



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Larry Backucz

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 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
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 John Fleming - Columnist
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Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

Well, the holiday season is upon us, and I am sure that all of you are very busy with preparations. I would like to extend to you and yours my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a hope for your best New Year yet.

Many things are happening at the Post during December. We are in the midst of our annual Christmas tree sale. We have a great group who sees to it that this runs like clockwork, but if you have a few hours to spare, I am sure that they would appreciate the help. You can also help by spreading the word to friends and neighbors about our sale. The children's Christmas party is December 9. Reservations were closed December 1 and I hope you got yours made. The adult Christmas party is in the lounge on Saturday, December 16. There is a Post blood drive on Monday, December 18. At this busy time of year, blood is usually in short supply. If you are able to give, I know someone out there would appreciate it. Then on Tuesday, December 19 is the annual Ann Arbor VA Christmas party for patients. It is a wonderful feeling to spread some cheer to those who are less fortunate than us. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 20, the Auxiliary is hosting their soup and salad dinner at the Post. We look forward to seeing you at the Post on Thursday evenings to cheer on the pool league.

On a closing note, I would like to ask you to think about making a New Year's resolution to become more active in the VVA for 2018. You are all an important part of our organization. Your ideas and opinions matter to us. Let us know about them.



Rick Adis
 3rd Tac Fighter Wing
 Bien Hoa R.V.N.
 1966 - 1967





Digger's Desk

PEARL HARBOR DAY

"December 7, 1941...a day that will live in infamy". Be sure to keep in mind and heart those who gave the last full measure of devotion on this day and throughout WWII. A ceremony will take place in Veterans Memorial Park this day. Be there in spirit if not in person.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RING

Saturday December 16 will be our annual trek to Holiday Market to ring bells for the Salvation Army, a worthwhile charity whose fundraising is primarily at this time of year.

For those of you unaware, our bell ringing saves the SA from having to pay someone to do the same thing at that location. Yes sir, for a few this is part time employment during the holidays. Betcha didn't know that.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday December 9...bring the kids/grandkids for a great time doing face painting, karaoke, pizza, visiting with Santa at a time of the year when everyone is smiling. The kids at the party will also have you smiling. One of the happiest events of the year.

ANN ARBOR VAMC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday December 19 will mark about 15 years of celebrating our hospitalized Veterans with a visit, chat and gift to those who may not be home for the holidays. Gather in the entry way at 5:30PM with other Chapter 528 members. This is always a rewarding time.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

I sincerely hope that each and every one of you has a chance to share this special holiday with family and friends. In the old days I think it was a celebration of

"bringing in the harvest" for the year. Whatever the origin, take the time to reflect on all the good things that have happened this past year. Give Thanks !

I'll see you at the December 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



Veterans Day Ceremony 2017



Odds & Ends

Membership

It is with great sadness we report the passing of 2 more members. We just recently learned that Edward Florence passed away on May 3rd. Larry Bakucz passed away suddenly on November 5th. Our thoughts and prayers go to the Florence and Bakucz families. There was 1 application for membership this past month. Kurt Smith has joined our associates. Welcome Kurt to chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 283 individual and 86 associate members. Of these we have 238 life VVA and 51 life AVVA members.

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

VVA: Robert Bieske

AVVA: John Stewart

Dropped from Roster: Chris Roberts

December VVA Renewals: David Baringer

December AVVA Renewals: Troy Fisher, Bruce Glenn

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.

Veterans Day

The ceremony on Veterans Day in the Plymouth Veterans Park was very well attended in spite of the cool, windy conditions. The same could not be said about the service in Canton. John Spencer conducted the ceremony even though he was the only one there. There was some misinformation about the time of the ceremony which also occurred at the same time as the memorial service for Larry Bakucz.

Christmas Trees

The Christmas trees have been delivered, set up and are now ready for sale at the post. Thanks to all the chapter members who came out and lent a hand. More help is needed in selling them so if you can spare an

hour or two contact Ron King. If you're looking for a reasonably priced fresh cut tree check out our supply soon before they are gone. We have completely sold out the last few years.

Chapter Raffle

Well Leo Ksiazek was right. His name was not pulled at the last meeting as he predicted. The winner was associate member Sharon Cabrerros. Congratulations Sharon! There will be another drawing at the December meeting with only 2 names in this drawing.

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.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



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



Veterans Day Ceremony 2017



Chaplain's Corner

How Much More!

From Our Daily Bread

Author: David McCasland

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

In October 1915, during World War I, Oswald Chambers arrived at Zeitoun Camp, a military training center near Cairo, Egypt, to serve as a YMCA chaplain to British Commonwealth soldiers. When he announced a weeknight religious service, 400 men packed the large YMCA hut to hear Chambers' talk titled, "What Is the Good of Prayer?" Later, when he spoke individually with men who were trying to find God in the midst of war, Oswald often quoted Luke 11:13, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The free gift of God through His Son, Jesus, is forgiveness, hope, and His living presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit. "For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (v. 10). On November 15, 1917, Oswald Chambers died unexpectedly from a ruptured appendix. To honor him, a soldier led to faith in Christ by Oswald purchased a marble carving of a Bible with the message of Luke 11:13 on its open page and placed it beside his grave: "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" This amazing gift from God is available to each of us today. — David C. McCasland

Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good gifts. We thank You for the great gift of the Holy Spirit who lives in us and guides us in Your truth today!

Chaplain's notes: As Christmas approaches us, and all these stores are having great discounts for us all, my hope is that you will experience the real meaning of the Christ child's birth. What a gift our Father in Heaven has given us! According to the Bible, faith in Jesus is the only thing that will allow you and I to end up in Heaven....not what great works you are doing, but to acknowledge that faith

in Christ is the only reason you and I will be allowed to spend eternity in Heaven with God our Father!

Al Kerbyson is once again back home, after heading back to the VA for a short spell. Pray for God's complete healing for fellow member Pastor Bill Kren and his bout with lung cancer; for a quick recovery for Dennis Bielskis and President Rick Adis. Prayers go out to the families of Chapter 528 members Larry Backucz and Edward Florence Jr.



Rich Whipple
Chapter Chaplain
(A sinner saved by God's Grace)
HHC/2/503d Infantry
173d. Airborne Brigade
1968-1969



Veterans Day Ceremony 2017
And later at the Post





Christmas Events

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We are scheduled for Saturday, December 16 from 10am until 6 pm, and we will be ringing at the Holiday Market on Lilley Road in Canton. The sign-up sheet is on our website.

12th Annual Winter Clothing Drive

I will be putting out a box in the Lounge at the VFW in mid-November for the 10th Annual Winter Clothing Drive which benefits the Detroit Veterans Center in Detroit.

The normal schedule is we gather the clothing at the Post and the First United Methodist Church of Garden City up until Sunday, December 17. Then on the day of delivery, we meet for breakfast at Bob Evans on Ford and Haggerty Roads for breakfast at 9am, then go to Kohl's on Ford Road in Canton, where we pick up the clothes that we have already purchased under the guidance of our wonderful friend, Lisa. We then gather the clothes at the VFW and the Church and take them down to the Detroit Veterans Center, which is located in the Grand River and Forest area. You can join us anytime along the way.

Please contact John Fleming at 734-604-0227 or john@flemingfinancialsvcs.com with any questions.



John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay



CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

For post 6699 VFW, Aux, VVA & AWA
members and their children and grandchildren

DEC 9TH

1 pm—3 pm

Ages 12 and under.

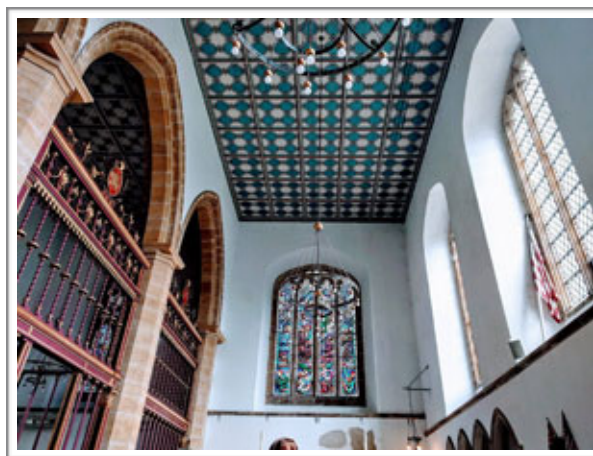
**SANTA/COOKIE
STATION/CRAFTS/FACE
PAINTING/KARAOKE**



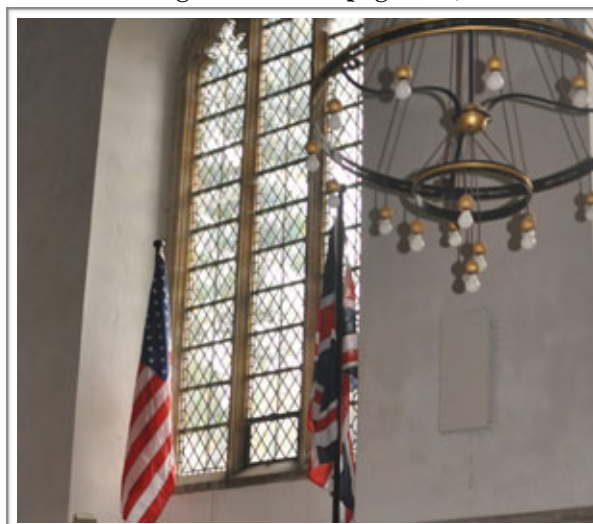
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BEVERAGE WILL BE
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RSVP by Dec 1, 2017 to:
Judy Thomason 734.5450184
judythomason@gmail.com

Sherrie Adis 734-678-4600
mutti300@yahoo.com



*Photos of St. Nicholas - taken by Pete & Patti
Glasgow - Article on pages 6 & 7*





Roy Berryman Edwards of HMS Watchful, Great Yarmouth, Royal Navy Lieutenant Commander Killed 11th June 1942 aged 39 years. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire Panel 61 Column 3

Son of Charley James and Florence Edwards

Husband of Winifred Allie Edwards, Ventnor, Isle of Wight

Award D.S.O.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE disarming mine Corton Sands, Suffolk

Roy Berryman Edwards(born 1902 Andover, Hampshire)wasawarded the DSO (24th April 1940) for courage and skill in securing and stripping live enemy mines without regard to his own safety. Dealt with around 180 mines within two months. Also, commendation awarded for coolness and devotion to duty.

Joined RN 1926 and retired 1937. Re-enlisted 1939.

John Martin Howard was born in Chester, Pennsylvania on August 20th 1917. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1935 at the age of 17. He was appointed as a Midshipman in November 1940, and reported for U.S.S. Illinois. Following his commissioning and a brief tour with the Local Defense Force, Fourth Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. he graduated from the Advanced Mine School (later named Mine Disposal School) in January 1942, and was one of a select number sent to England to observe the Royal Navy and Royal Engineers during their work with live German Mines.

HMS Mirtle was established as a Mine Investigation Range in a disused quarry after the 6 August 1940 tragedy that occurred at HMS Vernon where a booby-trapped German type "C" mine exploded killing one RN Officer and two ratings. This "hush-hush" establishment was dubbed "Mirtle" because it was the most pleasant name the British could think of beginning with MIR, Mine Investigation Range.

Ens. Howard was killed 11 June 1942 on Corton sands near Lowestoft and south of Great Yarmouth, while observing a RMS being performed by Lt. Cdr. Roy Berryman Edwards, RN, DSO, BEM (Military). Both John Howard and Roy Edwards were killed by the detonation of a German, moored, magnetic influence mine, TMA-1 ("T" for Tommy) which had washed ashore.

USS *John M. Howard* (IX-75) was named in his honour

USS *John M. Howard* (IX-75), an unclassified miscellaneous vessel, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for John Martin Howard. Her keel was laid down in Camden, New Jersey, in 1934 as *Elsie Fenimore*, and purchased from her owner, E. R. Fenimore Johnson, on 2 July 1942. She was placed in service at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 29 July. Taken to Washington, DC, and renamed *John M. Howard* on 17 August 1942, she commissioned there 1 September 1942. During the war the ship was used for ordnance experiments, operating out of Naval Ordnance Laboratory, Washington, DC, to Chesapeake Bay and various Atlantic coast ports. She decommissioned on 9 May 1945 at the Washington Navy Yard and was placed in service until 16 November 1945. She was returned to the Maritime Commission for disposal 24 January 1946.

Continued on Page 7

On 11 June 1942, Bill Ayers, an auxiliary coastguard, reported a mine in the breakers north of Tibbenham's Score, at Corton, north of Lowestoft, to Lt. Com. Edwards. It was identified as a submarine laid, T-type magnetic mine, over seven feet long and containing a 507lb explosive charge. Two had already been defused elsewhere and Edwards asked permission to attempt to disarm the Corton one. Knowing that this type of mine was very dangerous, and reputed to be booby-trapped, his superiors Commander Ashe and Captain Maitland-Dougall, Director of the Department of Torpedoes and Mine Investigation Section said they would arrange for a specialist from HMS Vernon to do the job. Later that day Edwards repeated his request and, because of local conditions, permission was reluctantly given and John Howard, an American Navy Ensign who had transferred to Naval Ordnance in 1942, was to assist. In late afternoon, they examined the mine but withdrew smartly when a strange noise came from it. After half an hour they returned, leaving Commander Theobald, a colleague from Great Yarmouth, on the cliff-top recording their progress. Edwards removed the cover plate while the young Ensign watched and then began work on the smaller plate beneath. After removing the securing nuts, he was seen trying to force it free using a piece of driftwood. Soon after, a tremendous explosion signalled the virtual obliteration of two very brave men; the time was 6.02 pm. The Navy later discovered that the arming clock lay beneath this plate and had been booby-trapped. The force of the explosion was so great that sand landed on a train at Corton Railway Station, a considerable distance away, and nearby, Cliff

St. Nicholas Church in Great Yarmouth

On our tour of churches in England we spent an entire day visiting St. Nicholas Church in Great Yarmouth. We attended a service, had tea and snacks and were given a historical tour of the church by Paul Davies. St. Nicholas was bombed on a regular basis during WWII the Germans would drop the last of their bombs on the town and church on their way home.

There is a small memorial plaque placed to honor Roy Berryman Edwards and John Martin Howard on a wall. Edwards served with the British Navy and Howard served with the US Navy. Both men were trained in mine disposal and both died together trying to disarm a German mine on the shores of Great Yarmouth. "The Union Jack" and "The Stars and Stripes" originally leaning in the window above the small plaque were all part of the same memorial.

After the Towne Family Tour Group viewed the memorial US Veterans who were part of the group pointed out to me the condition of the flags 'leaning' in the window above. I sensed a little of what are "We" going to do about this "Pete".

So I spoke to Paul Davies about it, he said the church didn't have the funds. I volunteered to replace them, he wondered if this act of generosity required a plaque in recognition. I laughed and told him I considered it maintenance.

Patti and I ordered a 4' x 6' "Stars and Stripes" from a US company and mailed it to England after having it delivered to our home. We had to order a 4' X 6' "Union Jack" from a British company to get the same quality. We also purchased floor standing flag poles to properly display the flags from the same British company. We felt honored to help them care for the flags and were happy to honor two men who sacrificed their lives early during WWII.

Paul Davies is a Minister with St. Nicholas Church. We were treated like honored guests.

Thank you,
Pete & Patti Glasgow

See Page 5 for personal photos taken at St. Nicholas



DECEMBER 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 KARAOKE 8:00	2
3	4	5 VFW AUX MEETING 6:30	6 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	7 PEARL HAROR DAY 1:00	8	9 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 1-3
10	11 VVA MEETING 7:00	12 VFW MEETING 7:00	13 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	14	15 KARAOKE 8:00	16 BELL RINGING ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY
17	18 BLOOD DRIVE	19 AA VA CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:30	20 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	21	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	NEW YEARS EVE 31	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	28	29
						30



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan
The Auxiliary

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Bentley, Stephen Boucher, Ruth Bryan, Mike Crittenden, John Erickson, Thomas Fedewa, Doug Fox, Lonnie Hampton, Steve Kozmor, John Ligner, Dan Michael, Michael Panich, James Perkins, Clyde Rains, Pete Reckinger, Dale Roeseler, David Schisler, Roger Shanks, Dave Stenrose, James Tillman, Ray Vincent, Michael Williams, Robert Williams and Richard Wurtzel.



Chapter Officers

President	Rick Adis	734-737-9077
1st Vice President	Gary Pritchard	734-522-2033
2nd Vice President	Mike Steffes	734-421-7790
Secretary	Ron King	734-679-6424
Treasurer	Bob Dew	734-421-1805

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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

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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
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Homeless Veterans	John Fleming	734-421-0149
Membership	Bob Lamoureux	734-397-8389

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Assistant Chief	Dale Luebke	248-403-4244

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Sportsmen's Raffle	John Spencer	734-716-0619
State Delegate	Gary Estermyer	313-283-6943
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 141 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 or jpeg, bring it to our general membership meetings and give it to Tom or bring it to the VFW. 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
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Merry Christmas

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Date of Birth _____

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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 _____

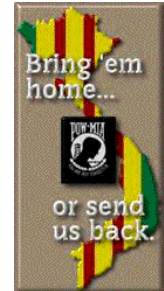
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Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528

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Plymouth, MI 48170-0473



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Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528

Vietnam Veterans of America

Homefront