

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"

March 2020

OPERATION RENEWED HOPE

At the March 19th meeting, LTC. Deborah Snyder, US Army Retired and CEO of Operation Renewed Hope Foundation, will discuss her organization's mission to help destitute veterans find housing. This new generation veteran flew Huey and Blackhawk helicopters in her 21 year career. She started the foundation in 2011 after observing many homeless veterans on her way to work. One stellar success story concerns a Marine veteran who went from sleeping in shelters to becoming a business owner. The linchpin was the transitional housing provided by Operation Renewed Hope.

Come early for a great meal and meet your fellow members. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Spouses, friends and fellow Vietnam War and Era veterans are welcome. Chapter policy prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages during the formal meeting.

2020 CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Nominations for chapter offices for the April 16, 2020 elections are open. Each office has a two-year term. The current officers and directors, except for Gus Howard, are seeking re-election. Don Drunsic is seeking election to fill a vacancy due to Gus Howard's resignation. The chapter thanks Gus for his service as a director. Call Dick Weaver, Nomination Officer/Election Officer, at 703-851-9811 to be on the ballot.

The election ballot is the following: President: Jay Kalner, Vice-President: Len Ignatowski, Secretary: Bob Tecklenburg; Treasurer: Chuck Harris; Directors: Bruce Waxman, Bill Dumsick, George Jones, Bill Lynch, Stan Derr, Tom Stryer, Dennis Stephens, Scott Hurley, Don Drunsic, Jonathan Olson, and Bob Pezold.

AVVA Representative: Diane Ignatowski

NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Vietnam War and Vietnam War Era veterans, AVVA members, family, and anyone else are invited to attend the National Vietnam Veterans Day event at the National Marine Corps Museum at 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway (just south of the main gate to Quantico Base), Triangle, Va. on Sunday, March 29th from noon to 2:00 PM. The featured speaker is Gen. Richard I. Neal, USMC, Ret., who served two Vietnam War tours. The Vietnam War Commemoration lapel pin will be presented to Vietnam War veterans. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony, while guests can tour the museum including the renovated Vietnam War display. The chapter will have an information booth at the event. Members wishing to help with the booth, call Jay Kalner at 703-346-2013. Capital Caring, the event sponsor, requests that attendees register at capitalcaring.org/welcomehome.



Diane Ignatowski (L) presents a check and household goods to Doris Paul of The Lamb Center. Photo by Len Ignatowski

THE LAMB CENTER SUPPORT

Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, delivered the chapter donations of travel size toiletries and household and kitchen items plus a \$110 check to The Lamb Center in Fairfax City from the January and February meetings. The delivery included over 400 toiletry items from shower caps to shampoo. The Center serves as a daytime resource for assorted services from a hot shower to social services for homeless persons. The Center provides space and time for Veteran Administration officials to interview veterans for their benefits. This community and veteran outreach started about twenty years ago with the delivery of travel size toiletries that members collected from their hotel visits.

FOUL WEATHER MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY

The membership meeting is cancelled if the Fairfax County Public Schools are closed that day

NEED 5 MORE!

The chapter slipped to the 22nd largest VVA chapter with 327 members. Chapter 43 bumped us down by increasing their membership to 330. So let's recruit five or more members to cement our 21st largest chapter status.

VETERAN GRANTS: *Grant requests are from federal, state, or local social and veteran agencies.*

- **PUERTO RICO EARTHQUAKE RELIEF:** A \$1000 grant was given the VVA Puerto Rico State Council to assist in earthquake relief. A \$750 grant was previously given for hurricane relief.
- **WINTER HEAT:** A \$400 grant was given towards a \$800 propane heating bill for a Marine veteran who experienced financial distress.
- **MORTGAGE HELP:** A \$400 grant with assistance from another VSO paid an overdue mortgage payment due to unexpected family medical expenses.

WHO WAS JOHN PAUL VANN?

Tess Johnston, the speaker at the February 20th meeting, provided a first hand description of her seven-year Vietnam Tour and worked with John Paul Vann, a Vietnam War legend. She abandoned her mundane college professorship for the promised exciting duty with USAID in early 60s'. She wanted to go to Hawaii. After her training, she was offered duty in South Korea or South Vietnam. She selected Vietnam for its warm weather and the lure of Saigon, the Paris of Indochina. She worked as a USAID administrative assistant at Bien Hoa airfield. The staff became good friends with the C-120 pilots that sprayed AO. The AO aroma filled her office air when loading the aircraft. The staff would routinely count the number of departing and returning aircraft to determine if any were lost due to their low and slow flight paths. Despite the strong intelligence warning of a Tet attack, the officers club party went on. Just after midnight, the first barrage of mortar rounds arrived. Everyone rushed to the bunkers. Tess who was wearing a miniskirt had some unpleasant moments as men filled the bunker. Her remaining tour was uneventful except her involvement in the Baby Lift towards the end of the war. She lost two friends in the C-5 aircraft crash. Besides her USAID work, she served as a foreign service officer in many postings over her career.

Her introduction to John Paul Vann, her boss, was not very impressive. His rather short stature, receding hairline, and sweat did not fit her John Wayne fighter image of him. He did not hesitate to utter a few foul words to make his point. He had a profound ability to get one to do what one did not want to do. His increasing USAID status included a high degree of authority and resources to implement his vision of winning the war. He frequently capitalized on his stature to enhance the military career of those who displayed the same degree of combat courage and duty dedication. He was a front-line leader, flying to combat positions when a new enemy confrontation was developing. His prowess soon expanded to all of South Vietnam where enemy action was happening. He earned the respect of Vietnamese and American military and civilian personnel. His frequent and vocal criticism of the war strategy alienated senior political and military leaders. He wanted to arm the ARVN with modern weapons instead of WWII relics. The enemy possessed superior firepower. He stressed that victory laid in winning the people's allegiance and having the ARVN do the fighting, not Americans. This forthrightness contributed to his retirement in 1962 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He returned to Vietnam as a senior USAID agent in MR IV in 1965.

A surprise revelation was when Len Funk, chapter member, described his first-hand encounter with Mr. Vann. As a new MACV lieutenant he hosted an unexpected visit by Vann, when his helicopter developed an engine problem. Vann, rather than Len, conducted a driving tour of the surrounding area. He informed Len what he needed to know about the local VC tactics and operations. Len's encounter reinforced Tess's description of Vann's personality and behavior. He was a true leader and possessed a remarkable capability to analyze a situation and develop the right solution.



CARE Package Partnership

The chapter's partnership with the MITRE Corp employees completed another successful CARE Package program to overseas deployed troops for 2019. Eleven offices shipped 362 packages for a eleven year total of 2,874 packages. The donations exceeded \$11,000 that was the highest amount yet. One employee paid the entire mailing cost. The photograph shows the wide range of goodies being packed. Chuck Harris served as the chapter's Point-of-Contact. Thank you, Chuck and Mitre employees. Another exceptional example of fulfilling our founding principle "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!"

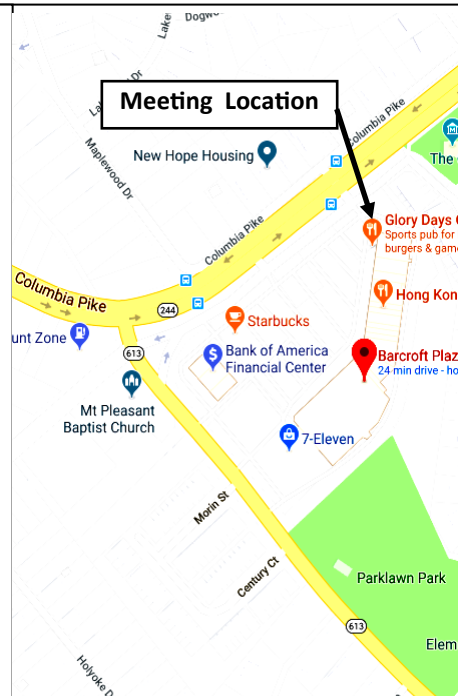
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

March 2020



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, Don Drunsic, 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
WEBSITE:
www.vva227.org
FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>

MARCH 2020:

05: Board Meeting 1:00 PM: Glory Days Grill, Pan Am Shopping Center, 3059 Nutley St., Fairfax, Va.
 19: Membership Meeting 7:30: Spkr: Deborah Snyder, *Operation Renewed Hope Foundation*, Housing for veterans
 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day: Special program at the National Marine Corps Museum. See details in newsletter

APRIL 2020:

02: Board Meeting 1:00 PM: Glory Days Grill, Pan Am Shopping Center, 3059 Nutley St., Fairfax, Va.
 16: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Chapter elections; Spkr: Col. Jim Sullivan, *1st Infantry Division Operations during 1967-68*.

USED BOOK PROGRAM REVIVED

Andy Bender located a new store for our used book fundraiser. The new store is Second and Charles bookstore. The address is: 13653 Lee Jackson Hwy, Fairfax. The phone is: 703-817-0869. Books can be delivered to the store. Any questions, ask for David. Our store account is Andy Bender. Andy will accept books at the membership meeting too. Let's recycle those old books and earn funds for the chapter.

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

MARCH 19TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING
“OPERATION RENEWED HOPE”

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY PROGRAM
MARCH 29TH, NOON TO 2:00 PM
NATIONAL MARINE CORPS MUSEUM

Foul Weather Meeting Cancellation Policy

The membership meeting is cancelled if the Fairfax County Public Schools are closed for the day or early closing due to adverse weather.

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.

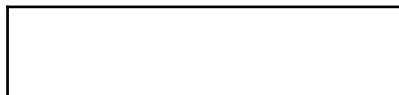
CHAPTER 227

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