

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"

January 2018



**Make 2018
Another
Greater Year!**



Friends,

I am looking forward to another wonderful year for Chapter 227. Although the closure of Neighbors Restaurant requires us to relocate our meeting to the Amphora Restaurant, we will continue to have our usual array of terrific speakers. Our Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts is now in its 22nd consecutive year! Our chapter is an active and respected member of the coalition in Fairfax and Loudon Counties, called "Serving Together". With your financial help, we can exceed the over \$15,000 in donations that we made last year to veterans and active duty personnel in need. Our membership has grown to be the 23rd largest VVA chapter, with nearly 300 members. I would like to blow well past that threshold before my term as president ends in April. This brings up two important points. First, everyone knows or meets Vietnam veterans who are not yet members. Recruit them to join us to make our chapter stronger. They will thank you for it! Second, please run for election as an officer or board member. We need all points of view and fresh ideas are always welcome. Together, we can make Virginia's best VVA chapter even better and one of VVA's best chapters too!

Bruce Waxman, President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227



New Year, New Meeting Location!

The unexpected closing of Neighbor's Restaurant resulted in a new meeting home, Amphora Restaurant, 377 Maple Ave. W, (aka Rte. 123) in Vienna. The restaurant is one block east of Nutley Road off of I-66. See location on map on page 5. Same time: 7:30 PM. Come early for dinner around 6:30 PM.

Start the New Year Off Right!

The January 18th membership meeting features Dan Moore, the author of "Promise Lost". The book renders the life account of Marine Lieutenant Stephen D. Joyner, who fell heroically in the final days of the Khe Sanh battle. His story exemplifies the lives of many who served and died in the Vietnam War. His death meant the loss of a national treasure that had not been tapped for higher life accomplishments.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. You never know who you might meet. Bring a Vietnam War veteran. Spouses are welcome. So "Fall In" for the January 18th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M. Bring a fellow Marine veteran. Also, bring paper dishware and plastic silverware for the Lamb Center donation.



Gift cards are presented at the VA Homeless Assistance Center in D.C. Janell Scott, HUD VASH Social Worker, Bruce Waxman, President, Jemima Anglade, Outreach Social Worker, Leonard Ignatowski, Vice President, Yolanda Peay, HUD VASH Social Worker (L to R).

Chapter Provides Holiday Cheer

On November 30, 2017, the chapter Holiday Gift Program provided gift credit cards for \$3,200 to thirty-four veterans and their families in the Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) program. The partnership assists homeless veterans and their families in transitioning from homelessness to normalcy with affordable and stable lodging. For the first time, chapter funding and donations from chapter members and the general public allowed gift amount differentials from \$50 to \$200 to be based on individual needs. The Northern Virginia VASH team currently serves veterans in Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William Counties and the cities of Alexandria and Fairfax, and the Towns of Vienna, Herndon, and Falls Church. The VASH case managers identified veterans and families in dire financial need for the Holidays. The gift credit cards purchase groceries and other personal needs to make the Holidays merrier for our Country's heroes. The chapter Holiday outreach is the eighth year for this program. A tour of the Homeless Veteran Assistance Center was given to both members.

For the sixth year, the chapter fulfilled the Santa List for two wounded warrior families at a local military hospital. The hospital identified the families and provided their Santa Gift List. The chapter funded one family with a \$600 grant, while a member's neighbor agreed to fund the Santa List for the second wounded veteran family. The mission's success is attributed to the great Santa helpers, Chuck Harris, a two Tour Vietnam War helicopter pilot, and his wife, Glenda. Both are chapter members. Thank you, both.



Members and spouses renew or establish new friendships at the Holiday Party.

Holiday Party - Sorry Charlie!

On December 9th, Bill, Cheryl, and Joey Dumsick's hospitality provided the vital ingredient for another successful and festive Holiday Party at their elegant decorated holiday home. The evening was filled with great camaraderie, gourmet food and beverages.

Chapter member generosity fulfilled the annual challenge of having Charlie Klein ride the hood of Jonathan Olson's car. This year the car was filled, but unfortunately Charlie's presence was missing. He probably had a big smile since he did not have to ride the hood from his heavenly view. Charlie sadly passed away this year. Jonathan delivered the gifts and clothing to the Arlington House, a family shelter in Arlington County. The gifts serve as an emergency Santa for less fortunate children.

Again, there was still room at the inn for more members, spouses, and friends. For those who did not attend, another great opportunity to meet your fellow veterans and spouses was missed. So come to the January 18th membership meeting with a fellow Vietnam War veteran.



Jonathan Olson searches for a spot to place those last children gifts and clothing in his almost filled car.

2018 Chapter Elections

Nominations for chapter offices for the 2018 elections are open. The Secretary office needs a candidate. Contact Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269 or Bruce_waxman@vva227.org to be on the ballot.

Lamb Center Help

The Center is a daytime homeless shelter in Fairfax City that assists civilian and veterans. The chapter wants to resurrect this community outreach effort by members bringing plastic eating utensils and sturdy paper dishware to the January 18th membership meeting. Great opportunity to clear your shelves of these lingering items and helping our community.



New and current members share memories of their Tour of Duty at the Holiday Party.



Chapter recognizes the Dumsick family (Cheryl, Bill and Joey) for their many years of hosting the Holiday Party.

A YEAR OF MISSION FULFILLMENT 2017



Bruce Waxman is the guest speaker at the Quantico Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day ceremony.



The traditional anniversary cake cutting by past and current presidents with Carl Stout's saber.



Len Ignatowski prepares to cut the Thank You cake at the last Wounded Warriors dinner after 12-1/2 years of chapter co-sponsorship.



Tom Stryer, Speaker Panel Chairman, shares his Navy Tour of Duty with local students.



A typical full house for a membership meeting.



Bill Shugarts with camera and Ben Buckley (center) welcome a Lyons PTSD class to The Wall as part of their therapy. This chapter program is eight years old.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227 And The Memorial Day Writers' Project

Announces the 22nd Annual (2017 - 2018 Academic Year)

Vince Kaspar Prizes For Excellence in the Arts

Prizes will be awarded for a Poem of any length, style, or subject.
Judges include professional writers from the sponsoring organizations.

Prizes will be awarded for a work of Visual Art of any size or medium.
Judges include professional artists from the local art community.

PRIZES

First prize in each category is \$300

Second and third prizes in each category are \$200 and \$100 respectively.

Honorable Mentions: Four for art and poetry at \$25 each.

Eligibility: All high school juniors and seniors who reside or attend school in Arlington and Fairfax counties, the Towns of Vienna and Herndon and the Cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Fairfax.

Submission of Entries: Mail entries to the Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts, c/o VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va., 22205. For poetry, please provide two copies of your work. To facilitate a "blind judging" put your identifiers of: Name, Home Address, Telephone Number, E-mail Address, School Attended, and whether a Junior or Senior, on one copy only. For art, you can submit one or two copies, but put your identifiers on a separate sheet of paper for each entry, not on the art work. Please specify the medium used for producing each art work. Art entries may be submitted electronically via a CD or a DVD or thumb drive. An electronic entry should have the identifier on the jewel case or a separate piece of paper, not on or in the electronic medium. Failure to follow identifier instructions may disqualify your entry. Each contestant may submit a reasonable number of entries.

Deadline: Postmarked no later than Saturday, March 3, 2018. Prizes will be awarded at the VVA Chapter 227 meeting on the evening of Thursday, May 17, 2018. Poetry winners (including Honorable Mentions) are expected to read their poetry at the ceremony. Winning artists are expected to discuss their work and their entries will be displayed at the ceremony.

FAQ are available at www.vva227.org.

Contact: Dennis Stephens at (703) 328-0707, or Email: dmssstep@cox.net

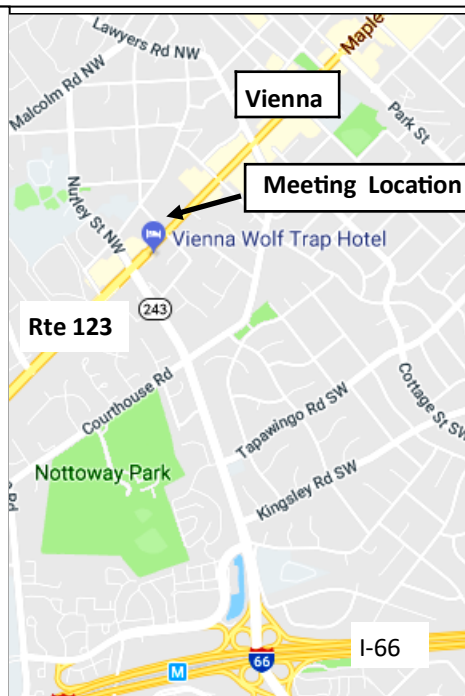
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

January 2018



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

Amphora Restaurant,
377 Maple Ave. West
(Rte. 123),
Vienna, Virginia
22180

Ph: 703-938-7877

- 6:30 PM Dinner (Optional)
- 7:30 PM Meeting

WEBSITE:

www.vva227.org

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>

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 **NEW LOCATION:** "Promise Lost, The Life of Stephen Joyner", Dan Moore, author.

27: Annual Winterhaven Stand Down at DC VAMC.

February 2018

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

15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: "Fall of Saigon", Tom Glenn, author

March 2018:

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

15: Membership Meeting: Speaker 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

NEW MEETING LOCATION

AMPHORA RESTAURANT

377 Maple Ave West (aka Rte. 123), Vienna, Virginia

Membership Meeting—January 18th

“Promised Lost”

Lamb Center Donations

VINCE KASPAR AWARDS

See newsletter for details

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.

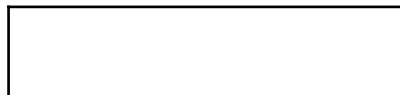
CHAPTER 227

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