

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"

October 2018

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. **Major time change is that the buffet dinner and open bar service starts at 6:00 PM and ends at 7:30 PM.** Valet parking and self-service coat room are provided. The deadline for purchasing a ticket has expired; however, a Waiting List is open if someone cancels. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or email at grunt69@gmail.com to be on the Waiting List. Mail your payment to Len Ignatowski, Attn: Anniversary Dinner, 2408 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. Refunds will be made or payment donated to the chapter.

We are the guests of a club member, and we must abide by club rules. The minimum men's attire is dress slacks, polo shirt or military uniform. The ladies' 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."



Len Ignatowski, Vice President (L), presents the gift cards to Ky'Neike King, Kimoela Cato, Ahmadu M. Jalloh, VASH Case Managers. Photo by VVA Chapter 227

Back to School on the Right Foot

On August 9, 2018 for the eighth consecutive year, the chapter fulfilled its founding principle of *"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"* by donating sixty \$75 gift credit cards to children of veterans who are in the Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) program. The card amount was increased from \$50 to \$75 from previous year amounts. The gift cards help pay for school supplies and other essentials for the new school year.

The VASH Program is a joint effort between the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and the Veterans Administration to assist homeless veterans and their families in transitioning from homelessness to normalcy with affordable and stable lodging. The VA case managers serve over 100 veterans and their families in the Northern Virginia area of Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria and Fairfax.

The chapter plans to provide a Christmas holiday credit gift card for needy VASH families. Anyone wishing to contribute to the holiday program can mail a check made payable to VVA Chapter 227 with memo: 2018 Holiday Gift Card and the mailing address is VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va. 22205 or call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353.

I was an Army Spook

At the September 20th membership meeting, Jeff Stein's discussion on "Ethics and Morality in Covert Operations from the Vietnam War to Today", turned into his service as a covert Army agent during his Tour of Duty. The moral dilemma between the "rule of law" vs. assassinations and enhanced interrogation is well debated without a clear-cut policy. The debate centers on the turf war between the CIA and the military mission to protect us. An example was the Green Berets' case where a suspected Vietnamese double agent was murdered. First they were charged with murder, and then hailed as heroes. He prefers the FBI technique of "tea and cookies" to retrieve information.

Jeff, who is currently a Newsweek magazine journalist, turned to his own experience as an Army spook in the Vietnam War. After learning Vietnamese, he arrived as a civilian personnel specialist who hired Vietnamese for employment with the Army. Continue P. 2.

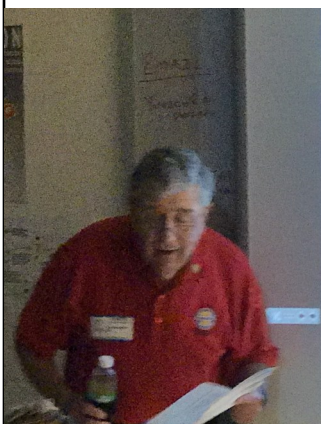


Jeff Stein (L) accepts chapter challenge coin from Jay Kalner. Photo by Len Ignatowski

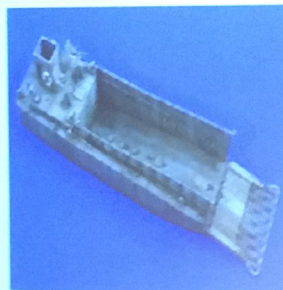
Chapter Briefs

- **FAIRFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL:** Help is needed to staff our outreach at the Fairfax City Fall Festival on October 13th from 10 AM to 5 PM. The chapter's new tent with its highly visible chapter logo and name will also make its first appearance. Contact Bill Dumsick for any questions at 703-571-3330, or just show up.
- **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 receives 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.
- **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 your email address to Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com to receive the newsletter. The newsletter will be mailed to members who want a hard copy.
- **CHAPTER FINANCES OK:** Tom Stryer and Gus Howard completed a review of the chapter's income and expenditures for 2017 with full compliance with chapter financial policy. All checks require two signatures. Thanks to Chuck Harris, Treasurer, for keeping the chapter finances in stellar order.
- **299 MEMBERS!** Over the summer, the chapter membership exceeded 300, but recent transfers and deaths dropped our roster to 299. Let's shoot for 310 by the chapter anniversary celebration on October 18th.
- **ANOTHER LOSS:** The chapter's Good Luck attendance charm failed for the second consecutive year after twelve years of wins. Our attendance did not provide enough charm as the Nationals lost to the Marlins by a score of 12 to 1. Thanks to Jay Kalner for managing the annual chapter family event. Better luck next year.
- **AVVA SUPPORT:** A \$25 grant was given to AVVA for their 2018 Project Friendship: Lighthouse Social Services in Colton, Ca. The total amount was \$13,000 which was \$1,000 above AVVA's targeted goal. The donation was made at the VVA Leadership Conference. Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Rep., arranged for the grant.

I WAS A SPOOK (Continued from page 1): His duty was to recruit Vietnamese to report enemy activity and to identify VC and NVA agents for interrogation or assassination. His cover allowed free travel without any suspicion he thought! At a social event, when an ARVN officer asked, "What do you do?", Jeff's reply resulted in a startling comment by the ARVN officer. Oh, you are an Army spook! His favorite duty was to purchase an ice cream cone from a street vendor informant. The rice paper cone listed counter-intelligence information. He believes that vital and reliable information was collected, but it was corrupted as it was passed up to higher command levels. Each level appeared to manipulate the data to fit its agenda. In one case, a Vietnamese's informant reliability was questioned with a polygraph test. The informant failed the question on loyalty to the South Vietnamese government, but he passed on not being an active VC agent. The test was inconclusive until Jeff discovered in a Vietnamese newspaper that a photograph showed the informant as a member of an extreme political party. Was the U.S. being used to eliminate the informant party's political opponents? The finding was passed to higher command with the expectation that the agent's reliability would be downgraded. Instead, his reliability was raised since his reports supported the program's effectiveness. Jeff loved the work, but he left war and the Army due to the bureaucratic games impeding the truth. A final revelation is that the current political attacks against FBI agents and the Justice Dept. lawyers has resulted in public harassment of them just like returning Vietnam veterans encountered. They are just doing their duty like us. His discussion provided another insight into our war that most of us did not know. Again, another great learning experience.



The Basic LCM-8



Speaker's Panel Needs Your Help!

Tom Stryer and Len Ignatowski shared their Tour of Duty with the Rob Yunich's 11th Grade English class at Osbourne Park HS on May 23rd for the second year in a row. We have already been invited back for 2019. Tom served in the Brown Water Navy in the Delta, while Len served in the Army Engineers on QL-20 in MR III.

In the photo to the left, Tom explains the basic navy vessels and their purpose in the Brown Water Navy. Photo by Len Ignatowski. If you know a teacher or organization that seeks a discussion on the war by veterans, contact Tom at 703-323-9032.

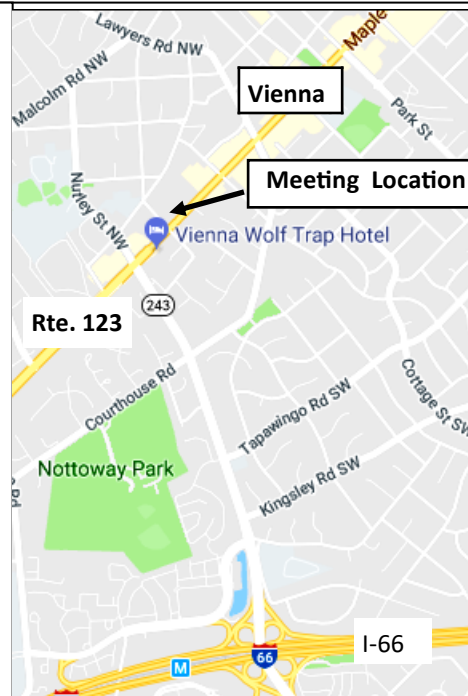
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

October 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>

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: Membership Meeting & Anniversary Dinner: Waiting list available

November 2018

01: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
11: Veterans Day

15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: "Thiet Giap" (Armor): The Siege of An Loc" Len Funk

December 2018

15: Holiday Party: Host: The Dumsick Family—mark your calendar NOW!

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

Fairfax City Fall Festival Information Booth

October 13th @ 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Volunteers needed

Anniversary Dinner—October 18th

See Major Time Change in Newsletter Article
Waiting Line is Available

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.

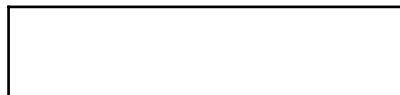
CHAPTER 227

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*