



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



John Bresnahan honoring Bob Dew with his homemade plaque for all of Bob's service for our chapter.

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
The Bear's Den	5
Wayne County Fishing Derby	5
For Golf, Four Golf, Fore Golf	6
Calendar	7
Committees	8
Ads	9
Membership Form	10

Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor & Columnist
 Don Dignan - Assistant Editor & Columnist
 John Spencer - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Don Petrere - Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

The Chapter annual meeting is Monday April 11th starting at 7:00 pm. Election of officers for 2016-2017 will take place at this meeting. We are honored to have Congressman David Trott address the membership at this meeting. His staff will remain to hand out the Vietnam 50th Anniversary pins to those Vietnam Veterans who not received one, and pizza will be served! So please join us for camaraderie.



John Spencer, President

U S Army 1965-67
 123rd Transportation
 Company (Longshoremen)
 Cam Ranh Bay, RVN
 1966 (01/05/66-01/05/67)





Digger's Desk

EUCHRE & SLIDERS

A social event taking place in the VFW lounge is Euchre. Every Wednesday at 7:00PM, the dealing starts. The cost is \$10 per person. Sliders are served in the lounge every Wednesday from 5:00PM-7:00PM. These two events will continue until the Car Show returns in May.

FISH FRIES

I don't know if Lent will be over by the time you receive this but I want to congratulate the entire crew for a job very well done. It takes quite a few volunteers to pull this off on a weekly basis and our group was up to the task whether it was setup, prepping food, taking/writing orders, bussing tables, bartending, dishwashing, cooking, plating orders, delivering dinners or cleanup. Thanks to all who pitched in for success.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

What can I say? March 17 was our Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef dinner with Bob Monteith and the Donahue brothers treating everyone to the best corned beef you have ever tasted. Doors opened at Noon and dinners were sold out by 4:00PM.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Nominations for Chapter officers and BOD members will continue at the Annual Membership Meeting in April and elections will take place that evening. If you want to serve your Chapter in a close up way, consider running for one of these positions. The Annual meeting/election night will include pizza and pop.

MONDAY GOLF

Our all member (VFW/Auxiliary/VVA/AVVA) Monday golf scramble begins in April (TBD by weather). If you are interested, let me know and I'll keep you on the weekly notification list.

CARWASH FOR VFW

Plymouth Super Center on north side of Ann Arbor Road, just west of Lilley will donate \$3 to the VFW for every platinum carwash purchase. It takes a lot of power to heat/cool our building during all of the events. Get your car washed and support the Post.

UPCOMING

Coming up very shortly we have Poppy Sales, Car Shows, Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony and Fishing Derby.

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



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



St. Patrick's Day at the V.F.W. Post





Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

President	John Spencer
1 st Vice President	Mike Steffes
2 nd Vice President	Ron King Jeff Yoshikawa
Secretary	Dennis Bielskis
Treasurer	Bob Dew Rich Whipple
Board Members (2 year term)	(4) Don Dignan Jim Hodgson Gary Pritchard Gene Spurgess Terry Wells
State Council Delegate (1)	Gary Estermyer
Alt. S.C.D. (unlimited)	Dennis Bielskis
Election Committee (3)	Dean Bell John Fleming Dale Luebke

Nominations for office will again be taken just before the April 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

Our associates will also be electing a chapter liaison at the April meeting. Currently nominated is Brian Bentley.

Pizza and Pop

As a little enticement 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

We welcome back Al Cain who has rejoined the chapter after a lengthy absence. We had 4 VVA and 2 AVVA applications for membership this past month. George Lalinsky and Michael Hoben, Army, Roger Shanks, Navy, and George Mason, Marines have joined the chapter. Mohamed Ben Skander, and Austin Bentley, Brian's son, have joined our associates. Welcome Al, George, Mike, Roger, George, Mohamed and Austin to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 273 individual and 79 associate members. Of these we have 209 life VVA and 37 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of March 22, 2016 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Dave Stenrose

AVVA: John Buford, Jeff Rousseau

Dropped From Roster: Ellen Howington, Barbara Arnett, Tom Arnett, Tom Guditis

April VVA Renewals: Bob Anderson, Roger Buelow, Bob Carris, Bob Cohen, Tom Markowski, Scott Olson, Roger Ratkowski, William Ray, Pete Reckinger

April AVVA Renewals: Bill Blue, Lee Camilleri, Chris Roberts

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 are finally over and were a great success this year. We averaged just over 300 dinners a week up from 285 last year. This is a huge undertaking and I would again like to thank all the chapter members who came out to support the post in their biggest fundraiser of the year.



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





Chaplain's Corner

An Easter Start

From Our Daily Bread, by Philip Yancey
"Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27)

One detail in the Easter story has always intrigued me. Why did Jesus keep the scars from His crucifixion? Presumably He could have had any resurrected body He wanted, and yet He chose one identifiable mainly by scars that could be seen and touched. Why?

I believe the story of Easter would be incomplete without those scars on the hands, the feet, and the side of Jesus (John 20:27). Human beings dream of pearly straight teeth and wrinkle-free skin and ideal body shapes. We dream of an unnatural state: the perfect body. But for Jesus, being confined in a skeleton and human skin *was* the unnatural state. The scars are a permanent reminder of His days of confinement and suffering on our planet.

From the perspective of heaven, those scars represent the most horrible event that has ever happened in the history of the universe. Even that event, though, turned into a memory. Because of Easter, we can hope that the tears we shed, the struggles we endure, the emotional pain, the heartache over lost friends and loved ones—all these will become memories, like Jesus' scars. Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. Someday we will have re-created bodies and a re-created heaven and earth (Rev. 21:4). We will have a new start, an Easter start!

Thank You, Lord, for the hope that the resurrection of Jesus brings for now and for eternity. I put my trust in You today. Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of our own.

Chaplain's notes: We've all heard of someone being a "doubting Thomas". Thomas was with the disciples when Jesus suddenly appeared inside a home where the disciples were hiding from the Romans, fearing

they may be captured. Jesus kept his scars to prove to the world that it was indeed Him that was resurrected for mankind. Now Jesus Christ is seated at the right of God, and is our "high priest" who we can take our prayers, requests, and repentance to. **"He is risen indeed!"**

Prayers requested for Loren Roberts and his son in the passing of his dear wife Barbara; Clyde and Ann Rains with some current health struggles; Patti Brothers (eye issues); and Dennis Waling (stage 3 prostate and liver cancer). As always, I apologize if I have missed anyone.



Rich Whipple
 Chapter Chaplain
 (A sinner saved by God's Grace)
 Cell: 734-751-2992
 rekjwhipple@yahoo.com
HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



The first Joy Road Pick-Up Adopt-A-Road for 2016 is scheduled for April 23 at 8:30. For further information call or contact Rich Whipple



The Bear's Den



If you were not there on St. Pat's Day, you missed out on a great meal. Everything was cooked and served by 4 PM. We will have more next year since it will be on a Friday. Horseshoes are being played on Tuesday afternoons again. Everybody is welcome to come and have some fun. When you bring deposit bottles and cans, please put them in the bin by the barn. The second and fourth Fridays of April will feature a band called the "Flat Rockers". Stop by and check them out with no cover charge. Let me know what you think. We have suggestion box in case I am not here at the time. Hope to see everyone at the "Car Shows" starting on Wednesday May 11th. Thanks for your patronage. (734) 459-6700



Gary "Bear" Kubik
TM2 (SS)
USS Gudgeon SS567
USS Diodon SS 349
Sub Sq. 5

2015 Wayne County
Fishing Derby Winners
Bring your grandkids,
friends' kids - they'll love it
and so will you!!

Wayne County Parks
proudly presents

**21st Annual
Fishing Derby**
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Waterford Bend Park
8:00 – 11:00 am

- The Middle Rouge River will be stocked with 10"- 12" rainbow trout. Prizes will be given away in a variety of categories. Three fish will be tagged for prizes.
- All anglers need to bring their own equipment and bait.
- There is a three fish limit.
- Pre-registration is NOT required.
- No fishing license is required for this event.
- A casting contest will be taking place throughout the event in the field across from the playscape.

Schedule of Events
7:30 – 8:00 am Registration on site
8:00 – 10:00 am Children 12 years old and younger can fish and participate in the casting contest
10:00 am Fishing for all ages
10:30 am Presentation of prizes to children

Sponsored in cooperation with Northville Parks and Recreation, Cabela's, Eppinger Manufacturing and Vietnam Veterans of America Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528

Waterford Bend Park is located on the corner of Six Mile and Northville Roads in Northville.

Wayne County
Warren C. Evans
Wayne County Executive

VVA Chapter 528
Plymouth/Canton, MI
1400 N. Plymouth, MI 48173

eat safe fish

Contact Tom Brown for further information





For Golf Four Golf Fore Golf

The month of April is coming sooner than most of us know. As you read this, April could already be here and it brings on the start of the VVA Chapter 528 Michigan Open Golf Tour Of 2016. Starting on a Monday very soon that will produce an open golf course and weather that will stimulate great scores. This will continue through the summer at a different course on every Monday unless inclement weather or holidays.

Requirements as follows: Send or see Don Dignan and get him your E-Mail address to let him know you're interested in playing on Mondays. He will then send out to all players the course and time for tee off on Wed/Thur the week before. Reply to Don that you'll be there or not and play any or all Mondays you want. Don't forget your clubs. The format is a best ball contest/scramble played in a four member team that is selected every time we play. Getting to play with different people each week. Think about this, you need to have only one good shot and one good putt a hole by any team member. No pressure. How simple is that. Benefits include: having on some crazy clothes or hats but not limited to a fun day, friendship among people who spend a lot of time together, laughs, good shots, good putts and even laughs at stray shots.

When the summer months are upon us we use air conditioned carts equipped with whatever you bring or get from the club house (home) to drink or snack on. You have the option of a walk in the woods as you drive along to look for a stray ball or two if you have time. Did I mention male or female players from post most welcome.

When the round is done any and all retire to the club house to tell tall tales of that great drive, iron shot, the 40 foot putt that was drained. Not to mention a cold "pop" and a burger to cap off the winning score and divide the prize money. If you win something no need for security to escort you back to your car. Look, anyway you slice it (pie or pizza)

it's a fun Monday so if you like to golf give one Monday a try. You just may be back. See everyone out their. FORE....



Sgt. Don Petrere
1st Armored Division
1/81st 1966-1968

St. Patricks Day at the Post



Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis





VVA & VFW CALENDAR APRIL 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 KARAOKE 8:00	2
3	4	5 VFW AUX MEETING 7:00	6 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	7	8 LIVE BAND 8:00	9 KENTUCKY DERBY NIGHT DOORS OPEN 4:00
10	11 VVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	12 VFW MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	13 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	14	15 KARAOKE 8:00	16 IAVA TRIVIA NIGHT 7:00 \$40 or \$50 at the door.
17	18	19 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	20 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	21	22 LIVE BAND 8:00	23 Joy Road Cleanup 8:30 am
24	25	26 VVA BOD MEETING 7:00	27 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	28	29	30



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
AVVA & Ladies
Auxiliary

April Birthdays

Ralph Auge, Michael Barnowski, Earl Burgis, Robert Couturier, Norris Cutler, Edward Dziadzio, Gerald Grzesik, William Hayes, Glen Jewell, Larry Jones, Allen Kerbyson, Robert Leshan, Michael Letourneau, John Lindsay, Barbara Little, Rich Mazurkiewicz, Gary Meier, Gary Pritchard, Jay Roberts, Gordon Segal, Dale Sirkle and John Zielinski.



Chapter Officers

President	John Spencer
1st Vice President	Richard Waldecker
2nd Vice President	Mike Steffes
Secretary	Dennis Bielskis
Treasurer	Bob Dew

Board of Directors

Bill Browning	Gene Spurgess
Mike Dicker	Pete Glasgow
Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Rich Mazurkiwicz	Rich Whipple

Committees

A.O./Health Care	Bob Dew
Agent Orange Events	Bob Dew
AVVA Representative	Bryan Bentley
By-Laws	Jim Hodgson
Chaplain	Rich Whipple
Chapter Historian	Rich Waldecker
Color/Honor Guard	Bob Lamoureux
	Rick Ciaramitaro
Fundraising	Bob Dew
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux

Homefront Newsletter

Editor & Publisher	Tom Brown
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Assistant Chief	Ron King
Assistant Chief	Dale Luebke

Product Sales Bill Browning

POW/MIA Al Kerbyson

Public Affairs	Don Dignan
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming
Service Representative	Aggie Little
Sportsmen's Raffle	John Spencer
State Delegate	Gary Estermyer
State A. Delegate	Dennis Bielskis
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling
VAVS Deputy	Ron King
Vietnam War 50th Com.	Ron King
Website	Tom Brown

VVA Service Officer - State of Michigan

Phillip Smith - Director 313-961-9568 313-226-4181

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 125 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, bring it to our general membership meetings or drop it off in "Bear's" Office. Longtime member and creator of our Service Photos Boards **Bill Boudreau** passed away on September 23, 2015. **Don Petrere** has graciously volunteered to take over our service photos in our display case.



Wayne County Fishing Derby "WOW"

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Chapter 528 Homefront



April 2016



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 _____

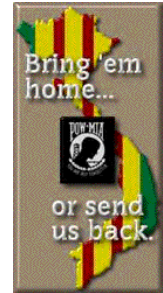
Other _____

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

Vietnam Veterans of America
 Homefront
 Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528
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