



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Welcome Home!



President's Corner

Greetings Fellow
Veterans!

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Greetings,

As we are well into Summer, we have accomplished some pretty amazing things. First of all, our combined VVA, VFW, VFW Men's and Ladies Auxiliaries Fundraiser car show for member Gary Prichard's family was unprecedented, as we raised over \$5,000.00 for the family struck by an unimaginable tragedy. Again, you go above and beyond to help each other. This is why we exist - to be there for each other when we need to be. Thank you all for your generosity.

Second, the July 4th holiday period was special for us. It began with the June 28th musical concert, which honored VFW State Commander, Les Croyle, and Post Commander, Jerry Thomason and members of our Armed services; the July 3rd Concert in Kellogg Park was an absolutely amazing tribute to all of us and "Thanks" from a grateful community.

And lastly, the July 4 Parade was one of the best ever as we were greeted with cheerful applause and standing ovations the entire parade route. Our special holiday activities ended with a delicious Chicken Dinner sponsored by VFW Post 6695 following the parade.

If the "Rain Gods" are nice to us, we have 7 more car shows to attend, after which we will participate in the Annual Plymouth Fall Festival. And finally, Summer will come to its' unofficial end after our Annual Kokomo Reunion in late September. So, as you can see, we are not finished with fun activities and plenty of chances to help out. We are truly blessed to know each other and to call each other "Friend". Thank You!

Ron King, President

38th Air Rescue &
 Recovery Squadron
 Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN
 1971-1972



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



Digger's Desk

JULY 4TH PARADE

The annual July 4th Parade stepped off at 9:00AM to the tune of gorgeous weather and an enthusiastic crowd raining down applause and thank-you's on us Veterans and supporters. We were near the front of the parade as negotiated by our President Ron King. Following the parade it was back to the Post to BBQ 150 chicken dinners. It was a great day for our nation's birthday.

STEAK FRY & BOWLING LEAGUE STARTING THIS FALL

We are starting a VFW/VVA bowling league this fall beginning on September 28. It will run every other Sunday at 1:30PM at Plaza Lanes on Ann Arbor Road, almost kitty-corner to the Post. If you are of high or low skill level or no skill level at all, you are welcomed. In order to possibly include family or friends who are not members, teams will consist of three/four bowlers, only one of which must be a member of either VFW/Men's or Ladies Auxiliary/VVA/AVVA. This is a social event to deviate from our usual activities and should be fun. If you are a team, a couple or a single who would like to participate, you are encouraged to contact Patty/Bob Brothers at 734-420-0555 or myself at 734-525-0157. There is also a signup sheet on the clipboard when entering the lounge. If we are successful in interesting enough people, we will have a meeting well in advance of starting.

CAR CRUZ

Come on down every Wednesday for a good time at the Car Cruz...great cars, music, food and friends. See you there. I'll be the bartender with the smiling face.

SOMETHING NEW

Got something in mind regarding the Chapter ? Run it up the flagpole and maybe it will fly. The only bad idea is one that is never presented.

STEAK FRY

We have a system in place for the monthly steak fry and from comments regarding the first three events, everything came out well. See you at the next steak fry on August 15.

I would also like to see you at the August meeting. Don't forget to sign in. It's a great time to be a Veteran.



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





Odds & Ends

Membership

We had 3 applications for membership this past month. Mike Letourneau, Army, has joined the chapter and Don MacRae and Terry Parks have joined our associates. Welcome Mike, Don and Terry to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 258 individual and 73 associate members. Of these we have 147 life VVA and 24 life AVVA members

Lapsed Members: As of July 22, 2014 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Richard Dunn, Michael Hoben, John Sanborn, Rodney Tanner

AVVA: Christina Collins, Paul Collins, Kelly Ryan, John Stewart

Dropped From Roster: none

August VVA Renewals: Steve Cunningham, Tony Everett, Jeff Snyder

August AVVA Renewals: Tom Mannix

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.

July 4th parade

There were about 35 chapter members who walked in the parade this year. I was one of them and I was pleasantly surprised what an enjoyable experience it was. Walking is so much easier on the body than marching and there were no flags or rifles to carry although Frank Gilbo insisted on carrying the American flag. You also didn't have to stay in formation so we could talk to people and step out and shake hands with other veterans we passed in the crowd. The crowd seemed larger this year too and was very enthusiastic as we passed by. I was reluctant to be in the parade this year but I'm glad I went and I hope more members come out to the parade next year.

Fall Festival

I will again chair our booth at the Plymouth Fall Festival which is only a month away. The festival takes place on September 5 -7 with setup on the 4th. We will again be selling corn on the cob, pop, water and chapter merchandise. The work is not hard but we need at least 5-6 people there at all times to do the cooking and selling of the corn and pop and manning the product sales table. Please try to set some time aside to help out and make this year a success. P.S. I need a volunteer to take my place on Saturday as I will be of town.

Chapter Raffle

There will be another drawing for a life membership at the next meeting. This will be the 55th life membership awarded to a chapter member since the raffle was started. The funds used to pay for the award come from the membership meeting 50/50 proceeds so only those who attend the meetings and are annually paid members are eligible. Associate members are also eligible. Entries are taken from the sign-in sheets. Come to the next meeting and see if you are the latest winner.



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



Frank Gilbo



Chaplain's Corner

Dependence Day

Author: Bill Crowder, from Our Daily Bread

In the US, the Fourth of July is a national holiday when outdoor grills are heated up; beaches are packed; and cities and towns have parades and fireworks displays, picnics, and patriotic celebrations. All of this is in remembrance of July 4, 1776, when the 13 American colonies declared their independence.

Independence appeals to all ages. It means "freedom from the control, influence, support, and aid of others." So it's not surprising that teenagers talk about gaining their independence. Many adults have the goal of being "independently wealthy." And senior citizens want to maintain their independence. Whether anyone is ever truly independent is a discussion for another time and place.....but it sounds good.

Craving political or personal independence is one thing; daring to pursue spiritual independence is problematic. What we need instead is a recognition and acceptance of our deep spiritual dependence. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Far from being self-reliant, we are totally and eternally dependent on the One who died to set us free. Every day is our "dependence day".

Chaplain's notes: On Monday evening, July 7, the newly formed veterans group (the name of the group is not yet determined) met at Denny's, with twelve attending. On Monday, July 14, there were seventeen of us that showed up and had a great time of sharing, and discussing several Bible verses and prayer requests. You are all welcome to meet up with us every Monday of the month except the first Monday. We're meeting at the Denny's Restaurant on Ann Arbor Road just east of I-275, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM.



Rich Whipple

Chapter Chaplain

(A sinner saved by God's Grace)

HHC/2/503d Infantry

173d. Airborne Brigade

1968-1969



Joy Road Clean-Up

The VVA 528 Adopt-A-Road Team assembled Saturday, July 19, for our second Wayne County "pick up" for this year. It was a beautiful morning, and we had quite a few volunteers show up to get the work done quickly. We welcomed first time (rookie) volunteer Dennis Fueling. Thanks for showing up, Dennis.

Once again, in attempting to take a picture of our team (per Homefront editor Tom Brown's order), there was quite a bit of harassment comments sent my way. I threatened to order the team to "hit the ground and give me 25 Airborne pushups", and I actually heard some muffled laughs, but luckily I could not determine who was smarting off to their NCO in charge.

But the picture was taken in a timely manner, and you'll never see a more "fine tuned" team that literally made the trash along Joy Road actually disappear. I'm proud to have these men and women under my command!

Left to right: Joe Tebor, Terry Wells, the NCO in charge, Dennis (Rookie) Fuelling, John Spencer, Mark Grzesiek, Norma Demerly, Bob (Chapter member of the year) Lamoureux, Bobby Somerville (class mate with John Spencer back at Detroit Catholic Central), Dennis "Karaoke" Waling, Don "Captain Boblo" Shannon, first VP Jim Hodgson, Pat "all world" Doherty, Susie Wagner, and Danny Droz.

We did stop for grub, but not at the Canton Coney Island which recently experienced a fire, so off to Zak's in Plymouth we went. No, the NCO in charge did not pick up the tab!!

Rich Whipple,
Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Coordinator



The Bentley Blog

Bryan Bentley
AVVA Representative

Plymouth 4th of July Parade

The last two days have been a time for folks to celebrate the contributions of our nations veterans, and Plymouth has done a fantastic job. Things began on July 3rd, with a Patriotic Concert performed by the Plymouth Community Band.

This concert was attended by veterans from the Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, as well as veterans from neighboring communities. Our veterans showed up and presented our nations flags for the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, and two members of the VVA Chapter 528, (Ret) Major Joe 'Larry' Tebor, and AVVA member Dennis Waling actually stepped up and sang America The Beautiful, and God Bless America.

This morning, the festivities continued with Plymouth's 4th of July Parade, and the parade was led off with the President of the Kiwanis Club, Frank Sinagra, who is a 3 time Purple Heart recipient in the Vietnam War. He was followed by our very own men and women of the VVA 528, the AVVA, and our Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 6695.

It is always an incredible thing to watch, and see how very much our community appreciates our veterans when they show up to march in the two parades that Plymouth hosts. You will see folks talking with each other, having a good time, and then when they see our veterans approaching, conversations end in mid sentence, and the folks step to the sidewalk and clap. Hardly a word spoken, just respect.

The day ended with a fantastic chicken dinner barbecued back at the VFW Post 6695. Vietnam Veteran Bill Browning, and AVVA Member Gordie Bardeleben did an unbelievable job of setting this

thing up, and produced 150 incredible chicken breasts for all to enjoy.

That my friends, is what the Independence Day is all about..





The Bear's Den

In 54 days, I will be in KOKOMO. Looking forward to it because I feel better than I have in many years.

Hope that the whole gang will be there again. I will have the can steins down there. Just so it doesn't rain as much.

We would like to see a great SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE coming up. We do a lot of good with the money we raise.

Stop by and say hello to Anna, the Saturday and every other Sunday lounge staff. She will make that burger and fries with a cold one for you and your friends.

Stop by and let me know how we can improve.

Thanks! Bear



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



Kokomo 2014

Well, guys.... The time is drawing closer as we speak. The Camping dates are Sep 18th - 21st, 2014. Our Lot #'s are 239E through 244E and 339E through 344E. These are the same lots as we have had for past several years now.. There isn't room for all of us and big campers, so only pop-ups, tents, and vehicles in which you camp in are allowed on these 12 sites.

If you are new to this experience, please notify me as soon as possible at [734-239-3463](tel:734-239-3463) or email me at dale68us@yahoo.com. I will need to know who is coming, what day you plan to arrive and whether you are camping or staying in town.

Your Kokomo Coordinator!



Dale M. Luebke
USAF 357th
TAC FTR SQ.
1963-1967

Members In Distress

Long time member Ted Enright is still in the hospital because of his motor cycle accident. He is on a trachea tube and a feeding tube. Please, keep Ted and his family in your prayers!

August 2014 - VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth-Canton, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30 Cruz'n 528 5 - 8 pm	31	1	2
3	4	5	6 Cruz'n 528 5 - 8 pm	7	8	9
10 VVA General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm	11	12	13 Cruz'n 528 5 - 8 pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Cruz'n 528 5 - 8 pm	21	22	23
24	25 VVA Board Meeting 7:00 pm	26 Cruz'n 528 5 - 8 pm	27	28	29	30
31 Labor Day	1	2 Cruz'n 528 5 - 8 pm	3	4	5	6



Tom Brown, Editor
HDG III Corps
2nd & 44th Pershing
Ft. Sill, OK
1971 - 1972



Calendar by Tom Brown

Our active online calendar @
www.vva528.org/ourevents.html

VVA 528 Membership Meeting Monday, August 11, 2014 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)

VFW Calendar For August

1st - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
 5th - Ladies Auxiliary - 7 pm
 12th - General Membership Mtg. - 7 pm
 15th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
 15th - Steak Dinner - 5-7 pm
 19th - Board Meeting - 7 pm
 21st - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30 pm



August Birthdays

Joe Agius, Frank Barkovich, Dennis Bielskis, Patty Bielskis, Gary Boucher, Bill Boudreau, Robert Carris, Rick Ciaramitaro, Carl Cooper, Nancy Dignan, Wayne Duerling, Richard Gebstadt, Darrell Gibson, Robert Hallmark, Pete Horning, Vaughn Hull, Tom Kish, Michael Kokoszka, Marcel Loosbrock, Brenda Menendez, Linda Mentink, Cindy Northrop, Leroy Paige, Ray Pasquantonio, Gene Roberts, Russ Sanford, Michael Smith, Alice Thomas, John Vincenti

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Mike Dicker	Benjamin Tallman
Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Rich Mazurkiwicz	Jerry Thomason

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Agent Orange Events	Bob Dew
AVVA Representative	Bryan Bentley
By-Laws	Bob Paul
Chaplain	Rich Whipple
Chapter Historian	Rich Waldecker
Color/Honor Guard	Bob Lamoureux
	Rick Ciaramitaro
Constitution	Gary Estermyer
Cruz'n 528	Darrell Bazman
ETABO	Gordon Dorey
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Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux

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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 **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)**

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Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com

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Chapter 528 Homefront



August 2014



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Phone _____

Present Address _____

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Zip _____

Branch of Service _____

Date of Birth _____

email _____

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_____ 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 _____

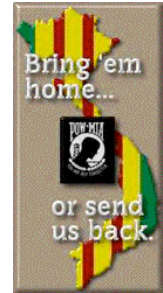
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New Member _____ Renewal _____ Membership Card

No. _____

Today's Date _____

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