Chapter 528 Homefront APRIL 2019

VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170

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Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor & Publisher
Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
John Spencer - President & Columnist
Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
Nancy Dignan - Calendar
Jim Tillman - Article

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
Ron King
Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

I have been honored to serve as your Chapter President this past year. I wish to thank the Members and Board of Directors for their support and cooperation. And especially Chapter Secretary Ron King for keeping me on track all year.

Our next membership meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 8th at the VFW Post in Plymouth.
Final nominations and election for 2019/20 chapter officers, directors and delegates will be made at this April meeting. These are the leadership positions in our Chapter. If you are interested in running for one of the positions, any member can nominate you, or you can submit your name for a position.

The 2019 Sportsman's Raffle tickets are available at the membership meetings. The raffle is the same format as the 2017 raffle. If you can help sell tickets at regional gun shows, Bass Pro Shop and other events, sign-up sheets will be available at the monthly membership meetings.

There are many events and activities at the VFW Post each month. These events/activities support our host, the VFW Post. Check the articles and calendar that appear later in this newsletter.

John Spencer, President
U S Army 1965-67
123rd Transportation
Company (Longshoremen)
Cam Ranh Bay, RVN

Digger's Desk

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

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Don't forget Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 8:00PM, Sliders from 5:00PM-7:00PM and Euchre at 7:00PM every Wednesday. Pinochle on Tuesday at 2:00PM through March 16 during Lent.

PRETTY GOOD SHAPE FOR THE SHAPE WE'RE IN

Many of our members are dealing with major health issues. Keep them in your daily prayers. Follow your doctor's orders with your meds and exercise. March 14, 2002 at 10:00PM was my last cigarette. I haven't quit smoking, i.e., I just haven't had a cigarette in 17 years. Everyone who loves you wants you to quit. Do it !

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The nominations for officers and board members will continue at the Annual Membership Meeting in April when elections will take place. Have someone nominate you or you can nominate yourself.

FISH FRY

The Friday Fish Fry will continue through Good Friday. This is the best cod you will get anywhere. Come on down. You will not be disappointed.

KIDS EASTER PARTY

Sunday, April 7 from Noon until 3:00PM will be our Annual Kids Easter Party. Many events are planned. Bring the kids/grandkids down for a wonderful time. Thanks to Jessica Linna and her helpers for organizing.

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

MARCH 29TH

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

www.march29vietvetday.org

History of Vietnam Veterans Day

On March 29, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 29, 2012, as Vietnam Veterans Day. The proclamation called "upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that commemorate the 50 year anniversary of the Vietnam War."

On December 26, 2016 - March 29th Vietnam Veterans Day Coalition of States Council in a letter to President Elect Trump and Congress leadership outlines the history and timeline of cause to establish March 29th Vietnam War Veterans Day and request that it be one of the first legislations passed and signed into law during the 115 Congress.

On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. This act officially recognizes March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Act also includes the day among those days on which the US flag should especially be displayed.

Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

President	Jerry Thomason
1st Vice President	John Heraghty
	Rich Whipple
2nd Vice President	Gary Bush
Secretary	Ron King
Treasurer	Bob Dew
	John Fleming
Board Members(4) (2 year term)	Bruce Benyo
	Mike Dicker
	Gerald Dodson
	Larry Eichstadt
	Don Petrere
	Al Sneath
Natl Convention Delegate (7)	Dennis Bielskis
.	Don Dignan
	Gary Estermyer
	Ron King
	Joe Tebor
	Jerry Thomason
	Rich Whipple
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.

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 was 1 application for membership this month. Bernard (Skip) Dahlman, (Army) has joined the chapter. Welcome Skip to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 305 individual and 84 associate members. Of these we have only 17 VVA and 27 AVVA yearly paid members remaining.

Lapsed Members: As of March 22, 2019 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Jim Kish
AVVA: John Stewart

Dropped From Roster: none
April VVA Renewals John Zielke
April AVVA Renewals: none

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.

2019 National Convention

The national convention takes place from July 15 – 20 in Spokane, Washington this year. Since we have officially reached the 300-member plateau we are entitled to 7 delegates. If you would like to attend the convention as a delegate, please make sure you are nominated at the April meeting. Those who have attended in the past have commented on what an interesting and worthwhile experience it is.

Plymouth Fall Festival

The Fall festival application must be turned in at the beginning of May. The question is: do we want to continue our 20+ years in attendance. The question arises because of our great success at the beer tent at E.G Nicks. Another consideration is that a new festival chairman will be needed. I have done it for the last 15 years and will be stepping down. A discussion and vote will be taken at the April meeting.

Odds and Ends continued on page 5

Chaplain's Corner

Celebrating Creativity
From Our Daily Bread
Author: Xochitl Dixon
Genesis 1:20 "God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures."

A rarely seen jellyfish waltzed with the currents, four thousand feet deep in the ocean near Baja, California. Its body shone with fluorescent shades of blue, purple, and pink, bright against the backdrop of black water. Elegant tentacles waved gracefully with each pulsing of its bell-shaped hood. As I watched the amazing footage of the Halitrephes maasi jellyfish on the National Geographic video, I reflected on how God chose the specific design of this beautiful, gelatinous creature. He also fashioned the other 2,000 types of jellyfish that scientists have identified as of October 2017.

Though we acknowledge God as Creator, do we slow down long enough to truly consider the profound truth revealed in the first chapter of the Bible? Our amazing God brought forth light and life into the creatively diverse world. He crafted with the power of His word. He designed "the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems" (Genesis 1:21). Scientists have discovered only a fraction of the wondrous creatures the Lord created in the beginning.

God also intentionally sculpted each person in the world, giving purpose to every day of our lives before we drew our first breaths (Psalm 139:13-16). As we celebrate the Lord's creativity, we can also rejoice over the many ways He helps us imagine and create with Him and for His glory.

Prayer: Creator God, thank You for inviting us to appreciate Your awesome creativity and to enjoy what You've given us.

Chaplains Notes: So thankful for the lack of snow, and we can see grass once again. Can't wait to get out and swing the golf clubs! Continue to pray for Pastor Bill Kren and wife Sue, still giving stage 4 lung cancer a courageous battle; Keep Mike Dicker in your prayers, as he most likely will need to get back to the VA Hospital for more chemo, but as I write this, Mike was driving around on this sunny day driving his RAM truck; pray for Joe Tebor and his right arm that he has trouble lifting up; prayers for Bryan Bentley and wife (Rochelle) in the loss of her mother. Gene Spurgess is having hip surgery on March 26th. Prayer's for a speedy recovery.

Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Pick-Up Program

As most of you know, our chapter volunteered beginning in 1997 to participate in the Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Program. This year will mark our 22nd year!

Our responsibility is Joy Road, from Canton Center Road to Haggerty (2.25 miles).

If you're new to the chapter, you may not know what this is all about. I ask for volunteers beforehand. We meet at the UAW Hall parking lot at the Southeast corners of Canton Center Road and Joy Road on Fridays at 8:30 AM. I bring fresh Meijer donuts, give out garbage bags and reflective vests, and we hit the road to pick up the trash along both sides of the road. We usually get done in a little over an hour. Generally we end up at Zack's Restaurant on Main Street, just south of Ann Arbor Road for great food and camaraderie.

The pickup dates are: Friday, April 19; Friday, July 20; and Friday, September 28. Please, add this to your calendar!

Looking for another fun year with you troops!

"Sgt. Whipple"

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

Odds and Ends - continued from page 3.

VFW Fish Fry's & St Paddy's Day

The Lenten fish fry's will continue through April 19. We are averaging just over 290 dinners a week. On St. Paddy's day there was a very nice crowd almost all day who came to enjoy the Guinness and Killian's beers, delicious corned beef and cabbage dinners and corned beef sandwiches. Thanks to all who have volunteered their time or have come out to dinner. The post couldn't do it without you.

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

VFW POST 6695 FISH FRY

MENU

4 pc Baked/fried cod	$10
3 pc Baked/fried cod	$9
2 pc Child/Senior cod	$8
Walleye	$12
6 pc Shrimp	$9
4 pc Chicken strips	$9
2 pc Child/Senior chicken strips	$7

SIDE ORDERS

Baked potato, mac & cheese, or fries	$2

All dinners include cole slaw, roll & butter, coffee and choice of fries, baked potato or mac & cheese

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE

Kratom

Kratom,(Mitragyna speciose) is a plant species that grows in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. The plant is ground up into a green powder that is showing up increasingly in the United States. Kratom is classified as an herbal supplement sold in capsule form, many Americans assume it is safe to take. It can be found in some health food stores, gas stations and convenience stores. It is being used for pain, depression, anxiety and opioid withdrawal.

In reality, scientists know very little about this substance, including what it treats, whether it is addictive and what a safe dosage truly is. From 2011-2017 there have ben 1,800 phone calls to poison control centers and 65% have been in the last 2 years. More than half have resulted in severe health repercussions, including seizures, rapid heartbeats, difficulty breathing, coma and kidney failure. In these cases, 11 of the symptoms were fatal. Especially common among the people, that had multiple drugs in their system, including alcohol, cocaine, benzodiazepenes and fentanyl.

Individuals who choose to use Kratom need to be aware of the potential risks. Just because it is currently classified as a herbal supplement does not mean it is regulated or that it is safe. FDA has issued several warnings about its medicinal use.

Article submitted by Jim Tillman

St. Paddy's Day 2009 - Denny Donohue, Bear, Bob Monteith, Bobbie Donohue, Billy Donahue, and Bill Donahue

Vietnam Veterans of America
Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528

2019 Sportsman's Raffle

40 Prizes To Be Awarded - Winning Tickets Go Back Into Hopper!

WWW.VVA528.ORG

Benelli Nova Pump Shotgun CamoMax-5
Marlin 336W Lever-Action Rifle 30-30 Winchester
Remington Model 870 Express ShurShot Turkey
Henry Octagon Frontier Lever Action Rimfire 22 WMR
Weatherby SA-08 Compact shotgun
Camping Package
Remington 870 Shotgun Express Tactical
Winchester SXP Turkey Hunter Break-up shotgun
Stoeger M3000R slug Gun Semi-Auto Shotgun 12-ga
Savage 11 Scout Bolt-Action Rifle .308 Winchester
Remington 597 Rimfire Semi-Auto Rifle
Ruger Ranch Blot-Action Rifle .450 Bushmaster
Winchester XPR Hunter Bolt-Action Rifle
CVA Optima Muzzleloader W/Scope True-Timber
Ruger Air Hawk .177 Air Rifle combo

Henry Golden Boy Lever-Action Rimfire
Mossberg 930 Slugster Semi-Auto Shotgun
Winchester XPR Hunter Bolt-Action Rifle
Thompson/Center Venture Blot-Action Rifle 30-06
Remington Model 700 ACL Blot Action Rifle Combo
Bear Archery Approach RTH Compound Bow
Browning AB3 Hunter Bolt-Action rifle .252
Mossberg Patriot Blot-Action Rifle 30-06 Springfield
Fishing Package
Parker Hammer 3325 Crossbow package
Spark Series Drone with HD Camera
Camping Package
Fishing Package
Remington 870 Super Mag Pump-Action combo
13 - $500.00 VISA CARDS

All Prizes are awarded through Bass Pro Shops
Excel Drones. Garden City, MI.

***** *FREE* FOOD AND DRINK - RAFFLE TICKET REQUIRED FOR ENTRY *****

Drawing: Sunday, October, 13, 2019– 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
V.F.W. Post 6695 - 1426 S. Mill St., Plymouth, MI.
$20.00 (US) per Ticket - Need Not Be Present To Win.
Maximum of 5000 Tickets Printed!
(Must Be 18 Years Old to Purchase Tickets)

***Prize winners responsible for taxes and all pertinent regulations.**

Mail-Order forms available by calling (248) 767 1654 or e-mailing dbielskis@att.net

* * * * * **Support Your Local Veterans and their Projects** * * * * *

Proceeds to benefit hospitalized veterans, community, veteran projects and the general fund of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528. If 1500 tickets are not sold, the Sportsman's Raffle will revert to a 50/50 Raffle with a minimum prize of $5,000.

Mail to: 2018 Sportsman's Raffle
V.V.A 528
P.O. Box 6295
Plymouth, MI. 48170

Make checks to : VVA 528

Requests must be made prior to Monday, October 7. 2019 to allow time for processing and delivery.

License No. R50455

VVA 528 2019 Sportsman's Raffle Selling Events

This is a list of the locations that we will be selling our raffle Tickets. Please come out and visit with us.

Show	Address	City	Zip
Birch Run Expo	11600 S. Beyer Rd.	Birch Run	48425
Ingam County Fairgrounds	700 E. Ash St.	Lansing/Mason	48854
Flint Gun Show	3501 Lapeer Rd.	Flint	48503
Suburban Collection Showplace	46100 Grand River	Novi	48374
Monroe County Fairgrounds	3775 S. Custer Rd.	Monroe	48161
Brownstown Sport Center	21902 Telegraph Rd.	Brownstown	48283
Bass Pro Shops Auburn Hills	4500 Baldwin Rd.	Auburn Hills	48326

Date	Day	Time	Location
4/5/2019	Friday	1400-1900	Ingham County Fairgrounds
4/6/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Ingham County Fairgrounds
4/7/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Ingham County Fairgrounds
4/13/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Brownstown Sport Center
4/14/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Brownstown Sport Center
4/19/2019	Friday	0900-1700	Brownstown Sport Center
4/20/2019	Saturday	1000-2100	Bass Pro Shops Auburn Hill
4/20/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Novi Suburban Collection Showcase
4/21/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Novi Suburban Collection Showcase
5/4/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Birch Run Expo
5/5/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Birch Run Expo
5/18/2019	Saturday	1000-2100	Bass Pro Shops Auburn Hills
5/19/2019	Sunday	1000-1900	Bass Pro Shops Auburn Hills
6/1/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Novi Suburban Collection Showcase
6/2/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Novi Suburban Collection Showcase
6/15/2019	Saturday	1000-1500	Bass Pro Shops Auburn Hills
6/16/2019	Sunday	1000-1900	Bass Pro Shops Auburn Hills
7/5/2019	Friday	1400-1900	Ingham County Fairgrounds
7/6/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Ingham County Fairgrounds
7/7/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Ingham County Fairgrounds
7/20/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Novi Suburban Collection Showcase
7/21/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Novi Suburban Collection Showcase
8/10/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Birch Run Expo
8/11/2019	Sunday	1000-1500	Birch Run Expo
8/17/2019	Saturday	0900-1700	Monroe County Fairgrounds

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 PINOCHLE 2:00 VFW AUX MEETING 6:30	3 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	4	5 FISH FRY 5-7 KARAOKE 8:00	6 KENTUCKY DERBY RACES 4:00
7 CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY 12-3	8 VVA MEETING 7:00	9 PINOCHLE 2:00 VFW MEETING 7:00	10 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	11	12 FISH FRY 5-7	13
14 BOWLING LEAGUE 1:30	15	16 PINOCHLE 2:00 VFW HOUSE COMMITEE 7:00	17 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	18	19 FISH FRY 5-7 KARAOKE 8:00	20
21 EASTER	22 GOLF?	23 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	24 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	25	26 PINOCHLE 2:00	27
28	29 GOLF?	30				

Calendar by
Nancy Dignan

April Birthdays

Ralph Auge, Danny Aulidge, Gordon Bardeleben, Michael Barnowski, Earl Burgis, Robert Couturier, Thomas Crozier, Tom Curry, Norris Cutler, Richard Demeester, Edward Dziadzio, Gerald Grzesik, 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, Mark Tomasaitis, Ron Trosin and John Zielinski.

Chapter 528 Website: www.vva528.org
Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com
Advertising Rates: 1 year $60; 6 mos. $45; 1 issue $15

Chapter Officers

President	John Spencer	734-716-0619
1st Vice President	Jerry Thomason	734-895-5257
2nd Vice President	Gary Bush	734-718-2301
Secretary	Ron King	734-679-6424
Treasurer	Bob Dew	734-421-1805

Board of Directors

Mike Dicker 734-425-3414	Darrel Bazman 734-207-3197
Don Dignan 734-525-0157	Frank Barkovich 734-397-9734
Pete Glasgow 734-454-9663	Gene Spurgess 248-887-6212
Don Petrere 734-595-1422	Rich Whipple 734-751-2992

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
Editor	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
Assistant	Ron King	734-679-6424
Assistant	Dale Luebke	248-403-4244

Product Sales	Rick Demeester	248-486-9981
POW/MIA	Al Kerbyson	734-612-9757
Public Affairs	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming	734-52504560
Service Representative	Aggie Little	734-722-9535
Sportsmen's Raffle	John Spencer	734-716-0619
State Delegate	Dennis Bielskis	248-486-0001
State A.Delegate	Gary Estermyer	313-283-6943
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling	734-776-2239
VAVS Deputy	Ron King	734-454-4522
Vietnam War 50th Com.	Ron King	734-4544522
Website & Newsletter	Tom Brown	313-336-0192

Chapter 528 VVA Service Officers (VSO)

Dennis Bielskis - 734-459-6700
Gary Estermyer - 313-961-9568

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

Service Photos Needed

VVA Chapter 528 has 144 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

Editor's Note and Disclaimer

Articles, flyers, calendar, event dates and photos must be submitted by the 25th of the month in order to be considered for publication. Send the article, flyer 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)**.

No. 213208

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Matthew Gorski
President
Your Way Property Services
(248) 676.8508 office
(248) 676.8557 fax
yourwaypropertyservices@comcast.net

Vietnam Veterans of America

VVA membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 22, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

Name_____ email _____

Phone_____

Present Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code _____

Branch of Service_____

Date of Birth_____ Today's Date _____

$50.00 Lifetime Membership Enclosed _____

_____ I am a Vietnam Era Veteran and would like to be a member. Enclosed is a copy of my DD 214 Form. 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

One may become an Associate Member (AVVA). _____ 1 year ($20), _____ 3 year ($50), _____ Life membership ages 59 and under ($175), _____ 60 and above ($100). When purchasing a life membership proof of age must also be submitted. The easiest form of proof is a copy of your driver's license. There is one new AVVA option available. Current VVA members can support the AVVA by purchasing a life membership in AVVA for only $50.

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

Homefront
Vietnam Veterans of America
Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528
P.O. Box 6319
Plymouth MI 48170-0473

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED