



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Operation Good Cheer

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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
 John Fleming - Holiday Events
 Michael D. Richardson - Article
 Darrell Bazman - Article and photos

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
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President's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. I'm hoping everyone enjoyed themselves! For myself, I attended the Lion's game, as I do every year! As always, I'm hoping for a win!

Since the signing of the historic expansion of benefits under the 2022 PACT Act, there have been people trying to trick and scam veterans. So, please be aware of these scammers to the best of your ability. Don't talk to anyone over the phone to file claims or pay money for their services. The VA employs service officers to help veterans with their claims at no cost to the veteran! So, please make sure that when you or someone you know files a claim verify that it's with a service officer who is at a VA location. **If you think someone is scamming you, report them to 1-800-827-1000.**

Just for your information, this November, for Veterans Month, the National Cemetery Administration is expanding the number of veterans pages for its award-winning website, Veterans Legacy Memorial. It's the largest one they've had! They are adding 5 million pages of veterans interred in private and other non-VA cemeteries who received an NCA-provided headstone, marker, or medallion. These pages display military information such as service branch, rank, war period, and decorations; resting place details such as cemetery name, map, gravesite, and interment date; and it allows family members, friends, and others to upload a variety of content.

In closing, stay safe and I hope to see you at the next meeting on December, 11th 2023 at 7 p.m.



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



"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

Welcome Home!



Digger's Desk



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



LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre continues on Wednesday starting at 7:00PM.
Pinochle continues on Friday at 2:00PM.

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

I hope all had a great Thanksgiving and celebrated with family.

RECENTLY AND UPCOMING

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

The Annual Meat Raffle will be held on Saturday November 4 and was its usual success.

Of course, Veterans Day was observed at the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month on November 11, beginning with a ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. A snack followed at the Post immediately afterward. Many local restaurants served up freebies that day. There was be a floor show at the Post that evening with Post 6695 Veterans getting a free pass, although all others pay.

The Kid's Annual Christmas Party is scheduled for December 9 from 1:00PM-3:00PM.
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

The next general membership meeting was on Monday December 11 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.



Volunteers at the VFW Post wrapping presents for Operation Good Cheer - Nov. 27, 2023



Photos courtesy of Darrell Bazman





Odds & Ends

Membership

There were no applications for membership this past month. Sadly, we have lost three members. Andrew Benyo, (Bruce's brother) passed away in October. Bob Denstedt in June and Louie Dorks last December. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families. Our current membership stands at 308 VVA and 85 AVVA members. Of these, we have 76 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of November 25, 2023, the following individuals have not renewed their membership: Irfan Hameedi

Dropped from Roster: none

December 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.

Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is up in the post lounge. It is white and decorated with a military theme. If you have an ornament or small picture in a frame of a loved one who served, please bring it to the post and place it on the tree.

Veterans Luncheon

As a thank you to veterans, on November 15th the Plymouth Rotary served a sit-down lunch of beef tenderloin, potatoes, and green beans at the VFW. The invitation was open to all veterans and their spouses. The meal was delicious and was thoroughly enjoyed by the 30-35 who attended. They plan on doing it again next year so hopefully we will get a bigger turnout.

Pearl Harbor Day

There will be a ceremony on Thursday, December 7 at the Plymouth Veterans Park in downtown

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 dogs 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 2024.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!



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



Operation Good Cheer

Photo courtesy of Darrell Bazman





Chaplain's Corner

Saint Nick

Author - Winn Collier
Our Daily Bread



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



The person we know as Saint Nicholas (Saint Nick) was born around AD 270 to a wealthy Grecian family. Tragically, his parents died when he was a boy, and he lived with his uncle who loved him and taught him to follow God. When Nicholas was a young man, legend says that he heard of three sisters who didn't have a dowry for marriage and would soon be destitute. Wanting to follow Jesus' teaching about giving to those in need, he took his inheritance and gave each sister a bag of gold coins. Over the years, Nicholas gave the rest of his money away feeding the poor and caring for others. In the following centuries, Nicholas was honored for his lavish generosity, and he inspired the character we know as Santa Claus.

While the glitz and advertising of the season may threaten our celebrations, the gift-giving tradition connects to Nicholas. And his generosity was based on his devotion to Jesus. Nicholas knew that Christ enacted unimagined generosity, bringing the most profound gift.. God! Jesus is "God with us"; (Matthew 1:23). And He brought us the gift of life. In a world of death, He "saves his people from their sins" (V. 21)

When we believe in Jesus, sacrificial generosity unfolds. We tend to other's needs, and we joyfully provide for them as God provides for us. This is Saint Nick's story; but far more, this is God's story!

Chaplain's Corner: Thank you for your prayers when I was in the hospital. I have hunted recently and shot several times, but I'm not as good a shot as I was back in the day! Fortunately, I haven't heard of any of our guys that are in the hospital. Digger does a good job of keeping up with our guys!



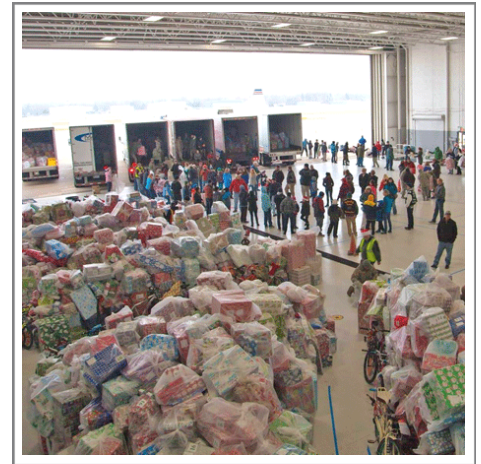
Joy Road Cleanup September 29, 2023

Left to right: Marcel Loosbrock, Skip Davison, Jim Hodgson, Larry Eichstadt, John McClure, Danny Droz and Rich Whipple.



Operation Good Cheer

The following paragraph is what is written on their website. "Every year, FSCA's Foster Care Program participates in Operation Good Cheer. Operation Good Cheer is a program administered by Child & Family Services of Michigan. The program began in 1971 when a group of donors decided they wanted to buy Christmas gifts for children in foster care, and donors from around Michigan have continued the tradition. In years past, the presents were distributed to the agencies via private planes. This year, due to the pandemic, it was decided that all of the presents would be delivered by semi-truck to decrease exposure. As usual, FSCA Foster Care staff and Breakout staff unloaded the gifts for the children in our foster care program. Now the case managers will distribute them to the children in our program through their foster parents. Thanks to all of the donors and volunteers who make this wonderful program possible!" This year many pilots, air traffic controllers and truck drivers will be donating their services in helping fly the gifts all over Michigan. They have enough gifts to bring joy to more than 120 foster kids. Darrell Bazman is involved with this program and is the one who has arranged our VFW to help pack and wrap presents.



The Holiday Season Events

The Holiday Season is upon us, and I hope everyone had a Wonderful Thanksgiving! The Chapter will be involved in our normal Holiday activities.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing will be on Saturday, December 9 at the Holiday Market in Canton from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The sign up sheet is included in this Newsletter. The only open slot is from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. If you would like to ring bells in that slot, please email me or call me

Winter Clothing Drive: We will provide new clothing from Kohl's to Vet Haven and Love a Michigan Vet. They have given us a list of those needs, and our friend Lisa and her staff at Kohl's are filling that list. We will probably pick up the clothing during the week of November 27. How and when they will be delivered has not been determined as yet.

Burger Christmas Carnival: This is an Event we used to attend, and I found out last year that they are back to having this Event for Students with Autism. I am checking on if we can attend and all of the particulars. I will send out an email with that information.

COME JOIN US
SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2023
THE MAYFLOWER / LT. GAMBLE POST 6695
AUX IS HOSTING A SOUP AND SALAD
DINNER AT
1426 MILL ST., PLYMOUTH, MI
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.
\$10 PER PERSON
CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

Contact Judy Thomason@ (734) 545-0184

judythomason@gmail.com

John Fleming
 92nd Finance Section
 Cam Ranh Bay



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING
HOLIDAY MARKET
520 S LILLEY ROAD
CANTON
SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 2023

Time

Bell Ringer

On Call Backup

I WILL BE DELIVERING THE KETTLE TO THIS SITE

10:00am to 11:00am	Name	Ron King	Rick Popa
		Bob Dew	XXXXXXXXXX
11:00am to 12:00pm	Name	Larry Eichstadt	Bob Cohen
		Tom Fedewa	XXXXXXXXXX
12:00pm to 1:00pm	Name	Mike Panich	
		Roger Riddell	XXXXXXXXXX
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Name	Dennis Fuelling	
		Gary Estermyer	XXXXXXXXXX
2:00pm to 3:00pm	Name	Dale Roeseler	
		Pete Glasgow	XXXXXXXXXX
3:00pm to 4:00pm	Name		
			XXXXXXXXXX

AT THE END OF YOUR SHIFT, THE SALVATION ARMY WILL PICK UP THE KETTLE





December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PINOCHLE 2:00	2
D	4	5 AUX MEETING 6:30	6 EUCHRE 7:00	7	8 PINOCHLE 2:00	9 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 1:00 ADULT PARTY 7:00
10	11 VVA MEET 7:00	12 VFW MEET 7:00	13 EUCHRE 7:00	14	15 PINOCHLE 2:00	16
17	18 BLOOD DRIVE 1:30-7:30	19	20 EUCHRE 7:00	21	22 PINOCHLE 2:00	23
24 DROP IN PARTY 31	25 CHRISTMAS 	26	27 EUCHRE 7:00	28	29 PINOCHLE 2:00	30



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan

December Birthdays

Bryan Bentley, Dennis Berent, 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, Joe Miller, Michael Panich, James Perkins, Pete Reckinger, Dale Roeseler, Roger Shanks, Dave Stenrose, James Tillman, Ray Vincent, Michael Williams, Robert Williams, Thomas Winiesdorffer, Richard Wurtzel





On November 9th, 2023 The Charter Township Of Plymouth's Friendship Station located at 42375 Schoolcraft Rd, Plymouth, MI, hosted a Celebration Breakfast for those who served! The breakfast was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth. The veterans and their guests enjoyed a breakfast menu of egg casserole, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, fruit, and coffee. There were breakfast pastries and juice available for the early arrivals. In attendance were veterans from all branches of Armed Forces. During the breakfast numerous videos were shown of WW2 and Vietnam. The attendees sang with great bravado the Star Spangled Banner, America the Beautiful and Each of the services anthems. In attendance from Mayflower-Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 were Post Commander Joe Tebor, members Ron King and Mike Richardson. Attached are photos of the gathering. This event is held yearly. Photos and article submitted by Mike Richardson



VFW AUXILIARY 6695



IS INVITING CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER TO THIS YEARS:

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN ON DECEMBER 9TH 2023, BETWEEN 1 P.M. AND 3 P.M. TO VISIT ALL THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF POST 6695 VFW, AUXILIARY, VVA AND AVVA MEMBERS. PLEASE JOIN US FOR

- SANTA
- GAMES
- CRAFTS
- TREATS

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2023

TIME: 1 PM TO 3 PM

WHERE: 1426 S. MILL ST. PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

WHO: CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF POST 6695 VFW, AUXILIARY, VVA AND AVVA MEMBERS AGES 12 AND UNDER.

Must RSVP each child attending

with their name & age

RSVP's or questions please

contact:

Jen DeLong by November 30, 2023

Text or call: 734-664-7627





Chapter 528 Homefront

December 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

Darrell Bazman	734-207-3197	Don Petrere	734-595-1422
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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POW/MIA		
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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



December 2023



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
Homefront
Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528
P.O. Box 6319
Plymouth MI 48170-0473