

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"

April 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 at April 19th Meeting

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

AVVA Representative: Diane Ignatowski

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.

April Meeting Speaker Provides a Civilian War View

BJ Elliott Prior will share her personal experience as a young flight stewardess on the Freedom Bird flights that brought and returned troops and civilians from South Vietnam during the war. Her book, "Behind My Wings" details her many joyful and sad experiences on these flights. As a passenger on one of those flights, I can testify that these stewardess keep us alive and well on these overcrowded and emotional flights. So come and hear her unique civilian Tour of Duty.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. Spouses are welcome. So "Fall In" for the April 19th meeting at 7:30 P.M. Don't forget the new meeting location, The Amphora Restaurant.

Coast Guard Vietnam Tour

Dr. Robert E. Leggett, Vietnam veteran and Coast Guard (CG) Academy graduate, provided a very informative discussion on the CG involvement in the Vietnam War on the high seas and in the narrow river channels. Their service was very successful in disrupting the sea and river supply of VC and NVA units in South Vietnam and providing fire support for ground troops. CG personnel performed harbor security and river navigation duties. The mission was divided into three major operations, ocean (beyond three miles), coastal, and river as part of the Navy's Task Force 115. The three primary vessels were: 1. 255 foot cutters, 2. 82 foot WPBs, 3. famous swift boats. Besides the threat of enemy attacks in the narrow delta channels, their missions had to be planned around the fluctuating tidal levels of 10 to 12 feet. A boat could be trapped in low tide water levels. The successful sea wall of vessels and aircraft changed the infiltration tactic from large fishing trawlers to small sampans. Each CG vessel had a Vietnamese navy officer as an interpreter. Bob's interpreter survived the reeducation camp and is living in the U.S.

Several Coast Guard crew names are engraved on The Wall. The one example that Bob discussed was the causality of friendly fire by Air Force aircraft and shore based fire. It was attributed to a communications failure. As part of the Vietnamization program, some of the CG vessels were transferred to the Vietnamese navy. The CG racked up the following impressive combat statistics with its human cost:

* Miles cruised: 4,215,116 miles	* Vessels inspected: 283,527	* Personnel detained: 10,286
* Enemy KIA/WIA: 1,055	* Vessels damaged/destroyed: 1,811	* Structures damaged/destroyed: 4,727
* Medals: 3 Silver Stars & 14 Bronze Stars	* USCG KIA: 7	* USCG WIA: 59

The two objectives of Bob's book, *The U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of 1963 Goes to War*, are to honor a classmate who was killed in the war and to educate everyone about the exceptional CG war service. VVA recognizes the CG service at every convention. All convention delegates stand and applaud as the CG service flag enters and leaves the convention floor.

Why Should I Be a Chapter Minuteman?



Len Ignatowski pins his unit, 544th Engineer Co. , (map coordinates YT348165) location on the map board. Photo by Bob Pace.



Chuck Harris, Glenda Parsons, and Diane Ignatowski sing America the Beautiful at the concert.



Army band member pins commemoration pin on Chuck Harris.

The chapter's Minuteman Alert list provides a communication means to request immediate emergency assistance for a veteran or active duty person that is beyond the chapter's finances. A need can range from transportation to home furnishings. The Minuteman accomplishments record is very effective and successful. On the other side of the coin are social and veteran events whose announcements and invitations arrive after the newsletter publication. These items are distributed on the Alert. These items range from news media interviews to White House events.

An example is the recent Debt of Gratitude show in honor of Vietnam veterans by the Army band at Ft. Myer on February 11, 2018. About two dozen members, their families, and friends attended the musical show of our era songs. Each song brought memories of where one was at the time in the 60's and 70's. One could place a pin on the unit patch board and on the Vietnam map. The program's only disappointment was that the "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" song was not played, but Chuck Harris expressed our disappointment to the band leader. This omission was overshadowed by Ed LaClare's surprise reunion with a lieutenant that he commanded as a company commander at Ft. Riley. They had not seen each other for over 50 years. Bob Pace of Chapter 617 directed three potential members to Len Ignatowski. Len provided each veteran with a chapter newsletter. Thanks, Bob. So if you wish to be on future opportunities to help a fellow veteran or attend a special event, send you email address to Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com.

VETERAN ASSISTANCE

- **Don't Say "No" To Bruce:** The chapter agreed to pay the car property tax of \$ 211.11 for a VASH veteran. When Bruce Waxman's request to have the late fee waived for \$60.89, he was met with a "NO". After working with two Fairfax County Commissioners and a Property Tax Department employee, the late fee was waived. Now the veteran can legally drive his car to work. This victory was accomplished after three months of persistence.. Thanks, Bruce. So a word of warning to the wise, "Don't say No to Bruce!"
- **Fairfax County Veterans Court:** A chapter grant of \$1,000 was approved for the court's petty cash fund. "The emergency cash needs range from life essentials and transportation to lunch money for veterans in the Court Docket." The grant will be given in increments on an as-needed basis.
- **Car Payment:** A \$300 grant was approved for a veteran car payment to get the veteran through an unexpected financial period.
- **Leesburg Vet Center:** Chuck Harris attended the opening of the new Leesburg Vet Center on February 12th. The Center's address is 751 Miller Dr., Suite E, Leesburg, Va.
- **Used Book Program:** Roger Hill is the Used Book Program 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 income funds the Vince Kaspar Arts and Poetry Awards program.

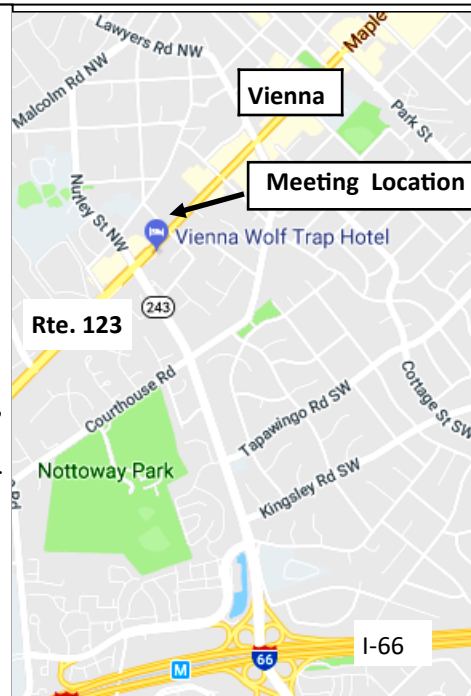
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

April 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>

April 2018:

18: PTSD Class Visit to The Wall: Meet at the Snack Bar across from The Wall at 11:00 AM
19: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: "Behind My Wings", BJ Elliott Prior

May 2018

03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
17: Membership Meeting 7:30: Speaker to be announced
27: Memorial Day Family Barbecue (Sunday): Hosts: George and Cynthia Jones, Details TBA
28: Memorial Day Wreath Laying at The Wall at 8:00 AM (Monday) and Post-Wreath Laying Breakfast

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. Several chapter members are serving as mentors.

Only Two More for 300 Members

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—April 19, 2018

“Behind My Wings”

PTSD CLASS At The Wall @ April 18, 2018, 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.

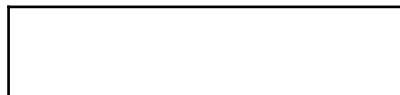
CHAPTER 227

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