

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"

June 2019

Washing the Vietnam War Memorial

Chapter 641 of Silver Spring, Maryland who are the official VVA Wall Washers has invited Chapter 227 to wash The Wall on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Meet at the flagpole at 6:30 AM. The Park Service provides the washing supplies. Only a heavy rainfall cancels the washing. A post-washing breakfast will be held at the Metro Diner. The mission requires about twenty washers. Spouses and friends are invited too. So mark your calendar to attend the Wall washing.

Your Thoughts on VVA's Future

The chapter is soliciting member comments on VVA's future to be addressed at the National Convention: 1. Should VVA transfer our legacy to a more inclusive veteran group or terminate our existence and 2. The mechanisms for accomplishing the objective. Use the chapter Facebook site or mail your written comments to the chapter at Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Va. 22205-0653.

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PTSD

The June 20th membership meeting guest speaker is Jack Haas, a Vietnam War veteran who served as a combat infantryman in 1969-70. He will discuss PTSD and his experience with it. He has spoken to numerous groups on this issue over the years.

Come early for a great meal and meet your fellow members. You don't know who you may meet! The meeting starts at 7:30 at the Glory Days Grill at 6341 Columbia Pike, Barcroft Plaza, Falls Church, Virginia 22041. Lost, call 703-992-6060. 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. So see you there!

***The AVVA Community Outreach Project ***

Small size sun protection lotion and insect repellent (no aerosol cans) will be collected for the Lamb Center

Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Unit Visit

The visit is Wednesday, June 19th at The Wall. Meet at the snack bar across from The Wall. Estimated bus arrival time is 11:00 AM. Ben Buckley is the program director. The visiting veterans have expressed a deep appreciation for our welcome and distribution of war campaign clothing tags. All are welcome.

An Example of True Courage

Minh Phuong Towner shared her journey from Vietnam to the U.S. at the May 16th membership meeting. Her life journey represents human endeavor triumphing over personal tragedies leading to her escape from Vietnam after the Communist victory to her present life in the U.S. She was 17 years old at the time. Her journey with her brother included a short stay in Thailand and a refugee station in Taiwan. She and her brother immigrated to France, but her residency status prevented her from attending college. She left for Australia to earn a nursing degree. She married an Australian and developed a strong Australian accent. She has two children from her marriage. She later decided to immigrate to the U.S., but her children decided to remain in Australia. She is now an ordained minister and earning a religious doctoral degree. She is a victim of PTSD after witnessing the killing of her father and brother during the Tet Offensive in Saigon and living in two refugee centers. She credits a black MP in saving her life during a sniper attack on her family in Saigon. The MP crawled and pulled her to safety where he administered first aid to her head wound. Her mother worked for the ARVN and was entitled to U.S. evacuation, but an incident delayed their arrival for one of the last helicopter rescue flights. Later, she met the pilot of the last helicopter flight that would have carried her to freedom. Her life tragedies made her question the existence of a God, but she found peace when she joined a church in Oakton, Va. She is now an ordained minister and striving to help those suffering from PTSD, especially women. Her full story is in the book, "Straining Forward: Minh Phuong Towner's Story". Another stellar example of human accomplishment.

June 19th Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit

Meet at the Snack Bar Across from the Flagpole at 11:00 AM

June 20th Membership Meeting **"PTSD"**

AVVA Community Outreach

Small size sun protection lotion and insect repellent (no aerosol cans) will be collected at the June 20th membership meeting for the Lamb Center

NO JULY & AUGUST 2019 MEETING & NEWSLETTER

Washing The Wall @ September 7th at 6:30 AM

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.

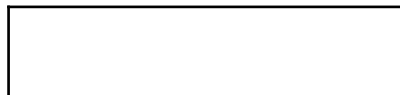
CHAPTER 227

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