



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Members of our VVA Chapter 528 and VFW took part in Plymouth's Veteran Day Ceremony. Bob Caldwell & Bob Brothers are pictured. *Photo by P. & D. Bielskis*

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Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

December is upon us with all the holiday festivities. The VFW is selling Christmas trees. There will be a pot luck Christmas party at the VFW on Saturday, December 17th starting at 7 pm.

We will again join VVA Chapter 310 to visit vets at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center Tuesday, December 20th. For those are are attending meet in the lobby at 5:30 pm.

There will be a Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony on Wednesday December 7th at 1:00pm at the Veterans Park in Plymouth.

The 2017 Sportsman's Raffle tickets will be available at the December meeting. The raffle is the same format as the 2015 raffle. Bob Dew is working on a website with pictures and information about the raffle items. We will start selling tickets at gun shows in December. There will be a sign-up sheet at the December meeting. There are many events and activities at the VFW Post each month. These events/activities support the VFW Post. Check the articles and calendar that appear later in this newsletter.



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

Wednesday Euchre & Sliders has commenced and will continue every Wednesday until the Car Shows start next spring. As always, sliders will be cooked and served from 5:00PM-7:00PM with Euchre following. As always, Euchre will be first come, first served to get an even number of players so you should aim for a 6:30PM show up time. The cost is \$10 per person.

MONDAY GOLF

We have concluded our all member (VFW/Auxiliary/VVA/AVVA) Monday golf scramble for the season. In four years we have golfed 65 different courses. If you are interested, let me know and next season I'll keep you on the weekly notification list.

SHOOTOUT

The October Poker Shootout was a success with seven winners and net revenue of \$571.46. February will be the 1st of 2017's two Annual Shootouts. If interested, let me know and I'll put you on the waiting list.

TRUNK or TREAT

The Kids' Trunk or Treat on October 23 was a huge success with beautiful weather and a bevy of ghosts and goblins gathering up a ton of treats provided from members' treat filled trunks.

UPCOMING

Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Friday. 2nd and 4th Friday, there is a new band performing. We have a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony on December 7, Kids' Christmas Party on December 10, Salvation Army Bell Ring also on December 10, Christmas visit to the patients at Ann Arbor VAMC on December 20...all good stuff. For the latest lineup of all events, see the enclosed December calendar.

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



Veterans Day Ceremony



Photos courtesy of Patty and Dennis Bielskis



Odds & Ends

Membership

There were 3 applications for membership this past month. John O'Hara Jr, Air Force, has joined our chapter and Tom Curry and Jim Pappas have joined our associates. Welcome John, Tom and Jim to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 273 individual and 80 associate members. Of these we have 224 life VVA and 43 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Ron Jones, Charlie Kotcher

AVVA: Dave Randall

Dropped from Roster: Carl Allen, William Azzopardi, Al Cain, Susan Dorey

December VVA Renewals: none

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 Memberships

Just a continuing reminder of the new AVVA membership fees. They are: age 60 and over - \$100, and 59 and under - \$175. Anyone over 60 who purchases a life membership must provide proof of age (copy of driver's license or birth certificate). This change is a great opportunity for associates to become life members. The life membership fee for VVA members is \$100 regardless of age.

Christmas Trees

The VFW is again selling Christmas trees this year. They went on sale the day after Thanksgiving and will be sold until they are gone. The trees are fresh cut and will last till well after Christmas. They are reasonably priced and come in a variety of sizes. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations go to George Lalinsky, the latest winner of the chapter raffle and a life membership. There will be another drawing at the next membership meeting. There are only 7 names in the next one so if you are an annual paid member and attend the monthly meetings your chances of winning are excellent. Just a reminder when you come to the meeting, make sure you put your name on the sign-in sheet.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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



Photos courtesy of Patty and Dennis Bielskis





Chaplain's Corner

A Difficult Hill

Author: David Roper

High in a fold of Jughandle Peak in the mountains north of our home in Idaho lies a glacial lake. The rout to the lake goes up a steep, exposed ridge through boulders and loose stones. It's a strenuous ascent.

At the beginning of the climb, however, there is a brook, a spring that seeps out of soft, mossy earth and flows through a lush meadow. It's a quiet place to drink deeply and prepare for the hard climb ahead.

In John Bunyan's classic allegory of the Christian life, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian arrives at the foot of a steep ascent called the Hill Difficulty, "at the bottom of which was a spring...." Christian now went to the spring and drank to refresh himself, and then began to go up the hill."

Perhaps the difficult mountain you face is a rebellious child or a serious medical diagnosis. The challenge seems more than you can endure. Before you face your next major task, visit the spring of refreshment that is God Himself. Come to Him with all your weakness, weariness, helplessness, fear, and doubt. Then drink deeply of His power, strength, and wisdom. God knows all your circumstances and will supply a store of comfort, of spiritual strengthening and consolation. He will lift up your head and give you strength to go on.

"He who overrules all things....enabled Christian to....continue on his way."

John Bunyan, THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Chaplain's Report: I now am not just an "appointed" chaplain (appointed by our chapter's president, Mike Steffes four years ago) but I have applied and finished my full chaplaincy through The International Federation of Christian Chaplains, Inc. I have felt the Good Lord leading me to this in the past two years. The chaplaincy gives me the opportunity to marry, and bury. I have felt compelled to reach out to my fellow

veterans and their families! I also have the privilege of being tutored by a full time chaplain.

Our chapter has lost a wonderful woman in Lana Frank, an AVVA member, earlier this month. Prayers for Denny Fuelling and his recovery from shoulder surgery.



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



Don Petrere

Our Monthly Meetings

Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring.

Please don't get excited this is not a story about the Howdy Doody Show but rather comments on what has been seen, heard and maybe slighted thinking.

The up coming season is the giving and thanks time of year, but it should be all year. Are we really giving as it is meant to be or are we giving to see who gets the best present and the largest cash card. Much to often it's the latter. Think about giving this. Give a minute of your time or so. No, don't pass on your watch but your time to maybe be with some one that just wants a conversation. Time that maybe you can share a cup of coffee and speak of the old days.

Scare someone you haven't talked with for a long time and pick up the phone and see how he/she is doing. Really no big cost to you, but could be a million thanks coming your way from them should

Continue on page 5

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you do it. Unless you go to Starbucks. Then you're just showing off.

Give thanks out loud to someone or quietly to yourself and be thankful this morning you put your feet on the floor. You got out of bed. Yes we're older, slower. We all have our aches, pains and the ability to do things not as we did, but rather we can still say we did it. Simple thoughts and actions but think about those that can't or never will again. Now see where giving falls back into play. A phone call, a coffee, a card. So simple a gesture but all too often forgotten.

Don't let time escape you. Quit saying I'll do that tomorrow. Tomorrow is promised to no one.

Hoping All Had A Great Thanksgiving. You've still got another chance...Merry Christmas and peace be with you all.



Sgt. Don Petrere
1st Armored Division
1/81st 1966-1967



Photos courtesy of Patty and Dennis Bielskis



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Sam's Club

39800 Ford Road, Canton

Saturday, December 10, 2016



<u>Time</u>	<u>Bell Ringer</u>	<u>Bell Ringer</u>
10:00am to 11:00am	Name Mike Steffes Louie Dorka	Jim Harvey Larry Kilgore
11:00am to 12:00pm	Name Frank Barkovich Rick Popa	Joe Tebor Don McLane
12:00pm to 1:00pm	Name Gary Pritchard Jerry Thomason	Joe Tebor Ron King
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Name Gary Estermyer Gary Boucher	Steve Retherford Bob Garrett
2:00pm to 3:00pm	Name Dale Luebke Dennis Waling	Bobby Somerville Don Dignan
3:00pm to 4:00pm	Name Dale Roeseler Elaine Roeseler	_____
4:00pm to 5:00pm	Name Bob Lamoureux _____	_____
5:00pm to 6:00pm	Name Roger Riddell Don Shannon	Terry Wells _____



DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 KARAOKE 8:00	3
4	5	6 VFW AUX MEETING 7:00	7 SLIDERS 5- 7 EUCHRE 7:00	8	9 BAND 8:00	10 KIDS XMAS PARTY 1:00- 3:00 BELL RINGING
11	12 VVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	13 VFW MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	14 SLIDERS 5- 7 EUCHRE 7:00	15	16 KARAOKE 8:00	17 ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:00
18	19 BLOOD DRIVE	20 VA HOSPITAL PARTY 5:30	21 SLIDERS 5- 7 EUCHRE 7:00	22	23 BAND 8:00	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	28 SLIDERS 5- 7 EUCHRE 7:00	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 8:00

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Bentley, Stephen Boucher, Ruth Bryan, Mike Crittenden, John Erickson, Thomas Fedewa, Doug Fox, Steve Kozmor, Lonnie Hampton, John Ligner, Dan Michael, James Perkins, Clyde Rains, Pete Reckinger, Dale Roeseler, David Schisler, Roger Shanks, Dave Stenrose, James Tillman, Susie Wagner, Michael Williams, Robert Williams and Richard Wurtzel.



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
AVVA & Ladies
Auxiliary





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Fundraising	Bob Dew
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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)

Chapter 528 Website: www.vva528.org

Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com

Advertixing 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.



Tom Brown, Editor
2nd Missile Battalion
44th Artillery Pershing
HHD III Corps
Ft. Sill, OK



Merry Christmas

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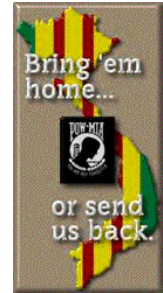


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 No. _____
 Today's Date _____

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Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528
P.O. Box 6319
Plymouth, MI 48170-0473



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