



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



A special thank you to our 2012 Executive Board Members as well as all of our elected officials. Chapter 528 is having our annual election during the April General Membership Meeting on Monday, April 8th.

President's Corner

Well this is my last article as President and I'm filled with mixed emotions. It has been a great two years and I'm very proud of our accomplishments. It has truly been a team effort and we have accomplished a great deal.

Let me start by thanking all those who served on the BOD these past two terms. We worked together to lead the chapter to new heights. I also need to thank all who have served in appointed positions. Add these two groups together and you get the true leadership of the chapter.

Working together the chapter has grown by 20% a year for both years. Attendance at meetings is up and our finances are in great shape. No easy task in today's world. The great thing about our growth is that we not only grew in numbers, we grew in the area of those willing to serve. I truly cannot say thank you enough to the membership as a whole. You have been there at every turn. Every project has had plenty of manpower.

Let me say a personal thank you to all the AVVA members. You all have contributed greatly to the chapters success. Thank you for being a great support team.

As the new leadership team takes form, I encourage each and everyone of you to give them the same support.

In closing I just want to say, take pride in who you are, be proud to be a member of this great organization. I will always be proud to say I served with you, I only hope you can say the same.

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Semper Fi!
Jay Roberts, President
1st Batttalion
3rd Marine Division



Welcome Home!

**"Never Again Will One Generation
 of Veterans Abandon Another"**



Digger's Desk

LOUNGE SIGN-IN RAFFLE

Be sure to sign in before the meeting and any day you happen to visit the Post. Members of all groups (VVA, AVVA, VFW, Men's and Ladies Auxiliary) are eligible. The most recent jackpot winner was Dale Luebke who pocketed over \$300. It's a win/win situation.

TROOP SUPPORT

If you have a son/daughter, grandson/grand daughter, niece/nephew who is deployed overseas and might like some stateside support, get us a name and address and we'll be sure to get a package sent to them. Remember what it was like getting a package from home way back when? Keep all our troops in your daily prayers.

LENTEN FISH FRY'S

The annual Lenten Friday evening fish fry's will continue weekly from 5-7PM through the week following Good Friday which is Friday April 5. The food is great and company even better. We came close to a record number of dinners last time out.

QUEEN OF DIAMONDS RAFFLE

If you are not familiar with this raffle, get an explanation when dropping in for a visit. One dollar could net you a bundle. Member Dave Henwood just won \$3,000.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The annual St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner was outstanding. Thanks to Billy and Denny Donohue and Bob Monteith for putting in all the kitchen time. They can't possibly exceed their efforts next year. How do you top perfection? Last year we went to a nearby Post for their dinner which was held on a different day. It couldn't hold a candle to ours. We didn't even attempt that this year.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The April meeting will continue the Chapter election process. Ever think about stepping forward and giving that little extra for your brother and sister Veterans whether as an officer or BOD member?

I hope to see you at the April meeting. It's a great time to be a Veteran.



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



Donating And Packing For 2/10

Thanks to all who helped pack boxes for 2/10 Mountain Division. They are: Don McLane, Jim Hodgson, Ron King, Al Sneath, Vic Lukasiak, Dennis Waling, Ken Winkler (VFW), Gary Pritchard, Bob and Shirley Caldwell, Jay and Chris Roberts, Jim Kimball, Bob and Patty Brothers, Shirley Foster, Janet Nippa, teacher Mike Balow and his daughter's kindergarten class, Lana Frank and Don Dignan.

Also a special thanks to all who donated items to send or who donated money for shipping. Your help is deeply appreciated.



Nancy Dignan AVVA



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

President	Ron King
1st Vice President	Bob Paul
2nd Vice President	Leroy Paige
Secretary	Rick Waldecker
Treasurer	Bob Dew
Board Members (4) (2 year term)	Mike Dicker Don Dignan Ben Tallman Joe Tebor Jerry Thomason
Natl. Convention Delegates (5)	Dennis Bielskis Bob Dew Ted Enright Gary Estermyer Ron King Jay Roberts
Nominating Committee (4)	Dean Bell Gary Boucher Bob Lamoureux John Spencer Bobby Somerville Rich Whipple

Nominations will again be taken at the April meeting before the elections. If you want to run for office please make your intentions known. You can nominate yourself if you wish. **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 Dennis Waling is the only candidate.

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

I received 3 individual and 2 associate applications this past month. Ken Winkler, USMC, and Jack Massarello, Army, joined after our last meeting and Leon Suchorski is transferring from Chapter 9. Paul and Christina Collins are joining our associates. Welcome Ken, Jack, Leon, Paul and Christina to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 243 individual and 63 associate members.

Our official membership count as of February 28th was 239 so we are entitled to 5 delegates to the National Convention.

Lapsed Members: As of March 22, 2013 the following individuals have not renewed their membership: Ed Bowman, Harry Boyde, Mario Kamm, Jim Kimball, Leo Ksiazek, Richard Newberry, Paul Postula, Pat Sullivan, Rodney Tanner

April VVA Renewals: John Bresnahan, Ted Enright, William Ray

April AVVA Renewals: Patty Brothers, Betty Burkacki, 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.

Color Guard

On Sunday, March 17th the color guard posted the colors at the annual Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Awards luncheon in Novi. We spent a very entertaining afternoon with the scouts and their parents. After the April meeting the color guard will also elect their officers for the upcoming year. Nothing yet planned for April.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations to Ron Bator. Ron is the latest winner of the chapter raffle and will receive a life membership. We will have another raffle for a life membership at the next meeting.



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





Chaplain's Corner

Permission to Board the Ship!

Last month my wife Karen and I were very fortunate to experience our first ever ocean cruise. No, it wasn't on the Carnival Cruise Ship, as everyone asks. We were on the Princess Caribbean Ship and our destination was the South Caribbean (where the pirates used to roam, "Arghh"!).

On board there were tons of things to do. Whatever your mood was there were plenty of options for you, and with 3,200+ passengers there was a lot to do, and all fun things!

The food was excellent, we were waited on as if we were royalty, and you could certainly end up feeling very "spoiled" as compared to how we are treated back home with our everyday life. Looking back, it was like a beautiful dream, almost heavenly!

Our ship docked at a small island just 60 miles east of South America's Venezuela coastline, called Curacao. The next day we docked at the beautiful island of Aruba. Both of these islands are constituents of the Netherlands. On Aruba, there was every type of restaurant and hotel that you would view in the U.S., however the island of Curacao was a bit more underdeveloped.

Upon boarding the ship to leave Curacao, every passenger needed to carry their "ship card". When the card was electronically scanned, your picture and name were shown to the security personnel in order for you to gain permission to board the ship. Without that card, you could possibly have been left behind. Those that would have to stay at the island could very well be taken advantage of, as well as to not know what would be in store for you. This is the opposite of the joys that awaited us back on the ship....camaraderie, food, drink, our extra clothing, a safe place to lay our heads for the night, and to get us back home to see our families once again.

This experience brought a comparison to me of the final judgement of all humans when we breathe our last breath of air on this Earth. In my first monthly

"Chaplain's Corner", I wrote that a very important decision that I made several years ago was that as old as the writings in the Bible are, I am totally convinced that the Bible is true in its entirety. Instead of me picking and choosing what I like, I take all of the Bible as indeed being our Creator's words to his creation.

We all will be in front of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and will be judged by Him on whether we can board the ship of Heaven, where joy and happiness awaits us. Our "ship card" is our ticket to get to Heaven, and we can only have this "card" if we have acknowledged that Jesus is God's Son, and that He died on this earth to save us from the sin of the world. All the great works you have done for other people, will not get you into Heaven.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."* It is the GRACE of God, not how good of a person we are, that will allow you to enter. Grace can be defined as "God's riches, at Christ's expense"!

One last verse I need to share with you is John 3:16-18 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

As we approach Good Friday, where Christ endured horrific pain for our sake, obeying God's plan to defeat death and the sin of the world, please allow this to "tug" at your hearts. In this modern world we are in now, God's plan is still very relevant. He wants to know you and have a relationship with you. Please give Him your attention!!

Personal note: I am the Outpost Leader for the Western Wayne County Point Man (International) Outpost. On the Point Man website (www.pmim.org), this explains what we are about:

Outposts are led by Christian Vets who care deeply about veterans and their struggles. They fully understand the difficulties associated with returning home after a long and difficult deployment as well as the non-combat experiences. Outposts are places for veterans to talk, share and listen to others who have walked in their shoes. All Vets are welcome

Continued on page 5

regardless of what country they served with and gender is irrelevant as both men and women have served and sacrificed for their respective countries.

I do want all of you to know, that if you ever need someone to talk to and there doesn't seem to be a neighbor, family member, etc. that you feel that would understand, please call me up and I will be available most any time to meet you for a beer, coffee, or whatever. I hope I have gained your confidence in keeping whatever is discussed, between you and me.

Prayers for Mary Margaret Reckinger as she recovers from an operation, and for Mike Steffes and Jerry Grzesik recovering from surgery as well.



Rich Whipple
Chapter Chaplain
HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



Joy Road Pickup for 2013

Chapter 528 will once again be involved in "Adopt-A-Road" Joy Road Pick-up. The three scheduled events will take place on April 20th, July 20th and September 28th. For additional information contact Rich Whipple - rekjwhipple@yahoo.com



The Bear's Den

The biggest and most important meeting of the VVA year is near. We have had two great years under the direction of Jay Roberts. I would like to personally thank him for the great job that he has done. A tight ship is always ready for anything! I know the incoming officers will do a great job with the help of all of the membership.

April means clean-up day with free food for the workers. The more workers that show up, the easier it will be to make the place look good. It is a great place to be proud to be a member.

I don't know if there will be a special on meeting night since it is PIZZA NIGHT and there will be plenty to go around as usual. I should only have the salad. We have added Sam Adams Boston Lager to the beer list for only \$2.50 a bottle. Try one, you might like it along with all the good things in the lounge.

Call or stop by. You all know where to find me.

Thanks, Bear.



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





DR. BOB'S

FILES:

**Bob Paul, USMC
1st MAW, MAG-12, VMA-225
Chu Lai 1965**

**We were so lucky to have this
Assemblage of unbelievable
people at one time. You know, just like our politicians of today.**



**Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men,
Who signed the Declaration of Independence?**

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.



Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your freedoms and silently thank these patriots.

Remember: Freedom Is Never Free!

10th Mountain Division

On Thursday, March 14, 2013 members of our VVA, VFW and Ladies Auxiliary gathered to pack boxes for the 10th mountain division who is the newest military unit we are supporting. For the next 12 months, this unit will be located at a remote outpost in an extremely dangerous area on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border and as the spring/summer seasons begin, it is expected the Taliban will become more and more active. The team leader says, "Things are getting busy here as THEY are coming out to play". Sometimes he refers to them as the "neighbors".

Our point of contact is Joe Morabito who enlisted after 9/11 when so many of his life-long friends, firefighters and police officers were killed. Joe is very grateful for anything we send and he never hesitates to say so. His name was given to us from a group called, "Soldiers Angels". Joe is well-known to them because this is his fifth tour overseas. If he has time, he loves to cook for team and his speciality is Italian but he likes to surprise the guys with Mexican dishes when he can come up with the proper ingredients.

Lana Frank



Wayne County Fishing Derby 2013

Chapter 528 will once again help sponsor the Wayne County Fishing Derby that is held at Waterford Bend in Hines Park in Northville, MI. Members wanting to volunteer a couple of hours of their time on Saturday, May 18th need to contact Tom Brown 313-336-0192 or tombrown1949@gmail.com.



DALAT L.D. #4, Sir

Welcome Home Chapter 528!

Well, this is March and it is getting closer to Spring and I can hardly wait until the temps get in the high 60's and above so I can get the 2 wheeler running again. That is a motorized 2 wheeler by the way.

I want to let you all know you have a lot to be proud of when it comes to being a part of Chapter 528. The solidarity, fellowship, concern for one another in sickness, and seeing that Veterans are respected for who they are, goes a long way in putting all the members of Chapter 528 in a very special category. "CODE BLUE". Highest Priority, Special Attention for all Chapter Members. Keep doing what you're doing. Just a reminder: If you are at all interested in running for a position on the Chapter BOD or Executive Board, throw your hat in the ring at the April Membership Meeting on April 8th, Monday. Meeting starts right at 7:00 P.M.

Have a great day every day.



Leroy Paige
RVN 69-70
1st Signal Brigade





Ted's Views from the Back of the Room

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says disabled veterans will NOW be able receive free hunting and fishing licenses beginning March 1, 2013.

House Bill 5292, Signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder, will allow a disabled Veteran to obtain any resident hunting and fishing license for which a lottery is not required, free of charge. The veteran will be required to provide proof of eligibility, and carry this proof using the mentioned above license's.

The Michigan State Law defines a "disabled veteran" "as a resident of Michigan who has been determined by the US Department of Veteran Affairs, to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate for a disability, or is rated by the US Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable.

Denise Gruben, the Michigan manager of licensing and reservation "Providing free licenses for disabled veterans is just a small token of our deep gratitude for their sacrifice for all of us. We want veterans to be full participants in outdoor sports. We're pleased to make these licenses available to qualifying veterans."

So what this means, is that being 100% disabled, has somewhat of a perk here in Michigan, at least through the Michigan Dep. of Natural Resources. I traveled out west this past summer to Wyoming and Montana, and the US Dep. of National Parks and Recreational Land Pass, was given to me as a earned benefit, I was given a lifetime pass to all National Parks. They have done this for years. Being 100% disabled will NOT get me into a Michigan state park though.

So next month, I'll explain ratings and YOUR eligibility, you earned it, so use it. I was always

skeptical, or feeling like I didn't deserve to use veterans benefits, But guys, you earned it by serving. If you feel like you have a malady that was service connected (in any way). Let's get you the benefits you earned. I am not a qualified Service Officer, but I can guide you in the right direction and show you how it can be done.

Ted Enright



Apache Troop "Scouts "
7th/1st Air Cav Sqdn
1st Aviation Brigade
Vinh Long 1971 / 72



KOKOMO..Veterans Reunion 9-19-13 through 9-22-13

Well, things seem to be running smoother this year, on getting our lots approved, and we had five lots change hands this year. We still have the same location as before with exception that we now have lots 339E & 340E. these 2 lots are now in our name, we gave up lots 720E & 721E in exchange.. so, we now have our area squared off, giving us Lots 239E-244E & 339E-344E.

The Reunion is the 3rd weekend in September, the 19th-21st. If there are any Newer members planning to go with us, either to camp or get motel room, Please let me know.. also if anyone is planning to reserve a room for this event, it best to do so real soon. the Motels do fill up rather quickly.

Thank you,
Kokomo Reunion Coordinator



Dale M. Luebke
355th Tac Fighter Wing
357th Tac Fighter Squadron



LADIES AUXILIARY #6695

PRESENTS...

A Night of Laughs - Comedy for a Cause

* Wednesday, April 24, 2013

* Show starts at 8:00 p.m.

* Seating for show begins at 7:30 p.m.

* Tickets are \$15 each (must be 21 years or older)

***** 100% of ticket sales go to our cause!!!!

* A \$5 minimum food or drink order will be required
for each person during the show

* 25% of the total dollar amount spent on appetizers
during the show goes to our cause

* 15% of total food purchases in the Perfect Ten Dining
Room go to our cause (with reservations)

Joey's Comedy Club at the Kicker's Complex
36071 Plymouth Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 261-0555

*** Contact a Ladies Auxiliary Member for Tickets ***
Nancy Dignan njd600@sbcglobal.net 734-525-0157

Tickets available @ VFW

"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another"



P. O. Box 6319
Plymouth, MI 48170-0473

www.vva528.org

Check out our Travel Site at

www.travelvva528.com

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Plymouth—Canton, MI Chapter 528

April 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Annual Mtg. 7 pm Elections	9	10	11	12	13
14 State Council mtg. Howell 10am	15	16	17	18	19	20 Joy Road Pick-up 8:30 a.m.
21	22	23 Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Saigon falls 1975				



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



Calendar by Gary Estermyer

**VVA 528 Membership Meeting Monday, April 8, 2013 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)**

VFW Calendar For April

2nd - Ladies Auxiliary 7 pm
5th - Karaoke Night - 8:00 pm
9th - General Membership Mtg. 7 pm
16th - Board Meeting 7 pm
17th - Men's Auxiliary 7:30 pm
19th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
19th - Steak Night - 5 - 7 pm



April Birthdays

Ralph Auge, Gordon Bardeleben, Mike Barnowski, Earl Burgis, Robert Courturier, Norris Cutler, Ed Dziadzio, Harold Frye, Gerald Grzesik, Bill Hayes, Ronald Hoffman, Glen Jewell, Larry Jones, Michael Karath, Al Kerbyson, Robert Leshan, John Lindsay, Barbara Little, Richard Mazurkiewicz, Gary Prichard, Matthew Puchala, Jay Roberts, Cheri Schlott, Gordon Segal, Dale Sirkle, John Zielinski

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



VFW Post 6695
1426 S. Mill Street
Plymouth, M I

2013 Fish Fry
Every Friday, February 22, till April 5, 2013
5 pm to 7 pm

FISH FRY MENU

Fish Dinners - Fried or Baked Fish

3pc. Fish	\$8.00
4 pc. Fish	\$9.00
2 pc. Child/Senior Citizen	\$6.00
Fish Sandwich Dinner	\$6.00
Shrimp Dinner	\$8.00

Chicken Strip Dinners

4 pc. Chicken	\$8.00
2 pc Child/Senior Citizen	\$6.00

Side Orders

Fries	\$1.50
Mac & Cheese	\$1.50
Baked Potato	\$1.50
Coleslaw	\$.50

All dinners served with choice of Fries, Baked Potato or Mac & Cheese, Slaw, Roll & Butter and Coffee

Editor's Message

I am asking all members who are currently receiving their newsletter by postal mail and who have Internet service to please choose not to have our newsletter mailed to you anymore. Each newsletter costs us nearly \$1.00 per issue to publish and mail. Please help save us money for our chapter. The money saved can be spent on more important matters. One may contact Dale Luebke either by emailing or calling him and let Dale know of your new choice.

Dale Luebke" dale68us@yahoo.com or 734-395-5144

Thanks!

Tom Brown, Editor



April 2013



Chapter 528 Web Site: www.vva528.org

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1st Vice President	Bob Paul
2nd Vice President	Leroy Paige
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Treasurer	Bob Dew

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Don Dignan	Mike Steffes
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Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
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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 21st 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 or email Bill Boudreau at wboudreau@comcast.net. 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 Travel Site: www.travelvva528.com

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bob.carris@lpl.com
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OSJ Branch: 31700 Middlebelt Rd
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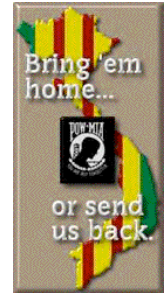
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