

THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter

"Just In Time"



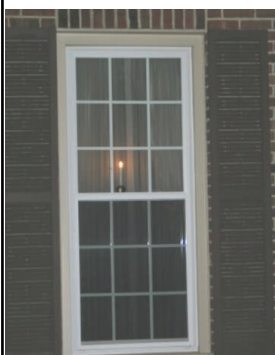
"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

February 2018

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 Street NW off of I-66 interchange. See location on map on page 3. Same time: 7:30 PM. Come early for optional dinner around 6:30 PM.

"KEEP A CANDLE BURNING"



February 1st marks the 10th Anniversary of the chapter's "Keep A Candle Burning" campaign to keep a single candle lit in your home window to remind our fellow citizens of the sacrifices of our military personnel and their families who are serving in "harm's way" around the world. Today's war on terror has no front lines, faces, and geographical boundaries.

You are asked to place one electric candle in a window to be lit every night until our troops are safely home. If your neighbors or a guest ask, "What is the significance of the lone candle?", you can explain it. You can invite them to join the campaign.

Let the "Stars and Stripes" fly boldly during the day, and light a single candle at night to show the world that we stand with our brave warriors and their families to remind everyone that the daily sunset does not mark the end of the work day for our troops in harm's way.

MY LAST HOURS IN SAIGON

The February 15th membership meeting guest speaker is Tom Glenn, an author and 13 year National Security Agency operative in the Vietnam War. He will discuss his last days in Saigon as the city fell to the attacking North Vietnamese Army. He was serving as an undercover signals intelligence operative at this time in April 1975. He and two of his technicians took one of the last helicopters out of Saigon. The helicopter sustained bullet hits as it lifted off. He is also a distinguished writer of fiction stories about the Vietnam War based, on his war experiences.

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 February 15th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M. Bring a fellow Marine veteran. Don't forget the new meeting location, The Amphora Restaurant.

2018 CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Nominations for chapter offices for the April 2018 elections are open. The President's office needs a candidate. Directorships are available too. Contact Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269 or Bruce_waxman@vva227.org to be on the ballot. AVVA needs a chapter representative too. Step up to the plate and serve your fellow veterans again.

PROMISE LOST

Dan Moore's book on the life and death of Lt. Stephen Joyner, USMC, represents the true cost of every war, and the national loss of potential greatness by those who paid the ultimate price. He came from a middle class family, and like most young Americans, he went to Vietnam from a sense of civic duty and to stop Communism. Countless interviews with friends and fellow Marines painted a picture of an exuberant optimist with an abundant sense of humor. Despite his college football success, he acted like one of the guys.

He enlisted in the Marines OCS program and received his 2nd Lt bars on October 1966. The author and Joyner were in the same class, but they did not know each other. Stephen's first assignment was at Guantanamo Naval Station with the Marine security unit. He arrived in South Vietnam in November 1968, where he was assigned as a platoon leader in Lima Co., 3rd Marine Division. Interviews with his platoon revealed a deep admiration and respect for Stephen's leadership. He was never absent at the sound of gunfire. The company's 1st Sergeant recognized his exceptional leadership and quickly corrected the new lieutenant's rookie mistakes. Six weeks later, he was assigned as the company's Executive Officer. While leading a counter-attack in the defense of Khe Sanh (Continued on page 4)

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

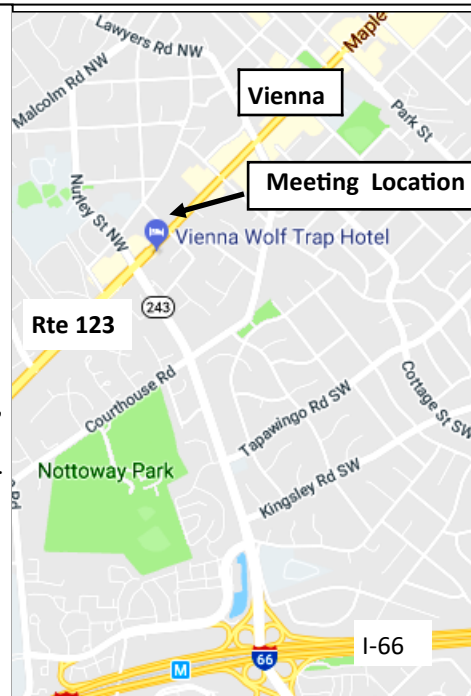
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

February 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>

February 2018

15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: “My Last Hours in Saigon”, Tom Glenn, author and NSA agent.

March 2018:

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

03: Vince Kaspar Awards deadline

15: Membership Meeting: “Coast Guard Successful Role in the Vietnam War”, Bob Leggett

(Continued from Page 1) against a superior enemy force, he was killed on June 15, 1968. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for his combat actions. Dan decided not to allow Stephen's exceptional service and ultimate sacrifice go untold after a previous discussion with Steve about the combat death of Dan's close friend, Ken Stetson. Steve's encouraging words and our need to move on broke my state of grief and depression. He decided to write a biography of Joyner. His efforts resulted in two college scholarships in Stephen's memory at Fullerton Junior College and San Diego State College. The recipient must display “strong leadership qualities, athleticism, and teamwork, and who exemplifies the traits of brotherhood, high moral character, integrity, courage, and patriotism.

Writing this story alleviates the author's personal memories of Vietnam and dealing with PTSD. Dan's book will be available at the February meeting. As with all wars, one man's death can affect others in many unexpected and different ways.

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—February 15, 2018

“My Last Hours in Saigon”

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