



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Kokomo Reunion 2021

Photos pages 4-6

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Homefront Staff

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

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

President's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

Hard to believe summer has ended. At least it was somewhat better than last year. Hope everyone got to enjoy it.

At the next meeting, we will be circulating a petition to sign to help congress with pushing and implementing the "Toxic Exposure Act". This is the act that talks about the effects of agent orange on your children and grandchildren. The bill will help create a national center for research on the conditions of your biological children and grandchildren of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces that are related to such exposures. So we would appreciate everyone taking part in the petition.

Thank you.

The fall festival beer tent fundraiser, behind E.G. Nick's, was a great success. We collected \$4,200. A huge thank you to Frank and Tony for their great support. Also, I would like to thank Bob Dew for heading the whole thing, and thank you to all the gentlemen who helped: Ron King, Al Sneath, John Fleming, Darrell Bazman, Bryan Bentley, Bob Lamoreox and yours truly.

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

Welcome Home!



John Heraghty E-5
 2nd Infantry Division 4th Sq.
 7th Cav.
 Army Nov. 1967 - June 1969





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

The Post/Lounge is back fully open...at least according to state rules. If you have not been vaccinated, we are asking that you wear a mask to enter and get your temperature taken...no big deal; you may then remove your mask when seated with those within your party. Euchre has resumed on Wednesdays since the Car Shows ended. Pinochle has resumed on Fridays at 2:00PM. Come on down to the Post for a weekly special and a beer. Be wise, stay safe.

RECENTLY AND UPCOMING

The Fall Festival and VFW Golf Outing were both very successful with E.G. Nick's facilitating a great fundraiser at the festival but volunteers are always the backbone of these events. Kokomo was a resoundingly successful and relaxing time with great weather. The Golf Outing had 71 participants. Startup had to be delayed for two hours but then went relatively smoothly. As things continue to smooth out and return to normal, We see Main Street Car Wash on October 10 from 9AM to 5PM...come down, get your car washed and have a hot dog or burger; Meat Raffle, Casserole Night, Trunk or Treat, etc. We are turning the corner financially and socially while many Chapters and Posts are folding. Let's just keep doing what we're doing. Come on down; you don't need a special reason to drop in.

MEMORIES

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11 at 7:00PM so stay tuned, i.e., a reminder will be sent out. I'll see you there. It's a great time to be an American, Veteran and member of Chapter 528.



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



Tom McMullen, Mark Gallo, Al Dorey and seven other Operation Injured Soldier members were invited to play in the Michigan Duck Hunter's Association golf outing. Great time had by all.



KOKOMO 2021





Odds & Ends

Membership

This month we have 2 who have reinstated their membership after lengthy absences. Brank Randall and Ed Vitez have rejoined the chapter. Welcome back Brank and Ed to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 310 VVA and 77 AVVA members. Of these we have 66 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of September 25, 2021 the following individuals have not renewed their membership: none

Dropped from Roster: none

October AVVA Renewals: none

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

This year's festival turned out pretty decent. The weather was good, Main Street had a lot of new vendors, and the crowds were large at times. Our booth sold most of the pop and water we had on hand and Rick Demeester sold quite a bit of chapter merchandise. Visitors were also quite generous with their donations. All in all, the chapter made a profit of about \$1,360. The only drawback was a lack of help at times but we won't have that problem anymore as this was our last year having a booth. The beer tent had a small crowd on Friday but made up for it on Saturday and was able to bring in over \$4,000. Thanks to all who came out to help make our last year in the festival a good one.

The VFW also made a small profit of about \$550 between the car show and their partnership with the owners of the Good Humor ice cream truck.

VFW Golf Outing

After a 2-hour rain delay the skies cleared and the outing proceeded on a very wet Hickory Creek golf course. This didn't stop some very good golf being

played with a low score of 11 under par. On the first closest to the pin par three, Mark Gallo's great shot of about 8 inches from the cup was beat out by a hole in one. Jim Day won the other closest to the pin hole and Tom McMullen won the longest drive. The event was a big success and thanks go to all who were involved.



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



KOKOMO 2021



KOKOMO



Chaplain's Corner

Intimate Details

From Our Daily Bread,
by Sheridan Voysev

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: We are currently on our way to Greece. Hold down the fort for me. Please support our last Joy Road Pick Up. Tom Fedewa stepped up and will be heading up our last Pick Up on Friday, October 1 (thanks, Tom, we owe you!). I'll be home on October 2.



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



KOKOMO REUNION 2021



Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis

KOKOMO REUNION 2021



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





The Huey, was at the show and Loren Roberts and myself had our jeeps on site letting the kids climb all over them. Bod Dew was over by the Huey set up with a membership table. I was unable to get photos of Bob Dew

This show had heavy trucks on site and set up so the kids could climb on the machines. I was told that they had 2,500 people at the show today.

Dennis Bielskis



Senor Rick Popa



Loren Roberts

**MAIN STREET CARWASH, MAIN ST. BETWEEN AA TRAIL AND AA ROAD
CHAPTER 528 CARWASH
SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 FROM 9AM-5PM**

9:00AM-11:30AM

11:30AM-2:00PM

2:00PM-5:00PM

- 1) Don Dignan
- 2) Dale Luebke
- 3) Bob Bryan
- 4) Rick Adis
- 5) Don Petrere
- 6) Al Sneath
- 7) _____
- 8) _____

- Don Dignan
- Dale Luebke
- John McClure
- Dale Roeseler
- Bill Petrere
- Jim Kimball
- Frank Barkovich
- Dennis Bielskis

- Don Dignan
- Dale Luebke
- Jerry Thomason
- Ted Enright
- Rich Whipple
- Gordie Bardeleben
- Tom McMullen
- Bryan Bentley, Ron King

Please call me (Don Dignan) with your preferred volunteer time (734) 525-0157





October 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PINOCHLE 2:00	2
3	4 GOLF	5 VFW AUX MEET 6:30	6 EUCHRE 7:00	7	8 PINOCHLE 2:00	9
10 Main Street Car Wash 9 AM - 5 PM	11 GOLF VVA MEET 7:00	12 VFW MEET 7:00	13 EUCHRE 7:00	14	15 PINOCHLE 2:00	16 CASSEROLE DINNER 5-7
17	18 GOLF	19 HOUSE COMM MEET 7:00	20 EUCHRE 7:00	21	22 PINOCHLE 2:00	23
24	25 GOLF	26 VVA BOARD MEET 7:00	27 EUCHRE 7:00	28	29 PINOCHLE 2:00	30
HALLO-WEEN 31						

October Birthdays



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan

Doug Appleyard, Richard Balish, Darrell Bazman, Andrew Benyo, Richard Blandina, John Bresnahan, Michael Cloar, Bob Cohen, Patrick Colbeck, Danny Cook, William Cottrell, Doyle "Skip" Davison, Betty Durham, Paul Enderle, James "Jack" Fortney, Robert Genna, Donald Green, Michael Hoben, Robert Humphrey, Michael Kelly, Drew Koet, Ruth Koscielniak, John Krawcke, Lawrence Letke, Emory Meier, Ron Michalak, Thomas Moricz, Walter Munie, Dennis Northrop, Margot Parr, Douglas Patterson, Jerry Pazdan, Vincent Petrasky, 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	John Heraghty	734-845-7444
1st Vice President	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
2nd Vice President	Pete Glasgow	734-454-9663
Secretary	Ron King	734-679-6424
Treasurer	John Fleming	734-421-0149

Board of Directors

Darrell Bazman	734-207-3197	Don Petrere	734-595-1422
Don Dignan	734-525-0157	Al Sneath	734-377-5337
Larry Eichstadt	734-353-0343	Gene Spurgess	248-887-6212
Tom McMullen	734-658-6070	Jerry Thomason	734-895-5257

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

Homefront Newsletter

Editor & Publisher	Tom Brown	313-320-5775
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Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
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Assistant	Dale Luebke	248-403-4244
Product Sales	Rick Demeester	248-486-9981
POW/MIA		
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 Officer (VSO)

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 tombrown1949@gmail.com. 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 2021



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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 159 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
Ft. Sill, OK 1st year
HHD III Corps
Ft. Sill, OK 2nd year



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President

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Chapter 528 Homefront

Vietnam Veterans of America



October 2021



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



With a little creativity we were able to have a meeting and hold our elections last month. The meeting was held outside in the pavilion area behind the post. All

Chapter Elections