



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Happy St. Patrick's Day

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Homefront Staff

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 Don Dignan - Assistant Editor & Columnist
 John Spencer - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Gary Estermyer - Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Don Petrere - Columnist

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
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Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

March is upon us. Chapter elections are next month at our April General Membership Meeting. Nominations were made at our February meeting with several members putting their names in the hat. Further nominations will be made at the March and April meetings. We need someone to run for the position of Second Vice President. The Second Vice President is a member of the Board of Directors and performs the duties of the President when the President and First President are unable to do so. The Board of Directors meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

We will have guest speakers at the March meeting talking about elder law and VA benefits and estate planning issues. Congressman David Trott will be at our April meeting. Both presentations will be limited to 10 minutes but representatives will remain after the meeting to answer questions. The Congressman's staff will have the 50 year Vietnam pin to give to any Vietnam Vets who have not received one



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

Another social event taking place in the VFW lounge is Euchre. Every Wednesday at 7:00PM, the dealing starts. The cost is \$10 per person. Sliders are served in the lounge every Wednesday from 5:00PM-7:00PM. These two events will continue until the Car Show returns in May.

CHILI COOKOFF

There were 116 customers who showed up for the Annual Chili Cookoff February 6. The winners in 3rd, 2nd and 1st were: Stan Truskowski, Dave Randall and the Champ Mikey Smith. Thanks for organizing goes to Nancy Dignan as well as everyone who contributed a homemade secret recipe.

POKER SHOOTOUT

The first of our two semiannual shootouts was held on Thursday February 4. We raised \$599.46 and the first place winner was John Stephens...first time player. The next shootout will be in October.

FISH FRIES

Lent is very early this year; hence, the weekly fish fries began on February 12 and run from 5:00PM-7:00PM every Friday, concluding on Good Friday March 25. It takes quite a few volunteers to pull this off on a weekly basis. If you decide to participate, please remember to notify the chairperson, Dennis Bielskis, of your intention. A schedule of volunteers is needed. Also, please be on time, depending on your function.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Thursday March 17 will mark our Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef dinner. Put together by Bob Monteith and the Donahue brothers, it is the

best corned beef you will ever taste. Doors open at Noon and serving will continue until gone. See you there.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Nominations for Chapter officers and BOD members will continue at the March and April membership meetings. If you want to serve your Chapter in a close up way, consider running for one of these positions.

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



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



Ladies helping out at the Fish Fry



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

President	John Spencer
1 st Vice President	Mike Steffes
2 nd Vice President	open
Secretary	Dennis Bielskis
Treasurer	Bob Dew
Board Members (4) (2 year term)	Jim Hodgson Ron King Gary Pritchard Gene Spurgess
State Council Delegate (1)	Gary Estermyer
Alt. S.C.D. (unlimited)	Dennis Bielskis
Election Committee (3)	Dean Bell John Fleming Dale Luebke

Nominations for office will again be taken at the March meeting and will conclude in April before the elections. If you are considering running for office, please make your intentions known. You may nominate yourself if you so desire. **Note: You cannot run for office or vote in the elections if your membership is not current.**

Membership

There were no new applications for membership this past month. Our current membership stands at 269 individual and 76 associate members. Of these we have 208 life VVA and 37 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Ellen Howington, Dave Stenrose

AVVA: John Buford, Barbara Arnett, Tom Arnett, Tom Guditis, Jeff Rousseau

Dropped From Roster: Richard Dunn, Dan Stengle, Chris Timco, Betty Burkacki, Joanne Cook, Ron Cook

March VVA Renewals George Bruder, Paul Postula, Clinton Sanford, Dale Wofford

March AVVA Renewals: Sandy Bazman, Ruth Bryan, Cheri Schlott,

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.

VFW Fish Fry's

The Lenten fish fry's started with a rousing success on Friday, February 12 as we served 255 dinners followed the second week with 284. Thanks to all the chapter members who have come out to support the post in their biggest fundraiser of the year. The fish fry's will continue every Friday from 5:00–7:00pm until March 25.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations go to Ted Enright, the latest winner of a life membership in our chapter raffle. There will be another drawing at the April membership meeting. This will also be the 70th drawing since the raffle was started over 20 years ago.

Life Memberships

Good News!!! VVA has extended indefinitely the \$100 life membership special. If you missed your opportunity to get one last year you can still do so. Unfortunately, this does not apply to AVVA members. They did not extend the program.



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





Chaplain's Corner

Do You Know Who You Are?
TGIF Today God Is First
Volume 2 by Os Hillman

"Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart" (Ps 36:10).

Someone once said, "Success is when those who know you the best are those who love you the most." Years ago a self-assessment tool was developed by Joseph Luft and Harry Ingram called the Johari window. The Johari Window helps us realize where we are in our ability to know who we are and for others to know who we are. Real transparency in communication takes place when those we associate with us know who we are after we discover who we really are. See if you can identify what category you might fall among these four:

Transparent Life The transparent life is the life we should desire. I know who I am and others know me. There is nothing hidden. I have come to know who I am as an individual and basically people get what they see in me.

Bull-In-The-China Shop This person is blinded to the things that others recognize about him. The solution to becoming a transparent person is to get feedback from those around us about the blind spots in our personality. We must ask for the feedback and be willing to respond to their input.

Aloof/Hidden Secrets This person lives in a secret world. They don't allow others to know about themselves. They know themselves but are fearful of letting others know. Those around them do not know them either. What do others really know about you? Have you allowed yourself to get close enough to others to share who you really are inside?

Hidden Potential This is a combination of Bull-In-A-China Shop and Aloof/Hidden Secrets. It is the saddest of all conditions. These people don't know themselves and others don't know them either. This means both parties have to invest the energy to communicate and get feedback from one another. How about you? Why not take a step to find out who you really are in the eyes of others. It could change your life.

Chaplain's notes: My wife and I are currently on a western trip to California and haven't been able to keep up with the latest updates on our "VVA 528 family". I apologize if I

haven't mentioned someone that is in need of our prayers and visits, but here are a few who need that come to mind: Loren Roverts with the very recent loss of wife Barb, a longtime AVVA member; Clyde Rains with his battle with cancer; Bryan Bently and family in the recent loss of his mother, and prayers for our country to vote in the right candidate that will be best for our future! Lord willing, I will be at the March membership meeting on March 13.



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



The Bear's Den

I hope everyone is enjoying the Friday Fish Fries that will be going on through March 25th.

On Thursday the 17th of March is our gala event "St. Patricks Day". We open at noon and serve corned beef and cabbage until it is gone. There will also be sandwiches and you can get them to go. Sarah is the newest addition to our staff. She will be filling in when needed and for any special events. Bring in those prospective members to show them the great place we have to offer. You have to see the new 55" TV on the back wall. We still have U.S. flags and we still need cell phones.

Sliders and Euchre on Wednesdays, entertainment on Fridays and always available for small parties. Thanks in advance for your participation.



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





**Gary Estermyer,
Representative**

Michigan State Council Report February 6, 2016

We were back in Howell for our Feb. 7, 2016 meeting. President John Riling gaveled the meeting to order right at 10:00 AM. All of the officers were present and 15 chapters were represented. John flew in from Florida for this meeting and a series of appointments for this week. He will fly back to Vero Beach to enjoy the weather until late March.

We had two speakers address us today. William Browning spoke about the Golden Age Games which are being held in the Detroit area from July 10 - 14, 2016. They are looking for 4,500 volunteers. Check out www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov for further information.

The second speaker was Tim Hunnicutt of Ambit Foundation whose goals are to provide one place to call, one place to visit and one place that helps veterans recover from injury, reconnect with their families and community, and reboot their careers. Tim's plan is called Zero Day which partners with the AmVets and the Eisenhower Project that is seeking to rehab 60 buildings in or near Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison, MI. They want to provide veterans with treatment, training and housing in their transition from the military to civilian life. They are also working on a permanent housing project for veterans which will consist of 175 apartments to be called Silver Star.

Tim requested that the Michigan State Council support his efforts (Zero Day) by providing the veterans with VSO representation. The delegates voted unanimously to support.

Vice President Tim Driscoll reported that there are many VA programs available for veterans and their spouses. He suggests you check out their website at www.va.gov to see what they offer. Tim recently attended the State Council President's meeting (in the event John couldn't make it) in Lafayette, LA and enjoyed networking with the VVA members from other states. As it turned out, John drove 14 hours from Florida to attend also. That was the weekend of the massive storms.

Secretary Ray Essenmacher will be emailing the chapter election and finance reports to those on his list.

Treasurer Dennis Cohoon reviewed the finance report. The bills are being paid and we still have a positive balance.

President John Riling attended the Commanders Group meeting and visited the Battle Creek VA facility while there in December. He will attend the next Commanders Group meeting on Feb. 10. The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) will begin contract talks in March. The Michigan State Council will seek additional funding from them. John visited a veterans homeless center in Inkster. There has been conversation that in the future VVA consider changing its name. Along with that change would be to allow younger veterans to join, thus "the last one standing" wouldn't be an issue. John has also been in discussion with his new Florida connections regarding an Orlando, FL timeshare condo deal. The State Council would sell tickets (\$10) for a week in May and turn this into an annual fundraising event.

Sandie Wilson, National VVA at-large director, spoke about the agent orange legislation that still lacks 5 House representatives from Michigan that have not signed on. Sandie also reported that recent studies are looking at a connection between bladder cancer and exposure to Agent Blue.

I then opened nominations for state offices for the Annual meeting in June, PRESIDENT: John Riling and Dennis Cohoon. 1st VICE PRESIDENT: Ken Rogge. 2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Meinhardt. SECRETARY: None. TREASURER: None. ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Gary Estermyer. Nominations will continue at the April 17 meeting.

Service Office Director Phil Smith reported that he had visited the incarcerated veterans at Milan Federal Penitentiary where he started 14 claims. He will continue to go there 4 times a year. Ray Essenmacher continues to visit the incarcerated at the St. Louis and Saginaw facilities.

2nd Vice President Tom Meinhardt then gave a short membership report. The \$100.00 VVA National life membership offer has been extended indefinitely. It was also announced that National recently hired a new Membership Coordinator, Khaila Hamilton. ALL correspondence, calls and emails are to go to her exclusively. She can be reached at 800.882.1316 Extension 120 or khamilton@vva.org. Many improvements are planned for late 2016.

Joe Mishler, Great Lakes National Cemetery rep, reported that an April 2, Vietnam veteran ceremony is being planned for 11:00 AM. A Korean War service is being planned for July 23, 2016 also at 11:00 AM. Currently there have been 28,300 burials at Holly and 28,000 at Fort Custer National Cemetery.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 6

John reported he planned to take the Product Sales show to LZ Michigan, July 8 - 10, at Oscoda A.F. Base.

Phil Smith reviewed his report. It appears that the VA is using two programs for claims, VETPRO and VETROSPECT. This creates a bit of a hassle as he has to scan documents for the two programs. Phil warned veterans receiving benefits to look out for overpayments. If conditions change regarding a claim (death, health improves) you must notify the VA. Please read and respond if necessary to all VA correspondence.

We reviewed a proposal by Bay City Chap. 494 to host the 2016 Annual Meeting from June 3 - 5. It will be held at Four Points By Sheraton Saginaw. Rooms are \$89.00 + tax, registration \$25.00 and the banquet will be \$35.00 Saturday night. The delegates approved the proposal.

The next State Council meeting will be April 17, 2016 in Howell.



William Browning

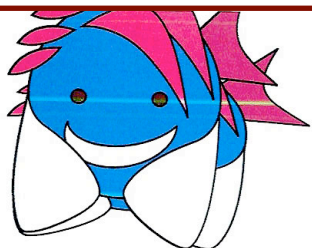


Gary Estermyer

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



Tim Hunnicutt



VFW Post 6695
1426 S. Mill Street
Plymouth, MI 48165
Ph# 734.459.6700

2016 Fish Fry
Every Friday, February 12th, till March 25, 2016
5 pm to 7 pm

FISH FRY MENU

Fish Dinners - Fried or Baked Fish

3pc. Fish \$9.00

4 pc. Fish \$10.00

2 pc. Child/Senior Citizen \$7.00

6 pc. Shrimp Dinner \$9.00

Canadian Walleye Dinner \$11.00

All dinners served with choice of Fries, Baked Potato or Mac & Cheese, and Slaw, Roll & Butter and Coffee

Chicken Strip Dinners

4 pc. Chicken \$9.00

2 pc Child/Senior Citizen \$6.00

Side Orders

Regular fries \$1.50

Mac & Cheese \$1.50

Baked Potato \$1.50



Fish Fry Crew - 2016



Volunteers Always Needed!

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary states a Volunteer as "a person who offers himself or herself for service or an undertaking willingly and without pay." Not like in the service when it was you lost the toss.

Now as a member of the VVA I've been to many a function, as have you, and seen what a fine event that takes place. This is not by accident but by volunteers that work hard to make sure it's a smooth operation. It takes time, effort, sweat and most often not a lot of thanks. It seems strange but predictable that you see the same volunteers at most of these events. At every meeting we are asked to try and make ourselves available to volunteer, to help. Whether it be a minute or two, an hour or 1/2 a day.

To set up, take down, ring a bell, fishing help, raffle tickets, as simple as to shake a hand and welcome you to the meetings, Christmas Trees or maybe something as simple as sending out a sympathy card, a get well card when we get notifications. You're still volunteering and you know what kindness this brings to the receiver. But I'd be remiss if I didn't suggest that when a "new" volunteer arrives to offer his or her services that they be acknowledged and welcomed. Better yet, someone take them around and introduce them to all the "old school helpers."

Give them a sense of belonging and that they did a good thing by coming. A simple hello would be nice and not a look of who are you?. Don't assume they know everybody. They didn't show up to usurp your authority or take over but they arrived with a good heart and two hands to help and be involved. Give a new volunteer a warm and fuzzy feeling the first or second time and maybe, just maybe you'll see them again and again and they realize that they made a good decision.



Sgt. Don Petrere
1st Armored Division
1/81st 1966-1968



Fish On For Freedom is a fun day of fishing for military veterans. It is a charity not for profit event, that will be held in the waters of Ludington, Michigan as a token of thanks from the Ludington community to the men and women that have sacrificed so much making this nation what it is today.

Chapter 528 members Gene Spurgess, Don McLane and Tom Brown attended last years event. The three of us had a fantastic time. This year Chapter 528 is donating \$500.00 to help with the cost of the event. We encourage all members who love fishing to sign-up. You can go online at www.fishonforfreedom.com or call 1-800-309-6707 to register or to ask questions.

You need to get to Ludington by 4:00 pm on June 23rd so you can meet the captain of your boat as well as the other veterans that will be fishing with you.

The fishing event itself will take place on the morning of June 24th with a tournament style start of fishing early that morning. Once fishing wraps up in the early afternoon, all the participating boats will gather outside the Ludington piers to proceed back into the harbor together. This will give community members a wonderful chance to line the Ludington harbor and welcome back the participants and thank them for their sacrifices for our country.

After the boats are docked, the community will be honoring participants at a weigh-in event and luncheon for all guests and volunteers of the morning's activities. After the fish have been weighed, the guests fed, and fishing stories exchanged, they will be giving out awards for the day's fishing activities. Many local people then clean and bag all of the fish (King Salmon and Lake Trout) and give them out to all fishermen. BRING A COOLER!



Sp5 Tom Brown,
Editor
2nd Missile Battalion
44th Artillery
Pershing Missile 1st yr.
HHD III Corps 2nd yr.
Ft. Sill, OK



 March 2016 Post/Chapter Activities						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 VFW AUX MEETING 7:00	2 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	3	4 FISH FRIES 5-7 KARAOKE 8:00	5
6	7	8 VFW MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	9 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	10	11 FISH FRIES 5-7 LIVE BAND 8:00	12
13 Daylight Savings Begins	14 VVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	15 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	16 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	17 St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef Dinner Noon-????	18 FISH FRIES 5-7 KARAOKE 8:00	19 CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT 11-2 -
20 Spring Begins Palm Sunday	21	22 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	23 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	24	25 GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRIES 5-7 LIVE BAND 8:00	26
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	31		



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
AVVA & Ladies
Auxiliary

**VVA 528 General Membership
Meeting Monday, March 14, 2016
1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on
and Join Us!**



March Birthdays

William Azzopardi, Lawrence Bakucz, John Buford, Don Dignan, Ron Dillingham, Al Dorey, Clint Dorey, Daniel Dreger, Patrick Gibbons, Michael Goldstein, John Itsell, Albert King, James Kish, Thomas Markowski, Mike Patten, Bob Paul, Bill Petrere, Joseph Radachy, Stephen Radachy, Mike Schlott, Debra Schnettler, Larry Snowden, Stanley Truskowski, Paul Yeagy and Jeff Yoshikawa.



Chapter Officers

President	John Spencer
1st Vice President	Richard Waldecker
2nd Vice President	Mike Steffes
Secretary	Dennis Bielskis
Treasurer	Bob Dew

Board of Directors

Bill Browning	Gene Spurgess
Mike Dicker	Pete Glasgow
Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Rich Mazurkiwicz	Rich Whipple

Committees

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
Color/Honor Guard	Bob Lamoureux
	Rick Ciaramitaro
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
Assistant Chief	Dale Luebke

Product Sales Bill Browning

POW/MIA Al Kerbyson

Public Affairs	Don Dignan
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming
Service Representative	Aggie Little
Sportsmen's Raffle	John Spencer
State Delegate	Gary Estermyer
State A. Delegate	Dennis Bielskis
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling
VAVS Deputy	Ron King
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

Advertisixng 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.

Our Newest Service Photos



Dale Roeseler
Navy 1968



Mark Shemanski
Navy 1970

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Chapter 528 Homefront



March 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 _____

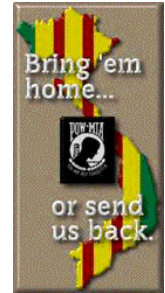
Other _____

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