




VVA Chapter 528
Plymouth-Canton, MI
 1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



VFW Fish Fry Friday, March 15, 2024
Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith

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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
 Mikey Smith - Photos
 Terri Nicosia-Evans - Photos
- Distribution Staff**
- Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

“Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”

President's Corner

For your information, as of March 5, 2024, all veterans who qualify for Pact Act coverage are eligible to sign up for the long overdue VA benefits that you deserve! If you or someone you know is interested in applying for Pact benefits, you can check your eligibility and apply by visiting VA.gov/Pact.

Since this will be my last letter as President of this great chapter, I just want to start by saying it has been a pleasure! I appreciated all the support I got from the Board of Directors and membership. Without this support, I wouldn't have been able to do my job.

I believe we did a lot of good things over the last 3 years. We reached out to a lot of veterans in need and helped support our home, VFW 6695! We touched a lot of people with food, clothing, material items, and in some cases, money.

In closing, I would once again like to say thank you very much for having faith in me to lead this great chapter for the last 3 years. I so hope I didn't disappoint anyone. I hope to see you at the April meeting on April 8th for elections! Please try to be there and vote! We will be having pizza and salad!



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





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 Monday at 2:00PM through the Lenten season until Fish Fries conclude.

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 at the National level.

Fish Fries are bigger than ever with new sales records being set. Come down for the greatest fish fry around before they are all over.

St. Paddy's day at the Post will be over by the time you read this. 250 dinners and sandwiches were sold.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday April 8 at 7:00PM with continuing nominations and final votes for elective office. This is the most important meeting of the year. Please plan on being there to cast your votes for those who will lead the Chapter over the next 12 months. Our recently adjusted bylaws require that a quorum of members (15%) must take part in the election. See you there.

It's a great time to be an American, Veteran and member of Chapter 528. Until Valhalla to all who have gone before us.



VFW St. Patrick's Day celebration. Thanking all who helped and patronized our veterans.

Photo courtesy of Terri Nicosia-Evans.



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the VFW

Photo courtesy of Terri Nicosia-Evans.



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nomination for chapter office.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| President | Bob Dew |
| 1st Vice President | Ron King
Rick Adis |
| 2nd Vice President | Pete Glasgow |
| Secretary | Mike Kelly |
| Treasurer | John Fleming |
| Board Members (4)
(2 year term) | Darrell Bazman
Don Dignan
Gary Estermyer
Gene Spurgess |
| State Council Delegate | John Heraghty
Rich Waling |
| Alt. State Council Delegate | Ron King
John Spencer
Terry Wells |
| Election Committee (3) | Bob Bryan
Al Dorey
Bob Lamoureux
Bob Cohen |
| AVVA Representative | Bryan Bentley |

Nominations for office will again be taken at the April meeting before the election. If you are considering running for office, please make your intentions known. You may nominate yourself if you so desire.

Note: Per our new chapter by-law, we must have 15% of the total VVA membership, or 47 members, at the meeting to hold the elections and conduct any other business that requires a vote of the membership.

Membership

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Bill Gravett and Tom Curry. Bill had been a member for 25 years but had been living in Florida at the time of his passing, so we hadn't seen him in quite some time. Tom was an associate member for 7 years. Both will be missed.

There were four applications for membership this past month. Jerry Brzys, Army, is transferring from Chapter 267. Ray Jennings and Bob Ostendorf, both Navy, have joined the chapter and Dorothy Ostendorf has joined our associates. Welcome Jerry, Ray, Bob, and Dorothy to Chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 312 individual and 85 associate members. Of these, we have 76 AVVA life members.

Lapsed Members: As of March 25, 2024, the following associates have not renewed their membership: Troy Fisher, Tony Lipare

Dropped from Roster: none

April AVVA Renewals: Robert Noel

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.

VFW Fish Fry

The attendance at the first fish fry was low, but things picked up the next 4 with over 340+ dinners served at each, for a record 371 in week 3. We seemed to have found our rhythm because things have run very smoothly with no extraordinary wait times.

A Night at the Races

On Saturday, April 20, there will be a night of entertainment at the VFW as actual horse races are shown in the hall. Admission is \$10, which includes food, pop, and draft beer. Specialty drinks will be available, and wagering will be allowed using play money. Doors open at 4:00, and races will start at 5:15. Make plans now to attend.



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





Chaplain's Corner

Jesus, The True Peacemaker

Author - Winn Collier,
from 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



On December 30, 1862, the US Civil War raged. Union and Confederate troops camped seven hundred yards apart on opposing sides of Tennessee's Stone River. As they warmed themselves around campfires, Union Soldiers picked up their fiddles and harmonicas and began playing "Dixie". Remarkably, both sides joined for a finale, playing "Home, Sweet Home" in unison. Sworn enemies shared music in the dark night, glimmers of an unimagined peace. The melodic truce was short-lived, however. The next morning, they put down their fiddles and picked up their rifles, and 24,645 soldiers died.

Our human efforts to create peace inevitably wear thin. Hostilities cease in one place, only to ignite somewhere else. One relational dispute finds harmony, only to be embroiled in distress again months later. The Scriptures tell us that God is our only trustworthy peacemaker. Jesus said it plainly, "In me... you have peace" (John 16:33). We have peace in Jesus. While we participate in peacemaking, it's God's reconciliation and renewal that make real peace possible.

Christ tells us we can't escape conflict. "In this world, we will have trouble," Jesus says. Strife abounds. "But take heart!" He adds, "I have overcome the world". While our efforts often prove futile, our loving God makes peace in this fractious world.

Chaplain's Corner: Praise our Lord that Don (Digger) had his stents inserted and pray for healing, Pray for Roger Shanks as he had a stroke a week ago, and that the Lord would help Roger get back to his normal. Our brother Mike Steffes was able to come home in one day after checking out at St. Mary's. Prayers to the family of Bill Gravett, who passed away in February. Prayers also to the family of Tom Curry who also passed away back last October 2023. Prayers continue for Don Dignan who just went back into the emergency room Thursday night to have a blood clot removed. He was still in the hospital as of Saturday. Our VVA 528 is now at 310 members, so let me know if you would like me to send it to our members if you are in the hospital, etc.



VFW Fish Fry Friday, March 8, 2024
Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith



Helping out at Friday, March 8, 2024 Fish Fry. From left to right: Ron Bond, John Spencer, Mikey Smith, Dorcas Smith, Rick Waling and Ron King
Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith

In Memoriam



William (Bill) H. Gravett

January 5, 1946 - February 24, 2024

Bill received his bachelor's degree in finance from Michigan State University where he was a member of Delta Sigma Pi. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968-1970. Bill was introduced to Shay (Sharon), shortly after his honorable discharge and they married in 1975. He received his Master of Business Administration from the University of Detroit Mercy. Bill spent the majority of his career in healthcare administration at Henry Ford Hospital. After several cold and snowy years in Michigan, Bill and Shay retired and relocated to sunny Venice, Florida.

Bill was very active with the Vietnam Veterans both in Michigan and Florida. He was an avid Spartan, rarely missing a football or basketball game, and looked forward to the Big Dance every March. Bill was a Parrot Head and enjoyed several Jimmy Buffet concerts with great friends. He loved to be with friends, travel and to make people laugh. He always had a joke to tell and in recent years began teaching his grandchildren both jokes and magic tricks.

Bill will be deeply missed by Shay, his wife of 49 years, daughters Stacey and Jill and their husbands, and his four grandchildren: Grace, Colin, Anthony, and Cecilia. He will also be missed by several nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends. Bill was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Mary Ann.

A celebration of Bill's life will be scheduled at a future date.



John Spencer and his friend Ron Bachi having dinner at the VFW Fish Fry on Friday, March 15, 2024.



Bill Petere as Honorary Coach meets up with Daren Mccarthy at a Michigan United Cerebral Palsy Fund Raising Event.



Helping out at Friday, March 8 Fish Fry. From left to right: Bob Lamoureux, Bob Brothers, Dave Wegmann, Bob Caldwell and others.

Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	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 HOUSE COMM MEET 7:00	17 EUCHRE 7:00	18	19 PINOCHLE 2:00	20 HORSE RACING
21	22 BLOOD DRIVE 1:30- 7:30	23 VVA BOARD MEET 7:00	24 EUCHRE 7:00	25	26 PINOCHLE 2:00	27
28	29	30				



**Calendar by
Nancy Dignan**

April Birthdays

Carl Andersen, Ralph Auge, Danny Aulidge, Gordon Bardeleben, Michael Barnowski, Robert Bieske, Thomas Crozier, Norris Cutler, Richard Demeester, Henry Eichner, David Endige, Gerald Grzesik, Michael Hughes, Glen Jewell, Larry Jones, Robert Leshan, John Lindsay, Barbara Little, Rich Mazurkiewicz, Joseph McCarthy, John McClure, Gary Meier, Chris Pope, Jay Roberts, Gerald Sabatini, Gordon Segal, Dale Sirkle, Cynthia Tebor, Mark Tomasaitis, and Ron Trosin.

Blum's Landing

John - This is a cc of what is in envelope



Jan

7460 Ocqueoc Lake Road

Millersburg, MI 49759

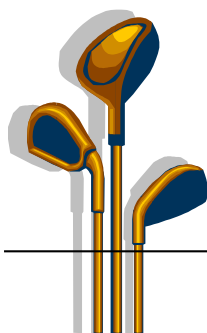
7 March 2024

Dear Members of the UVA Post 528,

Recently, Terry and I were informed by a long-time acquaintance, John Fleming, regarding a concern shared at a Post meeting. He truly appreciated John bringing it to our immediate attention! There appeared to be shared some strong feelings over not having been recognized in the last newsletter sent out for Blum's Landing.

I accept complete responsibility for any omission of your gracious donation last year. We are definitely not professional at public relations nor use any professional resources. But... I could have done a better job self-checking prior to mailing. Please accept my sincere apology.

The work such as the newsletter is written from the heart with the intent



12th ANNUAL GARY BATES MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Event Location:

Links at Gateway
33290 Gateway Drive
Romulus, MI

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, May 18
9am Tee Time
Lunch & Awards Ceremony to
follow at the Gateway Clubhouse

Registration:

\$100 per golfer
Due by May 11
Make Checks Payable To:
John Fleming

Proceeds of the Event:

The American Diabetes Association
The American Cancer Society

Send Payment & Registration

to:

John Fleming
28576 Rush St
Garden City, MI 48135

Event Highlights:

18 Holes of Golf
Shotgun Start, Four Person Scramble

For more information,

contact:

John Fleming - 734-604-0227
John.Fleming0149@comcast.net

PLEASE NOTE – ANY PGA MEMBERS AND THEIR TEAMS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES

Player: _____

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Email _____

Address _____

Player: _____

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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

Homefront Newsletter

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	Ron King	734-679-6424
	Dale Luebke	248-403-4244
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POW/MIA		
Public Affairs	Don Dignan	734-525-0157
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Fleming	734-421-0149
State Delegate	Dennis Bielskis	734-767-1654
State Alt. Delegate	Joe Tebor	734-502-8087
State Alt. Delegate	John Spencer	734-716-0619
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



April 2024



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

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