

NATIONAL CHAPTER OF
THE YEAR 1999 & 2007



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

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

THE 310 DISPATCH – FEBRUARY 2018

President's Message – David Draper, February 2018

I had a unique opportunity to be with Don Miller as he sent out pleas to help a Veteran who was homeless, but recently was accepted at Miller Manor. Of course, being formerly homeless, he did not have much with which to start his new venture in life—a permanent place with a roof over his head. Don, I, and a few others were able to help this gentleman with a few things to make his new place a real home: We donated a bed, mattress, silverware, furniture, table, chairs, space heaters, and a few other things. Through VVA310's Food Pantry program, Don helped provide groceries a couple of times for him. Don did a little inquiring and found out that there are twenty-two formerly homeless Veterans living at Miller Manor. Hmmm . . . There might be an opportunity for us here. What do you think?

Our Underwear Party at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center was, again, a success. Eleven VVA 310 members and one VVA 528 member were present to assist with handing out tee shirts and underwear to the men and pajamas to the ladies that were patients there. A couple of the patients were especially grateful because they did not have time to think about packing those items before being hospitalized. Many told us stories of their service to their country. It is a great thing that we do there, and we have been doing it for many years. Thanks to John and Jane Kinzinger for their leadership in keeping this event relevant and active each year.

We fared well again at the VAMC merchandise sales. As expected during the Christmas downturn, results were not as great as last month but still pretty good, grossing over a thousand dollars. We also interfaced with many people—and I believe we made some of the patients' days brighter by talking and reminiscing with them. Again, I was impressed with the number of volunteers who showed up to help out. By the way, we could use one or two more volunteers at 0700 to help unload vehicles and bring the merchandise to the third floor. A special thanks to Al (Fredo) Merritt for helping unload vehicles and load the trailer after the event. Thanks, my brother!

John Kinzinger's WACU fundraiser on January 10 was a hit again this year. Many items were auctioned off and many donation checks were received. True to form, the food was excellent; the waitstaff donated their tips, and management gave a percentage of the sales to the fundraiser. Almost \$10,000 was raised. Great job! Thanks to everyone who participated, and especially those who made financial contributions.

I am elated to announce that the Merchandise transition took place on January 13. We had a meeting at the VFW Post hall, and all the new members of the Merchandise Team participated in some hands-on training. From seeing what it takes to restock merchandise to procedures for inputting data into our Excel database, we covered most of what it takes to run

the operation. Thank you so much again to all the new Team members: Larry St. Antoine, Scott Brooks-Miller, Marv Rivers, Tim and Kathy Driscoll, and Ann Dempsey-Pereira. The team has already made improvements to the way Meni and I did things, and they are looking to implement great sales ideas.

About membership, in spite of losses, our membership continues to grow. We had four new members this month, with a couple more joining soon. Thanks to everyone who reaches out to the undecided out there and tries to get them to join our Chapter.

About a dozen of our Chapter members went to the Ford Library in Ann Arbor to listen to a lecture by Richard Camp (USMC Col. Ret.) titled "Ringed by fire, the Siege of Khe Sanh." He talked about his experiences while serving in Vietnam during the 1968 TET Offensive. We heard great minute-by-minute accounts of him on the base at Khe Sanh, interjected with a little humor. During refreshments after the event, participants had the opportunity to purchase a book by the presenter, called "Lima-6," and he graciously signed copies and posed for picture. It was a great night out with my wife and several of my VVA310 friends.

Coming up in February we have our first round of nominations for Officers and Board Members at our regular meeting. We hope, also, to discuss our upcoming Appreciation Dinner. On the 13th we will have another Merchandise sales at the VA Medical Center. On the 14th, a few of us will be serving lunch to the patients at the VA Medical Center. Colonel Kettles will, again, be handing out our newly redesigned Chapter challenge coins to each of the patients, briefly talking to each one. On the 19th, we celebrate President's Day and the 76th birthday of the Coast Guard Reserve. I am also hoping for an early Spring. I've had quite enough of the freezing temps!

Talk to you next month.

Dave Draper- President

Air Force C-130 Loadmaster

From the Editor's Desk



I appreciate the feedback I have been receiving about the newsletter. It is great to see that members are reading it! Contributions have been excellent! Please send pictures. This month, especially take a look at Vance McCrumb's spotlight on K-9 units in the military. You will find other articles of great import also, looking back at our history.

The work on the improved format for the newsletter is developing well. So, I am keeping this simplified format for now, but you will see that I have included other items of interest—for example, a section for upcoming events, which Ann Dempsey-Pereira and other AVVA associates will be maintaining. Jon Luker will be submitting an updated list of Dispatch donors. Please contact Jon if you would like to make a contribution to honor someone listed as MIA or KIA on our Vietnam Memorial. Your contributions are appreciated!

Let me also add that the generous donation by the February Anonymous Donor was very successful, reflecting on the number of new members (See the President's Report). As a special gift for March, an Anonymous Donor will upgrade the membership for the first two members that join in March. The Donor will change their membership from regular to life member. Thank you to the March Anonymous Donor!

Enjoy the Dispatch!

— Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Dispatch Editor

February 2018

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

What comes to mind when you first hear the name "God"? Meeting with people in weddings, funerals, and other occasions allows me to hear many answers to that question. Some are intriguing responses; some are traditional from a religious backdrop. A few are not well thought out.

I have been on a quest to find God's heart for a number of years, as God has mine and yours. 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "The eyes of the Lord search to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." And the context was directed toward King Asa of Judah for relying on an earthly king to support him instead of God, and God responded to the king: "You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

In the interpretation we must be careful not to transpose the direct communication to us in America, as it was directed with specificity to Judah's king. Yet, we can glean the intent of God's heart in searching for people committed to Him wholly.

That kind of commitment bespeaks of a heart in love. Think of those we love and the energy we use to bring joy to them, to care for their needs, and to provide a safe environment for them, and I say safe in a larger realm of physical, spiritual, and emotional sense.

When Christ was asked what the greatest commandment was, his response was not expected when he said, "To love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself." Instead of a list of things not to do, he stressed something to do—that is, to love from the depth of the heart. And that sort of love requires trusting in God to meet our needs, rather than in man's ability.

This Valentine's Day, I hope we are up to the challenge of trusting God because we love Him, and those whom we come into contact with.

In His love, Gordon

MINUTES — VVA310

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 — General Membership Meeting — 11 January 2017 — by Paulo-Juarez Pereira

The meeting scheduled for January 11th was canceled by the Chapter President due to lack of electricity at the VFW423 hall. During the ensuing days, the Chapter Board of Directors conducted an electronic Board meeting.

MOTION by email, by Pres. Dave Draper; second: Jon Luker: "To approve buying fifty rolls of forever stamps at the current price of \$49 per roll."

MOTION APPROVED.

MOTION by email by John Kinzinger, second Draper: To approve an additional donation of \$3500 to be donated to WACU, or Warriors And Caregivers United.

MOTION APPROVED.

MOTION by Draper, second by Pereira: "To hold the appreciation dinner at the UAW Hall."

MOTION APPROVED.

Looking Back on Friends — by Jane Kinzinger

In past issues, I have given background on the origin of the Friends group and how it evolved into AVVA. About 25 years ago, the associates of VVA310 started meeting and called themselves the Friends of VVA 310. It was dissolved in 2017 in favor of AVVA.

One of the major Friends' projects has always been caring for the flowerbed at our Memorial. Each spring we gather before Memorial Day to do a major winter cleanup of the flowerbed. We purchase colorful petunias and geraniums to enhance the perennials that appear every year. Many of these perennials came from our own gardens, especially that of Pam Totten, who has a green thumb and many gardens from which to split plants and dig up bulbs. We make sure the flowers are attractive for the annual Memorial Day Observance at our Memorial. Several years we provided cookies and beverages for all attendees at the Memorial ceremony. A heavy rain toward the end of one service completely washed out the cookie table and proved to be the last time we did that! During summer months, we water and weed until fall comes around. Various shades of chrysanthemums fill the bed before Veteran's Day. By Thanksgiving, we try to have everything cut back and cleared out for winter. Kate Kirkpatrick has donated lovely wreathes the last few years. The flowerbed rests, but the Memorial continues to receive visitors. The new Friends Maple tree that replaced the original Bradford Pear tree honors all Friends who have died.

Over the years, since around 1992, the Friends helped with many Chapter events, including the big, annual Christmas party in the multipurpose room of the "old" VA Hospital. We helped wheel the patients to the event and served them cookies and beverages as they sat at the long tables enjoying the entertainment and gifts. Friends also helped at the "PAB," Public Awareness Booth (i.e., the tent at various summer and fall fairs). They helped with the fall Pig Roast Fundraiser with games and prizes for the children, and the Recognition Dinner in mid-winter or early spring, where we danced to the oldies after dinner and awards.

Early on, the Friends undertook different activities. Several years we hosted a late spring/early summer Chapter Party, including a Valentine's Party, a 50's Sock Hop, and a Hawaiian-themed Luau, complete with our own members dancing the hula. They sponsored at least one garage/rummage sale over a weekend (at Ballou's place). There was a two-stage sale of designer clothes donated by a non-member friend of the Chapter. There was a craft show at the VFW, where we sold tables to artists. There were family potluck picnics at parks, such as Delhi Park and Windamire Park. We sold pocket calendars as one way to make money and sold donated items at the Pig Roast. The majority of our funds was raised through \$20.00 yearly membership dues. At one point, we had accumulated enough money to purchase the shed that is down the drive from the Memorial, where the lawn mowers and tools are stored.

The Gold Star Mother's luncheon was always a special occasion to honor the mothers of those young men killed in Vietnam listed on our Memorial. Since there is only one remaining such Gold Star Mother in Washtenaw County, and she was not available for our luncheon, we are no longer hosting this.

The Friends group created its logo as a tree with a yellow ribbon. We had polo shirts, sweatshirts and windbreakers with the logo and name, that is, Friends of VVA Chapter 310. We also had white tee-shirts that read, "Stand Up and Respect Your Flag," which we wore in parades to encourage onlookers to stand, as Chapter members carried our colors. The Friends usually led parades carrying the Chapter banner, which the Friends also designed and purchased. There were several other handmade banners made and carried over the years at many parades in Ypsilanti, Milan, Chelsea, Dexter, and Clinton.

I know there are things other Friends can remember, and I hope you will submit something to the Dispatch so we can all reminisce past Friends memorable times.

Our 31st Christmas Program at the Ann Arbor VA — by John Kinzinger

The idea to do a special VA Christmas program began with our lifetime member Jack McManus. He contacted me and said, "What do you think: What if we work with a telemarketer

to raise money so we can put on a Christmas party at the Ann Arbor VA?" Jack did his best in bargaining with the telemarketer. We ended getting around 25% of their take from them. We worked with them for 2-3 years—and since at that time our Chapter was considering having our own building, about \$14,000 from the telemarketer went into what is still called our Building Fund.

When we first started, the VA did much less outpatient care and had about 325 beds then. Our Christmas program was a USO-type show in the auditorium, with local radio Lady Lucy Ann Lance as our MC. It was a real stage production, with lots of flowers lining the front of the stage. Ambulatory patients were wheeled to the auditorium and served cookies and refreshments—and later returned to their rooms. Over those early years, we had different entertainment on stage. Early on we had comedians, a ventriloquist one year, barber shop quartet another year, a jazz group out of Detroit, and others. The best entertainment we found was the Saline Fiddlers. They began with us almost twenty years ago. Their musical performance is always great, and their great, youthful smiles make for good medicine for the Veterans.

It was about 1990 that we started bringing in Miss Michigans. In 1993, Miss Michigan Stacey Heisler performed for the patients in the auditorium. Right about that time the VA patient population was becoming more outpatient. Then there was the \$190,000,000 clinical addition. By 1997 we no longer did programs in the auditorium. Once the big addition was completed, the patient bed population was down to about 125, which is what it is today. So, instead of bringing the patients to the shows we did, we began taking the show to the patients in their rooms. And our wonderful friend Stacey Heisler has performed for us every year since.

I have been the VVA Voluntary Services Rep at the Ann Arbor VA for about 27 years. In 2011, to my surprise, I was nominated for, and then awarded, the title of National VA Male Volunteer of the Year. Must be I did somethings there.

Our VAMC Committee

Our VAMC committee initially was ten people. Since then, several have passed or moved away. Sandy Martinez, Jane, and I make up the committee and happily handle most of the work. Thanks to Chapter event participants, we can pull it off. Our committee raises all the funds through a letter-writing program to a special list of donors that has been developed over the past almost 30 years. We are different from other organizations asking for funds out there. Several of our members are donors each year, and know the following principles and information.

- 100% of the VAMC Christmas program donations go to help Veterans receiving treatment at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center.
- We, our committee, cover the admin cost, i.e. printing, paper, envelopes and stamps. And we do all the mailing work, including hand writing the addresses on the 125 or so request letter envelopes.
- We line up the Saline Fiddlers, Stacey Heisler-Mason, the reigning Miss Michigan, and Miss Washtenaw County.
- We line up our volunteers to help visit the rooms and pass out our gifts.

We are very straight forward with all our donors. After the fundraising is completed, every donor gets a personalized Thank You letter, finance report, and a page of images taken during the patient room visits. They are offered that—and if for any reason they dislike something that is being done, we will simply take their name off our mailing list. Only once has a person requested that. They disliked the fact that Miss Michigan, usually a college student, was getting a stipend. So, I simply removed that person's name. Every donor is invited to attend the events to see what we do. They can use their donation as a tax deduction if they wish. On our list we have people and organizations who have given over 26 years. That is when I started a spreadsheet to keep track of their donations. And in their Thank You note, it is noted how many years they have been a donor. Most importantly, it is stated in their letter that their information will be kept confidential. So, that list of donors is used for nothing else. I believe the success of the fundraising for this program is the result of

all of this. We, in fact, have gradually increased the amount we receive each year. Our 2017 program was the highest we have ever had.

Then we have the purchasing of the specially embroidered shirts we give out each year. The shirts are done by Linda Colby, of Unique-Appeal. Her Chapter 310-member husband, David Colby, passed away about 5 years ago. Linda Colby does a wonderful job at getting good deals throughout the year, personally embroidering them and holding them for me to pick up the day in December we pass them out. Because of the various sizes of patients, we always buy about 40 more than we need. When we finish with the room visits, the remainder are given to the Oncology Department to pass out to their patients receiving treatment. (The estimated cost is \$3,500.00.)

Right or not, for the first 20-25 years the VAMC committee directed the spending of the VAMC funds raised, reviewing it with the Chapter. Chapter approval was not required. Then the Chapter decided it needed to have some approval. As a point of interest, the Chapter itself has never donated to the VAMC. Members, however, do much of the visits. Without the members involvement, we could not do what we do. However, over the years our aging membership support has dwindled.

The Voluntary Services office each month puts out a needs-list for patients. I do not remember a month that underwear is not on that list. Back about fifteen years ago, we started putting another room-visit giveaway to patients. We call it our Underwear Party. We have always received enough monetary donations to do this too. So, in January we go through the hospital and visit every room giving underwear to the patients. We projected our donations were going to be good in 2017, so it was decided to purchase much more underwear than in the past. All the remaining packages were given to Voluntary Services to give out to incoming patients as needed. That covers the men. We also provide many sets of pajamas for the female patients. Sandy takes care of that. (The estimated cost is \$5,300.00.)

A special thing we do on our visits is to give every nursing station a special tray of goodies, which Sandy puts together very nicely. That is for Halloween and Christmas.

What else do we do with the funds raised? The Chapter from these funds donates \$100.00 per month to the VA coffee fund. For their POW-MIA ceremony, we provide dogtags and chains.

The past few years, money has been donated to WACU to help returning warriors receiving PTS treatment at the Ann Arbor VAMC. Living our motto.

We have counted on Vance McCrumb to capture much of our events with his camera. Thanks, Vance. There are several other Chapter members who have helped out for years. Thank you all. If I begin to list them, I will get in trouble if I miss someone. It takes a Team of folks to make the room visit events.

There have been questions about the VAMC, so I thought it good to explain the above. Any further questions, please contact me. John K.

AVVA Newsletter February 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 January. Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, February 13th. VVA 310 needs our help with inventory of the VVA merchandise and ticketing all new merchandise items.

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 11, 2018 in Howell, MI. AVVA MI will be selling Challenge Coins for \$10.

Fundraising Report: Fisher House Michigan — Next Fisher House Michigan Quartermania will be Monday, March 5th at Milan American Legion. If you are available, we need help selling bid paddles, food, raffle, and 50/50 tickets; and quarter bid runners. We raised \$1,114 for Fisher House Michigan in December 2017. We are close to reaching our goal to donate \$2,000 to Fisher House Michigan.

AVVA Chapter 310 Operating and Special Projects Fund: I will be raffling a “*Tastefully Simple 10 Meal Family Faves*” meal kit at my vendor table at the Quartermania. This special raffle will benefit AVVA 310 Operating and Special Projects funds.

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

WCCV: Monday, March 19th is the WCCV Annual Dinner. Tickets are \$25. This year’s dinner is at Washtenaw County College. Please let me know if you would like to attend. All WCCV Organizations are requested to purchase 10 VIP tickets for the dinner. That being said, AVVA 310 will be purchasing 10 VIP tickets.

WCCV will host the Bingo at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System on Monday, February 5th. If you are available and would like to assist, meet me at 6:30pm in the CLC. Bingo begins at 7:00 pm. You will be assisting CLC patients play Bingo.

Message from Michael Smith, Director / Washtenaw County DVA: “The purpose of the dinner is to invite key leaders in the federal, state, and local government who have a direct impact on the Washtenaw County veteran community relative to policy, laws, funding, or delivering services to veterans, their survivors and dependents. That is the reason we invite state legislators and our members of Congress who make laws that help veterans. We invite our local Washtenaw County government officials who always ensured there was an office in our county dedicated to helping veterans. We invite our partners from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, both the Regional Office in Detroit and the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.”

Chapter Elections: 2018 is an AVVA Chapter Election year. AVVA 310 will elect a Chapter Rep and Alternate Chapter Rep for a two-year term. All AVVA Chapter elections are held in April. More information at our February meeting.

AVVA January 11, 2018 Minutes: Due to a power outage our January meeting was cancelled. Next meeting is February 8th. We will be working on our 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Budget and set up Chapter Committees for 2018-2019.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President

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K9 Heroes — by Vance McCrumb



SCOUT DOG by Augustine G. Acuna Vietnam veteran

Military Working Dogs are sometimes referred to as War Dogs. I liken them to Dogs of War, as they do not wage war as humans do with some regularity, it seems. All branches of service used MWDs during the Vietnam War.

There are four disciplines of Military Working Dogs (MWD): Sentry dogs, Scout dogs, Mine and Booby Trap dogs, and Combat Tracker dog teams. I refer to them as teams because their success depends on how well the team bonds. If they are not trained well and are not a good team, someone is going to die.

Our chapter has three handlers among our ranks. Bob Konarske, an Army Combat Tracker Team dog handler; Dave Hizer, an Army Sentry Dog handler; and myself, as a USAF Sentry Dog handler.

In the evening July 1, 1965, Da Nang airbase was attacked by a team Viet Cong sappers. They penetrated the perimeter of the base, killing several Americans as well as destroying several military aircraft. Shortly thereafter, our government asked the USAF Sentry Dog handlers to volunteer for duty in Vietnam. Those volunteers were then shipped to Lackland AFB for team evaluations. Of those volunteers, forty were selected and shipped: fifteen to Tan Son Nhut, ten Ben Hoi, and fifteen to Da Nang.

During the seventeen months from July 1965 to December 1966, there was not a single successful sapper attack where sentry dogs were assigned. Unfortunately, not a single one of those dogs was returned to the United States.

Due to the Sentry Dog successful deployment, the government re-established the Army Scout Dog training. In late 1965 or early 1966, the Army also established the Combat Tracker training in Malaysia. The Marines followed suit and were trained as Sentry, Scout Dog handlers, and Mine and Bobby Trap handlers.

Sentry Dogs

German Shepherds were trained to detect the presence of the enemy by their ability to detect them via scent, sight, or sound. The sentry dogs were trained to be aggressive as well. German Shepherds have around two-hundred million sensors in their nose and muzzle. This, along with their ability to hear and see movement at night, was a great tool to be used around the perimeter of key installations in the hours of darkness. Because of their aggressive nature, Sentry Dog teams worked alone. If they were teamed up with others, it would be a distraction to the dog. All branches of service used Sentry Dogs during the Vietnam War.

Scout Dogs

The Army, Infantry Patrol Scout Dogs (IPSD), and Marines used scout dogs. The scout dog team would be on point. Scout dogs were not trained to be aggressive and worked with several soldiers and marines behind them. Typically, a scout dog team worked during the day, but occasionally they were used in the evenings as well. The Scout Dogs were trained to smell

the explosives of a booby trap as well as the scent of the person(s) who set it. Under certain conditions, a scout dog might hear the wind as it moved across a trip wire set on a jungle trail. Scout dogs were used by many of the infantry units in country, but not all.

Combat Tracker Teams

Below is from the trackers website - <http://www.combattrackerteam.org>. The teams were small, highly-trained units, usually consisting of five men and a Labrador Retriever. The purpose of a CCT was to reestablish contact with the elusive enemy, to carry out reconnaissance of an area for possible enemy activities, and to locate lost or missing friendly personnel. The methods used in completing the missions were Visual and Canine Tactical tracking. The unit was usually supported by a platoon or larger forces and worked well ahead of them to maintain noise discipline and the element of surprise.

Mine and Booby Trap Detection

The Marines utilize Mine and Booby Trap teams. Per Perry, a Marine handler I know, said that, very early in their deployment, about 50% of the handlers and dogs were killed by exploding mines. This was attributed to the poor training they received. Training improved, and so did their success rate. Perry was president of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association when he died suddenly a few months ago.

Websites of interest: Vietnam Dog Handlers Association – vdha.us; Combat Trackers Association – combattrackerteam.org.

Vance McCrumb, aka Dogman

P.S.: Bob Konarske, Dutch was the best dog to ever set four paws in Vietnam. That being said, I will probably receive a phone call or a email declaring his dog, Opal, was the best. The beat goes on among us MWD handlers.

Dispatch Patrons — by Jon Luker

The persons listed here have made a contribution in support our Chapter. These contributions help to offset the cost of printing and postage. Please consider making a contribution "In Memory of": You will also honor the memory of someone. To make a contribution, please make a check payable to VVA 310, with memo line Dispatch Patron. We will credit 1 month for every \$1.50 donated. Please mail your check to: VVA 310, P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

For convenience, please use our Paypal at VVA310.org. Find the button DONATE.

As always, your contribution and support are appreciated!

(*Name listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial)

Contributors

George F Boone ~ October 2021

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020; Cynthia Calhoun ~ February 2018; 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 ~ April 2018; Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018; Ron Oliver ~ February 2019; Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ August 2018; George Perrault ~ October 2022; Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021; Ken Rogge ~ April 2018; Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026; Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019; Elizabeth Wong ~ June 2018; 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 husband 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.

Spotlight On Associate



"Blue Spherical Ride", Color Pencil Drawing (24" X 30"), by Corrine Gignac

Corrine Gignac has traveled through various countries and learned fine arts, obtaining a BA, MA (Cert. Art & English Edu, MI & OH). She has worked in Freelance Illustration for VVA Chapt. 310, Meadowbrook Theatre & Music Festival Rochester, MI., Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Philip Morris Co., Glamour Magazine, Private Patent for Drawings: Landmark Architecture of Twinsburg, OH.

As an artist, Corrine has had the following exhibitions: Ann Arbor Art Teachers & Alumni Association. Art Shows (Present - '12), Ann Arbor Student (UofM) & local Exhibits, ('88-'91), Mercy College of Detroit Student Art Exhibitions ('73, '74), Center for Creative Studies Detroit, Student Art Exhibition ('75), South Oakland Art Shows, Pontiac, MI, ('82-'86), Oakland County Courthouse, ('81), Oakland University (Rochester, MI) Art Gallery, "Kimono" Design Fundraisers, ('81-'84), Southfield Civic Center Art Instructor Show (Southfield, MI, '72), Scholastics' Student Art Exhibitions, Detroit ('69, '70, '72) & NYC ('72). Her latest exhibition was at Kerrytown Concert House in Ave Ann Arbor January 9 – February 4, 2018.

Corrine has traveled in Spain, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Ireland, Mexico, and Canada.

Jocosity (Feb. 2018) — by Ken Rogge

Only in America . . . can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance! Only in America . . . are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink! Only in America . . . do we award someone \$3,000,000 for spilling hot coffee in his or her own lap! Only in America . . . do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions! Only in America . . . do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke! Only in America . . . do banks leave all the doors open and then chain the pens to the counters! Only in America . . . do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight! Only in America do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille!

Current Events — by Ann Dempsey-Pereira

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

- February 8 — VVA and AVVA monthly meetings, VFW423 Hall, 1800 (Board), 1900 (General)
- February 9 — 9:00 AM Chapter breakfast, Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor MI 48103.
- February 11 — VVA State Council meeting.
- February 13 — Merchandise sale.
- February 14 — Serve the vets luncheon at VAMC, Ann Arbor. Meet in the lobby at 11:15 AM (select volunteers only)
- March 8 — VVA and AVVA monthly meetings, VFW423 Hall, 1800 (Board), 1900 (General)

Historical Outlook: Something to Think About — by Paulo-Juarez Pereira

What I would like to do in this topic is suggest an idea, which is the following: The United States and its allies fought China and Russia in the proxy war in Vietnam, and won. That was the "big war" in Vietnam, that is, the proxy war. So, the thought I would like to propose is this: Consider the two other attempts that failed, when mighty powers fought to defeat Russia. I mention, first, Napoleon's attempt to defeat Russia. His mighty military force was decimated, leading Napoleon into a downward spiral of defeat, ending in the Battle of Waterloo (1815). Napoleon was a brilliant general; the Napoleonic French Army was an amazing force. And yet, Napoleon could not overcome Russia.

The second example of a mighty power that was defeated in its effort to subjugate Russia is Hitler's Operation Barbarossa, which was a massive invasion of Russia. And yet, Hitler was defeated, and his defeat is regarded as an important turning point for World War II, eventually leading to Germany's surrender.

So, having this in the background, I turn my eyes back to the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, the United States was fighting a proxy war against China and Russia. In retrospect, the United States and its allies managed not to be defeated. And it did so by fighting a proxy war rather than a direct war. Thus, they achieved more than Napoleon and Hitler.

This point of view is favorable to the U.S. military and its allies. Therefore, it is not the kind of point of view one is likely to hear. Those who oppose America as a force for good in the world are only too happy to state that the Vietnam War ended in defeat for the United States and its allies. And those who love America may not have taken the time to think through what was at stake during the Vietnam War, especially because a positive point of view is seldom found. But this is the point of view that I propose for understanding the significance of the Vietnam War: It was a proxy war with which the United States and its allies defeated both Russia and China, as they fought through the North Vietnamese people.

So, this is what I wanted to propose to think about, namely, where Napoleon and Hitler failed, the United States and its allies succeeded, namely, to defeat Russia. Ten years after the fall of Saigon, the Soviet Empire unraveled, and the nations under bondage behind the Iron Curtain were liberated. All of that happened without exploding a single nuclear weapon.

If You Wish Contact Us

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