

# 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”*

July 2014

## NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR JULY & AUGUST

### AVVA New Community Outreach Succeeds

Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, thanks all members and AVVA members who donated individual sized snacks for the Lamb Center at the June 19th membership meeting. The daytime homeless service center provides relief for the homeless and time for Vet Center staff to service homeless veterans. The donations filled three shopping bags plus some. Diane delivered the snacks to the Lamb Center the next day.

Donations of travel size toiletries and used bath towels are being requested for the September 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The Lamb Center has showers, and these items are needed. So start saving those hotel complimentary toiletries when you are on vacation and on a business trip. Get your entire family and friends to contribute too!

### Membership Drive Target: 300 Members

The chapter has been ranked as one of the top 25 largest VVA chapter for many years. The chapter has lost this honor due to other chapters' membership growth and our growth had not kept pace with membership losses. As of May 31, the chapter has 252 members. Five new members are needed to be the 25th largest chapter providing that chapter does not recruit any new members. AVVA membership is not included in the chapter membership roster. A membership application is on page 3 of the newsletter. You are asked to recruit one new member to move us into the top chapters. Prospective members can view the chapter's history, accomplishments, and events on our website at [vva227.org](http://vva227.org). The membership target is 300 VVA members.

### ABC's of Veteran Health Care Benefits

Tim Redmon, chapter member and guest speaker for the June 19th membership meeting, had a medical emergency that prevented him from speaking. Tim's daughter gave his speaking notes to Bill Lynch, who read them at the meeting. Tim enlisted in the navy when his draft number was # 4. Upon his military discharge, the American Optometric Association hired him as a lobbyist trainee. Forty years later, he lobbied at the local, state, and federal level from veteran benefits to small businesses. He challenges everyone to lobby someone or an issue to make the world a little bit better. Select your cause and charge full speed ahead. The best way to succeed is to establish a "positive" relationship between yourself and the cause representatives.

Mike Collins, a member of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly's staff, augmented Tim's notes. After reading the chapter newsletter which is provided to local congressmen and senators' staff, he decided to come on his own to hear what Tim had to say. He agreed to add to Tim's comments and to discuss what is happening in congress. Mike stated that politicians do listen to what their constituents have to say and attempt to answer their concerns. They place more weight on what people say than what a lobbyist states on an issue. He encouraged everyone to call or write their political leaders whenever they have a question or opinion, because we do listen. Congressman Connolly, like most federal legislators, has a veteran to respond to a veteran inquiry.

Congressman Connolly is working with Fairfax County in establishing veteran's courts, which have been very successful in other states in that the program graduates have a very low return rate. The program needs to identify which crimes the courts will hear, staff funding, veteran eligibility, etc. and operate at the district court level. The operational target date is January 1, 2015.

Another critical Virginia veteran issue is the state's refusal to participate in Medicaid. The current Virginia Medicaid eligibility is very restrictive, but would be expanded under the state's participation in the Affordable Health Care program (AHC). The Commonwealth Institute estimates that 25,000 veterans and their families would qualify if the state participated in the AHC.

As with past political discussions, the chapter does not endorse any political party or office holder, but we are willing to work with anyone to address veteran needs and benefits. As Tim's address stated, find a cause and run with it!

## CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **Suits for Vets:** As a partner in the Suits for Vets program, the chapter donated \$ 250 to the Memorial Day fund drive. Two dozen men’s suits and two dozen women’s dresses were donated for the Wounded Warriors’ caregivers.
- **Suits for Vets Needs a Helping Hand:** The Suits for Vets campaign has grown from one office to several Mitre offices and a federal office. The donated business attire success has expanded beyond employee participation to friends and neighbors of the employees to the extent that Chuck Harris needs a helping hand. If you want to participate in this joint program with Mitre Corporation, call Chuck Harris at 703-729-5665.
- **Troopons Update:** Troopons’ July newsletter reports that over a third of military families receiving our donated coupons save between \$ 26 to \$ 50 a month, while nearly 10% save over \$ 150 per month. The families report that the savings pay other bills and their children’s college education. The organization provided over \$ 16.5 million in goods and services to the troops. Diane Ignatowski wants to thank all who contributed coupons to the Troopon coupon drive. The estimated total coupon value is \$ 5,000. Not bad!
- **Used Books:** Charlie Klein’s successful used book collection resulted in another donation of \$ 35 from the Hole In The Wall Books store in Falls Church. The proceeds fund the Vince Kaspar awards program. Call Charlie at 703-509-9469 to donate your used books. Charlie asks that members not deliver books to the store, but give them to him.
- **Grandchildren Going to College?:** The VVA sponsored thrift store, Unique, is located at the old Levitz Store at 2956 Gallows Road, Merrifield, Va., just north of U.S. 50. The store hours are Monday – Saturday 9 AM to 8 PM and Sunday 11 AM to 6 PM. The store’s top quality clothing to household furniture offers great savings for college bound students and young apartment residents. Plus, you never know what treasure that you may find there. Shopping at the store is a great opportunity to donate clothing and household goods to be recycled and earn \$\$\$ for the chapter.
- **AVVA Membership:** Members are encouraged to join AVVA to show our support for their hard work over the years at all levels of VVA. Applications can be obtained at <http://www.avva.org/>

## CHAPTER AND STATE COUNCIL WEBSITES

The chapter’s website, [vva227.org](http://vva227.org), contains a wealth of information on our history, activities, and events, while the VVA Virginia State Council website’s photo gallery has several pages of chapter activities. Visit both websites and recommend them to a prospective VVA and AVVA member to review. Also, the chapter website has newsletters for the last several years.

Our website has been instrumental in recruiting new members over the years. One member, who moved to Virginia, elected to transfer to the chapter despite having several Virginia chapters nearer to his home. When he was offered the opportunity to transfer to a closer chapter, he replied that he wanted to belong to an active chapter, which our website demonstrated that we are. He is now a chapter member for several years.



Lyons PTSD Class with their memorial plaque march to The Wall. Photo by Bill Shugart

## COMBAT PTSD VISIT

Despite high temperature and humidity that were reminiscent of our Vietnam days, the Combat PTSD Class from the Lyons VAMC, N.J. proudly honored their fallen brothers and sisters at The Wall on July 2nd. The group included Vietnam veterans to today’s wounded warriors.

Ben Buckley, Program Chairman, started the visit with his inspiring welcome. Len Ignatowski distributed a Veteran-U.S. flags lapel pin to each veteran. Many immediately placed the pin on their hat or shirt. The class marched to The Wall’s apex where a brief ceremony was conducted and the hand-made memorial plaque was left at The Wall to honor their fallen comrades. The students designed and made the plaque.

Some of the students were transported to Section 60 in Arlington National Cemetery to visit the graves of their fallen comrades, while others visited the memorials near The Wall. Len, Bruce, and Bill accompanied them.

Ben Buckley, Bill Shugart, Tom Worrell, Len Ignatowski, and Bruce Waxman served as hosts, while Bill served as the official photographer. The next visit is scheduled for August 6th. Be there if you can.

**VETERAN’S HOTLINE 1-800-273-8255**

**24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**DD-214 NEEDED:** A copy of your DD-214 is needed for the chapter to comply with IRS regulations. Mail your copy to the chapter’s post office box address. The social security number can be made illegible.

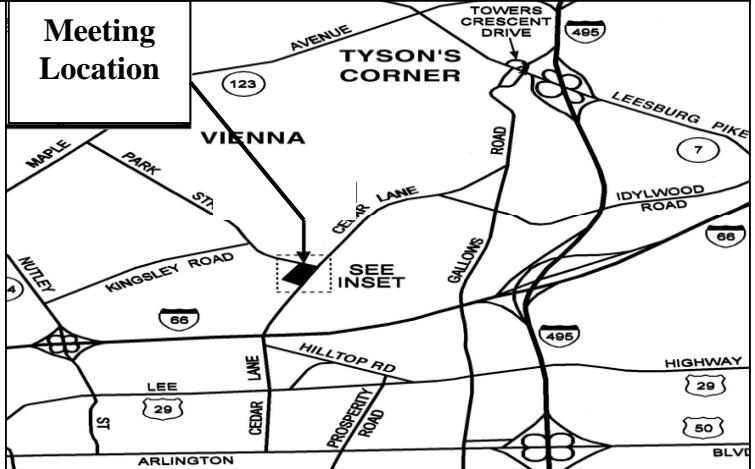
# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

July 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:** Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Max Knouse, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer, Bob Tecklenburg, Scott Hurley, Dennis Stephens, and Jay Kalner.  
**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  
**Used Books Donation:** Charlie Klein 703-509-9469



**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

### July

10: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
 17: No Membership Meeting

### August

00: NO AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
 06: Lyons PTSD Visit 11:00 AM by the flagpole at The Wall  
 07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
 14: No meeting  
 24: Annual Nationals baseball game. Make it 9 in a row!

### Sept

04: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
 17: Lyons Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at The Wall at 11:00 AM.  
 18: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM, Speaker to be announced.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO VVA

Mail To: VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Virginia 22205

**Submit a copy of your DD-214 with application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Male  Female DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter # 227  
 Sponsor: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of membership:

- \$20 (1 Year)  \$50 (3 Years)
- Life Member:  \$200 (age 56-60)
- \$175 (61-65)
- \$150 (age 66-71)
- \$100 (age 72+)

### Payment Method:

- Check  Money Order
- Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*ELIGIBILITY: Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.*

Question, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353

**NO  
JULY & AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AND  
NO AUGUST NEWSLETTER**

**Have a safe and enjoyable summer**

**But**

**LYONS COMBAT PTSD VISIT**

**August 6, 2014 @ 11:00 AM at The Wall**

**RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER NOW!**

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**