



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



"Celebrating the New Year at the Post, 2026."

Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith

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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
 John Fleming - Article and photos
 Judy Thomason - Soups & Salads, Photo
 Mikey Smith - Photos
 Cathy-Bry-Rotta - Photo
 Lisa-Heraghty - Photo
 Jim Hodgson - Photo & Cartoon

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

Welcome Home!

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

We finished up the month with the Plymouth ICE Festival on Friday, January 30, and Saturday, January 31. Thank you to all the volunteers. February marks the start of the nomination process for officers, so if you would like to take a more active role in the operation of our chapter, put your name in for a position. You can add your name to any position or ask someone to nominate you for a position. It is always good to get new officers into positions, giving us their valuable input. Nominations will continue in March and April, before the elections. Hard to believe, but we are already into the second month of 2026.



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





Digger's Desk



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



LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre is now on Wednesday at 7:00PM until this Spring's Car Shows.

Pinochle continues every Friday afternoon at 2:00PM until Lenten Fridays, when switching to Mondays.

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 Soup and salad was a huge success. Thanks to Judy Thomason and soup Chefs for their time/effort.

Our Super Bowl party is scheduled for Sunday February 8. Bring down a dish to pass and enjoy the game. Additional squares will be available.

The Famous VFW Post 6695 Annual Chili Cookoff is on tap for Saturday February 14 at 5:00PM. Some cash prizes will be awarded to the top-voted recipes. Come on down for a sample of all the masterpiece concoctions. Better yet, muster up your best chili recipe and enter the contest. Fun time.

Lenten Fish Fries will begin on Friday February 20. THE BEST YOU CAN FIND ANYWHERE.

During the Friday Fish Fries, Pinochle will switch to Monday at 2:00PM beginning on February 16.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday February 9 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.



Mikey and Dorcas are celebrating New Year's at the Post 2026.

Photo courtesy of Mikey Smith



Long-Binh-RVN

Photo courtesy of Jim Hodgson



Odds & Ends

Membership

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of 3 longtime members. Richard Corrow left us in September, and Tom McMullen and Rodney Tanner in January. They will be missed, especially Tom, who was very active in the VVA and VFW. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

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

Lapsed Members: As of January 25, 2026, the following individuals have not renewed their AVVA membership: none

Dropped from Roster: none

February 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.

Chapter Elections

Nominations for office will begin at the February meeting and continue in March and before the elections in April. If you wish to run for office, have a fellow member nominate you, or you can nominate yourself. We will be electing president, 1st vp, 2nd vp, secretary, treasurer, board members (4), and the election committee (3). This is an even-numbered year, so we will also be electing state council representatives. In addition, the AVVA will also elect a representative to the state council. The chapter is always looking for members with fresh ideas to run for office, so consider stepping up to the plate and putting your name on the ballot.

Chili Cook-Off

The VFW Auxiliary will host a chili cook-off on Saturday, February 14, starting at 5:00. Prizes will be awarded for the best chili, along with basket raffles and a 50/50 drawing. If you are interested in bringing a pot of your favorite chili, contact Ruth Lamoureux

at 734-397-8389 or rlamoureux@wowway.com. (see flyer in the newsletter)

Super Bowl

Don't forget about the Super Bowl party at the post on February 8. Come early to get a good seat and bring a dish to pass to share with your friends. We usually get 50-70 people attending, but we have room for many more with the game shown on 6 tv's.

VFW Fish Fry

Fish Frys will start on February 20 and run through April 3. There was a planning meeting on January 19 to make necessary preparations. We have a lot of volunteers who have already signed up, but more are needed. Contact Bob Lamoureux if you can assist. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the post, so it's important to make it a success.



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



In Memoriam



Rodney Tanner

1951 - 2026

Served in the Army from
February 1971 to April 1972



Chaplain's Corner

Christmas Presence
From Our Daily Bread
By James Banks

"No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in." Those words from Phillips Brooks' much-loved hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" point to the very heart of Christmas. Jesus came into our broken world to rescue us from our sin and give all who would put their faith in Him a new and vital relationship with God.

In a letter to a friend decades after he wrote the hymn, Brooks poignantly described the outcome of this relationship in his own life: "I cannot tell you how personal this grows to me. He is here. He knows me, and I know Him. It is no figure of speech. It is the real thing in the world, and every day makes it more real. And one wonders with delight what it will grow to as the years go on."

Brooks' calm assurance of God's presence in his life reflects one of the names of Jesus prophesied by Isaiah: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The gospel of Matthew gives us the meaning of the Hebrew name Immanuel: "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

God drew near to us through Jesus so we could know Him personally and be with Him forever. His loving presence with us is the greatest gift of all.

Loving God, thank You for giving Yourself to me through Your life on earth, death on the cross, and resurrection. Please help me to live for You today and forever!

Chaplain's Corner: Mike Steffes is still at Optalis Health in Canton. He is doing well, but he can't come home at this time. His cell number is 734-394-3142.



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 Memoriam



Capt. Tom R. McMullen

MAY 14, 1947 – JANUARY 9, 2026

Capt. Thomas R. McMullen, 78, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on January 9, 2026. He was born on May 14, 1947, in Bad Axe, MI, to James and Maxine McMullen, who preceded him in death. Tom joined the U.S. Navy in 1967 and went into the submarine service, serving on both ballistic missile subs and fast attack (hunter-killer) subs until 1972.

On March 27, 1981, Tom married the love of his life, Susan Cortese. Together they raised two sons, building a life around shared values, love, family, and adventure.

Following his military service, Tom continued a distinguished career at sea as a Merchant Marine officer, retiring as a captain, a profession that suited his lifelong connection to the water and his strong work ethic. Thomas Tom was involved in the maritime community and veteran organizations. He was a proud member of VFW Post 6695 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, both of Plymouth. He was also a longtime member of ISMA Lodge No. 7 for 46 years, serving in various capacities. In 2011 he served as Grand President of the Grand Lodge, where he served as a former Grand President, an honor that reflected the respect he earned from his peers.

An avid traveler, Tom loved exploring the world with his family. He especially enjoyed trips to Russia, visiting all 50 states, the American West, national parks, and especially the Florida Keys, where he spent time fishing, diving, and operating charter boats until he graduated from Key West High School.

When not traveling, he could often be found on the golf course, enjoying the game he loved. Tom was an avid reader who enjoyed history, philosophy, and spirituality. He also had fun playing with his grand-dogs, George and Henry.

Thomas will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Susan McMullen; his sons, Derek (Rebekah) McMullen and Jeffrey (fiancé Kara Andre) McMullen; his siblings, Mike (Hope) McMullen, David (Kellye) McMullen, and Joel McMullen; and his siblings-in-law, Patrick (Terry) Cortese, Michael Cortese, Linda (Dave) Williams, and Ralph (Maggie) Cortese. adventurous spirit. His legacy of honor, commitment, and kindness will live on for all who knew him.



February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 AUX MEET 6:30	4 EUCHRE 7	5	6 PINOCHLE 2	7
8 SUPERBOWL PARTY	9 VVA MEET 7	10 VFW MEET 7	11 EUCHRE 7	12	13 PINOCHLE 2	14 CHILI COOK OFF 5-7
15	16 PINOCHLE 2	17 HOUSE COMM MEET 7	18 EUCHRE 7 ASH WED	19	20 FISH FRY	21
22	23 PINOCHLE 2	24 VVA BOARD MEET 7	25 EUCHRE 7	26	27 FISH FRY	28



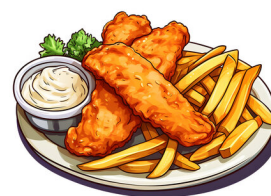
February Birthdays

Bruce Benyo, Tom Brown, Bob Bryan, Phillip Cabrerros, Thomas Dogonski, Larry Eichstadt, Tony Everett, Charles Fannin, Steve Frazer, Leroy Griffin, Mark Grzesiek, Paul Jagenow, Gary Koscielniak, Reginald Koziel, John Krueger, Dale Luebke, Kenneth Nelson, Harold "Bud" Pierce, Robert Rood, John Stern, Jerry Thomason, Ken Tregear, Thomas Trevarthen, Richard Waldecker, Lawrence Willenborg

**Calendar by
Nancy Dignan**



Judy and Jerry are celebrating at Post on New Year's 2026.



VFW FISH FRY

Feb 20 thru Apr. 3, 2026

FROM 4:30 – 7:00 P.M.

MENU

2 pc. CHILD/SENIOR	\$12.00
3 PC. FISH	\$14.00
4PC. FISH	\$15.00
6 PC. SHRIMP	\$14.00
WALLEYE	\$18.00
2PC. CHICKEN TENDERS	\$12.00
4PC. CHICKEN TENDERS	\$15.00

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE COLE SLAW AND DINNER ROLL
CHOICE OF FRENCH FRIES, BAKED POTATO, OR MAC & CHEESE

EXTRA SIDES

baked potato, mac & cheese, or fries	\$2.00 each
Assorted desserts	\$1.50

CASH ONLY

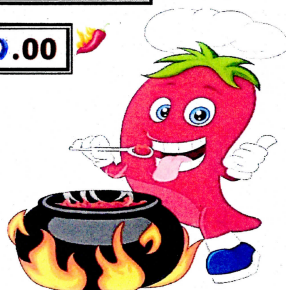
🔥 VFW Auxiliary Post 6695 🔥 🔥 CHILI COOK OFF 🔥

ONE OF THE HOTTEST EVENTS IN TOWN

🔥 **Saturday, February 14, 2026** 🔥

🔥 **5:00 PM- 7:00 PM** 🔥

🔥 **\$10.00** 🔥



Whether you want to
Cook & Compete...
1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes
or just want to Eat,
you're gonna have fun !!

Cash Bar.... Basket Raffles 50/50... Desserts

Come on Down and Join us!

VFW MAYFLOWER/LT.GAMBLE POST 6695
1426 MILL ST. PLYMOUTH, MI

Contact Ruth Lamoureux @ 734 756-4589

IN-COUNTRY



DON'T SWEAT THE VC.....**THE IG'S COMING!!**

Cartoon - courtesy of Jim Hodgson



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
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	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
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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 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
 Jim Tillman
 Rick Waling

Election Committee

Bob Bryan
 Al Dorey
 Bob Lamoureux

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Chapter 528 Homefront



February 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