



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Mike Dicker receiving award from President Jay Roberts for Chapter Member of the Year.

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President's Corner

Thank you all for your vote of confidence in voting for me as your chapter president. To be the president of this chapter is truly one of the most meaningful accomplishments of my life. Also, I anticipate a solid and effective working relationship with our outstanding Board members, our committees, and adjunct organizations to enhance and uphold our excellent reputation which we enjoy through trusted brotherhood and mutual respect for each of our brothers and sisters.

As you are well aware, another very busy year is ahead of us which has already kicked off with our first Adopt-A-Road cleanup and VFW Post Parking Lot/Yard cleanup on April 20th. The next highly anticipated event is the weekly Cruz'n 528 Car Shows which begin on May 1st. Also, our very popular Annual Wayne County Children's Fishing Derby, May 18th. We end May with our annual Memorial Day Parade in Plymouth on May 27th. As the year continues, we look forward to the 4th of July Parade, the Fall Festival in September, the Fantastic September week in Kokomo, Indiana with literally thousands of our brothers and sister veterans. These are just some of the many activities that we do, as there are many other events and activities occurring each and every month. The bottom line is that you can become a very active and busy veteran who believes in good works and good deeds to help others.

Chapter 528 is loaded with so much talent and so many wonderful people, we make a positive impact in our communities, and we sincerely believe that our Vietnam Veterans will never let another veteran be ignored or forgotten!

In closing, thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be your President.

Welcome Home!

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



38th Air Rescue &
 Recovery Squadron
 Ton Son Nhut AB, RVN
 1971-1972





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE SIGN-IN RAFFLE

Be sure to sign in before the meeting and any day you happen to visit the Post. Members of all groups (VVA, AVVA, VFW, Men's and Ladies Auxiliary) are eligible. The current jackpot will net the winner around \$200. It's a win/win situation.

TROOP SUPPORT

If you have a son/daughter, grandson/grand daughter, niece/nephew who is deployed overseas and might like some stateside support, get us a name and address and we'll be sure to get a package sent to them. Remember what it was like getting a package from home back in the day? Keep all our troops in your daily prayers.

LENTEN FISH FRY'S

The annual Lenten Friday evening fish fry's are over and were a financial success.

MOTHER'S DAY

If you are lucky enough to still have your Mother's company at this point of your life, enjoy it to the fullest. Let her know how special she is.

MEMORIAL DAY

Make it a point to march with your Chapter members in the annual Plymouth Memorial Day parade. The citizens of Plymouth always give us a patriotic response, likely topping any greeting you received upon returning to the States way back when. What a difference a couple of decades makes.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Congratulations to all of our newly elected officers and BOD members and thanks for stepping forward to lead the Chapter for the next 12 months.

POPPY SALES

If you can spare a few hours, please consider signing up for a location to sell poppies. There is a signup sheet at the Post. All proceeds go to membership relief.

FISHING DERBY

Our annual Hines Park Fishing Derby for Kids, held in partnership with Wayne County Parks and Recreation, will be held at 6 Mile and Northville Road in May. Contact Bill Boudreau or Tom Brown to not only volunteer but have a fun time doing it.

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



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



Grand Rapids Home for Vets

Members of VVA 528 went to Grand Rapids on April 4, 2013 on a fact finding mission checking out information concerning the Grand Rapids Home for Vets. They delivered their findings to our newly elected Board of Directors this past Tuesday, April 23rd. Members included Joe Agius, Dennis Waling, Rich Waldecker, Bob Paul. Pictured with our members is Sara Dunne, RD, MPA, NHA Grand Rapids Home for Vets Administrator. Betty Pike the President of AVVA of Michigan was also there.



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The votes have been tabulated and the results are in. Here are your new elected officials for the upcoming year.

President	Ron King
1 st Vice President	Bob Paul
2 nd Vice President	Leroy Paige
Secretary	Rick Waldecker
Treasurer	Bob Dew
Board Members (2 year)	Mike Dicker Ben Tallman Joe Tebor Jerry Thomason
Natl Convention Delegates	Dennis Bielskis Bob Dew Gary Estermyer Ron King Jay Roberts
Nominating Committee	Dean Bell Bob Lamoureux John Spencer Rich Whipple

Let's take a moment to thank all those who stepped up to the plate and ran for office and to thank our outgoing officers for the great job they did this past year.

Membership

We have 2 new individual and 2 new associate members this month. Doyle "Skip" Davison, Navy, and Scott Olson, Army, joined after the last meeting, as did Kelly Ryan and John Stewart. Welcome to Chapter 528 Skip, Scott, Kelly and John. Our current membership stands at 249 individual and 63 associate members.

Dropped From Roster: none

Lapsed Members: As of April 22, 2013 the following individuals have not renewed their membership: Ed Bowman, Harry Boyde, Mario Kamm, Rich Newberry, Cornell Osier, Stephen Boucher, Mike Plamer

May VVA Renewals: Pat Gibbons, Brian Hopps, Gene Spurgess

May AVVA Renewals: Nancy Dignan, Lynn Dery

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.

Life Membership

A few months back I wrote we were approaching a 50/50 split between life and annual paid members. Since that time a number of members have converted to life membership so we now have 131 life and 116 annual paid members. If anyone would like to buy a life membership the cost is very reasonable: (ages 56-60) \$200, (61-65) \$175, (66-71) \$150 and (72 & up) \$100. The cost can be paid all at once or in monthly installments of \$25 after a \$50 down payment. An added bonus is that you will never have to worry about when your dues are due or see your name in my newsletter article as being a lapsed member.

Color Guard Update

Nothing to report for February. Upcoming in May the color guard will be presenting the colors at the Joshua Trail banquet again this year on May 9th and the opening ceremony for the Canton Little League on the 11th. We have been asked to participate in the opening ceremony at the golf outing in Novi for Operation Injured Soldiers on May 17th. The Plymouth Memorial Day parade is on May 27th at 8:30 am this year. We will be leading the parade as it marches north from Main Street and Wing to the Memorial Park.



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





State Council News

Gary Estermyer, delegate

Leroy Paige (528 V.P.) and I had a nice ride to Howell on Sunday, April 14, 2013. The weather was cool and wet so we decided to leave the motorcycles at home.

President John Riling started the meeting right on time with the pledge and a prayer. He told us that both the Secretary and Treasurer were on excused sick leave. 'Doc' Essenmacher had knee replacement surgery and he was in rehab while Dennis Cohoon is recovering from cardiac issues. Whoever said, "It's hell getting old"?

The attendance was low today with only 11 chapters present and I'm thinking this will be a short meeting. John reported that he had recently attended a meeting at the Freeland Correctional Facility regarding incarcerated veterans. The State of Michigan may have some funds available for those groups who assist those veterans upon their release. John reported that the MSC has been paying the bills on time so that's a positive sign. The State Council also recently received a special grant from VVA National which will help with the Service Office expenses.

Vice President Tim Driscoll spoke about the upcoming National Convention in Jacksonville and the need for all the chapters to send in their election and financial reports as soon as they are completed.

Bob Cummings of Alpena Chapter 583 spoke about their upcoming Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting. It is scheduled for June 1, 2013, 10:00 AM at VFW Post 2496 in Alpena. Bob also spoke about the Agent Orange Riders group that he helped form. After further discussion there was a motion to officially support the A.O. Riders. Motion passed.

Gary Amerling of Flint Chapter 175 reported that there will be a Homeless Veterans meeting in Frankenmuth, MI in September.

Tom Meinhardt reported there have been 17,412 burials at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. GLNC is planning a Memorial Day ceremony at 11:00 AM and a ceremony during National POW-MIA Recognition Day in September. Tom also reported that Rick Anderson has retired as Director at GLNC. His replacement has not yet been named.

Sandie Wilson, Region 5 Director, spoke about the upcoming Region 5 Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Detroit. It is scheduled for July 12-14, 2013. Many workshops, seminars and presentations will take place that weekend. The focus of the Conference will be to prepare the delegates for the Convention. All area VVA and AVVA members are urged to attend this informative and educational weekend. National VVA candidates will also be invited with Sunday morning being reserved for them. Sandie is working on additional funding to offset expenses.

Phil Smith, Service Office Director, again reported that the Veterans Benefit Management System is almost ready to implement their "paperless" system. Their goal is to process claims within 125 days. Scanning of old claims is part of the transition. If you receive a VA benefit check you should already have received your last one, direct deposit will now be the proper payment process. A recent Hiring Our Hero's job program was held in Dearborn. Over 1,000 veterans/ registered, 384 showed up and 85 received jobs on the spot. Phil, John Riling and Jack Devine met with the warden at the Freeland Correctional Facility to discuss benefits and VVA involvement with incarcerated veterans. The warden was not aware VVA has experience in this area. Volunteers are needed to help out in the correctional facilities. Released veterans need information on their benefits. Robert Price of the State of Michigan Veterans Affairs office is working on correctional facility grants.

I then gave the final report on the 3 digit raffle fundraiser. We profited \$2,307 which is more than what we had but ticket sales were down.

Leroy Paige then gave an "Honor and Remember" presentation. HR offers a national remembrance flag that recognizes all individuals who have died as a result of serving in the U. S. military. It serves as a symbol of national gratitude and respect for the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is not intended to replace the U.S. flag but to fly underneath it. One goal of HR is to place a flag in the hands of the immediate family of every man and woman who died in military service to America.

Phil Smith announced that the Veteran of the Year applications will be available soon. Phil also had Veterans Night at Comerica Park flyers available. This years' game will feature the Tigers vs. Chicago White Sox on Wednesday, July 10, 7:08 PM. Ticket cost is \$34.00.

Betty Pike spoke about AVVA plans to help out at the Region 5 Conference. Betty also spoke about the Grand Rapids Veterans Home.

A motion was made to hold the next State Council meeting in Alpena on June 2. This would follow their Agent Orange town hall meeting on the 1st. Motion passed.

Brian Bobek, President of Mt. Clemens Chap. 154, urged the delegates to support them at the Novi cemetery during the POW-MIA National Recognition weekend, Sep. 20-22, 2013.



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





Chaplain's Corner

MIKE

This article was written by Jeff Bonzelaar, the Executive Director of Life Challenge ("a one year residential program for those who struggle with drugs, alcohol or any life controlling habit – a place to find hope, healing, and help through Jesus Christ").

"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart." (Ecclesiastics 7:2)

"I lost a good friend this month. After a four year battle with cancer, Mike finally succumbed. He fought well and fought hard. He inspired many by his example of determination and optimism. But in the end, he lost. He died!

The same fate awaits me. No, I am not sick. I have no health issues at present other than the normal aches and pains of a near fifty-year-old. But I am going to die sooner or later. I will lose the battle, like Mike, my mom, Lori's grandma, my dad's dog. We all will die. Death is certain.

I remember a time nearly 30 years ago when my grandpa, my dad and his only sibling, my Uncle Wes, and I spent a few hours together on a Friday night looking at pictures....the four of us, the Bonzelaars. Three generations! Going back in time.

Grandpa pulled out the albums and folders of family pictures from his desk and introduced us to his dad and grandfather. He showed us pictures of our great-great-great-great (I lost count) uncles and aunts, cousins and in-laws six times removed. He told us the stories behind the pictures. It was fascinating.

Then my uncle said something I will never forget. "Jeff, one day you will be a picture, and if you're lucky, you'll end up on someone's dresser". Sobering words for a twenty year old. True...but not entirely.

If the most I could look forward to is ending up a picture on some future relative's nightstand, I could not live. And I certainly could not die. Not well at least.

Without a belief in something more, something beyond, life becomes unbearable and death incomprehensible. Life would be, as William Shakespeare's Macbeth said, nothing but "a tale told by an idiot." The Apostle Paul says it like this: ***"If our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world"*** (1 Corinthians 15:19).

We need more than this world to live and die well in this world.

And that is what Jesus' death and resurrection secures for us...hope for another world. A hope that sustains us in life and in death.

The great circuit rider-evangelist and founder of the Methodists, John Wesley, said "My people die well." They died well because they believed well. Hope was their ballast. The hope of heaven.

From the perspective, my believing friend, Mike, didn't lose the battle. He won. He beat me! ***"To be absent from the body....is to be present with the Lord"*** (2 Corinthians 5:8).

See you later Mike!"

I am the Outpost Leader for the Western Wayne County Point Man (International) Outpost. On the Point Man website www.pmim.org, this is what explains what we are about:

Outposts are led by Christian Vets who care deeply about veterans and their struggles. They fully understand the difficulties associated with returning home after a long and difficult deployment as well as the non-combat experiences. Outposts are places for veterans to talk, share and listen to others who have walked in their shoes. All Vets are welcome regardless of what country they served with and gender is irrelevant as both men and women have served and sacrificed for their respective countries.

I do want all of you to know, that if you ever need someone to talk to and there doesn't seem to be a neighbor, family member, etc. that you feel that would understand, please call me up and I will be available most any time to meet you for a beer, coffee, or whatever. I hope I have gained your confidence in keeping whatever is discussed, between you and me.

Praises for Vaughn Hull's successful throat surgery, and for Barb Bresnahan returning home. Prayers for Dennis Waling as he travels to Washington State for a health cure, and for several who are currently battling cancer.



Rich Whipple
Chapter Chaplain
HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969





DR. BOB'S

FILES:

**Bob Paul, USMC
1st MAW, MAG-12, VMA-225
Chu Lai 1965**

There were many rotary aircraft used in Vietnam. The Three aircraft listed below saw considerable service during that conflict.



The **Bell AH-1 Cobra** (company designation: engine attach helicopter manufactured by Bell engine, transmission and rotor system with the also referred to as the **Huey Cobra** or **Snake**. Cobras had been delivered. Originally attack designation was soon adopted and when UH-1H, the Huey Cobra became the AH-1G. variant of the H-1 line, resulting in the G series the Army during the Tet Offensive in 1968 and Huey Cobras provided fire support for ground and other roles, including aerial rocket artillery Airmobile divisions. They also formed "hunter killer" teams by pairing with OH-6A scout helicopters. A team featured one OH-6 flying slow and low to find enemy forces. If the OH-6 drew fire, the Cobra could strike at the then revealed enemy. Bell built 1,116 AH-1Gs for the US Army between 1967 and 1973, and the Cobras chalked up over a million operational hours in Vietnam. Out of nearly 1,110 AH-1s delivered from 1967 to 1973 approximately 300 were lost to combat and accidents during the war. The U.S. Marine Corps used AH-1G Cobras in Vietnam for a short time before acquiring twin-engine AH-1J.



Model 209) is a two-bladed, single Helicopter. It shares a common older UH-1 Iroquois. The AH-1 is By June 1967, the first AH-1G Huey designated as UH-1H, the "A" for the improved UH-1D became the The AH-1 was initially considered a letter. AH-1 Cobras were in use by through the end of the Vietnam War. forces, escorted transport helicopters (ARA) battalions in the two



The **Bell UH-1 Iroquois** (unofficially **Huey**) is a military helicopter powered by a single, turbo shaft engine, with a two-bladed main rotor and tail rotor. The helicopter was developed by Bell Helicopter to meet the United States Army's requirement for a medical evacuation and utility helicopter in 1952, and first flew on 20 October 1956. Ordered into production in March 1960, the UH-1 was the first turbine-powered helicopter to enter production for the United States Military, and more than 16,000 have been produced worldwide. The first combat operation of the UH-1 was in the service of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. The original designation of *HU-1* led to the helicopter's nickname of *Huey*. In September 1962, the designation was changed to UH-1, but "Huey" remained in common use. Approximately 7,000 UH-1 aircraft saw service in Vietnam. During service in the Vietnam War, the UH-1 was used for various purposes and various terms for each task abounded. UH-1s tasked

with a ground attack or armed escort role were outfitted with rocket launchers, grenade launchers, and machine guns. As early as 1962, UH-1s were modified locally by the companies themselves, who fabricated their own mounting systems. These Gunship UH-1s were commonly referred to as *Frogs* or *Hogs* if they carried rockets, and *Cobras* or simply *Guns* if they had guns. UH-1s tasked and configured for troop transport were often called *Slicks* due to an absence of weapons pods. Slicks did have door gunners, but were generally employed in the troop transport and medevac roles.

The U.S. Air Force developed the **Sikorsky HH-3E** helicopter, nicknamed the "**Jolly Green Giant**", to perform combat search and rescue (CSAR) to recover downed Airmen during the Southeast Asia War. A highly modified version of Sikorsky's CH-3 transport helicopter, the HH-3E carried both armor plating and armament to protect it from hostile forces during rescues of aircrews in a combat area. Fifty CH-3Es were converted to HH-3Es with the addition of armor, defensive armament, self-sealing fuel tanks and a rescue hoist. With a watertight hull, the HH-3E could land on water, and its large rear door and ramp permitted easy loading and unloading. The first USAF HH-3Es arrived in Vietnam in 1967, and they operated out of Udorn Air Base, Thailand, and Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam. During the Southeast Asia War, HH-3 crewmen were awarded one Medal of Honor, twenty-four Air Force Crosses, and over 190 Silver Stars.





Joy Road Clean Up

(A Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Project)

What a crazy spring this has been in Michigan. Who would have expected that the day our Road Crew was to pick up the trash along Joy Road, Saturday, April 20, was going to be 32 degrees, winds out of the west at about 20 miles an hour? And to begin the day, to have snow and ice on our windshields as we started our vehicles to meet for Meijer fresh doughnuts, camaraderie, and work (fun work)! At least it wasn't raining!

Fourteen brave souls showed up in our winter clothes, and as the cable guy says: "Get 'er done!" Well, we definitely got it done, collecting 16 bags of trash (some very soggy), which might be our record.

Shown in the picture, these "all world" road crew members, some for the very first time. Standing from left to right: "Rookie" Dan Droz; a very tall Jerry Thomason; new chapter president, the honorable Ron King (I believe he is the first officer (a Major) to hold the chapter chair of President); Pat Doherty, Susie Wagner, AVVA President the honorable Dennis Waling; "Rookie" Bobby Somerville (sporting a wool cap that shows he recently visited Disneyland and saw Mickey); "Rookie" Art Sawyer; "Rookie" Ken Winkler; Bob ("I hold several offices") Lamoureux; Frank (Facebook) Barkovich; Norma Demerly (an almost perfect attendance team member); and a very tall Doug Fox, who is getting married two weeks from our pick up day. One of our repeat volunteers, Roger Buelow, was so gung ho that he didn't even wait for the pictures, he was already heading east on Joy Road taking on the trash by himself!

A huge thanks to all of you, especially the new guys that came out. I wish I could promise you better weather, but living in Michigan, why take the chance of looking like our weather men on television.

Our next Joy Road Pick Up will be scheduled for Saturday, July 20, and our last pick up is scheduled for Saturday, September 28.

Rich Whipple
Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Chairman



DALAT L.D. #4, Sir

Hello, Chapter 528. I would like to say Thanks for electing me as the 2nd V. P. for the Chapter. I will try to be involved as best as I can and be available for all who might need me and I hope, vice versa, for you as well. Here we are in the month of May and this is the beginning of all the different activities for the Spring and Summer that we as a Chapter will be getting together to do. Be sure to check out the calendar in the Newsletter or see a knowledgeable Committee Chair person to see where you can help in all our functions. There is a great time of camaraderie in being with others and accomplishing something that you want to be involved with. So come on out and be a part of this great Chapter.

Have a Great Day Every Day!



Leroy Paige
RVN 69-70
1st Signal Brigade



The Bear's Den

When you come to the Post, take a look around. The work party did a fabulous job. It is a proud place for the coming car shows. The large group that turned out made the work much easier. All of the four organizations were there and worked together and the food was great, especially Betty's potato salad and Leslie's broccoli mixture. It made a great day for those that were also on the Joy Rd. clean-up crew. We now have two dart boards that are ready for team play, something to think about. A great addition to our drink menu includes the strawberita and limeberita for only \$2.50. Since the last "Jack and Jill" pool tournament went so well, the next one will be Sunday, June 19th with the lounge picking up a sub or something again. There will be a raffle drawn on Veterans Day for a Commemorative M1 Garand #0417 that has never been fired as first prize. Second prize is a SKS 7.62 X 39 and third prize is \$100.00 cash. Tickets are \$10.00 and only 1000 will be sold. The seller of the first prize will get \$100.00 and second prize \$50.00. You have to see the M1 with the gold plating and it will be in a display case. We have not determined what the special will be yet. Give me a call to find out and I will let "Digger" know as soon as I know.

Bear @ (734) 459- 6700...THANKS



Voting is so much fun!



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





Ted's View from the Backroom

Millions of veterans lose out on billions in benefits because the VA won't tell them they qualify!

Unfortunately, the VA is still not required to tell veterans, widows or dependents that they qualify for benefits. As wrong as this may seem, the VA is under no obligation to inform anyone of any benefits.

Why are there millions of veterans, widows and dependents nationwide who are not getting VA benefits? The main reason is because most vets don't know they're qualified! Nobody, least of all the Veterans Administration, has bothered to tell them. Another reason is because they think their benefits are so meager that its not worth jumping through the many hoops and hurdles to get them. However, the second reason is often related to the first, in that if the VA told qualified vets just how much they were actually entitled to, many WOULD find it worth the trouble jumping through said hoops and hurtles.

This is also true for veterans who are already enrolled in the VA system. Millions of veterans in the VA system are only receiving some of their benefits. Most veterans don't know that if they have at least a 10 per cent service-connected disability they can get free glasses, hearing aids and mobility aids such as scooters, canes and walkers. There are many more little-known benefits such as clothing allowance of over \$600 a year if they wear a prosthetic device that damages clothing. Why doesn't the VA inform veterans of their benefits? The VA's answer is simply because it is not a requirement. Veterans' associations claim it's all about money. For a while the VA had outreach programs designed to seek out and inform veterans of their benefits. VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi, , cancelled these programs. Why? Because the programs were "too successful" and the VA claimed their budget couldn't handle any more

veterans in the system. Many veterans' organizations held "veterans' benefits fairs" at VA facilities. However, the VA no longer allows these events and the veterans groups had to move them to their own properties where the chances of meeting veterans far slimmer.

Another problem with the VA's "non-information" policy is that poor veterans suffer the most. Poor and particularly homeless vets are far less likely to have the resources, family and friends to help them to find out the information on their own. There has been talk for years, that laws were in the making to require to VA to inform all veterans of any and all available benefits. Yet the problem remains the same. Many states, such as California, seeing that they are almost bankrupt, have been informing veterans of their federal benefits. This is not out of the kindness of their hearts, but so that they don't have to spend any money on our vets.

The permanent answer to the problem lies in legislation to require the VA to inform all veterans of all their benefits. It is up to us to force their hand, by raising our voices and letting America know. If not us, who else is going to step up to the plate?



Ted Enright
Apache Troop "Scouts"
7th/1st Air Cav Sqdn
1st Aviation Brigade
Vinh Long 1971 / 72



Photo from our April 14th Meeting - Courtesy of Ted Enright

Burger School Basketball Game

The following article was from Garden City Observer Newspaper written by Ed Wright Staff Writer.

The Detroit Pistons could learn a few things from the Burger Broncos. For instance, the importance of perseverance, which Bronco player Kory Schwartz epitomized midway through Friday's game against Garden City High School's varsity basketball team.

Surrounded by Cougars, Schwartz misfired on three straight shots before eventually swishing the fourth attempt following a Dwight Howard-like rebound display. And the necessity of teamwork, which all the Broncos offered by often passing up open looks to dish the ball to a teammate. And, last but not least, winning, which Burger did, 140-135, in a highly entertaining game played in the Burger East gymnasium.

The Broncos — whose roster goes 52 players deep — are made up of autistic students from throughout Wayne County. They range in age from 14 to 26. Friday's win extended the hosts' winning streak over the Cougars to at least four games. "I've been real excited for this moment," said 20-year-old Bronco forward Jonathan Walker, moments after he joined the Cougars cheerleaders in a post-game dance. "I had so much fun. We play with honor and we play fair."

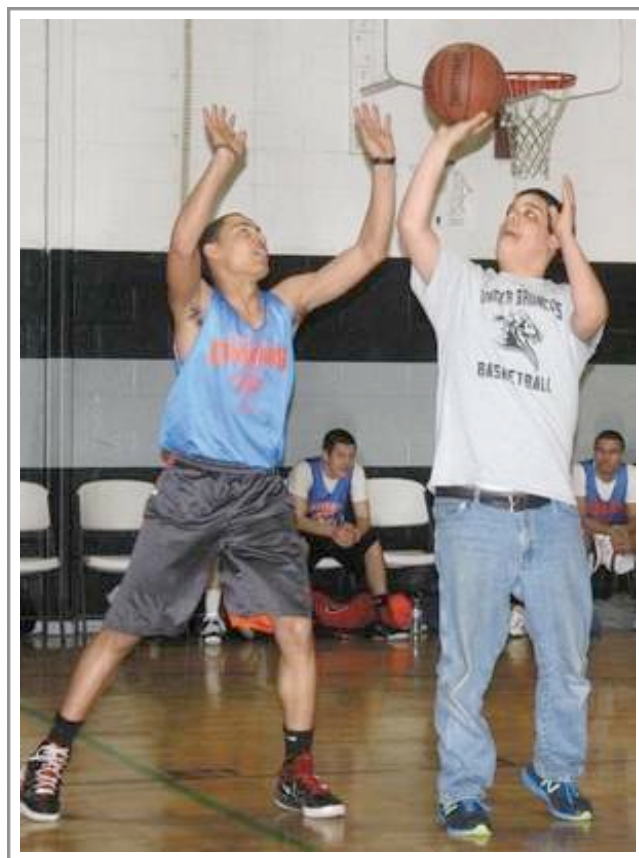
The Broncos' schedule includes upcoming games against the Burger West squad and a team made up of students from Cambridge High School — but Friday's game against the Cougars is the one they have circled on their schedule each spring. "This is the game they all practice for and look forward to the most," Burger co-coach Lauren Cezon said. "The Garden City players are phenomenal with our kids. I think they look forward to the game as much as our kids do."

Cezon said the Broncos work on the game's basics during the months leading up to their showdown with the Cougars. "No. 1, we work on teamwork — passing the ball to our teammates," she said. "And we work on getting up and down the floor fast. In the end, though, it's all about having fun. Some of these kids don't get the opportunity to play for a city team, so this game gives them an opportunity to play in a game. They absolutely love it." Every Bronco basket — and there were 70 of them — was greeted with a rousing round of

applause from the large crowd that congregated in the gym. The scoring feat brought smiles to all the attendees' faces, including Cezon's. "There is nothing better than watching a kid make a basket and seeing the look on his face," she said. "That look is worth everything."

Following the game, every Bronco was presented with a medal by the Cougars, who were models of sportsmanship all afternoon. "I'm going to take mine home and put it with all my other medals," Walker said, smiling. Walker also enjoys go-karting and bowling, but nothing compares to basketball for him. "This is my favorite," he said. The medals were funded by Fleming Financial Services, **Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans**, Garden City Kiwanis and the Men's Club of United Methodist Church.

John Fleming and Mike Thiry served as volunteer refs for the game, while Patrick Crosby and Stan Bialach shared announcing duties.



Burger's Valentino Rodriguez drained this jumped shot over Garden City's Kevin Brown-Bayko Friday, April 12th in the two teams' annual matchup. Photo by Ed Wright

Elected Members

11

Chapter 528 Elections Monday, April 8, 2013



Michigan State Council President John H. Riling III administering the "Oath of Office".



Benjamin Tallman, Bob Dew, Ron King, Richard Waldecker, Jerry Thomason, Leroy Paige, Rich Whipple, John Spencer, Dennis Waling, Mike Dicker, Gary Pritchard, Dean Bell, Joe Tebor, Bob Lamoureux and Mike Steffes. Gary Kubik not pictured



Executive Officers: Treasurer Bob Dew, Secretary Richard Waldecker, President Ron King, 1st Vice President Bob Paul (not pictured) and 2nd Vice President Leroy Paige



Board of Directors: Benjamin Tallman, Jerry Thomason, Mike Dicker, Bill Browning, Gary Pritchard, Joe Tebor and Mike Steffes



Nominating Committee: Rich Whipple, John Spencer, Dean Bell and Bob Lamoureux

Members of the Year



Chapter Member of the Year Mike Dicker
with President Jay Roberts



Board Member of the Year Bill Browning
with President Jay Roberts



Color Guard Member of the Year Bill
Browning with Commander Bob
Lamoureux and President Jay Roberts



AVVA Member of the Year Gordon
Bardeleben with AVVA Rep Dennis Waling
and President Jay Roberts

50/50



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528

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**Car Shows on Wednesdays
starting May 1, 2013 through
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Music courtesy of DJ Koz



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Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Plymouth—Canton, MI Chapter 528

May 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Cruz'n 528 VFW pk lot 5-8 pm	2	3 (1965) 173rd ABN Arrives in Vietnam	4
5	6	7 (1954) Dien Bien Phu Falls	8 Cruz'n 528 VFW pk lot 5-8 pm	9 Color Guard Canton Little League	10 (1969) Battle of Hamburger Hill starts	11
12 Mothers Day	13 General Membership 7 pm	14	15 Cruz'n 528 VFW pk lot 5-8 pm	16	17 4th Annual Oper. Injured Soldiers golf outing— Links of Novi	18 Wayne Cty. Fishing Derby Waterford Bnd 7:30 am
19	20	21	22 Cruz'n 528 VFW pk lot 5-8 pm	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day parade Plymouth 8:30 am	28 Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm	29 Cruz'n 528 VFW pk lot 5-8 pm	30	31	



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



Calendar by Gary Estermyer

**VVA 528 Membership Meeting Monday, May 13, 2013 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)**

VFW Calendar For May

3rd - Karaoke Night - 8:00 pm
7th - Ladies Auxiliary 7 pm
14th - General Membership Mtg. 7 pm
15th - Men's Auxiliary 7:30 pm
17th - Steak Night - 5 - 7 pm
17th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
21st - Board Meeting - 7 pm



May Birthdays

Jim Austin, Terry Blumberg, Les Brookins, Robert Caldwell, Shirley Caldwell, Guido Capaldi, Ernie Costantino, Danny Droz, Ed Florence, Jerry Galda, Frank Gilbo, Gary Grant, Jim Hodgson, Jurgen Juziuk, Mario Kamm, Greg Kremkow, Leo Ksiazek, Larry Luceus, Richard Mamayek, Scott Olson, Gary Paver, Christine Roberts, Roger Schlee, John Stewart, Benjamin Tallman, Ron Wilson, Dale Wofford.

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KOKOMO 2013

All the paperwork for our 2013 Annual Reunion/Campout are in order. Dates are Sep. 19-22, 2013. If are planning on joining the festivities this year, please contact me and let me know that you are going. Space is somewhat limited and due to the number of chapter members that go, there is no room for large campers. Any questions, call me at **734-395-5144** as soon as possible to discuss it



Dale M. Luebke
355th Tac Fighter Wing
357th Tac Fighter Squadron

Editor's Message

I am asking all members who are currently receiving their newsletter by postal mail and who have Internet service to please choose not to have our newsletter mailed to you anymore. Each newsletter costs us nearly \$1.00 per issue to publish and mail. Please help save us money for our chapter. The money saved can be spent on more important matters. One may contact Dale Luebke either by emailing or calling him and let Dale know of your new choice.

Dale Luebke dale68us@yahoo.com or 734-395-5144

Thanks!

Tom Brown, Editor



May 2013



Chapter 528 Web Site: www.vva528.org

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2nd Vice President	Leroy Paige
Secretary	Richard Waldecker
Treasurer	Bob Dew

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Mike Dicker	Ben Tallman
Gary "Bear" Kubik	Joe Tebor
Gary Pritchard	Jerry Thomason

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	Rick Ciaramitaro
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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 21st 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 or email Bill Boudreau at wboudreau@comcast.net. 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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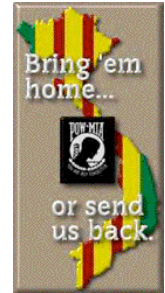
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