

# THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter
"Serving Veterans and the Community in Northern Virginia"



September 2008

# 23<sup>rd</sup> TOUR OF DUTY

The start of the chapter's 23<sup>rd</sup> Tour of Duty will be celebrated at the September 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. All past officers and directors are invited to attend this gala celebration. The program includes our traditional cake cutting.

Martin J. Schram, historian and journalist, will discuss his new book, *Vets Under Siege, How America Deceives and Dishonors Those Who Fight Our Battles*. The author examines the VA's past performance and adds a new dimension of how the federal government is failing in its obligation to our newest generation of veterans. The book includes our Agent Orange issue. The Books section of the recent *The VVA Veteran* discussed the book.

Bring family, friends, and fellow veterans to the start of our new Tour of Duty. Come early and enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow veterans and their families. You never know who you may meet?

# **SUITS FOR VETERANS**

Chuck Harris is developing a partnership to enhance an existing informal program to provide proper business attire to eligible veterans as they start their civilian employment career. A small group of veterans at a local business have been operating the program with personal and fellow employee donations in cooperation with a major clothing store that sells gift cards at a substantial discount. The gift card is used to purchase proper business clothing from suits to shoes. The program has eligibility requirements. More details to follow.

You can offer your time and experience by calling Chuck at 703-729-6556, and making a donation to the chapter. The check should be made payable to VVA Chapter 227 with a note, "Suits for Veterans" and mailed to the chapter address.

## FAIRFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL

Joe and Sharon Celesnik are managing our information booth, and volunteers are needed to staff the information booth. The fair has been an excellent source for new members and speakers. Come and enjoy a great day by helping the chapter in fulfilling our mission. The date is October 11, and the time is 10:00 am to 5:00 pm in Fairfax City. Ouestions, call Joe at 703-938-7669.

# VETERANS OUTREACH

- The following two financial grants were approved at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting
  - ♦ A \$200 grant to the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia, which provides educational programs and war artifacts displays of Virginian military veterans service.
  - ♦ A \$25 grant to VVA Phoenix Chapter 726, an incarcerated chapter in Florida, to support its annual "Veterans Day Awareness Program and Banquet". The chapter serves as a vehicle to build veteran personal pride and self-esteem on their road to joining society and to provide benefits to the local community and their fellow inmates.
- Len Ignatowski and Joe Celesnik served as hosts at a recent dinner for wounded soldiers and family members. More hosts are needed, so call Len at 703-255-0353 or email at <a href="mailto:grunt69@gmail.com">grunt69@gmail.com</a> to offer your time.

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# 20th Annual "DMZ TO Delta" DANCE

No, it is not too early to purchase your dance tickets. Mail your ticket order or purchase them at the September 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The dance is a chapter hallmark in providing R&R to visiting veterans with a great venue of dancing, food, cash bar, silent auction, and our unique veteran camaraderie. Free hotel parking is available.

Volunteers are needed to make the dance a real success. To offer your time while attending the dance, contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or at <a href="mailto:grunt69@gmail.com">grunt69@gmail.com</a>. Volunteers are especially needed for the final hour.

This year is extra special since it marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial dedication. Information on this special celebration is located at <a href="http://www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org/upcoming.php">http://www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org/upcoming.php</a>. Special thanks to the Foundation for listing the dance in their recent newsletter.

## DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2008 TIME: 8:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT

#### DANCE & HOTEL INFORMATION

HOLIDAY INN ROSSLYN at Key Bridge 1900 N. Ft. Myer Dr., Arlington, Va.

- Special room rate of \$ 100 plus tax for single/double occupancy.
- Reservation cut-off date is October 10, 2008
- For Hotel Reservations, call 1-800-368-3408, ask for Reservation Code: VIE
- Credit card is needed to guarantee the reservation.
- Free parking
- Ride Metro: Rosslyn METRO Subway Station is 1-1/2 blocks.

## DANCE TICKET ORDER FORM@ newsltr

I want to order tickets	* *	\$
I cannot attend, but I want to purchase guest tickets (Gold Star Mother, guest veteran)		\$
I want to make a donation	,	\$
Please mail my tickets to the follo	TOTAL PAYMENT:	\$
rease man my tierets to the fond	owing address.	
NAME:	EMAIL	
ADDRESS:		
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _		
Ticket orders received after Octol	ber 25, 2008 will be held at the Wil	l Call Desk, which opens at 7:00 pm.
Questions, call 703-255-0353 or	visit our website at www.vva227.or	rg.
Please make your check payable	to Vietnam Veterans of America,	Inc. ® Chapter 227,
and mail your ticket order to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.® Chapter 227		
P.O. Box 5653		
	Arlington, Virginia 22205	

#### CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

#### September 2008



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

**President:** Bill Dumsick – 703-968-0686 **Vice President:** Byron Sheldon – 703-471-5018

**Secretary:** Bruce Waxman **Treasurer:** Chuck Harris

Master of Arms: Jonathan Olson

**Board of Directors:** Paul Stancliff, Len Funk, Len Ignatowski, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, and Bill

Bohuslaw.

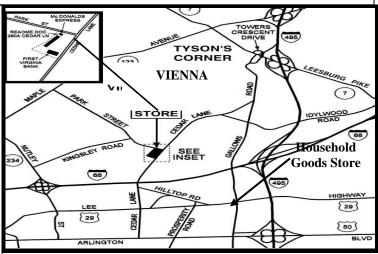
VVA Va. State Council POC: Paul Stancliff AVVA Representative: Margaret Stern

Newsletter Editor: Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353

Speaker's Panel: Len Ignatowski

Meeting Guest Speaker: Len Funk 703-820-8118

**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

## **CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN**

#### Sept.

18: Membership Meeting: Chapter Anniversary. Speaker: Martin Schram, "Vets Under Siege".

19: POW/MIA Recognition Day

#### Oct:

- 02: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 04: Washing The Wall: Join Chapter 641 as the host chapter in washing The Wall @ 0630 hours.
- 11: Fairfax City Fall Festival: Information Booth 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Volunteers needed
- 16: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Chris Carr, "Vacations for Veterans"

#### Nov

- 06: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 10: **DMZ to Delta**® Order your tickets now.
- 11: Veterans Day and the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial
- 20: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Richard Mezo, "Rationalizing Waterboarding or Water Torture"

#### **VVA'S HOUSEHOLD GOODS STORE**

#### ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE STORE

The Unique Thrift Store, retail store, at 2956 Gallows Road, (former Levitz store), Merrifield, Virginia.

Call 1-800-459-8387 for a donation pick-up.

## **CELEBRATE THE CHAPTER'S**

# 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# AT THE SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> MEMBERSHIP MEETING

# ALL CHARTER MEMBERS AND PAST OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED

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".