

# 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"*

January 2013



Bruce Waxman (C) explains the Jewish tradition of lighting the menorah candle holder for Hanukkah. Photo by Len Ignatowski



Charlie Klein (R) insures that Jonathan Olson (L) uses every inch of trunk space for our holiday children's gifts to prevent Charlie from riding the hood to deliver the presents. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## *Charlie Escapes Again!*

On December 15th Bill and Cheryl Dumsick's hospitality provided the primary ingredient for another great Holiday Party. An abundance of food and house decorations, which challenge Macy's store reputation, were part of the menu too. The icing on the party was the successful children's clothing and gifts collection for the Sullivan House, a family shelter in Arlington County. This holiday sharing spirit is a chapter tradition that is over twenty years old.

Byron Sheldon, chapter president, gave a very warm welcome and prayer with a special acknowledgement to our spouses who made this all possible by sharing us with the chapter's endeavors. Diane Sheldon added to the festivities by bringing a birthday cake to celebrate Byron's birthday. With this spirit of community sharing, Bruce Waxman explained the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, including the lighting of a menorah candle holder and singing Ma'oz Tzur. Bruce and Sarah made a special trip to a Maryland Jewish bakery to bring sufganiyot, a jelly filled donut, for all to enjoy. A special kudos to first time attendee and new member, Jay and Melissa Kalner. Hope to see them at the January meeting.

The members' generosity of children gifts did not fulfill the challenge of making Charlie Klein ride the hood of Jonathan Olson care because the car was full of presents. If another two or more families had attended, the car would have been filled. Charlie and Jonathan delivered the presents.

The only party flaw was that there was still room at the inn for more member attendance. For those who did not attend, another great opportunity to meet your fellow veterans and spouses was missed. The party marked the end of another exceptional year for Chapter 227.

## **U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS IN MR II & LAOS**

Paul White, retired U.S. State Department Foreign Service Officer, will discuss his Tour of Duty involving military and civic action operations in

South Vietnam MR II and Laos and lessons learned at the January 17th membership meeting. His war time experience will be updated from his recent return to these areas. Paul's perspective of the Vietnam War is a must attendance for all veterans and interested parties.

## **Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts**

The 16th Annual Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts is officially opened. The chapter and the Memorial Day Writers Project sponsor the program to recognize local high school talent in poetry and the visual arts. Prizes for each medium are \$250 for 1st Place, \$150 for Second Place, and \$ 100 for Third Place.

The contest is open to high school juniors and seniors who reside or attend school in Arlington and Fairfax Counties, the Town of Vienna, and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Fairfax. The deadline is March 2, 2013 and the awards will be presented at the May 16, 2013 membership meeting.

Art judges are needed for this year's contest. Entry submission directions and "frequently asked questions" are on the chapter webpage at [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org). Questions or art judge recommendations can be directed to Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269 or email at [bruce\\_waxman@vva227.org](mailto:bruce_waxman@vva227.org).



A pending stork baby delivery preceded the arrival of Santa forced April Ballard, VASH Case Manager, to deliver a baby car seat/stroller gift to a VASH family before Christmas. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## HOLIDAY FAMILY SUPPORT

Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, led a combined action team of chapter AVVA and members on a holiday wish list mission for three VASH families. April Ballard and Martha Valdez, VASH case managers, selected the three families that were in most need of holiday cheer. The families included one Vietnam War veteran, a post-Vietnam War veteran, and a Gulf War veteran. Two of the three are women veterans. The wish list included children bed sheets and covers, toys, clothing, and gift cards. A \$100 grocery gift card from the AVVA was given to each family too. The team included Bill Lynch, Ron Ball, Diane Sheldon, Margaret Stern, Fran Knouse, and Joanne Stryer. Len and Diane Ignatowski with April Ballard delivered the holiday cheer.

A special holiday outreach was made to a wounded warrior family that suffered a series of family misfortunes while the warrior was being treated for combat injuries. Chuck and Glenda Harris' enthusiasm for this effort inspired their fellow church members from the Unitarian

Universalist Church of Loudoun to join their team. The wish list ranged from toys to gift cards. Special kudos is due to the members who made a great effort in fulfilling each wish list and to the cash donations from chapter members, D.T. Butler, Ben Buckley, Len Funk, Bob Omasta, and Don Drusic, whose wife got her employer, Adobe, to match their gift of \$ 500. We fulfilled our founding principle, "Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!"

## SUITS FOR VETS

"Suits for Vets" 2012 Veteran's Day drive in partnership with The MITRE Corp. collected \$5,500 which will be used to buy 20 \$250 gift cards to Jos A. Bank for business attire for Wounded Warriors, and 20 \$25 gift cards to Target for Wounded Warriors and/or their Care Givers at Walter Reed.

In addition, nearly 100 men's and women's "like new" business attire were collected from a combined team of MITRE Corp. and Noblis employees. The clothing is made available to Wounded Warriors and their Care Givers, who often arrived with only a tooth brush and the clothes that they are wearing to care for their loved ones. Members who want to donate "like new" men and women business attire should contact Chuck Harris at 703-729-5665. Your donation should be dry cleaned to save this chapter expense, and the items should be in individual plastic covers with a tag that lists the size. This co-operation will save Chuck time and effort. Items that are judged unacceptable are given to VVA's thrift store vendor.

## VETERAN OUTREACH



John Hall (L) and Andre Sauvageot (R), both army Vietnam War veterans, are interviewed for the BBC talk show, 5 Live "Breakfast" John served with the 25th Infantry Div. with a weapons platoon while Andre served almost 9 tours as a MACV advisor and as a senior advisor to the USARV command.

- **BBC TV INTERVIEW:** Matt Wright, BBC Radio 5 Live "Breakfast" producer, - a national UK radio station interviewed John Hall and Andre Sauvageot on November 4th. The interview centered on military veteran life in the U.S. and critical veteran issues in the November elections. The request with a short response time was made on our Minuteman Alert email list.
- **MEMORIAL DAY WRITERS DAY PROJECT:** A \$200 grant was given to the Memorial Day Writer's Project to pay for the tent rental for their Veterans Day program on the mall near The Wall. Several chapter members helped establish this special program for Veterans Day and Memorial Day on the mall. The program provides a venue for veterans and spouses to express their military experiences in music, poetry, or other literary media.
- **VVA DOG TAGS:** A \$ 500 grant for the purchase of VVA dog tags to be distributed by VVA staff at wounded warrior events was made.
- **STATE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP:** The Virginia VVA state council is offering two \$500 scholarships for a veteran and a veteran family member. See eligibility and application on the council website at <http://www.vva-vasc.org/scholarship.pd>. Grandchildren are eligible. A raffle is used to select the scholarship winner.

# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

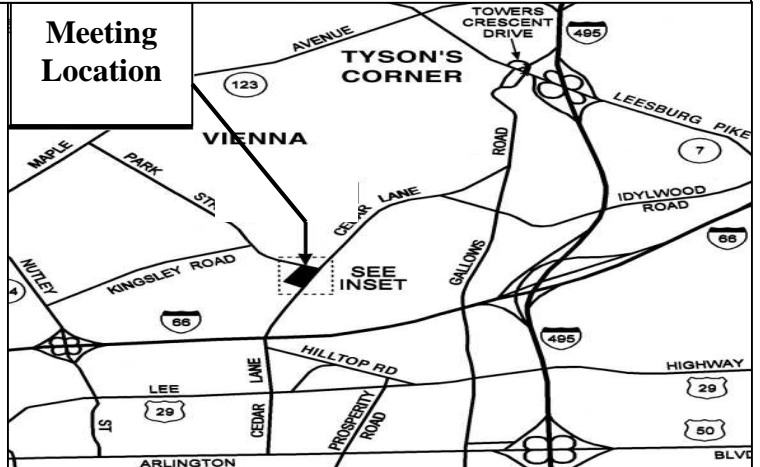
January 2013



## 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](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

### 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, Covert 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

### February

- 07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, N., Vienna, Va.
- 21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Speaker: TBA

## 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.

**VVA CAR DONATION PROGRAM 1-800-Help Vets**

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

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



# ***HAPPY NEW YEAR***

## **START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT ATTEND THE JANUARY 17th MEMBERSHIP MEETING *U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS IN MR II & LAOS***

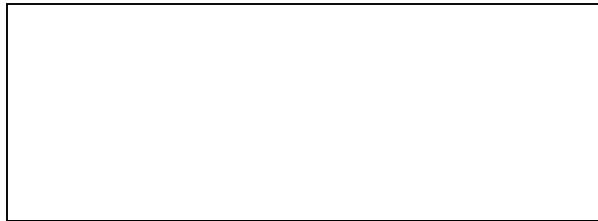
### **Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit**

January 23, 2013

*“Great Opportunity to help new and Vietnam veterans!”*

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”**