



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Members from VVA 528 and VVA 310 joined up at Ann Arbor VA Hospital on December 20th to bring cheer to veterans who are patients.

Photo courtesy of Norma Demerly.

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
Sportsman's Raffle	5
Sportsman's Selling Events	6
New Years Resolutions	7
Bill's Bistro	7
Calendar	8
Christmas Party Photos	9
Committees	10
Ads	11
Membership Form	12

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Welcome Home!



"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

Happy New Year!!!

The 2017 Sportsman's Raffle tickets will be available at the membership meetings. The raffle is the same format as the 2015 raffle. Bob Dew set up a website with pictures and information about the raffle items at <http://www.sportsman-raffle.weebly.com>. There is also a link to it on our website. If you can help sell tickets at regional gun shows and the Gander Mountain in Novi, sign up sheets will be available at the monthly membership meetings.

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 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.

SHOOTOUT

February will be the 1st of 2017's two Annual Poker Shootouts. If interested, let me know and I'll put you on the waiting list.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Thanks to all who helped unload trees on the day before Thanksgiving when it was raining and then returned on the day after Thanksgiving to tie up and hang the trees to get them visibly ready for sale. It was a record year for finishing the sale, two weeks prior to Christmas.

PEARL HARBOR DAY

December 7 marked the 75 anniversary of the "day that will live in infamy" and plunged the United States into WWII. Immediately following the ceremony, a hardy meal of traditional SOS was served back at the Post.

KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday December 10, the Post hall was filled with kids and grandkids enjoying face painting, crafts, karaoke, hot dogs, sloppy joes and Santa Claus (aka Bob Anderson). All volunteers outdid themselves in bringing forth this annual magic moment.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Also on December 10, several more volunteers rang bells from 9:00AM-6:00PM at Sam's Club for the Salvation Army, bringing in several hundred dollars and enabling the SA to save on paying a bell ringer at that location. We have been doing this for over 20 years.

CHRISTMAS VISIT TO ANN ARBOR VAMC

Our annual visit with the patients at the Ann Arbor VAMC took place on Tuesday December 20. This has been coordinated by VVA Chapter 310 for the last 29 years. Chapter 528 has been financially supporting and visiting for the last 10-15 years. A lot of these patients will be there throughout the holidays. Keep them in your prayers.

UPCOMING

Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Friday. 2nd and 4th Friday, there is a new band performing. We'll be making our annual visit to the Michigan Veterans Foundation at their new Detroit location sometime in January. We have a Soup 'n Salad day and Chili Cookoff coming up in January and February followed by the Lenten Fish Fries. Unfortunately cancelled for the foreseeable future due to perplexing non-support is Taco Night. This I do not understand, i.e., the food was delicious and price reasonable ?? For the latest lineup of all events, see the enclosed January calendar.

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



Don Dignan

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





Odds & Ends

Membership

There were 8 applications for membership this past month. Don Marshall and Richard Demeester, Army, and David Baringer, Navy, have joined our chapter. Roy Pistor, Marines, is transferring from Chapter 310. Jerry Lesniak, Troy Fisher, Bruce Glenn and Paul Enderle have joined our associates. Welcome Don, Rick Dave, Roy, Jerry Troy, Bruce and Paul to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 277 individual and 83 associate members. Of these we have 228 life VVA and 45 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Ron Jones, Charlie Kotcher

AVVA: Dave Randall

Dropped from Roster: none

January VVA Renewals: Anthony Rypkowski

January 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 would like to thank all the chapter members who were involved with the Christmas tree sales either by buying a tree or in helping sell them. The trees were sold out 2 weeks before Christmas, the earliest that has happened. Thanks for all your

support, hard work and dedication. Fundraisers like this keep our post viable when many others are closing their doors.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations go to AVVA member Elaine Roeseler, the latest winner of the chapter raffle and a life membership. There will be another drawing at the February membership meeting. Just a reminder when you come to the meeting, make sure you put your name on the sign-in sheet. Entries for the drawing are taken from that sheet each month as well as providing a record of how many attend the meetings.



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



One lucky guy! VVA Chapter 528 once again helped deliver Christmas Spirit to those Veterans at Ann Arbor VA Hospital. As always, Stacey Mason played her violin and sang songs with Miss Washtenaw (who also played the violin and Miss Michigan. *Photo courtesy of Norma Demerly.*



Chaplain's Corner

The Advocate

From Our Daily Bread,
by Mart Dehaan

From a Florida prison cell in June 1962, Clarence Earl Gideon wrote a note asking the United States Supreme Court to review his conviction for a crime he said he didn't commit. He added that he didn't have the means to hire a lawyer.

One year later, in the historic case of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the Supreme Court ruled that people who cannot afford the cost of their own defense must be given a public defender, an advocate, provided by the state. With this decision, and with the help of a court-appointed lawyer, Clarence Gideon was retried and acquitted.

But what if we are not innocent? According to the apostle Paul, we are all guilty. But the court of heaven provides an Advocate who, at God's expense, offers to defend and care for our soul (1 John 2:2). On behalf of his Father, Jesus comes to us offering a freedom that even prison inmates have described as better than anything they've experienced on the outside. **It is a freedom of heart and mind.**

Whether suffering for wrongs done by us or to us, we all can be represented by Jesus. By the highest of authority He responds to every request for mercy, forgiveness, and comfort.

Jesus, our Advocate, can turn a prison of lost hope, fear, or regret into the place of His presence.

Chaplain's note: My wishes are that every one of you experienced a wonderful Christmas and God's presence! I am writing up this Chaplain's Corner article in the Chelsea Hospital, where Karen was operated on yesterday for a hip replacement. Here she is already climbing steps and walking and we're hopeful that she will be released tomorrow morning, as we are hosting our clan on Christmas Eve at our home, it would be nice if we were

there! I am so impressed of the inventions that so improve our living and lifestyle. When God created the world, and we humans, he gave man the brain to think and improve, and we still have that capability. Prayers: For Carol and Skip Davison in the loss of her father, Louis Baker; for praise for Al Sneath's mother whose health has rebounded; and for our nation to begin to unite from the turmoil of the elections.



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



Sportman's 2017 Raffle Website

VVA Chapter 528 has a new website to help distribute Sportsman's Raffle Tickets. Visitors will be able to purchase raffle tickets online. Treasurer Bob Dew created the website.

sportsman-raffle.weebly.com

See pages 5 and 6 for list of prizes and selling events.

Ann Arbor VMAC



Photo courtesy of Norma Demerly



In Service to America



Vietnam Veterans of America Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528



2017 Sportsman's Raffle

40 Prizes To Be Awarded - Winning Tickets Go Back Into Hopper!

WWW.VVA528.ORG

Armalite Eagle-15 Centerfire Rifle	Tenpoint Titan SS Crossbow package
Marlin Model 336 Bl Centerfire Rifle	Wicked Ridge Warrior HL ACU-52 Crossbow package
Ruger American Rifle Copper	Shimano Fishing Package
Camping Package	CVA Apex Muzzleloader Black Powder 50-Cal interchangeable Barrel Rifle
Mossberg Patriot Rifle Package	Rossi R92 Centerfire Rifle
Ruger American Rifle Copper	LG 55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
Mossberg Patriot Centerfire Rifle Package	LG 55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
Bear Threat Ready-to-Hunt Bow Package 60-70 lbs	Remote controlled Phantom 3 Standard Drone
Ruger American Rifle Compact Rifle	LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
Shimano Fishing Package	All in one HP PC W/integrated 23" Display
Browning AB3 Hunter Centerfire Rifle	LG55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
DPMS Panther Arms Oracle Rifle	HP 17.3" notebook PC W/AMD Quadcore A8-7410
Savage Model 11/111 Hunter XP Rifle Package	LG55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
Camping Package	Canon 18 MP CMOS APS-C DSLR Kit
Mossberg Flex 500 Hunting Shotgun	LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
Remington Model 870 Express Shotgun Combo	Canon 18MP CMOS APS-C DSLR Kit
Benelli Supernova Comfortech Shotgun	LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
Weatherby SA-08 Synthetic Shotgun	Remote Controlled Abrams M1A2 Tank & Samsung Tablet
Mossberg all purpose shotgun	LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
Bear Archery Finesse Ready-to-hunt Bow Package	LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV

Additional in-house raffles will be available.

**All Prizes are awarded through Gander Mountain, Novi, MI.,
ABC Warehouse Canton, MI and Excel Drones Garden City, MI.**

***** FREE FOOD AND DRINK - RAFFLE TICKET REQUIRED FOR ENTRY *****

Drawing: Sunday, October 8, 2017 - 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

\$20.00 (US) per Ticket - Need Not Be Present To Win.

(Must Be 18 Years Old to Purchase Tickets)

*Prize winners responsible for taxes and all pertinent regulations.

\$20.00

\$20.00

******* Support Your Local Veterans and their Projects *******

Proceeds to benefit hospitalized veterans, community, veteran projects and the general fund of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528. If 1500 tickets are not sold, the Sportsman's Raffle will revert to a 50/50 Raffle with a minimum prize of \$5,000.

License No. R39172



VVA 528 2017 Sportsman's Raffle Selling Events

6

This is a list of the locations that we will be selling our raffle tickets. Please, contact Dennis Bielskis and SIGN-UP to help the chapter sell tickets at one or more of the events. Our online website sportsman-raffle.weebly.com

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
Flint	3501 Lapeer Rd.	Flint	48503
ABC Warehouse	41690 Ford Rd.	Canton	48184
GTC - Mt. Clemens	237 North River Rd.	Mt. Clemens	48043
Novi	46100 Grand River	Novi	48374
Monroe	3775 S. Custer Rd.	Monroe	48161

DATE	DAYTIME	TIME	LOCATION
12/17/2016	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Novi Gun Show
12/18/2016	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Novi Gun Show
12/30/2016	Friday	14:00 - 19:00	Lansing/Mason
12/31/2016	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Lansing/Mason
12/31/2016	Saturday	10:00 - 17:00	GTC Mt. Clemens
01/01/2017	Sunday	09:00 - 15:00	Lansing/Mason
01/21/2017	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Birch Run
01/22/2017	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Birch Run
02/04/2017	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Lansing/Mason
02/05/2017	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Lansing/Mason
02/11/2017	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Monroe
02/12/2017	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Monroe
02/18/2017	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Novi
02/18/2017	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Novi
03/18/2017	Saturday	09:00 - 17:00	Birch Run
03/19/2017	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00	Birch Run



Don Petrere

New Years Resolutions...
Or Today's...Screw It.....

Just how many over the last week or so have made a New Years Resolution? Five of you, maybe 6 or 10 or everybody. Let's look at some common ones. Also ones that could be more non-fiction than fiction. I'm never going to drink again because it always gets me in trouble. Screw it. I'm going to lose 50 pounds. Just the large fries please. Screw it. I'm going to be a better person. Nope, that won't work. Screw it. I'm going to volunteer more at the post. Nope, they really don't want me. Screw it. I'm going to sit with the big guys. Nope, table full. Screw it. I'm making great suggestions for improvement. Nope, don't have the majority. Screw it. I'm going to get my picture with all the regular volunteers. Nope, no film left. Screw it. I'm going to win most of the golf money this summer. Nope, clubs don't work right. Screw it. I'm going to converse with everybody at all events. Nope, not in that group clique. Screw it. I'm going to talk with him again. Nope, he doesn't know me this week. Screw it.

Now just a few and as you can read making them is much harder then keeping them. One positive though can be made out this. You can stay stone cold quiet and still get screwed. Many need to adjust their resolutions. So Happy New Year to all of you. I'm keeping mine quite. No..Screw it...



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



"Bill's Bistro"



Former VVA Chapter 528 President/Secretary **William "Bill" Boudreau** has been honored posthumously by having the kitchen/dining area at his church be named "Bill's Bistro" for all of the volunteer work Bill did for his church. *Photo courtesy of Michigan State Council President, John Riling.*

Children's Christmas Party 2016



Photos courtesy of Patty and Dennis Bielskis - Below is a link to see 98 photos taken during the Kid's Christmas Party.

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AMt083MhyvDqAVY&v=photos&id=A1DCBF9F7890B748%2114825&cid=A1DCBF9F7890B748>



JANUARY 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3 VFW AUX MEETING 7:00	4 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	5	6 KARAOKE 8:00	7
8	9 VVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	10 VFW MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	11 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	12	13 BAND 8:00	14
15	16	17 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	18 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	19	20 KARAOKE 8:00	21 SOUP AND SALAD 5-7
22	23	24 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	25 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	26	27 BAND 8:00	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
AVVA & Ladies
Auxiliary

Richard Adis, Ronald Bator, John Berry, Charles Bilyk, Mike Bush, Lee Camilleri, Robert Cheatham, Steven Cunningham, Patrick Doherty, Jim Dorey, Thomas Dorey, Louie Dorka, Arthur Esper, Shawn Flaharty, Dennis Fuelling, William Gravett, Peter Holden, Johnnie Johnson, Larry Kijorski, Ron King, Patricia Klopschinsky, Andrew "Andy" Lawrence, Aggie Little, Donald Marshall, George Mason, John O'Hara, Dick O'Hare, Raymond Plesiewicz, Rick Popa, Mike Potochick, Phil Pursell, Donald Shannon, Eugene Spurgess, Mike Steffes, Joseph Tebor, Dennis Waling, John Wallace, Walter Weber, Michael Wisienski, Dale Worcester, Jimmy Yarbrough and George Zathey.



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2nd Vice President	Mike Steffes
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Chaplain	Rich Whipple
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Fundraising	Bob Dew
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
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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

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



Chapter 528 Latest Service Photos



George Lalinsky



Larry Eichstadt

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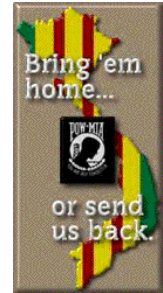


Vietnam Veterans of America

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 _____
 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
 Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528
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 Plymouth MI 48170-0473