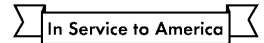


# THE JOURNEY



Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227  
*The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter*  
*“Serving Veterans and the Community in Northern Virginia”*  
*“Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!”*



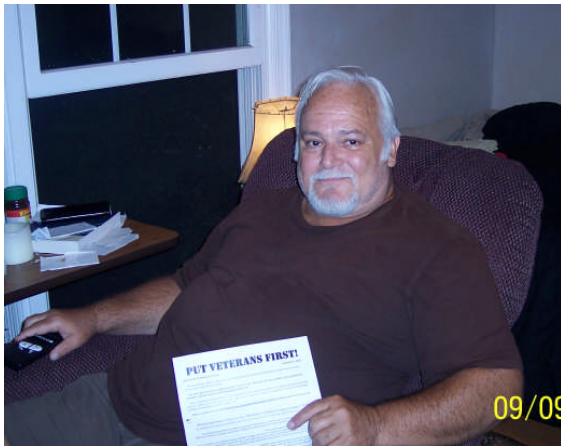
October 2009

## FALL FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU!

Volunteers are needed to staff the information booth at the Fairfax City Fall Festival on Saturday, October 10, 2009, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The fair is an excellent source for recruiting members and informing the public about who we are. You can get to know your fellow members too. Any questions, call Joe Celesnik at 703-938-7669. The booth number is #432, and the rain date is October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## WHY VIETNAM MATTERS

Rufus Phillips is the guest speaker for the October 15<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. He will discuss his book, “Why Vietnam Matters” which describes our country’s involvement in Vietnam, from 1954 to 1968, and why our involvement still matters at. He served in numerous civilian capacities during the war, including counterinsurgency. He witnessed what went right and then wrong. His understanding of the war was so well respected that he briefed President Kennedy. He will explain how the civil war turned into a big brother mentality and WWII battle strategy. He will offer an analysis between the Vietnam War and today’s Afghanistan war strategy. Also, DMZ to Delta® dance tickets will be for sale.



## WHY IS HE SMILING?

The chapter’s Minuteman Alert united a practically new lift chair with John Williams, a navy veteran and a resident of the Compassion House, a homeless veteran transition home. A medical condition limits John’s mobility in getting in and out of a chair. His old lift chair was promptly taken to the local landfill since it was in the state of extinction.

The process started when Chuck Harris received the chair offer from a friend, who wanted to give it to a veteran. Yolanda Deane, Compassion House responded immediately to the chapter’s Minuteman Alert. Within a few days, John had his new chair. John and Yolanda wants to thank all those involved in getting the new chair to John.

Members who want to be part of the Minuteman Alert should send their email address to Len Ignatowski at [grunt69@gmail.com](mailto:grunt69@gmail.com). Let’s not make this a onetime event!

## ONE LAST SALUTE

A member of the Lyons VAMC PTSD Unit gives a last salute to his company commander who died in Iraq. The PTSD Unit has a growing number of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. The new visit format stops first at The Wall and then visits Arlington Cemetery, where the new veterans spend time with their fellow comrades. The new veterans appreciate the Arlington visit.

Chapter members who served as hosts were Len Ignatowski, Bill Shulgarts and Ben Buckley.

Our relationship has developed into a very warm one despite the initial visit in the cold of winter. The unit’s next visit is October 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Bruce Waxman at (703) 323-0269 or [bruce\\_waxman@vva227.org](mailto:bruce_waxman@vva227.org).





# Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227 and The Memorial Day Writers' Project

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

*The 2009-2010 academic year will be the 14th 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 include professional writers from the sponsoring organizations.

**One First Prize will be awarded for a work of Visual Art of any size or medium.** Judges include professional artists from the local art community.

**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. Art entries may also be submitted via electronic medium, such as a CD or a DVD. Entries submitted electronically should have the identifier on the jewel case or a separate piece of paper, **not** on the electronic medium. *Failure to follow identifier instructions may disqualify your entry.*

**Deadline:** Postmarked no later than February 27, 2010. Prizes will be awarded at the VVA Chapter 227 meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2010. Poetry winners (including Honorable Mentions) will be asked to read their poetry at the ceremony. Winning artists will discuss their work and their entries will be displayed at the ceremony (and returned at that time.)

FAQ is available at [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org)

Contact: **Bruce Waxman** at (703) 323-0269 or E-mail to [bruce\\_waxman@vva227.org](mailto:bruce_waxman@vva227.org)

**Please post this announcement**

## DANCE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Ticket sales are lagging behind traditional trends. You are strongly urged to purchase dance tickets. The dance provides an economical R&R activity for visiting veterans for Veterans Day. Nearly every year, reunions between two veterans who have not seen each other since Vietnam occur at the dance, and attendees express their appreciation for the dance. If you want to help at the dance on November 10<sup>th</sup>, contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353.

## NEW TOUR OF DUTY

The celebration of the chapter's 24<sup>th</sup> Tour of Duty at the September 17<sup>th</sup> membership meeting was a gala event. Maj. Steve Kirtley, USMC (Ret.) spoke on his 444 day imprisonment as one of the 52 hostages of the Tehran U.S. Embassy seizure on November 4, 1979. He was a young Marine enlisted guard. The takeover occurred while he was off duty. His imprisonment was a series of different levels of treatment and accommodations. The Iraq-Iran War provided some relief when Iraq aircraft bombed Tehran. They were informed of the failed U.S. rescue attempt. The greatest lesson learned from his captivity is how little one can survive on with the proper attitude and fellow hostage support. Upon the hostages release, Steve remained in the Marine Corps where he completed Officers Candidate School and earned a BS and masters degrees. He fears that a war with Iran will have major consequences for our country and hopes one can be avoided. This is a marked departure from his attitude as a young Marine. His most rewarding duty was as a drill instructor where he was instrumental in making a new Marine. He is currently married with two sons. His military service and formal education benefited his civilian career. He was grateful for the opportunity to share his thoughts with us, and saluted us for our service.

The anniversary celebration included President Byron Sheldon reading our chapter's past accomplishments and hopes for many new one during the new Tour of Duty. Everyone enjoyed the anniversary cake donated by Len and Diane Ignatowski. Dennis Stevens won the 50/50 raffle for the third time, while Jim Roberts, who was the guest of George Jones, joined the chapter. Welcome Home, Jim.

## CHAPTER BRIEFS

- **VETERAN OUTREACH:**
  - **OPERATION KICK START:** Two \$25 grants were provided to the new veteran residents at the Compassion House. The grant provides for the purchase of personal items needed to kick start one's road to recovery.
  - **GRANT FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS DINNER TRANSPORTATION:** A \$300 grant for the wounded warriors' dinner transportation expense was given to the VVA National Office at the September dinner.
  - **VVA and Washington Redskins "Timeout for Veterans Health" Fair @ Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm at FedEx Field:** Contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or [grunt69@gmail.com](mailto:grunt69@gmail.com) to help.
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** A \$50 grant was approved for the Lamb Center, a daytime homeless service center at the Fairfax City traffic circle. The center services include laundry, showers, snacks, clothing, and social counseling to homeless citizens. A Vet Center counselor meets with homeless veterans to determine their benefit eligibility.
- **OPERATION SUGARPLUM:** Max and Fran Knouse are managing the chapter's participation in Operation Sugarplum, which is a Ft. Belvoir program to provide holiday assistance to active duty and deployed reserve military families in need during the holidays. If you are interested in sharing the holiday spirit with a military family, call Max or Fran at 703-242-2308.
- **STATE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC):** George Corbett, Virginia VVA State Council Secretary, is our representative on the JLC, which recommends veterans needs and issues to the governor. If you have a policy or need recommendation, call George at 804-276-4953. The council does not address personal problems. The next council meeting is October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **DD-214 DESTRUCTION:** The chapter copy of your DD-214 will be shredded after November 1, 2009 due to growing concern over identity theft. If you want your copy returned to you, call Bill Bohuslaw at 703-503-9420 now.
- **DANCE SILENT AUCTION:** The dance's silent auction is in need of items to generate extra revenue. Past donations included a Disneyland vacation as well as electronic devices. If you can help, call Bill Dumsick at 703-968-0686.
- **DANCE SPONSORS:** To provide an additional dance revenue source, business brochures will be distributed at the dance. The donation is \$50. The material will be placed on each table and at the ticket sales. If you are interested, contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353.
- **WOUNDED WARRIORS DINNER HOST:** Len Ignatowski and Ron Ball served as hosts for the wounded warriors' dinner on September 23rd. If you want to serve as a host, contact Len at [grunt69@gmail.com](mailto:grunt69@gmail.com).
- **SICK CALL:** Marj Watson, AVVA member and pre emeritus Vince Kaspar arts judge, is having a relapse of a previous medical condition. Your support would be much appreciated during this difficult time by bringing a dinner for her family. Her telephone number is 703-237-7973.

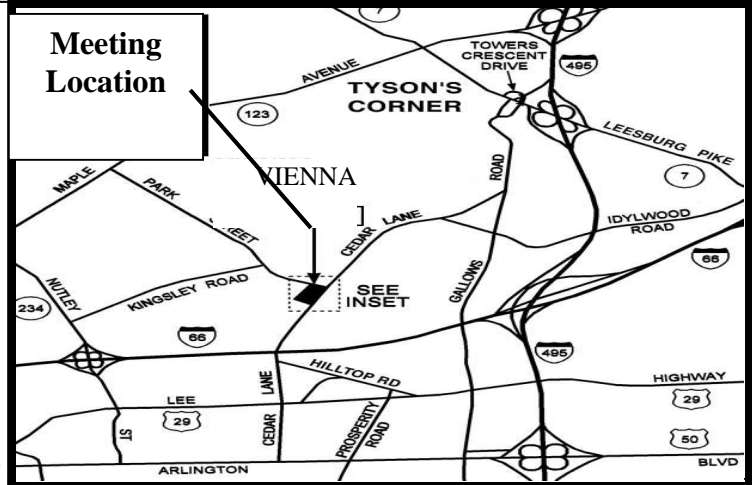
# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

October 2009



## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

- President:** Byron Sheldon – 703-471-5018
- Vice President:** Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269
- Secretary:** Vacant
- Treasurer:** Chuck Harris
- Sergeant at Arms:** Jonathan Olson
- Board of Directors:** Paul Stancliff, Len Funk, Len Ignatowski, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, and Bill Bohuslaw.
- Past President:** Bill Dumsick
- AVVA Representative:** Margaret Stern
- Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353
- School Speaker's Panel:** Len Ignatowski
- Meeting Guest Speaker:** Len Funk 703-820-8118
- DMZ To Delta@Dance:** Len Ignatowski
- Suits for Veterans:** Chuck Harris 703-729-5665
- Operation Sugarplum:** Fran Knouse 703-242-2308



**CHAPTER INFORMATION: 703-968-0686**

**CHAPTER WEB SITE: [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org)**

### 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 OPERATIONS PLAN

### **Oct. 09:**

- 10: Fairfax City Fall Festival 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Members needed to staff the booth. Any questions, call Joe Celesnik at 703-938-7669. The rain date is October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 15: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Rufus Phillips, "Why Vietnam Matters"
- 28: Lyons VAMC PTSD Unit Visit to The Wall and Arlington National Cemetery: Hosts needed. Call Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269

### **Nov. 09:**

- 01: Suits for Veterans: The Veterans Day fundraising starts.
- 01: Member DD-214 copies to be shredded.
- 05: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 07: VVA & Redskins "Timeout for Veterans Health" 10 am to 3 pm: Volunteers are needed.
- 10: DMZ to Delta Dance: Buy your ticket now!**
- 11: Veterans Day
- 19: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Dr. Tom Berger, "PTSD 101" A must meeting for members and family Dec. 09
- 03: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 05: Virginia State Council Meeting @ Virginia Beach: Len Ignatowski and Paul Stancliff are the delegates.
- 09: Lyons VAMC PTSD Unit Visit to The Wall and Arlington National Cemetery: Hosts needed. Call Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269.
- 12: Holiday Party: Bill and Cheryl Dumsick to host. Details to follow.

## **WHY ARE YOU NOT IN ONE OF OUR PHOTOGRAPHS?**



***VOTE***  
**IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS**  
**(Elected Officials Listen to Those Who Vote!)**  
\*\*\*\*  
**October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**FAIRFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL**

Hosts needed for booth

\*\*\*\*

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**  
***“Why Vietnam Matters”***  
**Membership Meeting**

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

Address Service Requested



**OUR MISSION**

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