

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 2023,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: --In Vance McCrumb's President's Message, Vance sets out a few plans to improve the Dispatch newsletter with clickable images, and we will be working on that. A useful feature of the Dispatch is to present a historical rendition of the myriad activities that Chapter members undertake during a specific month. In this regard, take a look at John Kinzinger's "Restrospective of the Pig Roast." It is good to reminisce. To all of those who have contributed to the newsletter, many thanks!
-- Paulo Pereira, Editor

What's New at VVA 310...

<i>President's September Message</i>	2
<i>September 2023 Chaplain's Corner</i>	3
<i>Honoring September Anniversaries on the Wall</i>	3
<i>Mental Health in Michigan --- Jocosity --- Current Events..</i>	4
<i>VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes</i>	5
<i>Cake, Anyone?</i>	6
<i>AVVA Newsletter August 2023</i>	7
<i>Dispatch Recipients</i>	8
<i>Veterans Accessibility / A New Day to Remember</i>	9
<i>Saying Good-Bye to Summer / Remembering In-Country</i>	10
<i>A Retrospective of the Pig Roast</i>	11
<i>All About VVA 310</i>	12

President's September Message

By Vance McCrumb



Chapter member Jack McManus was reelected to serve as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America at the organization's 21st National Convention, held in Orlando, Florida. And Sandie Wilson was reelected as a National Director At-Large. She also received the VVA Commendation Medal.

The VVA Commendation Medal is the organization's highest award. This award recognizes members for outstanding, exemplary service to Veterans and the community. Attended the WCCV meeting on the 21st. Chapter member and WCCV Commander Rev. Bull reported that the VA doesn't need any more socks from his sock drive. They are good to go for a while, but Rev. Bull said he may still accept new socks for any future needs that may arise at the VA. He also reported that the Veterans Resource Center is closed due to his work schedule, among other issues.



Six of us rubbed butts (pork) with Legion Commander (Eric Engelmeier), providing his secret seasoning recipe that marinated for two days in their walk-in refrigerator, which helped (along with the other magic potions) give the pork its great flavor.

Our Pig Roast Chair Stan Harrison did his usual masterful job coordinating our Chapter and AVVA volunteers, which made this year's Pig Roast a success. As for dinner tickets, 290 were sold. Stan and I claim the 50/50 raffle tickets we purchased from Roy were defective! In fact, every raffle ticket I buy is defective.

Per Treasurer Bourne, our sales were approximately as follows: tickets: \$4,200.00; 50/50 raffle: \$400.00; and AVVA: \$100.00. Merchandise sales were around \$700.00. Stan was disappointed in merchandise sales this year. Speaking of merchandise, the Clinton Fall Festival is on September 22nd - 24th. A help-wanted notice will be sent out in early September.

Volunteer crews Friday evening and Saturday morning kept watch on the cooking process. The pork pullers from our Chapter and the Legion worked all afternoon pulling pork without a break to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Our decision to change our Pig Roast location paid off again this year. The Legion's commercial kitchen made it easier to prepare for this year's event. We need to send out a huge shout-out to Saline Legion Commander Eric Engelmeier and his 15 or so volunteers who helped again this year. The same goes to our Chapter volunteers and those of you who purchased tickets and attended. You all were a part of our success! By the way, volunteers don't eat free. Together we made a difference!

310 Dispatch: look for some changes with our county KIAs. Paulo Pereira and Jane Kinzinger asked about shortening the write-up on selected KIAs, which will help Paulo manage the newsletter. There will be an active link to route a reader to our Memorial page at www.vva310.org for additional information on our KIAs. I liked the idea and would suggest all who submit articles to consider making them short and to the point. Yes, that may not be possible. It would be nice to reduce our printing cost with a smaller newsletter.

I've asked Paulo to consider submitting our newsletter for VVA's Newsletter of the Year award. The last one we received was when Luker was the editor in 2017. It's time to consider submitting our newsletter for Newsletter of the Year. Looking back on what we've accomplished the past year, think Memorial grounds improvements, Memorial maintenance buildings, VA activities, merchandise sales at the VA, Veterans in the Classroom, among other accomplishments. We may take a shot at our third Chapter of the Year as well.

Finally, we picked up a new member, Bill Kirstein, USAF, from Dexter. Sad news to report: Member Steve Duncan passed away on August 24. Funeral arrangements are TBD. *****



September 2023 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore



I find it amazing how so many from our Chapter really go to bat to help other Veterans receive their benefits when they are often denied. I have had members

tell me that it has taken them many attempts and months to finally receive the benefits owed them. That had me thinking about the words of Jesus recorded in Luke regarding the need for persistence.

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, "Get justice for me from my adversary." And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, "Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."

Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

(Luke 18:1-8 New King James Version)

Isn't that what life is like sometimes? Someone asks us to do something, go somewhere, or see someone, and we don't want to do it. But, with enough persistence, we do it, lest we get weary from their constant "nagging." But what is sometimes missed in this parable is that God wants us to keep praying and that, in the right time, He will answer speedily (meaning, when the answer comes, it will be fast, not that he will answer when we first ask).

Let us remain vigilant in our faith.

Peace to all! *****



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, because 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, because 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, because 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.

Mental Health in Michigan

By Craig DeRoche, former Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives

DeRoche points out some weak points in applying for VA disability benefits while suggesting legal reforms that may solve some of those issues. [Click here to read more about these concerns.](#)

https://detroitnews-mi.newsmemory.com/?pub-link=15e4b14a8_134acca

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge



It was a boring Sunday afternoon in the jungle, so the Elephants decided to challenge the Ants to a game of soccer. The game was going well, with the Elephants beating the Ants ten goals to ZERO. Then the Ants gained possession.

The Ants' star player was dribbling the ball towards the Elephants' goal when the Elephants' left back came lumbering towards him. The elephant trod on the little ant, killing him instantly.

The referee stopped the game and said, "What the hell do you think you're doing? Do you call that sportsmanship, killing another player?!"

The elephant replied, "Well, I didn't mean to kill him -- I was just trying to trip him up."

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

11 Sep: Patriot Day (2002)

14 Sep: Monthly Meetings: AVVA/Board, 1800 hrs; \ VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs; 15 Sep: VVA 310 Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Coney Island, 2563 Ellsworth, Ypsi

15 Sep: Recognition Day (1990); 18 Sep: WCCV, 1930 hrs; American Legion, Saline

18 Sep: Air Force Birthday (1947)

22-24 Sep: Clinton Fall Festival

** Visit Veterans Radio online: [Click here.](#)

VVA 310 Meeting Minutes – 10 August 2023

By Berry Bourne

Vietnam Veterans of America, Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Regular Membership Meeting Minutes 10 August 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: Eric Eschelson

Motion: Bob Bull/Dave Draper to approve the July minutes published in the *Dispatch*. Approved.

President's Report: Vance McCrumb stated he attended the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans meeting. He will defer reporting on this event until the Committee reports agenda item. He mentioned that VVA plans on having three more conventions in years 2025, 2027, and 2029. See the President's Letter in the August *Dispatch* for a full report of the prior month's activities.

Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne reported that the major non-restricted fund activity was the merchandise team, which realized \$1,314 revenue at three events (June Autorama, AA VA, and Vet Fest), plus sale of a Chapter jacket, with \$744 profit plus \$25 donations. We recently received a \$3,000 donation from IBEW towards Memorial maintenance. McCrumb further explained the details of the donation.

AVVA Report: Jane Kinzinger, in Kathy Driscoll's absence while attending the VVA National Convention, stated that their restricted fund has a \$4,556 balance. They will provide support at the Pig Roast and look forward to sharing in one of the four 50/50 raffles during the event. Please see the full report in the

Dispatch.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Stan Harrison stated that merchandise will be sold at the AA VA on Thursday, August 17, from 0800–1400 hrs. Merchandise will also be available for purchase during the Pig Roast.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Bob Bull, WCCV Commander, stated that they are attempting to be more inclusive by having more organizations support their effort. Their goal is to increase the membership.

Michigan State Council: See President's August letter in the *Dispatch* for items discussed at the latest meeting.

Memorial Maintenance: Al (Fredo) Merritt stated the Memorial site is looking good. Recently an arborist expert visited the site and informed the team that the pine trees need to be deep fertilized.

Website: Approximately 389,000 hits since inception

Membership: 214

Newsletter: No report

Health Care: No report.

LTCCSKMC: John Kinzinger reported that they are planning the Halloween and Christmas Parties for the AA VA. A big question is how many people will be allowed to participate. Last year's Christmas Party was restricted to seven people due to COVID restrictions. Several months ago, a \$5,000 motion was passed to provide underwear as needed to the VA. So far, \$1,038 has been spent.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Al (Fredo) Merritt – Inquired if anyone would accept the Chapter jackets coordination due to his time constraints at the Memorial. No response.

Stan Harrison – Stated that the Clinton Fall Festival is September 22/23/24, and any help setting up and selling merchandise would be appreciated. This is the largest merchandise selling opportunity during the year.

John Kinzinger – Mentioned that the Kiwanis

resale shop located on Jackson Road offers Veterans a 20% discount on their purchase.

Dale Throneberry – Veterans Radio will celebrate its twentieth anniversary on September 30th with a show on Geddes Road. They hope to have a MOH in attendance. Further detailed notice will be emailed.

Bob Bull – 1) Texas Roadhouse will contribute 10% of its proceeds on August 22nd from 1500-2200 hrs to Bridge Corp. 2) VRC (Veterans Resource Center) will shut down at the end of August because of little meaningful interest at current location. 3) A Veteran recently took his life while at the AA VA. We need to inquire of Veterans leaving the VA as to how satisfied they were with the medical treatment they just received. AA VA is very short on staff to aid with mental health issues. 4) There is a Veterans-focused app titled WhyMi with a transition plan that addresses Health and Welfare needs.

Vance McCrumb – A Chapter member made 20 canes for distribution at the AA VA. It was further learned that the canes do not meet government specifications and could not be given away.

Chapter Breakfast on 15 September 2023 – At 0900, location TBD.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1945

Cake, Anyone?

By Jane Kinzinger

There were two of us doing the cake-cutting duties at the recent Pig Roast. From the vantage point of the "cake table," I had a clear impression that everyone was happy to see a choice of chocolate or white cake to top off a delicious pork dinner with all the sides on Saturday. Sandy Martinez and I kept up with demand for dessert while keeping cool (and the cakes as well) in the dining room of the Saline American Legion Post. Sandy hardly left the room as she skillfully cut piece after piece of the tasty cakes from Costco. They always do a nice job and finished the frosting with a sizable American Flag.

We had great help from the Boy Scouts who manned the cake trays from the dining room to the end of the serving line. They put in many steps. With courtesy and attentive service, the Boys Scouts served lemonade and assisted customers carrying their food to their tables.

The serving line was masterfully handled by members of the Sarah Caswell Angel Chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). Kate Kirkpatrick, DAR as well as AVVA, recruited eight other "Daughters" to serve the pork dinners. Those pictured are Ypsilanti Chapter Regent Elizabeth Heller, with Sarah Caswell Angell Chapter members Denise Frost and Allana McGuire. Second-shift workers (2:30-5:00) were Regent Lauren Smith, Vice Regent Emily Salvette, Carolyn Cunkle, Michele Gerkman, and Amy Burba.

VVA member Dave Draper and AVVA member Meni Draper are smiling as they handled several tasks required to have a successful event. Steve and Shirley Hitte collected tickets. John Kinzinger, Bob Bull, and Berry Bourne sold tickets at the gate. There was merchandise being sold by Stan Harrison, George Perrault, and others. Roy Hall made the rounds selling 50/50 tickets for four hourly drawings. George Perrault was lucky enough to win two of the four drawings. (How did that happen?!)



Two others we wish to thank are the DJ, who kept the music going, and Cynthia Olcott, who provided beautiful face paintings on the porch. She painted colorful things on children and adults alike. She even

used her artistic skills on a few VVA 310 members. The day was not as hot as the last couple of years. The overnight crews watched to make sure the fire on the cookers did not go out. Many others, not mentioned, showed up to help wherever needed, including Marv Rivers and Pete Wixom, who “pulled the pork.”



AVVA Newsletter August 2023

By Kathy Driscoll

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

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!

- VVA 310 Pig Roast – Saturday, August 26th. Please plan to support this VVA 310 fundraiser. AVVA 310 will receive the proceeds from one of the 50/50 raffles at the Pig Roast.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

- We have 60 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 proceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.



- I emailed out our Annual No Bake/Bakeless Fundraiser to our members. This is our main source funding our Chapter. Please consider donating. I am mailing out fundraiser letters to our members without email address.

□ 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:

<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 – 2023 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,308.25.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

I attended the AVVA National Convention and voted for our revised bylaws. Our new National Board was elected.

President Sharon Hobbs

Vice President Kathy Andras

Secretary Nina Schloffel

Treasurer Kaye Gardner

Region 5 Director Anthony Gigli

Region 5 Deputy Director PennyMeinhardt

WCCV

I attended the July 17th meeting at the Saline American Legion Post 322. I plan to attend the August 21st meeting. It will be held at the Saline American Post 322

Keep up to date with our Chapter: All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our Chapter's webpage, www.vva310.org in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA 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, dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Dispatch Recipients

VVA310 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 2026

Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2026

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 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

Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027

Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024

George Perrault ~ October 2025

Bruce Ross ~ March 2028

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023
Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
John C. Shook ~ July 2028
Larry St. Antoine ~ September 2025
Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2023
Hank Woods, in memory of Past President Paul S.
Dumsch ~ September 2027.

Veterans Accessibility

Submitted by Dave Draper

For the first time, blind Veterans can now read their VA benefits decision letters inside the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. Veterans now can view their decision letters online and immediately. Previously, there was a 10-day waiting period to receive letters in the mail. Blind veterans can simply download a PDF file from the VA Health and Benefits mobile app to listen to the content in the PDF file. [Click here](#) to find more information.

A New Day to Remember

By Brian Graef

Any Vietnam Veteran can remember the day they returned to "the World," as we used to call it. And every "return" is different. Most of us came back to a turbulent time in our nation's history. There was no ticker-tape parade down the streets of New York City. I came back at ten-to-two in the morning at Travis Air Force Base near Oakland, California. When I went to the Oakland Airport hours later to board a plane to go home; there wasn't anyone cheering for me and to say welcome home. Heck, even a lady at the airport spit at me and called me a baby killer.

Well, all that changed on May 13th, which I call A New Day to Remember." I was driving north on US-23 when I saw an electric billboard sign with a message about an Honor Flight. I quickly pulled the car over and wrote down the website to find an application to submit for a chance to fly to Washington DC "Free" to visit the monuments. I never thought I would get a call. After three years passed and then in February of 2023, I got the call. I was excited to have the chance to go.

The flight was out of Kalamazoo Airport. but there was a meet-and-greet event plus dinner the Friday before. They emptied a hangar at the airport for the dinner. There were several hundred for dinner, and 89 Veterans were on the plane the next day to DC. As I recall, 74 were Vietnam Veterans; 2 were World War II Veterans; and there were several Korean War Veterans. When the plane departed from the Kalamazoo Airport, the fire department gave us a water-gun salute: a fire truck on each side of the plane shooting water over the fuselage--and the same salute upon our arrival in DC.

The first visit was to Arlington for the changing of the guards. Then, on to the new Air Force monument. Later, we went to the Vietnam Wall, which has always been very hard for me. We (with the help of my son, Kevin), located the name "John Pizzuti" on the Wall. He was a grade-school friend of mine.

Later, we went to the Vietnam Wall, which has always been very hard for me. We (with the help of my son, Kevin), located the name "John Pizzuti" on the Wall. He was a grade-school friend of mine.

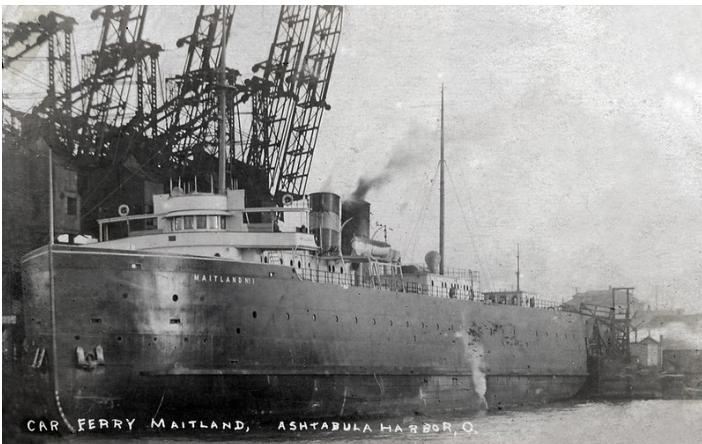
It was a long day visiting about six monuments--and then, the flight back to Kalamazoo. On the plane there was a special event that took place: "mail call." The event host passed out large envelopes which contained several letters. Somehow, I knew what might be in that envelope. So, I didn't open it until the next day. I read several letters from family members, and some I didn't know. I cried when I read them from my immediate family members.

The most exciting part of the trip was when we returned. When we departed from the plane and loaded on busses, we were escorted by "the patriots of freedom": about 40 motorcycles, police, and fire trucks to an air museum close by the airport. Upon departing the buses, we saw 100 or so people outside the museum. They were cheering for us. The best part was entering the museum, where there were a few thousand people cheering, clapping, and wishing us a "Welcome Home." Needless to say, my PTSD was working overtime. Having done all that, my advice is this: Go to: www.talonsouthhonorflight.org and submit an application: I promise it will be "A New Day to Remember."

Saying Godbye to Summer - 2023



Remembering In-Country



A Retrospective of the Pig Roast

by John Kinzinger



butts and shoulders. A couple of years later, we received our current, specially made cooker provided by a friend of Don Miller's. We now have the cooking down to a minimum of labor, with great results.

Now we "rub butts," with a great mixture of seasonings about 28 hours before we begin cooking them. The Saline Legion's walk-in cooler made a great difference in this preparation process. And we have fun doing

it. The night before, the coleslaw and apple sauce are put in the closed cup containers, which is done by Marti Cothorn and her group. Over the years, we did different things to make it entertaining. Earlier on, we had children's games on the lawn and a



donut-bobbing contest strung between two trees. The children always enjoyed the magician who would display his magic. We always had a band playing music on the patio.

In 2014, we borrowed a cooker and cooked pork butts and rumps. This eliminated turning the pigs and made it nice for us all. The overnight cooking just needed "fire-watch" members to be sure the flames kept working.

Using the VFW Post 423 facilities was more difficult because there is no commercial kitchen there. The Saline American Legion Post 322 offered to help us. So, for the past few years, we have held our Pig Roast there. Many Legion members join in helping us. We use their commercial kitchen and walk-in cooler, which makes it much easier to prepare things in advance, to marinate the seasoned butts, and to keep things cool. The attendance seems not to vary much each year. We serve about 300 meals each year. We are thankful to be able to continue this tradition. And, at our age, we need all the help we can get to pull it off. We sincerely thank the American Legion for helping us. Working as a team has allowed us to put on the Pig Roast, which many people look forward to enjoying each fall. May we continue with this event each year.

Many thanks to the **310 Dispatch** Team, ever so ready to oblige by providing photos and articles as needed.

To all, a Happy Fall Season!

The year 2023 was our 20th annual Pig Roast fundraiser, which raises the majority of our budget each year. We had little pig-roasting experience when we started and learned along the way. In the early years, we cooked three pigs, each averaging about 120 pounds.

Chapter friend Ralph McMillan built a three-section charcoal cooker for us. The cooker was constructed of three 4X4 sections rebar and sheet metal. It stood about three feet high. The pigs were sandwiched between heavy wire fencing with one-inch rebar framing. It took four of us to flip the spread-eagled pigs over the charcoal fire every 20 minutes throughout the night. We did two-hour overlapped shifts.

Back then, we were physically able to flip the pigs with a four-man team. That switch would be impossible at our age today. We learned as we went along. But we passed the health inspection every year.

Steve Hitte deserves the most credit for his work every year, putting in the most time to ensure the pork would be ready at noon. In the first year using the cooker, we charred the center of the pigs. We learned to keep the charcoal to the outside edges, producing more of a convection-like heating.

One year, we had to deal with rain. It was a challenge to cover the pit and pigs to keep the charcoal burning. The result was a huge tarp being strung between four trees, high enough to keep the tarp from melting with the heat of the pit. Luckily, the rain subsided by eating time. Other memorable days were either cold or very hot. A fall day can go either way!

Then we used a cooker loaned to us by Tim Kilbarger, a friend of Steve Hitte's. That is when we began using

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: Vance McCrumb
Vice President: Marv Rivers
Secretary: Jon Luker
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
Chapter Membership: Vance McCrumb
Sergeant at Arms: Eric Downie
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore
Dispatch Editor: Paulo Pereira

Website: vva310.org
Email: membership@vva310.org
Follow us on 310 [Facebook page](#)
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Contact Us: Please direct any
communication to President and
Webmaster "Vance McCrumb"
<dogman2@reagan.com>.

Vietnam Veterans of America
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Please forward. Thank you!

