



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Kokomo Coming Soon!
September 14th - 17th

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
Sportsman's Raffle	5
Sportsman's Selling Events	6
50th Commemorative/Picnic	7
Cruz'n 528	8
Calendar	9
Committees	10
Ads	11
Membership Form	12

Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor & Publisher
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 Dennis Bielskis - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Dale Luebke - Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Patty Bielskis - Photos

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

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

President's Corner

I discovered something new recently and found it to be very helpful. I was scheduled for a re-evaluation for my hearing. I received a letter from the VA telling me that I will be notified of the date and time for the examination. On July 17th, I received a package from Veterans Evaluation Services scheduling me for an exam at a Private Doctor in Wixom, MI. The office is located about six miles from my House. I contacted the Veterans Evaluation Service by phone as requested and confirmed my appointment which was set for July 25th. A short set of background questions were taken and I was set for my appointment. Tuesday morning, July 25th, I left the house about 45 minutes ahead of the appointment figuring I would be there awhile. I walked into the office and was greeted by the Doctor himself, as I was his first appointment of the day. Again, I was asked questions that were pertinent to the reason for the examination. I was in and out of the exam within 40 minutes. The Doctor said he had 8 exams set for the day - all were Veterans. The Doctor told me he is a third-party provider hired by the Veterans Evaluation Services to help move the exams at a faster pace. The doctor said they now have a turnaround time for the evaluation down to five days, mine was down to 10 days. Now, I want to see how long it takes to get the notification from the VA on what my new evaluation is; that will be the telling. But as we all know no matter how fast or convenient somethings are, you always get someone who complains.

Continued on Page 2



Dennis Bielskis, President
 Berlin Brigade, 11th Armored Cav
 2nd Squadron, F-Troop &
 Cam Ranh Bay A-Cav & Long Binh
 1969 - 1971





Digger's Desk

UPCOMING

Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Friday. Car Shows will run every Wednesday from 5:00PM-8:00PM. Golf every Monday into October. Sportsmen's Raffle tickets will be on sale at different venues into October. Pick up 10 tickets to sell/buy.

4TH OF JULY

The parade went off without a hitch with about 50 members of VVA, AVVA, VFW and Auxiliary. The parade route was jammed with spectators standing 4-6 deep in spots. The Plymouth crowd was very receptive with their thank you's and clapping. Afterward we made a bee line over to the Post to assist with the annual chicken BBQ. Everything went well with over 100 dinners served. Leftovers were sold off and made into other dishes. Thanks to Bill Browning, Ron King, Bob Garrett, Bryan Bentley, James Kendall, Patty Bielskis, Nancy Dignan and Patty Brothers for helping complete this event. If I missed anyone, thanks to you also.

SUPER CENTER CARWASH FUNDRAISER

We will continue our arrangement with 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 as usual.

This can also be coordinated with a gasoline purchase.

The Super Center owner, Drew Wolford, will cut a check to the Post once a month for the designated amount. This project will continue all year long. It doesn't get any easier than that. We have some great Veteran supporters in town.

I'll see you at the August meeting. It's a great time to be a Veteran and supporter of Chapter 528.



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



President's Corner - Continued

At least they are trying to get the problem fixed. I think a lot of the problems laid with the system itself. It's been around since 1947, so it will take a while to fix it. I received an Attorney General Press release as I'm still on the list to receive them and it showed that 11 former Employees in the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans were investigated and criminally charged.

In Closing July 29th, at the Holly National Cemetery they are having a ceremony for "Michigan Female Service Members' Salute".



Odds & Ends

Membership

It is with sadness we report the death of long-time member Dominick Grake. Our thoughts and prayers go to Dominick and his family. There was 1 application for membership this past month. Arthur Surdu, Marines, has joined our chapter. Welcome Art to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 282 individual and 85 associate members. Of these we have 241 life VVA and 49 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Bob Anderson, Bob Carris, Ellen Howington

AVVA: Nancy Anderson

Dropped from Roster: Paul Tripp, Mohamed Skander

August VVA Renewals: Robert Bieski, Jim Kish, Dale Wofford

August AVVA Renewals: Heather Mullin, Joe Radachy

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 Parking Lot

By the time you read this, hopefully the parking lot at the post will have been repaved. Jim Hodgson put us in contact with a contractor who gave us a great deal to level, resurface and stripe the lot. Thanks to contributions from many members and setting aside some fundraising money enough was collected to get the job done without securing a loan. As you all know the potholes were getting pretty bad and dangerous. This will make everyone, especially the car show people and the post's insurance company very happy.

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). The life

membership fee for VVA members is \$100 regardless of age.

Chapter Raffle

Congratulations to associate Cass Swamba, the latest winner of the chapter raffle and winner of a life membership. There will be another drawing at the August membership meeting. Just a reminder when you come to the meeting, make sure you put your name on the sign-in sheet. Entries for the drawing are taken from that sheet each month.

VVA-VFW Picnic

The joint VVA-VFW picnic scheduled for September 30th has been cancelled this year. That day has been set aside for the VVA's 50th anniversary picnic at the post. There will be many activities that day to celebrate the event. VFW District 4 is having a picnic at the post on August 19th so it was decided another picnic was unnecessary as many of us who are dual members may be attending either or both.



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



Dominick Grake



Chaplain's Corner

Intimate Details From Our Daily Bread

The universe is astonishingly grand. Right now the moon is spinning around us at nearly 2,300 mile an hour. Our Earth is spinning around the sun at 66,000 mile an hour. Our sun is one of 200 billion other stars and trillions more planets in our galaxy, and that galaxy is just one of 100 billion others hurtling through space. Astounding?

In comparison to this vast cosmos, our little Earth is no bigger than a pebble, and our individual lives no greater than a grain of sand. Yet according to Scripture, the God of the galaxies attends to each microscopic one of us in intimate detail. He saw us before we existed (Psalm 139:13-16).

It can be hard to believe this sometimes. This tiny "pebble" has big problems like war and famine, and we can question God's care in times of personal suffering. But when King David wrote Psalm 139 he was in the midst of crisis himself (verses 19-20). And when Jesus said God counts each hair on our heads (Matthew 10:30), He was living in an age of crucifixion. Biblical talk of God's caring attention isn't a naïve wish. It is real-world truth.

The One who keeps the galaxies spinning knows us intimately. That can help us get through the worst of times.

Chaplain's Notes: Longtime member **Dominick Grake** passed away. Memorial Service was held on July 20th at the Clawson Manor House. Interment will be held at Holly National Cemetery but no date has yet been decided. Praises for **Larry Bakucz**, now home from the VA; **Al Kerbyson** is getting close to being released from the VA. Prayers for **Gary Pritchard** now home from the hospital when it was discovered that he had blood clots in his lungs, and now diagnosed with diabetes, and **Gary "Bear" Kubik** still at Heartland in Canton recovering from infections. Prayers also for **Rev. Bill Kren** who recently found out he has lung cancer. **Max Bandy** passed away during his sleep while he was on a fishing trip in Mexico.



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



Joy Road Clean Up Wayne County Adopt-A-Road

This year marks the 20th year VVA 528 has kept Joy Road clean from April to October. Our clean up, for the second time this year, was threatened by rain, but it stopped to allow our crew to "get er done".

Twelve hardy souls ("the Dirty Dozen") showed up to get the job done. Thanks for all who volunteered!

Left to right: Al Sneath, Pat Doherty, Jerry Thomason, Mark Grzesiek, Joe Tebor, non-member Chaplain Ralph Tacy, Gary "Ouch" Boucher, Terry Wells, Larry Kilgore, Gregg Kremkow, Mike Dicker, and Pete Glasgow. Our last "clean up" will be Saturday, September 30.

Rich Whipple
Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Coordinator



KOKOMO 2017 September 14th-17th

Hey Everyone, Kokomo is coming real soon. I hope everyone is ready. Our campsites are 239-E thru 244-E and 339-E thru 344-E. All Lot holders will receive a confirmation card stating that you have paid for one armband. I got mine in the mail on July 21st. Please, bring this card to Kokomo with you - this is a **MUST!** Bring water - we need it to wash our dishes and for drinking. You also need to bring coolers and food as necessary as well as your beverage of choice.



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





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

Gander Mountain stores are going out of Business and we are unable to obtain the prizes as Stated, we are going to replace the prizes with a \$500.VISA cards to be used anywhere.

LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
 LG 55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
 Remote controlled Phantom 3 Standard Drone
 LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
 All in one HP PC W/integrated 23" Display
 LG55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
 HP 17.3" notebook PC W/AMD Quadcore A8-7410
 LG55" 1080 P Smart LED TV
 Canon 18 MP CMOS APS-C DSLR Kit
 LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
 Canon 18MP CMOS APS-C DSLR Kit
 LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
 Remote Controlled Abrams M1A2 Tank & Samsung Tablet
 LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV
 LG 55" 1080P Smart LED TV

**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.

V.F.W. Post 6695 - 1426 S. Mill St., Plymouth, MI.

\$20.00 (US) per Ticket - Need Not Be Present To Win.

Maximum of 5000 Tickets Printed!

(Must Be 18 Years Old to Purchase Tickets)

*Prize winners responsible for taxes and all pertinent regulations.

Mail-Order forms available by calling (248) 767 1654 or e-mailing dbielskis@att.net

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.

Mail to: 2017 Sportsman's Raffle
 V.V.A 528
 P.O. Box 6295
 Plymouth, MI. 48170

Make checks to : VVA 528

Requests must be made prior to Friday,
 September 29, 2017 to allow time for
 processing and delivery.

License No. R39172

2017 Sportsman's Raffle

Name: _____

Check No. _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Quantity: _____ at \$20 ea. =

Total: _____

U.S. Funds only

☐ I am 18-years old or older

(We will return check if box is not checked.)



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



50th Commemorative Picnic, BBQ, and Family Event

Saturday, September 30, 2017

FREE for Vietnam Veterans and their Families

Inside the Hall:

HEP-C Presentation, VA Benefit Information,
Information about available services for
Veterans, Honor and Remember Flag
Ceremony. Service Officers will be available.

Outside the Hall:

Military Equipment Display, games for all
ages, apple cider with fresh donuts in the
morning, BBQ is from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Bring
lawn chairs due to limited tables outside.



VFW Post 6695
1426 S. Mill Street
Plymouth, MI

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

*Follow the Signs for Parking
Shuttle Service is Provided*

CRUZ'N 528

**Starting May 10th from 5 pm to 8 pm and every
Wednesday till September 6.**



Come join us for good music great food.



AUGUST 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AUX MEETNG 6:30	2 CAR SHOW 5-8	3	4 KARAOKE 8:00	5
6	7 GOLF	8 VFW MEETING 7:00	9 CAR SHOW 5-8	10	11	12
13	14 GOLF VVA MEETING 7:00	15 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	16 CAR SHOW 5-8	17	18 KARAOKE 8:00	19
20	21 GOLF	22 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	23 CAR SHOW 5-8	24	25	26
27	28 GOLF BLOOD DRIVE	29	30 CAR SHOW 5-8	31		



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Joe Agius, Frank Barkovich, Dennis Bielskis, Patty Bielskis, Gary "Ouch" Boucher, William Brown, Robert Carris, Rick Ciaramitaro, Kevin Demsky, Nancy Dignan, Wayne Duerling, Michael Dupuis, Robert Filip, Richard Gebstadt, Tom Gibson, Bob Hallmark, Peter Horning, John Kish, Michael Kokoszka, Robert Kuhlman, Scott Lewis, Marcel Loosbrock, Donald Macrae, Brenda Menendez, Linda Mentink, Cindy Northrop, LeRoy Paige, Raymond Pasquantonio, Russ Sanford, Mikey Smith, Cass Swamba and John Vincenti.



Chapter Officers

President	Dennis Bielskis	248-767-1654
1st Vice President	Dick Adis	734-737-9077
2nd Vice President	Gary Pritchard	734-522-2033
Secretary	Ron King	734-679-6424
Treasurer	Bob Dew	734-421-1805

Board of Directors

Mike Dicker 734-425-3414	Max Bandy 734-678-1137
Don Dignan 734-525-0157	Jerry Thomason 734-895-5257
Pete Glasgow 734-454-9663	Gene Spurgess 248-887-6212
Don Petrere 734-595-1422	Terry Wells 734-776-1891

Committees

A.O./Health Care	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
Agent Orange Events	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
AVVA Representative	Bryan Bentley	734-604-6066
By-Laws	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
Chaplain	Rich Whipple	734-751-2992
Chapter Historian	Rich Waldecker	734-660-5582
Fundraising	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming	734-421-0149
Membership	Bob Lamoureux	734-397-8389

Homefront Newsletter

Editor & Publisher	Tom Brown	313-336-0192
Assistant Editor	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
Assistant Chief	Ron King	734-679-6424
Assistant Chief	Dale Luebke	248-403-4244

Product Sales	Bill Browning	734-306-6034
POW/MIA	Al Kerbyson	734-612-9757
Public Affairs	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming	734-525-0456
Service Representative	Aggie Little	734-722-9535
Sportsmen's Raffle	John Spencer	734-716-0619
State Delegate	Gary Estermyer	313-255-4891
State A.Delegate	Dennis Bielskis	248-486-0001
State VVA Product Sales	John Riling	734-776-2239
VAVS Deputy	Ron King	734-454-4522
Vietnam War 50th Com.	Ron King	734-454-4522
Website & Newsletter	Tom Brown	313-336-0192

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

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

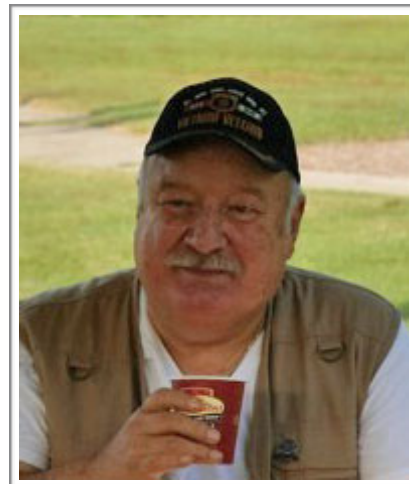
Advertising Rates: 1 year \$60; 6 mos. \$45; 1 issue \$15

Service Photos Needed

VVA Chapter 528 has 139 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 as a jpg, bring it to our general membership meetings and give it to Tom or drop it off at the V.F.W. Be sure to include your name, branch of service and the year the photo was taken. **Don Petrere** will place the copied service photo in our display case.



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



Max Bandy

ASI
No. 213208

Great Lakes
TROPHIES & ENGRAVING

Ed Duprey
Owner

32635 Ford Road
Garden City, MI 48135
(Between Venoy & Merriman Roads)
Hours: 9 - 6 Weekdays / 9 - Noon Sat.

Phone: (734) 266 - 1815
Fax: (734) 266 - 1817
www.greatlaketrophies.com
E-mail: sales@greatlaketrophies.com

ARA
American
Recognition Association

Fleming Financial Services, Inc.

John A. Fleming National Association of Tax Professionals

29217 Ford Road, Suite 119
Garden City, MI 48135

phone 734 525-4560 fax 734 525-5280
toll free 888 240-1550 john@flemingfinancialsvcs.com

DONATE YOUR CAR TO

CHARITY MOTORS
Helping Those Who Help Others

- Where you can still claim Fair Market Blue Book Value
- Car donation is 100% tax deductible and pick up is free
- Assisted over 2,000 worthy organizations in our community

CALL TODAY: (313) 255-1000
or donate online at charitymotors.org

WWW.MYLIFEFORCE.NET/RT

RON & THERESA

1 248 677 2280

PRODUCTS THAT MAKE PEOPLE HEALTHIER

www.mylifeforce.net/rt

Be sure to designate VVA Chapter 528 when turning in your vehicle.

BVD Catering

Be a guest at your own party
From a simple backyard party, to an elegant affair

734-776-1827
734-729-9338
dlittlebit3@aol.com

Main Street Auto Wash
"the freshwater wash"

1191 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Phil Pursell
(734) 455-9685

alphagraphics®

DESIGN ■ COPY ■ PRINT ► COMMUNICATE

7994 Lilley Road • Canton, Michigan 48187
Phone 734.455.6550 • Fax 734.455-3740
Email us336@alphagraphics.com
www.us336.alphagraphics.com

ASI
MEMBER

LPL Financial

Bob Carris
Registered Principal

40400 Ann Arbor Rd
Suite 204-B
Plymouth, MI 48170
734 453 7304 office
734 453 7461 fax
bob.carris@lpl.com
www.lpl.com/bob.carris

OSJ Branch: 31700 Middlebelt Rd
Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248 626 2000 office

Member FINRA/SIPC

Frank S. Barkovich

Accounting & Tax Service

- * Individual / Business Taxes
- * Small Business Specialists
- * Business Coaching
- * Veteran Owned

P.O. 871831
Canton, MI 48187-7531

734-397-9734
frabar@comcast.net

- landscape design & installation
- lawn & landscape maintenance
- snow & ice management

Matthew Gorski
President

Your Way
PROPERTY SERVICES

(248) 676.8508 office
(248) 676.8557 fax
yourwaypropertyservices@comcast.net



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

