



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Larry Eichstädt, Bob Cohen and Tom Fedewa

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Welcome Home!

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 Article
 Gary Estermyer - Michigan State Council

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!

President's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! May everyone be blessed in 2024! This is my last article for 2023, it was a busy year! We had a bunch of different fundraisers that kept us busy; Steak dinners, Art in the Park, Fall Festival parking lot, the Fall Festival beer tent, and the Ice Festival! Once again, I would like to thank everyone who helped make these events possible and successful!

Also, we recently finished delivering winter gear and underwear to Veterans Haven, Veterans Home of America, and the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.

I hope to see everyone in 2024 at the January 8th meeting. Stay safe, warm, and enjoy your holidays!



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





Digger's Desk

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 kids/parents/grandparents had a great time at the Annual Kids Christmas Party. Thanks to head elf Jen De Long for chairing and guiding junior elves.

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.

John Fleming, Bob Dew, Rick Popa and I visited the students and staff at Burger School for Autism on Friday December 15. The staff to student ratio is about one to three. I applaud all the teachers and staff for their dedication to this special education segment.

Do you remember your Christmas away from home during your time in service ?

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday January 8 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



John Fleming, Rick Popa, Santa, Mrs. Klaus and Don Dignan at Burger School Christmas Carnival.



Ron King, Rick Popa and Bob Dew





Odds & Ends

Membership

There were two applications for membership this past month. Reginald Koziel has joined the chapter and Matt Adis has joined our associates. There were also 2 VVA applications sent directly to National. Welcome Clifford Davidson and Donald Koehler as well as Reginald and Matt to chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 311 VVA and 86 AVVA members. Of these, we have 77 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of December 22, 2023, the following individuals have not renewed their membership: Irfan Hameedi

Dropped from Roster: none

January AVVA Renewals: Troy Fisher, Tony Lipare
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.

AVVA Membership

I just wanted to provide some clarification on associate memberships. The only available options for membership now are a 1 year at \$20 per year or a life membership for \$100 (regardless of age). There is no more 3-year option. Those who are currently on a 3-year membership will have to choose between 1 year or life when their membership comes up for renewal.

Pearl Harbor Day

The Pearl Harbor Day ceremony had a sizable crowd again this year thanks in part to the unseasonable temperature and lack of snow. After the brief ceremony, we headed to the VFW for coney dogs and chips.

VFW

There will again be a Super Bowl party at the post on Sunday, February 11. It is open to all. Bring a dish of your favorite edibles to share with others.

The post received a \$2,500 grant from VFW National to help defray the cost of replacing the hot water boiler which became inoperable. The boiler was replaced with a tankless system that is more energy efficient and will save on energy costs in the future.

New Year's Eve

Don't forget about the 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.

HAPPY 2024 TO ALL!!!



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



Bob Dew, Judy Brena and John Heraghty delivering donation to Veterans Haven.



Chaplain's Corner

Walls Torn Down, Unity Found

Author - Tom Felten
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



Since 1961, families and friends have been separated by the Berlin Wall. Erected that year by the East German government, the barrier kept its citizens from fleeing to West Germany. In fact, from 1949 to the day the structure was built, it's estimated that more than 2.5 million East Germans had bolted to the West.

US President Ronald Reagan stood at the wall in 1987 and famously said, "Tear down this wall." His words reflected a groundswell of change that culminated with the wall being torn down in 1989, leading to Germany's joyous reunification.

In Ephesians 2:14, Paul wrote of a "wall of hostility" torn down by Jesus. The wall had existed between Jews (God's chosen people) and Gentiles (all other people). It was symbolized by the dividing wall (the Soreg-the Temple Warning inscription) in the ancient temple erected by Herod the Great in Jerusalem. It kept gentiles from entering beyond the outer courts of the temple, though they could see the inner courts. But Jesus brought "peace and reconciliation" between the Jews and Gentiles and between God and all people. He did so by "breaking down the wall that separated us by his death on the cross". The "Good News of Peace" made it possible for all to be united by faith in Christ.

Today, many things can divide us. As God provides what we need, let's strive to live out the peace and unity found in Jesus!

Chaplain's Corner: Pastor Mike Panich was released by the VA Hospital after getting a stent for his carotid artery. I have not heard of any others that have been in the hospital. Tom Brown's wife (Cheryl) was in a bad car accident on November 29, which totaled their car. Cheryl has a broken wrist and a cracked sternum. Please pray for Cheryl and Tom!



Burger School Christmas Carnival 2013

COME JOIN US

SATURDAY January 20, 2024

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

Christmas Activity Wrap-up

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Thank You to all of the members who came out on Saturday, December 9 to the Holiday Market in Canton. The results of our efforts on that Saturday were \$1,196.56.

Winter Clothing Drive

The organizations that the Winter Clothing Drive benefited were: the **Michigan Veterans Foundation in Detroit** – they made a special request this year that we donate cash rather than clothing since their government funding has been reduced. The Chapter approved this in the November General Meeting, so we donated \$3,000 to meet their immediate needs

Veterans Haven in Wayne – their request was for coats and sweatshirts

Love a Michigan Vet in Lincoln Park – their request was for coats

Our friend Lisa, the manager at **Kohl's in Canton** on Ford Road, and her staff helped us pick out those items and John Heraghty, Ron King, and Bob Dew picked up the items and delivered them. Our budget this year was \$3,000 and the items we purchased had a retail value of over \$12,600.

We went back to Kohl's on December 19, and finalized our shopping with the help of Lisa, spending our Kohl's Cash and Rewards to provide hats, gloves, and t-shirts to residents at the VA Ann Arbor Hospital.

As always, a special thank you to Lisa and her wonderful staff at Kohl's!!!!

Hopefully, we have helped many veterans in this challenging year.

Burger Christmas Carnival

This year we were invited back to the Burger Christmas Carnival, for the first time in quite a while. This is the Event that Debby Bradley (now Mrs. John Riling) invited us to every year.

Burger School for Autistic Children is a School that we have supported over the years by sponsoring a hole in the Lyman Golf Outing.

Rick Popa, Don Dignan, Bob Dew and myself attended and met with the students when they stopped at the location. Rick, Don, and Bob helped with tattoos for the kids and answered any questions that they may have had.

I helped the students when they met with Santa and Mrs. Claus. I found out that Santa is a Vietnam Veteran and he served in Phu Bai in 1969-70.

I hope the members of the Chapter had a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to a Wonderful New Year!!!!

John Fleming



John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay



Bob Dew and John Heraghty delivering VA Hospital clothing.



Michigan State Council VVA



State Council meeting, Dec. 3, 2023

L to R: National VVA President Jack McManus, State President John Riling who had just received a Congressional Record document from U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell congratulating the MSC for its 40th anniversary, past MSC President Don Cannon, past MSC president Pat Kline and sitting studying his notes National VVA Vice President Tom Burke.



L to R: Becky McFarlane with her Certificate and President's Award, Betty McGarry with her Certificate and Most Improved VSO Award, MSC President John Riling.



USARV
58th Field Depot
Qui Nhon



Michigan VSO staff, December 14, 2023 at their Christmas luncheon.



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 AUX MEET 6:30	3 EUCHRE 7:00	4	5 PINOCHLE 2:00	6
7	8 VVA MEET 7:00	9 VFW MEET 7:00	10 EUCHRE 7:00	11	12 PINOCHLE 2:00	13
14	15	16 VFW HOUSE COMM MEET 7:00	17 EUCHRE 7:00	18	19 PINOCHLE 2:00	20 SOUP & SALAD 5-7
21	22	23 VVA BOARD MEET 7:00	24 EUCHRE 7:00	25	26 PINOCHLE 2:00	27
28	29	30	31 EUCHRE 7:00			

January Birthdays



**Calendar by
Nancy Dignan**

Richard Adis, Ronald Bator, Charles Bilyk, Patti Brothers, Mike Bush, Lee Camilleri, Robert Cheatham, Steven Cunningham, James Day, Patrick Doherty, Jim Dorey, Gregory Epacs, Arthur Esper, Shawn Flaharty, Dennis Fuelling, William Gravett, William Harrigan, Walter Henson, Peter Holden, Johnnie Johnson, Larry Kijorski, Ron King, Patricia Klopschinsky, Andy Lawrence, Aggie Little, Gary MacDonald, Donald Marshall, George Mason, James Muir, John O'Hara, Dick O'Hare, Robert Parker, Rick Popa, Mike Potochick, Phil Pursell, Donald Rauch, John Sliwa, Gene Spurgess, Mike Steffes, Joseph Tebor, Donald Tulley, Susie Wagner, Dennis Waling, John Wallace, Edward Vitez, Walter Weber, Dale Worcester, Jimmy Yarbrough, and George Zathey



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	734-416-515
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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State Alt. Delegate	Joe Tebor	734-502-8087
State Alt. 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)

Rich LeGault	734-800-9399
Canton CBOC (Tues. & Fri.)	
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



January 2024



IO

Vietnam Veterans of America

VVA membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (a minimum of 180 days) in the Republic of Vietnam between November 1, 1955 and May 7, 1975, or in any other 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 _____

_____ I am a Vietnam Era Veteran and would like to be a member. Enclosed is a copy of my DD 214 and \$50 Lifetime Membership fee _____

_____ I am not a Vietnam Era Veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member. One may become an Associate Member (AVVA) for _____ 1 year \$20 _____ Life membership (\$100). 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