



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Welcome Home!

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President's Corner

Greetings Fellow
Veterans!



We are finally into the Summer months and Mother Nature has not been kind to us on car show days with an unprecedented four-in-a-row cancellations! However, we are being very positive that the show scheduled for June 25th is going to happen because it is a Special show to help one of our long time member's family through some very difficult times. Not even weather can stop our "Can Do" spirit when it comes to helping our members.

Remember to mark your calendars for July 3rd at Plymouth Kellogg Park at 7:00 p.m. as the community is paying tribute to all veterans with a variety of patriotic songs performed in our honor. Following this event the next morning is the July 4th Parade where we will march in the front of the parade where we belong. I encourage as many members as possible to attend the parade and receive the appreciation and applause that all veterans rightfully deserve. Let's show Plymouth who their veterans are! After the parade, please come to the VFW Post to partake in the annual barbecue chicken dinners that our VFW hosts so graciously provide for us.

Also, besides the weekly car shows, there are still two more VFW Steak Fry Nights, an annual VFW/VVA/VFW Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries picnic, Fall Festival, and the Annual Kokomo Reunion to round out the Summer season.

Unfortunately, a fellow chapter member "Moe" Melvin Swope passed on June 17th. His life was honored on Monday, June 23rd. I was surprised that only eight chapter members were present at his memorial service. A chapter member's passing is a tragic event and warrants our fullest attention.

As I say every month in this article, you, the members are the best group of people and veterans that any chapter could hope to have. Your attitudes and unselfish commitments to each other are unparalleled anywhere! I thank you sincerely for your continued support.

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



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





Digger's Desk

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The annual Memorial Day Parade stepped off at 9:00AM to the tune of gorgeous weather and an enthusiastic crowd raining down applause and thank-you's on us Veterans and supporters. I've almost gotten used to it after 24 years but I'm still glad I'm wearing photo gray lenses while marching. The ceremony following in Veterans Park was solemn and respectful with our own Ron King giving a speech worthy of a keynote speaker. Everyone was later treated to SOS at the Post.

BOWLING LEAGUE STARTING THIS FALL

We are starting a VFW/VVA bowling league this fall beginning on September 14. It will run every other Sunday at 1:30PM at Plaza Lanes on Ann Arbor Road, almost kitty-corner to the Post. If you are of high or low skill level or no skill level at all, you are welcomed. In order to possibly include family or friends who are not members, teams will consist of three/four bowlers, only one of which must be a member of either VFW/Men's or Ladies Auxiliary/VVA/AVVA. This is a social event to deviate from our usual activities and should be fun. If you are a team, a couple or a single who would like to participate, you are encouraged to contact Patty/Bob Brothers at 734-420-0555 or myself at 734-525-0157. There is also a signup sheet on the clipboard when entering the lounge. If we are successful in interesting enough people, we will have a meeting well in advance of starting.

CARCRUZ FUNDRAISER

Mother nature finally cut us some slack after four consecutive rainouts. The Chapter, Post and Auxiliaries all came together to put on a fundraiser for Gary Pritchard's son's family who lost their husband/father to a heart attack. Wayne Pritchard was only 44 years old and left behind a wife and four kids under 12 years old. I don't know the final tally but it will be well over \$2000. This event made me proud to be a member of both the VVA and VFW. This is what we are all about, Veterans

helping Veterans and their loved ones in time of need. For those who participated, you were rewarded.

STEAK FRY

We have a system in place for the monthly steak fry and from comments regarding the first two events, everything came out well. See you at the next steak fry on July 18.

VIETNAM COMPANY REUNION

Nancy and I drove over 2500 miles roundtrip to attend the 24th Reunion of my outfit from Vietnam, D/2/16, 1st Infantry Division. It was a fantastic celebration in Vero Beach, FL of our brotherhood while serving in combat. 24 Delta Veterans traveled from all across the United States to come together with family and friends for a total of about 60 celebrants. A special ceremony, organized and attended by many local dignitaries, was held on Veterans Island in Vero Beach to publicly acclaim our Reunion and to recognize those who have gone before us. I had the task of reading the names and city of home address for all 29 casualties from our Company...it was a difficult undertaking but I managed to hold it together for the reading. June 29 at 11:15PM will mark the 46 anniversary of boarding the freedom bird and leaving that dreadful place behind.

There are a lot of worthwhile things happening in the Chapter, e.g., Car Cruz, Monday Golf, July 4 Parade and Chicken Barbecue, Hope to see you there.

I would also like to see you at the July 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

It is with sadness we report the deaths of 2 chapter members. Larry Luceus passed away on June 7th and Moe Swope on June 17th. Our condolences and prayers go out to both families. Mason Grahl has transferred out of our chapter and joined a chapter closer to his new home in Montana. We had 5 applications for membership this past month. Wilfred Azzopardi, Army, has joined the chapter and Stephen Hives, Jill Hives, Patrick Colbeck and Richard Beach have joined our associates. Welcome Wilfred, Stephen, Jill, Patrick and Richard to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 259 individual and 72 associate members. Of these we have 146 life VVA and 24 life AVVA members

Lapsed Members: As of June 22, 2014 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Richard Dunn, Michael Hoben

AVVA: Christina Collins, Paul Collins, Kelly Ryan, John Stewart

Dropped From Roster: Matthew Klepack, Stephanie Krawcke

July VVA Renewals: David Cole, Tim Curtis, Charlie Kotcher, Barbara Little, Richard Mamayek, Charles Neal, James Tillman

July AVVA Renewals: Stephen Boucher, Patty Brothers, Betty Burkacki, Brenda Menendez, Mike Wisinski

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 June. On July 4th some of the color guard members will be walking with other chapter members in the Plymouth parade. This will be different for us (not having to march) and should be more enjoyable.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

On Saturday, June 14th there was a flag retirement ceremony at the VFW. There were about 35 people in attendance that included scouts and a number of chapter members. An old flag was taken down from the flagpole and replaced by a new one. The old flag was ceremoniously cut up stripe by stripe and placed in the fire followed lastly by the blue field. Afterward attendees were asked to place some of the many accumulated flags in the fire. It was estimated there were 500 flags that were retired.



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



Long time VVA member and good friend **Mel "Moe" Swope** recently passed away on June 17th. He was John Riling's (Michigan State Council President) right hand man for Michigan State Council Product Sales and John's best friend.



The Bear's Den

Flag Retirement Ceremony

The Flag Retirement Ceremony went well. It started at 2:00 PM on Flag Day 6/14/2014. VFW Post 6695 sponsors the Boy Scouts from 1539 and one Girl Scout. Post Commander Jerry Thomason, Color Guard Commander Bob Lamoureux and Bill Browning (TAPS bugler) did a great presentation.

We ended up retiring almost 500 flags that afternoon. Jerry did the introduction to the 35 people in attendance. The scouts made four presentations about the flag. Bob and the scouts retrieved the ceremonial flag from our pole and hoisted a brand new flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at this time. The ceremonial flag was then cut up. The stripes were then put on the fire, one by one, and the field of stars was the last to go on the fire.

During the time the flag was being cut up, a scout was reading famous quotes by famous Americans. When this process was finished, Bill played Taps on the Post Bugle. The audience was invited to help retire the remaining flags by putting them into the blazing fire. A member from the DAR and the CAR attended along with others that had never been to a ceremony like ours. The reverence and respect for our flag is what we want to teach people, knowing that so many lives have been given to defend the flag and what it stands for. Everyone was invited into the Post for free hotdogs, chips and pop after the Ceremony.

The Post does this Ceremony twice each year. The next one will be near Veterans Day (Nov. 11th). Flags may be dropped off at VFW POST 6695 any time. We have a collection box on the right side of the lounge entrance. Please, no large business flags. The ones from Bell Tire will not fit in the box. Mayflower-Lt. Gamble VFW Post is located at 1426 S. Mill St. (Lilley) in Plymouth just north of Ann Arbor Rd.

Meat ball stroganoff is the special for the meeting. If there are any questions, please call [\(734\) 459-6700](tel:734-459-6700)



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



Member Jerry Thomason speaking during the Canton Vets Memorial during Memorial Day Ceremony. Photo courtesy of Bryan Bentley.



Plymouth Memorial Day Parade had an F-150 truck, decked out in VVA Chapter 528 colors. The decorated vehicle was provided by member John Zielinski. Photo courtesy of Bryan Bentley.



Chaplain's Corner

Taking The Trash Out

In my neighborhood, every Thursday is "Trash Pickup Day". So the weekly ritual begins on Wednesday evening, collecting the waste and garbage from the waste baskets in all the rooms, and taking it out to the garage to the trash barrel, to take out to the street. When I come home from work Thursday evening, all the trash is gone, and I am relieved that there will be no smell or houseflies to contend any longer. If the trash was still at my house, something the housefly would appreciate, there would now be a good chance that a variety of diseases would also be present. It would get ugly!

I view this situation above, as very similar to my sins - the things that I do wrong. If I don't ask God for forgiveness, truly feeling repentant, those sins stay with me and can become a lot of excess baggage that will weigh me down and many times fester inside me. This affects my whole outlook on my family, my fellow man, and my relationship with God. It could get ugly!

The most popular verse in the Bible about repenting to God is actually a promise. 1st John 1:9 tells us "If we confess our sins, He will keep His promise and do what is right: He will forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God's cleansing us from all unrighteousness is actually "taking the garbage/trash" out of our lives. We all need to do this on a regular basis, or else the trash ends up collecting in our lives and getting uglier. In the Old Testament, God assures us of his promise to cleanse us in Isaiah 43:25: "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for my own sake; And I will not remember your sins." This verse reminds me of the pads we had as kids. We could draw on it, and all we had to do was take the top sheet and lift it up from the pad, and everything disappeared for us to start another drawing. It was a "clean slate".

So I encourage all you brothers and sisters of Chapter 528, to make this a priority. Otherwise, you just won't know what you're missing. God already

knows all the bad things, and knows the sins we have in our life, so I encourage you to find a quiet time and place, and ask God's forgiveness for these sins so you can have peace! He loves you and wants to hear from you! You are His child!

Chaplain's Notes: I'm almost hesitant to ask for prayer updates for our VVA family, because invariably, I will miss someone that is in need of prayer. Also, there are many times I am not aware of one of you that is struggling with health issues, and I exclude you from my monthly "Chaplain's Corner" article.

Prayers for: The wife (Debra) and family of Melvin (Moe) Swope who passed away on June 17.

The wife (Anita) and family of long time member Larry Luceus, who passed away on June 7.

Prayers for you that are struggling with health issues, and also those with unspoken requests!



Rich Whipple

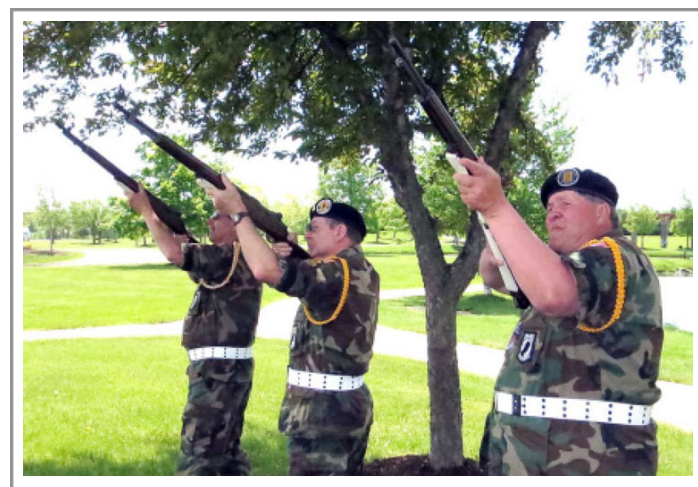
Chapter Chaplain

(A sinner saved by God's Grace)

HHC/2/503d Infantry

173d. Airborne Brigade

1968-1969



VVA Chapter 528 Color Guard taking part in the Canton Memorial Day Ceremony. Photo courtesy of Bryan Bentley.

A B-17 flight for two WWII Veterans at the Yankee Air Museum



VVA Chapter 528 paid for two WWII vets Walter Gluvna and Gerald Van Berkle to fly on a B-17 on May 28th at 5 pm from the Yankee Air Museum. They were airborne for about 25 minutes. Walter and Gerald sat in seats by the radio equipment which was by the wings, so their view was somewhat hampered except for when the plane banked to turn. They were on the first flight on Wednesday May 28th at 5 PM. Walt and Gerry received WWII medals from the Yankee Air Force - that is the medal on the ribbons around their necks. They both said they really enjoyed the flight. We went back to the VFW afterwards in Frank's vehicle and I drove Gerald home after some refreshments. Darrell Bazman and Frank Barkovich ended up driving and I rode along to help and take pictures. Darrell was able to let Frank and me get into the B-17 and work our way up to the cockpit, although I could not get past the bomb racks. VVA Chapter 528 paid for the flight.

John Spencer

The Army's Birthday at VVA Chapter 528



To celebrate the Army's birthday our Army brothers proudly sang "The Army Goes Rolling Along". *Photo courtesy of Henry Giles.*



July 2014 - VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth-Canton, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	3 Kellog Park Concert 7:00 pm	4 Independence Day Plymouth 4th of July Parade	5
6	7	8	9 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	10	11	12
13	14 VVA General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm	15	16 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	17	18	19 Joy Road Adopt-A-Road Pickup
20	21	22 VVA Board Meeting 7:00 pm	23 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Cruz'n 528	31	1	2



Tom Brown, Editor
HDG III Corps
2nd & 44th Pershing
Ft. Sill, OK



Calendar by Tom Brown

Our active online calendar @
www.vva528.org/ourevents.html

VVA 528 Membership Meeting Monday, July 14, 2014 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)

VFW Calendar For July

1st - Ladies Auxiliary - 7 pm
 4th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
 8th - General Membership Meeting - 7pm
 15th - Board Meeting - 7 pm
 17th - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30 pm
 18th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
 18th - Steak Night - 5-7 pm



July Birthdays

Tom Arnett, Dennis Aten, Terry Atkins, William Brisbois, Dave Cole, Richard Corrow, Mike Dicker, Wallace Dixon, Gordon Dorey, James Harvey, Edward Hopkins, Mike Hucal, John Iaquina, Ken Karp, James Kimball, Timothy LaGrow, Bob Lamoureux, Victor Mamayek, Phil Menendez, Stephen Olson, James Pawlukiewicz, William Ray, Richard Schmidt, William Tackett, Robert Taylor, Ken Tregar.

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MEMBER



Cruzn' 528 2014



Chapter 528 Homefront



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Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Rich Mazurkiwicz	Jerry Thomason

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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
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Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux

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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)**

July 2014

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Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com

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Chapter 528 Homefront



July 2014



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Present Address _____

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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 _____

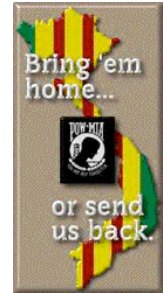
Other _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Membership Card

No. _____

Today's Date _____

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