

NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE
YEAR 1999 & 2007



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

NATIONAL
NEWSLETTER OF
THE YEAR
2007, 09, 11, 15
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OF THE YEAR 2017

THE 310 DISPATCH — APRIL 2018

President's Message – David Draper, April 2018



Don't forget to purchase your tickets for our Gary Lillie Recognition Dinner being held on April 21st. They are only \$10.00 this year. Contact George Perrault to get your tickets. They will also be available at our next meeting and at the door. I have already received VIP RSVPs from LTC Charles Kettles, an Iraq Veteran, Miss Michigan, and Miss Washtenaw County. That in itself should be worth the ten bucks. And then there's the food.

March started out again with good Merchandise sales at the VA Medical Center. The income was about the same, and so was the comradery. The new crew is off to a great start and are making adjustments to the set-up flow. They will be pulling the trailer to the Medical Center each month, which will save a little time from having to unload the trailer twice. They have gotten permission to unload/load the trailer at the Emergency entrance, which is actually closer to where we sell the merchandise. They have also found that they have the use of the Canteen's flatbed carts. So, now things flow much more smoothly. Also, the Canteen office has told them they received approval to have the vendor area set-up closer to the Canteen office, and traffic flow there is said to be much better. The space is reportedly a little larger too.

Meni and I took a trip to the Yankee Air Museum. I had received word that the World War II Museum had an exhibit there. We had visited the WWII Museum while we were attending the Convention in New Orleans last year and thought highly of their presentation there. They made great use of what little space they had, with information stands and three repeating movie screens. If you get a chance, stop out to look at it. It is worth the visit. It will be there until May 15th. I was a little disappointed that the Vietnam Era displays were disrupted. It looks like they are putting another display in, across from the Vietnam one.

Hopefully they will reconstruct the Vietnam display when done with the other. The sandbags were still there; so, it makes me think it will be restored.

On the 29th of March, Al Merritt and I manned an information table on the third floor of the Freedom Building at the VA Medical Center, as the VA celebrated Vietnam War Veterans Day. Al and I handed out challenge coins, membership applications, Chapter brochures, and business cards. As a surprise to us, the VA had invited LTC Kettles to the event to perform the pinning ceremonies for the fiftieth anniversary of the Vietnam War. LTC Kettles signed his name to various requests before the event started. It was very crowded in the small space that was provided. During the three-hour event, I'm guessing that three or four dozen people came to get pinned, to swap war stories, and to have a little cake. Brian Hayes, of the VA Public Affairs office, opened the ceremonies with a "Thank you" for our service and then introducing LTC Kettles, who was very gracious and stood for the whole three hours as he pinned Veteran after Veteran. Some of the younger people there were musing that their feet were a little tired from standing and wondered how LTC Kettles could endure standing for that long. This event may have been good for our Chapter also. I had taken fifteen membership applications and twenty brochures to the event, and they were all gone well before the event ended. Al Merritt and I talked to many of the visitors, and several of them hinted that they might join our Chapter. Each prospective member was given our new challenge coin. Towards the end, people were asking if they could purchase our Chapter coin, to which we gladly said yes. I brought twenty-five coins and had two left at the end of the day. We sold eight of them. Well, lesson learned: We will bring larger quantities of brochures and applications to our next event like this. We were fortunate that we were the only VVA chapter represented at this event! I want to give a special thank you to Al Merritt, who stayed with me during the whole event, and for bringing some memorabilia with him, which was a hit with the Vets. Also, a big thank you goes to VA's April LaRock, for putting this event together. She also assisted LTC Kettles by handing him the pins as the recipients came forward. I hope to have a few pictures posted to the website by the time you read this.

In April, we at VVA310 have our Annual Meeting, the final nominations, and elections on the 8th. On the 10th, we will have our monthly Merchandising sales at the VAMC. On the 21st, we will have our thirty-first annual Recognition Dinner. We will also be celebrating two military birthdays: The Air Force Reserve birthday on the 14th, and the Army Reserve birthday on the 23rd.

Have a great month ahead, and think Spring!!

Dave Draper
President
Air Force C-130 Loadmaster

From the Editor's Desk



Our VVA310 Chapter will have its Annual Meeting this month, with elections for officers and Board members. We at the Dispatch support group decided to keep the newsletter look still in this transition mode, without much innovation, but we have great plans for the coming fiscal year. Thank you for your cooperation with articles and materials. If I insist on having all the materials in by the first of the month, it is only so that our Dispatch team (an amazing team!) has plenty of time to review and offer improvements.

We had an anonymous donor for March, who has offered to upgrade the membership of the first three new members, so that they become life member. Thank you!

Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch Editor

Chaplain's Corner — April 2018
By Rev. Gordon Moore

The Greek word for 'hope' is elpis [ἐλπίς], and has an inherent meaning, namely, to anticipate, usually with pleasure, to have an expectation, or to have confidence.

I chose this word because of all the world absurdities going on, and the apparent lack of self-control on the part of so many. This is in contradistinction to the discipline the military is used to. We see it from the highest levels of government to the individual level, as our eyes watch the utter disarray that surrounds us.

Hope comes from the eternal word of God, set in the heavens until all comes to pass. Christ spoke of our times in Matthew when He said:

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore, all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. But they do all these deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. Do not be called Rabbi; for One is your teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted...Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"
 [Note from Editor: See Matthew Chapter 23.]

And therein lies our hope. It is in Christ, who will make all things right at His return. The key is for us NOT to get caught up in doing things like many around us, who seek to exalt themselves and do what is right in their own eyes. Let us look to the Author and Finisher of our faith and exalt His Holy Name by living our lives as an example of obedient humble servants.

Peace upon you,
 Gordon

* * * * *

John Kinzinger's Story — Army Radio Operator, 1966-67.

[Editor's Note: I asked John K to write his story as part of a project that we are doing, to inspire high school students with stories of Vietnam veterans, especially those who take part in high school talks. If you are interested in becoming a high school speaker, please contact John K or Vance McCrumb.]

Belleville, Michigan, was my home town. I graduated in the class of 1964 from Belleville High. Six weeks later, I turned 18. About two weeks later, I began working on an assembly line at the Rawsonville Ford Motor plant. I thought I was making great money. I had a new 1965 Chevy Impala. I like racing it and loved dating ladies. I thought I had it made. Uncle Sam had other ideas. He wrecked my everything.

The Vietnam War was building up fast and they needed soldiers to fill increased quotas. I was drafted and entered the Army in February 1966. I belonged to the government for two years.

I made it through Basic Training and was mentally and physically psyched up. Then I had seven weeks of radio school and I became proficient with Morse Code, and then to another Post for eleven weeks of teletype training. That meant more Morse Code, many hours of typing classes and AM radio equipment instructions. Of the 48 in our class, 16 of us got orders to go to Vietnam.

After a two-week leave back home, I left for Vietnam from Fort Dix, New Jersey. It was on a C-141, the biggest plane I had ever seen. The 20-hour flight was grueling. Our seating was on a most uncomfortable lawn chair type webbing. There were no windows in the plane and virtually no sound deadening. What the heck, we were going to Nam, why make it comfortable!

The plane was so noisy you could hardly talk to the person next to you. The guy next to me on my right was sleeping off a heavy drunk. So, I just thought about what I left behind and wondered what Vietnam had in store for me. Those many hours of mental anguish were abruptly wiped away when we landed at Tan Son Nhat airfield in Saigon. The tail of the plane opened up and the hot, humid and foul-smelling Vietnam air hit us. It was an air none of us had ever experienced and would never forget.

As a teletype operator with orders for a signal unit, I expected my tour to be not too bad. Teletype units needed air conditioning to work properly. However, things changed at the 90th Replacement Center in Saigon. There was apparently a much greater need for voice radio operators for infantry units, which was my basic MOS (Military Occupation Specialty). Standing in formation my name was called out to go to the 1st Airmobile Cavalry Division. I remembered on TV back home that they had many soldiers killed in some big battles before I entered the Army. So, I knew this could prove to be a most interesting experience.

I was assigned to the 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry Regiment headquarters company. My job was battalion radio operator. I handled voice messages from rifle companies to battalion officers. Our group of radio operators handled radio messages with needs that could be anything from supplies, medivac, artillery support, support personnel, kill counts, etc. During times of enemy contact, the radio messages at times were fast and furious, often with coordinates, which required total accuracy. Remember I was 20 years old doing these highly responsible life-and-death tasks. I did fine. My training just took over.

There were times when we flew out with the rifle companies with our radios and longer-range antennas. We set up in the landing zone and were the infantry unit's communications back to the battalion base camp. Sometimes they were day operations and other times we were out on a relay site for weeks at a time.

Most of us soldiers had a 365-day tour in Vietnam. We could most always tell you exactly how many days we had left before returning to "The World." Yes, we called the United States "The World" because where we were serving certainly was not part of the world we knew. Outside of a few large cities, Vietnam was a very poor third-world country locked in a pre-industrial period state. It was nothing like we young Americans had ever known. In the 1950s and 60s folks just did not travel like they do today. We had had very little travel experience and diversity exposure before the military.

C-rations: At least half the time we ate 20-year old C-rations. They came 12 box meals per case. Each meal box had a different 'entrée' in a can. They also contained biscuits or crackers in cans and some had cans of fruit. Each box also contained toilet paper, pack of four cigarettes, matches, a P38 can opener, instant coffee, heat tablets for cooking and more. The

prize was getting the box with the peaches and the one with the pound cake. There was just one of each per case. It was not gourmet, but you got used to eating them. It beat nothing.

I went to Vietnam in 1966, which was early in the war at the start of the largest buildup. In my mind, I went there to help a nation, South Vietnam, remain free from the aggression of Communist forces, China and North Vietnam. John Wayne was a hero of mine and I thought our involvement was a noble and just cause. In the first couple weeks I was taking chopper flights out with rifle companies on operations against the enemy. One day after setting up our radios in a Landing Zone (LZ), one of our patrols that had just left our perimeter was ambushed. There was just a couple minutes of gunfire and it stopped. We had no American casualties. What I witnessed next made me realize I knew little about this war. A couple of our riflemen carried a black pajama clad person back into our LZ. As a medic was frantically trying to patch up the stomach wounds of the Viet Cong, I walked over to see what was going on. I then saw that he could not have been more than twelve years old. We radioed for a medivac helicopter pickup for him. I never did find out whether he made it or not. What made that child fire on our patrol? Maybe a VC threat to his family? Who knows. But that made me think much differently about the war. Remembering back, that was a good example of our not being baby killers.

Goofy things we did: For a while we had a small monkey in our camp. We would give him a little beer to get him a little drunk. He mimicked things we did. We gave him a cigarette and he smoked it staggering around like a drunk man. We got many laughs from doing things with him. I remember when our mortar platoon brought this seven to eight-inch jet black scorpion to us to check out. It looked quite deadly. After goofing with it for a while, we sprayed it with lighter fluid and set it aflame. We were like brothers goofing off when we got the idea. We may have been in a war zone, but we were still 18-20 year young men often doing goofy things. Just do not make deadly mistakes.

There were no days off in Vietnam. It was seven days per week. If you saw a Chaplain, it might be Sunday. When we were back at camp and off duty, often someone would get out a football and we would throw it around. Motown songs could often be heard coming from sandbagged hootches, as some troopers had battery operated phonographs and records mailed to them. That was back at camp, not out forward. I remember one day after flying into an LZ, a patrol went out to check out activity in the area. Soon after leaving the LZ, rifle fire was heard from the direction that the patrol had gone. Minutes later they returned to the LZ. Two troopers had a long pole on their shoulders and hanging from it was a deer. A few hours later, we had it grilled and were eating fresh meat. We made a basting sauce from tabasco and gravy from some c-rations. My being a deer hunter made that quite memorable.

Remember most of us were 18-20 years old and had seen very little of the United States, much less the rest of the world. In Vietnam we saw villages made up of huts made with bamboo, leaves and grass, sometimes with sheets of metal. We witnessed things in villages like people just squatting in the road to do their personal business and just walk away without any thought. Or, saw an older wrinkled faced woman smile with very deep red, almost black, teeth from eating betel nut (produces cocaine-like effects). Or watching a woman picking what looked like lice from the hair of a child and then eating it. Witnessing things like this is why we called the U.S. "The World", because what we saw and experienced in Vietnam was not part of the world to us.

Monsoons: During the rainy, monsoon season, especially in certain areas, it would rain quite hard and very steady for weeks. It was difficult to keep things dry. After coming home, we might hear someone talk about how hard it rained in the area and we would laugh. There is no rain in the U.S. like a good, long monsoon downpour.

Getting Short: Most of us went over to Vietnam not as a unit, but as replacements where needed. That meant everyone also went home separately. So, the count down for each trooper was usually different. There was always much envy for the guy with the least number of days left. He was termed "Short." Some guys made sure everyone knew it too by yelling out

their number of days left and signaling in different ways. The joy of soon going back to The World was a tremendous feeling. You were going to make it!

We all remember the joy of getting on the big bird and the flight back to The World. I think I told my mother that I would be home the following day, just so I could surprise her. She was washing dishes when I walked in and came up behind her. I never saw her so happy in my life. Greeting my old friends was a different story. I was the one who had changed, and our relationships had changed. We had little in common anymore.

I completed my two-year obligation and went back to work at Ford Motor Company. And about six months later, I began a part-time pre-engineering curriculum at Eastern Michigan University. Soon after starting my classes, I had a liberal arts instructor who at the end of class one day suggested that we all go to the Diag at University of Michigan and join in the anti-war demonstration. We had people still dying while doing the hard work their nation asked them to do in Vietnam. That did not compute for me and I certainly did not attend. That let me know that I might be better off not telling anyone I had served in Vietnam. We were just not allowed to feel good about our service in Vietnam by the media and our nation. That cut deep and helped cause many Vietnam Veterans, after doing what their nation asked them to do, to commit suicide.

It is not the soldier, sailor, airman or Marine who decides to go fight a war. It is the politicians in Washington, D.C. who make those decisions. The serviceman should never again be treated like those of us who served during the Vietnam War. A little-known fact for non-military people is that the group of people who do not want war the most are Veterans. They have lived it and really know what it is all about.

A couple years after starting college, at Ford Motor I went from hourly to a salary technician and eventually worked my way up to an engineering supervisor. I retired from Ford Motor Company with 32-years seniority in 1997.

Much happened during those years, a divorce, twelve years of fairly wild single life with much drinking and such before marrying my wonderful wife Jane. We had one child late in life. He graduated from Pioneer High in 2006 and from Michigan Technological University in 2013. He works for Ford Motor Company in engineering. In 2017, he and his wife, Klarrisa, had our wonderful grandson, Peter Blake.

Since Vietnam, I have been extremely involved for about 30 years doing work for Veterans. I have worked in many ways to help other Veterans. But, what I am most proud of is being the Chairman of the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, erected at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center in 1991. This is the Memorial that the Ann Arbor Parks Commission did not want in Veterans Memorial Park. My focus in recent years has been on helping post-911 Post Traumatic Stress injured warriors and their families.

I am a proud Vietnam Veteran. And I am especially proud of the service of all my brother and sister Veterans. I believe that my long-term work for Veterans is the result of survivor guilt. You see, I made it home from war with no injuries, and I do not return there each night in nightmares.

America should realize that those who have served wearing the uniform of our military branches have made America the greatest nation in the world. Bless them all.

**MINUTES — VVA310
Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 –
General Membership Meeting – 8 March 2018 –
by Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Secretary**

Call to Order by President David Draper at 1900 hours.

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!

Meeting was suspended for nominations for next year's officers and directors. Meeting reconvened. New Members introduced: Jerry Austin, Ed Fuller, and Bob Kurtz.

Motion by Berry Bourne and seconded by Sandie Wilson was made to approve the February meeting minutes that were emailed to members and inserted on VVA310's website. Approved.

President's Report: David Draper discussed the upcoming Recognition Dinner on April 21st. Dave also informed us of the status of Dell's heart valve surgery, requesting thoughts and prayers. Dave recognized Steve Hitte as the anonymous donor for March, to upgrade new members to life members; and he reminded us of the Special Meeting, nominations, and elections at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Luker presented the treasurer's report, pointing out the good news that the Chapter had greater income than expenses. 990 Forms have been completed. State Council reports are ready to be sent. MAMC account is \$4,000 over projections.

AVVA Report: Kathy Driscoll reported that another Quartermania will be held April 9th. Further details in AVVA's report listed in this newsletter.

Food Pantry: No report.

Merchandise Report: Don Miller will be making the wood structure for the signs, and Vance McCrumb will be getting new information signs printed. Sales for last Tuesday were over \$1,000. Chapter members handed out membership forms to prospect members. VA has approved moving vendor space to new location with higher traffic.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Jon Luker stated that tickets are available for dinner on March 19th, with open bar. About PTSD, in Ann Arbor, the practitioners on the 7th floor are reluctant to say you have PTSD. Now they are claiming that your stressor was not stressful enough because you got through it and have done good things with your life. Fisher House has a goal of raising \$200,000 by 2019.

Memorial Maintenance Report: Al Merritt stated that two more volunteers are still needed. Schedule is made up. We are planning to buy a new lawn mower. The other has been prepared for work.

Website Report: Vance McCrumb reported that the website is up and running with no major issues.

Membership Report: Vance McCrumb stated that the Chapter has 205 members.

Newsletter: Paulo-Juarez Pereira thanked members for contributing materials for the newsletter. An anonymous donor was found for March, upgrading one new member to the level of life member.

VAAHS Report: No report.

Old Business: President Draper stated that we are on target for the Recognition Dinner on April 21st. Dinner will be catered by Angel Food. Miss Michigan, Miss Washtenaw, and LTC Charles Kettles will be in attendance.

New Business: Motion was made by Vance McCrumb, and Paulo-Juarez Pereira seconded, to purchase 100 3-inch patches (\$100.50) and 20 9-inch patches (\$277.40) with 100% embroidery. Approved.

Good of the Chapter: Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI, will hold a fundraiser for our Chapter all day on Tuesday, 17 April 2018. They will donate 20% of their proceeds for all food served.

Vance McCrumb stated that VAMC is looking for volunteers who can sit with patients in hospice.

Paulo-Juarez Pereira suggested a Welcome Breakfast to new members, to be organized.

Don Miller is in the process of obtaining a cooker with a propane tank.

March 30th will be the Vietnam Veterans celebration day.

Jim Dempsey reported that a check for \$370,000 has been issued for Fisher House. We are 14 months away from breaking ground, and funds have been raised for \$1.6 million, out of the needed \$3 million.

Marty Cothorn spoke about the importance of establishing an advance directive, so that patients will have the proper treatment according to their wishes.

Next Chapter Breakfast: with be Friday, 13 April 2018, at 0900 hours at Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E Michigan Ave, Saline.

Respectfully submitted.
Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Secretary

Talk About Coincidence! — by George Perrault

Since there have been a couple coincidence stories in the Dispatch, I would like to share my own coincidence story.

In my field in the Navy, which was supply, I had the honor of serving under the guidance of several supply officers during my career, especially on sea duty. Over the years, I obtained a specialty code that allowed someone like me to serve independently from a supply officer.

After boot camp, I was stationed at the Navy training center in Bainbridge, MD, where Doc and Sandy Martinez had met just a year before I got there. In April 1959, I went aboard the USS Salomonie Ao-26, a fleet oiler out of Newport, RI. My very first supply officer was someone by the name of Ensign S. J. Walker.

The years flew by, and upon leaving my last sea duty in 1978, aboard the repair ship USS Yosemite AD 19, I happened to notice on the Commanders desk (wasn't snooping!) that someone by the name of S. J. Walker was scheduled to relieve him.

So, yes, you guessed it: S. J. Walker was my very **first** and my very **last** Supply Officer in the Navy. Talk about coincidence! We still keep in touch, 59 years later.

George Perrault
SKC, USN, RET
Anchors Aweigh

P. S.: For my Army buddies, the Salomonie and the Yosemite were SHIPS, not boats !!!

AVVA Newsletter April 2018

If you are on Facebook, you can join the AVVA Michigan closed group. Just send a Friend Request to Marilyn Lash and she will accept you as a member of the AVVA Michigan closed group. This is how our AVVA Michigan State Association communicates between the bi-monthly meetings.

AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in March

- Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
 - Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, April 10th, VVA 310 needs our help! Please consider volunteering one or two hours assisting VVA 310 merchandise team!

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

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting will be Sunday, April 22nd at the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center, Holly, MI. AVVA MI ordered their Challenge Coins. They will be available for purchase in June 2018 for \$10.

I submitted my nomination for AVVA Michigan Association President. The AVVA Michigan Association elections will be on Sunday, June 10th at the AVVA Michigan State Association Convention in Dearborn, MI.

Fundraising Report

Fisher House Michigan

Next Fisher House Michigan Quartermania will be Monday, April 9th at Milan American Legion. If you are available, we need help selling bid paddles, food, raffle and 50/50 tickets; and quarter bid runners. We have \$1,585 in our specified treasury line for Fisher House Michigan. We are close to reaching our goal to donate \$2,000 to Fisher House Michigan. May 2018 is a matching funds month. If you are in the area, please volunteer at our Quartermania. Vendor fees; 50/50; Mystery Host bid rounds; and the AVVA raffle table benefit Fisher House Michigan.

AVVA Chapter 310 Operating and Special Projects Fund

I will be raffling a "Tastefully Simple 10 Meal Easy Grillin" meal kit at my vendor table at the Quartermania. This special raffle will benefit AVVA 310 Operating and Special Projects funds. I raised \$58 for our Operating and Special Projects funds at the March 5th Quartermania. We now have \$106.88 and \$258.44 in our AVVA Operating and Special Projects funds respectively.

Our AVVA raffle table at the Recognition Dinner on April 21st will benefit the AVVA Operating and Special Projects funds. Please consider donating an item for our raffle table.

Our new Fiscal Year begins on March 1st. We need to have a Fundraising Committee. Please bring your fundraising ideas to our April 8th meeting.

WCCV

Kathy Driscoll and Wendy Hibbitts attended the WCCV Annual Dinner. VVA Chapter 310 members Jon Luker, Tim Driscoll, Al Merritt, and Bruce Ross attended. Brenda Stumbo was presented a special plaque at the dinner.

Chapter Elections

2018 is an AVVA Chapter Election year. AVVA 310 will elect a Chapter Rep and Alternate Chapter Rep for a two-year term. All AVVA Chapter elections are held in April. Our Chapter election will be Sunday, April 8th at the VFW Post 423 from 1200 – 1600 hours.

VVA/AVVA 310 Recognition Dinner

The recognition dinner will be on Saturday, April 21st. More information at our March meeting.

Next meeting is Sunday, April 8th. This is our Bi-Annual Election for a two-term Chapter Representative.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Dispatch Patrons — by Jon Luker

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

*Name listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The members, associates, and supporters have made contributions to support our VVA310 Chapter by offsetting the cost of printing and postage. The month and year specify the date when the subscription expires. Please consider a donation "In Memory of." Please contact Jon Luker for further information.

Our Chapter retains \$9.00 of your yearly \$20.00 dues, and it costs about \$12.00 a year for printing and postage. So, your Dispatch Patron support is appreciated. If you would like to donate, please make a check payable to VVA 310 for any amount—Memo line: Dispatch Patron. You can conveniently use our Paypal facility at vva310.org. We will credit one month for every \$1.50 donated. Please mail your check to: VVA 310, P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221. Again, thank you for your continued support!

List of Supporters and Expiration Date:

George F Boone ~ October 2021; Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020; Cynthia Calhoun ~ February 2018; Gary Couture ~ November 2017; Joseph Flint ~ January 2021; James Graham ~ February 2019; Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021; Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ Jan 2023; 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; Ann and 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;

Donations "In Memory of":

Linda Lamey-Leonard, In memory of **Lavern Lamey*** ~ July 2021; Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, **David S. Palmer** ~ October 2018; Helena Prince, in Memory of deceased member husband **Tom Prince** ~ April 2023; Corrine Gignac, in Memory of Vietnam Veteran Marine **Gary L West** ~ December 2018; Bonnie Woods in memory of her Vietnam Veteran husband, **Gary Woods** ~ December 2018.

Blessings all!

Jocosity — by Ken Rogge

Palm Sunday: It was Palm Sunday, and because of a sore throat, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church, with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying palm branches. The boy asked what they were for.

- "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," they explained.
- "Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed. "The one Sunday I don't go to church, he shows up!"

* * * * *

Spotlight on Associated: Corrine Gignac

[Editor's note: This is part II of Corrine's story, featuring her art teacher career information. To AVVA Associates: Please consider sharing your story. Recall that one's personal story belongs to the world, because it is a way to inspire people with our accomplishments, and even with our struggles. Here is Corrine's story of her art teaching career.]

My art teaching career started in 1972, after high school, when I began instructing kids in drawing & painting skills, through a summer Recreation & Community Arts Program at The Southfield Civic Center (Michigan). I continued working for Community Arts Programs with Birmingham, Lake Orion (MI), Fairmount Fine Art Center (OH), Ann Arbor (MI), and Cleveland (OH), working day jobs at art supply/framing stores, the Meadowbrook Theatre & Music Festival Subscription Office (Oakland University), the Cleveland Music School Settlement (OH), and Day Substitute-Teaching with Birmingham, Lake Orion, West Bloomfield, Oxford, and Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Art "special" teachers are used to receiving "pink slips" (lay off) when school budgets tighten. This would begin my "last hired, first to be cut" from public schools programs with The Detroit Archdiocese, Birmingham, and Lake Orion Public Schools, and finally DoDDS (Torrejon AFB High School, Madrid, Spain), 1986 - 1992.

My M.A. in Art Education (U of M) began in 1986, amid all the jobs-juggling, and finally graduating in 1990. I continued until 1999, then securing two jobs ("When it rains, it pours!"). DoDD Camp Lejeune Elementary School (N.C.) hired me via a telephone interview, and Ann Arbor Public Schools offered a competitive salary and benefits, . . . bringing me to Ann Arbor—and eventually, to my working with Chapter 310.

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If You Wish Contact Us

Here is how you can reach the Officers of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 310:

Contact Number for membership and other information: 734-439-1606

President: Dave Draper

Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt

Secretary: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Treasurer: Jon Luker

Dispatch Newsletter Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Website: www.vva310.org

Chapter Address:

VVA 310 PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

Thank you for your continued Support!

Current Events — by Ann Dempsey

Attention: Ticket Sales for Recognition Dinner!
 \$10 each (down from \$15 from last year)
 April 21st, 1800 hours, UAW 898 Hall: — 8978 Textile Rd, Ypsilanti —
 Please contact George Perrault,
 375 Chandler, Saline, Mi. 48176 — 734 429 1246 — geolois@umich.edu

Please check <http://vva310.org/> for the latest updates on current events. Especially keep in mind the following events:

- April 8th VVA310 Special Annual Meeting, final round of officer and board nominations at 1200 Noon, and elections from 1300 to 1600, VFW 423 Hall.
- April 9th: AVVA Quartermania for Fisher House, Michigan. American Legion Post 268, Milan. Door open at 5:00 pm. Bidding starts at 6:30 pm.
- April 10th: Merchandise sales at VAMC, Ann Arbor 0800-1400.
- April 12th: No VVA310 or AVVA meeting.

- April 21st: VVA310 Recognition Dinner, UAW 898 Hall 8978 Textile Road, Ypsilanti. Doors open at 1800. Dinner at 1830. Great food, awards, raffles, and 50/50 drawing.
- May 8th: Merchandise sales at VAMC, Ann Arbor, 0800-1400 hours.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
PO Box 3221 Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Please Forward, Thank You