

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”

July 2013

MILITARY MEDICINE

LTC Kevin M. Franke, USAF, discussed modern military medical services from the air force to joint service programs and future treatment developments. His military career started as an army reserve officer, but after earning a master's degree in health services management, he accepted a direct commission as an active duty air force officer. He is currently Chief, Medical Current Operations Division with responsibilities for medical wartime and peacetime crisis situations, operations, and exercises. The air force has responsibility for evacuating military personnel from their point of initial medical treatment to the U.S. as needed. He commanded an air force civic medical team in Afghanistan that had navy, army, marine, and air force personnel. The team drilled water wells and provided medical and social services to villages.

The combat theater medical “Golden Hour” goal is to have the combat injury being treated at the theater hospital within 60 minutes of the injury. Air force and army personnel staff the hospital. The field medic stabilizes the injury until the dustoff arrives. The helicopter crew includes a medic, but if the injury is serious, a trauma doctor and two nurses are added to the flight crew. The theater hospital re-evaluates the injury, performs necessary surgery, and if necessary,

prepares the patient for return to the states. At this point, the patient has a 98% survival rate. If necessary, the patient is flown to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany which re-evaluates the medical condition, renders needed surgery, and prepares the patient for the flight to the U.S. Andrews AFB is the receiving port for all patients where they are flown to other military bases or assigned to Walter Reed/Bethesda or the Ft. Belvoir Hospitals for treatment and recovery. The time from the battlefield to a U.S. hospital bed is generally less than 72 hours. Air national guard medical personnel and flight crews perform most of the medical flights from the war theater to the U.S. The current program provides 1st class medical treatment for our wounded warriors.

The military services are working hard to combine medical treatment to reduce cost without sacrificing treatment quality. The military medical school at Walter Reed/Bethesda provides doctors for all services. Ft. Sam Houston Hospital in Texas provides medic training for all services. There are stumbling blocks in this effort. One is how to unify battlefield casualty retrieval. The air force and navy retrieve their downed pilots in hostile territory with armed helicopters, while the army still uses unarmed helicopters, but most patients are taken to the same hospital. The use of airborne drones and ground GPS guided vehicles are being explored for combat unit resupply to medical evacuation.

LTC Franke's presentation was very informative and generated a list of questions from PTSD with today's troops to medical policy. His appearance was especially appreciated since he agreed to change his September date for the June meeting due to a last minute family conflict with the scheduled speaker. Thank you, and congratulations on making the colonel's promotion list

The chapter is always seeking speakers for the membership meetings. If you know someone or even you, contact Len Funk at 703-820-8118.

NEW CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

As prescribed by the chapter bylaws, Bruce Waxman assumes the office of the president with the death of Byron Sheldon. Bruce will serve as president until next year's election. At the June 6th board meeting, the board appointed Len Ignatowski as chapter vice president until next year's election. The vote was unanimous. Bill Dumsick replaces Byron as the chapter state council delegate. Len Ignatowski and Paul Stancliff are the other delegates. The board has a director vacancy. If anyone wants to serve as a director until next year's election, contact Ron Ball at Ron_Ball@vva227.org.

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING JULY AND AUGUST



Bruce Waxman, President (R), presents a VVA baseball cap to LTC. Kevin Franke after his informative presentation at the June meeting. Photo by Len Ignatowski

SUITS FOR VETS

The Suits for Vets' Memorial Day campaign raised nearly \$ 7,000 for this joint project with Mitre Corporation, Jos A. Bank, and the Northern Virginia Senior Softball League. The chapter made a \$ 250 grant. The program provides business suits, shirts, ties, and shoes for troops leaving the wounded warriors in the severely wounded warrior program at Walter Reed/Bethesda Hospital.

Providing business attire for wounded warriors has unique challenges which Mr. Boudi Hayek, the Jos A. Bank manager of the Reston store has successfully met. An extra trouser comes with each suit since an artificial leg or other leg fitting may cause excessive cloth wear. In many cases, the artificial foot is not the size of the soldier's natural foot. So shoes are issued to fit each foot of the wounded warriors. Gift cards are issued to woman veterans to shop at other stores.

The program's success is due to the hard work and understanding of Mr. Hayek, Chuck Harris of Chapter 227, Theda Parish of Mitre, and the many Mitre employees who manage the fundraiser for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Thanks to all.

VETERANS OUTREACH:

- **GOLF HOLE SPONSOR:** The chapter is sponsoring a hole for \$ 150 for the America's Adopt A Soldier fundraiser. The organization has been a very supportive member of the Minuteman Alert in responding to the needs of the VASH families. A few months ago, it purchased and installed a bunk bed with mattress and sheets for the children of a VASH family and provided household items to other VASH families and active duty military families.
- **NETWORKING WORKS:** The chapter receives requests from veterans who live in other parts of the country, but were born and raised in the local area. One request was from an incarcerated post-Vietnam War veteran who needed assistance in his scheduled parole hearing. Since the chapter does not possess the expertise to help, Jim Thur, Regional Director of the Virginia Wounded Warriors program and chapter member, was contacted for assistance. Jim forward the request to the program case worker who assists incarcerated veterans with their parole hearings. She will be contacting the veteran.
- **2013 DANCE NEEDS YOUR HELP:** The 25th DMZ to Delta® dance is in need of items for the silent auction. Donated items range from hotel gift certificates to Vietnam War merchandise and clothing. Baskets such as wine and cheese or similar contents are acceptable too. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 to make a donation or ask a question.

BYRON SHELDON'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Chapter leaders and members attended Byron's Memorial Service on June 5th. Bruce Waxman gave a eulogy of Byron's service as a Marine, a chapter officer, and friend. Diane Ignatowski passed out bags of M&M peanuts to the guests. Byron always made a point of saying hello to Diane when seeing Len. He would always swing by the front door to grab a handful of the candy from the bowl by the front door. Arnie Eversen of Chapter 1019 of Winchester came to the service.

A date for Byron's military internment at Arlington National Cemetery has not been confirmed. Diane Sheldon thanks all the members who attended the service. She said that Byron's love for the chapter only was exceeded by his love for his family and church. His untimely death is a major shock to the chapter, but in true Marine spirit, he wants us to hold our flag higher and keep on marching forward.

Diane is recommending that memorial gifts be given to the chapter to carry on Byron's desire to help his fellow veterans.



LYONS PTSD VISITS

Ben Buckley (R) welcomes the Lyons PTSD Class to The Wall with an emotional speech of what it means to be a veteran and to the family of veterans on May 29th. The veteran/US flag pin is given to each veteran. The veterans group includes veterans from the Vietnam War to the current conflicts. Bill Shugarts was present for roll call as the official photographer. Bill took the photo.

The next visit is set for July 10th. If you have the time, answer the roll call by being at the flag pole by The Wall at 11:00 am. The young veterans appreciate our presence when the group visits Section 60 in Arlington National Cemetery which is the home for new fallen warriors.

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

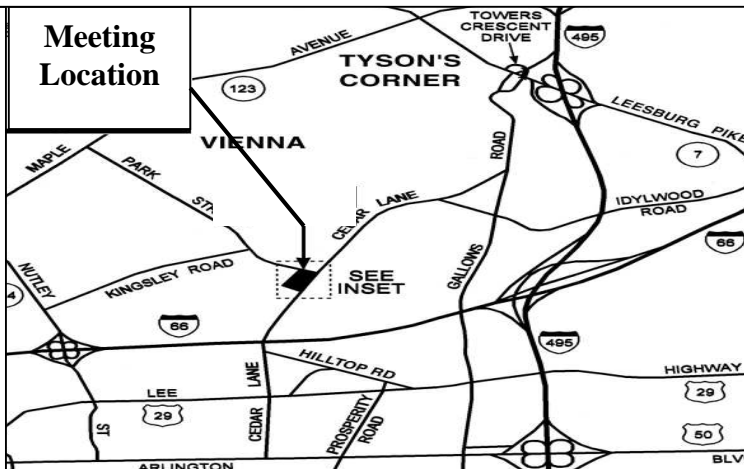
July 2013



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269
Vice President: Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353
Secretary: Ron Ball
Treasurer: Chuck Harris
Sergeant at Arms: Jonathan Olson
Board of Directors: Paul Stancliff, 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

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

July 2013

10: Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at the flagpole at 11:00 am.
11: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
18: **NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
28: Annual Washington Nationals MLB Family Baseball Game

August 2013:

01: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
13-17: VVA National Convention
15: **NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Sept. 2013

05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
14: State Council Meeting, Abingdon, Va.
19: Membership Meeting: Speaker to be announced

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

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Bill Dumsick, Len Ignatowski, Paul Stancliff, and Mary Stout are delegates to the 2013 VVA National Convention, August 13-17. The convention has not a dull moment. Delegates are busy with state and regional delegate meetings, a lively floor debate, voting on proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions, and the election of national officers and board of directors. Mary is attending as the guest of the VVA National. She was the second VVA president and the first woman veteran to lead a veteran service organization. Len is on the Membership Affairs Committee, while Bill serves on the Agent Orange Committee. Mary requested attendance as a delegate. Diane Ignatowski will attend the AVVA conference as the chapter representative which is at the same time and hotel.

The state council has given a \$ 500 grant towards delegate convention expenses and a \$ 140 grant for the AVVA conference expenses.

LYONS VAMC COMBAT PTSD CLASS VISIT

July 10th

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July and August

See You in September

NO AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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”