



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Dennis & Patty Bielskis

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 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Patty & Dennis Bielskis - Photos

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 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

The Chapter Annual Meeting is at 7:00 PM on April 10th. Final nominations for Chapter Officers, Directors and Delegates will be made at this meeting. The election voting will take place later in the meeting and pizza will be served. If you are interested in running for one of the positions, you can still put your name in the hat.

I would like to thank the Chapter for all the support I received during my two years as your President. It made the job easier and time went by quickly.

The 2017 Sportsman's Raffle tickets are 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://sportsman-raffle.weebly.com>. 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 our host, 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 this 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.

UPCOMING

Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Friday. The Lenten Friday Fish Fries will continue through April 14 with possibly one extra Friday, TBD due to reaction of regular customers. For the latest lineup of all events, see the enclosed March calendar.

ELECTIONS

Nominations for all officer positions, as well as four BOD positions, will be taking place each month up to and including the April meeting when our annual election will take place. Why not throw your hat into the ring and offer up your talents for the good of the Chapter.

SUPERCENTER CARWASH FUNDRAISER

We have just accepted a super deal from the 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 and put the car in neutral.

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

My first carwash was actually discounted a buck in recognition of Post 6695....cool !!

It doesn't get any easier than that. We have some great Veteran supporters in town.

MONDAY GOLF

Monday VVA/VFW/AUX/AVVA golf should begin in 4-6 weeks, depending on the somewhat predictable weather. Generally it is conducted in a scrambles format. If you think you might be interested, let me know and I'll put you on the list.

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



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



Photo courtesy of Dennis & Patty Bielskis



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

President	Dennis Bielskis Mike Steffes
1 st Vice President	Dick Adis Joe Tebor
2 nd Vice President	Gary Pritchard John Stern
Secretary	Ron King
Treasurer	Bob Dew
Board Members (4) (2 year term)	Max Bandy Mike Dicker Pete Glasgow Don Petrere Jerry Thomason Terry Wells
Natl Convention Delegate (up to six)	Dick Adis Max Bandy Dennis Bielskis Bob Dew Gary Estermyer Rich Whipple
Election Committee (3)	Dean Bell John Fleming Dale Luebke

Nominations for office will again be taken at the April meeting 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.**

AVVA

It was mistakenly reported that an AVVA representative would also be elected at the April meeting. It was clarified that this position is a 2-year term with election in even numbered years only.

Pizza and Pop

As a little incentive to attend the April membership meeting and participate in our chapter elections, pizza and pop will be provided to all who attend. Please make an effort to come and vote for the candidate of your choice, enjoy some good pizza and get to know your fellow members a little better.

Membership

We had four applications for membership this past month. Richard Bouchard, Army, Robert Harris, Navy, and Thomas Carey, Marines, have joined the chapter. Bruce Benyo, Marines, is transferring from Chapter 267. Welcome Rich, Bob, Tom and Bruce to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 283 individual and 84 associate members. Of these we have 232 life VVA and 48 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: none

AVVA: Paul Tripp

Dropped From Roster: Tom & Kim Moscardelli, David Perez

April VVA Renewals Bob Anderson, John Bertorello, Roger Buelow, Bob Carris, Ellen Howington, Tom Markowski, Leo Ksiazek

April AVVA Renewals: Bill Blue
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 have started out with a bang with an average of 300 meals served each of the first 2 weeks. After a week's break for St Patrick's Day they resumed on March 24th and will continue until Good Friday, April 14th. Help is

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

always needed, especially cleaning up on Saturday morning, so if you can spare some time come out and lend a hand.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations go to Jerry Pazdan the latest name drawn in the chapter raffle and the winner of a life membership. There will be another drawing at the April meeting with only 5 names entered.



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



Fish Fry at the V.F.W.



St. Patrick's Day at the V.F.W.

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Photos courtesy of Dennis & Patty Bielskis



Chaplain's Corner

One of Us

From Our Daily Bread
Author: David McCasland

At the memorial service for Charles Schulz (1922-2000), creator of the beloved *Peanuts* comic strip, friend and fellow cartoonist Cathy Guisewite spoke of his humanity and compassion. "He gave everyone in the world characters who knew exactly how all of us felt, who made us feel we were never alone. And then he gave the cartoonist himself, and he made us feel that we were never alone...he encouraged us. He commiserated with us. He made us feel he was exactly like us."

When we feel that no one understands or can help us, we are reminded that Jesus gave us Himself, and He knows exactly who we are and what we are facing today.

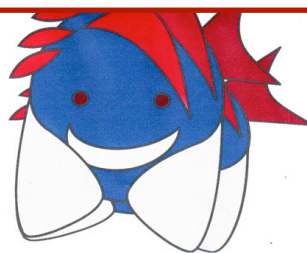
Hebrews 2:9-18 presents the remarkable truth that Jesus fully shared our humanity during His life on earth (v. 14). He "*tasted death for everyone*" (v. 9), broke the power of Satan (v. 14), and freed "*those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death*" (v. 15). Jesus was made like us, "*fully human in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God*" (v. 17).

Thank you, Lord, for sharing our humanity so that we might know Your help today and live in Your presence forever! No one understands like Jesus.

Chaplain's notes: We sure enjoyed Florida, and getting away from our home where our daughter lives with her two children. It was so peaceful to be by ourselves most of our trip, if you know what I mean! Gene Spurgess (our champion ticket seller) is still hurting from his back fusion surgery and we miss his expertise frying the walleye for the Friday Fish Fries. Al Sneath had a bad scare when he slipped while in Florida and hit his head on the pavement (that poor sidewalk), but is in good spirits and mending.



Rich Whipple
Chapter Chaplain
(A sinner saved by God's Grace)
Cell: 734-751-2992
rekjwhipple@yahoo.com
HHHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



VFW Post 6695
1426 S. Mill Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
Ph# 734.459.6700

2017 Fish Fry

Every Friday, March 3rd, till April 14, 2017
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



St. Patrick's Day at the V.F.W.
Photo courtesy of Dennis & Patty Bielskis



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

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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	Day	Time	Location
3/10/2017	Friday	0900-1700	GTC
3/11/2017	Saturday	0900-1600	GTC
3/11/2017	Sunday	0900-1600	GTC
3/18/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Birch Run
3/19/2017	Sunday	1000-1500	Birch Run
4/07/2017	Friday	0900-1700	GTC
4/08/2017	Saturday	0900-1600	GTC
4/09/2017	Sunday	0900-1600	GTC
4/22/2017	Saturday	1100-1800	Gander Mtn.
4/23/2017	Sunday	1100-1800	Gander Mtn.
5/06/2017	Saturday	0900-1700	Birch Run
5/07/2017	Sunday	1000-1500	Birch



APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 VFW AUX MEETING 7:00	5 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	6	7 FISH FRY 5-7 KARAOKE 8:00	8
9	10 VVA ANNUAL ELECTIONS 7:00	11 VFW ANNUAL ELECTIONS 7:00	12 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	13	14 FISH FRY 5-7 GOOD FRIDAY	15 ROAD CLEAN UP
16	17	18 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	19 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	20	21 KARAOKE 8:00	22
23 30	24	25 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	26 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	27	28	29



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ralph Auge, Gordon Bardeleben, Michael Barnowski, Robert Bieske, Earl Burgis, Robert Couturier, Thomas Crozier, Tom Curry, Norris Cutler, Richard Demeester, Edward Dziadzio, Hank Giles, Gerald Grzesik, William Hayes, Glen Jewell, Larry Jones, Al Kerbyson, Robert Leshan, John Lindsay, Barbara Little, Rich Mazurkiewicz, Joseph McCarthy, Gary Meier, Chris Pope, Gary Pritchard, Jay Roberts, Gordon Segal, Dale Sirkle, Ron Trosin and John Zielinski,



Chapter Officers

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

Board of Directors

Ron King	Gene Spurgess
Mike Dicker	Pete Glasgow
Don Dignan	Joe Tebor
Gary Pritchard	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
Fundraising	Bob Dew
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming
Membership	Bob Lamoureux

Homefront Newsletter

Editor & Publisher	Tom Brown
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Assistant Chief	Ron King
Assistant Chief	Dale Luebke

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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 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

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



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)

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when turning in your vehicle.**

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President

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Chapter 528 Homefront



April 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 _____

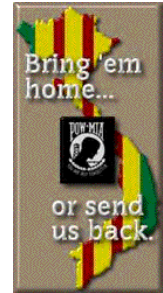
Other _____

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
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 Plymouth MI 48170-0473