



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

310 Dispatch

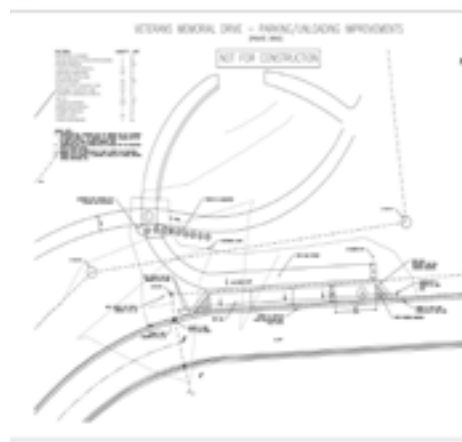
Newsletter

May 2019

**Never again shall a
veteran coming home
from battle be made
to feel alone and
unappreciated!**

From the Editor's Desk:

Discussions continue about the future of VVA. See Pres. Luker's message and John Kinzinger's discussion in Readers' Corner. Much work is also being done at the Vietnam Memorial grounds, with ambitious plans. Also, on Memorial Day John and Jane Kinzinger will distribute copies of a book John has been working on for many years. Be sure to see John's announcement on page 8, and be sure to get your copy. Enjoy the rainy season!



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President's Message

By Jon Luker

I just read the executive summary from Working Group II. I am disappointed. I agree with the committee's conclusion: Our legacy can be passed from VVA to another organization with the cooperation and interest of veterans of more-recent conflicts. But their ten-page summary contains even less information than the oral briefing we got at the Leadership Conference last year.



The report contained several pages of lament about what members and chapters do not want to do or do not understand. That was followed by several pages listing different types of business models that can be used for strategic or tactical planning. Nothing was said about how, or whether, those models were applied to facts. Similarly missing was even a hint of what was discovered through using those tools. Perhaps we need to wait until July to see the committee's full report to find out what Working Group II has in store for us.

An executive summary should be a document that explains what will happen in the next several years and encourages the reader to commit to making it happen. That was not done in the executive summary I read. It seemed like something Eeyore wrote.

On another subject, by the time you read this, we will have completed

our 32nd Annual Recognition Dinner. At the time of this writing, we have more VIPs scheduled to come than VVA and AVVA members combined. Part of the reason for that is the exceptional work that the community put in to getting the Memorial parking-lot project completed. It took many hands, in addition to the extra work done by our own Memorial Maintenance crew. We are inviting them to have dinner on us as a way of saying "Thank You."

I drove by the Memorial today. The Easter flowers are up, the grass is very green, and the parking lot makes the whole thing accessible. We sure did get some great help with that project.

We also get to honor Bev Conatser, who is a veteran as well as having had a full career taking care of veterans at the Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System, retiring as Chief of Voluntary Services. Congratulations to Beverly and to all of our honored guests.

This will be winding up my year as President of your Chapter. I was hoping that new folks would be willing to step up, but, instead, we are recycling our trusty past President, Tim Driscoll, who was a key to establishing the relationship we had with Concordia for so many years. Past Presidents Bob Kewicinski and Doc Martinez were heard to say that being president is an easy job to do because our members take care of most things without needing to be told. They say, and I found out, the organization practically runs itself.

The rest of our fiscal year will be interesting. We will not get to do it like we have done the last several years. Things will change, except the mission and our drive to get it

done. I look forward to helping the board in my role as secretary in the coming year.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement this year. I salute you.

May 2019 Chaplain's Corner

by Rev. Gordon Moore

There are so many things happening in May that we waited through the long winter for, unless you are John and Jane Kinzinger in Florida, in which case they were glad for winter to remain: things like Mother's Day, where we pause to celebrate the hard work and dedication of mothers; commencements at Universities, where we celebrate the seniors for staying with the task at hand until complete; and Memorial Day, where we pause to remember those who gave their lives for the task at hand . . . the preservation of freedom and the liberties we sometimes take for granted.

It is also planting time for farmers,



gardeners, and those who sow the Seed of God's love, forgiveness, and generosity to us, who certainly do not, and did not, deserve it but nevertheless received it. This brings me to my point, namely, being thankful that we can celebrate so many things. To this the Lord speaks in Psalm 1:

Blessed is the man who walks not in

the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

To me, this helps to maintain an upright focus and not get too upset when the unrighteous prattle their speech laced with words that pull people down, disrespect, and otherwise disparage others. Instead, I am free to focus on the Lord seated on High, who will take care of such things in His own timing. Instead, I should be more focused on being what Jesus called good fruit that others may taste and trust in the Lord. This process takes a lot of doing sometimes, but it offers a freedom of heart to enjoy God's creation from top to bottom. May His peace that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

MINUTES: Vietnam Veterans of America Charles C. S. Kettles Chapter 310

**Annual Membership Meeting –
13 April 2019**

Pursuant to Section 3, Annual Meeting, of Article V, Meetings, of Chapter 310 Bylaws, the Annual Membership Meeting was held on

13 Apr 2019 with voting open for four hours from 1230 hours to 1630 hours.

Call to Order by President Jon Luker at 1200 hrs. He led the salute to the flag.

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

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Gordon Moore gave the opening prayer.

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

New Member: None

Guests: Nick Bauder was a guest of Marvin Rivers

March Meeting Minutes: A **motion** was made by Marvin Rivers to accept the 14 Mar 2019 meeting minutes as posted in the Dispatch. Seconded by Tim Driscoll. **Motion** passed.

Meeting recessed for nominations

Meeting reconvened

Pursuant to the Annual Membership Meeting Agenda, there was no **President's, Treasurer's, AVVA, or Committee Reports.**

Old Business: None

New Business: There was discussion about presenting at the Heritage Festival in August in Ypsilanti. Discussion points reviewed the need for a committee; the possibility of selling merchandise after checking with Larry St. Antoine; Marvin Rivers to reserve space for a 10X20 tent; and continue the raffle for a barbeque grill.

Good of the Order:

Marvin Rivers introduced his guest Nick Bauder who is a realtor and he is offering his services to assist veterans in the closing process of buying a home/condo/etc. He will be available after the meeting to

discuss his assistance with anyone that is interested.

Marvin Rivers requested volunteers from 1300 to 1500 hours on the second Tuesday of each month at the AA VA Center when merchandise is sold to assist in repacking all the merchandise and loading the trailer.

Ken Rogge mentioned about the VVA Convention in July in Spokane, WA. The Michigan VVA organization is hosting a session on May 19, 2019 in Sault Sainte Marie to discuss the two proposals that will be discussed in Spokane. Also, Region 5 (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois) is conducting a pre-convention meeting in Indianapolis, IN on June 7-9, 2019 to discuss these two proposals.

In last month's meeting, Vance McCrumb requested that we "pass the hat" for Bob Konareski, former chapter member now living in West Virginia, so that he could purchase some more wood to build canes for Veterans. The chapter sent Bob a check for \$230.00. Vance read a Thank You letter from Bob.

The Pig Roast was briefly mentioned and the urgent need for a committee and a chairperson.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Gordon Moore led the closing prayer and Jon Luker led salute to the flag.

Meeting adjourned at 1224 hrs.

Each year we sign Christmas cards for widows on our Vietnam Memorial Wall in Ypsilanti. Please sign these cards before you leave this evening.

Chapter breakfast (May 10th): Bomber Restaurant (306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti), at 0900. All are welcome.

Closing prayer by Tim Driscoll
Salute to the flag led by Jon Luker,

who adjourned the meeting at 1958.

Honoring May's Anniversaries on the Wall

Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown was born on December 27, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Brown. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1966. His friends called him "Chuckie". He enlisted in the Army in 1965, but delayed entry until



June 29, 1966 after his High School graduation. Sergeant Brown completed Basic Training at Fort

Knox, Kentucky, Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Ord, California and Paratrooper Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Charles served a tour of duty in Alaska where his parachute failed to open during a jump landing him in the hospital for six weeks.

Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1967 serving with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division as an infantryman. Charles was wounded twice during combat operations, and recovered from malaria two times. He just returned to his unit in April after being discharged from the hospital when he was killed on May 21, 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Charles Patrick Brown is survived by his parents and one sister. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 24 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 64E Line 012.

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Sergeant Charles Irvin Miller was born on March 2, 1946 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Miller of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles is a 1964 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He attended the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Army in March of 1966. He received his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Advanced Training at Fort Hood, Texas.

Sergeant Miller began his tour in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 6, 1967 serving as a Military Policeman with MP Platoon,



Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Charles was killed by an explosive device on May 13, 1968. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart. According to the Bronze Star Medal Citation, "He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems

with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the U.S. Army."

Charles Irvin Miller is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 22 years, 2 months and 11 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 59E Line 029.

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George Vernon Airey, Jr. was born on July 21, 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. George V. Airey, Sr. of Ann Arbor. George, Jr. is the son of the President of G.V. Airey Building Company. When George was ten years old in 1955, he became a pogo stick jumping champion by setting a record of 4,210 jumps without using his hands! He loved to water and snow ski, scuba dive, play guitar, and collect items such as tropical fish. He is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School, and also studied construction and building



at Ferris State University and Lansing Community College prior to enlisting in the Army.

Specialist 4 Airey, Jr. enlisted in the Army in 1966 and received his training at

Fort Carson, Colorado as a Armored

Reconnaissance Specialist. George was assigned to the First Cavalry Division at Fort Carson. George started his tour in November of 1967 as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with D Company, First Battalion, Fifth Cavalry Regiment of the First Cavalry Division. "On the night of 08/09 May 1968, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, was operating in western Quang Tri Province from a temporary base. At 0705 on 09 May, the Battalion came under attack by North Vietnamese Army forces - initially by mortar fire, then a full-fledged ground attack . . . Charlie Company was cut off from the other companies and bore the brunt of the attack. The NVA were fended off, but not without cost, and the aggressive patrolling which brought more US losses." A total of nineteen (19) men died in this action including Specialist 4 George Vernon Airey, Jr who died of multiple fragmentation wounds. He lived 23 years, 9 months and 18 days.

George Vernon Airey, Jr. is resting now in Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor. George left behind his parents and two sisters. George was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Expert Rifleman's Badge and posthumously awarded a second Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. His name is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial, and on Panel 57E Line 012 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

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Private First Class Paul Dean Elwart was born on June 14, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. David G. Elwart of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Paul is a 1964

Honor graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Detroit, Michigan.



He also attended the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and the University of Detroit

before entering the Army in September of 1968.

Private First Class Elwart began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on February 9, 1969 as an infantryman serving with C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Paul was killed on May 12, 1969 due to multiple fragmentation wounds just three months and three days into his tour of duty "In-Country".

Paul Dean Elwart is survived by his parents and a brother. He lived 22 years, 10 months and 26 days. Paul'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 25W Line 067.

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Specialist 4 Billy Ferrell was born on February 27, 1951 in Prestonburg, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Ferrell of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 27, 1969.

Specialist 4 Ferrell completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then attended Parachutist School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Billy began his



tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on November 24, 1969 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion,

503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was killed as a result of a severe gun shot wound to his chest on May 29, 1970.

Billy Ferrell is survived by his parents, three brothers and eight sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 2 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy'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 10W Line 117.

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Specialist 5 Robert Lee Freeman was born on April 2, 1948 in Harlan, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Olin Gilbert. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He also attended Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan.



Specialist 5 Freeman entered the Army in April of 1967. Robert began his tour of duty in Long Khanh Province, South

Vietnam on April 9, 1969 serving as a Cannon Fire Direction Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters

Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery, 54th Artillery Group, II Field Force. Robert was killed as a result of enemy heavy arms fire on May 18, 1969 after serving "In-Country" for one month and nine days.

Robert Lee Freeman is survived by his parents and a sister. He lived 21 years, 1 month and 16 days. He is resting in Knollwood Memorial Park in Wayne County, Michigan. Robert'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 24W Line 040.

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Private First Class Roy Lee Branham was born on March 28, 1949 in Lancer, Kentucky to Mrs. Edra Sester. Roy lived in Ypsilanti for ten years before moving to Dexter where he lived for seven years.

Private First Class Branham entered the Army on September 1, 1966



completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He received advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

and Fort Gordon, Georgia. Roy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on April 2, 1967 serving as a Wire Systems Installer with A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Private First Class Branham died on May 11, 1967 at the 106th General Hospital in Japan of wounds received in April. Roy was posthumously

awarded the Bronze Star Medal recognizing his meritorious service while participating in combat operations in Vietnam.

Roy Lee Branham is survived by his mother, one brother and a sister. He lived for 18 years, 1 month and 13 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Roy Branham is the youngest person from Washtenaw County killed in Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 089.

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Specialist 4 James Wilson Harter was born on May 16, 1947 to Mr. Henry W. and Mrs. Helen G. Carey Harter of Dexter, Michigan. James is a 1967 graduate of Dexter High School in Dexter, Michigan. He entered the Army on February 13, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed advanced training as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on June 14, 1968. Specialist 4 Harter began his tour of duty in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam on July 13, 1968 as a Combat Engineer serving with B Company, 31st Engineering Battalion, 79th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Larry was killed during a fire-fight with two enemy platoons on May 12, 1969. According to an Ann Arbor News article, "he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for exceptionally valorous actions on May 12 while serving as a perimeter guard at Quang Loi Base Camp. Two enemy platoons launched a ground assault on the



camp, . . . he engaged the enemy with a heavy and accurate volume of automatic weapons fire . . . stalling the enemy

and giving his comrades time to reinforce the perimeter line . . . despite his valiant efforts . . . an enemy round detonated inside his position instantly killing him." Specialist 4 Harter also earned the Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign ribbon.

James Wilson Harter is survived by his parents, two sisters and a brother. Two of his brothers preceded him in death in 1961 and 1968. He lived 21 years, 11 months and 26 days. He is resting in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Dexter, Michigan. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 25W Line 070.

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Corporal Alan Hugh Parks was born on November 13, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Max Parks of Bronson, Michigan. Alan graduated from Union City High School in 1966 and was a member of the 1965-1966 State Champion Debate Team. In 1965, Alan represented Union City High School at Wolverine Boys State. His skills in debating won him further honors. In August of 1966, Alan won first place in the 4-H state public speaking contest, and he later

won state honors as a champion debater at Kellogg Community College, which he attended for two years. Alan Parks also was



elected to the office of student vice-president of the Phi Rho Pi Honor Society and the National Organization of Junior College Debating

and Forensics in 1967-1968. Alan worked for the Shell Oil Company before entering military service.

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks entered the Army on August 21, 1969. Alan was trained as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist and served with A Troop, First Squadron, First Cavalry, Americal Division in Vietnam, beginning his tour on January 11, 1970. Corporal Parks was stationed at Chu Lai and died as a result of burns when the vehicle he was driving was hit by enemy fire on May 27, 1970 in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks is survived by his parents, wife, daughter, sister, and three brothers. He lived 21 years, 6 months and 14 days. Alan is resting in Sherwood Cemetery in Union City, Michigan. Alan Hugh Parks name is listed under Manchester on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township, and on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 10W Line 110.

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Sergeant Peter Lyle Valencich was born on January 1, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Joseph and

Mrs. Naomi Gidley Valencich of Manchester, Michigan. Peter is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School where he was a member of the Varsity Basketball Team. He was employed with the Double A Product Company in Manchester before entering the Army on May 16, 1966. He went through Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was awarded the medal for the highest scorer on the Army's Proficiency Test while in Basic.

Sergeant Valencich began his tour of duty near Tan Tru, South Vietnam on December 1, 1966 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Peter was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action having carried a helpless wounded comrade 75 meters to safety from an unprotected open area. He was killed on May 22, 1967 when he was helping to clear a mangrove by burning reeds when the fire set



off a friendly mine.

Peter Lyle Valencich is survived by parents, a brother, and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 21 days. He is resting in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. Peter's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 20E Line 088.

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Storekeeper Third Class James Michael Bryan was born on November 2, 1946 in Portsmouth, Ohio to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Bryan.



James is a 1964 graduate of Milan High School. He attended Cleary College prior to entering the Navy on

December 29, 1965.

Storekeeper Third Class Bryan was stationed at Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam where he served with Supply Operations, Naval Support Activity Danang. On May 14, 1967, James was riding in a truck as a passenger returning to base when the truck became involved in an accident. He was thrown from the truck receiving multiple concussions and died before he arrived at the Base Hospital.

James Michael Bryan is survived by his parents and one brother. He lived 20 years, 6 months and 12 days. James was posthumously awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the National Defense Medal and the Vietnamese Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The Navy Unit Commendation citation reads, "For exceptionally meritorious service from May 1966 to 1967, in carrying out the vital and constantly mounting task of unloading, moving and storing supplies to support the expanding tactical forces... despite extremely adverse climatic

conditions, shortages of equipment and personnel, . . . continuous exposure to attack.”

James Bryan is now resting in Memorial Burial Park in Wheelsburg, Ohio. James’ name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 115.

Image Credit Lara Sigers

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Corporal Russell Arthur Michalke was born on July 24, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Art Michalke of Saline, Michigan. Russell graduated from Saline High School in 1966 where he lettered in varsity football for two years, and lettered in baseball and golf for one year. He belonged to the “S” Club for two years, Spanish Club, Chorus, and the Key Club. Russell attended Washtenaw Community College for a year prior to entering the Army on August 8, 1967. He completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Edwards, Louisiana.

Corporal Michalke began his tour of duty in Chu Lai, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on January 20, 1968 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Russell was killed on May 24, 1968 as a result of enemy small arms fire.



Russell Arthur Michalke is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 19 years and 10 months. He is resting in Oakwood

Cemetery in Saline, Michigan. Russell’s name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Saline. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 68E Line 005.

Vietnam War Widow Visits Vietnam 50 Years Later

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

John Kinzinger alerted me to an article written by Julie A. Mack on M_Live, which I recommend. Below I give a link that will take you to the entire article on M_Live, with amazing pictures. I contacted the author of this article, and I reproduce parts of it here, with permission.

This is the story of events that took place on **Thon Ba**, a small hamlet south of Da Nang in Vietnam. Hattie Ford, a retired Kalamazoo math teacher, visited Thon Ba on the 50th anniversary of the death of her first husband, **Army First Lt. Deane Taylor Jr.** In events leading to his death five decades before, Dean was shot down from a helicopter on January 15, 1969.

What is amazing about this story is that Hattie, who was visiting Vietnam together with her second husband, Jim Ford, was accompanied to the site where Dean had been killed by two former members of the Viet Cong, including the man responsible for Deane’s death.

They went to the exact location where the Viet Cong had shot down Dean’s helicopter. Dean and two other Americans were killed on the spot, and the helicopter was burned.

The story becomes even more interesting because Hattie’s second husband, Jim Ford, is also a Vietnam Veteran and was going through his own emotional experiences for returning to Vietnam after five decades. Jim had served as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam for three years.

One can see, then, how remarkable this story is. As the article states it, “Jim specifically arranged the trip to be in Thon Ba on the 50th anniversary of Deane’s death. They hoped to find someone who remembered the crash. ‘What we didn’t expect was to find the man who remembered it in detail because he was the one who shot the crew and burned the helicopter,’ Hattie said. ‘And there I stood with him on the spot where all that took place 50 years ago to the day.’ It was, both Jim and Hattie said, surreal.”

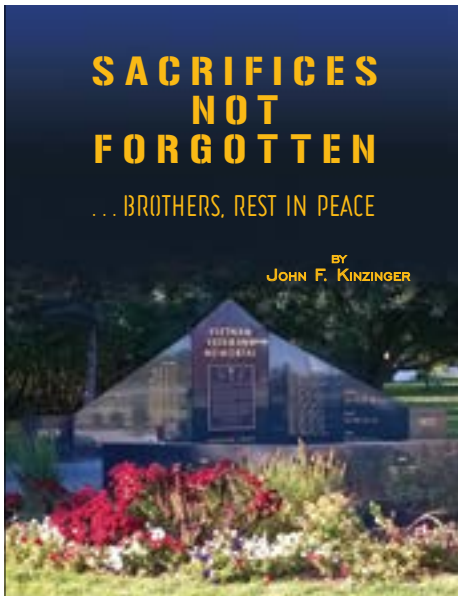
You can read the entire story here: [MLive Story](#).

Finally, . . . the Book

By John Kinzinger

Hurrah! The book I have been writing for many years about our Vietnam Memorial and the men listed on it is at the printer and will be ready by Memorial Day. You will have your copy soon. It’s been a hefty task. At times I felt like the book was winning the battle, but I kept at it. Soon you will judge the results for yourselves.

Jane and I will have copies of “Sacrifices Not Forgotten” available to you at the end of our 2019 Memorial Day observance at the Memorial. I feel there is no better date or place to distribute that book.



Each person can get one copy, with a remittance envelope to make a voluntary donation to the **Memorial Perpetual Care Fund**. Then you can feel good about helping keep our Memorial beautiful forever.

For those unable to attend, please send \$3 for postage and your address to John Kinzinger, 1717 W. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. One way or another we will find a way to get you a copy.

Readers' Corner: Which direction will they lead us?

By John Kinzinger

Well, it sounds like there has been some national discussion to have VVA finally live its motto, or eventually close shop. So far, I believe it is just discussion. It was over ten years ago that I stopped attending the VVA National Conventions, shortly after they recognized me as their 'National Veteran of the Year.'

I joined VVA in 1986 as a Charter member of Chapter 310. I believed in and have lived VVA. I had

attended most every VVA National Conventions since 1988. At the last one I attended, there was a majority vote not to bring post-911 younger Veterans into VVA. I personally stood up at that convention to accept them, but the convention vote was against bringing them into our ranks. To me, that was a most hypocritical vote against the motto of VVA.

Since 2004, my personal focus has been helping post-911 Veterans. First, it was organizing, with the help of many of you, the 7 large "Support The Troops" rallies we organized at different locations around the county. Then, for seven years, I was the Vice President of Operation for Never Forgotten (<https://operationneverforgotten.org/>), which was followed by my starting Warriors And Caregivers United (<https://www.wacu.org/>) in 2016. Many of you have supported and joined me in these events and in our Care-Package program. By doing so, I believe we live the motto of VVA. I personally thank each and every one of you.

I hope that, whichever way VVA goes, we can continue our work. Together we, VVA 310, have made the difference for so many Veterans.

AVVA Report -- for May 2019

By Kathy Driscoll

Phil Hecker, past president of VVA 310, is very ill. Please keep him and Gena in your prayers. You can send a Get-Well card to Phil:

Phil Hecker

3309 Derby Crossing Ct SW
Grandville, MI 48418.

If you are on Facebook, you can join the AVVA Michigan closed group.

Just send a Join Group request and the admin will accept you as a member of the AVVA Michigan closed group. This is how our AVVA Michigan State Association communicates between the bi-monthly meetings.

AVVA 310 Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in March.

- Wendy St. Antoine, Shirley Hitte and Kathy supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
- Kathy and Carla Sosa attended the University of Michigan ROTC Tri-Service Awards. Carla represented Sara Caswell Angell DAR Chapter.
- Kathy attended the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.
- Kathy assisted at the WCCV sponsored Bingo VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and attended the WCCV meeting on April 15th.

Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, May 14th, VVA 310 needs our help. Please consider volunteering one or two hours assisting VVA 310 merchandise team at the Ann Arbor VA.

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 Chapter 310 Fundraising Report



Veteran
Wrist Story
Bracelets

- AVVA 310 has Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets for a \$5 donation. Please contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. Proceeds will benefit AVVA 310 Operating and Special Projects Funds. We still have some available. We will have them for sale at the Recognition Dinner.
- Please email or call me with fundraising ideas for 2019.
- We will have an AVVA raffle table at the May 4th Recognition Dinner. All proceeds will benefit our Operating, Special Project Funds and Fisher House Michigan. Please contact me if you have items to donate. You can also drop off your items at the UAW hall at 12:00 pm on May 4th. We will set up the UAW hall at 12:00pm. We raised \$215 last year. We will have two separate Basket Raffles. One to benefit Fisher House Michigan and one to benefit AVVA Operating and Special Project Funds. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2019 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,283.25. We are sponsoring three delegates this year. Girl State 2019 is June 16 through June 22, 2019 at Michigan State University.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting is Sunday, May 19th in Sault Ste Marie, MI. VVA / AVVA Chapter 180 is hosting this meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact Kathy Driscoll.

The AVVA Michigan Association passed Bylaw updates and Amendments to AVVA Michigan Association Articles of Incorporation at their annual meeting on March 17th. You can

view the Bylaws at <http://vvamsc.org/associates/documents.html>
 AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

- AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2019. One idea submitted by a member of AVVA Chapter 1083 is to have AVVA Michigan Association Statewide Raffle for a Yeti cooler. Suggested ticket price is \$5 or \$10. Please let me know if you would be able to sell 1 – 5 tickets and the price point for each ticket. I hopefully will have more information at our April meeting. AVVA Michigan Association will need each of our chapters to sell a minimum of 75 tickets to make this a successful raffle. Cost of a Yeti Cooler is \$199.00.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage is launched! The Association has tab on the new VVA Michigan State Council webpage: <http://vvamsc.org/associates/> It is still being updated. The About Us, Contacts, Events, Chapter Locator has current content. More to be uploaded in the near future!

Upcoming AVVA Events!

- 4 May VVA / AVVA 310 Recognition Dinner
- 14 May VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor VA
- 19 May AVVA Michigan Association Meeting, Sault Ste Marie, MI
- 20 May WCCV Meeting 7:00 pm at America Legion Post 31, Chelsea, MI
- 26 May Watch Fire at Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial
- 27 May Saline, MI Memorial Day Parade, lineup at 09:30 am
- 27 May Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial Ceremony at 1:00 pm

Kathy Driscoll
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 President, AVVA Michigan State Association
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 734-355-4897



Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

UPCOMING

- 04 May: VVA 310 Recognition Dinner, Doors open 1700 hrs. Catered Food, 50/50, Silent Auction. UAW Local 898, Ypsilanti.
- 09 May: VVA Board Meeting, 1730 hrs
- 09 May: AVVA Meeting, 1800 hrs
- 09 May: VVA 310 General Meeting, 1900 hrs
- 10 May: VVA 310 Chapter Breakfast
- 14 May: Merchandising at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, 3rd Floor, Freedom Bldg, 0800- 1400 hrs
- 20 May: WCCV Meeting. Location: American Legion Post 31, Chelsea, MI
- 22 May: Lunch for Beverly Conatser, VA Medical Center Auditorium
- Kokomo registration: Now through June 1

NEED TO KNOW

08 May: VE Day (1945)

13 May: Town Hall Meeting with Rep Debbie Dingell and Tim Walberg, VFW Post 423, 1000- 1200 hrs. No Politics Will Be Discussed.

18 May: Armed Forces Day (1949)

23 May: Michigan Senate Memorial Session, Lansing. Breakfast 0800, 1000 Memorial Session. RSVP Theresa Grace at 517.373.5111 or SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov

27 May: Saline Memorial Day Parade, lineup 0930; Vietnam Memorial Observance 1300 hrs.

19- 21 Sept: Kokomo

Saturdays @ 0930: Meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue

** Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net - click here) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

View Our Calendar by Clicking [HERE](#).

Chapter/Dispatch Patrons

Please check your dates to see if you are current

*NAME LISTED ON THE WASHTENAW COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The following have made a contribution in a continuing effort to support our Chapter by offsetting the cost of printing and postage. The month and year are when the patron subscription expires. You may also consider a "In Memory Of." Our Chapter retains only \$9.00 of your yearly \$20.00 dues and it costs about \$12.00 a year for printing and postage. If you would like to support your newsletter please make a check payable to

VVA 310. We will credit 1 month for every \$1.50 donated. Note on the Memo Line Dispatch Patron. Please mail your check to: VVA 310, P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

George F Boone ~ October 2021

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020

Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2019

William Christophersen ~ October 2019

Edward Fuller ~ March 2020

Gary Couture ~ July 2019

Joseph Flint ~ January 2021

James Graham ~ February 2019

Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021

Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024

Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020

Dick Knight ~ May 2018

Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019

Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020

Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021

Dell Mayes ~ May 2019

Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018

Ron Oliver ~ February 2019

Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ January 2020

George Perrault ~ October 2022

Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021

Ken Rogge ~ May 2019

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019

Chris Wetzler ~ April 2019

Elizabeth Wong ~ November 2019

Bob Kurtz ~ December 2019

Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2020

Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of **Lavern Lamey*** ~ July 2021

Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, **David S. Palmer*** ~ October 2018

Helena Prince in memory of deceased member **Tom Prince** ~ April 2023

Corrine Gignac in memory of Vietnam Vet Marine **Gary L West** ~ January 2020

Bonnie Woods in memory of her VN vet husband **Gary Woods** ~ December 2018.



Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

A carrier pigeon stopped to rest on the windowsill in the Pentagon building. Close behind him came a second pigeon, which stopped off to talk. "Where are you going?" asked the second pigeon. "To section M, to deliver an order," answered the first. "What's the number of that order?" asked the second. "235XM-Q78966-SSTX," replied the first. "Better get a move on," said the second. "I've got an order rescinding that."



Every country counts of its citizens to protect it in time of need. These are all injured OIF and OEF female military Veterans. They answered the call to honor and protect a grateful nation.

If You Wish to Contact Us

Website: <http://vva310.org/>

President: Jon Luker

Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt

Secretary: Chris Wetzler

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Membership: Vance McCrumb

Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Chapter Mailing Address:

VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday of the Month, 1900 hours.

MEETING LOCATION: V.F.W. Post 423

3230 S. Wanger RD, Ann Arbor MI. 48103

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Please Forward. Thank You!