

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"

September 2017

Unexploded U.S. Bombs in Laos

Start the Fall season by attending the September 21st membership meeting with its guest speaker, Channapha Khamvongsa, Executive Director of Legacies of War. She will discuss her advocacy to clear unexploded military bombs in the secret Laos war and to provide space for healing the wounds of war.

Report early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members! Family and guests are always welcome. Better yet, bring fellow veterans with you. You never know who you might see at the meeting. No drinking of alcoholic beverages is allowed during the meeting.

32nd Anniversary Celebration

The chapter will celebrate its 32nd anniversary at the October 19th membership meeting. A buffet dinner will be served, and Marc Leepson, chapter member, will discuss his new biography of Barry Sadler, singer of the Ballad of the Green Berets. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or email at grunt69@gmail.com with your reservation by October 10th.



Len Ignatowski gives an interim farewell as everyone anxiously waits for the cake serving at the Last Supper. Photo by Bruce Waxman.

Interim Last Supper

On May 17, 2017, Len Ignatowski and Bruce Waxman attended the Wounded Warrior Family Supper at the Capital Hilton in D.C. The supper marked the conclusion of a 12-1/2 year VVA and Chapters 227 and 641 partnership with the hotel which provided a grand menu in a low key atmosphere. The chapter provided several grants to pay for the supper bus transportation. Many attendees stated that the event was like a family gathering rather than being show-cased. Len served as the chapter POC and attended most of the suppers from the first to the last. Other chapter members attended with Len. The suppers were not openly advertised since the hotel wished to provide the dinner without any news media recognition. The chapter purchased a special cake for the event. A testimon-

ny to the cake's scrumptiousness was that not one piece saw daylight as guests carried pieces back to their hospital rooms.

Rick Weidman and Bernie Edelman of VVA staff instigated the program to address a social need of the patients in the Walter Reed/Ft. Belvoir Hospital Recovery Company. Tom Berger of VVA helped too. The suppers had a wide range of invited and surprise guests from Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi to the parents of a soldier killed in Afghanistan. They just returned from a meeting with the president and were overjoyed to have supper with us. Len had a special moment by pure chance too. The Gold Star Mother president sat next to him. She was from Len's hometown, and her brother was Len's friend from their teenage and college days. Len is still wondering why Frank never mentioned that he had a sister. The dance is an interim last supper since a search is underway for a new host. If you can offer a new host, contact Len at 703-255-0353 or email at grunt69@gmail.com.



Back to School Help

For the seventh consecutive year, the chapter provided gift cards for the back-to-school needs of children of Veteran Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) families. Len Ignatowski presented the ninety-one \$ 50 gift cards to VASH case managers at the DC VAMC on August 4, 2017. The families reside in Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria and Fairfax.

A deep sense of gratitude is due to the VASH case managers who may drive 200 miles in a day to find an apartment for a needy veteran. Not a fun task in our traffic congestion plus the government cars had to be returned to the office. They attack each day's challenge with the same determination and gusto as we did in our military service.

In the photo, Len Ignatowski, Chapter Vice President, presents the gift cards to the VASH case workers (Left to Right) Miracle Hallman, Ky'Neihe King, Len Ignatowski, Janell Scott, Yolanda Peay, Team Leader. Photo by Gary Strange, Veterans Administration.

Hurricane Harvey Vietnam Veterans Relief

Kerwin Stone, President, VVA Chapter. 292, Vice President, Texas State Council and a National Director At-Large, reports that, although it is too soon to assess what is needed, donations are being accepted. Make your check out to VVA Chapter 292 and mark it "Hurricane Harvey Relief." Mail it to VVA 292, P.O. Box 1071, Beaumont, TX 77704-1071.

Let's show solidarity with our VVA brothers and sisters!

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.

SUMMER VETERAN ASSISTANCE

- **America Adopt A Soldier:** The chapter is sponsoring a hole with a \$ 200 grant for the America Adopt A Soldier Golf Fundraiser. The organization provides household items to veterans and military personnel in need and has responded to several chapter appeals for furniture.
- **U-Haul Gift Card:** A \$ 75 U-Haul gift certificate assisted a VASH veteran in moving his household goods.
- **Keep on Rolling:** A \$ 410 grant purchased four used car tires for a VASH veteran to continue working. He declined our offer to buy new tires.
- **Rent Insurance:** A \$ 214 grant for rental insurance allowed a VASH veteran to secure an apartment lease.

CHAPTER BRIEFS

- **Used Books Program:** Roger Hill is the new Used Book Collection Chairman. 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.



Len Ignatowski, Bruce Waxman, Bill Dumsick, and Chuck Harris (L to R) discuss pending business at the VVA National Convention.

National Convention Brief

From August 8 to 12, Bruce Waxman, Len Ignatowski, Chuck Harris, and Bill Dumsick attended the VVA National Convention in New Orleans as delegates. They attended daily plenary sessions and evening Region 3 caucuses. They separately attended committee meetings for PTSD and Substance Abuse, Agent Orange / Dioxin, Homeless Veterans, Government Affairs, and Membership Affairs. Chapter President Bruce Waxman attended the Legislative Coordinator Breakfast.

Some Convention highlights were: 1) VVA's third National President (and 227 member) Mary Stout, recounted the hard struggle to obtain Federal government recognition for the health effects of Agent Orange; 2) recognizing the importance of veterans courts by changing the name of the Veterans Incarcerated Committee to the Veterans in the Criminal Justice System Committee; 3) Bruce reminding the overall plenary of the need to support funding of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center; 4) Sara McVicker being re-elected as Region 3 Director; and, 5) Charlie Montgomery, President of the Virginia State Council, winning one of ten at-large seats on the VVA Board of Directors. VVA's future was discussed too.

Diane Ignatowski was a delegate to the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) Convention. A VA Volunteer Hours pin was presented to Diane for her work in providing meals for the board meeting and other activities. AVVA's Project Friendship, presented a check for \$14,000 to the New Orleans Volunteers of America to assist the VOA's work with homeless veterans in N.O. Our chapter contributed \$100. More details regarding the convention will appear in future issues of *The Veteran*, the national VVA newspaper. Overall, the convention embodied everyone to fulfill our funding principle, "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

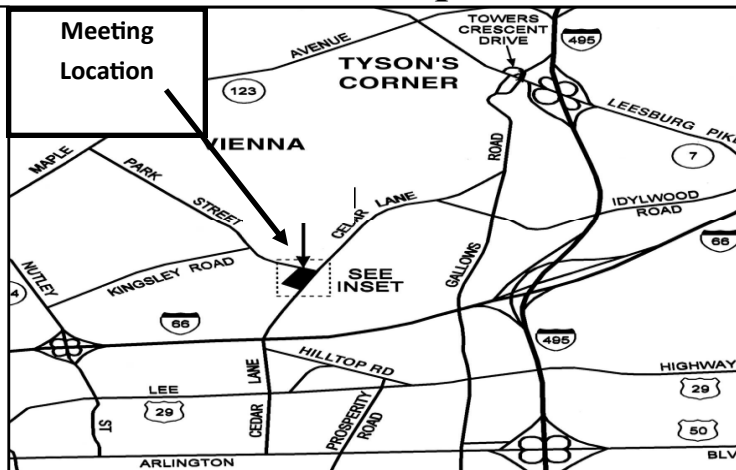
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

September 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

September

06: Combat PTSD Class Visit 11:00 AM: Meet at the snack bar
 07 Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va
 21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: "Legacies of War", Laos bombing during the Vietnam War and unexploded bomb clearance

October

05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va
 14: Fairfax Fall Festival Outreach: Volunteers needed
 19: 32nd Anniversary Dinner and Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Marc Leepson, author of "Ballad of the Green Berets"
 28: Virginia VVA State Council Meeting: Virginia Beach

November

01: Combat PTSD Class Visit 11:00 AM: Meet at the snack bar
 02: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va
 11: Veterans Day
 16: 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 Drive—300 or More!
\$ 50 Restaurant Gift Card to the Top Recruiter

Membership Meeting - September 21, 2017
“Laos Bombing Campaign During the Vietnam War and Current Efforts to
Find and Disarm Unexploded Ordinances”

Combat PTSD Class Visit— September 6, 2017 @ 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