

# THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227  
*The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter*  
*“Serving Veterans and the Community in Northern Virginia”*



In Service to America

August 2008



## PLAY BALL!

Members and family attended the traditional chapter family baseball game on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the new National baseball stadium. The attendees included Bernie Lenert of Richmond’s Chapter 78 and Bill Bennett of the Silver Springs chapter.

The weather cooperated with sunny weather and a brisk breeze. The Nationals play made the game that much more enjoyable by scoring four runs in the first inning and several great defensive plays to win 4 to 2 over the Cincinnati Red to sweep the three game series.

Thanks to Bill Bohuslaw who served as the program ticket manager.

Members enjoy a great Nationals baseball game. They swept the Reds! Photo by Daniel Ignatowski

## WE NEVER STOP SERVING

by Leila Waxman



Bruce Waxman (standing) answers a camper’s question.  
Photo by Len Ignatowski

I work for Fairfax County Park Authority’s camp, Rec-PAC, which is held in elementary schools around Fairfax County. My site is Cardinal Forest Elementary, and we are an “inclusion site,” meaning that in addition to “normal” campers, we have campers with mainstream disabilities. These include autism, mental retardation, muscular dystrophy, and others. The campers range from going into 1<sup>st</sup> grade to entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Leonard Ignatowski and my father, Bruce Waxman, spoke to the entire camp about the Vietnam War on July 29, 2008. It was a very last minute arrangement, but luckily both veterans were able to come in and speak. Mr. Ignatowski gave a simple explanation of the war. He and my dad talked about their experiences. The kids asked questions and received candid answers.

The campers usually are very disobedient and do not listen to authority well. However, on this day, much to the surprise of myself and my co-counselors, they were very attentive to the guest speakers. They stayed quiet during the entire hour and asked many

questions. They really enjoyed having Mr. Ignatowski and my father come in to share their experiences. Later in the week the children wrote notes of thanks to the speakers, including pictures, which I delivered to my father.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The chapter will celebrate its 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary at our September 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. All past officers, directors, and founding members are strongly encouraged to attend this great event.

Martin Schram, author and syndicated journalist, will talk about his new book, Vets Under Siege, which discusses VA's and federal government mission failure in properly treating our military veterans.

So mark your calendars to attend this gala celebration and learn about one perspective of the current military veteran benefit debate.

## ALMOST A "DOUBLE ACE"

Using an air force term, Len Ignatowski is almost a "Double Ace" for recruiting seven new members in the last several months including his Vietnam company commander, Dick Lavender. Dick joined Chapter 81 since he lives near Roanoke. Buddy Rogers served with Dean Phillips in the Special Forces reserve unit at Ft. Meade.

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tom Brown Air Force, Life member | 5. Buddy Rogers, Army, LIFE member        |
| 2. Rob O'Brien, Army, Life Member   | 6. Bob Nakamura, Army, Member             |
| 3. Zeke Sevilla, Army, Life member  | 7. Dick Lavender, Army, Member Chapter 81 |
| 4. Bill Handorf, Army, Life member  |   |

## LET'S GO "GREEN" AND EARN \$\$\$

Lets be the first "Green" chapter in VVA. The first step is to donate your empty printer ink cartridges to Staples Rewards Program. The chapter's account is under Leonard Ignatowski or Chapter 227 Vietnam Vets of Am, and the chapter earns \$3.00 for each HP, Dell, and Lexmark cartridges donated. A maximum of three cartridges per day is accepted. The program earned \$24.00 for the chapter in the last quarter rebate. At the same time, the chapter earns 10% rebate on each new ink cartridge, paper and copy service purchased by you. So let's use the Staples Rewards program to earn funds for the chapter. Also, organizations accepting used electronic devices can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/mat-comp.htm>

The next program is to donate your household goods and clothing to VVA's household goods program. Call for a free pickup or deliver them to the store in the old Levitz store on Gallows Road between Rte. 50 and Lee Highway in Merrifield. In recent visit there was a large number of shoppers in the store and a wide range of products from household goods to clothing for all ages.

The U.S. Postal Service is offering a free recyclable program for cell phones, digital cameras, ink cartridges, and other small electronic devices. Your post office should have a bag dispenser for mailing your device to the recycling center. The postage is FREE! Let's do our part, and make the world a little bit better for future generations. This program is one way to balance the environmental damage from our war.

## TAX TIME: Charitable Deduction?

The last quarter of the tax year is at our door steps. Consider making a charitable tax deduction to the chapter. Your donation can be program specific such as the Vince Kaspar Awards Program, the Arlington County HILT summer school scholarship, the veteran assistance fund, or the general chapter management. Remember, the dance does not fully fund our yearly budget, and the reserve fund is funding the Kaspar program and HILT scholarships.

## HOME DEPOT 10% DISCOUNT

Certain Home Depot stores have a continuous 10% discount for veterans. You have to request the discount at the customer service desk and show proof of veteran eligibility (DAV ID card, VVA card, or other suitable ID.

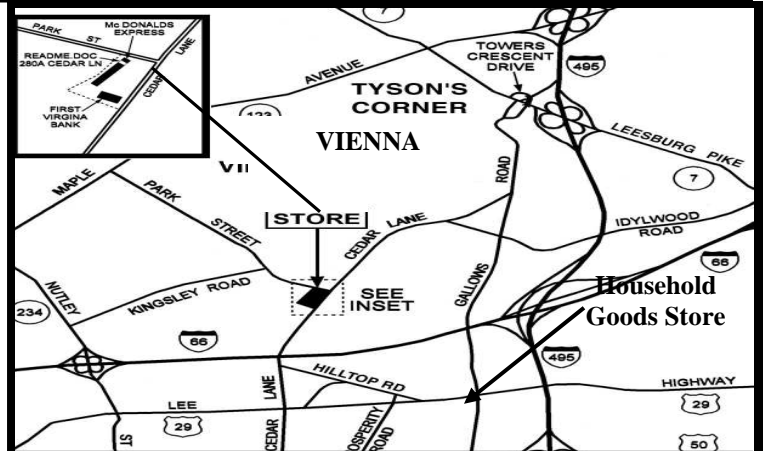
## CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

August 2008



### OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

**President:** Bill Dumsick – 703-968-0686  
**Vice President:** Byron Sheldon – 703-471-5018  
**Secretary:** Bruce Waxman  
**Treasurer:** Chuck Harris  
**Master of Arms:** Jonathan Olson  
**Board of Directors:** Paul Stancliff, Len Funk, Len Ignatowski, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, and Bill Bohuslaw.  
**VVA Va. State Council POC:** Paul Stancliff  
**AVVA Representative:** Margaret Stern  
**Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353  
**Speaker's Panel:** Len Ignatowski  
**Meeting Guest Speaker:** Len Funk 703-820-8118  
**DMZ To Delta@Dance:** Len Ignatowski



### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane  
Vienna, Virginia (Park St. & Cedar Lane)  
Pre-Meeting Dinner (Optional): 6:45 PM  
Meeting Time: 7:30 PM Phone: 703-698-8010

**CHAPTER INFORMATION: 703-968-0686**

**CHAPTER WEB SITE: [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org)**

**VVA Inc. THRIFT STORE (HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
COLLECTION): 1-800-459-8387**

## CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

**Aug: No membership meeting.** See you at the September meeting celebration

### **Sept.**

04: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.  
06: Washing The Wall: Join Chapter 641 as the host chapter in washing The Wall @ 0630 hours.  
18: Membership Meeting: Chapter Anniversary. Speaker TBA

## VVA'S HOUSEHOLD GOODS STORE

*ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE STORE*

The Unique Thrift Store, retail store,  
at 2956 Gallows Road, (former Levitz store), Merrifield, Virginia.

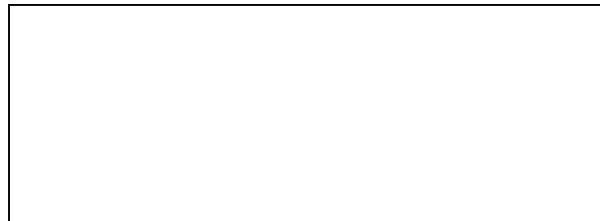
**Call 1-800-459-8387 for a donation pick-up.**

**CELEBRATE THE CHAPTER'S  
23<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**AT THE SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**ALL CHARTER MEMBERS AND PAST OFFICERS  
AND DIRECTORS  
ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.  
CHAPTER 227  
DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 5653  
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653



**OUR MISSION**

**To “Serve Vietnam Veterans, Their Families,  
Our Community, and Our Country”.**