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| <p>NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 1999 & 2007</p> |  <p><i>Together We Make A Difference</i></p> <p><i>Charles S. Kettles Michigan Chapter 310</i></p> | <p>NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2007, 09, 11, 15 E - NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2017</p> |
| <p>THE 310 DISPATCH – JANUARY 2018</p> | | |

President’s Message – David Draper, January 2018

I am pleased to announce that the VA Medical Center Volunteer Services has asked us to return for another day of serving lunch to the residents. I think it is an honor that they asked us to come again. They were impressed with how well the event went. The residents were really excited that our own LTC Kettles was there and that he talked to just about everyone- residents and staff. LTC Kettles has already graciously volunteered to return to help with this upcoming event. The event will be in February. We already have all the volunteers needed to help serve the food. Thanks to all of you who said yes to helping.

I was a little disappointed with how few came to the PTSD Town Hall meeting on Saturday, December 2nd. It was held at the Saline American Legion Post 322. I came late, as I had another commitment that night, but my wife, Meni, was there helping with registration. She was very impressed with the guest speaker, Dr. Bellinger, Macomb Country psychologist. I think only a dozen or so showed up. I hope in the future we will have a better turnout so that more of these kinds of events will want to come to our area.

We had another successful day with the Merchandise sales at the VA Medical Center on Dec 12. Several of us adorned ourselves with Christmas clothing. Our receipts were as good as last month. Word has it within the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center that they are trying to move us to a new location on the same floor, that they say has more foot traffic. So, sales may increase in the near future. We are one of the most requested vendor organizations, by the VA and many of the patients who utilize the facility. It is quite an honor. Meni and I will be transitioning out of the leadership role for the Merchandising Team over the next couple of months. Larry St. Antoine, Scott Brooks-Miller, and Marvin Rivers have stepped up to take over the positions. I wish them all the success in the world, and I think our Chapter will

benefit from their leadership. Thank you so much, gentlemen. I have certainly learned that there is a lot more work performed behind the scenes than I ever expected.

We had a relatively small group at our first of two visits to the VA Medical Center for our annual Christmas Party on December 15th. We had participants from the VVA 310, AVVA, and Daughters of the American Revolution. John Kinzinger was not feeling well; so, he stayed back so as not to infect any of the patients. As is standard practice, we met in the lobby and then proceeded to the CLC, where we enjoyed the Saline Fiddlers. From there, our VA Volunteer Services Rep, Steve, guided us to the resident ward on the basement level. We passed out embroidered shirts and custom-printed Christmas cards to the patients; decorated bowls of candy (put together by Sandy Martinez) were placed at the nurses' stations. This was repeated on the fifth and sixth floors. The patients and the staff were very appreciative. If you have never participated in this event, it would be well worth your time.

Looking back on 2017, we saw sad times, as we lost five of our members. We also saw good times, as we were able to serve our fellow Veterans at many events, our membership continued to increase, sales at the festivals continued to support our Chapter, and our sales and reputation increased at our monthly Ann Arbor VAMC sales events. We honored our deceased Veterans at our Memorial, our Veteran patients at the Ann Arbor VAMC, and our first responders who help protect the VAMC. We contributed to the community with our donation of Thanksgiving dinner and our fireside chat with the residents of Dawn Farms. Our ladies of the AVVA and helpers from the VVA were very successful at raising funds to help build Michigan's first Fisher House. I think we can be proud of our Chapter, as we are one of the very active ones in the State if not a better portion of the country.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone! I hope you are able to keep all the resolutions you commit to in the coming year. God bless our Chapter, our Veterans, and active military personnel—and especially bless this great Country of ours.

In the first month of the new year, we have the VA Underwear Party on the 7th, our monthly VA Sales Event at the Ann Arbor VAMC on the 9th, the WACU Fundraiser on the 10th, and our monthly meeting of the VVA/AVVA on the 11th. I hope you will think about participating some or all of these events.

Dave Draper
President &
USAF C-130 Loadmaster

Jocosity — by Ken Rogge

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then. you ask him!"

From the Editor's Desk



To all VVA310, AVVA, and Supporters: Happy and Prosperous New Year! May 2018 surprise all of us with blessings! Please see Rev. Gordon Moore's message below.

I am honored to report that the materials for the Dispatch keep rolling in. I have new software, which requires a bit of a learning curve; so, I am keeping the "work in progress" logo for now. But as you can see, the content is superb. For example, take a look at Al "Fredo" Merritt's article on Wreaths Across America. Amazing!

Now, here is a hint about newsletters: Editors **love** pictures—for example, the great picture from Jane Kinzinger's report on "Toys for Tots." So, if you are sending an article, please send a picture along—if possible.

Another point is this: VVA310 has received a generous offer from an anonymous donor. This is a good omen for the new year, which starts with a note of generosity. This Donor has made an offer to new members of VVA310, as follows: Anyone who signs up as a new member of VVA310 in January 2018 and who pays for the regular membership will have that regular membership upgraded to Life Member, compliments of the Anonymous Donor. Please note that this offer is for new members only, and it is for the month of January 2018 only. I thank this generous Donor in advance.

— Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Dispatch Editor
January 2018

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

There is something about the New Year that brings hope, even though it is merely a new day that launches a new year. Maybe it is the thought of a fresh

beginning in the dead of winter, knowing spring is not far away. Maybe it is having the hectic holiday seasons behind us and a chance to relax with a deep breath. Maybe it is the joy some people have in making new goals to some long-perceived or actually felt need to change.

For me, it relates to the Book of Revelation's promise of an actual new beginning because the old will finally be done away with:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (Rev. 21:1-4)

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and the unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Rev. 21:5-8)

Part of getting rid of the old is to do away with the evil that is attached, so that the new will forever prosper. It is God's plan, and it will bring eternal newness, sort of a heavenly oxymoron.

So, let us celebrate the true coming of a new day filled with a fullness of joy and everything that will be needed to maintain eternal life, while doing away with the part of life we have come to abhor.

Blessing and honor on this New Year and new beginnings,
— Gordon

MINUTES

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 — General Membership Meeting — 14 December 2017 – by Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Call to order by President David Draper at 1855.

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:** No guests were announced.

Motion to Approve the November Minutes that were emailed to members and put on

the website by David Draper and Al Merritt. Approved.

President's Report: Draper called on Vance McCrumb. Vance: Get-well card for John Kinzinger to be signed. VA invited us back after successful event in which Kettles handed out challenge coins. For the return visit, the VA will provide the food. Kettles has agreed to return with coins, in February.

Treasure's Report: Jon Luker. Reports handed out. Beat yearly budget by \$2,000. Members can see line items.

AVVA Report: Kathy Driscoll. Please see attached report. AVVA has members. In 2018 there will be AVVA elections for two years. Quartermania December 4, 2017: Proceeds were \$695. Next Quatermania is scheduled for March 2018.

Food Pantry: Don Miller. No report.

Merchandise Report: Dave Draper: Using new tablet for charge cards is producing good results, covering more than half the sales. New leadership in January 2018.

Larry St. Antoine: Expressed thanks to ladies who volunteered. A van or truck is needed to come to VFW, pick up merchandise, and deliver it. Dell will do it in January; he continues not to accept money. Thank you, Dell!

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

1) May 11,12,13 Statewide Council. Manton, Michigan. Camp out, RVs, campers, place unknown, informal, no program: Just show up. Roasted pig.

2) Agent orange riders.

Memorial Maintenance Report: Jon Luker. Please see attached report. Engineers to draw up plans for parking spots. Work in spring, for Memorial Day.

Website Report: McCrumb. 70,000 hits.

Membership Report: Vance McCrumb. 196 members.

Newsletter: Pereira. May ask member for some writing. Do not be concerned about grammar and such. Newsletter team will work on that.

VAAHS Report: Jane Kinzinger: Christmas event at VA will be tomorrow night (12/15/17). Participants will visit patients with personalized gifts of shirts and jackets. Miss Michigan has been attending since 1993. VVA528 members will come also. Wear something colorful.

Veterans Radio: Dale Throneberry. No report.

VA State Chapter: Sandy Wilson. No report.

Old Business: (none)

Wilson: PTSD seminar: Not having a professional leading the group results in worthless sessions. Meni, Kathy, and Shirley were there.

Magera: One does not get cured from PTSD. Don't doubt yourself if you feel there is something wrong.

New Business:

Dave: Motion: To approve purchase for 500 coins with new logo at the cost of \$1.57 each for 500. Ken Rogge second. Funding from VAMC or support our troops. Approved.

George Perrault: Motion to approve \$500 for John Kinzinger's fundraiser, from support the troops. Approved.

Special Events Reports: None

Good of the Order:

Dave: John Whitman, donation, \$1500 to get VVA310's own cooker. Wilson has remote control lights.

Jane: January 3rd: need volunteers at VFW barn.

AVVA "Toys for Tots" — by Jane Kinzinger



Women of the VVA310 Chapter have supported "Toys for Tots" for many years. In this photo, they display some of the toys they donated at the December 2017 AVVA meeting. The women are (from left to right) Marge Ballou, Carla Sosa, Ann Dempsey, Carol Talbot, Kathy Driscoll (AVVA Chapter Representative), Cheryl Ward, Meni Draper, Kate Kirkpatrick, Shirley Hitte, Sandra Martinez, (kneeling L to R) Jane Kinzinger and Corrine Gignac.

Wreathes Across America — by Al "Fredo" Merritt — 16 December 2017

It all started when Morill Worchester was a 12-year old paper boy on a trip to Washington, D.C. Morill visited Arlington National Cemetery and was in awe and never forgot the feeling it left with him. Fast forward to his adult years. With good

luck and wise investments, Morrill and his wife, Karen Worcester, founded Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. In 1992, when Morrill had an excess of wreaths, he got the help of Sen. Olympia Snowe to place the excess wreaths on older graves in Arlington. This continued every year until a newspaper printed a picture of the wreaths in 2005, and it exploded with enthusiasm from people and companies across the country, all of them wanting to know how they could help.

The Wreaths Across America (WAA) caravan traveled earlier this month from Columbia Falls, Maine, where the wreaths were made. They went through several states before arriving in Arlington, Va. Some trucks split off along the way to other locations, such as the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. Patriot Guard Riders, the main sponsor of the WAA in Michigan, meet every year at the Villagers Family Restaurant in Holly, before the convoy arrives. A Member brings in an American Flag; they recite the Pledge of Allegiance, offer a prayer, and have breakfast. After breakfast, they head to a McDonald's to rendezvous with the wreath convoy escorted by Police, Patriot Guard riders, and Rolling Thunder, driving under outstretched hook-and-ladder fire trucks with a large American Flag. As the escorts and truck convoy pull into the cemetery, the enthusiasm is at a fever pitch, with people clapping, crying, and expressing every other emotion you can imagine.

I have attended this ritual the last nine years. This year, Tim Clarke went with me. After breakfast, we headed to the cemetery and waited for the convoy's arrival. I would estimate there were over 2,000 volunteers. The parking area was packed, and there were cars lined up outside, waiting to get in. The roads inside the cemetery were clear, but around the graves the snow was about knee deep. I have a friend who asked if I would place a wreath on the headstone of her ex-husband for their children, who live outstate. Of course, I gladly agreed. Tim and I placed four wreaths this year. It is an honor I look forward to every year.

A total of 1.2 million wreaths were placed on markers across the country, in over 1200 locations. I will leave you with the Wreaths Across America motto:

"REMEMBER-HONOR-TEACH"

And the Army keeps rolling along!



Stacey Mason, Professional Entertainer and former Miss

A Chance To Help Combat Warriors And Their Caregivers ... Dine And Be Entertained Too!

Wed., January 10th, 5-9PM at **Frenchies**, next to the Sidetrack Bar and Grill in Ypsilanti's Depot Town at the corner of E. Cross and River Streets. Don't miss this special fund raiser

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT by former Miss Michigan and professional entertainer Stacey Mason, Kelly Trudell and Horace Frazier.

GREAT SIDETRACK FOOD All Good!

Half the dinner receipts, all the tips and donations (100%) will go to programs and events for this group of PTS combat warriors & their caregivers.

GREAT AUCTION ITEMS

4-Red Wing tickets to the February 13th game versus Anaheim, 4-2018 Tiger tickets, other Detroit Tiger items, nice framed prints and other nice items.

Come ready to eat, contribute, support and meet some of our WACU combat warriors and their caregivers who have given so much for us. All the proceeds will go to the non-profit Warriors and Caregivers United. See more at www.wacu.org. Our Michigan based organization helps combat warriors with PTS learn to deal with it and work toward a life of new

normalcy. Unique aspect ... caregivers are equal to warriors, both are equally served by this organization. The VA should do much more for caregivers, which this program does well.



Singer and Song writer Kelly Trudell-Bracey – has performed for VVA 310 many times over the past ten years.

Check us out at www.wacu.org or on FB at Warriors and Caregivers United.

AVVA Newsletter January 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 December

- Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
- Inventory of the VVA Merchandise and ticketing all new merchandise items
- Members joined VVA 310 members for the annual VA Ann Arbor Hospital Christmas visit.
- We raised \$1189 for Fisher House Michigan in December. This includes Quartermania, Scrapbooking Fundraiser and individual donations from AVVA and VVA 310 members.
- Kate Kirkpatrick donated Christmas Wreaths at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial.

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 in February 2018. AVVA MI will be selling Challenge Coins for \$10.

AVVA November 9, 2017 Minutes

Twelve Members were present. Kathy Driscoll was meeting leader.

Financial Report Kathy distributed the New Financial Report.

Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 33 members.

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. V.I.S.T.A. Report:

Kathy submitted V.I.S.T.A forms to Jeri Wallis.

Fundraising Report:

Kathy will be mailing No Bake/Bake Sale Fundraiser letters. This is our annual fundraiser to support all operating and special projects for Fiscal Year 2018. Please be generous, and if possible increase last year's donation. We will still earmark all AVVA Quartermania fundraising to Fisher House Michigan.

WCCV

Kathy will attend the WCCV meeting in January 2018

AVVA National News:**Old Business:****New Business:**

Kathy has Black and Navy AVVA Ball Caps. The embroidered Ball Caps are \$15. You can order AVVA embroidered T-Shirts for \$23. Purple is AVVA Region 5 color, but you can order a T-Shirt in any color. Contact Kathy to order a T-Shirt or to purchase one of the ball caps.

Other / Ongoing Concerns:

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund Balance: \$2,008.25.

Next meeting February 8, 2018 at 6 pm.

Kathy Driscoll

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

Historical Outlook

This section will be for thoughts and insights about the historical outlook on the Vietnam War. This is a place where veterans can share their experience of their insights about the significance and meaning of the Vietnam War, from their perspective. The year of 2018 marks half a century of the Tet Offensive. I received order to go to Vietnam in February of 1968—right in the middle of the Tet Offensive—but in the meantime, I was given a commission as a second lieutenant and ended up going the following year, 1969. But I know some of our veterans were in Khe Sanh, Hue, Danang, or other cities attacked during the Tet Offensive. Those stories are precious and should be preserved. If you feel inspired, please share! I will start out by offering my own perspective on the Vietnam War. I hope soon to hear your perspectives.

Paulo-Juarez Pereira

The Vietnam War: Why the United States Became Involved?
— by Paulo-Juarez Pereira

There is nothing like time to impart wisdom. It has been now over 50 years that the United States decided to become enmeshed in Southeast Asia by sending troops to Vietnam. With time comes reassessment and wisdom. So, in this note, I share with my friends my experiences in Vietnam and my interpretation of the Vietnam War for the United States.

Two Wars: The Big and the Little

Very simply, the Vietnam War can be understood only if one sees it as two wars: the Big War and the Little War. The United States won the Big War and transferred the Little War to the South Vietnamese government, which lost it two years later. When I see people struggling to interpret the Vietnam War, I can spot right away their difficulty: They are looking either at the Big War only or at the Little War only. Hence, their difficulty.

How I Got to Vietnam

I arrived in Saigon in the spring of 1969, one year after the Tet Offensive. There were over half a million Americans in Vietnam. Pres. Richard Nixon was in the White House. There were initial talks of troop withdrawal and Vietnamization—that is, the transfer of warring power to the South Vietnamese Government. With a top secret crypto clearance, I worked at the communications hub in Saigon. So, in conversations with the people there, I came to understand the meaning of the Vietnam War both for the Americans and for the South Vietnamese. That was when I understood about the Big War and the Little War.

The Big War

The Big War was a proxy war, that is, a war instigated by China and Russia but without the direct involvement of those two countries. The strategic plan set out the Chinese and Russians to take over the world for Communism consisted of local, proxy wars under the guise of democratic revolutions. Vietnam was their first major test. But the United States was vigilant against Communist strategies and decided very early to intervene and block the Communist take-over of the world.

But no one knew then how to win a proxy war against China and Russia, which had a nuclear arsenal. In retrospect, and using the wisdom that one acquires by examining what happened half a century later, one knows today that the key to victory in the Big War in Vietnam was time. The United States won the Big War in Vietnam—that is, the war against China and Russia—by staying in the fight long enough, that is 12 years. So, here is the answer to the riddle of the Big War in Vietnam: The United States won that war by staying in the fight long enough, receiving every possible form of attack short of nuclear, and never being defeated. The climax of the Big War was the Tet Offensive of 1968, which was an absolute defeat for the North Vietnamese Government.

The Little War

The Little War in Vietnam was the civil war between North and South Vietnam. Eventually, the Vietnamese themselves needed to sort out that war. The United States helped the best they could, but it was up to the South Vietnamese government to reform itself and get the people on its side. So, the United States withdraw its forces from Vietnam in 1973. Two years later, South Vietnam fell under to attack of North Vietnam. The fall of South Vietnam had no meaning for China or Russia. They had lost the momentum in their strategy to dominate the world. Ten years after the fall of Saigon, the Soviet Union unraveled, and the Communist world was liberated. Now, the Vietnamese people themselves are moving to liberate themselves from Communism.

Paulo-Juarez Pereira
First Lieutenant, First Signal Brigade
Vietnam 1969-1970

