

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”

December 2012



Will Charlie ride the hood for 2012?

Make Charlie Ride the Hood!

Bill and Cheryl Dumsick are hosting the Holiday Party on December 15, 2012, at 6:00 pm in their home at 13606 White Stone Court, Clifton, Virginia. Beverages and meat dishes are provided, while members bring a covered dish. Call Diane Ignatowski (703-255-0353) for a dish selection. **No early arrivals please!**

A Holiday Party tradition is to bring a wrapped child’s gift with the gift’s gender and age marked on it, and a child’s winter clothing item from gloves to jackets. The gifts and clothing serve as an emergency supply for the Sullivan House in Arlington County. Jonathan Olson and Charlie Klein deliver the gifts and clothing. Our goal is to completely fill Jonathan’s car with our generosity so that Charlie has to ride on the hood. Please attend and bring those gifts so Charlie will have to ride on the car hood. If you can’t attend the party, gifts can be dropped off at Len Ignatowski’s home at 2408 Oak Vale Court, N.W., Vienna. Call for a delivery time at 703-255-0353.

The Holiday Party replaces the December membership meeting. Let’s make this tradition the greatest one yet by making the holidays a little more joyful for the less fortunate

NEVER AGAIN SHALL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER



On November 11, 2012, Byron Sheldon, Chapter President, presented a \$500 kitchen pantry grant to Gail Page, Executive Director of Final Salute on the opening of the third transitional home for homeless women veterans. The grant is the second kitchen pantry grant. Bill Lynch, Chapter Director, was in attendance too.

Final Salute’s mission is to alleviate the homelessness for approximately 55,000 women veterans. The three homes accommodate both single and family women with children veterans.



Ron Ball, (L), Chapter Secretary, and Chris Beverley (R), Chapter Director, carried our remembrance wreath to The Wall for the 30th Anniversary service on November 11, 2012. The chapter’s wreath was one of 25 presented.



Hugh Jordan (L) and Wendell Sissler (C) watch as Ann Duarte, navy veteran, tries out her exercise bike. Photo by April Ballard.

MINUTEMAN ALERT SUCCESS

The chapter's email Minuteman Alert completed another successful mission with delivery of an exercise bicycle to Ann Duarte, a navy veteran and a VASH client on October 22, 2012. April Ballard, Northern Virginia's VASH case manager, brought the exercise bicycle request to the chapter's attention. A Minuteman Alert was immediately dispatched.

Hugh Jordan offered an exercise bicycle and delivered it. Wendell Sissler provided additional muscle delivery logistics.

If you want to be a Minuteman Man, send your email address to Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com. Also, community, religious and military service organizations, businesses and individuals are welcome to participate in the alert.

The chapter wants to thank all who responded to the alert and especially to Hugh and Wendell.

WINTERHAVEN STANDDOWN

Members are invited to support the DC Veterans Hospital annual homeless veteran Standdown on Saturday, January 12, 2012 from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. The chapter staffs the ladies' and children's clothing station.

Volunteer application submission deadline is December 21, 2012. Contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 to receive your application. Spouses and family members are welcome too.

DMZ TO DELTA DANCE 2012

The 24th dance was a success with over 125 attendees on November 10, 2010. A special thanks to Tom and Joanne Stryer, Bruce and Sarah Waxman, Bob and Ardis Mills, Charlie Klein, Jonathan Olson, Chris Beverley, Margaret Stern, Byron and Diane Sheldon, and Diane Ignatowski for helping at the dance, and special thanks to Len Ignatowski for managing the dance for the umpteenth year. Kate Ignatowski, professional photographer, took dance photos which are offered for sale. All proceeds benefit the chapter.

The dance is in need of a new home since the hotel had reserved the room for another event next year. If you know of a hotel or other suitable location for the dance, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or email at grunt69@gmail.com.

LOCAL WWII PILOT VETERAN MEMORIES

In our continuing program to recognize our WWII War veterans, Richard Kirkland provided an informative discussion on life of WW II pilots in the Pacific Theater. His squadron flew P-47 and P-38 aircraft. Their preference was the P-38 with its two engines (nice when flying over the ocean) and nose mounted machine guns and cannon (maximum firepower to hit your target unlike wing mounted guns). Their mission was bomber escort, troop support, and enemy ships. He flew a total of 103 combat missions.

His military career included a friendship with Maj. Tommy McGuire, second highest WWII ace, and a visit by Charles Lindbergh, whose engine operation advice extended their range by 30%. Lindbergh's visit created a political storm when he flew a combat mission and shot down a Japanese Zero. In comparison to his combat living conditions, our Vietnam Tours were like 5 Star hotel accommodations. After the war, he had a personal discussion with General Eisenhower when the general entered the hangar by the back door. The discussion ended with the general leaving without meeting the base commander. Being an art college major, he has accumulated a large repertoire based on his flying experiences. Many sketches were done in his fighter's cockpit.

After the war, he stayed in the service to fly the new jets. Instead he became a helicopter pilot and flew "dust off" medical flights and rescued pilots behind enemy lines in the Korean War. A challenge of flying the early helicopters was that the rotor blades were made of wood, which lost some of their lift while flying in the rain. He participated in secret missions involving the Marshall Islands nuclear bomb tests. In retirement, Richard wrote four non-fiction books based on his WWII flying.

The chapter and the nation thank Richard and his fellow WWII veterans for their military service at a time when our nation stood between democracy and tyranny.

If you know of a WW II or Korean War veteran who wants to share their Tour of Duty with us, contact Len Funk at 703-820-8118.

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

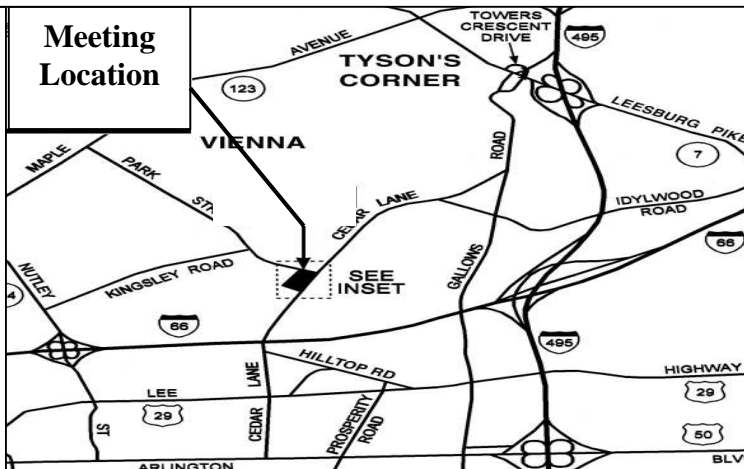
December 2012



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

December 2012

- 06: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, N., Vienna, Va.
- 07: Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Day
- 12: Lyons Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at the flagpole by The Wall at 11:00 AM. Ben Buckley 703-978-9179
- 15: Holiday Party 6:00 PM: Host: Bill and Cheryl Dumsick, 13606 Whitestone Court, Clifton, Va.
- 20: No membership meeting
- 25: Merry Christmas: Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

January 2013

- 01: Happy New Year: Have a safe and enjoyable holiday
- 03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, N., Vienna, Va.
- 12: VAMC Homeless Veteran Standdown: Volunteers needed for clothing station. Application deadline is Dec. 21st. See newsletter article.
- 17: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Speaker: Paul White, Vietnam Military Operations in Laos and Cambodia
- 23: 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 \$ 781 was received on December 1, 2012.
- 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.

Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit

December 12, 2012

“Great Opportunity to help new and Vietnam veterans!”

HOLIDAY PARTY

December 15, 2012

“Come and bring your gifts for Charlie to ride the hood!”

WINTER HAVEN STANDDOWN

January 12, 2013

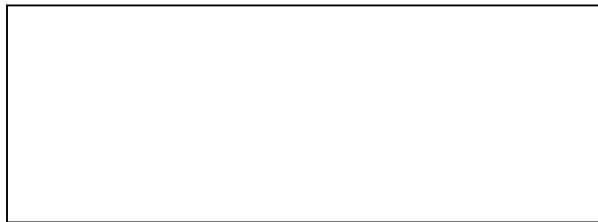
“Homeless Veteran Standdown – Ladies and Children Clothing Station”

Volunteer application deadline: 21 December 2012

Call Len Ignatowski @ 703-255-0353

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”