



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Plymouth Fall Festival 2017
Photo courtesy of Pat Doherty

Index

Secretary's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
Michigan State Delegate Report	5
POW/MIA Recognition Day	6
Brick Pavers "In Memoriam"	7-8
Calendar	9
Committees	10
Ads	11
Membership Form	12

Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor & Publisher
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 Ron King - Secretary & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Gary Estermyer - Columnist
 Dennis Waling - Columnist & Photos
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Pat Doherty - Photo
 Norma Demerly - Photos

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

Secretary's Corner

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

Greetings,

By the time you are reading this newsletter, September will be history. September was an extremely busy month for our members. The month began with the last scheduled car show on the 6th. The weekend following the last car show, we set up our booths for the annual Plymouth Fall Festival where some members volunteered their time to help with product sales, water and pop sales, and helping E.G. Nicks with their outdoor live-music cover charges. Thank You to all who volunteered to make the weekend a successful event for our chapter. The week following the Fall Festival, several chapter members attended the 35th Annual Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana. A great time was had by all, as we enjoyed fellowship, memories, and healing with our veteran brothers and sisters. The weekend after Kokomo, several chapter members participated in the annual Post Golf Outing. Finally, we finished out the month with our annual Adopt-A-Road cleanup on Friday, September 29th, and the much anticipated DOD sponsored 50th Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Celebration, graciously hosted by VFW Post 6695, on Saturday, September 30th. The day was a real tribute to all of our Vietnam Veterans as well as Vietnam Era veterans for their duty, sacrifices and contributions to their families and to their communities. Each veteran and their families were presented with commemorative pins. Special thanks to E. G. Nicks who provided the catering, and to the Plymouth Orchards who provided Apple Cider and Donuts.



Ron King, Secretary
 38th Air Rescue &
 Recovery Squadron
 Ton Son Nhut AB, RVN
 1971-1972





Digger's Desk

KOKOMO

The Annual Kokomo Veterans campout was a total success. The weather was perfect and the camaraderie was even better. We honored nine of our deceased members who had previously attended the Kokomo gathering with a brick laying after the opening ceremony on Friday. I have been there 24 years in a row and if you have not, you should put it on your bucket list. Thanks to Ron and Aggie Little for coordinating much of the success.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The annual Post golf outing on September 23 was a great time with 72 golfers, good food, spirits and prizes. Thanks to co-chairs Darrell Bazman, Bill Grisamer and many others for putting everything together. See you next year.

MAIN STREET ANNUAL CARWASH

October 15 will mark the 26th year of Main Street Car Wash supporting Chapter 528 by giving us control of the car wash for the entire day. See you there.

SUPERCENTER CARWASH FUNDRAISER

We will continue our arrangement with Plymouth Super Center, 400 Ann Arbor Rd. (one block west of Lilley), on behalf of VFW Post 6695. For every silver or gold level carwash purchased, Post 6695 will receive one dollar; for every platinum carwash purchased, the Post will receive two dollars. To activate this donation, pull into the carwash up to the dial wash kiosk and select:

- 1)Charity Carwash
- 2)Enter the code for the Post which is conveniently "6695"
- 3)Choose the level of carwash desired, i.e., silver at \$7, gold at \$10 or platinum at \$14.

4)Insert your bills and the appropriate amount of change will be returned.

5)Enter carwash area as usual.

This can also be coordinated with a gasoline purchase.

The Super Center owner, Drew Wolford, will cut a check to the Post once a month for the designated amount. This project will continue all year long. It doesn't get any easier than that. We have some great Veteran supporters in town.

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



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



"God Bless the USA" quilt for Sportsman's Raffle



"God Bless the USA" quilt will be raffled off at the Sportsman's Raffle on Oct. 8th. This is one of a kind quilt. The Lee Greenwood organization has agreed to let me use the words of this most patriotic song on this quilt. All monies raised will go to the VVA Chapter 528. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. I have been able to sell some tickets at my VFW auxiliary.

Thanks for the support.
Linda Mentink



Odds & Ends

Membership

Sadly we have lost another member. Ben Tallman passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers go to Ben and his family. There were 3 applications for membership this past month. Gregory Rowe and Michael Panich, Army, and Dennis Blake, Air Force, have joined our chapter. Welcome Greg, Mike and Dennis to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 285 individual and 84 associate members. Of these we have 240 life VVA and 51 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of September 22, 2017 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: none

AVVA: Terry Parks, Chris Roberts

Dropped from Roster: none

October VVA Renewals: Robert Bieske, Jim Kish, Dale Wofford

October AVVA Renewals: Jeff Rousseau, 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.

Plymouth Fall Festival

The Plymouth Fall Festival has come and gone for another year. The chilly weather on Friday kept the sale of pop and water down significantly and attendance in the beer tent was sparse but sales picked up on Saturday and Sunday. Between the tent sales, beer tent admissions and donations we raised \$1,860 for the chapter. On top of that we sold 61 sportsman raffle tickets for another \$1,220. I would like to personally thank everyone who came out and donated their time to make this year's event a success.

Kokomo

This year's opening ceremony on Friday was a somber event as we placed 9 brick pavers in the Memorial Garden at the reunion site. They represent chapter members who had attended the reunion in the past and have since passed away. They include: Franz Brenner, Bill Boudreau, Moe Swope, Rolland Anderson, Mike Ramsey, Larry Jarvis, Vaughn Hull, Carl Shefferd and Dennis Shrewsbury. They join Buzz Rivera whose brick was installed a few years ago. The bricks had their name, branch and dates of service and VVA 528 on them.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations go to Don Tulley and John Heraghty the latest winners of the chapter raffle and recipients of life memberships. There won't be another drawing until the November meeting which will also be the 85th since the raffle was started many years ago.

VFW Golf Outing

Eighteen teams competed in the scrambles outing held on September 23 at Hickory Creek with the winning team coming in at 10 under par. A delicious dinner was served afterward at the post and door prizes were handed out to all golfers. Thanks to all the chapter members who participated and helped raise almost \$2,000 for the parking lot fund. Plans are already in the works for next year's event.

Life Memberships

Just a continuing reminder of the new AVVA membership fees. They are: age 60 and over - \$100, and 59 and under - \$175. Anyone over 60 who purchases a life membership must provide proof of age (copy of driver's license or birth certificate). The life membership fee for VVA members is \$100 regardless of age.



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





Chaplain's Corner

The Good Earth

From Our Daily Bread

Author: Philip Yancey

While orbiting the moon in 1968, Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders described the crew's close-up view of the moonscape. He called it "a foreboding horizon...a stark and unappetizing looking place." Then the crew took turns reading to a watching world from Genesis 1:1-10. God said, "let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so....and God saw that it was good. After Commander Frank Borman finished verse 10, "And God saw that it was good," he signed off with, "God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth."

The opening chapter of the Bible insists on two facts:

1. Creation is God's work. The phrase "and God said..." beats in cadence all the way through the chapter. The entire magnificent world we live in is the product of His creative work. All that follows in the Bible reinforces the message of Genesis 1: Behind all of history, there is God.

2. Creation is good. Another sentence tolls softly, like a bell, throughout this chapter. "And God saw that it was good." Much has changed since the first moment of creation. Genesis 1 describes the world as God wanted it, before any spoiling. Whatever beauty we sense in nature today is a faint echo of the pristine state God created.

The Apollo 8 astronauts saw Earth as a brightly colored ball hanging alone in space. It looked at once awesomely beautiful and fragile. It looked like the view from Genesis 1.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". Genesis 1:1

Chaplain's Notes: Al Kerbyson is back at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital in the CLC area, with issues with bleeding tumors on his leg. A lot of you visit him when you have your appointments at that VA Hospital, and it is much appreciated. Gary Pritchard is recuperating from his four by-pass operation last

week. Roger Schlee is recuperating from spinal surgery. Rick Popa is scheduled in October to go into surgery for his carotid artery operation. Cheri Schlott, wife of Mike Schlott, is stricken with cancer. Pastor Bill Kren is also fighting lung cancer. Gary (Bear) Kubick is recuperating from his foot operation.

Please be praying for those above who are a part of our Chapter 528 family



Rich Whipple
Chapter Chaplain
(A sinner saved by God's
Grace)
HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



Kokomo 2017 - Photos by Norma Demerly





Gary Estermyer
Michigan State
Council Delegate &
Secretary

We were back in Howell for our August 20, 2017 meeting. Quite a few of the 15 chapter delegates present had just returned from the National VVA convention in NOLA the week before. President John Riling welcomed everyone and noted that VP Ken Rogge was excused. John spoke about his NOLA experiences and complimented the delegates for their hard work. There should be much discussion at the 2019 Spokane, WA convention relating to the VVA work groups that were formed to research VVA's future. John was also surprised and pleased to receive the VVA Achievement Medal.

2nd Vice President Tom Meinhardt gave his NOLA report and mentioned he was in no hurry to return. Tom also was surprised to receive the Commendation Award, VVA's highest honor.

Secretary Gary Estermyer reported he had received all but one chapter election report and he was working with that chapter to get a copy. Gary will now update the chapter contact list to make it easy to get the minutes and state council updates out to the field. Gary also reported he was disappointed with the overall lack of preparation early in the convention proceedings.

Treasurer Floyd Carmichael returned from NOLA and immediately became involved with Ft. Custer Cemetery business and his Chapter 313 booth at the county fair. Floyd will have a double report available at the next meeting. Floyd also reported that the 501c3 paperwork had been returned for possible name and/or language revision.

Tim Driscoll announced that Chapter 310 had received the eChapter Newsletter of the Year award at NOLA.

Numerous POW-MIA ceremonies will be held throughout the state, most of them on Sep. 15.

Sandie Wilson, reelected as National At-Large Director, said she plans to keep the pressure on regarding the Agent Orange exposure issue. She stressed the importance of chapter members doing all they can to advocate for veteran related legislation. Tom Burke, reelected as Region 5 Director and reappointed as chair of the Veterans Benefits committee plans to attend our next state council meeting on Oct. 1st and 528's 50th Vietnam Commemoration event on Sep. 30th.

John reported that as of July, VVA now has 81,510 members. Michigan now has 4,660 members. Michigan chapter 154 is in 4th place and Dearborn Chapter 267 is in 22nd place.

Tom Meinhardt continues to work on the details of the Michigan State Council hosting the Veteran's Day ceremony at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

John reported that his product sales team did well at NOLA. He will be setting up at the Dearborn "Hog Heaven" event, Kokomo Reunion and 528's Vietnam Commemoration event in September.

National VVA is launching a JROTC program and is hoping for chapter and state council support.

Chief Service Office Director Phil Smith reviewed his 9 page written report. The VA continues to study the medical issues relating to exposure to Agent Orange which includes; bladder, pancreatic, brain, kidney, liver, lung and breast cancers. Recoveries for the month of June were \$2,343,965 and \$2,326,063 for July. Phil's staff now includes two new service officers (in training) and one new secretary/receptionist.

Sandie reported that patient over-medication problems occur regularly at some VA hospitals. Also of concern are the side effects and interaction of various drugs. Veterans and their families should remain vigilant regarding these issues.

Marilyn Lash, AVVA President, spoke about the AVVA table display she had made up. They also plan to promote AVVA by using an informational brochure. They have discussed fundraising ideas and their recipient's to include; the airport welcome center, hospitals and Fisher House.

Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528 will host the next MSC meeting on Sunday, Oct. 1st at the VFW hall. The last MSC meeting of the year will be held on December 3rd at the Howell American Legion hall.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM.



Gary Estermyer
USARV
58th Field Depot
Qui Nhon
May 68 - May 69



POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

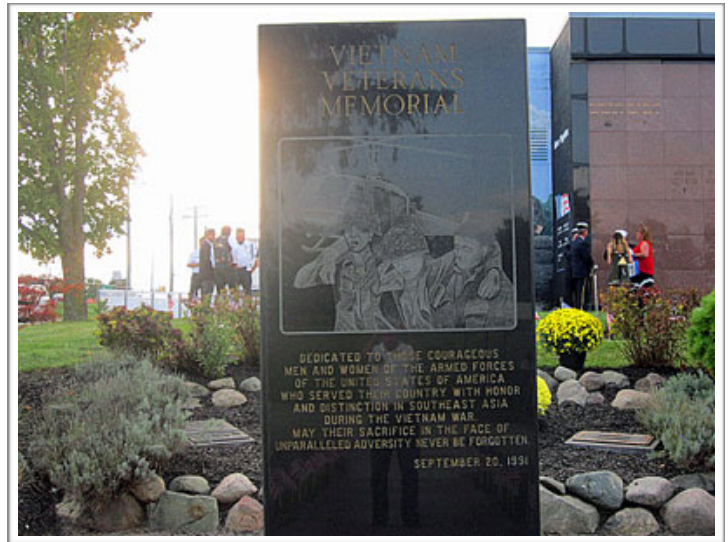
The 38th Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony began with the "Presentation of Colors" which was conducted by VFW "Heart of the Lakes" Post #1008. The "Pledge" was lead by Marty Eddy and the National Anthem was sung by Dick Johnson. Chaplain Raymond Rodriguez from American Legion Post 147 gave the Invocation.

Debbie Pineau-McClain welcomed the visitors and introduced the special guests. Brett Holt, Michigan State Commander – American Legion and Sue Scott – National League of Families member, opened with remarks.

The "Keynote Speaker" was John Branstetter an Army Vietnam Veteran . After his speech the "Changing of the Guard and the Roll Call of Michigan Prisoners of War and MIA'S took place. A "Rifle Salute" was conducted by Mark Wood, Commander and his Honor Guard from Post #1008. Taps was played by Alan Opra, Corporal USMC 81-86, Beirut 1983 and the Benediction was read by the aforementioned Chaplain.

Gary Estermyer and myself represented Chapter 528. It was a very moving ceremony and well worth attending. My prayers and gratitude go out to those that have been found and those that are still missing.

"You are not forgotten so long as there is one left in

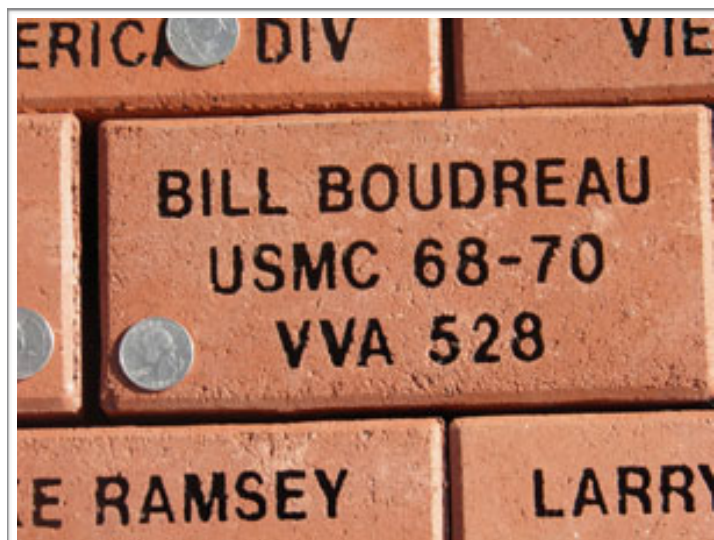


Dennis Waling
AVVA Delegate



In Memoriam of Chapter 528 Members who took part in the Kokomo Reunion







OCTOBER 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 BOWLING LEAGUE STARTS 1:30	2 GOLF	3 VFW AUX MEETING 6:30	4 SLIDERS 5:00-7:00 EUCHRE 7:00	5	6 KARAOKE 8:00	7
8 SPORTSMAN RAFFLE EVENT NOON	9 GOLF VVA MEETING 7:00	10 VFW MEETING 7:00	11 SLIDERS 5:00-7:00 EUCHRE 7:00	12	13	14
15 MAIN ST CAR WASH 9-5 BOWLING 1:30	16 GOLF	17 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	18 SLIDERS 5:00-7:00 EUCHRE 7:00	19	20 KARAOKE 8:00	21
22 FIRE KEEPERS CASINO 9:00	23 GOLF	24 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	25 SLIDERS 5:00-7:00 EUCHRE 7:00	26	27	28 TRUNK & TREAT NOON TO 2:00
29 BOWLING 1:30	30 GOLF	31 HALLOWEEN				

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

Douglas Appleyard, Richard Balish, Darrell Bazman, Richard Blandina, John Bresnahan, Anthony Brinza, Michael Cloar, Patrick Colbeck, Danny Cook, William Cottrell, Doyle "Skip" Davison, Betty Durham, Paul Enderle, James "Jack" Fortney, Robert Genna, Donald Green, Michael Hoben, Robert Humphrey, Drew Koet, John Krawcke, Earl Madison, Brian Metzger, Ron Michalak, Tom Moscardelli, Dennis Northrop, Jim Pappas, Margot Parr, Douglas Patterson, Jerry Pazdan, Vincent Petransky, Roy Pistor, Stephan Retherford, Loren Roberts, Fred Sattler, Cheri Schlott, Debra Schnettler, Glen Sedam, Gerald Stesiak, Patrick Sullivan, Arthur Surdu, William Taylor and Raymond Thomas.



Chapter Officers

President	Dennis Bielskis	248-767-1654
1st Vice President	Rick Adis	734-737-9077
2nd Vice President	Gary Pritchard	734-522-2033
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
Assistant 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).**

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 139 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 drop it off at 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



4 year old Landon Lotarski holding his prized fish. Landon caught the largest fish during the Wayne County Fishing Derby.

ASI
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

ARA
American
Recognition Association

**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

CHARITY MOTORS
Helping Those Who Help Others

- 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

WWW.MYLIFEFORCE.NET/RT

RON & THERESA

1 248 677 2280

PRODUCTS THAT MAKE
PEOPLE HEALTHIER

www.mylifeforce.net/rt

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

BVD Catering
Be a guest at your own party
From a simple backyard party, to an elegant affair

734-776-1827
734-729-9338
dlittlebit3@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

ASI
MEMBER

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
- * Small Business Specialists
- * Business Coaching
- * 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

Your Way
PROPERTY SERVICES

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



Chapter 528 Homefront



October 2017



12

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 _____

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

(Copy of your DD-214 Form or other proof of Service Enclosed)

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

I want to give more. Enclosed is my check for \$20.00 _____ \$50.00 _____

Other _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Membership Card

No. _____

Today's Date _____

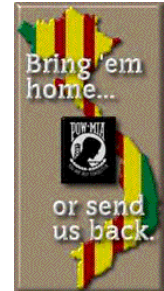
Return this form to:

Vietnam Veterans of America

Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528

P.O. Box 6319

Plymouth, MI 48170-0473



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Plymouth MI 48170-0473

P.O. Box 6319

Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528

Vietnam Veterans of America

Homefront