

# 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*



**Jan. 2021**  
Washtenaw Co.,  
Michigan



**Editor's Note:**

**Happy New Year, 2021!**

May the new year bring us joy, health, and prosperity, among family, associates, and friends!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor--and the Dispatch Team

## What's New . . .

President's Message .....	2
Chaplain's Corner .....	2
VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes .....	3
AVVA Newsletter January 2021 .....	4
Honoring January Anniversaries on the Wall.....	5
Dispatch Recipients .....	7
Recognizing a 310 Chapter Member .....	8
Gifts to Hospital Patients.....	8
KIA Family Cards Received .....	9
Current Events.....	9
A Prayer Group.....	10
Jocosity .....	11
Remembering the Past in Photos .....	11

## President's Message

By Stan Harrison

I am grateful for our newsletter, the *310 Dispatch*. The Dispatch serves the vital function of keeping us in touch with our Chapter, letting everyone know what we are up to and why we exist. Paulo Pereira



does a great job of putting the newsletter together every month, along with a whole team of *Dispatch* Contributors, who help by contributing articles, pictures,

information, editing, printing, and distribution.

A lot more goes into producing the newsletter than you might think.

The quality of the product speaks for itself. Four times "National Newsletter of the Year" and "E-Newsletter of the Year" in 2017, the *Dispatch* makes us all proud.

The *Dispatch* Team members, who work together to produce our monthly *Dispatch*, have all earned a hearty "THANK YOU" from the rest of us.

One feature of the *Dispatch* is the list of upcoming events. This section of the newsletter can be very informative, but since the *Dispatch* comes out only once a month, there are bound to be additions. Our web page, [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org), is an excellent place to find the most up-to-date information.

Another way to stay informed is via email. Vance McCrumb and Dave Draper do the work of keeping us in the loop on short notice. If you

haven't been hearing from them, it means they don't have your email address. In that case, make sure Vance gets your email address. Stay in touch. Stay safe. Stay proud.

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## Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Here we go into a new year and the second year of the decade, filled with new leaders—well, old leaders in new roles—expectations galore, and who knows what other surprises that await us: sort of



like combat, isn't it? That is something we, vets and families, can understand and deal with. But January also brings winter weather, a new stock market, resolutions

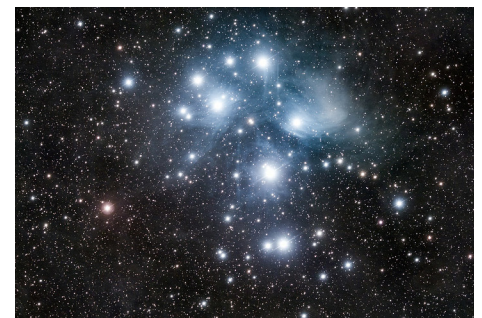
to be made and broken . . . okay, some that will be kept—like making it to our next birth anniversary, eating better, exercising more, helping others to reach new vistas in their lives, and generally living life more fully, with appreciation for what is really important.

As we contend with new leadership in our government, I find comfort in focusing on what God has in mind for us in regard to viewing others, as found in Psalm 53:

**The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity. There is**

**none who does good. God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt. There is none who does good, no, not one. Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon God? (Psalm 53:1-4 New King James Version)**

This reminder for us is not to be taken personally because, in reality, they are raging war against a God they don't believe in. Nonsensical, isn't it? Yet we see it abounding and increasing greatly. And they are proud of their accomplishments to try and neutralize God in society and in other peoples' lives. All this makes our Chapter's efforts to concentrate on prayer for our nation even more critical. I applaud the many efforts to acknowledge God and His supremacy in their lives, to give direction on how to live and on what pleases Him: a pure heart. My prayer has been around trying to fulfill Daniel's recorded wisdom, as found in chapter 12:



**Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn**

many to righteousness, like the stars, forever and ever (Dan. 12:3).

May we shine brightly like a candle on a hill for all to see and not hide His light in us because we are fearful of what others may say or think.

In this together for a BRIGHTER New Year!

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## VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

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

10 December 2020

**Call to Order** by President Harrison at 1904 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. Everyone attended via Zoom. Welcome Home, Everyone!

**New Members:** None.

**Guests:** None.

**Motion** to approve the November Minutes as published in the *Dispatch*, Merritt/Hitte. Approved.

#### **President's Report:**

The day after we had our last meeting, I went on a deer hunting trip. Be advised that no deer were harmed as a result of that trip. Several of us went shopping before Thanksgiving and delivered food to Dawn Farm. The day after that, my wife tested positive for COVID-19, and we've been under quarantine ever since I tested negative.

**AVVA Report:** See the *Dispatch* for their report.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Bull, The Council did not meet this month.

**Michigan State Council:** Rogge, The Council tried to do its first Zoom meeting but was unable to get a quorum.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt, The grass finally stopped growing, so crews are done for the year. Luker, The next step for the building is to dig the foundation and utility trenches, but we shouldn't take that step unless the concrete people are ready to fill the holes soon. The contractor we were counting on has already shut down operations for the season, Diversified Excavating is checking to see if they can find somebody for us.

**Website:** McCrumb, 241,400 visitors to the website; no problems.

**Membership:** The official number remains at 209.

**Newsletter:** Pereira. No report.

**Healthcare:** Wilson, Congress has passed the National Defense Authorization Act. It is waiting for the President's signature. He has threatened to veto it. The bill contains an amendment that would put Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism on the list of Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions.

**VAAHS:** Kinzinger: We can't do our usual in-person activities due to health restrictions. Embroidered shirts are ready to be delivered to the VA. The nursing staff will be called down to the lobby to take shirts up to their patients. It will be the same for the underwear giveaway. I'll get the word out when it is time to haul underwear

to the VA.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

#### **Good of the Order:**

Perrault, There is a picture of the 2007 National Convention in The VVA Veteran Digest publication (Nov/Dec 2020), precisely the year when John Kinzinger was awarded National Member of the Year.

We had also been working on having the VA let us use the Welcome Center as a location for our merchandise sales. Instead, the VA is now in the process of moving MyHealthEVet and the media center to that location.

Bull, First, the Cans for Veterans program has produced over \$1,000 of support for veterans so far. Second, as requested by various facilities, we are restarting the Cards for Veterans program. If you send me your letters in an email, I will pass them along to the facilities that will distribute them to servicemembers and veterans. The guidelines are that it can be any length (from a couple of lines to a multi-page letter), but the important thing is keeping the letter upbeat, positive, and gender nonspecific.

Third, we are working on a Veteran Suicide Prevention Project. I sent out a survey asking you and others how to get this job done, assuming money was not a problem. The top three responses were: Housing, Tribalism (vets getting to be with other veterans), and Awareness. Of the three, awareness was the most often mentioned step by far. To that end, we are working on several things to increase awareness, one of which is a phone app that should answer most questions about suicide, including identifying somebody who is contemplating



it and where to go for immediate counseling, and so forth. The App will cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to develop initially. Then it requires ongoing funding to maintain and upgrade it.

Along that same line, we are working with our State Legislature to add Michigan to the states with "Green Alerts" for veterans who have gone missing. It would work like a yellow alert for kidnapped children.

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1939 hrs. Chapter Breakfast on 15 January 2021: not scheduled.

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## **AVVA Newsletter January 2021**

*By Kathy Driscoll,  
AVVA President*

Happy New Year! I pray that 2021 is the beginning of the end of COVID-19. The Pfizer vaccine is approved, and healthcare workers are receiving it. With the approval of Moderna and the production of both vaccines, 2021 will hopefully vaccinate most of our population. I, for one, am looking forward to being vaccinated.

On a sad note, one of our oldest and dearest friends from New Jersey passed away alone in a COVID-19 ICU December 16th, in a University of Pittsburg Hospital. He was one of the 4,604 deaths reported by John Hopkins. He will be sadly missed.

I hope everyone is feeling well, wearing a mask, staying socially distanced, while helping slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Michigan. With those precautions

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 and 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.

Our Zoom meeting on December 10th went well. Six members attended. We voted to donate \$100.00 to Toys 4 Tots. Thank you, Meni, for giving us a contact person for Toys 4 Tots. Berryman mailed out our donation with a letter from Stan Harrison.

### **Paper Safes**

We have AVVA Paper Safes from Nancy Switzer. Please let me know if anyone would like a Paper Safe.

### **Service Projects / Fundraising**

Please consider donating food to our local community food banks. There is an increase in food insecurity in Washtenaw County,

### **Agent Orange Face Masks**

Birth Defects Research for Children has Face Masks for a \$10 donation. We mailed out two to a VVA 310 member.

Please contact me to order one. Please make all checks payable to Birth Defects Research for Children,

Please review their webpage: [www.birthdefects.org](http://www.birthdefects.org) for more



information.

### **Legislation Action!**

December 20, 2020, President Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2021. This bill allocated \$738 billion to the U.S. Military.

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

The last movement of this bill was on May 29, 2019. This bill was referred to the Subcommittee of Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. As of today, Thursday, December 17, 2020, there are 17 co-sponsors to this bill. Tim Walberg (R-17) is the only Michigan U.S. 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 U.S. 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 in 2020. Thank you to everyone who donated.
- We received our first donation to our "2021 No-Bake Bakeless Sale Fundraiser." The 2021 letters will go out in January. This is the fundraiser that benefits both our Operating and Special Projects for our Chapter.

### Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2021 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,283.25.

### AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting is scheduled for February. Location to be determined. I will only attend a Zoom meeting.

### AVVA National

- 2020 –Leadership Conference – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, Ohio. Cancelled.
- 2021- National Convention – Sheraton Greensboro At Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC
- 2022 – Leadership Conference – Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC
- 2023 - National Convention – Orlando, FL

### WCCV

Next Meeting is Monday, January 18th. 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](http://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](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com)

734-355-4897

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## Honoring January Anniversaries on the Wall

### Private First Class Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr.

was born on October 2, 1943 in Laredo, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. McIntire of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter graduated in January of 1964 from Ann Arbor High School where he was active in Junior Achievement and was the Vice-President of his J.A. company. He was also active in the Cooperative Occupational Training Program at Ann Arbor High School and worked part-time for S. S. Kresge Company.

Private First Class Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia

Province, South Vietnam on August 21, 1965 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd



Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

On September 18, 1965, Walter earned a Purple Heart when he was wounded by shrapnel in his leg. He recovered from those wounds and returned to his unit four week later. On January 2, 1966, Walter was killed by small arms fire in action near the Bien Hoa Air Base.

Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. is survived by his parents, three brothers and two sisters. He lived 22 years and 3 months. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter'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 04E Line 051.

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### Warrant Officer John David Eddy

was born on March 1, 1950 to Mr. and Mrs. Delvord Eddy of Ann Arbor, Michigan. John is a 1968 graduate of Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. He loved team sports, the out-of-doors, and camping trips to Lake Huron when he was young. John's ambition was to fly.

Warrant Officer Eddy enlisted in the Army in 1970. He completed helicopter flight training at Fort Wolters, Texas. He went through

advanced flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Warrant Officer John David Eddy began his tour in An Xugen Province,



South Vietnam on June 16, 1971. John was the copilot of a helicopter gunship when it was struck by enemy gunfire and crashed. Warrant Officer Eddy died with three other crew members on January 11, 1972. Warrant Officer John David Eddy earned the Air Medal for herosim, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Air Medal, National Defense and Vietnam Service Medals and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. The South Vietnamese Government presented him with the Military Merit Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm.

John David Eddy is survived by his parents, a wife, two daughters and a son, and two sisters. He lived 21 years, 10 months and 10 days. 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 02W Line 096.

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**Warrant Officer Michael Woodrow Hunter** was born on January 23, 1944 in Durham, North Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow W. Hunter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also attended Western Michigan University.



Warrant Officer Hunter entered the Army in 1967 going through Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He

was trained as a paratrooper and a helicopter pilot. Michael received his Wings as an Army Aviator in April of 1968 graduating tenth in his class. He began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam on July 14, 1969 serving as a helicopter co-pilot on an AH-1G with C Troop, First Squadron, Ninth Cavalry, First Air Cavalry Division. Michael was killed on January 28, 1970 when the helicopter he was co-piloting was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire during a gun run. The aircraft was struck by a 50 cal. round causing the main rotor to separate. He received the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal.

Michael Woodrow Hunter is survived by his parents, two sisters, and his son. He lived 26 years and 5 days. He is resting in the Swedish Mission Cemetery located in Centerville Township, Leelanau County, Michigan. Michael'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 14W Line 075.

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**Major George Frederick Vlisides** was born on December 31, 1924 in Detroit, Michigan to Mrs. Elena



Vlisides of Ann Arbor, Michigan. George is a 1943 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. George enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and received his

Second Lieutenant's commission and Bombadier Wings in 1944. He flew heavy bombers, but never made it overseas. He graduated from the Military Academy at West Point near the top of his class in 1950 where his classmates called him, "Gorgeous One." George enlisted in the Air Force after graduation from West Point. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal with two clusters flying 84 missions in the F-84 during the Korean War. He graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 1961.

Major Vlisides began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1964 serving with the 1st Air Commando Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, 13th Air Force. George earned another Air Medal in Vietnam. He also was shot down twice with the last time occurring on December 29, 1964. He celebrated his 40th Birthday on December 31, 1964. George died on January 27, 1965 when his A-1E Skyraider crashed in a landing attempt at Bien Hoa Airfield. He earned another Distinguished Flying Cross and two more Air Medals during his tour. George Frederick Vlisides is survived by his mother, a brother and a sister. He lived 40 years and 26 days. He is resting in the Greek Orthodox Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. George'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 01E Line 084.

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**Corporal Eddie Wallace** was born on January 12, 1949 in Birmingham, Alabama to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lee of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Eddie graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1968. He worked for Gar Wood Industries before enlisting in the Army in 1968.



Corporal Wallace began his tour of duty in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam on December 20, 1968

serving as a Petroleum Supply Specialist with the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Company, 307th Aviation Battalion, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. Eddie was killed on January 13, 1969 when a hand grenade was thrown at him while he was on guard duty. Eddie had been "In-Country" for only 23 days. Eddie Wallace is survived by his parents, four brothers and a sister. He lived 20 years and 1 day. Eddie is resting in Westlawn Cemetery in Inkster, Michigan. Eddie'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 35W Line 086.

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**Private First Class Michael**

**Dean Cribelar** was born on June 27, 1949 to Mr. Woodrow Dean Cribelar and Mrs. Virginia Cribelar. Michael attended Willow Run High

School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He worked for Ford Motor Company at the Ypsilanti Plant prior to entering the Army on June 9, 1967. Private First Class Cribelar completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He began his tour of duty in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam



as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division on November

22, 1967. Michael was killed on January 11, 1968 from small arms fire after being "In-Country" for one month and eleven days.

Michael Dean Cribelar is survived by his parents, his wife and two-year old son, and two sisters. He lived 18 years, 6 months and 14 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael'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 34E Line 028.

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**Private First Class Larry Gene**

**Gray** was born on March 19, 1945 in Missouri to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray. Larry is a 1963 graduate of Dundee High School located in Dundee, Michigan. Private First Class Gray entered the Army on July 18, 1966 receiving his Basic Training and Cook's School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Larry began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam

on January 5, 1967 serving as a Food Service Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He was killed on January 17, 1967 when the helicopter he was riding on during a combat support mission disintegrated in flight. He



was "In-Country" for only 12 days. Larry Gene Gray is survived by his wife, his parents, a brother

and three sisters. He lived 21 years, 9 months and 28 days. He is resting in the London Township Cemetery located near Milan, Michigan. Larry's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 14E Line 044.

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**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 2022  
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  
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## Recognizing a 310 Chapter Member

By George Perrault

On Pearl Harbor Day, Dec 7th, while I was standing in the line that was out the door at the Saline Post Office to mail the box of VVA 310's award winning *310 Dispatch*, a lady spotted my Chapter jacket and hat and came up to me and said, "Today is Pearl Harbor Day, and I see you are a veteran. Please take my spot."

I gained about 20 spots in the line. A real Thank You was given to that special lady for her kindness.

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More from The Chief: **VA News Sailor Gets Name Back**



**Billy James Johnson** lost his life and identity when the ship he called home was attacked on Dec 7, 1941. This is the story of how he and 270 of his shipmates got their names back.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Then join us December 22 for a more in-depth version of How a Sailor Got His Name Back, complete with expert

interviews and details of how the identifications were made. As of November 2020 the Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency has given back the names to 270 of USS Oklahoma's unidentified. Fireman First Class Billy James Johnson became the 200th sailor positively identified on February 26, 2019. His case highlighted the complexity of the project, as the fragments that made up his final remains were found in several different caskets. Johnson is now at rest and is remembered along with millions of other Veterans in the national cemetery system. FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalCemeteries/videos/1504687366587126/>  
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## Gifts to Hospital Patients

By John Kinzinger

Because of the Covid-19 we are not allowed to make our annual Christmas patient room visits this year. However, our successful fundraising this year has made it possible for us to continue passing on gifts to the hospitalized patients.

Today I discussed the following with Stephen Sparr, Voluntary Services Director. Monday, December 21st, 9:30am, pick up embroidered shirts at Unique A-Peel. Linda Colby, wife of deceased VVA 310 member David Colby, owns the shop located at 1675 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. It is located in the corner of an L-shaped two-story shopping area. This should mean at least two vehicle loads of large boxes;



volunteers, Berry Bourne, Stan Harrison, and Steve Hitte should be able to handle this.

At 10am, at the circle drive entrance of the VA, Stephen Sparr and others will have flatbed trucks to take them from you, Stephen will arrange for the nurses at the different stations to come to his office to pick up size appropriate shirts for the patients in their care, He also has instructions to give the remainder of the shirts to the Oncology Department to give to cancer treatment patients. This latter is in memory of deceased Chapter 310 Friend Theresa Mullins who at 50 died of cancer and she had worked in that Oncology Department. Berry, please take the VVA checkbook to pay Linda for the shirts.

Please, someone take a few pictures of the full vehicles, some of the shirts and the drop off at the VA. I can then use them in the thank you letters for our wonderful donors.

Thank you all,  
Info – I will make the plans for the future similar drop off for the underwear in a few weeks.

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## **KIA Family Cards Received**

*By John Kinzinger*

Each year we receive Christmas greetings from some family members of the men remembered on our Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The following are some we received so far. (Let it be known that, since the conception of our Memorial, we have never approached a family to donate

anything. They have already sacrificed too much. We received some checks in the cards below which will be deposited in our Memorial Maintenance fund.) Jonathan Fulton, brother of Kenneth Fulton, "Dear Col. Charles Kettles Chapter and Family, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year." May the joy of the season shine brightly throughout the year. "Sincerely, Jonathan Fulton and Family."

Lynda Gladstone, sister of Ronald L. Koch, "To everyone at Chapter 310: Thank you for your devotion and dedication in all that you do. It is appreciated. And I thank the Chapter 310 for asking me to write a bio for the Chapter book. It was all so very healing to me, and I am grateful to you for that." Wishing you all the blessings of the season. "I will always hold you in the highest regard. Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! Love, Lynda, Jeff and Braden."

Pat Beecham, sister of David S. Palmer, May you always carry with you a little of the beauty, warmth, and love of Christmas. "Thank you for your remembrances of all our loved ones – Peace, Pat" Larry Taylor, brother of Robert C. Piercy, Merry Christmas, May your Christmas be blessed with Peace and Joy. "God Bless all of you. In memory of Robert C. Piercy and all his comrades. Larry R. Taylor"

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## **Current Events**

*By Ann Dempsey-Pereira*

01 Jan: New Year's Day  
14 Jan: AVVA 310 Meeting, 1800 hrs, VVA 310 General Mtg, 1900 hrs (Both may be Zoom meetings)

15 Jan: Chapter Breakfast, TBD  
18 Jan: WCCV Meeting, Location TBD  
27 Jan: Vietnam Cease-Fire (1973)  
11 Feb: AVVA 310 Meeting, 1800 hrs, VVA 310 General Mtg, 1900 hrs (Both may be Zoom meetings)  
12 Feb: Chapter Breakfast, TBD  
15 Feb: WCCV Meeting, Location TBD  
15 Feb: Presidents' Day (1885)  
19 Feb: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday (1941)  
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://veteransradio.net) - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

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## **Letter to Veterans**

*By Rev. Bob Bull*

Hey everyone! Because of the continued lockdown of this state, and the situations surrounding the health of our veterans in hospitals and soldier homes, we are starting up the "Letters for Vets" program again.

As before, all letters and notes need to be positive, uplifting, and non-gender specific. They can be emailed to me and I will send them to the VA hospitals and the two Veteran Homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette.

If you would like to be part of this, please distribute this message to your friends and family right away. Thank you and God bless us all.

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## More About the Veterans Resource Center

From Dave Draper

The Veterans Resource Center is opening back up on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30am to 5:00pm. Rev. Bob Bull said that this past Wednesday several people came out and had a nice time chatting and telling their war stories. A few of the Guitars For Vets showed up and played around with their instruments. Erica Behm, the veteran navigator, came out with her family, and they all had a great time too. One of her sons joined in with playing around with the guitars. Bob had coffee and donuts in the morning and soup a little later in the day. If you need to get out for a while, think about stopping out to the VFW Post 423. Remember we have cards, pool, darts, T.V., or just a chance to sit and chat with friends for a while.

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## A Prayer Group

By Elmer White

On 12 Dec 2020, at 1:00 PM, a small group of veterans offered up "Prayers for the New Year" at Ann Arbor Veterans Memorial Park



(American and POW flags fly at Jackson and Maple intersection). All morning it had been drizzling rain that continued to 1:15 PM, when an interesting phenomenon occurred. If you were home on Saturday at 1:15 PM and glanced out the window, you saw that the rain stopped. The sky turned blue with billowing white clouds, and a strong beam of sunshine shown down upon us. Was it a sign from Higher Hdqrs, or was it simply a coincidence?

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## Service to Senior Veterans Received from Dave Draper

I received a forward from Gary Bourdeau including a listing of Food Pantries and distribution sites in Washtenaw County. This is a great list. Thank you so very much for getting it out. Milan Seniors for Healthy Living (MSHL) is a provider of meals for seniors, offering food in the form of hot lunches. Amongst other programs and services, MSHL addresses nutritional security for individuals 60+ in the greater Milan Area through the following services:  
a hot meal delivered to home-bound seniors (Meals on Wheels) - M-F  
a hot noon meal available for curbside pickup (Curbside Cuisine) - M-F  
a hot meal eaten on site (Senior Café) - M & Tu  
Registration and reservations are required at least 48 hours in advance. For additional information, see website for MSHL (milanseniors.org) or call 734-508-6229.

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## VA Covid-19 Vaccine Information

VA announces initial plans for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. You can find [more information here](#).

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## Important Information for Veterans

There is now a link at VVA 310's website indicating that a bill has been approved in Congress to rename the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor after LTC Charles S. Kettles. You can [access the link here](#).

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## Online Self-Help Programs

VA's Veteran Training website offers free online self-help programs to help. VA's Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention developed self-help programs for veterans, service members, and their families. The tools and resources work both on computers and on mobile devices. For more information, check out the [Veteran Training website](#).

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## VVA 310 Chapter Activities Photos

--> [Excellent photos found here](#).

Note: This is a Facebook link. Pictures are credited to various VVA 310 members.

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## Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

They had lived together in the backwoods for over fifty years. To celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, he took her to a large city, and they checked into a plush hotel. She said to the bellman, "We refuse to settle for such a small room. No windows, no bed, no fan," she complained.

"But, Madam!"

"Don't 'But, Madam' me," she continued. "You can't treat us like we're a couple of fools just because we don't travel much. I'm going to complain to the manager."

"Madam," the bellman said, "this isn't your room; this is the elevator!"

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## Remembering the Past in Photos

Hoping for a Good Future



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**Editor's Note:** May we have joy, prosperity, and good helath in the new year. Also, I would like to thank Pres. Stan Harrison for recognizing the Dispatch Team. Team members work quietly for this important historical record for work that VVA 310 members accomplish month after month. And a special "thank you" to those members who dedicate time and effort for service members overseas, for visiting Veterans in hospitals, and for activities that benefit our community. Vietnam Veterans continue to be the special generation that they are, transforming society as they go along.

Blessings to all of us!

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# 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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Vice President: Marv Rivers

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

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**VVA 310 Dispatch  
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Vietnam Veterans of America

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Please Forward. Thank You!