

# 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"*

May 2018



## **"Fall In!" for Memorial Day**

Hopefully you have not forgotten that May is the most sacred month for military veterans? When was the last time that you attended our chapter Memorial Day service at The Wall? If you don't attend the monthly membership meetings, Memorial Day weekend provides an excellent opportunity to remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and to renew your sacred veteran bond with fellow members. Our Memorial Day events are a great way to introduce family and friends to the true meaning of being a military veteran.

Memorial Day weekend starts with the Memorial Day family barbecue on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. George and Cynthia Jones are hosting the barbecue at their home at 2571 Babcock Road, Vienna. RSVP for a head count and to provide a covered dish selection at 703-938-0560. Beverages and meat selections are provided. If no answer, leave a message on the answering machine. George's barbecue chicken is rumored to have a 5-Star rating.

On Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, you can fulfill the true meaning of Memorial Day by attending the memorial wreath laying service at The Wall at 8:00 A.M. Meet by the flagpole. The traditional family breakfast follows at the Metro 29 Diner at 4711 Lee Highway, Arlington near the Glebe Road intersection. The Memorial Day Writer's Project will host their veterans' program of poetry and music near The Wall from 11:30 to 5:30 PM on May 28<sup>th</sup> too.

## **May Meeting**

The May 17<sup>th</sup> membership meeting features the Vietnam documentary "Vietnam, An Inner View" by Marc C. Waszkiewicz, a retired Marine Sergeant. The VVA Veteran has given high remarks for this documentary, and it will be shown locally with an admission fee. Our showing is "free." Come and see another perspective on our very long and complex war that still seeks answers as to "Why?"

A new feature is to learn about your Vietnam unit location in the book, "In Honor and Memory" which lists U.S. and Allied military installations in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. So come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. Spouses and guests are welcome. "Fall In" for the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 P.M. Don't forget the new meeting location, the Amphora Restaurant.

## **New Chapter Leadership**

The new chapter leadership was elected at the April 19th membership meeting. The election resulted in a new president, Jay Kalner, a new secretary, Bob Tecklenburg, and a new Sgt. At Arms: George Jones. Bruce Waxman will fill the position of Immediate Past President for one term. Stan Derr was welcomed as a new director, while Scott Hurlley returned as a director. The other re-elected leaders are Len Ignatowski, Vice President, and Chuck Harris, Treasurer. Directors are Jonathan Olson, Bill Dumsick, Tom Stryer, Dennis Stephens, Bill Lynch, Bob Pezold, and Gus Howard. Diane Ignatowski was elected as the new AVVA representative. Congratulations and a special Thank You for these individuals offering their time and services for the next two years. A special thanks to outgoing Director Don Drunsic.

Steve Mahanes, who received a belated Bronze Star for his Vietnam service just a few days before the meeting and a new member, swore in the new chapter leaders. Thanks, Steve.

## **Veteran Docket Mentors Needed Now!**

The program is in immediate need of mentors. The successful program is being expanded to include the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. To maintain a one-on-one format, veteran to veteran, more mentors are needed NOW! The veterans are from Virginia and Maryland. You do not have to reside in Fairfax County to be eligible. Then contact Tom Davis, Mentor POC, at 703-629-0111 or email to [Tom.Davis@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Tom.Davis@FairfaxCounty.gov). Several chapter members are serving as mentors.

## **SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR FALL 2018 & WINTER 2019**

Contact Jay Kalner at 703-346-2013

## Chapter Briefs

- **Community Support Continues: Thanks to both donors!**
  - **Northern Virginia Senior Softball League:** The league continued its homeless veteran support with a \$200 grant.
  - **Game Board Proceeds:** Volko Ruhnke continues to donate board game sales proceeds to the chapter. His recent donation was for \$591.70.
- **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.
- **Korean War Veteran Assistance:** The chapter successfully obtained assistance for a Korean War veteran from the Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs, even though the veteran lives outside the chapter's service area.
- **Virginia State Council Scholarship:** The state council is offering a \$500 educational scholarship to a Vietnam veteran and a family member including grandchildren. A random drawing of names at the June 23rd council meeting selects the winner. Details are on the state council website at <http://www.vva-vasc.net/forms-you-need.html>



BJ (left) at Cam Ranh Bay. Other stewardesses are Linda George and Marsha Stemler (L to R)

## A Civilian War Experience

The April 19<sup>th</sup> membership meeting provided another perspective of our war by BJ Elliott Prior, who served as a young stewardess on the Freedom Bird flights during the war. She volunteered for the flights and her Tour of Duty was 1969–1971. A stewardess' life was not entirely one of glamor and excitement, but included many personal and professional challenges. A mandatory monthly physical and weight examination insured the airline's image. The flight crew was not normally permitted to leave aircraft in Vietnam since it was quickly refueled for its returned flight of happy GI's who survived their Tour of Duty. Some arrivals were greeted with enemy attacks and a sniper bullet killed one stewardess as she stood in the aircraft entrance. Bullet holes were frequently found in the aircraft. She had an emotional breakdown with tears after her first landing and saying "good-bye" to each passenger. She promised never to do it

again. This policy violated airline protocol that required them to remain inside the aircraft. A constant struggle was maintaining a pleasant appearance and posture on the long flights. Heavy doses of perfume helped conceal one problem. She even had a very emotional and brief reunion with her brother, who was serving in Vietnam. They were issued Air Force lieutenant IDs for access to air base facilities and in case of capture. Since the Boeing 707 did not feature movies, the stewardesses continually improvised with games on the long flights. A popular game was a chewing gum bubble contest to find who could blow the largest bubble. The returning flights were more subdued since most troops wanted to sleep. When stateside, the stewardesses were on an 8 hour call up. Her transition from Freedom Bird to domestic flights was very emotional. While enjoying the spirited California single life style, one evening on the beach, she decided that she wanted to change for the better. She became a Christian advocate and her book, "Behind My Wings," helped with her transition. The book documents her Tour of Duty and the story of nineteen Vietnam veterans. She gave a big bear hug to members after the meeting.

At the meeting, BJ had a reunion with David Singstock, a chapter member. Dave's sister, Sharon, and BJ became good friends when Sharon flew to Vietnam as part of a USO tour of Miss America Pageant participants. Dave's Tour of Duty is in BJ's book, and this was the first time that they met in person.



Ben Buckley (R) welcomes a young veteran into the family of veterans.

## 10 YEARS AND COUNTING

On April 25th, Ben Buckley and Bill Shugarts hosted another Lyons VAMC PTSD Group to The Wall as part of their healing. Unfortunately, the class's new schedule allows only two visits per year to The Wall. The class visits the New Jersey Vietnam War Memorial which is a shorter drive. Ben performs a very personal and informative welcome that summarizes the meaning of being a veteran, while Bill Shugarts serves as the visit's professional photographer. The dynamic duo has been hosting the visits since November 10, 2010. The next visit is to be scheduled. Members are always invited to participate in the visit by talking with the visiting veterans after The Wall service.

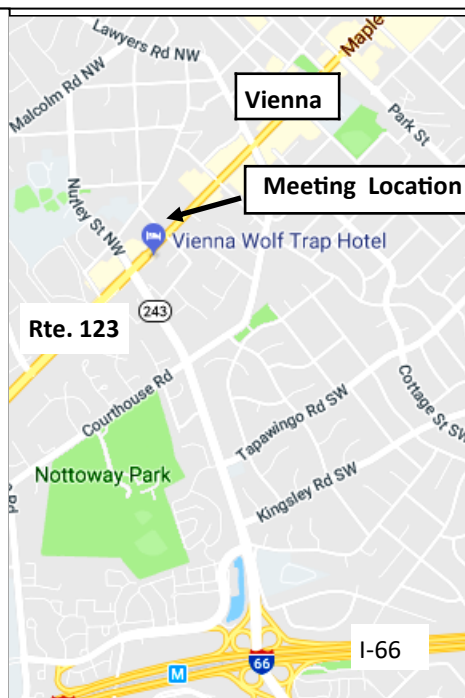
# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

May 2018



## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

**President:** Jay Kalner, 703-346-2013  
**Vice President:** Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353  
**Secretary:** Bob Tecklenburg  
**Treasurer:** Chuck Harris  
**Immediate Past President:** Bruce Waxman  
**Sergeant at Arms:** George Jones  
**Board of Directors:** Bill Dumsick, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer, Jonathan Olson, Gus Howard, Dennis Stephens, Stan Derr, George Jones, Scott Hurley, and Bob Pezold.  
**AVVA Representative:** Diane Ignatowski  
**Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353  
**School Speaker's Panel:** Tom Stryer 703-323-9032  
**Guest Speaker Program:** Jay Kalner 703-346-2013  
**Membership:** Bill Lynch 703-474-4891  
**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](http://www.vva227.org)

## FACEBOOK:

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

## May 2018

17: Membership Meeting 7:30: Documentary showing, "Vietnam, An Inner View".

27: Memorial Day Family Barbecue (Sunday) 6:00 PM: Hosts: George and Cynthia Jones, Dish Assignment 703-938-0560.

28: Memorial Day Wreath Laying at The Wall at 8:00 AM (Monday) and Post-Wreath Laying Breakfast

## June 2018

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

16: *In Memory Service* 10:00 AM near The Wall : Byron Sheldon, Past Chapter President, enshrinement

21: Membership Meeting 7:30: Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)), Bonnie Carroll, President

23: State Council Meeting and Elections, Harrisonburg, Va. Plus Scholarship Award

## SHOW YOUR VETERAN PRIDE Purchase custom chapter attire at

<https://militarybest.com/vva-chapter-227-dean-phillips-merchandise.html>

## 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

### **VIETNAM: AN INNER VIEW**

MAY 17<sup>th</sup> MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### **MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS**

May 27: Family Barbecue

May 28: Wreath Laying at The Wall and Breakfast

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.

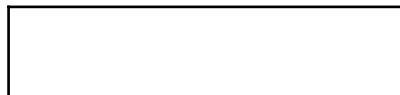
CHAPTER 227

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*