

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 2011

ARLINGTON CEMETERY GRAVE SITE ISSUE

The October 20th membership meeting features Carl J. Beisel of the SAIC Corporation, who will discuss the Arlington National Cemetery Assessment and Findings regarding the proper interment and recording of grave sites at the cemetery. SAIC Corp. was retained by the federal government to investigate this issue.

Come early to meet fellow members and enjoy a great dinner. Family members and guests are always welcome. Our meetings are alcohol and smoke free. The meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

26th CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The chapter will celebrate its 26th anniversary at the October 20th membership meeting with cake and trimmings. Come to this gala celebration and bring a fellow veteran with you. All past officers and directors are strongly invited to attend.

CHAPTER HONORS GOLD STAR MOTHERS by Chuck

Harris

On Saturday, September 24th, Chuck Harris and his wife, Glenda Parsons, represented Chapter 227 at the American Gold Star Mothers Banquet. The event honored the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. There were three Vietnam Gold Star Mothers present among the approximately 150 attendees. Chuck presented a Chapter 227 contribution of \$250 to the National President, Norma Luther, and had the opportunity to thank the Gold Star Mothers for their sacrifice. It was a very moving and inspirational evening.

COME TO THE DANCE

The 2011 DMZ to Delta® Dance will be held on November 10th. The dance is the chapter's veteran outreach program to provide an economical and enjoyable evening for visiting veterans, their families, and chapter members. Remember that the cut-off date for the special room price is October 10th. Make your reservation now. See the dance announcement on the next page.

If you cannot attend the dance, you can buy a ticket for a Gold Star Mother or just make a donation for the dance. Call Len Ignatowski (703-255-0353) to offer your services to work at the dance. The dance's Silent Auction is in need of items. If you can donate an item or service, contact Paul Stancliff at 703-402-9247.

FAIRFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL OUTREACH

The chapter will have a booth at the Fairfax City Fall Festival on October 8th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Dr. Steven Nettles, Vet Center counselor, will be available to answer VA benefit and other questions. The event provides the opportunity to recruit new members and to inform the public about our Tour of Duty. The booth number is 356 which is across from the old city hall on University Drive. Volunteers are needed? Questions, call Joe or Sharon Celesnik at 703-938-7669.

NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM by Chuck Harris

Chapter 227 has joined in partnership with MITRE's **Boxes (or Care Packages) for Troops Program** which began in 2009 as part of a "Day of Service and Remembrance" event to honor September 11th. One hundred twenty boxes were shipped to deployed troops that first year and 155 shipped in 2010. This year \$3,850 was raised and so far 143 boxes have been shipped with the number expected to exceed 200 before the effort draws to a close in October. The Care Packages are sent to friends and family of MITRE employees deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan for distribution to their units. Donations can be sent to the chapter address.

“DMZ TO Delta”[®] DANCE is on!

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. ® Chapter 227

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2011

TIME: 8:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT

HOLIDAY INN ROSSLYN at Key Bridge

1900 N. Ft. Myer Dr., Arlington, Va.

I want to order _____ tickets at \$30 per person \$ _____

I cannot attend, but I want to purchase _____ guest tickets \$ _____
(Gold Star Mother, guest veteran)

I want to make a donation since I can't attend \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

Please mail my tickets to the following address:

NAME: _____ **Email for future mailings:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

Ticket orders received after October 20, 2011 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.

Please make your check payable to **Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Chapter 227**, and mail your ticket order to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.® Chapter 227
P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va. 22205

SPECIAL HOTEL ROOMS: \$109 plus taxes **RESERVATION DEADLINE:** October 10, 2011.
Call 1-800-368-3408, ask for Reservation Code: VIE

CHAPTER BRIEFS

- **HOLIDAY PARTY HOST NEEDED:** A host for the Holiday Party in December is needed. Call Byron Sheldon (703-850-3498) to offer your home for this annual chapter event. A \$ 300 grant is provided for expenses (meat, beverages, etc.)
- **DRY CLEANER NEEDED:** The Suits for Vets program is in need of a business that will clean the donated clothing at a reduced price or free. Call Chuck Harris at 703-463-7326 if you can help.
- **THROUGH RAIN** Special kudos to Bill Shugarts and Len Ignatowski for battling thunder storms to host the September 7th Lyons PTSD class visit to The Wall. Although both were soaked, the veterans were welcomed with the same enthusiasm and care as on a warm summer day. Bill escorted several veterans to the new Martin Luther King Memorial, where he gave an excellent description of the impressive memorial.
- **SPEAKERS NEEDED:** The chapter is in need of meeting speakers for February through June 2012. The speaker can be you about your Tour of Duty or someone that you know on a topic of interest (Vietnam War, veteran outreach program, other wars (WW II, Korean, Iraq, etc.)). Call Len Funk at 703-820-8118.
- **BYRON SELECTED FOR REGIONAL COMMITTEE:** Sara McVicker, new VVA Region 3 Director, selected Byron Sheldon, chapter president, to serve on the region's Disciplinary Committee, which reviews and acts on chapter and member conduct charges.
- **AARP DULLES CAR SHOW:** On September 11th, Byron Sheldon, Bruce Waxman, Ron Ball, Len Ignatowski, and Bob Omasta staffed an information booth at the AARP car show in Herndon, Virginia. The event provided several potential member contacts. Veteran benefits handbooks were distributed, and a special woman veteran benefit handbook was given to George Mason University student nurses, who are military veterans. Our appearance was the first time at this unique public event which included signing up of VFW Post 8241 of McLean to our Minuteman Alert.
- **SPEAKER'S PANEL NEEDS STUDENTS:** Tom Stryer is heading the chapter's speaker's panel, which offers members to share their Tour of Duty with students from elementary grade to college and to public organizations. If you can recommend a teacher or organization that would be interested in this special public outreach, call Tom at 703-323-9032.

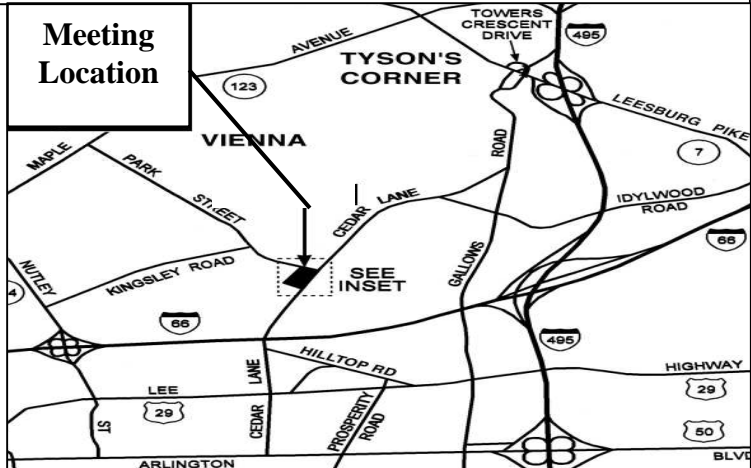
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

October 2011



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, and Tom Stryer.
- AVVA Representative:** Diane Ignatowski 703-255-0353
- Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353
- School Speaker's Panel:** Tom Stryer 703-323-9032
- 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

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

October

- 06: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va., 7:30 PM
- 08: Fairfax City Fall Festival 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Veteran and community outreach. Volunteers needed. Vet Center staff will be present.
- 12: Lyons PTSD Class Visit to the Wall: Meet at the flag pole @ 11:00 AM. Contact Ben Buckley 703-978-9179
- 20: Membership Meeting & 26th Chapter Anniversary: Arlington National Cemetery Assessment and Findings by Carl J. Beisel, SAIC Corp

November:

- 03: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va, 7:30 PM
- 10: DMZ to Delta@ Dance: ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!
- 11: Veterans Day
- 17: Membership Meeting: Rear Adm. Thomas A. Morrison, USN Retired, "Lawyering in the U.S. Navy and why everyone should go to Law School"
- 23: Lyons PTSD Class Visit to The Wall: Meet at the flag pole @ 11:00 AM. POC: Ben Buckley 703-978-9179

December:

- 01: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va., 7:30 PM
- 03: Virginia State Council Meeting, Virginia Beach, Va.
- 10: Holiday Party: Host needed. Details to follow -- NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

VETERAN'S HOTLINE 1-800-273-8255

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

VVA HOUSEHOLD GOODS PROGRAM

- The Unique Store, 2956 Gallows Road, Merrifield is our program outlet.
- Hours: Mon. – Sat.: 10 am to 8 pm & Sun.: 11 am to 6 pm
- Great for college and starting out household items and clothing

WHY ARE YOU NOT IN ONE OF OUR PHOTOGRAPHS?



OCTOBER 20th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

“Arlington National Cemetery Assessment and Findings”

FAIRFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL

October 8, 2011

Veteran and Community Outreach

LYONS PTSD CLASS VISIT TO THE WALL

October 12, 2011 at 11:00 AM

DMZ To Delta ® DANCE

November 10, 2011 - Buy Your Tickets NOW!

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”