

THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

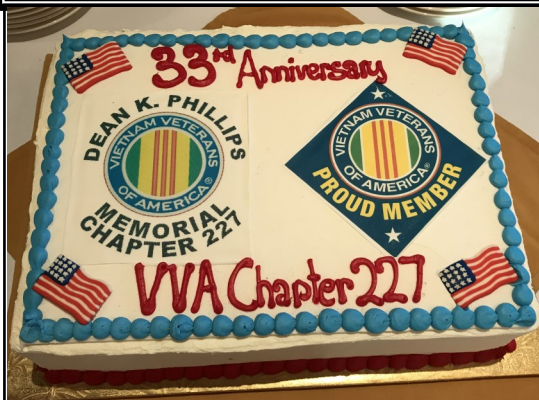
The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter

"Just In Time"



"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

November 2018



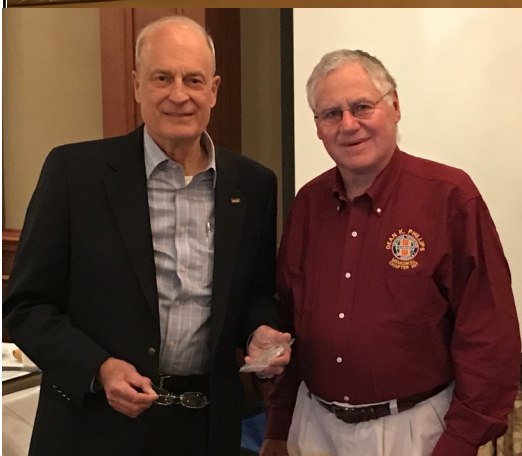
33rd Anniversary Dinner

The chapter celebrated its 33rd Anniversary in grand style and with a very appropriate topic, "The Story Behind The Wall" on October 18th at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington County.

Bob Doubek, a founding member of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in 1979 and an Air Force intelligence officer in Vietnam in 1969, told of the struggle to build our Wall from the approval process to its dedication on November 13, 1982. The memorial's goal was to heal the war's wounds and to recognize those who served, without any political overtones. Early supporters were Senator Charles Mathias of Maryland, Senator John Warner of Virginia, and Bob Hope. Senator Warner sponsored a breakfast at his house to gain legislators' support for the memorial. Unknown to the guests, his wife, Elizabeth Taylor, was doing the cooking. She appeared and spoke to Bob. When Bob offered his "The Wall" pin, he suddenly discovered that there was no easy place to pin it on her bathrobe. She saved the moment by taking the pin and pinning it on herself. The design competition resulted in over 1400 design submissions from major architectural firms to veterans with only a hand sketch. The submissions were narrowed to fifteen designs. Each design was fully displayed in a military aircraft hangar. Everyone knows the struggle and uproar on the memorial design selection. The design conflict was resolved with the addition of the Three Soldiers statue and the flagpole. When the construction permits were finally approved, Bob personally went and secured them. He directed the contractor to immediately start construction to avoid any last minute court injunctions. An unknown fact is that a Vietnam War veteran is the one who developed the name etching process on the black India granite Bob proofread the casualty list eight times to insure its accuracy. He even consulted a family name specialist to insure names were spelled and listed correctly. Some cultures had different ways of naming their children. His slide presentation documented the entire process from its objectives to the dedication. One can truly state "Mission Accomplished" with The Wall's dedication in that our Nation has learned to separate the soldiers' gallantry and honorable service from a conflict's politics. The Memorial's unique design is one of the most visited sites in D.C., and it serves as the standard for other war memorials. He received a standing ovation, and subsequently he also transferred to the chapter. Welcome to the chapter, Bob.

Carl Stout, founding chapter member and past president, performed the traditional cake cutting with his Army officer's sword while former presidents, Len Funk, Len Ignatowski, Bruce Waxman, Dan Kirby and Jay Kalner, current president, observed. The gala celebration ended with the drawing for the 50/50 raffle and the George Jones artistic wood carved bowl. Volko Ruhnke was a special guest. He continues to donate the proceeds from his international board games to the chapter. The chapter acknowledges an anonymous supporter who sponsored the event at the Club. The \$1,440 dinner proceeds will support our veteran outreach. Thank you to our Anonymous Donor.

Lets make our 34th year even greater with everyone's support!
Come to the Holiday Party on December 15th!



Jay Kalner, Chapter President (R) presents a chapter challenge coin to Bob Doubek, Guest Speaker. Photo by Len ignatowski



Carl Stout (L) cuts the Anniversary Cake while past and current chapter presidents, Len Funk, Len Ignatowski, Jay Kalner, Bruce Waxman, and Dan Kirby, observe. (L to R) Photo by Bill Lynch.



Our new fair tent stands proudly and withstood strong gusty winds. Photo by Bill Dumsick



Joe Celesnik, Jay Kalner, Bill Bohuslaw, Congressman Connolly, and Bill Dumsick (L to R) chat at the fair. Photo by Sharon Celesnik.

New Tent

The chapter's new fair tent had a successful debut at the Fairfax City Fall Festival on October 13th. Bill Dumsick, Joe Celesnik, Jay Kalner, Bill Bohuslaw, and Sharon Celesnik staffed the day long event. Congressman Gerry Connolly visited the booth. The chapter has a long relationship from his private sector employment to serving as a con-

gressman. The new tent attracted a number of membership inquiries, and people seeking information about the war. Bill Dumsick deserves a round of recognition since he has assumed management of this annual event and proposed the purchase of the tent. He located a vendor and negotiated a great price for the tent. Thanks, Bill.

The Battle of An Loc

With three Vietnam Tours, Len Funk will discuss the Battle of An Loc at the November 15th meeting at 7:30 PM at the Amphora Restaurant in Vienna. ARVN defenders with their Army advisors withstood a determined NVA attack where Russian tanks and ground-to-air missiles were deployed against the defenders. The battle was won at great cost to American helicopter support and the defenders bravery. Come with a fellow veteran with you and relive this epic Vietnam War battle.

The book, "In Honor and Memory" that lists and describes U.S. and Allied military installation in South Vietnam and Southeast Asia, is available for viewing. See Bill Dumsick. Plus the traditional raffle includes the 50/50 chance and a very artistic hand carved wooden bowl by George Jones. See you at the meeting!

Holiday Party

The Dumsick family of Bill, Cheryl, and Joey are hosting the Holiday Party on December 15th at 6:00 pm in their home at 13606 White Stone Court, Clifton, Virginia. Call Cheryl at 703-968-0686 for a dish selection (salad, vegetable, or dessert). The Dumsick's holiday decorations and hospitality is a proven winner for an enjoyable evening.

A party tradition is to bring wrapped children gifts with the toy gender and age marked on it, and children's winter clothing. The gifts and clothing serve as an emergency supply for the Sullivan House in Arlington County. Mark your calendar now and call Cheryl for a head count and dish selection. The party is a great way to meet fellow members and for spouses to get acquainted with chapter members in a very warm and festival holiday spirit.

We Did It! 300 Plus Members

The chapter membership roster, excluding AVVA members, stands at 303 members due to transfers and the hard work of Bill Lynch, Membership Chairman. Bill got two of his high school classmates to join the chapter after Bill presented Vietnam War Commemoration pins at his high school 50th reunion in Indiana. The classmate veterans joined the chapter since there is not a chapter near each of them. Let's build the momentum and shoot for 325 members by December 31st. Thanks Bill.

A new membership policy establishes one membership, LIFE at \$50. Current 3 year members will automatically become a LIFE member, while recent LIFE members will receive a \$50 rebate. More details to follow.

New Chapter Website is UP!

The chapter has a new webmaster who has revamped the website that is operational and under continuous development. Stan Derr proposed the new webmaster after he was involved with the setup for another VSO. Stan and Bob Pezold worked with him. Special thanks to Ivan Gatewood, the previous webmaster, in assisting in the information transfer including the retention of the internet address of vva227.org. It was a team effort. Direct website comments to Stan at stan_derr@vva227.org.

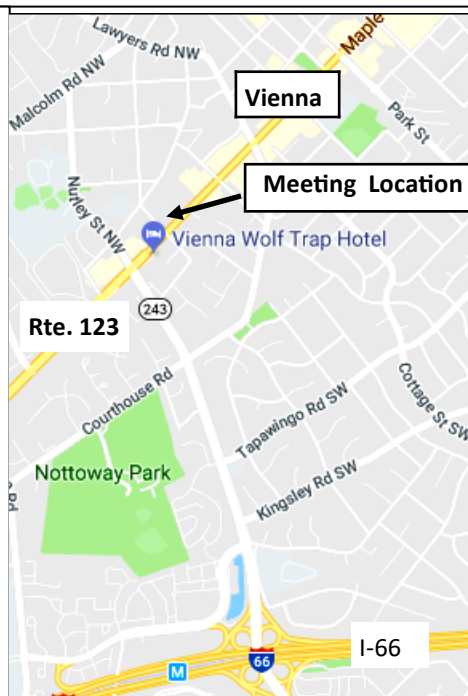
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

November 2018



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Jay Kalner, 703-346-2013
Vice President: Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353
Secretary: Bob Tecklenburg
Treasurer: Chuck Harris
Immediate Past President: Bruce Waxman
Sergeant at Arms: George Jones
Board of Directors: Bill Dumsick, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer, Jonathan Olson, Gus Howard, Dennis Stephens, Stan Derr, George Jones, Scott Hurley, and Bob Pezold.
AVVA Representative: Diane Ignatowski
Newsletter Editor: Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353
School Speaker's Panel: Tom Stryer 703-323-9032
Guest Speaker Program: Jay Kalner 703-346-2013
Membership: Bill Lynch 703-474-4891
Used Books: Andy Bender 559-575-2748



MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of the Month except July, August, and December

Amphora Restaurant,
377 Maple Ave. West
(Rte. 123),
Vienna, Virginia
22180

Ph.: 703-938-7877

- 6:30 PM Dinner (Optional)
- 7:30 PM Meeting

WEBSITE:

www.vva227.org

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>

November 2018

11: Veterans Day: Show your pride by wearing VVA or chapter attire; see info below.

15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Len Funk, "Thiet Giap" (Armor): The Siege of An Loc

22: Thanksgiving: Have a safe and enjoyable day

December 2018 — No membership meeting

06: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.

15: Holiday Party: Host: The Dumsick Family—mark your calendar NOW!

January 2019:

03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.

17: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Dave Bushy, author of "The World Looked Away, Vietnam After the War".

SHOW YOUR VETERAN PRIDE Purchase custom chapter attire at

<https://militarybest.com/vva-chapter-227-dean-phillips-merchandise.html>

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va. 22205-0653

Name _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

H () _____ C () _____ Email _____

Chapter No. **227** Sponsor _____ Sponsor's ID No. _____

- Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, for Vietnam-era veterans. Return this application along with a copy of your DD Form-214.

Life Membership: \$50

- Payment Option: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card (Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- ☐ I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).



WE WANT YOU

QUESTIONS

CONTACT

BILL LYNCH

AT 703-474-4891

“Thiet Giap” (Armor): The Siege of An Loc

November 15th Membership Meeting

Holiday Party—December 15th

Mark Your Calendar NOW!

VASH Family Holiday Gift Cards

Donations are being accepted to fund this special holiday program

VVA Chapter 227 Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>



CHAPTER CHALLENGE COIN

The chapter's challenge coin is on sale at \$10 each for chapter and AVVA members and \$15 each for non-members. The attractive coin is made of metal with detailed engraving and bold colors from the lettering to the images. The coins will be sold only at the monthly chapter membership meetings. Make checks payable to VVA Chapter 227. The coins will be given to the monthly guest speaker and for other special occasions. The coin is a great birthday gift and also an addition to a challenge coin collector.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.

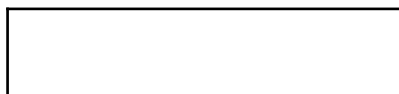
CHAPTER 227

DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER

P.O. Box 5653

Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653

Address Service Requested



OUR MISSION

*To “Serve Military Veterans, Their Families,
Our Community and Our Country”*

Since October 11, 1985