



*Together We  
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles  
Michigan Chapter 310*

# 310 Dispatch

Newsletter

April 2020

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



Editor's Note: For current events this month, please stay in touch with our officers as they send us emails updating what has been canceled due to the Coronavirus COVID-19. Pres. Tim Driscoll asked us to use the space dedicated to the President's Message for general information about what is going on in response to COVID-19, but the information is vast. So, please look at at [vva310.org](http://vva310.org) for additional information. Meanwhile, all the best to all as we return to the hope of normalcy.  
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira

## What's New . . .

A Summary of Various News.....	2
Chaplain's Corner.....	3
AVVA Newsletter - April 2020.....	3
Honoring April Anniversaries on the Wall.....	5
Mystery Member.....	7
Dispatch Recipients.....	7
VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes.....	7
Vets Take a Holiday.....	10
Jocosity.....	10
Packing Your Parachute: Reconnecting With the Past.....	10
Important Facts of VVA310's History – Part II.....	11

# A Summary of Various News

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

This space is normally reserved for the presidential message. But Pres. Tim Driscoll asked me to present a summary of current news and changes in lieu of the presidential message for this month. He felt this summary is important at this time, in view of the current national crisis and the



changing regulations affecting veterans.

Kathy Driscoll informed us in the AVVA Report that they have an anonymous AVVA member willing to deliver cereal and drinks on Wednesdays and a hot meal on Fridays to any AVVA or VVA family in the Dexter, Ann Arbor, Saline, Chelsea, Whitmore Lake, or Pinckney area. Please contact Kathy Driscoll for more information.

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Vance McCrumb informed us that Farris Evan Hurst, from Milan, passed away on 04/10/2020. Born 01/22/1950, U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran Farris joined the Chapter in March of 2019. Because of the COVID-19 Corona Virus, there are no funeral arrangements. There may be something later, at their family church; if so, a notice will be sent out.

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You can find an excellent place for updated information affecting VVA members in regards to COVID-19 on our Home page on our site at [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org). Vance McCrumb has informed us that those updates will be in their entirety, with no edits. They replace the President's Message until further notice.

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John Kinzinger sent a message of inspiration he received from a friend, with the following thoughts:

### Inspiration:

"Courage is fear that has said its prayers" (Dorothy Bernard).  
"Pray, and let God worry." "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing" (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.).

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go" (Abraham Lincoln).

"Pray often—for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan" (John Bunyan).

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From Larry Osterling, Saline Chamber of Commerce:  
During this time of severe financial and emotional stress, the Chamber is still accessible at regular hours to provide as support. Under current protocols, telephone or electronic communication is preferable.

One of our immediate concerns is for our area food providers. You may have heard about the Chamber's program, as we've partnered with The Saline Post to support your favorite food provider.

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### Healthcare:

Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, our VA community clinics in Jackson, Flint, Toledo, and Ann Arbor (Green Road and Packard Road) will be supplying triage and virtual care only. Routine appointments will be converted to virtual care, as appropriate. For questions about routine medical care, please contact 734-845-5290 (press 2). For pharmacy refills, please call 866-316-9350 Ext. 1. If you need to speak to a medical provider, please call 734-769-7100. To relay a message to your Primary Care or Specialty Care team—or to change or cancel appointments—call 734-845-5290, press option 2. Visitation safeguards:

- Visitors and guests are not allowed in any site of care. The only exception is for end-of-life visitation.
- Outpatients should come to VA appointments alone.
- Only patients are permitted inside our facility for any reason.
- No one under the age of 18 is permitted.
- We will use telecommunications and video conferencing to include family members in medical decision-making.
- Entrances to all VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System facilities are limited.
- Staff are screening people for symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and sore throat before entry.
- Sick patients must put on a mask upon entering a VAAHHS facility.

Again, visit <https://www.vva310.org/> for more information.

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### From the Michigan State Council:

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the State Convention is postponed till further notice. All officers will stay the same until we are able to hold the election process.

### From VA National:

In the current COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you and your families to stay informed, to visit the CDC and VA websites, and to abide by the recommended precautionary measures. Here are their website addresses:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website Link](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs Website Link](#)

### At-Risk Groups:

- The elderly (70 and above);
- Those with chronic conditions such as the following:
  - diabetes,
  - heart disease,
  - chronic kidney disease,
  - cancer,
  - lung disease.
- and those with comorbidities, such as from Agent Orange.

### Make a Plan:

We encourage you to make your plan now, ahead of time, in case you or someone close to you begins to exhibit symptoms. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 (respiratory distress or flu-like symptoms), do the following:

- Please call before you visit your local VA medical center or clinic.
- Do not just show up unannounced at the medical facility.

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### Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! That is the Easter greeting and response in many a Christian church. It is right that we should rejoice in the Lord's triumphal resurrection as proclaimed by the witnesses of Scripture. . . . Come see where He laid, for He is risen as He said.

Sometimes we forget that His resurrection was more than just our salvation. It also involved our sanctification and the sending of God's Spirit to give us the ability to live out the Christian life and to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, to do and to will. I would like to tie that thought in with the current trend in America and many Western nations to exclude God from life. There is much antagonism to Christianity, in part because of the injustices caused by some Christians, but to a larger extent, because the world as a system does not care to be told what is right and what is wrong because they want to live their lives anyway they please. But this is not a new phenomenon. Peter reminded his readers of the reason for the hostility that was also present in his time when he said in 1 Peter 4:

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourself also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For the time already past is sufficient

for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (1 Peter 4: 1- 5)

The Lord suffered and died for our sins and freed us from the sins which so easily beset us . . . yeah, that constantly surround and encourage us to join with them. I see this played out on many sides during our election-year cycle, as people on many sides attack and malign those who view things differently from the way the enemy does.

I hope this blessed Easter season we will give pause to our part in the process (if we have a part) and live our lives in godly fashion as an example to others of how fulfilling a relationship with God and lived for Him really is.

A blessed Easter to all in His Holy Name.

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### AVVA Newsletter - April 2020

By Kathy Driscoll

I hope everyone is feeling well and staying socially distanced as we all help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Please let me

know if you need anything. AVVA and VVA 310 have resources available to assist you. We have an anonymous AVVA member willing to deliver cereal and drinks on Wednesdays and a hot meal on Fridays to any AVVA or VVA family in the Dexter, Ann Arbor, Saline, Chelsea, Whitmore Lake, or Pinckney area.

### **2020 AVVA 310 Chapter Election Update:**

Our 2020 AVVA elections will be declared settled by acclamation as there is only one candidate for AVVA 310 Chapter Representative. I will complete the election forms with proper signatures and send to AVVA Michigan Association President, Penny Meinhardt, by April 30th. I will be our Chapter Representative for the next 2 years. We still need an Alternate Chapter Representative. This is an appointed position: Please let me know if you would like to volunteer.

### **H.R. 2568 Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act:**

As of today, Monday, March 30, 2020, there are 17 co-sponsors 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 from DAV to send your congressional representative a letter to support this bill:

<http://cqrcengage.com/dav/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=500468> .

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

### **AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report:**

We have \$325.00 specified for Fisher House Michigan and \$674.00 in our Operating and Special Projects specified-line items. I need to know if our members want to send a donation to Fisher House Michigan for "Fisher House Family Support" from AVVA 310. Please email me your approval to send \$300.00 to Fisher House Michigan.

April LaRock, Ann Arbor Fisher House Manager, has the following Volunteer opportunities available:

#### **Volunteers:**

VA Ann Arbor Fisher House will need some regularly scheduled volunteers (those who would be able to commit to a few hours each week or bi-weekly) for the following positions:

*Kitchen Coordinator:* someone who is extremely organized, loves to cook, who will help keep the kitchen organized, help with the weekly grocery list/inventory, maybe do some light baking in the kitchen—cookies, muffins, bread, etc.

*Gardening/Outdoor Assistant:* This would actually be more seasonal but would involve keeping the porches/back patio swept, patio furniture wiped down, perhaps planting/watering potted plants — expect to need a volunteer for this position at this time who could come 1-2 x's per week for a few hours.

We have already recruited enough volunteers for the Guest Relations Assistant for now (who will work with our staff to help check in/out guests, drive the golf cart to shuttle guests to/from the medical center as needed, etc.). We may want to recruit more volunteers later as the

program grows, but not now. For these positions, interested volunteers would need to contact April LaRock directly. The VA Ann Arbor Fisher House staff will be arranging "interviews" to discuss further since regularly scheduled volunteers would actually need to complete an application with our Voluntary Services office and complete a Volunteer Orientation session, receive credentials, etc. The other volunteer opportunities will be those who are intermittent, maybe want to volunteer less than once per month or only for special occasions, such as the Dedication on June 19th, decorating for the holidays, or signing up to cook meals for the families. Those intermittent volunteers would not have to complete an application or register with Voluntary Services. April is presently collecting names/contact information of these individuals so that the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House staff can just reach out to them as needed.

#### **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 57 bracelets left. Selling all 57 bracelets will raise \$285 to purchase items for Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor Amazon Wish List.

#### **No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale:**

Our 2020 "No Bake Bakeless Bake Sale" fundraiser letters were mailed to our members who are unable to attend our monthly meetings. Please consider making a donation. All proceeds go to our General Funds—specified treasury lines. To date, we have raised \$403.00. Thank you to everyone who has donated.

#### **Lois Perrault Memorial Fund –**

## 2020 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,083.25. We donated \$1,200 to the American Legion Auxiliary Post 322 to sponsor three delegates to the 2020 Girls State. Girls State will be held June 14 – 20 at Michigan State University.

## AVVA Michigan State Association News

The March 29th meeting was canceled. I will email our AVVA 310 members with any updates I receive from AVVA Michigan Association.

## AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report:

AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2020.

## AVVA Michigan Association Webpage:

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

## AVVA National:

2020 –Leadership Conference – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, Ohio.  
2021- National Convention – Sheraton Greensboro At Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC  
2022 – Leadership Conference – Hyatt Hotel, Greenville, SC  
2023 - National Convention – Orlando, FL

## Upcoming Events!

All April events are canceled due to the Covid-19 virus.

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

## AVVA Mission Statement:

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

## AVVA Vision Statement:

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

Kathy Driscoll  
Chapter Representative, AVVA  
Chapter 310  
Past President, AVVA Michigan  
Association  
dkathyr16@gmail.com  
734-355-4897

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## Honoring April Anniversaries on the Wall

### Corporal William Henry Johnson

was born on December 9, 1943 in Union City, Tennessee, to Jewell and Johnnie Johnson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. William is a 1961 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. A caption in the Ann Arbor High School Yearbook for 1961 states, "Willie came to Ann Arbor



High from Slauson. While at the High School, he participated in all intramural sports. He also likes to swim. His plans for after graduation

are not as yet definite. He will either work or join the Army." William enlisted in the Marine Corps in August of 1963 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received further training at Camp Pendleton,

California before going to Okinawa. Corporal Johnson began his tour of duty near Danang, serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. William was killed on April 17, 1966 as a result of small arms fire from a sniper while manning a defensive position.

William Henry Johnson is survived by his parents, a sister, and a brother. He lived 22 years, 4 months and 8 days. William'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 06E Line 119.

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### Private First Class Clive Vere

**Mosier** was born on January 3, 1943 in Campbell, Missouri, to Mr. and Mrs. John Mosier of Chelsea, Michigan. Clive was employed as a foreman with Seller's Construction Company before entering the Army on September 1, 1966. According to his wife, "he was known as "Buster" by all his family and friends. Clive loved baseball. His favorite foods were chocolate chip cookies and fried chicken. He sent a picture of him holding a little Vietnamese girl. He said in his letter, 'Honey, I miss you greatly, but these people need us. No one else will help



them. We have to." Private First Class Mosier began his tour of duty in Military Region 3, South Vietnam on

February 16, 1967 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Clive was killed on April 24, 1967 as a result of an explosive device.

Clive Vere Mosier is survived by his wife, parents, and four brothers. He lived 24 years, 3 months and 21 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Clive'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 18E Line 080.

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### **First Lieutenant Robert John**

**Crabbe** was born on June 12, 1941. First Lieutenant Crabbe began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on January 11, 1966 serving as a Field Artillery Unit Commander with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. According to a posting by fellow Field Artillery Officer Candidate School Alumni from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Randy Dunham, "First Lieutentant Crabbe served as an Aerial Observer with the First Cavalry Division. He was in



a UH-1C Helicopter Gunship from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry that was shot down while making a rocket run on a Viet Cong position. All five men on board the aircraft died in the incident." He was killed on April 18, 1967 after serving one year, three months and seven days "In-Country".

Robert John Crabbe lived 25 years, 10 months and 6 days. He

is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 4, Site 2969-C. Robert'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 18E Line 045.

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### **Sergeant First Class Michael Jon Wallace**

was born on November 21, 1939 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sergeant First Class Wallace began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam at Camp Evans serving as a CH-47



Helicopter Repairer with B Company, 228th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry

Division. On April 19, 1968 three Army helicopters were shot down in the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam. All three were making supply runs to Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province. Five men survived the three crashes, and nine men remain missing. On April 19, 1968, Michael was a crew chief on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flying a mid-day supply mission. The helicopter was descending through an overcast sky and was on its final approach to Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province when it was struck by enemy .50 cal and 37mm ground fire, caught fire and began to burn. The gunner witnessed Michael and the flight engineer, Anthony Housh, jump from the helicopter

when it was about 100 feet off of the ground. The aircraft crash landed and the remainder of the crew was rescued. Michael's body was never recovered and he was listed as Missing In Action (MIA). On February 6, 1974, Michael's status was changed to "Died While Missing In Action."

Michael Jon Wallace is survived by his wife and two children, and a sister. He lived 28 years, 4 months and 28 days. He is remembered with a Military Marker in East Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township as MIA. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 51E Line 002.

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### **Private First Class James Roy**

**Bihlmeyer** was born on November 12, 1946 in Manchester, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Bihlmeyer. James is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He worked at the Saline Plant for Ford Motor Company prior to entering the Army on May 16, 1966. Private First Class Bihlmeyer went through Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas. James began his tour of duty in Long An Province, South



Vietnam on December 1, 1966 serving with A Company, Second Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division as an

infantryman. He died as a result of enemy small arms fire on April 15, 1967.

Private First Class James Roy Bihlmeyer is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. He lived for 20 years, 5 months and 3 days. He is resting at the Bethel Church Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. James Roy Bihlmeyer also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18E Line 028.

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## Mystery Member

The mystery member for March was Al "Fredo" Merritt. Drafted in March 1968, Fredo went to Ft. Knox, KY for Basic Training and to Ft. Bliss, TX for On-the-Job Training in transportation. After that, Fredo went to Vietnam, where he drove a Guntruck named "The Boss." He ended his tour in Vietnam in March 1970.

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A picture for the **Mystery Member** for April follows below:

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## Dispatch Recipients

VVA 310 award winning newsletter reaches approximately 516 people each month with 115 mailed USPS, 52 hits off the website ([www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org)), and 349 emailed. With good stewardship and networking, the cost to print the Dispatch approximates \$1,380 per year. If a VVA 310 member or others receiving the Dispatch via USPS desire to assist with the printing cost, a suggested donation would be: one year at \$12.00, two years at \$22.00, and three years at \$30.00. Payment can be made payable to VVA 310 and mailed to P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221 indicating Dispatch on the memo line.

All other donations may be made payable to VVA 310 at the same mailing address by indicating Donation on the memo line.

### RECIPIENTS

George F Boone ~ October 2021  
 Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020  
 Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2020  
 Stan and Dawn Clark ~ October 2020  
 Tim Clarke ~ March 2022  
 Joseph Flint ~ January 2021  
 Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021  
 Ralph Henry ~ November 2020  
 Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024  
 Darlene Imus ~ January 2021  
 Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020  
 Jane and John Kinzinger ~ June 2021  
 Rudy and Jane Kozal ~ May 2022  
 Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of Lavern Lamey\* ~ July 2021  
 Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021  
 Dell Mayes ~ March 2022  
 David L. Ney ~ April 2021

Ronald Oliver ~ November 2021  
 Paulo and Ann Dempsey Pereira ~ October 2021  
 George Perrault ~ October 2022  
 Mira and Bob Pierson ~ October 2021  
 Helena Prince in memory of deceased member Tom Prince ~ April 2023  
 Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026  
 Edith L. Semark ~ June 2021  
 Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2022  
 Chris Wetzler ~ February 2021  
 Elizabeth Wong ~ September 2020

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## VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker

### VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 Regular Membership Meeting Minutes 12 March 2020

**Call to Order** by President Driscoll at 1900 hrs. Pledge of Allegiance  
**Opening Prayer:** Bob Bull  
**Moment of Silence** for POW/ MIA'S, their families and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

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

**New Members:** None

**Guests:** Dave Martinez, son of David "Doc" Martinez.

**Presentation:** Sandy Martinez and her son, Dave, explained that as a part of their grieving process, they made a wall hanging in memory of "Doc." They explained the symbolism on it. They were here tonight to present us with a flag version of that banner to be flown at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They also realized that others might want a

banner like Doc's only customized for their loved one. So, they created a website we can use to order custom banners and other things. It is [www.docsfootlocker.com](http://www.docsfootlocker.com).

**Motion** to approve the February Minutes by Bull/Merritt. **Approved.**

**President's Report:** The virus is going to make history for the next few months. The VA Hospital is now screening everybody who comes into the building and has cancelled all volunteer work.

The WCCV Annual Recognition Dinner was canceled. The 50th Anniversary pinning ceremony set for 27 March was also canceled. Schools are closing everywhere. We pray that this disease just ends soon.

There is a diabetes prevention program done through Medicare being done in Chelsea. They help you learn to eat right, get exercise, and learn to lose weight in a way that it will stay lost.

There will be no 50/50 tonight. Dell Mayes is at the UofM in ICU. He's feeling better now, but they still don't know exactly what type of blood infection he has. Because home nursing was not able to keep him from getting sick, the thought is that he will go from the hospital to an assisted living place, until he is much improved. That may not happen if his condition improves a lot while he is in the hospital. An email was sent out that had the phone number you should use to call him. Your calls really do matter to him and help improve his health as well.

As you all know, 29 March is the Official Vietnam Veterans Day. VFW 423 is going to be painting the inside of the building soon and replacing the carpet. They asked us to contribute \$8,000 toward the

cost of the project. The VVA board determined that we cannot afford to do that but did vote to increase our VFW donation from \$100 to \$150 a month for the rest of the fiscal year. As a reminder, \$50 helps to pay VFW's cost for having us here, \$50 more helps pay for the internet service and now \$50 more helps to pay for the painting and carpet.

#### **Meeting suspended for nominations (second time)**

The election is from noon to 1600 on Sunday, 26 April. There will be a short meeting at noon, with the third round of nominations.

Nominations for President: Stan Harrison, accepts.

Vice President: Marv Rivers, accepts; Tim Driscoll declines.

Secretary: Jon Luker, accepts.

Treasurer: Berry Bourne, accepts. Two-Year Board members (five to be elected)

The following individuals will transition from two-year terms to one-year terms: Horace Frazier, Al (Fredo) Merritt, Roy Hall, Marty Cothorn and Ken Rogge. They are therefore not eligible for nomination.

The nominees are: Bob Bull, accepts; Steve Hitte, accepts; Larry St. Antoine, accepts; John Kinzinger (not present to accept or decline); George Betz, accepts; George Perrault, declines; Chris Wetzler, accepts; Nick Mauder, accepts; Sandie Wilson accepts; Dave Draper declines.

Sergeant At Arms: Tim Clarke, accepts; Horace Frazier, declines.

#### **Meeting Resumed.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Bourne (Excused). Luker reported that our IRS Form 990 was finished and ready to be signed. The board did review the financial statements at

the board meeting.

**AVVA Report:** AVVA's meeting was cancelled due to the virus. Kathy Driscoll is still dealing with other health issues.

**Food Pantry:** One VVA member was provided with food assistance within four hours of the request.

**Merchandise Report:** Stan Harrison reports that VA would not allow us to sell merchandise this month, due to the virus. If you want to volunteer in April, please check with Stan to make sure the event will be permitted.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans:** Luker. The 67th Annual Recognition Dinner was canceled per instructions from Washtenaw County government in keeping with social distancing guidelines from the Governor. No meetings will be held until further notice. If allowed, the next meeting will be at the American Legion Post 31 in Chelsea on 20 April.

**Michigan State Council:** Luker. Our next meeting will be in Standish on 29 March – Vietnam Veterans Day. We are also preparing for the Annual meeting in Dearborn. We will spend most of the day meeting with Post Vietnam era veterans with two things in mind: 1) What should a new national organization do or be, and 2) how we can involve Post Vietnam Veterans in local chapter operations. If you know a Post Vietnam Era veteran that might be interested in attending the meeting or getting involved with a local VVA chapter, please let me know.

**Memorial Maintenance:** Merritt – We are just waiting for the weather to get things started. Mike Chase successfully converted one of our lights to LED. Luker – the shed construction project is



picking up a bit of speed but is not likely to be shovel ready until next year. We hope we can have grant requests completed by the May deadline, however. We have also located a potential location for the kneeling soldier silhouette Animal is donating. If you are in the area, look for a yellow tent stake between two red flags. The steel silhouette is 6 by 6 feet in size. Let Fredo know what you think of the proposed location.

**Website:** McCrumb excused. The website was transferred over to the new servers with the new software added. There have been some glitches and the website is running slower than expected. However, work is underway to solve those issues.

**Membership:** The official number is now 206.

**Newsletter:** Pereira – No report. The newsletter team asks that if you are willing to receive the Dispatch via email that you provide John Kinzinger with your email address and let Stan Harrison know that you do not need to get a mailed copy. If you would like to help pay the cost of producing the Dispatch in printed form, please note “Dispatch” on your check, so we list you as a patron in the Dispatch. Or, if you don’t want to be listed but would like to help anyway, do not put “Dispatch” on your check.

**Healthcare:** Sandie Wilson reported that the primary medicine used to prevent malaria for the past 45 years has been known to have severe mental health side effects that have resulted in people committing murder. Many people who are suffering from side effects have been misdiagnosed as having PTSD. If you received medicine

to prevent malaria, please check with your primary care physician to make sure you are getting the right treatment.

There has been so little effort on the part of the VA to obey the law requiring them to set up a study of birth defects among children of military families that most observers are convinced that the VA is using every excuse it can create to avoid doing that duty. Meanwhile, the best source of potential study subjects comes from a nonprofit that is having a hard time staying afloat: [www.birthdefects.org](http://www.birthdefects.org). You might want to check out their website and consider offering them some financial support.

**VAAHS:** They have taken significant measures to prevent the spread of the virus including cancelling all volunteer activities and not permitting people to enter the building unless they have a need to be there and are willing to submit to a health screening first. The front doors have been locked. You must enter through the parking structure or through the emergency room.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Good of the Order:**

**Wilson:** Are we still going to hold the Annual Recognition Dinner. We did put down a \$500 deposit. Note: the answer is yes, at least for now.

**Bull:** said that all the people who need to be involved agree that naming the Ann Arbor VA after LTC Kettles is a good idea. The group is waiting for the right political time to get the legislation moving.

**Throneberry:** The next “There I was” will be from 1830 to 2100 on Wednesday 29 April. We are cancelling the March program due

to the virus. Please contact me to share ideas you might have for program content or for how we might better use donor funds.

**Draper:** I still have tickets for the raffle to support the restoration of Phil’s father’s C-130. I’ve sold \$1,300 so far. There is a donor who will match up to \$2,000, so your donations now, would really help.

**Harrison:** We need help at 1300 on Sunday 22 March to take things off the walls and put them on tables. We will also roll up the flags.

**Driscoll:** Richard Price had a heart attack. A stent was put in, and he is doing better now.

**Driscoll:** Jenny Lynn has a home school program. Several of us are going out to the Knox Presbyterian Church to make a presentation on Vietnam. A week later, a family that lived in Vietnam during the war will relate their experience.

**Faubian:** My next-door neighbor has been taking care of a vet who lived in a tent near I-94 and State Street for the past 13 years. The veteran was recently told that he has cancer and between 3 and 6 months to live. The veteran will live with the neighbor and receive hospice care. We think he served with the 51st Infantry and that he received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. We have a meeting with Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs. There is a church that is taking up a collection to help with expenses. [Additional note: It has been reported that the veteran has passed away.]

**Perrault:** Between email, US mail and website visits, an average of 512 people read the Dispatch each month. It costs about \$1,200 a month to produce and mail paper copies. Donations are appreciated.

So is switching to emailed copies when possible.

### Coming Events

**[Note: Many events have been canceled.]**

- 21 Mar Veterans Appreciation Day at the USA Hockey Arena (cancelled due to virus).
  - 22 Mar Veterans Appreciation Baseball game (cancelled due to virus).
  - 4 April 0900-1100 VFW 423 Auxiliary breakfast (bacon and eggs).
  - 26 April 1200 – 1600 Annual Meeting and Elections
  - 2 May 1800 Annual Recognition Dinner at the usual UAW Hall
  - 16-17 May All Veterans Powwow at Bishop Lake Group Campground
  - 20 May VACAT employer and entrepreneur convention at Morris Lawrence building at WCC
  - 1 Jun Last Day to Register for Campsite at Kokomo
  - 6 and 7 Jun Selfridge Air Show honoring Vietnam Veterans.
  - 14-18 Jul - Leadership Conference @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, OH
  - 14-21 Sep 38th Annual Veterans Reunion at Kokomo, Indiana.
  - July 2021 - VVA National Convention, Greensboro, NC
- Flag Salute**  
**Closing Prayer:** Bob Bull  
**Meeting Adjourned** at 2012 hrs.  
**Chapter Breakfast in April:** Canceled, but see article by Elmer White below.

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## Vets Take a Holiday

By Elmer "Gluey" White

**Q:** Why are we launching "Vets Take a Holiday"?

**A:** To support the Restaurants that

support Veterans. We chose Holiday's Restaurant as inspiration for the name of our project; other veteran-friendly eateries are listed below also. Rob Terbush is owner and manager. His cooks were trained by Washtenaw Community College Culinary Arts program. The past few years Rob has offered free Tuesday breakfast to veterans ("Free" is good, right?). On other days, they offer a 10% veterans' discount. Now is our turn to thank Rob for his generosity. **Q: Why? A:** His business has collapsed due to the COVID-19 restrictions. My personal answer is this: Gourmet Food! I've lived in Ann Arbor 50+ years. There are lots of gourmet restaurants here. But where can you get a great gourmet meal for \$10? I'll tell you where: Holiday's Restaurant). Rob has honored us; now is the time that we honor Rob! Let's pitch in and help him with the rent, employee salaries, cost of food, utilities, and TP! Let's help Rob survive so, when the Coronavirus crisis passes, Holiday's Restaurant will still be with us.

### Information About Restaurants That Honor Veterans

Ann Arbor:  
Holiday's Restaurant - 2080 West Stadium - Ann Arbor - (734) 668-1292. Carry Out 11AM - 7PM. Delivery available.  
Ypsilanti:  
Sidetrack - 56 E Cross St - 734-483-1035  
Ypsilanti:  
Bomber Restaurant, 306 East Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti.  
Saline:  
Brewed Awakenings Cafe - 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176. - (734) 681-0078.

Scio Twp-Zeeb Road:  
Macino's Pizza - 355 S Zeeb Rd, (734) 994-9151.

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## Jocosity

By Kenn Rogge

Human resilience shows even amid the most strenuous challenges. In spite of it all, people tend to keep their sense of humor. So, let me tell you about the time a teacher took her class to visit a museum of natural history. The children returned home excitedly, and on rushing into the house, one of the little boys greeted his mother by exclaiming, "Guess what we did today, mom? The teacher took us to a dead circus!"

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## Packing Your Parachute: Reconnecting With the Past

By George Perrault

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said,

—“You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk . You were shot down!”

—“How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb.

—“I packed your parachute,” the man replied.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said,

—“I guess the parachutte worked!”

Plumb assured him,

—“It sure did. If your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says,

—“I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said ‘Good morning, how are you?’ or anything—because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor.”

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, each time holding in his hands the fate of someone he didn’t know and likely would never meet.

Now, Plumb asks his audience,

—“Who’s packing your parachute?”

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory: He needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional



parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety. In our daily challenges, we miss what is important. We may fail to greet, or thank, or recognize people. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.

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## Important Facts of UVA310’s History — Part II

By John Kinzinger

Our committee did not agree with Parks Director Ron Olson’s interpretation of the above naming of the park. However, it did coincidentally fall in line with the apparent feelings of the descending members of the Parks Advisory Commission. The Director stated his interpretation was that the name alone is all that should be involved with the park to honor veterans.

Before the third meeting, there was major local newspaper coverage about the efforts of our Memorial committee. Prior to that next meeting, even Ann Arbor Mayor Gerald Jernigan sent a letter to the Parks Commission members urging them to approve our

request.

In the letter by Mayor Jernigan to the Parks Advisory Commission Chairman (dated July 11, 1990) “I believe that the park should have a site which recognizes our war veterans because without them we might not have a park at all. The memorial requested by the Vietnam Veterans would not be an indication of support for that conflict, but a recognition of the great sacrifices made by many people and their families in our community.”

Active local supporter WWII Veteran Adam Banner requested to read the mayor’s letter at the final Parks Advisory meeting, but the Chairman denied Banner’s request. They stated that only one person was allowed to speak on behalf of the Memorial committee’s request. At that final meeting in August 1990, Chairperson Peg Molin was absent. Our committee presented a beautifully painted artist’s rendition of our proposed Memorial. It was painted by Vietnam Veteran and accomplished wildlife artist Paul Butala. Then we continued to field questions by the Advisory Commission members.

Mrs. Brown (see her included letter) and Mrs. McIntire, mothers of two young Ann Arbor men killed in Vietnam, requested to join our group at this last meeting. On that day a few commission members were absent, including the Chairperson. [to be continued]



# 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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Vice President: Stan Harrison

Secretary: Jon Luker

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

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**VVA 310 Dispatch  
April 2020**

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Please Forward. Thank You!