

# 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 Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!"*



In Service to America

October 2010

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The chapter celebrates our 25th Anniversary on October 23rd at 6:00 PM at the Holiday Inn, Rosslyn (same hotel as the dance). The ticket cost is \$30 with a cash bar and a three entrée selection. Hotel parking is free. See order form in the newsletter.

All former officers, directors, and founding members, are strongly urged to attend. If you can provide photographs of past activities, mail them to Len Ignatowski, 2408 Oak Vale Court, NW, Vienna, Va. 22181.

The guest speaker is Rick Weidman, Executive Director for Policy and Government Affairs for VVA, who will discuss VVA's history, our accomplishments, and future challenges. He was an army medic in Vietnam. Rick has earned the respect of congressional, executive branch, and DVA leaders for his no nonsense approach to solving veteran issues. Order your tickets now. Questions, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353. See you at the dinner.

**Menu selection and payment due by October 14, 2010**



Chapter presents a \$1000 grant to VVMF for the proposed education center. Paul Stancliff, Chapter Director, Len Ignatowski, Chapter Director, Byron Sheldon, Chapter President, Jan Scruggs, President of VVMF, Bill Shugarts, Chapter Member, and Cyndy Stancliff (L to R). Bill, Paul, and Cyndy are volunteers at The Wall too.

## VVMF EDUCATION CENTER GRANT

On September 7, 2010, the Chapter presented a \$1000 grant to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Fund, (VVMF) for the proposed Education Center to be constructed near The Wall in Washington D.C. The Center will put a face to each of the 58,000 plus names on The Wall and tell their personal stories. More importantly, the Center will recognize the service and values common to all military service members. Construction cannot commence until the estimated construction cost of \$85 million is collected. Approximately \$26 million has been donated to date.

The grant embodies the Vietnam Veterans of America® Inc. guiding principle, *"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"* by displaying the real cost of war to the families of those who served and to citizens of our Nation.

## “FALL FESTIVAL” NEEDS HOSTS

Joe and Sharon Celesnik will sponsor a chapter information booth at the Fairfax City “Fall Festival” on Saturday, October 9th, with a rain date of October 10th. Hosts are needed from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The booth provides the opportunity to share our Tour of Duty and to recruit new members. If you have any questions, call Joe at 703-938-7669. It is a great way to meet fellow chapter members and to inform the public about our military and community service.

## AVVA OPERATIONS

- **HOLIDAY SHARING:** AVVA wants to support a holiday program that assists veteran and active duty military families in need for Christmas. A Project Sugarplum administrative policy change had the chapter drop out of the program. Contact Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, at 703-255-0353 or [diane.ignatowski@gmail.com](mailto:diane.ignatowski@gmail.com).
- **OPERATION BABY DOLL:** The October community outreach is to provide baby dolls for young girls in the village of Binaca in the Dominican Republic. The dolls don't have to be new, but in good and clean condition. No Barbie dolls, please. Dolls should be brought to the October membership meeting or contact Diane. Stones are used as dolls.
- **IDEAS ARE NEEDED:** AVVA is seeking programs to assist veterans, active duty military personnel, and community needs. If you have a recommendation or wish to help, contact Diane Ignatowski.

## HOMELESS VETERANS UPDATE

The chapter's partnership with FACETS, a Fairfax County social agency, reported that our initial \$1000 grant was used to help seven veterans transition to self-respect and self-sufficiency. The grant purchased \$283 worth of Metro tokens, \$467 for food and basic housekeeping supplies, and \$250 for general support expenses.

If you can recommend an agency that assists homeless veterans and military families in need, contact Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269.

## CHAPTER SHORTS:

- **WOUNDED WARRIORS DINNER:** George Jones and Len Ignatowski served as hosts at the September VVA sponsored Wounded Warriors dinner. Anyone interested in serving as a host, contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or email [grunt69@gmail.com](mailto:grunt69@gmail.com). Due to the restaurant's desire to remain anonymous, more details cannot be published.
- **DMZ TO Delta® DANCE SPONSORS:** The dance provides the opportunity for your business to advertise your service or products at the dance. The fee of \$50 entitles your company's business literature to be distributed on each table at the dance. The dance is on November 10th and is at the Holiday Inn at Rosslyn.
- **Lyons VAMC PTSD CLASS VISIT:** Contact Bruce Waxman or just show up on October 6th at The Wall at 11:00 AM to welcome our fellow veterans from the Lyons VAMC PTSD classes. The remaining dates are November 10th and December 22nd. The veterans' military service ranges from the Vietnam War to the current conflicts. All are being treated for combat PTSD.
- **STATE COUNCIL MEETING:** Ron Ball, Len Ignatowski, and Byron Sheldon represented the chapter at the Virginia State Council meeting on September 18th in Culpeper. The chapter's proposal to reduce the number of state council meetings from four to three was defeated by five votes. The proposal would have saved the council's meeting expense by approximately \$5000 a year without adversely impacting the council's business. Other factors were reduced chapter and individual lodging and meal costs which could be applied to chapter activities.  
The chapter donated a large bag of hotel toiletries in support of Chapter 641, the meeting host troop support program. The items will be mailed to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thanks to Len Ignatowski, Joe Celesnik, Max Knouse, and John Runyon for the donated items.
- **LEESBURG TO HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS:** The chapter has accepted the Town of Leesburg's invitation to participate in their Veterans Day ceremony that honors Vietnam veterans. Chuck Harris (Phone 703-729-5665) is the chapter's representative for the event. Tentative time is 10:00 am on November 11th at The George C. Marshall International Center. More details to follow, but mark this event on your calendar.
- **MANASSAS'S VETERANS DAY PARADE:** Chapter 617 invites members to participate in the town's Veterans Day Parade on November 6, 2010. The parade time is 11:00 am, and chapter assembly time starts at 9:00 am. Parade starts at Quarry Road and Prescott Avenue. Any questions, contact Kevin Byrne at 703-330-0622.

# “BARE FEET, IRON WILL”

Ltc. James (Jim) Zumwalt, USMC (Retired), Vietnam veteran, chapter member, and author, discussed the North Vietnamese people’s determination to unite the divided country through personal interviews with military officers, soldiers, and their families. He said that our motivation for fighting the war was to stop the spread of Communism, but the North Vietnamese viewed the struggle as a nationalistic crusade. Communism was a tool to achieve that goal.

Ho Chi Minh turned to Communism only after President Wilson rebuffed his appeal for Vietnam’s independence after WW I. While U.S. families were actively seeking draft deferments and back-door entries into reserve units, North Vietnamese families were sending entire families to fight the war. One mother lost six sons in the conflict. He cited a discussion with a medical officer whose one year Tour turned into eight years. His unit lost 90% of its supplies along the Ho Chi Minh trail, but they performed life saving surgery and treatment from materials salvaged from U.S. aircraft and with basic tools such as hand drills and wire cutters for brain surgery. Electrical wire insulation was used for intravenous tubing, while local materials, like coconut shells were used as storage glassware. Food was obtained by hunting wild animals, while underground operating rooms were illuminated with bike-pedaled powered electric generators. Simple counter measures to U.S. efforts to force troops out of the tunnels with riot gas involved wetting a piece of cloth with urine and building water traps in the tunnel passages. During the dry season, river beds were used as highways, and bridges were built just below the water surface to conceal them from aerial detection. An army of 100,000 troops repaired and improved the Ho Chi Minh trail from U.S. air attacks. The North Vietnamese were willing to pay the price for victory. His book, “Bare Feet, Iron Will” contains the entire story.

Jim’s conclusion was that our failure was based on violating one of the principles of warfare; know your enemy and why he was fighting. In response to a question about lessons learned, he believes that the same mistake was made in our current two wars. On the positive side, he believes that the Vietnamese government’s main worry is China, its perpetual enemy. Vietnam seeks better relations with the U.S. and respects us. Their declaration of independence is modeled after our revolutionary document. Their culture shares the same respect and honor for dead family members to be returned to their loved ones. They are making every effort to find our MIAs. For example, a Vietnamese soldier cemetery was dug up to find the remains of two U.S. soldiers who died in captivity and were buried there. He compared the action to digging up Arlington National Cemetery to find the remains of a dead NVA soldier. He places the South Vietnamese battlefield failure to corruption of its political leaders and military officers. ARVN units led by competent and honest officers fought with bravery against superior odds.

He is pursuing his father’s effort, who is deceased Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, to repair the damage and human suffering from Agent Orange on both sides of the conflict and to avoid such a tragedy that took the life of his older brother, Elmo.

Jim’s honest and personal perspective of the war is another great moment in our chapter history to find the truth, to benefit from them, and not to repeat the mistakes. Thanks, Jim, for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

## Menu Selection & Payment Due By October 14th

### VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 227 25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

October 23rd at 6:00 PM

Holiday Inn Rosslyn

1900 North Ft. Myer Drive, Arlington, Va.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Selection:	Breast of Chicken with Champagne Sauce	_____	x	\$ 30.00	=	\$ _____
	Roast Prime Rib of Beef	_____	x	\$ 30.00	=	\$ _____
	Grilled Pacific Salmon with Dill Sauce	_____	x	\$ 30.00	=	\$ _____
	Can't Make It, But Here is an Anniversary Present . . . . .					\$ _____
				TOTAL:		\$ _____

Mail order form and check payment to: Len Ignatowski, 2408 Oak Vale Court, NW, Vienna, Va. 22181. Make check payable to VVA Chapter 227.

## U.S. RANGERS HEROISM ON D-DAY

The October 21st membership meeting guest speaker is Roger L. Neighborgall, a WW II veteran, who landed on Omaha Beach, in a U.S. Ranger Battalion to attack the German heavy artillery battery at Point du Hoc. Roger's military commendations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was interviewed by the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and foreign TV networks. His unit served as the "Eyes and Ears" for General Patton's 3rd Army march to Germany.

Come early with your spouse and bring a friend to enjoy a great dinner, and meet fellow members in addition to reliving a very historical moment in WW II history. And don't forget to bring a baby doll for the AVVA community outreach project.

## “DMZ TO Delta”<sup>®</sup> DANCE

No, it is not too early to purchase your dance tickets. Mail your ticket order or purchase them at the October 21st 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 [grunt69@gmail.com](mailto:grunt69@gmail.com). Volunteers are especially needed for the final hour.

**DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2010 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 30, 2010
- For Hotel Reservations, call 1-800-465-4329, ask for Reservation Code: VIE
- Free parking
- Ride Metro: Rosslyn METRO Subway Station is 1-1/2 blocks.

### DANCE TICKET ORDER FORM@ [newsltr](mailto:newsltr)

I want to order \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$30 per person. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend, but I want to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ guest tickets

(Gold Star Mother, needy veteran) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to make a donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail my tickets to the following address:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket orders received after October 25, 2010 will be held at the Will Call Desk, which opens at 7:00 pm. Questions, call 703-255-0353 or visit our website at [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

**VETERAN'S HOTLINE 1-800-273-8255**

**24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK \*\*\*\*\* DON'T HESITATE! CALL NOW!**

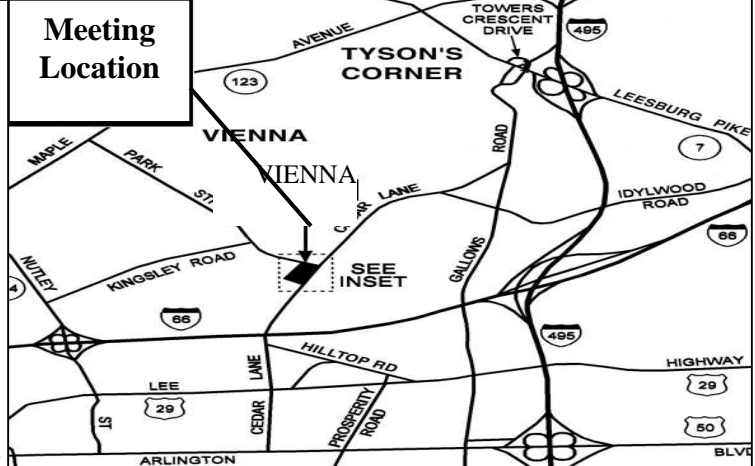
# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

# OCTOBER 2010



## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

- President:** Byron Sheldon – 703-850-3498
- Vice President:** Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269
- Secretary:** Ron Ball
- 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:** Diane Ignatowski 703-255-0353
- Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353
- School Speaker's Panel:** Tom Stryer
- 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

### Oct.

- 07 Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 09: Fairfax City "Fall Festival" Information Booth, # 356, 10 am to 5 pm. POC: Joe Celesnik, Hosts are needed
- 21 Membership Meeting: Roger Neighborgall, WW II veteran, "U. S. Rangers Assault on Point Du Hoc". *Bring a baby doll too.*
- 23 **25th Chapter Anniversary Dinner: Speaker: Rick Weidman. "Past, Present, & Future of VVA"**  
**Ticket deadline: 14 Oct.**

### Nov.

- 04 Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 06: Greater Manassas Veterans Day Parade: 11 am.
- 10: Lyons VAMC PTSD Class Visit: 11:00 AM at The Wall
- 10: **DMZ to Delta Dance 8:00 PM, Holiday Inn Rosslyn Order your tickets now**
- 11: Veterans Day: *Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!*
- 11: Leesburg, Va. Veterans Day Service Honors Vietnam Veterans. Members invited. Details to follow.
- 18: Membership Meeting: Joan Evans, Asst. Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, "State of DVA"

### Dec.

- 02: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 04: Virginia State Council Meeting, Virginia Beach
- 11: Holiday Party – Host: Bill and Cheryl Dumsick's Home. Details to follow.
- 16: **NO DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING Have a safe and happy holiday!**
- 22: Lyons VAMC PTSD Class Visit: 11:00 AM at The Wall

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



# **25th CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

*As the old song lyrics say, "Celebrate, Celebrate!"*

October 23, 2010

Orders due by October 14th.

## **Relive The Storming of Point du Hoc on D-DAY**

Membership Meeting @ October 21st

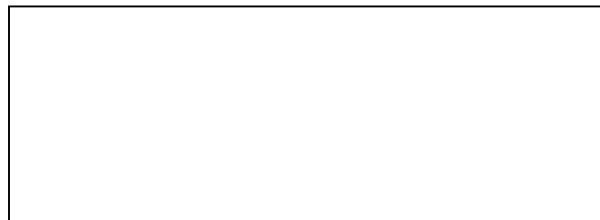
## **LYONS VAMC PTSD VISIT**

October 6th at 11:00 am

They need you!

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"**