



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



President John Spencer speaking at the Plymouth Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony.

Index

President's Corner	I
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
The Bear's Den	5
Photos from Veterans Day	5
Photo from our 25th Anniversary	6
Photo from our Nov. Gen. Mtg	6
Salvation Army Bell Ringing List	7
Calendar	8
Committees	9
Service Photos Message	9
Ads	10
Membership Form	11

Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor, Columnist & Calendar
 Don Dignan - Assistant Editor & Columnist
 John Spencer- President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Events & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 John Fleming - Columnist
 Gary "Bear" Kubik - Columnist
 Dennis Bielskis - Photographer

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King

Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

The holiday season is upon us. It is important that we help those in need at this time of year. We ring bells for the Salvation Army, we provide clothing to the Veterans Center in Detroit, and work with Chapter 310 to distribute clothing and holiday cheer to veterans at the Ann Arbor VAMC. And we help with the children's Christmas Party at the VFW Post.

And we should think about our service men and women who are away from home during the holidays. Many of us can recall how we felt during the holidays while serving in Vietnam.

The Veterans Day service in Plymouth was well attended. The speakers were very good including the presentation about the Freedom Center at Metro Airport. See the website at mifreedomcenter.org for more information. The Salute to Service program at Canton's Village Theater was also well attended. The keynote speaker was Bob Hynes from the Yankee Air Museum. The children's choir from Workman Elementary was superb, as was bugler Frank Gilbo.



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

MONDAY GOLF

We have golfed at 58 different courses since 2013 and this year the weather has treated us well. Without any rainouts for the year, our last golf Monday was November 16. If you are interested in golfing in a scrambles format next year, contact me and I'll put you on the weekly e-mail list.

SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE

We're still waiting for a final financial shakeout but suffice it to say that it was a long, busy but profitable joint venture for the VVA and the VFW. Thanks to all who helped out beginning in October 2014 right up until the last winner was drawn.

EUCHRE

Another social event taking place twice a month in the VFW lounge is Euchre. On the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays at 7:00PM, the dealing starts. The cost is \$10 per person.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Trees will be delivered the day before Thanksgiving, Wednesday November 25. If you are available that morning, please come down to the Post to help unload the truck, i.e., if you get this newsletter before that day. Many hands make light work.

THANKSGIVING

Spend and cherish the holiday time with your family and pray for those in harm's way who are protecting those freedoms we so dearly enjoy. It is the proper time to celebrate the abundance America has to offer and thank the Creator for the same.

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Show up at Veterans Memorial Park on December 7 to remember those who gave their lives in the cowardly attack against the American Fleet at Pearl Harbor which thrust the United States into WWII.

SALVATION ARMY

We will once again be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday December 12. If you can spare an hour, it would be appreciated.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Also on Saturday December 12, there will be a children's party at the Post for kids and grandkids of all members. The Big Man himself has promised to make a visit so mark your calendar.

MICHIGAN VETERANS FOUNDATION

The Chapter will be visiting the MVF on Monday December 14 following our annual shopping trip to Kohl's. There is a clothing donation box at the Post for new or slightly used clothing. The MVF is where the rubber meets the road and homeless Veterans get a chance to start anew with a little boost and support.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday December 19, there will be a potluck Christmas party at the Post for all to enjoy. Informality seems to be a better recipe for success.

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



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



Plymouth Veterans Day Ceremony
Photo courtesy of Dennis Bielskis



Odds & Ends

Membership

We had individual and 4 associate applications for membership this past month. Pete Holden, Army, has joined the chapter and Donald Schnettler, Shawn Flaharty and Tom and Kimberly Moscardelli have joined our associates. Welcome Pete, Don, Shawn, Tom and Kimberly to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 268 individual and 76 associate members. Of these we have 193 life VVA and 28 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Richard Dunn, Ed Hopkins, Cornell Osier, Dan Stengle, Chris Timco

AVVA: Betty Burkacki, Joanne Cook, Ron Cook, Paul Trapp

Dropped From Roster: none

December VVA Renewals: Dan Droz

December AVVA Renewals: none

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.

Life Membership

Last chance to get a lifetime VVA or AVVA membership for only \$100, regardless of age. This applies to all new and current members. Don't wait until the last minute because the application must be received and processed by National in Baltimore, MD by December 31st and mail delivery is very slow around Christmas.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations go to longtime member John Bresnahan, the latest winner of the chapter raffle. There will be another drawing at the December meeting so someone will be getting a Christmas gift from the chapter. Because we had a drawing last month and the ever increasing number of life members there are only 14 names in this month's drawing.

VVMF

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is trying to put faces with the 58,307 names on the Wall. They are still searching for about 16,000. If you have a service photo or any photo of a serviceman killed in Vietnam they would like to hear from you. Go to website www.vvmf.org/thewall and type in the name in the search box to see if a photo is still needed. Even if you don't have a photo but know which school any of these men attended, it would be helpful and appreciated. Contact Janna Hoehn at neverforgotten2014@gmail.com with photos or information.

Christmas Trees

VFW tree sales began the day after Thanksgiving and are going very well. Sales will continue until just before Christmas or they are sold out (which has happened the last 2 years). The trees are fresh cut and come in a variety of sizes and types and are reasonably priced. In addition veterans get a discount.



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



Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis
Plymouth Veterans Day Ceremony



Chaplain's Corner

The Rugged Road

David Roper from
Our Daily Bread

A fishing buddy of mine told me about an alpine lake located high on the north flank of Jughandle Mountain here in Idaho. Rumor had it that large cutthroat trout lurked up there. My friend got a pencil and scrap of napkin and drew a map for me. Several weeks later I gassed up my truck and set out to follow his directions.

His map put me on one of the worst roads I've ever driven! It was an old logging road that had been bulldozed through the forest and never regraded. Washouts, fallen timber, deep ruts, and large rocks battered my spine and bent the undercarriage of my truck. It took half a morning to reach my destination, and when I finally arrived I asked myself, "Why would a *friend* send me up a road like this?"

But the lake was magnificent and the fish were indeed large and scrappy! My friend had put me on the right road...one I would have chosen myself and patiently endured had I known what I knew at the end.

There is a faithful saying: "All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant" (Psalm 25:10). Some of God's paths for us are rough and rugged, others tedious and boring, but all are filled with His love and faithfulness. When we come to the end of our journey and know what we then will know, we will say, "God's path was best for me!"

Chaplain's notes: I want to wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving. Not all things we are going through can be considered thankful however there are many things we take for granted. Yet if we ponder these things in our life that we do take for granted, we realize that we are fortunate and blessed.....we can and should be thankful to God.

Prayers for: Clyde Rains (cancer), Ken Winkler (cancer), Bob Hallmark (surgery recovery), Steve Retherford (loss

of brother), Dayle Agius (recovery from surgery). (This is all I can remember!)



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



Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis
Plymouth Veterans Day Ceremony



The Bear's Den

Have you visited the lounge lately? We have new machines that are a lot of fun. We have free pool and juke box. No cover charge for the entertainment on Fridays.

There is plenty of great food every day with sliders on Wednesdays and select Fridays have all you want to eat Mexican dinner for \$7.00 . We will try anything reasonable.

The euchre, dancing, horseshoes, and possibly bean bag toss are things to think about. Some one has even mentioned looking at dart league again. With all of the entertainment devices, lotto, and pull tabs, there is never a dull moment.

Look around and think of how many Veterans organizations are disappearing or only open on rare occasions. We are open 7 days with posted minimum hours.

You can have small parties in the lounge, without a rental fee. We have an outdoor area that can be used for so many things. The parking lot has been repaired and there are no potholes now.

The GREAT STAFF of our lounge are always there to serve you and make your day a little brighter.

I still collect cell phones, old 3X5 flags, and electronics. We try to have flags to trade.

The clothing drive runs until the morning of Dec. 13th.

Any questions or ideas, please call me or stop by at the post. [\(734\) 459-6700](tel:7344596700) or fax [\(734\) 459-1683](tel:7344591683).



Gary "Bear" Kubik

TM2 (SS)

USS Gudgeon SS567

USS Diodon SS 349

Sub Sq. 5



Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis
Plymouth Veterans Day Ceremony

Special Presentation for our 25th Birthday



President John Spencer and former Presidents of Chapter 528. Presidents included (left to right) Ted Enright, Robert Lamoureux, Don Dignan, John Spencer, Gary Estermyer, Ron King and Mike Steffes.

Marine Corps Birthday 2015



Mike Dicker, John Krueger, visitor, Loren Roberts, Bill Browning, Bob Bryan, Gary Pritchard and Bob Dew sing all three stanzas of the Marines' Hymn.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING
Sam's Club
39800 Ford Road, Canton
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

<u>Time</u>	<u>Bell Ringer</u>	<u>Bell Ringer</u>
10:00am to 11:00am	Dick Waldecker Mike Steffes	Pete Glasgow Jack Massarello
11:00am to 12:00pm	Rich Whipple Rick Popa	Don Dignan Terry Wells
12:00pm to 1:00pm	Rich Mazurkiewicz Jim Hodgson	Mike Sauber Bob Garrett
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Bobby Somerville Dennis Waling	Joe Tebor
2:00pm to 3:00pm	Doug Fox Pat Doherty	Larry Kilgore Jim Harvey
3:00pm to 4:00pm	Clark Crain	
4:00pm to 5:00pm	Todd Busick	
5:00pm to 6:00pm	Roger Riddell Don Shannon	Bob Lamoureux



John Fleming
 92nd Finance Section
 Cam Ranh Bay



December 2015 - VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth-Canton, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Euchre Party 7 pm	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Salvation Army Bell Ringing Sam's Club Canton
13	14 General Membership Mtg. 7 pm	15 Annual visit to Ann Arbor VA Hospital. 5:30 pm	16 Euchre Party 7 pm	17		19 Post Christmas Party
20	21	22	23	24	25  Christmas	26
27	28	29	30 Euchre Party 7 pm	31 New Year's Eve 		



Tom Brown, Editor
2nd Missile Battalion,
44th Artillery Pershing
Missile -1st Year
HDG III Corps - 2nd year
Ft. Sill, OK
1971 - 1972



Calendar by Tom Brown

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

**VVA 528 General Membership Meeting Monday, December 14, 2015 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)**

VFW Calendar for December

1st - Women's Auxiliary - 7 pm
4th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
8th - General Membership Mtg. - 7 pm
14th - **No** Board Meeting
17th - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30 pm
18th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm



December Birthdays

Sandy Bazman, Bryan Bentley, Stephen Boucher, Ruth Bryan, Mike Crittenden, John Erickson, Tom Fedewa, Doug Fox, Scott Gaines, Lonnie Hampton, Steve Kozmor, John Ligner, Dan Michael, Kimberly Moscardelli, James Perkins, Paul Postula, Clyde Rains, Pete Reckinger, Dale Roeseler, David Schisler, Dave Stenrose, James Tillman, Ken Tregear, David Wilder, Michael Williams, Robert Williams and Richard Wurtzel.



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
Assistant Editor	Don Dignan
Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson
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	Stu Israel
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

Advertisixng 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.



Anthony Fratt



Joseph Tebor

We now have 130 service photos added to our website and soon to be added to our display case.

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
Restoration 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

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

WWW.MYLIFEFORCE.NET/RT

RON & THERESA

1 248 677 2280

PRODUCTS THAT MAKE
PEOPLE HEALTHIER

www.mylifeforce.net/rt

C & D CATERING
BE A GUEST AT YOUR OWN PARTY

From a simple backyard party, to an elegant affair

204 SOUTH WAYNE RD
WESTLAND, MI 48186

734-729-9338
fax 734-729-1314

WWW.C-D-CATERING.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

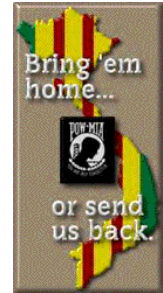


Vietnam Veterans of America

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
 P.O. Box 6319
 Plymouth MI 48170-0473