



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



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Homefront Staff

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

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

VVA Chapter 528 Elected Leaders for 2015. Who's going to volunteer this year? Nominations begin at our General Membership Mtg. in Feb.



Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

Time goes by! I was in Vietnam 50 years ago - January 1966 to January 1967. It was hot! Not like February in Michigan. I hope you are coping with the cold weather.

Every Wednesday afternoon at the VFW some Chapter members are helping fill out VA claim forms. They have the forms and will help you get a complete package ready to submit to the VA.

Nominations for Chapter officers start during our February meeting with elections in April. Please consider taking a leadership position in the Chapter.

It's a great time to be a Veteran!



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

Another social event taking place in the VFW lounge is Euchre. Every Wednesday at 7:00PM, the dealing starts. The cost is \$10 per person. Sliders are served in the lounge every Wednesday from 5:00PM-7:00PM.

SOUP 'N SALAD

There were 100+ customers who showed up for the Soup 'N Salad on January 16. Thanks for organizing goes to Judy Thomason as well as everyone who contributed a soup or salad.

CHILI COOKOFF

February 6 is the Annual Chili Cookoff where the competition is ferocious. Put together your favorite chili recipe in a crock pot and help out the event. Contact Nancy to enter.

POKER SHOOTOUT

Our first of two semiannual shootouts is coming up on February 4. If this sounds appealing to you, contact me to enter.

FISH FRIES

Lent is very early this year; hence, the weekly Friday fish fries begin on February 12 from 5:00PM-7:00PM. It takes quite a few volunteers to pull this off on a weekly basis. If you decide to participate, please remember to notify the chairperson of your intention. In other words, don't just show up with no heads up. We appreciate your enthusiasm but a schedule of volunteers is needed. Five workers when we need a dozen leaves us obviously short but 20 workers presents a problem

of another sort. Also, please be on time, depending on your function.

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



WINTER WARMUP CHILI COOK-OFF



The VFW Aux. will be hosting a Chili Cook off on February 6th from 5pm-7pm. Dust off those favorite chili recipes and enter to win \$25, \$15 & \$10. All are eligible to enter the cook-off. There is no fee to enter (\$5 all you can eat chili and 3 votes). We need every chili to be in a crockpot.

VFW
Mayflower/Lt Gamble post 6695
1426 Mill St
Plymouth

To enter contact Nancy Dignan at
njd600@sbcglobal.net or call
734-525-0157





Odds & Ends

Membership

We had 1 application for membership this past month. Earl Madison has joined our associates. Welcome Earl to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 268 individual and 77 associate members. Of these we have 197 life VVA and 35 life AVVA members.

I have not yet received December's updated roster from National so some of the lapsed member and renewal info listed below may be outdated.

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

VVA: Richard Dunn, Ellen Howington, Philip Lang, Dan Stengle, Chris Timco

AVVA: Barbara Arnett, Tom Arnett, Betty Burkacki, Joanne Cook, Ron Cook, Tom Guditis, Paul Trapp

Dropped from Roster: none

February VVA Renewals: Tom Dorey, Daniel Dreger, Bob Garrett, Pete Horning, Marcel Loosbrock, Doug Patterson, Vincent Petrasky

February AVVA Renewals: Scott Gaines, Vikki Plagens

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 Elections

Chapter elections will take place at the April meeting. Nominations will begin at the February meeting and continue in March and again in April before the elections. If you wish to run for office, please have a member nominate you or you can nominate yourself. The chapter is always looking for fresh faces and ideas to provide our leadership.

Lenten Fish Fry

The VFW fish frys will begin on Friday, February 12 and run through March 25. This is a huge undertaking and much help is needed. If you can help please let chairman Dennis Bielskis know beforehand, don't just show up, so all jobs can be covered. Through the commitment of many chapter members the fish frys have continued to grow in popularity over the years. If you want a great meal come to one of our reasonably priced fish frys.

Life Membership

Although I have not seen anything in writing yet I have been told by a member of the National membership department that the VVA Board of Directors has voted to make the \$100 life membership permanent. Stay tuned for further details.



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



Bob Lamoureux at 2015 Fish Fry



Chaplain's Corner

"Remembering God's faithfulness in the past strengthens us for the future."

Cindy Kasper
From Our Daily Bread

In the winter of 2009, a large passenger plane made an emergency landing in New York's Hudson River. The pilot, Captain Chesley Sullenberger, who landed the plane safely with no casualties, was later asked about those moments in the air when he was faced with a life-or-death decision. *"One way of looking at this,"* he said, *"might be that for 42 years I've been making small, regular deposits in this bank of experience, education, and training. And on that day the balance was sufficient so that I could make a very large withdrawal."*

Most of us will at some time face a crisis. Perhaps it will be a job termination or the results of a medical test, or the loss of a precious family member or friend. It is in those times that we must dig down deep into the reserves of our spiritual bank account.

And what might we find there? If we have enjoyed a deepening relationship with God, we've been making regular "deposits" of faith. We have experienced His grace (2 Corinthians 8:9, Ephesians 2:4-7). We trust the promise of Scripture that God is just and faithful (Deuteronomy 3:2-4, 2 Thessalonians 3:3).

God's love and grace are available when His children need to make a "withdrawal".

Chaplain's notes: Al Kerbyson is still at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital, and now has a very bad cold, so please continue to "check in" with him if you're visiting the hospital, or give him a call (Cell: 586-382-7580). Prayers requested for Clyde Rains (cancer), as well as Dayle (Joe) Agius for strength after her operation of the removal of her gall bladder. Condolences to Rick Ciaramitaro in the loss of his sister, Rose; also for Denny Fuelling in the loss of his mother; and to LeRoy and Cathy Paige in the sudden death of her 15 year old niece. Praises for Loren Roberts' short stay in the hospital and is back to his job and family; also for Dale Luebke in his quick recovery and short stay at the VA hospital.

For those that have visited or spoken to those mentioned above, thank you for taking the time to console these 528 members!



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



The Bear's Den

You get your money's worth at Post 6695 Lounge! The small price increase was necessary due to this being 2016 and I cannot remember when we increased any prices in a decade. Just compare our prices with any of the others that have great entertainment every Friday. Also, our minimum wage increased.

We have a new member of our staff. Her name is Sarah and she will be here when needed. Stop in during the "Chili Cook Off" to say hello or during Super bowl on Feb. 7th.

All of the other good stuff is going on. Watch the boards. It could be your birthday that you don't want to miss. Enjoy what we have because none of us know how long we will be able to be here.

Thank you for your patronage.



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





Dennis Waling,
Vice President
AVVA Michigan
State Council

Members present: Betty Pike, Cecilia Essenmacher, Penny Meinhardt, Kathy Driscoll, Norma Demerly, Melanie Thon, Shirley Hitte, Minerva Draper, Marilyn Lash and Bobby Heidenrich. Dennis Waling is absent due to a family emergency out of state.

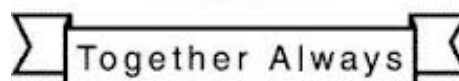
President Betty Pike opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer, and a brief moment of silence. Melanie Thon brought in the 2015 January Minutes for approval, along with the October minutes. Penny made a correction on February's minutes. Norma motioned to accept the minutes and Penny Meinhardt seconded. Motion passed. Cecilia Essenmacher motioned to accept October minutes. Norma seconded. Motion passed. Cecilia gave her financial report. Kathy approved the report subject to audit. There will be an internal audit at the February meeting. Kathy and Marilyn will be on the committee to audit the financial reports.

Agent Orange was discussed. Melanie said there was no movement on the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 in the House or Senate. Kathy said the November Call-in day went well. The next one will be on December 9th. Betty said the Agent Orange registry was started for those who are stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama. The membership report was discussed. There are 22 At-large members. Betty said she will be sending out letters in February for elections to chapters to give to their delegates. Cecilia discussed Region 5. There are 62 new members and 360 dual members. Three members are deceased. Region 5 lost 19 members. Michigan is down 13 members. As of November 18th, there are 265 life members, 68 of them are new.

Policies and procedures were changed. Most of the changes were about incorporating. The National President section was changed and may be taken out. An administrative section was added in Section 6. Section 13, titled Political Activities states that AVVA will not support nor endorse any political party. There is a new hepatitis C program beginning with VVA. AVVA might start the same program. New medication is out that can cure it. There was a discussion about appointing an election chairperson. Penny Meinhardt and Bobby Heidenrich will be on the committee. Cecilia motioned for \$50 to be given to Penny for supplies. Melanie seconded the motion. Motion passed. Marilyn said they had 175 people attend her chapters Town Hall. There was a discussion about the possibility of AVVA renting their own room at the State Convention. Betty updated us on the veterans home. Lieutenant Colonel Kettles spoke to the council about his experience in the war. He might be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Melanie motioned to close the meeting at 12:00. Norma seconded the motion. Motion passed. The next State Council meeting is on February 7th, 2016.

Respectively submitted,
Melanie Thon
Secretary, Associates of Vietnam Veterans of
America
Michigan State Council



February 2016 VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth-Canton, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Poker Shootout 6 pm	5 Valentine's Dance 7 pm	6 Chili Cook-off 5-7pm
7	8 General Membership Meeting 7pm	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Presidents Day	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Board Meeting 7pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	1	2	3	4	5



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



Calendar by Tom Brown

VVA 528 General Membership Meeting Monday, February 8, 2016 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)

VFW Calendar for February

2nd - Ladies Auxiliary - 7pm
 5th - Karaoke Night - 8pm
 9th - General Membership Mtg - 7pm
 16th - Board Meeting - 7pm
 18th - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30pm
 19th - Karaoke Night - 8pm
 Euchre every Wednesday starting at 7 pm
 Soup and Salad every Saturday
 Sliders every Wednesday.



February Birthdays

Austin Bronson, Tom Brown, Bob Bryan, Todd Busick, Phillip Cabrerros, Thomas Dogonski, Tony Everett, Charles Fannin, Steve Frazer, Hank Giles, Mark Grzesiek, Fred Hanna, Ronald Jones, Larry Kilgore, John Krueger, Gary "Bear" Kubik, Dale Luebke, Donald Macrae, Robert Rood, John Stern, Jerry Thomason and Richard Waldecker.



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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State A. Delegate	Dennis Bielskis
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling
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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)**

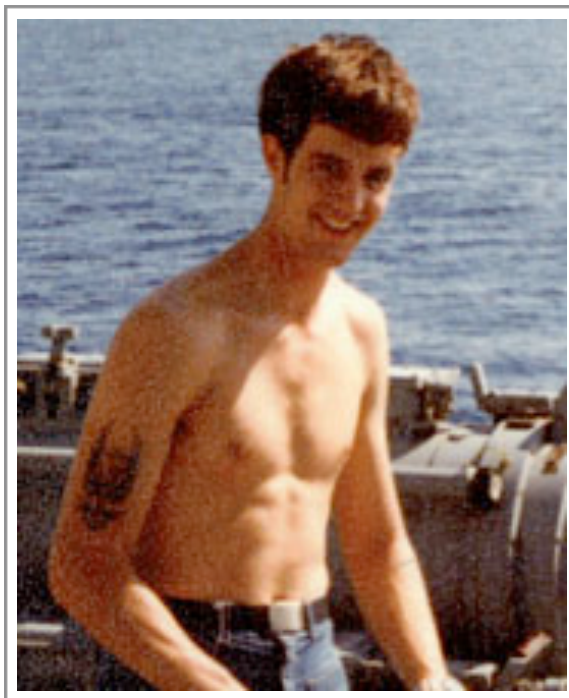
Chapter 528 Website: www.vva528.org

Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com

Advertiser 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.



Earl Madison - Navy - 1979 - AVVA
Newest member to have his service photo placed online.

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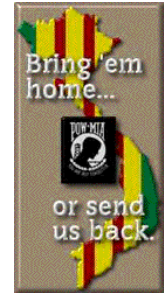


Vietnam Veterans of America

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is open to Vietnam Era Veterans as well as Associate Members of the Public at Large.

Name _____
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 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 _____

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Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528
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Plymouth, MI 48170-0473



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