

310 Dispatch

May 2024



*Together We Make
A Difference*

*Charles S. Kettles
Chapter 310*



Editor's Note: Friday (May 17th, 6-9pm), the Ypsilanti Depot Town Freighthouse will be filled with music, live auction, testimonials, and more. Proceeds will go to Warriors And Caregivers United, as they try to save one more warrior or caregiver from suicide or divorce. There is a \$15 admission charge. Tickets will be available at the door. Greetings from the Dispatch Team, and we hope to see you at the Depot Town Freighthouse.
-- Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Dispatch editor

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Prez Report for May 2024



Board member Bill Stuart moved to Colorado to be closer to his family. Appointed Tim Clarke to fill Bill's Board of Directors position.

There was another good turnout at our April meeting. Thank You!

Our 36th annual Chapter Recognition Dinner was on April 13th. Fredo and Berry were our maître d' and made sure we didn't have any gate crashers. They also sold the 50/50 raffle tickets as well as our new challenge coins.

We had just north of 60 in attendance this year, which--I'm told--was better than last year. I missed last year's event as we were in Montana.

Here are the members who helped made this a successful event:

Ed Scruggs who supplied the sound system as well as convincing Jean Wilson and Chris Brenner to perform for food. They were a great addition to our event.

Fredo and Berry: Maître d'

Silent Auction items: Roy and Bonnie Hall

Bar Keeps: Jon Luker and Wendy Hibbits

Bob Bull: for providing the alcohol

Photographers: Dave and Meni Draper. Tap [here](#) to view

Stan Harrison: Dessert cakes

Name Tags: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Coffee: Eric Downie

Catering: Angel Food

Set-up and clean-up crews: you know who you are. Thanks!

Stan Harrison received the **John Thompson Veteran of the Year Award**; Berry Bourne: **the President's Award**; the receiver of the **Always-There Award** was not there—so, I'll present it to him at our next Chapter meeting. AVVA presented their **AVVA Appreciation Certificate** to Rilee London. Rilee was their Girls' State attendee. We did have some left-over food, which was taken to Dawn Farm. Needless to say, they were very appreciative.

Sick Call: Marty Cothorn was admitted to the VA hospital with a respiratory infection. I called her on the 20th, and Marty advised that she was discharged on the 19th. If you were at the dinner, I mentioned that she was in the hospital. She spent the better part of a week in ICU at the Ann Arbor VA. She was very pleased with her care there.

Dave Draper advised last week that Elmer White was being readmitted to the VA hospital. I've tried calling him twice and left messages.

Horace Frazier has recovered from his health issue but still is not allowed to drive. He has not had any additional issues with passing out.

VetFest at Washtenaw Community College is Saturday August 3rd from 10 am to 3 pm. Free admission and parking. Free lunch, prize raffles, ice cream, live music, children's activities, and military displays. Last year there was a Chinook helicopter there, and this year, Yankee Air Museum will bring their Huey for a static display. I have a link on our website, where you can RSVP. Tap [here](#) to RSVP. The RSVPing will provide WCCC an idea of how many will attend and how much food will be needed.

Stan Harrison will use our new merchandise tent at VetFest this year. No need to have 8 or 10 of us to set it up as was the usual practice in the past. Stan will have his normal items for sale again this year. Please stop by and check out our new tent and a bagful of merchandise.

Last year, the VVA Michigan State Council asked to set up their merchandise tent, but I politely declined their offer. This year, I asked Stan if it would be okay to invite them. He was okay with that if they wouldn't set up next to us. I extended the offer to John Riling, VVA State Council President, and he has committed to participate in this year's VetFest.

Arf,
V

P.S. Old too soon, wise too late! Some question the part about being wise.

Testing Our Faith--May 2024, Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

2 Chronicles 16:9 speaks about the testing of a person's faith to God when it says: *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly: therefore, from now on, you shall have wars*" (2 Chronicles 16:9 New King James Version).

Sometimes we think we are completely devoted to Him. In His kindness, He occasionally sends events or people into our lives so that we might come to realize that, with Him, we haven't quite arrived at the destination we think we have. He tests us so that He will be free to strongly support us in our earthly journey, as the following story illustrates.

The People with the Roses

John Blanchard stood up from the bench, straightened his Army uniform, and studied the crowd of people making their way through Grand Central Station. He looked for the girl whose heart he knew, but whose face he didn't, the girl with the rose. His interest in her had begun thirteen months before, in a Florida library. Taking a book off the shelf, John found himself intrigued--not with the words of the book but with the notes penciled in the margin. The soft handwriting reflected a thoughtful soul and insightful mind. In the front of the book, he discovered the previous owner's name, Miss Hollis Maynell.



With time and effort, he located her address. She lived in New York City. He wrote her a letter introducing himself and inviting her to correspond. The next day he was shipped overseas for service in World War II. During the following year and one month, the two grew to

know each other through the mail. Each letter was a seed falling on a fertile heart. A romance was budding. Blanchard requested a photograph; Hollis refused. She felt that, if he really cared, it wouldn't matter what she looked like.

When the day finally came for him to return from Europe, they scheduled their first meeting--7:00 p.m. at the Grand Central in New York. "You'll recognize me," she wrote, "by the red rose I'll be wearing on my lapel." So, at 7:00 p.m., the returning soldier was in the station looking for a girl whose heart he loved and whose face he had never seen.

I'll let Mr. Blanchard tell you what happened.

A young woman was coming toward me--her figure long and slim. Her blond hair lay back in curls from her delicate ears; her eyes were as blue as flowers. Her lips and chin had a gentle firmness, and in her pale-green suit, she was like springtime come alive. I started toward her, entirely forgetting to notice that she was not wearing a rose. As I moved, a small provocative smile turned her lips, "Going my way, sailor?" she murmured. Almost uncontrollably, I made one more step closer to her, and then I saw Hollis Maynell.

She was standing almost directly behind the girl. A woman well past 40, she had graying hair tucked under a worn hat. She was more than plump, her thick-ankles feet thrust into low-heeled shoes. The girl in the green suit

was quickly walking away. I felt as though I was split in two. So keen was my desire to follow her, and yet so deep was my longing for the woman whose spirit had truly companioned and upheld mine. And there she stood. Her pale, plump face was gentle and sensible, her gray eyes had a warm and kindly twinkle. I did not hesitate. My fingers gripped the small worn blue leather copy of the book that was to identify me to her. This would not be love, but it would be something precious, something perhaps even better than love, a friendship for which I had been and must ever be grateful.

I squared my shoulders and saluted and held out the book to the woman, even though, while I spoke, I felt choked by the bitterness of my disappointment. "I'm Lieutenant John Blanchard, and you must be Miss Maynell. I am so glad you could meet me. May I take you to dinner?"

The woman's face broadened into a tolerant smile. "I don't know what this is about, son," she answered, "but the young lady in the green suit who just went by, she begged me to wear this rose on my coat. And she said if you were to ask me out to dinner, I should go and tell you that she is waiting for you in the big restaurant across the street. She said it was some kind of test!"

Max Lucado, *Stories from the Heart* (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Books, 1996), pp. 123-125

I hope we progress as well as Lt. Blanchard and Miss Hollis Maynell.
Peace be upon you.

VVA 310 Chapter Meeting Minutes
By Jon Luker, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans of America

Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310

Regular Membership Meeting Minutes 11 April 2024

Call to Order by President McCrumb at 1904 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: Bruce Lowery, US Navy and Budd Frye, US Marines

Guests: None

Motion: by Throneberry/Harrison to approve the March Minutes published in the *Dispatch*. Approved.

Adjourn to Nominations

President: Vance McCrumb (accept)

V. President: Marv Rivers (accept)

Treasurer: Berry Bourne (accept)

Secretary: Jon Luker (accept)

Sergeant at Arms: Eric Downie (accept)

Two-year Board members moving to one-year positions were:

Bill Stuart, Dale Throneberry, and John Kinzinger, but Bill Stuart has moved out of state. The President appointed Tim Clarke to complete Bill Stuart's term.

Two-year Board nominees (Need at least three)

Accepting: Brian Graef, Bob Bull, Tim Driscoll

Declining: Bill Cole, Garry Massengill

State Council Delegates: Tim Driscoll and Sandie Wilson were appointed.

Motion by Roy Hall supported by Stan Harrison to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. Approved.

Sandie Wilson conducted the **Swearing in of Officers**.

Recall to Order

President's Report:

Please see my remarks in the *Dispatch*.

Vice-President's Report:

You may remember my intervention at the end of the last meeting to point out that the bylaws require our meetings to end not later than 2030. I apologize for doing that in a somewhat rough manner. It is important to close on time; so, if you have something to say, please try to be concise and conserve our time so everyone has a chance to speak on the issues.

Treasurer's Report: Bourne

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

Nonrestricted funds revenue increased by a \$500 general fund donation and by \$63 net revenue from sales at the VA. Expenses were significantly higher due to our annual \$1,800 contribution to the VFW (hall rental, WiFi access, etc) and \$1,000 prepayment to Angel Food Catering for the Annual Recognition Dinner.

On the restricted side, we received an in-kind donation of \$1,440 in store credit from Home Depot, which we spent on two pallets of wood chips, a pressure washer, and other items for Memorial maintenance and spring cleanup. Home Depot also sent out four volunteers, who worked 5 hours each on spring cleanup.

AVVA Report: Please see the report in the *Dispatch*.

Committee Reports

Merchandise: Harrison. Net revenue was low because our sales were primarily coins. As you recall, we lose a few cents on each coin sold. Thank you to those who help with those sales.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans: Bull. We are working to expand the Council membership to include veteran-supporting organizations--like AVVA--that are not nationally chartered veterans organizations. The next meeting is next Monday at 1900 at Saline American Legion.

Michigan State Council: Wilson. The State Council's annual meeting and convention will be 1-2 June in Marquette. The State Council is challenging AVVA members to check with their local county veterans service office to apply for benefits for themselves and their children with birth defects. Spouses may also qualify for DIC based on the recent changes.

Memorial Maintenance: Merritt. - Thank you to everyone who helped with the Annual Spring Cleanup on 16 March. Home Depot helped again this year with a donation of equipment and supplies, and they sent four volunteers to the cleanup day as well.

On 29 March (Vietnam Veterans Day) at 1000, we had a dedication ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial for the Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway signs.

Website: McCrumb. We have had around 426,253 hits since the website was last rebuilt. We've stopped the front-page slide show and made a few other small changes.

Membership: McCrumb. We are at 213 members. Since last Memorial Day, we have lost 11 members.

Newsletter: McCrumb. We are still working on the newsletter redesign. At Bob Bull's request, we are also incorporating the 988 logo to the *310 Dispatch's* front page.

Health Care: Sandie Wilson. As you know, VA Secretary Denis McDonough has refused to implement the federal law requiring the VA to study toxic exposures claiming that there is not sufficient information about birth defects to perform the research. Recently, however, the VA testified that the real reason for their disobedience is that the VA would not be funded well enough to take care of all the people that the research would say are entitled to care from the VA. Therefore, Senator Jon Tester introduced Senate Bill 3958 titled the "Molly R. Loomis Research for Descendants of Toxic Exposed Veterans Act of 2024." This bill, if it becomes law, would solve the problem by creating the Interagency Working Group on Toxic Exposure and having them do the research.

Also, the VVA National Committee will report to Congress on another toxic exposure problem: Fort McClellan in Alabama. There was a chemical plant 5 miles away that caused problems. Civilians in the area have already been compensated, but military personnel are being denied compensation.

LTCCSKMC: Bourne. The VA has asked us to resupply their new underwear cache. The committee is working on that.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Merritt: Breakfast on Friday (May 12, 2024) will be at Brewed Awakenings Café, 7025 E Michigan Ave, Saline, MI 48176, (734) 316-2084

Stuart: I am moving out of state and retiring. I'll be near my grandkids. I'll miss you guys. Thank you very much.

McCrumb: We'll be setting up for the Recognition Dinner at noon on Saturday. Doors open at 1730.

Throneberry: The Moving Wall will be at Manley Park, Hamburg, 12-15 September along with the Gold Star wall. Yankee Air's Huey will be there also.

McCrumb: VetFest will be 3 August at Washtenaw Community College.

Throneberry: On 19 May some disability rating increases go into effect for 55 medical conditions. The biggest news is about the changes for celiac disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and hemorrhoids. Celiac disease was rated at 0 to 30. It will go from 0 to 80. IBS will go from 0, 10- or 30 to 10, 20 or 30. Internal and external hemorrhoids were 0 for mild or moderate. That goes to 10 in May.

McCrumb: You've seen our new hats which we give to new members and sell for \$15. The same person who embroiders those is also offering to do polo shirts for us. Prices are \$45 and up depending on size. \$5 more to add your name. See Fredo to order yours.

McCrum: We'll have live music at the Recognition Dinner. Tickets are \$15 on sale at the door and at breakfast tomorrow.

Merritt: We have 3 jackets left. We can order more. They are \$97 each and come with the large unit logo on the back and a small one on the front. Price includes your name.

Bull:

- Anybody who wants the 988 logo for any purpose can get a digital copy from me or the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration website: <https://www.samhsa.gov/resource/988/988-logos>. I also have a few magnets for your car. Also have a card you can leave on the dashboard of your car or your office desk.
- VetFest. I have flyers for VetFest. If you want a table, I have the registration form.
- New sock drive starting again for the VA. Please donate only plain solid color socks.
- The Washtenaw County Veterans Millage is coming up for renewal in November. It will be on the ballot with four other tax renewals, so it is important to start talking to voters about it now.

Frazier: Don't forget that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has a person assigned to be a veterans' representative.

Wilson: When we put on the initiative the first time out, we bought signs for people to put on their yards before the election.

Merritt: Good Friday highway sign dedication. Marv did a great job. We had about 70 people there. Thank you to those who helped get the bill passed and who showed up Friday.

Bourdeau: Michigan Trust Fund. There are seven counties that vote on the applications for grants that exceed the \$3,500 that the local county can grant itself.

Frazier: I'm the outgoing commander of the Military Order of the Cootie. I have 10 tickets (\$10) for a 23 August raffle for a signed football jersey. I've always been out recruiting for all the organizations I'm involved with. We all do fundraising for these groups as well.

Closing Prayer Bob Bull

Flag Salute

Meeting Adjourned at 2017.

Honoring the May Anniversaries on the Wall



Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown was born on December 27, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Brown. Charles graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1966. His friends called him "Chuckie." He enlisted in the Army in 1965, but delayed entry until June 29, 1966 after his High School graduation.

Sergeant Brown completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Ord, California and Paratrooper Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Charles served a tour of duty in Alaska where his parachute failed to open during a jump landing him in the hospital for six weeks.

Sergeant Charles Patrick Brown began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on November 5, 1967 serving with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division as an infantryman. Charles was wounded twice during combat operations, and recovered from malaria two times. He just returned to his unit in April after being discharged from the hospital when he was killed on May 21, 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds.

Charles Patrick Brown is survived by his parents and one sister. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 24 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 64E Line 012. __++__



Sergeant Charles Irvin Miller was born on March 2, 1946 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Miller of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles is a 1964 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. He attended the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Army in March of 1966. He received his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Advanced Training at Fort Hood, Texas.

Sergeant Miller began his tour in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam on October 6, 1967 serving as a Military Policeman with MP Platoon, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Charles was killed by an explosive device on May 13, 1968. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart. According to the Bronze Star Medal Citation, "He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the U.S. Army."

Charles Irvin Miller is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 22 years, 2 months and 11 days. He is resting in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles' 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 59E Line 029. __++__



George Vernon Airey, Jr. was born on July 21, 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. George V. Airey, Sr. of Ann Arbor. George, Jr. is the son of the President of G.V. Airey Building Company. When George was ten years old in 1955, he became a pogo stick jumping champion by setting a record of 4,210 jumps without using his hands! He loved to water and snow ski, scuba dive, play guitar, and collect items such as tropical fish. He is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School, and also studied construction and building at Ferris State University and Lansing Community College prior to enlisting in the Army.

Specialist 4 Airey, Jr. enlisted in the Army in 1966 and received his training at Fort Carson, Colorado as an Armored Reconnaissance Specialist. George was assigned to the First Cavalry Division at Fort Carson. George started his tour in November of 1967 as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with D Company, First Battalion, Fifth Cavalry Regiment of the First Cavalry Division. "On the night of 08/09 May 1968, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, was operating in western Quang Tri Province from a temporary base. At 0705 on 09 May, the Battalion came under attack by North Vietnamese Army forces - initially by mortar fire, then a full-fledged ground attack . . . Charlie Company was cut off from the other companies and bore the brunt of the attack. The NVA were fended off, but not without cost, and the aggressive patrolling which brought more US losses." A total of nineteen (19) men died in this action including Specialist 4 George Vernon Airey, Jr who died of multiple fragmentation wounds. He lived 23 years, 9 months and 18 days.

George Vernon Airey, Jr. is resting now in Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor. George left behind his parents

and two sisters. George was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Expert Rifleman's Badge and posthumously awarded a second Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. His name is listed under Ann Arbor on the Ypsilanti Township Vietnam Memorial, and on Panel 57E Line 012 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. __++__



Private First Class Paul Dean Elwart was born on June 14, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. David G. Elwart of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Paul is a 1964 Honor graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Dearborn, Michigan. He also attended the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and the University of Detroit before entering the Army in September of 1968.

Private First Class Elwart began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on February 9, 1969 as an infantryman serving with C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Paul was killed on May 12, 1969 due to multiple fragmentation wounds just three months and three days into his tour of duty "In-Country."

Paul Dean Elwart is survived by his parents and a brother. He lived 22 years, 10 months and 26 days. Paul'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 25W Line 067. __++__



Specialist 4 Billy Ferrell was born on February 27, 1951 in Prestonburg, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Ferrell of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 27, 1969.

Specialist 4 Ferrell completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then attended Parachutist School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Billy began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on November 24, 1969 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was killed as a result of a severe gun shot wound to his chest on May 29, 1970.

Billy Ferrell is survived by his parents, three brothers and eight sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 2 days. He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy'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 10W Line 117. __++__



Specialist 5 Robert Lee Freeman was born on April 2, 1948 in Harlan, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Olin Gilbert. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He also attended Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan.

Specialist 5 Freeman entered the Army in April of 1967. Robert began his tour of duty in Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam on April 9, 1969 serving as a Cannon Fire Direction Specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery, 54th Artillery Group, II Field Force. Robert was killed as a result of enemy heavy arms fire on May 18, 1969 after serving "In-Country" for one month and nine days.

Robert Lee Freeman is survived by his parents and a sister. He lived 21 years, 1 month and 16 days. He is resting in Knollwood Memorial Park in Wayne County, Michigan. Robert'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 24W Line 040.

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Private First Class Roy Lee Branham was born on March 28, 1949 in Lancer, Kentucky to Mrs. Edra Sester. Roy lived in Ypsilanti for ten years before moving to Dexter where he lived for seven years.

Private First Class Branham entered the Army on September 1, 1966 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He received advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Gordon, Georgia. Roy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on April 2, 1967 serving as a Wire Systems Installer with A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Private First Class Branham died on May 11, 1967 at the 106th General Hospital in Japan of wounds received in April. Roy was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal recognizing his meritorious service while participating in combat operations in Vietnam.

Roy Lee Branham is survived by his mother, one brother and a sister. He lived for 18 years, 1 month and 13 days. He is resting in Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Roy Branham is the youngest person from Washtenaw County killed in Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 089. __++__



Specialist 4 James Wilson Harter was born on May 16, 1947 to Mr. Henry W. and Mrs. Helen G. Carey Harter of Dexter, Michigan. James is a 1967 graduate of Dexter High School in Dexter, Michigan. He entered the Army on February 13, 1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He completed advanced training as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on June 14, 1968.

Specialist 4 Harter began his tour of duty in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam on July 13, 1968 as a Combat Engineer serving with B Company, 31st Engineering Battalion, 79th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Larry was killed during a fire-fight with two enemy platoons on May 12, 1969. According to an *Ann Arbor News* article, "he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for exceptionally valorous actions on May 12 while serving as a perimeter guard at Quang Loi Base Camp. Two enemy platoons launched a ground assault on the camp, . . . he engaged the enemy with a heavy and accurate volume of automatic weapons fire . . . stalling the enemy and giving his comrades time to reinforce the perimeter line . . . despite his valiant efforts . . . an enemy round detonated inside his position instantly killing him." Specialist 4 Harter also earned the Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign ribbon.

James Wilson Harter is survived by his parents, two sisters and a brother. Two of his brothers preceded him in death in 1961 and 1968. He lived 21 years, 11 months and 26 days. He is resting in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Dexter, Michigan. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Dexter. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 25W Line 070. __++__



Corporal Alan Hugh Parks was born on November 13, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Max Parks of Bronson, Michigan. Alan graduated from Union City High School in 1966 and was a member of the 1965-1966 State Champion Debate Team. In 1965, Alan represented Union City High School at Wolverine Boys State. His skills in debating won him further honors. In August of 1966, Alan won first place in the 4-H state public speaking contest, and he later won state honors as a champion debater at Kellogg Community College, which he attended for two years. Alan Parks also was elected to the office of student vice-president of the Phi Rho Pi Honor Society and the National Organization of Junior College Debating and Forensics in 1967-1968. Alan worked for the Shell Oil Company before entering

military service.

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks entered the Army on August 21, 1969. Alan was trained as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist and served with A Troop, First Squadron, First Cavalry, Americal Division in Vietnam, beginning his tour on January 11, 1970. Corporal Parks was stationed at Chu Lai and died as a result of burns when the vehicle he was driving was hit by enemy fire on May 27, 1970 in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Corporal Alan Hugh Parks is survived by his parents, wife, daughter, sister, and three brothers. He lived 21 years, 6 months and 14 days. Alan is resting in Sherwood Cemetery in Union City, Michigan. Alan Hugh Parks name is listed under Manchester on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township, and on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 10W Line 110. __++__



Sergeant Peter Lyle Valencich was born on January 1, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Naomi Gidley Valencich of Manchester, Michigan. Peter is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School where he was a member of the Varsity Basketball Team. He was employed with the Double A Product Company in Manchester before entering the Army on May 16, 1966. He went through Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was awarded the medal for the highest scorer on the Army's Proficiency Test while in Basic.

Sergeant Valencich began his tour of duty near Tan Tru, South Vietnam on December 1, 1966 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Peter was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action having carried a helpless wounded comrade 75 meters to safety from an unprotected open area. He was killed on May 22, 1967 when he was helping to clear a mangrove by burning reeds when the fire set off a friendly mine.

Peter Lyle Valencich is survived by parents, a brother, and four sisters. He lived 20 years, 4 months and 21 days. He is resting in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. Peter's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 20E Line 088. __++__



Storekeeper Third Class James Michael Bryan was born on November 2, 1946 in Portsmouth, Ohio to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Bryan. James is a 1964 graduate of Milan High School. He attended Cleary College prior to entering the Navy on December 29, 1965.

Storekeeper Third Class Bryan was stationed at Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam where he served with Supply Operations, Naval Support Activity Danang. On May 14, 1967, James was riding in a truck as a passenger returning to base when the truck became involved in an accident. He was thrown from the truck receiving multiple concussions and died before he arrived at the Base Hospital.

James Michael Bryan is survived by his parents and one brother. He lived 20 years, 6 months and 12 days. James was posthumously awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the National Defense Medal and the Vietnamese Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The Navy Unit Commendation citation reads, "For exceptionally meritorious service from May 1966 to 1967, in carrying out the vital and constantly mounting task of unloading, moving and storing supplies to support the expanding tactical forces...despite extremely adverse climatic conditions, shortages of equipment and personnel, . . . continuous exposure to attack."

James Bryan is now resting in Memorial Burial Park in Wheelsburg, Ohio. James' name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial located in Ypsilanti Township under Milan. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 19E Line 115.

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Corporal Russell Arthur Michalke was born on July 24, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Art Michalke of Saline, Michigan. Russell graduated from Saline High School in 1966 where he lettered in varsity football for two years, and lettered in baseball and golf for one year. He belonged to the “S” Club for two years, Spanish Club, Chorus, and the Key Club. Russell attended Washtenaw Community College for a year prior to entering the Army on August 8, 1967. He completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with further training at Fort Edwards, Louisiana. Corporal Michalke began his tour of duty in Chu Lai, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam on January 20, 1968 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Russell was killed on May 24, 1968 as a result of enemy small arms fire.

Russell Arthur Michalke is survived by his parents and two sisters. He lived 19 years and 10 months. He is resting in Oakwood Cemetery in Saline, Michigan. Russell’s name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Saline. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 68E Line 005.

AVVA Newsletter May 2024

By Kathy Driscoll

We had a successful Recognition Dinner. I was able to setup the Missing Man Table but was unable to attend the actual dinner. Tim presented Rilee London, our Girl State Delegate with Flowers, Certificate of Appreciation and a AVVA Michigan State Association Challenge Coin.

Jane is coordinating the Memorial Flower Bed spring planting. Please contact Jane for more information.

The Veteran Service Dog specified line item has reached \$642. Our goal is \$700. I am sure we will reach our goal soon. We would also like to participate in the Fisher House Michigan Ann Arbor Meal Train in September. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this project.

I will be sending out our annual “No Bake Bakeless” fundraising appeal letter this month. Please mail your donation to Kathy Driscoll. This is our main fundraiser, which funds our Chapter.

VISTA Report

Please email me your VISTA hours. I will need the hours for September and October. If you assisted our Chapter at the Memorial and VA Hospital visits, I need to report them to AVVA VISTA chairman.

Membership Report:

AVVA 310 has 35 Members. All VVA 310 members are invited to join AVVA 310 as Dual Members. We have three Dual Members, Martha Cothorn, Tim Driscoll and Ken Rogge. If you would like to join AVVA 310, please contact Kathy Driscoll. AVVA has changed their membership dues. There is no longer a 3-year membership.

https://www.avva.org/forms/membership/new_memberapp_2022.pdf

1 Year \$20

Lifetime membership \$100*

*There is a Lifetime Membership payment plan of \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full.

VVA Dual membership \$50

Chapter Happenings!

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report

- Our Annual “No Bake, Brakeless” Bake Sale Fundraiser letters will be emailed and snail mailed this month. Please consider donating. Your donation should be made payable to VVA 310 with AVVA on Memo Line.
- We raised \$65 at our raffle table at the Recognition Dinner. Thank you to Meni and Bonnie for helping with the Raffle.
- Linda Colby, our newest member, is making Pocket Prayer Quilt blocks. I will have them at our May Meeting. Tim will have them available at the VVA 310 May Membership meeting.
- We have 37 donated Wrist Story Bracelets left. Suggested donation is \$5. When we sellout, we will donate an additional \$300 to Fisher House Michigan. Contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. All proceeds will go to Fisher House Michigan.

Service Projects

- Please consider donating food to your local community food banks. Our communities still have families who are food insecure due to economic circumstances.

Links to local Food Banks:

Saline Social Services:

<https://www.salinesocialservice.com/ways-to-give/donate/>

Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor:

<https://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&sID=donate-funds>

SOS Community Services Ypsilanti, MI:

<https://soscs.org/ways-to-give/>

Catholic Social Services

<https://csswashtenaw.org/family-children/cssw-food-pantry/>

Google Search for Food Banks in Washtenaw County:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=washtenaw+county+food+banks>

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2024 Girls’ State Update!

The fund balance is \$1,913.25. We sponsored three delegates to Girls’ State 2024. We sent the Saline American Legion Auxiliary Post 322 \$1275.

AVVA National and AVVA Michigan State Association News

Our next AVVA Michigan State Association meeting is our State Convention in Marquette, MI May 31 to June 2nd. I plan to attend. We will be electing our State Officers.

Our AVVA National Leadership Conference is August 20-24 in Reno, NV. I do not plan to attend.

WCCV

I attended the April 15th meeting. I plan to attend the May 20th meeting.

Next Meeting will be at noon at the Alpha Coney Restaurant. Please join us for a luncheon meeting.

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 Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 proudly supports the AVVA Mission and Vision Statements.

AVVA Mission Statement:

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA Vision Statement:

To Create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

Past President, AVVA Michigan Association

dkathyr16@gmail.com -- 734-355-4897

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

A man walked into a bar with his alligator and asked the bartender, "Do you serve lawyers here?"

"Sure do," replied the bartender.

"Good," said the man. "Give me a beer, and I'll have a lawyer for my 'gator."

Current Events

By Ann Dempsey Pereira

04 May: Bill Abbey Celebration of Life, 1200- 1400 hrs, VFW Post 423

08 May: VE Day (1945)

09 May: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1200 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs

10 May: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Brewed Awakenings, Saline

14 May: Merchandise Sales, AAVA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800- 1400 hrs

18 May: Armed Forces Day
20 May: WCCV Meeting, 1900 hrs, Saline American Legion
27 May: VVA Memorial Day Service, 1300 hrs, Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1944 Veterans Memorial Dr, Ypsilanti
27 May: Memorial Day (1868)
06 Jun: D Day (1944)
13 Jun: Monthly Meetings: AVVA, 1800 hrs; VVA Board 1800 hrs; VVA General Mtg 1900 hrs
14 Jun: VVA 310 Monthly Breakfast, 0900 hrs, Holiday's Restaurant, Ann Arbor
14 Jun: Flag Day (1916)
14 Jun: U.S. Army Birthday (1775)
17 Jun: WCCV Meeting, 1830 hrs (NEW TIME), Saline American Legion
18 Jun: Merchandise Sales, AAVA, 3rd Floor Canteen, 0800-1400 hrs

To Reflect On And Chuckle About

Submitted by George Perrault—from Brown Water Navy Shipmates

Today I was in a shoe store that sells only shoes, nothing else. A young girl with a tattoo and green hair walked over to me and asked, "What brings you in today?" I looked at her and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know how to respond. Had that deer in the headlights look. I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it. When people see a cat's litter box, they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" I say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance." The older you get, the more challenging it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat have gotten to be excellent friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement. Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL. The sole purpose of a child's middle name is, so he knows when he's really in trouble. Did you ever notice that when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it spells "Theirs"?

Aging: Eventually, you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and many roads were not paved.

Ah! Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

May you always have:

- Love to share,
- Cash to spare,
- Tires with air,
- And friends who care.

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
Vice President: Marv Rivers
Secretary: Jon Luker
Treasurer: Berry Bourne
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Please forward. Thank you!