

# 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 Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”*

March 2014

## MARCH MEETING:

Joseph Powell, Vietnam War veteran, will discuss his lifelong public service career from his army Tour of Duty as an early MACV advisor and his role in President Kennedy’s funeral to serving as a security guard to key congressional leaders at the March 20th membership meeting. Learn how this Vietnam War veteran was witness to many of our country’s historical events.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members! Spouses and family are always welcome. Better yet, bring a fellow veteran with you. No drinking of alcoholic beverages is allowed during the meeting. The meeting starts at 7:30 am.



Diane Ignatowski sorts out the coupons into four categories. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## ANOTHER CHAPTER SUCCESS

Another successful fulfillment of our founding principle, “Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another” was accomplished in the completion of the Troopons coupon campaign. The national program distributes manufacturer’s coupons for use by military personnel and their families at overseas military commissaries. These money saving coupons are not available at overseas bases.

The campaign collected approximately \$ 4,500 worth of coupons. The Support Our Troops distribute the collected coupons in four categories, food, non-food items, baby food and items, and pet food items to insure maximum benefit. If you still have coupons continue to support the program, visit [www.supportourtroops.org](http://www.supportourtroops.org) for submission details.

Member contributions were augmented from other sources. In response to an appeal by John Harris, chapter member, members of the Fairfax County Retired Firefighters Association made several large coupon donations. Friends of Len and

Diane Ignatowski contributed coupons too.

Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, initiated the campaign after it was discussed at the last Virginia state council meeting. Despite the tedious work of cutting and sorting each coupon, she was extremely gratified since she was a school teacher at an army base in Germany during the Vietnam War. She and her fellow teachers shopped at the post commissary. She understood the challenges of raising a family on a foreign country military base. The chapter thanks all who donated coupons, and especially Diane, for successfully managing the campaign from start to finish.

## “Just In Time!”

- **DRIVER LICENSE REINSTATEMENT:** An emergency chapter grant of \$ 145 allowed a new VA Supportive Housing recipient to have his driver license reinstated. The action allowed the veteran to resume working at Ft. Belvoir to continue the road from homelessness.
- **TEAM WORK WORKS!:** In response to a needy veteran appeal for financial assistance to pay for needed dental treatment, the chapter received assistance from two sources. The veteran was short \$ 200 after using his own money and a donation from his church. A Minuteman Appeal resulted in John Miska providing potential sources of subsidized dental treatment near the veteran’s home. VVA Chapter 1019 of Winchester agreed to provide the \$ 200 as one of their veteran assistance outreach program. Thank you, John and VVA Chapter 1019.

## REMEMBRANCE OUTREACH

- **VIRGINIA WAR MUSEUM MEMORIAL:** The chapter purchased a fundraising memorial brick for the Virginia War Museum in Richmond Virginia. The brick cost was \$ 500. The museum preserves the military heritage of Virginians. The brick inscription is “Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227, Northern Virginia.
- **IRISH VIET NAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT:** The chapter gave a \$ 50 grant towards the construction of this memorial to honor the 2,500 Irish citizens who served in military units and to the 29 individuals who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Brian McDonnell, who is a chapter member, is on the memorial’s committee. The memorial is to be built in the City of Ennis, Republic of Ireland.

## U.S. and Israel Relations

Richard A. Hellman, Vietnam War veteran and director of the Christian Israel Political Action Campaign, provided an interesting and controversial discussion on the need for continual U.S. support of Israeli at the February 20th membership meeting. His view is from his living in Israel for seven years and working on modernizing Israel's environmental laws. The primary issue is that the lack of a coherent U.S. Middle East policy tends to support the Arab position despite their persecution of Christians in their countries and aim to destroy Israel as a nation. He justified Israel's right to exist from biblical passages. Another interesting statement indicated that that Israel is not dependent upon U.S. foreign aid, since it is a small percentage of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Israeli economy is a free market and recognized as a world leader in high tech innovations. He cited that Israel is a secular state, not a religious state as is often portrayed by the U.S. press. The U.S. needs a secured Israel since it is the only democratic country in the Middle East and a demonstrated ally in providing vital terrorist intelligence.

A very lively Q&A period followed his discussion where members questioned or supported many of his positions. The presentation reflects our speaker policy of having open and free dialogue over issues of importance to veterans and their families. After all is said and done, the meeting ended in true veteran fashion, "We are veterans and brothers despite our different world views." Rich did accept our invitation to join the chapter.

## CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The chapter's biannual election of new officers and directors shall be at the April 17th membership meeting. As of March 1st, the candidates are the following:

**President:** Bruce Waxman      **Vice President:** Len Ignatowski      **Secretary:** Ron Ball      **Treasurer:** Chuck Harris  
**Directors:** Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Paul Stancliff, Jay Kalner, Bill Lynch, Bob Tecklenburg, Max Knouse, Dennis Johnson, Scott Hurley, and Tom Stryer.

**AVVA Representative:** Diane Ignatowski

New member involvement is critical to our successful growth. If you want to serve your fellow veterans and our community, start as a director. The minimal commitment is the monthly board meeting attendance. Anything more is up to you. Dennis Johnson, Jay Kalner, and Scott Hurley have already done so for the first time. If interested, offer to serve as a director and see how you like it. Call Len Funk, Nominating Chairperson, at 703-820-8118 to toss your hat in the ring.

## CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **STATE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP:** One each \$ 500 scholarships for veteran and veteran family member is available. See the Virginia VVA State Council website for application information. A raffle selects the winner.
- **HOUSEHLD GOODS:** Continue your household and clothing donations and purchases at the Unique Thrift Store (the former Levitz furniture store in Merrifield). For home pickup call, 1-800-459-8387. A second drop off station is at the SAVERS Thrift Store at 14427 Potomac Mills Road. Your participation is part of our environmental recycling program.
- **USED BOOKS FUND KASPAR PROGRAM:** Charlie Klein's successful management of the chapter's used book program is almost fully funding the Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts program. The chapter recently received \$100 from the sale of donated books, which are sold by the Hole in the Wall store in Falls Church. The chapter receives 100% of the sales. To donate used books, call Charlie at 703-509-9469 or bring them to a chapter meeting. He not only manages the program, but he established the relationship. Charlie requests that books not be delivered to the store.

## VINCE KASPAR PRIZES

The chapter is sponsoring the 18th Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts program that recognizes the poetry and art talents of local high school juniors and seniors who reside in Arlington and Fairfax counties, the Town of Vienna, and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Fairfax. Past winners of this highly successful community outreach include a local English high school teacher and a student who received a commission for a sculpture a year later.

Prizes for each awards category are \$ 250 for 1st Place, \$ 150 for 2nd Place, and \$ 100 for 3rd Place. Honorable mentions receive a certificate of accomplishment. Entries must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2014. Prizes will be awarded at the chapter's membership meeting on May 15, 2014. Full details are on the chapter website at vva227.org.

Members are urged to print the program announcements from the chapter website, vva227.org, and give them to teachers and eligible students.

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

**24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**DD-214:** Provide a copy of your DD-214 to the chapter to comply with an IRS audit standard. Mail your copy to the chapter's post office box address. The social security number can be made illegible.

# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

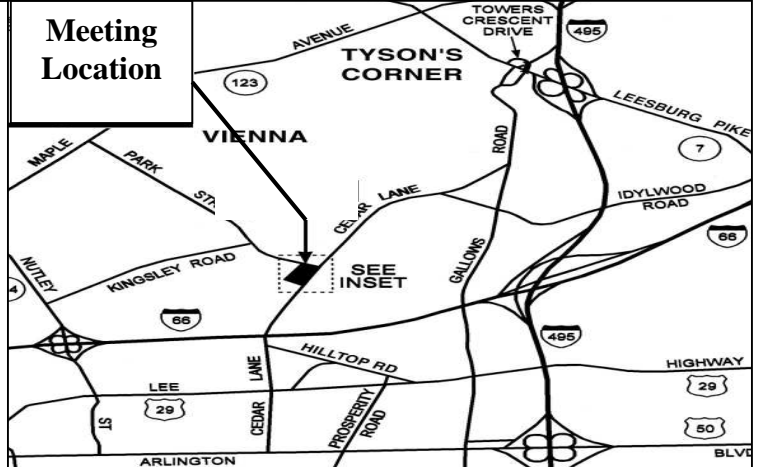
March 2014



## 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, Tom Stryer, and Bob Tecklenburg.
- 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
- 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

### Mar. 2014:

- 06: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 20: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Joseph Powell, "A Life Time of National Service"
- 22: State Council Meeting 9:00 AM @ Winchester: The Best Western Lee-Jackson Hotel, 711 Millwood Ave., Winchester.

### Apr. 2014:

- 02: Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit: Meet 11:00 AM at the flagpole by The Wall
- 03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 17: Membership Meeting: Chapter bi-annual election & Speaker: Ed O'Connor. The WW II Battle of the Bismark Sea

## CHAPTER APPAREL ORDER FORM:

Chapter apparel is available for a special time. The baseball cap and shirt will be on display at the March membership meeting. Submit your order with payment to VVA Chapter 227 to VVA Chapter 227, 2408 Oak Vale Court NW, Vienna, Va.

- **ORDERING DEADLINE: April 4, 2014.**
- The available colors are displayed on the Military Best website at militarybest.com. Click on Military Shops and select VVA.
- Sizes: 2XL (2 Extra Large), 3XL (3 Extra Large), XL (Extra Large), L (Large), M (Medium), S (Small).
- Your name embroidered on the right side of the shirt at \$ 9.00 extra charge.

NAME TO BE EMBROIDED ON SHIRT (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Baseball Cap: \$18.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Logo: VVA\_\_\_ AVVA\_\_\_ Life Member:\_\_\_ Navy Blue\_\_\_ Black\_\_\_ Khaki\_\_\_ White\_\_\_  
 Size \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Shirt (SS): \$ 35.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Logo: VVA\_\_\_ AVVA\_\_\_ Life Member \_\_\_ Navy Blue\_\_\_ Black\_\_\_ Sand\_\_\_ White\_\_\_  
 Name Added: \$ 9.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt (SS): \$ 25.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Logo: VVA\_\_\_ AVVA\_\_\_ Life Member\_\_\_ Navy Blue\_\_\_ Black\_\_\_ Sand\_\_\_ White\_\_\_  
 Name Added: \$ 9.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

Dress Shirt (LS) \$ 46.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Logo: VVA\_\_\_ AVVA\_\_\_ Life Member:\_\_\_ Navy Blue\_\_\_ Black\_\_\_ Sand\_\_\_ White\_\_\_  
 Name Added: \$ 9.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

Total Attire Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Direct Shipping: \$ 7.00 (Vendor ships merchandise directly to you)  
 Total Purchase Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts

See chapter website for details



**Order  
Your Chapter Apparel Now!**  
See Newsletter Order Form

## **MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> MEMBERSHIP MEETING** **“LIFE TIME OF NATIONAL SERVICE”**

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