



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Welcome Home!

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
The "Bears Den"	4
Fallen Heroes	5
The Bentley Blog	6
Chaplain's Corner	7
Calendar of Events	8
Ads	9
Committees	10
Membership Form	12

Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Publisher & Editor
 Don Dignan - Assistant Editor & Columnist
 Ron King- President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Events & Columnist
 Gary "Bear" Kubik - Columnist/Photo.
 Leroy Paige - Columnist
 Bryan Bentley - Columnist/Photographer
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain/Columnist

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King - Assistant

President's Corner



Hello Veterans,

Summer has finally arrived! We have had our first Cruz'N 528 Car Show, and it was a successful beginning. As always, we need more volunteers to help us put up/ take down tables, chairs, signs, coolers, etc. Unfortunately, we have to keep asking (pleading) for additional help to keep these shows as one of our chapter's highlight events. Please remember, the monies raised at these events go to help our brother and sister veterans and their families, as well as our homeless, sick and distressed veterans!

The Memorial Day parade will have already occurred before this Newsletter is printed, but I know that our Outstanding Color Guard did an awesome job of representing the chapter and bringing more honors to our veterans. This highly emotional day of remembrance and sorrow is highly revered as it reminds us of our commitment to help our veterans however and whenever we can!

In keeping with patriotism, the Plymouth community is paying special tribute to Vietnam Veterans on July 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Kellogg Park. The music, and the evening is dedicated to veterans! Please try to attend this event to show our communities just how strongly veterans stand together!

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our causes. We have much to be thankful for, but still have much work to do to keep our veterans-in-need at the forefront of all that we do! Your thoughts, your ideas, and your dedication do not go un-noticed. We will listen and act to get things done. If you think an idea or project needs improvement, or change in direction, please don't quit or become frustrated, tell me and I will get an answer or solution, but your concern will not be "blown-off" or ignored!

VVA Chapter 528 is awesome because it's members are AWESOME!

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

AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL MEETING

The Chapter hosted around 180 veterans and family members for this first time event. By all accounts it was a resounding success. People who have attended these events elsewhere said it was the best presented Town Hall that they have attended. A follow up is in the works for 2015. Thanks to Bob Dew, Dennis Waling and the rest of their committee for bringing about this event.

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.

POPPY SALES

Thanks to all who participated. Chairman Bob Caldwell was all smiles as the donations were totaled up, enabling assistance to members in need.

FISHING DERBY

Due to heavy rainfall causing flooding in the fishing derby area of Hines Park, the event has been rescheduled for Saturday September 27.

STEAK FRY

We have a system in place for the monthly steak fry and from comments regarding the first effort, everything came out well. See you at the next steak fry in June.

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

I would also like to see you at the June 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



Photos courtesy of Bryan Bentley and Gary "Bear" Kubik.



Odds & Ends

Membership

We had 2 applications for membership this past month. Mike Sherry and Joe Radachy have joined our associates. Welcome Mike and Joe to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 260 individual and 70 associate members. Of these we have 146 life VVA and 23 life AVVA members

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

VVA: Richard Dunn, Michael Hoben

AVVA: Christina Collins, Paul Collins, Robert Irwin, Matthew Klepack, Stephanie Krawcke

Dropped From Roster: none

June VVA Renewals: Les Brookins, Art Esper, Gerald Grzesik, Andrew Lawrence, Dennis Leahy, Robert Rood, John Thierry, Paul Yeagy

June 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.

Color Guard

The color guard led the Memorial Day parade in Plymouth. At the conclusion of the ceremony of which our own Ron King was the keynote speaker an honor volley and Taps was provided for all our fallen comrades. Afterwards we all rejoined back at the VFW for some of Bill Browning's SOS. From there we traveled to the Canton Memorial for an afternoon ceremony led by John Spencer.

Membership Raffle

Another raffle was held at last month's meeting. Congratulations go to the latest winner Gordie Bardeleben who will receive a life membership. Just to update our new members, the chapter's half of the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle held at the monthly meetings go into a pool and when enough is collected a drawing is held. Entries are taken

from the sign-in sheets and all VVA and AVVA members who are not already life members are eligible. Drawings are usually every other month.

Buddy Poppies

I want to thank all the chapter members who helped the VFW sell poppies this past month. We were able to raise almost \$7,000 that will go into the relief fund. Per the VFW by-laws this money can only be used to help veterans and veteran causes or patriotic programs such as our flag exchange.



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



Chapter Color Guard





The Bear's Den

I hope that everybody enjoyed the sweet and sour meatballs in May and we hope to have another for June. Someone told me that it is very hard to beat our hamburgers. For June, we will have Meat Ball Strogonoff - all you should eat for \$6.00. The first of the season "steak fries" went well. We had great help and great steaks. The sweet potatoes went well with the meal for only \$12.00.

I haven't seen many members bringing their friends and neighbors that they know are vets. Show them around, let them know the great stuff that we have going on, the benefits of being a member and the comradeship of being a veteran. Also, remember that they don't have to be a vet to join the AVVA. Brian let many know that at Northville High on Sat. May 17th.

Lastly, if you can't get them here, get them to register through the VA Hospital because that is what counts. You never know when it will be needed. Call me @ the Post (734) 459-6700. If I am not there, leave a message and I will answer as soon as possible.

Thanks! Bear



Gary "Bear" Kubik

TM2 (SS)

USS Gudgeon SS567

USS Diodon SS 349

Sub Sq. 5



Guys and Gals enjoying a hearty meal after the parade and ceremony.



Members watching the Memorial Day Ceremony



President Ron King delivering the keynote speech.

Brian Bentley uploaded a 3 minute viewing of photos from our Chapter's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4ag3JxurlNg#t=72>

Fallen Heroes of Plymouth-Canton

James Patrick Eckles

CPL, Army, Plymouth MI, 12 Aug 69 19 WO12

The Virtual Wall

PERSONAL DATA

Home of Record: Plymouth, Michigan

Date of birth: Tuesday, 11/16/1948

MILITARY DATA

Service: Army (Selective Service)

Grade at loss: E3

Rank: Corporal (See Note below)

ID No: 377502248

MOS: 11B10 Infantryman

Length of Service: Less than one year

Unit: C Co, 1ST BN, 12TH CAVALRY, 1 CAV DIV

E3 at loss. Posthumous Promotion as indicated



CASUALTY DATA

Start Tour: Monday, 06/02/1969

Casualty Date: Tuesday, 08/12/1969

Age at Loss: 20

Remains: Body recovered

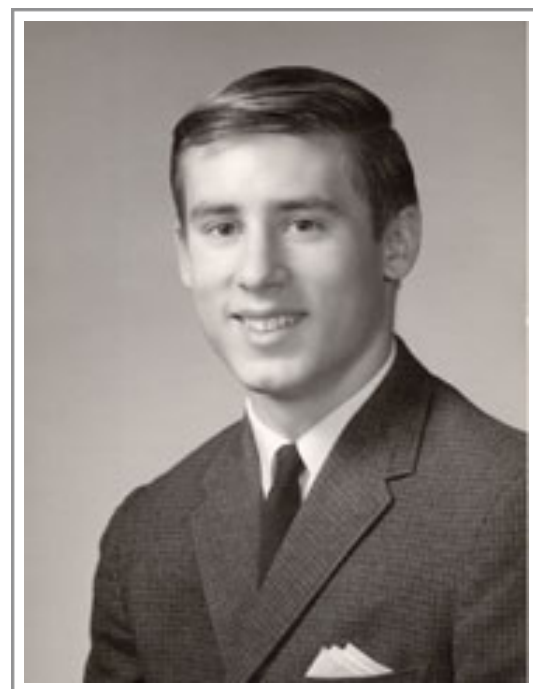
Location: Tay Ninh, South Vietnam

Type: Hostile, died outright

Reason: Gun or small arms fire - Ground casualty

ON THE WALL

Panel 19W Line 012



High School Photo 1966



Leroy Paige
RVN 69-70
1st Signal Brigade





The Bentley Blog

Bryan Bentley
AVVA Representative

Agent Orange Townhall Meeting

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 hosted an Agent Orange Town Hall last month, and it was a very big event for veterans from all over the tri-county area. This event served two major purposes. One was to give as much information as possible about the ongoing debilitating health effects of being exposed to Agent Orange, and the other was to sign up veterans, so that they could be continually informed of the latest information on this issue. It is extremely important to be able to contact our veterans, and keep them up to date on these things, as their disability eligibility can change as these new health issues continue to come to light, even 50 years after the Vietnam War.

There were Veterans Administration Service Officers on hand to help our veterans sign up for benefit claims as well, and if you are a veteran, and think you may qualify, these are the folks who will be your advocate. These Service Officers are the most knowledgeable about the extremely complicated process of getting the proper benefits, that are rightfully due to a veteran, or their family, who are suffering, due to being exposed to Agent Orange.

There were a variety of speakers, and question and answer segments throughout the forum. US Congressman Kerry Bentivolio, who is a Vietnam Veteran, and State Senator Patrick Colbeck spoke about their efforts on behalf of veterans. Edwin Martini, author (Agent Orange, History, Science, and the Politics of Uncertainty), George Claxton-Past Chair Emeritus, Sandie Wilson, Lt. Col. Jim Dempsey, and Steve House, Vietnam Era Veteran.

The event went off flawlessly, with many volunteers from VVA 528 working at this event. A special thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event a reality.



Members getting together prior to the meeting.



President Ron King, AVVA member Dennis Waling and speaker Don Dignan.



Photos courtesy of Dennis Walling & Bryan Bentley



Chaplain's Corner

Jordyn's Journey

From "Our Daily Bread"

Author: Dennis Fisher

Jordyn Castor was born blind. But this doesn't hold her back from living a full and productive life. The documentary "*Can You See How I See?*" tells her story. She excels at school and with a little help she enjoys biking and downhill skiing.

Of her sight, Jordyn says: "If I could give my blindness back, I wouldn't do it. I think God made all of us the way we are for a reason...and I think my blindness is part of what I am going to do with my life." She is now a university student majoring in computer technology. Her dream is to assist in developing new computer software that will help the blind.

How can Jordyn maintain such a positive outlook on life? As a Christ-follower, she understands that God is in control of the circumstances of life. This gives her confidence to pursue opportunities that others might not have believed possible. Certainly, Jordyn's life illustrates this truth from Philippians: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (4:13).

No matter what our strengths or weaknesses might be, God's providential hand can give us what we need to make a difference for Him in our world. Rely on His strength to help you as you take a step of faith.

"God's call to a task includes His strength to complete it"

Chaplain's Comments: *I am so honored to be the Chaplain of Chapter 528. We are a pillar in the community, and we continue to keep growing in numbers. In the past several years along with many of you, I have*

met veterans and have asked them to join our chapter. It's been disappointing to have another vet say that he will come to the next meeting and never show up. It's unfortunate, unfortunate for that individual to never witness the camaraderie we are blessed with at 528. Prayers for Gary and Sandy Pritchard in the sudden loss of their son, Wayne, and for his wife and four children, all under the age of 12. Prayers of thankfulness for successful surgery for Dianna Cutler, and Pam Lukasiak. Also prayers for all of you for your unspoken prayer requests!

Joy Road Clean Up: *Our next scheduled Joy Road Clean Up will be on Saturday, September 20, at 8:30 A.M. Meet at the UAW Hall on the south east corner of Joy Road and Canton Center Road.*



Rich Whipple

Chapter Chaplain

(A sinner saved by God's Grace)

HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



Members watching the Memorial Day Ceremony

June 2014 - VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth-Canton, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	5	6	7
8	9 VVA General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm	10	11 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	19	20	21 Summer Solstice
22	23	24 VVA Board Meeting 7:00 pm	25 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	26	27	28
29	30	1	2 Cruz'n 528 5pm - 8pm	3 Independence Day	4	5



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, June 9, 2014 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)

VFW Calendar For June

3rd - Ladies Auxiliary - 7 pm
 6th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
 10th - General Membership Mtg. - 7 pm
 17th - Board Meeting - 7 pm
 19th - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30 pm
 20th - Steak Night 5 - 7 pm
 20th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm



June Birthdays

Dave Banks, Bill Browning, George Bruder, Roger Buelow, Dave Codd, Dennis Darichuck, Gary Estermyer, Dennis Fago, Harold Hachigian, Frank Jaskula, Roger Kehrier, Matthew Klepack, Charlie Kotcher, Michael Maattala, Jack Massarello, Donald McLane, Dennis Mozdzen, Zoltan Nagy, John Peterson, William Power, John Riling, Barbara Roberts, Richard Sander, Art Sawyer, Mark Shemanski, Dennis Shrewsbury, Judy Thomason, Robert Vanderhoff, Daniel Zedan

AST
No. 213208

Great Lakes
TROPHIES & ENGRAVING

Ed Duprey
Owner

32635 Ford Road
Garden City, MI 48135
(Between Venoy & Merriman Roads)
Hours: 9 - 6 Weekdays / 9 - Noon Sat.

Phone: (734) 266 - 1815
Fax: (734) 266 - 1817
www.greatlaketrophies.com
E-mail: sales@greatlaketrophies.com

ARA
American Road & Builders Builders Association

Frank S. Barkovich
Accounting & Tax Service

- * Individual / Business Taxes
- * Small Business Specialists
- * Business Coaching
- * Veteran Owned

P.O. 871831
Canton, MI 48187-7531

734-397-9734
frabar@comcast.net

DONATE YOUR CAR TO

CHARITY MOTORS
Helping Those Who Help Others

- Where you can still claim Fair Market Blue Book Value
- Car donation is 100% tax deductible and pick up is free
- Assisted over 2,000 worthy organizations in our community

CALL TODAY: (313) 255-1000
or donate online at charitymotors.org

Be sure to designate VVA Chapter 528 when turning in your vehicle.

PATRIOT PAINTING

House Painting - Interior - Exterior - Custom

Michael Karath 313-728-4185 patriotpainting@att.net

C & D CATERING
BE A GUEST AT YOUR OWN PARTY
From a simple backyard party, to an elegant affair

204 SOUTH WAYNE RD
WESTLAND, MI 48186

734-729-9338
fax 734-729-1314

WWW.C-D-CATERING.COM

Spin Disc Entertainment

Michael Karath
313-728-4185
djrazer@att.net

alphagraphics®

DESIGN ■ COPY ■ PRINT ► COMMUNICATE

7994 Lilley Road • Canton, Michigan 48187
Phone 734.455.6550 • Fax 734.455-3740
Email us336@alphagraphics.com
www.us336.alphagraphics.com

AST
MEMBER



Cruzn' 528 2014



Chapter Officers

President	Ron King
1st Vice President	Jim Hodgson
2nd Vice President	Leroy Paige
Secretary	Richard Waldecker
Treasurer	Bob Dew

Board of Directors

Bill Browning	Gene Spurgess
Mike Dicker	Benjamin Tallman
Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Rich Mazurkiwicz	Jerry Thomason

Committees

A.O./Health Care	Vaughn Hull
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
Fundraising	Bob Dew
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux

Homefront Newsletter

Editor & Publisher	Tom Brown
Assistant Editor	Don Dignan
Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson
Assistant Chief	Ron King
Product Sales	Dale Luebke
	Bill Browning

POW/MIA	Al Kerbyson
Public Affairs	Don Dignan
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming
Service Representative	Aggie Little
Sportsman's Raffle	Dennis Bielskis
State Delegate	Gary Estermyer
State A. Delegate	Dennis Bielskis
State A. Delegate	Bill Boudreau
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling
VAVS Deputy	Vaughn Hull
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

Advertising Rates: 1 year \$60; 6 mos. \$45; 1 issue \$15

Fleming Financial Services, Inc.

John A. Fleming

National Association of Tax Professionals

29217 Ford Road, Suite 119
Garden City, MI 48135

phone 734 525-4560
toll free 888 240-1550

fax 734 525-5280
john@flemingfinancialsvcs.com

WWW.MYLIFEFORCE.NET/RT

RON & THERESA

1 248 677 2280

PRODUCTS THAT MAKE
PEOPLE HEALTHIER

www.mylifeforce.net/rt

Main Street Auto Wash
"the freshwater wash"

1191 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Phil Pursell
(734) 455-9685

LPL Financial

Bob Carris
Registered Principal

40400 Ann Arbor Rd
Suite 204-B
Plymouth, MI 48170
734 453 7304 office
734 453 7461 fax
bob.carris@lpl.com
www.lpl.com/bob.carris

OSJ Branch: 31700 Middlebelt Rd
Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248 626 2000 office

Member FINRA/SIPC



Chapter 528 Homefront



June 2014



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 _____

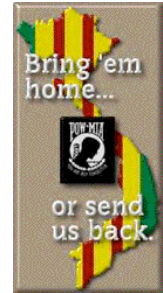
Other _____

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