

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"

March 2018

Vince Kaspar Program Deadline Extension To March 29, 2018

New Meeting Location!

The chapter's new meeting home is the Amphora Restaurant, 377 Maple Ave. W, (aka Rte. 123) in Vienna. See location on map on page 3. Same time: 7:30 PM. Come early for optional dinner around 6:30 PM.

2018 CHAPTER ELECTIONS

In accordance with chapter bylaws, the candidates for chapter offices are being announced. The election for the two year term will be at the April 19th membership meeting. Nominations are accepted from the floor at the meeting.

President: Jay Kalner

Vice President: Len Ignatowski

Secretary: Bob Tecklenburg

Treasurer: Chuck Harris

Sgt at Arms: George Jones

Past President: Bruce Waxman

Directors: Bill Dumsick, Gus Howard, Scott Hurley, Bill Lynch, Jonathan Olson, Bob Pezold, Dennis Stephens, and Tom Stryer.

AVVA Representative: Open

If you want to serve, contact Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269 or Bruce_waxman@vva227.org to be on the ballot. Step up to the plate and serve your fellow veterans again.

Coast Guard Vietnam Tour

Dr. Robert E. Leggett, Vietnam veteran, will discuss the successful role of the U.S. Coast Guard in the Vietnam War, from coastal to river patrols to intercept enemy waterborne supply shipments and enemy force movements at the March 15 membership meeting. The Coast Guard fleet of twenty-six 82 foot patrol boats served with the Navy's task Force 115. He is the author of the book, "The US Coast Guard Academy Class of 1963 Goes to War." He is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and a retired intelligence analysis of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. Spouses are welcome. So "Fall In" for the March 15th meeting at 7:30 P.M. Don't forget the new meeting location, the Amphora Restaurant.

We Knew!

Tom Glenn's discussion on his last days in Saigon offered an entirely new perspective on the war's tragic conclusion. Tom worked as a National Security Agency signals intelligence operative. For thirteen years he journeyed in and out of South Vietnam. His dedicated staff of U.S. civilians and ARVN soldiers monitored enemy radio communications. His employees had their families living in South Vietnam. Unlike a common belief in that we had poor intelligence, the NSA operation was very effective in deciphering enemy intentions via their radio communications. His team predicted the Easter Offensive, Tet 68, and other major enemy offensives, but their warnings were generally ignored.

Len Ignatowski, acting host, presents a chapter challenge coin to Tom Glenn (L).
Photo by Bill Lynch.

As NVA forces encircled Saigon, Tom had to circumvent the U.S. Ambassador's orders not to initiate an evacuation. He used many excuses to get his U.S. staff and their families out from R&R to family compassion leave. He had to persuaded his wife with their children to leave. The handwriting was on the wall, but the ambassador refused to believe that the Communists would attack Saigon. They would only demand a peaceful negotiation. His belief was based on the comment by a Hungarian member of the Joint Military Commission. He and two men volunteered to maintain the embassy operational station to the end. Tom did not want his men and himself to be captured. As part of the charade, Air America helicopters flew in Marine reinforcements, but they wore civilian beach attire. The Marines removed vertical obstructions for helicopter landings and built a napalm defensive barrier inside the embassy walls. Cont. P. 3.

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 **Thursday, March 29, 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

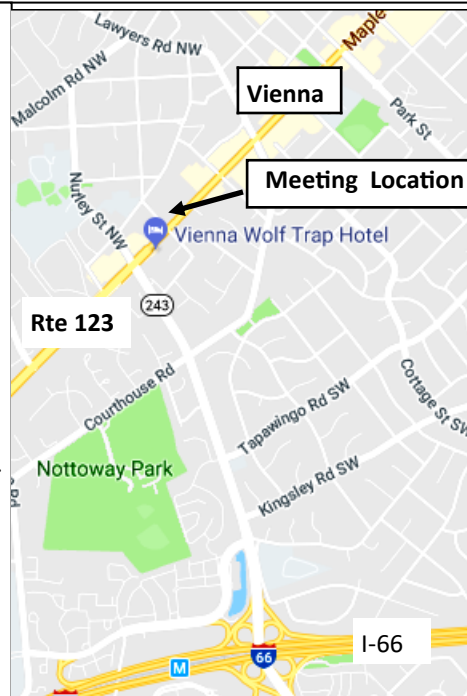
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

March 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>

March 2018:

15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: “Coast Guard Successful Role in the Vietnam War”, Bob Leggett

24: State Council Meeting: Williamsburg, Virginia

29: Vince Kaspar Excellence in the Arts deadline extension

April 2018:

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

19: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: “Behind My Wings”, BJ Elliott Prior

(Continued from Page 1) Tom's team survived a near mortar hit on the communications room. Tom and his men left on one of the last three Marine helicopters that took bullets as it lifted off. The sudden departure resulted in the evacuation order never being given, which left many loyal Vietnamese to the mercy of the advancing NVA. His ARVN team was part of those left behind. To his later amazement, Tom learned why the helicopter pilot needed several attempts to land on the Navy cruiser. He was not qualified to land on a cruiser's small landing deck!

For his exemplary leadership during this dire time, he was awarded the civilian Meritorious Medal. His story reveals one of the secret civilian warrior roles in the war. For those who missed his first hand experience, his fictional novel, “Last of the Annamese” is based on these harrowing and historical days.

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

VINCE KASPAR AWARDS DEADLINE EXTENSION

March 29, 2018

NEW MEETING LOCATION

AMPHORA RESTAURANT

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

Membership Meeting—March 15, 2018

“US Coast Guard Service in the Vietnam War”

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 AV-VA 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.

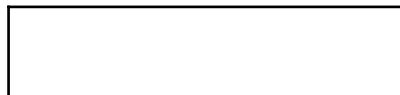
CHAPTER 227

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***