shopping cart. Pres. Harrison informed about the plan, which was to provide Thanksgiving dinner for Dawn Farm again this year. Anyone wishing to help out with the shopping was welcome to join them. They met at the Saline-Ann Arbor Road Meijer on 11/23 and purchased the required groceries. They then delivered them to Dawn Farm. The reason for using Meijer this year was a generous donation from Meijer.

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Dave Draper informed about the new apartment buildings in Dexter. One building with six apartments is reserved for homeless veterans.

Dave made a commitment to sponsor one of the apartments. Together with his wife, Meni, Dave collected much of the house wares that were on a list sent to them by going to Share House. Jim Dempsey sent another list of furniture that was needed in each apartment. Please contact the Drapers if you wish to make a donation to that project.

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On another note, John Kinzinger received the following note and submitted for sharing with everyone.

Each year, our VVA Chapter 310 does a mailing fundraiser for funds for the work we do related to the Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center, our local VA Medical Center. We get some special notes along with their donation. The following is from the sister of one of the men listed on our Memorial. She and her husband donate every year to our VA Christmas program. They wrote the following:

Thank you does not seem enough to acknowledge all the good VVA 310 does for our veterans and families. But it does not go unnoticed. God Bless VVA 310 and all your good deeds. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022. Linda

—*—

As another item of interest to veterans, our Chapter website received the following note about a service they offered. If you missed this year, perhaps they will offer this service again. Here is the note:

Just wanted to reach out and let your members

know that the Yankee Air Museum will be offering rides in our Vietnam veteran UH-1 "Huey", weather permitting, at the campus of Concordia University (East side of Ann Arbor) on Veteran's Day. We will perform a fly over of the half scale Vietnam Memorial Wall approximately 11:00am on Thursday and start rides around 11:15. We'll fly until 5pm. We can take up to 10 passengers per flight and the rate is \$99 per person.

Glenn Veno

Yankee Huey Flight Ops

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Veteran of the Year



Several Reports

VVA 310 Chapter member Dave Draper was honored with the Veteran of the Year award by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. Dave spends most of his time helping fellow veterans. Draper received the honor at a gala on Saturday, Nov. 6, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township. The celebration was quite a night, with hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and a live band. MLive has an article about the event, which you can [access here](#). The Drapers have also provided a

link for photos of the event, which you can access here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@N02/albums/72157720169646095>

Hilltop View Housing Development
Submitted by Jim Dempsey

This is a summary of Jim's information about this housing development, located at [Dan Hoey Rd, Dexter, MI 48130](#).

Hilltop View is a 24-unit supportive housing development built in partnership with **Avalon Housing** and **Faith In Action**, due to open prior to the end of **February 2022**. Please consider becoming a sponsoring organization. This project will assist Michigan's homeless veterans in their pursuit of gaining stability, health, and happiness.

Avalon is the property manager and owner of the buildings. FIA will provide the supportive services, which will be available to all residents of Hilltop and to FIA clients in the greater Dexter Area. Six 1-bedroom apartments dedicated to homeless Veterans will need to be fully furnished with basic furniture for each room and basic needs in the kitchen and bathroom. Dexter FIA will provide a new couch for the living room and a new mattress for the bedroom. A list of kitchen items will be provided to the sponsors. Jim Dempsey serves as a volunteer to the Faith in Action program of Dexter to coordinate the furnishing of all 6 Veterans apartments. Veterans Organizations sponsor one of the apartments by procuring necessary furniture and kitchen

supplies and keep possession of these items until move-in during the late January to early February at the cost of \$1500 - \$2500.

For additional information, please contact Jim Dempsey. Jim's contact information follows:

Jim Dempsey
Dexter FIA and Rotary Club
volunteer
11717 Island Lake Rd.
Dexter, MI 48130
dempsey.jim2@gmail.com
734 777-6562

News Release from VVA

Jack McManus was elected to serve as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America on November 6, 2021. This news is welcome: Jack McManus is a member of VVA 310. As a Milan resident hailing from New York City, Jack became a VVA 310 member in 1986, just as the Chapter was being formed. Jack was Co-Vice Chairman of the committee that conceived and then built our Vietnam Memorial. He has had at least two stints as National Treasurer and has been active at the National level for at least 25 years. We are very proud to have one of our members become VVA National President. Jack was chairman of a very successful local business until his retirement, when he and his wife, Jackie, moved to North Carolina, where they now reside. Jack joined the Air Force in 1965, served in Vietnam in 1968-69, and upon discharge from the service, he obtained a B.A. in business management from New

York University (1973). Jack is committed to veterans' causes, such as receiving answers for veterans and their families whose health has been impacted by their exposure to toxic substances during their military service.



Jocosity

[From Dave Draper]

- Oh deer! Venison for dinner again.
- Wondering how Moses likes his tea? Hebrews it.
- No kidney bank in England; they have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog but mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
- I call my iPod's Titanic: It syncs and syncs.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. Can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on

words.

- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- A dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary is a thesaurus.
- I dropped out of communism class: lousy Marx.
- Knead dough? Get a job at a bakery.
- Velcro . . . what a rip off!
- Don't worry about old age: it won't last.

[From George Perrault]

Got pulled over for speeding yesterday.

-- "I was trying to keep up with traffic, Officer."

-- "There is none," the Officer replied.

-- "That's just how far behind I am!"

Notable Events in 2021

*Submitted by John and Jane
Kinzingeer*

Events Around Veterans Day

Meni Draper was recognized on November 11, 2021, for the award she received from Warriors and Caregivers United (WACU) earlier in October. At this year's Veterans Day Dinner at Dexter United Methodist Church (DUMC),

Meni received recognition for having been named recipient of "The Behm of Light" award from WACU for her strong support of veterans. Besides being the official photographer and right-hand "man" to her husband, Dave, she attends the Wednesday and Saturday VRC at the VFW Post 423 where she assists veterans in breaking down barriers and roadblocks and smoothing the road to their benefits and services. Meni also organized several fundraisers with her scrapbooking group, Creative Memories, with proceeds going to Fisher House. She promotes scrapbooking as a way to preserve memories and pass on the legacy. At the same dinner, Dave Draper was recognized for having been named "Michigan Veteran of the Year" by the Michigan Veterans Agency group at Selfridge Air National Guard Base at their gala event on November 6.

Before dinner was served, there was a brief ceremony in the multipurpose room to dedicate having an American flag mounted on the wall. John Kinzinger gave a short, moving talk about the meaning of the flag. Dave set up and read "The Missing Man Table" at the dinner sponsored by the Veterans Committee at DUMC. All members of that Committee (Meni, Dave, and John) are out there in the community demonstrating how to support veterans.

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Packing Party

The number is 4,447. That is the number of Care Packages that VVA Chapter 310 and Friends

have packaged and mailed to our military personnel since 2003. On November 7, 2021, we completed our Pre-Christmas Packing and mailed the 33 large packages through the Saline Post Office over the following week. By now, the packages should have made it to their destinations.

Where were they mailed? Since we are no longer in Iraq or Afghanistan, the packages went to overseas locations in many other countries. They need morale boosting and perhaps more so now than ever. People may have forgotten them. We sent packages to APO and FPO addresses in Middle Eastern countries, Germany, South Korea, and other countries. For those who may not be aware, since 2003 we have paid about \$80,000 in postage to mail those 4,447 packages. Other costs were for boxes and tape, and not counting all the contents. Our



Elmer White offered to match up to \$500 for donations collected before and at the packing party. His donations exceeded \$10,000 to help with postage. Others made matching donations and more to help with postage costs. Soon after getting involved in Afghanistan and Iraq (2003), we

began packing Care Packages in our living room. We eventually moved to the VFW Post. We packed about every three months. When completed, we enjoyed a nice potluck meal. Thank you to all who bring the great food. A most memorable Pre-Christmas packing was in about 2014. We had a packing crew of about 60 people help that day. As I remember, we packed 104 packages with custom forms completed and in the van in 49 minutes. That was a great team effort. Our group has always worked great together. The last 6-7 years we even packed boxes specifically for female service personnel. The items in those packages included personal hygiene items, soaps, lotions, women's magazines, books, etc. Other memorable packing parties include having paralyzed Iraq War Veteran, Chris Ochs, join with us and also help get Elmer's money. Then there were the Miss Michigan and Miss Washtenaw County ladies who joined us to help pack. So many great memories as we helped boost morale overseas. Over the years, we have received great and touching acknowledgment letters from personnel overseas. We sure boosted the morale of thousands serving our nation and protecting our freedoms. Team, we do good work!

Thank you to all our packers and donors for all your support. We are a great Team. It is not good to single out one person as there are many of you, but a special thank-you must go out to Chief Perrault. He certainly did yeoman's work for all the years we have been packing. He would purchase items to go

in the packages, arrange the VFW Post for packing, pack bags of candy, get customs forms printed and written, load the packages in vehicles and take them to the Post Office. Then, he would make sure the postage was paid. And a side note, he would take donuts to the Post Office for the clerks to thank them. I salute you, Chief Perrault. And I thank all of you. We do make a difference!

—*—

Have you experienced this?

I was reading an article that Elmer White sent me about Stolen Valor. This must shamefully happen more than most of us believe. So, maybe if I share this experience, you may have one to share in an article, also. I remember this with disgust but also for being humorously stupid.

It was about three years ago. Jane and I were in Florida sitting outside at a picnic table at a McDonald's. Sitting at a table nearby was a man wearing a military/veteran type t-shirt. Being the way I am. I greeted him with "What branch did you serve?". He responded "Army." Now, being a soldier myself, I always follow-up questions. So, naturally I asked, "Well, where did you serve?" That brought out the following response that almost knocked me off our table. He said, "Oh, I served at Fort Grayling up in Michigan." Gee, the first time I had ever heard Camp Grayling called FORT Grayling. So, my follow-up question was "What did you do there?" "Oh, I worked in the sniper school up there."

In amazement what I had just heard, I went back to eating my burger trying to understand why someone would tell a story like that.

Have you experienced this?

—*—

Historical Photos



Joy and happiness from all of us in the Dispatch Team! Happy 2022!

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Please forward. Thank you!