



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Kids Christmas Party

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Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 John Spencer - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 John Fleming - Columnist & Photos
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Gary "Bear" Kubik - Photo
 Dennis & Patty Bielskis - Photos

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief, Columnist & Photos
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke



"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas holidays were joyous!

I hope 2019 finds you healthy and happy. If you know of someone who needs help, reach out to them to see what you can do to help them. There are many resources that can help. The Veterans Crisis Line offers confidential help for Veterans and their families. They can be reached at 1-800-273-8255, press 1.

Our VVA Service Officers can be reached at 1-844-885-6424 and our Chapter website also has a list of resources @ www.vva528.org.

At the January membership meeting we will discuss an amendment to our Chapter Bylaws to separate our policy letters into a separate document (see page 3) that is managed by the Chapter Board of Directors. This Amendment will be voted on at the February membership meeting.

Our next membership meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 14, 2019 at Mayflower/Lt Gamble VFW in Plymouth. Thanks!



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





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Don't forget Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 8:00PM, Sliders from 5:00PM to 7:00PM and Euchre at 7:00PM every Wednesday. Pinochle on Fridays at 2:00PM.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Thanks to all who made this happen, i.e., unloading the trees, tying them to the posts, hanging them under the pavilion and finally selling and delivering. Great job team!

ANN ARBOR VAMC

On Tuesday, December 18 we visited with, and passed out gifts to about 100 patients at Ann Arbor VAMC. Bob Paul, Bob Lamoureux, John Spencer, Ric Adis, Rich Whipple, Gary Bush and I made the scene. A couple of beauty queens also helped to entertain the troops....what Christmas is really all about! Thanks to John Kinzinger and Chapter 310 for arranging this every year and allowing Chapter 528 to share.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RING

Continuing a holiday tradition, we rang bells for the Salvation Army at Holiday Market on Saturday, December 8 and saved them paying a person to do the same. How many of you knew that?

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The kids/grandkids Christmas party on Saturday, December 8 was nothing short of sensational. Thanks to Jennifer DeLong and her countless number of elves for putting on this fantastic event for the children.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Veterans and supporters.

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



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



Pearl Harbor Ceremony
Photo courtesy of Patty and Dennis Bielskis



VVA Christmas Visit Ann Arbor Hospital



Odds & Ends

Membership

We had 6 VVA applications for membership this past month. Iver (Marty) Heikkinen (Army), Walter Munie, Dominic Grunas, Ronald Strochine (Marines), Harold Pierce (Air Force), and Randall Cooper (Navy) have joined the chapter. Bob Cohen has also rejoined the chapter after a lengthy absence. Welcome Marty, Walter, Dominic, Ron, Harold, Randall and Bob to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 294 individual and 83 associate members. Of these we have 270 life VVA and 55 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Mack Gaut, David Schisler

AVVA: Todd Busick

Dropped from Roster: Greg Epacs, Dean Hurley, Heather Mullin

January VVA Renewals: JR Yarbrough

January AVVA Renewals: John Stewart

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

I announced at our last meeting that we had reached 300 in membership but I had mistakenly added the 6 new members from the previous month twice so our current total is 294. As you see from above there are only 24 annual paid members left. They will be converted to life when their membership comes up for renewal and the \$50 fee is paid.

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. I became the first person in the chapter to get a dual membership.

Christmas Trees

The 130 VFW Christmas trees went on sale the day after Thanksgiving and were sold out within 2 weeks. A huge thank you to all who assisted in unloading, setting up, selling, or buying one of the trees. Also a big thank you to Bill Browning and Ron King for chairing this project. The post netted \$3,200 in this fundraiser.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !!



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



ByLaw News

The Chapter will be voting on this motion during our February General Membership Meeting.

MOTION: Revise Chapter 528 Bylaws to remove the Policy Letter listing in the Appendix and references to Appendix Policy Letters. Generate a separate VVA Chapter BOD Policy Letter Reference Guide with a Table of Contents, listing all the current Policy Letters for Chapter 528. Keep Chapter 528 Policy Letters as individual publications as currently managed. These changes will make Chapter publications comply to VVA Nationals Constitution and National Board of Directors' Policy Reference Guide practices.

Motion made by:

Jim Hodgson_____

2nd by: John Spencer_____



Chaplain's Corner

A Deeper Love
From Our Daily Bread,
Author: James Banks

When they first met, Edwin Stanton snubbed US president Abraham Lincoln personally and professionally, even referring to him as a “long-armed creature.”

But Lincoln appreciated Stanton’s abilities and chose to forgive him, eventually appointing Stanton to a vital cabinet position during the Civil War. Stanton later grew to love Lincoln as a friend. It was Stanton who sat by Lincoln’s bed throughout the night after the president was shot at Ford’s Theater and whispered through tears on his passing, “Now he belongs to the ages.”

Reconciliation is a beautiful thing. The apostle Peter pointed followers of Jesus there when he wrote, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). Peter’s words cause me to wonder if he was thinking of his own denial of Jesus (Luke 22:54-62) and the forgiveness Jesus offered him (and us) through the cross.

The deep love Jesus demonstrated through His death on the cross frees us from the debt for our sins and opens the way for our reconciliation with God (Colossians 1:19-20). His forgiveness empowers us to forgive others as we realize we can’t forgive in our own strength and ask Him to help us. When we love others because our Savior loves them and forgive because he has forgiven us, God gives us strength to let go of the past and walk forward with Him into beautiful new places of grace.

Chaplains Notes: I hope you enjoyed the Christmas season. It is something I sure look forward to every year! Prayers needed for Pastor

Bill Kren and wife Sue, still giving stage 4 lung cancer a courageous battle; prayers of recovery for Bobby Somerville (stroke), Lee Camilleri (heart attack), and Mike Dicker battling cancer.



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



Pearl Harbor Ceremony
Photos courtesy of Patty and Dennis Bielskis





Christmas Activity Wrap-up

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Thank You to all of the members that came out on Saturday, December 8 to the Holiday Market in Canton. The results of our efforts on that Saturday were \$766.28.

Winter Clothing Drive

Our 13th Annual Winter Clothing Drive was successfully completed on Wednesday, December 19. The clothing this year went to Love a Michigan Vet Project. We met Nadine and Mary who run the project at different sites throughout Detroit.

The Project was holding two Christmas Parties, one at the Volunteers of America in the New Center area and the other at Emmanuel House in Detroit. The request was for us to provide the following to the homeless veterans at each of the parties; a pillow, a blanket, two towels and two wash cloths. Other organizations added winter jackets and another goodie bag with socks, hat, etc.

Bob Dew and I went to see our friend Lisa at Kohl's on Ford Road and Canton and explained our needs. She did her normal wonderful job in supplying the items needed at tremendously low prices. We spent \$2,239.63 (oops) and received over \$14,300 worth of items that we not only will be using at the Christmas Parties, but also will be taken over to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital and to the Piquette House in Detroit, for their Super Bowl Party!!!

The Volunteers of America Party

This party was held on December 12, was attended by Jim Hodgson, Terry Wells, Don Dignan and myself, along with six employees of Kohl's. This means who should get an additional \$500 donation from the Kohl's Foundation for their employees' volunteering with us.

The Emmanuel House Party

The Emmanuel House party which was the next night was attended by Bob Dew, Ron King, Mike Dicker, Jerry Thomason and John Spencer. Bob Dew, Mike Dicker and myself took two fully loaded vehicles of used clothes and blankets collected at the VFW and the First United Methodist Church of Garden City to a new center on Dexter in Detroit that the Project is opening.

A great deal of thanks goes out to Lisa and her wonderful staff at Kohl's on Ford Road in Canton, anyone who helped pack and deliver the items and anyone who donated any of the items! Hopefully we have helped a large number of veterans who do not have it as good as we do. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Bell ringers at Holiday Market: John Fleming, Dennis Waling, Don Shannon and Tom Trestler at Holiday Market. *Photo courtesy of Dennis Waling.*



The 2nd clothing drive to "Love A Michigan Vet Project" on December 13th, 2018. Mike Dicker, Bob Dew, Ron King and John Spencer at Emmanuel House. *Photo courtesy of John Fleming*



John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay



Wreaths Across America at GLNC

Holly and I went to Great Lakes National Cemetery and laid wreaths that our George Washington Post 88 purchased on several veteran's graves. The opening ceremony was short and full of meaning. There were several hundred volunteers who came to Remember, Honor and Teach. Our face and hands were frozen, but we felt warm inside at the end of the day.



*Photos courtesy of
Holly and Jim Hodgson*



Photo courtesy of Holly & Jim Hodgson

Pearl Harbor Ceremony



Photos courtesy Dennis & Patti Bielskis



Jim Hodgson
120th AVN Brigade
Army 72-73 Vietnam
1971-1994 in Uniform
Retired



Kids Christmas Party



Photos courtesy of Gary "Bear" Kubik
and Dennis & Patty Bielskis

WINTER WARMUP CHILI COOK-OFF



The VFW Aux. will be hosting a Chili Cook off on February 23rd from 5pm-7pm. Dust off those favorite chili recipes and enter to win \$25, \$15 & \$10. All are eligible to enter the cook-off. There is no fee to enter (\$5 all you can eat chili and 3 votes). We need every chili to be in a crockpot.

VFW
Mayflower/Lt Gamble post 6695
1426 Mill St
Plymouth

To enter contact Nancy Dignan at
njd600@sbcglobal.net or call
734-525-0157 or 734-673-2026



Ann Arbor VA Christmas Visit



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





JANUARY 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	3	4 PINOCHLE 2:00 KARAOKE 8:00	5
6 BOWLING LEAGUE 1:30	7 VFW AUX MEETING 6:30	8 VFW MEETING 7:00	9 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	10	11 PINOCHLE 2:00	12 SOUP AND SALAD 5-7
13	14 VVA MEETING 7:00	15 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	16 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	17	18 PINOCHLE 2:00 KARAOKE 8:00	19
20 BOWLING LEAGUE 1:30	21 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	22 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	23 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	24	25 PINOCHLE 2:00	26
27	28	29	30 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	31		



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

JANUARY 2019 BIRTHDAYS

Richard Adis, Ronald Bator, John Berry, Charles Bilyk, Patricia Brothers, Mike Bush, Lee Camilleri, Robert Cheatham, Steven Cunningham, Patrick Doherty, Jim Dorey, Thomas Dorey, Louie Dorka, Gregory Epacs, Arthur Esper, Shawn Flaharty, Dennis Fuelling, William Gravett, William Harrigan, Peter Holden, Johnnie Johnson, Larry Kijorski, Ronald King, Patricia Klopschinsky, Andrew Lawrence, Aggie Little, Donald Marshall, George Mason, John O'Hara, Richard O'Hare, Raymond Plesiewicz, Rick Popa, Mike Potochick, Phil Pursell, Donald Rauch, Donald Shannon, Gene Spurgess, Mike Steffes, Joseph Tebor, Donald Tulley, Susie Wagner, Dennis Waling, John Wallace, Walter Weber, Michael Wisinski, Dale Worcester, Jimmy Yarbrough and George Zathey.



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	734-525-04560
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 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).**

JANUARY 2019



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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



Thomas E. Moricz
Army 1967

Our 146 member to have his service photo placed on our website.

 No. 213208
 


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Chapter 528 Homefront



January 2019



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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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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