



VVA Chapter 528

Plymouth-Canton, MI

1426 Mill St. Plymouth, MI 48170



Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion

Photo courtesy of Bob Lamoureux

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 Bob Dew - President & Columnist
 Bob Lamoureux - Membership & Columnist
 Rich Whipple - Chaplain & Columnist
 Nancy Dignan - Calendar
 Jim Hodgson - Cartoons
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Welcome Home!

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

President's Corner

A very busy September now gives way to a more relaxed October. With cooler weather arriving, it is a great time to begin planning activities and events for the remainder of 2026 and into 2027.

I am sure everyone noticed that we did not have a birthday cake for either the U.S. Air Force or our Chapter at the September meeting. If anyone would like to volunteer to pick up a half-sheet birthday cake for an upcoming meeting, please let me know. Both Costco and Sam's Club offer cakes of that size and can decorate them appropriately. Our October birthday celebration honors the U.S. Navy on its 251st birthday. We also need volunteers to provide cakes for our November and December meetings. Please keep your receipt and submit it to our Treasurer for reimbursement. I will have final participation and fundraising numbers from all of our Fall Festival activities available at the October General Meeting. Thank you to all of our volunteers who generously gave their time to support our Chapter and make these events successful.

I am looking forward to October and am working on plans for a “Dinner and a Movie” event later in the month. I hope many of you will be able to join us.



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





Digger's Desk

LOUNGE & AREA EVENTS

Euchre has added a night and will be played on Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:00PM.

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

The Car Shows finished on September 2. A successful year was completed with less rainouts.

The annual BBQ rib dinner and Fall Fest called for many volunteers so, when publicized, we managed to fill most of the slots. Bob Dew will present a financial wrap-up of events.

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

The annual casserole dinner will be on Saturday October 10 at 5:00PM. Come and sample from an assortment of members' family recipes.

November will feature the Annual Meat Raffle...fun and lots of prizes. And, of course, Veterans Day.

December welcomes the Kids' Christmas Party....great event.

Kokomo Reunion If you missed it, your loss. See you next year, I hope.

Until Valhalla to all who have gone before us.



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



Golf

Courtesy of Dennis Bielskis

IN-COUNTRY VET



Courtesy of Jim Hodgson



Odds & Ends



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



Membership

There have been no changes to our membership this past month. Our current membership stands at 304 VVA and 79 AVVA members. Of these, we have 78 life AVVA members.

Wednesday Car Shows

The car shows ended September 1st with great weather for a change. Half of this season, like last year, was a washout due to the weather. Thankfully, the post was still able to make a small profit. Thanks go to Dave Henwood and his crew for all their hard work.

VFW Golf Outing

The newsletter was published before the outing was held on September 26th, so details won't be available until next month

Fall Festival

We were a little short on manpower at times, but we got the job done. Running the parking lot behind E.G. Nicks for 3 days, preparing and serving the spare rib dinners on Friday, manning the beer tent on Friday and Saturday night, and running the car show on Saturday and Sunday took a lot of coordination and manpower. Thankfully, we filled most of the slots, and some did double duty. The chapter and the post did well for our efforts. Kudos to all!

Kokomo

Another fantastic reunion in Kokomo. There were about 20 of us attending this year. The weather was warm and cloudy most of the time during the day and cool at night. For the first time, everyone stayed on site in the 4 travel trailers we rented. We even had a TV set up outside so we could watch some baseball and football. On a somber note, we placed 3 bricks in the Memorial Garden for our fallen brothers: Walt Munie, Rick Popa, and Rodney Tanner.



Placing 3 bricks in the Memorial Garden for our fallen brothers: Walt Munie, Rick Popa, and Rodney Tanner during the Kokomo Reunion.

Photo courtesy of Bob Lamoureux



Golf photo courtesy of Dennis Beilskis



Chaplain's Corner

Genuine Hope

By Bill Crowder
from Our Daily Bread

In the early 1960s, the US was filled with anticipation of a bright future. Youthful President John F. Kennedy had introduced the New Frontier, the Peace Corps, and the task of reaching the moon. A thriving economy caused many people to expect the future to simply "let the good times roll." Then the war in Vietnam escalated, national unrest unfolded, Kennedy was assassinated, and the accepted norms of that previously optimistic society were dismantled. Optimism simply wasn't enough, and in its wake, disillusionment prevailed.

Then, in 1967, theologian Jürgen Moltmann's *A Theology of Hope* pointed to a clearer vision. This path wasn't the way of optimism but the way of hope. The two aren't the same thing. Moltmann affirmed that optimism is based on the circumstances of the moment, but hope is rooted in God's faithfulness - regardless of our situation.

What's the source of this hope? Peter wrote, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Our faithful God has conquered death through His Son, Jesus! The reality of this greatest of all victories lifts us beyond mere optimism to a strong, robust hope - every day and in every circumstance.

Chaplain's Corner:

Keep Mike Steffes' wife Sue in your prayers. Please be sure to let me know if any of our members are sick/in the hospital/needing prayer. My number is 734-751-2992.



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



Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion



Celebrating Al Sneath's birthday!

Photos courtesy of Bob Lamoureux

Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion 2026



Placing 3 bricks in the Memorial Garden for our fallen brothers: Walt Munie, Rick Popa, and Rodney Tanner. *Photo courtesy of Bob Lamoureux*

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, Plymouth-Canton, MI. Our private Facebook page currently has 115 members.



October 2026



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



Calendar by
Nancy Dignan

October Birthdays

Douglas Appleyard, Richard Balish, Darrell Bazman, Richard Blandina, John Burczyk, Ronald Chandler, Michael Cloar, Robert (Bob) Cohen, Patrick Colbeck, William Cottrell, Doyle "Skip" Davison, David Demarest, Betty Durham, Paul Enderle, Robert Genna, Donald Green, Michael Hoben, Robert Humphrey, Michael Kelly, Estelle Kiser, Drew Koet, Ruth Koscielniak, John Krawcke, Ruth Lamoureux, Lawrence Letke, Ron Michalak, Thomas Moricz, Dennis Northrop, Margot Parr, Douglas Patterson, Jerry Pazdan, Stephan Retherford, Loren Roberts, Debra Schnettler, Glen Sedam, John Shenkaruk, Charles Shipley, Henry Sikes, Craig Socia, Ronald Stochine, Arthur Surdu, William Taylor, and Raymond Thomas



MEAT RAFFLE

★ VFW AUXILIARY 6695 ★
IS HOLDING A FUND RAISER

MEAT RAFFLE! \$20 entry

Saturday NOVEMBER 7, 2026

★ FROM 3 - 7 P.M. ★

VFW POST 6695
1426 MILL ST.
PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

BRING COOLER FOR WINNINGS!

For questions contact:
Meat Raffle Chairman
Patti Brothers
Sciswiz28@yahoo.com

734-634-7018

YOU ARE INVITED!
VFW POST 6695 AUXILIARY
is hosting a

Casserole DINNER

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 2026

5:00 TO 7:00 P.M.
1426 S MILL, PLYMOUTH
\$10 ADMISSION

Casseroles • Salads • Desserts to Purchase

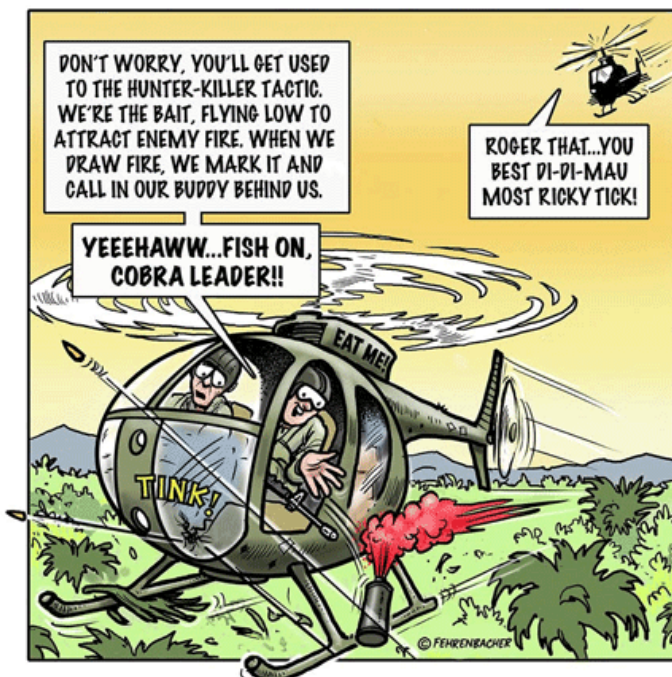
CASH BAR RAFFLE PRIZES COME HUNGRY LEAVE HAPPY!

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS & COMMUNITY

CONTACT
RUTH BRYAN 734-771-0177 PATTI GLASGOW 734-740-2791

Courtesy of Ruth Bryan

IN-COUNTRY



"TROLLING" FOR CHARLIE!

IN-COUNTRY VET



SERVICE CONNECTED HYPERTENSION?

Cartoons courtesy of Jim Hodgson



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	Norma Demerly	734-347-6622
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

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State Alt. Delegate	Ron King	734-454-4522
VAWS Deputy	Ron King	734-454-4522
Vietnam War 50th Com.	Ron King	734-454-4522
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	Bryan Bentley	734-604-6066
	Dennis Ridolfi	734-635-6469
	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	

Editor's Note and Disclaimer

Articles, columns, flyers, calendar items, event announcements, and photos must be submitted by the 25th of the month to be considered for publication in the Chapter newsletter. Send the article, flyer, or photo to Tom Brown, 17730 Snow Ave, Dearborn, MI 48124, or email to **tombrown1949@gmail.com**. Unless otherwise noted, all published material becomes the property of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 and may not be reproduced without the Chapter's permission. Chapter 528 reserves the right to edit for clarity, content, style, and available space. The views and opinions expressed in articles and advertisements are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of VVA Chapter 528, its editors, or the National Vietnam Veterans of America organization. **Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 (734-459-6700).**

October 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, 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



Veterans Crisis Centers - 313-381-1370

Dearborn Crisis Center - 313-584-7800

VA Medical Center Detroit - 313-576-1000

VA Medical Center Detroit - 313-576-1000

VA Medical Center Ann Arbor Health Care System - 313-769-7100

Election Committee

Bob Bryan

Al Dorey

Bob Lamoureux

National Leadership Conference

John Heraghty

Al Sneath

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The 528 Homefront



October 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