



The Chapter 310 Dispatch

June
2017



TWO TIME NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



Washtenaw County KIA's

Larry Eglinsdoerfer	7 June 1969
H. Neil Stehle	11 June 1968
James Covey	21 June 1969
Frank Maki	22 June 1971
Philip Crane II	26 June 1968

Michigan MIA's

Unaccounted for - 49
Accounted for - 36

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President's Message:

On May 5th and 6th Jon Luker and I attended the Region 5 Conference in Columbus, Ohio representing our Chapter as delegates to the 2017 National Conference, which will be held on August 8 – 12. Other representatives from our Chapter were my wife, as a delegate for AVVA; Ken Rogge, representing Michigan State Council as Vice-President and as Chapter delegate to National; and Sandie Wilson, Chapter delegate to National, representing the National Health Care Committee Chair. Opening remarks were made by Tom Burke, Region 5 Director. Cecilia Essenmacher, Region 5 AVVA Director; Cliff Riley, Buckeye State Council President and host of the event, John Rowan, National President; and, Sharon Hobbs, National AVVA President also made interesting presentations.

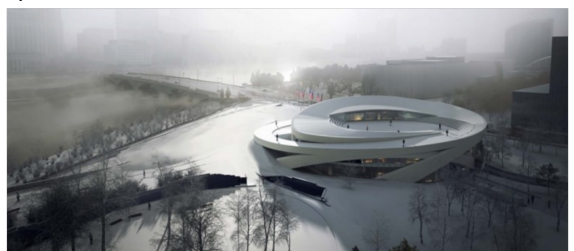


The heart of the Conference was to prepare for the upcoming National Conference in New Orleans. There we will be voting for the National Officers, National Board of Directors, and Regional Board of Directors. There will also be voting on National Constitutional Amendments and Convention Resolutions. I have placed links to each of these topics on the front page of our Chapter website in the Newsflash section. As you can see when you follow the link to the

National Officers and the two Boards of Directors, there is no competition for the current Officers. The National Board of Directors is a totally different story. Nine Board members are allowed at National. Currently there are eighteen nominees. As far as Regional Board of Directors, there are four Regions that will need decisions made. Our Regional Director is running unopposed.

We heard from guest speaker Ashley Lester who is a representative from the Columbus Downtown Development Corp. She gave a presentation (with slides) for the 50,000 square foot National Veterans Memorial and Museum being built in downtown Columbus.

Construction is already in progress and is expected to open next summer. It is the only national museum in the U.S. dedicated strictly to Veterans. Please visit their





website (<http://www.nationalvmm.org>) and look not only at the conceptual pictures, but also look at the in-progress photos. Here's a quote from their website describing the exhibits:

"The exhibit designer, Ralph Appelbaum Associates, is working to create an exhibition that presents a narrative journey evoking the core themes and stories of the veteran experience. The interpretive framework for the exhibits is based on four central pillars: Honor, Connect, Inspire, and Educate. It will honor the historical and contemporary examples of veterans' stories. Rather than focusing exclusively on war, combat, or the military, this exhibition narrative explores the transformative experience of military service while connecting it to the broader idea of public and community service. Further, it hopes to stimulate an ongoing dialogue in an effort to increase connections between civilians and veterans.

To accomplish these goals, the exhibition features a set of Thematic Alcoves evoking the emotions and challenges of those who have served the nation and a dimensional Timeline telling a chronological story of the major events and people who have shaped our military history. Additional emphasis is being placed on developing links between exhibition content and educational curriculum so that the National Veterans Memorial & Museum may be used by educators as a tool to bring content to life both on site and remotely via distance learning modules."

We heard from several of the National candidates for office including our own Sandie Wilson. John Rowan spoke as a candidate for President; Marsha Four, running for Vice-President; Bill Meeks for Secretary; Joseph Jennings II, who is running for Director At Large, who is also currently National Service Officer; Dave Simmons, Director At Large, who also works with Veterans Against Drugs, and Tom Burke, running for Region 5 Director, who also works with Veterans Benefits.



The Banquet was nice. We had previously selected our main dish of either salmon or chicken. I had the chicken and my wife had the salmon. We both thought the meal was very delicious as did the others at our table.

As conferences go, this one was not too bad. The hotel staff was great and very attentive to our needs, and the restaurant food was terrific. It was interesting watching the chef prepare five breakfast egg dishes at once. Very professional.

Over the next few months, in our monthly general meetings, we will



discuss how our members want us to vote when we attend the VVA National Conference. We will have four delegates attending the Conference this year. Jon Luker, Sandie Wilson, and Ken Rogge and I will be casting votes on behalf of our Chapter members.

At our May meeting we formally installed our Officers and Board Members. We now begin our journey into the next term of office.



We thanked outgoing Vice President, Vance McCrumb, for his service and we welcomed in the new VP, Al Merritt. The Board members were also welcomed and thanked for stepping up to the plate.



Shortly after the installation, I formally presented Sandie Wilson with the Doc Martinez President's Award. She was not in attendance at the Recognition Dinner, so Sandy Martinez accepted the award, at that time, on behalf of Sandie. Sandie has been a staunch advocate for Agent Orange issues. As far as I can tell, she is also the first woman in our Chapter to receive one of the three awards that are presented at the Recognition Dinner. Congrats!

Over the last weekend of the month of May we will be busy with Memorial Day events. There are several processions, along with Watch Fire and our 26th Memorial Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti. I hope you all will have had an opportunity to attend and/or participate in at least one of the events. I will try to give you a report next month on the ones I attend.

Jon Luker put together the package for submission of our Chapter for National Newsletter and E-Newsletter of the Year. I have mailed them off and have received confirmation that National has received them. I finally finished putting together the package for submission of our Chapter for National Chapter of the Year also. I have mailed the package off and have received confirmation that it is out for delivery on Monday, May 22. It is way more work than I anticipated but am hopeful we will win all the awards again this year. For those of you reading this on the website, you can see at the top of the site, we are four time winners of the Newsletter of the Year and two time winners of the Chapter of the Year. It would be especially great to win these awards because we would be in attendance to accept them. Wish us luck!



Coming up in June we have Merchandising at the VA Medical Hospital, the Dexter - Ann Arbor Run and the VVA 310 Party. I hope you will be able to participate.

The Prez
SSgt Dave Draper
C-130 Loadmaster



(Among those we won't abandon, the 7th Infantry Division, recently deployed to Afghanistan)

Care Package Number 4,000!

By John Kinzinger

Back in 2003, members of VVA 310 began packing boxes in the Kinzinger's living room for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then we have mailed 3,975 packages to military personnel overseas. The cost of the postage to mail them has exceeded \$60,000 which has been paid by loyal donors and additional fundraising.

On Sunday, June 11th, at 3 p.m., we will begin our next packing party at the Ann Arbor VFW Post at 3230 S. Wagner Road. If you are bringing items for the packages, please be there at 2:30. We will begin with a prayer at 3pm. We will reach a milestone that day when we pack box number 4,000!

If you would like to help, come out and pack with us. If you would like to bring morale building personal letters or notes to put in the packages, please do that also. We do pack special packages for females too. If you would like to bring items to put in the packages, I would suggest CDs, DVDs, individual snack foods, magazines (not more than 60 days old), nuts, hand sanitizer, socks, bandanas, etc.

We have a potluck meal afterwards, so please remember that too. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy breaking bread with us.

We have attorney Elmer White who is again willing to match up to \$500 at the packing party for postage cost. Please remember that too.

We would be surprised at how many service personnel we have touched over all these years and packages. We continue to live our Chapter motto.



(Among those we won't abandon, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, recently deployed to Afghanistan)

“Memorial Day” by CW Johnson

“We walked among the crosses
 Where our fallen soldiers lay.
 And listened to the bugle
 As TAPS began to play.
 The Chaplain led a prayer;
 We stood with heads bowed low.
 And I thought of fallen comrades
 I had known so long ago.
 They came from every city
 Across this fertile land.
 That we might live in freedom.
 They lie here 'neath the sand.

I felt a little guilty.
 My sacrifice was small.
 I only lost a little time,
 But these men lost their all.
 Now the services are over
 For this Memorial Day.
 To the names upon these crosses
 I just want to say,
 Thanks for what you've given.
 No one could ask for more.
 May you rest with God in heaven
 From now through evermore.”



(Among those we won't abandon, the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, recently deployed to Afghanistan)

New Flag Stands

Thanks to George Perrault and several people he convinced to help out with the project, including VFW Post 423, there are three new sets of flag stands, five new flags and two recovered flags.



This first picture shows the six flags that will flank VVA 310 officers during future meetings. From left to right, they are: The US flag, The State of Michigan flag, The POW/MIA flag, the Agent Orange Flag, The Associate Vietnam Veterans of America flag and, finally, the Vietnam Veterans of America flag.

The Agent Orange flag and the two new flag stands were donated by Home Services of America. George Sondergeld was the craftsman who built them. These six flags have all new tops thanks to an anonymous donor.



This second picture shows five new service flags, seven new tops and a cleverly designed new, portable flag stand. The stand folds in the middle so it can fit in a car. This full display is available for use by VFW 423 and VVA 310 as both units contributed funds for its development.

Again, the flags and new tops came from an anonymous donor. The flag stand was donated by Milan Die Casting Company and was crafted by Vic Diehr.

The businesses and craftsman were presented with a Chapter Challenge Coin and thank-you letters.

Bags for transporting the flags came from Shirley Hitte. Steve and Shirley assembled everything.



More Than Names On the Wall

Part Three, by Jane Kinzinger

June is the month of new beginnings and different assignments. Couples are getting married. Students are enjoying summer vacation. Recent graduates are starting jobs for which they have prepared or are taking other jobs until openings occur or opportunities arise in their field of interest. The summer months are also when the most babies are born, so there are new infants to be cared for and loved.

That brings us to the focus of this month for the 76 young men on our Vietnam Memorial. How many were married? 28 men (40%) were married; 48 (60%) were single. How many had children or maybe one on the way? There were 25 children left behind by the 17 who had children. What were their assignments or jobs as they were sent to Vietnam?



Pete Belaire researched the MOS of these 76. It is interesting to note the range of jobs for which they received specific training and to which they were officially assigned. The most prevalent job specification was Infantryman (Army) and Rifleman (Marine) which was listed for 35 of the servicemen. Recognizable specialties were: Hospital Corpsman/Medic (5), Helicopter Pilot and Helicopter Maintenance and Repair (5), Skyraider A-1H Pilot (3), Fixed-Wing Spotter Pilot (1), Heavy Bomber Pilot (2), Military Police (1), Armor Reconnaissance Specialist (1), Antitank Assaultman (2), Radio-Teletype Operator (2), Antenna Installer Specialist (1), Wire Systems Installer (1), Combat River Boat Patrol (1), Food Service Specialist (1), Tactical Intelligence Staff Officer (1), Cannon Fire Direction Specialist or Officer (2), Fire Protection Specialist (1), Field Artillery Cannoneer (1), and Heavy Construction Equipment Operator and Instructor (1).

Regardless of their specific assignments, some of them were filling in or covering for another or volunteering for something outside of their specialty when they were killed.

It took a "team," and every man did his job to support each other and to maintain safety of all. All jobs were important and critical to the mission. While some died fulfilling their assignment, others died while performing outside their MOS or from accidental injury or illness. The testimony of men who served with them supports the fact that these men performed their duties and, in many cases, saved others from being killed. They are forever remembered for their selfless courage.



(Among those we won't abandon, the 125th Infantry Regiment, 37th Brigade Combat Team, deployed OIF)



JUNE'S KIA'S - MAY WE NEVER FORGET

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



Lance Corporal **Larry James Eglinsdoerfer** was born on April 8, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Eglinsdoerfer. Larry is a 1966 graduate of Milan High School located in Milan, Michigan. He was employed by Ford Motor Company at the Saline Plant in Saline, Michigan when he entered the Marine Corps on April 16, 1968.

Lance Corporal Eglinsdoerfer began his tour of duty in An Hoa, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 5, 1968 serving as an Antitank Assaultman with F Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. According to a posting by Private First Class Michael Ryan:

"Eggy had 3 days left. A Sergeant came in the tent and asked for a volunteer to go to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines bunker line. Eggy said, 'I'm too short! I had just got back from the hospital...second Purple Heart. When the Sergeant convinced Eggy I wasn't in shape for it, Eggy agreed to go. After the Sergeant left I said, 'I'll go Eggy'. He looked at me, for the last time and said, peacefully, 'No, I'll go Ryan'. Four hours later he was dead. Once when we hadn't been supplied with food for a while, Eggy shared a tin of jelly with me. Thank you for my life Eggy. Semper Fi!"

Larry was killed on June 7, 1969 when an enemy rocket hit his bunker. Larry James Eglinsdoerfer is survived by his parents, three brothers and four sisters. He lived for 21 years, 1 month and 29 days. He is resting in the York Township Cemetery near his home in Milan, Michigan. Larry's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial located in Washington, DC on Panel 23W Line 099.

Specialist 4th Class **H. Neil Stehle** was born on March 30, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Stehle in Ann Arbor. Neil is a 1963 graduate of Ann Arbor High School where he was on the gymnastics team. He attended Eastern Michigan University majoring in psychology prior to entering the United States Army on April 29, 1967.





Specialist 4 H. Neil Stehle completed his basic training, and radio and communications courses at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He went to Fort Benning, Georgia where he received training at the paratrooper school. Neil was sent to Vietnam on December 13, 1967 where he was assigned to B Company, First Battalion, 503rd Infantry, of the 101st Airborne Division. On June 3, 1968, Specialist 4 Stehle was serving in Thua Thien Province in South Vietnam when he was wounded by small arms fire. Neil was transported to a hospital in Japan where he died of his wounds on June 11, 1968. He lived 23 years, 2 months and 11 days.

H. Neil Stehle is resting in Washtenong Cemetery in Ann Arbor. He is survived by his parents and two sisters including seven nieces and nephews. Neil is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial and is located on Panel 58W Line 027 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.



Private First Class **James Herbert Covey** was born on August 3, 1949 is the son of Herbert H. and Patty Sue Tate Covey. James is a 1968 graduate of Ypsilanti High School located in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He worked at the Ypsilanti Public Library for two years since he was 16 years of age.

Private First Class Covey began his tour of duty near Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on June 3, 1969 serving with K Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces as a rifleman. James was killed on the evening of June 21,

1969 as a result of an explosion from a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) after being "In-Country" for 18 days.

James Herbert Covey is survived by his mother and father. He lived for 19 years, 10 months and 18 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. James' 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 22W Line 103.

Major **Frank Rudolph Maki** was born on March 13, 1928 in Rudyard, Michigan to Mr. Victor and Mrs. Lemple Ann Maki. Frank graduated from Rudyard High School before enlisting in the Army in 1946 where he completed his Basic Training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He took part in the Berlin Airlift serving at the Rhein Main Air Base as an Air Ground Liaison NCO. He returned from Germany and spent some time as a civilian before returning to the Army in 1950 where he served with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea as a rifle and weapons squad leader. Sergeant Maki accepted a reserve commission as a Second Lieutenant while





serving in the Korean War. He continued to serve in the Regular Army as an NCO, as he was promoted as a reserve officer. Since Korea, Frank served with the 821st Engineer Aviation Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri then serving with the 820th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Michigan State University as a military science instructor. According to the Battalion History of the Army ROTC Battalion at Eastern Michigan University, "in 1961, he taught ROTC at Eastern Michigan University for four years, where he led the rifle team to the championship and served as an advisor to Arm of Honor Fraternity. During this time, he accepted his promotion to Captain even though he was rated number one on the list to be promoted to Sergeant Major. He then served as a Company Commander at Fort McClellan where his troops would earn four consecutive Best Company awards."

Major Maki began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1971 serving as an Advisor, Advisor Team 3, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Advisors. Captain Maki was killed in action at Fire Support Base Fuller in Quang Tri Province while coordinating medical aid to wounded soldiers on June 22, 1971 during his third tour in Vietnam. He was then posthumously promoted to Major.

Frank Rudolph Maki is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, his father, two sisters and two brothers. He lived 43 years, 3 months and 9 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Frank'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 03W Line 086.



Second Lieutenant **Philip Matt Crane II** was born on January 29, 1947 to Mrs. Howard P. Gragg and the late Philip M. Crane of Ypsilanti. Philip played the accordion when he was very small. He played Little League Baseball. Philip is a 1965 graduate of Ypsilanti High School where he played on the varsity tennis team, was a member of the varsity debate team, and a member of the National Honor Society. He worked all during High School and College at the A&P Store. He went on to attend the University of Michigan until he enlisted in the

Army on February 1, 1967. He completed Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Second Lieutenant Crane began his tour in Vinh Long Province, South Vietnam on May 14, 1968 serving as a Tactical Intelligence Staff Officer on Advisory Team 52, Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV).



Lieutenant Crane was flying in a helicopter as a special observer when a flare ignited inside the aircraft causing him to fall from the aircraft on June 26, 1968. He was "In-Country" for one month and 11 days.

Philip Matt Crane II is survived by his mother, his wife, and a sister. He lived 21 years, 4 months and 27 days. He is resting in Crestwood Memorial Gardens in Flint, Michigan. Philip'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 54W Line 002.

*** 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
9 Jun	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
9 Jun	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
10 Jun	0900	Breakfast at the Bomber in Ypsilanti
13 Jun	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
15 Jun	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
19 Jun	1930	WCCV Meeting, American Legion Post 282, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
4 Jul		Downtown Ypsilanti Parade hosted by American Legion 282 followed by Veterans Family 4th of July Picnic
11 Jul	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
13 Jul	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
13 Jul	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
17 Jul	1930	WCCV Meeting, location tbd
27 Jul	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
8-12 Aug		VVA and AVVA National Convention at the New Orleans Marriott
24 Aug	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
2-4 Sep		Yankee Air Museum Air Show, Thunder over Michigan
10 Sep	1200-1600	Pig Roast — VVA fundraiser
23 Sep		LZ Michigan Veterans Reunion, Fifth Third Ballpark.
14 Sep	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
14-16 Sep	1630	Kokomo 35th Veterans Reunion
26 Oct	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
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.Luker@SFchap55.net



Regular Meeting Minutes

11 May 2017

Call to order by President Draper at 1802

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

New Officers Sworn In: by VVA National Board Member Sandie Wilson



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

Guests: None.

Motion to Approve the April Minutes, Moved by Draper, second by Wilson. Approved.

President's Report: Draper. WJR radio personality, Frank Beckman, interviewed LTC Kettles. There is a link to the interview on the Chapter website.

22 May is a Quartermania at Milan American Legion 268. Starts at 1830 but doors open at 1700. AVVA requests your help. It would be good to have 7 or 8 people.

Senator Rubio introduced a bill to make it easier to get rid of underperforming people at the VA. If you want to, there is a letter on the website that you can put your name on that will then go to your representatives.

The number of unaccounted for POW-MIA's is coming down, but is still very high. POW-MIA family members continue to need our support.

Treasure's Report: Paulo. Reports handed out. New format introduced. What is your reason for wanting people to donate a large amount of money? Bourne showed the two financial statements on the screen. Questions were answered.

AVVA Report: M Draper. Driscoll is doing better and is with her family. No financial report this month. I attended the Regional AVVA Conference. 22nd May Milan American Legion doors open at 1700. Bidding starts at 1830. AVVA wants to do a little ceremony to commemorate the new Friend's tree at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. AVVA is working on a new uniform.



Food Pantry: No activity

Merchandise: Dieter. Merchandise gave away over \$2,100 of Chapter funds without board approval. Recipients include Warriors and Caregivers United (WACU), VA Voluntary Services and Fisher House Michigan. Still at VA 2nd Tuesday of the month. Only festival we are going to is the Clinton Fall Festival. Not going to any others. May go to a VFW event to help them out. Discussion ensued without resolution of any issue. Dieter resigned.

WCCV. Luker. Team Red, White & Blue joined the Council. AVVA was invited to join. Dr. Ransom is still a problem, but the Veterans Evaluation Services process is helping both to provide an alternative and to speed up the process.

Memorial Report, Merritt. Restructured groundwater drain system seems to be working fine. New bushes are in place. Home Depot will grind the stump and edge the sidewalks. At 10 a.m. on May 17 AVVA will plant flowers and care for the garden.

Website: McCrumb. Up and running

Membership: McCrumb. Official membership is 192.

Newsletter: Check the names on the board and officers page. Check out Peter Dodge's Poem.

VA Report: Wilson: Battle Creek and Detroit are rated at a 1 (on a 5-point scale with 5 being good). Saginaw and Iron Mountain are rated at 3 and the Ann Arbor VA is at 4.

Don't forget to use your medical benefits. But be careful. The VA is famous for over-medication. Also, if you go to Detroit, the GP's there don't know about the PTSD clinic so they send you to a regular old-style psychiatrist even if you complain of PTSD type symptoms. Ask for a referral to the PTSD clinic and you'll get a better result.

VVA is looking for a scientist who can help prove the outcome of what happens when men pass on Agent Orange damage to their children. "Genes for Good" on facebook wants to test your genes to help with Agent Orange research. The cost of the test is "free." It's only a swab in the mouth.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Motion Wilson/Rogge to reimburse VFW 423 for 1/3 the cost (up to \$200) of a new sign for out by the road expected to cost no more than \$600. Approved.



Good of the Order:

Perrault: There are new flags with new two-part poles with new eagles or spears on top. Each flag has its own bag for transporting the flag. If you move the flags, take them apart, use the bags, store them flat. There was a lot of work put into making the bags, so don't lose them.

Draper: The website now has the new constitutional amendments and resolutions that will be discussed at the conference in New Orleans. Please let us know your opinions so that we can represent our VVA Chapter properly.

Draper: Think about serving on the Pig Roast committee. Pig Roast will be 10 September. We also need help on the day of the event as well. A roundabout will be built at Scio Church Road and Wagner about the time of the Pig Roast.

Draper: Breakfast at the bomber tomorrow at 0900

Miller: The folks doing merchandise could use more help at the VA on the second Tuesday of each month.

Closing Prayer: D Draper

Adjourned 2017.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker



Chaplain's Corner:

734-277-3528

glmoore@umich.edu

Recently at our WACU board meeting, which included five VVA 310 members, we discussed a "hot" topic: how to best, a.k.a., the most efficient way, to help someone in trouble before they do something that tears themselves and their caregivers apart.

It was brought up that ultimately they must become the captain of their own ship. That concept begged several questions to me, as I pondered the process. What procedures can be implemented to allow a person to actually see what is facing them in the mirror, without there being denial? How do we best come alongside the caregivers and family members to shore them up while this process continues to give them hope and coping mechanisms? What is our responsibility should our efforts fail and the person takes their own life or does something so radical as to warrant societal discipline?

There are some procedures in place (Veteran's Court, Bridge, VA assistance, WACU, and various veterans help lines), but, ultimately, it



involved our being active in the process. Sometimes that involvement leads us to frustrations much like the caregivers go through on a regular basis. That frustration is my focal point for this article.

Most of us have worked through a number of similar issues and have some experiences to help in our mentoring or coming alongside. But those experiences have also taught us that not all wounds heal with the passing of time; as Frodo Baggins said at the end of LOTR, The Return of the King, because they cut too deeply, like having limbs blown off, head injuries, or replaying a scene where a friend gave his life for us. They are life altering events that drastically change the status quo, and thus alter our norm – forever.

For me, I had a long road as I wrestled with the Lord and others to find a new norm. But I did eventually find it without having to have “answers” to all my questions. Granted, I had the advantage of theological training to speed the process, and even with that training, it took 11 years. My help came from the Psalms, through David who was also a warrior and leader of warriors and a nation. As he struggled he penned the following that I offer for your contemplation: Psalm 23 (which most are familiar with) through Psalm 25. The entire passage should be read together and thoroughly meditated upon.

Especially relevant is Psalm 25: 1-5:

“Unto you O Lord, do I lift up my soul [that which is ripped apart and bleeding]. O my God, I trust in you: let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies [wounds external and internal] triumph over me. ... Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth, and teach me: for You are the God of my salvation: on you do I wait all the day.”

Healing does not come quickly, but the wait is “well” worth the time it takes.

Peace be upon you and your loved ones,

Gordon



Memorial Grounds Report

First off, let me thank all of those people who helped get the Memorial in shape for the season and for the Watch Fire and the Memorial Service. Several people told me that the Memorial has never looked better. That’s thanks





to your hard work and dedication to the memory of those whose names are on the wall.

Jon and I did walk through inspection on a few occasions with Aaron Berkholtz from OHM Advisors, Josh Malic from Anglin Engineers, and Jeff Allen, Ypsilanti Township Grounds Coordinator, to investigate the sources of flooding around the Memorial site and to discuss steps to fix it. The contractor agreed to replace all the dead bushes as well but argued that we should start out with bigger, healthier bushes than we put in last year. The work was done in time to keep the place dry in spite of the storms right before Memorial day.

Discussions are underway with Doan Construction who has volunteered to help us out with several projects at the Memorial site. We are grateful for their continued support. Ypsilanti Township has also already expressed support for the projects. We are now looking for an engineer to help draw up the plans.

We were blessed with the chance to obtain a second hand, self-propelled lawnmower with a grass catcher attachment. It makes things much easier.



The picture to the left is the "before" picture. Wendy is using the old mower, having to go over everything two or three times to get rid of the grass clumps left from the first pass. It would take as much as an hour and a half to get the front grass cut right.

Below, you see the "after" picture.



Now, she's three times faster! And you saw the result last Monday.



Lastly, I want you to see two good reasons why the Memorial looks so good.

Until next time,

Fredo





**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

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.

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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.SUICIDEPREVENTIONSLIFELINE.ORG/
VETERANS](http://WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONSLIFELINE.ORG/VETERANS)

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Jon Luker

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Paulo Pereira

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Tim Clarke

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Vance McCrumb

Chaplain

Rev. Gordon Moore

Board Of Directors

Two Year

Roy Hall

Vance McCrumb

Don Miller

Elmer White

Sandie Wilson



Board of Directors, con't

One Year

- Bill Ballou
- George Perrault
- Marv Rivers
- Ken Rogge
- Larry St. Antoine

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- Jon Luker
- Tim Driscoll

County Delegates:

- Al (Fredo) Merritt
- Wendy Hibbitts
- Jon Luker

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(Vacant)

VVA 310

Web Master

- Paulo Pereira

www.vva310.org

AVVA

- Kathy Driscoll

Agent Orange

- Sandie Wilson

Bylaws

- Gordon Moore

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- John Kinzinger

Constitution

- Tom Fifield

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(Vacant)

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- Berryman Bourne
- Ken Rogge
- Jon Luker
- Chris Wetzler

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- Don Miller

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- David Ney

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- Elmer White

Legislative (Vacant)

Librarian (Vacant)

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- Vance McCrumb

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- John Kinzinger

Memorial Grounds

- Al (Fredo) Merritt

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POW/MIA

- Richard Price

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- Al Dieter
- Gary Bourdeau

Pig Roast

- Don Miller
- Al Dyer

PTSD

- Joe Palazzolo

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(Vacant)

Assists Chapter Members

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- 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	George Perrault ~ October 2022
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020	Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
Cynthia Calhoun ~ February 2018	Ken Rogge ~ April 2018
Gary Couture ~ November 2017	Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021	Edith Semark ~ December 2017
James Graham ~ February 2019	Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021	Tom & Sandi Sorensen ~ October 2017
Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ October 2018	Chris Wetzler ~ December 2017
Dick Knight ~ May 2018	Elizabeth Wong ~ June 2018
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ September 2018	Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, David S. Palmer ~ October 2018
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021	Bonnie Woods in memory of her husband Gary Woods , VN vet ~ December 2018
Dell Mayes ~ April 2018	Helena Prince in Memory of Tom Prince , deceased member ~ April 2023
Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018	Linda Lamey-Leonard In memory of *Lavern Lamey ~ March 2018
Ron Oliver ~ February 2019	
Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ August 2018	

***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.

“NEVER AGAIN, SHALL A VET COMING HOME FROM BATTLE, BE MADE TO FEEL ALONE AND UNAPPRECIATED”

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

Next Regular Meeting: 1900 hours 8 June 2017 at GRAF-O’HARA VFW POST 423 3230 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103