



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Wayne County Fishing Derby

Hey! Everyone, I just caught my first fish! Check out page 9 for more photos. *Photo courtesy of Tom Brown*

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Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor & Publisher
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 Dennis Bielskis - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 John Fleming - Letter
 Patty Bielskis - Photos

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

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

Welcome Home!

President's Corner

We have had a very busy June. First was the Fishing Derby and we had a great turn out of members who all worked very hard making the derby a huge success for the children who fished. WE have the largest fish ready to be mounted. I am checking around to see where we can get it mounted for a reasonable price and a much faster turn around time. I was checking with Ron King and Bob Dew who are ramrodding the committee for the 50th Commemorative Program which is set for September 30th. The program and flyers are just about ready to be printed. It's going to be a full day with everything that is planned. We should all have a good time. Speaking of good times, the joint Chapter/VFW family picnic is set for August 19th at the VFW. The weather should be great and hopefully we have a large turn out. Come down and bring a dish to pass. The Concert in Kellogg Park with veterans participation will be held on June 29th from 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm. We need to make a good showing at this concert so that we have enough veterans present to hold all the flags. Don't forget the 4th of July Parade. You need to be in the parking lot of "Bode's Restaurant by 8:30 am so we can form up and move out before the Train comes.



Dennis Bielskis, President

Berlin Brigade, 11th Armored Cav
 2nd Squadron, F-Troop &
 Cam Ranh Bay A-Cav & Long Binh
 1969 - 1971





Digger's Desk

UPCOMING

Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Friday. Car Shows will run every Wednesday from 5:00PM-8:00PM. July 4th Parade will step off at 9:00AM at Bode's on Main Street. Following the parade will be the annual VFW chicken barbecue.

FISHING DERBY

Saturday June 10 marked 25 years of working with Wayne County Parks & Recreation on the Annual Kids Fishing Derby. The event turned out fabulously with fabulous weather and 20+ fabulous volunteers. Another sensational community service function enjoyed by kids and parents every year.

SUPER CENTER CARWASH FUNDRAISER

We will continue our arrangement with Plymouth Super Center, 400 Ann Arbor Rd. (one block west of Lilley), on behalf of VFW Post 6695. For every silver or gold level carwash purchased, Post 6695 will receive one dollar; for every platinum carwash purchased, the Post will receive two dollars. To activate this donation, pull into the carwash up to the dial wash kiosk and select:

- 1) Charity Carwash
- 2) Enter the code for the Post which is conveniently "6695"
- 3) Choose the level of carwash desired, i.e., silver at \$7, gold at \$10 or platinum at \$14.
- 4) Insert your bills and the appropriate amount of change will be returned.
- 5) Enter carwash area as usual.

This can also be coordinated with a gasoline purchase.

The Super Center owner, Drew Wolford, will cut a check to the Post once a month for the designated

amount. This project will continue all year long. It doesn't get any easier than that. We have some great Veteran supporters in town.

SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE

The selling events are coming and going as we close in on our October big event. Many people are working hard over and over and over again. How about you? Ask Dennis or Bob for 10 tickets and take them to your golf league, card night or weekend BBQ and ask your buddy, brother or cousin to support your Chapter and possibly win a great prize while assisting Veterans.

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



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



A fisherman for life!



Odds & Ends

Membership

There were 2 applications for membership this past month. Donald Tulley, Navy, joined our chapter at last month's meeting. Sharon Cabrerros, Phil's wife, has joined our associates. Welcome Don and Sharon to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 281 individual and 86 associate members. Of these we have 239 life VVA and 49 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of June 22, 2017 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Bob Anderson, Bob Carris, Dan Dreger, Ellen Howington

AVVA: Paul Tripp, Mohamed Ben Skander

Dropped from Roster: none

July VVA Renewals: Les Brookins, Brian Metzger, Paul Yeagy

July AVVA Renewals: Brenda Menendez, Terry Parks, 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.

Membership Dues

I encourage everyone who pays their dues annually to send their dues directly to National with your renewal notice. You can still pay your annual dues to the chapter but if you pay by check please make the check out to either VVA or AVVA not Chapter 528. This will streamline the renewal process as I won't have to turn your check into treasurer Bob Dew and get another from him made to National membership department. I can send your check directly to them where it will clear much quicker. At one time it was advantageous to have your dues turned in to the chapter but this is no longer the case.

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). The life membership fee for VVA members is \$100 regardless of age.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations to Roger Buelow, the latest winner of the chapter raffle and winner of a life membership. There will be another drawing at the July 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.

Weekly Car Show

The Wednesday car shows have gotten off to a great start due to some good weather. Help is still needed to set up before, work at and clean up after the shows. If you can spare some time to help out contact Bill Browning or Dave Reeves.



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



Fish On For Freedom June 23, 2017

Second Place Finish! Gene Spurgess, Max Bandy, Zoltan Nagy Don Dignan, Bob Bryan, Al Sneath and Don McLane.



Chaplain's Corner

God Calling

From Our Daily Bread
Author: Randy Kilgore

One morning my daughter gave her eleven month old son her cell phone for a moment to entertain him. Less than a minute later my phone rang, and as I picked it up I heard his little voice. He had somehow hit the "speed dial" to my number, and what followed was a "conversation" I will long remember. My grandson can only say a few words, but he knows my voice and responds to it. So I talked to him and told him how much I love him.

The joy I felt at the sound of my grandson's voice was a reminder with us. From the very beginning, the Bible shows God actively pursuing us. After Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God and then hid from Him in the garden, "the Lord God called" to Adam (Genesis 3:9).

God continued to pursue humanity through Jesus. Because God desires a relationship with us, He sent Jesus to earth to pay the penalty for our sin by His death on the cross. "This is how God showed His love He sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God" (1 John 4:9-10).

How good it is to know that God loves us and wants us to respond to His love through Jesus. Even when we don't quite know what to say, our Father longs to hear from us!

Chaplain's Notes: *To follow up on the article above, sometimes Christianity is just too simple for us to grasp. Christianity is the only religion that has God reaching down to us. He is not distant, especially if we can have some "God time", where we can spill out our issues and sorrows, and if we're quiet enough (so very hard to do in this world) He will speak to us, but it is this "personal relationship".....not being "religious" that makes all the difference in the world. We all enjoy a personal relationship with our spouses, children and grandkids, and God is asking us to come to him in prayer, with a humble heart. He certainly knows us, but we must attempt to know Him because of His love for everyone of us! I'd be glad to work with you on this!*

Keep praying for: **Al Kerbyson** who is still at the Ann Arbor VA; for **Rick Pops**' recovery in St. Joe for a new bovine valve and 2 bypasses (1 artery and 1 vein; **Larry Bakucz** at AA VAMC recovering from a stroke; and **Bob Hallmark** recovering from a major shoulder replacement. Praises for **Bruce Benyo's** back at AA VAMC after open heart surgery; for **Dayle (Joe) Agius** in her strength and healing from serious stomach issues in the past, and **Dale Luebke** in his quick recovery.

Gary "Bear" Kubik was admitted to the hospital this past Friday (6/23). He has a very serious blood infection and is now one step down from the Intensive Care Unit (Sunday). He is not allowed visitors or phone calls. Please, keep Gary in your prayers.



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



Al Kerbyson and Dayle Agius at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor.

May 27, 2017

To: Golfers, Hole Sponsors, Volunteers

Re: 6th Annual Golfers Against Diabetes & Cancer Golf Outing.

I want to thank everyone who participated in this year's outing, where we raised \$4,902, which will be used to fight these terrible diseases. \$2,501 will be donated to the American Cancer Society and \$2,401 to the American Diabetes Association.

A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who helped make this Outing such a wonderful success. Thank you goes out to Dennis Allison who stepped in at the last minute to help train the new volunteers we received from Kohl's. And to my friend, Lisa Grasso who is the manager at the Kohl's on Ford Road in Canton, who arranged for the five volunteers from Kohl's that will also get us a grant from Kohl's in the amount of \$500!!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the day. We had 60 Golfers and 25 Hole Sponsors this year. This is the largest amount that we have raised in any one Outing and we hope to continue to grow this Outing. The six Outings have now raised over \$20,800.

Congratulations go out to the winning group of Sharon, Brian Jose and Gary, who shot a 61!!!! And congratulations go out to all of the contest and prize winners on the course and at the luncheon.

The pictures from this year's outing will soon be on my website, www.flemingfinancialsvcs.com.

The 7th Annual Golfers Against Diabetes & Cancer Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the Links of Gateway Golf Course in Romulus.

Please let me know of any questions or suggested improvements to the Outing.

Best regards - **John Fleming**





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

Gander Mountain stores are going out of Business and we are unable to obtain the prizes as Stated, we are going to replace the prizes with a \$500.VISA cards to be used anywhere.

LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
LG 55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
Remote controlled Phantom 3 Standard Drone
LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
All in one HP PC W/integrated 23" Display
LG55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
HP 17.3" notebook PC W/AMD Quadcore A8-7410
LG55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
Canon 18 MP CMOS APS-C DSLR Kit
LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
Canon 18MP CMOS APS-C DSLR Kit
LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
Remote Controlled Abrams M1A2 Tank & Samsung Tablet
LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV

**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.

V.F.W. Post 6695 - 1426 S. Mill St., Plymouth, MI.

\$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 regulations.

Mail-Order forms available by calling (248) 767 1654 or e-mailing dbielskis@att.net

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.

Mail to: 2017 Sportsman's Raffle
V.V.A 528
P.O. Box 6295
Plymouth, MI. 48170

Make checks to : VVA 528

Requests must be made prior to Friday,
September 29, 2017 to allow time for
processing and delivery.

License No. R39172

2017 Sportsman's Raffle

Name: _____

Check No. _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Quantity: _____ at \$20 ea. =

Total: _____

U.S. Funds only

☐ I am 18-years old or older

(We will return check if box is not checked.)



VVA Chapter 528 & VFW Post 6695 2017 Sportsman's Raffle Selling Events



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
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	Day	Time	Location
7/1/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Lansing/Mason
7/2/2017	Sunday	1000-1500	Lansing/Mason
7/22/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Novi
7/23/2017	Sunday	1000-1500	Novi
7/29/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Jackson
7/30/2017	Saturday	1000-1500	Jackson
8/5/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Birch Run
8/6/2017	Sunday	1000-1500	Birch Run
8/19/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Monroe
8/20/2017	Sunday	1000-1500	Monroe
8/26/2017	Saturday	0900-1500	ABC Warehouse
9/09/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Jackson
9/10/2017	Sunday	1000-1500	Jackson
9/16/2017	Saturday	0900-1500	ABC Warehouse

The VVA Ch. 528 and VFW Post 6695 Veterans' and Associate's Traveling Golf League



This league started up several years ago by **Don Dignan** and **Bob Lamoureux**. One of the stipulations was that in order to play in this league, you would need to be a member of either the VVA 528 or VFW 6695 or an associate/auxiliary member of either organization. Because of Don's insistence that you could only play if you were a member, many men are now members of both organizations.

We meet every Monday beginning in April and sometimes play as long as into November. This league is a wonderful chance to get to know everyone because sooner or later, you will be a part of a team and an excellent opportunity to meet the guys personally. Nancy Dignan and Karen Curtis are the only females to have played in our league at this time.

The purpose of the picture was two fold. One, to take a picture and send it to one of our guys in the hospital, Larry Bakucz. Secondly, to add the picture to the Homefront Newsletter.

In the picture, starting from left to right in the back **standing**: Bob Garrett, Bill Brown, Larry Eichstadt, George Mason, Don Nippa, Dean Bell, Steve Retherford, John Krueger, Chris Pope, Don Dignan, Tim Curtis, Bob Lamoureux, Leo Ksiazek, Al Dorey, Steve Radachy, Bill Harrigan, Doug Fox. From left to right **sitting**: Walt Weber, Al Sneath, John Heraghty, Skip Davison, Bill Petrere, Joe Radachy. **kneeling**: Rich Whipple and John Ligner.

Those missing (I hope I'm not missing anyone): Mike Hucal, Rick Blandina, Don Petrere, Larry Bakucz, Dennis Bielskis, Bob Bryan, Tom Fedewa, Nancy Dignan, Karen Curtis, Denny Fueling, Roger Shanks, Jeff Yoshikawa, John Spencer, Bill Grisamer, Rich Wurtzel, Darrell Bazman, Mike Kokoszka, Bob Anderson, Rich Mazurkiewicz, Jim Kish, Don Tulley and of course Larry Bakucz.

Rich Whipple

Wayne County Fishing Derby June 9, 2017



Fantastic day, fantastic fishing and fantastic group of helpers! Volunteers in no particular order: Patrick Doherty, Gene Spurgess, Dale Luebke, Frank Gilbo, Dennis Waling, John Spencer, Dean Bell, Tom Brown, Gary "Bear" Kubik, Gary "Ouch" Boucher, Clyde Raines, Max Bandy, Patty Bielskis, Dennis Bielskis, Larry Willemborg, John Hubert, Rick Waling, Dennis Waling, Mark Grzesiek, Al Sneath and Harley Waling. Some volunteers showed up after the group photo was taken.



Alicia Bradford, Director Wayne County Parks and the winners of Wayne County Fishing Derby 2017. *Photos courtesy of Dennis & Patty Bielskis.*

Patriotic Quilt



"God Bless the USA" is one of the most recent and famous patriotic songs ever written; it is sung by Lee Greenwood. Back in April 2013, I contacted the Lee Greenwood's association and asked their permission to make a quilt with the words from the song on it. It is a copyrighted song therefore I asked permission and received permission to make one quilt. It took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do. Finally, I found a lady that would embroider the words on the light blue fabric. Other blocks were added illustrating our country with unique fabric from Texas and Minnesota. The quilt size is 53"x62". I am currently selling raffle tickets to friends at my VFW aux. Cost of the tickets are \$5.00 or 3/\$10. I will be selling the tickets at the October Sportsman's Raffle. All funds will be given to the VVA Chapter 528.

Linda Mentink.



Scott Maher of Wayne County Parks and Recreation and co-chair Gary "Bear" Kubik. Gary has been a fixture at this yearly community event for many years. *Photo by Dennis & Patty Bielskis*

Jim Hardin VFW Manager

The VFW 6695 Lounge is open Monday through Thursday 2 pm to 9 pm. Friday noon to 8 pm or later. We have lunch specials from noon until 2 pm - fish sandwich and fries for \$5.00. We are open at noon on Saturdays and Sundays and closing at 9 pm on Sundays and 10 pm on Saturdays.

There is a car show on Wednesdays - beer is cold and we have burgers, fries, walleye, brats, hot dogs and kielbasa - 5 pm to 8 pm.

On the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each and every month we have Karaoke - all are welcome - bring your voice good or bad.

We open on 4th of July from 11 am to 5 pm - unless we have a crowd that wants to stay later.

BBQ chicken dinners will be served from noon until we run out price is \$9.00 includes 1/2 chicken, roll cole slaw and potato.

CRUZ'N 528

**Starting May 10th from 5 pm to 8 pm and every
Wednesday till the end of September**



Come join us for good music great food.



JULY 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 GOLF	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 9:00 BBQ CHICKEN NOON	5 CAR SHOW 5-8	6	7 KARAOKE 8:00	8
9	10 GOLF VVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	11 VFW MEETING 7:00	12 CAR SHOW 5-8	13	14	15
16	17 GOLF	18 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	19 CAR SHOW 5-8	20	21 KARAOKE 8:00	22
23	24 GOLF	25 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	26 CAR SHOW 5-8	27	28	29
30	31 GOLF					



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Dennis Aten, Terry Atkins, Bill Brisbois, David Cole, Richard Corrow, Mike Dicker, Wally Dixon, Gordon Dorey, James Harvey, Ed Hopkins, Mike Hucal, John Iaquina, James Kimball, Timothy LaGrow, Bob Lamoureux, Philip Lang, Jerry Lesniak, Victor Mamayek, Phil Menendez, Heather Mullen, Stephen Olson, James Pawlukiewicz, Christine Roberts and Judy Thomason.



Chapter Officers

President	Dennis Bielskis
1st Vice President	Dick Adis
2nd Vice President	Gary Pritchard
Secretary	Ron King
Treasurer	Bob Dew

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Mike Dicker	Max Bandy
Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Pete Glasgow	Gene Spurgess
Don Petrere	Terry Wells

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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
Fundraising	Bob Dew
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux

Homefront Newsletter

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VAVS Deputy	Ron KiVietnam War 50th Com.
Website	Tom Brown

VVA Service Officer - State of Michigan

Phillip Smith - Director Toll Free-1-844-885-6424

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



Max Bandy - 1968 - Army
 Max is the 139th member to have his service photo added on our website and placed in our display case.

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Chapter 528 Homefront



JULY 2016



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 _____

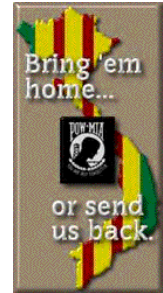
Other _____

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
 Homefront
 Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528
 P.O. Box 6319
 Plymouth MI 48170-0473