



*Together We  
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles  
Michigan Chapter 310*



Members of VFW Post 423 and VVA 310 took part in a luncheon at Pioneer High School to honor Veterans Day week. This is one more example of the excellent veterans program at that school.

Festive season: Volunteers prepare the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial for the season of joy.

## **Dispatch Newsletter, December 2018**



**From the Editor's Desk:** Another issue of splendid content, and I thank all the contributors, especially for the excellent photos. A highlight of this issue was a luncheon at Pioneer High School, honoring Veterans Day week. LTC Charles Kettles took part in that luncheon and spoke to students. See accompanying photos.

Special mention was a donation of \$2,000 from AVVA to Fisher House, following extensive fundraising. Well done!

Also, just as a reminder, we do have a Food Pantry program, and it is important to find out about any need our veterans may have. No one should go wanting. Don Miller spearheads this program, but we all pitch in. This is the season of giving: Thanks for all your generosity, and Happy Holidays!

## President's Message

By Jon Luker

By the time you read this message, Thanksgiving will be behind us, and Christmas will be



upon us soon.

This time of the year is, by American custom, both a time to reflect upon things we can be thankful for

and a time for passing on some of our good fortune to others (in a way that is different from what we do all year).

One of the things I'm grateful for is living in the most liberated country in the history of the world. I mean "liberated" in the sense that we are free from governmental restraint to the greatest extent possible. For one thing, it means that I am free to think of this time of the year as one during which Christian people pay attention to the gift of Grace God gave us through the birth of Jesus Christ, and there is nothing the government can do to stop me or make me feel bad about it.

Of course, society is different. Some people may be offended or may want to harass me for my beliefs. But that leads me to having another reason to be grateful: America has been, for the longest time, one of the most tolerant places in which to live.

Here's what I mean. When I was a kid, I lived on the U of M campus (between the main campus and the athletic grounds) and met folks from many countries and

many cultures. In the 50's, I would say, "Merry Christmas!" Many people would respond



with phrases like, "And Happy New Year to you!" Or they would just say "Merry Christmas" back to me. Now and then, someone would reply, "Happy Hanukkah!" All I knew back then was that they believed something different from what I did. They were not offended that I was a Christian and that I didn't think to say "Happy Hanukkah!" to them. Instead, we brightened each other's day, showing respect for each other and sharing a common appreciation of the benefits of living in the United States.

Although I miss those days, I'm thankful for Gary Lillie badgering me until I became a member of VVA 310. Since the Army, I've not been a joiner. But my work at Concordia forced me to become familiar with veterans and their organizations. I was impressed that, no matter what veterans event I attended, I would always find VVA members, and the event was probably being run by somebody from VVA 310. Eventually, Gary convinced me that I would be welcomed at VVA 310, even though I was a messed-up veteran with

no combat history. I found a group of people who still had old-fashioned respect and a common appreciation for what it is to be an American.

Not everybody in VVA 310 thinks the same way, as we occasionally find out. But almost always, we find a way to keep moving together for a common purpose, knowing that there is much more that binds us than separates us. This is a place where the old-school respect for others is prominent. I could be wrong, but I believe our organization is this way because that's how our members' personal beliefs teach them to behave toward others. It is not "custom" or social pressure, but rather values, that motivate our members. I love that. Gary was right. I am truly grateful that I've had a chance to meet you and to work with you toward honorable goals.

And VVA 310 is a great place to find examples of the old-style spirit of Christmas giving. We see not only the annual gift-budget getting bigger, but also the volunteer hours increasing, with the VA underwear party, packing parties, shopping for the Dawn Farms Thanksgiving program, and so forth. Not that you don't do this all year long. I have seen you in action: helping a vet get their car back on the road, making sure VA patients are not forgotten during their hospital stays, building ramps, providing medical equipment, and much more. For you, every day is Christmas. . .

I'm even grateful for our challenges. We've been without

a Secretary and a couple board members for a while. The board positions were filled at our last meeting, but we still need a Secretary. Challenges teach us that our self-imposed limitations usually underestimate our actual limitations by a significant amount. If we think that there is no challenge put before us that doesn't have a solution, we begin to see how our group members possess talents or training the rest of us wouldn't have found out otherwise.

Sometimes we surprise ourselves by doing what we previously thought we couldn't do. Challenges are not meant to turn us back into people who want to live in a cave. They are designed to make us realize that God gave us much more than we may have realized. So, if you are ready for a somewhat mild challenge, please let us know. If you usually can be at meetings and can hear and print or write or type, you are qualified and probably would do a respectable job.

I hope you all fully enjoy your holiday. I hope you are healthy enough and wealthy enough to go where you need to go and to create great memories for yourself and your loved ones. I wish you safe travels.

Thank you for being you and allowing me to be with you during this past year.

De Oppresso Liber, Luker

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**December 2018**  
**Chaplain's Corner**  
 By Gordon Moore

Christmas was the time for God



to give the ultimate gift to His mankind through the birth of a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Galatians 4 tells of this gift and its purpose:

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave, although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that we turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? (Gal. 4:1-9 New American Standard Bible).

What a gift we have been given to be made children of God and heirs through Christ to all that is His! Yet, we often seek more

the things of the world, the very things that our adoption frees us from. Yes, we live in the world and need some of what it offers to survive, yet it is God who made these things for us to enjoy.

As we seek gifts to give to those we love this Christmas, let us



do so with eternity in mind and value the relationships that are born of eternity through the gift of Jesus Christ.

A most blessed and glorious Christmas as we sing praises to Him who alone is worthy,

Gordon

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**Honoring December**  
**Anniversaries on the**  
**Wall**

**Private First Class Donald George Bousley** was born on March 18, 1949 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Ferris G. Bousley. Donald is a 1968 graduate of Ann Arbor High School.

Private First Class Bousley enlisted in the Army in June of 1968. He began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South



Vietnam on November 20, 1968 serving with C Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division as an infantryman. Donald was killed by enemy small arms fire during an ambush on December 22, 1968 just one month and two days after arriving "In-Country". He was posthumously awarded two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Private First Class Donald George Bousley is survived by his parents and two brothers. He lived for 19 years, 9 months and 4 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Don is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 36W Line 063.

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**Private First Class Paul Quammen Etter** was born on January 12, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Lester F. Etter of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul is a graduate of University



High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he lettered in football, swimming and track. He attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he studied art for two years prior to entering the Marine Corps on April 16, 1968.

Private First Class Etter went through Marine Corps Boot

Camp in San Diego, California. Paul began his tour of duty in Danang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 2, 1968 serving as an Antitank Assaultman with C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Paul was in combat continuously until he was hospitalized for a foot infection. He returned to duty on December 4, 1968. Paul was killed by small arms fire four days after returning to his unit on December 8, 1968 just two months and six days into his tour of duty "In-Country".

Paul Quammen Etter is survived by his parents, two brothers and four sisters. He lived 22 years, 10 months and 26 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 37W Line 063.

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**Sergeant Dannie Lewis Johnson** was born on September 28, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Johnson of Ypsilanti, Michigan.



Dannie is a December, 1965 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He enlisted in the Army before graduation and worked at the Fisher Body Plant in Willow Run while he waited for induction into the Army.

Sergeant Johnson entered the Army in 1965 and received his Basic Training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and completed Paratrooper School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Dannie began his tour of duty in Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam on September 5, 1966 serving as a Clerk-Typist with Headquarters Company, 5th Special Forces Group. He was killed on December 30, 1967 just a month into his second tour of duty in South Vietnam. He was killed when a mortar round exploded on his position as he was directing artillery support.

Dannie Lewis Johnson is survived by his parents, three brothers, and five sisters. He lived 21 years, 3 months and 2 days. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant. He is resting in Aldridge Grove Cemetery in Harzell in Lawrence County, Alabama. Dannie'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 33E Line 003.

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**Sergeant First Class Grady Merrill**

**Jordan** was born on July 25, 1915 in Benton, Arkansas. Sergeant First Class Jordan enlisted in the United States Army on July 22, 1940 beginning a 26 year career in the Army. Grady served in World War II where he earned the American



Defense Service Medal, Honorable Lapel Button, the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star and three Bronze Service Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal. He also served in Korea where he earned the United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star, the American Campaign Medal and a Meritorious Unit Citation. He then spent a number of years as a heavy equipment instructor at Fort Lewis, Washington and at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri before leaving for South Vietnam. Grady began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on March 1, 1967 as a Heavy Construction Equipment Operator serving with A Company, 169th Engineering Battalion, 159th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Grady took his own life on Christmas Eve of 1967. According to a posting by Dave Abshire, Sr. who served with Grady, "I remember Sarge very well. I was a young man 18 years old. Sarge was like a father figure to me at that time. Sometimes we would set and chat over a drink and he would tell me of some of the things he had done and seen in his time in the Army. He looked out for me and was an older friend. It was a bad Christmas that year for sure. "Sarge, if you have internet where you are and can read this, I still miss you. I didn't know things were that bad, some things you wouldn't talk about, and you were going through a tough time I know."

Grady Merrill Jordan is the oldest person to die in Vietnam that is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. He lived 52 years 4 months and 29 days. He is listed under Ypsilanti. Grady is resting in the Fort Leonard Wood Post Cemetery in Pulaskey County, Missouri. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 32E Line 056.

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**First Lieutenant Dean Francis Spaulding, Jr.**

was born on December 19, 1946 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Dean F. Spaulding of Marquette, Michigan and Mrs. Estella Woodard of Clearwater, Michigan. Dean is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He earned a scholarship to Rhode Island University in Kingston, Rhode



Island. He entered the Army in January of 1967 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and attaining First Lieutenant in November of 1968. First Lieutenant Spaulding began his tour in Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam on October 21, 1968 serving as a Field Artillery Unit Commander with B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 40th Artillery, 199th Infantry Brigade. Dean was killed on December 15, 1968 as a result of an explosive device. Dean Francis Spaulding, Jr. is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived 21 years, 11 months and 26 days. He

is resting in the Largo Cemetery in Largo, Florida. Dean's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 36W Line 028.

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**Why Dawn Farm Thanksgiving Dinner?**

By John Kinzinger

In 1988, in the beginning of VVA Chapter 310, we discussed in our meetings that we wanted to get involved in our community. Someone mentioned that, since when we came home we were stereotyped as alcoholics and druggies, Dawn Farm would be a good place to get involved.

Thirty-one years ago, Dawn Farm was only an old farm house, which is long gone. In time, that old farm house was replaced by a big, beautiful structure, used for the residents' treatment program. Jim Balmer, the Director, remains there, leading this program to this day.

(Just a side note: Mr. Balmer gave us some great fundraising tips that helped us raise the money for our Vietnam Memorial.)

It must have been approaching Thanksgiving, because we came up with the idea of providing them all the fixings for their dinner. The number of residents



has increased over the years. On November 20th, we delivered this year's Thanksgiving meal. We have a routine of meeting at the Ann Arbor South Maple Kroger store at 4pm. We shop and then drive over to Dawn Farm on Stony Creek Road, south of Ypsilanti.

I must mention why Kroger: The people at Kroger always support our program and give us some type of discount. This year, it was a \$100 gift card. That covered about one third of our total food purchase. Thank you, Kroger Store.

When we arrive at Dawn Farm, we have some residents unload our vehicles. We spread the food out on a dining-room table and join all the residents in a prayer



of thanks for the food. Pictured are the five Chapter folks who did all this: Bonnie and Roy Hall, George Perrault, Jane and John Kinzinger.

We then move to the Great-Room area and talk with the clients to let them know we care about their getting back on track with their lives, and away from their debilitating drug or alcohol habits.

It must be noted that some children of Chapter members and friends have been successful graduates of the Dawn Farm system of rehabilitation. Now you understand why our Chapter shows our Thanksgiving with

this program.

Remember that, next year, on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we will be doing this again. So, if you want to join us next year, please contact me (John K), 734-994-0444.

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### **Veterans Day event at Pioneer High School, November 15th 2018**



#### **Vance McCrumb**

Nathaniel Powell, of VFW Post 423, arranged a luncheon at Pioneer High School to honor veterans for the Veterans Day week. Nathaniel works as a Media Specialist in the school's library. Our luncheon was catered lasagna with all the trimmings, and it was very good. Not your typical school lunch, for sure.

There was a nice cross section of vets from both the Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 and VFW Post 423. Each of us had a table with two to three students. I think there were ten or twelve veterans in attendance. The students asked questions about our time in the military as well as thanking us for our service. They seemed sincere with their questions and not just going through the motions to get a free

lunch.

Charles Kettles from our Chapter was in uniform with his Medal of Honor and spoke to the students



about the events that led up to his receiving the MOH. I had the feeling that they did not fully understand the significance of receiving the MOH. Those who did lined to have a picture taken with Chuck on their iPhones.

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#### **Jocosity** by Ken Rogge "The Water Pistol"

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased. I turned to mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" Mom paused, smiled, and then replied, "I remember . . .!"

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## CHAPTER MINUTES

### Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 General Membership Meeting – 8 November 2018

by Berryman L. Bourne,  
Acting 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.

Opening Prayer: Tim Driscoll gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

50th Anniversary Pins: Kate Kirkpatrick from AVVA, but as a representative of the Washtenaw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented pins to those that had not previously received them.

New Members: None

Guests: Quang Pham, former RVN Air Force 1st Lt. and father of Phil Pham, AVVA member.

October Meeting Minutes: A **motion** was made by Vance McCrumb to accept the 11 October 2018 meeting minutes as posted in the Dispatch. Seconded by Marv Rivers.

**Motion passed.**

Board Nominations:

At this time the meeting was recessed to act on Board Nominations.

President Jon Luker stated that there were two openings for one-year terms on Board of Directors and an Officer opening for Secretary. **Motion** was made and seconded that Ken Rogge and Marty Cothorn be appointed

to the Board of Directors. **Motion passed.** Jon Luker then requested nominations for Secretary. There being none he reconvened the meeting.

**President's Report:**

President Jon Luker commented that the Board has decided to return certain items on loan from the U.S. Army.

He then stated that the Board had decided to go ahead with the Gary Lillie Annual Recognition Spaghetti Dinner which has been renamed the Annual Recognition Dinner. He requested volunteers to serve on the committee from VVA and AVVA.

The Board has agreed that an Annual Events Calendar is required to avoid conflicts, increase attendance, and improve cooperation between veteran organizations. Notify President Jon Luker of any events that should be placed on the calendar. The calendar will be updated on the VVA310.org website and the Washtenaw



County Department of Veterans Affairs website.

In addition, he further stated that Dave Draper, Tim Driscoll, and Marv Rivers will serve on the Nominating Committee for the next twelve months.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Berry Bourne reviewed the salient points on the Financial Report hand out. He stated no unusual activity in the revenue and expense accounts occurred during the month. The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation has remitted \$4k for capital expenditures the Chapter incurred on the Vietnam Memorial. At meeting time, the chapter had \$72k cash and certificates of deposits with a \$65k unrestricted fund balance.

He then discussed an overview of certificate of deposits terms and rates with eight financial institutions. The best rates are still with Ann Arbor State Bank for our type of organization.

In addition, he stated that he had presented a draft 2019/2020 operating budget for board members review. Berry will request approval of the operating budget at the December board meeting, then present it to the membership at the General Membership meeting in January.

**AVVA Report:** Membership roster lists 36 members. See Kathy Driscoll's full report on AVVA activities as part of the monthly Dispatch newsletter.

**Food Pantry:** No report

**Merchandise Report:** Larry St. Antoine stated that total October sales were \$2,685 which resulted in a \$1,179 gross margin, or 43.9% which approximates the YTD gross margin percentage.

**Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report:** Jon Luker reported that the Council voted to have the Commander draft a letter opposing state Senate Bill 1042 on behalf of all member

organizations. The bill is in Finance Committee and has received no action there. Bill addresses homestead property tax credit for disabled veterans, etc.

**Michigan State Council Report:**

President Jon Luker requested that anyone who wants to be a delegate to the July 16-29, 2019 National VVA meeting in Spokane, WA should inform him at this time.

**Memorial Maintenance Report:**

Jon Luker reported that the site looks in great shape. We are pursuing a water source. Thanks to all who contributed their time maintaining the site this year.

**Website Report:** No report

**Membership Report:** Vance McCrumb stated that we have 206 members with the approval and addition of Bonita Cowan-Tucker's membership.

**Newsletter:** No report

**VAAHS Report:**

Halloween Party: John Kinzinger reported that 11 chapter members including AVVA attended the October 27, 2018 Halloween Party at the AA VA.

Packing Party: John also reported that 11 chapter members, including AVVA, attended this event on Nov. 4th at the VFW. Also in attendance were Miss Michigan and Miss Washtenaw County. The APO address/names

were secured from the Michigan West Point Parents Club.

Thanksgiving Party: Meet at Kroger on November 20th at 1600 hours, then proceed to Dawn Farms to serve Thanksgiving Dinner to 30 residents.

Christmas Party: Between VVA Chapter 310 and other veterans' organizations, the volunteers have become too many for one event. Therefore, Chapter 528 and others will host a party on Dec. 18th. VVA Chapter 310 will host the party on December 21st. Meet in the lobby no later than 1730 hours. Miss Michigan and Miss Washtenaw County will also be in attendance.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Good of the Order:

On November 18th, VFW 423 member Jack McClary will be 100 years old.

The Veterans Day celebration at the AA VA will begin at 0930 hours on Nov. 12th in the main lobby. Concordia University will honor veterans on Nov. 12th with chapel service at 1030 hours followed by a luncheon and presentation.

March 18, 2019 WCCA will have their Annual Recognition Dinner.

Jane Kinzinger reminded everyone that the VVA Chapter 310 Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti, MI was dedicated Nov. 10, 1991, twenty-seven years ago.

Phillip Pham introduced his father, Quang Pham, who is a former RVN Air Force 1st Lt. pilot, who rescued more than 50 people by borrowing a C-130 Hercules cargo plane and flying them to Thailand on April 3, 1975.

November 24th at 1000 hours with VFW will be decorated for Christmas.

Toys for Tots will be collected by AVVA at the December meeting. Paul Holt lost his cancer battle while at the AA VA.

Jim Talbot is currently in the AA VA.

Beverly Conastar, long-time Director of Volunteer Services at the Ann Arbor VA, is retiring early in 2019. Chapter should recognize her at the April Annual Recognition dinner.

The **Next Chapter Breakfast** will be Friday, December 14th, 0900 hours, at Brewed Awakenings Cafe - 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176 - (734) 681-0078.

Closing: Prayer given by Tim Driscoll. President Luker led the group in a salute to the flag to close the meeting at 2010 hours.

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**Current Events**

*By Ann Dempsey-Pereira*

- 07 Dec: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
- 11 Dec: Merchandising at the VA Medical Center, 08:00- 14:00
- 12-13 Dec: VA Fundraising Event for Voluntary Services. Baskets & gift card donations are appreciated.
- 13 Dec: AVVA Meeting, VVA 310 Board Meeting, 18:00, VFW Post 423
- 13 Dec: Bring Toys to AVVA Meeting for Toys For Tots
- 13 Dec: VVA 310 General Membership Meeting, 19:00, VFW Post 423
- 14 Dec: VVA 310 Chapter Breakfast, 0900 -- Brewed Awakening, Saline
- 18 Dec: VVA 528 Christmas





Patient Room Visits, VA Medical Center, Arrive by 17:30 in the lobby

21 Dec: AVVA/VVA310, Christmas Patient Room Visit, VA Medical Center, arrive by 17:30 in the lobby.

Ongoing:

Saturdays @ 0930: walk/run: Meet at southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue.

Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

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## AVVA Newsletter

### December 2018

by Kathy Driscoll

If you are on Facebook, you can join the AVVA Michigan closed group. Just send a Join Group request and the admin 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 310 reached their goal to raise \$2,000.00 for Fisher House Michigan. This donation will be "In Memory of Pete Belaire.",



\$2,000 Donation

Past President of VVA 310. AVVA received \$364.59 from Holiday's Restaurant fundraiser. Thank you for attending this fundraiser. This brought our total to \$1,614.00. Larry St Antoine donated his gasoline allotment to transport the merchandise trailer to events to AVVA 310 for Fisher House Michigan. Larry's generous donation brought our



total over the top. Thank you, Larry.

AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in November.

Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System

Members supported AVVA Holiday's Restaurant Fundraiser Kathy attended Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Meeting

Members assisted the VFW Post 423 Auxiliary decorating the post for Christmas

Members assisted VVA 310 shopping and delivering Thanksgiving food to Dawn Farm.

Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, December 11th, VVA 310 needs our help. Please consider volunteering one or two hours assisting VVA 310 merchandise team at the Ann Arbor VA.

Keep up to date with our chapter:

All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our chapter's webpage, [www.vva310.org](http://www.vva310.org) in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

We reached our goal to raise \$10,000 for Fisher House Michigan. AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 presented our \$2,000 donation to Kate Melcher, Fisher House Michigan on #GivingTuesday at Reinhardt Realty in Chelsea, MI. Our donation is "In Memory of Pete Belaire, Past President VVA 310." Our donations to Fisher House Michigan:

\$2,500 18 March 2017

\$1,000 14 July 2017

\$1,500 7 November 2017

\$3,000 10 May 2018

\$2,000 27 November 2018

I want to thank all of you for your hard work, time, and donations to "Fisher House Michigan." Without all of us working together at all of our past fundraisers, we could have not met our 2017 goal to raise \$10,000 for Fisher House Michigan.

AVVA 310 Chapter Special Projects & Operating Funds

Everyone received an email for our No Bake / Bakeless Sale to benefit AVVA 310 Operating and Special Projects Funds. We raised \$100 to date. Thank you for donating to our Chapter's Operating and Special Projects funds.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2019 Girls' State Update!

AVVA 310 sponsored three delegates to Girls' State 2019. We fund this project from our Lois Perrault Memorial Fund.

AVVA 310 received \$1,000 in October for the Lois Perrault Memorial Fund. Thank you, Anonymous donors! If you would like to donate to our Lois Perrault Memorial fund, please write your check payable to VVA 310 with AVVA LPM on memo line.

The American Legion Auxiliary Post 322, Saline, MI thanks us for our support in sponsoring three delegates to the 2019 Girl State.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting is Sunday, December 2nd in Port Huron, MI. VVA / AVVA Chapter 1083 is hosting this meeting.

AVVA Michigan will have their 2nd annual Gift Card Envelope Pull at our Christmas. AVVA 310 members donated 4 Gift Cards. Thank you for supporting our AVVA Michigan Association.

AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

AVVA Michigan Association has two fundraisers to benefit AVVA Michigan Association.

2nd Annual Gift Card Envelope Draw. AVVA Michigan is requesting donations of Gift Cards between \$10 - \$25 for our 2nd Annual Mystery Gift Card Raffle at the December 2nd Christmas meeting. AVVA Michigan State Association is requesting members donate a

gift card for the Envelope Draw fundraiser raffle at the VVA Council / AVVA State Association December 2nd, 2018 delegate meeting. We are planning to place each donated gift card in an envelope and ask for donations of \$10 for each envelope.

No Bake / Bake-less Sale Fundraiser for AVVA Michigan Association is Raising funds for the AVVA Michigan Association Operating Funds. Suggested Donation: \$1 from each of all AVVA Michigan Association Members. AVVA 310 members donated \$36 to the AVVA Michigan Association No Bake / Bakeless Sale. Thank you AVVA Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310. We reached 100% of the suggested donation.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage is launched! The Association has a tab on the new VVA Michigan State Council webpage: <http://vvamsc.org/associates/> It is still being updated. The About Us, Contacts, Events, Chapter Locator has current content. More to be uploaded in the near future!

Upcoming Events!

11 December VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor VA

21 December AVVA / VVA 310 Visit to Ann Arbor VA meet in lobby at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting is Thursday, December 13th. Please bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tot.

**Kathy Driscoll**

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association President  
dkathyr16@gmail.com  
734-355-4897

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## **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 1 month for every \$1.50 donated. Note on the Memo Line Dispatch Patron. Please mail your check to: VVA 310, P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

George F Boone ~ October 2021  
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020  
Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2019  
William Christophersen ~ October 2019  
Edward Fuller ~ March 2020  
Gary Couture ~ July 2019  
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021  
James Graham ~ February 2019  
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021



Steve and Shirley Hitte: June 2024  
 Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020  
 Dick Knight ~ May 2018  
 Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019  
 Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020  
 Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021  
 Dell Mayes ~ May 2019  
 Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018  
 Ron Oliver ~ February 2019  
 Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ January 2020  
 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 ~ April 2019  
 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** ~ January 2020  
 Bonnie Woods in memory of her VN vet husband **Gary Woods**, ~ December 2018

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## Thoughts on December 7th

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Even for someone who was born in another country, as I was, certain words of American history are etched in one's minds. Here are a few memorable quotes:

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. . ." "I have not yet begun to fight. . ." "Ask not



what your country can do for you . . ." "Give me liberty, or give me death. . ." We will remember the silence of my friends. . ." [And a quote for today's date]: "December 7th, 1941, a date which will live in infamy. . ."

December 7th is also a day to take stock, to reconsider, and to learn from the past. But first of all, I wish to honor our brothers and sisters who fought in World War II—those who answered the call and thrust themselves upon danger that they might spare the world from further suffering. For the country must be obeyed: and those who do so are honorable.

### Preventing World War II

But I return now to my topic, namely, preventing World War II. Close to half a million Americans gave their lives in World War II. Could it have been prevented? According to Sir Winston Churchill, yes: World War II could have been prevented "by timely

action." He said the following: "Last time I saw it all coming and cried aloud to my own fellow-countrymen and to the world, but no one paid any attention. Up till the year 1933, or even 1935, Germany might have been saved from the awful fate which has overtaken her, and we might all have been spared the miseries Hitler let loose upon mankind. There never was a war in all history easier to prevent by timely action than the one which has just desolated such great areas of the globe. It could have been prevented, in my belief, without the firing of a single shot, and Germany might be powerful, prosperous, and honored today. But no one would listen, and one by one we were all sucked into the awful whirlpool. We surely must not let that happen again" (Sir Winston Churchill, Speech in Fulton, Missouri, 1946; read more here: <http://bit.ly/2L4GAqX>).

In Europe, the dominoes were lined up to fall, and the world watched as one by one the dominoes fell. A generation later, the Americans made China and the Soviet Union pay a heavy price for the first domino to fall, namely, Vietnam. But the prize dominoes never fell: South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and the Philippines. Yes, much can be learned from the timely action of the Vietnam War. Here's the lesson from Vietnam: When the dominoes are lined up to fall, work hard to make sure the first one does not fall—or when it falls, it is a single one, not many.

## Welcome Home!

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Please Forward. Thank You!