

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"

October 2017



Anniversary Cake Cutting by Current and Past Presidents

32nd Anniversary

The chapter is celebrating our 32nd Anniversary at the October 19th membership meeting. A buffet dinner will be served at 7:30 PM. Please be on time. Reservations must be made by October 16th by contacting Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or email at grunt69@gmail.com for a dinner head count.

The guest speaker is Marc Leepson, chapter member, who will discuss his new biography of Barry Sadler, singer of the Ballad of the Green Berets. Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. You never know who you might meet. Better yet, bring a Vietnam War veteran with you. Spouses are always welcome. So Fall-In for the October

19th Anniversary celebration at 7:30 P.M.



Exposed bomblet

What One Person Can Do!

We have read or heard many stories about our secret war in Laos over the years. With the end of the Vietnam War, Laos fell off the news radar, but the human and physical destruction unfortunately continued. A young and energetic Laotian lady did something about it. That person is Channapha Khamvongsa, who told of her successful fight to address this human tragedy at the September 21st membership meeting.

Channapha Khamvongsa, Executive Director and founder of Legacies of War, provided an in depth history of the U.S. aerial bombs campaign in Laos during the Vietnam War and the Laotian civil war and the continuing pain that it inflicts on the daily Laotian life. The U.S. bombing was to disrupt the flow of supplies along the Ho Chin Minh trail in Laos to the North Vietnamese and VC units in South Vietnam. Also the CIA supported a civil war to keep the Communists from controlling Laos. The major culprit is the unexploded bomblets from a cluster bomb. Each cluster bomb disperse 6 to 25 ball shaped bombs, bomblets, over a wide area unlike a single target bomb. About 30% of the bomblets did not explode on contact and remain as a time bomb. The danger is that children are susceptible to picking up one as a toy ball or a farmer working his field detonating the bomblet with personal injury or death and physical destruction. Her presentation included the ABC documentary on the problem and her program and a Power Point presentation.

Channapha arrived in the U.S. at the age of seven from Laos and was raised in Fairfax County. During a family visit to Laos, she witnessed the horror of the unexploded ordnances. She returned with a passion to do something about it. She successfully petition congress and the state department to increase bomb disposal for \$2 million in 2008 to \$30 million in 2016 in Laos. Her campaign resulted in President Obama visiting the museum in Laos as the first U.S. president to visit the country. The program provides prostheses for bomb victims and educating the population on the danger of the bombs.

Her effort is a stellar example of what one person can do to address the continuing pains and destruction after the war is over. She deserves our salute for an ongoing mission success, one bomb at a time!



Len Ignatowski, VP, presents a chapter challenge coin to Channapha Khamvongsa.
Photo by Bill Lynch.

This is Why!

"I'm S _____ K _____ whom you helped with the vehicle at caliber collision and gratefully negotiated battery cost. I would like to thank you so much with all that is going on with me. It's a huge burden lifted off my shoulders. I am so thankful."

Fairfax City Fall Festival Needs You

The chapter's information booth at the Fairfax City Fall Festival on October 14th needs volunteers to answer questions and recruit new members. The time is from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Help is needed in setting up the canopy and displays. Contact Bill Dumsick 571-217-3330.

Hurricane Vietnam Veterans Relief

The chapter approved three hurricane relief grants to assist veterans. A grant of \$750 was given the Puerto Rico VVA State Council, \$500 to Texas Chapter 292, and \$250 to the Florida State Council. Let's show solidarity with our VVA brothers and sisters! If you wish to augment our grants, send your donation to the chapter and designate the recipient or general on the check memo line. Your donation will be forward.

CHAPTER BRIEFS

- **Veteran Treatment Docket Needs Mentors NOW:** The program is in immediate need of mentors. You do not have to reside in Fairfax County to be eligible. Contact Tom Davis, Mentor POC, at 703-629-0111 or email to Tom.Davis@FairfaxCounty.gov.
- **New Director Appointed:** At the October 5th board meeting, Gus Howard was appointed as director to replace the vacancy due to Charlie Klein's death. Gus is a two tour Navy Vietnam War veteran. Welcome Aboard, Gus!
- **Used Books Program:** Roger Hill is the new Used Book Collection Chair man. 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.
- **Community Outreach:** A \$ 50 grant was approved for the AASuccess for Family Fun Day Carnival fundraiser on October 28th. The organization provides support to the Vietnamese immigrant community. The carnival is at LAKE FAIRFAX PARK SHELTER # J & K (Next to carousel), 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA 20190.
- **Nationals Game Record:** Our win streak charm was AWOL on October 1st when the Nationals lost to the Pittsburg Pirates by a score of 11 to 8. The slug fest and runners left on base allowed the members to participate in a Nationals record by attending the longest 9 inning game of four hours and twenty-two minutes. Have to start another winning streak next year. Thanks to Bill Lynch for serving at Point-Man for this annual family event.
- **Pro-Action Results in Donation:** A local newspaper article about the back-to-school gift card for VASH family children resulted in a \$1,000 donation. The donor only wanted to be identified as an Air Force brat who was raised in Fairfax County.



Another successful chapter hosting of the combat PTSD class to The Wall. Each visit presents the class plaque after the brief memorial service for enshrinement in the Vietnam Memorial archives. The class designs and constructs the plaque. The next visit is November 1st at 1100 hours and meet at the snack bar across from the flagpole. The veterans appreciate Ben Buckley's welcome and the distribution of the campaign patches to each veteran. Photo by Bill Shugarts.

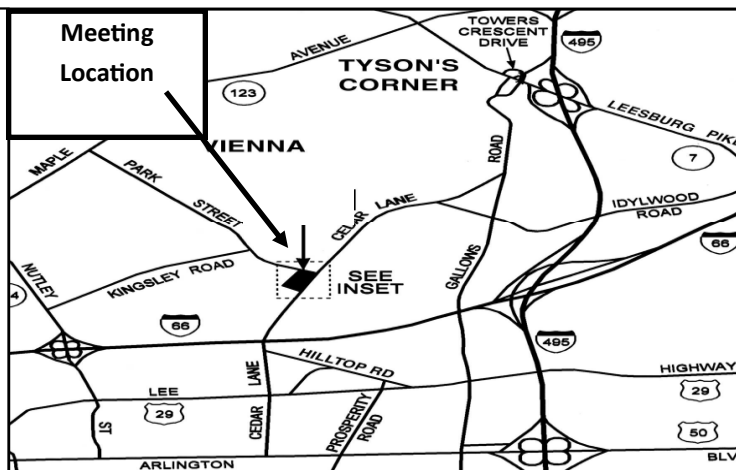
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

October 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, Gus Howard, 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>

October

14: Fairfax Fall Festival Outreach: Volunteers needed, Call Bill Dumsick at 571-217-3330
 16: **Reservation Deadline for Anniversary Dinner:** Notify Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or grunt69@gmail.com
 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: Dr. Gregory Foster, "The U.S. Military Constitutional Responsibility in Turbulent Times."

December

XX: Holiday Party: Date and location to be announced
 07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 21: No membership meeting
 25: Merry and Safe Christmas

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

Chapter's 32nd Anniversary Celebration
Membership Meeting - October 19, 2017 - Free Buffet Dinner
Reservations by October 16th: Len Ignatowski
703-255-0353 or grunt69@gmail.com

Fairfax City Fall Festival - October 14th @ 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Contact Bill Dumsick 571-217-3330

Combat PTSD Class Visit— November 1, 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.

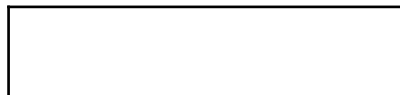
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.
CHAPTER 227

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