

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"

December 2017

Holiday Party - Be There!

Bill, Joey, and Cheryl Dumsick are hosting the Holiday Party on December 9, 2017, at 6:30 pm in their home at 13606 White Stone Court, Clifton, Virginia. Call Cheryl at 703-968-0686 for a selection (salad, vegetable, or dessert)

A party tradition is bringing a wrapped child's gift with the gift's gender and age marked on it, and a child's winter clothing item. The gifts and clothing serve as an emergency supply for the Sullivan House in Arlington County.

The party is a great way to meet fellow members and for spouses to get acquainted with chapter members in a festive holiday spirit. Better yet, bring a fellow Vietnam veteran. Call Cheryl for a head count and dish selection NOW!

Military Constitutional Responsibility in Turbulent Times

Gregory Foster, Vietnam veteran and National Defense University professor, provided a very informative discussion on the current national military command policy at the November 16th meeting. After providing several foreign event scenarios on a presidential order to initiate a pre-emptive or retaliatory attack, the floor was open to a very lively give-and-take discussion. The following points were made:

1. Civilian control of the military with the military being politically neutral is our national heritage. Congress can only declare a war. Recent Congressional acts give authority for the president to launch pre-emptive military attack.
2. The president has the ultimate word as commander-in-chief. The order goes to the Secretary of Defense who alerts the appropriate military commands for execution. Congress and the Joint-Chief-of-Staff do not have to be consulted prior to issuing the attack order. This doctrine is based on the Russian nuclear attack threat during the Cold War.
3. The Secretary of Defense and field commanders have three options: 1) Execute, 2) Refuse and be removed, or 3) resign and not execute the order. The "illegal order" concept to refuse an order is not well defined.
4. The pre-emptive military strike is not a new topic, but has been debated for years without any major concern. Recent political statements have raised this issue. Is it time to revise the current policy with the end of the Cold War?
5. Have the American people and congress negated their responsibility of deciding when to go to war in the hands of the president without any control or accountability? Is there a need to do so?
6. Is our military shouldering an unnecessary social, constitutional, and command responsibility?

Discussions continued with the speaker and small groups to further elaborate on this national political issue at the end of the meeting. Thanks to Greg for such a thought provoking national issue discussion.

NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER

As we enter the period between Thanksgiving and the New Year, we are thankful that that most of us are fortunate to be financially secure, especially when compared to those veterans who need assistance to take care of basic necessities like food, shelter, clothing and transportation. Throughout the year, Chapter 227 responds to requests from the VA, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and local non-profit agencies to assist veterans who need financial help. The chapter has no formal fundraising program. Our income is limited to the VVA Household Goods Program, VVA \$9 member rebate, and used book sales from Hole in the Wall Books. Otherwise, we rely on the generosity of our members, friends and neighbors. No AVVA membership rebates are received.

Please consider a year end contribution to support our activities, especially for our donations to less fortunate veterans and their families. A high number of VASH veterans are single parents with children. We are a 501(c)(19) organization, so your contribution will be tax-deductible, as provided by law. You will receive a receipt from the chapter. Our mailing address is Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653.

Bruce I. Waxman

President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227 The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter

CHAPTER BRIEFS

- **Service Dog Available:** Veterans Moving Forward is offering a service dog for free to military veterans suffering with PTS. Contact Jim Roberts at 703-217-9824 or at jimroberts.tai@gmail.com for information.
- **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.
- **Online PX Purchases:** Veterans are eligible for online purchases from the military PXs. No sales tax paid. Register at <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>. Your purchases helps the Exchanges survive as a military benefit.
- **Used Book 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. The program recently received \$100 sale proceeds, which was matched by Chuck Harris. The income funds the Vince Kaspar Arts and Poetry Awards program.
- **Treasurer to Remain:** Scott Hurley has decided to remain as Secretary until the April 2018 elections. Bob Tecklenburg has volunteered to serve as Scott's backup. Thanks Scott and Bob.
- **MDWP Tent Rental:** A \$200 grant in support of the Memorial Day Writers Project tent rental on the mall for their Veterans Day healing program through poetry, song, and stories was approved. Chapter members were instrumental in founding this program.
- **Sorry:** Frank Jessup donated a wood carving bowl for the raffle at the October meeting. Thanks, Frank.
- **Top 25 Again!:** The chapter returns as the 25th largest VVA chapter with 289 members excluding AVVA members. Ten more members are needed to get to the 21st largest chapter. So each of us should try to recruit a new member now. A membership application in in the newsletter. Better yet, give a copy to the potential member.

VETERANS DAY 2017

- **What It Means to be Veteran?:** Len Ignatowski spoke on "what it means to be a veteran" to the 27 students of Ms. Becky Fitzpatrick's 4th grade class at Weyanoke Elementary School on November 10th.. Her father is a Vietnam War veteran and the recipient of two Purple Hearts. Len's discussion included a Power Point presentation that summarized the Veteran Day history and his Vietnam tour. The students questions ranged from "what did you eat" to "how did you get home?" Several students have family members that are serving in the military.

The program ended with Len pinning a Veterans/US flag lapel pin on Christy Spear, an Army combat veteran. She is a first grade teacher. The Speaker's Panel thanks Ms. Fitzpatrick for inviting us for the second year in a row.

- **Field of Honor:** George Jones and Bob Pezold represented the chapter at the George C. Marshall High School's Field of Honor program on November 3, 2017. The senior class hosted the program to honor all veterans. The chapter's grant of \$20 sponsored five American flags that were displayed in the school's Field of Honor in front of the school's sign.



Len Ignatowski pins the Veteran flag lapel pin on Christy Spear, an Army war veteran and first grade teacher.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WELCOME

The November 1st hosting of the Lyons VAMC Combat PTS Class, N.J. ended another successful year. Ben Buckley served as the host and was assisted by Len Ignatowski and Jim Roberts, while Bill Shugarts photographed the visit. The highlight of the welcome is when Ben and others clip a conflict patch tab (Vietnam Vet, Desert Storm Vet, Iraq Vet, Afghanistan Vet) on each veteran's clothing. The war's name is embroidered on the cloth campaign ribbon. Vietnam 50th Anniversary pins were pinned on Vietnam veterans too. The hospital staff reports that the tabs are a very emotional part for the veterans, and is discussed on the returning bus ride.

Jim Roberts invited the visitors to apply for a service dog through Veterans Moving Forward. The service dogs are provided free to veterans suffering from PTS. Jim works with the program. His invitation resulted in one inquiry. Thanks, Jim, for reaching out.



Ben Buckley pins a conflict patch tab on a Purple Heart veteran. Len Ignatowski assists. Photograph by Bill Shugarts.

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

December 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, Jonathan Olson, Jay Kalner, Gus Howard, Dennis Stephens, George Jones, Don Drunsic, Bob Tecklenbrg, and Bob Pezold.

AVVA Representative: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353

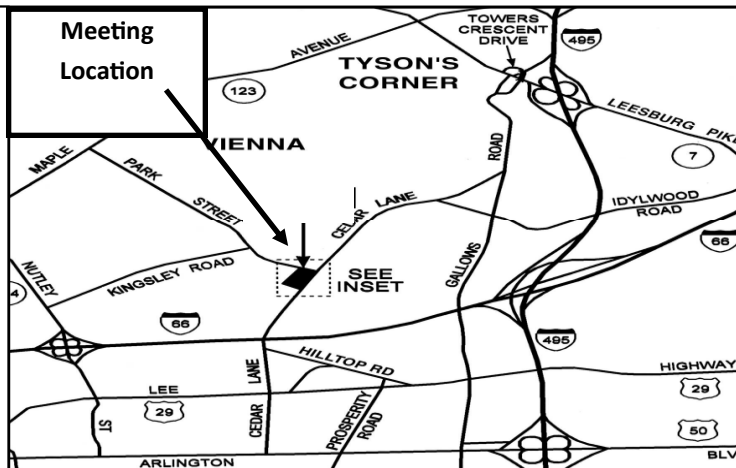
School Speaker's Panel: Tom Stryer 703-323-9032

Meeting Guest Speaker: Jay Kalner 703-346-2013

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>

December 2017

07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.

09: Holiday Party 6:30 PM: Dish selection, call Cheryl Dumsick @ 703-968-0686; Bring child winter clothing and gift

21: No membership meeting

25: Have a safe and happy Holiday

January 2018

01: Happy New Year

04: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.

18: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: "Promise Lost, The Life of Stephen Joyner", Dan Moore, author.

??: Annual Winterhaven Standdown at DC VAMC. Date to be announced

Board Meetings Attendance

Members are welcome at the monthly board meeting where chapter business is conducted. Due to the American Legion Post ending meeting time, please contact Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269 or bruce_waxman@vva227.org to schedule your topic.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va. 22205-0653

Name _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

H () _____ C () _____ Email _____

Chapter No. 227 Sponsor _____ Sponsor's ID No. _____

• Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, for Vietnam-era veterans. Return this application along with a copy of your DD Form-214.

• Term: ☐ 1 year - \$20 ☐ 3 year - \$50 ☐ Life Membership - \$100

• Payment Option: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card (Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

☐ I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).



WE WANT YOU

QUESTIONS

CONTACT

BILL LYNCH

AT 703-474-4891

Holiday Party

December 9, 2017—Details in Newsletter — Call NOW!

Make Your Charity Tax Deduction to the Chapter—Don't Wait!

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.

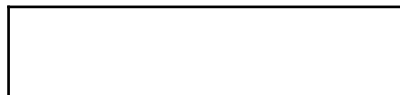
CHAPTER 227

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*