



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Bob Dew and Ron King helping out "Ring the Bell" for The Salvation Army.

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
Christmas Activity Wrap-up	5
Salvation Army Christmas Event	6
Christmas Activities	7
Christmas Party	8
Calendar	9
In Memoriam	10
Committees	11
Ads	12
Membership Form	14

Homefront Staff

Tom Brown - Editor & Publisher
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 Bob Dew - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Bryan Bentley - Photos
 Cathy Brya-Rotta - Photos
 Lisa Heraghty - Photo
 Ruth Lam - Photo
 Dave Banks - Photo

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!



"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's to a very Healthy, Prosperous, and Safe Year ahead. We had a busy December delivering winter clothing to Detroit Veterans Foundation, Veterans Heaven, Downriver Veterans, the VA, and Ann Arbor Volunteer Veterans. In addition, we helped the Salvation Army with Bell Ringing and assisted them in handing out 77 Christmas Meals on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. January will seem like a slow month. I hope everyone has a healthy 2025 year ahead. GO LIONS!



Bob Dew, Sgt.
 Marine Corps Supply
 H&MS II, MAGII,
 1st MAW
 DaNang Airbase 1969





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre continues on Thursday at 7:00PM.

Pinochle continues on Friday at 2:00PM well into 2025 until fish fries begin during Lent.

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.

The Kids Christmas Party was a total success with close to 40 kids in attendance.

Pearl Harbor Day was celebrated at Plymouth Memorial Park with coney dogs afterward at the Post.

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday January 13 at 7:00PM. 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.



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



John Fleming delivering Winter Clothing Drive items to Judy Berna of Veterans Haven in Wayne.



Salvation Army Christmas Event
Photo courtesy of Bryan Bentley





Odds & Ends

Membership

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Gordie Bardeleben. He was a longtime member of the AVVA and the VFW Auxiliary. Gordie was very active in chapter and post events, particularly the car shows. He will truly be missed. Our condolences go to his wife Barb and their family.

There was 1 application for membership this past month. Anthony Platt, Marines, has joined the chapter. Welcome, Tony to chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 314 VVA and 84 AVVA members. Of these, we have 79 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of December 22, 2024, the following individuals have not renewed their membership: Bill McCully

Dropped from Roster: none

January 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.

Pearl Harbor Day

Again, the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony had a very nice crowd this year despite the cold windy weather. At least there was no snow to keep people away. After the brief ceremony, we headed to the VFW for coney dogs and chips.

New Year's Eve

Don't forget about the drop-in 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. Ali is working that evening and has some fun things planned for us.

VFW

There will again be a Superbowl party at the post on Sunday, February 9. It is open to all. Bring a dish of your favorite edibles to share with others.

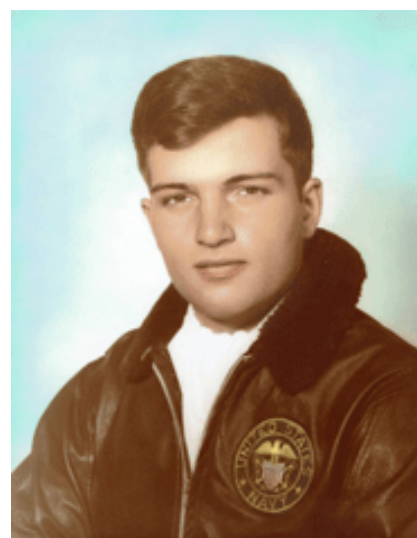
HAPPY 2025 TO ALL!!!



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



Bob Parker Army 1969



John McClure Navy 1968



Chaplain's Corner

God's View of Us

Kenneth Petersen of Our Daily Bread

It was 1968, and America was mired in a war with Vietnam, racial violence was exploding in cities, and two public figures had been assassinated. A year before, the fire had taken the lives of three astronauts on the launchpad, and the idea of going to the moon seemed like a pipe dream. Nonetheless, Apollo 8 managed to launch a few days before Christmas.

It became the first manned mission to orbit the moon. The flight crew, Borman, Anders, and Lovel, all men of faith, broadcast a Christmas Eve message: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). At the time, it was the most watched TV event in the world, and millions shared the God's-eye view of Earth in a now iconic photo. And God saw that it was good" (V. 10).

Sometimes it's hard to look at ourselves, all the hardships we're mired in, and see anything that's good. But we might return to the story of creation and see God's view of us: "In the image of God He created them" (V.27). Let's pair that with another divine-eye view: "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16). Today, remember that God created you, sees the good despite the sin, and loves the "you" He created!

Chaplain's Corner: Chaplain "Whip" wishes all of you and yours a wonderful Christmas! We still have some of our guys that are home and haven't been able to get out. I would like to give you a few of our guys that are in that situation. Please pick up the phone and check in with them! That's what we all should be doing! Please let me know if you know any other of our guys not doing well! Your Chaplain would like to help out when possible.

Roger Shanks is still at home (313-523-5517), and Ted Enright is still at home (734-563-5517).

Vets for Christ meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at Connection Church on Sheldon Road, just north of Michigan Avenue. Come and learn more about our Lord and Savior, whose birth we are celebrating! We have several VVA members who come. See you there!

Mike Steffes finally was released from the hospital after several months.



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



Plymouth's Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony. *Photo courtesy of David Banks*

Christmas Activity Wrap-up

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Thank You to all members who came out on Saturday, December 14 to the Holiday Market in Canton. The results of our efforts on that Saturday were \$729.22

Winter Clothing Drive

The organizations that the Winter Clothing Drive benefited were:

Michigan Veterans Foundation in Detroit

Veterans Haven in Wayne

Downriver for Veterans in Wyandotte

Our friend Lisa, the manager at Kohl's in Canton on Ford Road, and her staff helped us pick out those items. Bob Dew, Gary Estermyer, Al Sneath, John Heraghty, Ron King, and I picked up the items and delivered them. Our budget this year was \$6,000, and the items we purchased had a retail value of around \$12,500.

We used Kohl's Cash and Rewards to purchase additional items for the VA Ann Arbor Hospital residents. While picking up these items, one of Kohl's customers donated \$100 for us to use for the VA Hospital, which brought the total value spent to \$1,200. We have another \$620 in Kohl's Cash and Rewards to purchase more items after Christmas.

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

Burger Christmas Carnival

The Burger School for Autistic Children held a Christmas Carnival for the students on December 12. Bob Dew and I attended and helped Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Salvation Army Turkey Donation

This year, we made a new donation to the Salvation Army and purchased 59 turkeys for needy citizens in the Plymouth area. We volunteered to pass out turkeys and other food items on December 18.

Hopefully, we have helped a large number of veterans and needy people in this very difficult year.

I hope chapter members have a very Merry Christmas, and we look forward to a Wonderful New Year!

John Fleming

John Fleming
92nd Finance Section
Cam Ranh Bay



Salvation Army Christmas Event



Photos courtesy of Bryan Bentley

Salvation Army Christmas Event



Photos courtesy of Bryan Bentley

Christmas Activities



John Fleming and Bob Dew are helping Lisa at Kohls with the Winter Clothing for Michigan Veterans Foundation and Ann Arbor, VA. *Photo courtesy of John Fleming*



Gary Estermyer and John Fleming deliver winter clothing to the Michigan Veterans Foundation.



Bob Dew and John Fleming helping Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Burger School Christmas Carnival.



Ron King, John Heraghty, Al Sneath, and Bob Dew delivered winter clothing to Downriver Veterans on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. *Photo courtesy of John Fleming*

Christmas Party December 7, 2024



Photos courtesy of Cathy Brya-Rotta, Lisa Heraghty and Ruth Lam



January 2025



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

January Birthdays



**Calendar by
Nancy Dignan**

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

In Memoriam



Gordon "Gordie" Bardeleben

April 6, 1952 - December 4, 2024

Gordon "Gordie" Bardeleben, age 72, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away on December 4, 2024. He was born on April 6, 1952, in Detroit, Michigan, to John and Mildred Bardeleben.

Gordon is survived by his loving wife, Barbara; his children, Jennifer (Scott) and Michele (Jeff), Jim (Kristen); and his adored grandsons, Nicklas, Eric, Jacob, and Cash. He is predeceased by his beloved children, Steven and Megan.

Dear brother of Gerard (Rosemary), and the late Marcy, Su, and Kate.

Gordon dedicated 43 years of his career as a machine builder at Diamond Automation/MOBA, where he was respected for his skill, hard work, and commitment. He was a proud Auxiliary Member of the VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth, Michigan, where he was always found cooking at the car shows and supporting veterans. A classic car enthusiast, Gordon combined his love for cars and camaraderie to bring joy to his community.

A staunch supporter of military veterans, especially his son-in-law, Gordon also had a passion for educating others about patriotism, often giving presentations on flag etiquette and history at local schools. Above all, he cherished his family and loved to brag about his grandsons, who brought him immense pride and happiness.



Dayle Phyllis Agius

Sep. 5, 1950 - Nov. 23, 2024

Beloved wife of Joe for 54 wonderful years. Loving mother of Bonnie (Jason) Tatterton, and Wendy (Armando) Martin. Proud grandmother of Grace Tatterton, and Lillian Martin. She was the dear sister of Roger (Amanda) Weller, Karen Watt, Brent (Patty) Weller, and the late Marilyn. She was also the sister-in-law of Lewis (LeAnna) Agius, the late Sylvia (Ray) Vella, and Mary (Larry) Azzopardi. She was also a loving aunt to many special nieces and nephews.

Dayle graduated in 1968 from Cass Tech High School in Detroit. She loved antiques, rock hunting, flower gardens, and especially spending time with her family. So many amazing memories were made from girls' trips, vacations, thrifting, movies, dinners, and baking! She supported the family throughout her entire life and always attended every special event, cheering us on any chance she had! She was the first person to help someone in need and provide you with a gift when least expecting it, just to make you smile!

Dayle was the core of our family and the love of our lives! We miss her more than words can say. The love that Mom and Dad shared for 54 years was truly a gift that we were lucky enough to be a part of. The kindness that she gave to every person she encountered was a true inspiration. Dayle will forever be in our hearts and loved beyond measure!



Chapter 528 Homefront

January 2025



II

Chapter Officers

President	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
1st Vice President	Ron King	734-679-6424
2nd Vice President	Pete Glasgow	734-454-9663
Secretary	Mike Kelly	248-974-8695
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	Gary Estermyer	313-283-6943
Jerry Thomason	734-895-5257	Tom Fedewa	734-404-6598

Committees

A.O./Health Care	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
Agent Orange Events	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
AVVA Representative	Bryan Bentley	734-604-6066
By-Laws	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
Chaplain	Rich Whipple	734-751-2992
Chapter Historian	Dave Banks	734-765-2145
Fundraising	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
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
Distribution Chief	Jim Hodgson	734-416-5159
	Ron King	734-679-6424
	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	734-421-0149
State Delegate	John Heraghty	734-845-7444
State Alt. Delegate	John Spencer	734-397-8975
State Alt. Delegate	Terry Wells	734-776-1891
State Alt. Delegate	Ron King	734-454-4522
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 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 172 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 lying around somewhere. You can mail your photo to Tom Brown, 17730 Snow Ave. Dearborn, MI 48124, or scan it and send it to tombrown1949@gmail.com as a GIF or a JPG. 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



AGI
No. 213208

Great Lakes
TROPHIES & ENGRAVING

Ed Duprey
Owner

32635 Ford Road
Garden City, MI 48135
(Between Venoy & Merriman Roads)
Hours: 9 - 6 Weekdays / 9 - Noon Sat.

Phone: (734) 266 - 1815
Fax: (734) 266 - 1817
www.greatlaketrophies.com
E-mail: sales@greatlaketrophies.com

ARA
Member

- landscape design & installation
- lawn & landscape maintenance
- snow & ice management

Matthew Gorski
President

Your Way
PROPERTY SERVICES

(248) 676.8508 office
(248) 676.8557 fax
yourwaypropertyservices@comcast.net

DONATE YOUR CAR TO

CHARITY MOTORS
Helping Those Who Help Others

- Where you can still claim Fair Market Blue Book Value
- Car donation is 100% tax deductible and pick up is free
- Assisted over 2,000 worthy organizations in our community

CALL TODAY: (313) 255-1000
or donate online at charitymotors.org

Be sure to designate VVA Chapter 528
when turning in your vehicle.

WWW.MYLIFEFORCE.NET/RT

RON & THERESA

1 248 677 2280

PRODUCTS THAT MAKE
PEOPLE HEALTHIER

www.mylifeforce.net/rt

alphagraphics®

DESIGN ■ COPY ■ PRINT ■ COMMUNICATE

7994 Lilley Road • Canton, Michigan 48187
Phone 734.455.6550 • Fax 734.455-3740
Email us336@alphagraphics.com
www.us336.alphagraphics.com

AGI
MEMBER



Main Street Auto Wash
"the freshwater wash"

1191 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Phil Pursell
(734) 455-9685

Frank S. Barkovich
Accounting & Tax Service

* Individual / Business Taxes 734-748-5168
* Small Business Specialists frabar2136@gmail.com

P.O. 871831
Canton, MI 48187-7531

734-397-9734
frabar@comcast.net

LPL Financial

Bob Carris
Registered Principal

40400 Ann Arbor Rd
Suite 204-B
Plymouth, MI 48170
734 453 7304 office
734 453 7461 fax
bob.carris@lpl.com
www.lpl.com/bob.carris

OSJ Branch: 31700 Middlebelt Rd
Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248 626 2000 office

Member FINRA/SIPC



Chapter 528 Homefront



January 2025



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