

# The Chapter 310

July 2017



#### TWO TIME NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



#### Washtenaw County KIA's

David Palmer	5 July
William Brown	9 July
Philip Spencer	10 July
Thomas Cleland	11 July
David McKenzie	12 July
Frederick Boss	15 July
Richard O'Neal	26 July
Douglas Atkins	27 July

#### Michigan MIA's

Unaccounted for - 49 Accounted for - 36



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# President's Message:

This was, and almost always is, our busiest month of the year. See all the activities and events that we as a Chapter participated in. Most of them were events that I personally attended. There were others that I could not attend because they conflicted with the ones I did.



I'd like to start this month's news by wishing Bill and Marge Ballou a very happy



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Their family threw them a party at their daughter's house in Livonia to help celebrate the event on June

17. There was about three dozen people who showed up including several from our Chapter. Although it was hot and humid out, everyone

seemed to have a great time. Dogs, burgers and drinks were served. Later the two love birds cut the cake and Marge managed to smear icing all over Bill's mustache as she fed him a piece of cake. Being a good sport, Bill, in turn, tried to give Marge a big kiss. Sweet!! I hope you will wish them many more anniversaries the next time you see them.



The AVVA presented a **Quartermania** again on May 22 at the American Legion Post 268 in Milan. They had a very nice turnout with what looked like a few more participants than last time. We had Steve Hitte, Tim Driscoll, and Roy Hall, from our VVA Chapter, helping out with the event. The AVVA provided submarine sandwiches, chips, and water for sale at the event. What AVVA didn't sell as a meal, they auctioned off. Very little food was left. The participants were very energetic and the sales were brisk. I think Fisher House Michigan will profit well from this event as all profits were designated to go to them. We would like to thank Bruce Ross from Legion Post 268 for allowing AVVA to put on this event at their facility.



Meni and I stopped out to view the **VFW Post 423 Museum** that Milton Davis set up for the week. If you have never visited it, I think it would be well worth your time, especially if you can get Milt to give you some of the history behind the artifacts and uniforms presented. Not too many people are

more knowledgeable about the history of our military service. He has mannequin displays with uniforms starting from World War I. This year he has added nine new, full-sized mannequins and does a great job

with their presentation. Many of the mannequin displays have a history of the person who wore that particular uniform presented in a nice folder. Of course there were many other artifacts, from backpacks to first aid kits to meals to patches, etc. displayed specific to a time period.





For, I believe, my third year, I participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony that is presented at the **Arborcrest** Cemetery on May 28<sup>th</sup>. I was participating as part of the Washtenaw County Honor Guard. Other members of our Chapter who participated were John Kinzinger, Glen Johnston, and Ken Rogge. Speeches were made by Mayor of Saline Brian Marl, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Rep Adam Zemke, David Royer, Honor Guard, Ken Rogge, Honor Guard, and Miss Washtenaw County 2016, Heather Kendrick. Heather played the National Anthem on her violin. The Civil Air Patrol Cadets played Taps, lowered the flag to half mast, laid a wreath, and performed flag folding. Dave Royer told the history of Taps, and the meaning of the stars, stripes, and the thirteen folds. The weather was beautiful and so was the ceremony.



Later that day Meni and I attended the **Watch Fire**. Turnout was decent – especially considering forecasters were calling for thunderstorms – but we dodged the bullet. We apparently had around 350 flags that were formally retired. Many stories and dedications filled the evening. It was also an emotional time for many of the

participants as they remembered their lost family members and friends. Sandy M, George P, Don M, Fredo, Jon L, John K, Jane K, Meni and I, and several others remembered one more time our experiences with the ones we lost. We saw many new people who had never attended our Watch Fire before and there were several people from Team Red White and Blue who attended this year. One vet rode his motorcycle down from Sterling Heights with his grandson on the back. He had read about it on our website and decided to check it out. Of course, there was no lacking for hot dogs and brats. It was a great evening of socializing, and more importantly,

great evening of socializing, and more importantly, remembering and honoring. I understand from John Kinzinger that after Meni and I left, it poured cats and dogs and ended up extinguishing the fire. Unfortunately, not all the flags were able to be retired because of that. There are more pictures on our website under Culture>Photo Gallery.





The next day, May 29, our VVA and AVVA participated in the Saline Processional which started at the fire house and then proceeded down Michigan Avenue, with the AVVA members carrying their banner, followed by VVA 310 flag bearers. Pulling up the rear of our group was Steve Hitte carrying and displaying all the flags on the back of his truck. The audience was very enthusiastic and respectful of the flag. The processional ended at Saline's Oakwood Cemetery. А few moments later we participated in their Memorial Ceremony. We heard a speech from Tim Driscoll, a quick hello from the Legion Post 322

Commander, and additional speeches by Saline Mayor Brian Marl, Congressman Tim Walberg, and Paulo Pereira. After that, the wreaths were placed. First came one by the American Legion, then another by the American Legion Auxiliary President, then another by the Sons of the Legion. Miss Sr. Poppy, Tess Carichner, and Miss Jr. Poppy, Brooklyn Andrews, placed a wreath. Then, I placed one on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The last wreath was placed by the Knights of Columbus. I also participated in the rifle volleys to close the event. It was a beautiful day, although just a little





warm for the uniforms that many of us were wearing. Afterwards, as has been the tradition in the past, we were invited to eat a nice lunch of hot dogs, potato and pasta salads, beans, chips, and a soft drink across the street at the American Legion Post 322. The food definitely hit the spot.



Then, I was off to our **VVA Memorial Ceremony** at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. The turnout was good. The weather had warmed up even more but many found coolness under the trees. I gave a short opening speech that was followed by

the Invocation by our Chapter Chaplain Gordon Moore. The Posting of the Colors came next performed by the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard along with bagpiper Tom Kennedy. The Ypsilanti Community Choir then sang the National Anthem. Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo was up next and noted that she was not one person keeping our Memorial area in great shape but a part of team. Brenda then emotionally remarked on how it gives her great satisfaction helping Veterans in whatever way she can. John Kinzinger then asked if there were any family members of the people whose names were on the wall and a several stood up. Next, the keynote speaker, our own LTC Charles Kettles, came to the podium and gave a great speech giving some history of past wars as we all listened intently. His wife Anne was in attendance also, keeping cool under the trees. As tradition holds, John K read the words that are on the plaque on the wall, followed by Wendy Hibbitts' reading her father's poem, "I Knew Them All." Our own Marv Rivers read all the seventy-four names etched on the wall and two MIA's. The choir returned to sing "God Bless America." Gordon Moore dedicated and blessed the Memorial bricks with the names of the four members whom we lost over the past year: Rose E. Mosby, David A. Martinez, Frederick J. Reed, and David J. Belaire. Everyone joined Daisy Mull in singing "Amazing Grace". We closed out

the ceremonies with Gordon Moore giving our benediction followed by one of the Veterans Honor Guard members playing "Taps" with a rifle salute by the rest of the Honor Guard including me. We couldn't have asked for much better weather, turnout and ceremony. I was glad I could take part in so many Veterans ceremonies, although I was certainly glad to get home and remove my boots! Again, there are more pictures on our website under Culture> Photo Gallery.





We continued our busy season by participating in the **Milan Parade** on June 1. This year there were more AVVA members in the parade than VVA members. But, that has been the case in previous years. There were six AVVA members leading with their banner. Vance McCrumb and I carried flags. Roy Hall

marched with us. Meni rode in Steve Hitte's truck along with Steve & Shirley's grandson Kyle. Steve drove his truck again with the flags on the back of his truck. Steve was kind enough to provide us with ice cold water. The turnout



along the route was small compared to Saline's Parade. While the crowd was enthusiastic, not as many stood when the flag passed by them as the crowd did in the Saline parade. All in all, it was a good time together with great weather to cap off the event.



As has been the case for the last few years, the 44<sup>th</sup> annual **Dexter – Ann Arbor Run** had a little bit of rain to start it out this past June 4<sup>th</sup>. This year was not as bad as in previous years, though. John and Jane Kinzinger apparently started posting road guards for the run from their home around a decade ago. Both of them were runners "in their younger days". We had quite a few of



our VVA members volunteer for the road guard duties. John and Jane graciously provided light breakfast treats before we posted for duty at various intersections along Huron River Drive. Our Chapter gets a small donation for our efforts.



We are called upon, from time to time, to **Post Colors** for different organizations and occasions. I personally feel honored when they think to come to us to request such services. And, I think it benefits us as we extend the range of the visibility of our organization. Two such requests came to us in June. The first was from the Michigan Garden Club which was holding their 86<sup>th</sup>

annual State Convention at the Holiday Inn on Plymouth Rd. John K. and I said "yes" to post the U.S. and Michigan flags on behalf of our Chapter and the Veterans Honor Guard. Co-District Directors Carolyn Gardetto and Ruth Moline and their members said they "were privileged to salute our flag." Carolyn said, "each time I see the Stars and Stripes, my heart quickens because of what it means to me ... our freedom ... our rights ... I hold the members of the armed services in highest esteem. Each time I say the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America, I recall learning it in my little one-room country school." We received many thank-yous as we retreated from posting the flags. (Logo used with their permission).

The second request was to post the colors at the West Park Concert. For the past three or four years it has been my honor to participate in the **Posting of Colors at West Park**. It is done with a small detail of three or four volunteers. The usual group is me, Roy Hall and John Kinzinger. This year, however, there were only two of us Marv Rivers, a Marine veteran, and me, an Air Force dude. We are both members of the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard. The program is presented by the Ann Arbor Civic Band. They play many of the old favorites which pay tribute to the military and its veterans. They played "Duty, Honor, Country" with Chuck Colby performing a reading during the number, "God Bless the USA", "Stars and Stripes Forever",

and, of course, "Armed Forces Salute." Several of the bandmembers, including conductor Bill Gourley, are veterans. While the threat of rain prevailed, the evening went well with only a very light rain at one point in the concert. Sitting on the lawn or lawn chairs, listening to great patriotic music; what more could one want?







We also conducted another **Packing Party** on Sunday, June 11. We needed to pack twenty-five boxes to make our historic 4000 boxes shipped since we started packing for troops some thirteen years ago. We packaged thirty-four boxes, so, congratulations to everyone who helped.

Three or four who were at the Packing Party were also at the very first packing party. We had several special guests who helped pack and brought items to be packed. We had Vanessa Revelli (co-leader), Jennifer Miller (co-leader), first grader Julia Revelli, kindergartener Caitlin Miller, all from Dicken Daisy Scout Troop 40532. They brought 100 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to add to the packages. We also had the President and Vice-President of the Military Moms United. They brought many, many items to be packaged. And, we also had Lou Steenstra from Michigan West Point Parents Club. I do not have the names of all the people who helped, so forgive me for that. There were about two dozen people there to help. Roy cooked hot dogs and Steve and Shirley Hitte brought great desserts. We raised \$500 in donations, so, as is the normal course of these packing parties, Elmer White graciously matched that

amount. All the money goes to help defray the cost of shipping the packages. Again, thanks to all who came out and took time out of their busy day to help us help our active military personnel serving overseas. The packages are headed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Korea. I'm sure they will all enjoy the contents of the stuffed boxes!



This article will have been published after the **July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday**, so I'm hoping <u>many</u> of you marched with us in the parade in Ypsilanti. It is always a well-attended event for spectators and, I hope, participants of our Chapter.

The Prez SSgt Dave Draper C-130 Loadmaster



(Among those we won't abandon, the 107th Fighter Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, OEF, OIF, OND, OIR)





# Packages Hit A Milestone

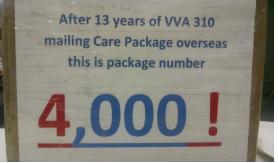
Remember what it was like to receive a Care package while serving away from home. Our Chapter has been mailing Care packages overseas since U.S. forces entered Iraq in 2003. As I remember, Roy Hall, George Perrault, Pete Belaire, Gary Lillie and others began packing for our troops in our living room. Recently, we mailed our 4,009<sup>th</sup> package to military personnel overseas. The average postage cost has been about \$17.00 per box. That would make the total postage cost almost \$70,000. That took a lot of donations and fundraising. And that does not consider the cost of the contents.

We have had many of you join us for the packing parties. We became quite a packing machine. Our best was a few years ago, for our annual early Christmas packing. We packed over 100 Care packages, customs forms completed and in the van, in less than one hour. Now that is teamwork. We have developed quite a core of experienced packers. I would mention names, but forgetting one would be terrible. You know who you are. It would be impossible to name all those who have participated over all these years. What a most wonderful and dedicated group to work with. Love you all.

Over the years, we have received many letters of gratitude, certificates and Flags they flew for us over their base. A couple times we had a local trooper who had received a package come join us at a packing party to tell us how much he appreciated receiving a package from us. One special one was Chris Ochs. Chris was seriously injured by an explosion, is paralyzed from the waist down and in a wheel chair. That does not stop that young man. Several times he drove out to the VFW Post and joined in packing with us. He also made several significant donations toward packing costs. Most times he did that to make sure we got all of Elmer White's promised matching funds. Thank you, Chris. And thank you Elmer. And thank you to all the fine cooks for the great pot-luck dinners we had afterwards. You did well.

Then there are the personal stories confirming we did well for our troops. Vance McCrumb could tell about his neighbor's son for one. For me, it was in 2007 when we traveled to Ft. Hood for a 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division reunion. They had recently returned from Iraq. I noticed the numbers on a combat vehicle that looked like one that we had sent packages. I asked one of troopers if they had received anything really special in their Care packages. You see for about five years, we had a special source for new and unique Harley-Davidson t-shirts

and sweatshirts. I estimate that mailed over 5,000 H-D we shirts overseas. The trooper responded that thev had received a package with H-D shirts. And he talked about how great they were. I knew they came from us. The trooper said it is so special that he wears it to bed every night. That sure made me proud of our work.





Just recently, Al and Pam Skornicka had a similar experience. They were in Grand Rapids at a nephew's wedding. He had served in the Marine Corps in Afghanistan 3 or 4 years ago. Al and Pam thought they gave me his address to send packages, but they were not sure he received any from us until he described what was in one package he received. Back then we sent a lot of toilet tissue packed in the bottom of the box. We did that for many packing parties. When he described that, Al and Pam knew it came from us. Their nephew said to tell Chapter 310 a big thank you and he felt very special when he received it from us. He shared the contents with the guys in his unit.

Our next packing most likely will be our early Christmas packing in November.

All I can say in closing is, thank you all who contributed to our packing parties. Together we made a difference for many thousands of troopers.

John K



(Among those we won't abandon, the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Operation Enduring Freedom)

## More Than Names On the Wall

#### Part Four, by Jane Kinzinger

The month of July is the heart of summertime. It's time for picnics, vacations, and leisure. If the 76 young men on our Vietnam Memorial had lived, what would they have been doing to pass the summer?

Based on the information provided by their families and friends and from comments in their letters to home, they had many different hobbies and interests to pursue. These teens and early twenties-somethings were active young men who loved and played many different sports: baseball (15), football (16), basketball (7), swimming (9), water skiing (1), skin diving (2), SCUBA diving (1), track (7) especially pole vault, cross country (1), wrestling (3), weight lifting (1), physical development (1), hockey and ice skating (3), biking and motorcycles (4), tennis (3) and table tennis (1), golf (2), and bowling (2). Others were fond of playing cards (3), shooting pool at Five Points Pool Hall (3), dominoes (1), chess (2) and going to the race track (1). Since so many loved baseball, they also went to ball games, watching the Detroit Tigers (1) or Cincinnati Reds (1).

Many were described as outdoorsmen, enjoying deer (12) and small game (4) hunting, fishing (13) at Higgins Lake or the Huron River or Trout Lake, camping (2) on Lake Huron, nature (3), and travel (to the upper peninsula). Several belonged to a rifle club (2). Some had their sights set on flying (1). A few pursued endeavors such as woodworking (1) and art (3), photography (1) and stone lithography (1). Some were avid readers (4) especially science fiction, or studied electronics (1), astronomy (1) or Egyptology (1), or watched western movies (2). There were persuasive debaters among them (4), and one was part of a stage crew for theater (1).

Many had strong music interests. They learned and played guitar (7) and might have been part of a music group (2), namely the "Riders Three" or "Our Mother's Children," or they sang in a choir (4) or played accordion and tuba in band (1). They were part of the Rock and Roll generation (5) moved by the Beatles, Motown, Rolling Stones, gospel and country music (2) and dancing (1). Young men of that era loved their cars (16). Time was spent working on and riding in a junker 1953 two-toned green Chevrolet with a stick shift, a two -toned Dodge gas guzzler, or a 1955 Dodge convertible with blue interior. Foreign cars of that era might have been a 1952 MG or a 1959 Volkswagen. Popular cars were the 1958 Mercury, 1959 Chevy, 1959 Ford and 1963½ Ford Galaxy Fastback, a Ford Fairlane with an "ooga horn," or a 1957 Ford with a 312 cu in Mercury engine. Others prized their brand new, fancy red Super Sport Chevelle, 1965 Chevy, 1965 GTO, 1966 Chevy II Super Sport and 1968 Buick Riviera.

Whether driving a new or "suped-up" and customized car, they were drawn to Milan Dragway to run their fast cars. They also drove them through the Chick Inn Drive-In, Frostop, or Little Skipper Root Beer Stand or to Bill Knapp's. Typical of most teenagers, they liked hanging out and being with their friends. Those who grew up on farms were more likely to have been involved with 4-H and Fair (5), gardening (3), farming (4), Boy Scouts (3) and Eagle Scouts (2). Those raised in town might have had paper routes (2). Friends and family members remember them as loving animals and having a beloved pet (5), cat, mynah bird, parakeet or seahorse, or a special dog Stanley or Lady or Cricket or "Brown Dog."

Mom's good home cooking was mentioned many times as something anticipated. Favorites in the food category include pizza, BBQ ribs, cabbage rolls, Royal Crown Cola, German pretzels, fried chicken, spaghetti and ravioli, summer sausage sandwiches, chocolate chip cookies and popcorn. These growing teenagers could "put away" large quantities of these indulgences.

Many joined the military and left for Vietnam right after finishing high school, which meant they were leaving home for the first time. That made family ties very strong. Their letters home expressed love for family and the importance of family time, especially for those who were married and had children. Being close to and attending their church (10) was significant and meaningful, and 3 were altar boys. They found strength and comfort from their faith and relationship with God. May they all rest in peace.



### JULY'S KIA'S - MAY WE NEVER FORGET

DATA AND IMAGES ARE THE RESULT OF THE RESEARCH BY PETE (LEATHER NECK) BELAIRE

Hospitalman **David Scott Palmer** was born on October 6, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. David E. Palmer of Ypsilanti, Michigan. David is a 1963 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he received honors in math. He was also the co-captain of the swimming team. David attended the University of Michigan before enlisting in the Navy in December of 1965.





Hospitalman Palmer began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Forces. David was killed on July 5, 1967 due to an explosive device.

David Scott Palmer is survived by his parents, a sister and a brother. He lived 21 years 8 months and 29 days. David'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 23E Line 014.

Lieutenant **William Lennington Brown** was born on October 5, 1935 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Robert S. and Mrs. Patricia Lennington Brown. William graduated from Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In June, 1955, he received a Congressional Appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated from the Naval Academy on June 3, 1959. According to Captain John A. Standish, USN (Ret), "I met Bill Brown when I reported aboard my first ship, the Destroyer, USS Braine (DD-630)...in San Diego. I was assigned as Gunnery Officer; Bill was the



Weapons Department Head. Bill was a very conscientious, fun loving young officer, and quickly pulled me under his wing. He was a great mentor and coach, and much of my love for the Navy and its traditions were as a result of Bill's attitude and instruction...Bill also became a good friend...Bill was very religious and tempted me with pizza if I would go to evening services with him, which I did on occasion. At some point, Bill picked up the nickname, 'Squirrel's."

Lieutenant Brown served with the 15th Republic of Vietnam Navy, River Assault Group, Naval Advisory Group, MACV. He was acting as a Naval Advisor to the Marine Corps in Chu Lai, South Vietnam when the island of Ky Hoa was attacked by a large force of Viet Cong. Bill Brown was killed as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds on July 9, 1965 along with four other Americans.

Lieutenant William Lennington Brown is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister. He lived for 29 years, 9 months and 4 days. He is resting at the Brookside Cemetery in Tecumseh, Michigan. According to USNA Classmate Greg Nolan, "He (Bill) is remembered in Memorial Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy with other 1959 Classmates while serving our Country." Bill'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 02E Line 033.

Specialist 4 **Philip Glenn Spencer** was born on March 3, 1946 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Mr. Glenn F. and Mrs. Jessie K. Spencer. Philip is a 1964 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he was on the 1963





State Championship Football Team. He also was on the wrestling team, student council, Varsity Club and attended Wolverine Boys' State in 1963. He was also in Scouting. Philip attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan for a year before transferring to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan majoring in mechanical engineering.

Specialist 4 Spencer enlisted in the Army on October 25, 1967 taking his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Philip began his tour of duty at Camp Carroll in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on April 21, 1968 serving as a Field Artillery Surveyor with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery, 108th Artillery Group, XXIV Corps. He died of a very rare blood disease called Agranulocytosys at the 108th General Hospital at Kishine Air Force Base in Japan on July 10, 1968.

Philip Glenn Spencer is survived by his parents and his wife. He lived 22 years, 4 months and 7 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Philip'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 52W Line 011.

Specialist 4 **Thomas Leonard Cleland** was born on November 5, 1941 to Mr. Leslie Cleland and Mrs. Coryell Mellon. Thomas is a 1959 graduate of Lincoln Consolidated High School where he played on the baseball team. He also worked on the Maleski farm that had milking cows. Thomas enlisted in the Army in 1960. He was sent to Korea shortly after completing his Basic Training. He re-enlisted and received orders for Vietnam.

Specialist 4 Cleland began his tour of duty in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam on May 7, 1966 serving as an Antenna Installer Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, First Brigade, 101st Airborne



Division. He was killed on July 11, 1967 after serving "In-country" for one year, two months and four days.

Thomas Leonard Cleland is survived by his parents, a wife, a brother, a half-brother, and a half-sister. He lived 25 years, 8 months and 6 days. He is resting in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Whittaker, Michigan. Thomas' 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 23E Line 049.

Lance Corporal **David Dayle Mc Kenzie** was born on February 13, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. David D. Mc Kenzie of Ann Arbor, Michigan. David attended Mary Magdalene Parish School in Melvindale, Michigan until 1959. He attended St. Francis Xavier Parish School for one year. His family moved to Ann Arbor where he attended St. Thomas High School. He was the captain of his football team and was on the All-City and All Southwest football teams. He also lettered in basketball, baseball and track. David enlisted in the





Marine Corps after graduating from High School.

Lance Corporal Mc Kenzie began his tour of duty in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam in June of 1965 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. David was killed early in his tour on July 12, 1965 when his unit was conducting a search and clear mission just south of Da Nang along the Song Cau Do River where mines were numerous.

David Dayle Mc Kenzie is survived by his parents and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 29 days. He is resting in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, Michigan. David'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 02E Line 035.

Airman Second Class **Charles Frederick Boss** was born on July 16, 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. John M. Boss of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1965. He was very proud of a First Place Trophy he won at Milan Dragway for driving a 1959 VW to victory.

Airman Second Class Boss entered the Air Force in August of 1965. He underwent basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Charles received special training as a fire protection specialist at Kincheloe Air Force Base in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Airman Second Class Boss began his tour in Vietnam

on December 15, 1966. He was stationed at the Da Nang Air Base in Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam with the 366th CE Squadron, 366th Combat Support Group, 366th Tactical Fighter Wing of the Seventh Air Force. Charles was killed during a rocket attack on July 15, 1967 along with seven others. One hundred seventy-three men were also wounded during the attack and forty-two aircraft were damaged.

Charles Boss is survived by his parents, a brother and two sisters. He lived 19 years, 11 months and 29 days. Charles is resting in Forest Hills Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His name is located on the Vietnam Memorial located at the Ypsilanti Township Hall under Ann Arbor. His name is also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 23E Line 073.

Corporal **Richard Mark O'Neal** was born on May 22, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. William O'Neal of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Richard is a 1966 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He entered the Marine Corps on July 6, 1966 going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received his Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton, California before being stationed with the Headquarters and Service Company, First Marine Brigade in Hawaii.







Corporal O'Neal began his tour of duty in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on May 31, 1968 serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Richard died on July 26, 1968 of head injuries suffered in a truck accident.

Richard Mark O'Neal is survived by his parents, a brother and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 2 months and 4 days. Richard is resting in United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, Michigan. Richard'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 50W Line 015.

Private First Class **Douglas Paul Atkins** was born on September 14, 1950 in Ann Arbor to Mr. and Mrs. Variell L. Atkins. Douglas is a 1968 graduate of Ann Arbor Senior High School in Ann Arbor. He also attended Washtenaw Community College prior to his entry into the Army August of 1969.

Private First Class Atkins started his tour in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on July 6, 1970 serving as a Medical Corpsman with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Douglas' unit was operating in an area that was



full of "booby-traps". Private First Class Douglas Paul Atkins was killed by a booby-trap explosion on July 27, 1970, just 23 days into his tour in Vietnam.

Douglas earned the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Expert Badge with Automatic Rifle Bar, and the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar prior to his death. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Medical Badge.

Doug is survived by his parents, family and friends. He lived 19 years, 10 months and 13 days. Douglas Paul Atkins 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 08W Line 058.

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Date	Time	Event		
Saturdays	0930	Meet at end of southeast parking lot at Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue		
11 Jul	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.		
13 Jul	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423		
13 Jul	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423		

# \*\*\* Upcoming Events \*\*\*



# \*\*\* Upcoming Events \*\*\* Continued

Date	Time	Event
17 Jul	1930	WCCV Meeting at VFW Post 423
27 Jul	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
8-12 Aug		VVA and AVVA National Convention at the New Orleans Marriott
10 Aug	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
10 Aug	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
22 Aug	1930	WCCV Meeting at VFW Post 423
2-4 Sep		Yankee Air Museum Air Show, Thunder over Michigan
10 Sep	1200-1600	Pig Roast — VVA fundraiser
14 Sep	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
14 Sep	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
18 Sep	1930	WCCV Meeting at VFW Post 423
23 Sep		LZ Michigan Veterans Reunion, Fifth Third Ballpark.
14 Sep	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
14-16 Sep	1630	Kokomo 35th Veterans Reunion
26 Oct	1245-1400	Spirit of Caring Panel at VA hospital
28 Oct	1730	VAAHS Halloween Party. Meet in the lobby in costume.
19 Dec	1730	VAAHS Christmas Party. Meet in the lobby.



# 00 00

# **Regular Meeting Minutes**

8 June 2017

Call to order by President Draper at 1900

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: LTC William Luker, US Army Special Forces (Abn, Ret)

**Motion** to Approve the May Minutes, Moved by Draper, second by Bourne. Two corrections, noted: Meeting time was 1900 and Al Dieter did not "officially" resign. Approved as corrected.

**President's Report:** Draper. We have new flag stands in front. Don't forget to sign up on the board to use the flags. Last month was busy. Quartermania was successful. Watch Fire, Saline Parade, Saline Memorial, Our Memorial, Ypsilanti Parade and the Dexter Ann Arbor Run were all this month.

Treasure's Report: Paulo. Reports handed out. No Questions.

**AVVA Report:** M Draper. 8 Members. Scrapbooking fundraiser did alright. We are near to the \$1,000 goal for the Fisher House. AVVA is participating in parades with white t-shirts that ask people to stand for the flag. There is a Packing Party this Sunday. Special guests will be there. Elmer White from American Legion Post 46 asked for patient pals for the VA on Fridays when the post does bingo there. Honor Guard will be at West Park on Wednesday 28 June for a veteran's concert. We did attend the WCCV meeting, but we did not vote on whether to join yet.

Food Pantry: Miller. No activity

**Merchandise:** D Draper. Al Dieter and Gary Bourdeau resigned from the committee. Report by Meni Draper. A full inventory is being done. Trailer keys, merchandise and the inventory report will be turned in to the President when the inventory is complete. Once that is done, M Draper will resign from the committee also.

[Editor's Note: No one volunteered to lead the committee. No one volunteered to support the  $2^{nd}$  Tuesday sales day at the VA.]

WCCV. Luker. Team Red, White & Blue joined WCCV, so the



revitalization process begins.

**Memorial Report**, Merritt. I think our water flooding problem has been solved. Three new French Drains were installed. The Friends tree and the bushes appear to be growing fine.

**Website:** McCrumb. If you are having trouble getting on the website, call me and I'll help you. I have rearranged several of the webpages and the index so that you should be able to find things quicker. And we have had our website updated as well.

Membership: McCrumb. 195 members and a few more in the works.

Newsletter: Luker. No AVVA report this month due to Driscoll's health.

**VA Report:** Draper: They opened some more of the parking structure.

Old Business:

None

#### New Business:

None

#### Good of the Order:

**Draper:** We have a volunteer signup sheet going around for the Pig Roast.

**Draper:** The website now has the new constitutional amendments and resolutions that will be discussed at the conference in New Orleans. Please let us know your opinions so that we can represent the VVA Chapter properly.

**Thornberry:** 14 years on Vets Radio. There is a CD of Michael Martin's music. You can buy them from his daughter <u>AndyMartin23@rocketmail.com</u>. Should we stop broadcasting live and go just to a podcast? That would allow us to prepare the program anytime we want and the guest is available, rather than being tied into a live time frame. What kind of programing would like to hear on Veterans Radio? Send your answer to <u>Dale@veteransradio.net</u>.

**Thornberry:** Town hall meeting at VA Auditorium Monday 19 June 1300 to 1400 Room A818

White: John Kinzinger is at Ann Arbor Veterans Memorial Park coaching the VFW baseball team. There are eight teams in the league. Each team plays each other team twice. Ann Arbor American Legion Post 46 put a team together. There will be a AA VFW vs American Legion doubleheader on 1 August at 1830 at Diamond 5, right across the street from Knight's restaurant.

**Draper:** June 11 packing party at 1500. July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in Ypsi. Lineup at 1030. There will be the picnic afterward at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial grounds. The next meeting is 13 July.

**Draper:** Breakfast at the bomber tomorrow at 0900

Closing Prayer: Mayes

Adjourned 2001. Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker







# **AVVA Minutes:**

Unfortunately, I missed the deadline to submit an article and the May 11th meeting minutes for the June *Dispatch*. I unfortunately did not email Jon my article before I left for New Jersey. I emailed our AVVA members the minutes from our May 11th meeting. If you did not receive the minutes, please email me your email address. I am missing a few email addresses. This is one way we, as a

Chapter, stay in touch throughout the year. I will have hard copies of the May 11th and June 8th meeting minutes at our July 13th meeting for those who do not have email.

If you are on Facebook, you can join the AVVA Michigan closed group. Just send a Friend Request to Marilyn 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 have been very busy in May and June. I was unable to attend our last two meetings as I was in New Jersey in May for my grandson's First Communion. Then I fractured my foot on June 4th and was unable to fly back until Monday, June 12th. Thank you, Meni, for leading both meetings and creating both meeting agendas.

AVVA Members at work volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in May. Members attended the Watchfire; the Saline Memorial Day Procession; the VVA 310 Vietnam Memorial Day Ceremony; and, the Milan Memorial Procession. Thank you Bonnie, Corrine, Jane, Meni, Sandy and Shirley.

Meni attended the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Meeting. AVVA 310 hopefully will be accepted as a new member at the July WCCV meeting.

Kathy will attend the June 19th meeting at the Ypsilanti American Legion Post 282

We will be marching or riding in the Ypsilanti 4th of July Parade. There will be a Family Picnic after the parade at the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township.

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

I hope to see all of you at our July 13th meeting. AVVA will provide a sandwich tray. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.



#### AVVA June 8, 2017 Minutes

Eight Members were present. Meni Draper was meeting leader. Kathy fractured her left foot and was unable to fly home to Michigan until Monday, June 12th.

Kathy will present the Financial Report at our July 13th meeting.

#### Membership Report:

- AVVA 310 has 36 members. New members include Jackie McManus and Libby Price.
- Kathy mailed out 18 letters to all non-AVVA Friends of VVA 310 members. Eight non-AVVA Friends of VVA 310 members joined AVVA 310. Hopefully the remaining ten members will join AVVA 310. 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 VISTA Report:

Kathy is collecting and emailing Jeri Wallis the VISTA hours for AVVA Chapter 310 members. Please email Kathy at <u>dkathyr16@qmail.com</u> your hours for April and May 2017. Remember all non-VAVS hours supporting Veterans are reported on the VISTA report.

#### Fundraising Report:

- Our 3rd Annual AVVA 310 No-Bake Bake Sale fundraising letters will be mailed out in August. Please consider increasing your donation. We will split the donations this year equally between both Operating Fund and Special Project specified lines. This is our main yearly fundraiser. It allows us to fund our annual donations to AVVA Project Friendship, Sons and Daughters in Touch, all Memorial donations in lieu of flowers, Military Moms United, Warriors and Caregivers United, and the Grand Rapids Veterans Home to name a few of our past donations from 2015 and 2016.
- We raised \$32.50 at the May 20th Creative Memories Fundraiser. Meni and Kathy attended. Our next Creative Memories Fundraiser is scheduled for October. Please support this fundraiser. We received a \$50 donation from M. Draper from a non AVVA 310 Creative Memories event. We enjoyed working on our Family Photo Books.
- AVVA 310 Quartermania, to benefit Fisher House Michigan, will resume in September. We will need the help of all AVVA and VVA 310 members to ensure we are successful. We have a new goal to raise an additional \$1,000 for Fisher House Michigan. AVVA will have a basket raffle, 50/50 and sell food. All proceeds including the Mystery Gift rounds will benefit Fisher House Michigan. If you would like to donate an item for the basket raffle, please contact Kathy. Hopefully we will meet or surpass our goal.



This will be the third Quartermania to benefit Fisher House Michigan.

 We will have a Basket raffle at the VVA 310 Pig Roast. Please contact Kathy to make a donation. Last year's AVVA 310 Pig Roast raffle raised \$110. This fundraiser benefits our Operating Fund.

#### Fisher House Michigan:

I want to thank all our members and VVA 310 members for helping AVVA 310 raise funds for Fisher House Michigan in May and June. We met our \$1,000.00 goal for Fisher House Michigan. We raised \$1,004.08 and will donate second \$1,000.00 to Fisher House Michigan in July. We received a \$100.00 from an attendee at our May Quartermania. Fisher House Foundation is currently matching the first \$3,500,000.00 donations to Fisher House Michigan dollar for dollar. This demonstrates how AVVA Chapter 310 members support both the VVA Chapter 310 Motto:

#### "Never Again Shall a Veteran Coming Home From Battle Be Made to Feel Alone and Unappreciated!" and the AVVA motto:

#### "Together Always".

#### Veterans Wrist Bracelets

We have 10 Veterans Wrist bracelets left. This fundraiser raised \$550.00 for Fisher House Michigan. \$245.00 was donated on March 18th. We will add the \$305 to the proceeds from the May 22th Quartermania and the May 20th Scrapbooking Fundraiser. All three fundraisers allowed us to reach our goal to raise an additional \$1,000 for Fisher House Michigan. We will send our donation to Fisher House Michigan after our July 13th meeting.

#### AVVA Michigan State Association:

Meni Draper attended The Region 5 convention in Columbus, OH.

#### AVVA National News:

- AVVA National Convention, August 8th 12th in New Orleans. Meni Draper will attend as AVVA 310's Delegate.
- Project Friendship 2017 Volunteers of America, Homeless Veterans, in New Orleans, LA. AVVA 310 will be donating \$100.00 this year.

#### Old Business:

• Turner's Greenhouse planted the Friends of VVA 310 replacement tree at the Memorial.

#### New Business:

Kathy has Purple AVVA T-Shirts and Navy AVVA Ball Caps. The embroidered T-Shirts are \$23 and the embroidered Ball Caps are \$15. Purple is AVVA Region 5 color, but you can order a T-Shirt in any color. AVVA Ball Caps are Navy, but Kathy can get Black Ball Caps made. Please contact Kathy



to place your order.

#### Other / Ongoing Concerns:

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund Balance: \$2,208.25

Kathy Driscoll Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310 AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President <u>dkathyr16@gmail.com</u> 734-355-4897



# Chaplain's Corner:

As we come to July our natural focus is to summer and Independence Day on the Fourth. It is a time of reflection and celebration for God's goodness to our nation and our love for each other.

734-277-3528 glmoore@umich.edu

I thought Psalm 97 would be an appropriate focus for the Supreme cause of our celebration:

"The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad! Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory. Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments, O Lord, for you, Lord, are most high above all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods, You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holv name."

I especially like the phrase: "For you, Lord, are most high above all the earth." We serve *El Elyon*, the Highest of High Ones, who created all that we see and do not see, including our spirits, that will one day return to Him who made it when we have completed the work that He has for us in our generation. Until then may we be about His work, rejoicing in His goodness to us that endures to a thousand generations to those who love Him and keep his commands.

Blessing and honor be upon you.

Gordon





VIETNAM VETERANS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY CHAPTER 310 P.O. BOX 3221 ANN ARBOR, MI 48106

CHAPTER TELEHONE: TOLL FREE NUMBER ~ 1-866-824-4VVA

WEB: www.vva310.org

#### MEETING DATE & TIME:

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 1800 HRS OPEN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: 1900 HRS SOCIAL GATHERING AFTERWARDS

#### LOCATION:

VFW GRAF-O'HARA POST 423 3230 S. WAGNER RD., ANN ARBOR BETWEEN ELLSWORTH & WATERS RDS., (ACROSS FROM TOWN & COUNTRY AUTO RECYCLING)

NOTE: THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ΒY THE WRITERS AND CARTOONISTS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT NECESSARILY THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF Vice President CHAPTER 310.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE WITH AN ARTICLE OR BIOGRAPHY. IF REQUESTED, WRITING HELP IS AVAILABLE.

THE SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN SPELLING AND ENHANCE ITS INDIVIDUAL GRAMMAR CHARACTER AND AESTHETICS AND IN NO WAY ARE TO BE CONSIDERED FLAWS OR Sgt-at-Arms DEFECTS. BUT THANKS FOR NOTICING.

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#### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

POW/MIA HOTLINE: 202.659.0133

AMERICA AGENT ORANGE: 800.225.4712

WASHTENAW COUNTY VFTFRANS SERVICES: New Number 734.973.4540

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT BTLL OF RIGHTS: 800.455.5228

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA: 800.882.1316

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOT LINE: 1.800.273.TALK (8255) Option 1

WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONSLIFELINE.ORG/ VETERANS

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David Draper

Al Merritt

Secretary Jon Luker

Treasurer Paulo Pereira

Tim Clarke

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Marv Rivers Vance McCrumb

#### Chaplain

Rev. Gordon Moore

#### Board Of Directors

Two Year Roy Hall Vance McCrumb Don Miller Elmer White Sandie Wilson



Board of Directors, con't One Year Bill Ballou George Perrault Marv Rivers Ken Rogge Larry St. Antoine State Delegate Jon Luker Tim Driscoll **County Delegates:** Al (Fredo) Merritt Wendy Hibbitts Jon Luker VA Service Rep (Vacant) VVA 310 WebMaster Vance McCrumb David Draper www.vva310.org **AVVA** Kathy Driscoll Agent Orange Sandie Wilson **B**vlaws Gordon Moore **Community Service** John Kinzinger Constitution Tom Fifield **Economic Affairs** (Vacant) Finance Paulo Pereira Berryman Bourne Ken Rogge Jon Luker

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VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA Washtenaw County Chapter 310 P.O. Box 3221

Ann Arbor, MI 48106 Please forward. Thank You. "Never Again, Shall A Vet Coming Home From Battle, Be Made To Feel Alone And Unappreciated"

# HERE COMES YOUR FOUR TIME WINNER, NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF

Next Regular Meeting: 1900 hours 13 July 2017 at GRAF-O'HARA VFW POST 423 3230 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Wagner road is closed at Scio Church Road. Take Waters Road or Ellsworth Road instead.