



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Pastor Mike Panich and Ron King are giving out Poppies at the Holiday Market. *Photo courtesy of Ron King*

Index

President's Corner	1
Digger's Desk	2
MIA/POW	2
Odds & Ends	3
Chaplain's Corner	4
Calendar	5
Wayne County Fishing Derby	6
Committees	7
Ads	8
Membership Form	10

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
 Leroy Paige - MIA Update
 Tom Trestler - Photos
 Ron King - Photo
 Jim Hodgson - Cartoons

Distribution Staff

Jim Hodgson - Chief
 Ron King
 Dale Luebke

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

President's Corner

We had a good attendance in downtown Plymouth for the Memorial Day Parade, with the largest crowd I have seen in a few years at the memorial site. Thank you to the Yankee Air Force for the flyover, and all the attendees appreciated the plane and the several passes. After the closing ceremony, many went to the post for Coney Dogs. I hope everyone enjoyed the rest of their day and is looking forward to our next General Meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026. Looks like we have a WEEK OF GOOD WEATHER AHEAD. Thanks to all who attended the parade and those who prepared the Coney dogs at the post.



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





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre will continue on Thursday at 7:00PM until the Car Shows end in September.

Pinochle will continue on Friday at 2:00PM throughout the year.

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

April 25 was a huge success with Night at the Races.

May 7-9 were Poppy Days with Volunteers making it a successful weekend.

May 10-Mother's Day was beautiful as usual with our son treating his Mom, Mother-in-law and wife. I'm sure all Moms enjoyed the day. Don't forget Father's Day on June 21.

Car Shows have commenced and will continue every Wednesday throughout the summer.

As I write this, it is the eve of Memorial Day. The parade tomorrow should be huge in remembrance of those who gave all for their country.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday June 8 at 7:00PM. See you there. It's a great time to be an American, Veteran and a member of Chapter 528.

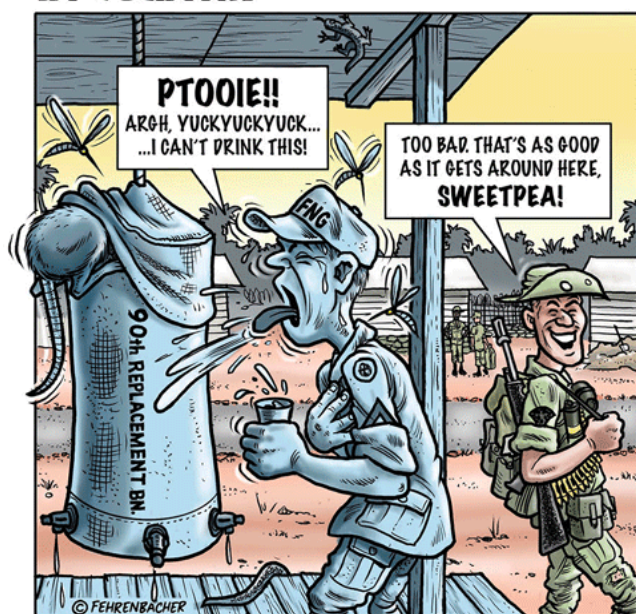
Until Valhalla to all who have gone before us.



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



IN-COUNTRY



LEARNING TO APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE!.....HAD!

Cartoon courtesy of Jim Hodgson

POW/MIA

MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three identifications and three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

Identifications:

- World War II Army Pfc. Joseph A. Rotarius
- World War II Army Air Forces Pfc. Stanley H. Kingman
- Korean War Army Pfc. Charles O. Killian

Updates:

- World War II Marine Corps Pfc. Edgar R. Norcross, New Hampshire
- World War II Navy Seaman 1st Class Paul E. Newton, Virginia
- World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Joseph L. Burke, New York



Leroy Paige
RVN 69-70
1st Signal Brigade





Odds & Ends

Membership

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 May 25, the following individuals have not renewed their membership: Larry Snowden, Lee Roy Griffin

Dropped from Roster: none

June AVVA Renewals: Betty Durham

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.

Car Shows

The weekly car shows started slowly again this year. The first week was cancelled due to the unseasonably cold weather, and the cooler weather kept many home the second week. As the temperature warms, we can get into the swing and attract big crowds. Hopefully, we won't get a repeat of last year when half of the shows were cancelled due to rain. Car shows run from 4:00 to 7:00 on Wednesdays throughout the summer.

Buddy Poppies

Poppies were distributed on 2 weekends in early May. Thanks to Jim and Karen Tillman for chairing this event and all the volunteers who gave of their time. Gene Spurgess and Frank Barkovich were the top fundraisers. All told, the post collected just over \$11,000 that goes into the relief fund, which is used to help needy veterans.

Memorial Day

The weather was quite pleasant as we made our way up Main Street for the annual Memorial Day parade. Civilian and military vehicles carried those unable to walk to the Veterans Park. A large crowd gathered for a dignified ceremony honoring those who have gone before us. We had two veterans in attendance who are both 100 years young. One served in WWII and the other in Korea. After the ceremony, those who went to the post for coney dogs were greeted by the Girl Scouts,

who gave a box of cookies to everyone. A very nice gesture.



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



Memorial Day Parade May 25, 2026
Photo courtesy of Tom Trestler

IN-COUNTRY



THE SECRET, IS HAVING THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB!!

Cartoon courtesy of Jim Hogdson



Chaplain's Corner

The Light of Life

Author - Kenneth Peterson
from Our Daily Bread

In 1905, a scruffy young man holed up in his apartment in Bern, Switzerland, engaging in complex thought experiments regarding the nature of the universe. With frenzied focus, the physicist worked and reworked his calculations. Four mind-crunching months later, this man had rewritten much of what was known about how the world works. The man was Albert Einstein. He was twenty-six.

Yet despite possessing a great scientific mind, Einstein said, "The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know."

The Bible frequently points to the majesty of God reflected in His creation: "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1), and Job also predated Einstein's words: "Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens" (Job 11:7-8).

But God's creation glory is even greater than the expanse of universes: "In the beginning was the Word...The Word became flesh" (John 1:1, 14). There are no mathematical calculations that can explain God's extraordinary act of entering humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. God is not just "out there" in a universe we cannot begin to know, but He's here alongside us, the Word among us, the light of life (John 1:4), whom we can know personally and intimately.

Dear God, thank You for the majesty of Your creation and Your Son Jesus Christ, who has delivered me into a new life.

Chaplains' Corner: Once again, **Mike Steffes** remains at Optalis Health & Rehabilitation. His cell phone number is 734-394-3199. Mike served as our president for two years, so please take a moment to call or check in on him, brothers. Your support and encouragement would mean a great deal.

Prayers are also requested for long-time member **Dale Luebke**, who tragically lost his home and all of its contents in a fire this past week. He and one of his roommates survived, but tragically, another roommate lost their life in the fire.

Please keep Dale in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.



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



Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony 2026



Memorial Day Parade May 25, 2026

Photos courtesy of Tom Trestler



June 2026



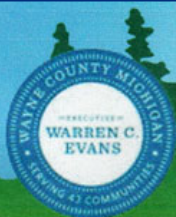
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 GOLF	2 AUX MEET 6:30	3 CAR SHOW 4	4 EUCHRE 7	5 PINOCHLE 2	6
7	8 GOLF VVA MEET 7	9 VFW MEET 7	10 CAR SHOW 4	11 EUCHRE 7	12 PINOCHLE 2	13
14 FLAG DAY	15 GOLF	16 HOUSE COMM 7	17 CAR SHOW 4	18 EUCHRE 7	19 PINOCHLE 2	20
21 FATHERS DAY	22 GOLF	23 VVA BOARD 7	24 CAR SHOW 4	25 EUCHRE 7	26 PINOCHLE 2	27
28	29 GOLF	30				



**Calendar by
Nancy Dignan**

June Birthdays

David Banks, John Bertorello, Daniel Burns, Thomas Carey, Gary Estermyer, Dennis Fago, Robert Garrett, Harold Hachigian, James Harmount, Bill Kazaleh, Charles Kovalik, Dina Martin, Jack Massarello, Don McLane, Zoltan Nagy, William Power, Rose Mary Rabine, Bruce Reynolds, Gregory Rowe, Richard Sander, Mark Shemanski, Arther Stanley, Jared Thomas, Judy Thomason, Chris Timco, Casmer Zarosley, and Daniel Zedan



Wayne County Parks
proudly presents



29th Annual Fishing Derby

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Waterford Bend Park

8:00 – 11:00 am

- The Middle Rouge River will be stocked with 10"- 12" rainbow trout. Prizes will be given away in a variety of categories. Three fish will be tagged for prizes.
- All anglers need to bring their own equipment and bait.
- There is a three fish limit.
- Pre-registration is NOT required.
- No fishing license is required for this event.
- A casting contest will be taking place throughout the event in the field across from the playscape.



*Sponsored in cooperation
with Northville Parks
and Recreation,
Cabela's, Eppinger
Manufacturing and
Vietnam Veterans
of America
Plymouth/Canton
Chapter 528*



Waterford Bend Park
is located on the
corner of Six Mile and
Northville Roads in
Northville.

Schedule of Events

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 7:30 – 8:00 am | Registration on site |
| 8:00 – 10:00 am | Children 12 years old and younger can fish and participate in the casting contest |
| 10:00 am | Fishing for all ages |
| 10:30 am | Presentation of prizes to children |



For more info, call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com

Follow Wayne County Parks on Facebook and Twitter!





Chapter 528 Homefront

June 2026



Chapter Officers

President	Bob Dew	734-968-3267
1st Vice President	Joe Tebor	734-377-8329
2nd Vice President	Rick Waling	425-591-6153
Secretary	Harley Waling	734-837-6704
Treasurer	John Fleming	734-421-0149

Board of Directors

Don Petrere	734-595-1422	Don Dignan	734-377-5337
Al Sneath	734-377-5337	Leo Ksiazek	734-464-2870
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	734-421-18
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	Rick Waling	425-591-6153
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 168 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. When you find your photo, you can either mail it to Tom Brown @ 17730 Snow Ave. Dearborn, MI 48124, scan it and send it to: tombrown1949@gmail.com as a jpg or jpeg, send a text message to my phone 313-320-5775, or bring it to our general membership meetings, and give it to Jim Hodgson or Ron King. 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



Election Committee

Bob Bryan
 Al Dorey
 Bob Lamoureux

National Leadership Conference

John Heraghty
 Al Sneath
 Rick Waling
 Bob Dew

ASI
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
American
Recognition Association

- 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

Insured

SUNRISE
TREE SERVICE
INCORPORATED

Specializing in:
Trimming & Pruning
Tree, Shrub & Stump Removal

Harry Yaremchuk
(734) 522-6215

Free Estimates



Main Street Auto Wash
"the freshwater wash"

1191 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Phil Pursell
(734) 455-9685

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

ASI
MEMBER

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

Frank S. Barkovich
Accounting & Tax Service

- * Individual / Business Taxes
- * Business Coaching
- * Small Business Specialists
- * Veteran Owned

P.O. 871831
Canton, MI 48187-7531

734-748-5168
frabar2136@gmail.co

DART PATRIOT SUPPLY
FAITH ★ FAMILY ★ FREEDOM
VETERAN OWNED AND OPERATED
ANTHONY AND KELLY COLLINS
734-404-5886

470 FOREST AVE. • SUITE #17 • PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
Thebrass@dartpatriotsupply.com • www.dartpatriotsupply.com



Chapter 528 Homefront



June 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

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