

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!”



In Service to America

December 2009



Charlie Klein doesn't believe that he will have to ride the hood after the Holiday Party. Let's make a believer out of him!

HOLIDAY PARTY!

Make Charlie Ride the Hood!

Bill and Cheryl Dumsick are hosting the Holiday Party on December 12, 2009, at 6:00 pm in their home at 13606 White Stone Court, Clifton, Virginia. Directions are on Page 4. Beverages and meat dishes are provided, while members bring a covered dish. Call Cheryl (703-968-0686) for a dish selection.

A very warming Holiday Party tradition is to bring a wrapped child's gift with the gift's gender and age marked on it and a child's winter clothing item from gloves to jackets. The gifts and clothing serve as an emergency supply for the Sullivan House in Arlington County. Jonathan Olson and Charlie Klein deliver the gifts and clothing. Our goal is to completely fill his car with our generosity so that Charlie, his car pooler, has to ride on the hood. Please attend and bring those gifts so Charlie will have to ride on the car hood. If you can't attend the party, gifts can be dropped off at Len Ignatowski's home at 2408 Oak Vale Court, N.W., Vienna. Call for a delivery time at 703-255-0353. If not, see you at the party with your armful of gifts, a covered dish, and your holiday spirit.

Don't forget, there is no December membership meeting. Let's make this tradition the greatest one yet by making the holidays a little more pleasant for the less fortunate.

DMZ to Delta® DANCE

The 2009 dance accomplished its mission of providing an enjoyable evening for visiting veterans and their guests with a multitude of expressions of appreciation. Nancy Smoyer, our Alaskan loyalist, was faithfully in attendance with her friend, Sharon Sinklair. Despite the jovial atmosphere, a cloud of concern was present due to the low attendance. Midweek dances generally have a low attendance, but the recent low dance attendance trend questions the validity of the dance's primary mission of providing an affordable evening for visiting Veterans Day visitors. The attendance raises the question if the effort should be directed to other veteran needs.

The dance has paid for itself except for one year, and this year's income of \$1,831 is due to having the dance in the skyline restaurant at a lower rental cost because of a hotel scheduling conflict. Next year's dance will be in the ballroom with its higher fee. The Holiday Inn manager has been very considerate in holding the ballroom cost while maintaining a high level of service. Chapter members donated 30 tickets, but the real concern is attendees at the dance.

Assorted options are being considered from scheduling dances only on weekends (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) or special anniversaries to cancellation. Another option is to partner with other veteran reunions. Since the dance is a chapter hallmark of veteran service, you are being asked to submit your comments or to recommend potential partnerships/avenues of advertisement to the chapter by mail or email (grunt69@gmail.com). We are committed to the dance as long as it fulfills a need.

Special thanks to Len and Diane Ignatowski, Max and Fran Knouse, Joe and Sharon Celesnik, Bob and Ardis Mills (who traveled from Pittsburg, Pa.), Paul and Cyndy Stancliff, Margaret Stern, Bill Bohuslaw, Charlie Klein, and Jonathan Olson for helping at the dance. An extra special thanks to Len and Diane Ignatowski for managing the dance since 1999.

GEORGE MASON/ARMY ROTC BASKETBALL NIGHT

The Army ROTC Battalion at the George Mason University is sponsoring an Armed Forces Day basketball game on January 9, 2010 at 4:00 pm at the Fairfax City campus. The team is playing the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. The ROTC scholarship fund receives \$5 for every ticket sold through the Community Relations Office of the Athletic Director. The tickets must be purchased through the Athletic Office for Community Relations by mailing your ticket order and payment (\$15/ticket) to Dr. D.R. Butler, ICA MS 5E1, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. 22030. See you at the game.

WINTERHAVEN HOMELESS STAND DOWN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Washington, DC VA Medical Center Station 688

The information requested on this form is solicited under the authority of Title 38, US Code, Sec 213 and will be used in the selection and placement of potential volunteers in the Voluntary Service Program. It will not be used for any other purpose. Disclosure is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the information will hamper our ability to arrange the most satisfactory assignment for you and the Veterans Administration.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____
Date of Birth: _____
Telephone #: _____

SHIRT SIZE: S M L
 XL XXL XXXL **Emergency Contact Info:**
Name: _____
Phone #: _____

Organization: _____
DC VAMC Employee: y___ n___
Registered VA Volunteer: y___ n___

**EVENT LOCATION: VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER,
 50 IRVING STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20422**

Availability: Fri - 1/22/10 1 pm – 5 pm (set up at VAMC)
 Sat - 1/23/10 7am - 4pm or 3pm - 7pm (break down at VAMC)

Job Preference Selection:
 Designate your area of expertise
 Medical Staff: _____ Nursing Staff: _____

Registration: volunteer veteran **Food:** hot meals coffee & donuts
 Chaplain Service Barber Station
 Compensated Work Therapy Check Out Station
 Eligibility My Health-E-Vet Education-Org: _____
 HCHV _____ Employment-Org: _____
 House Staff _____ Entertainment
 Medical Area Receptionist Give Away Station
 Security: VAMC Police ___ PFCU ___ Other ___ Housing-Org:
 Set-up/Clean-up: EMS ___ FMS ___ CWT ___ Social Security
 Transportation Service Survey Staff: Cafeteria ___ Exit ___
 Vet Center: MD ___ VA ___ DC ___ VA Claims – Org:
 Other _____ Veterans Benefits Administration

Waiver: I hereby waive all claims to monetary benefits for services rendered as a volunteer worker on a "without compensation basis". I understand that this waiver applies only to compensation for specific services rendered in the Voluntary Service Program and has no relation to any compensation for other services or benefits to which I may be entitled.

X _____
 (Volunteer's Signature) (Date)

IMPORTANT NOTE: All persons participating in Winterhaven 2010, MUST complete a Voluntary Service Application for this event. This includes all VA, DoD, and government employees and all regularly scheduled volunteers of the VAMC. All volunteers MUST be at least 18 years of age or older.

Return Completed Form to: STEPHANIE BURNS, CHIEF, VOLUNTARY SERVICE & RECREATION THERAPY(135)
 VAMC, 50 IRVING STREET, NW, WASH, DC, 20422 OR FAX (202) 518-4693.

Application deadline is Monday, December 14, 2009. No applications will be accepted after the 14th of December. You will receive your shirt and assignment the morning of the event.

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.* **Home School students are eligible.**

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

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



Pam Dadiomoff chats with Joe Theismann, former Redskin quarterback, at the veteran health fair. Photo by Bob Dadiomoff.

VETERAN OUTREACH

REDSKINS VETERAN HEALTH FAIR:

Bob and Pam Dadiomoff represented the chapter at the Redskins Veterans Health Fair on November 7th at Fedex Field. The fair provided a wide range of health screening for veterans and their families in the stadium. Redskins' management, players, retired players, the Hogettes, and the cheerleaders' presence added a festival spirit to the event.

John Rowan, VVA National President, met and thanked Bob and Pam for their service at the fair. The couple also met Sharon Hodge and Tom Berger, VVA veteran health advocates.

Bob and Pam expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve their fellow veterans and families, and they look forward to next year's fair. Thank you, Bob and Pam, for your service and care.

VET CENTER HOLIDAY PARTY: The "Red, Hot & Blue" Restaurant in Fairfax City donated \$50 to the chapter's purchase of \$150 gift certificate to support the local Vet Center Holiday Party needs. Thank you, Red, Hot & Blue.

WOUNDED WARRIORS DINNER: Len Ignatowski and Beau Lockhart served as host for the November 17th Wounded Warriors Family Dinner. If you wish to serve as a host, contact Len at 703-255-0353 or grunt69@gmail.com. The program especially needs volunteers who are available on a minute's notice in case of a last minute cancellation.

LYONS PTSD UNIT VISIT: The next Lyons PTSD Unit visit is set for December 9th at 11:30 AM at The Wall. Hosts are needed to escort and assist the visiting veterans. Call Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269. A great way to spend your lunch if you work down town.

WINTERHAVEN VETERAN STAND DOWN

The DC Veterans Medical Center is sponsoring the Winterhaven Stand Down on January 23, 2010. Volunteers are needed. The volunteer application is on page 2 with a December 14th deadline. Note on the application that you want to work with Chapter 227 volunteers. The stand down is a very rewarding experience and an opportunity to meet your fellow chapter members while helping our fellow veterans.

GEORGE MASON B-BALL TICKETS

Two certificates for a George Mason University men or women's basketball game are being auctioned to anyone who wants to bid on one or both certificates. Each certificate is for four tickets. So if you want to see a first class college basketball game, start your bidding by emailing Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com or calling 703-255-0353. The starting bid for each certificate is \$60 with \$5 bid increments. The certificates will be available at the Holiday Party. Thanks to Douthard Butler, a new chapter member and academic advisor to the university's Veteran Student Organization, for the donation.

HOLIDAY PARTY DRIVING DIRECTIONS



I-66 to Centreville, Exit 53, Rte. 28 South Centreville

Left Turn at New Braddock Road, Rte. 620, East

Right Turn on to Union Mill Road

Right Turn on Springstone Drive

1st Left turn on to Sandstone Way

1st Left turn on to White Stone Court 13606, (driveway is at the end of the cul de-sac)

Lost: Call Bill or Cheryl at 703-968-0686.

VETERAN HOTLINE: 1-800-273-8255 – use it!

If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number 1-800-273-8255, available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential. USE IT!

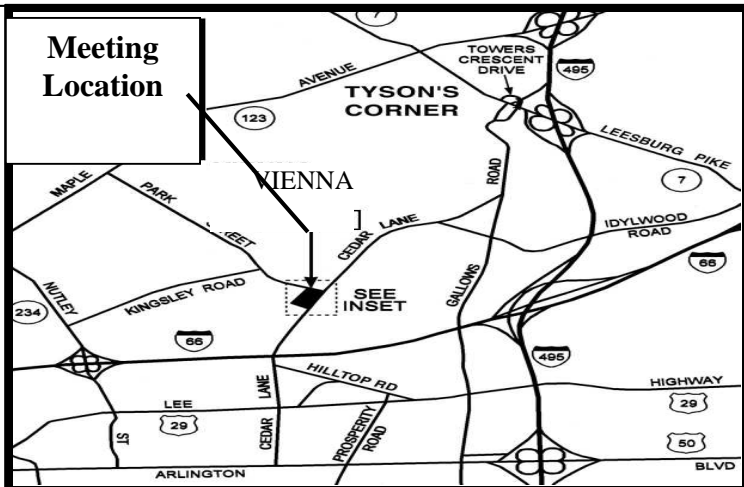
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

December 2009



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

- President:** Byron Sheldon – 703-850-3498
- 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
- Military Family Holiday Sharing:** Fran Knouse 703-242-2308



CHAPTER INFORMATION: 703-968-0686

CHAPTER WEB SITE: 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

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** at 6:00 pm: Bill and Cheryl Dumsick to host. Call for dish selection at 703-968-0686. A great opportunity to meet your fellow members and to share the holiday spirit by our toy and child clothing collection
 - 14: Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down Registration Deadline. Application in newsletter
- Jan. 10
- 01: Happy and a Safe New Year: Don't Drink and Drive!
 - 07: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
 - 09: Armed Forces Day at George Mason University Basketball Game @ 4:00 pm. Tickets: \$15
 - 21: Membership Meeting: Kayla Williams, author, "Love My Rifle More Than You!" - DON'T MISS IT.
 - 23: Winterhaven Stand down: DC Veterans Medical Center, Volunteers needed

WHY ARE YOU NOT IN ONE OF OUR PHOTOGRAPHS?



LYONS PTSD UNIT VISIT

December 9th

HOLIDAY PARTY

December 12th

WINTERHAVEN STAND DOWN

APPLICATION DEADLINE

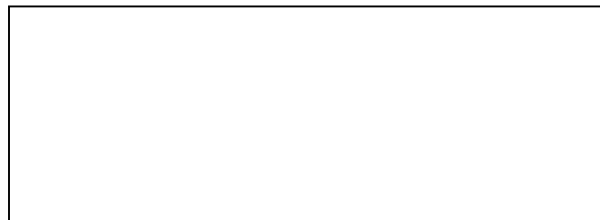
December 14th

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Don't Drink & Drive! --- We Want to see you next year!

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”