



The Chapter 310 Dispatch

May
2017



TWO TIME NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



Washtenaw County KIA's

George Airey Jr	9 May 1968
Roy Branham	11 May 1967
Charles Brown	21 May 1968
James Bryan	14 May 1967
Paul Elwart	12 May 1969
Billy Ferrell	29 May 1970
Robert Freeman	18 May 1969
James Harter	12 May 1969
Russell Michalke	24 May 1968
Charles Miller	13 May 1968
Alan Parks	27 May 1970
Peter Valencich	22 May 1967

Michigan MIA's

Unaccounted for - 49
Accounted for - 36

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President's Message:



On March 23rd, a few of our members went to the Yankee Air Museum to help put together



packages for shipment to military bases overseas. I was not able to attend but I heard that it turned out to be not too bad, especially considering that this was their first attempt at packaging.

On March 25th, around twelve of us from VVA 310 and AVVA showed our support for Horace as we attended his sister's visitation in Ypsilanti. If you were not there you missed seeing Horace in his African clothes. Horace has a rather large family and we met and spoke with many of them. They were all very nice and complimentary of us for showing up in force. We paid our respects as we filed up to say a prayer for her. I am very thankful that we have such caring members in our organization.



Our Recognition Dinner took place on April 8. Again this year, it was held at the UAW Hall in Ypsilanti. Attendance was down from last year, but I think all that attended had a pretty good time. And, the catered food was great.



Our menu included mostaccioli, meat balls, salad, and garlic rolls. Thanks to Angel Food Catering for the terrific food. They delivered on their promises by being on time and cleanup was quiet and efficient. As is our tradition, we provided cake, which was one chocolate and one vanilla. Our honored guests were Colonel Chuck Kettles and his wife Anne, Wes Prater, his sister, his wife Barbara, Mike Eadie and his wife Shada. Also in attendance was the former Washtenaw County Sheriff Doug Harvey and his wife Margaret. The winner of the John

Thompson Member of the Year Award went to Al Merritt, the Jerry Sims Always There Award went to Don Miller, and the newly named Doc Martinez President's Award went to Sandy





Wilson. Marv Rivers accepted the award on Don Miller's behalf and Sandy Martinez accepted the award on behalf of Sandy Wilson. The AVVA Certificate of Appreciation went to Bill Volano. The Friends' Friend of the Year went to Kate Kirkpatrick, the Honorary Friend of the Year went to Jan Turner of Turner Nursery, and a special presentation was given to Jane Kinzinger for her outstanding work with the Friends. It was decided by the Friends/AVVA that they would merge together into the AVVA. We also announced our Chapter's decision to change the name of the Chapter to Charles S. Kettles Vietnam Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter 310. It was especially gratifying to make the announcement with Colonel Kettles in the audience.

The annual WCCV (Washtenaw County Council of Veterans) took place Monday, April 17. It was held again this year at the Saline American Legion Post 322. My wife and I attended representing our Chapter. Tim and Kathy Driscoll, and Al Merritt were also in attendance. Jon Luker, as Commander of WCCV, emceed the event. Others who attended were U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell, the acting Director for the VA Medical Center Mary Beth Skupien, a representative from Tim Walberg's office, many representatives from the VA Medical Center, two Korean War Vets—one of whom was a POW, and representatives from VFW and American Legion Posts from around the state. The American Legion Post 322 Auxiliary members were excellent in serving us and very attentive to our needs. They served roast beef, smashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, rolls, and a wide assortment of homemade desserts. As is the tradition, each person at the tables stood and introduced themselves after the dinner. All in all, a pretty decent evening.



On April 23rd we held our elections for our officers and board members. There is a link in the Newsflash on our website that will take you to the page that lists the new officers and board members once they are sworn in. The official swearing in will take place at our next meeting on May 11. The only changes were that we elected Al Merritt Vice President - replacing Vance McCrumb, Jon Luker became our State Rep and Tim Driscoll moved from State

Rep to Alternate Rep, and we elected five new 2-Year Board Members. Unfortunately, there weren't too many new faces in the nomination pool. I say that meaning that we need to keep the blood flowing with participation being spread over the membership. The same people can't perform all the work forever.

Vance McCrumb kindly took point on getting sixteen of our members to participate in talking to the players on the Dexter High School baseball team one-on-one. Each member who participates gets his name on the kid's jacket. All the Vets told their stories and answered the kids' questions. Thanks for a great job Vance. This helps keeps "our war" from getting lost in the public's memory. I heard from several participants that it was a great time for both our members and the baseball team.





Visit our website to keep up to date with our activities as we are starting to enter our busy season for events. Just a few such events coming up in May is our annual Watch Fire, Saline Memorial Parade, and Memorial program at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti.

The Prez
SSgt Dave Draper
C-130 Loadmaster

DOG TAGS

" I had not thought death had undone so many."

Dante, *Inferno*

For H. Neil Stehle
George V. Airey
Roy K. Stewart



Before first light, after a quick glance at a map and a quicker swallow of coffee,
I return to the bedroom where my wife lies in sleep,
My daily companion since I returned from the war, her graceful repose
Expressing the goodness and peace she brings to her world.
I ease open the top drawer of the dresser in the deep recess of our
Walk-in closet. My fingers reconnoiter its random contents until,
After a longer time than I would have anticipated, I feel the chain of my
Military dog tags. They clink as I extract them in the total dark
(though I have known darker nights than this). I drop the chain over my head.
The tags find their once-accustomed place inside my shirt and
Begin to warm to my body heat.

I drive eastward, the mist and I companions, otherwise
Alone on the rural highway across southern Illinois.
How to describe this region on this early day, harbinger of the Summer solstice?
I recall and embrace a phrase conceived for Chevrolet, a decade after the war, by an
Advertising writer, himself a combat veteran of that war, "The Heartbeat of America."

I enter the small sesquicentennial town, following the
Quiet track of sentinel flags leading me, like a recon platoon, to the
Grassy lawn and the glistening darkness of the Traveling Wall.
I seek out the Welcome tent, opening the black vinyl cover of the
Locator directory to begin my search. "Jesus," I murmur to the host
Attendant as I pour over the countless plastic pages, each with perhaps



One hundred names. "I am *always*" (my voice catches) "staggered by *how many* (and my voice catches again) are 58,000."

At the Wall, I find the names I seek. Leaning forward, I pull up my dog tags so
That they swing free, grazing the inscriptions, their tinny sound
A familiar kind of speaking,
As if pronouncing *my name* to those ranks and ranks silently inscribed . . .

From the driver side window I see a quiescent pond as the town
Recedes, a basin of water lilies opening to the day, vivid with the same
Color of growth and affirmation as green shoots spiking heavenward
From far distant rice paddies, now so long ago.

Peter J. Dodge 2014

About the author:

I joined the VVA perhaps three years ago at the same time that I joined the VFW and American Legion. Though I presently reside in southern Illinois (near St. Louis MO), I applied for membership in Chapter 310 because I am a native Ann Arborite, a 1963 graduate of Ann Arbor High School (now Pioneer), and a 1974 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. After law school, I lived with my wife in Ann Arbor until 2009, and we raised both of our children in the community.

I am a high school classmate both of (Herbert) Neil Stehle and George Airey. When I visit the Vietnam Memorial in D.C. or drive to see the Traveling Wall when it tours in the region where I live, I make a point of seeking out the names of Neil and George, along with the names of others with whom I served in the military (U.S. Army, 1968-71). After visiting the Traveling Wall in the small town of Avidon, Illinois in June 2014, I wrote the attached poem. It is dedicated to Neil and George and also to Roy Stewart, a close friend and neighbor whom I met while he and I were both serving at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio (my last duty station before completing my enlistment). Roy deployed to Vietnam in the early autumn of 1971 and died in a helicopter crash two days before Christmas, leaving a young wife and four-month old daughter.

One note about the poem. I refer in the text to a close friend, a Viet Nam combat veteran who later became a successful advertising writer focusing on the automotive industry. His name is Lawrence (Lawry) Dolph and he too is a native of Ann Arbor, currently resides in Ann Arbor, and is also a member of the AAHS Class of 1963. Lawry was awarded the Bronze Star for service in an infantry recon unit with the Ninth Infantry Division at Dong Tam.

Peter J. Dodge



The Sacrifice of Serving

By Claire Boyette

The Vietnam Veteran Memorial in Washington D.C. is 246 feet and nine inches of solid gabbro rock. On that rock, 58,307 names are engraved. Tourists walk down the wall in remembrance of the many lives lost, the mass of names on the wall standing as a reminder of the sacrifice so many Americans have made. And although they are few, some don't go to see the numerous names on the wall, instead, they go to see only one.

Girls, who grew up never knowing their fathers, leave the roses from their wedding day, hoping that their daddy would be proud. Boys, whose only father figure was a picture on the wall, take their children to trace the imprint of his name. Sisters, the little bets he the pennies left of never got to pay. Wives, who lost their husbands, their eyes, clinging to his name. remember the Veterans, who still stand crying as the moment he died, by the name of the man who sacrificed his life for them. As tourists pass by, they remember that he walked like that; that he always wore his shirt like that; that he hated when people laughed like that.



The men on that wall, along with more than a million others from previous and latter battles, paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country; but, they aren't the only ones who paid the price for freedom. For every one of the thousands upon thousands of men and women who have died in the service of our country, there is at least one person who lost a part of themselves in the heartbreak of the news of their death: at least one person who received a simple flag and a "thank you" that would never be enough.

The wall stands not only to recognize the sacrifice of those who died in service to our country, but to let the friends and family of those who served know that their loved one's sacrifice will never be forgotten by the nation they would give their life for. The names on that wall deserve respect, honor, and remembrance. Each of those names deserves someone pausing, and thanking God for the sacrifice that they have made, praying for those who will never forget that name, knowing that to somebody, he isn't just a name on a wall, he was their life, their hope, their will to live.

Claire Boyette is the granddaughter of one of Ypsilanti Township's residents. The essay was originally written for a competition. Claire has been invited to read her essay at a Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Service in Washington D.C. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

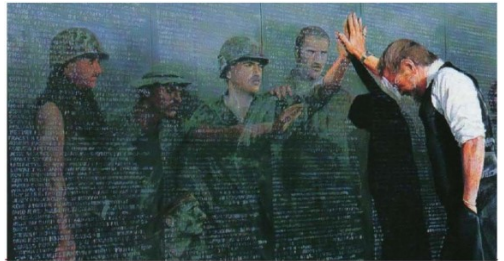


More Than Names On the Wall

Part Two, by Jane Kinzinger

May is the month of Memorial Day, when we remember those who have died in service to our country. Twelve of the 76 young men on our Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial made the supreme sacrifice during the month of May. They are listed on the front page of this issue. If you read further, you will see that the 12 KIA's listed were buried in 11 different cemeteries. If, over the Memorial Day weekend, you happen to visit any of these cemeteries, perhaps you will remember these brave young men. Check the website (www.vva310.org) for the listing of cemeteries and who is buried in each. It will not identify the location of the grave, however.

The 76 men on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial are buried in 26 different cemeteries around our area, as well as in 8 other states. Washtenong Memorial Park on Whitmore Lake Road in Ann Arbor has the largest number of Vietnam KIA's - 10 buried there. Others include 5 in Highland Cemetery on North River Road, Ypsilanti, MI; 4 in United Memorial Garden on Curtis Road, Ypsilanti, MI; 4 in Bethlehem Cemetery, Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI; 3 in Arbor Crest Memorial Park, Glazier Way, Ann Arbor; 3 in Oak Grove Cemetery, North Freer Road, Chelsea, MI, 2 in Forest Hills Cemetery, Observatory Street, Ann Arbor, MI, 2 in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Dexter, and 2 in Marble Park, West Main Street Milan, MI. There were 3 buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. There were 9 out-of-state burials (Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, West Virginia, and Washington State). Closer to home, the following cities are where one service member is laid to rest: Altona, Ann Arbor Greek Orthodox Church, Ann Arbor St. Thomas Church, Benzie County, Clinton, Detroit, Inkster, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manchester, Milan (London Cemetery), Saline, Sherwood, Tecumseh, Wayne County, Ypsilanti (Union-Udell), Whittaker, and York Township, Michigan. The ashes of David Scott Palmer were laid to rest in Lake Michigan. May they all rest in peace.



The names of the 76 men from Washtenaw County also appear on The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The wall honors U. S. service members who fought in the Vietnam War, service members who died in service in Vietnam/Southeast Asia, and those service members who were unaccounted for (Missing In Action) during the war. Completed in 1982, Memorial Wall is made up of two 246 feet 9 inches long gabbro rock walls, etched with the names of the servicemen being honored in panels of horizontal rows. The walls are sunken into the ground, with earth behind them. At the highest tip (the apex where they meet), they are 10.1 feet high and they taper to a height of 8 inches at the extremities. Symbolically, this is



described as a wound that is closed and healing. Each wall has 72 panels, 70 listing names (numbered 1E through 70E and 70W through 1W) and two very small blank panels at the extremities.

The wall originally listed 58,191 names when it was completed. As of May 2016, there are now exactly 58,315 names, including eight women. Approximately 1,200 of these are listed as missing (MIAs, POWs, and others). The names are listed in chronological order, starting at the apex on panel 1E in 1959, moving day by day to the end of the eastern wall at panel 70E, which ended on May 25, 1968, starting again at panel 70W at the end of the western wall, which completes the list for May 25, 1968, and returning to the apex at panel 1W in 1975.

Part of the spreadsheet I am developing lists the panel location of each of the 76 men on the wall in Washington, DC. Pete Belaïre has done the hard part of researching the panel location of each of our 76 guys. Their names appear on 57 of the 140 panels of names on the wall. The earliest is George Frederick Vlisides (panel 01E line 084; DOD 01/27/65) and the last is John David Eddy (02W 096; DOD 01/11/72). While Vlisides died almost exactly 7 years before Eddy, they are only 2 panels from each other on the wall. Beyond them are the 74 others from Washtenaw County who died serving in Vietnam (2 still MIA). Panel 05E contains the names of 4 of our young men – Stanley James Thompson, Roger Dean Bulfont, Clark Newell Woodworth, Jr., and Jack Maynard Hopkins. This panel reflects those killed early in the war, February 1966 with 2 being the same day on February 28, 1966). Much more information on The Wall can be found at www.thewall-usa.com.

Jane Kinzinger



MAY'S KIA'S - MAY WE NEVER FORGET

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



George Vernon Airey, Jr. was born on July 21, 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. George V. Airey, Sr. of Ann Arbor. George, Jr. is the son of the President of G.V. Airey Building Company. He is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School, and also studied construction and building at Ferris State University and Lansing Community College prior to enlisting in the Army.

Specialist 4 Airey, Jr. enlisted in the Army in 1966 and received his training at Fort Carson, Colorado. George started his Vietnam tour in November of 1967 as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with D Company, First Battalion, Fifth Cavalry Regiment of the First Cavalry



Division. "On the night of 08/09 May 1968, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, was operating in western Quang Tri Province from a temporary base. At 0705 on 09 May, the Battalion came under attack by North Vietnamese Army forces - initially by mortar fire, then a full-fledged ground attack...Charlie Company was cut off from the other companies and bore the brunt of the attack. The NVA were fended off, but not without cost,..." A total of nineteen men died in this action including Specialist 4 George Vernon Airey, Jr who died of multiple fragmentation wounds. He lived 23 years, 9 months and 18 days.

George Vernon Airey, Jr. is resting now in Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor. George left behind his parents and two sisters. George was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Expert Rifleman's Badge and posthumously awarded a second Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. His name is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial, and on Panel 57E Line 012 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.



Private First Class **Roy Lee Branham** was born on March 28, 1949 in Lancer, Kentucky to Mrs. Edra Sester. Roy lived in Ypsilanti for ten years before moving to Dexter where he lived for seven years.

Private First Class Branham entered the Army on September 1, 1966 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He received advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Gordon, Georgia. Roy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on April 2, 1967 serving as a Wire Systems Installer with A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Private First Class Branham died on May 11, 1967 at the 106th General Hospital in Japan of wounds received in April. Roy was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal recognizing his meritorious service while participating in combat operations in Vietnam.

Roy Lee Branham is survived by his mother, one brother and a sister. He lived for 18 years, 1 month and 13 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Roy Branham is the youngest person from Washtenaw County killed in Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 089.

Sergeant **Charles Patrick Brown** was born on December 27, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Brown. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1966. His friends called him "Chuckie". He enlisted in the Army in 1965, but delayed entry until June 29, 1966 after his High School graduation. Sergeant Brown completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Ord, California and Paratrooper Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Charles served a tour of duty in Alaska where his parachute failed to





open during a jump landing him in the hospital for six weeks.

Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1967 serving with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division as an infantryman. Charles was wounded twice during combat operations, and recovered from malaria two times. He just returned to his unit in April after being discharged from the hospital when he was killed on May 21, 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Charles Patrick Brown is survived by his parents and one sister. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 24 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 64E Line 012.



Storekeeper Third Class **James Michael Bryan** was born on November 2, 1946 in Portsmouth, Ohio to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Bryan. James is a 1964 graduate of Milan High School. He attended Cleary College prior to entering the Navy on December 29, 1965.

Storekeeper Third Class Bryan was stationed at Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam where he served with Supply Operations, Naval Support Activity Da Nang. On May 14, 1967, James was riding in a truck as a passenger returning to base when the truck became involved in an accident. He was thrown from the truck receiving multiple concussions and died before he arrived at the Base Hospital.

James Michael Bryan is survived by his parents and one brother. He lived 20 years, 6 months and 12 days. James was posthumously awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the National Defense Medal and the Vietnamese Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The Navy Unit Commendation citation reads, "For exceptionally meritorious service from October 15, 1965 to August 15, 1966, in carrying out the vital and constantly mounting task of unloading, moving and storing supplies to support the expanding tactical forces...despite extremely adverse climatic conditions, shortages of equipment and personnel,...continuous exposure to attack." James Bryan is now resting in Memorial Burial Park in East Portsmouth, Ohio. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 115.



Private First Class **Paul Dean Elwart** was born on June 14, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. David G. Elwart of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Paul is a 1964 Honor graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Detroit, Michigan. He also attended the

University of Michigan, Michigan State University and the University of Detroit before entering the Army in September of 1968.

Private First Class Elwart began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on February 9, 1969 as an infantryman serving with C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Calvary, 1st Calvary Division. Paul was killed on May 12,

1969 due to multiple fragmentation wounds just three months and three days into his tour of duty "In-Country".

Paul Dean Elwart is survived by his parents and a brother. He lived 22 years, 10 months and 26 days. Paul'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 25W Line 067.

Specialist 4 **Billy Ferrell** was born on February 27, 1951 in Prestonburg, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Ferrell of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 27, 1969.



Specialist 4 Ferrell completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then attended Parachutist School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Billy began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on November 24, 1969 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was killed as a result of a severe gunshot wound to his chest on May 29, 1970.

Billy Ferrell is survived by his parents, three brothers and eight sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 2 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy'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 10W Line 117.



Specialist 5 **Robert Lee Freeman** was born on April 2, 1948 in Harlan, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Olin Gilbert. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He also attended Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan.

Specialist 5 Freeman entered the Army in April of 1967. Robert began his tour of duty in Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam on April 9, 1969 serving as a Cannon Fire Direction Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery, 54th Artillery Group, II Field Force. Robert was killed as a result of



enemy heavy arms fire on May 18, 1969 after serving "In-Country" for one month and nine days.

Robert Lee Freeman is survived by his parents and a sister. He lived 21 years, 1 month and 16 days. He is resting in Knollwood Memorial Park in Wayne County, Michigan. Robert'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 24W Line 040.



Specialist 4 **James Wilson Harter** was born on May 16, 1947 to Mr. Henry W. and Mrs. Helen G. Carey Harter of Dexter, Michigan. James is a 1967 graduate of Dexter High School in Dexter, Michigan. He entered the Army on February 13, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed advanced training as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on June 14, 1968.

Specialist 4 Harter began his tour of duty in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam on July 13, 1968 as a Combat Engineer serving with B Company, 31st Engineering Battalion, 79th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. James was killed during a fire-fight with two enemy platoons on May 12, 1969. According to an Ann Arbor News article, "he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for "exceptionally valorous actions on May 12 while serving as a perimeter guard at Quang Loi Base Camp. Two enemy platoons launched a ground assault on the camp, ...he engaged the enemy with a heavy and accurate volume of automatic weapons fire...stalling the enemy and giving his comrades time to reinforce the perimeter line...despite his valiant efforts...an enemy round detonated inside his position instantly killing him." Specialist 4 Harter also earned the Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign ribbon.

James Wilson Harter is survived by his parents, two sisters and a brother. Two of his brothers preceded him in death in 1961 and 1968. He lived 21 years, 11 months and 26 days. He is resting in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Dexter, Michigan. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 25W Line 070.

Corporal **Russell Arthur Michalke** was born on July 24, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Art Michalke of Saline, Michigan. Russell graduated from Saline High School in 1966 where he lettered in varsity football for two years, and lettered in baseball and golf for one year. He belonged to the "S" Club for two years, Spanish Club, Chorus, and





the Key Club. Russell attended Washtenaw Community College for a year prior to entering the Army on August 8, 1967. He completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Edwards, Louisiana.

Corporal Michalke began his tour of duty in Chu Lai, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on January 20, 1968 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Russell was killed on May 24, 1968 as a result of enemy small arms fire.

Russell Arthur Michalke is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 19 years and 10 months. He is resting in Oakwood Cemetery in Saline, Michigan. Russell's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Saline. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 68E Line 005.



Sergeant **Charles Irvin Miller** was born on March 2, 1946 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Miller of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles is a 1964 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He attended the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Army in March of 1966. He received his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Advanced Training at Fort Hood, Texas.

Sergeant Miller began his tour in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 6, 1967 serving as a Military Policeman with MP Platoon Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division.

Charles was killed by an explosive device on May 13, 1968. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart. According to the Bronze Star Medal Citation, "He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the U.S. Army."

Charles Irvin Miller is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 22 years, 2 months and 11 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 59E Line 029.

Corporal **Alan Hugh Parks** was born on November 13, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Max Parks of Bronson, Michigan. Alan graduated from Union City High School in 1966 and was a member of the 1965 - 1966 State Champion Debate Team. In 1965, Alan represented Union City High School at Wolverine Boys State. His skills in debating won him further honors. In August of 1966, Alan won first place in the 4-H state public speaking contest, and he later won state



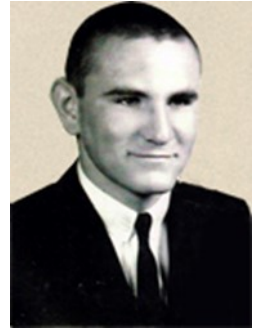
honors as a champion debater at Kellogg Community College, which he attended for two years. Alan Parks also was elected to the office of student vice-president of the Phi Rho Pi Honor Society and the National Organization of Junior College Debating and Forensics in 1967 - 1968. Alan worked for the Shell Oil Company before entering military service.

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks entered the Army on August 21, 1969. Alan was trained as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist and served with A Troop, First Squadron, First Cavalry, Americal Division in Vietnam beginning his tour on January 11, 1970. Corporal Parks was stationed at Chu Lai and died as a result of burns when the vehicle he

was driving was hit by enemy fire on May 27, 1970 in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks is survived by his parents, wife, daughter, sister, and three brothers. He lived 21 years, 6 months and 14 days. Alan is resting in Sherwood Cemetery in Union City, Michigan. Alan Hugh Parks' name is listed under Manchester on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township, and on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 10W Line 110.

Sergeant **Peter Lyle Valencich** was born on January 1, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Naomi Gidley Valencich of Manchester, Michigan. Peter is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School where he was a member of the Varsity Basketball Team. He was employed with the Double A Product Company in Manchester before entering the Army on May 16, 1966. He went through Basic Training at Fort Reilly, Kansas, and was awarded the medal for the highest scorer on the Army's Proficiency Test while in Basic.



Sergeant Valencich began his tour of duty near Tan Tru, South Vietnam on December 1, 1966 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Peter was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action having carried a helpless wounded comrade 75 meters to safety from an unprotected open area. He was killed on May 22, 1967 when he was helping to clear a mangrove by burning reeds when the fire set off a friendly mine.

Peter Lyle Valencich is survived by parents, a brother, and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 21 days. He is resting in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. Peter's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 20E Line 088.



*** 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
12 May	0900	Breakfast at the Bomber in Ypsilanti
15 May	1930	WCCV Meeting, American Legion Post 268, 44 Wabash Street, Milan, MI 48160
17 May	1000	Memorial Spring Cleanup and Planting for AVVA and others who wish to help
20 May	1000-1600	Creative Memories Scrapbooking Fundraiser at VFW 423
20 May		Yankee Air Museum Bomber Buffing
22 May	1700	Quartermainea at Milan American Legion. Bidding starts at 1830.
24-29 May	1000-1700	VFW Post 423 Open House and Memorabilia Display
26 May		Place flags at Great Lakes National Cemetery
28 May	1700	Watch Fire Ceremony
29 May	1000	Saline Memorial Day Parade steps off from Fire Hall
29 May	1300	Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ceremony
29 May		Recover flags from Great Lakes National Cemetery
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 VAAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
15 Jun	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
19 Jun	1930	WCCV Meeting, location tbd
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 VAAAHS 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
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.
14-16 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



Regular Meeting Minutes

23 April 2017

Regular Meeting Minutes - VVA Chapter 310

23 Apr 2017

Call to order by President Draper at 1216

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 April Minutes, Moved by Draper, second by Rogge. Approved.

Meeting Suspended for Nominations: Rivers

Pres: Draper. Vice President: Rogge and Merritt. Secretary: Luker. Treasurer: Paulo. Sgt at Arms: Clarke and Mayes.

2-year Board: Hall, McCrumb, Miller, Wilson, White.

State Rep: Luker. Alt State Rep: Driscoll.

Regular Meeting Resumes

President's Report: Draper. Don Miller won the Jerry Sims award. Sandie Wilson won the President's Award and Al Merritt won the Member of the Year award. Thanks to those who showed up for the baseball program.

Letter from Pete Belaire thanking our Chapter for our donations.

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

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see attached report. 34 members. We sold all the bracelets. Red Sunset Maple Tree will be planted soon, maybe even this week. We found the AVVA flag. Quartermainea for the Fisher House will be on 22 May at the Milan American Legion. Doors open at 1700. Bidding starts at 1830.

Old Business: (none)



New Business: (none)

Good of the Order:

Driscoll: We will be doing Heritage Festival. Don Miller will do the Heritage Festival Raffle.

Driscoll: Saline Memorial day parade will step off from the fire hall at 1000 in Saline.

Driscoll: Our Memorial Day ceremony will begin at 1300 on Monday. Watch Fire will begin at 1800 on Sunday and then we will retire flags as the sun begins to set.

Perrault: New flags and poles are now posted. The poles screw into two pieces. Take them apart, put them in the bags and lay them flat when possible. Don't lose the bags.

Driscoll: Happy Birthday Marty Cothorn.

Draper: Breakfast at the bomber tomorrow at 0900

Closing Prayer: Kinzinger

Adjourned 1302.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker



AVVA Minutes:

April 23, 2017

Eight Members were present.

Kathy gave the Financial Report.

Membership Report:

- AVVA 310 has 34 members. New members include Corrine Gignac, Lifetime Member, and Jane Kozole, 3 Year Membership. AVVA is currently processing new and renewal memberships for Jackie McManus, Wendy Rivers and Libby Price.
- Kathy mailed out 18 letters to all non-AVVA Friends of VVA 310 members. Six non-AVVA Friends of VVA 310 members joined AVVA 310. Hopefully the remaining twelve 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 your hours for April 2017.

Fundraising Report:

- We raised \$75 at the 2017 Recognition Dinner Basket Raffle table. This money benefited our AVVA General Fund. We now have \$88.13 in the AVVA 310 General Fund and \$997 in the AVVA 310 Special Project fund. Both of these specified lines allow us to fund and run our Chapter. The *3rd Annual AVVA 310 No-Bake Bakeless Sale* fundraising letters will be mailed out in August. Please consider increasing your donation. We will split the donations this year equally between both General Fund and Special Project specified lines. This is our main yearly fundraiser. It allows us to fund our annual donations to AVVA Project Friendship, Sons and Daughters in Touch, all Memorial donations in-lieu of Flowers, Military Moms United, Warriors and Caregivers United and the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, to name a few of our past donations from 2015 and 2016.
- There will be a Creative Memories scrapbooking fundraiser to benefit Fisher House Michigan on Saturday, May 20th at the VFW from 1000 - 1600 hours. Please plan to attend. The last fundraiser raised \$45.00 for the Fisher House Michigan.
- Next AVVA 310 Quartermania to benefit Fisher House Michigan will be Monday, May 22th at the Milan American Legion Post. We need the help of all AVVA and VVA 310 members to ensure we are successful. We have a new goal to raise an additional \$1,000 for Fisher House Michigan. AVVA will have a basket raffle, 50/50 and sell food. All proceeds including the Mystery Gift rounds will benefit Fisher House Michigan. If you would like to donate an item for the basket raffle, please contact Kathy. Hopefully we will surpass our goal.

Fisher House Michigan:

I want to thank all of our members for helping AVVA 310 surpass our \$1,000.00 goal for Fisher House Michigan. We raised \$2,502.83 and 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 demonstrates how AVVA Chapter 310 members support the VVA and AVVA mottos: "*Never Again Shall a Veteran Coming Home From Battle Be Made to Feel Alone and Unappreciated!*" and "*Together Always*"

All the Veterans Wrist bracelets are sold. This fundraiser raised \$600.00 for Fisher House Michigan. \$245.00 was donated on March 18th. We will add the remaining \$355 to the proceeds from the May 22th Quartermania and the May 20th Scrapbooking Fundraiser. Hopefully we will meet our new goal to raise an additional \$1,000 for Fisher House Michigan.



AVVA Michigan State Association:

Region 5 Convention May 5-6 in Columbus, OH. Meni Draper will attend.

AVVA National News:

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

Old Business:

- Kathy purchased a Red Sunset Maple tree from Turner's Greenhouse for \$610.20. Al Merritt and Kathy placed a planting placement flag at the Memorial. Turner's will contact Kathy when the planting will take place. The memorial grounds are extremely wet.
- Kate Kirkpatrick was awarded a certificate from Jane Kinzinger for *2017 Friend of the Year*.
- Jan Turner is the *2017 Honorary Friend of the Year*. Kathy will deliver the certificate to Jan.
- The 2017 AVVA 310 Certificate of Appreciation will be presented before our May 11th meeting. The recipient was not able to attend our April meeting. Their name will be announced at the May meeting.
- On Wednesday, May 17 we will meet at the Memorial at 1000 for our annual Spring Cleanup and planting.
- We will be donating \$50 to Fisher House Michigan in Honor of Jane Kinzinger. Jane received a Creative Memories Scrapbook from all of the Friends of VVA 310 at the 2017 Recognition Dinner.

New Business:

- George Perrault located the missing AVVA and Agent Orange flags in a closet at the VFW Post 423. Thank you, George. He is replacing the flagpoles and finials. Both will be displayed in the new flag stanchions with the American Flag, State of Michigan Flag, POW-MIA Flag, and VVA Flag behind the VVA 310 Officers Table at VFW Post 423.
- 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 cutting and ironing is \$25.00. Please bring your shirt to Shirley to finish.
- We donated \$50 to The American Heart Association in Memory of Dave Belaire, VVA 310 Member and brother of Pete Belaire. Dave Draper read the Thank You note from Pete Belaire at the VVA 310 meeting.

Other / Ongoing Concerns:

- Lois Perrault Memorial Fund Balance: \$2,208.25



- Kathy will be in New Jersey on May 11th. Meni Draper will lead our May 11th Membership Meeting.

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



734-277-3528
gmoore@umich.edu

Chaplain's Corner:

May is the month for Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and the renewal of leaves on trees, flowers in abundance and a reminder that planet earth is well and thriving. That is, until we look at the madness of man toward one another and his environment.

It reminds me of Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and all it contains." We add to that our responsibility given to Adam in Genesis and passed on to Eve after her arrival, to care for the earth, as it is our home, and we see an overall abdication of our responsibility.

But my focus this month is our treatment of each other. If the earth blossoms for us with such beauty, then maybe we can blossom before our fellow man with individual and collective beauty. That certainly includes how we talk to each other as Jesus said in Matthew 5:22:

"But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell."

The Scripture is filled with admonitions not to act foolishly, therefore, we may say that a certain person acts foolish in that they do such and such, which speaks to the act being performed. That is by far and away different than calling a person a fool, which is to cast judgment on a person, something that is reserved for God as He alone knows the heart.

This plays out in our actions toward others and how we ultimately view them as individuals, and unfortunately, as groups of people, casting dispersion on an entire group for the sake of a few.

I think that warriors have learned to differentiate between the two concepts as has been displayed by our chapter in its treatment of others within our community. So, I am shouting out, "A job well done" to our chapter and hope that our efforts are multiplied and passed down to those younger, in the hope we resurrect civility in our nation and the world.

Blessing and honor,
 Gordon



**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.SUICIDEPREVENTIONS Lifeline.ORG/
VETERANS](http://WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONS Lifeline.ORG/VETERANS)

2016/17 Officers & Board Members

President

David Draper

Vice President

Al Merritt

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

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

State Delegate

- Jon Luker
- Tim Driscoll

County Delegates:

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

VA Service Rep

(Vacant)

VVA 310

Web Master

Paulo Pereira

www.vva310.org

AVVA

Kathy Driscoll

Agent Orange

Sandie Wilson

Bylaws

Gordon Moore

Community Service

John Kinzinger

Constitution

Tom Fifield

Economic Affairs

(Vacant)

Finance

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

Food Pantry

Don Miller

Historian

- William Vollano
- David Ney

Legal Affairs

Elmer White

Legislative (Vacant)

Librarian (Vacant)

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	Ron Oliver ~ February 2019
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020	Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ August 2018
Cynthia Calhoun ~ February 2018	George Perrault ~ October 2022
Marty Cothorn ~ April 2017	Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
Gary Couture ~ November 2017	Ken Rogge ~ April 2018
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021	Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
James Graham ~ February 2019	Edith Semark ~ December 2017
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021	Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019
Steve Hitte ~ April 2017	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

*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 11 May 2017 at GRAF-O’HARA VFW POST 423 3230 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103