

# 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*



**September 2022,  
Washtenaw County,  
Michigan**



**Editor's Note:** Speaking for all members of the Dispatch Team, I would like to express our thanks to all of you who contributed articles, news, items of interest, and photos. You both created interesting events and then wrote about them—and for that, we are grateful.

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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# President's Message

By Stan Harrison



First of all, I would like to thank all those who helped us with our Pig Roast. Of course, VVA and AVVA

members worked for weeks on the sundry tasks that were so necessary for success, but we also got indispensable assistance and donations of time and money from other organizations and individuals. It was heartening to see. The Saline American Legion was a wonderful partner, supplying not only a great venue but also expertise, facilities, and many volunteers. They were gracious hosts throughout. Well done, all. This month, we are sponsoring another demonstration project by "22aday.org." We will be placing 22 crosses each day for 30 days near our Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. Each cross represents a veteran or active-duty military lost to suicide. The cumulative effect of 22 crosses added each day gives a striking visual of the magnitude of the loss. You can go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b48aead2fa7f94-veteran5> to sign up to help place crosses on whatever day you choose. We meet at noon. It takes about 15 minutes. There will be a Chapter member there to show you exactly what to do. It is a satisfying activity. You feel that you have at least done something to highlight the problem.

Later this month, on September

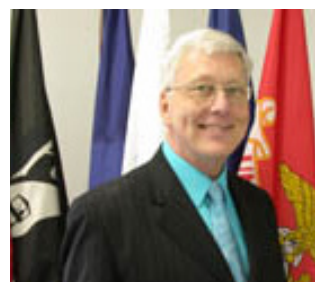
23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be selling merchandise at the Clinton Fall Festival. I will have sign-up sheets at our September meeting, or you can call me at 734-358-8220 to volunteer to help with sales. This is a good opportunity for newer members to volunteer for a couple of hours and get to know some of your fellow vets. I'll see you at our next meeting. In the meantime . . . , Stay safe and Stay proud.

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## Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Holiness is a heavenly requirement as it reflects the Lord and His very nature. But what does it mean to



be holy? How does it flesh itself out for us to understand and try to

achieve?

Isaiah describes his encounter with holiness in a vision found in chapter one of his book:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD

of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes,

And hear with their ears,  
 And understand with their  
 heart,  
 And return and be healed."  
 11 Then I said, "Lord, how  
 long?"  
 And He answered:  
 "Until the cities are laid  
 waste and without inhabi-  
 tant,  
 The houses are without a  
 man,  
 The land is utterly deso-  
 late,  
 The LORD has removed men  
 far away,  
 And the forsaken places  
 are many in the midst of  
 the land.  
 But yet a tenth will be in  
 it,  
 And will return and be for  
 consuming,  
 As a terebinth tree or as  
 an oak,  
 Whose stump remains when  
 it is cut down.  
 So the holy seed shall be  
 its stump."  
 (Isaiah 6:1-13 New King James  
 Version)

Holiness comes with a price: a realization that a person is not holy in the presence of true holiness and with it the desire to change. The Lord accommodates such a desire with cleaning and sends the cleansed person out with a task to confront unholiness. That mandate will yield God's will but will be stubbornly rejected by unholy people, and God's will is accomplished. This is where we come in as God's chosen people. We have a task to do but should remain vigilant, even though many will turn away from the message. It rejected Christ; it will reject us also. Peace be upon all.

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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

11 August 2022

Call to Order by McCrumb at 1901 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/Kinzinger to approve the July Minutes published in the *Dispatch*. Approved.

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

Read by McCrumb: Vet Fest went well. There are signup sheets going around for Pig Roast. There are also Pig Roast flyers on the table. Please pass them out where you shop and where you eat.

Treasurer's Report:

Berry Bourne. Reports are emailed to the board and member who wants one. Let me know your email address. Our unrestricted revenue grew because of a single \$2,000 donation for Pig Roast. We sold \$714 of merchandise at Camp Liberty, plus \$18 donated. On the expense side, we made a matching fund donation of \$2,500 to Michigan Ability Partners (MAP). No questions.

### AVVA Report:

Driscoll. Please see the report in the *Dispatch*. Kinzinger mentioned that Kate Kirkpatrick is bringing 8 women from the Daughters of the American Revolution to help serve at the Pig Roast.

Committee Reports:

**Merchandise:** The VA is still not allowing us in to sell yet. Our next big events will be the Pig Roast and the Clinton Fall Festival.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Did not have a quorum.

**Michigan State Council:** No report.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt.

New procedures are in place for the new building and equipment.

We are still expecting Diversified

Excavating to do the final grade for us and to build a berm at the

back of the property on which we will plant Michigan wildflowers and

perennials.

**Website:** McCrumb. We are up around 350,000 hits

**Membership:** The official number is 217, a new record for us. I handed out six applications at VetFest, but I have not received any of them back yet.

**Newsletter:** No report.

**Healthcare:** No report.

**LTCCSKMC:** Kinzinger. VA patients did get one meal upgrade so far.

They have two more coming from us. We will do Halloween and Christmas the same way we did last year. We deliver gifts to the door and the staff takes care of it from there.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:**

**Bourne:** We got a nice letter from MAP for our gift to them. We also got an invitation to the Fisher House Fundraiser Gala in Detroit. It is for the Detroit Fisher House



and is on 10 September at Gross Pointe Yacht Club

**Bull:** We just put in a request to set up the MRC in the tailgate area at the Ann Arbor Golf and Outing Club for each University of Michigan home game. We will have to pay \$50 per space. We'll have hotdogs on the grill. I am looking for donations for the MRC.

**Bull:** VRC had 20 people come out yesterday. That's a record group for us.

**Bull:** 22 October is the next Open House from 1000 to 1600 at the VFW Post.

**Merritt:** Breakfast on Friday, 9 September, at 0900: TBD.

**Closing Prayer** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1926 hrs.

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## Honoring September Anniversaries on the Wall

**Lance Corporal Hermon Eugene**

**Fuller, Jr.**

was born on March 9, 1947, in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Hermon E. and Mrs. Eugenia Fuller of Ypsilanti. Hermon is



a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School, where he ran cross country and played football. He gained a nickname in high school of "Flea" because there was a flea on the Soupy Sales Show named Herman. He also was a member of the Boy Scouts, and he worked on the stage crew for high school plays. Lance Corporal Fuller enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 27, 1965, and received his infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California. Hermon was stationed in Okinawa before being deployed to Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, serving as a rifleman with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. He died on September 25, 1966, as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds from a mortar attack.

Hermon Eugene Fuller, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother, and three sisters. He lived 19 years, 6 months, and 16 days. Hermon'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 014.

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**Hospital Corpsman Third Class**

**Gary Robert Shepperdson** was born on July 13, 1946, to Mr. John and Mrs. Margaret Shepperdson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary is a 1965 graduate of St. Thomas High School in Ann Arbor. He also attended Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the



Navy in September of 1966. Hospital Corpsman Third Class Shepperdson began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, on July 10, 1968, serving as a Hospital Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Gary was killed on September 30, 1968, as a result of a gunshot wound from enemy rifle fire while participating in Operation Mameluke Thrust.

Gary Robert Shepperdson is survived by his mother, a sister, and three brothers. His father preceded him in death in 1957. He lived 22 years, 3 months, and 17 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary'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 050.

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**Hospital Corpsman Third Class Scott Philip Smith** was born on May 30, 1947, in Ann Arbor to Mr. Philip H. Smith of Grass Lake,

Michigan, and Mrs. Ralph (Jeane) Foreman, Jr. of Northville, Michigan. Scott is a 1965 graduate of Chelsea High School, where he was on the track team and the high school band. He also attended Grand Valley Junior College in Grand Rapids, Michigan before he entered the Navy on March 17, 1967.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class

Smith began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, on June 3, 1969, serving as a Corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Scott was killed on September 17, 1969, as a result of an explosive device. Scott Philip Smith is survived by his parents, a half-brother, and a half-sister. He lived 22 years, 3 months, and 17 days. Scott's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Chelsea. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18W Line 106.

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### AVVA Newsletter September 2022

[NOT AVAILABLE THIS MONTH]

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## Dispatch Recipients

VVA 310 award-winning newsletter reaches approximately 500 people each month with 100 mailed USPS, 50 hits off the website ([www.va310.org](http://www.va310.org)), and 350 emailed. With good stewardship and networking, the cost to print the Dispatch approximates \$1,250 per year. If VVA 310 members 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 Do-

nation on the memo line.

### RECIPIENTS

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2023  
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023  
Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024  
Joseph Flint ~ January 2023  
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 Kate Kirkpatrick ~ December 2023  
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 2024  
Sandy Martinez ~ November 2024  
Del Mayes ~ March 2025  
Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ January 2023  
Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027  
Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024  
George Perrault ~ October 2025  
Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023  
Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026  
Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023  
Jim Sharp ~ April 2031  
John C. Shook ~ July 2028  
Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023  
Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023  
Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027

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## Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

08 Sep: VVA 310 Monthly Member Meeting, 1900 hrs  
09 Sep: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs  
11 Sep: Patriots Day (2002)  
15 Sep: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, Milan American Legion, 44 Wabash St  
16 Sep: POW/MIA Recognition Day (1990)  
18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)  
19 Sep: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs  
\*\* Visit Veterans Radio online (Click [veteransradio.net](http://veteransradio.net)) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

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## Of Interest to Veterans

### Burn Pits or Other Toxins

Submitted by Dave Draper

Newly enacted legislation may be of interest to you if you were exposed to burn pits or other toxins during military service. This legislation expands presumptive disabilities, VA care, and benefits to Veterans as related to exposure to more than 20 toxic conditions. You can obtain more information by accessing [www.VA.gov/PACT](http://www.VA.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MyVA411.

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### Charter Members: VVA 310

Submitted by Vance McCrumb

The list submitted below indicates the charter members of the VVA 310 Chapter, when our Chapter

was established in 1987. That was an important historical moment for VVA 310, and these charter members are part of the Chapter's history.

### Charter Members

Tim Armentrout  
Clifford L. Avery  
Richard I. Bame  
Pete Belaire  
Jesse Michael Butler  
Milo Lloyd Cavanaugh  
Ron Chrisman  
Ed Conrad  
Martha Cothorn  
Dennis Davie  
Hal Dotson  
Paul Dumsch  
Curtis W. Estes  
Bill Feight  
Phil Hecker  
J. R. Hinkle  
John Kinzinger  
Jerry Lauwers  
Lloyd Lee  
James J. Lounsbury  
Mack Lewis, Jr.  
Bob London  
Norm Marko  
Jack McManus  
John Smith  
Robert M. Smithers  
Charles F. Stackman  
Gill Turner  
Richard L. Thornton  
James B. Uphouse  
Jimmy Wade  
James I. Watkins  
Mitchell L. Wilcher  
Sandra Wilson

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## Put Up a Cross; Save a Life

By Wendy Hibbitts, Alfred (Freedo) Merritt, and Jon Luker

The organization [22aday.org](http://22aday.org), together with Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310, Vietnam Veterans of America, is performing a veteran-suicide awareness presentation every day at noon, beginning on 3 September 2022. This is in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month. If you would like to know more, please see the website at [www.22aday.org](http://www.22aday.org). In short, we put up 22 crosses a day to give the public a visual presentation of the cost of not taking proper care of our veterans. We do that every day for 30 days so the public can see how terrible the cost is when it adds up. If you would like to help put up the crosses—or help put the name of a veteran who committed suicide on one of the crosses—or if you would like to learn what you can do to help veterans choose something other than suicide, please go to the "Signup Genius" website at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B48AEAD2FA7F94-veteran5>. If the time of your choice is filled up, please feel free to come anyway. But we do need at least two other people to help us each day. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions the website doesn't answer for you. Thank you for your interest and support.

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## Second Poem: On Paul Dumsch's PTS Journey

Submitted by John Kinzinger

The following is the second poem from a series by VVA charter mem-

ber Paul Dumsch after returning home from Vietnam on his PTS journey afterward.

### 1049

I wanted to go back,  
Back to what I knew.  
Five months to go stateside  
Before I'm out.  
F\_\_\_ this spitshine chickenshit  
Put in a 1049 for transfer  
Back to Vietnam.  
The cost was re-enlistment,  
The price too dear.  
I didn't re-enlist.  
I still go back there  
Every day and night.  
It doesn't cost the taxpayers a dime,  
No travel pay, no hazardous duty pay,  
Just my life and dysfunction.  
Pretty cheap.  
(Paul Stewart Dumsch, 2000)

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## Drone Video of the Vietnam Memorial

Submitted by Vance McCrumb

I would like to share with everyone a drone view of our Vietnam Memorial grounds. I have embedded the video code to the drone's page on our site, [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org). The video itself does not reside on our site; the code does. And the code links to YouTube to give us access to the images. This is outstanding work—and many thanks are due to Phil Pham for recording, editing, and allowing us access to the finished product on his Google page. Click [here to view](#) Phil's artistic work.

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# VVA 310: The Way Forward

By Jon Luker

In 2019 we received a breath of life when National Membership voted to require their Board to develop a plan to change our name and membership requirements. But when the time came for their Board to present that plan, no plan was presented. Instead, a resolution was passed saying that National could not take part in the effort to change our name or change our membership.

It was later explained that the IRS has decided that VVA is not legally permitted to have the same membership requirements the American Legion was granted. Furthermore, Congress has informally made it clear that action to change our Charter will never get a vote. Once again, Vietnam Era Veterans are left behind.

Our Chapter Membership remained committed to the national motto and the Chapter motto. It voted to start a new nonprofit that would be able to accept all veterans, their families, and their loved ones and caregivers. That nonprofit, Local Veterans Alliance, was created and was later granted tax-exempt status by the IRS under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Several other organizations agreed to help put the new group together and a few appointed representatives to LVA's Board of Directors. But then most of the VVA Board members resigned. Several VVA members turned their attention to the American Legion or VFW, questioning why the VVA wants to start a new organization to compete

with them.

As it happened, efforts to call a Board meeting for the new organization didn't produce fruit.

The VVA Board then reconsidered its earlier decision to try to stand up for the new organization and decided that Chapter 310 will operate as it currently does until it is no longer able to do so. The Board then decided that it would also spend its unbudgeted cash evenly over the next ten years, such that ten years from now, VVA 310 will have no assets to be seized by the government or given to another organization.

The money will be spent each year according to a plan that will be developed along with the annual budget. VVA 310 is now an organization with a ten-year sunset.

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## Thanking Pig Roast Supporters

By John Kinzinger — AKA  
Gene Simmons (for those who  
attended)

As one of the committee members, I ask you to please consider using the following in the future as they supported our 2022 fundraiser. And when visiting their business, please tell them thank you for supporting VVA Chapter 310.

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home, Janowiak Funeral Home, Stark Funeral Professionals, Applebee's (Belleville), Busch's, Village Kitchen (Ann Arbor), Brewed Awakening (Saline), Mullins Auto Supply (Milan), Classic Pizza (Dexter), and Nicholas Bookstore (Ann Arbor). We also had many individual donations that added to the above, making our 2022 fundraiser a very

nice success. You know who you are. We sincerely thank you.

Thank you all for attending and helping out. It certainly takes a Team effort to make our annual event a success. Next year, we hope to see more Chapter members sign up to help. It is a lot of fun.

We sincerely thank Legionnaire Eric Engelmeier and all the Saline American Legion members who came out and certainly made the event happen. We could not have done it without you. Thank you all. We would be very remiss if we did not thank the wonderful members of the DAR who graciously did all the serving of the food. Thank you, ladies. We could not have done it without you also.

We did have several members of Warriors And Caregivers United help out serving and more. Thank you all.

And Steve Hitte did his great meat cooking monitoring all night.

Thanks, Steve.

Those who missed it, missed a great time. We had great DJ music throughout the early afternoon.

Then later we had the good fortune to have a live rock band entertain us the rest of the event. Great time had by all.

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## Lest We Forget . . .

(Source: [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org))

### Interesting Veterans Statistics of The Vietnam Memorial Wall

(Submitted by Vance Mc-  
Crumb)

(author unknown)

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall. Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on

the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We

are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

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### **Virtual Wall of Faces Summary of News**

*Submitted by Dave Draper*

What is the wall? Or, more appropriately, which structure is signified when one refers to the wall? For Vietnam veterans, the wall most likely refers to Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. But another wall could also be significant to Vietnam veterans: the virtual Wall of Faces.

The Virtual Wall of Faces shows a photo of those who sacrificed all in Vietnam and includes a page that enables family and friends to share memories and pictures and to connect with one another.

To view the Wall of Faces and learn more about this amazing project, please visit [www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces](http://www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces).

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### **VVA 310 Chapter Receives an Award**

*Submitted by Dave Draper*

On August 11, our VVA 310 Chapter received an award from Fisher House, namely, the Patriots Award trophy. The award was a way to recognize individuals and organizations that made financial donations to Fisher House for the construction of the Ann Arbor facility. Representing the Chapter, Tim Driscoll attended the event and received the award.





The event was held at Yankee Air Museum. The evening started with drinks, hors-d'oeuvres, mingling with the attendees, and touring the museum. Then light food was served. After that, the awards were presented. The National Fisher House Director was the emcee and provided the opening speech. Then the Assistant Director of the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center said a few words. The evening ended with inspiring words from Fisher House Michigan Executive Director Kate Melcher and the presentation of a \$500,000 check to Fisher House for the construction of the new Detroit Fisher House. Because of limited space on the property that they purchased, Fisher House has decided to build a 20-suite facility instead of 16.

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### August 28, 2022 Pig Roast Recap

*By Jane Kinzinger*

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Pig Roast was another success thanks to the help of many Chapter 310 members, Saline American Legion Post members, family, friends and others. Many thanks to all who helped before, during, and after the event. About 400 people were served delicious pork, baked beans, cole slaw, apple sauce, fresh vegeta-



bles, rolls, and cake. There were five hourly 50/50 drawings for cash and gift cards (all donated). Kate



Kirkpatrick recruited 6 other DAR members, and they manned the serving table the whole time, along with WACU members. There was face painting available by Cynthia



Olcott. The merchandise sales team was busy all afternoon. Others, too numerous to list, helped in many ways to purchase, prepare, set up and serve, and clean up afterward. American Legion members gave invaluable assistance in the kitchen and beer and wine tent. The DJ, followed by the live band later, kept a musical atmosphere going on all afternoon.

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### Myths of The Vietnam War

*From VVA310.org*

**Myth:** It is common belief that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

**Fact:** As many as 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. In contrast, 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

**Myth:** The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 – 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

**Fact:** Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. "The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.

**Myth:** Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians; 12.5% were black; 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book *All That We Can Be*, said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam “and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia, a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war.”

Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better.

Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the view that the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam was 19 years old is a myth; the average age is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

Myth: It is common belief that the domino theory was proved false.

Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) coun-

Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand—stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America’s commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits—that is, south of Singapore—and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in those countries who won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was a turning point for Communism.

Myth: The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

Fact: The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every ten Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percentage that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II. In fact, 75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. With-

out the helicopter, it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800-mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords of 1962 would secure the border).

Myth: Kim Phuc, the little nine-year-old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972 (shown a million times on American television) was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

Fact: No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the Nick Ut, the AP photographer who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three-day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA), who occupied the village of Trang Bang, and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam), who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. “We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF,” according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc’s brothers were killed in this

incident. They were Kim's cousins,  
not brothers.

Myth: The United States lost the  
war in Vietnam.

Fact: The American military was  
not defeated in Vietnam. The  
American military did not lose a  
battle of any consequence. From a  
military standpoint, it was almost  
an unprecedented performance.

General Westmoreland quoting  
Douglas Pike (a professor at the  
University of California, Berkeley),  
a major military defeat for the VC  
and NVA.

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### A Poem: "Just a Common Soldier"

from [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org)

He was getting old and paunchy,  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion,  
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in,  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies;  
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neigh-  
bors  
His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly,  
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For ol' Bob has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer,  
For a soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,  
Just his children and his wife.  
For he lived an ordinary,  
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,  
Going quietly on his way;

And the world won't note his pass-  
ing,  
'Tho a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their pass-  
ing,  
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories  
From the time that they were  
young  
But the passing of a soldier  
Goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise  
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow  
Who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend  
And the style in which he lives  
Are often disproportionate  
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary soldier,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal  
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,  
For it is so many times  
That our Bobs and Steves and  
Johnnys,  
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians,  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,

With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some  
cop-out,  
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a soldier--  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common soldier,  
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common soldier,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should re-  
mind us  
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in  
conflict,  
We find the soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the troubles  
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor  
While he's here to hear the  
praise,  
Then at least let's give him  
homage  
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline  
In the paper that might say,  
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURN-  
ING, A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

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# All About VVA 310

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