

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*



**April 2023,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: In the name of the Dispatch Team, I am pleased to thank all of you who offered material for this issue of our newsletter. For those of you who continue to support our work as Dispatch patrons, we thank you. And to all of us, may we enjoy the lovely environment of the spring season. For this issue, of special note is John Kinzinger's article about Gary Lillie's writings. Definitely worth a read.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message – April 2023

By Stan Harrison

What kind of organization do we belong to anyway? A damn good



one if you ask me! If you go to our national website, you will see that our goals are to:

- Aggressively advocate on issues important to Veterans,
- Seek full access to quality health care for Veterans,
- Identify the full range of disabling injuries and illnesses incurred during military service,
- Hold government agencies accountable for following laws mandating Veteran's health care,
- Create positive public perception of Vietnam Veterans,
- Seek the fullest possible accounting of America's POWs and MIAs,
- Support the next

generation of America's war Veterans,

- Serve our communities.

All are worthy goals. If you visit Chapter website (vva310.org), you will see that we are busy supporting Veterans through various local charitable endeavors. There are two aspects of our Chapter that I like to emphasize. The first is our Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where we remember and honor those who didn't return. The second is our fellowship, where we support each other. There is a lot of good to be gained from getting together and talking to other Veterans. It can be productive. It can be therapeutic. It can be just plain fun. I'll see you at our next meeting. In the meantime, stay safe and stay proud.

Chaplain's Corner April 2023

By Rev. Gordon Moore

God's prophet said, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth. It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). His word will not go forth and return to Him without fulfilling its intended purpose. With that in mind, I allow it to accomplish its intended purpose by allowing the resurrection story to speak for itself.

Luke 24 relates how the fulfillment of God's promise, as



brought forth in His word, allowed individuals to go from extreme sorrow to jubilation in a three-day period of time.

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of

James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" So, they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered

Him to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said—but Him they did not see." Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then

their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

(Luke 24: 1-32 New King James Version)

God's word did not return void. It accomplished its intended purpose, which was to open their eyes to the real purpose for which Jesus came. How about us this Easter? Which Jesus do we follow, the one of our own making or the one to which he was sent?

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!

Shalom

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310**

**Regular Membership Meeting
Minutes**

9 March 2023

Call to Order: By President Stan Harrison at 1900

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Rev. 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: Sean Stevens. Outreach

Coordinator at Ann Arbor VA

Motion: By Bull/Bayha to approve the February Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

Adjourn to Nominations

President: 9 Feb 2023 - Marv Rivers (decline), Stan Harrison (decline), Vance McCrumb (decline), 9 Mar 2023 – Vance McCrumb (Accept)

Vice President: 9 Feb 2023– Vance McCrumb (Accept), Bob Bull (decline), 9 Mar 2023 – Vance McCrumb (decline), Marv Rivers (Accept)

Treasurer: 9 Feb 2023 - Berry Bourne (Accept)

Secretary: 9 Feb 2023 - Jon Luker (Accept)

Sergeant at Arms: 9 Feb 2023 - Joe Palazzolo (decline), Eric Downey (Accept)

Two-year Board members

moving to one-year positions are: Bob Bull, Sandie Wilson, Steve Hitte, Dave Draper, Al (Fredo) Merritt

Two-year Board nominees –

Three nominees required.

Accepting: 9 Feb 2023 -

Bill Stuart, Tim Clarke, John Kinzinger, Dale Throneberry

Declining: 9 Feb 2023 - Eric Downey, Nick Bauder, Roy Hall, Chris Wetzler

Volunteered as State Council

Delegates: Tim Driscoll, Brian Bayha. Sandie Wilson as an Alternate.

Recall to Order

President's Report:

We received a Thank You letter from Veterans Radio America for our \$3,200 donations in 2022. I escorted Ms. Michigan around the Ann Arbor VA hospital during Valentine's Day. Pig Roast

Planning Committee will meet in May. Annual Recognition Dinner is scheduled for 13 May at UAW Hall at 8975 Textile Rd. in Ypsilanti. Home Depot has expressed a desire to support us. We have preliminary discussions about building a new structure at the Memorial site to house our 660 crosses, etc. A \$500 Donation Request has been filed with Meijer's on Ann Arbor/Saline Rd. to provide funding for our Thanksgiving Dinner at Dawn Farm.

Treasurer's Report:

Reports were emailed to the Board and to members who wanted one. Let Bourne know your email address if desire these reports. Quiet period of transactions this month. We expended \$11,925 as partial payments for landscaping and irrigation system.

AVVA Report:

Driscoll - Please see report in the Dispatch. Steve Cox's memorial service will be on May 24th. No date has been set for Margie Ballou's memorial service. Memorial Day flowers planning team is organizing,

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Chapter jackets and Chapter challenge coins were sold. Ann Arbor VA will allow us to sell merchandise again on the third floor near the canteen. 20% of the receipts will be remitted to the VA. First day will be Tuesday, April 18th from 0800 – 1400.

Washtenaw County Council

of Veterans: Rev. Bob Bull has been elected commander. Next meeting is 20 March in Saline.

Michigan State Council:

Next meeting is 12 March at the

Eagles Hall in Michigan Center.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt New sod has been placed within the circular sidewalk and the new irrigation system is about 60% complete. Open capital items are a berm in the back near the property line and new Arborvitae trees.

Website: McCrumb - We are up around 370,000 hits since we started counting. A new page has been added discussing the Memorial grounds upgrade.

Membership: The official number is at 211.

Newsletter: No report.

Health Care: Wilson - Women's clinic has opened at the Ann Arbor VA with four exam rooms in addition to a kid's area.

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger - No report

Old Business:

Wilson stated that a PACT husband died four years ago and the spouse approached the VA about filing a claim. The Service Officer said no funds would be awarded. The spouse filed a claim and received a check within 30 days. Encourage those to file claims if the circumstances dictate it.

New Business:

Dave Draper stated that a VetFest in being planned at Washtenaw Community College on Saturday, 29 July, and the need for funds. Motion made by Driscoll/Bull to donate \$500.00 to the event. Approved.

Good of the Order:

McCrumb: Introduced Sean Stevens, Outreach Coordinator at AA VA. He stated that the VA desired to participate with the Chapter on a Vietnam Veterans Day gathering on Wednesday, 29 March. Ideas discussed were coffee and donuts for the attendees. Congresswomen Debbie Dingell will be invited to the event. Consider

inviting a representative from Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI, who would have an information table at the event.

Throneberry: Veterans Radio has a link on its website to "Operation Song" by Dave Bray from Nashville, TN, as Welcome Home from Vietnam to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. He also stated a special program will be on the radio featuring black veterans in Vietnam.

Bull: He set up a veterans exhibit at the Detroit Autorama in Huntington Place. He talked with 133 veterans from all branches of the service. He passed out a pamphlet prepared by the VA titled "Hello. Welcome to VA. Let's get started." A very comprehensive document on all services at the VA was distributed. In addition, he passed out a flyer captioned "PTSD Coach" and encouraged a review and possibly distribution to someone in need.

Drapper: Mentioned the American Legion food drive this month and barrels located at the VFW.

Harrison: A Bass Tournament will be held on June 10th at Kent Lake.

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday, April 14: TBD

Closing Prayer: Rev. Bob Bull
Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 0810 hrs.

Honoring April Anniversaries on the Wall



**Corporal
William
Henry
Johnson**

was born on December 9, 1943 in Union City, Tennessee to Jewell and Johnnie

Johnson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. William is a 1961 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. A caption in the Ann Arbor High School Yearbook for 1961 states, "Willie came to Ann Arbor High from Slauson. While at the high school, he participated in all intramural sports. He also likes to swim. His plans for after graduation are not as yet definite. He will either work or join the Army." William enlisted in the Marine Corps in August of 1963 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received further training at Camp Pendleton, California before going to Okinawa.

Corporal Johnson began his tour of duty near Danang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. William was killed on April 17, 1966 as a result of small arms fire from a sniper while manning a defensive position.

William Henry Johnson is survived by his parents, a sister and a brother. He lived 22 years, 4 months and 8 days. William'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 06E Line 119.

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**Private First Class Clive Vere
Mosier** was born on January 3, 1943 in Campbell, Missouri to



Mr. and Mrs. John Mosier of Chelsea, Michigan. Clive was employed as a foreman with Seller's Construction Company before entering the Army on

September 1, 1966. According to his wife, "he was known as "Buster" by all his family and friends. Clive loved baseball. His favorite foods were chocolate chip cookies and fried chicken. He sent a picture of him holding a little Vietnamese girl. He said in his letter, 'Honey, I miss you greatly, but these people need us. No one else will help them. We have to.'"

Private First Class Mosier began his tour of duty in Military Region 3, South Vietnam on February 16, 1967, serving as an infantryman with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Clive was killed on April 24, 1967, as a result of an explosive device. Clive Vere Mosier is survived by his wife, parents, and four brothers. He lived 24 years, 3 months and 21 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Clive'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 18E Line 080.

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First Lieutenant Robert John

Crabbe was born on June 12, 1941. First Lieutenant Crabbe began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on January 11, 1966 serving as a Field Artillery Unit Commander with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. According to a posting by fellow Field Artillery



Officer Candidate School Alumni from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Randy Dunham, "First Lieutenant Crabbe

served as an Aerial Observer with the First Cavalry Division. He was in a UH-1C Helicopter Gunship from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry that was shot down while making a rocket run on a Viet Cong position. All five men on Board the aircraft died in the incident." He was killed on April 18, 1967 after serving one year, three months and seven days "In-Country".

Robert John Crabbe lived 25 years, 10 months and 6 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 4, Site 2969-C. Robert'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 18E Line 045.

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Sergeant First Class Michael

Jon Wallace was born on November 21, 1939 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sergeant First Class Wallace began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam at Camp Evans serving as a CH-47 Helicopter Repairer with B Company, 228th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division. On April 19, 1968 three Army



helicopters were shot down in the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam. All three were making supply runs to

Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province. Five men survived the three crashes, and nine men remain missing. On April 19, 1968, Michael was a crew chief on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flying a mid-day supply mission. The helicopter was descending through an overcast sky and was on its final approach to Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province when it was struck by enemy .50 cal and 37mm ground fire, caught fire and began to burn. The gunner witnessed Michael and the flight engineer, Anthony Housh, jump from the helicopter when it was about 100 feet off of the ground. The aircraft crash landed and the remainder of the crew was rescued. Michael's body was never recovered and he was listed as Missing In Action (MIA). On February 6, 1974, Michael's status was changed to "Died While Missing In Action."

Michael Jon Wallace is survived by his wife and two children, and a sister. He lived 28 years, 4 months and 28 days. He is remembered with a Military Marker in East Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township as MIA. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 51E Line 002.

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Private First Class James Roy Bihlmeyer

was born on November 12, 1946 in Manchester, Michigan to Mr. and

Mrs. Roy J. Bihlmeyer. James is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He worked at the Saline Plant for Ford Motor Company prior to entering the Army on May 16, 1966.

Private First Class Bihlmeyer went through Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas. James began his tour of duty in Long An Province, South Vietnam on December 1, 1966, serving with A Company, Second Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division as an infantryman. He died as a result of enemy small arms fire on April 15, 1967.

Private First Class James Roy Bihlmeyer is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. He lived for 20 years, 5 months and 3 days. He is resting at the Bethel Church Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester.

James Roy Bihlmeyer also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18E Line 028.

From The Front

By John Kinzinger

(The following is a note from a trooper. It was dated 2023/01/05. The postmark on the envelope is FEB 17 20223. It arrived in Ann Arbor in Mid-March. Why? Anyway, read another reason why what we do makes a difference for those serving overseas.)

Dear VVA 310 Members,

Thank you, guys, for the care package you mailed overseas to us in the Middle East.

Like the generations who, before us, fought and served in the region during Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the GWOT, we were very delighted to receive the care package--especially one full of snacks and other licky chewys!

We appreciate the support from you guys for us guys here in D Company, 1-125 Infantry.

Best,
SPC Hunter McPheeD Co., 1-125,
37 th IBCT, MI National Guard

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Memorial Grounds Upgrade

Submitted by Vance McCrumb

The Memorial grounds upgrade is almost finished. The old sod was removed and replaced with new, and irrigation had been installed. By the time you read this report, the irrigation should have been completed. (Fredo) Merritt and Jon Luker have submitted

photos: Please click [here](#) to view. That photo link is under the Memorial menu item as well.

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Celebrating Vietnam Era Veterans

By Dave Draper

We had a very good turnout at the VA today as we celebrated the Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day, with lots of Vietnam Era Veterans attending. Several Veteran support organizations, like Fisher House Michigan and Great Lakes National Cemetery, were set up during the event, ready to answer questions and hand out literature. VVA 310 also had a display table set up. As it turned out, VVA 310 may have picked up a couple of new members.

The VA provided coffee, water, donuts, and bagels to its visitors. Also, I was honored to give out commemorative pins to all Veterans who served during the Vietnam War era (Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975) if they hadn't yet received a pin. The pin was a fiftieth-anniversary commemoration of Veterans' service. I pinned close to fifty Veterans, and many more visited that had already been pinned. After the event, I went to Fisher House to pin a couple of veterans



there. April took me into the kitchen and told me to choose a special cookie (see photo). It was very well done!

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VRC: New Schedule

Submitted by Vance McCrumb

VRC has moved to WCC on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 to 3 or maybe 9 to 3, in room 247 of the Technical and Industrial building just right of the Student Center. Bob Bull does put up signs; so, the room is easy to locate.

The original Saturday date was changed to Friday due to a lack of student attendance on Saturday.

**

Celebrating Veterans

By John Kinzinger

Jack McManus is a former Michigan resident and a member of our Chapter 310. He is currently President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. In a timely response pertaining to March 29th--Vietnam Veterans Day--Pres. McManus stated the following:

"The willingness with which our young men and women are likely to serve in any war is directly proportional to how they perceive Veterans in the past and today are treated and appreciated by their nation. Let all those who have served in our nation's defense be known simply as American Veterans. We are the honored and proud few."

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), 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 2023
 Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023
 Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024
 Edward Fuller ~ September 2023
 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 2023
 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
 Lloyd Lee ~ March 2031
 David Marshall ~ June 2024

Sandy Martinez ~ November 2024
 Del Mayes ~ March 2025
 Alfred (Fredo) Merritt ~ January 2026
 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
 Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025
 Chris Wetzler ~ July 2023
 Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023
 Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S. Dumsch ~ September 2027

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

13 Apr: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Annual Meeting 1800- 2000 hrs
 14 Apr: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs
 14 Apr: Air Force Reserve Birthday (1948)
 17 Apr: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
 23 Apr: Army Reserve Birthday (1908)
 11 May: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs
 12 May: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Holiday's Restaurant
 13 May: Chapter Annual

Recognition Dinner
 15 May: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs, American Legion Post 322, Saline
 ** Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.*****

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

A



Texas billionaire had a valet named George, who often made use of the Texan's castoff clothing. George had his eye on a pair of tan trousers that were not wearing out fast enough to suit him, so he rubbed some grease on one knee. When his employer asked if he'd noticed the grease, George told him that he had tried unsuccessfully to remove it. "Did you try gasoline?" the billionaire asked.

"Yes, sir," replied George, "But it didn't work."

"How about a brown paper bag and a hot iron?"

"No luck there either. In fact, I've tried everything I know."

"Have you tried ammonia?"

"Oh, no, sir!" exclaimed George.

"I've never tried them on - but I know they'll fit."

Gary Lillie's Writings: One

By John Kinzinger

Gary Lillie was a very active

member of Chapter 310 and a great local Veteran advocate. He served as Navy Seabee in Vietnam. He was one of the founders of Veterans Radio. Gary, at age 70, was killed by a drunk driver in August 2011 as he walked down his street. Gary was an alcoholic who stopped drinking after he saw our Chapter marching in a parade. He felt his alcohol problem was a slap in the face of those who died in Vietnam, and he came home. His was a true case of survivor guilt. He was also a writer of his thoughts. Previously you read the writings of Paul Dumsch. This and future Dispatch issues will have a series of Gary's writings. This should be an interesting reminder of Gary for those who knew him.

Right and Wrong

To the unconfirmed
 Whose greatest risk was
 To run a yellow traffic light,
 Whose patriotism reflected in
 A Hollywood movie
 And values are nothing but
 A TV cartoon . . .
 Vietnam was wrong.
 To those who went there
 Character
 And expectation
 Love
 Unreturned.
 Even knowing the bitter end
 Most
 Overwhelmingly most
 Quietly say
 They would do it again . . .
 Vietnam was right.
 Gary Lillie 2001
 Chu Lai 1966

**Thinking Spring
 Season: Red-Wing
 Black Birds**

By Elmer White

My interest in flight started long ago. And that interest extended to birds as well. In this short piece—which I call a “Gluey-Gram”—I present an assortment



of information about a particular bird, namely the red-wing blackbird. This bird is black with red shoulders. The male red-wing

blackbird arrives on the scene in spring in search of a breeding territory near wetlands. The red color is hidden unless they see danger. Displaying their “red” signals aggression, as many birdwatchers have learned. Younger males arrive first and search for wetlands. When older males arrive, the younger ones lose out. However, they return to the same territory the following year, and on and on. Their patience is finally rewarded when the older male dies or retires on bird social security, so to speak. Females arrive at a territory a few weeks after the males. Females then evaluate the “red spread” of courting male birds. The standards that a female uses to choose a male mate are unsurprising: good looks, health, and wealth, where “wealth” means a luscious territory. The female population in a territory varies from one to 15.

Ornithologists have determined that a male has a finite amount of energy for territorial defense and female courting. Therefore, a smart male seeks a balance between the size of his territory and his ability to service a harem.

In the breeding season, males fiercely defend their territories and spend hours fighting away younger males, wild animals, and humans. A top-ranking male can defend a large territory that will support many females.

Thus, male red-wing birds are polygynous birds, but they may be limited in their ability to care for all the females in a territory. Thus, females are polyandrous, with chicks that are fathered by different males. One can understand, then, that strength and self-assertiveness are important for red-wing birds. As an added note, I recall that in the 1970s, my daughters walked to Thurston Elementary School. At the end of our block, their path was through a wooded area, leading to the edge of Thurston Pond. One day, they came home frightened. “Dad, a bird attacked us!” While investigating, I was attacked by a red-ring blackbird, and I understood the issue. As a solution, I decided to drive the kids to and from school for several months. I have not had any further encounters with red-wing blackbirds.



AVVA Newsletter April 2023

****Please Note****

AVVA 310 will have an in-person and a Zoom streaming meeting on April 13th at the VFW Post 423. Zoom link coming in an email. We'd love for all of to attend.

I will be traveling to New Jersey on April 13th. More information coming via email.

Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 32 members. To join, please contact Kathy Driscoll. Also, we no longer have a 3-year membership. https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new_memberapp_2022.pdf

Memembership types: 1 Year \$20; Lifetime membership \$100*; VVA Dual membership \$50.

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

Chapter Happenings!

- We voted to sponsor one table for the American Legion Post 46 100th Anniversary. Eight Veterans who cannot afford the ticket can attend. The cost is \$120.
- For our US Service Emblem throws, we have raised enough funds to purchase one blanket throw with the service emblems for the US Army, US Navy, US Air Force and US Marines. We received a generous donation from a VVA 310 member.
- The Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor is allowing organizations to sponsor in-person meals for the residents. Please let me know if you are interested. We need four people to cook and serve the meal. We need a coordinator for the Fisher House Ann Arbor Meal Train. Here is the current instructions listed on the Fisher House Michigan webpage:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/v5w1n8?fbclid=IwAR3bBSXuy5BYwgXnKXDgLJvULki6kITaOvxEV1jSJnaYzUe838HTxVgr6gg>

Preferred delivery time

Tuesdays - Lunch 11am-12:30pm; Dinner 4:30pm-6pm. These times are flexible.

General instructions

Meals may be prepared in our kitchen with a maximum of four volunteers inside the house. Volunteers must wear face masks and show proof of COVID-19 vaccine. Kitchen volunteers are expected to prepare meals and clean up after cooking but are not required to serve meals unless they want to! Feel free to bring a copy of the recipe for the meal being served, and we will add it to our recipe binder in case families ask for copies. When meals are dropped off, volunteers are required to wear a face mask during delivery. Volunteers who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine may drop-off a meal but will not be permitted to stay and serve the meal inside the Fisher House per current VA Infection Control guidelines. Vaccinated volunteers may stay to serve the meal if they choose to do so. We request that meals be ready to serve between 11am-12:30pm for lunch or 4:30pm-6:00pm for dinner.

Favorite meals/restaurants

Homecooked specialties to feed a crowd! Casseroles, soups, comfort foods.

Least favorite meals

Please warn guests if foods that are spicy, intentionally undercooked, or regional and unfamiliar.

Allergies or dietary restrictions

ALLERGIES/RESTRICTIONS: Guests who have a diet restriction or allergies, please contact the Fisher House office at (734) 845-3000 or VHAANNFisherHouse@va.gov to inquire about dietary concerns. Please include a small sign with your meal that specifies there are common allergens in the dish, such as milk, eggs, peanuts, soy, wheat, tree nut, fish/shellfish, or sesame.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

- We have 60 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left at \$5. When they are sold out, we will donate \$300 to Fisher House Michigan. Please let us know if you'd like one.
- Our Annual No Bake/Bakeless Fundraiser has been mailed out. Please consider donating.

Service Projects

- Please consider donating food to your local food banks. Here are a few links.
Saline Social Services:
<https://www.salinesocialservice.com/ways-to-give/donate/>
Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:
<https://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&SID=donate-funds>
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>

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2022 Girls' State Update! The fund balance is \$3,308.25. We are sponsoring one delegate to Girls' State.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News: I was unable to attend the March AVVA Michigan Association meeting.

WCCV: I attended the March meeting. I will be in NJ in April and unable to attend the April 17th meeting. Meni will be our delegate for the April meeting.

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

All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
National Chapter of the Year:
1999 & 2007
Newsletter of the Year:
2007, 2009, 2011, & 2015
E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Stan Harrison
Vice President: Vance McCrumb
Secretary: Jon Luker
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb
Sergeant at Arms: Joe Palazzolo
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Contact Us: Please direct any
communication to Vice President
and Webmaster "Vance McCrumb"
<dogman2@reagan.com>.

Vietnam Veterans of America
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Please forward. Thank you!