

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"

November 2019

"ROLE OF THE NAVY IN THE VIETNAM WAR"

The November 21st membership meeting features Dr. Edward J. Marolda, who will discuss his book, "Combat at Close Quarters: An Illustrated History of the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War." The book covers all aspects of the war from the bombing of North Vietnam to the riverine operations in the delta. His research documents the depth and essential role of the Navy in the war. He served as the Acting Director of Naval History and Senior Historian of the Navy and taught courses on the Cold War in the Far East and the Vietnam War at Georgetown University.

Come early for a great meal and meet your fellow members. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Bring your spouse and a fellow Vietnam War veteran.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The traditional Holiday Party is scheduled for December 14th at 6:00 pm. The new party location is at the Enclave Apartments' Club Room, 9450 Silver King Court, Fairfax, VA. Parking is available in the Day Care parking lot across from the building. The chapter is providing a barbecue menu and side dishes with cold beverages. Guests are asked to bring a dessert or appetizer. Please RSVP by December 7th by contacting Bill Lynch at 703-474-4891 or bill_lynch@vva227.org of how many will be in your party and whether you are bringing an appetizer or a dessert.

A party tradition is to bring wrapped children's gifts with the gender and age marked on the gift and children's winter clothing. The gifts and clothing serve as an emergency supply for the Bridges of Independence in Arlington County. The agency assists homeless families. The goal is to fill Bill Lynch's car so Leslie has to ride the hood.

The party is a great way to meet members and spouses to get acquainted in a warm and festival holiday spirit.



Jay Kalner cuts the Anniversary Cake at the celebration.

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

The October 17th membership meeting celebrated our very successful 34th year of fulfilling our founding principle, *"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."* The celebration started with a very appetizing buffet dinner that left very little food on the serving table. Jay Kalner, Chapter President, made the first cut into the very decorative and delicious cake. The raffle produced the first double winner. Exequiel Sevilla had the winning tickets for the 50/50 cash prize and the George Jones custom carved wooden serving bowl.

Sara McVicker, VVA Regional 3 Director, was the guest speaker, who spoke on the Past, Present and Future of VVA. She is a member since 1982 and Regional 3 Director since 2011, plus she served in numerous national, state council, and chapter offices. She was an Army nurse at the 71st Evacuation Hospital at Pleiku.

VVA had a rather robust birth with a wide range of political issues from small state representation to our mission. The formation was based on the premise that the nation wanted to forget the war including those who served in the war. VVA was determined to revive respect for the warrior and to seek our earned benefits. Bobby Mueller emerged as the primary spokesman. The initial actions resulted in Representative David Bonior of Michigan forming a Vietnam Veterans in Congress caucus which was the initial political action to address our needs in 1978. 1979 marked the transition from the Council of Vietnam Veterans to Vietnam Veterans of America. VVA immediately initiated political discussion on PTSD, Agent Orange, POW/MIAs, Education and Job Training, expanded Health Care, Homeless Veterans, and something new, incarcerated and women veteran issues. Our birth initiated membership growth as our political successes and movement attracted the attention of fellow Vietnam veterans, who were looking for recognition, hope, and camaraderie.

The 1980's marshalled a wide range of successful milestones from our first national convention to congressional hearings on Vietnam veteran issues. (Continued P.2)



Sara McVicker accepts our challenge coin from Jay Kalner.



Stan and Merrie Rose Derr managed our outreach booth at the Americans in War-time Museum Open House on September 7 and 8. Len Ignatowski and Jay Kalner assisted. Photo by Len Ignatowski



Len Ignatowski (L) and Jay Kalner received a VIP ride in an Army Duster at the Americans in War-time Museum Open House. The Dusters with twin rapid-fire 40 mm cannons were a critical Vietnam War convoy and base camp security measure.

VETERAN OUTREACH

- **VETERAN ASSISTANCE:** Grant requests are from federal, state, or local social and veteran agencies.
 - > \$250 grant for \$800 utility bills due to unemployment.
 - > \$200 grant for rent assistance due to delinquent child support
 - > A \$500 grant was provided to help the wife of a deceased veteran to pay for her rent. At our request, "Serving Together" is searching for a more affordable apartment and potential financial counseling. Also the local American Legion Post provided a \$500 rent grant too.
 - > In response to a VVA Florida chapter appeal, a video vendor was located to record the internment of a Vietnam veteran in Arlington Cemetery for the wife of the fallen hero. She could not travel for the funeral.
- **FAIRFAX CITY FALL FESTIVAL:** Bill Dumsick and Bill Bohuslaw managed the chapter's outreach at the Fall Festival on October 12th. Several contacts were established with Vietnam veterans and our highly visible tent and display attracted a diverse number of fairgoers. Thanks to both Bills.
- **BACK-TO-SCHOOL GIFT CARD RECOGNITION:** VVA National office recognized our VASH family student aid by publishing a photograph and a description of the program in its three news media outlets. A local newspaper printed an article on the program. Donations are being accepted for the VASH needy family gift card program.

CHAPTER HELPS NATIONALS WIN

Members and guests helped the Nationals' victorious march to World Series champions by attending the September 15th game. The Nationals beat their major division contender, the Braves, by a score of 6 to 0. The chapter's game score card is 13 wins and 2 losses. Thanks to Jay Kalner for managing the ticket sales.

ANNIVERSARY (Continued) Mary Stout, Chapter 227 founding member, was elected as the first woman veteran to lead a national veteran organization. Later George Duggins was the first African-American elected to

lead a national veteran service organization.

VVA continues to blaze new victories at the National level with congressional hearing testimonies and legal suits to earn the benefits we EARNED. Our trade mark is persistence, and congressional staff frequently solicit our input on veterans' issues. An example is when VVA's dynamic trio of Rick Weidman, Bernie Edelman, and Tom Berger worked into the early morning hours to deliver a veteran issues summary to a congressman who was hosting a Town Hall meeting that weekend. VVA has over 600 chapters, including in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam. We have a strong presence across all lines from American Indians to incarcerated veterans. At a past convention, a prison warden allowed the president of his prison chapter to attend the national convention under armed guard. We are inclusive!

VVA's future with our age eligibility issue is being addressed between "last veteran standing" to transforming into a new organization with a new veteran generation to carry our torch. Each course has its pitfalls and benefits with a series of legal hurdles. The 2019 convention mandated that the issue be addressed in more detail at the 2021 national convention. One primary fact is that the local chapters are independent of the national office since each chapter is incorporated in its own state. VVA National is incorporated in New York. Chapters can independently continue, but would lose the administrative and legal support of the National office. A previous VVA attempt to form a new veteran organization failed for assorted reasons. Despite these hurdles, VVA membership continues to grow. Our chapter membership has increased in the last four years to about 320 members and one or two new members join every few months. A great recruitment tool is wearing a VVA hat or shirt while shopping. Stay tune for future developments. Sara requests that members with their opinions contact her at smcvicker@vva.org. Likewise the chapter seeks your input too.

IRA CHARITY AND HOLIDAY DONATION

- The chapter is eligible for your IRA charity donation tax deduction.
- Donations are being accepted for the VASH Holiday Gift Card program.
- Mail donation to VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Virginia 22205. An acknowledgement letter is provided. Do it NOW!

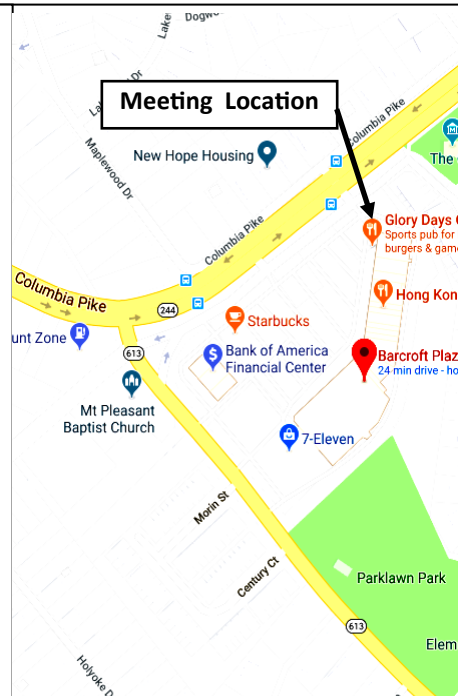
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

November 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 (Vendor Needed) : 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

WEBSITE:

www.vva227.org

FACEBOOK:

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

November 2019:

11: Veterans Day
11: Memorial Day Writers' Project Open Mike 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM. 20th St. and Constitution Ave on the mall
21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Edward Marolda, "Role of the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War"

December 2019:

05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North; Vienna, Virginia.
07: Deadline for Holiday Party head count and dish listing. Contact Bill Lynch.
14: Holiday Party 6:00 PM: See newsletter for details
16: No Membership Meeting

HAVE A SAFE AND MERRY HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR!

SHOW YOUR VETERAN PRIDE & GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

Purchase custom chapter attire at

<https://militarybest.com/vva-chapter-227-dean-phillips-merchandise.html>

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

November 21st Membership Meeting

U.S Navy Service in the Vietnam War

Holiday Party, December 14th

RSVP by December 7th for Head Count

Bring wrapped child toy gift and child winter clothing

IRA Charity Withdrawal Donation & Holiday VASH Gift Card Program—Mail It Now!

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.

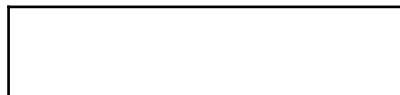
CHAPTER 227

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