

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"

April 2019

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The April 18th membership meeting speaker is Ellen Shannon, Area Director, National Capital Area Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, who will discuss the signs of people contemplating suicide and steps to take for prevention. We need to learn more about this increasing and deadly disease among our current military personnel and veterans. Military veterans are 1.5 times more likely to take their lives than non-veterans. Multiple sources cite that twenty veterans a day commit suicide. Unacceptable! Come to the meeting and learn how you might be able to save a military veteran and his or her family from this unnecessary and senseless tragedy.

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. The book, "In Honor and Memory" that lists and describes U.S. and Allied military installations in South Vietnam and Southeast Asia, is available for viewing. See Bill Dumsick. Plus the traditional 50/50 raffle includes cash and a very artistic hand carved wooden bowl by George Jones. Remember the new meeting location, Glory Days Grill, Falls Church. So see you there!

Plastic forks, oatmeal cereal packets, and strong paper soup bowls will be collected for the Lamb Center, a daytime homeless shelter that serves veterans and non-veterans

NEW D-DAY PERSPECTIVES

Dr. David J. Sibley, a Professor of Military History at Cornell University, provided new insights about the planning and execution of D-Day. Here are some interesting points:

- Omaha Beach was a last minute action to fill the gap between the two American division landings and the British and Canadian division landings. Unfortunately, a recently arrived German division from the Russia front defended Omaha Beach.
- President Roosevelt selected the landing location since the British wanted to land in the Balkans and the military wanted to invade in southern France, less fortified than the Atlantic Wall. The president wanted the shortest distance to Berlin to end the war. Plus the area had two deep water ports for the landing of supplies and troops.
- The British turned German spies in Great Britain into double agents to provide false information to the Germans.
- Normandy was selected since the German defenses were strongest at the most likely site, Calais plus Normandy had a road directly to Paris. The Germans recognized this plan, and mounted an effective defense along the road.
- The German plan was to defeat the invasion at the beach. It was almost accomplished since the wide and sandy beach provided no cover for the landing troops. Only the troops heroic actions saved the day.
- The Germans conducted a defensive landing drill the day before D-Day. The defenders knew what to do.
- The Germans did not detect the 4,500 ship armada since the air over the channel and the beach was flooded with a blanket of Allied fighters. A German aircraft could not fly within miles of the shoreline without being attack.
- The Army combat engineers paved the way for the landings by arriving in darkness to destroy the anti-landing craft obstacles on the beach.
- Despite the landing's success, the German inland defense and the famous French hedgerows stopped the Allied inland advance. The hedgerows severely restricted the Allied tank speed and maneuverability.
- The outbreak was achieved in two steps. First was Operation Cobra which involved 1200 bombers attacking the German line. The carpet bombing demoralized the defenders and destroyed massive quantities of tanks and artillery. The second step was a southern flanking maneuver that skirted the German defensive line. The retreating Germans ceased a coherent defense until the Battle of the Bulge. The success included the first application of close air support by the Allies. An air force officer with a radio was attached to each advancing combat unit.
- The landing featured new technology from the failed swimming tanks to the successful Higgins troop landing craft.
- Gasoline was the one element that limited the Allied advance. A division needed 30,000 gallons of gasoline a day.

Our meetings are a great place to renew our veteran camaraderie, enjoy a delicious meal, treat your spouse to a night out, and learn something new. Plan on attending the April 18th meeting and learn how you might prevent a fellow veteran from considering suicide.

MEMORIAL DAY BARBECUE

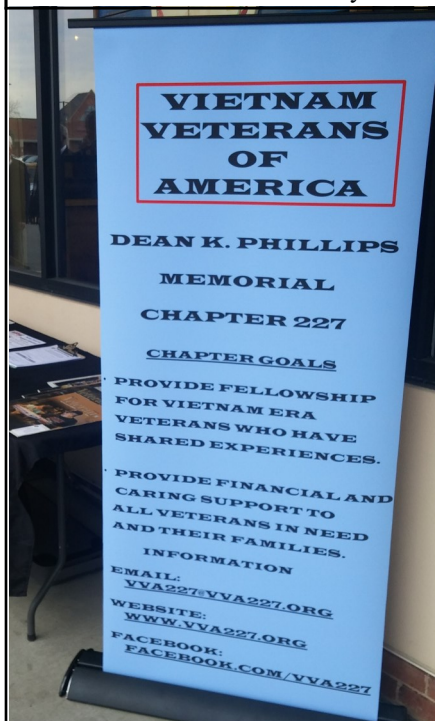
Bruce and Sarah Waxman are hosting the Memorial Day Barbecue at the Enclave Apartments' Club Room, 9450 King Court, Fairfax, VA. on May 26th from 3 PM to ?? Mission Barbecue is catering the complete meal that features their delicious barbecue meats. The chapter provides the cold beverages, while members are asked to bring an appetizer dish or a dessert. Access details are being finalized. To receive your dish selection and for a head count, contact Bill Dumsick at 571-217-3330 or text. Head Count deadline for the caterer is needed by May 20th. Please comply.

VETERAN OUTREACH

- **VETERAN ASSISTANCE:** Two grants for a total of \$738.75 were given. A \$450 grant paid for utilities. The veteran lost his job. A grant for \$288.75 was a partnership payment for a new apartment security deposit for a homeless veteran.
- **DC VAMC STAND DOWN OMISSION:** Forgot to mention that Bob and Frieda Omasta served as volunteers at the January stand down. Sorry about the omission and thank you for your service.
- **ONE DOWN AND MORE NEEDED:** John Hall is the newest chapter mentor for the successful Fairfax Veteran's Court Docket. More mentors are needed for the one-on-one ratio for each case. The program is expanding to include another court for Juvenile and Domestic Relations. You don't have to be a Fairfax County resident to serve. For questions or to volunteer, contact Tom Davis at tom.davis@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-629-0111. Thank you, John. The docket's success was recognized at the recent state council meeting on a report on successful veteran programs and events in the state. Congratulations, Tom.
- **NATIONAL CONVENTION:** To date, five members, Jay Kalner, Len Ignatowski, Chuck Harris, Bill Dumsick, and Bruce Waxman are the delegates.
- **IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!:** As the school year moves into the spring, the history of the Vietnam War appears on the classroom schedule. If you know a family member or neighbor who is a teacher, informed them about the chapter's Speaker Panel. The format is for one or two veterans to share their Tour of Duty with students from elementary to college plus any social or community group. Some members provide a Power Point presentation to enhance the discussion. Contact Tom Stryer, Speaker Panel Chairman, at 703-323-9032 for information and questions. Lets not permit time to diminish our sacrifice and lessons of our war so the same mistakes are not repeated.



Jay Kalner and Len Ignatowski (CL-CR) attended the Veterans Reception hosted by Senator John Warner (L) and Senator Tim Kaine ® on January 19th.



This sign welcomed Vietnam veterans to the Vietnam Veterans Day celebration at the Chantilly restaurant.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Mission BBQ requested the chapter participation in their National Vietnam Veterans' Day celebration that included a free barbecue sandwich on March 29th. When Len Ignatowski met with Liz McGuirk, the Region Community Ambassador, about their request, he inquired if the chapter could conduct recruiting at the event. An approval was surprisingly given for both area locations. Bill Dumsick assumed Project Manager for the day's events. Stan and Merrie Rose Derr with Warren Wiedhahn managed the Chantilly location, while Bob Tecklenburg, Bill Lynch, and Jonathan Olson staffed the Alexandria restaurant. Membership applications, chapter newsletters, The VVA Veteran magazine, and other VVA pamphlets were distributed. Stan provided a modern roll-up banner that stated who we are and our mission. Merrie Rose even got an invitation for the chapter to host a booth at an upcoming military display show. Over twelve veterans agreed to join, while others said they would consider. A potential member knew Dean Phillips.

The chapter thanks all members and Merrie Rose, AVVA member, for supporting the two events. Special thanks to Jon Gringman, General Manager and Liz McGuirk, Region Community Ambassador of Mission BBQ for their veteran outreach and recruitment support. Finally, Mission BBQ is providing the barbecue meats and all the side dishes for the chapter's Memorial Day Barbecue. Both events were well attended. Thank you, Mission BBQ staff and all the chapter members who made the event a smashing success.

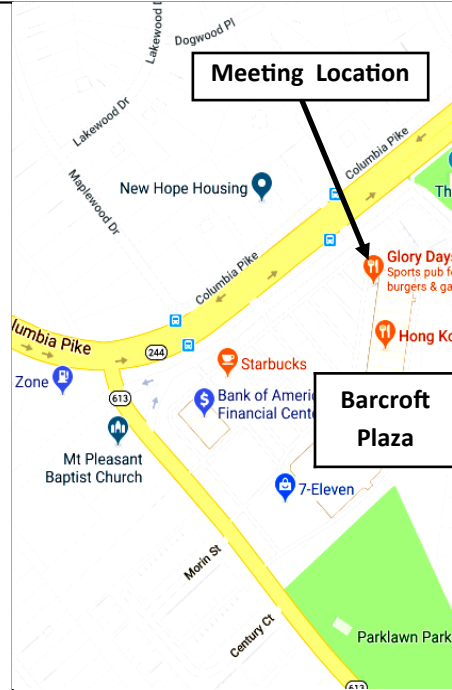
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

APRIL 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

Glory Days Grill

6341 Columbia Pike,
Barcroft Plaza,
Falls Church, Virginia
22041

Ph.: 703-992-6060

- 6:30 PM Dinner (Optional)
- 7:30 PM Meeting
No consumption of alcohol beverages during the meeting

WEBSITE:
www.vva227.org

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP MEETING LOCATION!

April 2019:

18: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Ellen Shannon, "Suicide Prevention"; Lamb Center collection, see pg. 1 for list

May 2019:

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

16: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Michelle Rahal, Author of "Minh Phuong Towner Story"

23: VVA's Congressional Charter is approved in 1986. Happy Birthday, VVA!

26: Family Barbecue: See newsletter article for time, location, and details

27: Memorial Day: Wreath Laying at The Wall 8:00 AM, meet by the Three Soldier Statue; and Wreath Laying Breakfast: Metro Diner, 4711 Lee Hwy., Arlington, after the wreath laying

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

VVA's future is on the 2019 convention agenda. The tentative options range from total stand down to creating a new organization to carry-on our legacy and knowledge. No formal resolutions have been proposed so far. The current VVA Veteran magazine contains the two current committee reports. The chapter is accepting member comments by email, chapter website posting, or mail a written statement to the chapter address.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: Bill Lynch, Attn: VVA Chapter 227, 5328 Taney Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22304-2039

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

April 18th Membership Meeting

“Suicide Prevention”

Lamb Center Item Collection

Mark Your Calendar for the Memorial Day Events

Barbecue, Wreath Laying at The Wall, and Post-Wreath Laying Breakfast

Veteran Court Mentors Needed

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