

# 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 2023,  
Washtenaw County,  
Michigan**



**Editor's Note:** -- We now see the summer season in the rear-view mirror. And to introduce us to the Fall season, take a look at the Chaplain's Corner message. Well wishes to everyone!

-- Paulo Pereira, Editor



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# President's October Message

By Vance McCrumb

If you haven't read the article starting on page 16 in The VVA Veteran titled Roadmap to the Future, please do so. It will give you a feel for what happens at our



National Conventions. Below is a section from the above referenced article, written by Marc Leepson:

The big news that came out of the 20th biennial VVA National Convention in November 2021 was the delegates' forceful dismissal

of a resolution that would have opened membership to succeeding generations of Veterans. That action cemented the fact that VVA, with membership open only to those who served on active duty during the Vietnam War, would be a "last-man standing" Veterans service organization.

At the 21st National Convention, held in hot and humid Orlando, Florida, from August 9-12, the 703 accredited delegates from across the country took further action to define VVA's future. They approved a roadmap for both solidifying the organization's legacy and planning an orderly dissolution.

First, the delegates passed an amendment to VVA's Constitution during the Thursday morning General Session. This amendment authorizes the Board of Directors to develop and implement a strategic dissolution within the next two years. This plan will then be submitted to the delegates at the 2025 National Convention. In the afternoon session, the delegates approved a resolution authorizing the legacy Task Force responsible for working on the dissolution plan.

Then after a spirited debate, the delegates amended a proposed resolution that initially set February 29, 2028, as the date for VVA's dissolution. The final version, approved by a large majority, calls for VVA's dissolution to occur at a date "to be determined." This change reflects the sentiment of one delegate during the debate who cautioned, "don't count on us yet!"

I've asked our State President John Rilling to attend October's Chapter meeting and answer questions about National's plan on dissolution and VVA's lega-

cy. Have yet to receive a reply.

Chapter members Jack McManus and Sandie Wilson were recognized. Jack was reelected to a second term as VVA's National President, and Sandie, pictured above, received the Commendation Medal and was reelected as an At-Large Director.

Sandie's award reminds me of our previous awards. In 1999 and 2007, we were recognized as the National Chapter of the Year. In 2007, John Kinzinger was recognized as the National Veteran of the Year, and we received the first of 5 Newsletter of the Year awards. Dave Draper received the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency's first Veteran of the Year award, and John Kinzinger was recognized as the DAR's 2023 Outstanding Veteran Volunteer. Together we do make a difference!

Clinton Fall Festival: Stan Harrison and volunteers set up for the festival Thursday afternoon for the event, which ran from Friday through Sunday. This is an annual event for us and historically an excellent fundraiser. We did converse with many Veterans from all eras who stopped by. Speaking of stopping by, a lady (Kathleen D.) spent some time chatting with us and made a donation. Kathleen was a very nice lady who was aware of how we were treated in the 60s and 70s. Total sales for the festival were \$2,441.00, with a profit of \$1,502.00, including donations of \$199.

Al (Fredo) Merritt, Eric Downie, Stan Harrison, and I went to Lansing for the Senate Committee on Transportation's open public discussion about renaming of a stretch of I-94 between US 23 and Rawsonville Road to Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. We were told that a decision would be made by the full Senate later this year.

Our Friday after Thursday meeting breakfast was at Sinbad's Coney Island in Ypsilanti. We had a good turnout, including Bob Kwiecinski, an out-of-state member.

*Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.*

Arf.  
V

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# October 2023 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Beautiful fall has arrived, and soon it will dress in its



fanciest clothing. I love the colors and aromas of autumn because it reminds me of the creativity of the Creator. It makes for praising Him natural and easy. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

## Psalm 8, 1-9

1 O LORD, OUR LORD,

HOW EXCELLENT IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH, WHO HAVE SET YOUR GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS!

2 OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES AND NURSING INFANTS

YOU HAVE ORDAINED STRENGTH,

BECAUSE OF YOUR ENEMIES,

THAT YOU MAY SILENCE THE ENEMY AND THE AVENGER.

3 WHEN I CONSIDER YOUR HEAVENS, THE WORK OF YOUR FINGERS,

THE MOON AND THE STARS, WHICH YOU HAVE ORDAINED,

4 WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM,

AND THE SON OF MAN THAT YOU VISIT HIM?

5 FOR YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS,

AND YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR.

6 YOU HAVE MADE HIM TO HAVE DOMINION OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR

HANDS;

YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET,

7 ALL SHEEP AND OXEN—

EVEN THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD,

8 THE BIRDS OF THE AIR,

AND THE FISH OF THE SEA

THAT PASS THROUGH THE PATHS OF THE SEAS.

9 O LORD, OUR LORD,

HOW EXCELLENT IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH!

## Psalm 9 (1-2)

I WILL PRAISE YOU, O LORD, WITH MY WHOLE HEART;

I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR MARVELOUS WORKS.

I WILL BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN YOU;

I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH.

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When we look around at the beauty—especially in the

fall season—with its the brilliant colors, the movement of animal migration, and the harvesting of crops—how can we not praise His name for His faithfulness to us? Let us, therefore, praise His name on high, for praise is due His wonderful Name.

Amen and amen.

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## Jocosity

by Ken Rogge

A guy arrives at the pearly gates and waits to be admitted. St. Peter is reading through the Big Book to see if the guy's name is written in it. After several minutes, St. Peter closes the book, furrows his brow, and says, "I'm sorry, I don't see your name written in the Book." "How current is your copy?" the guy asks. "I get a download every ten minutes." St. Peter replies, "Why do you ask?" "I'm embarrassed to admit it, but I was always the stubborn type. It was not until my death was imminent that I cried out to God, so my name probably hasn't arrived to your copy yet." "I'm glad to hear that," St. Peter says, "but while we're waiting for the update to come through, can you tell me about a really good deed that you did in your life?" The guy thinks for a moment and says, "Hmmm, well, there was this one time when I was driving down a road, and I saw a group of biker gang members harassing this poor girl. I slowed down, and sure enough, there they were, about 20 of them harassing this poor woman. Infuriated, I got out of my car, grabbed a tire iron out of my trunk, and walked up to the leader of the gang. He was a huge guy: 6-foot-4, 260 pounds, with a studded leather jacket and a chain running from his nose to his ears. As I walked up to the leader, the bikers formed a circle around me and told me to get lost or I'd be next." "So, I ripped the leader's chain out of his face and smashed him over the head with the tire iron. Then I turned around and yelled to the rest of them, 'Leave this poor innocent girl alone! You're all a bunch of SICK, deranged animals! Go home before I really teach you a lesson in PAIN!'" St. Peter, duly impressed, says "Wow! When did this happen?" "About three minutes ago."

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**Vietnam Veterans of America,  
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310  
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes  
14 September 2023**

**Call to Order** by President McCrumb at 1900

**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:** Bill Stuart/Steve Hitte to approve the August meeting minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

**President's Report:** Vance McCrumb stated that his full report is as stated in the *Dispatch*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Berry Bourne reported that financial reports were emailed prior to the meeting. If you desire to receive these reports, just give Berry your email address. Non-restricted Fund Activity: Pig Roast generated \$5,632 revenue plus merchandise had \$1,189 of sales. Pig Roast expenses for the event were \$2,514 for a \$7,340 profit. Merchandise cost of goods sold was \$575 for \$614 profit at 52% margin. \$495 was paid to a Chapter member for living expenses at the VVA National Convention. Memorial Maintenance Fund received a \$3,000 donation from IBEW.

**AVVA Report:** See Kathy Driscoll's full report in the Dispatch.

**Committee Reports:**

**Merchandise:** Stan Harrison reported that merchandise sales were \$1,189 from the VA and Pig Roast. No merchandise sales at the VA next week. Merchandise will be available for sale at Clinton Fall Festival on September 22-24. Tent setup begins at 1730 on Thursday, September 21st.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Bob Bull, WCCV Commander, stated that they continue to invite more people to the monthly meetings to grow the Council. We continue to address the suicide prevention issue with handouts at the VA. He encouraged all Veterans to identify themselves as Veterans in public so a troubled Veteran would feel encouraged to talk with you, especially about

suicide prevention.

**Michigan State Council:** No report.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Eric Downie and Stan Harrison mowed today and stated there are still some wet areas that need to be resolved. In addition, the mole is still in the center section.

**Website:** Approximately 393,000 hits since inception

**Membership:** 214

**Newsletter:** No report

**Health Care:** Sandie Wilson encouraged all to read the PTSD article in the most recent Veteran issue. Medical marijuana is beginning to be used at the VA, with UofM as the source.

**LTCCSKMC:** John Kinzinger reported that the Halloween Party at the VA will begin at 1730 on October 31st. Meet in the lobby at 1730 in your costumes. The annual Christmas Party will be on December 19th. Former Miss Michigan, Stacey Mason, will be in attendance. Meet in the lobby at 1730. Bob Bull stated that 244 pairs of socks were recently sent to the VA.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** At the VVA National Convention, Sandie Wilson received the VVA Commendation Medal, the organization's highest award, which recognizes members for outstanding and exemplary service to Veterans and the community.

**Good of the Order:**

**Bill Stuart:** He stated that the 25th Thunder Over Michigan was just held. Also, there are 2024 calendars available this evening to commemorate the event.

**Dale Throneberry:** Veterans Radio will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a Radio on the River event on Saturday, September 30th from 1500-1900. Three distinguished speakers are:

1. Dr. Rebecca Grant (IRIS Research and well-known Military Analyst specializing in Air Force and Defense),
2. 1LT R from US Army National Guard, 2007-2012 (National Marine Corps Museum Curator), and
3. MAJ R Jonathan Turnbull (2010 West Point Graduate and Army 2010-2021).

Admission is \$20 for Veterans and a silent auction will be available.

**Bob Bull:** POW-MIA Day is tomorrow, September 15th. A Navigator program is providing housing for Veterans.

**Vance McCrumb:** He stated that all Chapter mem-

bers should be very proud of the many accomplishments the Chapter has completed and the awards it has received over the years.

**John Kinzinger:** Packing Party on Sunday, Nov. 5th, at the VFW beginning at 1500.

**Chapter Breakfast October 13th** – At 0900, Location TBD.

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull

**Flag Salute**

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1958.

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## AVVA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

Due to low attendance at our monthly meetings, who would like to meet for lunch once a month. The Alpha Coney on Jackson Rd has a room that we may be able to meet monthly.

We can meet the 2nd Thursday each month or another time or day, please let me know if you are interested in meeting for lunch each month.

We will have our October 12th meeting at Alpha Coney on Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI. The restaurant is on the south side of Jackson Rd east of Zeeb Rd. We will meet at 11:30.

Meni will contact Alpha Coney. Please email me so we can have a head count for Meni.

### **Membership Report:**

AVVA 310 has 32 members. Ken Rogge is our new Dual Member. All VVA 310 members are invited to join AVVA 310 as Dual Members. If you would like to join AVVA 310, please contact Kathy Driscoll. AVVA has changed their membership dues. There is no longer a 3-year membership.

[https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new\\_memberapp\\_2022.pdf](https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new_memberapp_2022.pdf)

1 Year \$20

Lifetime membership \$100\*

\*There is a Lifetime Membership payment plan of \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full

**VVA Dual membership \$50**

### **Chapter Happenings!**

#### **AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report**

We have 40 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. Suggested donation is \$5. When we sellout, we will donate an additional \$300 to Fisher House Michigan. Contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. All pro-

ceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.

### **Service Projects**

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

Links to local Food Banks:

Saline Social Services:

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

Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:

<https://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&slID=donate-funds>

SOS Community Services Ypsilanti, MI:

Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County:

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

### **Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2022 Girls' State Update!**

The fund balance is \$3,308.25.

### **AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News**

I will be attending the AVVA Michigan Association meeting on October 8th in Cheboygan.

### **WCCV**

I attended the September 18 meeting at the Saline American Legion Post 322. I plan to attend the October 16 meeting. It will be held at the 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](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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## DISPATCH RECIPIENTS

VVA 310 award-winning newsletter reaches approximately 500 people each month with 100 mailed USPS, 50 hits off the website ([www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.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 Donation on the memo line.

## RECIPIENTS

James Alford ~ December 2025  
George Boone ~ February 2029  
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2026  
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2026  
Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024  
Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031  
Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024  
Stan Harrison to honor Russ Michalke ~ March 2026  
Ralph Henry ~ November 2026  
Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024  
Ray Hunter ~ December 2032  
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 ~ March 2026  
Gwen Park Olds in honor of John C. Park, Vietnam Vet ~ September 2033  
Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027  
Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024  
George Perrault ~ October 2025

Bruce Ross ~ March 2028

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Jim Sharp ~ April 2031

John C. Shook ~ July 2028

Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025

Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2026

Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S.

Dumsch ~ September 2027

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## Early Christmas Packing for Our Troops

By John Kinzinger

Mark your calendar for our annual pre-Christmas packing party for our troops overseas.



Sunday, November 5th at 3:00 PM sharp! With potluck meal afterwards. So, please bring a dish or other food to share.

Please join us and bring some items to put in the packages and a donation for postage if you like. We will be in our 19th year we have been sending Care packages overseas. The total over that period shipped is 4,454 packages, with an estimated postage cost of \$77,000.

The feedback from the recipients over the years has been very warming knowing we are lifting the morale of those serving for us overseas and away from home over Christmas. Those of us who have served remember what it was like spending Christmas away from home. If you would like to contribute to help with the postage, which will be between \$1,000 and \$1,500 dollars, please make your tax-deductible gift out to "VVA 310 - Support Our Troops." Then mail it to VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. [I have added photos from other years.]



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## 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.



## Sharing Vietnam War Experiences

By John Kinzinger

A group of VVA 310 members did a talk about their Vietnam experiences with Pioneer High students last spring. The students wrote appreciation thank you letters like these two. We received many. These are



just examples. Inside the left card was written: "Dear Vietnam Veterans, thank you for coming to our school and speaking about the Vietnam War. They made

it much easier to understand what sorts of things happened during the war, which is interesting to think about, because my grandpa on my dad's side was a Vietnam Veteran as well, but he almost never talked about it. Again, thank you for coming.

P.S. Sorry if this was weird, I have never written this kind of card before. – Saairse Papp"

Inside on the right card: "Dear Veterans, I wanted to thank you for not only serving our country in the Vietnam War but coming to inform us of your experiences. You allowed us to have access to a first-hand point of view on the war, which is very interesting. Thank you for your service and information. Sincerely Angie. \*\*\*\*\*"



## Helicopter Painting

Submitted by John Kinzinger

Have you been on the VFW grounds in August? Did you notice that our helicopter has new "Nose" art? When the ship was painted a few years ago, one of the members made it a point to look up the history of it and found that it was assigned to the 170th Aviation Battalion in Vietnam. Upon further investigation on the Battalion website, we tracked down Captain Sam Conde, of Sturgis, Michigan, who was one of the pilots in 1969. We got in contact with Sam and told him where "his" ship was located. We then invited Sam to stop by and see it. Sam visited, and the visit brought back fond memories of his time with the 170th in RVN.

When Sam left, he wondered if we would be interested in having authentic art done on the nose panel on #285. He thought his good friend and fellow pilot in the 170th would be willing to paint it. We accepted Sam's offer, and he put us in touch with Russ Mowry (CWO3), in New Hampshire, who painted it over the spring and summer.

Take time to check it out and to read the history of the ship on the plaques. Thanks Sam and Russ, and WELCOME HOME! Vietnam Veteran Tom Larson was responsible to accomplish the paint project.

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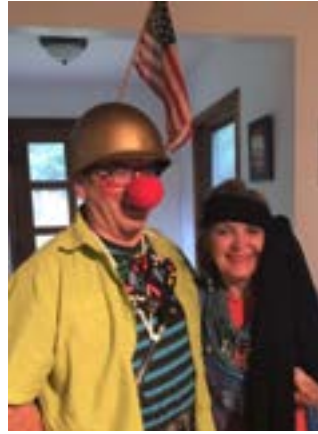
## VA Room Visits - Save the Dates

By John Kinzinger, VAVS Rep for VVA

Our annual VA Medical Center Halloween event will be on October 30th. We will meet in the lobby at 5:30 pm. We have fun going into patient rooms in costumes and putting smiles on their faces. We visit for a short time and let them know we care about them and wish them the best. We then offer prayer, if they wish.



Always a big hit, Ron Henley each year does a marvelous job carving huge pumpkins, which we then push around the VA in wheelchairs.



The patients love seeing them. I will be dressed as a clown, with an annoying horn. Afterward, food and refreshments at Sidetrack Bar and Grill.

On Tuesday, December 19th, we will hold our annual Christmas room visit event. We will meet in the lobby at 5:30 pm. Our favorite ever Miss Michigan, Stacey Mason,

will join us with her violin and lovely voice. Seeing her perform for patients is worth being there to see. We wear Santa hats and visit each patient. For every patient, we will have a specially embroidered shirt done by Linda Colby, whose husband, David (VVA 310 member), died of Agent Orange complications. We do our very best to make each patient feel special while away from home.

There may be restrictions based on the current flu situation at the VA. It could even mean cancelation of our events. We will have an email blast sent with status before each event.

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## Poetry Says It Best

Submitted by George Perrault



**VIETNAM VETERAN**  
**THESE OLD MEN...**  
By Pat Eving  
Now we stand behind old mens faces,  
Speak of forgotten times and places  
So bent are those who wouldn't break,  
Who did fearsome things with lives at stake.  
Their shadows sharp and darker then  
Now fading away are these old men,  
But no one can steal the legends bold,  
Not thieves nor liars nor growing old,  
To never weave excuses that some men must,  
But to stand with men who earned our trust,  
And speak of what we did back then,  
Before we became, these old men.

# On Vietnam Veterans Hat

Suggested by Elmer White

Why do Vietnam Veterans wear hats with the slogan Vietnam Veteran?

I wear my Vietnam Veteran cap for those who can't. We left a lot of guys back there, and for those who came home, it wasn't the best place to be. I quietly returned to my hometown and got a job without telling anyone I had just separated from the Navy after a tour in Vietnam. I have memories of those times that I won't forget because they are about some of those guys that didn't come back. At 18, when I joined, I had no idea how it would impact the rest of my life. I was changed by my service. I served for our way of life. I'd do it again, if necessary, even though I'm now 83. Just like Korean War and WW2 Veterans, we are dying off, but this generation must re-member we fought wars, and peace has a price. Those who served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan know what it means to serve. Be proud of what you did in support of your country. I did, and I am, so I wear my hat every day for those who can't.

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## Current Events

By Ann D. Pereira

- 12 Oct: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1130 hrs, Alpha Coney Restaurant (South side of Jackson Rd, east of Zeeb Rd). VVA Board 1800 hrs; General Mtg 1900 hrs.
  - 13 Oct: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs; location TBD.
  - 13 Oct: U.S. Navy birthday (1775)
  - 16 Oct: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, American Legion Post 322, Saline
  - 17 Oct: Merchandise Sales, 0800 hrs, VA Canteen
  - 30 Oct: VVA 310 Halloween event, 1730 hrs, VA Medical Center. Meet in the lobby. Sidetrack Bar & Grill after the event
  - 31 Oct: Halloween
  - 05 Nov: VVA 310 troop packaging, 1500 hrs, VFW Post 423
  - 19 Dec: VVA 310 Annual Christmas room visit event, 1730 hrs, VA Medical Center. Meet in the lobby. Special embroidered shirts are to be presented.
- \*\* Visit [veteransradio.net](http://veteransradio.net) and contribute to help keep this vital program on the air.



In the name of the Dispatch Team, we thank you for your continued support for the 310 Dispatch.

# All About VVA 310

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Please forward. Thank you!