



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



2021 Winter Clothing Drive

See page 7 for article

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
VVA National Convention	5-6
In Memoriam - John Zielinski	7
Salvation Army Volunteers	7
Winter Clothing Drive	7
AVVA National Con. Report	8
March For the 22	8
Calendar	9
Committees	10
Ads	11
Membership Form	12

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Welcome Home!

President's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

As you may know, I attended the VVA National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina, from November 2 through the 6th. It was my first convention, and I am glad I went to see the leadership of this organization at the national level.

They had their elections, and I was able to see the changing of Presidency from John Rowan, previously President for 16 years to former treasurer Jack McManus! We now also have a new treasurer, Linda Schwartz. There were 700 delegates who voted.

The biggest discussion was still about what to do with this organization as it keeps shrinking in membership. The loud voice is still about not changing the name and to keep "Last Man Standing". They are going to try and put a game plan into place to be able to see about giving another organization our assets and

Continued on page 2



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 at 7:00PM. Pinochle has returned on Fridays at 2:00PM. Come on down to the Post for a weekly special and a beer. Be wise, stay safe.

PEARL HARBOR DAY

On December 7 at 1:00PM there will be a ceremony in Veterans Park in downtown Plymouth. This is to commemorate the "day that will live in infamy" when the Japanese empire struck at Pearl Harbor. This event brought the United States into WWII. Keep all those who gave their lives in your memories.

HALLOWEEN

In a space of 30 minutes from 6:30PM-7:00PM, we had a total 21 trick or treaters for the entire night. Across town in Dearborn, my sister had over 300. How about you?

MEAT RAFFLE

The annual meat raffle was held in November and was a huge success. Everything from turkeys to t-bone steaks to cans of tuna were won. If you have never attended, it is hard to describe. See you next year.

RECENTLY AND UPCOMING

The holidays are fully upon us and things are happening around the Post. The Michigan/Ohio State game will be celebrated in the lounge on Saturday November 27 with food, beverages and friendly bantering. See you there. 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 Monday December 13 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. Until Valhalla to all members who have gone before us.



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



Presidents Corner - Continued from page 1

keeping the VVA legacy going, without changing the name. They must figure something out or all the money will go to the state of New York, where the organization is chartered from. I have some ideas about what could be done with our assets, and I will be trying to submit them.

I won't be going into much more detail about the convention as the other delegates will be writing an article of their own.

In the meantime, stay safe until the next meeting on December 13, at 7:00pm.



Salvation Army Volunteers 2011



Odds & Ends

Membership

There were 2 applications for membership this past month. William Lapham and Ronald Thomey, (both Army), have joined the chapter. Welcome Bill and Ron to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 311 VVA and 77 AVVA members. Of these we have 66 life AVVA members.

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

Dropped from Roster: none

December AVVA Renewals: Kurt Smith

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.

Flag Exchange Program

Our new supply of flags has been delivered so the flag exchange program is back in business. If you need a new flag, just bring your old one to the post and it can be exchanged for a new 3 X 5 American made flag. Old flags can also be dropped in the red, white & blue mailbox by the front door.

Pearl Harbor Day

There will be a ceremony on Tuesday, December 7 at the Plymouth Veterans Park in Plymouth at 1:00. This service is to commemorate the attack on Pearl Harbor, "a day that will live in infamy". The event will be followed by a lunch of chili at the VFW post. Everyone is invited to attend.

New Year's Eve

We are planning an informal get-together at the VFW on December 31 starting at 8:00. It is open to anyone who wants to attend and help ring in the new year. We will have snacks and hors d'oeuvres so please bring a dish to share with your friends. For those who

can make it to midnight we will have a toast to welcome in 2022.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL!**



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



Ann Arbor VA Hospital Christmas Party 2010



Salvation Army Volunteers 2012



Chaplain's Corner

Unbreakable in Jesus

Author - Mike Wittmer,
from Our Daily Bread

Louis Zamperini's military plane crashed at sea during the war, killing eight of eleven men onboard. "Louie" and two others clambered into life rafts. They drifted for two months, fending off sharks, riding out storms, ducking bullets from an enemy plane, and catching and eating raw fish and birds. They finally drifted onto an island and were immediately captured. For two years Louie was beaten, tortured, and worked mercilessly as a prisoner of war. His remarkable story is told in the book *Unbroken*.

Jeremiah is one of the Bible's unbreakable characters. He endured enemy plots, was whipped and put in stocks, flogged and bound in a dungeon, and lowered by ropes into the deep mire of a cistern (Jeremiah 11). He survived because God had promised to stay with him and rescue him. God makes a similar promise to us: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). God didn't promise to save Jeremiah or us from trouble, but He has promised to carry us through trouble.

Louie recognized God's protection, and after the war he gave his life to Jesus. He forgave his captors and led some to Christ. Louie realized that while we can't avoid all problems, we need not suffer them alone. When we face them with Jesus, we become unbreakable.

Jesus, you're stronger than any storm. Please carry me through the one I'm facing!

Chaplain's notes: I hope you brothers and sisters of VVA had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for!



Rich Whipple
Chaplain (Certified)
(A sinner saved by God's Grace)
Cell: 734-751-2992
rekjwhipple@yahoo.com
HHC/2503rd Infantry
173rd Airborne Brigade
1968 - 1969



Ann Arbor VA Hospital Christmas Party 2015

COME JOIN US

SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2022

THE MAYFLOWER / LT. GAMBLE POST 6695

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DINNER AT

1426 MILL ST., PLYMOUTH, MI

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

\$5 PER PERSON

CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

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judythomason@gmail.com

20th National VVA Convention Nov. 2-6, 2021 Greensboro, NC Gary Estermyer, delegate

I flew into Greensboro on Monday afternoon and took the free shuttle to the hotel. I immediately got in a short line and signed the COVID release form stating I was fully vaccinated. I noticed signage throughout the hotel asking everyone to mask up, which we all did for the rest of the week. We also were screened (temp) by VA employees three times during the next five days. Then I checked into my room that I shared with John Riling and headed over to Veterans Mall to help with the Michigan State Council booth and was put on the convention T-shirt folding detail. Dined on pizza and pop that night in the hotel room.

Tuesday morning was a bit of a cluster as 400 or so delegates got in line for registration. In an orderly fashion was not a term I would use as it took me almost 1½ hours to get signed in. We 528 delegates met that afternoon to discuss our committee hearing assignments. That evening I attended the Welcome Home Party which featured "Cheeseburger in Paradise", an oldies group. Supper that night was hamburgers (kinda tough) & hot dogs (covered with chili was great). Self-serve ice cream & cobbler was good also.

Wednesday was opening day of the convention. It was announced that 526 delegates were registered. We then heard from the National officers and guest speakers. After lunch I attended three 90-minute committee hearings; Veterans Benefits, Government Affairs and Constitution. That evening I attended the Region 5 caucus, and we had an intro w/Q&A of the majority of the candidates for director and officer positions. Also, that day we heard that two persons were running from the floor for officer positions: Jack McManus – President and Linda Schwartz – Treasurer.

Thursday morning I attended the Service Officers breakfast and my table (with Jack Devine, Chapter 9) won the basket of prizes for correctly answering the most VSO questions. I picked a Vietnam veteran skull cap. I then headed over to the convention floor to begin the days session. Attendance was announced at 9:10 AM of 669 and later at 1:45 PM of 680 delegates. We then heard from another speaker and further announcements. Awards were then presented which included John Riling who received the VVA Commendation Medal. Jackson County, MI Chapter 109 received "2020 Chapter of the Year" award. Ohio (Region 5) received the "State Council of the Year" award. We met again that evening for the Region 5 caucus. We were able to hear from candidates Jack McManus and Linda Schwartz. We also discussed all the other candidates and offered our insights on them.

Friday morning the elections/voting process was held. Another wait in line (you do remember the hurry up and wait drill?) to cast my vote. Then back to the convention floor, 695 delegates, announcements, awards and action began on voting for the proposed constitutional amendments and proposed resolutions.

It's interesting to note that our convention binders had tabs to separate the different sections and it became painfully aware that some of the various presenters/committee chairs had to specifically mention which tab and what page they were on, or they faced the wrath of the delegates.

Also, protocol had to be followed regarding the Pro & Con microphone use. A common shout out such as, "Who are you?" would immediately be heard to the delegate who began speaking and did not identify themselves. Regretfully, some of the committee chairs did not appear to be properly prepared to speak about all the issues they were responsible for. Oh, what fun it was.

The major constitutional amendments that passed included meetings may be held on an internet platform on all levels of VVA, revised constitution will be available electronically within 60 days, National BOD may re-schedule national convention if necessary and chapters may form with only 15 members.

Major resolutions that passed included; include hypertension as a presumptive disease, extend end date for Vietnam Service Medal from 03/28/1973 to 04/29/1975, recognize VVA as a "last person standing" organization, do not allow the National BOD or Officers to change the name of VVA, allow Korean Vietnam veterans to join VVA, endorse S.A.F.E. (Salute Armed Forces Everyday) to encourage veterans to stand and be recognized at public events, promote V.A. medical examiners be properly trained and held accountable, urge VBA to timely follow CAVS decisions, allow concurrent receipt of military retirement and any VA compensation without offset, further expand women veterans research and medical treatment and benefits, strengthen MST charges against offenders, strengthen all veterans health care and recognize homeless veterans as a special needs population.

On Friday night I attended the Conner Lorre "Variety of Legends Tribute Show". He was very entertaining and engaged the audience with his singing and lip syncing. Chicken dinner was much improved over the burger & hot dog meal.

Saturday morning, I attended the Legislative Coordinator breakfast before the final trek to the convention floor. Final delegate count was reported as 702 and over \$16,500 was collected for the AVVA Project Friendship cause. The election winners were announced along with some final recognitions, introductions and award presentations. Jack McManus spoke highly of John Rowan and all the years he has committed to VVA. I then went back to Veterans Mall and helped pack up and load the MSC product inventory into the MSC trailer.

The Awards Banquet was semi-formal and well done. Conversations were lively and a good time was had by all. I had an uneventful flight back on Sunday and all is well.

I would like to thank my Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528 for electing me as a delegate and the Michigan State Council for splitting my convention expenses. I'm already looking forward to the next VVA National convention in Orlando, FL in 2023. Welcome Home !



USARV
58th Field Depot
Qui Nhon



Pictured above - left to right: Gary Estermyer, Terry Wells, John Heraghty, Bob Dew, Ron King and Rick Adis.

In Memoriam



John J. Zielinski

April 15, 1950 - Oct. 28, 2021

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Helen Zielinski, and sister, Catherine Zielinski. A loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle, he is survived by his beloved wife of 39 years, Cheryl (Schwendenmann) Zielinski, his son Eric Zielinski and his wife, Amanda (Shafer) Zielinski, and their three children, Lucas, Daphne, and Everett, and his daughter Jessica (Zielinski) McLean and her husband Donald McLean and their two children, Maxwell and Evelyn. He is also survived by his sister, Elizabeth (Zielinski) Gajda and is the uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was a dear friend and military brother to many. John was a dedicated Roman Catholic with a very strong faith and love for God. He was a proud Veteran of the Vietnam War (1969-1970) and was a member of VVA Chapter 528 Plymouth VFW Post 6695. He was a passionate outdoorsmen and sports enthusiast, with a strong love of hunting, fishing, and golf.

Due to family health concern we will be postponing the service for a later date. At the request of the family, please be considerate and wear a mask. Contributions in John's memory may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.HarryWillLivonia.com for the Zielinski family. Donations: Capuchin Soup Kitchen & Vietnam Veterans of America



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING
HOLIDAY MARKET
520 S LILLEY ROAD
CANTON
SATURDAY DECEMBER 4

This year we would like to have just two Bell Ringers at each sign up time with one other person signing up as "On Call"

Time	Bell Ringer	On Call Backup
10:00am to 11:00am Name	Jim Harvey	XXXXXXXX
	Frank Barkovich	XXXXXXXX
11:00am to 12:00pm Name	Rick Popa	Bryan Bentley
	Roger Riddell	XXXXXXXX
12:00pm to 1:00pm Name	Al Dorey	XXXXXXXX
	Don Dignan	XXXXXXXX
1:00pm to 2:00pm Name	Dale Roeseler	Bob Garrett
	Dale Luebke	XXXXXXXX
2:00pm to 3:00pm Name	Larry Eichstadt	XXXXXXXX
	Tom McMullen	XXXXXXXX
3:00pm to 4:00pm Name	Ron King	Pete Glasgow
	Bob Lamoureux	XXXXXXXX

If there are any problems, please contact Sandy of Salvation Army - 734-453-5464, ext 6234 or John Fleming - 734-604-0227

Thank you for helping and here's hoping that you have the Merriest of Holiday Seasons - John

2021 WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE



Ron King and I met our favorite Kohl's Manager, Lisa and Don (a Kohl's employee), at her Kohl's store on Ford Road in Canton on November 24 to purchase the items for this year's Winter Clothing Drive. This year we will be donating to all three of our Veteran Charities, \$3,000 (\$2,000 in clothing, \$1,000 in Kroger Gift Cards) to Veterans Haven in Wayne and \$500 each to Love a Michigan Vet Project and Detroit Veteran's Center.

We purchased \$3,015 (over \$10,000 at retail value) for the three organizations and have \$900 in Kohl's Cash to purchase items for the Ann Arbor VA Hospital. Each of the organizations gave us a list of needs, so we purchased a variety of hats, gloves, sweatpants, sweatshirts, coats, sheets and towels to meet those needs.

We will be delivering those items in the next couple of weeks. Anyone who would like to help us make the deliveries, please let me know. You can either email me at john.fleming0149@comcast.net or call me at 734-604-0227 to let me know of your interest. Here's hoping everyone has a Wonderful Holiday Season - John Fleming



John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay





VVA & AVVA National Convention

Picture above - left to right: Dennis Waling, Bob Dew, Ron King, Rick Adis, John Heraghty and Terry Wells. Not pictured is Gary Estermyer .

Tuesday, November 3 we started off with registration, Covid documentation of testing negative and credentials. We had the "Meet and Greet" at 6PM.

Wednesday morning was the joint session of VVA and AVVA for the Cherokee Nation Color Guard and Service flags followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. We broke up around 11 and commenced with our separate meetings at 2. We went over candidates and a few rules.

Thursday's session was on AVVA Bylaws revisions and voting to accept each of them. Friday was for voting for the candidates. Sharon Hobbs was voted in as AVVA President. Region 5 Director elected was Penny Meinhardt from Michigan.

Friday night was the banquet. Entertainment was a Singer Impressionist who got the crowd going. I enjoyed the Conference but more so being with the men of our chapter. *Photo courtesy of Gary Estermyer & Bob Dew*



I participated in the "March for the 22" on November 11 in New Bern, NC, The March was in memory of the 22 Veterans that commit suicide each and every day in this country. There were two marches. One march was 22 miles long and the other was 22 kilometers long. Afterwards, there was a memorial in Union Point Park. It was very moving and a fitting way to honor our War dead. God Bless them all! Dennis Waling - *Photos courtesy of Dennis Waling*



Dennis Waling
AVVA Delegate



December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	2	3 PINOCHLE 2:00	4 Salvation Army Bell Ring
5	6	7* AUX MEET 6:30 CHRISTMAS POT LUCK	8 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	9	10 PINOCHLE 2:00	11
12	13 VVA MEET 7:00	14 VFW MEET 7:00	15 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	16	17 PINOCHLE 2:00	18
19	20	21 HOUSE COMM MEET 7:00	22 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS 
26	27	28	29 SLIDERS 5-7 EUCHRE 7:00	30	31 New Year's Eve Party 8:00	

*December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony 1:00 PM



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan

December Birthdays



Bryan Bentley, Dennis Berent, Stephen Boucher, Ruth Bryan, Mike Crittenden, Gerald Dodson, John Erickson, Thomas Fedewa, Doug Fox, Mark Gallo, Lonnie Hampton, David Kaliszewski, Steve Kozmor, Robert Marsico, Patrick McHenry, Dan Michael, Michael Panich, James Perkins, Ray Vincent, Pete Reckinger, Dale Roeseler, Roger Shanks, Dave Stenrose, James Tillman, Michael Williams, Robert Williams, Thomas Winiesdorffer and Richard Wurtzel.



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
Editor	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
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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
State Delegate	Dennis Bielskis	248-486-0001
State A. Delegate	Gary Estermyer	313-283-6943
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)

William Green 734-800-9399

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).**

December 2021



10

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
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Chapter 528 Homefront

Vietnam Veterans of America



December 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