



**TWO TIME NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**



**Happy New Year!**

### Washtenaw County KIA's

<a href="#">Walter McIntire Jr</a>	2 January 1966
<a href="#">Michael Cribelar</a>	11 January 1968
<a href="#">John Eddy</a>	11 January 1972
<a href="#">Eddie Wallace</a>	13 January 1969
<a href="#">Larry Gray</a>	17 January 1967
<a href="#">George Vlisides</a>	27 January 1965
<a href="#">Michael Hunter</a>	28 January 1970

#### Michigan MIA's

Unaccounted for - 49  
Accounted for - 36

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# President's Message:



I hope everyone was able to take a moment on December 7 to reflect on all those who lost their lives during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was a time



of horror for our military and for our Nation. It did, however, bring us together as a Nation, with a single cause to defeat those who had perpetrated such a dastardly act. Maybe you remembered by becoming couch potatoes, as Meni and I did, and watched many of the old World War II classics that were playing on TV during that week.



By the time you read this Christmas will have come and gone. Hopefully you will have recovered from any hangovers you may have developed from your New Year celebrations. At our age, though, I doubt many of us carry on the way we did in our youth. Certainly not me. Hopefully I have learned life's lessons on that matter. Meni and I had a great time with our two grandchildren in New York over the Christmas holiday. It's always heartwarming to watch the excitement and anticipation in their eyes on Christmas Eve and, of course, on Christmas day. I hope everyone was able to take a moment to remember the reason we celebrate Christmas. It's all in the first six letters!



As we enter this new year I am hopeful that we continue to carry our message forward of our commitment to our Veterans and help them with their needs. Our main focus should, of course, be for Veterans, but I hope we will continue to support our local community as well, as we currently do with places like Dawn Farm. We will continue to fight the fight for getting medical help for those affected by Agent Orange, and get more coverage for their families added. We should continue to be at the forefront in providing assistance for our current military personnel also. Those who are coming back from war who have both physical and mental issues. I know I am trying to do my part, where possible, and hope you will do the same. I know many of you from our Chapter are already involved in many volunteer missions, not just for our Chapter but outside our Chapter as well.



Just a reminder, January 11 we will be supporting and sponsoring WACU (Warriors and Caregivers United) for their annual fundraiser at Frenchie's (next to Sidetrack Bar and Grill) in Ypsilanti's

Depot Town. Former Miss Michigan, Stacey Mason, will provide entertainment as she has in the past. The food and beverage from Sidetrack and the comradery amongst friends is another reason in itself to come out. The staff will be donating their tips and Sidetrack will donate half of the



dinner receipts for the night. There will be an auction for Red Wing tickets, Tiger tickets, quilts and much more. Come out and help raise money for this worthy cause to help Vets and their caregivers deal with PTS.



The American flag: what does it mean to you? I would like to get some feedback from you on this topic, which is close to me. Those of you who are fellow Veterans that are reading this will probably have some strong opinions on this also. When we fly off to a foreign country and spend some time there, especially in war conditions, you begin to appreciate just what that piece of nylon or cloth represents. True, it's just a piece of material, but it takes on a whole new meaning. Whether you were forced to go to war or you volunteered, that "symbol" represents **your** country. Flying in the air or draped over a coffin, it represents the United States of America and all we have struggled for since we landed at Plymouth Rock. It's enough to make a grown man cry to see uninformed and seemingly unfeeling people desecrate the flag. It tugs strongly on our hearts and brings our tempers to a boil. E-mail me at [ProudOfOurFlag@gmail.com](mailto:ProudOfOurFlag@gmail.com) with what you think the flag represents to you and what you think it represents to our Nation. Would you be in favor of making it a Federal law prohibiting the desecration of the flag? In the next month or two I will share a few of your e-mails (with your permission).

MAIL CALL!



## Letters From Downrange

The following note is a response to a letter from one of our student letter writers whose letter was put in a care package we mailed in early November. The return address says "A Thankful Troop". She is with an aviation unit in Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan.

"Mason, I got your thank-you letter you wrote on 11/3/16. You are welcome!!

It's for people like you and your family we are fighting for. In your letter you asked a few questions. I am a 1<sup>st</sup> LT, I currently do not play any sports but I was a swimmer in high school. My favorite hobby is skydiving. The weapon I use is the B-52 bomber. I am safe most of the time, but sometimes I have to fly into bad guy land to show and teach them a lesson.

Merry Christmas Mason.

To Mason's parents and or guardians, thank you for teaching your kid to appreciate the troops.

Shackle (my call sign)"



Valerie Kutsch, who received one of our Care Packages while serving in Afghanistan wrote the following:

“Thank you so much for the awesome care packages! You have no idea how much getting mail raises morale. I passed out all the goodies to my soldiers and they loved it. Thanks for thinking of us! - Valerie”

We also received a nice Christmas card with the following message:

“Christmas Wishes, to everyone in this wonderful Chapter I wish the very very best. Thinking of you this Christmas with love and happiness. Merry Christmas and happiest of New Years. Ron Barker”

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## Our Memorial Needs Care Forever



At our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on November 10<sup>th</sup>, I asked all those in attendance to stand who had ever worked at our Vietnam Memorial site. Nearly half those in attendance stood up. That, to me, indicates how much

we care about our Memorial. Thank you all, for as a result we have made a most beautiful Memorial experience for all who visit this special place of remembrance. Our brothers listed on it are certainly not forgotten by us.

At the 25<sup>th</sup> celebration, I explained what will happen when we are no longer able to take care of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Our ninety-nine-year lease for that property was amended a couple years ago. We set it up that once we are no longer able to care for the site, Ypsilanti Township would take over the care at the level that we had up to that point. To get payment for their work, they will send bills to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) where our perpetual care funds reside. This will make sure our Memorial is properly cared for into the future. At this time, it is estimated that we have enough in our fund to cover the costs for 25 years.

If you would like to donate to the perpetual care fund to lengthen the years of our care coverage for our Memorial, please do the following. Make your donation out to “AAACF – Vietnam Memorial Fund” and mail it to VVA310 – Memorial Fund, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

For the next month, donors will receive a souvenir program from our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with the Colonel Charles Kettles insert. The cover will be signed by Colonel Kettles.

Thank you in advance. John K



## Warriors And Caregivers United

Want To Dine And Be  
Entertained?

Want To Also Help Combat  
Warriors And Their  
Caregivers?

Check us out at  
[www.wacu.org](http://www.wacu.org) or  
on FB at [Warriors and  
Caregivers United.](#)



**Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-9PM** at  
**Frenchie's**, next to the Sidetrack Bar  
and Grill in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. At  
the corner of East Cross and River  
Streets. Do not miss this special  
fundraiser evening [sponsored by VVA  
Chapter 310.](#)

**GREAT ENTERTAINMENT** by former Miss  
Michigan, Stacey Mason, professional  
singer and violinist. She has  
performed for VVA 310 events for  
many years.

**GREAT SIDETRACK FOOD** All Good!

Half of the dinner receipts, all the tips  
and donations (100%) will go to  
programs and events for this group of  
PTS combat warriors and their  
caregivers. Some VVA 310 members  
will be guest servers.

**GREAT AUCTION ITEMS**

4 Red Wing tickets to February 15<sup>th</sup> game vs. St. Louis, 4 Tiger tickets  
to 2017 game, beautiful quilts, signed prints and many more nice  
items.

Come ready to bid, contribute, and support our combat warriors with  
Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and their caregivers. All the proceeds will go  
to our non-profit, **Warriors and Caregivers United.**

Our new 501(c)(3) organization helps combat warriors with PTS learn  
to deal with it, and work toward a life of some normalcy. The VA should do  
more for family members. This program does.

Uniquely, we include the caregivers in talks, group sessions and events  
putting them and their children on their journey forward with their  
warriors.



## JANUARY'S KIA'S - MAY WE NEVER FORGET

*DATA AND IMAGES ARE THE RESULT OF THE RESEARCH BY PETE (LEATHER NECK) BELAIRE*



Private First Class **Walter Edwin Mc Intire, Jr.** was born on October 2, 1943 in Laredo, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Mc Intire of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Private First Class Walter Edwin Mc Intire, Jr. began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on August 21, 1966 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. On September 18, 1965, Walter earned a Purple Heart when he was wounded by shrapnel in his leg. He recovered from those wounds and returned to his unit four weeks later. On January 2, 1966, Walter was killed by small arms fire in action near the Bien Hoa Air Base. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Walter's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 04E Line 051.

Private First Class **Michael Dean Cribelar** was born on June 27, 1949 to Mr. Woodrow Dean Cribelar and Mrs. Virginia Cribelar. Michael attended Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He began his tour of duty in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam as an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division on November 22, 1967. Michael was killed on January 11, 1968 from small arms fire after being "In-Country" for one month and eleven days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ypsilanti. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 34E Line 028.



Warrant Officer **John David Eddy** was born on March 1, 1950 to Mr. and Mrs. Delvord Eddy of Ann Arbor, Michigan. John is a 1968 graduate of Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. Warrant Officer John David Eddy began his tour in An Xugen Province, South Vietnam on June 16, 1971. John was the copilot of a helicopter gunship when it was struck by enemy gunfire and crashed. Warrant Officer Eddy died with three of crew-members on January 11, 1972. Warrant Officer John David Eddy earned the



Air Medal for heroism, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Air Medal, National Defense and Vietnam Service Medals and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. He is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 02W Line 096.



Corporal **Eddie Wallace** was born on January 12, 1949 in Birmingham, Alabama to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lee of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Corporal Wallace began his tour of duty in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam on December 20, 1968 serving as a Petroleum Supply Specialist with the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Company, 307th Aviation Battalion, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. Eddie was killed on January 13, 1969 when a hand grenade was thrown at him while he was on guard duty. Eddie had been "In-

Country" for only 23 days. Eddie is resting in Westlawn Cemetery in Inkster, Michigan. Eddie'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 35W Line 086.

Private First Class **Larry Gene Gray** was born on March 19, 1945 in Missouri to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray. Larry is a 1963 graduate of Dundee High School located in Dundee, Michigan. Larry began his tour of duty in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on January 5, 1967 serving as a Food Service Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He was killed on January 17, 1967 when the helicopter he was riding on during a combat support mission disintegrated in flight. He was "In-Country" for only 12 days. Larry's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 14E Line 044.

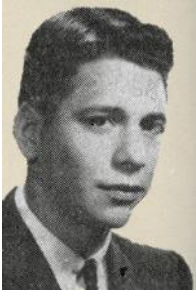


Major **George Frederick Vlisides** was born on December 31, 1924 in Detroit, Michigan to Mrs. Elena Vlisides of Ann Arbor, Michigan. George is a 1943 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He graduated from the Military Academy at West Point near the top of his class in 1950 where his classmates called him, "Gorgeous One". George enlisted in the Air Force after graduation from West Point. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal with two clusters flying 84 missions in the F-84 during the Korean War.

Major Vlisides began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1964 serving with the 1st Air Commando Squadron, 34th



Tactical Group, 13th Air Force. He also was shot down twice with the last time occurring on December 29, 1964. George died on January 27, 1965 when his A-1E Skyraider crashed in a landing attempt at Bien Hoa Airfield. He earned another Distinguished Flying Cross and two more Air Medals during his tour. George's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 01E Line 084.



Warrant Officer **Michael Woodrow Hunter** was born on January 23, 1944 in Durham, North Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow W. Hunter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He began his tour of duty in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam on July 14, 1969 serving as a helicopter co-pilot on an AH-1G with C Troop, First Squadron, Ninth Cavalry, First Air Calvary Division. Michael was killed on January 28, 1970 when the helicopter he was co-piloting was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire during a gun run. The aircraft was struck by a 50 caliber round causing the main rotor to separate. He received the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 14W Line 075.

\*\*If you are a Chapter Patron, please check page 23 to see if you need to renew. Thank you for your continued support of *The 310 Dispatch* and the Chapter!\*\*

### \*\*\* Upcoming Events \*\*\*

Date	Time	Event
Saturdays	0930	Meet at end of southeast parking lot at Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue
10 Jan	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
11 Jan	1700-2100	WACU Fundraiser, Frenchie's, Ypsilanti, MI
12 Jan	1800	AVVA, Friends and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
12 Jan	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
16 Jan	1930	WCCV Meeting, Chelsea Senior Center (unless closed for weather, in which case it will be at Chelsea AL Post 31)
9 Feb	1800	AVVA, Friends and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423 (Calendar Continues on Next Page)





(Calendar continued from previous page)

Date	Time	Event
9 Feb	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
14 Feb	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
17 Apr	1930	WCCV Annual Recognition Dinner, Saline American Legion Post 322
28 Oct	1730	VAAHS Halloween Party. Meet in the lobby in costume.
19 Dec	1730	VAAHS Christmas Party. Meet in the lobby.

If your event is not listed here, email the Dispatch Editor at [jon@bridge2011.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:jon@bridge2011.onmicrosoft.com)



## Regular Meeting Minutes

8 December 2016

Call to order by President Draper at 1902

Pledge of Allegiance and 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!

**Guests:** None.

**Motion** to Approve the October Minutes by St Antoine and Merritt. Approved.

**President's Report:** Draper. Thanks to everyone for approving Proposal 2. It was good to hear all the well-deserved accolades given to Doc at his memorial. Thanks to Chris Wetzler for helping all day with Hire MI Vet.

**Treasure's Report:** Paulo. Reports handed out.

**Friends Report:** Kinzinger (excused). Draper. Please see attached report. AVVA and Friends donated \$100 to the Ann Arbor Fisher House in memory of Doc.

**AVVA Report:** Driscoll. Please see attached report.

**Food Pantry:** Martinez. (excused) No Report.





**Merchandise Report:** Dieter. By Draper. Did well at the VA in December. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday for the rest of the year.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report:** Luker. Please see attached report.

**Memorial Committee Report:** Merritt. Please see attached report.

**Website Committee Report:** McCrumb. All of the details for Doc are on the website now. Check often because the material there will change from time to time. <http://vva310.org/about-us/david-doc-martinez>

**Membership Report:** McCrumb. 28 February is the date they use to set the number of delegates to the convention based on the number of members.

**Newsletter:** Luker. Hibbitts asked folks to send us their personal Vietnam story for the Dispatch.

**VAAHS Report:** Kinzinger (excused). No report

**Veterans Radio:** Throneberry. No report.

**VA State Chapter:** Wilson. No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Motion:** Perrault/Driscoll to give \$100 to Jeff Clark for his expenses in taking out the Friends tree

**Motion:** Perrault/Driscoll to give \$50 to Mike Eadie for his expenses in caring for the memorial maintenance equipment. Approved.

**Special Events Reports:** None

**Good of the Order:**

**Draper:** John K wants us to be a sponsor for the WACU event. 11 January at Sidetrack/Frechie's. Nobody objected.

**Draper:** Is going to use his \$200 emergency fund to give to Cueter Dodge to give to the community for Christmas.

**Draper:** Recognition dinner is four months away, but we need to get to work because Mike and Shada Eadie are not doing the main kitchen job.

**Draper:** Concordia did a great job with the Veterans Day Celebration this year.

**Rogge:** Larry St Antoine won the \$500 State Council Raffle prize.

**Merritt:** Third Saturday of December each year is Wreaths Across America. You must be there by 1000.

**Closing Prayer:** Mayes

Adjourned 1955.



## AVVA Minutes:



January 2017

We are at the end of the holy seasons of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza. I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays. I am looking forward to 2017, which hopefully will be the best year yet for AVVA 310 supporting VVA 310 projects and AVVA 310 Veterans Service Projects.

AVVA 310 has been busy in December.

- We collected *Toys for Tots* at our December meeting. Tim and I delivered them to Mancino's Pizza on Zeeb Rd in Scio Twp.
- The money donated at the potluck table in October and November provided the pinwheel wrap sandwiches and a veggie tray at the December meeting.
- AVVA 310 and Friends of VVA 310 donated \$100.00 to The *Ann Arbor Fisher House 'Build it for the Brave'* in memory of Doc Martinez and \$250.00 was donated to *Military Moms United*.
- AVVA 310 and Friends of VVA 310 distributed shirts at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital on Friday, December 23rd.

Gena and Phil Hecker recently relocated to the Grand Rapids area. We wish them happiness in their new home. Gena retired from University of Michigan.

Gena, enjoy your retirement and please stay in touch with us. We need updates on your beautiful Grandchildren in Grand Rapids. We are sure you will love living close to your family in Grand Rapids.

### Fundraising

Our fundraising efforts were successful in December. I want to thank everyone who participated in the No Bake Bake Sale, Milan Quartermania and especially my former co-workers at Audatex.

- We raised \$133.00 at Milan Quartermania. Thank you Jane and Meni for attending. Next Milan Quartermania will be in February 2017.
- \$460.00 was raised with the No Bake Bake Sale.
- *Ann Arbor Fisher House 'Build it for the Brave'* AVVA 310 voted to support the proposed Ann Arbor Fisher House *'Build it for the Brave'* fundraising. Please think of a fundraiser we can have for this project. Meni Draper is planning a Scrapbook fundraising venue to raise money



for this project. We will have more information at our January meeting.

- Audatex held their Angels and Heroes bake sale and donated \$276.25 to AVVA 310 earmarked to The *Ann Arbor Fisher House 'Build it for the Brave.'*
- We have 120 Wrist Story Bracelets donated to AVVA 310 as a fundraiser to benefit *Ann Arbor Fisher House 'Build it for the Brave'* for a \$5.00 donation. I will have them at our January meeting. Please let me know if you would like one. This project will raise \$600.00 for the *Ann Arbor Fisher House.*



## Membership

AVVA 310 has 26 members. If you are a Friend of VVA 310, please consider joining AVVA 310 and becoming a dual member of AVVA 310 and Friends of VVA 310. AVVA dues are \$20 yearly with three year and lifetime memberships available. We would like all Friends of VVA 310 join AVVA 310 in 2017. I will have membership applications available at our January meeting.

## AVVA National News

### AVVA Michigan State Association Events

The AVVA Michigan State Association is selling Racine Danish Kringles, 1 for \$12.00 or 2 for \$20.00. I passed out the order forms at our December meeting. The sale is going on now through January 11th. Delivery will be on February 9th. Please help support our AVVA Michigan State Association. Contact me at 734-355-4897 to place your order. I will need your orders before our January 12th membership meeting. So far AVVA 310 has sold five Kringles.

### AVVA National Convention 2017

Next year's 2017 AVVA National Convention will be held in New Orleans, August 12-17, 2017 at the New Orleans Marriott. I will have more information in February. It is a National Election year.

AVVA Region 5 convention will be held May 5-6, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio. I will have more information in February and March as it becomes available.

### Update on Toxic Research Bills S 901 and HR 1769

Again our grassroots effort for the last seven years paid off! As of today, HR

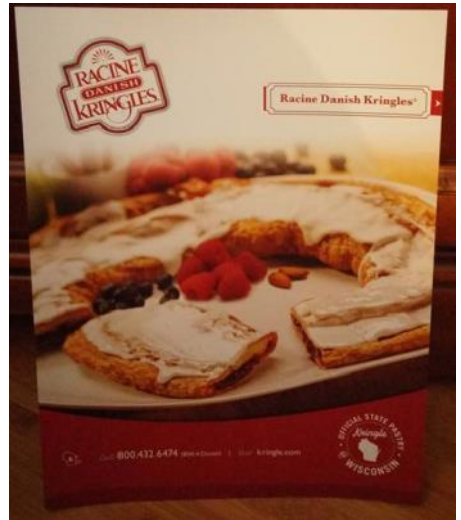


6416, Miller-Blumenthal Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Act passed the Senate on December 10, 2016 and is awaiting President Obama's signature. Thank you for your support of these bills. S 901 and HR 1769 were rolled into this bill.

I hope to see everyone at our next meeting on Thursday, January 12th at the VFW Post 423, Ann Arbor, MI.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310  
AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President  
[dkathyr16@gmail.com](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com)  
734-355-4897



## Friends Minutes:

December 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order with 11 members in attendance. Kathy ordered and picked up pin wheel sandwiches for the meeting. The cost was covered by money put in the basket on the food table. Thanks, Kathy! Thanks to those who brought items for the Toys for Tots Christmas collection. Thanks to Tim and Kathy for delivering them to the drop-off location.

The video from the 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial celebration is on line at the VVA 310 website ([www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org)). It is about an hour long but very interesting and informative.

Thanks to Kate Kirkpatrick and husband Erik Erikson for donating and placing two lovely wreaths at the Vietnam Memorial right after Thanksgiving for the Christmas holidays and winter.

The Friends voted to decorate the VFW on Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 am. We will try to keep it simple this year. George will get the totes and trees out of the barn for us. A few ladies from the VFW Auxiliary will also be there preparing for the VFW Christmas Dinner which is on December 11.

Kathy made a motion (which passed) to inform Sandy Martinez that AVVA wants to donate \$50 to the Fisher House project in honor of Doc Martinez. Friends voted to match that amount, so the donation will be \$100.



Kathy made a motion to continue supporting (\$250) Military Mom's United. Meni has spoken to them personally and they need the funding badly to continue to send packages to warriors in Turkey, Kuwait and Dubai. There was discussion of a fundraiser to get money for this program. Meni offered to call a friend who does family albums and have her help us make Family Albums. The fundraising will result from the purchases we make for items for our family albums from this woman (Meni also has supplies to use). This album party might take place in January if it can be arranged.

The Bradford Pear Tree (Friends Tree) at the Vietnam Memorial has split and requires attention. Friends agreed to have the tree cut down. (We found out in the full VVA meeting that the tree HAS BEEN cut down, per Al Merritt. Tom Mullins was alerted and took a part of the tree for his grandchildren since the tree was dedicated in memory of his wife, Theresa Mullins, in 2003.)

Friends voted to continue planting flowers in the flower bed at the Memorial. We will inform/communicate with the grounds crew (mowing and other maintenance) when we plan to do any work out there so the work will be coordinated.

Birthdays: 1/9 Sandy Martinez

Upcoming dates to remember:

10 Dec. Decorate VFW 1000

20 Dec. Christmas Room Visits at Ann Arbor VA by VVA 528 and Rolling Thunder

23 Dec. Shirt distribution and visit patients at Ann Arbor VA Hospital. Lobby 1730 hours

28 Dec. Take down decorations at VFW. 10:00 am. Lunch to follow.

08 Jan. VVA 310 Underwear Gift Distribution, Ann Arbor VA. Lobby 1330

10 Jan. Merchandising at Ann Arbor VA, 3rd Floor (near Liberty elevators) 0800-1400 hours

11 Jan. WACU Fundraiser, Frenchie's (next to Sidetrack Bar and Grill)

12 Jan. Friends/AVVA/VVA Meeting 6:00 VFW 423, 3230 Wagner Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Respectfully submitted, Jane Kinzinger

**NOTES:** Phil and Gena Hecker are moving to be closer to their daughter. Their new address is: 3309 Derby Crossing Court S.W., Grandville, MI 49418. Gena is retiring from the University of Michigan on January 31, 2017, after 30 years. We wish them the best.

Special thanks to those who helped decorate the VFW for the Christmas holidays. We didn't have the decorations in place for the December VVA meeting, but there were several parties at the VFW when those attending enjoyed the two trees and all the extras that decorated the Post. Wednesday, December 28, the decorations came down as Friends met to put away the



items for another year. Those helping were Bonnie, Shirley, Sandy, Ann, Meni, Kate and Jane. George and Roy made sure the totes were safely stored away in the barn again. With so many helping hands, it was not a big job. It was fun to have lunch together afterward in Saline. Thank you all. The Post is ready for the New Year. Happy New Year!

Jane Kinzinger



734-277-3528



## Chaplain's Corner:

The year 2017 brings with its entry a lot of changes to individual lives, with the election of a new President, national and international changes. But those pale in comparison to what is needed to change the world's condition for the better: a change of individual hearts to be more compassionate, less reactive and to accept others and their conditions with true love that is concerned for others wellbeing.

"What is our part in all this change that needs attending to?" we ask ourselves. Quite simply, a journey of any distance starts with the first step. Our first step needs to be taken and the way our chapter has worked for years is that we take those steps in support of each other. Some are internally motivated and can begin with a knowledge and desire for change and just do it. Others need external motivation and the help of others to assist them in their journey. Whichever is needed the outcome should be obvious that we are changing for the betterment of ourselves, our families, our organization, our nation and the world.

One only needs to look around at what is happening to realize our world is in bitter decay. Insanity abounds on many fronts; people killing others for personal gain or for religious or political beliefs; individuals or corporations stealing from employees, those they serve (clients), stock holders and anyone else for personal or corporate gain and then they try to justify their actions by a "legality" issue devoid of ethics. People making unfounded (read no evidential proof) accusations to demean or hurt others for whatever reason they try to rationalize only add to the demise.

When and where will all the madness stop? It stops with us, the brave who have fought so valiantly to preserve a fair democratic republic for the betterment of others. We can do this. We can begin the process that changes the world.

The lingering question is: "Will We?"

A blessed New Year to all with a hope of a better world in 2017,

Gordon



# Memorial Grounds Report

We met with Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo to discuss several projects including grinding the stump of the Friend's tree, addressing the continuing flooding problem, finding a still better way to get water to the flowers and shrubs, developing a few parking spaces and so forth. We will continue to work together on these ideas after the holiday recess.



At their September meeting, the Friends decided that the Bradford Pear tree should be removed after the 25th Anniversary Celebration was completed. Friends will replace the tree in the spring. In keeping with that understanding, we arranged a date that was suitable for Tommy Mullins

(because the tree was dedicated to his late wife Teresa) and for our volunteer arborist (Friend Jeff Clark) to remove the tree. George Perrault, Wendy Hibbitts, Jon Luker, Tommy Mullins and I helped Jeff with the work and the cleanup. Our thanks to Jeff, not just for his work felling the tree, but



for hauling off all of the wood and brush as well. We started by tying the tree to another tree, just to make sure the memorial was protected. We picked up the chips around the base and trimmed a few branches on the downhill side of the tree. Then Jeff did his magic. A few hours later, the tree was in logs and branches and in the trailer.



See you in the Spring!

Fredo



# Washtenaw County Council

The April recognition dinner will be in Saline after all.

The next meeting will at 1930 on 16 January and will be sponsored by VFW 4076 at the Chelsea Senior Center unless the Chelsea schools close for weather. If that happens, the meeting will be at American Legion Post 31 in Chelsea.





**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
WASHTENAW COUNTY CHAPTER 310  
P.O. BOX 3221 ANN ARBOR, MI 48106**

**CHAPTER TELEPHONE:**

**TOLL FREE NUMBER ~ 1-866-824-4VVA**

**WEB:**

[www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org)

**MEETING DATE & TIME:**

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 1800 HRS  
OPEN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: 1900 HRS  
SOCIAL GATHERING AFTERWARDS

**LOCATION:**

VFW GRAF-O'HARA POST 423  
3230 S. WAGNER RD., ANN ARBOR  
BETWEEN ELLSWORTH & WATERS RDS.,  
(ACROSS FROM TOWN & COUNTRY AUTO RE-  
CYCLING)

**NOTE:** THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER BY THE WRITERS AND CARTOON-  
ISTS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT NECESSARILY  
THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF CHAPTER 310.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER. PLEASE CONTRI-  
BUTE WITH AN ARTICLE OR BIOGRAPHY. IF  
REQUESTED, WRITING HELP IS AVAILABLE.

THE SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN SPELLING AND  
GRAMMAR ENHANCE ITS INDIVIDUAL CHAR-  
ACTER AND AESTHETICS AND IN NO WAY ARE  
TO BE CONSIDERED FLAWS OR DEFECTS. BUT  
THANKS FOR NOTICING.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

JON LUKER

EMAIL: [jon@bridge2011.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:jon@bridge2011.onmicrosoft.com)

**NEWSLETTER STAFF:**

JOHN & JANE KINZINGER

EMAIL: [johnalva@aol.com](mailto:johnalva@aol.com)

GEORGE PERRAULT

EMAIL: [geolois@umich.edu](mailto:geolois@umich.edu)

PETE BELAIRE

EMAIL: [pbelaire@comcast.net](mailto:pbelaire@comcast.net)

WENDY HIBBITTS

EMAIL: [whibbitts.ri@gmail.com](mailto:whibbitts.ri@gmail.com)

**OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:**

POW/MIA HOTLINE: 202.659.0133

AGENT ORANGE: 800.225.4712

WASHTENAW COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES:  
**NEW NUMBER** 734.973.4540

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT BILL OF RIGHTS:  
800.455.5228

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA:  
800.882.1316

**SUICIDE PREVENTION HOT LINE:**

**1.800.273.TALK (8255) Option 1**

[WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONS Lifeline.org/  
VETERANS](http://WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONS Lifeline.org/VETERANS)

**2016/17 Officers & Board Members**

**President**

David Draper

**Vice President**

Vance McCrumb

**Secretary**

Jon Luker

**Treasurer**

Paulo Pereira

**Sgt-at-Arms**

Tim Clarke

**Nominating Committee**

Marv Rivers

Vance McCrumb

**Chaplain**

Rev. Gordon Moore

**Board Of Directors**

**Two Year**

Bill Ballou

Al Merritt

George Perrault

Ken Rogge

Larry St. Antoine



**Board of Directors, con't**

**One Year**

Marty Cothorn  
John Kinzinger  
Dell Mayes  
Marv Rivers  
Elmer White

**State Delegate**

Ken Rogge  
Vance McCrumb

**County Delegates:**

John Kinzinger  
Jon Luker

**VA Service Rep**

(Vacant)

**VVA 310**

**Web Master**

Paulo Pereira

[www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org)

**AVVA**

Kathy Driscoll  
**Agent Orange**  
Sandie Wilson

**310 Friends**

Jane Kinzinger

**Bylaws**

Gordon Moore

**Community Service**

John Kinzinger

**Constitution**

Tom Fifield

**Economic Affairs**

(Vacant)

**Finance**

Paulo Pereira  
Marv Rivers  
Ken Rogge  
Jon Luker

**Food Pantry**

VVA 310

**Historian**

William Vollano  
David Ney

**Legal Affairs**

Elmer White

**Legislative** (Vacant)

**Librarian** **Friends of 310**

**Membership**

Vance McCrumb

**Memorial**

John Kinzinger

**Memorial Grounds**

Al (Fredo) Merritt

**Minority Affairs**

Horace Frazier

**POW/MIA**

Richard Price

**Product Sales**

Al Dieter  
Gary Bourdeau

**Pig Roast**

Don Miller  
Al Dyer

**PTSD**

Joe Palazzolo

**Service Officer**

(Vacant)

Assists Chapter Members

**VAMC Rep.**

John Kinzinger

**Veterans Justice**

Jon Luker

**Webmaster**

Paulo Pereira



## Chapter/Dispatch Patrons - Please check your dates to see if you are current

George F Boone ~ October 2021	Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020	Marv & Wendy Rivers ~ January 2017
Cynthia Calhoun ~ February 2018	Ken Rogge ~ February 2017
Marty Cothorn ~ April 2017	Glenn Sakriska ~ November 2026
Gary Couture ~ November 2017	Edith Semark ~ December 2017
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021	Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019
James Graham ~ February 2019	Tom & Sandy Sorensen ~ October 2017
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021	<i>Chris Wetzler ~ December 2017</i>
Steve Hitte ~ April 2017	<i>Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, David S. Palmer ~ October 2018</i>
Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ October 2018	<i>Bonnie Woods in memory of her husband Gary Woods, VN vet ~ December 2018</i>
Dick Knight ~ May 2018	<i>Helena Prince in Memory of Tom Prince, deceased member ~ April 2023</i>
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ September 2018	<i>Linda Lamey-Leonard In memory of *Lavern Lamey ~ March 2018</i>
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021	
Ron Oliver ~ February 2019	
George Perrault ~ October 2022	

### \*NAME LISTED ON THE WASHTENAW COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The above have made a contribution in a continuing effort to support our Chapter by offsetting the cost of printing and postage. The month and year are when the patron subscription expires. You may also consider a "In Memory Of." Our Chapter retains only \$9.00 of your yearly \$20.00 dues and it costs about \$12.00 a year for printing and postage. If you would like to support your newsletter please make a check payable to VVA 310. Beginning 1 January 2015, 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!**



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

Washtenaw County Chapter 310

P.O. Box 3221

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Please forward. Thank You.

**HERE COMES YOUR FOUR TIME WINNER, NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR**

Next Meeting: 1900 hours 12 January 2017 at GRAF-O'HARA VFW Post 423 3230 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103