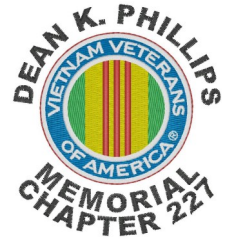


THE JOURNEY

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”

April 2017

“What is an Arlington Lady?”

The April 20th membership meeting guest speaker is Margaret Mensch of the Army’s Arlington Ladies. Their mission is to ensure that no Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Coast Guard Sailor is buried alone at Arlington National Cemetery. Each service has its own lady contingent. She will discuss the birth of the Army group and services rendered to fulfill the “Total Army Family” promise.

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 April 20th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Bruce Waxman, President, presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Volko Ruhnke. Photo by Len Ignatowski

Board Game Is More Than A Game!

At the March 16th meeting, Volko Ruhnke discussed the concepts of board games using the “Fire in the Lake, Insurgency in Vietnam” game as an example. Board games had their birth at the Naval War College in 1940. His youngest son provided the inspiration for the game during a family discussion on current Asian events. The game’s four players and sometime adversaries are 1. U.S., 2. RVN, 3. NVA, and 4. VC. Each player has different views of the common objective, “Win the War!” The game features a colored map of Southeast Asia with a deck of cards that contained events and actions that impact a player’s move. The development included a large amount of historical research and reasoning to insure accurate involvement of the facts which are part of the rules. The game is used as an educational tool in civilian and military schools to increase student education. In nearby Stafford County, an elementary school teacher uses the game, while the Army War College uses it. The College had one game where one of the players was a Vietnamese Army officer who was attending as an Exchange Student.

Board game heydays were from the 50’s to the 70’s, but computers games diminished board game interest. However, the computer with video transmission has resurrected board game interest since players don’t have to be in the same room. International games are held both physically and on live video. “Fire in the Lake” has sold over 7,000 games, which is considered a successful game.

Volko was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for donating his game royalties of over \$ 25,000 to the chapter. He donated the proceeds after attending a meeting where he learned about our homeless veteran outreach. Finally, he donated a game to the chapter. A special Thank You to Bob Pezold who was sworn in as a chapter director.

Memorial Day Reminder!

Mark your calendar for Memorial Day weekend events with our chapter barbecue on May 28th and the wreath laying at The Wall/Breakfast on Memorial Day, May 29th. Details on the barbecue will be in the May newsletter.

Why Should I Wear VVA Clothing?

A few years ago while wearing my VVA shirt, a woman asked me if I was a Vietnam veteran. I answered “Yes”. She said that her brother, a Vietnam veteran, was having issues with his war experience and could I help?” As if this encounter was meant to be, I replied that the chapter was hosting a booth at the Fairfax Fall Festival next Saturday. A VA counselor was to be there. I invited her and her brother to the booth. She thanked me. When she and her brother arrived, the counselor took them for a walk. The counselor returned with a big smile on his face. He did not reveal what transpired. Order and wear your VVA attire so maybe you can help a fellow veteran in need. The need is still there.

Chapter attire can be purchased from Military Best 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.



Virginia AVVA Council donated \$ 200 to Final Salute. Margaret Stern, Chapter AVVA Rep (L), Capt. Charlynda Scales, USAF, of Final Salute, and Nancy Montgomery, AVVA State Council Representative.

State Council Meeting Wrap-Up!

The chapter successfully hosted the Virginia VVA State Council meeting on March 11th. A total of 26 state officers and delegates from chapters across Virginia attended. Bruce Waxman, Len Ignatowski, and Don Drunsic were chapter delegates.

Meeting highlights included a welcome by Fairfax County Chairwoman, Sharon Bulova, a presentation of the Hepatitis C health threat to veterans, MG Donald C. Hibert, USA (Ret) Welcome Home, the 50th Anniversary Commemoration pinning ceremony, VVA Update by Region 3 Director, Sara McVicker, and a presentation on Final Salute's women veteran program by the 2nd Runner Up of Ms. Veteran America 2016, Capt. Charlynda Scales, USAF. Don Drunsic, 1st time delegate, was ap-

pointed Chairman of the Veteran Incarcerated Veterans Committee. Don is a mentor in the Fairfax County's Alternative Veteran Court. The Welcome Night leftover food was donated to the Reston Homeless Shelter.

The meeting success is attributed to strong member support, local business and friend donations, and the hotel staff. Bruce Waxman and Len Ignatowski led the charge with support from AVVA and chapter members. Special thanks to Melissa Kalner and Don Drunsic who managed the Silent Auction, while Diane Ignatowski and Margaret Stern managed the Chinese Auction. Bill Lynch's solicitations resulted in major corporate donations for the Silent Auction. Both auctions and the 50/50 raffle raised over \$ 2,000 for the chapter.



MG Donald Hibert pins a commemoration pin on Charlie Montgomery, State Council President. Photo by Len Ignatowski

Hepatitis C Health Threat and YOU!

The state council meeting revealed a growing health threat to Vietnam veterans. 1 out of 10 of Vietnam veterans are infected with this deadly virus that damages the liver and may lead to liver cancer. The major source was the vaccination gun injections that we endured during our military physical examinations. VVA is a proud partner with "HEP C Know for Sure" to get Vietnam veterans tested and treated for Hepatitis C.

Research has resulted in a treatment with a 99% curable rate, yes 99%. A cured Vietnam veteran described his two battles with the disease and his eventual victory. The medical test is simple and quick. So Fall In and get tested! Any questions, call 844-9-HEPCHOPE or HEPCHOPE.COM. I took the test the following week at my doctor's office.



Remembrance Service

Bruce Waxman, Chapter President, was the guest speaker at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Service at Quantico National Cemetery (QNC) on March 29th. Besides delivering the keynote speech, Bruce and James Sanders, Director, QNC, placed a wreath in memory of Fallen Vietnam Veterans. The final act was Bruce pinning a Vietnam Commemoration pin on Vietnam War veterans present.

Veteran Outreach

- **No One Left Behind:** A \$ 500 grant was given to assist in the relocation of over 100 Afghanistan and Iraqi families whose husbands served as interpreters and scouts for U.S. military units. The husband and sometimes families were listed on the terrorists death list. If you wish to get involved, contact Matt Zeller at [No One Left Behind](http://NoOneLeftBehind.org) at nooneleft.org. Matt Zeller's Afgan unit scout saved his life during an ambush.
- **Veteran Rental Assistance:** A \$ 500 grant was provided to assist a single veteran mother with a disabled child remain in their VASH apartment. As with most cases, a combination of financial and personal events overwhelmed the struggling veteran's financial resources and immediate financial assistance was necessary.
- **PTSD Visit Unusual Meeting:** The chapter hosted another successful Combat PTSD Class visit to The Wall on 8th. Ben Buckley welcomed the class while Bill Shugart photographed the event. Len Ignatowski assisted. The event had an unusual incident. Henry Huang, a Chinese freshman student at GWU, had an unexpected meeting with Wade Spann, an Iraqi War veteran who has joined our PTSD outreach. Wade graduated with the same major, International Affairs, that Henry is studying. They discussed items of mutual interest from family to academics. Len met Henry at the CNN Town Hall meeting where Henry expressed a strong interest in Vietnam War veterans.

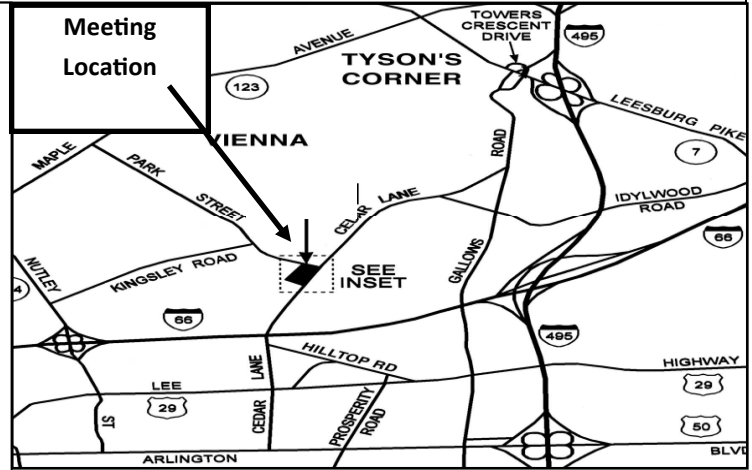
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

April 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, Bob Pezold, 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

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, "What Is An 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)

June 2017:

- 01: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 03: Virginia State Council Meeting @ Lynchburg, Virginia
- 07: Lyons Combat PTSD Visit to The Wall 11:00 AM: New Rendezvous Point at the snack bar by The Wall
- 15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Speaker to be announced

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—April 20, 2017
“What is an Arlington Lady?”

Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit to The Wall
April 19th 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.

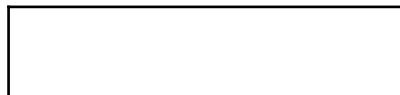
CHAPTER 227

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