

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 2013

BYRON’S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Byron Sheldon’s burial in Arlington National Cemetery is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2013, at 10:00 AM. Byron being a retired U.S. Marine Corps sergeant will receive a military graveside funeral service.

Vehicle access to the cemetery is by the main entrance. Tell the guard that you are attending Byron’s service. Drive to the administration building where everyone will meet in a room. Please arrive no later than 9:30 AM. You will be able to drive to the grave site. For general information and detailed directions, go to <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>.

If anyone is willing to video tape the service or provide transportation to the cemetery and service for out-of-town family, please contact Diane Sheldon at 703-471-5018.

An Amazing American Immigrant Story

The September 19th membership meeting features Alexey Ivanchukov, a naturalized citizen, a retired Foreign Service Officer of the U.S. State Department and an army veteran. He will share his life journey to the U.S. which started in Sofia, Bulgaria. He lived in a German refugee camp during WW II, and emigrated to the U.S. just in time to be drafted into the army for the Korean War. After the military, he became a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. He just returned from a three week family visit in Russia, where his family originated.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members! Spouses and family are always welcome. Better yet, bring fellow veterans with you. You never know who you might meet at the meeting. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during the meeting.



Photo (left to right): John Rowan, President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Mike Rizzo, President of Baseball Operations and General Manager of the Nationals baseball team, Bruce Waxman, President of Chapter 227, Jas Boothe, President and Co-Founder of Final Salute, and Denyse Gordon, Ms. Veteran America 2012 attend the plaque recognition and check presentation at home plate before the baseball game. Photo by Len Ignatowski

8 WINS IN A ROW!

On July 28, 2013, the chapter presented a plaque to recognize the Washington Nationals baseball team for providing exclusive seating and refreshments to wounded soldiers and their families from nearby military hospitals for games. Also, the chapter made a \$2,500 donation in honor of the Nationals to Final Salute, whose mission is to provide homeless female veterans and their children a safe and suitable housing through awareness, assistance, aspiration and employment counseling. The ceremony was conducted before the baseball game at home plate and shown on the stadium’s screen. The chapter grant to Final Salute is the third grant for a total of \$4,000 in financial support. The first two were kitchen pantry grants to purchase groceries for their homes. Also, chapter members have donated household furnishings to the Virginia houses.

Bruce Waxman, chapter president, made the presentations on the chapter’s behalf to Mike Rizzo, the Nationals General Manager and to Jas Boothe, President of Final Salute. John Rowan, VVA National President and Denyse Gordon, Ms. Veteran America 2012 were present.

The presentation was part of the chapter’s annual family baseball game event. The Nationals win over the Mets, 14-1, continues the chapter winning streak of eight consecutive games since the chapter started attending a Nationals game. Forty chapter members and friends were present, along with twenty guests of SRE, Inc, a sponsor of Final Salute, to cheer the Nationals. Special thanks to Bill Lynch, Chapter Director, for arranging the ceremony.

The event is another chapter in the fulfillment of our founding principle, *“Never Again, Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”*.



CARE PACKAGE FOR TROOPS

The chapter in partnership with the MITRE employees is sponsoring the Care Package Troops program for Veterans Day 2013. Each box contains a wide assortment of toiletries, snacks, paper products, powder beverage mixes, medication, batteries, and other items to remind them that they are not forgotten. The program is **FREE** and open to a deployed soldier, sailor, airman, and marine with an APO or FPO mailing address.

The four year old program has shipped 785 packages to our deployed service men and women. If you would like to give a donation, make the check payable to VVA Chapter 227 with a note, "Care Packages" and mail to our chapter address.

If you know someone who is eligible, contact Chuck Harris at charris4@mitre.org. The mailing list is being prepared for a late October packing and mailing. **DO IT NOW!**

SANTA HELPERS NEEDED

The chapter plans to repeat its very successful Santa Helper for needy VASH families. Each family provides a Santa List that ranges from clothes to toys. Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, has accepted this holiday need as an AVVA project. Everyone including spouses is welcome to join the team to buy and wrap the gifts, and cash donations are needed. Diane can be contacted at 703-255-0353, while donations can be mailed to Diane Ignatowski, Attn: Santa Helper, 2408 Oak Vale Court, NW, Vienna, Va. 22181, and checks made payable to VVA Chapter 227 with a note, "Santa Helper".

2013 DANCE SILENT AUCTION HELP

The DMZ to Delta® dance needs 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 also acceptable. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 to make a donation or ask a question. Don't forget to buy a ticket and come to the dance.

"25th Annual DMZ TO Delta"® DANCE

"Featuring the Top 25 Songs of the Vietnam War Era"

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2013

TIME: 8:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT

HOLIDAY INN ALEXANDRIA SOUTHWEST

2460 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22314

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: _____ Phone Number: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

Ticket orders received after October 20, 2013 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, 2408 Oak Vale Court NW, Vienna, VA. 22181

SPECIAL HOTEL ROOMS: \$ 99 plus taxes RESERVATION DEADLINE: October 11, 2013
Call 1-800-465-4329, ask for Reservation Code: VVA227

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

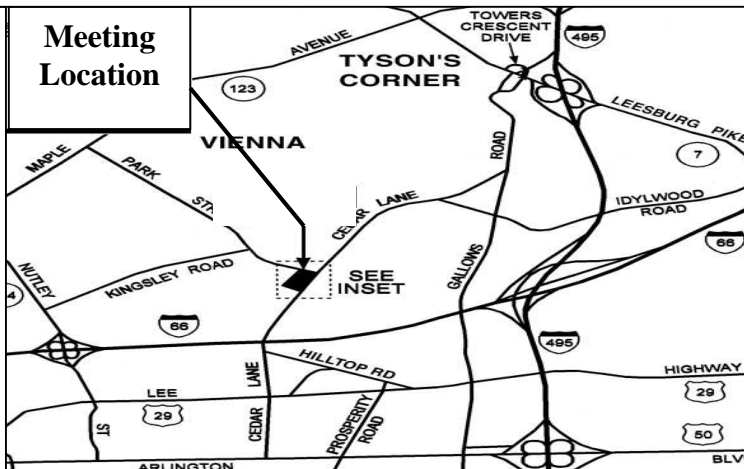
September 2013



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, Bob Tecklenburg, 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

Sept. 2013

05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 11: Byron Sheldon's Funeral at Arlington National Cemetery 10:00 AM
 19: Membership Meeting: Alexey Ivanchukov, "An Immigrant's Success Story"

Oct. 2013:

03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 09: Lyons PTSD Class Visit to the Wall: Meet at the flagpole at 11:00 AM
 12: Fairfax City Fall Festival Veteran Outreach 10 AM to 5 PM at Booth 356: Joe and Sharon Celesnik are program managers.
 17: Anniversary Meeting: Speaker: John Connolly, "Soldier/Diplomat in Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Vientiane, Laos, and South Vietnam"

Nov. 2013:

07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 10: DMZ to Delta @ Dance: See Ticket Order in newsletter
 21: Membership Meeting: Speaker: John Bessette, "Gun Ships (AC-47 Spooky) Development for Close Air Support in the Vietnam War"

VETERAN'S HOTLINE 1-800-273-8255

24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK

VVA CAR DONATION PROGRAM

1-800-Help Vets

MARY SERVES AGAIN

Mary Stout, chapter founding member and VVA national president, swore in the new officers and directors at the recent national convention. She is the first and only lady military veteran to lead a national veteran organization. After being invited to attend the national convention as a guest, she asked to be a chapter convention delegate. Her presence was heard on the convention floor and at region and state delegate meetings. She still has the same exceptional leadership that led to our early legislative and court victories for Vietnam veterans benefits during her presidency. Thank you, Mary. Len Ignatowski and Bill Dumsick attended as chapter delegates. Len serves on the Membership Affairs Committee, while Bill is on the Agent Orange Committee.



Mary Stout, flower blouse, prepares to administer the oath of office to the new VVA officers and directors at the 2013 national convention. Photo by Mike Keating.

Len serves on the Membership Affairs Committee, while Bill is on the Agent Orange Committee.

BYRON SHELDON'S FUNERAL

September 11th at Arlington National Cemetery

ORDER DANCE TICKETS NOW!

LYONS VAMC COMBAT PTSD CLASS VISIT

October 9th at 11:00 AM by the flagpole at The Wall

FARIFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL BOOTH

October 12 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY MEETING

October 17, 2013

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”
Since October 11, 1985