



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



2019 Plymouth Fall Festival

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Tom Brown - Editor & Publisher
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 Jerry Thomason - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Dennis Waling - Columnist
 Jim Tillman - Columnist
 Norma Demerly - Photographer
 Tom Tresler - Photographer
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar

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Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

Greetings members,

Now that the Kokomo reunion is in the past it's time for us to all concentrate on our biggest fundraising venue, Sportsman's Raffle. Ticket sales are on track to make this our most successful year ever. Thanks to the organizers along with a dedicated group of individuals who are out selling every weekend, funding will be there to support our programs. It's mind blowing how we can have multiple members approaching five hundred tickets sold while some have not bothered to sell a single one. To me, belonging to a fine organization like this comes with a price and the cost isn't high. Just a few hours yearly to insure we can help out someone who needs it.

Fall also marks the beginning of multiple activities within our chapter. Car wash, Joy Road Cleanup, Kohl's Clothing purchase and distribution, Plymouth Ice festival tent just to name a few. There are many opportunities to help, all it takes is making up your mind and getting off the couch.



Jerry Thomason
 NMCB 133
 RVN 1969-70





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Don't forget Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 8:00PM and Euchre at 7:00PM every Wednesday. Pinochle has resumed on Fridays at 2:00PM. Don't forget the birthday book.

CARWASH

Sunday, October 6 will be the 29th year of our Main Street Car Wash. If you're not signed up to help, bring the family jalopy down for a wash. It will run from 9:00AM-5:00PM.

SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE

We're closing in on the finish line to the Raffle. Your Chapter conducts this fundraiser once every two years. We need your assistance in selling tickets. We're doing well but every ticket sold now is 100% profit. Can you help out your Chapter? The post doors will open at Noon on Sunday October 13 with the drawings beginning at 1:00PM. There will be additional drawings, 50-50, spinning wheel, food and refreshments.

TRUNK OR TREAT

The kids annual Trunk or Treat will take place in the parking lot 1:00-4:00PM, October 26. In case of rain, it will move inside to the hall. Adult Halloween party will follow in the hall at 7:00PM.

HOMEMADE DINNER

The Annual Casserole dinner will bring together the collective genius of all participating chefs on October 12 from 5:00-7:00PM. Sounds tasty to me.

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



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



Joy Road Pick Up

On Friday, September 27, eight members of VVA 528 met for our last Joy Road Pick Up for the year. It was a cool morning, the donuts were there (way too many), however only eight of us showed up for the 2.25 mile stretch of Joy Road. Unfortunately, I forgot to bring the "picker-uppers", which means in order to pick up the trash, we had to actually bend over and grab it. I told the guys that if they had back issues because of this, I would give them the phone number of the Ann Arbor VA. This was the first time since 1997, that I didn't bring the picker-uppers. However these guys persevered, and they are now better for it (similar to being in Vietnam)!

The faithful that showed up for this detail, from left to right: (Sgt.) Whipple, "faithful" Pat Doherty, Al Sneath, Bob Lamoureux (standing at attention), Tom Fedewa, Harry Hachigian, Dale Luebke, and "new comer" Tom Trestler. Thanks for coming out Tom!

Our next Joy Road Pick Up will be next April.

Rich Whipple
Wayne County Adopt-A-Road Coordinator



Odds & Ends

Membership

There were 3 applications for membership this past month. Timothy Moore and Dennis Berent, Army, and William Trevarthen, Air Force, have joined the chapter. Our current membership stands at 314 individual and 84 associate members. Of these we have 312 life VVA and 57 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of September 25, 2019 the following individuals have not renewed their membership:

VVA: Charlie Kotcher

AVVA: Austin Bentley, John Nichols

Dropped from Roster: none

October VVA Renewals: none

October AVVA Renewals: Jeff Rousseau

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.

Plymouth Fall Festival

The festival was a great success this year. The beautiful weather brought out large crowds. The festival tent made \$1,375 and the beer tent a record breaking \$5,215. We also received a \$500 donation at the beer tent from one of the local civic organizations. The total made by the chapter is \$7,090. The festival car show was also run for the chapter but a final tally has not yet been completed for that event.

VFW Golf Outing

The newsletter went to press before the golf outing took place. Hopefully the weather cooperated to let them play as this is a major fundraiser for the post. More next month.

Kokomo

Another great weekend for those of us who travelled to Kokomo for the annual Vietnam veteran's reunion.

Some came for a day, some for 3 days, some for 10 days. No matter the duration all had a good time. It was good to see chapter member Mike Kennedy who has missed the last 3 years.

Some years ago, I started a bucket list of things I wanted to do in Kokomo but had kept putting off. This year I crossed off the last item when I went for a ride on a Huey. My last helicopter ride was 50 years ago in Vietnam on a medevac flight after I was wounded so I wasn't sure what to expect. The ride was awesome and I will do it again. Now the question is: do I consider stop going to Kokomo or start a new bucket list. I think you know the answer.



Bob Lamoureux
Co. C, 3/47, 9th Inf.



Plymouth Fall Festival - Photo courtesy of Tom Tresler



Chaplain's Corner

More Than Hacks

From Our Daily Bread,

Author: Dave Branon

Desmond Doss was drafted into World War II as a non-combatant. Though his religious beliefs prevented him from carrying a gun, Doss ably served as a combat medic. In one battle, he withstood intense and repeated enemy fire to pull seventy-five soldiers in his unit to safety after they had been injured. His story is told in the documentary "The Conscientious Objector and dramatized in the film Hacksaw Ridge.

A roll call of the heroes of Christian faith includes such courageous characters as Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Peter, and Paul. Yet there are some unsung heroes like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who risked their standing with the Jewish leaders to take Christ's crucified body and give Him a decent burial (John 19:40-42). This was a bold move from a fearful, secret disciple of Jesus and another, Nicodemus, who had previously dared to visit Him only at night (vv. 38-39). Even more impressive is that they took their faith-stand

before Jesus rose victorious from the grave. Why?

Perhaps the manner of Jesus's death and the events that immediately followed (Matthew 27:50-54) crystallized the fledgling faith of these fearful followers. Maybe they learned to focus on who God is rather than what man could do to them. Whatever the inspiration, may we follow their example and exhibit courage to take risks of faith in our God – for others today.

Chaplains notes: To back up the above article, I am copying a statement from Chuck Colson, President Nixon's "hatchet man" sent to prison from the Watergate Scandal: "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world- and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.

Prayers for Pat Gibbons, Pat Gibbons fighting with melanoma, Bob Anderson fighting cancer and now in a Novi Rehab, Bill "Sleeveless" Browning, Don Shannon in rehab after his operation. Our chapter's new committee (Hospital Visitation Team) has seven members that have a heart to visit with those who are in a hospital or rehab. Thank you fellows, you're indeed needed!

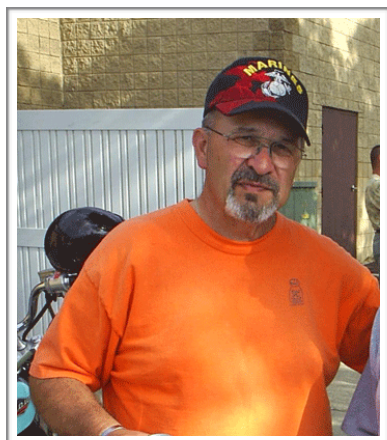


Rich Whipple
Chaplain (Certified)
(A sinner saved by God's Grace)

Cell: 734-751-2992
rekjwhipple@yahoo.com
HHC/2/503rd Infantry
173rd Airborne Brigade
1968 - 1969



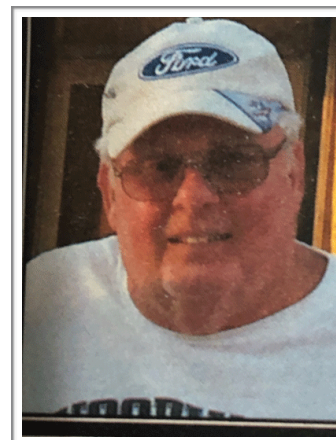
In Memoriam



Mike Dicker USMC 1945 - 2019



Pastor Bill Kren Army 1946 - 2019



Brian Metzger Army 1944 - 2019

Kokomo Vietnam Veteran's Reunion 2019



All photos courtesy of Norma Demerly



Michigan POW-MIA Ceremony

The ceremony took place at 6:30 p.m. at Oakland Hills Cemetery in Novi. The presentation of the colors was by VFW "Heart of the Lakes Post 1008". The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Debbie Pineau McClain, President of the POW/MIA Committee of Michigan. Gail Engling sang The National Anthem.

The Invocation was addressed by Chaplain Ray Rodriguez of American Legion Post 32 and the Honor Guard was from American Legion Post 32 and VFW Post 1519.

Remarks were made by Kathy Crawford, State Representative from District 38 and Marty Eddy, Michigan State Coordinator/National League of POW/MIA Families.

Captain Richard Luterman, a meteorologist on Fox 2 News, was the keynote speaker. Roll Call of Michigan Prisoners of War and Missing in Action was read by Pat Daniels, Vietnam 1970 - 1971, 4th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne.

The Rifle Salute was performed by VFW Heart of the Lakes Post 1008. Taps was played by Alan Opra, Corporal USMC, 1981- 1986, Beirut 1983. Chaplain Ray Rodriguez finished the ceremony with the Benediction. The ceremony, as usual, was somber and heartfelt. It is always a moving experience. God bless our men and women in uniform. And God bless our men and women who are still not home.

Dennis Waling



Plymouth Fall Festival - Photo courtesy of Tom Trestler

Colorado Marijuana Statistics

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program released some interesting statistics concerning the use of Marijuana since it became legal in Colorado in 2013. These statistics are provided for your information without further commentary.

Traffic deaths in which drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 109%, while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 31%. The number of traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled, from 55 in 2013 to 115 people killed in 2018.

College age marijuana use increased 18% and is 48% higher than the national average and is currently ranked 6th in the nation. Adult marijuana use increased 94% and is 96% higher than the national average, currently ranked 6th in the nation. The yearly number of emergency department visits related to marijuana increased 54% after 2013.

Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail system has increased 1042%, from an average of 52 parcels (2009-2012) to an average of 594 parcels (2013-2017) during the time recreational marijuana has been legal. Marijuana tax revenue represent approximately nine tenths of one percent of Colorado's FY 2018 Budget

Jim Tillman



Plymouth Fall Festival - Photo courtesy of Tom Trestler



OCTOBER 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AUX MEETING 6:30	2 EUCHRE 7:00	3	4 PINOCHLE 2:00 KARAOKE 8:00	5
6	7 GOLF	8 VFW MEETING 7:00	9 EUCHRE 7:00	10	11 PINOCHLE 2:00	12 CASSEROLE DINNER 5-7
13 BOWLING 1:30 SPORTSMEN'S RAFFLE NOON	14 GOLF VVA MEETING 7:00	15 VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00	16 EUCHRE 7:00	17	18 PINOCHLE 2:00 KARAOKE 8:00	19
20	21 GOLF	22 VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00	23 EUCHRE 7:00	24	25 PINOCHLE 2:00	26 TRUNK & TREAT 1-4 ADULT HALLOWEEN PARTY 7:00
27 BOWLING 1:30	28 GOLF	29	30 EUCHRE 7:00	31		

October Birthdays



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan

Douglas Appleyard, Richard Balish, Darrell Bazman, Richard Blandina, John Bresnahan, Anthony Brinza, Michael Cloar, Bob Cohen, Patrick Colbeck, Danny Cook, William Cottrell, Skip Davison, Betty Durham, Paul Enderle, Jack Fortney, Robert Genna, Donald Green, Michael Hoben, Robert Humphrey, Drew Koet, Ruth Koscielniak, John Krawcke, Lawrence Letke, Earl Madison, Emory Meier, Ron Michalak, Thomas Moricz, Walter Munie, Dennis Northrop, Margot Parr, Douglas Patterson, Jerry Pazdan, Vincent Petrinsky, Roy Pistor, Stephan Retherford, Loren Roberts, Debra Schnettler, Glen Sedam, John Shenkaruk, Gerald Stesiak, Ronald Stochine, Patrick Sullivan, Arthur Surdu, William Taylor and Raymond Thomas.



Chapter 528 Homefront

Chapter Officers

President	Jerry Thomason	734-895-5257
1st Vice President	John Heraghty	734-464-3133
2nd Vice President	Gary Bush	734-718-2301
Secretary	Ron King	734-679-6424
Treasurer	John Fleming	734-421-0149

Board of Directors

Darrel Bazman 734-207-3197 (1)	Don Dignan - 734-525-0157 (1)
Rich Whipple - 734-751-2992 (1)	
Gene Spurgess 248-887-6212 (1)	Bruce Benyo - 734-326-0867 (2)
Don Petrere 734-595-1422 (2)	Al Sneath - 734-377-5337 (2)

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	Gary Pritchard	734-522-2033
Fundraising	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming	734-421-0149
Membership	Bob Lamoureux	734-397-8389

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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	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
State Delegate	Dennis Bielskis	248-486-0001
State A. Delegate	Gary Estermyer	313-283-6943
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	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
	Bryan Bentley	734-604-6066
	John Spencer	734-716-0619
	Dennis Bielskis	248-767-1654
	Tom Brown	313-336-0192

Chapter 528 VVA Service Officers (VSO)

Dennis Bielskis - 734-459-6700
Gary Estermyer - 313-961-9568

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, flyers, calendar, event dates and photos must be submitted by the 25th of the month in order to be considered for publication. Send the article, flyer 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).**

October 2019



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Chapter 528 Website: www.vva528.org

Chapter 528 Travel Site www.travelvva528.com

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

Our Service Photos

VVA Chapter 528 has 149 VVA members' service photos displayed and 3 AVVA members' service photos 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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Chapter 528 Homefront



October 2019



IO

Vietnam Veterans of America

VVA membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 22, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

Name _____ email _____

Phone _____

Present Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Branch of Service _____

Date of Birth _____ Today's Date _____

\$50.00 Lifetime Membership Enclosed _____

_____ I am a Vietnam Era Veteran and would like to be a member. Enclosed is a copy of my DD 214 Form. One must have served a minimum of 180 days of active service.

_____ I am not a Vietnam Era Veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member

One may become an Associate Member (AVVA). _____ 1 year (\$20), _____ 3 year (\$50), _____ Life membership ages 59 and under (\$175), _____ 60 and above (\$100). When purchasing a life membership proof of age must also be submitted. The easiest form of proof is a copy of your driver's license. There is one new AVVA option available. Current VVA members can support the AVVA by purchasing a life membership in AVVA for only \$50.

Return this form to:
Vietnam Veterans of America
Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528
P.O. Box 6319
Plymouth, MI 48170-0473



was lively and productive at these hearings. On Wednesday evening I attended the almost three hour Region 5 caucus (moderated by John Rilling) where we heard from almost all of the candidates.