



VVA Golf League

Photo courtesy of Dennis Beilskis

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 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 John Fleming - Event Notice
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Welcome Home!

President's Corner

**"Never Again Will One Generation of
Veterans Abandon Another"**

Greetings Comrades:

It's hard to believe that the summer has come and gone, but our fall season is about half done. I don't know about you, but I am not looking forward to the winter season.

It's crazy how the National VVA is discussing dissolving yet actively trying to increase membership. It doesn't make sense. We are now up to 90,755 members nationwide and counting!

On October 6th, President Biden signed into law, a bill which strengthens benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with Spina Bifida. The children of Vietnam veterans have an increased risk of Spinal Bifida, a neural tube defect in the spine, because of the parent's exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides during service. Under this bill, the VA will be required to proactively reach out to potential beneficiaries to ensure they are receiving the benefits for which will last for the life of the child, and which will not be affected by the death of a parent.

In closing, in case you haven't heard, there will be a 3.2% increase in our compensation due to a 3.2% cost of living raise on social security!!

Stay safe and hope to see you at the November 13th meeting at 7 pm!



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





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre has moved to Wednesdays starting at 7:00 PM. Pinochle continues on Friday at 2:00 PM.

Call in and come on down to the Post for a bite to eat and a beer. Specials vary weekly. Be wise, stay safe.

RECENTLY AND UPCOMING

The Chapter Committee regarding the dissolution of VVA National is ongoing, in an attempt to avoid surprises in the future.

The Annual Meat Raffle will be held on Saturday November 4.

Of course, Veterans Day will be observed on November 11, beginning with a ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park beginning at 11:00AM with a snack at the Post immediately afterward. Many local restaurants are offering freebies that day. There will be a floor show at the Post that evening with Post 6695 Veterans getting a free pass, although all others pay.

Nancy and I had a great time at my Vietnam Company Reunion in Kingman, AZ. The trip to get there and back was a bit of a hassle. Traversing the airports with a wheelchair was a learning experience. We did learn a lesson or two. BTW, there were 21 Veterans from my Vietnam Company who attended. We visited a ghost town, a couple of museums and gambled a bit in Laughlin, NV.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday November 13 at 7:00PM. It's a great time to be an American, Veteran and member of Chapter 528. Until Valhalla to all who have gone before us.



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



In Memoriam



Andrew B. Benyo

October 29, 1950 - October 11, 2023

Andrew B. Benyo, age 72, of Belleville, Michigan, passed away Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at his home, surrounded by family, under hospice care, after a courageous battle with cancer. Andy was born October 29, 1950, in Detroit, MI, son of Paul Bernard & Julia Helen (Tomcsik) Benyo. He graduated from Cody High School, in Detroit, class of 1968.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corp. during the Vietnam conflict. Mr. Benyo was a pipe fitter for several years before opening his own lead company in Detroit, Alecco Inc. He worked for Local 190 in Ann Arbor, MI, for over 30 years, and was a member of the American Legion. He attended St. Linus Catholic Church when he lived in Dearborn Heights and enjoyed attending Holy Cross as well. Andy loved sports-baseball and football and was an avid golfer, enjoyed riding motorcycles.



Odds & Ends

Membership

We had two applications for membership this past month. Dennis Waling's brother Richard has joined the chapter and Craig Socia has joined our associates. Welcome Rich and Craig to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 311 VVA and 86 AVVA members. Of these, we have 75 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of October 25, 2022, the following individuals have not renewed their membership: Irfan Hameedi

Dropped from Roster: none

November 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.

VA Travel Reimbursement

During the COVID years, the VA waived the 30-day period for submitting claims for travel pay. On June 3, 2023 that restriction was put back in place. It created a huge backlog of unprocessed claims that took quite a while to resolve. This is just a reminder that if you file for travel pay electronically be sure to do it within 30 days of your appointment or your claim will be denied. Of course, you can also file a paper claim as you leave the VA.

Veterans Day

There will be a ceremony on Veterans Day at the Plymouth Veterans Park in downtown Plymouth at 11:00. This event will be followed by a lunch of SOS at the VFW post. Everyone is invited to attend. As usual, there are several restaurants also serving free meals to veterans throughout the day.

Christmas Tree

My wife Ruth will be putting up our patriotic Christmas tree in the lounge in November, I invite anyone who has a family member or friend who is a deceased veteran to put an ornament with their picture on it on the tree so we can remember them as we gather at the post.



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



VVA Golf League October 2, 2023



VVA Golf League

Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Plymouth-Canton VVA #528 will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 9 at the Holiday Market in Canton.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the November 13 General Meeting – John Fleming



Chaplain's Corner

Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. Ecclesiastes 5:15

Think for just a moment about the things you own. Think about the house you have, the car you drive, the money you've saved. Think about the stocks you've traded and the clothes you've purchased. Envision all your stuff, and let me remind you of two biblical truths.

Your stuff isn't yours! Ask any coroner. No one takes anything with him. When one of the wealthiest men in history, John D. Rockefeller died, his accountant was asked, "How much did John D. leave?" The accountant's reply? "All of it."

All that stuff...it's not yours. And you know what else about all that stuff? It's not yours! Who you are has nothing to do with the clothes you wear or the car you drive. Jesus said, "Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot" (Luke 12:15) Heaven does not know you as the fellow with the nice suit the woman with the big house, or the kid with the new bike. Heaven knows your heart!

Chaplain's Corner: Prayers are needed for Tom McMullen (wife Sue), currently in the VA Hospital for trouble breathing. Also, for the family of Andrew Benyo (brother of Bruce), who passed away earlier in October. Thankfully, Ted Enright is now at home from St. Mary's. Gene Spurgess is at home and he needs another medication, so the VA doctors are working with him on this issue.



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



In Memoriam



Brian Alan Hopps

November 29, 1946 - October 11, 2023

Obituary by Rich Whipple

Brian was a member of our VVA 528 back in the day. His family has asked me to do the honors of his burial. He was a good friend of mine, and he and I were born on the same day in Detroit on November 29, 1946.

Hopps, Brian Alan, October 11, 2023 age 76 of Canton. Loving father of Samantha Koet. Proud grandfather of Lily Wilder, Julian Wilder, and Margot Koet. Close friend and former husband of Suzanne Hopps. Dear brother of Teri (Gary) Dudenhoffer, and the late Sharon Wilton. Preceded in death by his parents George and Elizabeth (nee Williams) Hopps.

Memorial Gathering Saturday, October 28th 11 AM until the 12 noon Memorial Service at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, P. O. Box 6319, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Veterans Commission



Congratulations to the members of our new Veterans Commission! - left to right: Ron King, David Tanana, Kirk Kohn, Trustee Jen Buckley, John Lockwood, Mike Richardson, Krista McKinley, and Jacquelyn Lyssiotis. Not pictured, John Roberts.

The nine member Plymouth Township Veterans Commission was created in 2023 by the Plymouth Township Ordinance. Members are appointed by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Supervisor for staggered terms of three (3) years.

The stated goals of the Veterans Commission are to foster greater understanding and appreciation for the veteran community and their families within the community and increase visibility of veterans and veterans' issues within the community.

Additional goals are to inform the veteran community of available services, programs, and resources from the county, state, and federal governments, as well as private sources, and to advocate for issues important to veterans and their families.

The Commission is empowered to advance these goals by using available data to identify service gaps for veterans and their families, assess and recommend strategies that address veterans' needs, organize and sponsor informational seminars on veteran resources, assist and collaborate with veterans' groups and organizations both locally and regionally whose goals and objectives align with those of the commission, assess and promote services related to veterans' mental health and wellness, and sponsor events honoring veterans both past and present.

The Veterans Commission will meet the 3rd Monday of each Month at 6:30 pm at the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Michigan

Article submitted by Michael D. Richardson

Friday, September 15th, October 20th

and November 10th, 2023

6-10 PM

@VFW Post 6695, Plymouth, MI

1426 S. Mill St. Plymouth



Karaoke

with

The Niner's



VVA Golf League

October 2, 2023



Photos courtesy of Dennis Bielskis



November 2023



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 EUCHRE 7:00	2	3 PINOCHLE 2:00	4 MEAT RAFFLE 3:00
5 DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS	6	7 AUX MEET 6:30	8 EUCHRE 7:00	9	10 PINOCHLE 2:00 Karaoke 6:30	11 VETERANS DAY
12	13 VVA MEET 7:00	14 VFW MEET 7:00	15 EUCHRE 7:00	16	17 PINOCHLE 2:00	18
19	20	21 HOUSE COMM MEET 7:00	22 EUCHRE 7:00	23 THANKS- GIVING	24 PINOCHLE 2:00	25
26	27	28 VVA BOARD MEET 7:00	29 EUCHRE 7:00	30		

November Birthdays



**Calendar by
Nancy Dignan**

Lewis Agius, Billy Ray Arm, Richard Beach, Debby Bradley, Robert Brothers, Jason Bryan, Gary Bush, Timothy Curtis, Michael Dalessandro, Norma Demerly, Bob Dew, Richard Dunn, Ted Enright, John Fleming, Bruce Glenn, Robert Harris, William Kumm, William Lapham, John D. Larabell, Ronald Lowrie, Robert Maddox, Timothy Makins, Harry "Art" Ohanian, Danny Olson, Mary Jo Petrere, Michael Richardson, Anthony Rypkowski, Charles Sauber, Bill Simpson, Phillip Skover, Jeffrey Snyder, Judith Ann Sterling, John Stewart, Rodney Tanner, Alice Thomas, Bryan Wagner, Terry Wells, Rich Whipple, Michael Willey



Chapter 528 Homefront

November 2023



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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

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Don Dignan	734-525-0157	Al Sneath	734-377-5337
Gene Spurgess	248-887-621	Tom Fedewa	734-404-6598
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	734-416-5151
Chaplain	Rich Whipple	734-751-299
Chapter Historian		
Fundraising	Bob Dew	734-421-1805
Homeless Veterans	John Fleming	734-421-0149
Membership	Bob Lamoureux	734-397-8389

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	Dale Luebke	248-403-4244

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Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming	734-525-04560
State Delegate	Dennis Bielskis	248-486-0001
State A. Delegate	Joe Tebor	734-502-8087
State A. Delegate	John Spencer	734-397-8975
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	313-320-5775

Chapter 528 VVA Service Officer (VSO)

Richard LeGault	734-800-9399
RLEGAULT.VSO@outlook.com	

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 editors, 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

Our Service Photos

VVA Chapter 528 has 168 VVA members' service photos and 3 AVVA members' service photos displayed on our website and in our display case at the Post. 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 Dean Bell 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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Chapter 528 Homefront

Vietnam Veterans of America



November 2023



IO

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 November 1, 1955 and May 7, 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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Vietnam Veterans of America
Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528
P.O. Box 6319
Plymouth MI 48170-0473