



# VVA Chapter 528

## Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Children's Christmas Party

*Photo courtesy of Jen DeLong*

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### Welcome Home!

### 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  
 John Fleming - Article and photos  
 Judy Thomason - Soups & Salads, Photo  
 Jen DeLong - Photo  
 Cathy-Bry-Rotta - Photo  
 Lisa-Heraghty - Photo  
 Jim Hodgson - Cartoon

### Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief  
 Ron King  
 Dale Luebke



**"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"**

### President's Corner

I hope everyone has enjoyed their Christmas and New Year's Day this year. I am wishing for a Healthy, Prosperous, and Happy New Year ahead for all of us. It has been a very busy 2025, and 2026 will be as challenging as 2025 was for all of us. For those who enjoy volunteering in the various events and projects taking place within our Chapter and the VFW, there are numerous opportunities ahead. This is our home, and helping out projects that need volunteers, benefit from helping hands, while keeping the building active and alive, is something to be proud of and is rewarding to oneself. If you have enjoyed the Soup and Salad the VFW Aux has put on in past years, mark your calendar for January 17th, as it will be here again from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for \$10.00. Other than that, I am not aware of anything else for January, 2026. Our next General Meeting will be on January 12, 2026. I hope to see everyone there.



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





## Digger's Desk

### LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre is now on Wednesday (skipping 12/24 and 12/31) at 7:00PM until next Spring's Car Shows.

Pinochle continues every Friday afternoon at 2:00PM.

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

### RECENTLY AND UPCOMING

The Children's Christmas Party held on Saturday December 6 was a huge success. Thanks to Jennifer DeLong and her group of elves.

On Saturday December 6, members were bell-ringing for the Salvation Army at Holiday Market. The time I was there saw many in the Christmas spirit drop generous donations into the red kettle. Remember that we not only collected for the Salvation Army but also helped them avoid having to pay someone to do the job. Yes, not all bell ringers are volunteers.

"A day which will live in infamy", Pearl Harbor Day on December 7 hosted a hearty crew of about 50 at the Plymouth Memorial Park with MC Krista McKinley leading the way. Chili at the VFW lounge followed the ceremony.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday January 12 at 7:00PM. See you there. It's a great time to be an American, a Veteran and a member of Chapter 528.

Until Valhalla to all who have gone before us.



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



Pearl Harbor Ceremony December 7, 2025  
*Photo courtesy of Judy Thomason*



Pearl Harbor Ceremony December 7, 2025  
*Photo courtesy of Cathy-Bry-Rotta*



Children's Christmas Party  
*Photo courtesy of Lisa-Heraghty*



## Odds & Ends

### Membership

There were 2 applications for membership this past month. Harry Adamczak, Army, and David Demarest, Navy, have joined the chapter. Welcome Harry and Dave, to chapter 528. Our current membership stands at 311 VVA and 83 AVVA members. Of these, we have 80 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of December 22, 2025, the following individuals have not renewed their membership: none

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, or better yet, consider renewing to a life membership.

### Pearl Harbor Day

The Pearl Harbor Day ceremony was on Sunday this year, but we still had a very nice crowd despite the cold, windy weather and some snow on the ground. After the brief ceremony, we headed to the VFW for hot bowls of chili to warm us up.

### 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.

### Plymouth Ice Festival

The chapter will again be working in the E.G. Nicks beer tent at the Plymouth Ice Sculpture festival on Friday, January 31, and Saturday, February 1. A sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting.

## VFW

We will again be hosting our annual Super Bowl party at the post on Sunday, February 8. It is open to all. Bring a dish of your favorite edibles to share with others.



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



### IN-COUNTRY



### THE 24-HOUR CHRISTMAS CEASE-FIRE.

*Courtesy of Jim Hodgson*



Bob Dew is delivering needy boots to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital personnel.

*Photo courtesy of John Fleming*



## Chaplain's Corner

### Small Beginnings

From Our Daily Bread  
By Kristen Homberg



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



In 1848, engineer Charles Ellet Jr. puzzled over how to begin the process of constructing the first bridge over the Niagara Falls gorge. How would they get a cable across the river? Prompted by a dream, Charles decided to host a kite-flying contest. American teenager Homan Walsh won five dollars when his kite landed on the American side of the river. Homan's kite was secured to a tree and used to pull a light cord back across the river, then progressively heavier cords until a heavy wire cable was in place. This was the small beginning of the construction of the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge. The bridge's challenges and inauspicious beginnings mirror those faced by those working to rebuild God's temple after returning from captivity in Babylon. An angel wakened the prophet Zechariah with a message that nothing would thwart God's work...it would all be accomplished "by His Spirit". Some of those who'd seen the temple in its previous glory were fearful that the rebuilt version would pale in comparison (Ezra 3:12). The angel encouraged Zechariah that they shouldn't "despise the day of small things" because God would "rejoice" in seeing the work begun!

Even though the tasks God has appointed to us may seem insignificant, we can be encouraged knowing He uses small things - like kite strings - to accomplish His great works.

**Chaplain's Corner:** I have checked up on Skip. He was very happy to hear from me. We all love Skip, even though we haven't seen him recently. So how about picking up the phone and checking in with him? His cell is (248) 830-4386! Same with Mike Steffes. I am thankful that several of our guys check in with him. Please pray that he will possibly get out of the Optalis Health & Rehabilitation on North Lilley Road and finally get back home to his loved ones. Once again, his cell number is (734)394-3142. I will be gone from January 10th to February 11th, as Karen and I will be heading down to warm settings!

Merry Christmas to all of you at VVA 528! Love you guys!



Terry Wells and Ron King kicking off the  
Salvation Army Bell Ringing for the VVA.  
*Photo courtesy of John Fleming*

COME JOIN US

SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2026

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judythomason@gmail.com

## Christmas Activity Wrap-up

### 20th Annual 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 select those items. Bob Dew, Tom Fedewa, 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 \$14,300.

We used 1545 in Kohl's Cash and 227 in Rewards to purchase boots for the residents at the VA Ann Arbor Hospital, and Bob Dew delivered them. As always, a special thank you to Lisa and her wonderful staff at Kohl's!!!!

### Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Thank you to all of the members who came out on Saturday, December 6, to the Holiday Market in Canton. The result of our efforts on that Saturday was \$917.06.

### Needy Veteran and Salvation Army Food Drives

Darrell Bazman was able to purchase 80 hams for these drives at Meijer's. His contact was the Meat Manager, Jerry, who was helpful not only in purchasing the hams but also the turkeys that were delivered to Downriver Veterans for Thanksgiving.

The hams were delivered to the Salvation Army by Darrell Bazman and Bob Dew, so they could store them in the freezer until December 18th. The potatoes were ordered and then picked up on the 17th and delivered to the Salvation Army by Bryan Bentley. On the 18th of December, Darrell Bazman, Bob Dew, Ron Little, and Pete Glasgow arrived at the Salvation Army to assist in the delivery of pre-packaged Food and one frozen Ham and potatoes to each of the pre-vetted individuals in need of assistance. We started at 1:00 pm and completed around 3:45 pm.

Bob Dew and Darrell also delivered 20 hams to needy veterans and others in the area.

We had approximately \$1200 in Kohl's cash that was used to purchase 13 pairs of winter boots, which the VA Veteran Services group indicated they were in desperate need of, so they could supply patients. Bob delivered the boots to the VA in Ann Arbor on Wednesday, December 17th. They were very appreciative and thanked our Chapter for everything we have done in the past and on this day.

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

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



John Fleming, Raeda Dabaja, Bob Dew, and Tom Fedewa

*Photos courtesy of John Fleming*



John Fleming and Bob Dew delivering coats and clothing to Judy Berna of Veterans Haven.



John Fleming, Bob Dew, and Tom Fedewa delivering clothing to Raeda Dabaja of Michigan Veterans Foundation.



John Fleming  
92nd Finance Section  
Cam Ranh Bay





# January 2026



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

## 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, Mike Potochick, Phil Pursell, Donald Rauch, John Sliwa, Eugene Spurgess, Mike Steffes, Joseph Tebor, Donald Tulley, Susie Wagner, Dennis Waling, John Wallace, Edward Vitez, Walter Weber, Dale Worcester, George Zathey.



### Chapter Officers

|                    |                 |              |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President          | Bob Dew         | 734-968-3267 |
| 1st Vice President | Ron King        | 734-679-6424 |
| 2nd Vice President | Joe Tebor       | 734-377-8329 |
| Secretary          | Dennis Bielskis | 248-767-1654 |
| Treasurer          | John Fleming    | 734-421-0149 |

### Board of Directors

|                |              |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Don Petreere   | 734-595-1422 | Don Dignan     | 734-377-5337 |
| Al Sneath      | 734-377-5337 | Rick Adis      | 734-737-9077 |
| Jerry Thomason | 734-895-5257 | Gary Estermyer | 313-283-6943 |
| Tom Fedewa     | 734-404-6598 | Darrell Bazman | 734-207-3197 |

### 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   | 734-416-5159 |
| Chaplain            | Rich Whipple  | 734-751-2992 |
| Chapter Historian   | Dave Banks    | 734-765-2145 |
| Fundraising         | Bob Dew       | 734-421-1805 |
| 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 |
|                       | Rick Demeester | 248-486-9981 |
| Product Sales         |                |              |
| 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, photos, and our calendar must be submitted by the **25th of each month** to be considered for publication. Please send your materials to **Tom Brown**, 17730 Snow Ave, Dearborn, MI 48124, or email them to **tombrown1949@gmail.com**. Unless otherwise noted, all published materials become the property of **VVA Chapter 528** and may not be reprinted without the Chapter's permission. The Chapter reserves the right to edit submissions for space. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Chapter, the editors, or the National VVA.

**Chapter 528 Website:** [www.vva528.org](http://www.vva528.org)

**Chapter 528 Travel Site** [www.travelvva528.com](http://www.travelvva528.com)

**Advertising Rates:** 1 year \$60; 6 mos. \$45; 1 issue \$15

### Our Service Photos

VVA Chapter 528 currently displays 168 service photos of VVA members and 3 of AVVA members on our website and in the display case at the Post. We're confident that most members have a service photo somewhere, and we encourage you to share yours if you haven't already. You can submit your photo by mailing it to Tom Brown at 17730 Snow Ave., Dearborn, MI 48124; scanning and emailing it (in JPG or JPEG format) to [tombrown1949@gmail.com](mailto:tombrown1949@gmail.com); texting it to 313-320-5775; or bringing it to a general membership meeting and giving it to Jim Hodgson or Ron King. Please be sure to include your name, branch of service, and the year the photo was taken. Once received, Don Petreere will add a copy of your photo to the display case to honor your service.



**Tom Brown, Editor/Publisher**  
**2nd Missile Battalion**  
**44th Artillery Pershing**  
**Ft. Sill, OK 1st year**  
**HHD III Corps**  
**Ft. Sill, OK 2nd year**



### National Convention Delegates

John Heraghty  
 Bob Dew  
 Ron King  
 Mike Kelly  
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 Al Dorey  
 Bob Lamoureux

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# Chapter 528 Homefront



January 2026



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

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