



*Together We  
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles  
Michigan Chapter 310*

# 310 Dispatch

Newsletter

November 2019

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



**From the Editor's Desk:**

Again my compliments to the Dispatch Team: If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a team to produce the *310 Dispatch*. By the way, take a look at Chief George Perrault's "Want-Ad" for some needed service to keep the packages going to the troops. Meanwhile, I salute each one of your, veterans, on Veterans Day. Welcome home!  
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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## President's Message November 2019

[Editor's Note: Due to family illness, Pres. Tim Driscoll was not able to write the November presidential message. His wife, Kathleen, has undergone surgery, and Pres. Driscoll has reported that Kathleen is back home and doing well. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Driscolls.]

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## Chaplain's Corner November 2019

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Voting, . . . a right of our freedom. November is the month for elections in our country, and one year from now we will be at a crucial point in our democratic republic where a number of constitutional issues will be in the background of each candidate. It is so easy to get caught up in the rhetoric and push-button issues if we listen to the national media and the social-media platforms. I find that, many times, "information" is thrown at us that does not coincide with truth. I believe that many of us understand that as warriors and caregivers alike. But every so often, and with subtlety, we fall victim to the muse of various political parties and buy



into their mantra as the only way to live or get the business of governing done. The history of our country has been to resolve issues in such a way that the greatest good for the greatest amount of Americans can be achieved, which is to say, not everyone gets what they want. This is true of life.

My focus is on what God wants, and I admit this is not always an easy thing to figure out. But I like it that way because it makes for an ongoing relationship with God through His Word and His Spirit, a vital and not stagnant one. As in any relationship, God wants us to interact with Him so that we may know and more fully understand how He views life.

Hear His word to all of us: Isaiah 1 is applicable today.

*The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

*Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth: for the Lord speaks, "Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted against Me. An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away from Him.*

*Why will you be stricken again, as you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick and the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head there is nothing sound in it, only bruises, welts, and raw wounds, not pressed out or brandaged, nor softened with oil.*

*Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire; your fields—*

*strangers are devouring them in your presence. It is desolation, as overthrown by strangers. The daughter of Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard, like a watchman's hut in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of Hosts had left us a few survivors, we would be like Sodom; we would be like Gomorrah.*

*Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom. Give ear to the instruction of the Lord, you people of Gomorrah. What are your multiplied sacrifices to me? Says the Lord. I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs, or goats.*

*When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you this trampling of My courts? Bring your worthless offerings no longer; incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and Sabbath, the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts. They have become a burden to Me. I am weary of bearing them. So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you. Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen; your hands are covered with blood.*

*Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil. Learn to do good; seek justice; reprove the ruthless; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.*

*Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool. If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land. But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by*

the sword. Truly the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

A longer text, granted; yet one I feel is needed in our nation today. We are on the brink, like Israel in Isaiah's day. So let us cleanse ourselves and align our hearts and minds with God's desires and instruction and reap the bounty of His blessings. For a righteous America,  
Gordon

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## Honoring November's Anniversaries on the Wall

**Private First Class Daniel John Illi** was born on December 6, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Erwin G. Illi at St. Joseph's hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Daniel graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1964 where he played football and was a member of the Troubleshooting Mechanics Team. Before entering the Army on November 3, 1965, Daniel was a rental manager for Liberty Land Company affiliated with Butcher and Willits Building Company of Ann Arbor. He married Shirley (Smith-Lowery) on February 5, 1966.



Daniel Illi completed his basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado and was stationed there until transferred to Vietnam on August 2, 1966. Daniel served with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division operating out of An Khe, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. Daniel was killed

by small arms fire on November 1, 1966.

Daniel John Illi is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Shirley, parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived 20 years, 10 months and 25 days. Daniel is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. 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 12E Line 002.

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**Private First Class Donald Barrett Roddy** was born on March 7, 1943 to Mr. William Roddy of Gloversville, New York and Mrs. Mary B. Woolfenden of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School after attending Shaker High School in Latham, New York for his freshman and sophomore years. He also attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan where he was a member of the Chi Sigma Nu social fraternity. Donald entered the Army on January 13, 1965.



Private First Class Roddy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on August 18, 1965 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Donald was killed on November 15, 1965 as a result of enemy small arms fire during the Battle for the la Drang Valley. According to an Ann Arbor Newspaper article, written by Gary Lillie, "Taking part in the first

battle of LZ X-Ray, was Pfc. Donald B. Roddy, a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. As a member of the 'Lost Patrol' of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he lost his life along with the rest of his machine-gun crew as they fought to cover the withdrawal of their fellow troopers to safer ground." The account can be found on page 87 (*We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* by Joseph L. Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore). Donald was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Donald Barrett Roddy is survived by his parents, his stepfather, and a brother. He lived 22 years, 8 months and 8 days. Donald's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 03E Line 061.

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**Private First Class Robert Allen Albertson** was born on January 1, 1947 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Albertson. Robert graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1966. He worked at the Ypsilanti Plant of the Ford Motor Company prior to entering service in the Army on May 3, 1966.

Private First Class Robert Allen Albertson started his tour of duty



in South Vietnam on October 11, 1967 serving as an infantryman with A Company, First Battalion, 8th Cavalry, First



Cavalry Division. Robert died as a result of small arms fire on November 4, 1967 after being In-Country for only 23 days.

Robert Albertson is survived by his wife, parents and two brothers. Robert lived 20 years, 10 months and 3 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Robert's name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 29E Line 018.

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**Robert Clarence Skinner** was born on June 21, 1951. Private First Class Skinner began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on September 27, 1969 serving as a Motor Vehicle Operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Shore Party Battalion, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Robert was killed on November 16, 1969. According to a posting left by Sergeant Eddie G. Hammonds, Jr., "I served with PFC Skinner in Vietnam. He was killed on his first night patrol. I will never forget the night or his courageous valor. You will not be forgotten, because I remember."

Robert Clarence Skinner lived 18 years, 4 months and 25 days. He is resting in the Platte Township



Cemetery, Benzie 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 16W Line 086.

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**Sergeant Rickie D. Sparks** was born on July 26, 1947 in Beecher City, Illinois to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sparks from Manchester, Michigan. Rickie is a 1965 graduate of Clinton High School in Clinton, Michigan where he played varsity basketball and football. He entered the Army on September 1, 1965 and completed his Basic Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



He completed his advanced training at Fort Polk, LA.

Sergeant Sparks began his tour of duty in Binh

Duong Province, South Vietnam on February 20, 1967 serving as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Rickie was killed on November 18, 1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Rickie D. Sparks is survived by his parents, a wife, and three brothers. He is resting in the Riverside Cemetery in Clinton, Michigan. Rickie'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 30E Line 019.

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**Engineman Third Class Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr.** was born on August 9, 1948 in Adrian, Michigan to Mr. Robert E. and Mrs. Maxine De Verna Kushmaul. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Chelsea High School where he was the President of his Class, a Charter Member of the Key Club, a member of the Student Council, and President of FFA.

Engineman Third Class Kushmaul entered the Navy on February 2, 1967. He began his tour of duty in Kien Giang Province, South Vietnam on February 15, 1969 serving with Patrol Boat River 8131, Task Force 116, United States Naval Forces



Vietnam. He was killed while on a river boat patrolling on the Song Hkau Giang River South of Siagon on November 16, 1969

from a rocket explosion.

Robert Edward Kushmaul, Jr. is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. He lived 21 years, 3 months and 7 days. He is resting in Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Robert'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 16W Line 084.

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# Heroism and Sacrifice: 30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

For almost 30 years (1961-1989), Berlin lived under the shadow of the Berlin Wall. East Germany lifted that barrier as an antifascist protective wall, but in fact, the wall became a barrier to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the free countries of the West. I have visited Berlin several times, and in my trips, I would take walks along the Berlin



Wall path, imagining what it was like for people who risked their lives to flee East Germany and find freedom.

Escaping from East Berlin was difficult. Over 100,000 people attempted, and about 5,000 of them actually succeeded. But more than 200 people lost their lives in the attempt. People's search for freedom eventually erupted into a popular uprising, forcing Communist authorities to open up the border on 9 November 1989, bringing about the fall of the Berlin Wall. Formal reunification took place on 3 October 1990.

An episode of the separation between East and West Germany was the Berlin Blockade, from June 1948 to May 1949. The Soviet Union blocked the main forms of access

to West Berlin: roads, railway, and navigation. The Allies responded with the Berlin Airlift, which lasted as long as the blockade did, and then some.

Air Force planes of the allied countries (United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa) took up the challenge to supply West Berlin. They flew over 200,000 sorties airlifting tons of supplies to take care of the people in West Berlin, with over 12,000 tons delivered daily. For 15 months, the Allied forces continued to convey supplies to the people, sometimes with one plane landing in West Berlin every 30 seconds. Crashes and fatalities were part of this intense effort. People whom I met in Berlin still speak fondly today of that amazing time in German history, when the heroic sacrifice of allied nations saved the people of West Berlin.

We are now celebrating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was a time of courage and heroic sacrifice on the part of many people, who continued to fight for liberation and prosperity, finally reaching victory. May their spirit never be forgotten.

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## THREE BRIEF ARTICLES

by Jane Kinzinger

### Article 1: Suspicious Characters Visit VA Patients

There were witches, wolves, vampires, bats (Batman), pumpkins, farmers, cowboys, bees, and other unlikely suspects buzzing around the halls of the Ann Arbor VA on October 26. Chapter members

once again donned their favorite costumes on that rainy evening and brought some smiles to the faces of the patients. Sandy Martinez magically filled containers with



candy for our wonderful nurses who care for our veterans. John K scared folks with his bicycle horn and big red nose. Ron Henley creatively sculpted two large pumpkins, which were pushed around the hospital in wheel chairs to surprise and cheer those in bed. Patients were given a special Halloween card to remind them of our appreciation for their service. We made the rounds, then enjoyed some time together at the Sidetrack, where we shared stories and experiences of the evening. We all decided to do it again next year. What a great (pumpkin) evening!

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### Article 2: Pack 'Them Boxes!

Chapter members and others met at Post 423 on November 3 to get Christmas started with love. Every Christmas since 2003, when the first "Support our Troops" rallies were held, we have been sending boxes to our military friends and family serving in active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations. Boxes are filled with many useful and nice items, such as hand-knitted scarves, new Bombas socks, playing cards, paperback books, spiral notebooks, and footballs. So, these guys and gals know we are

thinking of them.

John K. commenced the afternoon by sharing a part of the history of our packing parties. When the U.S. military entered Iraq in March 2003, John organized seven weekly rallies to support the troops. The first was on the University of Michigan Diag, and the last was held in Milan. Today John explained the many dog tags that were jingling around his neck. Before each rally, dog tags were made up, giving the rally location and date. These sets of dog tags on chains were then sold for \$5.00 a set at these rallies to



raise funds to purchase items for the boxes and to pay for postage. That was 15 ½ years ago. Over those years, about 4,200 boxes have been sent. The last several years, Elmer White has very generously matched all donations for postage, up to \$500. Today he matched with \$500 to the \$515 in the donation box. The 28 large packages are on their way to arrive before Christmas with their Christmas stocking and note. Miss Washtenaw County joined us today, as well as regulars and new volunteers. George Perrault, Mike Puckett, and Roy Hall delivered the boxes to the Saline Post Office

loading dock, where they will be processed and on their way the very next day. Now, that is a TEAM! Volunteers enjoyed a great potluck, featuring several hot dishes, chicken, brats, salads, and delicious desserts. Once again, we made a difference in the lives of our military serving in harm's way. Thank you all for helping make this happen.

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### Article 3: Pancakes Again?

Pancakes were flipped with love by John K on Saturday, November 2, at Post 423 for those early birds who ventured out for some good breakfast and great conversation. This was the fourth breakfast where the various veterans' organizations meeting at the VFW can join and get to know each other. Represented were members of American Legion Post 46 (who hosted the event this month), VVA 310, DAV, and VFW Post 423. Over many cups of hot coffee and sides of sausage, friends shared memories and filled up on blueberry pancakes. It is hoped this monthly event will continue. Thanks to American



Legion member Glen Johnston for assisting with purchasing the breakfast supplies. Proceeds from the breakfasts go to the Ann Arbor VA to the patient coffee fund. Join us next time!

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**[Editors note: This is a message from Kettles daughter Kathy Nezwek expressing her thanks and appreciation for copies of the Kettles book *We Answered the Call*. This message, sent to Vance McCrumb, shows the effect this book has on people. Please be sure to spread this book to high school teachers, libraries, museums, and community leaders.]**

I have received my copies of the book *We Answered the Call* and wanted to thank you for getting them to us. I really appreciate it. I will be sending out copies to various members the Kettles family and also to a few veterans and servicemembers. Your group has put together an amazing piece of work! The profiles are riveting, and I also very much





enjoyed the Acknowledgements and Introduction. Very informative and interesting.

Thank you again for the books and for your service!!

Take care!

Cathy Nezwek

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**[Editor's note: The next article details work that has been done at the Memorial grounds. Well done to all volunteers!]**

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## Work Done!

By Jon Luker, for Al (Fredo) Merritt

We had a Memorial cleanup day on 17 October, and here are some of the things we accomplished.

Remove woods chips from around



the north and south bush rows and replace them with egg rocks

Distribute two pallets of wood chips around the evergreen and deciduous trees

Trim trees on the back row

Rake leaves

Weed flower beds, bushes and wood chips

Cut the grass

Edge the walkways

Remove two dead trees from our neighbor's property (we are required to haul away the wood)

Remove sod for Kettles Bench and

around the memorial

Your help was greatly needed and appreciated.

## VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

10 October 2019

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Regular Meeting Minutes - VVA Chapter 310

10 Oct 2019

Call to order by Vice President Harrison at 1900

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Draper

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:** Rev Bob Bull and Tom Stempke

**Guests:** Isaac (Air Force 2000 to 2006) and Michele

**Motion** to Approve the September Minutes by Lee/Draper. Approved.

**President's Report:** Harrison. President Driscoll is home helping his wife recover from major surgery. We need volunteers to run the Pig Roast next year, and we need to start earlier next year.

**Treasure's Report:** Bourne. Pig Roast did earn as budgeted. Printed report circulated. Merchandise did as expected. CD's earning above market rate. No questions.

**AVVA Report:** By Draper for Driscoll. Please see attached note.

**Food Pantry:** Miller. No Activity.

**Merchandise Report:** St Antoine/Rivers. We had a good month. Thank you to all who helped with one or more of the events. We have two volunteer committee members, but it would be best to

have four, plus those who stop by to help here and there. We still need somebody to manage ordering and somebody else to manage credit card transactions. We are running down the inventory. We really would like to train a new team to keep on doing this important work. It is not just an important source of revenue, but it is where we meet Veterans, some of whom become new members. We have two events left for the year.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report:** Luker. No report. Next meeting is next Monday.

**Michigan State Council:** Luker. No report. Next meeting is 20 October.

**Memorial Committee Report:** Merritt. The season is nearly over. We will have a fall cleanup on 17 October. We'll probably be there all day. You can stop by for an hour or two whenever it suits you, but we'll be starting work at 0900. We will have crews from two Home Depots helping us do some extra work.

Tomorrow, we will take down the Veteran Suicide Prevention Demonstration at 1030. Please stop by if you would like to help pack things up.

**Website Committee Report:** McCrumb. The website works. We have had 114,000 hits so far.

**Membership Report:** McCrumb. Officially, national shows us at 207. With our new members tonight, we are at 209.

**Newsletter:** Pereira. No report.

**Health Care:** Wilson. No report.

**VAAHS Report:** Kinzinger. Our next VA event is a Halloween Party, at 1730 on Saturday 26 October. As always, it is a costume event, and we will spend some time together at the Sidetrack afterward. 20 December is the Christmas Party where our VVA Chapter gives away

the embroidered shirts. But you can also join VVA 528 on 17 December when they do their Christmas event at the VA, as long as we don't have too many people. 26 Nov is the Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner purchase and delivery. We meet at Kroger on Maple Road at 1600 and then meet at Dawn Farm at 1800.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** **Motion** Feight/Fredo to Support Veterans Day Program in Chelsea with \$150 donation. Approved.

**Good of the Order:**

Draper: John Kinzinger will be at the First United Methodist Church in Ypsilanti at 1400 on Sunday, 20 October, to talk about and answer questions about his book and the 76 people whose names appear on our Memorial. He will also have more free copies of the book on hand.

Perrault Our holiday packing party will open at 1430, to set up. At 1500, we will begin packing. We'll be done no later than 1600 so don't be late. There will be a pot luck dinner afterward. We have been doing this for more than 30 years. We've spent more than \$80,000 on postage. We've sent out more than 4,200 boxes, so far.

Throneberry Please come to the fourth Tell Your Story Open Mic Night at 1730 on 30 Oct at the VFW on Wagner Road. This is a family friendly event. Cake or donuts will be provided as well as the good stories. Our next one will be 20 November. We hope our December event will be held at the VA hospital on 18 December.

Draper: The American Legion worked with the City of Ann Arbor for more than a year to get permission to erect a flagpole dedicated to veterans on Veterans

Memorial Park property. The Ann Arbor VFW made a substantial contribution to the project as well. As a representative of the Legion, I would like to present Certificates of Appreciation to four people who made a significant contribution. Unfortunately, Kathy and Tim Driscoll can't be here due to Kathy's operation. Also, Vance McCrumb couldn't be here tonight.

**Presentation:** To Meni Draper for her support of the flagpole dedication ceremony, including being the still photographer for the event.

Merritt: Breakfast Friday, November 15th 0900 at Bomber Restaurant at 306 East Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti MI.

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull.

**Salute the Flag**

Adjourned 1947

Respectfully Submitted,

Jon Luker

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## AVVA Report

[Editor's Note: Kathy Driscoll has undergone surgery, and we do not have an AVVA report today. Thoughts and prayers for a quick recovery for Kathy.]

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## Dispatch Want-Ad

by Chief George Perrault

For over a decade, a fellow veteran, Bob Lowell, has had a hand in pre-printing our customs forms for VVA packing parties. About 90% of the information was pre-printed. During VVA packing parties, just the soldier's name and who signed the customs form had to be added to the form—and off to the Post Office the package went.

Bob recently passed on, and his



firm is no longer able to pre-print the forms for VVA 310.

Customs form are necessary for all our packages that we mail. The form is carbonized, I believe, 4 sheets.

Is there anyone willing to assist in pre-printing the forms for Chapter 310, on a donation basis? Talking about an estimated 125 forms a year, unless another 2,000 cases of Girl Scout cookies show up. For those, we had to hand-write 75 forms, which took about 10 hours. Would be glad to furnish you with a sample customs form and the pre-printed information that is necessary.

Charles S. Kettles, VVA Chapter 310 thanks you in advance for any assistance.

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## Zack Howey and the Vietnam War Hero

By Becky Howey

[Editor's note: I stretched Zack's story over two months because it is an amazing story. Part II follows. But since this month two of my regular articles were omitted (see Editor's Note for the presidential message and the AVVA report), I am including Zack's entire article.]



On June 25, 2016, in Benton Harbor, MI, Zack's friendship with Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles began. Really, it was not that long ago; but to Zack, it felt like a lifetime. Mr. Kettles had not yet received his Medal of Honor. On Saturday, we happened to bump into Mr. Kettles in one of the hangars at the airport, and Zack handed him one of his ornaments and said to him, "Thank you for your service." At that time, Mr. Kettles was extremely busy being pulled in all different directions. He tucked the ornament in his breast pocket. Then on Sunday, when Mr. Kettles was going to be the guest speaker, his daughter Jeanna saw us sit down to listen to his speech. Jeanna

came up to Zack and asked him if he was the young man who gave her dad that ornament. Zack replied yes. Jeanna was excited and said, "My dad really wants to meet you." Mr. Kettles said in the hotel that night that he had screwed up by not paying more attention to what he had been handed. He asked Jeanna if she thought the young man who gave him the ornament would be there the next day. So, after his speech, Jeanna had her father come over and meet us. We asked him to take a picture of us all together, and he said ok. We were asked to send him a copy of the picture, but he wanted us to sign it for him. We did that. He then, in return, sent back a signed and personalized copy to us. That following May, we were hosting a veteran's luncheon at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit. Zack asked us if he could send an invite to Mr. Kettles. We told him sure but said he should not expect Mr. Kettles to come, or even to respond, because surely Mr. Kettles was very busy, with obligations and requests to attend, and we are just a small luncheon.

To our surprise, though, Mr. Kettles



was the first to RSVP, and he called saying he would be there. He then wrote Zack a letter telling him to meet him at the gate at 1100 hours. To this day, Zack tells me he remembers Mr. Kettles was



five minutes late, but Zack waited for him. When Mr. Kettles arrived, he had Zack get in his car to show him where to go. That day put their friendship on a different level.

Zack started sending Mr. Kettles cards for different things going on and started showing up at events he knew that Mr. Kettles would be at. Then we were invited to his house for breakfast one day. Mr. Kettles and Zack made breakfast together, and we sat there for hours with him and Mrs. Ann, just talking. Mrs. Ann said she had never heard some of the stories Mr. Kettles was telling us. Since then, we went to his house a couple of times, and he even took us to the Ypsilanti Historical Museum on a tour.

Mr. Kettles always made sure that on Oct. 24, Zack's birthday, he would send Zack something in the mail, as well as at Christmas time. Last year on Christmas Eve, when we got home from church, there

was a box on the porch from Mr. Kettles. In that box was the jacket that he wore all the time, but he had tags made up with Zack's name on them.

The last time we were able to visit with him was New Year's Eve day. Mr. Kettles made sure to be up out of bed and sitting in his chair even apologizing for his hair not being combed. He was still making jokes with Zack and telling him stories. As we left, like always, Mr. Kettles insisted on getting hugs from us. As we were leaving, Mr. Kettles said that Zack was his adopted grandson. Zack was so honored.

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## Chapter/Dispatch Patrons

[Editor's Note: If you wish to receive a printed copy of the 310 Dispatch, please make a donation to cover \$1.50 per month. A \$30 donation will send you printed newsletters for 20 months. Please mark your donation as "Dispatch Patrons." Thank you for your patronage!]

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 an "In Memory Of." Our Chapter retains only \$9.00 of annual member dues (\$20.00), 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 2020  
William Christophersen ~ October 2019  
Stan and Dawn Clark ~ October 2020  
Edward Fuller ~ March 2020  
Gary Couture ~ July 2019  
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021  
James Graham ~ February 2019  
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021  
Ralph Henry ~ November 2020  
Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024  
Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020  
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019  
Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020  
Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022  
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021  
Dell Mayes ~ December 2019  
Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018  
Ron Oliver ~ February 2019  
Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ January 2020  
George Perrault ~ October 2022

Mira and Bob Pierson ~ October 2021

Ken Rogge ~ May 2019

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019

Chris Wetzler ~ October 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

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## Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

One day, three teenage girls were driving along when they had an accident. They all were sent to heaven. At the pearly gates, they met St. Peter, who said to them,

"Welcome to Heaven. There is only one rule here: Don't step on the ducks. If you do, you will be handcuffed to the ugliest person in Heaven for all eternity."

The first teen thought that this was rather funny and in all her laughter, she stepped back almost falling over. "QUACK!" She had stepped on a duck and was promptly handcuffed to the ugliest person in heaven. The other two teens





walked around Heaven torturing their unlucky friend.

As fate would have it, the second teen stepped on a duck also. She was handcuffed to the second ugliest person in Heaven. The next day the two handcuffed friends saw the third teen. She was handcuffed to the most gorgeous guy they had ever seen. She looked at them, and realizing their questioning eyes, she explained, "He stepped on a duck."

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### Current Events

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

#### UPCOMING

- 11 Nov: POW/MIA Flagraising, 1300 hrs, Veterans Memorial Park
- 12 Nov: Merchandising at the VAMC, 3rd Flr. 0800-1400 hrs
- 14 Nov: Monthly VVA/AVVA 310 Meetings: VVA Board 1730 hrs; AVVA 1800 hrs; VVA Member Meeting 1900 hrs
- 15 Nov: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs - Bomber Restaurant, 306 East Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti MI.
- 18 Nov: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
- 20 Nov: Veterans Radio "There I Was" open mic, 1800 hrs, VFW 423 Post.
- 26 Nov: Dawn Farm food donation and talk. Shop for food at Westgate Kroger at 1600 hrs; Deliver food and talk at 1800 hrs
- 10 Dec: Merchandising at the VAMC, 3rd Flr. 0800- 1400 hrs
- 12 Dec: Monthly VVA/AVVA 310 Meetings: VVA Board 1730 hrs; AVVA 1800 hrs; VVA Member Meeting 1900 hrs
- 16 Dec: WCCV Meeting, 1930 hrs
- 20 Dec: VVA 310 Christmas Party at the VA Medical Center, 1730 hrs. Meet in the lobby

### NEED TO KNOW

10 Nov: Marine Corps Birthday (1775)  
 11 Nov: Veterans Day (1918)  
 07 Dec: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)  
 14 Dec: Wreaths Across America Day at Great Lakes National Cemetery. 1230 hrs.  
 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](http://veteransradio.net)) and make a contribution.  
 View Our VVA310 Calendar by [clicking here](#).

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### Generous Donation

by John Kinzinger

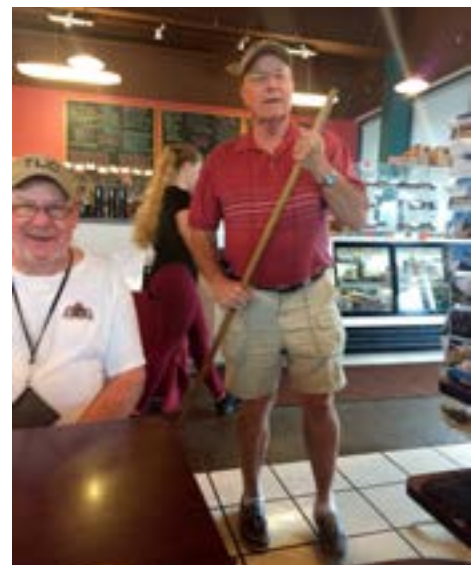
Real support to the Chapter's work is received at least every other month. Each time there is a check and a nice note, which I share in the following without mentioning their names. This couple is a very faithful supporter of our work. And we have other, less frequent contributors. They all help us with our work. We dearly appreciate them. Here's is a note from a contributor.

Greetings,  
 Hope you are all well and continue in the faith. I am sending my small donation, my "drop in the bucket." Thank you for your ministry of blessing our service to members and for letting them know they are not forgotten.  
 Peace & Blessings

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### Recognizing Our Volunteers: A Message in Photos



Thank you to all members, who make VVA 310 the great chapter that it is. Happy Fall Season!



**Never Again Shall A Veteran Coming Home From Battle Be Made To Feel Alone And Unappreciated!**

# 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

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Secretary: Jon Luker

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**VVA 310 Dispatch  
November 2019**

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Please Forward. Thank You!