

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"

September 2018

HERE IS WHY?

"Dear Sirs,

My husband is a 100% disabled Vet. Since quitting my job to become my husband's full time caregiver and fiduciary, we have struggled to make ends meet. We stick to a tight budget each month and pray that emergencies don't arise to often as not to offset the budget.

Our car wobbled while driving and we took it to a mechanic for what we hoped would be a potential alignment of tires. We were disappointed to find that our car had the wrong size tires and that they had to be replaced (They were also in bad shape and needed to be replaced, regardless of size).

We are grateful that your organization was able to assist in buying our new tires as we would not have been able to offset such a large amount and still be able to take care of our monthly expenses.

We appreciate your assistance and give you our heartfelt thanks for your kindness. It's great to have a car that is dependable and not have to worry about it.

Sincerely,

Mrs. F.

Once Again, I thank you."

The chapter grant of \$383.88 purchased and installed four new automobile tires. The action continues fulfilling our founding principle, "Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

SEPTEMBER MEETING SPEAKER: JEFF STEIN

The September 20th membership meeting kicks off the new season with a great speaker, Jeff Stein, who will discuss "Ethics and Morality in Covert Operations from the Vietnam War to Today", which is a timely subject with our military's increasing use of covert operations. He served as an Army intelligence officer in Vietnam. He is a noted investigative reporter in national security, defense, and foreign policy issues. He worked for the Congressional Quarterly, UPI, and the Washington Post, and currently writes for Newsweek. He is the author of "A Murder in Wartime" that documents the 1969 prosecution of top Green Beret officers in the execution of a Vietnamese civilian.

Come early for the 7:30 PM meeting to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. Spouses and friends are always welcomed. Bring a fellow Vietnam veteran or a new generation veteran with you.

WASHING THE WALL

VVA Chapter 641, the official Wall Washers, invites Chapter 227 members to wash The Wall on Saturday, September 1, 2018 at 6:00 AM. Meet by the flagpole. Washing supplies are provided.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER — 33 Years Young!

The Chapter's Anniversary Dinner is at the Army-Navy Country Club, 1700 Army-Navy Drive, Arlington, Va. on October 18th. The dinner cost of \$30 per person includes pre-meeting open bar and appetizers, buffet dinner with three entrees, dessert, valet parking, and self-service coat room. Seating opens at 6:30 PM and meeting time is 7:30 P.M. We are the guests of a club member and we must abide by club rules. Minimum men attire is dress slacks, polo shirt or military uniform. Lady attire is appropriate dinner wear. No headgear permitted. Access and cell phone use are restricted to the event room and the lobby. No smoking in the club house. The guest speaker is Robert Doubek, who will discuss The Wall history. He wrote the book, Creating the Vietnam Veteran Memorial—The Inside Story."

Seating is limited. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or email at grunt69@gmail.com of your intention to attend. Reservation confirmed with receipt of payment by September 28, 2018. Seating based on when payment is received. First come, first served. Mail your payment to Len Ignatowski, Attn: Anniversary Dinner, 2480 Oak Vale Ct., NW, Vienna, Va. 22181. Check payable to VVA Chapter 227. Provide an email address or telephone number to allow confirmation of your reservation.

Chapter Briefs

- **CARE Package Program:** The chapter and MITRE CORP employees are sponsoring a CARE package for any deployed military personnel with a FPO or APO address. The packages are free. Members can have a package sent to someone by calling Chuck Harris at 703-983-6569 or emailing at charris4@mitre.org. The deadline is September 28, 2018. A chapter grant of \$250 for mailing was given to the program.
- **CHAPTER PARTNERS TO HELP VETERANS:** Jay Kalner and Bruce Waxman represent the chapter on the Fairfax County Veteran Collaborative, while Chuck Harris attends the Loudoun County Veteran Collaborative and Loudoun County Veterans Engagement Board. The three programs' objective is to optimize veteran assistance by veteran service organizations, government agencies, corporations, and non-profit organizations. If you want to get involved, contact Jay Kalner at 703-346-2013 or Chuck Harris at 703-463-7326.
- **USED BOOK PROGRAM CHAIRMAN NEEDED:** A new used book chairman is needed now. The duty is to collect, sort, and deliver the books to The Hole in the Wall store in Falls Church. The chapter received the full sale price. All book donations must be made through the chapter. No exceptions. The funds support the Vince Kaspar Arts and Poetry Excellence in the Arts program. Contact Len Ignatowski (703-255-0353) to offer your service.
- **"IN MEMORY" ENSHRINEMENT FOR BYRON SHELTON:** Byron Sheldon, Chapter President and Director, two Vietnam Tours veteran, and retired Marine, was entered in the In Memory memorial on June 16th. Len Ignatowski, Paul Stancliff, and Ed LaClare represented the chapter.
- **HOTEL TOILETRIES COLLECTION:** Bring your hotel toiletries for the Lamb Center to the September 20th meeting.
- **MEETING FEATURE:** Members can view the book, "In Honor and Memory" that lists and describes U.S. and Allied military installations in South Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Bill Dumsick has the book at the meetings.
- **YOUR EMAIL IS ESSENTIAL:** The chapter has 90% of member email addresses for prompt veteran assistance appeals and access to special events and offers that have short response times. Plus newsletter email delivery saves about \$7.00 per year in copying and mailing costs. Go paperless! Send you email address to Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com.
- **NEW FAIR TENT:** The chapter invested in a new fair booth tent. The tent offers easy set-up and take-down process and chapter logo and contact information are in bold print on four sides and the tent roof. Its first appearance is the Fairfax City Fall Festival.
- **300 MEMBERS, BUT!** Over the summer, the chapter membership exceeded 300, but transfers and deaths kept the number at 300 even. Lets shoot for 310 by the chapter anniversary celebration on October 18th.

HELP FOR SURVIVORS OF THE FALLEN WARRIOR by Jay Kalner



Chapter recognizes Joe and Sharon Celesnik with Certificates of Appreciation for their many years of service. Jay Kalner made the presentation. Photos by Bruce Waxman

Bonnie Carroll, President of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) was the featured speaker for the June 18th membership meeting. The retired USAF reserve major gave a spellbinding presentation about the program that she founded in 1994 to help military families who have lost a loved one. She was particularly motivated by the loss of her husband, an Army Vietnam war veteran, in a military airplane crash in 1992. She also capitalized on her White House staff experience working on military and veteran issues (she helped convince President Reagan to convert the Office of Veteran Affairs to a cabinet level department). She explained how the program over the years has become a national support network for grieving military families that includes summer camps, seminars for spouses and adult loved ones, a quarterly magazine, a national helpline, and casework assistance for benefit, finance, and legal issues. Beginning with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003, Bonnie extended the reach of TAPS to include establishment of survivor programs to foreign wars in twenty-five countries, most recently in Ukraine. Bonnie is constantly on the move now to oversee the international program. In recognition of her accomplishments, President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to her in 2015. At our July 5th board meeting, a \$250 grant was approved for TAPS. Jay Kalner, Chapter President, and Melissa Kalner, presented the check at TAPS headquarters on July 13th.

Jay Kalner presented Certificates of Appreciation to Joe and Sharon Celesnik for their many years of chapter service including Viva Vienna! and the Fairfax Fall Festival fairs as booth hosts, tent and display caretakers, DMZ to Delta dance workers, and much more. Joe served as a director for many years. Sharon is a Life AVVA member. Thank you, Joe and Sharon.

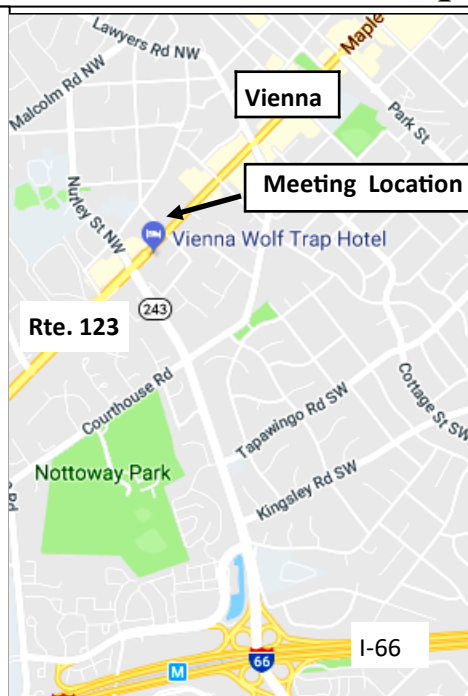
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

September 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: Vacant, Chairman needed



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>

JULY AND AUGUST—NO MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 2018

01: Washing The Wall 6:00 AM: Meet by the flagpole
06: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
20: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Jeff Stein, "Ethics and Morality in Covert Operations, from Vietnam to Today"
28: Anniversary Dinner ticket purchase deadline

October 2018

04: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
13: Fairfax City Fall Festival 10:00 AM—5:00 PM: Information booth, Bill Dumsick 703-571-3330 to assist
18: Anniversary Dinner 7:30 AM: See newsletter article, Reservation deadline 11 October 2018

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

“Washing The Wall on the Mall
September 1st @ 6:00 AM at the flagpole

Ethics & Morality in Covert Operations Vietnam to Today”
September 20th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Anniversary Dinner—October 18th
September 28th Ticket Purchase Deadline—Limited Seating

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.

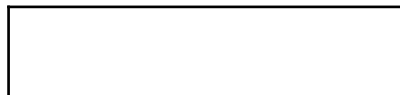
**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.
CHAPTER 227**

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***