

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"

January 2017

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED FOR 2016

The chapter successfully fulfilled its goal of providing "Just-in-Time" assistance to veterans and military personnel by meeting needs when various government and non-profit organizations could not respond. The combination of money from the chapter, members and friends resulted in \$25,500 in financial aid to individual veterans, their families, and veteran organizations. Our VASH program for homeless and formerly homeless veterans and their families increased to \$7,750, with most of the money going to Back to School and Holiday gift cards. The VASH rental assistance amount was \$ 1,019. Several other VASH grants from a car repair to a new vacuum cleaner were approved for a total amount of \$ 2,185. Our Veteran Assistance amount was \$ 5,178 which included \$ 4,278 to prevent a home loss and payment of medical bills. Other major items were Wounded Warrior Dinner bus transportation of \$ 1,000 and Wounded Warrior Family Santa Helper of \$519. Our continued partnership with MITRE employees included the collection of \$ 6,600 for Suits for Vets and \$ 250 grant for postage for mailing 308 CARE packages to our troops. The Suit collection purchased twenty-two men's gift cards and forty-four Target gift cards for women.

A \$1,000 grant was given to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the new Education Center on The Mall. A \$ 200 grant was given to the Gold Star Mothers golf tournament that benefited a statue at Arlington National Cemetery and to The ROCKS golf tournament to sponsor a wounded warrior. A \$100 donation to Final Salute's Ms. Veteran America pageant.

Non-monetary support included attendance at two Arlington National Cemetery funerals. The chapter paid for the cleaning of 150 "like-new" attire for caretakers of Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Hospital. In partnership with Team Red, White and Blue, were collected over 400 used and new bras for homeless women veterans. The chapter also secured furniture and delivery to VASH veterans to start a new life, again partnering with Team Red, White and Blue and the Annandale Christian Community for Action. Ben Buckley and Bill Shugarts continued to serve as hosts for the Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD visits. In addition, our officers attended meetings of Serving Together, a coalition of government agencies, veteran service organizations and non-profit organizations that assist veterans. Also, our president represented the National VVA at a National Military Family Association event.

We welcome the participation of more chapter and AVVA members in these activities. They are personally rewarding, plus "more hands make the work lighter." The best way to be ready to serve is to enlist for the email "Minuteman Alert" notification.

Thank you to all members and friends that responded to these needs. The chapter and our members and friends stand ready to answer the call for 2017 and another successful year of fulfilling our founding principle, "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

Launch the New Year with the January Meeting

The January 19th membership meeting offers a great way to start the New Year on the right foot as a chapter member. The guest speaker is Dr. J. Robert DiFulgo, Vietnam War veteran and author of "Titanic's Resurrected Secret – H.E.W." who will discuss his novel. This post-Titanic story is about an individual whose identity was forfeited because of the theft of an extremely valuable object, which he had in his possession. Come and learn about this unknown story, one of the greatest passenger ship tragedies.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. You never know who you might meet. Better yet, bring someone or a Vietnam War veteran with you. So "Fall In" for the January 19th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Holiday Party Success

On December 12th, Bill, Cheryl, and Joey Dumsick's hospitality provided the vital ingredient for another successful and festive Holiday Party at their home. The evening was filled with great camaraderie and gourmet food and beverages. The icing on the event was the abundant children's clothing and toy gifts for the Sullivan House, a family shelter in Arlington County. Our gifts serve as Santa's Helper for last minute appeals. Jonathan Olson delivered the gifts and clothing.

The party had two missing elements. Charlie Klein, who is our homeless veteran aid coordinator, was on sick leave. His recovery is going well. The second missing element was that there was still room at the inn for more members, spouses, and friends. For those who did not attend, another great opportunity to meet your fellow veterans and spouses was missed.

Chapter Clothing Availability

Military Best is offering chapter attire with our distinctive patch at a 20% discount. Items can be ordered through this internet link: <http://militarybest.com/vva-chapter-227-dean-phillips-merchandise.html>. If you have no computer, ask a friend or family member to order for you..

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE” Film Showing

The chapter's hosting of the documentary film, Thank You For Your Service, will take place at the Angelika Film Center on Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 PM. Dealing with the mental health issues confronting many recently returning veterans, this is described as one of the best films of the year. To purchase tickets, visit: <http://gathr.us/screening/18521>. There is no other way to buy tickets. The price is \$14, set by the organization that is providing the film. We sold out our original allotment of 96 tickets. We now have 54 more but they are going fast.

A short panel discussion will be held after the film featuring Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director, Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Dr. Joseph Tarantolo, a psychiatrist in Washington, DC (who appears in the film) and Maura Levesque, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Vienna, VA. Any questions, call Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269.

VASH HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS

The chapter fulfilled the Holiday need for sixty-four \$ 50 gift cards for the most-in-need VA Supportive Housing (VASH) veterans and families in Northern Virginia. Member and public cash donations allowed for full funding of the need. Bruce Waxman, President, obtained 20 plus free Hair Cuttery hair cut coupons. The American Red Cross provided the coupons to Bruce.

Bruce Waxman President, and Len Ignatowski, Vice President, presented the gift cards and hair cut coupons at the DC VAMC on December 6, 2016. Chapter challenge coins were given to the case workers too. The two officers met the Northern Virginia VASH case managers. Despite the public criticism of the VA, the VASH case managers are true “Angels of Mercy”. They tend to the daily needs of 135 veterans of which 112 are in supportive housing while 23 applications are pending in the Northern Virginia program. Their daily duty requires great patience and “motherly understanding” when dealing with frustrated veterans, uncooperative landlords, and driving 200 miles in search of an apartment. The chapter salutes these Angels and the entire VASH staff.



Angels of Mercy (L to R): Yolanda Peay, Miracle Hallman, N'Dorah Walker, Janell Scott, Kyneike King, Jemima Anglade. Bruce Waxman (L) and Len Ignatowski, Chapter officers, are the two men.

Successful Holiday Veteran Outreaches

- **Holiday Eviction Avoided:** Prompt action prevented the apartment eviction of a women veteran with three children just before Christmas. The financial emergency was due to a veteran's medical condition. The grant amount was \$ 519.30.
- **Tent Rental:** A \$ 200 grant for the Memorial Day Writer's Project tent rental on the mall for Veterans Day was given.
- **Santa Helper:** Chuck and Glenda Harris fulfilled the Santa List for a wounded warrior family of six who is being hospitalized at Walter Reed Hospital. The chapter's \$ 500 grant plus Chuck's donation of \$ 63.69 filled the family's Santa list from toys to clothing. They have been the chapter's Santa's helper for last five years. Thanks, Chuck and Glenda.
- **Vacuum Cleaner:** A new \$ 60 vacuum cleaner was purchased to aid a disabled VASH veteran to clean his apartment.
- **VASH Furniture Delivery:** The chapter obtained and delivered used furniture for a new VASH veteran's apartment from the Annandale Christian Community for Action, a coalition of local churches.

State Council Meeting Hosting

The chapter is hosting the Virginia VVA State Council meeting on March 10– 12, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport at 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon. Member and AVVA support is needed to provide food and beverages for the Friday night hospitality suite and items for the chapter's Chinese auction fundraiser at the Saturday meeting. Auction items can be a theme basket, like a barbecue kit of fixings, spices, and utensils. If requested, a donation acknowledgement will be provided. Also treats are needed for the Welcome Bags. Don Drunsic is the auction POC (703-731-2050), while Bob Tecklenburg is the food POC (703-963-8149). Bill Dumsick is assisting Bob. Diane Ignatowski is the Welcome Bag POC (703-255-0353).

Members and friends are invited to the meeting, and Bruce Waxman, Len Ignatowski, and Don Drunsic will be delegates.

Speaker's Panel

On November 9th, Tom Stryer, Panel Chairman and Navy riverine officer, for the first time in twenty years, was escorted to the 4th grade classroom of the Becky Fitzpatrick at Alexandria's Weyanoke Elementary School to explain the significance of Veteran's Day. Tom was surprised by the high number of student family members who were military veterans. Tom discussed his life as a navy officer with the river patrols in the delta. The students were very attentive and their questions lasted until the class bell rang. He was impressed with their awareness and knowledge of veteran service.

On November 17th, Tom Stryer and Jay Kalner (Army MP in Saigon) shared their Tour of Duty with 25 students in an upper level history class on the Vietnam War at Trinity College in Washington D.C. . Dr. Susan Farnsworth teaches the class. The students were very knowledgeable about the war based on the number and diverse questions. Several students followed up the class with additional questions. Tom and Jay didn't mind the extended discussion, since a student provided an abundance of delicious snacks. Tom is looking forward to a return engagement.

A YEAR OF MISSION FULFILLMENT 2016



Speaker Panel goes international with a visiting British high school student class. Len Ignatowski and Chuck Harris did the honors.



Don Drunsic (L) and Bruce Waxman (R) work at the men's clothing station of the 2016 Winterhaven Standdown at the DC



Members and family attendance start another Nationals winning streak. Our attendance record is 11 wins and 1 loss.



Ben Buckley, Member, gives his Welcome speech to the Lyons VAMC combat PTSD class visit to The Wall and Arlington National Cemetery. The chapter has been hosting the visits since a freezing rain in February 2009. Bill Shugarts, Member, is the visit's official photographer.



Bruce Waxman, Chapter Present (R) presents the Virginia VVA Member of the Year award to Bill Lynch, Director and Membership Chairman.



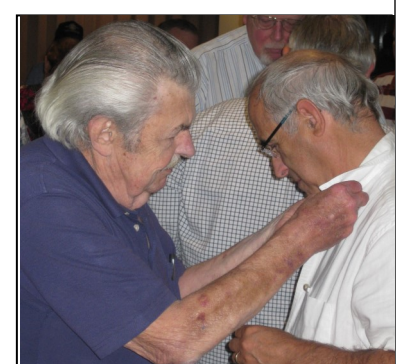
Our traditional wreath laying memorial service at The Wall on Memorial Day morning. Special guest was Rob Gazzara, an Australian Vietnam War veteran, who was visiting with Hugh Jordan, Member. Both are currently living in Australia.



Len Ignatowski (R) and Jay Kalner (L) present the chapter's \$1000 grant for the new VVMF Education Center to Jim Knott, VVMF CEO, at The Wall.



Dennis Stephens, Program MC and Chairman of the 2016 Vince Kaspar Excellence in the Arts Awards, presents an award to a winner.



Two Marines exchange Vietnam War Commemoration lapel pins at the 31st Chapter Anniversary Dinner

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227
and The Memorial Day Writers' Project**

21st Annual (2016 – 2017 Academic Year)

Vince Kaspar Prizes

For Excellence in the Arts

Two first prizes of \$250 will be awarded.

One First Prize will be awarded for a Poem of any length, style, or subject. Judges include professional writers from the sponsoring organizations.

One First Prize will be awarded for a work of Visual Art of any size or medium. Judges include professional artists from the local art community.

Second and third prizes in each category are \$150 and \$100

Eligibility: All high school juniors and seniors who reside or attend school in Arlington and Fairfax counties, the Town of Vienna and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Fairfax.

Submission of Entries: Mail entries to the Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts, c/o VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va., 22205. ***For poetry***, please provide two copies of your work. To facilitate a “blind judging” put your *identifiers* of: Name, Home Address, Telephone Number, E-mail Address, School Attended, and whether a Junior or Senior, **on one copy only**. ***For art***, you can submit one or two copies, but put your *identifiers* on a separate sheet of paper for each entry, not on the art work. Please specify the medium used for producing each art work. Art entries may be submitted electronically via a CD or a DVD or thumb drive. An electronic entry should have the identifier on the jewel case or a separate piece of paper, **not** on or in the electronic medium. *Failure to follow identifier instructions may disqualify your entry.* Each contestant may submit a **reasonable** number of entries.

Deadline: Postmarked no later than Saturday, February 28, 2017. Prizes will be awarded at the VVA Chapter 227 meeting on the evening of Thursday, May 18, 2017. Poetry winners (including Honorable Mentions) are expected to read their poetry at the ceremony. Winning artists are expected to discuss their work and their entries will be displayed at the ceremony.

FAQ are available at www.vva227.org

Contact: Dennis Stephens at (703) 328-0707, or Email: dmsstep@cox.net

Please distribute this announcement

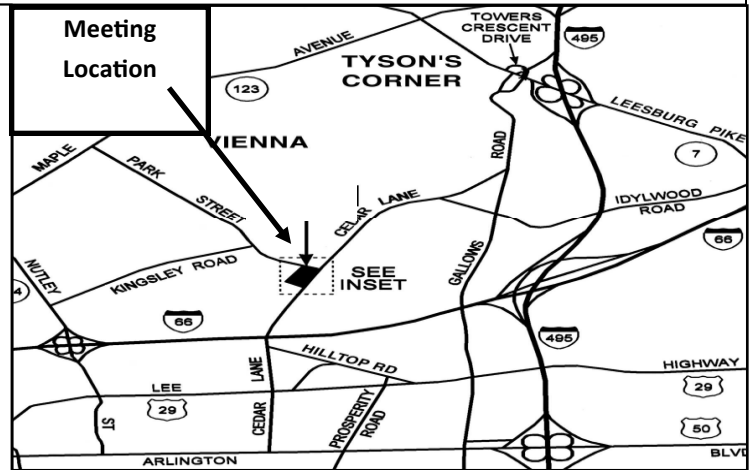
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

January 2017



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269
Vice President: Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353
Secretary: Scott Hurley
Treasurer: Chuck Harris
Sergeant at Arms: Jonathan Olson
Board of Directors: Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer, Bob Tecklenburg, Dennis Stephens, George Jones, Don Drunsic and Jay Kalner.
AVVA Representative: Margaret Stern
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 Program: Charlie Klein 703-509-9469



MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of the Month except July, August, and December
 Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane
 Vienna, Virginia (Park St. & Cedar Lane)
 Pre-Meeting Dinner (Optional) 6:30 PM Meeting: 7:30 PM
CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.vva227.org
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>

CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

January 2017:

- 01: Happy New Year and drive safely
- 05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 19: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Dr. Robert DiFulgo, author, "Titanic's Resurrected Secret - HEW"
- 24: "Thank You for Your Service", Angelika Theater, Order your tickets NOW!
- 25: Combat PTSD Visit to The Wall 11:00 AM: Rendezvous Point is the flagpole by The Wall.
- 28: Winterhaven Standdown

February 2017:

- 02: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 16: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Col. Roger Hill, USAF (Ret), "Memorializing American's War Dead"

March 2017:

- 10-12: Chapter hosting the Virginia State Council Meeting: Help needed, see newsletter article

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO VVA

Return to: VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Virginia 22205

You must submit a copy of your DD-214 with this 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:

\$ 100 for all ages

Payment Method:

- ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Credit Card:
 - ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
 - ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

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.

QUESTIONS

CONTACT BILL LYNCH AT 703-474-4891

Membership Meeting— January 19, 2017
Titanic's Resurrected Secret – H.E.W.”

“Thank You for Your Service”
January 24, 2017

Combat PTSD Class Visit
January 25, 2017

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 or an addition to a challenge coin collector.

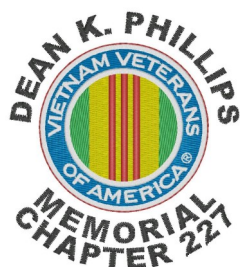
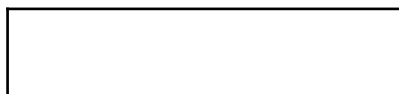
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.
CHAPTER 227

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