



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Welcome Home!



President's Corner

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
The Bear's Den	4
National Convention Photos	4
Chaplain's Corner	5
2015 Sportmen's Raffle	6
Sportsmen's Selling Events	7
Cruz'n 528 2015	8
Calendar	9
Committees	10
Photo From Comerica Park	10
Ads & Photos	11
Membership Form	12

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I'm at the VVA National Convention in Springfield, Illinois right now. There are 698 delegates from all over the country. Jefferson Starship concert Tuesday night was great. They came back this morning to sing the National Anthem.

Abraham Lincoln started the convention by giving his Gettysburg Address. I noted the phrase "unfinished work" in the address. This can translate to our work to help our fellow veterans. We are volunteers who can make a difference by helping others.

Keynote speaker was Bill Robinson who was a POW in North Vietnam for 8 years - 1965 to 1973. An Air Force crewman, he is the only enlisted POW to survive captivity. His story was very moving. He is a real hero.

I attended committee hearings on Agent Orange/Dioxin, Homeless Veterans and Governmental Affairs. A lot of information was presented.

The Sportmen's raffle is up to 1,800 tickets sold. We have about two months left before the raffle and help is needed to staff the selling locations. The location sign-up sheet will be at the membership meeting and emailed out.



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



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



Digger's Desk

CAR CRUZ

July 15 was a 224 cans of beer sold night. Cause ? Absolutely perfect weather. Come on down and enjoy a burger, a liquid refreshment, classic cars and good 60's music.

MONDAY GOLF

We have golfed at 50 different courses since 2013 and this year the weather has treated us well. If you are interested in golfing in a scrambles format, contact me and I'll put you on the weekly e-mail list.

1968

So many historical events happened during and after my tour of duty in 1968, it is hard to believe. On January 23 the USS Pueblo was seized off the coast of North Korea and the crew was held for almost a year. On January 31, 1968 the first Tet offensive got underway and our company got called into downtown Saigon. We were doing house-to-house searches in our area, tossing tear gas, believe it or not. Fortunately none of this revealed any enemy occupation. After about 5 days we were redirected back to the field on normal operations. We didn't realize the historical significance of Tet until years later. Right around the end of the siege on Khe Sanh, LBJ made his famous pronouncement "I will not seek nor will I accept the nomination of my party for another term as your president". Less than a week later, Martin Luther King was assassinated. The first week of June, Robert Kennedy was assassinated while honing in on the Democratic candidacy for president. After my 30 day leave ended, I reported to Fort Carson, CO for the final few months of my military service. While at Fort Carson we began training for riot control. We were wondering what this was all about when in the latter part of August we were flown to Great Lakes Naval Station to assist Chicago Mayor Daley and his police force during the Democratic National Convention. It turns out the mayor didn't need our help as they pummeled the young demonstrators with night sticks. At Great Lakes we

played softball and just generally goofed around before being flown back to Colorado Springs.

In November my parents picked me up for a 10 day leave and no sooner had we arrived at my brother's in California when my Dad and I came down with the Hong Kong flu, an epidemic which swept the nation and tried its hardest to keep me in bed, lasted well past returning to Colorado and exhibited side effects for many weeks following. When I got to Fort Carson, they stuck me in a line platoon which seemed very mickey mouse since I just returned from a combat tour. At the suggestion of the company clerks with whom I struck up a friendship, the 1st sergeant abdicated his duties of reenlistment NCO to me. It took me about a day and a half to go through all the company personnel files and start scheduling troops for their periodic chats about extending their service. The 1st sergeant would call them out of morning and noon formation and send them off to see the CO, battalion reenlistment NCO, regimental reenlistment NCO, etc. Then I would just sit in the orderly room the rest of the day. All of a sudden, a whole slew of guys came to me about bonuses, variable reenlistment bonuses and began taking a burst of six. What was a real laugh is that our company took the 5th Division reenlistment trophy for November 1968. The company commander and I, a draftee, were to go before the commanding general of Fort Carson to accept the award. Before that occurred, I separated from the Army on December 19 with a 17 day early out for Christmas. That was some year 1968.

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



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





Odds & Ends

Membership

We lost 2 members this past month. Longtime and lifetime member William Tackett passed away at his home in Florida last month. Tim Devlin who just joined our chapter died unexpectedly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill's and Tim's families. Bob Rood, one of our lapsed members, has rejoined the chapter. Our current membership stands at 264 individual and 78 associate members. Of these we have 157 life VVA and 27 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of July 22, 2015 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Carl Cooper, Gary Paver, George Surowy, Ron Wroblewski

AVVA: Mike Karath, David Kelly, Mike Sherry

Dropped From Roster: Ron Hoffman

August VVA Renewals: Steve Cunningham, Tony Everett, Cornell Osier, Jeffery Lee Snyder, Dan Stengle

August AVVA Renewals: Cass Swamba

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.

Chapter Raffle

I was a few dollars short so we did not have a drawing at last month's meeting. There will be one for sure this month so come out to the meeting and see if you are the next winner of a life membership. Remember the raffle is open to both VVA and AVVA members.

July 4th

Frank Gilbo, carrying the American flag, led a large contingent of chapter members in the July 4th Plymouth parade. The weather was perfect and the parade route was lined with an enthusiastic crowd which made for an enjoyable morning for everyone.

The VFW sold over 100 chicken BBQ dinners. Although it wasn't a sellout it was considerably more than last year. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare, cook, sell or buy a dinner.



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



Dennis Bielskis getting ready to work hard at the VVA National Convention in Springfield, IL & President John Spencer (below) off to one of the workshops. *Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis.*





The Bear's Den

It's been a while since my last article. Judy (my wife) has been in and out of the hospital and doctor's offices since April 1st. I have even done laundry and some cleaning. She has always been there for me and now I know how important that is.

The lounge is still operating and all of the normal programs are functioning. We just need more participation from the membership.

I was appointed as the VFW representative to the VVA Chapter 528. I will let you know what is going on when I give a report at the meetings. Listening to your concerns, could bring new things to our home. Those nudge masters are fun to play and not that hard to learn.

If each member sold just 5 of the sportsman raffle tickets, it would really help. I always have some in my office so stop by.

Any questions? Call [\(734\) 459-6700](tel:7344596700) to speak to me or leave a message and I will get back to you.

Thank you.



Gary "Bear" Kubik

TM2 (SS)

USS Gudgeon SS567

USS Diodon SS 349

Sub Sq. 5



VVA National Convention 2015 Springfield, IL

VVA State Council President John Riling and our six delegates - Dennis Bielskis, Gary Estermyer, Jim Hodgson, Ron King, Frank Barkovich and President John Spencer.



Jim Hodgson, Frank Barkovich and Ron King



The band Jefferson Starship played during the VVA National Convention. *Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis*



Chaplain's Corner

The Place of Nothingness

Os Hillman

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

Do you find yourself in a place of nothingness? There is a time and place in our walk with God in which He sets us in a place of isolation and waiting. It is a place in which all past experiences are of no value. It is a time of such stillness that it can disturb the most faithful if we do not understand that He is the one who has brought us to this place for only a season. It is as if God has placed a wall around us. No new opportunities - simply inactivity.

During these times, God is calling us aside to fashion something new in us. It is a place of nothingness designed to call us to deeper roots of prayer and faith. It is not a comfortable place, especially for a task-driven workplace believer. Our nature cries out, "You must do something" while God is saying, "Be still and know that I am God." You know the signs that you have been brought into this place when He has removed many things from your life and you can't seem to change anything. Perhaps you are unemployed. Perhaps you are laid up with an illness. Many people live a very planned and orchestrated life where they know almost everything that will happen. But for people in whom God is performing a deeper work, He brings them into a time of quietness that seems almost eerie. They cannot see what God is doing. They just know that He is doing a work that cannot be explained to themselves or to others. Has God brought you to a place of nothingness? Be still and know that He really is God. When this happens, your nothingness will be turned into something you will value for the rest of your life.

Chaplain's notes: I appreciated this article, because back in 2003, I suddenly found that I was in this "place of nothingness" with my career. I knew that God had his hand in it, because He is in control....always! I found myself reading from the Book of Psalms in the Bible, because (King) David found himself in this same "desert" and continually called out to the Lord to give him direction, and to protect

him from the evil men that were after him. But as far as my situation, after much prayer, suddenly this "place of nothingness" was taken away, and things immediately went my way. God's desire was to make me trust Him, and it was indeed an attention getter. I am very thankful for this period in my life. I know more than ever how much He loves me, and how He has blessed me in so many ways!



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



Joy Road Pick-up

Rich Whipple



On Saturday, July 18, fifteen of our VVA and AVVA members merged together to tackle the Joy Road Clean Up. We had favorable weather, and enjoyed the Meijer donuts and the camaraderie. Thanks to all who participated!

Those in attendance were, from left to right: Jack Massarello, Al (Golfer of the week) Sneath, Marcel "Sky Pilot" Loosbrock, Pat "all world" Doherty, myself, Bob "a lot of irons in the fire" Lamoureux, Susi "Travel Agent" Wagner, Bryan "the editor" Bentley, Bobby "Go Blue" Sommerville, John "el Presidente" Spencer, Dennis "karaoke" Waling, Larry "DNR" Kilgore, Terry "Harley Davison" Wells, Mike "a friend to all" Dicker, and lastly Greg Kremkow, who always come to this agenda with a smile and rolled up sleeves.

Our next scheduled clean up will be on Saturday morning, October 10. Photo courtesy of Rich Whipple.



Vietnam Veterans of America

Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528

2015 Sportsmen's Raffle



40 Prizes To Be Awarded - Winning Tickets Go Back Into Hopper!

WWW.VVA528.ORG

50" LED TV	TenPoint Wicked Ridge Invader HP ACU-52 Crossbow Package
50" LED TV	Excalibur Ibox SMF Crossbow Kit
50" LED TV	Bear Archery Attitude Ready-To-Hunt Bow Package, RH, 29", 70 lbs., Realtree APG
50" LED TV	Diamond Archery Outlaw Bow Package, RH, 60 lbs., Mossy Oak Treestand finish
50" LED TV	Benelli Nova Shotgun
Canon 18 MP Camera	Mossberg 535 Tactical Pump Shotgun
Galaxy IV Tablet	Stoeger Model 3000 Shotgun
Galaxy IV Tablet	Mossberg 535 ATS Turkey/Waterfowl Shotgun Combo
HP Laptop Computer 17.3" 500GB HD 4GB RAM webcam	CZ-USA Mallard Shotgun
HP All In One Desktop 1TB HD 4GB RAM Win 8	Remington Model 870 Express Tactical Shotgun
55" LED TV	Marlin 336C Lever Action Centerfire Rifle
55" LED TV	Remington Model 700 ADL Centerfire Rifle Package
55" LED TV	Savage Model 11/111 Hunter XP Centerfire Rifle Package
55" LED TV	Savage Model 11/111 Hunter XP Centerfire Rifle Package
55" LED TV	Thompson/Center Venture Centerfire Rifle
Rossi Circuit Judge Firearm Combo	Remington Model 700 ADL Centerfire Rifle Package
Ruger 10/22 takedown rifle	Ruger 10/22 Reaper Buck Camo w/4x32 scope
Savage Axis Stainless Centerfire Rifle	Henry Golden Boy Youth Rimfire Rifle
Remington Model 770 Centerfire Rifle Package	Rossi Circuit Judge Firearm
Mossberg ATR Centerfire Rifle Package	CVA Optima V2 Camo Muzzleloader Rifle

Additional in-house raffles will be available.

**All Prizes are awarded through Gander Mountain, Novi, MI
or ABC Warehouse, Canton, MI**

***** FREE FOOD AND DRINK - RAFFLE TICKET REQUIRED FOR ENTRY *****

Drawing: Sunday, October 11, 2015 – 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

V.F.W. Post 6695 - 1426 S. Mill St., Plymouth, MI. 48170-4321

\$20.00 (US) per Ticket - Need Not Be Present To Win.

Maximum of 5000 Tickets Printed!

(Must Be 18 Years Old to Purchase Tickets)

***Prize winners responsible for taxes and all pertinent state and federal regulations.**

******* Support Your Local Veterans and their Projects *******

Proceeds to benefit hospitalized veterans, community and veteran projects and the General Fund of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528. If 1500 tickets are not sold, the Sports men's Raffle will revert to a 50/50 Raffle with a minimum prize of \$5,000.

Mail to: :2015 Sportsmen's Raffle
V.V.A 528
P.O. Box 6295
Plymouth, Mi. 48170-4321

Make checks to : VVA 528

**Requests must be made prior to Friday,
October 9, 2015 to allow time for
processing and delivery.**

License No. R23562

2015 Sportsmen's Raffle

Name: _____

Check No. _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

☐ I am 18-years old or older
(We will return check if box is not checked.)

Quantity: _____ x \$20 ea. = Total: \$ _____

U.S. Funds only

2015 VVA 528 & VFW Post 6695 Sportsmen's Raffle Selling Events

This is a list of the locations that we will be selling our raffle tickets. Please come out and visit with us.



Show	Address	City	Zip
Birch Run	11600 S Beyer Rd.	Birch Run	48415
Gander Mountain	43825 W. Oaks Dr.	Novi	48377
Lansing/Mason	700 E. Ash St.	Mason	48854
Military Collectibles	31117 Plymouth Rd.	Livonia	48150
ABC Warehouse	41690 Ford Rd	Canton	48043
Taylor Town	22525 Ecorse Rd	Taylor	48180
Novi Expo	46100 Grand River	Novi	48374
Monroe	3775 S. Custer Rd	Monroe	48161
Saline	5055 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd	Saline	



8/1/2015	Saturday	0900-1700	Birch Run
8/2/2015	Sunday	1000-1500	Birch Run
8/15/2015	Saturday	0900-1800	Gander Mountain Novi
8/16/2015	Sunday	0900-1800	Gander Mountain Novi
9/13/2015	Sunday	0900-1430	Military Collectibles Livonia
9/19/2015	Saturday	1000-1600	Taylor Town
9/20/2015	Sunday	1000-1600	Taylor Town



John Spencer



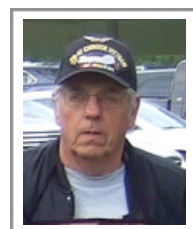
Bob Dew, Fund
Raising Chair



Don Dignan



Dennis Bielskis
Chair



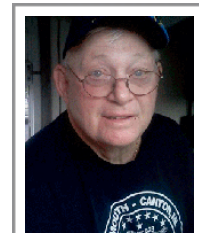
Gene Spurgess



Joe Agius



Jerry Thomason

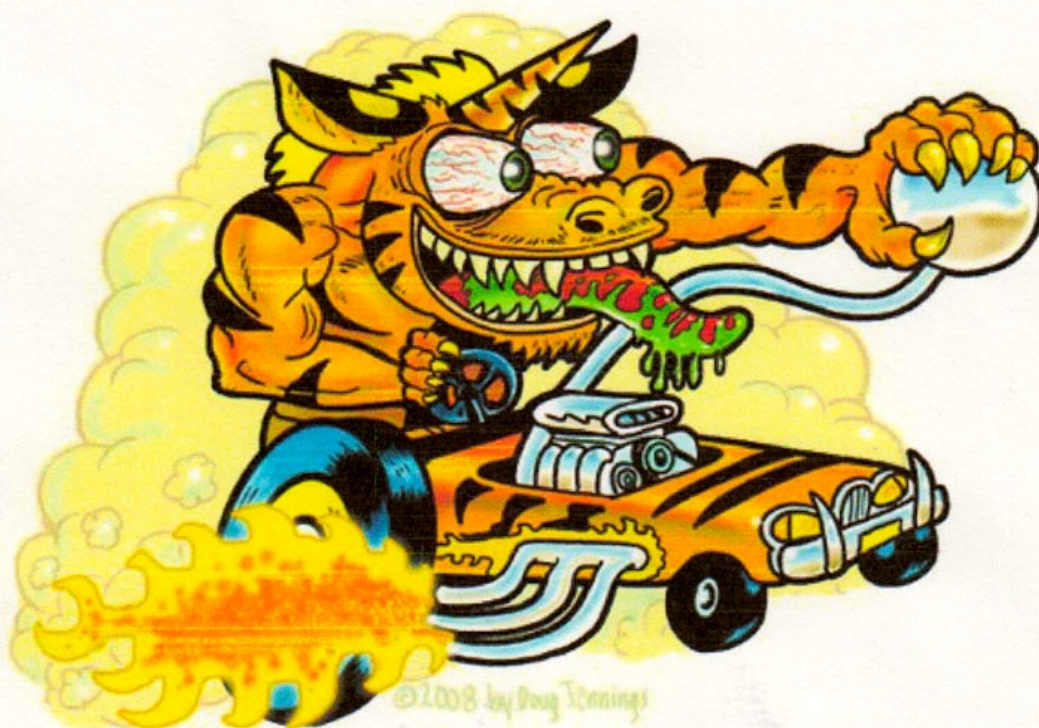


Gary "Bear" Kubik

CRUZ'N 528

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Starting May 13th from 5p-8p and every
Wednesday till the end of September



Come join us for good music and great
food at the

Mayflower/Lt. Gamble VFW 6695 at
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August 2015 - VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth-Canton, MI

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



Tom Brown, Editor
2nd Missile Battalion,
44th Artillery Pershing
Missile-1st Year
HDG III Corps - 2nd year
Ft. Sill, OK



Calendar by Tom Brown

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

VVA 528 General Membership Meeting Monday, August 10, , 2015 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)

VFW Calendar for August

4th - Ladies Auxiliary - 7:00 pm
 7th - Karaoke Night - 8:00 pm
 11th - Gen. Membership Mtg - 7:00 pm
 18th - Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
 20th - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30 pm
 21st - Karaoke Night - 8:00 pm



August Birthdays

Ralph Auge, Michael Barnowski, Patti Bielskis, Earl Burgis, Robert Couturier, Norris Cutler, Nancy Dignan, Edward Dziadzio, Gerald Grzesik, William Hayes, Glen Jewell, Larry Jones, Al Kerbyson, Robert Leshan, John Lindsay, Barbara Little, Rich Mazurkiewicz, Brenda Menendez, Linda Mentink, Cindy Northrop, Gary Pritchard, Jay Roberts, Gordon Segal, Dale Sirkle, Casper "Cass" Swamba 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	
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Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson
Assistant Chief	Ron King
	Dale Luebke
Product Sales	Bill Browning

POW/MIA	Al Kerbyson
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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 A. Delegate	Bill Boudreau
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling
VAVS Deputy	
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

Chapter 528 Website: www.vva528.org

Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com

Advertising Rates: 1 year \$60; 6 mos. \$45; 1 issue \$15



Vets Night at Comerica Park. Members from VVA Chapter 528 having a lot of fun at Comerica Park. The Tigers won. Thanks, Bob Dew for arranging this annual event. *Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith.*



Abraham Lincoln opening up the 2015 VVA National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. *Photo courtesy of Dennis Bielskis.*

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Chapter 528 Homefront



August 2015



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 _____

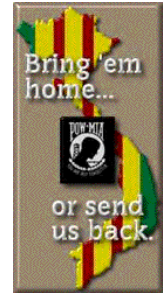
Other _____

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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 Plymouth MI 48170-0473