

# 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

*"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!"*

May 2010



## A TIME TO HONOR AND A TIME TO REMEMBER

The month of May is a time to demonstrate your pride as a Vietnam War veteran and to honor fallen comrades. The first opportunity is the May 20<sup>th</sup> membership meeting featuring our community outreach program through the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Vince Kaspar Awards for Excellence in the Arts. The awards recognize local high school student's talent for poetry and art. The poetry winners will read their poems, while the art will be on display. The program is a joint effort of chapter members and the Memorial Day Writers Project, a Vietnam veteran group.

Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> begins with a chapter information booth at the *Viva Vienna!* Fair.

A Vet Center counselor may be available to answer veteran benefit questions, while the Living Wall will be present to inform the public about the war and to recruit new members. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Joe Celesnik (703-938-7669) is the Event Coordinator.

The second day's event is the Annual Family Cover Dish Barbecue at Lew and Marj Watson's home, starting at 6:00 pm. Their address is 410 Jackson Street, Falls Church. Beverages, hamburgers, and hot dogs will be provided. Max Knouse will exercise his barbecue skill as chef delight! You are asked to call Marj at 703-237-0656 for a dish selection and a head count. Please call to insure that an adequate food selection will be available. Family, guests, and fellow veterans are all welcome to this great feast and veteran camaraderie.

Memorial Day has several important events. First, members assemble at the Flag Pole to carry the wreath to The Wall's apex to conduct a memorial service for our fallen comrades at 8:00 a.m. After the service, members are invited to gather for an informal breakfast. The Memorial Day Writers' Project will conduct their program near The Wall from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm. The Memorial Day ceremony at The Wall starts at 1:00 p.m. Family and guests are especially invited to participate in these events.

Mark your calendars to attend these chapter activities to support the war healing and to help the community understand our war and the real cost of any war.



New leaders (l to r): Ron Ball, Diane Ignatowski, Len Funk, Charlie Klein, Bruce Waxman, Byron Sheldon, Chuck Harris, Jonathan Olson, Joe Celesnik (hidden), Len Ignatowski, Tom Stryer, and Paul Stancliff.

## 2010 ELECTIONS

The 2010 election of officers and directors was conducted at the April 15<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. Len Funk ran the successful election. The new officers and directors, who are serving two year terms, are: President: Byron Sheldon, Vice President: Bruce Waxman, and Treasurer: Chuck Harris. The directors are Len Ignatowski, Bill Dumsick, Len Funk, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, Tom Stryer, Ron Ball, and Paul Stancliff. Diane Ignatowski is the new AVVA Representative. Carl Nelms, a founding chapter member, administered the oath of office to the newly officers, directors, and AVVA representative.

Byron's first presidential act was to appoint Jonathan Olson as the sergeant at arms. The secretary position is vacant. Call Byron (703-856-3498) to serve as the secretary.

Special thanks to Bill Bohuslaw for his years of service as director, but he remains as the Membership Coordinator, and to Margaret Stern, for her many years of service as AVVA Representative. A special welcome to first time directors, Tom Stryer and Ron Ball. Ron is a transfer from Chapter 670 in Columbus, Ohio, where he served as a chapter officer. The chapter looks forward to the input from the new leaders, Tom, Ron, and Diane.



Charlie Klein (l) presents the Arlington County Government proclamation to Byron Sheldon. Charlie was responsible for this action. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## ***MORE PROCLAMATIONS!***



Desi Armaiz, VVA Chapter 617 President (l), accepts the Prince William County “Welcome Home, Vietnam Veterans Day” proclamation from Chairman Corey Stewart of the Board of Supervisors. Thank you, Desi!

Taking a cue from the chapter, Chapter 641 of Silver Spring, Maryland, successfully received a “Welcome Home, Vietnam Veterans Day” proclamation from the Montgomery County government. Our chapter proclamation was used as the basis for their proclamation. Kudos for Chapter 641, “The Wall Washing Chapter”.

## **CHAPTER BRIEFS:**

- **WOUNDED WARRIORS DINNER HOST:** Pat Robertson and Len Ignatowski served as hosts at the informal family dinner for wounded soldiers and their family members on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Members wishing to serve as a host need to contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or [grunt69@gmail.com](mailto:grunt69@gmail.com). The dinner format and attire is family style.
- **LYONS VAMC PTSD UNIT VISIT:** Your help is needed to host the visit by veterans from the Lyons VAMC, N.J. on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at The Wall. Volunteers are needed. Call Bruce Waxman (703-323-0269) to offer your service.
- **GOT TIME?:** Visited the chapter website at [vva227.org](http://vva227.org).
- **DD214 SHREDDDED:** Your DD214 copy that was provided as proof of eligibility was shredded to protect your identity. The receipt of the DD214 was recorded in the chapter’s membership database.



## **BE A MINUTEMAN!**

To save the expense of mailing the newsletter to you and to be alerted to emergency chapter needs and breaking VVA news, join the email Minuteman Alert list. The postage and printing costs account for your \$9 chapter membership rebate. First class postage is used to insure timely delivery of the newsletter. Past uses of bulk mailing resulted in the erratic delivery of the newsletter. Approximately 75% of the members are Minutemen.

To become a Minuteman, send your email address to Len Ignatowski at [grunt69@gmail.com](mailto:grunt69@gmail.com).

**VETERANS HOTLINE: 1-800-273-8255**

Available 24/7

If you are a veteran in an emotional crisis and need help, call RIGHT NOW

## WATSON'S PITCH HIT

Lew and Marj Watson are hosting the Family Barbecue on Sunday, May 30th at 6:00 PM as a family matter prevented Len and Diane Ignatowski from hosting the event. *So please don't go to the Ignatowski's residence.* Lew and Marj are no strangers to hosting fantastic chapter events. They are veterans of several successful holiday parties and past family barbecues. Their home is at 410 Jackson Street, Falls Church. You are strongly urged to call Marj (703-237-0656) for a head count and dish selection. The head count reduces the probability of overspending for the feast and insures an adequate amount of food and beverages.

The event provides an opportunity to bid farewell to Lew and Marj, since they will be retiring to Texas in September 2010. Marj has chaired the judging of the Vince Kaspar art submission for most of the years and supported the chapter programs in many ways. Also, special thanks to Lew, who is a Korean War vet, for sharing Marj with us.

## WANTED: TEDDY BEARS

The chapter's AVVA members are teaming with Chapter 78's AVVA members for their "Sunshine Project", which provides new teddy bears to local law enforcement to be distributed to children who have suffered a traumatic experience. AVVA chapter members generally support an AVVA project of the state council meeting host chapter. Chapter 78 is hosting the June state council meeting and bi-annual convention. The teddy bears need to be "new" of any shape, color, size, and attire. Your donation can be made at the May membership meeting, the family barbecue, or delivered to Diane's home at 2408 Oak Vale Court, N.W., Vienna. Call first at 703-255-0353. If you are interested in starting this program for local police agencies, call Diane.

## "OPERATION SPYCRAFT"

Linda McCarthy provided a rare insight into the operations of the CIA. She was a Latin America intelligence analyst when she stumbled into the creation of the CIA spy museum. When the new Langley headquarters building was dedicated, the main foyer entrance had 8,000 square feet of open space. During this time, WW II OSS espionage items were mysteriously finding their way to her desk. So the idea of creating a display of these artifacts was born with Linda as the main curator. The museum serves as a historical orientation for new employees and as a show case for visitors. At this time, the museum is only accessible by very special invitation.

President Washington is credited with starting our country's spy service. He learned the value of good enemy intelligence from his experience with General Braddock's disastrous military campaign against the French. He assembled a very reliable spy network that kept our army one step ahead of the British army during the revolutionary war. The museum artifacts range from spy satellites to a serving of Air America china dishes. She could only discuss events before the Cold War to prevent any retribution against foreign nationals who spied for us. Since retiring from the CIA, she developed her own collection of spy craft items and lectures at universities and military units and wrote a book on spycraft. Logistics limited a demonstration of a caltrop, a four prong spike that always has one prong in a vertical position. This simple device has a long military history starting with the European crusades to the Holy Land to protect the foot soldier from cavalry charges. These devices were spread on the ground to defeat charges by getting stuck in the hoofs of the horses. They were effectively used in our military campaigns and especially by our spies to punctuate the tires of pursuing German army cars and even in today's current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The only modification is the solid spikes are now hollow tubes to counter the effects of self-sealing tires.

Effective human espionage was discussed. Her favorite spy is Moe Berg, a Jewish professional baseball player turned spy during WW II. Using his superior intellect and his self-taught language fluency, he quickly mastered the complexities of nuclear energy. Poising as a student, he attended a European symposium on nuclear physics, where he learned the status of German atomic bomb progress through casual conversations with German scientists. He concluded that Germany was at least two years behind the U.S. in developing an atomic bomb. Another hero was Bill Blass, noted clothing designer, who utilized his talent in creating camouflage camps and dummy tanks to deceive the Germans into the real positioning of Allied forces in England.

Two technical spy crafts were the Doggie Doo, a tranceiver that was used to count vehicle and troop movements. It was developed for the Cold War, but advance models were effectively used along the Ho Chi Minh trail and South Vietnam to monitor enemy activity. The device received its name because it was disguised as doggie doo. A famous porn star singer contributed to the development of frequency hopping concept based on the piano 88 keys. The concept allowed spies radio transmission to evade detection and location by enemy radio finders. The star did not make a dime from her work, and the concept is the basis for today's cell phones. The Aldrich Ames mole case was cited as the most damaging CIA security breach.

Byron Sheldon presented a VVA baseball cap and thanked Linda for taking time to share this American history with us. She expressed sincere appreciation for our service since her family has a long history of military service including two family members who are on active duty now. Carl Nelms, who is a founding chapter member, attending his first meeting after a long absence won the 50/50 raffle. Special thanks to Joe Celesnik and Max Knouse for encouraging Carl to attend the meeting from their attendance at the Fairfax County proclamation reception and ceremony.



For the Suits for Vets campaign, Ron Ball (L) hands over several business suits to Chuck Harris. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## SUITS FOR VETS

The Suits for Vets campaign is conducting a Memorial Day fund raiser to purchase additional gift cards of \$500 in value to the Jos A. Bank stores and Target gift cards for selective women's attire for patients at the Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals.

Cash donations can be mailed to the chapter address at VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va. 22205. Your entire donation purchases gift cards for the seriously injured soldiers.

The program has been expanded to include used and clean men and women clothing to include sports coats, business shirts, ties, blouses, and business dresses. Suits and coats need to be dry cleaned and inside a plastic cover with the size tag. Contact Chuck Harris at 703-729-5665 for a clothing donation or a question.

## THE 2010 DANCE IS ON!

The chapter will be hosting the DMZ to Delta dance on November 10, 2010, at the Holiday Inn at Rosslyn. The ticket price is still \$30. So mark your calendar and get ready for another great evening of fun and Vietnam veteran camaraderie. Ticket information to be released soon. Dance's silent auction items and business advertising is being accepted. Contact Len Ignatowski regarding business advertising at grunt69@gmail.com

## VIRGINIA STATE COUNCIL CONVENTION

The Virginia State Council Convention and Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Select Koger Conference Center, 1021 Koger W. Blvd., in Richmond, Va. The hotel is offering a special room rate with a deadline of June 1st. The tentative stating time is 9:00 A.M. and the meeting is generally over by 3:00 P.M. Come and meet the state council officers and the other chapter delegates. Len Ignatowski, Paul Stancliff, and Byron Sheldon will be representing the chapter.

## VIRGINIA VVA STATE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Virginia VVA State Council is offering two academic scholarships of \$500 each.
- One scholarship is for a Vietnam veteran, while the second one is for a family member.
- Application and directions are on the council's website (<http://www.vva-vasc.org/>).
- Deadline: Application package must be postmarked prior to June 1, 2010
- Questions: Call 757-340-9616 or 757-481-6513.
- A random drawing selects each scholarship winner at the June 13<sup>th</sup> State Council Meeting
- Don't wait!

## MEMORIAL DAY WRITERS PROJECT

The Memorial Day Writers Project (MDWP) is a group of Vietnam veterans that conduct a unique healing program through prose, poetry, song, or humorous stories near The Wall on Memorial Day, May 31st, from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Cathie Solomonson, Mike McDonell, and Vince Kaspar (deceased), chapter members were early advocates for this unique healing process. The format is open door and everyone is welcomed. This year is the 17th anniversary of the MDWP.

The chapter supports the effort with a \$ 400 annual grant for the tent rental. If you are at The Wall on Memorial Day, drop in and see what the program offers. Any questions, call Dick Epstein at 301-681-3085.

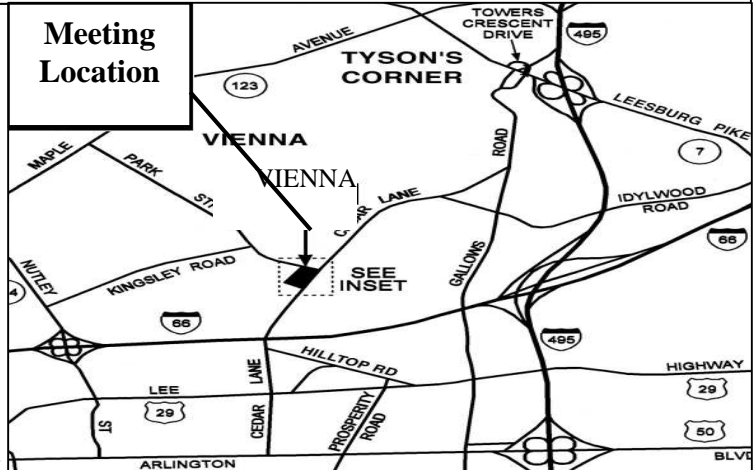
# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

MAY 2010



## 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, Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, Ron Ball, and Tom Stryer.
- 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



**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

May:

- 20: Membership Meeting: Vince Kaspar Arts Awards presentations
- 26: Lyons VAMC PTSD Class Visit @ 11:00 AM at The Wall. Call Bruce for questions at 703-323-0269.
- 30: Viva Vienna 11:00 am -5:00 pm: Volunteers needed. Joe Celesnik 703-938-7669
- 30: Family Barbecue 6:00 pm: Host: Lew & Marj Watson. Dish selection and head count, call Marj at 703-237-0656
- 31: Memorial Day Wreath Laying Service at The Wall: Meet at the flagpole at 8:00 a.m.
- 31: Post Wreath Laying Breakfast: Location to be determined after the wreath laying

June:

- 03: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: (Tentative Location) American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 17: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Jim Thur, Virginia Wounded Warriors Regional Director, "Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and the new VA Presumptive Eligibility for Agent Orange." Current reservists and National Guard personnel and their families are welcome to hear this presentation.

## **VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY AT THE BALL PARK**

The chapter will be attending the Veterans Appreciation Day at the Nationals Major League Baseball game on Sunday, August 15, 2010. The Nationals opponent is the Arizona Diamonbacks, and game time is 1:30 P.M. The special ticket price is \$10. Ticket orders should be mailed to Bill Bohuslaw, 4916 Wheatstone Drive, Fairfax, Va. 22032. The ticket order deadline is July 1st. Tickets will be available at the park's Will Call window. Questions, call Bill at 703-503-9420. The game is a great way to meet your fellow chapter members and their families while enjoying a great baseball game. The National are 4-0 for this event.

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





# ***MEMORIAL DAY***

***WILL YOU BE THERE?***

**SUITS FOR VETERANS DONATION**

**MAY 30<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**

**VIVA VIENNA Information Booth @ 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM**

**FAMILY BARBECUE @ 6:00 PM @ The Watson's Home**

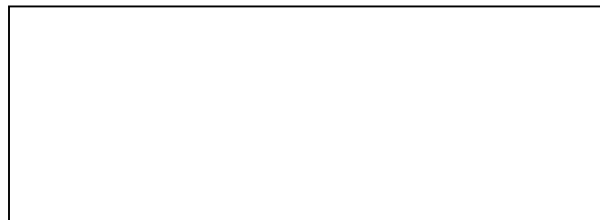
**May 31st Monday**

**WREATH LAYING SERVICE AT THE WALL @ 8:00 AM**

**POST MEMORIAL SERVICE BREAKFAST**

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”**