

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"

May 2017

"Fall In!" for Memorial Day Events

Has your memory failed to remember that May is the most sacred month for military veterans? When was the last time that you attended our chapter Memorial Day service at The Wall? If you don't attend the monthly membership meetings, Memorial Day weekend provides an excellent opportunity to remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and to renew your sacred veteran bond with fellow members. Our Memorial Day events are an excellent way to introduce family and friends to the true meaning of being a military veteran.

Memorial Day weekend starts with the traditional Memorial Day barbecue on Sunday, May 28th. Stan and Merrie Rose Derr are hosting the barbecue at their home at 5410 Colchester Meadow Lane (off of Fairfax Parkway, just south of the Pope Head Road traffic light). **New starting time: 4:00 PM (Rain or Shine).** You are requested to notify them of how many are attending and to obtain a dish selection of either an appetizer or dessert for ten persons or more. The menu features barbecue meat dishes, baked beans, cole slaw, and potato salad, and beverages. Adults only. Contact the Derrs' at 703-278-9322 or sderr@sedllc.com.

You can fulfill the true meaning of Memorial Day by attending the memorial wreath laying service at The Wall on Monday, May 29th at 8:00 A.M. Meet by the flagpole. The traditional breakfast follows at the Metro Diner at 4711 Lee Highway, Arlington, near the intersection with Glebe Road. The Memorial Day Writer's Project will host their program of poetry reading and music playing near The Wall from 11:30 to 5:00 PM on Memorial Day. All are welcome.

May Meeting: Vince Kaspar Awards

The May 18th membership meeting features the 21st Annual Vince Kaspar Excellence in the Arts presentation which recognizes exceptional high school student talent in poetry and art in partnership with the Memorial Day Writers Project. The program honors Vince Kaspar, a chapter member, and one of the Memorial Day Writers' Project founders, in using poetry and writing to relieve the painful memories of their Tour of Duty. The program is the chapter's hallmark for our community outreach. Dennis Stephens is hosting the program.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow veterans. Better yet, bring your spouse, family, or a Vietnam War veteran with you. So "Fall In" for the May 18th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Bruce Waxman presents a challenge coin to Margaret Mensch.
Photo by Len Ignatowski

"Who is an Arlington Lady?"

Margaret Mensch, the Army's Arlington Ladies chairman, provided a very informative discussion on the group's little known service to our Fallen Hero burial at Arlington National Cemetery on a daily schedule at the April 20th membership meeting.

The Army Ladies are volunteers that attend every burial to insure the soldier is not buried alone at Arlington National Cemetery. The Army roster numbers 64 dedicated ladies of all Army ranks. The Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines have their own lady group.

To become a Lady, a Lady must sponsor you. Cross service sponsorship is allowed. The 8 hour duty of upward to fourteen burials has the lady escort the casket to the grave and express their sympathy to the family. The group receives no federal funding, but an office in the Administration Building is provided. The Ladies are identified by a name tag, which became mandatory after the wife of the deceased soldier attacked a Lady on the premise that she was her husband's friend. A few husbands have been accepted, but despite their good intentions, they did not respond well to this emotional duty. Bill Dumsick donated his 50/50 winning of \$ 47 to the Ladies. Thank you, Bill.

Margaret became a Lady in 1977 and chairperson in 1999. The daily service is physically exhausting and performed in all weather. The duty is a work of love and honor to fulfill the "Total Army Family" promise. Thank you Margaret and all Arlington Ladies of each military service for your unselfish service.



Jay Kalner (L) presents our \$ 2000 grant and a chapter challenge coin to Jim Knotts, VVMF CEO. Len Ignatowski, (R) was present too.

A Few \$\$ Closer

In our continuing support of the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) Education Center on the Mall, a grant of \$ 2,000 was presented to the VVMF on April 28, 2017. The total amount donated for the Center is \$ 8,500. Also, a chapter challenge coin was given to the VVMF. Jay Kalner, Director, made the official presentation, while Len Ignatowski, Vice President, observed.

Jim Knotts, the VVMF CEO, provided an informative review of the Education Center and the many VVMF programs. The Center features a wide range of digital displays from a photo of whose names are on The Wall to articles left at The Wall. Jim will give an update at the chapter June 15th meeting. Mark your calendar now.

The Center completion faces several challenges. The government commissions review dictated that the Center be underground (two stories) as not to obscure the view of the Lincoln Memorial from Constitution Avenue. This requirement had a severe financial impact from the original surface building. The New York State American Legion Auxiliary has accepted the mission of collecting the approximately 6,800 missing photographs of whose names are on The Wall. New York alone has 1,100 missing photographs. You are encouraged to visit the website, <http://vvmf.org/faces-never-forgotten>, to submit a photograph or to find the missing photographs.

Due to the extended ten year review process and the underground construction requirement the cost increased to over \$ 130 million. The original estimate was \$ 40 million. Construction can start when the full amount is in the bank. Only \$ 42.5 million has been collected. Every dollar counts, but if you know an individual or corporation that can make a sizeable donation, ask now! The goal is to have the Center open as soon as possible.

300 Plus!

The chapter membership goal is 300 plus members by September 30, 2017. The winner will be announced at the Chapter Anniversary Dinner on October 26th. A \$ 50 gift certificate to Glory Days Grill will be awarded to the top recruiter. The prize qualifier is the recruitment of at least two new members. As of now, the chapter has 286 members excluding AVVA members. The chapter is offering a business card with an application on the back side. Contact Bill Lynch (703-474-4891) for the cards or use the application in the newsletter. If each of us recruit one new member, we can be in the top 10 largest chapter, not the 25th largest chapter.

Veteran Outreach:

- **Summer Camp:** A \$ 600 grant was approved for one child to attend one week of National Military Association's Purple Camp for Children. The camp accepts children of deployed, injured, or deceased service members. Dennis Stephens, Director and a public school teacher, shared his relationship with one of his students whose mother is a deployed Air Force pilot during a board meeting. The story showed the physical and emotional strain that multiple overseas deployments have on the family members. One week of summer camp was considered a strong antidote for a family's sacrifice.
- **PTSD Visit:** Ben Buckley and Bill Shugarts conducted another successful hosting of the Combat PTSD Class visit from the Lyons VACM, N.J. on April 19th. Ben welcomed the class into the family of veterans in front of the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater. The class plaque was presented to Bill Shugarts who will place it in The Wall collection. Len Ignatowski, Dick Weaver, Jay Kalner, and Dee Rushforth assisted in the pinning of the Vietnam War Commemoration pin on the class's Vietnam veterans and the distribution of the Veteran/American flag lapel pin to all. The visit ended with the changing of the guard for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

REMINDER: Hepatitis C Health Threat and YOU!

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%. 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.

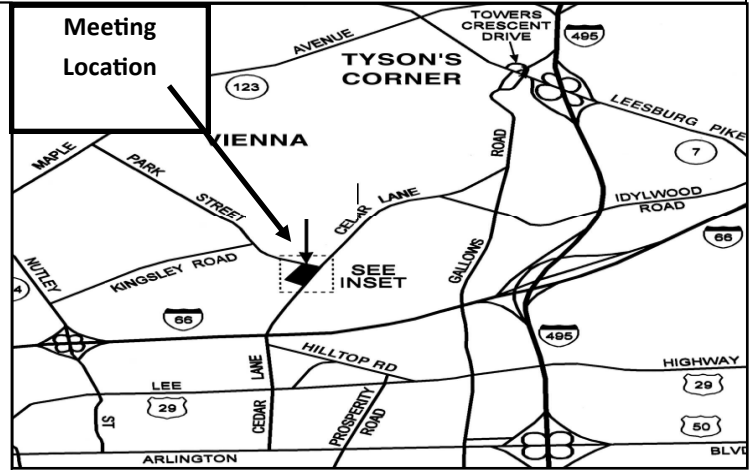
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

May 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

May 2017:

- 18: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Vince Kaspar Awards presentation
- 28: Memorial Day Barbecue **NEW START TIME 4:00 PM:** Host: Stan & Merrie Rose Derr. Call for dish selection 703-278-9322.
- 29: Memorial Day: Wreath laying at The Wall @ 8:00 AM. Rendezvous at the flagpole.
- 29: Post Memorial Service Breakfast at the Metro 29 Diner, 4711 Lee Hwy, Arlington.
- 29: Memorial Day Writers Project near The Wall: Starting at 11:30 AM.

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 Meeting Location: Visitor Center, Arlington National Cemetery
- 15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Jim Knotts, VVMF CEO, "An Update on the VVMF Education Center and its programs".

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR JULY AND AUGUST

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—May 18, 2017
“Vince Kaspar’s Excellence in the Arts Awards?”

MEMORIAL DAY
Fall-In to Honor Our Fallen Brothers and Sisters
And
Renew Our Special Veteran Camaraderie
May 28th:Barbecue
May 29th:Wreath Laying Memorial Service and Breakfast

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.

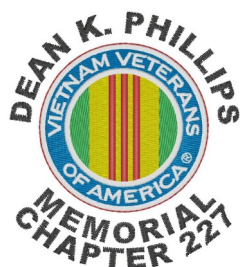
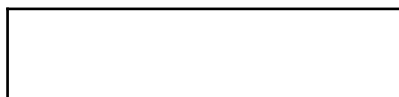
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.
CHAPTER 227

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