



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



St. Patrick's Day at the VFW
Photo courtesy of Cathy Bry-Rotta

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
Odds & Ends	3
Fish On For Freedom Sign-up	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
538 35th Anniversary Party	5
Calendar	6
St. Patrick's Day	7
Night At The Races	8
Spaghetti Dinner Benefit	8
Karl Malantas	9
Committees	10
Ads	11
Membership Form	12

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
 Cathy Bry-Rotta - Photos
 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

I hope everyone is doing ok as we head into April and you have enjoyed the last few days of March including Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th. Our yearly Election General Meeting is going to be April 14th so make sure you attend and vote for Officers, Board of Directors, Convention Delegates, and the Election Committee candidates. We will be finalizing improvements to the Leon Suchorski Memorial during the next month so it is ready for Car Shows starting in May. We will be having Pizza, Breadsticks, and Salad after the elections at our April General meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. There is one more opportunity for anyone to be nominated or volunteer for a position to help the chapter keep moving forward. The more we work together the better we become.



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





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre continues on Wednesday at 7:00PM until Car Shows begins in May, then switching to Thursday.

Pinochle will continue on Monday at 2:00PM until fish fries conclude during Lent, then switching back to Fridays at 2:00PM on April 25.

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 stagnating due to no direct direction from National. This will be heavily discussed at this year's National Convention.

The St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner was sensational (as usual) and a complete success with about 8 volunteers bringing everything together. Thanks to all the volunteers. Without you, things don't happen.

The Lenten Fish Frys are attracting over 300 customers a night. The cod, walleye, shrimp and chicken tenders are the best around. Again, volunteers are the heart of success and we salute you all.

A Night at the Races will take place on April 26. Get out your best Derby duds to wear and your ouija board for predicting the winners. Food and special concoctions will be made available.

Poppy Days are approaching in May. Give out poppies, people give you money...simple plan, huh?

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday April 14 at 7:00PM at which time nominations will continue and elections will take place for officers and directors who will guide the Chapter for the 2025-26 year. Why not toss your hat in the ring to be more actively involved. See you there. It's a great time to be an American, Veteran and member of Chapter 528.



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



Fish Fry Friday, March 7, 2025

Photo courtesy of Dave Banks



Fish On For Freedom Tournament will be on Friday, May 30, 2025, in Ludington, MI

To register online, go to
<https://www.fishonforfreedom.com/event-application>.



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nominations for chapter office.

President	Bob Dew
1st Vice President	Ron King
2nd Vice President	Joe Tebor
Secretary	open
Treasurer	John Fleming
Board Members (2-year term)	(4) Don Petrere Al Sneath Jerry Thomason Tom Fedewa
Natl Convention Delegate (up to 7)	John Heraghty Rich Waling Ron King Bob Dew Mike Kelly Ted Enright Jim Tillman Al Sneath
Election Committee (3)	Bob Bryan Al Dorey Bob Lamoureux

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

We welcome back Vern Peterson. Vern was a member many years ago until he relocated to Idaho. He is back and has transferred his membership back to 528. Our current membership stands at 313 individual and 84 associate members. Of these we have 79 AVVA life members.

Lapsed Members: As of March 25, 2025, the following associates have not renewed their membership: none

Dropped from Roster: none

April AVVA Renewals: Larry Snowden

When your membership renewal comes due please consider a life membership. It is only \$100 regardless of age.

VFW Fish Fry

There was a glitch the first night (not enough fish) but since that time we have done quite well for the first 3 weeks, averaging 300 dinners a night. Thanks to all who have come out to assist or to dine with us. This is a huge undertaking and we cannot accomplish it without your support.

A Night at the Races

On Saturday, April 26 there will be a night of entertainment at the VFW as actual horse races are shown in the hall. Admission is \$15 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 5:00. Make plans now to attend.



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





Chaplain's Corner

Triumph of Kindness in Christ

From Our Daily Bread

By Arthur Jackson

When Jackie Robinson, the first Black player in modern-day Major League Baseball, played at Schibe Park in Philadelphia on May 9, 1947, ten-year-old Doris was in the upper-deck stands with her father. When an elderly Black man made his way down to the aisle to a seat next to them, her father led the way in getting acquainted. Doris said their conversation about scorekeeping made her feel "grown up." She later reflected, "I've never forgotten that man and his smiling face." The delightful interaction between Doris, a young White girl, and the kind, elderly man, who was the son of slaves, was a bright spot that day!

This was in stark contrast, however, to the hateful conduct Robinson had experienced at another game that season. He recounted that "in terms of race, they yelled everything at me; it was quite vicious."

Vicious conduct isn't limited to sports fields. Homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and even our churches can be places where ugliness wins. Those who believe in the God who displayed kindness through His Son (Titus 3:4), however, are called to do the same. Peter writes, "Be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate, and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult" (1 Peter 3:8-9). Kindness trumps when those who've received it from God share it generously with others as the Spirit helps them.

Chaplain's Corner: Gene Spurgess is still hanging on. Unfortunately, the odds are not looking good for Gene. Bryan Bentley has been awesome for keeping in touch with Gene's family. Let us all pray to the Lord that Gene will come through this! Joe Tebor has issues with his legs and is not sleeping well. Joe Agius may need some help down the road when he sells his house, but not just yet. Hopefully, we will have several guys to help him. Roger Shanks is home now and can't wait to get his scooter out on the sidewalk.



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



John Iaquinta and Gene Spurgess went outside to cook fish to help eliminate customer Wait times in 2014. *Photo courtesy of Gene Spurgess*



Fish Fry Friday, March 14, 2025
Photos courtesy of Cathy Brya-Rotta

P-C 528 35th Anniversary Party

Gary Estermyer, committee secretary

The planning committee has met five times since last October with Ron King as chairman. Many key items have been nailed down to include: The party will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2025 (our charter was signed on 09/13/90), from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The venue will be the VFW Post 6695 hall. The main speaker will be John H. Riling III, president of the MI State Council and a charter member; chapter challenge coins have been designed and will be available for \$7.00 each on the night of the party; Army veteran comedian Matt Wolf has been hired for a half-hour; Alpha Graphics has been contracted to produce the program.

The selection of the caterer and menu are still being screened to get the best deal. Coffee, soft drinks, and sheet cake will be provided with a cash bar. With the help of Irish Gallo, we will have nice table settings and centerpieces. We will have a few door prizes, and we've considered having a roaming photographer for the evening.

As far as attendance is concerned, we will offer a maximum of two free tickets to each 528 VVA and AVVA member. We will begin circulating a sign-up sheet at our May 12th general membership meeting. The members can then indicate how many tickets they want to reserve, one or two. The cutoff date for reservations will be July 14, 2025, the date of our monthly meeting.

Members who cannot attend chapter meetings but plan to attend this event can email Ron King at kingr470@gmail.com or Gary Estermyer at garyvvastate@gmail.com, and we'll add them to our list.

We only celebrate 35 once so this is your chance to mingle with old friends and new ones. Our chapter has many achievements to be proud of and many memories to share.

Committee members: Ron King, Rich Whipple, Leroy Paige, Bob Cohen, Rich Demeester, Gary Meier, Gary Estermyer, and special advisor Irish Gallo.



USARV
58th Field Depot
Qui Nhon



St. Patrick's Day Monday, March 17, 2025
Photos Courtesy of Cathy Brya-Rotta



April 2025



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AUX MEET 6:30	2 EUCHRE 7:00	3	4 FISH FRY 4:30 - 7:00	5
6	7 PINOCHLE 2:00	8 VFW MEET 7:00	9 EUCHRE 7:00	10	11 FISH FRY 4:30 - 7:00	12
13	14 PINOCHLE 2:00 VVA MEET 7:00	15 HOUSE COMM MEET 7:00	16 EUCHRE 7:00	17	18 FISH FRY 4:30 - 7:00	19
20 EASTER	21	22 VVA BOARD MEET 7:00	23 EUCHRE 7:00	24	25 PINOCHLE 2:00	26 HORSE RACES 4:30
27	28 BLOOD DRIVE	29	30 EUCHRE 7:00			

April Birthdays



Carl Andersen, Danny Aulidge, Ralph Auge, Michael Barnowski, Robert Bieske, Thomas Crozier, Norris Cutler, Richard Demeester, Henry Eichner, David Endyke, 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

**Calendar by
Nancy Dignan**

St. Patrick's Day Monday, March 17, 2025



U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell and Cathy Brya-Rotta at our St. Patrick's Day celebration.



Photos courtesy of Cathy Brya-Rotta



Photo courtesy of Cathy Brya-Rotta


A NIGHT AT THE RACES
Kentucky Derby Style
Saturday April 26, 2025
Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW POST 6695
1426 S. Mill Street Plymouth, MI
Doors Open @ 4:00 pm
1st Race @ 5:00 PM
\$15.00 Per Person or \$25.00 per couple includes:
Hot Dogs, Draft Beer, Pop, Coffee, Popcorn, Chips, Nachos & Cheese
Cash Bar: Canned Beer, Wines, Assorted Liquor, Mimi's Moonshine
& Real Mint Julep's

An Evening Full of Fun and Games all Night Long
Join the fun in your finest Kentucky Derby Attire !!!!
1st & 2nd Place Prizes will be given to the best dressed women and men.
50/50 Drawings will held throughout the evening along with door prizes
 For further information please contact Ruth Barnhill (734) 233-8121 

American Legion
Post 141 Family
Spaghetti Dinner
BENEFIT

All proceeds to benefit Denise "Filly" Williams as she battles a rare, aggressive form of Ovarian Cancer

ADULTS: \$12 PER PERSON	DINNER MENU SPAGHETTI IN A RED SAUCE, WITH OR WITHOUT MEAT SALAD, BREADSTICKS, & DESSERT	KIDS \$6 PER PERSON 10 & UNDER
--	---	---

RAFFLES | SILENT AUCTION | 50/50
Sunday, April 13, 2025 1-5 PM
AMERICAN LEGION POST 141
3265 W GRAND RIVER
HOWELL MI



THE WAR MEMORIAL PRESENTS



VIETNAM VETERAN AND
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

An Evening with

**KARL
MARLANTES**

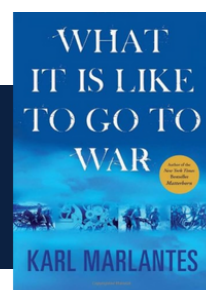
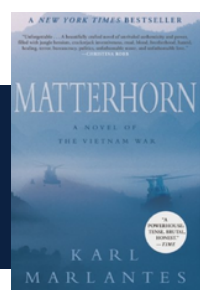
Echoes of the Vietnam War

Wed | Apr 9 | 6pm

ALGER CENTER BALLROOM
at The War Memorial

New York Times Bestselling Author

RECEPTION | AUTHOR TALK
Q & A | PHOTO OPPORTUNITY



*"...one of the most profound and devastating novels ever to
come out of Vietnam—or any war."
— The New York Times*

Hailed as one of the most powerful voices in war literature, join bestselling author and decorated Vietnam veteran Karl Marlantes at The War Memorial for an evening of thought-provoking discussion, offering rare perspective drawn from his own service and decades of reflection.



The War Memorial is a proud Commemorative Partner in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Program. To learn more about our partnership, visit warmemorial.org/vietnam



This presentation is supported by the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

Tickets: \$15-\$55

*VIP Experience and Military
Discount Tickets Available*

To learn more and to purchase tickets visit www.warmemorial.org or scan the QR code.

32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 | 313-881-7511





Chapter 528 Homefront

April 2025



10

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	248-444-3993
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 proudly displays 174 VVA members' and 3 AVVA members' service photos on our website and in our Post display case. Let's make sure every member is represented! If you have a service photo, please mail it to Tom Brown, 17730 Snow Ave. Dearborn, MI 48124, or scan and email it as a GIF or JPG to tombrown1949@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name, branch of service, and the year the photo was taken. Don Petrere will then add a copy of your service photo to our display case.



Tom Brown, Editor/Publisher
2nd Missile Battalion
44th Field 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



April 2025



12

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

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