



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



VFW July 4th Chicken Dinner Volunteers:
Mike Cloar, Ron King, Drew Koen, Bob
Dew, Bob Bryan, Al Sneath, John Spencer,
and Mike Schlott. Missing from the photo
are John McClure and Don Dignan.

Photo courtesy of Ron King

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Tom Brown - Publisher & Editor
 Don Dignan - Editor & Columnist
 Bob Dew - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Ron King - Photo
 Jim Hodgson - Cartoons
 Cathy Brya-Rotta - Photos & Flyer

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Jim Hodgson - Chief
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Welcome Home!

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

President's Corner

As of now, August looks like it will be a relaxing month with vacations and a time to relax for a busy September. Make sure you take time to review The Veteran magazine. It is nearing the end of its larger size and will be downsizing soon. The articles are important information on what is happening within the Organization, including Details on the planning for our future. There soon will be a "question and answer" paper coming out that I will forward to all members for your review. The questions were submitted by the national Board of Directors with answers provided by the committee developing the plan. I hope it will be available before the Leadership Session in early August. Once you read and digest the proposed plan along with the Q & A paper, please send me any concerns and questions so they can be forwarded for further discussion with the National Planning Committee. Just remember we are in a planning stage which will be proposed to the 2027 National Convention for final approval. It is designed to keep VVA alive with new generation Veterans continuing the fight to **"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."** We maintain communication pressure with Congress concerning benefits.



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





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

Art in the Park was a busy endeavor as we managed to cover all scheduled times in the parking lot behind E.G. Nick's. Don't have the bottom line tally but it should be a decent amount.

The Nation's 250th birthday on July 4th was a great turnout for the parade as people were 3 deep in some spots and very patriotically enthusiastic. The BBQ Chicken Dinner was a disaster as power was out at the Post. We did manage to sell the half chickens, recouping part of the cost. Cole slaw was spoiled and the potatoes were not cooked because there was no light in the kitchen. Sometimes, if you have any luck, it turns out to be bad.

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

The annual BBQ rib dinner and Fall Fest will prompt the need for many volunteers so, when publicized, step up and lend a hand.

The next general membership meeting will be on Monday August 10 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.



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



Flyer, courtesy of Cathy Brya-Rotta



Photo courtesy of Cathy Brya-Rotta





Odds & Ends

Membership

Sadly, we have lost another member and one of our associates. I recently found out Dennis Aten died in 2019 while living in Florida. Member Raymond Thomas informed me that his son, AVVA member Jared Thomas, passed away in January. Jared's mother, Alice, is also an AVVA life member. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families. We would also like to pass on our condolences to Dennis and Rick Waling on the passing of their 103-year-old mother, Mary.

We did have 1 application for membership this month. William Martin has joined the chapter. Welcome Bill to Chapter 528.

Our current membership stands at 305 VVA and 79 AVVA members. Of these, we have 78 life AVVA members.

Lapsed Members: As of July 25, 2026, the following individuals have not renewed their AVVA membership: Leroy Griffin, Larry Snowden

Dropped from Roster: none

August 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.

Post HVACs

As many of you know, a DTE power surge knocked out 2 of the HVAC units at the post in June. These are in the lounge and kitchen. Thankfully, the third unit in the hall was not damaged. We continue to have hall rentals and are using fans to blow cool air into the lounge and kitchen. Both units are beyond repair and need to be replaced. Dealing with the insurance company has been moving at a snail's pace but a recent conversation with them indicates a positive outcome could come before the newsletter comes out. Stay tuned.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival doesn't take place till September 11-13, but it is not too early to start planning. We will

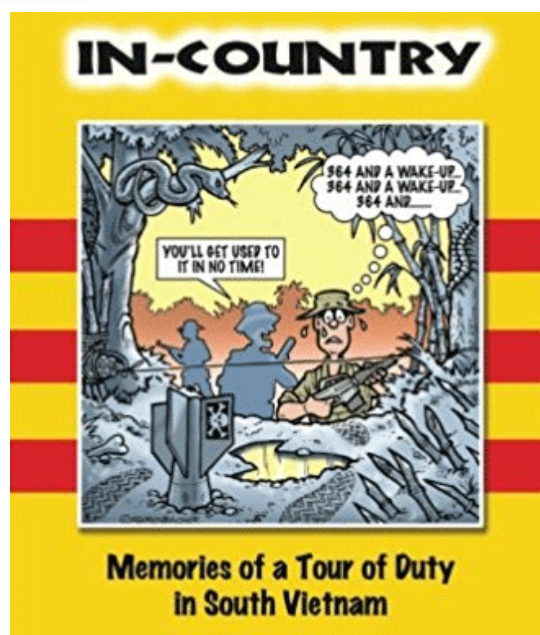
be collecting entrance fees to the parking lot behind E.G. Nicks all 3 days of the festival, manning the entrance to the beer tent on Friday and Saturday night, preparing and selling rib dinners at the beer tent on Saturday, and AVVA member Dave Henwood is in charge of the classic car show on Saturday and Sunday. Lots of help will be needed, so plan on volunteering for a few hours to help with these worthwhile activities. They bring in a great deal of revenue to both the VVA and the VFW.

VFW Golf Outing

This year's golf outing is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 at Hickory Creek. Check-in at 8:30 with a 9:30 shotgun start. Cost is \$85 per person. A flyer and sign-up sheet will be out at the beginning of August. I am looking for donations of new golf balls and other items to be given out in the golfers' goody bags. This will help defray the cost of putting on the outing. Please bring them to the chapter meeting, Monday golf, or drop them at the post.



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



Courtesy of Jim Hodgson



Chaplain's Corner

God's Compass

By Marvin Williams
from Our Daily Bread

During World War II, Waldemar Semenov was serving as a junior engineer aboard the SS Alcoa Guide when nearly three hundred miles off the coast of North Carolina a German submarine surfaced and open fire on the ship. The ship was hit, caught fire, and began to sink. Semenov and his crew lowered a lifeboat into the water and used the vessel's compass to sail toward the shipping lanes. After three days, a patrol plane spotted their lifeboat and the USS Broome rescued the men the next day. Thanks to the compass, Semenov and twenty-six crew members were saved.

The psalmist reminded God's people that they were equipped with a compass for life, the Bible. He compared Scripture to "a lamp" that provides light to illuminate the path of life for those pursuing God. When the psalmist was adrift in the chaotic waters of life, he knew God could use Scripture to provide spiritual longitude and latitude and help him survive. Thus, he prayed that God would send out His light to direct him in life and bring him safely to the port of His holy presence (Psalm 43:3).

As believers in Jesus, when we lose our way, God can guide us by the Holy Spirit and by the direction found in the Scriptures. May God transform our hearts and minds as we read the Bible, study it, and follow its wisdom!

Chaplain's' Corner: Mike Steffes was scheduled to go home from Optalis Health & Rehabilitation on July 27th. Hopefully, when you get this newsletter, he will be at home! His cell phone is 734-394-3199. Please give him a call and check in on him, brothers! Bob Hallmark is home after a heart attack and rehab. Bobby Somerville is in a nursing home and not doing well. I haven't been able to get an update on Bobby. Prayers to the families of Dennis Aten and Jared Thomas.



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

Dennis Aten

1950 - 2019

Army August 68 - August 71

In Memoriam

AVVA Jared Thomas

1975-2026

IN-COUNTRY



GETTING ACCLIMATED? NO SWEAT, GI!

IN-COUNTRY



REALIZING THE "THRILL" OF COMMAND!



August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 GOLF	4 AUX MEET 6:30	5	6 EUCHRE 7	7 PINOCHLE 2	8
9	10 GOLF VVA MEEY 7	11 VFW MEET 7	12	13 EUCHRE 7	14 PINOCHLE 2	15
16	17 GOLF	18 HOUSE COMM MEET 7	19	20 EUCHRE 7	21 PINOCHLE 2	22
23	24 GOLF	25 VVA BOARD MEET 7	26	27 EUCHRE 7	28 PINOCHLE 2	29
31						



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan

August Birthdays

Harry Adamczak, Joe Agius, Frank Barkovich, Dennis Bielskis, Patty Bielskis, William Brown, Bob Carris, John Ciuffetelli, Kevin Demsky, Nancy Dignan, Chester Doak, Wayne Duering, Michael Dupuis, Richard Gebstadt, Darrel (Tom) Gibson, Bob Hallmark, Peter Horning, John Kish, Michael Kokoszka, Marcel Loosbrock, Brenda Menendez, Linda Mentink, Cindy Northrop, Robert Ostendorf, LeRoy Paige, Donald Rachoza, Raymond Pasquantonio, Dennis Ridolfi, Clinton (Russ) Sanford, Mikey Smith, Cass Swamba, and John Vincenti



The 528 Homefront

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

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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

August 2026



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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

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The 528 Homefront

Vietnam Veterans of America



August 2026



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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