

THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227
The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter
“Serving Veterans and the Community in Northern Virginia”



April 2008

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

A few good veterans are needed to serve again. If you are interested, contact Len Funk at 703-820-8118 or Byron Sheldon at 703-471-5018. New ideas and people are a way to maintain our vitality. The election will be held at the April 17th membership meeting. The personal satisfaction far outweighs the effort expended.

Chapter 227 Candidates for the 2008 Elections as of April 4, 2008

President: Bill Dumsick

Vice President: Byron Sheldon

Secretary: Bruce Waxman

Treasurer: OPEN

Master of Arms: Jonathan Olson

Directors: Joe Celesnik, Chuck Harris, Charlie Klein, Paul Stancliff, Len Ignatowski, Len Funk, and Bill Bohuslaw.

VIETNAM WAR POW TO SPEAK

Admiral Robert Shumaker, USN (Retired), will discuss his POW Tour of Duty in North Vietnam and how it influenced his life at the April 17th membership meeting. He was the second navy aviator shot down over North Vietnam and the third longest in captivity.

His F8D Crusader was shot down on February 11, 1965, while on a mission over North Vietnam. He remained a POW for eight years and was released in Operation Homecoming on February 12, 1973. He became a resistance leader which included giving the name, Hanoi Hilton, to their prison camp with its primitive conditions and treatment. He helped devise several secret communication methods among the POWs, who were forbidden to communicate among themselves. His refusal to cooperate resulted in three years of solitary confinement, which earned membership in an elite group of POWs known as the “Alcatraz Eleven”. He resumed his navy career and retired as a Rear Admiral in 1989. He will administer the oath of office to the new chapter officers and directors.

Come early, and enjoy a great meal, and renew our special camaraderie with fellow veterans and their families.

VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL by Bruce Waxman

Although the Virginia War Memorial was dedicated on February 29, 1956, it was not until 1997 that LTC (USA Ret.) Jon C. Hatfield, became its’ first employee. LTC Hatfield, the Memorial’s Executive Director, was the speaker at the monthly meeting for VVA Chapter 227 on March 17, 2008. The Memorial includes displays of artifacts and memorabilia from WWII through Desert Storm. In the Memorial’s theatre, visitors can see videos in which veterans tell the real stories of their experiences in the “Virginians at War” series. The *Shrine of Memory* contains the statue, Memory, maintaining a vigil over the names of the 11, 368 Virginians who died while serving their country in times of war.

In addition to speaking about the Memorial, LTC Hatfield showed a video in which news footage of the Vietnam War and interactive animated maps were interspersed with portions of interviews of Vietnam veterans in order to tell the story about the experiences of Virginians during the war. Among those veterans who spoke in the video was Cathie Solomonson, a former Army nurse and a long time active member of Chapter 227. The videos and educational material are distributed free to history classes in Virginia’s schools

So far 850 of the 859,000 veterans in Virginia have been interviewed. The Memorial staff would like to return to Northern Virginia for more video interviews of Vietnam War veterans. Any experience is welcome, but those who served

in any capacity with the air portions of any of the services would be particularly desirable. Also, the Memorial seeks artifacts from veterans, especially items that may have belonged to former enemies. (Continued Page 2)

WAR MEMORIAL (Continued from Page 1)

Chapter member Dennis Stephens, a former Air Force pilot, pledged to donate his flight suit and helmet to the Memorial. This promise was made in the presence of Jesse Smith, the Memorial's curator, who coincidentally drew Dennis' name as the winner of the 50-50 raffle. It was the second consecutive month in which Dennis took the prize.

The Memorial is on Route 1 in Richmond, just a short distance from Exit 76 on I-95. More information about the Memorial can be found at www.vavarmemorial.org.

MINUTEMEN ALERT



Len Ignatowski (l) presents meal coupons to Alice Ford, Acting Team Leader at the Vet Center. Bill Bohuslaw (r) is ready to deliver a bag full of Girl Scouts cookies

- **MEAL COUPONS:** In our continuing effort to fulfill our mission statement, \$300 worth of Burger King meal coupons and a full shopping bag of Girl Scouts cookies were delivered to the Vets Center near Ft. Belvoir. Alice Ford, acting team leader, will distribute the meal coupons on an as-needed basis, while the cookies will be used for group counseling sessions. Len Ignatowski and Bill Bohuslaw delivered the coupons and cookies. Special thanks to the Knouse family of Max, Fran, and Michael Knouse and Jan Samarelli for donating the cookies.

- **SPECIAL SALUTE TO BURGER KING:** Walt Chuda, Vice President of the local Burger King restaurants, contacted the chapter regarding the purchase of meal coupons that he had learned were needed, from a business associate. He enthusiastically agreed to provide a very substantial price discount to the chapter. He is personally supporting several efforts for our troops serving in Harm's Way.

The chapter extends a special salute to Walt Chuda for his super patriotism. We need more citizens like Walt.

- **STOP THE STREAK:** Members are strongly encouraged to buy the 50/50 raffle tickets at the April meeting to stop Dennis Stephens from extending his winning streak of buying the winning 50/50 ticket at the meeting. He was the drawing winner for the last two meetings. Buy those tickets!!!!
- **PAUL STANCLIFF RECOVERING:** Paul Stancliff is making steady progress from his recent medical condition. He is at the Martinsburg Veterans Hospital and has attained weekend pass status. Paul and Cyndy express their appreciation for all the phone calls. He is progressing from a walker to a cane. We are expecting Paul and Bill Dumsick to perform a tap and cane dance routine at the DMZ to Delta dance this year. No phone number is provided since he has already changed rooms three times. The hospital number is 304-263-0811.

STATE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

The Virginia State Council is awarding a \$500 scholarship. Members and family are eligible. Instructions and applications are on the state council webpage at www.vva-vsc.org. The deadline is June 1, 2008.

WELCOME HOME!

NAME
Joe Lewis
Bob Dadiomoff

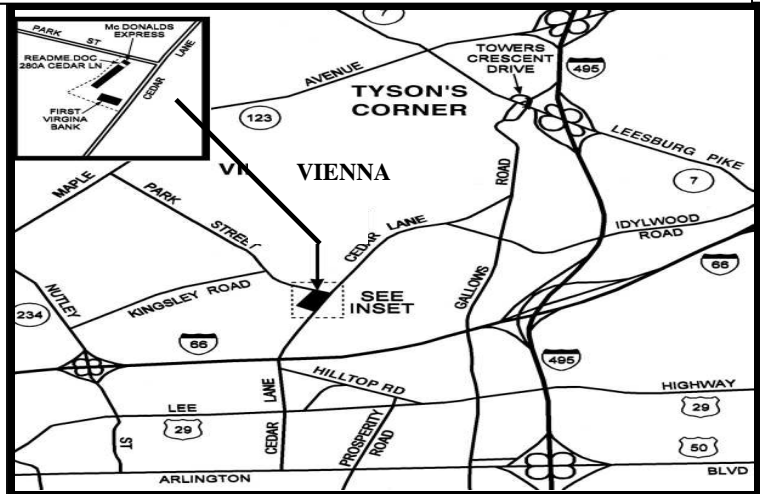
SERVICE
U.S. Army
U.S. Air Force

SPONSOR
Chapter Website
Dennis Stephens



**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
- 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
- State Council POC:** Paul Stancliff
- State Council Delegate:** Len Ignatowski, Paul Stancliff



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

Apr.

- 15: Federal Income Taxes due. Come to the membership meeting to recuperate
- 17: Membership Meeting 7:30 pm: Elections and Guest Speaker: Admiral Bob Shumaker, USN (Ret.), who was a Vietnam War POW for eight years.

May:

- 01: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 15: Membership Meeting 7:30 pm: Vince Kaspar Awards for the Arts & ESOL/HILT Summer School Grant presentations
- 25: Viva Vienna! Information Booth. POC: Joe Celesnik (703-938-7669). Staff is needed from 1100 to 1630 hours
- 25: Memorial Day Family Barbecue 6:00 pm: Hosts: Len and Diane Ignatowski, 2408 Oak Vale Ct. NW, Vienna, PH: 703-255-0353. Call Diane for a dish selection.
- 26: Wreath Laying and Service at The Wall at 8:30 am. Mark you calendar now!

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.

• ***APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING***
Admiral Bob Shumaker, 3rd Longest Vietnam War POW

• ***ELECTIONS 2008***
Your Services Are Needed Again

• ***“KEEP A CANDLE BURNING”***
In Your Window

• ***MEMORIAL DAY***
Mark Your Calendar Now!

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”.