



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



"Bear" collecting money as usual during the Main Street Car Wash. Article on page 2 and photos throughout the newsletter. *Photo courtesy of Dennis and Patty Bielskis.*

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 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Gary Estermyer - Michigan State Delegate
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Patty & Dennis Bielskis - Photos

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Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

Happy 24th Birthday to our Marines. There will be cake and song at our November 14th meeting.

There will also be a Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park in Plymouth on Friday, November 11th at 11 AM. In addition there will be a Veterans Day Ceremony the same day at Canton's Heritage Park Veterans Memorial at 1:00 PM and the Salute to Service Program at Canton's Village Theater at 7 PM featuring the Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Col. Charles Kettles. This event is free, includes military displays and punch and cookies.

There are many events and activities at the VFW Post each month. These events/activities support 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 has commenced and will continue every Wednesday until next spring. As always, sliders will be cooked and served from 5:00PM-7:00P will 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.

MONDAY GOLF

Our all member (VFW/Auxiliary/VVA/AVVA) Monday golf scramble has been underway and will continue until we get weathered out. If you are interested, let me know and I'll keep you on the weekly notification list.

CARWASH

Sunday October 2 was the day and Main Street Car Wash was the place. Thanks to all who helped out: Bob Bryan, Gary Pritchard, Chuck Bilyk, Jim Hodgson, Skip Davison, Aggie & Ron Little, Bill Browning, Bryan Bentley, Ron King, Dean Bell, Denny Fuelling, John Stern, George Mason, Larry Eichstadt, Todd Busick, Larry Kilgore, Rich Whipple, Dennis Bielskis, John Stephens, Doug Fox, Jerry Thomason, Dennis Waling, Gary Estermyer, Pete Glasgow, Bob Anderson, John Bertorello, Jim Kimball, Bob Dew, co-chairs Dale Luebke, Gary Kubik and me. Many thanks to Phil & Paula Pursell who came through again as the Chapter netted \$2329.00.

UPCOMING

Taco night is Friday October 28 at 5:00PM. Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Friday. 2nd and 4th Friday, there is a new band performing. The second of our two Annual Poker Shootouts is Thursday October 27 at

5:30PM. November events are listed on the enclosed calendar.

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



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



Main Street Car Wash



Photos courtesy of Dennis & Patty Bielskis



Odds & Ends

Membership

There were 2 applications for membership this past month. Mark Mittleman, Army, and William Brown, Navy, have joined our chapter. Welcome Mark and Bill to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 274 individual and 78 associate members. Of these we have 222 life VVA and 40 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Carl Allen, William Azzopardi, Ron Jones, Charlie Kotcher

AVVA: none

Dropped from Roster: Austin Bronson, George Bruder, Fred Hanna, Clint Dorey

November VVA Renewals: Harold Hachigian

November AVVA Renewals: Kimberly Moscardelli, Tom Moscardelli, David Perez, Sue Willim

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 Memberships

Just a continuing reminder of the new AVVA membership fees. They are: age 60 and over - \$100, and 59 and under - \$175. Anyone over 60 who purchases a life membership must provide proof of age (copy of driver's license or birth certificate). This change is a great opportunity for associates to become life members. The life membership fee for VVA members is \$100 regardless of age.

Veterans Day

On Friday, November 11th there will be a ceremony at 11:00 am at the Veteran's Park in Plymouth. This will be followed by a ceremony at

1:00 pm in Canton. Everyone is invited to attend both events. In between chili will be served at the VFW and as usual a large number of restaurants will be serving free meals to veterans on that day also. Later that evening a "Salute to Service" program will be held at the Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations go to AVVA member Lucy Stern, the latest winner of the chapter raffle and a life membership. Lucy is the 3rd consecutive associate to win the raffle. There will be another drawing at the next membership meeting. There were only 6 names in the last drawing and there are only 8 in the next one so if you are an annual paid member and attend the monthly meetings your chances of winning are excellent. This will also be the 75th life membership to be given away since the raffle was started many years ago.



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



Photos courtesy of Dennis & Patty Bielskis



Chaplain's Corner

Changing Hearts

From "Our Daily Bread", by
Randy Kilgore

On the last day of the US Civil War, officer Joshua Chamberlain was in command of the Union army. His soldiers lined up on both sides of the road that the Confederate army had to march down in surrender. One wrong word or one belligerent act and the longed-for peace could be turned to slaughter. In an act as brilliant as it was moving, Chamberlain ordered his troops to salute their foe! No taunting here, no vicious words, only guns in salute and swords raised to honor.

When Jesus offered His words about forgiveness in Luke 6, He was helping us understand the difference between people of grace and people without grace. Those who know His forgiveness are to be strikingly unlike everyone else. We must do what others think impossible: Forgive and love our enemies. Jesus said, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (v. 36).

Imagine the impact in our workplaces and on our families if we were to embrace this principle. If a salute can make armies whole again, what power there must be in Christ's grace reflected through us! Scripture gives evidence of this in Esau's embrace of his deceitful brother (GEN. 33:4), in Zacchaeus's joyful penance (LUKE 19:1-10), and in the picture of a father racing to greet his prodigal son (LUKE 15).

With the grace of Christ, may we let this be the final day of bitterness and dispute between our enemies and us.

Chaplain's Notes: When my wife and I were out in Colorado last month, I was driving a rental car and after leaving a small town, the road was straight and the area was quite desolate. I was putting the "pedal to the metal" and an oncoming State Police pulled us over. I was clocked at 76 MPH in a 65 MPH zone. The policeman let me off of a \$200 ticket and of course points that the insurance company would very likely raise my premium. This was simply an act of grace. God's son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross

for all mankind. He was perfect in every way, and when we decide to accept Him as our personal Savior, God's grace comes into play. He allows us eternal life in His heaven. It's a beautiful thing! Talk about a "Life Insurance Policy".



Rich Whipple

Chapter Chaplain

(A sinner saved by God's Grace)

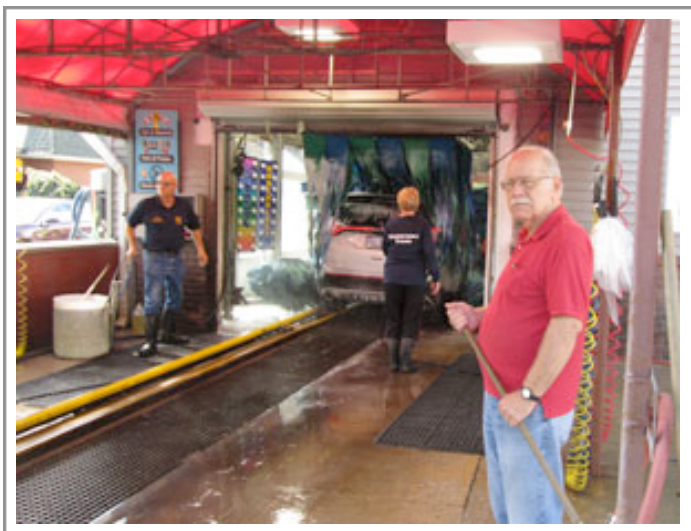
Cell: 734-751-2992

rekjwhipple@yahoo.com

HHC/2/503d Infantry

173d. Airborne Brigade

1968-1969



Photos courtesy of Patty & Dennis Bielskis.

October 8th Joy Road Adopt-A-Road Pick-up



Our Chapter's last clean up detail this year was October 8. We had to postpone our October 1 date because of the amount of rain that was accumulated during the week, and it was threatening to rain that morning. I unfortunately got the message out to Digger to send out the "blast" to the chapter members late, however there were ten of us that "got 'er done"!

As Tom Brown would have gigged me if I hadn't taken a picture of the crew, it took me awhile to set the timer for the camera to go off. Once again, a tremendous amount of negativity came from this crew. I was ready to drop them all down for "25 Airborne Pushups!" However I looked at these troops and knew that they were not capable of pounding out those pushups and they weren't yelling out "More PT, Drill Sergeant"!!!!

Looking at the picture, starting from left to right: Greg "Who's buying?" Kremkow, Larry "Rookie" Eichstadt, Louie "Convertible man" Dorka, Jim "By Laws man" Hodgson, myself, Bob "Mr. everything" Lamoureux, Pat "All World" Doherty,

Larry "Pool Shark" Kilgore, Joe "Rib man" Tebor, and Skip "Golf Pro" Davison. By "Rookie", it means that this person is a "first timer". Thanks for coming out, Larry. We were all rookies once upon a time.

We knocked it out (the clean up) in about 1.5 hours, and then most of us retreated to Zack's for great food and camaraderie. No, Greg Kremkow didn't buy!

Next Year will begin our 20th straight year that we have been cleaning up Joy Road. Great job to all of you that have contributed throughout the years. We're an asset to the community.



Rich Whipple
Adopt-A-Road Coordinator



Gary Estermyer
Michigan State Council
Delegate & Secretary

State Council News
Gary Estermyer, delegate

1st VP Ken Rogge had car problems this morning but all the other officers were present for this Oct. 16, 2016 meeting held at the Howell American Legion Post. Dennis Bielskis was also present as President John Riling gaveled the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. John reported that he, 1st VP Ken Rogge and Phil Smith would be attending the VVA National Board meeting from 10/19-22/16 in Silver Springs, MD. Along with the regular business that will be covered there, they will be discussing the future of VVA. Two main options to consider are; opening the VVA membership or forming a new organization. John reported that VVA membership has now increased to over 80,000 strong. The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season has started and the Council will be participating at TACOM and the Detroit Federal Building.

2nd VP Tom Meinhardt reported he would be attending a MVAA Advisory Board meeting on the 19th in Lansing. He will help man the CFC booth on the 20th at the McNamara Federal Building in Detroit. Also Tom has been working on the at-large incarcerated membership list.

I gave a short Secretary's report covering the minutes and the ever changing chapter contact list. Only two chapters have not turned in their election report yet and they are on National's suspended list.

Treasurer Floyd Carmichael reviewed the finance report. We're still on the plus side. Floyd has been helping John with our 6 month report and our VVA grant application.

John announced that the MSC had recently received two donations. High Efficiency Power Solutions donated \$500.00 and Michigan Gas Utilities & Wisconsin Public Service Foundation donated \$2,500.00 to us. We are very grateful for these donations.

Chapter announcements included; the 528 Sportsman's Raffle, Alpena Chapter 583 is gearing up for their Christmas food drive and Coldwater Chapter 730 is planning a Washington DC bus trip, Chapter 9 is having an LZ Motown Extraction party on Oct. 29th and most chapters will be having Veterans' Day ceremonies throughout the state. Chapter 310 is planning a 25th anniversary ceremony at the Washtenaw Vietnam Veteran Memorial.

Steve Bago, Sgt. At Arms, reported he replaced all the flag pole tops, polished all the pole bases and purchased waterproof flag cases. October is Agent Orange awareness month. Also the Navy USS Detroit will be in Detroit for a week.

Sandie Wilson, At-large National Director spoke about veterans health care. There are efforts to privatize VA health care which VVA is totally against. VA efforts should be monitored and improved but not scrapped.

The Agent Orange Riders out of Alpena raised \$2,100.00 at a fundraiser and donated the money to the Betty Mekdeci research program. I reported on the revised MSC bylaw format and that we had received over \$4,000.00 in rifle raffle ticket sales. The rifle raffle drawing will take place at our next MSC meeting in Howell on Dec. 4th.

John reported that 3 bills have been introduced in the Michigan legislature to replace the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home with six smaller facilities closer to the veteran population.

Michigan VVA membership is now over 4,600 and we have 3 chapters in the top 25; 154, 267 and 528.

Service Office Director Phil Smith reported he is addressing problems with the incarcerated veterans at the Freeland Facility in Saginaw. The MVAA is

throwing up roadblocks in our efforts to represent those veterans. John will seek National VVA legal counsel regarding this issue.

John covered his expenses and put money in the bank at Kokomo. Lately he has set up in community craft shows as product sales has slowed down.

Floyd Carmichael reported almost 34,000 burials at Ft. Custer National Cemetery. Their shelter has been rebuilt and some sections have new sod and re-set grave markers.

Marilyn Lash,, AVVA president reported they now have a closed group Facebook page. They have also utilized free conference call service to conduct their BOD meetings. They plan to donate \$100 to each VA hospital. They also will have baked goods available at the December MSC luncheon.

John then awarded Ray Essenmacher a plaque for all his years serving as secretary of the MSC. John also introduced Chapter 310's Tim Driscoll as our new MSC "Ambassador".

There was a motion (267/494) to donate \$100.00 to Chapter 310 in remembrance of David "Doc" Martinez, former MSC service officer.

Ray Essenmacher reported that the veteran suicide rate increases during the upcoming holidays. Please watch out for your fellow veteran to catch any signs of depression and suggest professional treatment. Ray also urged those on medications to read up on the side effects of those drugs.

Ray - Saginaw, Phil Savage - Battle Creek and Tim Driscoll - Ann Arbor continue to volunteer hours at those facilities for VAVS.

Phil Smith then reported on the new MVAA contract with the state VSO's. The MSC is to receive \$15,738.00 monthly to pay salaries and expenses for the service office staff. The MSC currently has 2 FT and 3 PT employees and is looking to hire another employee. Recoveries for the last quarter were \$4,646,141.00.

John had been contacted by Hospice of Michigan to ask for volunteers, primarily to help the caregivers, not

the patients. Anyone interested please see John. John also plans to bring back a load of VVA calendars from the National BOD meeting next week.

The AED unit that the MSC had was donated to Dearborn Chapter 267. Debbie Swope has designed and produced some PTSD color key chains for sale.

The last meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016 in Howell.



Gary Estermyer

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



TACO NIGHT

Oct 28th
Nov 18th
Jan 13th
Feb 17th

All you can eat
\$7.50

MARGARITA SPECIALS
Help support the 6695 VFW Auxiliary





NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 VFW AUX MEETING 7:00	2 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	3	4 KARAOKE 8:00	5 IAVA DINNER 5:00-7:30
6 Daylight Savings Ends	7 GOLF	8 VFW MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	9 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY SERVICE 11:00 BAND 8:00	12 MEAT RAFFLE 7:00 LOUNGE
13	14 GOLF VVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00	15 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	16 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	17	18 TACO NIGHT 5-7 KARAOKE 8:00	19
20	21 GOLF	22 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	23 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	24 THANKSGIVING	25 BAND 8:00	26
27	28 GOLF	29	30 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00			



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
AVVA & Ladies
Auxiliary

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Robert Anderson, Richard Beach, Debby Bradley, Robert Brothers, Jason Bryan, Timothy Curtis, Norma Demerly, Bob Dew, Ted Enright, John Fleming, Michael Kennedy, Ronald Lowrie, Harry "Art" Ohanian, James Peterson, Anthony Rypkowski, Charles Sauber, Bill Simpson, Philip Skover, Jeffrey Snyder, Judith Ann Sterling, Lucy Stern, Richard Suchan, Leon Suchorski, Casper "Cass" Swamba, Rodney Tanner, Jared Thomas, Terry Wells, Rich Whipple and Michael Willey.



Chapter Officers

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

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

Committees

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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

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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

Advertiser 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



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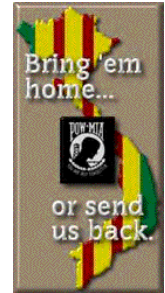


Vietnam Veterans of America

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is open to Vietnam Era Veterans as well as Associate Members of the Public at Large.

Name _____
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 Zip _____
 Branch of Service _____
 Date of Birth _____
 email _____
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 _____ 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 _____
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 No. _____
 Today's Date _____

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



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