

# 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”*

April 2014

## APRIL MEETING: Battle of the Bismark Sea

Ed Connor, a WW II bomber veteran, will discuss the crucial Allied victory over Japanese naval forces in the Bismark Sea at the April 17th membership meeting. The Japanese were making a frantic attempt to reinforce their New Guinea bases for pending Allied advances. Ed served as a radio operator/gunner on a B-25 Mitchell bomber with 25 combat missions. He is credited with at least one downed Japanese Zero. His air force career included electronic warfare flights during the Korean War and ended with service in the Strategic Air Command. Bring a fellow veteran and learn a firsthand account of WW II combat.

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.



Bruce Waxman (left) and Tom Stryer (right) shared their Tour of Duty with Arlington County public high school seniors at their Signature Theater workshop class. Photo by Signature Theater

## SPEAKER'S PANEL

On January 9, 2014, Tom Stryer, Speaker's Panel Chairperson, and Bruce Waxman, Chapter President, shared their Tour of Duties with eighteen Arlington County high school students as part of the Signature Theater in the Schools program.

David Zobell, Educational Director of the Signature Theater said that their stories provided a more accurate understanding of war versus Hollywood presentations. The discussion was videotaped to be provided to a writer of a play about war heroes in which the students will participate as actors. Many kudos to Tom for resurrecting our Speaker's Panel community outreach program.

## FINAL COUPON TALLY

Diane Ignatowski is delighted to report that a late coupon donation surge ended with an estimated \$ 5,000 worth of manufacturer coupons to be provided to military personnel and their families when shopping at overseas commissaries. U.S. manufacturer coupons are generally unavailable at overseas military bases. Many thanks to the chapter members, friends, and the Fairfax County Retired Firefighters Association for their support. An anonymous donor from Richmond made three donations. The program will be repeated in the coming year.



Joe Powell proudly wears a big smile and his new VVA baseball cap as he accepts the veteran flag pin from Bruce Waxman (right) after his life story presentation. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## AN AMERICAN SUCCESS

Joseph Powell's life story is a genuine American success story out of a Hollywood movie, except that it is true. Joe was raised in Rocky Mount North Carolina in post-WWII environment. He attributes his life's success to the motto, "Be Something Right Now" which he learned from his Boy Scouts adult leaders, who were WW II veterans. He was the third African American to earn the Eagle Scout award. His rigorous scouting experience served as the foundation for his military service including a Vietnam Tour of Duty. He said that boot camp was a cake walk, while his fellow soldiers struggled with the discipline and uniform correctness. His most memorial duty was as a guard for President Kennedy's burial at Arlington National Cemetery. He said that there was not a breeze until the president's casket was lowered into his grave. A brisk wind appeared and blew all the remaining leaves from the trees in the cemetery.

In 1967, he joined the Capitol Hill police force and advanced in rank and position until he was selected for the new congressional leader security team. Congressman Thomas S. Foley of Washington State selected Joe (Continued Page 2)

## CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The chapter's biannual election of new officers and directors shall be at the April 17th membership meeting. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY (Continued)

to command his security detail. This act was the beginning of lasting friendship that ended with the death of Congressman Foley. Congressman Foley frequently had Joe escort visiting dignitaries and world leaders into the Capitol.

When the congressman could not attend Nelson Mandela's presidential inauguration, Joe was sent as his personal representative. He was seated among world leaders. Later when Mandela visited the Capitol, Joe escorted him. The president recognized Joe from his presidential inauguration. After Congressman Foley returned from his Japanese ambassadorship, he asked Joe to resign his position as chief of a local college security department to work for him. Joe agreed and remained until Congressman Foley's death in October 2013. He shared a life time of photographs of people that he met from world leaders to movie stars. His daughter carried on his tradition by recently retiring from the air force as an officer. He appeared to be very moved when the veteran flag pin was presented. He quickly placed the pin on his coat.

A side note is that Len Funk, chapter member, served as the manager of Congressman Foley's district office until he joined the army and served three Tours in Vietnam. Len and Joe developed a lasting friendship from their congressional positions. This presentation is one of many good reasons to attend our monthly membership meetings.

## CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **LYONS COMBAT PTSD CLASS VISIT AND LIFE BOOK INTERVIEWS:** On February 19th, Bruce Waxman, Ben Buckley, and Bill Shugarts welcomed another combat PTSD class from the Lyons VAMC, N.J. to The Wall. This visit had an added feature. The author of a new Life book on the Vietnam War selected four Vietnam War class veterans to be interviewed for the book. Individual photographs including a joint one with the class's custom made plaque were taken. Ben recommended the interview after Daniel Levy of Life books contacted the chapter for member interviews. The next class visit is April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members are strongly urged to support this veteran outreach. The newsletter calendar has the details.
- **STATE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP:** One each \$ 500 scholarship for veteran and veteran family member is available. Application with a May 1st deadline is available on the Virginia VVA State Council website. A raffle selects the winner.
- **HOUSEHOLD GOODS:** The first quarter VVA household goods program rebate amount was \$ 843. 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 Hole in the Wall store in Falls Church sells the books. The chapter receives 100% of the sales. To donate used books, call Charlie at 703-509-9469 or bring them to a chapter meeting. Charlie requests that books not be delivered to the store.
- **"GO GREEN" NEW LEADERS!**
  - John Runyon has taken the lead in printer ink cartridge donations, which are given to Staples for a \$ 2 rebate to the chapter Rewards account. Thanks John. Any challengers?
  - Margaret Stern is the new leader in the hotel size toiletry donations to The Lamb Center, a daytime homeless shelter due to her recent donation. These individual sized containers are easily distributed to those using the facility's showers. Thanks Margaret. Diane Ignatowski, Sharon Celesnik, and Fran Knouse are in hot pursuit. Any new challengers?

**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

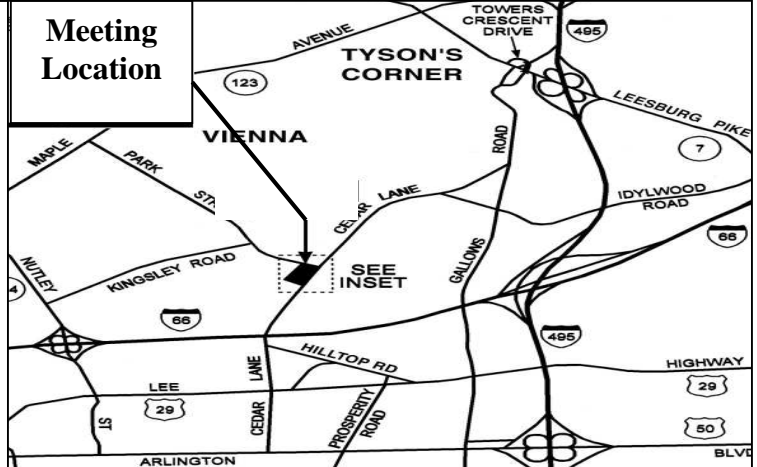
April 2014



## 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: 703-323-0269**

**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

### 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

### May 2014:

- 01: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 14: Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit: Meet 11:00 AM at the flagpole by The Wall
- 15: Membership Meeting: Vince Kaspar Excellence in the Arts award presentation
- 25: Viva Vienna!, Town of Vienna: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Volunteers needed for booth.
- 25: Family Barbecue 6:00 PM: Len and Diane Ignatowski's home, 2408 Oak Vale Ct. NW, Vienna, Call for dish selection 703-255-0353
- 26: Memorial Day Wreath Laying at The Wall 8:00 AM: Meet by the flag pole. **FALL IN!**
- 26: Post Wreath Laying Breakfast: Metro Diner, Lee Highway and Glebe Road, Arlington

## CHAPTER APPAREL ORDER FORM:

- Submit your order with payment to VVA Chapter 227, 2408 Oak Vale Court NW, Vienna, Va.
- **EXTENDED ORDERING DEADLINE: April 11**
- 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 a \$ 9.00 extra charge.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Memorial Day Weekend Events

## Plan Now to Attend



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

**EXTENDED Deadline: April 11, 2014**

## **APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

### **“AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE WWII BATTLE OF THE BISMARCK SEA”**

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