



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

310 Dispatch

Newsletter

October 2019

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



From the Editor's Desk:

The autumn sights and sounds are appearing, with a flurry of activity for the season. The 310 Dispatch reflects that, and I am thankful for the generous contributions of articles and pictures. Of note this issue is part one of Zack Howey's story and Al "Fredo" Merritt's account of the crosses project. Gordon Moore has an inspirational message. To everyone, all the best!

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Editor

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President's Message

By Tim Driscoll

The words “**Thank You**” to everyone who gave of themselves to reach out to our whole loving Veteran Community to make this year's Pig Roast everything it could and should be. You really brought the magic. It was that deep-down, extra effort that kept coming and coming.

The Pig Roast was a real family affair. Those of us who reached out to all the different businesses in communities were really welcomed with open arms and support to our Chapter 310, for our veteran men



and women serving around the world.

It was impressive to keep hearing, “Don't worry, we have this” when I asked for assistance for this project. That “Can Do” attitude was evident every day. It made this Pig Roast fun, successful, and inclusive to all.

Did our members support the two pancake breakfasts at the VFW? **Yes, we did!**

Did we receive 900 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and share them with other VVA Chapters, so they could share them with their special programs supporting those who need extra help, with food and love from our Veteran Community? Did we also share them at the Ann Arbor VA, distributing them to all

visiting patients and staff? **Yes, we did!**

Do we bring our Merchandise Team to the VA Hospital to give the visiting patients and staff the opportunity to have that special hat, shirt, or pin? **Yes, we do!**

Another first event—we were invited by the Ann Arbor Arms Company to put up our Merchandise Tent and help celebrate their “Re-Grand Opening.” We sold some merchandise, and we also met a lot of younger veterans who served all over the world, protecting our freedom, our way of life. We met members of local, county, and state police and fire departments and other members of the gun club. It was a great day and put smiles on all. **P.S.: They also served all of us free hot dogs and ice cream. Thank you, Ann Arbor Arms!**

Let us not forget Brewed Awakenings in Saline, who let us have two tables and chairs for about a dozen members on every Wednesday morning about 08:30. We wear hats with the letters T.L.C. on them. I tell everyone that T.L.C. means “The Learning Channel.” But Alice Lee says, “**No, it means The Liar's Club.**” Alice knows best, bless her heart.

Our own VVA 310 Huey pilot and radio personality Dale Thornberry and Bob Gould, hosts of Veterans Radio, present Veterans Stories on AM radio Channel WAAM 1600 on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Almost every story seems to start the same way, no matter where the guy or gal served or was stationed around the world. “**There I was. . .**”

Veterans Radio has an “**Open Mic**” podcast hosted by Dale that gives each storyteller guidelines to follow to tell their story.

Arrive at 1730hrs to put your name

on the list of speakers. Your story must be true. Be prepared.

You will have only five minutes; so, do your best to stay on topic.

This is not a stand-up routine, a lecture, a rant, or a confession.

You can join Dale at 5:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month at the VFW Post 423. You can listen to the podcast at <http://veteransradio.net/>.

Next open mic is Wednesday, October 30th. It is so much fun and interesting to listen to and join other local vets telling their stories.

All the good that comes from our Pig Roast Project is very widespread. It covers all the communities in Washtenaw County, where most of us live. Cities, towns, farms, and all the places that take us here and there. From the humble beginning of our chapter, we decided that we would not do this alone. We had to prove to the world we are the children of the greatest generation, who really saved the world from ruin. We were taught and learned all the lessons that meant so much to them. And to share what the good Lord had put before us every day. As a unit, we have proved to the world around us that we are great citizens of our country.

We share all that we have been given and earned when we ask for donations for a worthy veteran project. We complete it with our whole heart because it's almost always for the least fortunate veteran and their family in both their health and circumstance.

The road we have taken in our short lives has taken us to war and to our healing strength for the world to respect and believe in us as champions for those in our Veteran Community, who are young

and old trying to live another day with dignity, peace, and hope for our country's Veterans, most of all, those men and women in our Armed Forces everywhere.

Tim Driscoll
734-355-4897



P.S. Guess what I have: a 40&8 Honor Society Train to sell, runs darn good, only \$20,000.

– Tim Driscoll

Chaplain's Corner

by Gordon Moore

Our world seems to be in turmoil and many people keep stirring the pot as if they are wanting to serve a deadly stew. Polarization abounds on many fronts, and very few people are stepping back to take a deep breath and find ways to reverse this trend.

I find it easier to watch and intervene knowing that God sits on the throne and has the ability to alter the course of human events. I find peace in Him and His word as recorded in Psalm 145:

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name

forever and ever. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation will praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power. To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and



the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desires of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.”

Let all who call God Lord extol His name and meditate upon His goodness to all.

Blessing an honor, peace and joy be upon you,
Gordon

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes 12 Sep 2019

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Call to order by Vice President Harrison at 1900
Pledge of Allegiance
Opening Prayer: Kinzinger
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

Motion to Approve the August Minutes by Rivers/St Antoine.

Approved.

President's Report: Harrison

The Piggy went very well due to the grand participation of so many volunteers.

Who is going to run it next year? We need to get started earlier next year.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne. Excused. No Report.

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see attached report.

Food Pantry: Miller. No Activity.

Merchandise Report: St Antoine. We are half way through September and things are looking good. Thank you for all of your help, not just at the recent events but through the year. We are not ending in September as was stated in the Dispatch. We will do the VA in December. But the real good news is that we have two people who volunteered to help run the committee next year. We still need somebody to manage ordering and somebody else to manage credit card transactions. Our next event will be at Ann Arbor Arms this Saturday. This event is our first chance to see a lot of younger veterans.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Luker. The Council is monitoring the situation with the cancellation of Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program contracts throughout Michigan including Washtenaw County. The Council is also planning to host two bingo nights at the VA on meeting night Mondays. We will do the

bingo first and hold the meeting second.

Michigan State Council: Luker. No report.

Memorial Committee Report: Merritt. Season nearly over. Not being able to water has impacted both the weeds and the grass this year. We are also looking forward to restarting our contract with Hometown Pest & Lawn later this fall. Thank you to the crews who keep the Memorial looking clean and respectful.

Website Committee Report: McCrumb. The website still works.

Membership Report: McCrumb. We are down to 204 members due to recent deaths.

Newsletter: Pereira. No report.

Health Care: Wilson. We are following up on a rumor that they are going to make the Detroit VA a CBOC. That means they would no longer do any inpatient care, just clinics. According to the same rumor, the Ann Arbor director would then be in charge of both facilities. We will let you know when we learn more.

VAAHS Report: Kinzinger. Our next VA event will be the 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. We meet at Kroger's on Maple Road at 1600, and then meet at Dawn Farm at 1800 to drop off the food and speak with some of the residents.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Kinzinger J

We held two pancake breakfasts at the VFW Post in Ann Arbor during September. The idea was to get all of the units that meet here, to meet as a large group to generate camaraderie. We believe it had that effect. The events also generated some revenue which was donated to the VA's coffee fund. VFW will do at least one on 5 October.

Luker At Ypsilanti Township's request, the Memorial Committee tracked down Veterans Refuge Network – the group that held a Veterans Suicide Prevention Demonstration on the township grounds a few years back. Veterans Refuge agreed to provide 660 crosses, representing the number of veterans who would commit suicide in a month. However, they could not do the work of putting them up or publicizing the event. Employees from the township, AVVA and VVA 310 members, a Livingston County Homeschool Co-op and the VFW gave us enough volunteers to place 22 crosses each day for a month. The last crosses will be placed on 5 October and will remain in place for seven more days.

Draper American Legion Post 46 is sponsoring a flag raising ceremony at Veterans Park in Ann Arbor at 1400 on 29 September. This will also be the formal dedication of the new flagpole paid for by the American Legion and the VFW. Parking was expected to be a problem, but former Sheriff Doug Harvey arranged for permission to park cars on the grass on the Maple Road side of the park.

McCrumb If you do not have your free copy of the book of veteran stories, please see me.

Throneberry Please come to the third Open Mic Night at 1730 on 25 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.

Merritt: Breakfast tomorrow at 0900 at Brewed Awakenings.

Closing Prayer: Mayes

Salute the Flag

Adjourned 1948.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker

2019 VA Christmas

Sponsored by VVA 310

By John Kinzinger

Chapter 310 will be sponsoring our 33rd Christmas program at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. Chapter 528, Plymouth-Canton, members partnered with us about 16 years ago. Other groups also joined us, like Rolling Thunder, Michigan Military Moms, DAR and AVVA. Our volunteer numbers once reached 75 for an evening visit event.

Two years ago, because of how large our group had gotten, the VA told us we had to reduce the size of our group. It was an issue of clogging aisle hallways. So, we split the group and now have two evening visits. Both groups are now able to have more volunteers join them on their designated evening.

If you have not participated in these room visits with our group, and are able to get around, you should join us. You will see the hospitalized patient smiles and understand why we do this.

We raise funds for the expenses of these two Christmas time evenings, plus: a large purchase of underwear (which is an item usually on the monthly Voluntary Services needs

list for the patients), monthly coffee donations, items for other special events, and help for Iraq and Afghanistan combat warriors with PTSD (living the motto of VVA).

How do we raise the funds? Our VA Medical Center (VAMC) committee uses a list of loyal donors who receive a request letter the first part of November. (You can be added to our list by sending a note to our Chapter address, VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, or email to johnalva@aol.com). Our loyal supporters send their donation in a provided return envelope. We keep those funds in a dedicated Chapter account and wisely spend that money. In fact, we can proudly proclaim that 100% of their gift goes to help Veterans receiving medical care at the Ann Arbor VA.

Our supporters receive an acknowledgement letter, a photo page of images taken during the patient room visits, and a financial report explaining where the funds are spent. And we promise their information will not be sold, or used for anything else.

Our 2019 Program

Tuesday, December 17th - Plymouth Canton Chapter 528 members and others will be making room visits. They will be joined by Stacey Mason, former Miss Michigan and great entertainer (vocal and violin). Meet in the lobby at 5:30 and move out to rooms at 6pm.

Friday, December 20th - VVA Chapter 310 members, Military Moms Club, DAR, AVVA members and others will be there. We will be joined by the Saline Fiddlers, and we will be giving every patient a specially embroidered shirt. (Any remaining shirts will be given to the Oncology office to be given to cancer patients.) We will be

accompanied by Miss Washtenaw County signing her photos for the patients. We also will have special candy trays for every nursing station. Meet in the lobby at 5:30 and move out to rooms at 6pm.

AVVA Newsletter

October 2019

by Kathy Driscoll

I will have surgery on October 8th and will not be able to attend our October membership meeting or the WCCV meeting on Monday, October 21st. I would appreciate it if someone is available and able to attend the WCCV meeting. It is at the Milan American Legion Post 283, 44 Wabash St, Milan. The meeting is at 7:30 pm.

Legislative Action:

H.R. 2568 Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

As of today, Thursday, August 22nd, there are 12 co-signers to this bill. Tim Walberg (R-17) is the only Michigan US Congressman to co-sign this bill. If you live in another congressional district, please contact your representative to have him or her co-sign this bill.

You can use this link to send your congressional representative a letter to support this bill: [\[click here\]](#).

H.R. 2333 Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act passed the US House of Representatives on May 21, 2019. The Senate version is S. 1392 Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act. As of today, Thursday, August 22nd there are three co-sponsors. Neither Michigan US Senators Debbie Stabenow nor Gary Peters are co-sponsors. Please send a message to both to support this bill: [\[click](#)

[here](#)].

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

- Shirley Hitte and Kathy supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.
- Wendy St. Antoine, Carol, Shirley, Meni, Corrine and Kathy supported VVA 310 Merchandise sales at the Ann Arbor Arms.
- Kathy attended the WCCV meeting on Monday, September 16th.
- Wendy Hibbitts, Shirley and Kathy supported the Suicide Awareness Project at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial.

How can AVVA 310 members support VVA 310 and AVVA 310 in October?

- Volunteer one or two hours on Tuesday, October 8th supporting VVA 310 Merchandise sales team at the Ann Arbor VA 3rd floor.
- Don your favorite costume and attend the VVA Annual Halloween Party at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center on Saturday, October 26th at 5:30 pm.

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

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

We have three ongoing and future fundraisers! Please consider supporting our fundraisers in October and November. Our goal is to raise an additional \$500 for Fisher House Michigan for their 2019 *Patriot Match Fundraiser*: September

11, 2019 through November 30, 2019. Your donations and support of our fundraiser will assist us in surpassing our goal.

Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets:

- AVVA 310 has Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets for a \$5 donation. Please contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. We have 68 bracelets left. 32 bracelets sold at the Pig Roast, VA Merchandising Kiosk and Ann Arbor Arms. This \$160 will be donated to Fisher House Michigan.

2019 Pig Roast Basket Raffle:

- We raised \$130.00 at the Pig Roast Raffle. All proceeds will be donated to Fisher House Michigan.

No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:

Our 2019 "No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale" fundraiser letters were emailed to our members with email addresses. Please consider making a donation. All proceeds go to our General Funds specified treasury lines.

Creative Memories Scrapbooking for Soldiers Fundraiser:

- The Creative Memories Fundraiser for Fisher House Michigan will be Saturday, October 19th at the VFW Post 423 from 9 am – 3:30 pm, \$10 donation. Please contact Meni to order items for your scrapbooks. Meni is donating all proceeds to AVVA 310 Fisher House Michigan Project.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2020 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$3,283.25. We received a \$1,000 donation in September. We will sponsor three delegates to Girls State 2020. Let Kathy know if you or someone you know is interested in attending Girls State 2020. The Girls State process begins in December 2019.

Eligibility for Girls State 2020:

"Young women who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and who have at least one more semester remaining are considered. A student is only allowed to attend one (state's) ALA Girls State program – attending a second session is prohibited. Only those who illustrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their schools and community should be considered. Merit and ability are the basis for evaluation during the actual citizens selection process."

We donate our three scholarships for delegates to the Saline American Legion Post 322 Auxiliary. Our three delegates do not have to attend Saline High School. We can sponsor any High School Junior in Michigan. AVVA Michigan State Association News

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.

- You can view the AVVA Strategic Plan at <http://vvamsc.org/associate/>
- AVVA Michigan Association next meeting will be Sunday, October 20th. More information at our October meeting.
- We will review our AVVA State Bylaws to conform with the new AVVA National Bylaws.

AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

- AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2019. AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage is launched! Check out the AVVA Michigan Association tab! <http://vvamsc.org/associate/>
AVVA National

The next AVVA board meeting is October 11-12 in Silver Spring, MD.
Upcoming Events!

26 October 5:30 pm VVA 310 Halloween Party at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center

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

President, AVVA Michigan State Association

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734-355-4897

Fisher House—Work in Progress

by Dave Draper

Meni and I stopped out to the new Fisher House yesterday to check on the construction progress. They are really moving fast, as this photo shows. Your donations at work.



Flag at Veterans Memorial Park

by Dave Draper

The Flagpole Dedication Ceremony was on September 29 at Veterans Memorial Park. The event blossomed from the original 75



expected attendees to about 200 expected guests. We arranged for a shuttle bus to run between Maple Village (across Maple Road from Veterans Park) and Veterans Park. Explorer Scouts directed the parking.

Speakers included Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor, Executive Director for Fisher House Michigan Kate Melcher, Doug Harvey (Doug is part of the mastermind behind the flagpole project and former Washtenaw County Sheriff), Oleg Michajlenko (the other mastermind behind the project and Past Commander of Post 46), VVA 310 President Tim Driscoll, Commander of the DAV Chapter 13 Cheryl Vatcher-Martin, and 2nd Vice Commander of VFW Post 423 Wayne Doyle. I was the MC.



AVVA 310 provided cookies and lemonade; water was available.

Honoring October's Anniversaries on the Wall

Specialist 4 Moses began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam on April 25, 1967 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade. Donald was killed on October 25, 1967 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.



Donald Sylvester Moses lived 20 years, 4 months and 13 days. He is resting in Magnolia Baptist Church Cemetery in Newellton, Louisiana.

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 28E Line 069.

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Corporal Eugene Ravn Suarez was born on December 21, 1946 to Mr. Rafael P. and Mrs. Helen Suarez of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He also had a paper route with the Ann Arbor Newspaper. He attended Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti, Michigan before entering the Army on October 4, 1967.

Corporal Suarez began his tour of duty in Quang Tin Province, South

Vietnam on May 24, 1968 serving as an infantryman with D Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Eugene died on October 1, 1968 as a result of enemy small arms fire. He was posthumously promoted to



Corporal and received the Bronze Star Medal.

Eugene Ravn Suarez is survived by his mother, three brothers and six sisters. He lived 19 years, 9 months and

10 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Eugene's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 42W Line 060.

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Captain David Raymond Wagener

was born on June 22, 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Wagener of Saline, Michigan. David is a 1957 graduate of Saline High School where he was an honor student, an outstanding athlete lettering in football, basketball and track. He also attended the University of Michigan prior to enlisting in the Air Force in 1959. He also attended the University of Delaware. David received his Basic Training at



Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He

attended Aviation Cadet Training at Harlingen Air Force Base in Texas. He received his pilot flying wings at Williams Air Base, Chandler, Arizona.

Captain Wagener began his tour of duty in Udorn, Thailand serving with the 602nd Fighter Squadron, 14th Air Commando Wing, 7th Air Force. According to a posting from a colleague, Ira Cooperman, "Dave Wagener was a friend and a brave 'Sandy' pilot. While stationed at Udorn RTAFB in 1966, he flew 'cover' for helicopter missions attempting to rescue downed American pilots in Laos, as well as to support friendly forces on the ground in Laos. It was from one of those missions that he did not return." On October 20, 1966, Captain Wagener was shot down and killed about 20 miles north of the DMZ in Quang Binh Province. His body was not recovered.

David Raymond Wagener finally came home on December 5, 1997 when his remains were discovered. David is survived by his wife, mother and two brothers. He lived 27 years, 3 months and 28 days. He is resting in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, Section 6, Site 595. David's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township in two locations. The first location is on the bench (pictured above) in front of the Memorial listed with two other men listed as MIA. The second location is on the Vietnam Memorial under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 092.

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Specialist 4 Charles Wesley Bird

was born on January 16, 1943 in Belle, West Virginia. He is a 1961



graduate of Dupont High School in Belle, West Virginia. Charles worked for Ford Motor Company at the Rawsonville Plant and was married three

months before entering the Army on October 24, 1966. He lived in Ypsilanti residing with his wife's parents until his induction.

Specialist 4 Bird began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on April 17, 1967 serving with D Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Charles died as a result of enemy small arms fire on October 14, 1967. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart.

Charles Wesley Bird is survived by his wife, brother, and several sisters. He lived for 24 years, 8 months and 28 days. He is resting in Montgomery Memorial Park in Fayette, West Virginia. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. Charles' name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 27E Line 106.

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Captain Carl Robert Arvin

was born on January 19, 1943 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Arvin. C. Robert Arvin graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1961 where he excelled as a straight-"A" student, and was named as Valedictorian. Captain Arvin excelled in athletics during High School playing on the varsity football and wrestling teams.

In 1961, he wrestled his way to a State high school wrestling championship. During his junior year of High School, Carl earned a High School Honors Science Institute



scholarship of \$100. He was also Student Council President, and President of his class of 1961. Carl Robert Arvin was accepted to the United

States Military Academy at West Point in 1961 as a member of the Corps of Cadets of 1965 where he continued to achieve academic and athletic recognition. In recognition of his achievements, C. Robert Arvin was appointed as the highest ranking cadet in the Corps' chain of command with the title of First Captain and Brigade Commander. Carl Arvin received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in 1965 graduating as the top cadet of 2,770 in the Corps of Cadets

First Lieutenant Arvin began his tour in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on May 29, 1967 serving with Advisory Team 162, 7th ARVN Airborne Battalion, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). According to a note on the Virtual Wall, "First Lieutenant Arvin received two awards of the Silver Star Medal, the first for an action on September 5, 1967 when the 7th Vietnamese Airborne Battalion came under intense mortar and small arms fire. Though wounded, Arvin disregarded the fierce fire and was leading his element forward to engage the enemy when his radio operator was also wounded.

Arvin dragged the soldier to safety and, undaunted by the perilous circumstances, returned to direct repeated helicopter gunship strikes. He refused his own medical evacuation until the objective was secure and the mission complete.

The note continues, "After a brief period of hospitalization, First Lieutenant Arvin requested an immediate return to duty. The second award resulted from actions which led to his death. 'On October 8, 1967, his unit was completing a sweep of a suspected enemy base when it encountered an entrenched enemy regiment. Intense enemy fire pinned down Arvin's Battalion in an exposed, untenable position. In full view of the enemy, he valiantly moved through the fire to a forward vantage point. There, as fighting raged about him, he directed extremely accurate, close-range gunship passes onto enemy positions. As he continually moved through fire-swept fields to position himself better to direct the supporting fire, Arvin was mortally wounded. His unremitting attention to duty and superb direction of ground forces and supporting aircraft had enabled his battalion to defeat a strong and determined enemy three times its size.'" First Lieutenant Arvin was promoted posthumously to Captain.

Captain Carl Robert Arvin is survived by his parents, wife and a brother. Captain Arvin is resting in West Point Cemetery with two other 1965 classmates who were killed in Vietnam. He lived 24 years, 8 months and 19 days. In 1988, a new cadet gymnasium at the U.S. Military Academy was named in his honor. Carl Robert Arvin'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 27E Line 068.

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Staff Sergeant Rodger Edson Terwilliger was born on January

19, 1942 to Mr. and Mrs. Orin S. Terwilliger. Rodger attended Adams Elementary and Ypsilanti High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan,



but graduated from Littleton High School in Littleton, Colorado. He worked for the Martin Aircraft Company in Denver, Colorado before

entering the Army in 1961.

Sergeant Terwilliger began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on February 4, 1966 serving as an Intelligence Analyst with the 246th Psychological Operations Company, 6th Psychological Operations Battalion, United States of Army Republic of Vietnam Special Troops, Army Headquarters Area Command. Rodger was killed on October 15, 1966 when the vehicle he was riding struck a mine. Rodger Edson Terwilliger is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, his father and his step-mother, a brother, six step-brothers, and four step-sisters. He lived 24 years, 8 months and 26 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 13, Site 16284. Rodger's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 11E Line 078.

Raising Awareness: Suicide Prevention Crosses

By Al "Fredo" Meritt

In September, the Memorial Committee agreed to help Ypsilanti



Township recognize and publicize the extent of Veterans' suicide. They would do so by placing 22 crosses each day, for a total of 660 crosses, for 30 days. They were to place the crosses on the lawn near the intersection of Veterans Memorial Drive and South Huron River Drive, during National Suicide Prevention Month.

The 22 crosses we placed each day would represent the 22 Veteran



suicides that take place each day. There was an online calendar from Sept 5 through Oct 4, during which volunteers could sign up for a designated date. The calendar filled up so fast that many people who wanted to sign up could not, because the calendar was full. The calendar was courtesy of Jon Luker and his daughter Kay. I wrote to ask for help from a few veterans to pull off that challenge. We asked for enough volunteers to

put out just 22 crosses on just one day in September or early October. Each volunteer would offer about half-hour of work. As usual, the response was generous, and we got the job done, as the pictures show.

Also, we needed to make a temporary sign that explained to people driving by what the crosses meant. I asked for a portable programmable sign we could borrow or any other type of sign that we could work with for that purpose. We made a sign, and as the attached picture shows, it came out pretty well. Take a look. Let me thank again each one of the volunteers who pitched in for this project. We hope this awareness effort will help to save veterans' lives.

Flying Around the Moving Wall

By Vance McCrumb

Visited the Moving Wall in Hamburg a few weeks ago, to pay my respects to those who are no longer with us. There was a Huey flying around the area. I found out where that Huey was taking off from and got in line. While waiting my turn to board the Huey, I was talking to one of the pilots who were taking



turns piloting the Huey. He had been a pilot in Vietnam and knew Chuck Kettles—not from Vietnam,

but from the American Helicopter Association that Chuck belonged to. I gave him a couple of copies of *We Answered the Call*, which features Chuck. He said one copy would go into their museum, and he would keep the other copy.

The attached picture was taken while we flew around the Moving Wall area. When I turned to take that picture, as we banked into a turn, my right tennis shoe fell off my foot and tumbled down into someone's backyard. Hopefully that size 13 didn't hurt anyone as it landed.

Zack Howey and the Vietnam Hero

How the Friendship of a
Lifetime Began

Part I

By Becky Howey

[Editor's Note: I met Zack and his family at the recent Pig Roast. Zack had organized an impressive display of Kettles memorabilia, under a tent right next to the Huey helicopter. See photo. Part II will come later. -- PJP]

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 hangers 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 be continued]

Current Events

by Ann Dempsey-Pereira

08 Oct: Merchandising at the VAMC, 3rd Flr. 0800- 1400 hrs
10 Oct: Monthly VVA/AVVA 310 Meetings: VVA Board 1730 hrs; AVVA 1800 hrs; VVA Member Meeting 1900 hrs
11 Oct: Chapter Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Holiday's Restaurant.
19 Oct: AVVA Scrapbooking for Soldiers, 0930-1530 Hrs, VFW 423 Hall. Proceeds benefit Fisher House.
23 Oct: Veterans Radio "There I Was" open mic, 1800 hrs, VFW 423 Hall
26 Oct: VVA 310 Halloween Party, VA Medical Center, 1930 hrs
NEED TO KNOW
13 Oct: U.S. Navy Birthday (1775) Saturdays @ 0930: Meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue

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!]

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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
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Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020
Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022
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Dell Mayes ~ December 2019
Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018
Ron Oliver ~ February 2019
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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.



All About VVA 310

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

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
National Chapter of the Year - 1999 & 2007
Newsletter of the Year 2007, 09, 11, & 15
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**VVA 310 Dispatch
October 2019**

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Please Forward. Thank You!