

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"

October 2013

28th CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY

The chapter's 28th anniversary will be celebrated at the October 17th membership meeting with cake and ice cream plus a great speaker. Jack Connolly, an army veteran and retired State Department Foreign Service Officer will share his personal experiences of the battle of Vientiane, Laos in 1961, Saigon intrigue in 1968, and escorting the body of the assassinated American ambassador to Lebanon in 1976.

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. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during the meeting. All former officers, directors, and founding members are ordered to report for the muster (aka Fall In).



Sonya Williams (R), a Marine veteran of OEF-OIF with her three children, Azin, Alayna, and Adam are all smiles with their VISA gift cards. Photo by April Ballard.

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOST

Fifty-four \$50 VISA gift cards were distributed to the school age children of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) veterans in the Northern Virginia area. This year is the third year for this chapter effort, up from thirty-four cards last year. By the end of the year, about 100 veterans and their families will be receiving a VASH grant for lodging, which is the first step away from homelessness. The Navy Federal Credit Union waived the card activation fee.

The chapter salutes the three case managers, Martha Valdez, April Ballard, and Melissa Schott, for their service beyond the call of duty. Driving one to two hundred a miles in search of rental lodging or meeting other veteran needs is a routine day for these three highly dedicated Department of Veteran Affairs employees. Thank you!

CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR DD-214

Recent IRS audits of veteran organizations showed that proof of eligibility had to be shown. Unfortunately, a few years ago, the chapter destroyed all DD-214's (active and inactive) after eligibility was verified and recorded into the membership database in accordance with the national office guidance at the time. This record destruction was done as an anti-identity theft measure.

Each member is being asked to mail a copy of your DD-214 to the chapter. The social security number can be made illegible. Mail the copy to the chapter post office box address as shown on the newsletter. The chapter is discussing how to best protect the DD-214's.

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, is sponsoring this holiday need as an AVVA project. Everyone including member spouses are welcome to join the team to buy and wrap the gifts or give a cash donation to make the project a success. The VASH managers are providing the Santa Lists of the needy families. 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".

FAIRFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL FAIR OUTREACH

Joe and Sharon Celesnik will manage the fair information booth on October 12th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rain date is October 13th. The booth number is 356 on University Drive. The fair has resulted in new members and contacts with the general public and family members of Vietnam veterans. A DVA representative will be in attendance. Call Joe or Sharon at 703-398-7669 to offer your help.

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.

“GO GREEN” IS WORKING

The chapter's two environmental support programs are excelling. The used book program via The Hole in The Wall Books store at 905 W. Broad Street, Falls Church has resulted in another \$175 donation for the Vince Kaspar Excellence in the Arts program. 100% of sales proceeds are for the program expenses. Special thanks to Harold Jenkinson for donating his personal book collection to the program. Call Charlie Klein to donate your books at 703-527-5678. **Please do not directly donate books to the store.**

The Staples printer cartridge recycling program earns a \$2 rebate for each cartridge. Bring your empty cartridges to a chapter meeting or deliver them to a Staples store and use our Account # 3042519359, Chapter 227 Vietnam Veterans of America. John Runyon is the leading cartridge donor. The rebates reduce the newsletter printing and other administrative expenses.

VETERAN OUTREACH: “LAST CHANCE”

- A \$500 grant was given to the “Care Package for Troops” program.
- A \$250 grant was given to “America Adopt A Soldier” who works with the chapter in providing household items and furniture for veterans and families who entered the VASH program.
- A \$40 grant was given to pay for a homeless veteran to take the GED evaluation test. The veteran is now receiving free tutoring lessons in preparing for the GED test. The chapter is committed to paying for the actual GED test.
- A \$317 grant to aid a VASH veteran in fulfilling his apartment security deposit was given. One less homeless veteran, but many more to go!

“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

HOTEL ROOM RATE: \$ 99 plus taxes **DEADLINE:** October 11, 2013 **Call 1-800-465-4329** **Reservation Code: VVA227**

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

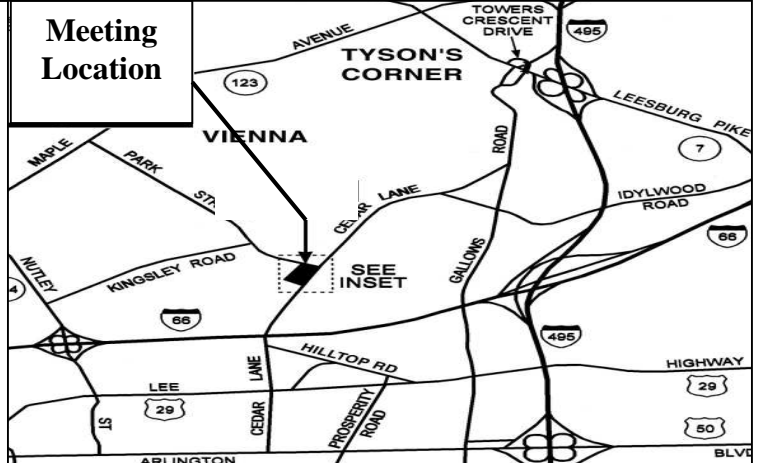
October 2013



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

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
- 11: Veterans Day
- 20: Lyons PTSD Class Visit to the Wall: Meet at the flagpole at 11:00 AM
- 21: Membership Meeting: Speaker: John Bessette, "Gun Ships (AC-47 Spooky) Development for Close Air Support in the Vietnam War"

Dec. 2013:

- 14: Holiday Party 6:00 PM: Host: Bill and Cheryl Dumsick, 13606 Whitestone Court, Clifton, Va.

VETERAN'S HOTLINE 1-800-273-8255

24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK

VVA CAR DONATION PROGRAM

1-800-Help Vets

Amazing American Immigrant Story

Alexey Ivanchukow's story reinforced our country's culture and our country's founding motto, "One From Many". He is of Mongolian heritage. His family migrated to western Russia for a better life. The family moved to Bulgaria since his father fought against the victorious Bolsheviks. During WWII, the advancing Red Army forced the family to move to Germany. He experienced near death attacks by Allied aircraft due to a large German supply depot near the village. After the war, the family arrived in New York City on Christmas Day 1951. Due to the holiday, the Liberty Ship anchored next to the Statue of Liberty, and the passengers were treated to a turkey dinner. The family took residence around Jersey City, N.J. where jobs were plentiful. In July 1953, he was drafted into the army where he was a radio repairman at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. Alexey became an American citizen in 1954 through a special program for foreign citizens in the army. Upon his discharge, he enrolled in college and received a degree in Far Eastern Slavic Studies centered on Mongolia. After graduation, he became a Foreign Service Officer and served in many vital capacities with his seven language proficiencies. He has two sons, and his adaption to American culture is proven by his very proficient ballroom dancing. His dancing reputation resulted in a friendship with Robert Duvall. He is a frequent guest at the Duvall's Virginia estate for dancing. Alexey has even prepared a Mongolian barbecue for the movie actor. At the young age of 80 years, he is dating and just returned from a two week trip to Russia. He is a prime example of an immigrant who helped build a greater America.

25th DMZ to Delta[®] Dance
(Top 25 Songs of Our Tour of Duty)
Order Your Tickets Now!

LYONS VAMC COMBAT PTSD CLASS VISIT
October 9th at 11:00 AM by the flagpole at The Wall

FAIRFAX 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