



Our new sign!

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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
 Pete Glasgow - Article & Photos
 Cathy Bray Rotta - Photos
 Mikey Smith - Photo
 Jim Hodgson - Cartoons

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

**“Never Again Will One Generation of
Veterans Abandon Another”**

President's Corner

A quarter of the year has already flown by—perhaps because we're getting older, or maybe the weather keeps playing tricks on us, making the days seem to slip away. Either way, spring is just around the corner... I'm just not sure which corner!

Several of our members have been helping out at the VFW Fish Fries, and it's been a record-setting year—great job to everyone involved. Also, don't forget that **Tax Day is April 15.**

Planning is already underway for the **Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026.** We hope to see as many members as possible join us for the walk down Main Street. For those who prefer not to walk, two trucks will be available. And as always in Michigan, the weather could be warm... or not!

On the sports front, it's looking promising for Michigan in March Madness. There's even a chance we could see an all-Michigan championship game, with both Michigan and Michigan State facing off in the finals. Looking forward to a great spring ahead!



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 at 7:00PM until this Spring's Car Shows start in May.

Pinochle will continue on Monday through March 30, switching back to Friday at 2:00PM on April 6.

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

Lenten Fish Fries will conclude on Friday April 3. We have been having another good year.

St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner was a complete success with 350 diners served.

April 25 will feature a Night at the Races.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday April 13 at 7:00PM. This is the Annual Election meeting. We must have a minimum of 15% of our total membership to hold our election. Please make every effort to be there. 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



Volunteers at our Fish Fry on March 6, 2026
Photo courtesy of Cathy Bray Rotta



VFW Fish Fry on March 6, 2026
Photo courtesy of Cathy Brya Rotta



The above photo is from The North Wall
See article about The North Wall on page 5



Odds & Ends

Chapter Elections

The following members have accepted nominations for the chapter office.

President	Ron King
1st Vice President	Bob Dew
	Joe Tebor
2nd Vice President	Rick Waling
Secretary	Dennis Bielskis
Treasurer	John Fleming
Board Member (4) (2-year term)	Don Dignan
	Darrell Bazman
	Gary Estermyer
	Leo Ksiazek
	Rick Adis
State Council Delegate	open
Alt State Council Delegate	Pete Glasgow
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 desire.

Note: Per our 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

There were no new applications for membership this past month. Our current membership stands at 309 individual and 83 associate members. Of these, we have 80 AVVA life members.

Lapsed Members: As of March 25, 2026, 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 problem with the fish (Pacific instead of Atlantic cod) the first 2 nights, but since that time, we have done very well. For the first 5 weeks, we have averaged 320 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.

Sign

You can't miss the new sign in front of the building. It's bright, modern, and very functional, and right at the top under VFW 6695, it says "Home of VVA Chapter 528." The post is very thankful to the VVA for paying for the sign, which substantially enhances the building's eye appeal.

A Night at the Races

On Saturday, April 25, there will be a night of entertainment at the VFW, with actual horse races 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 start at 5:00. Make plans now to attend.



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





Chaplain's Corner

Jesus Christ, Our Substitute
From Our Daily Bread

By John Blasé

As the US Civil War (1861-65) dragged on, both sides resorted to conscription (the draft) to fill their ranks. Under the Confederate law, a draftee could dodge service by hiring a man who was exempt from the draft to replace him - in most cases, someone under or over the conscription age. Generally, the "principal" (as one evading the draft was called) paid a fee to the government as well as a large sum to his substitute. Only the wealthy could afford substitutes. The apostle Paul writes of the cosmic spiritual war, where "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (ROMANS 3:23) and "the wages of sin is death" (ROMANS 6:23). There was no clause or loophole that gave those with "means" some way out. But what about a substitute for us all? The writer to the Hebrews praises God, who in His infinite mercy sent Jesus to be our substitute - to bear the punishment our sin deserved, to pay our debt by sacrificing "the body of Jesus Christ once for all" so that we would be "made holy" through His substitutionary sacrifice (HEBREWS 10:10). We have "died with Christ" and one day "we will also live with him" (ROMANS 6:8). That's the good news right there. Christ died for you and for me; the substitute took our place. We're now more than simply survivors of the war. We've become the sons and daughters of God.

Chaplain's Corner: Mike Steffes has been at Optalis Health & Rehabilitation of Canton for over a year now! Let's catch up with Mike, either by phone or in person. His cell number is 734-394-3199. He would love to hear from you guys! Jim Tillman has prostate cancer but is doing well. Jim's cell is 734-354-6918. We certainly are getting older! If one of our guys is not doing well, please let me know! See you at our next meeting!



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-COUNTRY



MAIL CALL...HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY!

Courtesy of Jim Hodgson



Saint Patrick's Day Dinner March 17, 2026

Bottom L-R Bob Monteith and Denny Donohue
Top L-R Mikey Smith, Drew Koet, Jim Jury and Dave Wegmann

Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith



The North Wall is a monument located on the south shore of the Detroit River in Windsor, Ontario. It commemorates the Canadians who volunteered to serve in the United States military and lost their lives in the Vietnam War. The short documentary *The North Wall: Meanings of a Monument* aims to spark discussion about the monument thirty years after its construction and fifty years after the end of the Vietnam War. This reflection is especially timely in the context of evolving Canada-U.S. relations and Canadian foreign policy in the 2020s. Approximately 30,000 Canadians volunteered to serve in the U.S. military during the war, and an estimated 134 to 150 Canadians lost their lives while doing so. The North Wall - Meanings of a Monument was independently produced. Donations to help cover costs are gratefully accepted at: gofundme.com/f/the-north-wall-video.



July 3, 2011 - the 16th anniversary of The North Wall
Article and photos courtesy of Pete Glasgow

IN-COUNTRY



EXCHANGING "GREETINGS" AT THE PLANE!

Courtesy of Jim Hodgson



The North Wall Chapter 582 Color Guard July 6, 2008
Photo courtesy of Pete Glasgow



The North Wall July 3, 2011
Photo courtesy of Pete Glasgow



April 2026



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



April Birthdays

Carl Andersen, Ralph Auge, Michael Barnowski, Thomas Crozier, Norris Cutler, Richard Demeester, Henry Eichner, David Endyke, Gerald Grzesik, Michael Hughes, Glen Jewell, Larry Jones, Robert Leshan, John Lindsay, 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**



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 Petrere	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
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, 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.

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 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; 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 Petrere 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



Election Committee

Bob Bryan
 Al Dorey
 Bob Lamoureux

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Chapter 528 Homefront



April 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

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