

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 2022

2022 CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Nominations for chapter offices and the AVVA representative for the April 21, 2020 elections are open. Each office has a two-year term. The current officers and directors are seeking re-election. Andy Bender is seeking his first term as a director. The AVVA slot is opened. If you want to serve, contact the Nomination Committee members, Len Funk at 202-368-5888 and Dick Weaver at 703-851-9811. For AVVA representative, call Diane Ignatowski at 703-772-5303. Both VVA and AVVA candidate registrations deadline is April 15th.

WHO IS TODAY'S CHINA?

The March 17th membership meeting speaker is Ambassador Joseph DeTrani, President of the Intelligence Security Alliance and served in several key U.S. Asian intelligence positions. He will discuss current U.S.-China relations and time permitting, the North Korean nuclear issue. The speaker provides a first-hand understanding of this complex subject.

The meeting is a face-to-face format at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax, Va. At 7:30 PM. The buffet dinner cost is \$20 per person and starts at 6:45 PM, while a cash bar is available at 6:00 PM. Meeting policy is no consumption of alcoholic beverages during the meeting. RSVP dinner reservations to Jay Kalner at jaymelissa@aol.com or 703-346-2013 by Saturday, March 13th. AVVA is asking for new white athletic socks to be donated to a local VA hospital. Bring a mask in case Health Regulations change to wearing a mask.



Latisa Bethea, VASH Case Manager, cheerfully accepts our Holiday gift cards.

END-OF-YEAR TRADITION FULFILLED

December 2021 marked another successful holiday outreach to needy veterans and their families. Each of the fifty-eight VASH clients received gift cards amounts depending on their category from a single veteran to a married veteran with family. The grant amounts ranged from \$75 to \$225 for a total of \$6,350. Ms. Bethea, a VASH case manager, stated that the gift cards will make for a merrier holiday for these veterans.

Chuck Harris completed another successful chapter outreach to four needy veteran families. Each \$1,500 grant fulfilled their Santa gift list and additional money for other holiday needs. Chuck and a fellow neighbor donated \$500 each to their selected family.

Many thanks to the membership whose contributions from \$25 to \$10,000 resulted in a total contribution of approximate \$18,000. One member utilized an employer gift-matching benefit for a \$10,000 donation.

To expedite cash grants, the Board approved to raise the Executive Board of the four officers and one director authority to approve grants up to \$1000 from \$500. This action was necessary due to increasing need amount and a for a more rapid response. The chapter partners with other VSOs and non-profits to fund higher amounts. Veteran team work at its best!

CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **MISSION BARBECUE RECRUITMENT:** Stan Derr is managing the recruitment at the four local Mission BBQ Restaurants (Herndon, Springfield, Chantilly, and Sterling) from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM for the National Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th. A free BBQ sandwich is being offered to veterans. Call Stan (703-278-9322) to help.
- **ROSTER GROWS 350:** The at-large members recruitment contributed to a new chapter milestone of 350 members. Many thanks to Melissa Kalner, Jay Kalner, Bill Lynch, and Bruce Waxman for their support of this recruitment.
- **RENT ASSISTANCE:** A \$650 grant was approved to assist in a rental townhouse security deposit.
- **273 CARE PACKAGES:** The chapter and MITRE Corp employee partnership resulted in the shipment of 273 CARE packages to deployed overseas troops and to veterans homes. Many thanks to Chuck Harris for his role in this program.
- **NATIONAL RECOGNIZES CHUCK HARRIS SUPERIOR EFFORT:** The November/December 2021 edition of The VVA Veteran magazine article described the Chapter successful partnership with the MITRE Corp. employees via Chuck Harris super effort. He was instrumental in uniting the chapter's charity tax deduction to the employees desire to help veterans and active duty personnel. The partnership resulted in increased donations. His effort resulted in the successful Suits for Veterans and the current CARE packages programs.

Vietnam Veterans of America

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

Name _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

H () _____ C () _____ Email _____

Chapter No. **227**

• 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.

Special Life Membership: \$50

• Payment Option: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card (Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ ☐ I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet

Signature: _____ Date: _____ and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).



WE WANT YOU

QUESTIONS

CONTACT

BILL LYNCH

703-474-4891

SPEAKER'S PANEL NEEDS HOSTS

The Speaker's Panel, a chapter hallmark, needs group or classroom engagements. The retirement of Vietnam-era student teachers has created a void in sharing our Tour of Duty with current students and groups. The format is two veterans sharing their Tour of Duty followed by a Q&A period. Students of all ages and civic groups are acceptable. For information, contact Tom Stryer, the Program Director, at 703-201-7611 or stryertom@gmail.com.

MARCH

17: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM, Buffet Dinner 6:30 PM: Speaker: Ambassador Joseph DeTrani, "U.S. and China Relations"

RSVP: April 13th

19: Virginia State Council Meeting Richmond, Virginia 9:00 PM: Meeting opened to members

29: **NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY & MISSION BBQ RECRUITMENT 10:30 AM TO 2:00 PM:** Call Stan Derr (703-278-9322) to staff the recruitment and enjoy a free BBQ sandwich..

APRIL:

07: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: Virtual meeting format

21: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Ms. Raisa Velez, Brain Injury Services, "Traumatic Brain Injuries".

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.

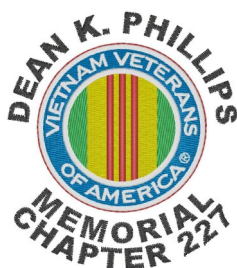
CHAPTER 227

DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER

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Address Service Requested



OUR MISSION

*To "Serve Military Veterans, Their Families,
Our Community and Our Country"
Since October 11, 1985*