

THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

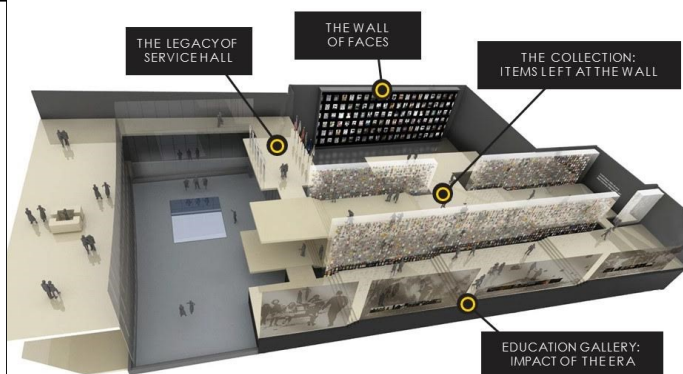
The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter

"Just In Time"



"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

July 2017



VVMF Education Center by Jay Kalner

At the June 15th membership meeting, the chapter was honored to host Jim Knotts, the CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, who gave an update on the status of the Fund and the building of a new Educational Center that will augment the Vietnam Memorial and help explain all aspects of the war. Before discussing the Center, Jim, a former USAF veteran of the Persian Gulf War, mentioned a few highlights for the Fund in 2017--the 35th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the Wall this past March, the Memorial Day featured speech at the Wall by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, a candlelight vigil for POWs/MIAs planned for 15 September, and a reading of the more than 58,000 names on the Wall scheduled for November. Jim indicated that the Wall remains a popular attraction for visitors; 5.6 million people visit it annually.

He gave an engrossing discussion about the genesis and the plans for the Educational Center. First conceived in 2001, the Center was approved by Congress in 2003, and the design was approved in 2015. Congress insisted that the Center be built without federal funds and be underground so as to not obstruct the view from Constitution Avenue to the Lincoln Memorial. The two underground floor configuration increased the cost to \$130 million. To date, \$42.5 million has been raised, largely from foundations and nations such as South Korea and Australia who fought in Vietnam. The \$130 million must be raised before groundbreaking can begin. In the Center, there will be a Wall of Faces that will have digital photographs of all those killed in the war, and some 4000-6000 mementos left at the Wall over the years will be displayed on a rotating basis. So far, the Fund has collected well over 50,000 identified photos and hopes to get a complete set to document all those on the Wall. Special exhibits will be displayed that will cover all



Bruce Waxman (R) presents a chapter challenge coin to Jim Knotts, CEO of the VVMF, after his informative presentation. Photo by Sarah Elpern.

aspects of the war--home and abroad. The role of our allies will be presented. Besides the photos of those killed, the Fund has already begun collecting oral histories of Vietnam veterans using Library of Congress databases--a project of some urgency as these veterans enter the twilight of their lives. Staffers are currently curating the mementos at a National Park Service facility in Maryland. The Park Service will own the Center, but rely on volunteers. Kiosks will provide information about the names on The Wall, and tours will be self-guided. He mentioned that 14 lesson plans have already been prepared for teachers. (Continue on Page 2.)

Help the Nationals to the World Series!

The chapter's Nationals' Baseball Game is set for Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 1:35 PM against the Dodgers. The ticket price is \$17. The seats are in Section 406/407. A few ADA seats are available. If you need ADA seating, contact Bill Lynch at bill_lynch@vva227.org or 703-474-4891. **Ticket order deadline is August 1, 2017.** Checks payable to Bill Lynch and mail your order to Bill Lynch, 6322 Applegarth Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22312-1542 with your name, number of tickets, cell phone number, and email address. Tickets will be available at Will Call. Our attendance record is 12 wins and one loss. Lets make it 13 wins! Bring your family, friends, and a Vietnam War veteran.

300 Plus Contest!

The chapter membership goal is 300 plus members by September 30, 2017. The winner will be announced at the Chapter Anniversary Dinner on October 19th. 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 288 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 recruits one new member, we can be in the top 10 largest chapters, not the 25th largest chapter.

NO SUMMER RECESS FOR VETERAN ASSISTANCE

- **Target of Opportunity:** Bruce Waxman noticed that his neighbor was disposing of a bed and mattress. He quickly commandeered the bedding into his garage and contacted our VASH case manager POC. Within a few days, the high quality bedding had a new home with a happy VASH veteran.
- **Rent Assistance:** Three \$ 500 grants were approved to assist three VASH veterans and families with lodging expenses due to unexpected expenses or income losses. Two were to assist in rental payment while the third was to pay for processing an apartment application and deposit. Our support is part of a local network of agencies and groups that combine our resources to support veterans and their families emergency needs. Our national warriors and their families face many obstacles in their painful transition to normal civilian life when they survive on paycheck to paycheck. Things that we take for granted are major challenges from maintaining a car for driving to work to buying an unexpected child expense. Our country is failing in this respect in supporting these heroes, especially their children. We should be proud of our role in addressing this national issue.
- **Moving Assistance:** A \$ 500 grant was given to a disabled Vietnam Era veteran to move to a more affordable apartment.
- **Unique Assistance:** The chapter responded to a very unique VASH veteran need. A \$ 100 Metro Smart Card, a \$ 50 Gift Card, and a Korean-English dictionary was given to a native Korean who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.
- **Back-to-School Gift Cards:** The chapter will provide a \$ 50 gift card for each VASH veteran and child that is a student. Donations are being solicited to increase the card amount. Donations should be sent to Chuck Harris, Chapter Treasurer, 44020 Pandora Ct., Ashburn, Va. 20147. Checks payable to VVA Chapter 227.

CHAPTER BRIEFS

- **Used Books Program:** Roger Hill is the new Used Book Collection Chairman due to the unexpected death of Charlie Klein. The Hole in the Wall sells the donated books and gives the full sale price to the chapter. An important requirement is that only Roger can deliver the books to the store. To make a donation, contact Roger at 703-323-7309 between 9 AM to 9 PM. Special thanks to Roger for accepting this important chapter revenue program.
- **Directorship Vacancy:** The Chapter Board has a vacancy due to the death of Charlie Klein. If you wish to fill the year remaining on his term, call Scott Hurley at 703-978-2608 to offer your service. The next election is April 2918. The duty is to attend the monthly board meeting, to vote on actions, and to support chapter activities. The board will evaluate all applicants and appoint one.
- **Collect Those Hotel Toiletries:** Bring home those hotel bathroom toiletries while on vacation or summer travel and bring them to a chapter meeting. The items are given to the Lamb Center, a daytime homeless shelter in Fairfax. The toiletries are provided for the shelter's showers. The Center provides time and space for VA staff to help homeless veterans access their veteran benefits.
- **VVA Household Goods Program (HHGP) Pays:** Donate your household goods by calling 1-800-518-8387. Even worn out clothing generates income by their sale for rags and paper making. The chapter receives about \$ 3,500 a year from the program.
- **National Convention:** Bruce Waxman, Len Ignatowski, Chuck Harris, and Bill Dumsick are the chapter delegates to the VVA National Convention, August 8-13, 2017 in New Orleans. Besides the election, VVA's future will be discussed with respect to the two committees progress on this vital issue. Diane Ignatowski is pitch-hitting for Margaret Stern as the chapter delegate to the AVVA National Convention at the same time.

Education Center (Continued)

In his presentation, Jim clearly showed his total commitment to the new Center and expressed hopes that the Ken Burns documentary in September (18 hours in 10 episodes) will kick start a new national dialogue on the war and lead to a dramatic increase in donations to build the Center.

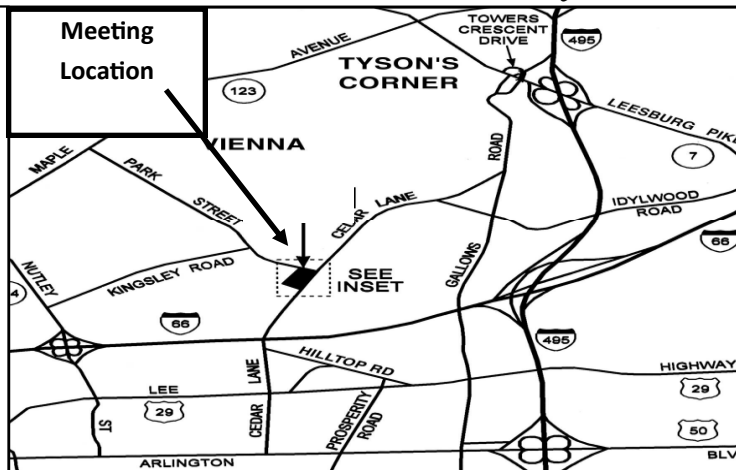
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

July 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, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer
 Bob Tecklenburg, Jonathan Olson, Jay Kalner,
 Dennis Stephens, George Jones, Don Drunsic, and Bob Pezold.
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
Membership: Bill Lynch 703-474-4891
Lyons PTSD Visit: Ben Buckley 703-978-9179
Used Books: Roger Hill 703-323-7309 (9 AM– 9 PM)



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

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR JULY AND AUGUST NO AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Aug
 01: No August newsletter
 01: **Deadline for ordering baseball game tickets**
 03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va
 08-12: VVA National Convention
 30: <NEW DATE> Lyons Combat PTSD Visit to The Wall 11:00 AM: Meet at the snack bar across from The Wall.
 Sept.
 07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va
 17: Chapter's Nationals Baseball Game Family Outing
 21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Legacies of War, History of the bombing of Laos during the Vietnam War and current unexploded bomb clearance in Laos.

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

***No Membership Meeting—July and August
No August Newsletter***

**Membership Drive—300 or More!
\$ 50 Restaurant Gift Card to the Top Recruiter**

Nationals Baseball Game Ticket Deadline: August 1, 2017

Combat PTSD Class Visit—August 30th @ 11:00 AM

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.

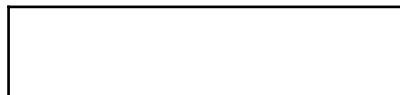
CHAPTER 227

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***