

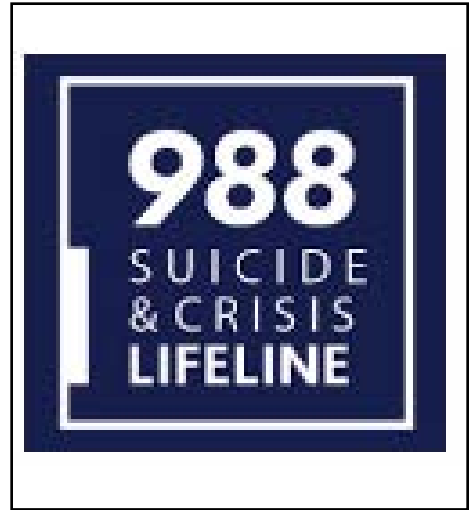
310 Dispatch

July 2024



*Together We Make
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles
Chapter 310*



Editor's Note: "Never Again Shall A Veteran Coming Home From Battle Be Made To Feel Alone And Unappreciated!" VVA 310 Veterans have much to show in terms of putting this motto into practice. Sometimes it is the little things that show the solidarity. See, for example, Jane Kinzinger's account of VVA 310 Veterans' activities over the years (page 11). There is much to be proud of in our past.

-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch Editor

WHATS NEW IN VVA 310

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July Prez Report 2024

By Vance McCrumb



Have you ever seen Tim Driscoll drool? The Wednesday TLC group did, on June 19th. The Liar's Club met for our normal Wednesday morning coffee at Brewed Awakenings. After an hour, the group headed over to Bill Crispin's "Man Cave." Bill has a collection of Classic Cars, including a 1956 Belair convertible as well as a 1958 Chevy convertible 348 Tri-Power V8.

Tim Driscoll stared at that V8 and started to drool as he looked at three individual Rochester carburetors that were arranged inline on the intake manifold, the center one operating normally and the outer two acting as secondaries, or "dumpers," for full throttle performance. We had to shake Tim and drag him from the '58. It was like pulling your dog from a fire hydrant who wasn't through sniffing.

Both the '56 and '58 are in original condition and the '56 has only 10,000 original

miles on the odometer. Picture credit – Eric Downie. Thanks Eric!

In case you are wondering who Bill Crispin is, here's some information. Bill Crispin was the owner of Bill Crisp-



in Chevrolet across the street from Brewed Awakenings. He sold the dealership about a year ago. He's a Marine, pre-Vietnam, and his service date is outside the window for membership. He gave us \$50.00 dollars even though he didn't qualify. I'm going to submit him for a Chapter Honorary Member.



Stan Harrison and crew had another good Merchandise Sales event at the VA with \$530.00 in sales. His crew consisted of Tim Driscoll, Al Merritt, George Betz, and me. I encourage others to help with the sales at the VA. We meet some interesting veterans and their family members who stop by to window-shop and chat. One of the staff members at the MRI unit bought five hats, one for each branch of service. When asked, she said she was creating a display for the MRI lobby area. She also said, if a vet asked for a hat, she would give it to him or her and would purchase a replacement.

Al Merritt has found a local outlet for Chapter polo shirts. The company is Designer Stitchwear of Ann Arbor. Prices are below. If we have a large enough order, those prices may come down accordingly. Attend our next meeting and see a couple examples.

Sm, M, XL - \$47.00

2X - \$49.00

3X - \$51.00

Name - \$5.00

She also supplied our latest Chapter hats with the service ribbon on the back. Good quality hats with quality stitching.

The 310 Dispatch has made some changes. In an effort to keep our newsletter to a max of 12 pages, some changes had to take place. One change was, when necessary, to shorten the length of the KIA bios. And the other was to make the AVVA a stand-alone newsletter. This will allow the AVVA newsletter to be as long as needed.

There is a [link](#) on our site to download both the Chapter newsletter and the AVVA newsletter. On our site, tap on the Newsletter link.

John K will email it as well as the 310 Dispatch. So, if you received the Chapter newsletter via email, look for

two attachments. If you receive the Chapter newsletter via USPS, you will have to go online and download the AVVA newsletter or read it online. We're sorry for any inconvenience.

Sick Call: Louis Kennedy continues his dialysis treatments.

Arf,

V

PS - OK, what's the speed of dark?

July 2024 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
(2 Corinthians 3:17)

Liberty is a struggle, as so many of our family had to come to America, and as so many other families continue to discover on their voyage to becoming citizens of this great land we call home.

I have selected the following two poems to reconnect us to that constant struggle and find compassion for those who rightly come seeking a new home.

Lady Liberty

The time has come for her to leave, lay down
her torch her arm has grown weary.
Let the stone tablet smash into thousands of
disappointments.
She will ease her crown off her aching head.
The halo rays no longer reach seven oceans,
seven continents.
She was made to be no man's stooge.
She lets her cloak slowly fall, steps barefooted
out of her chains, flings them toward D.C.
She can no longer stand upon a pedestal. The
lady needs a quiet place to lay her head, to
dream of huddled masses still yearning.
Her heart never was shaped from stone.
She needs to find a place of safety, to howl.
Denise Blake



The New Colossus

. . . here at our sea-washed
Sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with
A torch whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning,
And her name
Mother of exiles. From her
Beacon hand
Glows world-wide
Welcome; her mild eyes
Command
The air-bridged harbor that
Twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your
Storied pomp!" Cries she
With silent lips. "Give me
Your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses
Yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuge of
Your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
Tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the
Golden Door!"
Emma Lazarus

Peace and liberty to all. Gordon.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes

By Jon Luker, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
Regular Membership Meeting Minutes
13 June 2024

Call to Order by President McCrumb at 1900 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Bob Bull

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!

New Members: None

Guests: Garry Massengill's wife, Linda

Motion: by Bull/Merritt to approve the May Minutes published in the Dispatch. Approved.

President's Report:

Please see my remarks in the Dispatch or online at <https://vva310.org>.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne

Reports were emailed to the Board and to members who wanted one. Let me know your email address if you desire these reports.

There was not much activity this month. Nonrestricted funds had three significant deposits:

- a. \$1,953 membership due rebates from VVA
- b. \$1,800 Pig Roast donations
- c. \$530 merchandise sales at the AA VA

There were no significant expenses and no significant activity on the restricted accounts.

AVVA Report: Please see reference about this subject in the president's report.

Committee Reports:

Merchandise: Harrison. We had good sales at the VA, and we'll be there again next Tuesday from 0730 to 1400. On 29 June we'll be at Camp Liberty by 0800 to set up for their car show. Any help we get at either event will be greatly appreciated.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Bull. Meeting start time has been changed to 1830 for those who want to eat. The meeting starts at 1900. He encouraged all members that are aware of an organization that has a veterans committee, to ask that committee chair to attend this monthly meeting.

Michigan State Council: Wilson and Driscoll. The State Convention went well. There was an agent orange meeting the day before. McManus gave a report on things that are happening at the National office.

They have hired several new lobbyists and have made sure that the lobbyists are spending their time in Congressional offices not just working phones and email.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. Team three did a great job today. The new tree looks good and has new growth. We are working on getting a second one. We also had a company come in that is going to apply three feedings to the blue spruce trees. The first feeding has already been done.

Website: McCrumb. We have had 434,009 hits since the website was last rebuilt.

Membership: McCrumb. We are at 217 members.

Newsletter: No report.

Health Care: Wilson. As reported previously, Senator Tester has introduced a new version of his toxic study bill that the VA has refused to obey. This time, the law will give the job to the Department of Health and Human Services instead of to the VA. Wilson was able to discuss the issue with Congressional Representative Debbie Dingle on Sunday at our Watchfire Ceremony. Representative Dingle started work on the companion House bill on Tuesday.

The deadline for filing PACT Act claims with retroactive pay has passed but you can still file a claim. There is an effort taking place to informally change the name of the PACT Act to "The Cost of War Act" to help everyone see what our combat commitments mean in the real world.

LTCCSKMC: Kinzinger and Driscoll. There are not as many volunteers these days. Fisher House is always looking for volunteers. Fisher House can't build the second building until the first one is full for 365 consecutive days.

As you know, we do an annual fund drive around Christmas each year, promising that we will only contact people once a year and that all funds raised will be used for veterans who get medical care from the Ann Arbor VA. The committee is planning to give \$10,000 to Fisher House while matching fund grants are still available. The committee also delivered \$2,500 worth of underwear to the VA today and ordered another \$2,500 worth to be delivered later. The committee will upgrade four more steak dinners throughout the year.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

McCrumb: I accepted Brian Graef's resignation from the Board. He is spread thinner than melted butter on warm toast. I have appointed Bob Kwiecinski to fill out the balance of his term.

Harrison:

- George Betz lost his wife recently. His daughter, who is moving to Minnesota to become president of the University of Minnesota, offered to have George move in with her. George decided to remain here with us.
- Remember, the Pig Roast is coming up in August. We could use some help fundraising and at the event.

Kinzinger: Camp Liberty is holding its annual fundraiser car show on 29 June. This one is going to be bigger and better than any before it. Camp Liberty provides hunting and other outdoor activities for disabled veterans.

McCrum: There will be a flag retirement ceremony tomorrow at the VFW post. The event is being run by Boy Scout Troop 446. The VFW has invited us to attend. The VFW is also looking at ways to help the different organizations that use the facility to do more things together.

Perrault: I wish you all a happy 249th Army birthday!

Bull: A few things:

- There is a free breakfast every second Tuesday at Harvest Moon on 5484 W. Michigan Ave. near Carpenter Rd. in Ypsilanti.
- There are new flyers for different things on the pool table.
- VetFest is 3 August. Registration is required. There are still a few tables open for providers. Set up is at 0800 and the program goes from 1000 to 1500.
- We will be conducting a sock drive from 1 August through 30 September. We are asking you to donate new, ordinary, solid color socks. Nothing fancy. We need everything from child to adult.
- Two new VA clinics opened. One is in Trenton and one is in Wyoming.

Hall: My brother and VVA Member, Gene Hall, fell and had significant injuries. He had surgery and is back home but is still in rough shape. He needs our prayers.

Throneberry: The Airforce Singing Sergeants choir is giving a free concert at the First Congregational Church, 608 E William St, Ann Arbor, MI on 21 June at 1900.

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday will be at 0900 at Holiday's Restaurant, 2080 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 668-1292.

Closing Prayer: Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 1946.

Honoring July Anniversaries on The Wall



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 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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Lance Corporal David Dayle McKenzie was born on February 13, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. David D. McKenzie 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 McKenzie 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 McKenzie 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.

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

Airman Second Class Charles Frederick 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.

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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, Michi-

gan 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 agranulocytosis 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.

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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 because 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 because 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.

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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.

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Thomas Leonard Cleland was born on November 5, 1941, to Mr. Leslie and Mrs. Coryell Cleland. His sister Andrea (Coron) remembered him as being very tall and thin. She writes, "To me it was like looking up at a very tall tree. He was very kind and protective of those he loved. He called me 'Honey.' He was well liked by everyone. He had lots of friends and loved to laugh."

Thomas played baseball for Lincoln High School. His statement for his class yearbook was, "One today is worth two tomorrows." He loved to go fishing and swimming. There was a gravel pit behind his street. It was very deep and, even though Thomas was a good swimmer, his mother was always worried about him when we went swimming in the pit.

Thomas, his brother Dale, and his friends went to the pit often.

Andrea continued, "Tom really liked to eat, and loved most foods. Mom used to say he had two hollow legs because she couldn't seem to fill him up. Dad had a garden and Tom and Dale would often help their father. If Dad needed help and couldn't find Tom, he'd always go to the Ford Lake Dam and find Tom there fishing. When he was in the 11th grade, he got a job on a farm that had milking cows. Tom would have to get up and milk the cows by 5 AM each morning. Mr. and Mrs. Maleski, who owned the farm, invited Tom to stay with them during the week to make the milking easier. He would take the school bus from the farm. Tom worked at the farm until he graduated from Lincoln Consolidated High School 1959."

The Fulton family lived across from the Maleski's farm. Ken Fulton was Tom's best friend. Ken was killed in Vietnam a couple months after Tom was killed. They both are listed on the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial.

After graduating from high school, Tom joined the Army; and, while in the service, he married a former classmate, Sharon Hubbard. Following Basic he was sent to Korea. His brother Dale enlisted the following year and was also sent to Korea. Dale discovered that Tom was only two miles away. They were always close, so this reunion was an especially happy time. When Tom's time was up, he reenlisted for four more years. When he came home on leave, he told his family that he had volunteered to go to Vietnam. He had a choice to go to Korea as General Westmoreland's driver or go to Vietnam. He chose Vietnam because he told his family that he would rather go back than for a seventeen-year-old to be sent there.

"The last time we heard from him was through a radio phone patch from Vietnam," reports Andrea. "We talked and teased a little, and then he spoke to mom. She was so happy to hear his voice. Since his unit was ready to move out, he said it might be a while before we heard from him again. Two months later they got the news he had been killed."

Thomas 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. Tom's commanding officer wrote to the family saying that he needed someone to take a message to the front lines. Tom was killed while returning to his unit by someone from his unit. His commanding officer wrote the family that he had told Tom the password and to go in the back way, but Tom went in the wrong way. A soldier on the perimeter asked for the password and Tom did not respond and crouched down. The soldier asked again and again, and Tom crouched down more, and the soldier fired and hit Tom. His sister Andrea stated, "I hope he reads this, to know that no one in our family resents or blames him. Our tears are for him, too! I wish I knew him. I would love to be able to tell him, so he could look in my eyes and see how sincere I am and hug him. I am so sorry for him too."

After he was killed, "we received what turned out to be a prank Red Cross call. The person said that it was a

mistake, and it wasn't Tom who was killed. They said they would come out the next day and explain everything. Three days later they had not come. You can imagine how we were feeling. So, dad called the Red Cross. They told him that they would not have called but would have come out to the house to tell them. It was a terrible dirty prank that someone played. At the funeral his casket was open, or to this day I would not have believed it. He will always be remembered with laughter, tears, and a lot of pride for a very gentle man. These many years later the healing goes on for all of us."

Specialist 4 Thomas Leonard Cleland was survived by his parents, his wife Sharon, two brothers (Dale and Terry) and a sister (Andrea Coron). 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.

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

04 Jul: Independence Day (1776)

11 Jul: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA Regular Mtg 1900 hrs

12 Jul: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Bomber Restaurant, 306 E Michigan Ave, Ypsi

15 Jul: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs, Saline American Legion

16 Jul: Merchandise Sales, Ann Arbor VA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800- 1400 hrs

** Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net - click [here](#)) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.



Jocosity: If Caught Sleeping At Your Desk, Pick One To Say

By Ken Rogge

- 15) They told me at the blood bank that this might happen.
- 14) This is just a 15-minute power nap like they raved about in the last time-management course you sent me to.
- 13) Whew! Guess I left the top off of the Liquid Paper.
- 12) I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm.
- 11) This is one of the seven habits of highly effective people.
- 10) I was testing the keyboard for drool resistance.
- 9) I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminating against people who practice yoga?
- 8) I was doing a "Stress Level Elimination Exercise Plan" (SLEEP) that I learned at the last mandatory seminar you made me go to.
- 7) Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem.
- 6) The coffee machine is broken...
- 5) Someone must have put decaf in the wrong pot.
- 4) Boy, that cold medicine I took last night just won't wear off!
- 3) Ah, the unique and unpredictable circadian rhythms of the workaholic.
- 2) I wasn't sleeping. I was trying to pick up a contact lens without my hands.
- 1) Amen.

VVA 310 On the March

By Jane Kinzinger

Summertime is the time for parades, festivals, and carnivals. Washtenaw County has its fair share of these summertime events, and VVA 310 has participated in all of them at one time or another over the years. When VVA 310 first became a Chapter in 1986 and got its charter in 1987, the focus was on increasing the visibility of the group and its membership. Local parades provided the opportunity to get new members, as we proudly carried the red and white banner saying "Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans of America." We even pulled a trailer one year, with a replica of the yet-to-be-built Vietnam Memorial, which was erected and dedicated in November of 1991. In those years, the Chapter welcomed the chance to "advertise" the group by being at the beginning of every parade in the area. The members proudly carried the colors and rifles in parades in Ypsilanti, Milan, Saline, Clinton, Chelsea, and Dexter. Every community, (continued below)



On the March (continued)

small and large, stood up, waved, and said, "Thank you for your service" and "Welcome Home" as we proudly marched by. This did much to help heal the sore spots of the negative reception many of the returning Vietnam Vets had experienced.

With the tick-tock of the years and the coming of gray hair, fewer members have been able to march. This past Memorial Day in Saline, Bonnie Hall and I were the only ones marching, as we proudly carried the banner for VVA 310. As long as someone can still drive to transport the members able to attend, we will continue the tradition of participating in the Saline Memorial Day Parade. On this most patriotic day, the Saline community has always given us a tremendous "Welcome Home."

All About VVA 310

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
National Chapter of the Year:
1999 & 2007
Newsletter of the Year:
2007, 09, 11, & 15
E-Newsletter of the Year 2017

Chapter President: Vance McCrumb
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Treasurer: Berry Bourne
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Sergeant at Arms: Tim Clarke
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Please forward. Thank you!