



Chapter 528 Homefront



February 2015



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Welcome Home!



President's Corner

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 Don Dignan - Assistant Editor & Columnist
 Ron King- President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Events & Columnist
 Gary "Bear" Kubik - Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain/Columnist
 John Fleming - Columnist

Distribution Staff

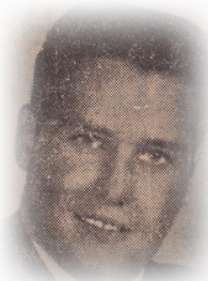
Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

My hope is that we are all making it through the cold winter months without serious illnesses or major setbacks, and we are looking forward to Springtime. Let's face it, February is not an exciting month for chapter members, as we do not have any major events scheduled to complete this month. However, this does not equate to there is nothing to do. Quite the contrary, our fellow VFW post members and their families are very busy. You can break up the "blah" winter days by volunteering to help our VFW brothers and sisters with their projects and events. For example, we can help the Ladies Auxiliary with their Soup and Salad Dinner, or we can volunteer to assist with the highly anticipated Lenten Fish Fries which begin on February 20, 2015 and runs through Good Friday. For those who do help, you know the urgent need for more help every week. Behind every successful endeavor is a group of people who make it happen; who make it work! You are those people. We are blessed with so many talented and spirited members who always come together to put our events and projects "over the top". THANK YOU!

As always, think of projects, causes, events, etc. that the chapter can help with to further our veteran causes and concerns. We have many challenges yet to face this year, and based on past performance, we, Chapter 528 will excel and exceed at accomplishing them! Seriously consider making a difference in chapter matters by running for an elected position in the chapter. Nominations begin in February and culminate in April with the annual election of officers and board members. Again, to quote our chapter "Godfather", Don Dignan, "it's a great time to be a veteran"!

Sincerely,

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



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





Digger's Desk

ELECTIONS ARE ON THE WAY

Beginning with the February meeting nominations will be taken for officers and BOD members who will lead us into the next year of Chapter 528 business. I was elected president 23 years ago and it turned into a very rewarding year. If you want to get more involved, have someone nominate you or you may nominate yourself.

CHILI COOKOFF

If you missed the Chili Cookoff in early January, you missed some good chow. When the time was up the people had spoken: Phil Merrow, Mikey Smith and Dave Randall were the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners. Interesting...all male winners circle.

SOUP 'N SALAD

There will be a Soup 'n Salad night at the Post on Saturday February 7. \$5 will get you all you can eat. You can't go wrong with that.

THINK GOLF

Beginning in May, the all members Golf Day will begin again and continue every Monday throughout the season. If you might be interested, let me know. We have golfers of all abilities and inabilities so don't be shy. Ask anyone who has been participating and I'm sure they'll tell you it is a great time. You only need to be a member of one of the organizations, i.e., VVA, AVVA, VFW or either Auxiliary.

SHOOTOUT

The first of our two annual poker shootouts will take place on Monday February 16. The day of the week change was necessary because of hall commitments on Tue, Wed & Thu. If this sounds interesting to you, call me and I'll fill you in on the details.

It's a sparse news month. I'll see you at the February meeting. It's a great time to be a Veteran.



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



The Bear's Den

Good things are happening at the lounge. We have karaoke twice a month with some really great singers. Euchre is played on Wednesdays when there is not a dance session. We also have many specials that change from time to time. You have to visit to know what is happening. There is quite a collection of wheel chairs, walkers, canes, crutches and many other items that someone on the mend might need. Just call when you need an item or want to donate something to the collection. I also have Sportsmen Raffle tickets available to sign out or turn in your sold stubs. Every five tickets that you sell gives you a chance at \$500.00. Come in to buy your winning lottery tickets. There have been winners and it could be you. Bring in those ideas and suggestions or give me a call.

Thanks to all! "Bear"



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





Odds & Ends

Membership

We had 3 applications for membership this past month. Dave Stenrose, Navy, and Lawrence Bakucz, Army, have joined the chapter. Roy Pistor, Marines, is transferring from Chapter 310. We also have 3 new associate members: Jeff Rousseau, John Buford and Scott Gaines. Welcome all to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 263 individual and 79 associate members. Of these we have 149 life VVA and 26 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Jim Austin, Dennis Crimboli

AVVA: Barbara Atkins, Roger Wild

Dropped From Roster: none

February VVA Renewals: Gary Boucher, Ron Hoffman, Pete Horning, Robert Leshan, Zoltan Nagy, Doug Patterson, Mike Williams, Rich Wurtzel

February 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.

Color Guard

Nothing to report for January although some of us assisted the VFW at the funeral services for 3 of their deceased members. On Friday, January 16th Plymouth High School held a military appreciation night at their boys and girls basketball games. I, Frank Gilbo and Dennis Bielskis presented the colors before each game.

Chapter Elections

Just a reminder that nominations for office will begin at the February meeting. All offices are for a period of one year except board members which are for two. If you would like to run for office please make your intention known by either having a member nominate you or nominating yourself. The chapter is always looking for new members to come

forward to inject fresh ideas into the leadership of the chapter.

E.G. Nicks

Last year we were approached by the owners of E.G. Nicks restaurant in Plymouth to collect the cover charge at their beer tent during the fall festival, chili cook-off and ice sculpture festival. Those events netted the chapter \$2,000 and the VFW \$800. They have indicated they want us back this year. We can show our appreciation to owners Frank and Tony by patronizing their establishment and thanking them personally. As a bonus they have really good food there.



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



Service Photos Needed

VVA Chapter 528 has 125 members' service photos displayed on our website <http://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 or bring it to our general membership meetings.

WINTER WARMUP CHILI COOK-OFF



1st Place - Phil Merrow
2nd Place - Mikey Smith
3rd Place - Dave Randall

Ladies Auxiliary Chili Cook-Off



Chaplain's Corner

A Storyteller

Author: Randy Kilgore
From Our Daily Bread

In the years following the American Civil War (1861-1865), Union Major General Lew Wallace served as a governor of the New Mexico territories; New Mexico not yet having been admitted as a state. His work there put him in contact with many of the characters that make up the Wild West's near-mythic history, including Billy the Kid and Sheriff Pat Garrett. It was here that Wallace wrote what has been called by some "the most influential Christian book" of the 19th century, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*.

Wallace witnessed the worst impact of sin on humanity as he saw the violence of the Civil War and the Wild West. In life and in his bestselling book, Wallace understood that only the story of Jesus Christ has the power of redemption and reconciliation.

For the followers of Christ, the climax of our lives was the moment God "delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:13-14). Now we have the privilege of being storytellers of God's wonderful redemption.

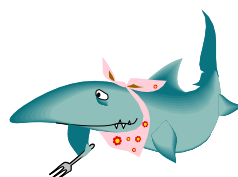
Chaplain's Notes: The above author writes about "the power of redemption and reconciliation. Many of us have experienced some horrific things in our lives that seem impossible to ever lose those memories, but God's Son, Jesus, has the power to deliver us from those haunts. I know! He has that power! We should all want to wash those horrible things from the past right out of our minds and lives. Prayers for Patti and Bob Brothers in the loss of her brother, and for Larry and Geri Kilgore in the recent loss of his mother. Keep the prayers of healing coming for Al Kerbyson (Ann Arbor VA) and Ken Winkler, battling brain

cancer. I apologize if I have left someone out of the prayer requests or updates.

I would also encourage you to join me and other chapter members on Monday evenings at Denny's in Plymouth, for learning about faith in Jesus Christ, and how the Bible guides us ("Veterans for Christ"). Please phone me if you have a prayer request or if one of your loved ones pass. I am leaving my cell number for that reason!



Rich Whipple
Chapter Chaplain
(A sinner saved by God's Grace)
HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



VFW Post 6695
1426 S. Mill Street
Plymouth, MI 48165
Ph# 734.459.6700

2015 Fish Fry
Every Friday, February 20th, till April 3rd
5 pm to 7pm

FISH FRY MENU

Fish Dinners - Fried or Baked Fish

3pc. Fish	\$9.00
4 pc. Fish	\$10.00
2 pc. Child/Senior Citizen	\$7.00
6 pc. Shrimp Dinner	\$9.00
Canadian Walleye Dinner	\$11.00

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

Chicken Strip Dinners

4 pc. Chicken	\$9.00
2 pc Child/Senior Citizen	\$6.00

Side Orders

Regular fries	\$1.50
Mac & Cheese	\$1.50
Baked Potato	\$1.50
Coleslaw	\$.50



- Selling 50/50 tickets
- Selling Basket Raffle tickets

Please let me know if you can help.

I will be bringing tickets to the February Membership meeting.

Thank you! John

BLUM'S LANDING COMEDY NIGHT

The Blum's Landing Comedy Night will be held on Sunday, February 22 at Albert's on the Alley in Garden City. All proceeds from the Comedy Night will go to Blum's Landing.

If you are not familiar with Blum's Landing, it is a place for War on Terror military personnel who have endured physical and/or mental wounds from serving their country. Blum's Landing is a bed and breakfast for military personnel and their families to relax, to recoup and to re-energize from the stress of their current rehab and duties.

Blum's Landing was established by one of our members, Terry Blumberg and his spouse, Jan in honor of their son, Trevor who was killed in Iraq. For more information, you can go to their website, www.blumslanding.org.

The Headliner that night will be Bryan McCree (www.bryanmccree.com). Bryan is a nationally known comedian, seen on Mad TV, Comedy Central and most recently Comic's Unleashed with Byron Allen. In 2006 Bryan earned honors as a best of NBC's Stand UP For Diversity finals. (One of ten handpicked comedians from all over the country) He has shared the stage with the likes of Sinbad, George Wallace, and the Isley Brothers. He has a natural charm on stage, and his infectious giggle often incites laughter among the masses. His natural acting talent shows through in his act, as he plays his funniest character: Himself.

I need help in several ways to make this evening a success. I will need help in:

- Baskets for the Basket Raffle the night of the Event
- Selling tickets to the Event
- Six to ten volunteers the night of the Event
 - Sell and take tickets at the door



Blum's Landing



John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay





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	



1/24/2015	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Birch Run
1/25/2015	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Birch Run
2/14/2015	Saturday		Huron Gun Collectors
2/14/2015	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Novi
2/15/2015	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Novi
2/15/2015	Sunday		Huron Gun Collectors
2/20/2015	Friday	1400 - 1900	Lansing/Mason
2/21/2015	Saturday	0900 - 1800	Gander Mt.
2/21/2015	Saturday	0900 - 1700	Lansing/Mason
2/22/2015	Sunday	0900 - 1800	Gander Mt.
2/22/2015	Sunday	1000 - 1500	Lansing/Mason
3/6/2015	Friday	1500- 2100	Fishing Show
3/7/2015	Saturday	1000- 2100	Fishing Show
3/8/2015	Sunday	1000 - 1600	Fishing Show
3/14/2015	Saturday		Huron Gun Collectors
3/15/2015	Sunday		Huron Gun Collectors
3/21/2015	Saturday	0900 - 1800	Gander Mt.
3/22/2015	Sunday	0900-1800	Gander Mt.
4/18/2015	Saturday	0900-1800	Gander Mt.
4/19/2015	Sunday	0900-1800	Gander Mt.



John Spencer,
Chair



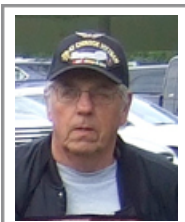
Bob Dew, Fund
Raising Chair



Don Dignan



Dennis Bielskis



Gene Spurgess



Joe Agius



Jerry Thomason



Gary "Bear" Kubik

VVA CHAPTER 528 PRESENTS

Washington, DC - Our Nation's Capital



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- ◆ Two full-day Guided Tours of Washington, DC
- ◆ Evening Guided Memorial and Monuments Tour
- ◆ and much more

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4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS

PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(Fri - Mon)

April

24 - 27, 2015

Departure: Dearborn, MI @ 8 am

Day 1: Depart your group's location in a spacious video and restroom equipped motorcoach as you head for your destination: Washington, D.C. our National Capital! Later that day, enjoy a relaxing Dinner and check into your Washington, D.C. area hotel.

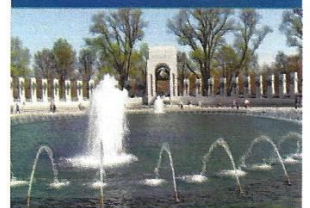
Day 2: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast before departing for a full-day Guided Tour of Washington, D.C. Some of the awe-inspiring sights on this fantastic tour will include the US Capitol, the White House, the National Archives, Embassy Row, and Georgetown. During the day, you will see the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, and several War Memorials. This evening, enjoy Dinner at a local restaurant before continuing on the Guided Memorial and Monuments Tour.

Day 3: Begin the day with a Continental Breakfast. Today's Guided Tour includes such poignant and inspirational sights as Arlington National Cemetery, including the Tomb of the Unknowns, and Kennedy Graves, as well as the Iwo Jima Memorial. You'll also enjoy a visit to the Smithsonian Institution. Later, you'll enjoy Dinner with entertainment before returning to your hotel for the night.

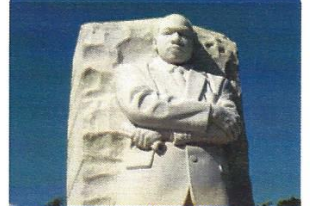
Day 4: Today, after enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great sights you've seen, and where your next group trip will take you!



Capitol Building



World War II Memorial



Martin Luther King, Jr.
National Memorial



Iwo Jima Monument

ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...
With the Travel Confident® Protection Plan if you have to unexpectedly cancel or cut your plans short. See back for details...

\$75 Due Upon Signing. *Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$120 for single occupancy.
Final Payment Due: 2/21/2015

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Chris Timco @ (313) 377-2527 or Bob Dew @ (734) 968-3267

February 2015 - VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth-Canton, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 VVA General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm Nominations for Office	10	11 Swing Dance Class 6 pm	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18	19	20 Fish Fries	21
22 Washington's Birthday Blums Comedy Night	23	24 VVA Board Meeting 7:00 pm	25 Swing Dance Class 6 pm	26	27 Fish Fries	28



Tom Brown, Editor
2nd Missile Battalion, 44th
Artillery Pershing 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 Membership Meeting Monday, February 9, 2015 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)**

VFW Calendar for February

Euchre - 1st, 3rd and 5th Wed. at 6:30 PM
3rd - Ladies Auxiliary 7PM
6th - Karaoke Night 8:00 PM
10th - General Membership Mtg. 7 PM
16th - Poker Shootout 5:30 PM
17th - Board Mtg. 7 PM
18th - Men's Auxiliary 6:30 PM
20th - Karaoke Night 8:00 PM



February Birthdays

Barbara Atkins, Tom Brown, Bob Bryan, Todd Busick, Phillip Cabrerros, Tom Dogonski, Tony Everett, Charles Fannin, Steve Frazer, Hank Giles, Mark Grzesiek, Michael Johnson, Ronald Jones, Larry Kilgore, JohnKrueger, Gary "Bear" Kubik, Dale Luebke, Donald MacRae, Jerry Thomason, Paul Trapp and Richard Waldecker.

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frabar@comcast.net



Come Join Us

Hot Soups - Cold Salads
Bread & Rolls
Coffee & Tea
Desserts for sale

THE MAYFLOWER/LT. GAMBLE VFW
POST 6695 LADIES AUX IS HOSTING A
SOUP AND SALAD DINNER AT:

1426 S. MILL ST PLYMOUTH, MI

SATURDAY, February 7TH
5:00-7:00 p.m.

\$5 PER PERSON

CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

Bake Sale \$1.00



Fish Fries at the VFW



Chapter Officers

President	Ron King
1st Vice President	Jim Hodgson
2nd Vice President	Leroy Paige
Secretary	Richard Waldecker
Treasurer	Bob Dew

Board of Directors

Bill Browning	Gene Spurgess
Mike Dicker	Benjamin Tallman
Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Rich Mazurkiwicz	Jerry Thomason

Committees

A.O./Health Care	Bob Dew
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
Fundraising	Bob Dew
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux

Homefront Newsletter	
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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

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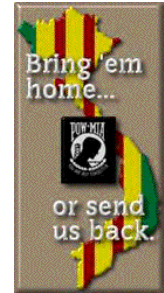


Vietnam Veterans of America

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 _____
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 \$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)
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 I want to give more. Enclosed is my check for \$20.00 _____ \$50.00 _____
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 No. _____
 Today's Date _____

Return this form to:
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P.O. Box 6319
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