

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

**January 2023,
Washtenaw County,
Michigan**



Editor's Note: Much hope comes with a new year. I would like to add my voice of good wishes to all our Veterans, Associates, supporters, and friends. May all of us have lofty goals accomplished, under heaven's blessings. Especially we remember the relatives of those whose names are honored on our Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial. We treasure the notes we receive from you, and we make sure those notes get wide distribution. For the 310 Dispatch Team, all the best, be well, and Happy New Year! -- Paulo Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message

— January 2023

By Stan Harrison

We received an email from Lieutenant Winston Smith, who is stationed at Drawsko, Poland. He wrote to thank us for the "awesome Christmas box" that he and his team got from us. He said that he had read all about our Chapter



on our website and that he was impressed by all that we do. It's gratifying to hear from the troops who are on the receiving end of our packing parties. It takes effort and expense to assemble and send those packages; but, when we hear back from the recipients, it all seems worthwhile. Incidentally, Lt. Smith said that there was a kind note from Mrs. Sue Ivey in the box, and he wanted to pass along his greetings and thanks to her. Note that the Lieutenant read about us on our website, www.vva310.org. Our Chapter Vice President, Vance McCrumb, is the Webmaster. He is constantly improving the site and has made it well worth checking out. Way to go,

"Dogman!"

I want to mention the wonderful work done by the Veterans Honor Guard of Washtenaw County. When a veteran passes here in the county, the funeral director will contact the Honor Guard; and they will perform the final rifle salute that is so richly deserved. The service is done in a very dignified way and is impressive and much appreciated by the mourners. As it happens, the Honor Guard could use some new members. This could be your chance to serve in uniform again. What a fine way to serve veterans, honor their service, and show that their sacrifice is not forgotten. For details on the Honor Guard, I suggest that you call Jack Myers at 734-216-2963. I'll see you at our next meeting. In the meantime, stay safe, and stay proud

January 2023 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

A new year brings with it the hope of new beginnings. But, with all the funerals in 2022 and all our friends and family who are struggling with diseases and with terminal illnesses, a new beginning is joyful and uplifting hope for a better tomorrow.



I offer that hope to people of faith and to those who need faith from God's Word in Revelation 21:
Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and will be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then, He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be My son."
(Rev. 21:1-7 New King James Version)

Words of hope from God to help through the transition from this life to the next where the promises of

better things, yeah, the best things, await those of faith.
May peace be upon your journey, and may you trust Him who accompanies your journey.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Regular Membership Meeting Minutes

8 December 2022

Call to Order by Harrison at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Bob Bull

Moment of Silence for POW/ MIA's, their families and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

Roll Call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Members: None

Guests: None

Minutes of the November meeting have not yet been published.

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

Several of our members spoke to the students at Saline High School for Veterans Day. We did the Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner. This time we were allowed in the building and were able to see the impact that our dinner has. Thank you to Meijer's for the \$500 gift card we used to buy most of the food. We had a packing party on 4 December and packed 50 boxes. We attended one member's funeral.

Treasurer's Report:

Reports were emailed to the Board and to members who wanted one. Let Bourne know your email ad-

dress. The only major unrestricted activity was the \$500 gift card we received from Meijer's. The Christmas Fundraiser is doing well and is on schedule to meet the budget projection for income. Our budget year ends 28 February. The finance committee has prepared a draft budget that includes \$8,000 that will be used to support veterans. The Board will review and make final revisions to the budget at the January meeting. The budget will be sent out shortly after that so that members may approve a final budget at the February meeting.

AVVA Report:

Driscoll. Please see report in the Dispatch. Kate Melcher is working with a Marine in hospice. The Marine's family would like a throw for the veteran. Sandy Martinez donated one that Kate picked up tonight. We are going to make two throws for each of the six branches of service over the next year. January, February, and March will be zoom meetings for AVVA. This year we are sending four high school girls to Girls' State.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: We have 266 Chapter coins for sale and 30 anniversary coins for sale. Both are \$5 each. No other activity this month.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Next meeting will be here. Michigan State Council: We were happy to be able to meet in person again.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. Crews are asked to bring their report covers and first two pages to the next meeting so they can be updated. The irrigation plan is complete so we can file our irrigation permit with the Township. The company that gave us the plan for free is also planning to donate

something toward getting the project done and is also working to help us find a sod source and labor force to do the sod work at a discounted rate.

Website: McCrumb. We are up around 362,000 hits. We added a new link to some video stories that one of our members created while in the service.

Membership: The official number is at 215. We have lost four members so far since Memorial Day.

Newsletter: About the time the new computer was ready to work, Paulo Pereira lost his home Internet connection. That is what has caused the delay of the Dispatch this month. It will be out shortly.

Healthcare: The choice program that lets you go to a civilian facility if you can't use a VA facility in a reasonable time is consuming 1% of the VA's total budget. As a result, the program will see some substantial changes soon.

There's a new research report out that says the Gulf War Syndrome was caused by the destruction of sarin gas weapons. It has also been determined that the insecticide Dursban causes the same problems as burning sarin gas, and that Dursban was used extensively by the military.

VVA has hired a new person to advise the Board on health issues.

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger. Jane gave the report. If you remember, we buy shirts every year that we take to Linda Colby who then embroiders them especially for the VA patients. This year, 10 people who have already been identified will be allowed to go into the VA to deliver those embroidered shirts. We also spend thousands of dollars for underwear for the VA patients, which we delivered to voluntary services

already. They will hand those out for us.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion by Rivers, seconded by Clarke to amend Article VI Section 1 to reduce the Board size from 10 directors to 6 by eliminating 2 two-year members and 2 one-year members.

The amended section would then read:

“Section 1 – Board Composition
The officers and six directors shall constitute the Board of Directors. Three of the directors shall be elected annually to serve a term of two years or until their successors are elected. In this way, the Board of Directors will maintain three members with two years and three members with one year remaining in their term of office.”

The motion was approved.

Motion by Rivers, seconded by Clarke to donate \$200 toward the purchase of a \$553 dollar lift chair for a member with cancer.

Motion by Clarke, seconded by Bull, to amend the motion to state that the donation will come from the support for hospitalized patients restricted fund. The amendment was approved.

The amended motion was approved.

Good of the Order:

McCrum: Dr. Reuel Long wrote a book about his experiences in Vietnam. He has copies for sale at the meeting.

Driscoll: Cindi is having a skin graft at the end of the month.

McCrum: I ordered a black T-shirt with our logo and my name. If you want one for yourself, it will cost \$19 plus shipping. Just let me know, and I'll help you order it from <https://www.stickermule.com/studio>.

Draper: Steve Duncan is faced with multiple medical issues that are getting worse. He needs your prayers.

Bull: We are doing a project called Reverse Advent to help local food banks replenish their food supplies. We ask that you take home one of the bankers boxes in the lobby. Then use the reverse advent calendar (also in the lobby) to remind you to place one nonperishable food item in the box each day. Once the box is full, contact me.

Bull: We must deliver our Toys for Tots collection to the Marine Corps by the 20th, so please stop by Wednesday or Saturday when we are here to drop off your toys to us by the 17th.

Bull: Moose Lodge donated 30 cold-weather coats with scarves and gloves for the Resource Center.

Wilson: The 40th anniversary of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall went very well. The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the VA were both there. We reviewed the PACT Act to see what was added and to figure out who will benefit from it. There was also a big reception.

Wilson: Getting things through Congress is going to be even more difficult than in the past. The pressure is on now more than before to do the Agent Orange Townhall meetings again. We need to explain the PACT Act and current knowledge about toxins in military service.

Wilson: With changes in PACT Act and Blue Water bill, the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs, now under the supervision of Acting Director David Saims, has 2,000 claims that can now be resubmitted. If you want your claim

resubmitted, please let the office know right away.

Cothorn: At her request, we had a short discussion of SB 783 and 784, which take away the disabled veteran's property tax relief and replace it with a sham in the form of a state income tax credit that almost nobody will qualify for. The bill was introduced by Jon Bumstead, from District 34. Suddenly, this bill is gaining traction. It was approved in the Senate and sent to the House, where the House approved a revised version that was sent back to the Senate on 7 December this year. Now is the time to let your legislators know what you think of their dog-and-pony show.

St. Antoine: I really needed your recent prayers, especially this weekend. Thank you very much for them. They helped a lot.

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday, January 13, at 0900: TBD.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2003 hrs.

Honoring January Anniversaries on the Wall

Private First Class Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. was born on October 2, 1943 in Laredo, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. McIntire of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter graduated in January of 1964 from Ann Arbor High School where he was active in Junior Achievement and was the Vice-President of his JA company. He was also active in the Cooperative Occupational Training Program at Ann Arbor High School and



Warrant Officer John David Eddy was born on March 1, 1950 to Mr. and Mrs. Delvord Eddy of Ann Arbor, Michigan. John is a 1968 graduate of Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. He loved team sports, the out-of-doors, and camping trips to Lake Huron when he was young. John's ambition was to fly. Warrant Officer Eddy enlisted in the Army in 1970. He completed helicopter flight training at Fort Wolters, Texas. He went through advanced flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Warrant Officer John David Eddy began his tour in An Xugen Province, South Vietnam on June 16,

worked part-time for S. S. Kresge Company.

Private First Class Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on August 21, 1965 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. On September 18, 1965, Walter earned a Purple Heart when he was wounded by shrapnel in his leg. He recovered from those wounds and returned to his unit four weeks later. On January 2, 1966, Walter was killed by small arms fire in action near the Bien Hoa Air Base.

Walter Edwin McIntire, Jr. is survived by his parents, three brothers and two sisters. He lived 22 years and 3 months. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter'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 04E Line 051.

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1971. John was the copilot of a helicopter gunship when it was struck by enemy gunfire and crashed. Warrant Officer Eddy died with three of crew members on January 11, 1972. Warrant Officer John David Eddy earned the Air Medal for heroism, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, National Defense and Vietnam Service Medals and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign

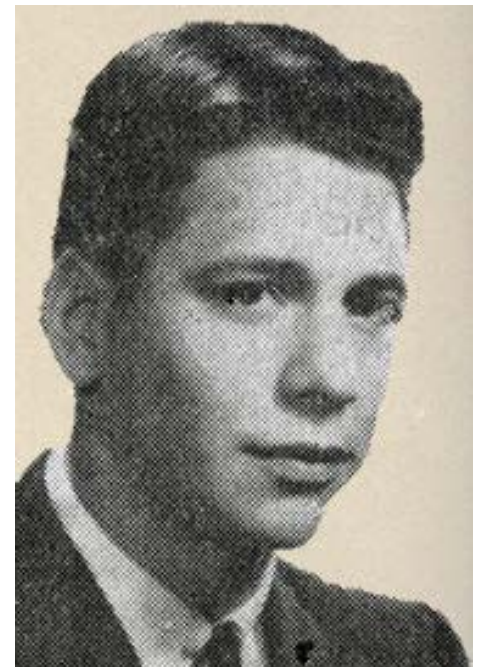
Medal. The South Vietnamese Government presented him with the Military Merit Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm.

John David Eddy is survived by his parents, a wife, two daughters and a son, and two sisters. He lived 21 years, 10 months and 10 days. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 02W Line 096.

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Warrant Officer Michael Woodrow Hunter was born on January 23, 1944 in Durham, North Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow W. Hunter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also attended Western Michigan University.

Warrant Officer Hunter entered the Army in 1967 going through Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was trained as a paratrooper and a helicopter pilot. Michael received his Wings as an Army Aviator in April of 1968 graduat-



ing tenth in his class. He began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam on July 14, 1969 serving as a helicopter co-pilot on an AH-1G with C Troop, First Squadron, Ninth Cavalry, First Air Cavalry Division. Michael was killed on January 28, 1970 when the helicopter he was co-piloting was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire during a gun run. The aircraft was struck by a 50-cal. round causing the main rotor to separate. He received the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal.

Michael Woodrow Hunter is survived by his parents, two sisters, and his son. He lived 26 years and 5 days. He is resting in the Swedish Mission Cemetery located in Centerville Township, Leelanau County, Michigan. Michael'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 14W Line 075.

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Major George Frederick Vlisides was born on December 31, 1924 in Detroit, Michigan to Mrs. Elena



Vlisides of Ann Arbor, Michigan. George is a 1943 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. George enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and received his Second Lieutenant's commission and Bombadier Wings in 1944. He flew heavy bombers, but never made it overseas. He graduated from the Military Academy at West Point near the top of his class in 1950 where his classmates called him "Gorgeous One." George enlisted in the Air Force after graduation from West Point. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal with two clusters flying 84 missions in the F-84 during the Korean War. He graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 1961.

Major Vlisides began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1964 serving with the 1st Air Commando Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, 13th Air Force. George earned another Air Medal in Vietnam. He also was shot down twice with the last time occurring on December 29, 1964. He celebrated his 40th Birthday on December 31, 1964. George died on January 27, 1965 when his A-1E Skyraider crashed in a landing attempt at Bien Hoa Airfield. He earned another Distinguished Flying Cross and two more Air Medals during his tour. George Frederick Vlisides is survived by his mother, a brother and a sister. He lived 40 years and 26 days. He is resting in the Greek Orthodox Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. George'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 01E Line 084.

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Corporal Eddie Wallace was born on January 12, 1949 in Birmingham, Alabama to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lee of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Eddie graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1968. He worked



for Gar Wood Industries before enlisting in the Army in 1968. Corporal Wallace began his tour of duty in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam on December 20, 1968 serving as a Petroleum Supply Specialist with the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Company, 307th Aviation Battalion, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. Eddie was killed on January 13, 1969 when a hand grenade was thrown at him while he was on guard duty. Eddie had been "In-Country" for only 23 days. Eddie Wallace is survived by his parents, four brothers and a sister. He lived 20 years and 1 day. Eddie is resting in Westlawn Cemetery in Inkster, Michigan. Eddie's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilan-

ti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 35W Line 086.

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Private First Class Michael Dean Cribelar was born on June 27, 1949 to Mr. Woodrow Dean Cribelar and Mrs. Virginia Cribelar. Michael attended Willow Run High



School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He worked for Ford Motor Company at the Ypsilanti Plant prior to entering the Army on June 9, 1967. Private First Class Cribelar completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He began his tour of duty in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division on November 22, 1967. Michael was killed on January 11, 1968 from small arms fire after being "In-Country" for one month and eleven days. Michael Dean Cribelar is survived by his parents, his wife and two-year-old son, and two sisters. He lived 18 years, 6 months and 14 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael'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 34E Line 028.

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Private First Class Larry Gene Gray was born on March 19, 1945 in Missouri to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray. Larry is a 1963 graduate of Dundee High School located in Dundee, Michigan. Private First Class Gray entered the Army on July 18, 1966 receiving his Basic Training and Cook's School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Larry began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on January 5, 1967 serving as a Food Service Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He was killed on January 17, 1967 when the helicopter he was riding on during a combat support mission disintegrated in flight. He was "In-Country" for only



12 days. Larry Gene Gray is survived by his wife, his parents, a brother and three sisters. He lived 21 years, 9

months and 28 days. He is resting in the London Township Cemetery located near Milan, Michigan. Larry's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 14E Line 044.

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Notes from KIA Family Members

[From the family of Kenneth Fulton]

Dear Colonel Kettles Chapter Members and Family:
As you remain in our heart throughout the year,
may the joys and blessings of the season be yours.
Jonathan Fulton and Family

[From the family of Ronald Koch]

To everyone at Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 VVA:

Our family appreciates all you do, such as speaking at high schools about Vietnam and continuing to bring honor and self-worth to all who served. We deeply appreciate the solemn honor and joyful remembrances you have all worked to provide every day.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! With God's blessings to you all,
Jeff, Lynda, and Braden Gladstone.
Thanks, from the bottom of our hearts.

From David Spencer, brother of Philip Spencer of Ypsilanti.

"Thank you for keeping the Monument and remembrance of our fallen soldiers. David" (He included a check for \$25.00 to help with Monument needs.)

AVVA Newsletter January 2023

By Kathy Driscoll

Happy New Year!

We need better communication between our members. We need to set up welfare checkups between our members.

Cindy and Steve Cox are back at home. Please send them a card to lift their spirits. Welcome Home Steve and Cindy!

Cindy and Steve Cox
150 S. Staebler Rd # 854
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

****Please Note****

AVVA 310 will have an in-person and a Zoom streaming meeting on January 12th at the VFW Post 423. I will send out the Zoom link in an email to our members. If you are out of town and would like to connect, we would love for you to attend via Zoom.

Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 33 members. If you would like to join AVVA 310, please contact Kathy Driscoll. Our newest Lifetime member is Sandy Martinez. 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!

Our members completed the Advent Food Drive. Thank you to all who donated to this food drive.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

We have 60 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. Suggested donation is \$5. When we sell out, 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.

Paper Safes

We donated our Paper Safe inventory to VVA Michigan State Council Veterans Service Office at the Charles S. Kettles VA Health Care.

Service Projects

- Rev. Bob Bull needs volunteers to assist the Veteran Resource Center on Wednesdays and/or Saturdays at the VFW Post 423. The center is open from 09:30 am to 5:00 pm. You will assist in keeping Post 423 clean and sanitary. Please consider volunteering an hour or two. Breakfast and lunch provided by Rev. Bob Bull, VVA 310 member. For information on volunteering, please contact Rev. Bob Bull at 734-664-7878.
- Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. Our communities still have families who are food insecure due to Covid-19.

Links to local Food Banks:

Saline Social Services:

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

Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:

<https://www.foodgatherers.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 – 2022 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,528.25. We have one delegate to sponsor for Girls' State 2023. If you know of a high school junior who wishes to attend, please have them contact Kathy at dkathyr16@gmail.com.

This year, Girls' State will be held in person at Michigan State University.

Requirements are that the delegates will complete their junior year in 2023 in a Michigan High School.

Link to the American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State Brochure.

https://michalaux.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ALA_Girls_State_Brochure-lp.pdf

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News WCCV

The October 17th meeting was cancelled. I plan to attend the January 16th meeting, if one is scheduled.

Upcoming Events!

Keep up to date with our Chapter:

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

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

AVVA Mission Statement:

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

AVVA Vision Statement:

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

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA

Chapter 310

Past President, AVVA Michigan

Association

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

On Paul Dumsch

Submitted by John Kinzinger

[A note: This is Poem #6 in the series of writings by deceased past Chapter President Paul S. Dumsch. His Army service in Vietnam caused Paul's struggle with PTSD. His writings reflect some of that.]

Dad

I came to visit.
It was a snowy,
Winter day.
I wiped a dozen
Of the flat stones clean
But I couldn't find you.

I brought you
A pint of whiskey
And a pack of Winstons.

You were the constant
In my life
Though undependable,
You always loved me.

I'm sorry I missed you.

Of Interest to Veterans

Submitted by Jane Kinzinger



This happy group meets at Holiday Restaurant on Tuesday mornings. Conversations range from sports to veterans' services to politics to family events. Those usually attending include those above: John Kinzinger, Bill Stewart, Berry Bourne, 310 President Stan Harrison, Al Merritt, George Perrault, Eric Downie, Bob Kurtz, Jane Kinzinger and Roy Hall. Everyone is welcome to join at 9:00 every Tuesday.

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The following is a recap of the last couple of months highlighting the events of our Chapter. November and December were especially busy with our annual trip to Dawn Farm. December saw a couple of visits to the VA Hospital dropping off underwear, shirts, and sweat-shirts to the hospitalized patients.

In October, Chapter member Rev. Bob Bull hosted an Open House for veterans on October 22 at Post 423. The event provides information to veterans and the focus is helping veterans. This is in addition to the twice-a-week Veterans

Resource Center that is open 9:30-5:00. Coffee and donuts are available in the morning, and hot dogs are offered for lunch.

In November, we took the ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner to the 30 residents at Dawn Farm. This is a very successful rehab working farm. They were very appreciative of the food. This year, a small group of those who did the shopping were able to go inside Dawn Farm building and chat with the residents. (Photo November 2021 Dispatch page 11.)

In December, we packed around 50 boxes to be sent to those active military. The boxes contained candy, snack food, and a hand-made Christmas stocking. Miss Washtenaw County helped and autographed photos to be included in each box. On December 20, we will deliver specially embroidered shirts to the patients at the VA Hospital. This year for the first time since Covid-19 hit that we will be allowed to visit patients and give them these gifts, They only allow 10 people total from our Chapter and one person per room.

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Each year our Chapter provides new underwear for the patients at the VA Hospital. Women receive a pair of pajamas. Pictured is the balance of \$5,400 worth of underwear. Jane and John Kinzinger, and Sandra Martinez met VA

Volunteer Director Kelly Pearce, who will direct distribution of these items to hospitalized veterans. The funding to the VAMC restricted account comes from many wonderful concerned supporters.

Sent from my iPhone

—**—

On Tuesday, December 20, our annual Christmas delivery of specially embroidered patriotic shirts was completed, with patient room vis-



its. Hospital Covid-19 restrictions limited the number we could have in our group. The following people took part in the event: Sandra Martinez, Roy Hall, Stan Harrison, Al Merritt, Pete Wixom, Brian Bayha, Eric Downie, and John Kinzinger. For many years, Linda Colby, widow of former Chapter member David Colby, has provided 150 beautifully embroidered patriotic polo shirts and sweatshirts. At her cost, we spend about \$3,500 per Christmas. Any remaining shirts after the December 20 distribution to the hospitalized patients are forwarded to the Oncology Department for their cancer patients. They are much appreciated.

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The Veteran's Resource Center at the Ann Arbor VFW is a non-judgmental place for veterans to meet for coffee, donuts, and hot dogs (lunch). Bob Bull is the organizer/coordinator for the VRC and is there every Wednesday. The Ann



Arbor American Legion is represented by Commander Dave Draper (and wife, Meni), and Bob Kurtz, grill-master. If you have questions about veteran's benefits, you might get the answers here. Recently, we all enjoyed a lasagna lunch provided by Boy Scout Leader Bob Brown. The picture above includes John Kinzinger, Bob Brown, Bob Kurtz, Dave Draper, Meni Draper, Bob Bull, and Al Simons. The VRC is utilized by Chapter members and local Veterans who have realized that the VFW Post 428 is open every Wednesday and Saturday, and there are qualified people there to answer questions.

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Wreaths at the Memorial

For the past few winters, Kate Kirkpatrick provided wreaths at our



Memorial. She was unable to do it this year.

The breakfast crew that meets at Holiday's on Tuesdays took up a collection and had two wreaths made by Saline Flower Land. Al



(Fredo) Merritt placed them at the Memorial today.

Do you know who these two men are? The one on the left is Santa, and the one on the right is John Kinzinger. More precisely, the one on the left is Bob Bull. These two jolly young fellows were hosting a group of modern warriors, their caregivers, and children. The guests at the VFW on December 10th were part of the WACU organization. Warriors and their families received candy canes from Santa and Christmas stockings filled with gifts for the children. The party was made possible by separate donations to WACU.org.

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
 - Berryman Bourne ~ August 2023
 - Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2023
 - Gary L. Couture ~ April 2024
 - Joseph Flint ~ January 2023
 - Edward Fuller ~ September 2023
 - Sarah and Brent Gephart, Sr. ~ March 2031
 - Corrine Gignac, in memory of her uncle Neil R. Gignac, CMSAF ~ April 2024
 - Ralph Henry ~ November 2023
 - Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024
 - 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 ~ January 2023
 - Ronald Oliver ~ August 2027
 - Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2024
 - George Perrault ~ October 2025

- Helena Prince, in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023
- Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
- Edith L. Semark ~ September 2023
- Jim Sharp ~ April 2031
- John C. Shook ~ July 2028
- 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 2023

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

- 01 Jan: New Year's Day
 - 01 Jan: Navy Seals Birthday (1962)
 - 12 Jan: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs
 - 13 Jan: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs
 - 16 Jan: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
 - 27 Jan: Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)
 - 09 Feb: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs
 - 10 Feb: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs
 - 19 Feb: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday (1941)
 - 20 Feb: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
 - 20 Feb: President's Day (1885)
- ** 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 distraught patient phoned her doctor's office: Was it true—the woman inquired—that she had to take the medication the doctor had prescribed for the rest of her life? She was told that it was true. There was a moment of silence before the woman continued: "I'm wondering, then, just how serious my condition is, since the prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS.'"



Santa Hats

Once again, our Chapter played "Santa," dressing in Santa hats and festive seasonal sweaters. Members and friends visited all the hospitalized Veterans. Patients' comments were very complimentary, saying how nice the gifts were and expressing much appreciation. After distributing the shirts, Santa's word was done. The next stop was the Sidetrack Restaurant for burgers and camaraderie.

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, 09, 11, & 15
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
Chaplain: Rev. Gordon Moore
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Please forward. Thank you!