



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Veterans Day 2018 Plymouth, MI
Courtesy of Ruth & Bob Lamoureux

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
Christmas Events	5
Veterans Day Photos	6
Quest Becoming a US Citizen.....	6
Christmas Trees	6
WWI Remembrance	7
Trunk or Treat Photos	8
Calendar	9
Committees	10
Ads	11
Membership Form	12

Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 John Spencer - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 John Fleming - Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Peter Glasgow - Columnist
 Bob & Ruth Lamoureux - Photo
 Dennis & Patty Bielskis - Photos
 Tom Trestler - Photo

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

“Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”

Happy Holidays to all! I've been thinking about the holiday meals our company cooks prepared for Thanksgiving and Christmas. They put in extra effort to make the meals special. Thank you to all our cooks. The VFW Post is selling Christmas trees again this year. If you like real pine trees, they have a good selection and this project supports our host VFW Post.

If you have a donation request, please see the donation policy and request form on our website vva528.org. Donation requests need to be submitted to Chapter Secretary Ron King several days before the monthly Board meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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 Fridays at 2:00PM.

CHRISTMAS TREES

The Christmas trees were delivered a week early on Wednesday, November 14. We had around 20 guys unloading, carrying and stacking trees. Thanks to all who participated in this work intensive event. Tree sales begin on November 23.



Photo courtesy of Patty & Dennis Bielskis

PEARL HARBOR DAY

There will be a short ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park at 1:00PM December 7 commemorating the "day that will live in infamy".

ANN ARBOR VAMC

As we have every year for the past 15, we will be visiting with patients at Ann Arbor VAMC on Tuesday, December 18. We'll meet up in the lobby at 5:30PM.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RING

Continuing a holiday tradition, we'll be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Holiday Market on Saturday December 8.

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The kids/grandkids (under 12 years old) party will take place from 1:00PM-3:00PM on Saturday, December 8. This is a fantastic event for the children.

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



Come Join Us

Hot Soups - Cold Salads
Bread & Rolls
Coffee & Tea
Desserts for sale

THE MAYFLOWER/LT. GAMBLE VFW POST 6695
AUX IS HOSTING A SOUP AND SALAD DINNER AT:

1426 S. MILL ST PLYMOUTH, MI

SATURDAY, JAN 12th

5:00-7:00 p.m.

\$5 PER PERSON

CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

Contact Judy Thomason @
734-545-0184

Judythomason@gmail.com





Odds & Ends

Membership

We had 6 VVA and 3 AVVA applications for membership this past month. Gary Koscielniak, William Kumm, Don Nippa, Robert Parker, and John Shenkaruk, all Army, and Mark Tomasaitis, Marines, have joined the chapter. Gary's wife, Ruth, as well as Nicholas Johns and Collin McCammon have joined our associates. Welcome Gary, Bill, Don, Robert, John, Mark, Ruth, Nicholas and Collin to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 295 individual and 85 associate members. Of these we have 261 life VVA and 53 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Greg Epacs, Dean Hurley

AVVA: Heather Mullin

Dropped from Roster: Dan Dreger, Tom Moscardelli

December VVA Renewals: David Baringer

December AVVA Renewals: Patti Brothers, Troy Fisher, Bruce Glenn, Curt Smith

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.

VVA Membership

Effective October 20 the VVA will only offer life memberships at a cost of \$50. Anyone with a 3-year membership has been converted to a life membership at no charge. Those with 1 year memberships will have to renew for \$50 when their renewal comes due. By next October everyone in VVA will be a life member.

AVVA Membership

Although VVA rates have changed AVVA rates have not. The rates remain the same. 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.

Chapter Raffle

The chapter raffle awarding life memberships has been dropped since all new members will be life members when they join. Since I started the raffle many years ago there have been 100 life memberships awarded. By a vote of the membership at the last meeting the chapter's portion of the money collected from the 50/50 will go to maintain the Kokomo fund.

Christmas Trees

The VFW Christmas trees went on sale the day after Thanksgiving and will continue daily until they are gone. Help selling trees is always needed so contact Bill Browning or Ron King if you can spare some time. If you're looking for a fresh, reasonably priced tree check out our great selection.



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



Photo courtesy of Patty & Dennis Bielskis



Chaplain's Corner

Putting Up Hay

Author: David Roper, from
Our Daily Bread

When I was in college, I worked a summer on a ranch in Colorado. One evening, tired and hungry after a long day of mowing hay I drove the tractor into the yard. Acting like the hot shot I thought I was, I cranked the steering wheel hard left, stamped on the left brake, and spun the tractor around.

The sickle was down and swept the legs out from under a 500-gallon gasoline tank standing nearby. The tank hit the ground with a resounding boom, the seams split, and all the gasoline spewed out. The rancher stood nearby surveying the scene.

I got off the tractor, stammered an apology, and because it was the first thing that popped into my mind, offered to work the rest of the summer without pay.

The old rancher stared at the wreckage for a moment and turned toward the house. "Let's go have dinner," he drawled.

A scrap of a story Jesus told passed through my mind, a story about a young man who had done a terrible thing: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you," he cried. He intended to add, "Make me like one of your hired servants," but before he could get all the words out of his mouth his father interrupted him. In essence, he said, "Let's go have dinner" (Luke 15:17-24).

Such is God's amazing grace!

(Father, we celebrate Your gracious and lavish forgiveness. Thank you for the peace and freedom it brings us as we enjoy a family relationship with You.)

Chaplain's Notes: Prayers for AVVA member Lee Camilleri gaining strength from a heart attack; Norris Cutler who moved north and has been battling cancer; Pastor Bill Kren and his courageous fight with cancer; Mike Dicker with his fight with cancer; Norris Cutler is leaving Kalamazoo heading for home on December 1 after three months away for cancer treatments and recovery.



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



Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

The morning started out with the posting of the Colors by Boy Scout Troop 777 of Northville and the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Star Spangled Banner. Denny Fuelling of VVA 528 was the emcee. This event took place at Ward Church in Northville, MI.

The Invocation was performed by Senior Pastor, Dr. Scott McKee. Virgil Thill, Navy and WWII combat Veteran, Pacific Theater, served on an LBT was the Keynote Speaker.

The closing song was "God Bless America" followed by the Benediction. VVA 528 members in attendance were: Art Esper, Leroy Paige, Dennis Waling and Terry Wells. This is the 8th year I have attended this event. It never disappoints in honoring our Veterans.



Dennis Waling



Christmas Activities Update

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Most of the time slots have been filled, the 1pm and 2pm time slots still could use another ringer. Please let me know if you can help.

13th Annual Winter Clothing Drive

The charity has now been chosen, "Love a Michigan Vet Project", from Lincoln Park. They will be having two Christmas Events in mid-December which normally have a total of 160 homeless veterans which we will be providing some of the items to be given away. We do not have the dates of those activities as yet, but will get the word out as soon as we find out.

Bob Dew and I went out to Kohl's to order the requested items, towels, wash cloths, pillows, blankets. These items will be handed out at the Christmas Events. The used clothing and other winter items collected at the VFW and at The First United Methodist Church of Garden City will be delivered to the Project during the week of December 16.

Please contact me at 734-604-0227 for any updates after Thanksgiving.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Holiday Market

520 S. Lilley Road, Canton, MI
Saturday, December 8, 2018

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

To sign up or if there are any question, please call me at 734-604-0227 -cell. One hour shifts. John Fleming



John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay



Factor V – Leiden

Factor V is a mutation of one of the clotting factors in the blood, which can increase the chance of developing abnormal blood clots. This most commonly in your legs and lungs, but can also occur the brain eyes, kidneys and liver. This mutated gene is inherited from a parent and maybe transmitted to a son or daughter. Only about 10% of the individuals with factor V Leiden mutation ever develop abnormal clots.

If a parent has a history of blood clots or you have a history of blood clots, a simple blood test will determine if you have this mutant gene. Likewise if you are positive for this gene your children should also have a blood test. This mutant gene will not skip a generation to a grandchild.

Jim Tillman



Come and join us for the annual

Children's Christmas Party

Calling all children and grandchildren of Post 6695 VFW, Aux, VVA and AVVA members.



December 8, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Located at 1426 S. Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170

Come on over to the VFW Post 6695 to visit Santa, decorate some cookies, sing some karaoke, Get your picture taken in a Photo Booth, Arts & Crafts, games and food.

Please RSVP by November 24, 2018 to:
Jennifer DeLong at
734-664-7627 – jede7627@yahoo.com
Call, Text or E-mail:




Christmas Trees 2018



Members from VVA Chapter 528 and VFW Post 6695 unloaded 130 Christmas Trees at the VFW on Wednesday, the 14th. *Photo courtesy of Tom Trestler*

Quest on Becoming a U.S. Citizen

VVA member James Pawlukiewicz finally received his citizenship on Wednesday, November 22, 2018. He has been living here for more than 50 years and has been trying to become a citizen ever since. Channel 7 News reported about his story. The first time Jim applied to become a U.S. citizen, he was building quonset huts and pulling guard duty in Bien Hoa, Vietnam. He was drafted in 1966 and when he got to Vietnam, he learned there was a naturalization office in Guam. Jim mailed his request to U.S. immigration offices but they said no. During the past 50 years Jim has been trying to become a citizen multiple times without success. Recently, he tried once again but because he entered dates in the European format (22 Jul 2018) he was denied. His sister finally wrote a letter to Military Times. Pawlukiewicz was born in July 1946, in a liberated Nazi work camp in Germany. Germany wouldn't grant him citizenship because his parents were Polish and Poland wouldn't give him citizenship because he was born in Germany. If you are interested in reading this full story about Jim you can go online and find the story in Military Times.



Veterans Day 2018



Photos courtesy of Bob & Ruth Lamoureux

We Shall Keep the Faith

by Moina Michael, November 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.
We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.
And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.



The origin of the red Flanders poppy as a modern-day symbol of Remembrance was the inspiration of an American woman, Miss Moina Michael.

In Flander's Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

By John McCrae, May 1915

"It was on a Saturday morning, 9 November 1918, two days before the Armistice was declared at 11 o'clock on 11 November. Moina Belle Michael was on duty at the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries' headquarters in New York. She was working in the "Gemot" in Hamilton Hall. This was a reading room and a place where US servicemen would often gather with friends and family to say their goodbyes before they went on overseas service. On that day Hamilton Hall and the "Gemot" was busy with people coming and going. The Twenty-fifth Conference of the Overseas YMCA War Secretaries was in progress at the headquarters. During the first part of the morning as a young soldier passed by Moina's desk he left a copy of the latest November edition of the "Ladies Home Journal" on the desk.

At about 10.30am Moina found a few moments to herself and browsed through the magazine. In it she came across a page which carried a vivid color illustration with the poem entitled "We Shall Not Sleep". This was an alternative name sometimes used for John McCrae's poem, which was also called "In Flanders Fields". Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae had died of pneumonia several months earlier on 28 January 1918.

Inspiration for the poem

Having read John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields' Moina Michael made a personal pledge to 'keep the faith'. She felt compelled to make a note of this pledge and hastily scribbled down a response entitled "We Shall Keep the Faith" on the back of a used envelope. From that day she vowed to wear a red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of remembrance."



Peter Glasgow
Alpha Co. 1stBn.
1st Marines
1st Marine Division



Trunk or Treat



Photos courtesy of Dennis & Patty Bielskis



DECEMBER 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 VFW AUX MEETING 700	5 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	6	7 PINOCHLE 2:00 KARAOKE 8:00 Pearl Harbor	8 BELL RINGING KIDS XMAS PARTY 1-3
9	10 VVA MEETING 7:00	11 VFW MEETING 7:00	12 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	13	14 PINOCHLE 2:00	15 ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:00
16	17 POST BLOOD DRIVE	18 VA HOSPITAL VISIT 5:30	19 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	20	21 PINOCHLE 2:00 KARAOKE 8:00	22
23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	27	28 PINOCHLE 2:00	29
30	31					



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

DECEMBER 2018 BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Bentley, Stephen Boucher, Ruth Bryan, Mike Crittenden, Gerald Dodson, John Erickson, Thomas Fedewa, Doug Fox, Mark Gallo, Lonnie Hampton, Steve Kozmor, John Ligner, Dan Michael, Michael Panich, James Perkins, Clyde Rains, Pete Reckinger, Dale Roeseler, David Schisler, Roger Shanks, Dave Stenrose, James Tillman, Ray Vincent, Michael Williams, Robert Williams, Richard Wurtzel.



Chapter 528 Homefront

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 734-207-9734
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	Tom Brown	313-336-0192
Editor	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
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	734-525-0456
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).**

DECEMBER 2018



10

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 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



 No. 213208
 


Great Lakes TROPHIES & ENGRAVING

Ed Duprey
Owner

32635 Ford Road
 Garden City, MI 48135
 (Between Venoy & Merriman Roads)
 Hours: 9 - 6 Weekdays / 9 - Noon Sat.

Phone: (734) 266 - 1815
 Fax: (734) 266 - 1817
 www.greatlaketrophies.com
 E-mail: sales@greatlaketrophies.com

Fleming Financial Services, Inc.

John A. Fleming National Association of Tax Professionals

29217 Ford Road, Suite 119
Garden City, MI 48135

phone 734 525-4560 fax 734 525-5280
toll free 888 240-1550 john@flemingfinancialsvcs.com

DONATE YOUR CAR TO



- Where you can still claim Fair Market Blue Book Value
- Car donation is 100% tax deductible and pick up is free
- Assisted over 2,000 worthy organizations in our community

CALL TODAY: (313) 255-1000
or donate online at charitymotors.org

**Be sure to designate VVA Chapter 528
when turning in your vehicle.**

WWW.MYLIFEFORCE.NET/RT

RON & THERESA

1 248 677 2280

PRODUCTS THAT MAKE
PEOPLE HEALTHIER

www.mylifeforce.net/rt

BVD Catering

Be a guest at your own party

From a simple backyard party, to an elegant affair

734-776-1827
 734-729-9338
dilittlebit3@aol.com



Main Street Auto Wash

"the freshwater wash"

1191 S. Main Street
 Plymouth, MI 48170

Phil Pursell
 (734) 455-9685

alphagraphics®

DESIGN ■ COPY ■ PRINT ► COMMUNICATE

7994 Lilley Road • Canton, Michigan 48187

Phone 734.455.6550 • Fax 734.455-3740

Email us336@alphagraphics.com
www.us336.alphagraphics.com



 **LPL Financial**

Bob Carris
Registered Principal

40400 Ann Arbor Rd
 Suite 204-B
 Plymouth, MI 48170
 734 453 7304 office
 734 453 7461 fax
bob.carris@lpl.com
www.lpl.com/bob.carris

OSJ Branch: 31700 Middlebelt Rd
 Suite 145
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
 248 626 2000 office

Member FINRA/SIPC

Frank S. Barkovich

Accounting & Tax Service

- * Individual / Business Taxes
- * Business Coaching
- * Small Business Specialists
- * Veteran Owned

P.O. 871831
 Canton, MI 48187-7531

734-397-9734
frabar@comcast.net

- landscape design & installation
- lawn & landscape maintenance
- snow & ice management

Matthew Gorski
President

(248) 676.8508 office
 (248) 676.8557 fax
yourwaypropertyservices@comcast.net





Chapter 528 Homefront



December 2018



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 _____

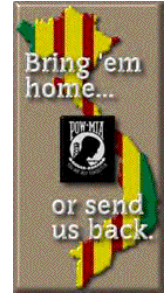
AVVA Life under 60 - \$175 _____ - Life over 60 \$100 _____

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

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