



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Veteran's Day

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Welcome Home!

President's Corner

Ron King

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

Warm greetings to all. It is amazing how quickly this calendar year is moving. We have already accomplished so many activities this year, and there are still several more to complete. First of all, I want to acknowledge Jay Roberts and Darrell Bazman. I forgot to include them in the "Thank You" list that was published in the October newsletter. They were both an integral part of the overall car show success. Thank You!

November is a special month because we get to pay homage to our veterans, both past and present. Moreover, we get to thank them for the tremendous freedoms that we enjoy in this country. I want to start by saying Happy Birthday to the United States Marine Corps, as well as thank you for 238 years of outstanding dedication to duty, honor, and country. Secondly, we get to come together on November 11, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at the Plymouth Veterans Memorial to remember and thank our veterans, followed by refreshments at the VFW Post. Last but not least is Thanksgiving Day. A wonderful day to be grateful for family and friends.

We still have much to do this Fall. Our 5th annual Christmas tree sales begin on November 29th. As always volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Also, there are several more events occurring in December to aid and assist veterans. These will be discussed in length as time nears for these events.

President's Corner continued from page 1

Our chapter members are special people. Special because you never turn down an opportunity to help others, or to volunteer to get projects completed. You are special because you share a common bond of camaraderie with fellow servicemen and women. Special because you stop to listen to others' concerns, and to put those concerns into action to help a brother/sister veteran.

I am very proud to represent you as your president.



Ron King, President

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



Homemade Jams and Jellies

I will be selling homemade jams and jellies VVA General Membership Meeting on November 11th. The jars are various kinds of jams, jellies, conserves that I made this year and will be selling them at the meeting. I have regular jam like strawberry, raspberry and I have no-sugar jams. I also have several kinds of conserve: peach cantaloupe, apple pie conserve and many more kinds.

I will have somewhere between 50-100 jars and all the money received will go to VVA 528.

Regards,
Linda Mentink



PTSD Websites For Veterans

Help Veterans with PTSD

<http://stressproject.org/find-help/enroll-for-free-sessions>

Veterans Stress Project

<http://stressproject.org/video>

Story of a Vietnam Vet with PTSD

<http://www.stressproject.org/wp/richs-story>

Therapist Who Treat Veterans

<http://www.stressproject.org/wp/find-help/practitioners-in-the-va/>



Dennis Waling - AVVA Rep

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Winter Clothing Drive

I know we just started the Autumn season and the leaves are still on the trees but it is time to start thinking about our annual Christmas activities

Our Chapter will be doing the **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** at Sam's Club on Ford Road in Canton (same as last year), on Saturday, December 7th from 10am until 8pm. I will bring a sign-up sheet to the next General Meeting.

I am also starting to plan our 8th **Annual Winter Clothing Drive** for the Detroit Veterans Center will be held during the first three weeks of December. I will bring this up for discussion at the next General Meeting.



John Fleming

92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay





Digger's Desk

TROOP SHIPPING

Through the Michigan Military Moms, we have another unit to support through care packages. They are the troopers of HHT, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cav Regiment. On Thursday October 10, we shipped out 8 boxes of troop requested items. Thanks to Tom and Barb Arnett, Janet Nippa and Shirley Foster who helped out Nancy and I that day. We'll be making another shipment closer to the holidays so if you would like to contribute any of the following items, the troops would appreciate it: laundry detergent, q-tips, body wash, 2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner, gum, note books, note book paper, board games such as scrabble, chess/checkers, snacks, 2014 calendars, chap stick. 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 ?

VETERANS GOLF DAY

As many of you know, we have begun playing golf on Mondays and will continue until we get weathered out. There are about twenty golfers of all skill levels but we equal things out by balancing the talent...or lack of, on the teams. We change courses every week. If you would like to get out with other members and enjoy a day outdoors, let me know.

MAIN STREET CARWASH

Sunday September 29 was the date, Main Street Carwash was the place and the weather was horrible. It rained from virtually the beginning to the end. We washed a total of 22 vehicles over nine hours, grossing \$ 247.41, after expenses of \$120.41, we netted \$127.00. However, a certain carwash owner, admiring our craziness for enduring the entire day, donated \$500 to Chapter 528. Many thanks again to members **Phil and Paula Pursell** for putting up

with us Veterans for the day. Also thanks go out to the volunteer members who showed up: Pete Glasgow, Mark Grzesiek, Al Sneath, Frank Barkovich, Chuck Bilyk, Jack Massarello, Joe Tebor, Tom Brown, Dean Bell, Don Shannon, Susie Wagner, Bill Browning, Jack Fortney, Rick Ciaramitaro, Jan Spittler, Mark Shemanski, Bob Caldwell, Jerry Thomason, Gordie Bardeleben, Walt Weber, Doug Fox, Pat Doherty, and co-chairs Gary Kubik, Dale Luebke and me.

LOUNGE SIGN-IN RAFFLE

Shhhhhhhhhhh !

VETERAN'S DAY

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we will be holding a memorial service at Veteran's Memorial Park in downtown Plymouth. There will be a luncheon at the Post afterward. For the past several years, the number of restaurants sponsoring Veteran's Day has increased 10 fold. Be sure to check with your local restaurant for the date and time and be sure to thank them. The recognition may be late but better late than never.

I hope to 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



Don Dignan & Dean Bell working at the Mainstreet Auto Wash.



Odds & Ends

Membership

We gained 1 new member and lost 1 this past month. Michael Kokoszka, Army, joined our chapter and Harold Frye transferred to Chapter 267. Welcome Home Mike and welcome to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 256 individual and 67 associate members. Of these we have 139 life VVA and 21 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of October 22, 2013 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Ken Karp, Larry Luceus, Phil Wertenan

AVVA: none

Dropped From Roster: Brian Hopps, Lynn Dery

November VVA Renewals: Clark Crain, Dennis Darichuck, Winford Wilson

November AVVA Renewals: Dave Randall

If you have already renewed thank you. If you have not, please do so before the end of the month to keep your membership current.

Color Guard

The color guard held a meeting after the last membership meeting to discuss the future of the color guard. We have been around for 20 years and everyone remembers all the good things we have done but times have changed and we must change with them. Because of declining membership, health issues and other factors it was decided that we would not disband but severely curtail our activities. We will provide funeral honors for chapter members only and participate in just a few special functions such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Many of the speaking engagements that fell to the color guard can be handled more easily by other chapter members. The color guard will still be around but just not as visible as we once were.

Fall Festival

We're still looking for a product to sell at next year's festival. It has to be something that will not require a food handler's license and will require less

manpower. If you have a suggestion bring it to the board or at the general membership meeting. We need to decide soon so we can be prepared by May when the application must be turned in.

Chapter Raffle

Due to a snafu on my part a raffle was not held last month as planned. It will be held in November and there will another one in December. So 2 members will be getting early Christmas presents. Come on out to our general membership meetings and see if you are the lucky winner. The last few months we are getting between 75 - 90 members at our meetings so the fund that pays for the life membership is growing faster. This also shows what a great chapter we have.



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



Gordon Segal is the latest member to have his service photo placed on our website. We currently have 115 Vietnam Era Vets and 2 AVVA members who have their service photo placed on our website

www.vva528.org/members528.html



Joy Road Pickup

On a foggy Saturday morning, September 28, our chapter completed our last of three "pickups" for the Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Program. We had great attendance as eighteen VVA and AVVA members showed up to take on the trash on Joy Road.

Pictured from left to right: Jerry Thomason, Pat Doherty, Judy Thomason, Don Shannon, Larry Kilgore, Ron King, Bobby Somerville, Susie Wagner, Mark Grzsiak, Norma Demerly, Rich Whipple, Dominick Drake, Natalie Mosher, Pete Glasgow, Bob Mosher, and Greg Kremkow. Joe Tebor showed up after the picture. The "rookies" (first timers) on our crew were Larry Kilgore, VVA chapter member Bob Mosher, and his wife Natalie. Thank you for participating and you're certainly welcome back next year in May when we begin our 17th year of the Adopt-A-Road Program.

I want to say a huge "thank you" to all who participated this year. And no, afterwards I don't pick up the tab at the Canton Coney Island!!!

Rich Whipple

Adopt-A-Road Chairman



The Bear's Den

Don't forget Veterans Day - Chili and hot dogs at the post. Make sure you get your M-1 tickets. The Christmas Party will be in the lounge questions??? call me @ 734-459-6700

My grandkids Andie and Luke Tackett, at the "Trunk or Treat Party" - See the photo below.

Happy Holidays from the Staff of VFW Post 6695 - "Bear"



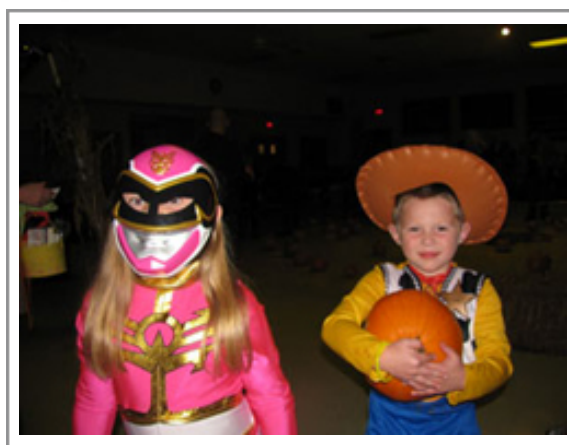
Gary "Bear" Kubik

TM2 (SS)

USS Gudgeon SS567

USS Diodon SS 349

Sub Sq. 5



Andie and Luke Tackett

Chapter 528 taking part in a recent Veterans Day Ceremony in Plymouth.



Gary Estermyer State Delegate

Michigan State Council Report Sunday, September 29, 2013

And the skies were cloudy all day. I left the bike home on Sunday, September 29, 2013 for my trip to Howell and good thing - the forecaster was spot-on, rain all afternoon. Dennis Bielskis was also present at the Legion hall for this meeting. President John Riling delayed the start of this meeting until 10:15 AM. John explained that 1st Vice President Tim Driscoll was excused due to surgery his daughter was scheduled for today. Also excused was Treasurer Dennis Cohoon who was attending the IL State Council meeting. Secretary Doc Essenmacher called roll and 12 chapters were present.

John spoke about the recent Convention and reported that he will be at National HQ for the Board/State Council Presidents meeting in two weeks. John and a number of others present had attended the Agent Orange Town Hall meeting in Waterford yesterday. The Agent Orange Riders Chapter Two members orchestrated this meeting at the VFW hall near the airport. Approximately 100 people showed up to learn more about the effects of Agent Orange on veterans and their families.

John was asking for volunteers to help out with the CFC program to benefit VVA. Members are needed at the Detroit Post Office on Oct. 2/3 and at the U.S. District Court in Detroit on Oct. 8, 2013. Literature will be passed out to encourage those employees to donate to VVA via payroll deductions.

John then gave a brief financial report, we have money and the bills are paid. Dennis is doing a great job and his efforts are appreciated.

Chapter 390 was recognized for 25 years of service, primarily for their scholarship program. John also announced that a number of incarcerated members want to transfer their membership to Flint Chapter 175. There is also interest in forming an incarcerated chapter in Coldwater.

Doc and Phil Smith spoke about the Saginaw transfer/transition program for inmates to be released within six months. Phil explained that some of those veterans may

be eligible for benefits if they had an honorable discharge and some type of disability. Homelessness and employment are huge concerns for those veterans being released.

Brian Bobek, Chapter 154 then opened discussion regarding the Veteran's Treatment Court. Brian reviewed a White Paper he had written about the V.T.C.. Certain courts throughout the state participate in this program to consider the unique factors that may have a bearing on the criminal misfortunes of veterans. If accepted into the program the veteran is assigned a mentor (veteran sponsor). They will attend monthly court hearings and undergo routine drug and alcohol tests. After successful completion of the program (approx. 18 months) the court will "set aside" the infraction from the veteran's record.

Michigan currently has 4,313 members and 583 AVVA members. There are currently 1,644 unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

Service Director Phil Smith reviewed his 3 page report. Phil continues to be extremely busy both in the office and in the field. He has recently accepted two work study people and they provide a lot of help. Phil mentioned that the Chapter Service Coordinators have a new name ... Chapter Liaison's. Phil was approached during the recent VVA Convention and told that Michigan is #1 in the nation on claims and per ratio of assistance, bringing in \$1,400.00 per veteran. This equals \$62 million dollars to the state.

Doc reported that scientists continue to study the issue of suicide. Certain mental disorders, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, show that suicide risk is higher. AVVA President Betty Pike discussed the two events they sponsor at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. On Saturday, November 23 they put on a pre-Thanksgiving dinner for the residents. For the Christmas season the AVVA donates Christmas tree stars (gifts) for the residents. Donations would be greatly appreciated for both projects and help is always welcomed for the Thanksgiving dinner. The State Council Christmas meeting/luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, December 1, 2013 in Howell.



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





Ted's View from the Backroom

I'm still finding things out, has anyone noticed recently on TV and radio the proactive approach to getting and using your V A benefits? I'm totally amazed from this new approach, lets hope Veterans do respond to the new User friendly V A.. (no sarcasm there)

Questioned about a growing backlog of veterans' claims, a top Veteran Affairs official conceded Wednesday that veterans wait "too long" to receive benefits. "Too many veterans still have to wait too long to get the compensation benefits they earn, and that is unacceptable to us," said Allison Hickey, Undersecretary for Benefits, during a hearing on Capitol Hill. Senators pressed officials from the VA on the increase in the number of veterans waiting more than 125 days for their benefits claims to go through.

A recent report from the Center for Investigative Reporting found that since President Obama took office in 2009, the number of veterans waiting more than a year for their benefits has skyrocketed, from 11,000 in 2009 to 245,000 in December 2012, a jump of more than 2,000%. The VA states the average wait time after a veteran files a claim is 273 days. But for veterans filing their first claim, including Iraq and Afghanistan vets, the wait is up to 327 days, nearly two months longer. In big cities such as New York, veterans could wait for almost two years. CIR analyzed the data obtained from a Freedom of Information Act request.

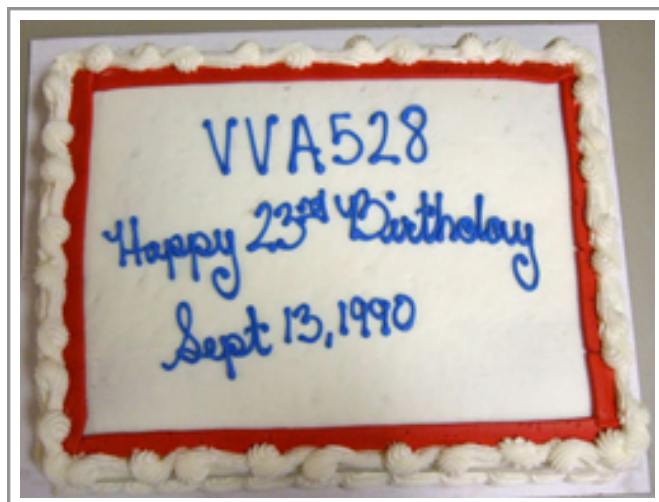
"When I look at the numbers four years later ... it's not getting better," Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) stated during the hearing. "I can tell you that the increase in calls in my office are not going down." Hickey cited an increase in demand because of the length of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and a decision to expand benefits to those suffering from illnesses associated with

Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War. "What I will say is the demand has risen, and I will go back to saying we have done a million claims a year," Hickey said. "These hardworking folks want to do what's right for their family members."

The number of claims has increased. In 2001, the VA completed approximately 480,000 claims, in 2002 approximately 796,000 claims and in 2003 around 827,000 claims, according to Vermont Sen. Bernard Sanders, chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the VA completed more than 1 million claims each year, he said. "Our veterans go through a lot of the same everyday trials and challenges that everyone else does. They have bills to pay. They have mortgages. They have car loans. Many of them are going back to school, and on top of that they have their service-connected disabilities," said Jay Agg, spokesman for the veterans service group AMVETS. "So having to wait months, years for their benefits to which they're entitled is very frustrating, and it's just compounded when they have to deal with all these other challenges."



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



Wait

Wait for me and I'll return, only wait very hard.
 Wait when you are filled with sorrow as you watch the yellow rain.
 Wait when the wind sweeps the snowdrifts.
 Wait in the sweltering heat.
 Wait when others have stopped waiting, forgetting their yesterdays.
 Wait even when from afar no letters come for you.
 Wait even when others are tired of waiting.

Wait for me and I'll return, but wait patiently.
 Wait even when you are told that you should forget.
 Wait even when my mother and son think I am no more.
 And when friends sit around the fire drinking to my memory
 Wait and do not hurry to drink to my memory too.

Wait for me and I'll return, defying every death.
 And let those who do not wait say that I was lucky.
 They will never understand that in the midst of death
 You with your waiting saved me.
 Only you and I will know how I survived:
 It was because you waited as no one else did.

This is a WWII poem from a Russian soldier to his wife asking her to wait for him. It captures the feeling of any soldier who believed he is was going to die in a war and would like to be remembered.

This poem was suggested by **Don McLane**



Photo taken by "Bear" at the Vietnam Veterans Kokomo Reunion in September.

Members In Distress

Ken Winkler is recovering from surgery.



Past Veterans Day Photos



"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another"



P. O. Box 6319
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www.vva528.org

Check out our Travel Site at:

www.travelvva528.com

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

November 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Daylight Saving Time ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10 U.S.M.C. 1775	11 General Membership Mtg. 7 pm VETERANS DAY	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm	27	28 Thanksgiving 1st Day of Chanukah	29	30



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



Calendar by Gary Estermyer

**VVA 528 Membership Meeting Monday, November 11, 2013 1426 South Mill St.
VFW Plymouth, MI Come on and join us! 7:00 p.m. (1900 hours)**

VFW Calendar For November

1st - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
5th - Ladies Auxiliary - 7 pm
12th - General Membership - 7 pm
15th - Karaoke Night - 8 pm
19th - Board Meeting - 7 pm
21st - Men's Auxiliary - 6:30 pm



November Birthdays

Debby Bradley, Robert Brothers, Jason Bryan, Tim Curtis, Norma Demerly, Bob Dew, Richard Dunn, Ted Enright, John Fleming, Donald Hall, Mike Kennedy, Ronald Lowrie, Robert Mosher, Harry O'hanian, James Peterson, Anthony Rypkowski, Charles Sauber, Billy Simpson, Philip Skover, Jeff Snyder, Judith Sterling, Rich Suchan, Leon Suchorski, Cass Swamba, Rodney Tanner, Jared Thomas, Rich Whipple and Michael Willey.

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when turning in your vehicle.**





November 2013



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

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	Rick Ciaramitaro
	Gary Estermyer
	Gordon Dorey
	Bob Dew

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ETABO	Bob Lamoureux
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Website	

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 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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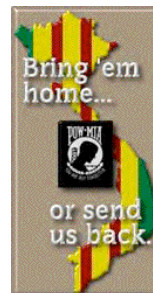


Vietnam Veterans of America

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



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 Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528
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