



# The Chapter 310 Dispatch

April  
2017



## TWO TIME NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



### Washtenaw County KIA's

<a href="#">James Bihlmeyer</a>	15 April 1967
<a href="#">William Johnson</a>	17 April 1966
<a href="#">Robert Crabbe</a>	18 April 1967
<a href="#">Michael Jon Wallace</a> — MIA	19 April 1968
<a href="#">Clive Mosier</a>	24 April 1967

### Michigan MIA's

Unaccounted for - 49  
Accounted for - 36



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## President's Message:



On February 27, the AVVA 310 held another Quartermania to raise funds for the Fisher House Michigan. This time several of the VVA members, including me, assisted Kathy Driscoll, who led the event. I am guessing there were around thirty participants plus eight volunteers. It was a fun night with lots of prizes being won and more money placed into the Fisher House kitty. The ladies have done a stellar job of raising funds through these Quartermanias and scrapbooking events. Kudos from all of us at VVA 310.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Meni and I attended the Welcome Home Celebration Military Appreciation Night sponsored by the Ann Arbor VA Hospital. It was held this year at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. We were greeted by the familiar faces of Beverly Conaster and April LaRock from the VA. We received our wrist bands and proceeded to chow. They served salad, several versions of mostaccioli, hot dogs, pizza, pop, and cookies. Very tasty! Talked with a few of the vets and their families that were sitting at the same table with us. We made our tour from there around the upper deck to see all the vendors. There were sixteen vendors plus many of the departments of the VA Hospital. We stopped to take a couple of pictures along the way with the mascot for the USA Team, and with Beverly and April. Then the hockey game started. It was between USA Hockey's National Team and the Waterloo Blackhawks. We stayed for the first period and then had to leave. We saw a few people we knew but the only one from our Chapter was Jim Dempsey, although he was at a vendor table representing DAV and Michigan Fisher House. Hopefully we can make a better appearance next time.





Unfortunately, it was not all fun this past month. We attended the funeral of the fourth chapter member to die this year. Pete Bellaire's brother, David, passed away Saturday, March 11. David was a life member of our Chapter. My wife and I and several Chapter members attended the visitation on March 15 in Adrian, MI. We each paid tribute to David by placing a poppy on his chest, saluting, and retiring. For as somber as the occasion was, we enjoyed talking with Pete, his family, and David's family and listening to them share their experiences about David's life. David was buried in the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. May God rest his soul and fill the emptiness in the hearts of the family.

Meni Draper did another great job with merchandising at the VA Hospital. As you may know, we sell our military paraphernalia each month on the second Tuesday of the month. As I understand it, we had a great turnout of volunteers. Thanks to our members for that. We have a great group of people in our organization. Sales were off a little, but more people are hearing about our Chapter. I know there is an ever-increasing number of people from the VA Hospital that look forward to our being there each month. Perhaps, when the construction is complete, we can finally talk the administration into allowing us to set up in the new lobby on the first floor.



On March 15, Don Miller and I representing VVA 310, Elmer White representing American Legion Post 46, and Chris Dea of VFW 423, met at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital for a photo op commemorating the VA's new Club Cart, which our three organizations collectively purchased. After we had taken a few pictures, a few VA Hospital

personnel came down to take pictures with us. I was able to take a picture with Dr. Singh, the Assistant Director of the Hospital. They seemed to be appreciative. The photos are posted on our website and on the Ann Arbor VA's website. Check them out. This is something that our Chapter can certainly be proud of.





On March 17 Meni and I had a great time at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor listening to the US Navy Band. It was really great to see that they played to a packed house. They played a diverse program from Sousa to movie themes. And, since this event fell

on St. Paddy's Day, they played 'Oh Danny Boy'. They had a great soloist singer who sang three songs, and solo saxophone and French horn players. As was expected, they played tribute to all the branches of service. All in all, it was a great, relaxing night out. We enjoyed it thoroughly.

We are close to having our budget and audit complete. Hard to believe it's that time again. Seems the older we get the faster time goes by!

Just a reminder, we will not be having a meeting on our regular second Tuesday of the month (April 13). We will instead have an Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Annual Meeting is required by VVA National. We will also hold our final nominations and then the elections. Meeting starts at 1200 hrs at the VFW 423 Post. Elections run from 1300 to 1600 hrs.



If you have not already purchased your tickets for the 2017 Gary Lillie Recognition Dinner purchase them now. Don't wait until the last minute. George Perrault and I are selling the tickets. Email either one of us to purchase them. At the event you will have a great meal, get to talk with our VIPs, one of whom is our own Colonel Kettles, and participate in our drawings and 50/50 raffle. It's our opportunity to show our support for those who spend a lot of their time and effort supporting our Veterans, our Chapter, and our community.

And let's not forget the great time we have socializing with our friends and maybe there are some members that you have not seen in a while. Come join the fun!

The Prez

SSgt Dave Draper





## **Join us for our Watch Fire and Flag Retirement Ceremony**

The term "watch fire" goes back to Civil War days. Soldiers would be so disoriented by the smoke and fog of war that they wouldn't know for sure where they were. So, soldiers at the base camp would light a big fire to guide them home. When we retire flags on the eve of Memorial Day, we read the name of a fallen comrade and place a flag in the fire for them. It is our symbolic way of helping the fallen find their way back home.

Please join us on Sunday, 28 May, just before dusk for a quiet gathering before the watch fire. We remember, talk, eat and prepare for the watch fire ceremony. Join us, especially if you have someone special to remember. You may dedicate a flag to any deceased servicemember, without regard to how or why they died. Let us remember them with you.

And then join us again on Monday, 29 May. We will hold our traditional Memorial Day ceremony at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 1300. In our way of doing things, each year is different, but has common elements with prior years. Music, poems, remembrances all focus on those we will never forget. The ceremony is a reason to come, but the Memorial and being with each other is a reason to stay for a while afterward (or before). For both events, feel free to bring a lawn chair.



# Walmart Grant for Memorial



**Al Merritt**  
Memorial Maintenance  
Committee Chair

**Leticia Toy**

**George Perrault**

**Pete Belaire**

In the late fall, last year, Chapter 310 sent a grant request to Walmart asking them to support our Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter received a grant check from Walmart for \$700.00. This was a pleasant surprise to us because Walmart indicated that the grant would take an estimated four to six weeks, but we received the reply and check in a matter of days.

When we asked Walmart if we could make a formal presentation of the check and express our thanks to them in person, they instructed us to arrange that at a local Sam's Club (owned by Walmart). Leticia Toy, on behalf of Kathy Wittmans, Ypsilanti Sam's Club manager, formally presented the check to VVA 310 Life members Al (Fredo) Merritt, George Perrault and Pete Belaire. Perrault and Belaire expressed the Chapter's thanks for Walmart's support of veterans and for their gracious grant.

Thank you Walmart!

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Long ago, Aristotle observed, "those who cannot bravely face danger are the slaves of their attackers." More recently, journalist Elmer Davis reminded us that "this nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." If the veterans of our nation's wars do not help people remember that bravery is the first tool to deploy against terrorists, who will? When it comes to the choice between security and freedom, choose freedom again. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."



## Grass Lake Area Historical Connections

*Where History Matters*

On 4 November 2016, with the help of crowd funding and veteran support, Grass Lake Area Historical Connections opened the largest military museum dedicated to telling the stories of the average Michigan service member. The new Michigan Military Heritage Museum does that through "interpretive displays of artifacts, pictures, and written and oral histories."

The museum, located at 153 N Union Street, Grass Lake, MI 49240, is now open to the public on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1100 to 1700. Their phone number is (517) 926-6696. Their website is <http://glaHC.com/cpage.php?pt=11>. You may also see a 27 March 2017 Detroit Free Press Article about the museum at <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2017/03/27/soldiers-stories-star-new-michigan-military-museum/99534292/>.

Thanks to Don Miller for sharing this information with us.

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## Speaking of Museums

In honor of Memorial Day, and the one hundredth anniversary of American entry into World War I, VFW Graf-O'Hara Post 423 will host an open house featuring their Military Museum display from 1000 through 1700 from 24 May through 29 May. Items on display include military uniforms dating from World War I, medals, web gear, weapons, helmets, boots, patches and personal items.

The open house is free to the general public. The display will be at VFW Post 423, 3230 S Wagner Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. For more information, contact Milton J. Davis at (517) 740-2199 or [grafoharavfw432@gmail.com](mailto:grafoharavfw432@gmail.com). Milton is the person most responsible for causing the collection to exist, so if you have items you'd like to donate, be sure to tell him about those.



## Chapter Events at VAAHS

The following VVA event dates are set up for 2017 for our Healthcare System patient visits. We have had so many people come to help at our Christmas shows we chose to split the event into two dates. Come on out to one or all the events and bring smiles to the hospitalized Veterans we visit.

The next event of the year is our Halloween celebration, Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Be in costume in the lobby at 5:30pm. Our pumpkin carving artist, Ron Henley, will do his art on a couple giant pumpkins. The patients get a big kick out of seeing them rolled into their rooms in wheelchairs. Then of course we get to dress and act out of character as we always do. Then we go to Sidetrack Bar and Grill in Ypsilanti for food and refreshments. We have been doing our Halloween event for about 20 years.

The first Christmas event will be Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Saline Fiddlers will join us in the lobby at 5:30pm. We will give out our specially embroidered shirts that evening to each hospitalized patient. All remaining shirts are given to the Oncology office to give to cancer treatment Veterans.

The second Christmas event will be on our regular date, the third Tuesday in December. That is December 19<sup>th</sup>. Be in the lobby at 5:30. 2017 Miss Michigan and Miss Washtenaw County, and Stacey Mason will join us that evening as we bring more smiles to the hospitalized Veterans. Other groups who join us usually bring items to give to the patients.

John Kinzinger  
President, Warriors and Caregivers United

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

Peace be with you in abundance.

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## More than Names on the Wall

By Jane Kinzinger

The Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial on the grounds of the Ypsilanti Civic Center lists the names of 76 young men from Washtenaw County who were killed in action while serving our country in the Vietnam War. There are also 2 still missing in action from that war. The names represent 76 young men from our area who sacrificed all.

John Kinzinger is writing a book about these 76 young men to make sure they are not forgotten, though it has been 50 years or





more since some of them left their homes and loved ones. There is also a story behind why the Memorial is in Ypsilanti Township and how our VVA Chapter 310 was involved in getting this Memorial built. Much of this historical information will be written in John's book on which he has been focusing much time the last few months. He hopes to get it to an editor and then a publisher soon.

I have been reading and proofing John's work as he finalizes the stories and information. He has included information from friends and loved ones of those killed, as well as information collected on each by Pete Belaïre. Dave Draper has researched each and designed a map with push pins keyed to show where each soldier served. That map is on display at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center.

As I read each of the 76 write-ups, I thought it was interesting to note the aspects which tied them together. How many went to the same high school or college? How many were buried in the same cemetery? These things and others that they had in common are difficult to pull together unless you have studied all the write-ups. I found these things in common to be interesting facts that you might also like to know. For that reason, in upcoming issues of the Dispatch, I will be including information that I have summarized from John's book-in-progress. Perhaps this will peak your interest in buying his book when it is done. Proceeds from the sale of his book will go to the Perpetual Care Fund for the Memorial.

Most of the young men listed on our Memorial went to high school in Washtenaw County. Some enlisted before graduation. I have listed them with their graduating class in any case. In all there are 19 high schools represented. Ann Arbor High School had the largest number of 19 graduates from the 76 young men. They attended or graduated as early as 1943 and as late as 1968, with Ann Arbor High Class of 1966 having 4, the highest number of graduates killed in one class. Ypsilanti High School is second with 11 graduates, the highest of 3 being in the Class of 1968. Lincoln Consolidated, Willow Run and Chelsea all had 4, while Milan and Saline had 3 killed. Manchester also had 3 killed, but that number represented a relatively larger percentage of that small graduating class. High schools with 2 fatalities are Dexter, Dundee, Roosevelt and St. Thomas High Schools. Many more had only one graduate killed in Vietnam, including University High School, Belleville, Sacred Hearts (Dearborn), Clinton, Mt. Clemens, East Tawas, Union City, Rudyard, DuPont (West Virginia), Greenville (Boone, Iowa), Howe Military School (Howe, Indiana), Littleton (Littleton, Colorado), and Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Post high school education was pursued by 39 of the young



men listed on our Memorial. Eight attended Eastern Michigan University, 6 went to the University of Michigan (1 graduated), 3 to Cleary College, 2 to Ferris State, 2 to Washtenaw Community College, 2 to Michigan Technological University, and 3 went to Michigan State University (1 graduated). The list of colleges where one of our honored men had attended includes Alpena College, Northern Michigan University, Spring Arbor College, Villanova, University of Delaware, Rhode Island University, RETS Electronics School, and Alexandra School of Cosmetology (1 graduated) and 1 went to an unspecified college. Of note is the fact that 2 of those lost in Vietnam from Washtenaw County graduated from West Point Military Academy (Arvin and Vlisides), while there was 1 United States Naval Academy graduate (Brown). Frank Maki was an instructor of ROTC at Eastern Michigan University.

These facts gathered from the information collected for John's book show their similarities as well as their diversity. In future issues, I will share other aspects of the lives of these 76 young men.



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

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



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.



Corporal **William Henry Johnson** was born on December 9, 1943 in Union City, Tennessee to Jewell and Johnnye 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, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam 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.

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 Lieutenant 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.

Sergeant First Class **Michael Jon 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, 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 the landing zone when it was struck by enemy ground fire, caught fire and began to burn. The gunner witnessed Michael and the flight engineer 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. His 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.

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 too.'"



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.



\*\*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
23 Apr	<b>Noon</b>	Due to elections, the regular VVA and AVVA meetings will be held Sunday, not Thursday.
24 Apr	0900	Breakfast at the Bomber in Ypsilanti
5-6 May		AVVA Region 5 Convention in Columbus, Ohio
9 May	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
11 May	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
11 May	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
15 May	1930	WCCV Meeting, American Legion Post 268, 44 Wabash Street, Milan, MI 48160
20 May		Yankee Air Museum Bomber Buffing
24-29 May	1000-1700	VFW Post 423 Open House and Memorabilia Display
28 May	1700	Watch Fire Ceremony
29 May		Memorial Day Ceremony
31 May		Deadline for registering for Kokomo
9 Jun	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
9 Jun	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
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
4 Jul		Downtown Ypsilanti Parade hosted by American Legion 282 followed by Veterans Family 4th of July Picnic
27 Jul	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
12-17 Aug		VVA and AVVA National Convention at the New Orleans Marriott
2-4 Sep		Yankee Air Museum Air Show, Thunder over Michigan
10 Sep	1200-1600	Pig Roast
23 Sep		LZ Michigan Veterans Reunion, Fifth Third Ballpark.
14-16 Sep	1630	Kokomo 35th Veterans Reunion
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](mailto:Jon.Luker@SFchap55.net)



## Regular Meeting Minutes

9 March 2017

Call to order by President Draper at 1901

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:** James Wesley, Marine Infantry in Vietnam ('66), former instructor at NROTC.

**Motion** to Approve the January Minutes, Add line item for Wreaths Across America \$300 for Great Lakes Nat'l cemetery by Merritt and St Antoine. Approved.

**AVVA Report:** Driscoll. Please see attached report. 32 members. Quartermania raised \$611.23 plus two \$500 private donations. We've raised a total of \$2,500 so far which will be matched by the Fisher House Foundation.

**Merchandise Report:** Dieter. By M Draper. We sell merchandise and talk to veterans at the VA hospital on the second Tuesday of every month. Volunteers are still needed.

**Meeting Suspended for Nominations:** Rivers

Pres: Draper (accept)

Vice President: McCrumb (decline), Miller (decline), Rogge (accept), Merritt (accept)

Secretary: Luker (accept)

Treasurer: Paulo (accept), Wetzler (decline), Rivers (decline), Bourne (decline)

Sgt at Arms: Clarke (accept subject to not relocating), Perrault (decline), Mayes (accept), Talbot (accept)

2year Board: Hall (accept), Lee (decline), McCrumb (accept), Miller (accept), Kinzinger (not present), Wilson(accept), Hitte (decline), Betz (decline), Duncan (decline), White (not present) Abbey (not present), Rivers (not eligible)



due to being nominating committee chair)

State Rep: Rogge (1<sup>st</sup> vice, can't do it), Driscoll (decline), Hall (decline), McCrumb (decline), Clarke (decline), Merritt (decline), Luker (accept)

Alt State Rep: Driscoll (accept)

### **Regular Meeting Resumes**

**President's Report:** Draper. We are selling recognition dinner tickets. \$15 adult, 5-12 \$5. Children under 5 are still free. We need to pick the date of the Annual Meeting. The options are 2, 9 or 23 April. The president determined there was apparent consensus of members present for meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The short official meeting will be held at noon. Voting will continue until 1600.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paulo. Reports handed out. Questions were answered.

**Food Pantry:** Miller. One veteran received \$100 in food. Miller confirmed that the process is unchanged. Miller escorts the veteran to a grocery store and then pays the bill.

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

1. New bylaws and constitution approved in February. We are already looking for new members
2. I have dinner tickets for sale.
3. VVA's list of events is now the basis for an events list being circulated throughout the county.

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

**Website Report:** McCrumb. Since we renovated the website, we've doubled our hits to about 30,000. Members asked about the possibility of adding a locator page.

**Membership Report:** McCrumb. 194 members plus a new life member application to process.

**Newsletter:** Luker. We are still looking for email addresses for people who now get a printed copy.

**VAAHS Report:** Kinzinger. (excused). Miller. New golf carts will be in next week. The one VVA is helping to pay for will be blue and yellow. VA is looking for a few people to be in on the photo shoot next week.

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

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



**Old Business:**

Vote for new Chapter name choice by show of hands:

LTC Kettles Vietnam Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter 310

Charles S. Kettles Vietnam Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter 310 - **adopted.**

**New Business:** None

**Special Events Reports:** None

**Good of the Order:**

**Merritt:** Tom Fifield passes along his greetings.

**St. Antoine:** Afghanistan veteran is willing to bring his 10-ton tactical truck to parades and the pig roast, etc.

**Draper:** The recognition dinner is almost completely planned. Tickets are available tonight.

**Perrault.** Dinner tickets by mail order. Need to sell them soon so we can get a count for the caterer.

Breakfast tomorrow morning at 0900 at Riverview Café in Dexter.

**Perrault.** Flag project is coming along, but we would appreciate help from a carpenter.

Next VVA meeting is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon, followed by voting until 1600.

**Closing Prayer:** D Draper

Adjourned 2021.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker



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## AVVA Minutes:



March 9, 2017 Minutes

Eight Members were present.

Kathy gave the Financial Report. March 1st will begin the new fiscal year.

**Membership Report:**

AVVA 310 has 32 members. New members include Sandy Grudowski and Jane Kinzinger;

Sharon Kwiecinski and Marge Ballou renewed as a Life Members; and





Meni Draper renewed her annual membership.

Corrine is mailing her application this month.

Kathy mailed out 18 letters to all non-AVVA Friends of VVA 310 members. Hopefully all 18 members will join AVVA 310. If you are joining or renewing as a Life Member, please send a proof of age with your application. A copy of your driver's license will suffice. Please contact Kathy for an application form.

### **AVVA 310 VISTA Report:**

Kathy is collecting and emailing Jeri Wallis the VISTA hours for AVVA Chapter 310 members. Please email Kathy at [dkathyr16@gmail.com](mailto:dkathyr16@gmail.com) your hours.

### **Recognition Dinner:**

Meni, Kathy, Jane and Ann are on the committee. The dinner will be catered. Tickets will be \$15 and available at the March meeting. We will have a basket raffle to benefit our General Fund. Please contact Kathy to donate a raffle item.

### **Fundraising Report:**

I want to thank all of our members for helping AVVA raise funds for Fisher House Michigan. We surpassed our \$1,000.00 goal by more than \$1,000.00. We sent Fisher House Michigan a \$2500.00 donation. We received two \$500.00 donations from VVA and AVVA members. Our donation will be matched dollar for dollar by Fisher House Foundation. This shows that we, as an AVVA chapter, support the VVA motto:

*"Never Again Shall a Veteran Coming Home From Battle Be Made to Feel Alone and Unappreciated!"*

and the AVVA motto:

*"Together Always"*

We still have 13 Veteran Wrist bracelets available for a \$5.00 donation.

### **AVVA Michigan State Association:**

Region 5 Convention May 5-6 in Columbus, OH. Meni Draper will attend. Motion by Kathy to pay the \$125.00 registration fee for Meni to attend. Second by Shirley. Motion passed.

### **AVVA National News:**

AVVA National Convention, August 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. Meni Draper will attend.

### **Old Business:**

Replace Friends Tree at Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Turner's Nursery is not open yet. Kathy will contact Turner's as soon as they open for spring planting season.



**New Business:**

Our AVVA and Agent Orange flags are missing. Kathy will order the AVVA flag from AVVA Merchandizing and The Agent Orange flag from VVA MI State Council. Both flags will be displayed at the VFW near the VVA 310 wall. We will march with the AVVA flag at all parades.

Shirley brought samples of new T-Shirts with American Flag for parades. AVVA members will supply their own T-Shirts and Shirley will finish the decal ironing. Cost for the decal ironing is \$25.00. Please bring your shirt to Shirley to finish.

**Other / Ongoing Concerns:**

- Lois Perrault Memorial Fund Balance: \$2,208.25
- Friend of the Year and Honorary Friend of Year voting complete. Certificates will be presented at the Recognition dinner.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 12:00 pm. VVA 310 will have their elections between 1200 - 1600 hours.

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



734-277-3528  
[gmoore@umich.edu](mailto:gmoore@umich.edu)



## Chaplain's Corner:

### EASTER

The high holiness of Easter stirs my heart no matter how many times I experience it. That thought lingers as I read the Scriptures and wonder what it must have felt like for those who first experienced it.

The advantage of studying the text in the Greek is that it forces me to look at the moods, cases and syntax which helps put feeling into the Biblical account of Easter.

Allow your heart to enter into the experience as I allow the Spirit to make Scripture come alive as it did on that very first Easter celebration. I pick up the text with Jesus hanging on the cross:

“Then said Jesus, Father forgive them; [for that is why he went to the cross in the first place] for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with



them derided him, saying, He saved others, let him save himself, if he be Christ, the Chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him and offering him vinegar, and saying, if you be the King of the Jews, save yourself. And a superscription was also written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

“And one of the malefactors which were hanging railed on him, saying, if you be Christ save yourself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, [Do you not] fear God, seeing you are in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man [has] done nothing [wrong]. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when [you come] into [your] kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto [you], today you shall be with me in paradise.”

“ ... And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into your hands I commend my spirit, and having said [this], he gave up [his spirit].” Luke 23:34-42, 46.

The body of Jesus is taken down, anointed with spices and wrapped in a cloth and He is buried. On Sunday, which we now call Easter, he rises from the dead, and those seeking him in the grave are shocked that he is no longer there. Read for yourself the text in Luke 24 until you come to verses 31, 32: “And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

Jesus is the very Word of God and when he speaks, it should cause a stirring of the heart that will result in action(s), as the rest of the chapter indicated: They ran and told others.

What about us? Does our heart stir within us at the hearing of God’s word, and does it not cause us to tell others? My contention is that if it doesn’t we need to check the connection with God.

Peace on this Easter.

Gordon

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For years, we had been getting a great deal on the price of printing the Dispatch every month at the Staples in Saline. But the person who was responsible for applying the discount left for a new job. The new people would not apply the “old” discount policy. Thanks to George Perrault’s tenacity and “can do” enthusiasm, Staples finally helped Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 310, become members of the Saline Chamber of Commerce. Why? Now we qualify for a new significant printing discount. In addition, we now have access to a communication system that reaches 400 other organizations and businesses. Not bad eh? Bravo Zulu George!



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## Memorial Grounds Report

Weather has not permitted any work at the memorial, except Wendy Hibbitts picking up trash, broken branches and such, and Jeff Clark cutting up and moving a broken tree limb that fell among the back boxwood bushes.



We recently met again with Brenda Stumbo who, again, voiced strong support for the Chapter's work at the Memorial. She is arranging a meeting with the engineer to help us figure out how (and who) will address the ongoing drainage problem. As you can see from a quick tour



**A river runs through it**

of the Memorial, the drainage problem is still not solved and is not only doing harm to the bushes, but it is also causing the new sidewalk to weaken, move or sink in various places. The township is noticing other effects further away from the memorial that will also be discussed with the engineer. That is not to say anything bad about

the companies that did the work, however. Contracts for large earth moving projects like this remain open for a while because the land is expected to settle and to produce at least some unexpected consequences. We hope the engineer is planning to address the drainage issues as soon as the ground is hard enough to permit the required work.

We have a few projects we want to do before Memorial Day, so if you have some time to give to some outdoor work, please let me know. You don't have to be on a grass cutting team to help out with these other projects.



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## Washtenaw County Council

Tickets are still available for the Washtenaw County Council Annual Recognition dinner being held at Saline American Legion on 17 April.

The next meeting will be held 15 May 2017.



**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)

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Ken Rogge

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**Board of Directors, con't**

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Marv Rivers  
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(Vacant)

**VVA 310**

**Web Master**

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

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**VAMC Rep.**

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**Webmaster**

Paulo Pereira



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

George F Boone ~ October 2021  
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020  
Cynthia Calhoun ~ February 2018  
Marty Cothorn ~ April 2017  
Gary Couture ~ November 2017  
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021  
James Graham ~ February 2019  
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021  
Steve Hitte ~ April 2017  
Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ October 2018  
Dick Knight ~ May 2018  
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ September 2018  
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021  
Dell Mayes ~ April 2018  
Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018

Ron Oliver ~ February 2019  
Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ August 2018  
George Perrault ~ October 2022  
Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021  
Ken Rogge ~ April 2018  
Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026  
Edith Semark ~ December 2017  
Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019  
Tom & Sandi Sorensen ~ October 2017  
Chris Wetzler ~ December 2017  
Elizabeth Wong ~ June 2018  
Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, **David S. Palmer** ~ October 2018  
Bonnie Woods in memory of her husband **Gary Woods**, VN vet ~ December 2018  
Helena Prince in Memory of **Tom Prince**, deceased member ~ April 2023  
Linda Lamey-Leonard In memory of **\*Lavern Lamey** ~ March 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**

**Notice:** Instead of meeting on the 2nd Thursday, we will meet at noon, Sunday, 23 April, the annual picnic & voting day.

Next Regular Meeting: 1900 hours 11 May 2017 at GRAF-O'HARA VFW Post 423 3230 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103