Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

Greetings Members,

Since we haven't been able to hold our election you're all stuck with me for another month so I'll update you with what I have.

Last month the BOD accepted an offer to settle the Trust Fund which will give VVA 528 50% of the fund, DAV and VFW Nationals each 15%, local DAV and VFW 10% each. Leaving it up to a judge we could have been forced to accept a three way split with nothing given to the two locals. In effect 528 and 6695's total adds up to 60% so we all made out good. The exact amount of the Trust hasn't been disclosed to our lawyer yet and the judge still needs to formally rule on the outcome once they start holding sessions again.

We are also awaiting an answer from VVA National regarding our request that VVA era veterans be able to purchase drinks in the lounge without any restrictions. Like everyone else they weren't able to meet so maybe next month it will be addressed.

I would like to thank John Fleming for the great work he has done as lead between the BOD and the various lawyers during the Trust hearing. Keeping the facts straight and fielding off questions from 12 opinioned individuals is not an easy task as you can imagine. Also, to Don Dignan for his bloodhound like enthusiasm in regards to the liquor issue. He's still on their trail. Stay safe and hopefully see you at the meeting in May.

Jerry Thomason
NMCB 133
RVN 1969-70
Digger’s Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS
Due to the corona virus, of course, all Chapter and Post activities have been postponed or cancelled. Renewal will be conveyed by e-mail, website and eventually newsletter. Dig into the basement archives and get out those 45’s and 33’s, i.e., if you have anything to play them on. Be wise, stay home and stay safe.

ELECTIONS
May’s meeting, if held, will continue nominations for Chapter officers and BOD members. If no May meeting is held, all elected positions will retain their current office holders until an official meeting is held. BTW, an official election meeting must consist of 20% of our VVA membership which is around 310, i.e., 62 members would be required to hold an official Chapter election.

POPPY DAYS
Very unlikely this will take place, at least on the normal early May weekend. I have no clue but highly suspect an alternative date will be arranged. I have no evidence of this. It is just a feeling because of the usual magnitude of the event that goes into the VFW relief fund.

MEMORIAL DAY
The day will be celebrated but, to what extent (publicly or privately) is unknown. Keep our Veterans and front line workers in your prayers. Stay tuned.

I’ll see you at the NEXT meeting. It’s a great time to be an American, Veteran and member of Chapter 528.

Covid19
Everyone has heard “Covid19” and the various restrictions until we hear them in our sleep. There is an indication that we have reached our peak, but it is not time to totally relax. In my Canton, neighborhood three people have passed away, including a husband and wife that died two days apart. So even though we live in a nice suburb, we must remain cautious with interactions with the public and family.

Jim Tillman

Memorial Day 2017
Since we are still under stay at home orders until May 15th it appears we will not be having a meeting in May. If that is the case, we will have our last round of nominations and elections at the June meeting. All of our current leadership will remain in place until we hold our election. The VVA Constitution is also very clear that voting must be done in person at the election meeting. No other option is available. So stay safe, well and at home for now.

**Chapter Elections**
The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

- **President**: John Heraghty
- **1st Vice President**: Bob Dew
- **2nd Vice President**: Pete Glasgow
- **Secretary**: open
- **Treasurer**: John Fleming
- **Board Members (2 year term)**: (4) Darrell Bazman, Don Dignan, Tom McMullen, Leroy Paige, Gene Spurgess, Mike Steffes, Terry Wells
- **State Council Delegate (select one)**: Dennis Bielskis
- **Alt. State Council Delegate (unlimited)**: Gary Estermyer, John Spencer, Joe Tebor

**Election Committee (3)**
- Bob Bryan
- John Fleming
- Bob Lamoureux

**AVVA Representative**
- Bryan Bentley

Nominations for office will again be taken at the next meeting. If you are considering running for office, please make your intentions known. You may nominate yourself if you so desire.

**Membership**
There was 1 application for membership this past month. Lapsed member, Bob Carris, has rejoined the chapter after a 3-year absence. Welcome back Bob. Our current membership stands at 313 individual and 78 associate members. Of these we have 59 AVVA life members.

**Lapsed Members**: As of April 27, 2020 the following associates have not renewed their membership:
- **AVVA**: Earl Madison
- **Dropped from Roster**: Nicholas Johns, Collin McCammon

**May AVVA Renewals**: Leroy Griffin
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**
As of right now the festival is planning to take place as scheduled for the 2nd weekend in September. Our festival application has been turned in as well as the VFW’s for the car show. However, with the predictions that all large gatherings will be cancelled for the remainder of the year there is a good chance the festival will be too. Stay tuned for further details.
IMPOSSIBLE FORGIVENESS

From Our Daily Bread, by Winn Collier

Liberators found the following prayer crumpled among the remains of the Ravensbruck concentration camp where Nazis exterminated nearly 50,000 women: “O lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill, but also those of ill will. But to not remember the suffering they have inflicted upon us. Remember the fruits we brought thanks to this suffering, our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of this. And when they come to judgement, let all the fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness.”

I can't imagine the fear and pain inflicted on the terrorized woman who wrote this prayer. I can't imagine what kind of inexplicable grace these words required of her. She did the unthinkable; she sought God’s forgiveness for her oppressors.

This prayer echoes Christ’s prayer. After being wrongly accused, mocked, beaten, and humiliated before the people, Jesus was “crucified...along with two criminals” (Luke 23:33). Hanging, with mutilated body and gasping for breath, from a rough-hewn cross, I would expect Jesus to pronounce judgement on His tormentors, to seek retribution or divine justice. However, Jesus uttered a prayer contradicting every human impulse: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (v. 34).

The forgiveness Jesus offers seems impossible, but He offers it to us. In His divine grace, impossible forgiveness spills free!

“God, Your forgiveness is a strange, impossible thing. In our pain, it's hard to imagine this possibility. Help us. Teach us Your love.”

Chaplain’s Notes: Al Kerbyson, like so many of us, is locked down at his apartment. When this pandemic is over, we need to get him to a meeting!

Rick Ciaramitaro’s wife, Jan, mending from a terrible traffic accident.

Keep Pat Gibbons in your prayers, as he still is fighting some cancer and because of his meds he is experiencing excruciating itching. If any of you members would like to have “prayer support”, please let me know and either I would keep it to myself, or if you'd prefer, I will send it out on my Chaplain's Notes!

HANG IN THERE.....THIS TOO SHALL PASS!

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

VVA 528 Golf League

Great picture of our VVA Golf League that we sent to our comrade Larry Bakucz, who was recuperating from a stroke and was still in the hospital. Larry really enjoyed the picture, unfortunately he passed away a few weeks later.
“In Memoriam”
May We Never Forget!

Deceased VVA Chapter 528 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Dates of Service</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Diveto</td>
<td>1944 - 1994</td>
<td>Airforce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffery Stewart</td>
<td>1949 - 1995</td>
<td>Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Smith</td>
<td>1943 - 1996</td>
<td>Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delbert Haddock</td>
<td>1948 - 1996</td>
<td>Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marvin Schultz</td>
<td>1947 - 1999</td>
<td>Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan Tubbs</td>
<td>1945 - 1999</td>
<td>Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Sperry III</td>
<td>1951 - 2000</td>
<td>Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Labowitch</td>
<td>1947 - 2000</td>
<td>Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hinman</td>
<td>1947 - 2001</td>
<td>Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Cafruny</td>
<td>1940 - 2002</td>
<td>Army</td>
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<td>Jerry Gibbons</td>
<td>1941 - 2002</td>
<td>Marines</td>
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<td>Robert Cicotte</td>
<td>1947 - 2003</td>
<td>Marines</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Joseph Dorey</td>
<td>1943 - 2004</td>
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<td>John Macik</td>
<td>1943 - 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basilio Rivera</td>
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<td>Chris Busse</td>
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<td>Thomas Butterfield</td>
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<td>Dennis Lowry</td>
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<td>Michael Ramsey</td>
<td>1945 - 2007</td>
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<td>George Troell</td>
<td>1943 - 2007</td>
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<td>Larry Jarvis</td>
<td>1948 - 2007</td>
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<td>Joseph Kato Jr.</td>
<td>1945 - 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Snell</td>
<td>1946 - 2008</td>
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<td>Kris (KC) Brimer</td>
<td>1948 - 2008</td>
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<td>Cornelius McGowan</td>
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<td>Harry Bryant</td>
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<td>Richard Torossian</td>
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<td>Franz Brenner</td>
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<td>Tim Klopschinsky</td>
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<td>Michael Weaver</td>
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<td>Wade Rotthoff</td>
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<td>Carl Shefferd</td>
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<td>Rolland Anderson</td>
<td>1948 - 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard Burkacki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Schwaller</td>
<td>1950 - 2013</td>
<td>Marines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eldon Frank</td>
<td>1946 - 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Luceus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melvin “Moe” Swope</td>
<td>1949 - 2014</td>
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<td>Arnold “Gene” Roberts</td>
<td>1949 - 2015</td>
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<td>Vaughn Hull</td>
<td>1950 - 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>William “Bill” Boudreau</td>
<td>1948 - 2015</td>
<td>Marines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Devlin</td>
<td>1947 - 2015</td>
<td>Army</td>
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Dates of Service:
- Airforce: January 68 - August 70
- Army: April 69 - December 71
- Army: June 66 - May 68
- Navy: February 72 - September 76
- Army: November 66 - August 68
- Navy: June 70 - September 71
- Army: January 68 - October 70
- Army: September 61 - September 64
- Air Force: June 73 - June 77
- Army: August 66 - August 69
- Army: February 67 - January 70
- Army: June 67 - April 70
- Navy: June 65 - February 69
- Army: November 66 - September 68
- Marines: April 65 - March 69
- Navy: March 65 - March 68
- Air Force: March 64 - March 68
- Army: October 67 - July 69
- Navy: July 66 - May 68
- Army: January 67 - 1970
- Army: February 67 - February 69
- Army: June 64 - November 66
- Army: Army June 66 - July 67
- Army: Army August 65 - October 69
- Army: December 68 - December 70
- Air Force: July 66 - February 70
- Marines: February 68 - January 71
- Marine: January 68 - August 69
- Army: December 60 - February 65
- Army: January 69 - January 71
- Army: August 67 - August 70
- Air Force: November 70 - November 71
- Marines: January 68 - November 70
- Army: April 66 - April 68
Donald King 1945 - 2016  Air Force  June 67 - September 98
Dennis Shrewsbury 1941 - 2017  Coastguard  June 61 - July 65
Dominick Grake 1941 - 2017  Army  May 66 - March 68
Max Bandy 1949 - 2017  Army  August 67 - August 70
Ben Tallman 1943 - 2017  Air Force  June 61 - June 65
Edward Florence Jr. 1945 - 2017  Army  September 65 - August 69
Roger Schlee 1948 - 2017  Navy  February 68 - December 71
Larry Backucz 1951 - 2017  Army  July 70 - March 72
Larry Kilgore 1945 - 2018  Navy  December 63 - September 67
Fred Sattler, Jr. 1942 - 2013  Army  November 1960 - 1963
Mike Dicker 1948 - 2019  Marines  January 1965 - January 1969
Leon Suchorski 1944 - 2019  Marines  ?
Gary Boucher 1941 - 2020  Army  October 1965 - October 1967

Deceased AVVA Members / Spouses

Henry “Bob” Smith 1923 - 1995  Army  April 52 - January 54
Robert Nelson 1929 - 1995
Cynthia Estermyer 1951 - 1998
George Salhaney 1931 - 1998
Stanley Jenkins 1924 - 2000
Carol Luebke 1947 - 2003  Barbara Bresnahan 1948 - 2014
Dorothy Dorey 1924 - 2004  Ann Rains - 2016
Floyd Riley 1933 - 2004  Sue Willim - 2016
Lynn Wallace 1961 - 2005  Cheri Schlott 1946 - 2017
Denise Cain 1953 - 2005  Bill Blue 1946 - 2018
Patricia Hull 1946 - 2006  Henry “Hank” Giles 1933 - 2018
Anna Smith 1923 - 2008  Cynthia Dziadzio 1953 - 2020
Adam Hays 1930 - 2010  Sue Dodson 1944 - 2020
Karen Ligner 1950 - 2010
Katherine Boucher 1939 - 2011
Dorothy Wallace - 2011
Nancy E. Spencer 1947 - 2012
# May 2020

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td><strong>AUX MEETING 6:30</strong></td>
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<td>GOLF?</td>
<td>VVA MEETING 7:00?</td>
<td>VFW MEETING 7:00?</td>
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<td>GOLF?</td>
<td><strong>VFW HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>MEMORIAL DAY</strong></td>
<td>VVA BOARD MEETING 7:00</td>
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All entries are subject to the SAH Order.

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## May Birthdays

- Terry Blumberg
- Marvin Booth
- Dale Bosetti
- Les Brookins
- Robert Caldwell
- Shirley Caldwell
- Guido Capaldi
- Ernest Costantino
- Irma Dorey
- Danny Droz
- Jerry Galda
- Mack Gaut
- Frank Gilbo
- Gary Grant
- Jim Hodgson
- Daniel Jason
- Jurgen Juziuk
- George Klepack
- Gregory Kremkow
- Leo Ksiazek
- George Lalinsky
- Richard Mamayek
- Thomas McMullen
- Scott Olson
- Gary Paver
- Judy Petrere
- Dave Randall
- Roger Riddell
- Lucy Stern
- Ronald Wilson
- John Zielke

Calendar by

Nancy Dignan
Chapter 528 Homefront

Chapter Officers

President: Jerry Thomason 734-895-5257
1st Vice President: John Heraghty 734-464-3133
2nd Vice President: Gary Bush 734-718-2101
Secretary: Ron King 734-679-6424
Treasurer: John Fleming 734-421-0149

Board of Directors

Darrel Bazman 734-207-3197 (o)  Don Dignan - 734-525-0157 (o)
Rich Whipple - 734-751-2292 (o) Larry Eichstad - 734-353-0143 (o)
Gene Spurgess 248-887-6212 (o) Bruce Benyo - 734-326-0867 (o)
Don Petrere 734-395-1422 (o) Al Sneath - 734-377-5337 (o)

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 734-416-9159
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

Homefront Newsletter

Editor & Publisher: Tom Brown 313-336-0192
Editor: Don Dignan 734-525-0157
Distribution Chief: Jim Hodgson 734-416-9159
Assistant: Ron King 734-679-6424
Assistant: Dale Luebke 248-403-4244

Product Sales: Rick Demeester 248-486-9981
POW/MIA: Al Kerbyson 734-612-9757
Public Affairs: Don Dignan 734-525-0157
Sergeant-at-Arms: John Fleming 734-525-4560
Service Representative: Aggie Little 734-722-9353
Sportsmen’s Raffle: Bob Dew 734-968-3267
State Delegate: Dennis Bielskis 248-486-0001
State ADelegate: 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 - 810-623-8002
Gary Estermyer - 313-961-9568

Veterans Crisis Centers

Veterans Center: 313-381-1370
Dearborn Crisis Center 313-384-7800
VA Medical Center Detroit 313-376-1000
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).

May 2020

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 155 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
Ft. Sill, OK
Great Lakes Trophies & Engraving

Ed Duprey
Owner

32635 Ford Road
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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@pl.com
www.lpl.com/bob.carris
Member FINRA/SIPC

Bob Carris
Registered Principal

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Plymouth, MI 48170
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734 453 7461 fax
bob.carris@pl.com
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Member FINRA/SIPC

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

Frank S. Barkovich
Accounting & Tax Service
* Individual / Business Taxes
* Business Coaching
* Small Business Specialists
* Veteran Owned
P.O. 871831
Canton, MI 48187-7531

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frabar2136@gmail.com

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bob.carris@pl.com
www.lpl.com/bob.carris
Member FINRA/SIPC

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

Frank S. Barkovich
Accounting & Tax Service
* Individual / Business Taxes
* Business Coaching
* Small Business Specialists
* Veteran Owned
P.O. 871831
Canton, MI 48187-7531

734-748-5168
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LPL Financial

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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

Chapter 528 Homefront

EVENTS

Lounge & Area

Saturday Night Specials

Don’t forget Karaoke on the Ist

Monthly Meeting every 1st Monday at 7:00 PM

Monthly Meeting every Wednesday and

and 3rd Fridays at 8:00 PM