



Together We
Make A Difference



Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310



Al "Fredo" Merritt, Paulo Pereira, Khiem Quang Pham, Phillip Pham, and John Kinzinger. Bomber Restaurant, July 2018.



VVA310 Dispatch – August 2018

Editor's Note: In this issue, Shirley Hitte tells us about her amazing quilt and embroidery work. The Pig Roast event will be coming soon; please be sure to volunteer. LTC Kettles was honored at a baseball event; please see report. Also, Part Two of Phillip Pham's family's story is included. Finally, I thank all the Dispatch contributors for their articles and pictures. This is what makes the Dispatch great. Dispatch Donors: Please update your donations. Also, we are looking for an anonymous donor for September. Thank you for your generosity. Enjoy!

Last Man Standing?

by Jon Luker

Just as an aside, it has been said that the last man standing is probably going to be a woman. By the time you read this, I'll have returned from the Vietnam



Veterans Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, California. One of the hot items on the docket will be the reports from two work groups that were tasked with helping us understand what it will take to transition through the last official days of "Vietnam Veterans of America."

In fact, many local veterans organizations, including some VVA chapters, are struggling because the increasing average age of the active membership. As that trend goes, so does the ability to be active and do hard work; so, organizations are finding it more difficult to keep doing the events and activities they have done in the past. This is causing National VVA to think about its responsibilities to those who expect VVA to carry on that work. There are two schools of thought:

First, we are Vietnam-Era Veterans. When we have all died, our work will be complete, and we hope somebody turns the

lights off.

Second, we are Vietnam-Era Veterans. We were treated poorly, not considered combat veterans, and not welcomed by then-existing veterans' organizations. We also saw that something similar happened to the Korean War veterans. So VVA built a new organization, whose founding principle states the following:

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

VVA knows what returning veterans face. We have been through it before, and we know that, despite all the rhetoric, returning veterans will face



major problems. VVA will be here for as long as it takes to make sure Veterans receive the care and respect they have earned.

Because that work is not yet done, the work must be transitioned to a new group of people, who will continue to work according this founding principle.

Workgroup One will report on a plan for an orderly end to the Vietnam Veterans of America. They are concerned with everything, from making sure somebody does turn out the lights, to telling us when we need to stop taking new claims cases, when to stop appealing old ones, when to wind down

our fundraising projects and to figuring out how to decide what to do with all the physical and financial property that will be left when the organization is officially dissolved.

Workgroup Two is focused on a smooth handoff of the VVA mission, principles, and property to individuals who will pick up where we leave off. They are looking at such things as admitting non-Vietnam members to VVA, or passing the baton to AVVA, or passing the baton to another existing organization, or building a new organization to receive our mission and resources.

The reports will be preliminary. No action will be taken until the 2019 convention. .

I am in with those who think we should find and train our replacements. We know the default position is to do little for veterans, especially considering how little veterans advocate for themselves.

For example, it was Vietnam Veterans who complained to Congress and VHA about "Gulf War Syndrome." We saw it first, because we knew to look for it due to our experience with Agent Orange. Many Gulf War veterans needed us to help them see the problem and the ways to address the problem.

At the Leadership Conference, I expect many people will advocate for the VVA to stop leading. I don't get that, but that's the problem with deciding before you hear all the facts. I will do my best to bring back an accurate version of both sides of the story. I will then pass the buck to you.

How will you want the Chapter to vote when the issue comes up at a future convention? It is your call. Your elected reFpresentative will vote the way you tell them to.

On another note, two VVA 310 events are coming up, and the people who are organizing them need your help. The Heritage Festival is 24 through 26 August. They will need help with setting up, sales, and tearing down. Please contact Larry St. Antoine for details. Also, Pig Roast organizers need to sell a lot of raffle tickets during the festival. Please contact Don Miller to



help.

Then, the Pig Roast is going to be 9 September. It will take lots of work. Before the event, Don Miller and Al Dyer are gathering auction items, putting up flyers, finding sponsors, buying supplies, etc. Please contact them to help. Then there is the all-night cooking crew. Please sign up to take a two-hour shift, if you can. Merchandise will need help setting up, selling and taking down. Then, after the event, Don and Al would like help to tear down, put stuff away and clean up.

What event do you want VVA 310 to attend or to produce in the coming years? Do you want

the Chapter to do it bad enough to sign up to help?

De Oppresso Liber

Chaplain's Corner

by Rev. Gordon Moore

Instability. Chaos. Uncertainty. Confusion. Mental and emotional stresses have their way of causing us to dig deeper for meaning as we go through life, seeking balance. And today we find ourselves in a world of great turbulence, with radical swings of life's pendulum causing many in ships without rudders to be tossed about with every shifting wind of change.

God's Word for me is a rudder in such times and an occasional anchor when the storms of life reach hurricane force. This month, as we approach our



national mid-term elections, where even more winds of change pummel us, I share with you the peace that comes from God and His word, as we enter into His Presence, and the peace that is found there. I offer you the following text of peace and rejoicing:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by

prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9).

Sailing to Vietnam aboard ships that encountered three typhoons gave me a picture for even more turbulent times in combat as I watched those who had gone through such times before me remain relatively calm amidst adversity. And when it came my time to lead, I could trust my learning and experiences to guide others.

We who have experienced war's tragedy have learned how to trust God to lead us through and help us lead others, as Paul said



in Philippians. In our trust, we experience peace in the midst of turmoil. And as Jesus said, facing his own torture and death for our atonement, "Peace I leave

with you; my peace I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:27).

Brothers and sisters, let us experience and live God as we help others through these turbulent times.

Shalom be with you and live in you,
Gordon

KIA's August

Anniversaries

Lance Corporal Kendal Lee Benney, Jr. was born on February

22, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Kendal L. Benney of Ypsilanti. Kendal lived with his father and step-mother in Big Rapids, Michigan until

September of 1965, where he attended Ypsilanti High School. He left school during his Junior year and enlisted in the Marine Corps in March of 1966. Lance Corporal Benney began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, in December of 1966 serving with the First Marine Division as a machine gunner. Kendal was killed on August 20, 1967 while standing watch, when he suffered multiple fragmentation wounds from a bomb. Lance Corporal Benney is survived by his mother, father, step-mother, two sisters, and one brother, who was serving in South Vietnam when Kendal



was killed. Kendal's brother was discharged from the Army and escorted his brother back to the "World" for internment. Kendal lived 19 years, 5 months and 28 days. He is resting in the Altona Cemetery in Altona, Michigan. Kendal'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 25E Line 018.

Private First Class James William Davis was born on March 24, 1947 in Erie, Pennsylvania, to Mr. and Mrs. William A. and Gretchen Raub Davis. James is a 1965 graduate of Belleville High School, where he lettered in football and swimming. James attended Michigan State



University and Cleary College. James entered the Marine Corps on December 13, 1968. He began his tour of duty in

Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, on July 7, 1969 serving as a rifleman with the 1st Marine Division. James was killed on August 13, 1969 as a result of small arms fire just one month and six days into his tour of duty "In-Country". James William Davis is survived by his wife, a son, his parents, and two brothers. He lived 22 years,

4 months and 10 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan and his 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 19W Line 029.

VVA: What's Next?

by Jon Luker

VVA chapters have voted on several occasions not to admit veterans of other eras. With those votes, two things eventually happens:

- 1) Recognizing that membership is getting older and is less able to take on the workload it used to, pick a date upon which to dissolve the corporation in an orderly manner and redistribute the assets as we see fit; or,
- 2) Let the State of New York



decide who gets our assets and when we dissolve after somebody files a complaint because we failed to do a clear legal duty.

That question was raised again at the leadership conference I just attended in Palm Springs. But what about our commitment that "Never again should one generation of veterans abandon

another?" Are we going to abandon future generations in violation of our own principle? Not if National's current idea is workable and is approved by membership.

Now that I've had both briefings, let me tell you what I learned about VVA's strategic planning Workgroups One and Two. As I now understand it, Workgroup One assumes that we don't want the State of New York to get to decide who gets VVA National's property when the lights are turned out. To avoid that, a strategic plan must be developed that will provide for an orderly shutdown and transfer of



assets.

Workgroup Two is working on another part of a long-term strategic plan. Their mission assumes that the creed "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another" is both a creed that deserves to be handed down to later generations

of veterans and a legacy that is an essential part of VVA National's identity. Workgroup Two believes that it is important that future generations know what VVA has accomplished. Therefore, Workgroup Two is developing a strategic plan that has identified our main legacy impacts and that proposes to carry on each piece of that work one way or another, and that preserves the memory of the work done so far. The legacy areas that Workgroup Two identified for us are as follows:

1) VVA is the only organization that uses litigation to keep Congress and the Executive Branch on mission, with a 70% win ratio.

2) We are the premier veterans organization that advises Congress on legislative issues effectively enough to impact ultimate legislation.

3) We are the premier veterans organization that advocates for veterans before the VBA and VHA, processing claims and helping VBA and VHA understand the veterans' situation, making better choices about what merits compensation and which claims are viable and which are not.

4) We are the premier veteran support organization, including agent orange, burn pits, and irradiated ammunition, and even food pantry and other direct supports. In addition to scholarships and money to charities, we engage in direct service to veterans wherever we find them.

5) The ongoing funding program.

Workgroup Two's present idea focuses on a two-step process of finding, training, equipping,



and empowering the next generations of veterans, while preserving the public's memory of what VVA has done till now.

Workgroup Two proposes to start a 501(c)(3) foundation, with a suggested name of Vietnam Veterans of America Legacy Foundation (VVALF), to act as our agent for the development of the next organization run by the next generations of veterans. Thus, VVA will meet with next-generation veterans across the nation to let them know what VVA does and to encourage them to produce comparable results going forward. For those who wish to pick up where we leave off, the foundation will help start a new 501(c)(19) organization with a broad goal of producing the same results the VVA did, as in the five legacy areas mentioned above. The foundation will then provide training, economic support, mentorship, and institutional learning for the new organization. It is good to remember that,

when we started to build VVA, there were groups trying to do something for Vietnam Veterans, but they were not doing it together. They were fighting with one another more than fighting evil or fighting for justice. Also, back then, Vietnam veterans largely did not trust the prior generations of veterans to lead us because those veterans didn't seem to know about our issues, or to be interested in helping us deal with those issues. Also, we were somewhat rebellious and untrusting. These newest generations of veterans have similar trust issues and



loved ones.

Helping the next generations of veterans extend that legacy and continuing to do our good work will go a long way toward preserving that legacy. Also, the foundation will look at how schools teach Vietnam War history and how museums show art related to the Vietnam War, making sure old Vietnam Veterans do not fade away, so that the same mistakes do not happen again.

The Work Groups should work together. If Workgroup Two is successful and a new Veterans organization picks up where we leave off, Workgroup One's work will also be necessary. One way or the other, VVA National will be dissolved.

I look forward to your questions and discussions. The participants at the leadership conference had plenty of questions still to be addressed. For example, VVA 310 is its own legal entity. The workgroups do not know what will happen if our chapter decides we can last

longer than National. Do we need to find our own replacements? Do we have to wait 8 to 12 years to turn out the lights or can we retire sooner? These are questions that our own Board of Directors will need to address as it develops our Chapter's long-term strategic plan.

If you are interested in this type of thinking and strategic planning, or if you have questions, please contact me either via email (JonLuker9@outlook.com) or cell phone (734-260-2211).

Freedom is Not Free Part Two

by Phillip Pham

I went to visit my parents after the reunion and asked my mom about me being "almost" left behind. Still after 30 years, she burst out in tears and apologized that she didn't mean to leave me behind. She thought my older sister was dead, rushed to get her, while inadvertently leaving



me behind. My older sister also survived the trip, despite being trampled on.

During our 30th anniversary, the local newspaper published a story on my family's escape. A gentleman in San Francisco contacted the editor to seek permission to speak to my father.



similar organizing problems. We hope they will recognize our success and will decide that it would be good to learn these lessons from us, rather than having their own 20-year startup learning curve.

The other thing that VVALF will do is to preserve our legacy, ensuring the following generations of veterans and civilians will remember that there once was a VVA, which turned things around for at least three generations of warriors and servicemembers and their

He wanted my dad to know that he had in his possession my dad's flight suit and those of the rest of the crew. He told my father that his dad had served and was responsible for bringing my family and others over to the United States.

His dad had passed away, and for some reason, the son had decided to safeguard his dad's. When he read the story in the paper, he knew he wanted to give it back. He asked for my dad's address and sent the suit back to him, without asking for anything in return. When my dad received his flight suit, I had never seen him so happy. He was beaming with joy. As he pulled the flight suit out of the box, it looked to me like something my 12-year-old son would wear. It was a moment to savor.

Why am I here today, telling you the story? I am doing this for several reasons. First, I want to ask those who have served in the Vietnam War for your forgiveness. I spent most my life living in ignorance, living a lie. When I saw a Vietnam veteran, I would avoid that person. I felt a sense of guilt that you fought in a war for which we were to blame. I was ungrateful for your sacrifice, including the ultimate sacrifice of the 58,220, who lost their lives for my family's freedom and the freedom of many others.

I enjoyed my personal freedom and took it for granted. I was selfish and foolish in my thinking. Let's say that I once was lost, but now I am found. With the help of Jesus, my Lord and Savior, he helped me find my way home. He reminded me of where I came

from, and the sacrifices it took to literally buy the freedom that my family and many others have today.

In the past few months, I found my way to the Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 in Ann Arbor. When I reached out to them, intending to thank them for what they

their lives for their brothers and sisters, even if they were strangers in a strange land, like my family.

Second, I want to thank you for serving in our war and for continuing to defend freedom now and in the future. My family, like many other families, escaped from Vietnam, not only



had done for me and my family, they welcomed me with open arms. I met a group of men and women who are passionate and committed in serving others, just as they did 40 to 50 years ago. Not only was my family blessed back then, I am blessed now, seeing what it truly means to serve.

A Bible verse I have tried to incorporate into my life reads as follows: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters" (1 John 3:16). When I reflect on Memorial Day, I see that there are plenty of people who have sacrificed

to flee from war and find safety, but also because we knew our personal freedoms would have been forcefully taken away from us. The more than 50 people who boarded the plane with my father on April 3, 1975 were not unaware of the risks. They had no idea where they were going, except that it was anywhere else but there. My family left one of the most beautiful countries on this earth, taking nothing but the clothes on their backs, to avoid being under Communist rule. What does that rule look like? There is no family structure; the government is your family. There is no freedom of religion; what government tells you is

your religion. If you don't agree with these ideals, they take you in front of your family and shoot you in the head.

That, my friends, is why my dad was willing to do everything he could, for us to have a better life—and that better life is right here, right now in the United States.

As I finish here today, I want to honor our fallen and acknowledge our veterans by showing my appreciation and gratitude for buying my family's freedom. Allow me to shake your hand, give you a hug, thank you, and even pray for you if you wish. God Bless America and our troops, and Thank You!

Pig Roast Cookers Needed

– by *John Kinzinger*

Saturday, September 8th, starting at 10:00 pm at the VFW Post, we will begin cooking overnight for our annual pig roast dinner. We work in two-man teams throughout the night until 11:00 am on Sunday, September 9th. The teams will make sure the flame does not go out and will monitor the temperature of the pork.

We have gained many new members since I last recruited new cookers to add to our group of regulars. So, please contact me if you want to be part of our Pork Cooking Team this year. Those who contact me first will get their choice of a two-hour block. Especially I would like to hear from newer members. You will enjoy the experience, as you meet other members in the quiet hours of the night and early

morning. Regulars, please do



volunteer, too. Please email me at johnavalva@aol.com.

In addition to cookers, we need volunteers for the Pig Roast dinner on Sunday, to work as servers, cleanup, setup, teardown, bucket raffle support, and so on. Also, remember that this is the biggest fundraiser we have each year. For information, please contact Don Miller, Al Dyer, or me.

Thank you, John K

Honoring MOH Recipients

By *Paulo-Juarez Pereira*

LTC Charles S. Kettles, together with other Medal of Honor recipients, were recognized at a ceremony before the All-Star Baseball Game. This is a splendid moment of national recognition to MOH recipients and to all current and former service personnel, a well-deserved recognition. You will find a link to a short video of the ceremony in our website, www.vva310.org. Congratulations, LTC Kettles!

**Minutes, Chapter – VVA310
Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310,**

General Membership Meeting, 12 July 2018

by *Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Secretary*

Call to Order by President Jon Luker 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!

Guests: Gino DeTone, from Team Red White & Blue.

Motion by Bob Field and seconded by Larry St. Antoine to approve the June meeting minutes that were emailed to members and inserted on VVA310's website. Approved.

President's Report: Merchandise committee currently has a limited life expectancy. If interested in helping it go on after the end of this fiscal year, please let us know. Sign-up sheets being passed around for merchandise and Heritage Festival.

Treasurer's Report: Berry Bourne explained how to understand the financial report.

AVVA Report: Given by Kathy Driscoll. Please see the attached full report on AVVA activities.

Food Pantry: Don Miller. No activity.

Merchandise Report: St. Antoine thanked members for coming out to the VA. At the last sale, the revenue was \$1597, with \$287 going to the VA. Committee has ordered new hats and shirts. Committee is searching for someone to take over the merchandise responsibility.

Washtenaw County Council of

Veterans Report: Jon Luker.
Next meeting 1930 on 16 July
at VFW Post 423, 3230 South
Wagner Road, Ann Arbor MI
48103.

All three Veterans' student
groups have been invited to
attend.

Don't accept RAMP at this time.
It might work later but it is not to
be trusted yet.

Michigan State Council Report:
Jon Luker.

What do you want the VVA to
do when we are too old to keep
going? Need your questions and
opinions.

Memorial Maintenance Report:
Al (Fredo) Merritt: Parking
project is finished. We will have
the final inspection and financial
statement by next meeting.

Website Report: Vance
McCrumb: Website functioning
well.

Membership Report: Vance
McCrumb: 212 members.

Newsletter: Paulo Pereira: Thank
you to contributors.

VAAHHS Report: John Kinzinger:
Will need participants for
Halloween Party and Christmas
Party.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: **Motion** by Tom
Field and seconded by Larry St.
Antoine to amend Bylaw Article X,
Section 4 to delete it. Vote will be
postponed until the next month.

2/3 majority to approve. **Motion**
by Sandie Wilson seconded by
Bob Field to purchase \$10,000
CD from General Fund. Motion
referred to Finance Committee
to research best investment.

Special Events Report:

Current Events:

16 Jul 18 1930-2030

WCCV Meeting

20 Jul 18 1930 F l a g
retirement ceremony by Eagle
Scout candidate at the Vietnam
Memorial

21 Jul 18 1600 Milan
American Legion Post 268 3rd
Annual Appreciation Day (pig
roast, drink specials, live music
at 2000 (before that it's free))

11 Aug 18 Noon to 1800, Vet
Fest at Mt Brighton, a Region 9
VCAT program. April from AA VA
is helping to coordinate resource
tables for the event. If you want
a table, contact April at (734)
845-5180.

21 Aug 18 1200 E s c o r t
Wall That Heals from Cabelas
KSU 1400. Ride ends about
1530.

23-26 Aug Wall That Heals
open to the public.

13-15 Sep Annual Veterans
Reunion at Kokomo

09 Sep VVA 310 Pig Roast open
to the public

21 Sep POW MIA VA

12 Nov AAVAHS Vet's Day
Program

Good of the Chapter:

Paulo Pereira mentioned the
possibility of a trip to Washington,
D.C. in the fall, to visit the National
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
to commemorate the 50th
anniversary of the Tet Offensive
(1968).

Merchandise: Hard work for
setting up. More volunteers are
needed to start sales earlier in
the day. Only three or four usually
come. Need people not to visit
but rather to work and spend at
least 2 hours.

Next Chapter Breakfast: will be
Friday, August 10th, 0900 hours,
at Holiday's Restaurant, 2080

W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor MI
48103.

Closing prayer was given by
John Kinzinger. President Jon
Luker led the group in a salute to
the flag to close the meeting at
2100 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Secretary

Dexter Ann Arbor Race

by John Kinzinger

Each year around Memorial
Day, we are asked to provide
volunteers to be road guards
along the race course on Huron
River Drive. We make sure
vehicles do not enter the race
course at intersections. This
is an easy job, and we have
members who have volunteered
for many years. Thank you
all. If you would like to join us
next year, please let me know.
For our work this past year, the
Ann Arbor Track Club gave us a
check for \$300.00 to our General
Fund. The following is from the
letter we received from them.

*On behalf of the entire Ann
Arbor Track Club and the 2018
Dexter-Ann Arbor Run Planning
Committee, I want to thank
you and your group for your
commitment of time and energy
to this year's event. Volunteers
with your passion and dedication
prove why, after all these years,
the DxA2 continues to be one
of the most popular races in the
State!*

With Gratitude,

Doug Goodhue, Race Director"

On another topic, I also would like to share another letter, this one from Afghanistan:

VVA Chapter 310

I wanted to write to thank you for the care package that arrived in Afghanistan yesterday. It was quickly shared among the team here. Well wishes and thoughts from home are always welcome from myself and the rest of our Soldiers. Again, thank you for the support, and looking forward to being back home in the coming months!

V/R

Kyle Rogers

MAJ, AV

Focus on Associate:

Quilting

by Shirley Hitte

I learned to quilt and sew starting at the age of five. My father's mother and my mother taught me how to quilt, sew, crochet, and do hand embroidery. I made



a quilt of Corvettes starting with the very first year they were made and continuing until the anniversary year the 1992. We took the quilt to the Bloomington Gold Car Show in Illinois, and my quilt had a lot of interest. I turned down offers from people wanting to purchase the quilt and from people wanting me to

make more. We also appeared, together with the quilt, in Vette View Magazine. It hung in the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY for several years. It is now home with us, where it belongs. Now I do most of my embroidery by machine. I have made many things for Veterans and for helping the Fisher House get built.

AVVA Newsletter August

2018

by Kathy Driscoll

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 July. Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Members marched or rode in the Ypsilanti 4th of July Parade. Members attended the 4th of July Picnic at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veteran Memorial. Kathy attended the WCCV meeting.

VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, August 14th. The Merchandise Team 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 is Sunday, August 26th in Howell, MI. I will have more information at our August 9th meeting. Please let me know if you are available to attend.

AVVA Michigan Association Challenge Coins \$10 donation. Please contact Kathy Driscoll at 734-355-4897 or dkathyr16@gmail.com. This fundraiser will benefit AVVA Michigan Association. We sold 35 challenge coins at our May meeting. Thank you for supporting this AVVA Michigan Association Fundraiser. I have 20 challenge coins left.

Fundraising Report—Fisher House Michigan

We need fundraising ideas for Fisher House Michigan. We would like to raise another \$2,000 for Fisher House Michigan. One idea is to have an Afternoon Tea. Please bring your fundraising ideas to our August meeting. The next matching funds event for Fisher House is September 11th to November 11th. We would like to reach our goal to donate \$10,000.

Creative Memories Fundraising Event benefiting Fisher House Michigan TBD

AVVA 310 Chapter Special Projects & Operating Funds

We need Fundraising ideas for our Chapter operating and special projects / donations. Our

Chapter needs raffle items for our raffle table at VVA 310 Pig Roast. Please let me know if you can donate an item. New idea is to have a Mystery Wine Raffle. More information at our August meeting.

Save the Date!

24 - 26 August Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

9 September VVA 310 Pig Roast

Next meeting is Thursday, August 9th

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President

dkathyr16@gmail.com

734-355-4897

Jocosity,

by Ken Rogge

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She walked around, looking at what each child was doing. She noticed a little girl working diligently and asked her what she was doing. The little girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused a moment and said, "But no one knows what God looks like!" Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Current Events

by Ann Dempsey-Pereira

Aug 7th: VVA310 Merchandise sales, VA Medical Center, 3rd floor, Liberty Bldg, 0800-1400 hours.

Aug 9th: AVVA meeting, VVA310 Board Meeting, 1800; VVA310

General Membership Meeting 1900 hours. VFW Post 423

Aug. 29th: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hours, Ypsilanti American Legion, Post 282.

Aug.29th: Marine Corps Reserve Birthday, 1916.

Ongoing: Saturdays, 0930 hours, meet in southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk/run with team Red White and Blue.

Ongoing: Please visit Veterans Radio online and make a contribution: <http://www.veteransradio.net/>.

Chapter/Dispatch Patrons

Please check your dates to see if you are current

*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 an "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. We will credit one 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!

George F Boone ~ October 2021

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020

Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2019

Edward Fuller ~ March 2020

Gary Couture ~ November 2017

Joseph Flint ~ January 2021

James Graham ~ February 2019

Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021

Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ October 2018

Dick Knight ~ May 2018

Jane and John Kinzinger ~ September 2018

Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021

Dell Mayes ~ May 2019

Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018

Ron Oliver ~ February 2019

Paulo Pereira ~ August 2018

George Perrault ~ October 2022

Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021

Ken Rogge ~ May 2019

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 ~ November 2019

Bob Kurtz ~ December 2019

Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2020

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 **Tom Prince**, ~ April 2023

Corrine Gignac in Memory of Vietnam Vet Marine **Gary L West** ~ December 2018

Bonnie Woods in memory of her VN vet husband **Gary Woods**, ~ December 2018

If You Wish to Contact Us

Website: <http://vva310.org/>

President: Jon Luker

Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt

Secretary: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Membership: Vance McCrumb

Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Chapter Mailing Address:

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

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday of the Month, 1900 hours.

MEETING LOCATION: V.F.W. Post 423

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