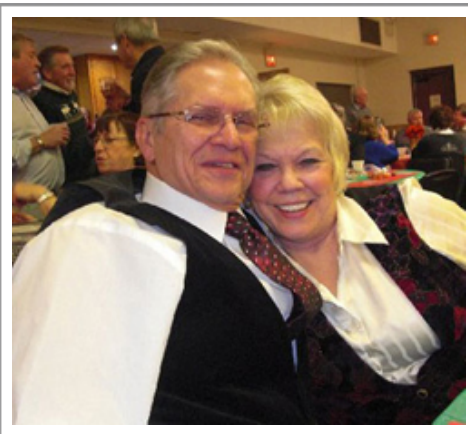




VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Bob and Shirley Caldwell having fun during our Christmas Party.
Photo courtesy of Ted Enright.

Index

President's Corner	1-2
Kokomo 2014	2
Members In Distress	2
Digger's Desk	3
Odd's & Ends	4
Christmas Activities Wrap-Up	5
Dr. Bob's Files	6
Chaplain's Corner	7
Calendar of Events	8
Committees	9
Membership Form	10



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President's Corner

Ron King

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

Welcome Home!

Happy New Year!

December, 2013 was an exciting and busy month. First, we had a very moving Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony on December 7th for our World War II veterans. The Color Guard, led by Bob Lamoureux, and Taps played by Bill Browning were the highlights of the event. Again, a special "Thank You" to VFW Post 6695 for providing SOS after the ceremony.

There are many volunteers to thank for many chapter activities. December 7th volunteers braved the cold and snow to ring Salvation Army bells. The next day, December 8th, several volunteers showed up to make the VFW Children's Christmas Party an overwhelming success, much to the delight of many children. The month continued with more volunteer opportunities. Although several people turned out to help prepare for the Adult Christmas Party, a special "Thank You" is merited for Judy Thomason for graciously volunteering to chair this very time-consuming event. The party was a huge success thanks to Judy's organizational skills, and all of the people who brought delicious foods to share. As the month wore on, we continued to support our veterans in need by showing up for the annual Kohl's shopping event, which allows us to distribute several thousands of dollars worth of clothing to our homeless veterans. Believe me, you really feel the appreciation from these vets, and you know in your heart that you have done an

President's Corner continued from page 1

amazing thing! The same can be said for our group of volunteers who go annually to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor to visit with our hospitalized veterans. Moreover, our generosity did not stop there, as we contributed money and gifts to three families in our community in need of assistance, as well as with one of our own chapter members. Words cannot describe the goodness and kindness that our members have for each other. Lets look forward to a dynamic and accomplished 2014. We still have so much more to give to our members and to the community! I sincerely Thank You for all you do.



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



WINTER WARMUP CHILI COOK-OFF



The VFW Ladies Aux. will be hosting a Chili Cook off on January 11th 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



Members In Distress

Eldon Frank is in intensive care in the Metro Hospital across from the Grand Rapids home. Please, keep Eldon and Lana in your prayers.



Kokomo 2014

Planning begins now for reserving our campsites in September for Kokomo 2014. We have to mail all our requests by February 1, 2014 and make payment for the lot rent. Please, let me know ASAP your plans if you are planning on attending our annual reunion.

For the Chapter,



Dale M. Luebke
355th Tac Fighter Wing
357th Tac Fighter
Squadron





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Digger's Desk

TROOP SHIPPING

If you have a son/daughter, grandson/grand daughter, niece/nephew who is deployed overseas and might like some stateside support, get us a name and address and we'll be sure to get a package sent to them. Remember what it was like getting a package from home back in the day?

PEARL HARBOR DAY

"A day that will live in infamy" was memorialized in Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Plymouth at 11AM on December 7. This is the day that thrust America into WWII and forever changed the world. It was a brief but solemn ceremony in chilly weather. Afterward everyone adjourned to the VFW for a helping of SOS, courtesy of Bill Browning.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Right after the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony and a serving of SOS, I headed for Sam's Club on Ford Road for our annual assist to the Salvation Army. Gary Boucher and I were singing Christmas carols and people were dropping money into the red kettle at a record pace. I think there was a connection but not sure which way it swung. Anyway my understanding is that we passed last year's tote by quite a margin. Thanks to all for participating in this annual event.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

For the first time in many, many years, we held a Children's Christmas Party December 8 from

1-4PM at the Post. Over 60 kids 12 and under were treated to Christmas gifts, karaoke, Santa Claus and a lot of adults having just as much fun as the kids. Thanks to Patty Bielskis and the Ladies Auxiliary for organizing what is sure to become an annual tradition.

MICHIGAN VETERANS FOUNDATION

December 12 marked our annual trip to Kohl's, armed with a \$2000 Chapter donation and utilizing every discount ever invented by the retail world, we delivered several thousand dollars worth of clothing to the Michigan Veterans Foundation-Detroit Veterans Center. Tyrone Chatman gave a few of our newbies the grand tour and thanked us profusely for the Chapter's generosity. It is always a good feeling upon completion of this mission.

ANN ARBOR VAMC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our usual trek to the Ann Arbor VAMC for the patient Veterans Christmas visit took place on Tuesday, December 17. Along with Chapter 310 as host, we visited with Veteran patients from several eras, all hoping to be home for Christmas, some who will not make it. Most of the Veterans were happy to chat about their hometown and time in the service. Chapter 528 participants had a great time also.

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and are on your way to a Happy New Year. There are a lot of good things happening in the Chapter. I hope to see you at the January meeting. Don't forget to sign in. It's a great time to be a Veteran.



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





Odds & Ends

Membership

We had 2 individuals submit applications this past month. William "Bill" Bailey, Army, and Carl Allen, Navy, have joined our chapter. We also say goodbye to longtime member Art Stanley who has transferred to Chapter 1036 in Florida where he now resides. Welcome Home Bill and Carl and welcome to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 256 individual and 66 associate members. Of these we have 140 life VVA and 21 life AVVA members

Lapsed Members: As of December 22, 2013 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Leon Carter, Dennis Darichuck, Charles Havens, Ken Karp, John Ligner, Winford Wilson

AVVA: Joanna Lafleur, Matthew Puchala, Dave Randall, Glenn Smith

Dropped From Roster: Phil Wertanen, Art Stanley

January VVA Renewals: Dennis Fuelling, Ron Hoffman, Don McLane, Jerry Pazdan, Anthony Rypkowski, Robert Taylor, Dale Wofford

January AVVA Renewals: Jack Fortney, Matthew Klepack, Stephanie Krawcke, Barb Roberts, Robert Spaw

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

On December 7th the color guard provided an honor volley and Taps at a ceremony in Plymouth in honor of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. One of the attendees, Jerry Hoelscher, lost his brother on that fateful day. Jerry is also one of our VFW members. After the ceremony we headed back to the Post for some of Bill Browning's famous SOS.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulation to Rick Popa. Rick is the latest winner of the chapter raffle and will receive a life membership. As soon as enough funds are

collected from the monthly 50/50 drawings there will be another drawing which should be in February.

Christmas Trees

I want to thank all the chapter members who showed their support of the VFW by either buying a Christmas tree or helping to sell them. This is a labor-intensive fundraiser like the Fall Festival but with crummier weather. This year's sale of 150 trees was a complete sellout thanks to the generosity of VFW member Pat Kelley who purchased the last 6 trees with instructions to give them away. Chairman Bill Browning and his crew are to be congratulated for a job well done.



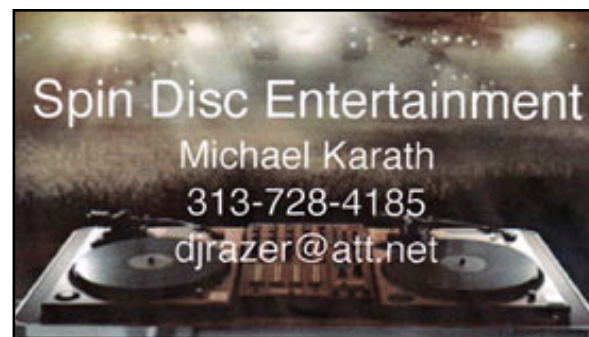
Bob Lamoureux
Co. C, 3/47, 9th Inf. Div.
"Mobile Riverines"




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Christmas Activities Wrap-up

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Thank You to all of the members that came out on a great December Saturday to the Sam's Club in Canton. The results of our efforts were that we raised \$858.47 (about \$250 more than last year) for this wonderful organization.

Burger Christmas Carnival

Thank You to everyone that showed up to visit with the students at the Burger School for Autistic Children. A special well-done once again to Bill Boudreau who brought his military hat collection. The children had a great time trying on the various hats and getting their pictures taken by Debbie Bradley and the teachers at Burger.

Winter Clothing Drive

Our 8th Annual Winter Clothing Drive has been completely successfully. All went well on Thursday December 12, 2013. Some of the group met at Bob Evans for breakfast at 8:00 AM and others met us at Kohl's at 9:00 AM. Representatives from MVF were there to assist in identifying items needed. All totaled we spent \$ 1,809.37 for a retail value of \$4,619.00. We had the \$2000.00 allocated in our motion request along with an additional \$70.00 donated by a couple of individuals. Grand total \$2,070.00. Once we arrived downtown at the Michigan Veterans Foundation center I presented Tyrone with a check for \$270.00. Total expenditure was \$2079.37.

For our shopping trip we collected Kohl's cash totaling \$370.00 that we will spend on Thursday December 26, 2013 for underwear that will be donated to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Thank you to all who helped in any way!!!

Through our efforts I am certain we brightened the lives of many people, thank you all!!!



John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay



Burger School Christmas Carnival



Debbie Bradley, John Riling, Art Sawyer, Bill Boudreau and Ralph Auge



Bill Boudreau's Display of hats and helmets



Ted & Shelly Enright - Christmas Party



DR. BOB'S FILES:

**Bob Paul, USMC
1st MAW, MAG-12, VMA-225
Chu Lai 1965**

**ARE YOU READY
FOR THIS!!!**

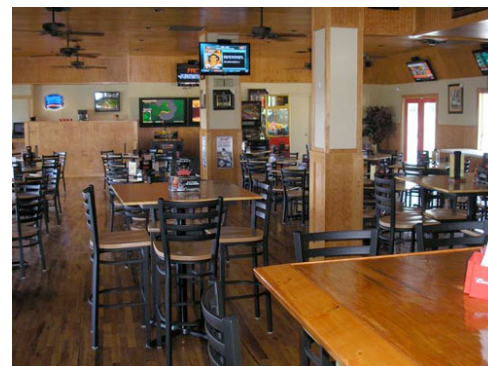
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY WE'RE GETTING THERE.



Their sophomore year completed, several boys who had gone to school together since kindergarten were discussing where they should go for dinner. It was agreed they would go to McDonald's next to Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because they only had six dollars among them, they could ride in Jack's Ford station wagon and Jennie Webster, that cute girl in Social Studies, lives on the same street and they might see her. After dinner, they agreed to meet every ten years.

Ten years later, the group of now 25-year-old guys discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the beer was cheap, the bar had free snacks, the house band was good, there was no cover charge and there were a lot of cute girls.

Ten years later, at 35 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was decided they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the booze was good, it was near their gym and, if they went late enough, there wouldn't be too many whiny little kids.



Ten years later, at 45, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the martinis were big and the waitresses wore tight pants.

Ten years later, now aged 55, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the prices were reasonable, they have a nice wine list and fish is good for your cholesterol.

Ten years later, at 65 years of age, the group again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the lighting was good and they have an 'early bird special'.

Ten years later, at 75 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the food was not too spicy and the restaurant was handicapped accessible.

Ten years later, at 85 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because they had never been there before.





A Season for Everything

Chaplain's Corner

From Our Daily Bread Devotions

Author: Jennifer Schultdt

In the 1960s, the folk rock band, The Byrds, popularized the song "Turn! Turn! Turn!". It climbed to the top spot on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart and gained worldwide popularity. People seemed captivated by the lyrics. Interestingly though, except for the last line, those lyrics are from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes.

"To everything there is a season," proclaims the writer of Ecclesiastes, "a time for every purpose under heaven" (3:1). He then lists some of the seasons in human experience: birth and death, gain and loss, tears and laughter, mourning and dancing. Just as the seasons in nature change, so do the seasons in our lives. Our circumstances never stay the same for long.

Sometimes we welcome change in our lives. But often it is difficult, especially when it involves sorrow and loss. Yet even then we can be thankful that God does not change. "I am the Lord," He said through the prophet Malachi. "I do not change" (Mal. 3:6).

Because God remains the same, we can rely on Him through the shifting seasons of life. His presence is always with us (Ps. 46:1), His peace has the power to guard our hearts (Phil. 4:7), and His love provides security for our souls (Rom. 8:39).

Personal note from the Chaplain: It is Christmas Eve, and I am sending this article out to Tom Brown for the January edition of the Homefront. I am hopeful that our membership had a wonderful experience during the holidays, with family and friends. However I know that some of you are not in good health, and recently some friend or relative that you were close to has passed away. Christmas can be a painful and lonesome time for some of you. Having a relationship with Christ, our Savior, can lighten that burden.

I really enjoy the devotional, "Our Daily Bread", which is just a quick reminder, on a daily basis, of how we can connect with our Creator and Savior, and appreciate what God has done for us. He has not left us alone! If you would like a copy of this devotional (it's free!!!), please let me know and I can bring copies to the January meeting. I wish everyone nothing but the best for the year 2014!!



Rich Whipple
Chapter Chaplain
HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



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Plymouth—Canton, MI Chapter 528

January 2014



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 General Membership Mtg. 7 pm	14	15	16 Agent Orange Meeting	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm	29	30	31	



USARV
58th Field Depot
Qui Nhon
May 68 - May 69



Calendar by Gary Estermyer

**VVA 528 Membership Meeting Monday, January 13, 2014 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)**

VFW Calendar For January

3rd - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
7th - Ladies Auxiliary - 7 pm
11th - Ladies Auxiliary Chili Cookoff - 5 pm
14th - General Membership - 7 pm
16th - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30 pm
17th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
21st - Board Meeting - 7 pm



January Birthdays

Richard Adis, William Bailey, Ronald Balor, Charles Bilyk, Patricia Brother, Mike Bush, Lee Camilleri, Bob Cheatham, Steve Cunningham, Patrick Doherty, Jim Dorey, Susan Dorey, Thomas Dorey, Art Esper, Dennis Fuelling, Bill Gravett, Johnnie Johnson, Larry Kijorski, Don King, Ronald King, Pat Klopschinsky, Andy Lawrence, Aggie Little, Dick O'Hare, Raymond Plesiewicz, Rick Popa, Michael Potochick, Phil Pursell, John Sanborn, Don Shannon, Robert Spaw, Eugene Spurgess, Mike Steffes, Joseph Tabor, Dennis Waling, John Wallace, Walter Weber, Ken Winkler, Michael Wisinski, Dale Worcester and J.R. Yarbrough.



January 2014



Chapter 528 Web Site: www.vva528.org

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1st Vice President	Bob Paul
2nd Vice President	Leroy Paige
Secretary	Richard Waldecker
Treasurer	Bob Dew

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Mike Dicker	Ben Tallman
Gary "Bear" Kubik	Joe Tebor
Gary Pritchard	Jerry Thomason

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AVVA Representative	Dennis Waling
By-Laws	Bob Paul
Chaplain	Rich Whipple
Chapter Historian	Dick Waldecker
Color/Honor Guard	Bob Lamoureux
	Rick Ciaramitaro
Constitution	Gary Estermyer
ETABO	Gordon Dorey
Fundraising	Bob Dew
Government Affairs	
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux
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Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming
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	Don Dignan
	Ron King
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Sportsman's Raffle	Dennis Bielskis
State Delegate	Gary Estermyer
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling
VAVS Deputy	Vaughn Hull
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 21st 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 or email Bill Boudreau at wboudreau@comcast.net. 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)**

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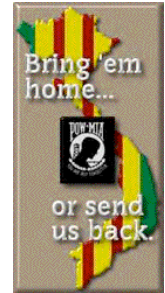


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