

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"

January 2019

IT WAS ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

VVA Chapter 227 had another successful year in 2018, further solidifying our reputation as an active, growing, and responsive organization dedicated to helping veterans in Northern Virginia. Our accomplishments and a very active recruiting campaign resulted in the chapter growing from 286 to 301 members to become the 22nd largest VVA chapter and to continue to be the largest Virginia chapter. Multiple digital and traditional news media are continuously deployed to enhance the public image of Vietnam veterans and to recruit new members and supporters.

The following accomplishments are just examples of the broad outreach to veterans, active duty military personnel and the community.

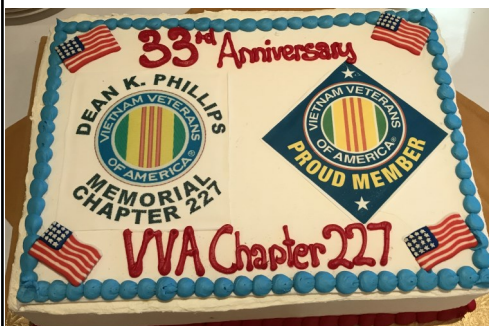
- Our continuing role as mentors for troubled veterans in the Fairfax Veterans Treatment Docket (aka the Veterans Court) with many success stories. Mentors are still needed as the program expands.
- Our continual hosting at The Wall of combat veterans from the Lyons VAMC, NJ being treated for PTSD.
- Our amazing and increasing financial assistance to needy veterans and their families including gift cards for back-to-school needs and Santa Lists.
- Our annual \$500 Santa List grant fulfilled the needs of a Wounded Warrior family at a nearby military hospital.
- For the first time, the chapter fulfilled a chapter member's final wish in donating her car to a needy veteran.
- The changing of the guard in our chapter elections in April which led to some new officers and directors.
- Very informative monthly meeting speakers from veteran assistance programs to Vietnam Tours of Duty.
- Our wonderful 33rd Anniversary Dinner at the Army-Navy Club where Bob Doubek regaled about the struggles and joys of constructing The Wall on the mall. An anonymous chapter supporter sponsored the event and raised \$1,440.

Finally many thanks to George and Cynthia Jones as the Memorial Day barbecue host and to Bill, Cheryl, and Joey Dumsick as the perennial Holiday Party host. Special thanks to Bill Dumsick and Joe Celesnik in hosting the debut of our new fair tent and displays at the Fairfax City Fall Festival.

2019 will offer more challenges, especially the discussion of VVA's future at the National Convention in July. Our continual success and growth depends on everyone stepping forward in fulfilling our founding principle, *"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!"*

Here's to another great year in 2019!

Jay Kalner, Chapter President



NEW MEETING LOCATION @ FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Important change: The monthly membership meeting location, beginning with the February 2019 meeting, is being moved to the Glory Days Grill in the Barcroft Plaza, 6341 Columbia Pike, Falls Church starting with the February 21st meeting. **The January 17th meeting will be at the Amphora Restaurant.**

FOUL WEATHER MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY

The membership meeting will be cancelled if the Fairfax County Public Schools are closed for the same day.

JANUARY MEETING: “*The World Looked Away*”

Dave Bushy will discuss what happened to the South Vietnamese people who fought against the Communists but remained after the war ended in 1975. He will discuss the life and death struggle of Quoc Pham, a Vietnamese navy officer. His family painfully endured his brutal internment in a re-education camp, and successfully immigrated to the U.S. We have heard horror stories about these patriotic Vietnamese in the re-education camps; now is the opportunity to learn first hand of their remarkable stories of victory over tyranny. Dave’s book, “The World Looked Away: Vietnam After the War”, reveals this story.

Start the year off on the right foot! Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. You never know who you might meet. Bring a Vietnam War veteran. Spouses are welcome. So “Fall In” for the January 17th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Cheryl Dumsick and Diane Ignatowski prepare the food feast under the direction of Bill Dumsick (L to R).



Bill Lynch frantically fits the presents into his car so that his wife does not have to ride the car hood.



Party attendees enjoy the great food and renewed camaraderie at the Holiday Party. Photos by Len Ignatowski

Holiday Party

On December 15th, Bill, Cheryl, and Joey Dumsick’s hospitality provided the vital ingredient for another successful and festive Holiday Party at their elegantly decorated holiday home. Forty-three members and guests filled the rooms with veteran camaraderie, holiday spirit, gourmet food, beverages, and great war stories. Two members discovered that they received their ROTC officer’s commission from the same university, but a year apart. Paul and Cyndy Stancliff and Norm Gottlieb attended after some time on the AWOL list. Hope to see them at the January meeting.

The chapter’s member generosity filled Bill Lynch’s car to the roof with toy presents and children’s winter clothing where Leslie, Bill’s wife, almost had to ride on the hood. Bill and Jonathan Olson delivered the season cheer to the Bridges of Independence, an Arlington shelter for single parents with children. The gifts and clothing served as an emergency Santa for less fortunate children.

Again, there was still room at the Dumsick’s home for more members, spouses, and friends. For those who did not attend, another great opportunity to meet your fellow veterans and spouses was missed. So come to the January 17th membership meeting with a fellow Vietnam War veteran.

VETERAN OUTREACH

- **COMBAT PTSD CLASS VISIT:** The chapter hosted another successful combat PTSD class visit from the Lyons VAMC, NJ on December 12th. Ben Buckley welcomed the veterans at Section 60 in Arlington Cemetery where many had fallen friends. Dick Weaver assisted in distributing the military campaign patches to the veterans. Thank you, Ben and Dick.
- **CHECK IT OUT!** VVA’s 2019 calendar features our POW/MIA chair dedication at the Nationals baseball park for the month of September. Three photographs are on the page.
- **VVA CAR DONATION OPTION:** The VVA car donation program is one way to gain a tax deduction while helping fellow veterans via the VVA National office. I donated a mini-van which sold for \$1,800 while the dealer trade-in offer was only \$400. My effort avoided the hassle of selling the car myself or receiving only pennies from the dealer. The VVA Car Donation phone number is 1-800-435-7838 or complete the online form at vva.org.
- **VETERANS’ COURT MENTORS NEEDED:** The successful Fairfax Veteran’s Court Docket is in desperate need of mentors to maintain the one-on-one ratio for each case. One does not have to be a resident of Fairfax County to serve. For questions or to volunteer, contact Tom Davis at 703-629-0111 or tom.davis@fairfaxcounty.gov. The recent graduation of several veterans demonstrates its growing success.

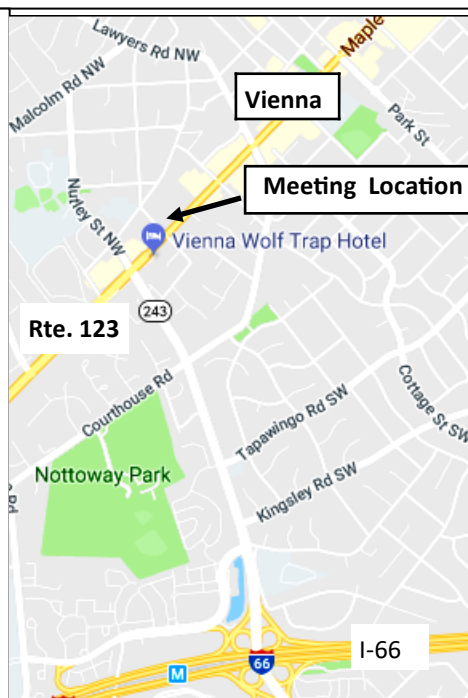
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

January 2019



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: Andy Bender 559-575-2748



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>

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS!

January 2019:

01: Happy New Year
03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
17: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Dave Bushy, author of "The World Looked Away, Vietnam After the War".
26: Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down at the DC VAMC

February 2019:

07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Bill Lord, "50 Years After Vietnam" Life as a grunt radio man in an infantry platoon.

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.

Life Membership: \$50

- 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

January 17th Membership Meeting *The World Looked Away*

Mentors Needed
for the Successful and Expanding Veterans Court
Contact Tom Davis at Tom.Davis@FairfaxCounty.gov

VVA Chapter 227 Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>



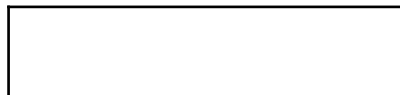
CHAPTER CHALLENGE COIN

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*