

# 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”*

June 2012



## KASPAR AWARDS

The 16th Annual Vince Kaspar Awards for Excellence in the Arts was conducted at the May 17<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The program honors Vince Kaspar, a chapter member and a founder of the Memorial Day Writers Project (MDWP). He died prematurely sixteen years ago. The chapter and the MDWP jointly sponsor the program that recognizes local student talents in poetry and art. One early winner is now an English teacher in a local high school. The prizes are \$250 for 1st Place, \$150 for 2nd Place, and \$100 for 3rd Place, and Honorable Mentions for poetry and art including the new digital format. A certificate and a dog tag with the inscription, “Vince Kaspar Awards for Excellence in the Arts 2012” are presented to each winner and honorable mention. The Kaspar family suggested the student awards program and provided the initial funding with the proceeds of Vince’s personal items sale.

Vince founded the MDWP as a vehicle for veterans to relieve the pain of war that they brought back through poetry, songs, and prose. The MDWP holds an open forum near The Wall on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The students represented a wide assortment of schools and grades. Each winner read their poem or explained their art piece. The winners are:

### POETRY WINNERS:

- First Place: \$250 “Dust Bowl Blues”, Katherine Weigi, Senior, West Springfield H.S. and an Honorable Mention winner
- Second Place: \$150 “Buried Remembrance”, Katherine Weigi, Senior, West Springfield H.S.
- Third Place: \$ 100 “Who Am I Really”, Eric Thompson, Junior, Robert E. Lee H.S.
- Honorable Mention: Quiana Bryant, Sr., JEB Stuart H.S., Katie Carter, Sr., West Springfield H.S., Anishaa DeSilva, Jr., Falls Church H.S., Vy Do, Sr. Chantilly H.S., Marisa Grayson, Sr., Westfield H.S., Emily McLenigan, Sr., Centreville H.S., Sydney Pereira, Jr., Chantilly H.S. (three honorable), Rachael Wong, Sr. Mt. Vernon H.S. (Continued Page 2)

## “LETS ROCK & ROLL” VIETNAM

Lets “Rock and Roll” was a familiar battle cry during the Vietnam War, and Hugo A. Keesing will provide a unique discussion on the music of the Vietnam War at the June 21st membership meeting at 7:30 PM. VVA National uses his musical expertise for musical selections at its events. He has compiled our era music on a CD titled, “... NEXT STOP VIETNAM”.

Bring the family and fellow veterans to learn about our music! Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members!

## NATIONALS BASEBALL GAME: 7 wins in a row!

The traditional Veterans Appreciation by the Nationals baseball team is set for August 5, 2012 at 1:35 P.M. versus the Marlins. Our seats will be located in Section 404 on the 3rd base shady side.

The special ticket price is \$ 9.00. Checks are to be payable to Bill Lynch, and ticket requests with payment are due **no later than June 30, 2012**. Bill’s address is:

Bill Lynch  
6322 Applegarth Court  
Alexandria, VA 22312-1542

Checks are to be payable to Bill Lynch and mailed no later than June 30, 2012

Tickets, in your name, will be held at “will call” in the stadium for pickup on the day of the game. Any questions, call Bill at [703-474-4891](tel:703-474-4891). The chapter game attendance is “perfect” 6 wins – 0 losses. See you at the ballgame!



Bruce Waxman (R) presented framed certificates of appreciation to Ben Buckley (L) and Bill Shugarts for their support of the Lyons VAMC PTSD class visits to The Wall at the May meeting. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## MORE UNSUNG HEROES

The chapter honored Ben Buckley and Bill Shugarts for their dedication and support of the chapter’s welcoming combat PTSD veterans from the Lyons VAMC at The Wall on a 45 day schedule for over three years. Ben’s speech welcomes the veterans into our unique brotherhood with quotes from President Lincoln. Bill is the official visit photographer, and all photographs are sent to the Lyons Hospital for distribution. Both veterans have almost perfect attendance. The next visit is June 27th.

Bill’s service is special since he was recruited from the state At-Large roster during the last recruitment drive, and he recommended the veteran/U.S flags lapel pin to be given to these veterans.

Their dedication is a great example of veterans who cannot regularly attend chapter events, but they have selected a program to support.

Do you have time and/or skill that the chapter can use in fulfilling our founding principle, “Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”?

## CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

Len Ignatowski represented the chapter at the White House Vietnam Veterans Champions of Change program on May 24, 2012 at the Eisenhower Building, which is next to the White House. The panelists consisted of several Vietnam veterans who discussed how they were helping homeless and unemployed veterans. The newest thrust is to get employers to recognize the work skills and motivation of combat veterans whose military skills do not directly translate to civilian jobs, although skills like team work, mission driven, dedication, and just being on time are valued work ethics. Combat skill veterans are the highest unemployed group of all military veterans.

## DRY CLEANING SUITS FOR VETS

The chapter paid \$350 to dry clean donated clothing for the caregivers of our Wounded Warriors at both area military hospitals. The program needs a dry cleaner in the Tysons Corner-Ashburn corridor that will clean the donated clothing for free or at a reduced price. Many kudos to Chuck Harris who collects, sorts, dry cleans, and delivers the used clothing for the caregivers. The unacceptable attire is delivered to the Unique (VVA program sponsor) thrift store besides serving as the chapter treasurer. Any questions, contact Chuck at 703-729-5665.

## SORRY CHARLIE!

The Kudos to our first unsung hero, Charlie Klein, omitted one important task that he has performed for the last fifteen or so years. Charlie delivers the chapter mail from the Arlington post office box to Len Ignatowski’s home on a weekly schedule to insure prompt business action. Neither rain nor snow has deterred his mail delivery.

## VINCE KASPAR (Continued from Page 1)

### ART WINNERS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| First Place: \$250   | Eva Klingelhut, Sr., West Springfield H.S.  |
| Second Place: \$150  | Mira Ko, Sr., Centreville, H.S.   |
| Third Place: \$ 100 (Two)  | Henry Lopez-Gudiel, Jr., JEB Stuart H.S. and Celeste Zabowski, Sr., West Potomac H.S. |
| Honorable Mention: Yasaman Ansari, Jr., Flint Hill H.S., Mary Baker, Sr., West Springfield H.S., Eva Klingelhut, Sr., West Springfield H.S., Mira Ko, Sr., Centreville H.S., Anna Martinez, Jr., Mt. Vernon H.S., Amir Noorbakhsh, Sr., George C. Marshall H.S., Crystal Nguyen, Sr., Centreville H.S., Celeste Zabowski, Sr., West Potomac H.S. |   |

Special thanks to Bruce Waxman for managing the successful program. The art judges were Nancy Sessions, a local Fairfax County Public School art teacher, Deborah Greening, a retired Fairfax County Public School art teacher, and Chris With, a retired National Gallery of Art employee and a Washington Print Club official. The poetry judges were Cathie Solomonson and Mike McDonnell of Chapter 227 and MDWP, and Dick Epstein and Clyde Wray of the MDWP. Special thanks to the members who attended to express their support for the student academic endeavors. This year’s entries set a record of 35 poets, 9 artists, and a high number of participating public and private high schools enhancing the program’s increasing recognition and its growing excellence in the local educational community.

# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

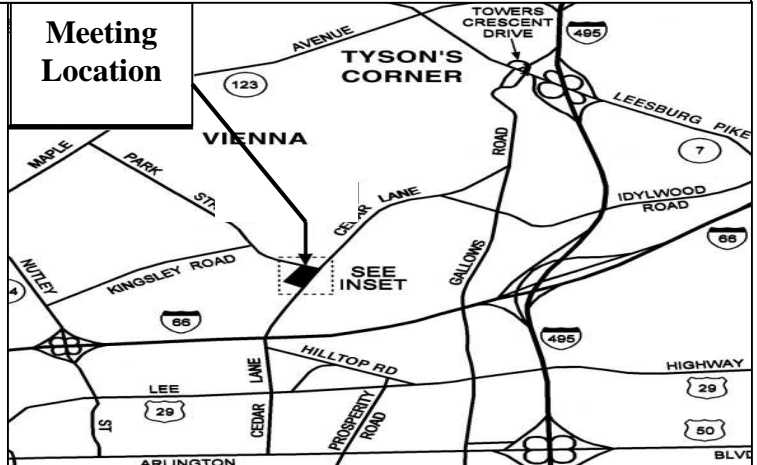
June 2012



## 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 Ignatowski, Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, Max Knouse, Bill Lynch, Chris Beverly, 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  
**Lyons PTSD Visit:** Ben Buckley 703-978-9179

### Meeting Location



**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

### June 2012

07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
 21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Dr. Hugo A. Keesing, "Next Stop is Vietnam" The history of music in the Vietnam War.  
 23: Virginia VVA State Council Convention and Meeting: Richmond, Va.  
 27: Lyons PTSD Class Visit: Meet at the flag pole @ 11:00 AM. POC: Ben Buckley 703-978-9179  
 30: **Baseball game ticket order deadline.**

### July 2012

04: Independence Day: Have a safe and enjoyable holiday and remember the true meaning of this day.  
 05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
 19: No membership meeting

### August 2012

02: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
 05: Nationals vs. Marlins Baseball Game. *Lets make it "7" in a row!* See newsletter article on ticket purchase

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

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

### VVA CAR DONATION PROGRAM

**1-800-Help Vets**

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS DONATION – "It Works for Us!"**

The VVA Household Goods program provided over \$4100 of income in 2010. You can help in three ways.

- Donate household goods and clothing by calling 1-800-459-8387 to schedule a pick-up, or drop off the items at the Unique Thrift Store on 2956 Gallows Road (the old Levitz Store) and buy something.
- Shop at the store which offers an excellent source for home furniture and decorations for children's new apartments or your second home. Clothing and other items are like new. One member's teenage son enjoys shopping for clothes and bedroom decorations at the store which has great prices. The store hours are Mon. – Sat.: 10 AM to 8 PM, and Sun.: 11 AM to 6 PM.
- Drop-off sheds, similar to the ones that are at shopping centers, are available. If you can provide a location, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353. Every donation helps!

***“LETS ROCK & ROLL!”***  
***“Music of the Vietnam War”***  
**Membership Meeting – June 21st**

**LETS MAKE IT “7” IN A ROW**

**NATIONALS VS. MARLINS GAME**

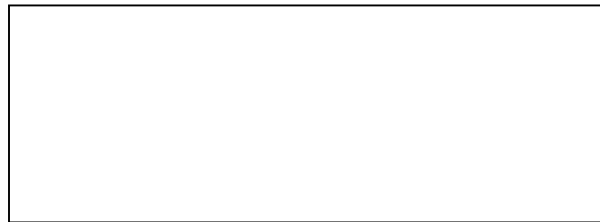
**August 5th**

**Ticket order deadline is June 30th**

***Bring the family and a fellow veteran!***

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”**