

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*



October 2021

Washtenaw County,
Michigan



Editor's Note: Our yearly Recognition Dinner will be on October 15th. Location: UAW 898, 8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, from 5 pm - 10 pm. Tickets: \$15 each. Need help with setup at noon on Friday. There will be a Bucket Raffle to benefit Fisher House. To donate to our raffle or volunteer, please contact Kathy Driscoll at 734-355-4897. The Towsley Foundation is matching donations dollar-for-dollar. The Dispatch Team thanks you.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch Editor

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President's Message

By Stan Harrison

We are the Vietnam Veterans of America, Charles S Kettles Chapter 310, Washtenaw County, Michigan. The Vietnam Veterans of America lobbies Congress to pass legislation and the Veterans Administration to implement those laws properly. We have lawyers to hold the VA's feet to the fire on Veterans' issues, and they aren't afraid to use the courts to get the job done. Of course, they do a lot more at the National level than just



work with the government; but, my point is, we have strong advocates at the top of our organization looking out for our interests. That is all "Big Picture" stuff. I think the heart of the VVA is at the local level. It is the fellowship with other Veterans that we feel when we gather. Our doctors tell us that it is essential to maintain a social life and to interact with others as we age. Chapter 310 can be a part of that social life for you. Come to one of our regular meetings on the second Thursday at 7 pm. Please attend one of the many events we do to honor and support veterans. Please stop by one of our fundraising efforts, maybe even pitch in. There is a camaraderie you feel when you are part of a group trying to do good things. We strive to be

that group.
Stay well and stay proud.

Chaplain's Corner October 2021

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Humility is to be highly desired among believers of God and takes form through our thoughts and actions as observed in Romans 12:

I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to every person that is among you, not to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every person the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the propor-

tion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teaches, on teaching; or he that exhorts, on exhortation; he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness.



Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor the thing that is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned

one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

If it be possible, as much as lies within you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not

yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink: for in so doing you shall heap blessings (coals of fire) on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:1-21)

It surely takes a man or woman of humility to live out this kind of life.

Blessing and honor!

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Regular Membership Meeting Minutes 9 September 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/Driscoll to approve the August Minutes as published in the Dispatch. Approved.

Officer Reports:

President's Report

We had a Pig Roast. It went very

well. Saline Legion helped us with this. I thank Sandie Wilson, Tim Driscoll and John Kinzinger. They did the feasibility study and got roped into being the committee that planned and executed the event.

Our next event is the Clinton Fall Festival. We'll need help 23 September to do the setup. Then we could also use help from the 24th through the 26th for the event and to pack things back up.

The Recognition Dinner is set for 15 October. If anybody would like to help with that, please let me know.

Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne. Reports were emailed to the Board. Reports also available to members via email on request. Our books are open to the public. We will email a copy of the report upon request.

A. The Pig Roast was a financial success, \$9,700 more than expenses.

B. Merchandise had two successful events; the Pig Roast and VetFest

C. Last year, we expected to end the year with unrestricted cash being lower by about \$2,100. My current projection for the fiscal year is \$11,000 better than that.

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see report in the Dispatch. We are still selling wrist bracelets to support Fisher House. Kathy and Shirley will represent AVVA at the National Convention. AVVA is helping to clean up and sanitize the Veterans Resource Center at the VFW. Fundraiser coming up at Recognition Dinner is the first one of the year.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Harrison. VetFest and Pig Roast went well, producing \$1,417 in combined revenue.

Clinton Fall Festival is coming, as I said in my President's report.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: No new meetings planned.

Michigan State Council: Luker. Region 5 preconference to be held in Columbus, Ohio, 24 – 26 September.

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) wants to decentralize the Veteran Service Officer (VSO) program that is now being managed by a coalition of veterans organizations. MVAA asked for the VSO program appropriation to be distributed evenly across the state's 10 economic regions. That is not good for the reasons stated in my email to you asking you to contact your state legislators. We were told that we will be able to see the proposed resolutions and Constitutional amendments at the pre-convention in Ohio.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. Lawns crews continue to do excellent work on mowing and maintaining facility maintenance. We have a significant mole problem and the lawn looks bad. The building project includes plans to irrigate the lawn and bushes and to deal with the moles.

Memorial Building: We now have a concrete pad with water and electrical connections provided for. DTE and the township have approved what they have inspected so far. This major step was largely due to the efforts of Laborer's International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 499, which is part of LIUNA's training center. The next step will be to construct the building. The contractor who will manage that work just had a tree fall on his house, so a start date is not available now.

Website: McCrumb. Our hit count is 306,356. I added a page to the website's Memorial section that gives the history of our first maintenance shed and has pictures and a story about the progress of the new building.

Membership: We are at 211. (We are the fourth largest Chapter in the State of Michigan).

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Healthcare: Wilson. The VA is soon going to start making the COVID booster shot available to those who have had both shots more than 6 months ago. There is also a new shingles shot available. But you can't get those shots too close together.

Dioxin research and care continues to be a problem for the VA. They now claim that doing the research required by law is just not feasible. VVA will be circulating a petition for us to sign, pointing out that dying from dioxin exposure or living with birth defects from it is not feasible either. Current estimates are that by 2030, 50% of our students will be on the autism spectrum due to toxic exposures. As a result, parents of autistic kids are asking more questions about treatment and prevention. We have invited the VA Secretary to the VVA National Convention to discuss this and other issues.

LTCCSKMC: (Lieutenant Colonel Charles S Kettles Medical Center) Kinzinger. We received confirmation that the patients will get two meal upgrades from us: one on Christmas and one on Veterans Day. The VA is allowing a few more volunteers into the building, but we are still unable to plan any events, like the Halloween room visits.

Old Business: Motion by Kinzinger,

seconded by Bull, to hold the 2022 Pig Roast at the Saline American Legion. Approved.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Merritt: Breakfast tomorrow beginning at 0845 instead of 0900 so that we can have breakfast and then help with the crosses at 1000. Breakfast will be at the Bomber Restaurant at 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 482-0550.

St. Antoine: The lawnmower VVA members bought for Camp Liberty had a price tag of \$8,700 but was sold to Camp Liberty for only \$6,200. The lawnmower will be donated to VVA Chapter 310 if Camp Liberty closes.

Throneberry: There I Was will be a roundtable-type group discussion this Thursday, rather than individuals telling their stories. We will talk about leaving Afghanistan and how that compares to leaving Vietnam. Join us from 1900 to 2100 on 16 Sep 2021 at VFW.

Kinzinger: I am happy to see so many people attending our meetings. I am especially happy to see Bob and Sharon Kwiecinski. Sharon brought us the pecan pie bars.

Kwiecinski: I am glad to see new and old faces. I transferred back to here (VVA 310) because of how well you guys are doing. I'm especially happy to see that you are continuing to do great things.

Bull: We are doing a First Responder reception on Saturday, 11 September. We'll open the doors at 0900, have a short program at 1100 and remain open until 1600. Some of the food we will be serving to first responders was donated by VVA 310. Thank you. Our next Open House will be 23

October. Three tables are reserved for VVA and one for AVVA.

Draper: American Legion Post 46 donated funds to enhance a program in Washtenaw County that provides transportation between cities in the county that are not adequately served by the VA shuttlebus system. Calls are routed to Bob Bull and myself when somebody needs transportation for essential services such as going to VA or clinics. The service is available even for people who need service dogs, oxygen, or wheelchairs and such.

Frazier: Congratulations to Tim Driscoll who graduated from a 10-week class for guitar playing. The class was moved to the VFW from the VA due to COVID. There will be an orientation this Tuesday. We'll have about 30 students in line for classes. To get in line, a veteran needs a referral from mental health, which will be sent to voluntary services who then contacts Guitars for Vets. Those who finish the class are given a guitar to keep. We are looking for teachers and fundraisers as well as students, by the way.

Harrison: We are doing the cross project at the Ypsilanti Township grounds for the whole month of September. Come out to observe or to help put up crosses.

Hibbitts: Also, please take a look at website www.22aday.org.

Bull: Please remember this is veteran suicide prevention month. Stay dressed in veteran stuff so people in stress know they can talk to you and get the help they need.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1953 hrs.

AVVA Newsletter October 2021

By Kathy Driscoll, AVVA
President

COVID 19 Update from Health
Department Washtenaw County
Michigan

COVID-19 vaccines are free, safe,
effective, and easy to get!

UPDATE Sept 24, 2021: The [CDC](#)
[has recommended](#) Pfizer boost-
er doses for specific people or
groups. The Health Department
will begin offering boosters Tues,
Sept 28 at our normally scheduled
walk-in clinic. Expanded, drive-
through clinics coming in October.
Announcement coming soon.

Reminders:

- ☐ Only Pfizer vaccine is currently available as a booster. Six months must have passed since the individual's last Pfizer dose.
- ☐ COVID-19 vaccine is also available from many other [providers and pharmacies](#).

Additional doses for moderately to severely immunocompromised people are available. We are offering additional (3rd) doses to [those eligible](#) at our ongoing vaccine clinic at the Health Department (555 Towner in Ypsilanti). Walk-in during the times listed below. We strongly encourage patients to talk with their primary care doctor (or treatment team who cares for their immunosuppressive condition) to determine the degree of immune compromise and, importantly, determine appropriate timing of an additional vaccine dose. **Additional doses for immunocompro-

mised people are available with Pfizer or Moderna.

Here are the websites to request a vaccination:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3269/COVID-19-Vaccination>

<https://www.uofmhealth.org/coronavirus/vaccine-info-update>

<https://www.stjoeshealth.org/health-and-wellness/covid-19/vaccine>

<https://ihacares.com/resources/covid19/covid-19-vaccine>

Meijer, CVS, and Kroger Pharmacies are taking vaccine registrations. If you shop at Meijer, CVS or Kroger, please check the pharmacies for more information.

Please let me know if you need anything. AVVA and VVA 310 have resources available to assist you.

Chapter Happenings

- ☐ Meni and Corrine are volunteering hours on Wednesday and/or Saturdays at the Veteran Resource Center. If you would like to volunteer, stop by at the VFW on Wednesday or Saturday.
- ☐ Meni has also volunteered time returning bottles and cans donated to the Veteran Resource Center.
- ☐ Members are making Stress Balls for Fisher House Michigan. Email me if you need the pattern.
- ☐ We are collecting trail-size

shampoo, soap, tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc., for Fisher House Michigan. You can drop off your donations to me or directly at the Fisher House.

Fundraising Projects

- ☐ Wrist Story Bracelets are available for \$5 donation. We have 18 available. Proceeds will benefit Fisher House Michigan. Please contact me.
- ☐ Our Fisher House Michigan specified line has a balance of \$205. We received donations totaling \$70 at our September meeting for Fisher House Michigan.
- ☐ Agent Orange Masks \$10 donation. Please make your check payable to "Birth Defects Research for Children." I have a few, but Sandie Wilson is the main contact for this fundraiser for Birth Defects Research for Children. <https://birthdefects.org/> Please contact me for a mask

Paper Safes

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

Service Projects

- ☐ Fisher House Michigan is requesting travel-size items of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, body wash, etc., as well as pocket-size tissues. You can bring your donations to our September meeting or contact Kathy to pick-up your donation. Please bring donations to

our October meeting.

- Fisher House Michigan would like volunteers to make stress balls using large loop yarn. If you need a copy of the pattern, please email Kathy at dkathyr16@gmail.com. Please either drop off your donation directly to Fisher House Michigan or to Kathy Driscoll. I will be happy to drop them off for you.

- Rev. Bob Bull needs volunteers to assist the Veteran Resource Center on Wednesdays and/or Saturdays at the VFW Post 423. The center is open from 09:30 am to 5:00 pm. You will assist in keeping Post 423 clean and sanitary. Please consider volunteering an hour or two. Breakfast and lunch provided by Rev. Bob Bull, VVA 310 member. For information on volunteering, please contact Rev. Bob Bull at 734-664-7878.

- Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. Our communities still have families who are food insecure due to Covid-19.

Links to local Food Banks
Saline Social Services:

<https://www.salinesocialservice.com/ways-to-give/donate/>

Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:

<https://www.foodgatherers.com/>

SOS Community Services,

Ypsilanti, MI:

<https://soscs.org/ways-to-give/>

Catholic Social Services

<https://csswashtenaw.org/family-children/cssw-food-pantry/>

Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=washtenaw+county+food+banks>

Legislation Action!

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 Thursday, December 17, 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

As stated above, we have Wrist Bracelets for a \$5 donation. All proceeds go to Fisher House Michigan.

When I toured the Ann Arbor Fisher House, their staff mention that they need gift cards for Kroger or Sam's Club for weekly food shopping. I would like to take up a collection to purchase a \$250.00 gift card to be sent to April LaRock, manager of FHM Ann Arbor, in October 2021. Please consider a \$5 or \$10 donation at our October meeting. I will purchase the gift card. You can mail me your donation directly. Please make your check payable to VVA 310 with AVVA FHM Gift Card on the memo line.

Kathy Driscoll
172 Oakwood
Saline, MI 48176

Excerpt from email from April LaRock:

"Highest need for gift cards are for groceries: Kroger and Sam's Club (they accept Walmart gift cards too). That's where we shop the most. The larger the quantities too (each trip runs us about \$250-300) and we go at least twice a week. It takes a lot of time to process multiple \$25 gift cards for one trip (if that makes sense just from a donation tracking system)."

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2022 Girls' State Update!
The fund balance is \$3,848.25. We received a \$500 donation to our Lois Perrault Memorial Fund. This fund is dedicated to sponsor delegates to the American Legion Auxiliary Girl State in memory of Lois Perrault. We plan to sponsor four delegates to Girl State 2022. We are proud to continue our sponsorship to Girl State 2022 in Lois' memory.

If you know of a high school student who will complete their

junior year, please have them contact their Guidance Counselor for the application to Girl State. I emailed our contact for Girl State and should have more information at our October 14th membership meeting.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

- 2021 National Convention, November 2 – November 6, 2021 at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC. Shirley and I will attend this years convention.
- 2022 Leadership Conference, Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC
- 2023 National Convention, Orlando, FL

WCCV

I attended the September WCCV dinner meeting at the American Legion Post 31, Chelsea. Please let me know if you would like to be my alternate. Responsibilities are to attend a monthly meeting if I am unable to attend.

Upcoming Events!

Next meeting will be in person at 6:00 pm on October 14th. If you would like a zoom session, please let me know. I can schedule one for you to attend our October meeting.

15 October Recognition Dinner, UAW 898 5 pm – 10 pm Tickets are \$15. AVVA 310 will have a Bucket Raffle.

18 October WCCV Saline American Legion Post 322

Keep up to date with our Chapter: All AVVA and VVA 310 events are

posted on our Chapter's webpage, www.vva310.org in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 proudly supports the AVVA Mission and Vision Statements.

AVVA Mission Statement:

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA Vision Statement:

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

Past President, AVVA Michigan Association

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

13 Oct: Navy Birthday (1775)

14 Oct: Chapter Monthly Board Meeting, 1730 hrs; Monthly Membership Meeting, 1900 Hrs (Click Here to attend by Zoom)

15 Oct: Chapter Monthly Breakfast – TBD.

15 Oct: Recognition Dinner, UAW Hall, 6:00 pm. Doors open 5:00pm.

18 Oct: WCCV Meeting, Chelsea American Legion Post 31

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.

Memorial Anniversary

By John Kinzinger

30th Anniversary Celebration

Can it be? Yes, it has already been 30 years since we dedicated our wonderful Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It was November 10, 1991 when General William Westmoreland, hundreds of Vietnam Veterans, KIA family members, Township officials and a couple thousand others gathered for the Dedication.

Most, but more likely all, of the parents of those listed on our Memorial have passed on and are now with their KIA loved one. Many of our VVA 310 members who were in attendance that day have also passed on. That 30 years has flown by, like the blink of an eye.

Come join us for this special celebration. All VVA 310 members and family members, along with anyone else interested, are invited to attend a special observance of the 30th anniversary.

Put it on your calendar and plan to join us at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center on Wednesday, November 10th at 7pm. After the program, there will be cake and coffee for some personal reflection time.

Remembering Room Visits

By Jane Kinzinger

Halloween is fast approaching. For many years, starting around 1990, VVA 310 made room-to-room patient visits at the VA Hospital. On the Saturday evening closest to October 31st each year, Chapter members came up with creative



was always 2 quite large jack-o-lanterns masterfully carved by member Ron Henley. These large carved pumpkins were placed in wheel chairs and pushed around to all the patients' rooms.

Before restrictions, there would be donuts and apple cider. Nurses' stations would received Halloween candy in thanks for the care they provide for our eterans. Sandy Martinez purchased the candy and arranged them, as she still continues to do.

After completing our rounds to patients' rooms, including the mental health wing, we found our way to Sidetrack Bar and Grill in Ypsilanti to continue to enjoy the company of Chapter members and friends. We continued this tradition each Halloween until 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions prevented our room visits. Even this year, when the VA Hospital is not fully open, Sandy Martinez will prepare candy trays for each nurses' station in the hospital.

In this picture taken October 28, 2000 are (left to right): Dick Knight (deceased 2019), Doris Knight, Barb Lowe, Wm. R Lowe, Rebecca Rinkoski, Sandy Martinez, Theresa Mullins (deceased 2002), Ron Henley, Jane Kinzinger, John Kinzinger, Jennifer, and Randy Johnson.

Celebrating 9/11

By Dave Draper

On September 11, the Veteran Resource Center and American Legion Post 46 co-sponsored a 9/11 Remembrance at VFW Post 423. Attendance was low, probably because of so many other organizations doing the same thing and because of the construction at Wagner and Waters Roads. Those in attendance enjoyed the ceremony and the great food. Quite



a few more people came afterward to enjoy the great food and a lot of camaraderie. I'd like to thank all those who helped organize, set up, help out during the event, and cleanup. Saline Boy Scout Troop 446 performed the flag ceremony in a professional manner. Inspiring speeches from Legion Post 46 Commander Draper, Chaplain Bob Bull, Tim Driscoll, and Paulo Pereira were given during the ceremony. The ceremony ended with a remembrance of the 13 servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives in Afghanistan during the pullout of troops, Americans, and civilians. The weather was lovely. Everyone

seemed to enjoy themselves by chatting with one another; a few played games with the children who attended. Thanks to Bob Kurtz and Eric Downie for cooking the burgers, dogs, and brats. They were very tasty. Below is a link to some of the pictures my wife, Meni, took. Many thanks to her also. It was a great day for everyone.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/164614453@N02/albums/72157719826056732>

Honoring October Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Donald Sylvester

Moses was born on June 20, 1947. Specialist 4 Moses began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam on April 25, 1967 serving as an infantryman with



B Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade. Donald was killed on October 25,

1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds. Donald Sylvester Moses lived 20 years, 4 months and 13 days. He is resting in Magnolia Baptist Church Cemetery in Newellton, Louisiana. Donald's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 28E Line 069.

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

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



posthumously promoted to Corporal and received the Bronze Star Medal. Eugene Ravn Suarez is survived by his mother,

three brothers and six sisters. He lived 19 years, 9 months and 10 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 42W Line 060.

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Captain David Raymond Wagener was born on June 22, 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Wagener of Saline, Michigan. David is a 1957 graduate of Saline High School where he was an honor student, an outstanding athlete

lettering in football, basketball and track. He also attended the University of Michigan prior to enlisting in the Air Force in 1959. He also attended the University of Delaware. David received his Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He attended Aviation Cadet Training at Harlingen Air Force Base in Texas. He received his pilot flying wings at Williams Air Base, Chandler, Arizona. Captain Wagener began his tour of duty in Udorn, Thailand serving with the 602nd Fighter Squadron, 14th Air Commando Wing, 7th Air Force. According to a posting from a colleague, Ira Cooperman, "Dave Wagener was a friend and a brave 'Sandy' pilot. While stationed at Udorn RTAFB in 1966, he flew 'cover' for helicopter missions attempting to rescue downed American pilots in Laos, as well as to support friendly forces on the ground in Laos. It was from one of those missions that he did not return." On October 20, 1966, Captain Wagener was shot down and killed about 20 miles north of the DMZ in Quang Binh Province. His body was not recovered. David Raymond Wagener finally came home on December 5, 1997 when his remains were discovered.



David is survived by his wife, mother and two brothers. He lived 27 years, 3 months

and 28 days. He is resting in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, Section 6, Site

595. David's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township in two locations. The first location is on the bench in front of the Memorial listed with two other men listed as MIA. The second location is on the Vietnam Memorial under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 092.

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Specialist 4 Charles Wesley Bird was born on January 16, 1943 in Belle, West Virginia. He is a 1961 graduate of Dupont High School in Belle, West Virginia. Charles worked for Ford Motor Company at the Rawsonville Plant and was



married three months before entering the Army on October 24, 1966. He lived in Ypsilanti residing with his wife's parents until

his induction.

Specialist 4 Bird began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on April 17, 1967 serving with D Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Charles died as a result of enemy small arms fire on October 14, 1967. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. Charles Wesley Bird is survived by his wife and a brother and several sisters. He lived for 24 years, 8 months and 28 days. He is resting in Montgomery Memorial Park in Fayette, West Virginia. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti.

Charles' name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 27E Line 106.

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



\$100. He was also Student Council President, and President of his class of 1961. C. Robert Arvin was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point in

1961 as a member of the Corps of Cadets of 1965 where he continued to achieve academic and athletic recognition. In recognition of his achievements, C. Robert Arvin was appointed as the highest ranking cadet in the Corps' chain of command with the title of First Captain and Brigade Commander. C. Robert Arvin received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in 1965 graduating as the top cadet of 2,770 in the Corps of Cadets.

First Lieutenant Arvin began his tour in Thua Thien Province, South

Vietnam on May 29, 1967 serving with Advisory Team 162, 7th ARVN Airborne Battalion, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). According to a note on the Virtual Wall, "First Lieutenant Arvin received two awards of the Silver Star Medal, the first for an action on September 5, 1967 when the 7th Vietnamese Airborne Battalion...came under intense mortar and small arms fire. Though wounded, Arvin disregarded the fierce fire and was leading his element forward to engage the enemy when his radio operator was also wounded. Arvin dragged the soldier to safety and, undaunted by the perilous circumstances, returned to direct repeated helicopter gunship strikes. He refused his own medical evacuation until the objective was secure and the mission complete."

The note continues, "After a brief period of hospitalization, First Lieutenant Arvin requested an immediate return to duty. The second award resulted from actions which led to his death, 'On October 8, 1967, his unit was completing a sweep of a suspected enemy base when it encountered an entrenched enemy regiment. Intense enemy fire pinned down Arvin's Battalion in an exposed, untenable position. In full view of the enemy, he valiantly moved through the fire to a forward vantage point. There, as fighting raged about him, he directed extremely accurate, close-range gunship passes onto enemy positions. As he continually moved through fire-swept fields to position himself better to direct the supporting fire, Arvin was mortally wounded. His unremitting attention

to duty and superb direction of ground forces and supporting aircraft had enabled his battalion to defeat a strong and determined enemy three times its size." First Lieutenant Arvin was promoted posthumously to Captain. Captain Carl Robert Arvin is survived by his parents, wife and a brother. Captain Arvin is resting in West Point Cemetery with two other 1965 classmates who were killed in Vietnam. He lived 24 years, 8 months and 19 days. In 1988, a new cadet gymnasium at the U.S. Military Academy was named in his honor. C. Robert Arvin'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 27E Line 068.

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Staff Sergeant Rodger Edson

Terwilliger was born on January 19, 1942 to Mr. and Mrs. Orin S. Terwilliger. Rodger attended Adams Elementary and Ypsilanti High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, but graduated from Littleton High School in Littleton, Colorado. He worked for the Martin Aircraft Company in Denver, Colorado before entering the Army in 1961. Sergeant Terwilliger began his tour



of duty in South Vietnam on February 4, 1966 serving as an Intelligence Analyst with the 246th Psychological Operations Company, 6th

Psychological Operations Battalion, United States of Army Republic of Vietnam Special

Troops, Army Headquarters Area Command. Rodger was killed on October 15, 1966 when the vehicle he was riding struck a mine. Rodger Edson Terwilliger is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, his father and his step-mother, a brother, six step-brothers, and four step-sisters. He lived 24 years, 8 months and 26 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 13, Site 16284. Rodger's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 078.

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This KIA person is listed on our Memorial Wall.

Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031
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 Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023
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VVA 310 Chapter in Historical Perspective

Keeping Chapter history in perspective

Dedication Ceremony: November 10, 1991 - Vietnam Memorial



All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
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VVA 310 Dispatch
October 2021

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