

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"

March 2017

"Fire on the Lake"

The March 16th membership meeting guest speaker is Volko Ruhnke, who will speak on the ideal and development of his board game, "Fire in the Lake, Insurgency in Vietnam." The game won the 2014 Golden Geek Best award. He is donating all game sale proceeds to the chapter's veteran assistance efforts.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. You never know who you might meet. Better yet, bring your spouse, family, or a Vietnam War veteran with you. So "Fall In" for the March 16th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Mike Taylor (L) presents FOV American flag painting to the chapter. Photo by Len Ignatowski



Bruce Waxman (R) presents a chapter challenge coin to Norm Qualtrough, new LIFE member. Photo by Len Ignatowski

February Meeting Wrap-Up!

The February 16th membership meeting continued the 2017 successes. First, Col. Roger Hill, USAF (Ret) and chapter member, provided a very informative discussion on the evolution of war memorials and U.S. cemeteries. Initial war memorials honored military leaders, not the men who won the battle. The battle casualties were initially buried at the battlefield without any concern about bringing the deceased home. WW II changed the mind set of returning fallen warriors to their families and establishing memorials to honor the soldiers. The shapes changed from decorative obelisks and columns (Washington Monument) to figures (Jefferson Memorial) and the theme from victory to grief. The American Battlefield Commission was created to prevent another deluge of memorials like the ones at Gettysburg. Interest in war memorials faded during the Cold War since it didn't produce any traditional victories. Another interesting factor was the material available from marble or granite to metal casting. Our memorial, The Wall, ignited a new wave of honoring military veterans and the culture of separating the warriors sacrifices from the war. The Wall is our lasting contribution to how military veterans are honored. Today, almost every state has a Vietnam War memorial designed around The Wall of honoring those who served.

Mike Taylor of Flags of Valor (FOV) presented two of their wood paintings, an American flag and a POW/MIA flag, to the chapter. The company employs military veterans to paint assorted American flags and a new POW/MIA flag on weathered wood. FOV will have a display at the state council meeting on March 11th.

Stan and Merrie Rose Derr offered to host the annual Memorial Day barbecue at the meeting. As a new member, Stan was attending his second meeting. A chapter challenge coin was presented to our newest LIFE member, Norm Qualtrough. Bruce targeted him when he saw a Vietnam veteran decal on Norm's car in a parking lot.

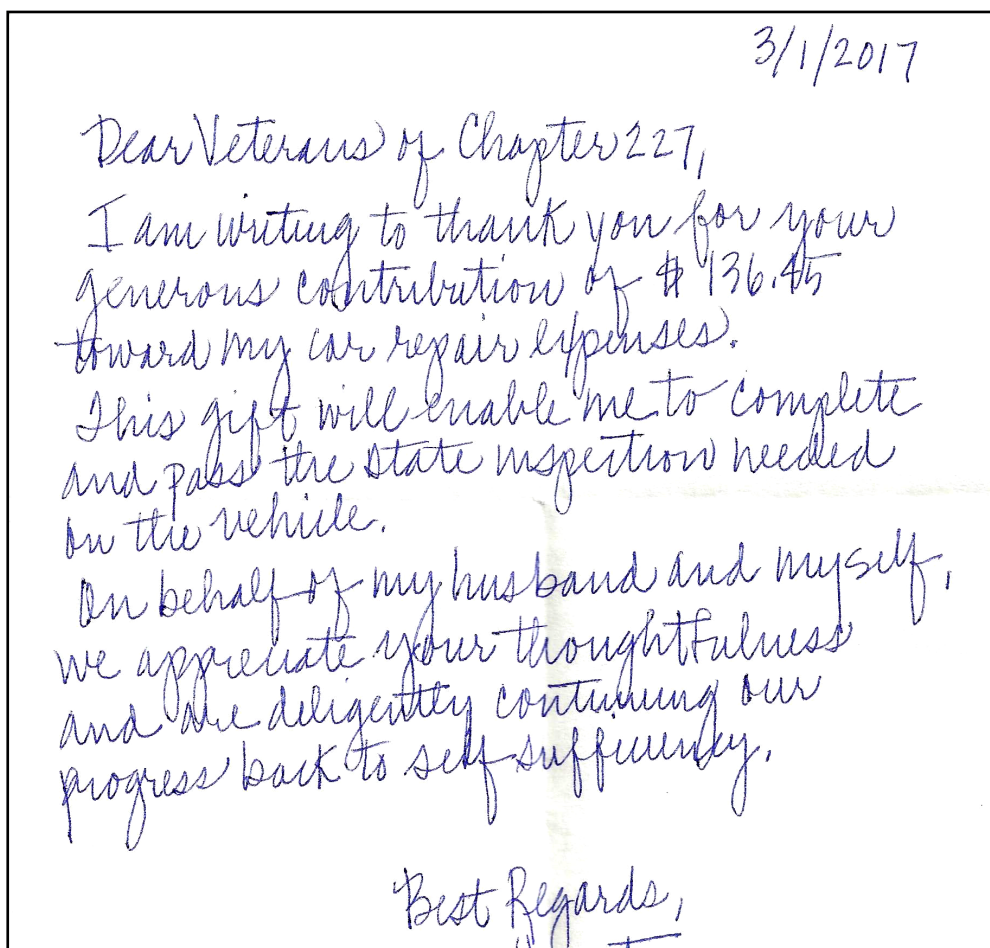
Help Is Needed for the State Council Meeting

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. Bob Tecklenburg is the food POC (703-963-8149). Bill Dumsick is assisting Bob. Members are invited to the Saturday meeting at 9:00 AM, and Bruce Waxman, Len Ignatowski, and Don Drunsic will be delegates. All members are invited to the meeting on Saturday, March 11th at 9:00 AM.

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.

THIS IS WHY!



Veteran Outreach

- **Gift Card:** A \$ 50 gift card was provided to a Vietnam War veteran who is on a very limited income. The gift card allowed the veteran to purchase needed personal hygiene items due to an unexpected financial emergency.
- **Car Repair:** A cash grant of \$136.45 for car repairs allowed a recovering homeless veteran couple to continue working and progressing to self-sufficiency.
- **Virginia Veterans Office Opening:** On February 22nd, Bruce Waxman, Chapter President and Wayne Gatewood, Chapter Member, were among the veterans who joined Governor Terry McAuliffe and other dignitaries at the opening of the new Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Benefits office in Springfield. This opening is part of a multi-year state-wide action to relocate or renovate these offices into nicer facilities. The new office location and telephone numbers are 6564 Loisdale Ct., Suite 301, Springfield, VA 22150. Phone: 703-417-9090 Fax: 703-417-9025

Chapter Briefs:

- **New Director:** At the March 2nd board meeting, Bob Pezold was approved as a new director. He replaces Scott Hurley who assumed the office of Secretary. Thank you, Bob, for filling this chapter leadership position.
- **Go Green and Raise \$\$:** "Hole in the Wall" used book store donates 100% of the sale price of donated used books from chapter members and friends. Musical CD's are not acceptable. The proceeds support the Vince Kaspar Awards program. Contact Charlie Klein at 703-509-9469. **Do Not** drop your books at the store. Charlie is the POC with the store owner.

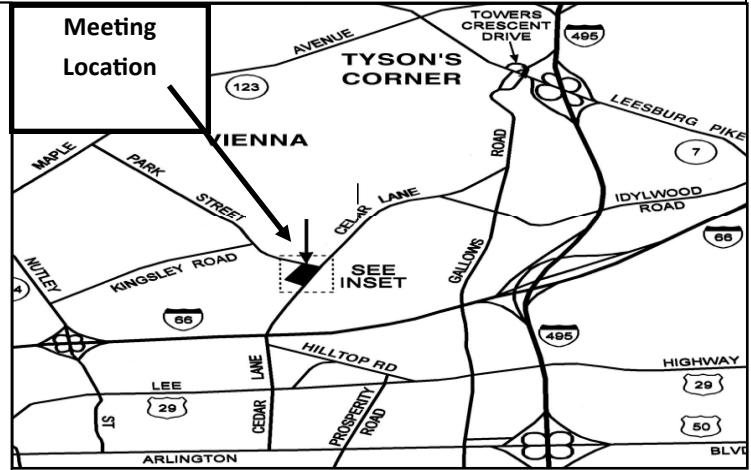
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

March 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, Jonathan Olson, 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

March 2017:

- 08: Lyons Combat PTSD Visit to The Wall 11:00 AM: Rendezvous Point at the flagpole by The Wall
- 11: Chapter hosting the Virginia State Council Meeting 9:00 AM: Help needed, see newsletter article.
- 16: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Volko Ruhnke, "Nuts and Bolts of a Producing a Board Game: Fire in the Lake, Insurgency in Vietnam"

April 2017:

- 6: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 19: Lyons Combat PTSD Visit to The Wall 11:00 AM: New Rendezvous Point at the snack bar by The Wall
- 20: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Speaker: Margaret Mensch, "Arlington Ladies".

May 2017:

- 04: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 18: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Vince Kaspar Awards presentation
- 28: Memorial Day Barbecue: Stan and Merrie Rose Derr to host. Details to follow
- 29: Memorial Day: Wreath laying at The Wall @ 8:00 AM and Post Wreath Member Breakfast (To be determined)

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—March 16, 2017
“Fire in the Lake, the Vietnam Insurgency” Board Game

Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit to The Wall

March 8, 2017 at 11:00 AM

Meet at the snack bar across from the flagpole

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

Chapter Clothing Availability

See Page 1 for Details

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.

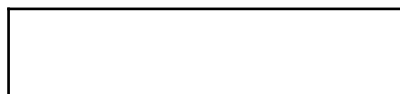
CHAPTER 227

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