

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”

September 2012

WW II LADY VETERAN TO SHARE HER TOUR

The September 20th membership meeting guest speaker is Ms. Carolyn Fix, a WW II Women Army Corps veteran. She was trained as an X-Ray technician. While in transit to her duty station in the Pacific War Theater, she was exposed to the human aspects of combat when she performed emergency duty as an X-Ray technician in treating casualties of the Port of Chicago ammunition ship explosion in California. Upon her discharge from military service, she used her G.I education benefit to earn a B.S. and Master's degree and later qualified for a Fulbright Scholarship. She retired from the U.S. Geological Service.

Bring the family and fellow veterans to learn about this pathfinder of women soldiers. Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet fellow members!

STUDENT AID

On August 20, 2012, the chapter fulfilled our founding principle, “Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another” when Bruce Waxman, Vice President, and Len Ignatowski, Director, presented thirty-four \$50 VISA gift cards for back to school needs of VASH veteran children. The \$ 1700 grant marks the second year of our expanding veteran outreach and the VASH program's growing success. Only ten gift cards were needed for last year's needs. Both case managers expressed sincere appreciation for our assistance. It will make a difference.

The presentation was done at the VA out-patient clinic that is located in the new Ft. Belvoir hospital. A tour of the new facility was given to Bruce and Len. The hospital's modern and open environment presents an air of optimism and hope to anyone entering the facility. Plus ample and free parking is available.

The VASH program growth in the last year resulted in sixty-plus clients and the addition of a second case worker to the Northern Virginia program.



Chapter presents VISA gift cards for back-to-school needs of VASH client children. Bruce Waxman, (L to R), April Ballard, VASH Case Manager, Martha Valdez, VASH Case Manager, and Len Ignatowski.

FAIRFAX CITY FAIR VETERAN OUTREACH

Joe and Sharon Celesnik will manage our information booth at the Fairfax City Fall Festival on October 13th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rain date is October 14th. The booth number is 356, which is across from the old Fairfax City hall on University Drive. This event has resulted in new members and contacts with the general public and family members of Vietnam veterans. Your help is needed for this event.

KUDOS TO OUR VASH CASE MANAGERS

The chapter wants to acknowledge the great work of Northern Virginia's two VASH case managers, Martha Valdez and April Ballard. These two ladies work beyond the call of duty and hours, often involving driving over a hundred miles a day to assist our homeless veterans in Fairfax County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, and the Cities of Alexandria and Manassas. Due to the increased work load, April was recently assigned to work with Martha. They report that the word is out and that many of their new clients were tent dwellers. Besides completing the necessary paper work, they are often called upon to perform duties for which they were not trained, such as getting a landlord to waive a second month security deposit and to accept a HUD voucher. Also, situations often required a drill sergeant attitude in getting stubborn veterans to get in step with the program or lose their voucher. Sound familiar!!

The chapter salutes all VASH case managers for their service to our veterans. So the next time you hear a politician or veteran degrade the service of federal employees, educate them about the exceptional service of our VASH case managers.

“DMZ TO Delta”[®] DANCE

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. ® Chapter 227

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2012

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, 2012 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 4, 2012.
Call 1-800-368-3408, ask for Reservation Code: VIE

“7” WINS IN A ROW

The chapter's attendance at the Nationals vs. Marlins baseball game on August 5th made it “7” wins in a row for our game attendance. Final score, Nationals 4, Marlins 1 .

Special thanks to Bill Lynch, who pitched hit for Bill Bohuslaw for serving as Ticket Master. Twenty-eight members, family, and guests attended the game. The Nationals recognized our attendance with a special message on the scoreboard screen. Maybe the Nationals should provide tickets for the first four games of the World Series to make it a Nats sweep of the series.

CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **COMBAT PTSD VISITS:** Thanks to Ben Buckley and Bill Shugarts, for serving as hosts for the August 8th class visit. The veterans are from the Vietnam War to today's conflicts, and they visit The Wall and Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery as part of their therapy. If you can, be there to welcome our fellow brothers and sisters into our family. The next visit is **September 19th**.
- **BICYCLE DONATION:** Thanks to the generosity of Lois Beck and the Minuteman Alert, a high quality mountain bike has a new home with a veteran who is living in a homeless veteran transition home in Springfield. The bike provides transportation for shopping and to the Metro station. A strong bike lock was included with the bike.
- **KISS CONCERT & MINUTEMAN ALERT:** Chapter members attended the KISS band rehearsal concert at the Jiffy Lube Theater on July 19th. The free ticket offer was announced via the Minuteman Alert. If you want to be informed on such offers, provide your email address to grunt69@gmail.com. The KISS band is a large supporter of wounded and jobless veterans. The group presented a \$ 250,000 check for veteran job assistance before the concert.

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

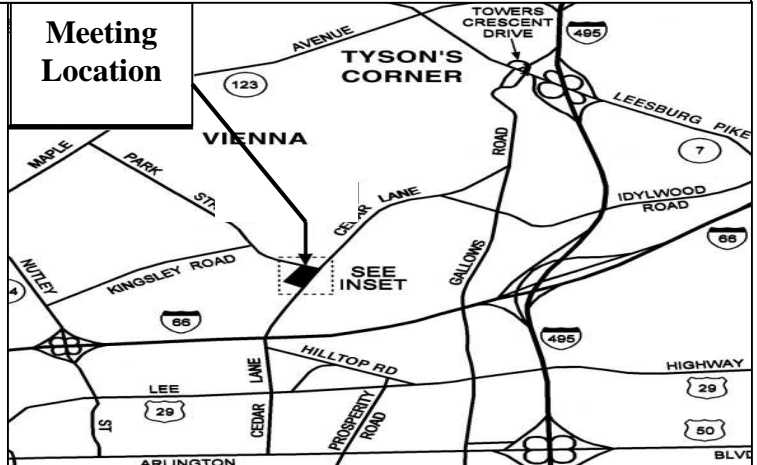
September 2012



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 Beverley, 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

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

September 2012

06: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 19: Lyons Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at the flagpole by The Wall at 11:00 AM. Ben Buckley 703-978-9179
 20: Membership Meeting: Speakers: WW II Women Army Corps veterans, SSgt Carolyn Fix.
 21: National POW/MIA Recognition Day

October 2012

04: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 11: Chapter's 27th Anniversary
 13: Fairfax City Fall Festival 10:00 am to 5:00 pm: Public and veteran outreach. Your help is needed.
 18: Membership Meeting & 27th Anniversary: Speaker: Paul White, "U.S. Ground Operations in MR II and NE Laos from Mid-60's to early 70's". All former officers and directors are especially invited to attend.
 21: Elks Lodge 2188 Veteran and Military Fundraiser Barbecue. Details to follow.
 31: Lyons Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at the flagpole by The Wall at 11:00 AM. Ben Buckley 703-978-9179

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

NEW HOUSEHOLD GOODS STORE - POTOMAC MILLS

"It Works for Us!"

- The quarterly Household Goods rebate check of \$ 896 was received on June 25th.
- SAVERS Thrift Store has opened a store at 14427 Potomac Mills Road. Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 9 pm and Sunday 10 am to 6 pm.
- The second store is Unique Thrift Store at 2956 Gallows Road (the old Levitz Store)
- To schedule a pickup, call, 1-800-459-8387 or deliver the items at either store.
- 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, and some items even have the original sales tag attached.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 20, 2012

Guest Speaker: Ms. Carolyn Fix, WWII WAC Veteran

LYONS COMBAT PTSD CLASS VISIT

September 19th

Meet at the flagpole by The Wall at 11:00 AM

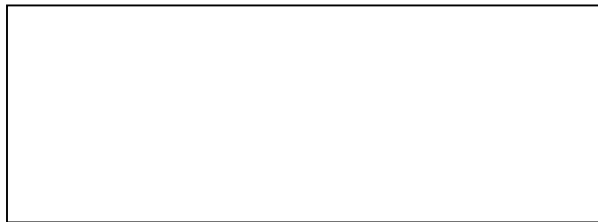
DMZ to Delta® Dance

November 10, 2012

Mark your calendar and buy you 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”**