

THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter

“Serving Veterans and the Community in Northern Virginia”



In Service to America

February 2008



1st Anniversary for “ONE CANDLE”

February 1st marked the 1st anniversary of the chapter's "Keep A Candle Burning" campaign. The goal is to keep a single candle burning in your home's window each night to remind our fellow citizens of the individual and family members' sacrifices. These sacrifices are being endured by our active duty personnel and reservists who are in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world. Today's international terrorist war has no front lines, faces, or geographical boundaries.

The Virginia State Council of VVA endorsed the program, while the program was announced on the floor of the 2007 VVA National Convention.

Chapter members are participating in this symbolic gesture of support for our troops. Byron Sheldon and his wife, Diane, decided to keep all ten of their holiday window candles lit for this program. His family action reflects his twenty years of U.S. Marine Corps service, including two Tours of Duty in Vietnam. Thank you, Byron and Diane.

As the war continues, we need to maintain support for our troops and their families, and to fulfill our pledge, "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another".

JAPANESE-AMERICAN WWII MILITARY SERVICE

Grant Ichikawa will speak at the February 21 membership meeting due to the January meeting weather cancellation. He will speak on his and his fellow Japanese-American military service in WWII and the unjust internment of their families after Pearl Harbor. Japanese-Americans served with exceptional distinction in the Pacific and European Theaters despite a draft status of C-4, enemy aliens, ineligible for the draft. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team received 21 Medals of Honor for their European service, and others served as critical interpreters in the Pacific. Marc Leepson's discussion is being rescheduled for a future meeting.

Come early to enjoy a great meal, meet your fellow members, and learn history first hand.

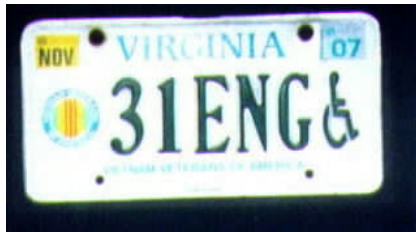
ELECTIONS 2008 – “A few good veterans are needed!”

The Nominating Committee for the 2008 chapter elections will be contacting members to serve as chapter officers. A treasurer is needed due to Ed LaClare's retirement after serving eight years. Please give this call to service serious consideration. The chapter is always open to new ideas as a way to maintain our vitality and service. The election will be held during the April 17th membership meeting. The personal satisfaction far outweighs the effort expended. You can offer your service by calling committee members, Len Funk at 703-820-8118 or Byron Sheldon at 703-471-5018.



MINUTEMAN ALERT

- Jack McMahon has a Class A hospital bed, wheelchair, and exercise bike for a needy veteran or person. Call Jack at 703-356-4386. A veteran has offered to transport the items to the recipient.
- A call-to-arms to remove the Holiday wreaths from the graves at the Arlington National Cemetery was announced.
- **PET SITTER:** Jeff Bothen, an active duty soldier who is being deployed overseas, needs a pet sitter for his family cat and dog. For information, call W: 202-283-5068 and 571-274-8101.
- An invitation to view the movie, "Inside the Vietnam War" was distributed, but the RSVP date was before the newsletter publication.
- If you wish to be on the **Minuteman "Call-To-Arms"** list to receive immediate and urgent chapter news, send your email address to Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com. Stand ready to fulfill our pledge, "*Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another.*"



ORDER YOUR VVA TAGS

Call Bill Bohuslaw @ 703-503-9420 to request your VVA license tag eligibility form. The tag features the VVA logo with six alphanumeric characters, as shown on the example. The symbol counts as one selection.

Be the first in your neighborhood to proudly display your Tour of Duty heritage.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- **RENEWALS:** Membership renewals for most members are due February 28th. Think "LIFE" membership with no renewal hassles. Many are eligible for the senior membership rate. 145 of the chapter's 216 members are LIFE members. Let's strive for 100% Life membership. AVVA membership has 14 Life members out of 24. Do it now!
- **ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES:** Members are encouraged to notify the chapter when you move to insure continual delivery of the newsletter via mail or email. Call Bill Bohuslaw at 703-503-9420 or email Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com.
- **AT-LARGE MEMBERS:** If you know a fellow VVA member who is an At-Large member in Virginia, or has recently moved to our area, offer the veteran Chapter 227 membership. The transfer process is painless and free! Any questions, call Bill Bohuslaw (703-503-9420) for the member transfer form.

WINTERHAVEN 2008

Len Ignatowski represented the chapter at Winterhaven 2008, a homeless veteran stand down at the D.C. Veterans Hospital on January 12th. Two hundred and twenty-six veterans, including eight women received a wide range of services including benefit eligibility, health screenings, dental checks, clothing, a haircut, and a lunch.

Len worked at the clothing distribution station with members from VVA Chapter 641 of Silver Springs, Md. The haircut station appeared to produce the biggest smiles on the veteran faces. Derek Davis, a teacher, and his student barbers from H.D. Woodson High School provided the haircuts. The students demonstrated exceptional skills under the eagle eye of Mr. Davis. Secretary James B. Peeke of VA visited the stand down and shook hands with all the volunteers at the clothing station.

Many kudos is due the excellent hospital staff planning and the team of volunteers from every veteran service that made it happen. The daylong program represented another great example of veterans helping veterans. The chapter has been invited to participate in the 2009 Winterhaven next January.

DD-214's AVAILABLE ONLINE

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents. (Source: VVA Chapter 343 Newsletter, February 2008)

BEWARE OF MILITARY SOLICITATIONS:

The current effort to help our military personnel is generating a tidal wave of veteran assistance scams. At the same time, a journalist investigation into veteran service organizations revealed that the donations are not fully assisting veterans. Legitimate operational and fundraising expenses are part of the business, but make sure that the stated services are being provided at a reasonable cost. Only you can decide what is reasonable, but check it out first!

The chapter is dedicated to minimizing our expenses to insure that we can help when called. For example, the newsletter cost has been gradually reduced due to email delivery and enrollment in a store's rebate program for the printing. So if you have not signed up for email delivery, do it NOW! Send your email to Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com. Also, the board approves each expenditure, and two signatures are required on each check.

SHARE YOUR TOUR OF DUTY

The March meeting features Jon Hatfield, Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. As part of the visit, he is planning to interview six to eight veterans about their military experience for the museum's program about your Tour of Duty. Each interview is about 60 minutes long and will be conducted during the day, while the location has not been determined yet. The interviews are professionally edited, and copies are distributed to schools in Virginia. If you are interested, call Len Funk at 703-820-8118.

CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- Thanks to Paul Stancliff for his repairs to the chapter's "Living Wall" a three panel photographic display of chapter activities and our Tour of Duty and his donation of hotel toiletries for the Lamb Center, the chapter's community outreach program. The center is a daytime homeless shelter.
- The dance is "On." The hotel contract for the 2008 DMZ to Delta Dance is signed. So mark your calendar, November 10, 2008, for the dance. The search for silent auction merchandise has started. Call Bill Dumsick at 703-968-0686 if can offer a silent auction donation.
- At the last VVA Virginia State Council meeting, Len Ignatowski was appointed as the Region 1 Liaison with responsibility for Chapters 227, 617, 917, and 936. He serves as the council president representative and assists the chapter as needed. Paul Stancliff and Len are the chapter's council delegate.
- Arnie Eversen carries on the chapter's heritage of being Virginia's mother of new chapters. He is forming a new VVA chapter in Winchester. Chapter members were instrumental in forming Chapters 617, 917, and 936 in Virginia. Also, Ralph Garcia, who relocated to Indiana, founded a chapter in his new home and was elected state council president.

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227
And The Memorial Day Writers' Project**

***Vince Kaspar Prizes
for Excellence in the Arts***

The 2007- 2008 academic year will be the 12th year of the Vince Kaspar Awards

Two first prizes of \$200 will be awarded

**One First Prize will be awarded for a Poem of any length, style, or subject.
Judges are professional writers from the sponsoring organizations.**

**One First Prize will be awarded for a work of Visual Art of any size or medium.
Judges are professional artists from the sponsoring organizations.**

Second and third prizes in each category are \$100 and \$50.

Eligibility: All high school juniors and seniors who reside or attend school in Arlington and Fairfax counties, the Town of Vienna and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Fairfax.

Submission of Entries: Mail entries to the Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts, c/o VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va., 22205. *For poetry, please provide two copies of your work. To facilitate a "blind judging" put your identifiers of: Name, Address, Telephone Number, E-mail Address, School Attended, and whether a junior or Senior, on one copy only. For art, you can submit one or two copies, but put your identifiers on a separate sheet of paper for each entry.*

Deadline: Postmarked no later than March 1, 2008.

Award Presentations: The prizes will be awarded at the VVA Chapter 227 meeting on May 15, 2008. Poetry Winners (including Honorable Mentions) will be asked to read their poetry at the ceremony. Winning Art entries will be displayed at the ceremony and will be returned at that time. F AQ will be posted at www.vva227.org:

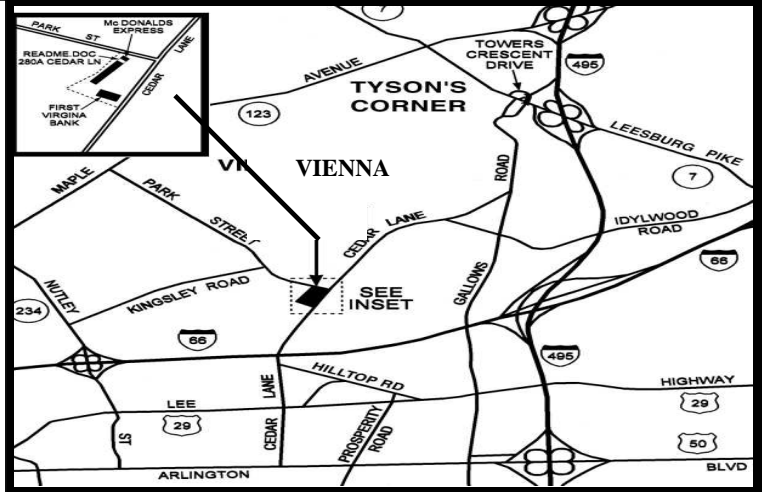
Contact: Bruce Waxman at (703) 323-0269 or E-mail to bruce_waxman@vva227.org

Please post this announcement



**OFFICERS
AND
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
OF
CHAPTER 227**

- President:** Bill Dumsick – 703-968-0686
- Vice President:** Joe Celesnik – 703-938-7669
- Secretary:** Bruce Waxman
- Treasurer:** Ed LaClare
- Master of Arms:** Jonathan Olson
- Board of Directors:** Paul Stancliff, Len Funk, Charlie Klein, Byron Sheldon, Bill Bohuslaw, Jim Hewitt, Phil Saulnier, and Charles Harris.
- Past President:** Len Ignatowski
- VVA Va. State Council POC:** Paul Stancliff
- Veterans Assistance:** Byron Sheldon 703-471-5018
- AVVA Representative:** Margaret Stern
- Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski
- Speaker’s Panel:** Len Ignatowski
- DMZ To Delta@Dance:** Len Ignatowski



MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Neighbor’s Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane
 Vienna, Virginia (Park St. & Cedar Lane)
Pre-Meeting Dinner (Optional): 6:45 PM
Meeting Time: 7:30 PM Phone: 703-698-8010

CHAPTER INFORMATION: 703-968-0686

CHAPTER WEB SITE: www.vva227.org

**VVA Inc. THRIFT STORE (HOUSEHOLD GOODS
 COLLECTION): 1-800-459-8387**

CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

Feb.

21: Membership Meeting 7:30 pm: Grant Ichikawa, WWII and Korean Wars veteran, will share his Tour of Duty as a Japanese-American in the army during WWII.

Mar.

06: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.

07-08: Virginia State Council Meeting

20: Membership Meeting 7:30 pm: Jon Hatfield, Executive Director, Virginia War Memorial

Apr.

03: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.

17: Membership Meeting 7:30 pm: Elections and Guest Speaker: Admiral Bob Shumaker, USN (Ret.), who was a Vietnam War POW for eight years.

2008 Chapter Elections

Your services and experience are needed to fulfill the chapter’s mission.

Call Bill Dumsick to volunteer to be on the 2008 Election Nominating Committee and to serve in a very rewarding chapter leadership position.

Treasurer Needed. Ed LaClare is stepping down after eight years of exceptional service. Ed will assist you in the transition to his easy and well-documented financial system.

- ***VINCE KASPAR PRIZES for Excellence in the Arts***
DEADLINE: March 1, 2008



- ***FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING***
Japanese-Americans Service in WWII

- ***ELECTIONS 2008***
YOUR SERVICES ARE NEEDED AGAIN

- ***DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE***
A CANDLE BURNING IN YOUR WINDOW

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.
CHAPTER 227
DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER
P.O. Box 5653
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653



OUR MISSION

To “Serve Vietnam Veterans, Their Families,
Our Community, and Our Country”.