



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Another successful Fish Fry!

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Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor & Publisher
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 Rick Adis - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Dennis & Patty Bielskis - Photos
 Ted Enright - Photo

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Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
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Welcome Home!

With this, my last article as your president, I would like to thank all of my officers and board for your assistance this year. My success this year is your success. To all of you members, thanks for your support. My hope for next year is that everyone will continue to work hard to make Chapter 528 the best in Michigan.

Spring has arrived and elections are right around the corner. Please consider attending our election meeting on Monday, April 9. Make sure that your voice is heard. Even if you choose not to run for a position, come out and vote. The board of officers encourages and appreciates any and all input from membership.

If you did not attend any of our Lenten fish fries, you missed out. Great food and friendship were plentiful. Some upcoming activities are Horse Racing night on April 7, a wrestling match on April 13, the spring clean-up of the Post grounds on April 21, and a blood drive on April 30. Of course, there are sliders and euchre on Wednesday. See you all for the election.

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"



Rick Adis
 3rd Tac Fighter Wing
 Bien Hoa R.V.N.
 1966 - 1967





Digger's Desk



Don Dignan
D/2/16 "Rangers"
1st Inf. Div.
1967-1968



LOUNGE EVENTS

Don't forget Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 8:00PM, Sliders every Wednesday from 5:00PM-7:00PM followed by Euchre at 7:00PM which has drawn a lot of interest this year.

FISH FRIES

Fish Fries will continue every Friday during Lent and conclude on Good Friday March 30. This is the best Fish Fry around anywhere.

NIGHT AT THE RACES

Saturday, April 7 will see Kentucky Derby type racing return to the Post beginning at 4:00PM. There are actual filmed races upon which you can place an actual bet. There will be mint juleps and a prize for the most decorative derby head ware. See you there.

PURE PRO WRESTLING

Yessir...Bobo Brazil and Dick the Bruiser may be gone but we have spared no expense in bringing this event to Plymouth. Tickets are at different pricing levels, depending how close you are to the action, plus there will be food and liquid refreshments available. Be prepared for something really different. Tickets are available at the Post. Don't miss out.

ELECTIONS

The April membership meeting will conclude nominations/elections for your Chapter officers and board members for the coming year, effective when the president brings down the gavel ending the meeting. How about it, i.e., have you got the moxie to be in the game? Membership ID will be required to vote. Refreshments will follow.

HAPPY EASTER

I'll see you at the April meeting. It's a great time to be a Veteran and member of Chapter 528.

Our Fish Fry



Photos by Dennis & Patty Bielskis



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

President	Mike Steffes
1st Vice President	open
2nd Vice President	Gary Bush
Secretary	Ron King
Treasurer	Bob Dew
Board Members (2 year term)	(4) Frank Barkovich Darrell Bazman Don Dignan Gene Spurgess Terry Wells
State Council Delegate	Dennis Bielskis
Alternate SCD	Gary Estermyer
Election Committee (3)	Bob Bryan John Fleming Bob Lamoureux

Nominations for office will again be taken at the April meeting before the elections. If you are considering running for office, please make your intentions known. You may nominate yourself if you so desire. Note: You cannot run for office or vote in the elections if your membership is not current.

AVVA

AVVA will also be electing a chapter representative at the April Meeting. Currently nominated is Dennis Waling.

Pizza and Pop

As an added incentive to attend the April membership meeting and participate in our chapter elections, pizza and pop will be provided to all who attend. Please make an effort to come and vote for

the candidate of your choice, enjoy some good pizza and get to know your fellow members a little better.

Membership

There were no applications for membership this month. Richard Dunn is transferring back to our chapter after being out of state for the last 4 years. Welcome back Richard. Our current membership stands at 288 individual and 82 associate members. Of these we have 242 life VVA and 50 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of March 22, 2018 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: none

AVVA: Scott Lewis, Jan Spittler

Dropped From Roster: Jim Pappas

April VVA Renewals Gary Paver

April AVVA Renewals: John Itsell, John Peterson, Larry Snowden

If you have already renewed thank you. If you have not, please do so before the end of the month to keep your membership current.

VFW Fish Fry's

The Lenten fish fry's will be over by the time the newsletter comes out. If the last 2 weeks continue as the first 4 weeks have, then another very successful year will have been achieved. We are averaging just over 300 dinners a week and they are being served faster than ever. Thanks to all who have volunteered their time or have come out to dinner. The post couldn't do it without you.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulation go to Bruce Reynolds, the latest name drawn in the chapter raffle and the winner of a life membership. There will be another drawing at the April meeting with only 6 names entered.



Bob Lamoureux
Co. C, 3/47, 9th Inf. Div.
"Mobile Riverines"





Chaplain's Corner

(Except from Point Man In Your Pocket, by Chuck Dean)

When you went into the military were you drafted or did you volunteer? For most of us, being made to do something seriously effects our attitude about what we are "forced" to do. On the other hand, a volunteer has a choice and that usually makes all the difference in the world in how our service or duty goes.

Have you ever thought about how Joseph felt when he discovered that Mary was pregnant...and he hadn't slept with her?! At first, he wanted to secretly handle the situation, "And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly" (Matthew 1:19). But an angel came to him and encouraged him to step up and be brave. Joseph answered the call and did step up.

Joseph became a volunteer, he volunteered to be Jesus' dad. He could have easily gotten out of it because, unlike a biological father, he had a choice to be a father or not.

When we make a decision to follow and serve Jesus, we are not draftees. We are volunteers! The decision is what makes the difference. God isn't looking for soldiers who have to be drafted. He is looking for those who will step up, be brave, and volunteer.

Each day is like that, too. We have the choice to walk with Jesus or walk away from Him. That decision, that volunteering, is our primary duty to begin each day with. Especially since God isn't into drafting His army.



Rich Whipple

Chaplain (Certified)
(A sinner saved by God's Grace)

Cell: 734-751-2992
rekjwhipple@yahoo.com
HHC/2/503rd Infantry
173rd Airborne Brigade
1968 - 1969



Vietnam Veteran John Deazley

I met up In Auckland, New Zealand with John Deazley, the President of the Vietnam Veterans of New Zealand. Nearly 3900 Kiwi's volunteered to fight in Nam along with the Aussie's, and in '65 and '66 they both were under the command of the 173d Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers"/ "The Herd").

The Aussie's have two chapters of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association and the Kiwi's have one chapter.

I met John at the Fort Benning Reunion two years ago and he has the 173d hat on and has a 173d Airborne Brigade sticker in his back window that has attracted both the 82nd Airborne and the 101st Airborne veterans that have visited New Zealand! I hope to see him at the Herd Reunion in Arlington in May!

"Airborne, all the way!"



Ted Enright's nephew Chris Zeda is now deployed in South Korea with 18 years in service. We as a chapter sent him care packages when he was stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan when he was deployed there. In the photo above, he is trying out the Army's new Humvee.

Ted Enright



April 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER	2	3 AUX MEETING 6:30	4 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7	5	6 KARAOKE 8:00	7 NIGHT AT THE RACES 4:00
8	9 VVA MEETING ELECTIONS 7:00	10 VFW MEETING 7:00	11 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7	12	13 PURE PRO WESTLING 6:00	14
15	16 GOLF ??	17 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	18 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7	19	20 KARAOKE 8:00	21 Spring Cleanup 8:30 am Rain Day April 28th
22	23 GOLF ?? Post Blood Drive	24 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	25 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7	26	27	28 Rain Day for Spring Cleanup 8:30 am
29	30 GOLF ??					



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

APRIL 2018 BIRTHDAYS

Ralph Auge, Gordon Bardeleben, Michael Barnowski, Earl Burgis, Robert Couturier, Thomas Crozier, Tom Curry, Norris Cutler, Richard Demeester, Edward Dziadzio, Gerald Grzesik, William Hayes, Glen Jewell, Larry Jones, Allen Kerbyson, Robert Leshan, John Lindsay, Barbara Little, Rich Mazurkiewicz, Joseph McCarthy, Gary Meier, John Nichols, Chris Pope, Gary Pritchard, Jay Roberts, Jeff Rousseau, Gordon Segal, Dale Sirkle, Ron Trosin and John Zielinski.



Chapter Officers

President	Rick Adis	734-737-9077
1st Vice President	Gary Pritchard	734-522-2033
2nd Vice President	Mike Steffes	734-421-7790
Secretary	Ron King	734-679-6424
Treasurer	Bob Dew	734-421-1805

Board of Directors

Mike Dicker 734-425-3414	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
Don Dignan 734-525-0157	Jerry Thomason	734-895-5257
Pete Glasgow 734-454-9663	Gene Spurgess	248-887-6212
Don Petrere 734-595-1422	Terry Wells	734-776-1891

Committees

A.O./Health Care	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
Agent Orange Events	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
AVVA Representative	Bryan Bentley	734-604-6066
By-Laws	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
Chaplain	Rich Whipple	734-751-2992
Chapter Historian	Gary Pritchard	734-522-2033
Fundraising	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming	734-421-0149
Membership	Bob Lamoureux	734-397-8389

Homefront Newsletter

Editor & Publisher	Tom Brown	313-336-0192
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Assistant Chief	Ron King	734-679-6424
Assistant Chief	Dale Luebke	248-403-4244

Product Sales	Bill Petrere	313-706-4247
POW/MIA	Al Kerbyson	734-612-9757
Public Affairs	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming	734-525-04560
Service Representative	Aggie Little	734-722-9535
Sportsmen's Raffle	John Spencer	734-716-0619
State Delegate	Gary Estermyer	313-283-6943
State A.Delegate	Dennis Bielskis	248-486-0001
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling	734-776-2239
VAVS Deputy	Ron King	734-454-4522
Vietnam War 50th Com.	Ron King	734-454-4522
Website & Newsletter	Tom Brown	313-336-0192

VVA Service Officer - State of Michigan

Phillip Smith - Director Toll Free-1-844-885-6424

Veterans Crisis Centers

Veterans Center	313-381-1370
Dearborn Crisis Center	313-584-7800
VA Medical Center Detroit	313-576-1000
VA Ann Arbor Health Care System	734-769-7100

Editor's Note and Disclaimer

Articles, event dates, and photos must be submitted by the **22nd** of the month in order to be considered for publication. Send the article or photo to Tom Brown 17730 Snow Ave Dearborn, MI 48124 or email Tom at tom@vva528.org. Except as otherwise noted, all published articles become the property of VVA Chapter 528 and may not be reprinted without the Chapter's permission. Chapter 528 reserves the right to edit for space. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Chapter, the editor, or the National VVA. **Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 (734-459-6700).**

Chapter 528 Website: www.vva528.org

Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com

Advertising Rates: 1 year \$60; 6 mos. \$45; 1 issue \$15

Service Photos Needed

VVA Chapter 528 has 141 members' service photos displayed on our website www.vva528.org/members528.html and in our display case. I'm sure most members have a photo of themselves laying around somewhere. When you find your photo you can either mail it to **Tom Brown** @ 17730 Snow Ave. Dearborn, MI 48124, scan it and send it to: tombrown1949@gmail.com as a jpg or jpeg, bring it to our general membership meetings and give it to Tom or bring it to the VFW. Be sure to include your name, branch of service and the year the photo was taken. **Don Petrere** will place the copied service photo in our display case.



Tom Brown, Editor/Publisher
2nd Missile Battalion
44th Artillery Pershing 1st yr
HHD III Corps 2nd yr
Ft. Sill, OK



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Chapter 528 Homefront



April 2018



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Vietnam Veterans of America

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is open to Vietnam Era Veterans as well as Associate Members of the Public at Large.

Name _____

Phone _____

Present Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Branch of Service _____

Date of Birth _____

email _____

\$20.00 Annual Dues Enclosed _____ (\$50 - 3 years _____) \$100 Lifetime _____

_____ I am a Vietnam Era Veteran and would like to be a member

(Copy of your DD-214 Form Enclosed). One must have served a minimum of 180 days of active service.

_____ I am not a Vietnam Era Veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member AVVA

Enclosed is my check for \$20.00 _____ 1 year \$50.00 3 years _____

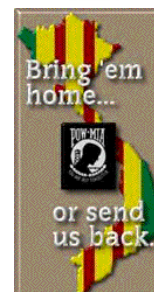
AVVA Life under 60 - \$175 _____ - Life over 60 \$100 _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Membership Card

No. _____

Today's Date _____

Return this form to:
Vietnam Veterans of America
Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528
P.O. Box 6319
Plymouth, MI 48170-0473



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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