

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

September 2008

23rd TOUR OF DUTY

The start of the chapter's 23rd Tour of Duty will be celebrated at the September 18th 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. Questions, call Joe at 703-938-7669.

VETERANS OUTREACH

- The following two financial grants were approved at the September 3rd 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 grunt69@gmail.com to offer your time.

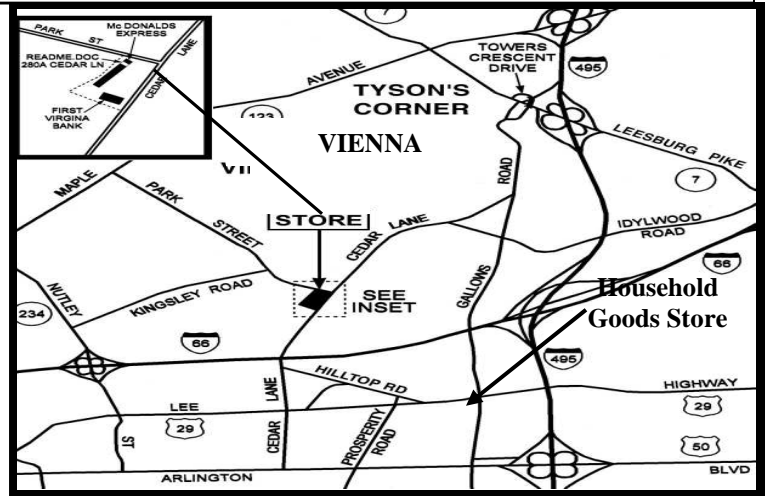
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

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 15th 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

23rd ANNIVERSARY

**AT THE SEPTEMBER 18TH 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
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OUR MISSION

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