

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"

November 2017

Military Constitutional Responsibility in Turbulent Times

The November 16th membership meeting speaker is Gregory D. Foster, Vietnam War veteran and professor at the National Defense University in Washington D.C. He served as the university's Director of the Command and Control Research Program. He will discuss senior U.S. military constitutional command responsibility in domestic and international turbulent times. He is currently Professor of National Security Studies at the National Defense University in Washington D.C. This is an excellent opportunity to separate political talk from the facts.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. You never know who you might meet. Better yet, bring a Vietnam War veteran with you. Spouses are always welcome. So Fall-In for the November 16th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Bruce Waxman, Len Ignatowski, Carl Stout, Mary Stout, Dan Kirby, and Bill Dumsick (L to R) as current and past presidents cut the cake with Carl's Army's sword. Photo by Bill Lynch

32nd Anniversary Celebration

With a full house, the chapter's 32nd anniversary celebration was a great success on October 19th. Special guests were Mary and Carl Stout, chapter founding members. Mary was the second VVA President and first woman to command a national veteran organization. She served as a nurse in the Army's 2nd Surgical Hospital at An Khe and Chu Lai in Vietnam in 1966-67. Other guests were Jennifer Morgan and Jim Samuels, post 9/11 veterans. Jim was presented with a Veterans/US Flag pin. Two other guests were Tom Grant, Veterans Services Coordinator of Loudoun County and Tom Davis of the Veterans Court Docket. Callie Wright, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Education Programs Manager also attended.

The auction generated \$328 while the 50/50 raffle resulted in \$77. Special thanks to Jonathan Olson for conducting the 50/50 raffle for many years. Also, George Jones continues to donate a custom wood carving for the monthly raffle. Len Ignatowski won the member recruitment drive with nine new members and received the \$ 50 Glory Days Grill gift certificate. Bruce was second with seven members. Our membership count is 288 and is the 25th largest VVA Chapter.

Marc Leepson, Vietnam veteran and chapter member, gave a very informative biography of Barry Sadler, Vietnam Green Beret fame. Barry was a pre-Vietnam War Air Force veteran. After his discharge, he enlisted in the Army since the Air Force recruiter was out-for-coffee. The macho Special Forces appealed to him since he mastered the Samurai warrior code and several Japanese martial arts when stationed in Japan. He was trained as a combat medic and served on several teams before a punji stick injury resulted in stateside treatment. When the Special Force recruitment was searching for a model, Barry was recommended due to his guitar playing and singing. His written song, Ballad of the Green Berets, became an instant hit and rose to #1 on the national song charts and eventually the #1 song for 1966 with 9 million singles. His very tough competition was the invading popular English bands (Beatles for one). After leaving the Army his movie and singing careers collapsed and he quickly lost his \$500,000 song royalties in a series of business failures and personal spending on WWII souvenirs. He discovered a new talent, fictional book author. His successful 29 books were based on the mystical character, Casca. His face appeared in each book cover. After being shot in Guatemala under suspicious conditions, he was brought to a VA hospital in the US. His mother and personal lawyer abducted him from the VA hospital to a private hospital for treatment. Barry died on November 5, 1989. His entire story is available in Marc's book, "Ballad of the Green Beret".

Special thanks are due to Hossein Panah, Neighbor's Restaurant owner, for providing a very delicious dinner, while the traditional anniversary cake served as dessert. Now, you are invited to help make the coming year even greater! Offer your skill and time for the chapter programs.

Holiday Cheer for Distressed VASH Veterans and a Wounded Warrior Family

The chapter's annual Holiday Cheer program includes providing a \$50 gift card to financially distressed VASH veteran and family and filling a Wounded Warrior family Christmas list. The VASH team leader provides the number of their veterans in financial assistance for the Holidays, while the Ft. Belvoir Hospital POC provides the Christmas list of a Wounded Warrior family Christmas list. The latter name remains anonymous and the family is staying in the area while the warrior is being treated. In past cases, the warrior sustained serious combat injuries. The chapter budget for the Wounded Warrior family is \$ 500. The number of VASH families from last year was sixty-four \$50 gift cards.

Donations are being solicited for these two outreach programs with the objective of honoring all needs and maybe increasing the amounts. To expedite the disbursement of funds by late November, mail your donation to the chapter treasurer at VVA Chapter 227, Attn: Holiday Cheer, 44020 Pandora Ct., Ashburn, Va. 20147. A letter of acknowledgement will be provided.

Holiday Party - Mark Your Calendar

Bill and Cheryl Dumsick are hosting the Holiday Party on December 9, 2017, at 6:30 pm in their home at 13606 White Stone Court, Clifton, Virginia. Call Cheryl at 703-968-0686 for a dish selection (salad, vegetable, or dessert)

A party tradition is to bring a wrapped child's gift with the gift's gender and age marked on it, and a child's winter clothing item. The gifts and clothing serve as an emergency supply for the Sullivan House in Arlington County. The party is a great way to meet fellow members and for spouses to get acquainted with chapter members in a festival holiday spirit. Mark your calendar now and call Cheryl for a head count and dish selection.

CHAPTER BRIEFS



Bill Dumsick, Bill Bohuslaw, and Bob Moir, (R to L) share stories at the Fairfax City Fall Festival booth. Photo by Sharon Celesnik



Mary Stout pins the 50th Vietnam War Anniversary pin on Marc Leep-son at the Anniversary Dinner. Photo by Len Ignatowski

- **Cell Phone:** A \$ 150 grant was approved to replace a lost VASH veteran cell phone.
- **Docket Mentors:** A \$200 grant for twenty Subway gift cards at \$10 each was given for meetings between docket mentors and their veteran client.
- **Gold Star Mother Monument:** A \$400 hole sponsorship for the Gold Star Mothers' Golf Tournament Fundraiser for their proposed national monument was given.
- **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.
- **Online PX Purchases:** Veterans will be eligible for online purchases from the Military PXs. No sales tax. Visit <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>. Your participation may help the Exchanges survive as a military benefit.
- **Used Book Program:** Roger Hill is the new Used Book Collection 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 program recently received \$100 sale proceeds, which was matched by Chuck Harris. 100% of each book sales is given to the chapter. The income funds the Vince Kaspar Arts and Poetry Awards program.
- **Fairfax City Fall Festival:** Bill Dumsick, Bill Bohuslaw, Bob Moir, and Joe and Sharon Celesnik operated the successful booth at the festival. Membership and information were distributed to veterans and the general public. Thanks for another successful community outreach. Special thanks to Bob Moir for his first chapter activity participation, and he and his wife, Peggy, also attended the October meeting. Hope to see more of both of you.
- **Acting Secretary:** Bob Tecklenburg has "volunteered" to serve as chapter secretary until next year's election. His appointment was approved at the November 2nd board meeting. Thanks, Bob.
- **Household Goods (HHG) Program:** The chapter quarterly HHG check is \$1,445. Call for your pickup, 1-800-775-8387. VVA also has a car donation program. Call 800-435-7838 to donate a car.

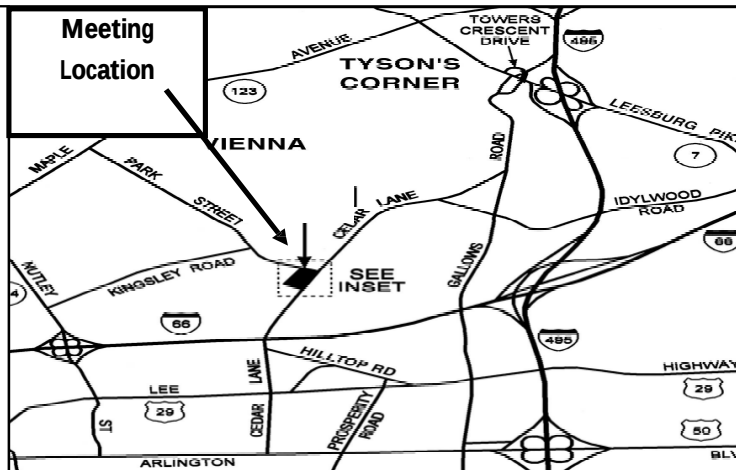
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

November 2017



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269
Vice President: Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353
Secretary: Bob Tecklenburg
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, Scott Hurley, and Bob Pezold.
AVVA Representative: Margaret Stern
Newsletter Editor: Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353
School Speaker's Panel: Tom Stryer 703-323-9032
Meeting Guest Speaker: Len Funk 703-820-8118
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)



MEETING

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3rd Thursday of the Month except July, August, and December
Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane
Vienna, Virginia (Park St. & Cedar Lane)

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

CHAPTER WEB SITE:

www.vva227.org

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

November

11: Veterans Day

11: Memorial Day Writer's Project near The Wall 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM @ 20th St. and Constitution Ave: Share your thoughts in poetry, prose or song

16: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Dr. Gregory Foster, "The U.S. Military Constitutional Responsibility in Turbulent Times."

December

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

09: Holiday Party 6:30 PM: Dish selection, call Cheryl Dumsick @ 703-968-0686; Bring child winter clothing and gift

21: No membership meeting

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 on your business item.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Name _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

H () _____ C () _____ Email _____

Chapter No. _____ 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

Holiday Cheer Outreach Needs Your Support

Military Constitutional Responsibility in Turbulent Times

November 16th Membership Meeting

Holiday Party

December 9, 2017—Details in Newsletter

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 chal-

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.

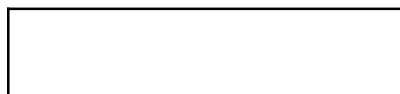
CHAPTER 227

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