

THE JOURNEY

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



April 2009

ELECTIONS 2009

The 2009 election of officers and directors will be conducted at the April 16th membership meeting. The candidates are:

President: Byron Sheldon
Vice President: Bruce Waxman
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Chuck Harris

Directors: Len Ignatowski, Len Funk, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, Bill Bohuslaw, and Paul Stancliff.

Bill Dumsick will serve in the Past President office, while the state council delegates and the sergeant at arms will be appointed. If you want to serve your fellow veterans again, call Len Funk (703-820-8118) to add your candidacy. A candidate is needed for the office of the secretary. Margaret Stern is the candidate for AVVA representative.

ANOTHER WAR

Marc Leepson, Vietnam veteran, former chapter member, noted history author, and VVA's The Veteran literary columnist, will discuss his book, Desperate Engagement, which discusses the little known civil war battle that saved the nation's capital from a confederate army attack at the April 16th membership meeting.

The Civil War Battle of Monocacy started when Confederate General Jubal Early decided to attack Washington D.C. while General Grant had the union army at the door steps of Richmond. General Lew Wallace contained the invasion of the North right up to the outskirts of Washington D.C. near Walter Reed Medical Center. The battle sounds incurred a visit by President Lincoln. As he stood to watch the battle, a Confederate sniper shot a soldier standing next to the president. Lincoln is the only sitting U.S. President to come under hostile enemy fire.

Marc will sign copies of his book and his other well known book on the history of the U.S. flag.

Come early with your spouse, family and a veteran to enjoy a great dinner and meet fellow members. See you at the meeting and learn about the unique civil war battle of the Monocacy.

PLAN NOW FOR OUR MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

The chapter' Memorial Day events are just a few weeks away, so plan on attending. First, the chapter is conducting a veteran outreach booth at Viva Vienna on May 24th from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Volunteers should contact Joe Celesnik at 703-938-7669 for more information.

Len and Diane Ignatowski are hosting our traditional family barbecue on May 24th starting at 6:00 pm. The barbecue is the one event where you can meet fellow members and their families in a festive and robust atmosphere. Great food and veteran family camaraderie will be present for duty. Call Diane Ignatowski (703-255-0353) to get a dish selection. Their home address is 2408 Oak Vale Court NW, Vienna, Virginia, behind James Madison H.S.

These two Sunday events are followed by the chapter's wreath laying service at The Wall on Monday, May 25th. Rendezvous at the flagpole at 8:00 am. The service is followed by a breakfast at a nearby restaurant.

Mark your calendar to attend these chapter events to renew your veteran camaraderie and to honor our fallen brothers and sisters.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

The July membership meeting is the annual Veteran's Appreciation Baseball Game that is sponsored by the Nationals team. The game is scheduled for August 9th at 1:35 pm. The Nationals will be playing the Diamondbacks. The special ticket price is \$10.00. Mail your ticket order and payment to Bill Bohuslaw, 4916 Wheatstone Dr., Fairfax, Va. 22032. Cutoff date for your ticket order is June 1st. Checks should be made payable to Bill Bohuslaw. Any questions, call Bill at 703-503-9420.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Pat Robertson, AVVA chapter member, spoke on the current Veterans Affairs unique medical research that includes about 100 programs. The medical research accomplishments include three Nobel Prize winners and significant contributions to the development of modern medical technology like the cardiac pacemaker, CAT scanner, kidney dialysis, and several vaccines. What is remarkable is that the doctors treat patients full time, and conduct their research in their spare time. Unlike other federal grants, all VA medical research funds are expended at the hospital.

The VA research is divided into four categories, biomedical (basic research), rehabilitation (restoring patient independence), health services (focuses on the delivery, quality, cost, and outcomes of health care), clinical science (develop new and more effective therapies and treatment). Current research includes computerized legs that duplicate the human leg and how to bring medical care to veterans in rural areas. The VA is currently debating the future of its medical research program. The DC Veterans Hospital, which should be the VA's flagship, suffers from the lack of congressional financial support in the house and senate where DC has no voting representation. This condition impacts veterans who live in northern Virginia since the DC hospital serves us.

Pat, who is a VA employee, commented that VA employees are dedicated to their mission since many have family members in the military service or are veterans themselves. Pat's son is a C-5 air force pilot.

A special thanks to Pat for providing this insight to a vital VA medical service and for her flexibility, since her presentation had to be rescheduled several times to accommodate a speaker change.

CHAPTER WELCOMES VETERANS TO THE WALL

On April 1, the chapter hosted the second visit to The Wall by veterans from the Lyons VAMC PTSD Unit, N.J. The veterans served in Vietnam, Somalia, Desert Storm, and Iraq wars. The visit started with the chapter providing hot coffee and donuts. Rodney Smith, the unit's team leader, expressed his appreciation for the refreshments and noted that it relieved the tension that was developing as the bus got closer to D.C.

The veterans marched to The Wall with their unit sign and flags. At The Wall, one of the men stepped forward and read a personal prayer for all deceased veterans and military personnel. Bruce Waxman welcomed the team to The Wall and expressed VVA's and the chapter's solidarity with them. Bill Shugarts of the chapter distributed VVMF calendars and pins and took photographs of the group and individuals. One moving moment was when a father and son stood proudly together besides the sign. The father is a Vietnam veteran, while the son is an Iraq veteran. Many thanks to Bill for doing the honors.

Bruce Waxman, Bill Lynch, Paul Stancliff, Len Ignatowski, and Bill Shugarts represented the chapter. Our hosts mingled with the visiting veterans, shared stories and helped locate friends on The Wall.

Chapter members are strongly encouraged to share in the next visit to The Wall by contacting Bruce at 703-323-0269. The next date has not yet been confirmed.



Chapter provided hot coffee and donuts for the visiting veterans to The Wall. Photo by Len Ignatowski



Bruce Waxman welcomes visiting veterans from the Lyons VAMC PTSD Unit, NJ to The Wall. Photo by Bill Shugarts

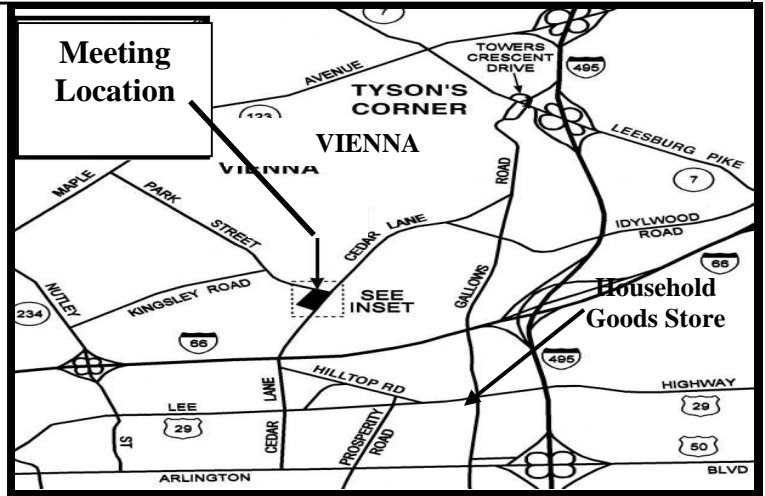
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

April 2009



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
Sergeant 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
Suits for Veterans: Chuck Harris 703-729-5665
Operation Sugar Plum: Fran Knouse 703-242-2308



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

CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

Apr:

16: Membership Meeting: Chapter elections and Guest Speaker: Marc Leepson, "Desperate Engagement". The battle that could have changed the outcome of our civil war.

May:

- 07: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
21: Membership Meeting: Community outreach: Vince Kaspar Arts Awards and HILT ESOL Scholarship presentations.
24: Viva Vienna: Information booth 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
24: Family Barbecue @ 6:00 pm: Len and Diane Ignatowski's home, 2408 Oak Vale Court NW, Vienna, Va. Call for a dish selection, 703-255-0353.
25: Wreath laying at The Wall @ 8:00 am at the flagpole.
25: Post Wreath Laying Breakfast: Immediately after the wreath laying at a restaurant to be determined.

June:

- 01: Deadline for ordering tickets for Nationals' Veterans Appreciation Day for August 9th.
04: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
13: State council meeting @ 9:00 am: Four Point Sheraton in Manassas. All are welcome.

VIRGINIA VVA STATE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Virginia VVA State Council is offering two academic scholarships of \$500 each.
- One scholarship is for a Vietnam veteran, while the second one is for a family member.
- Application and directions are on the council's website (<http://www.vva-vasc.org/>).
- A random drawing selects each scholarship winner.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

APRIL 16th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Your service and experience are needed again!

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Plan now to attend with your family

APRIL 16th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Relieve your federal tax stress by decompressing with your fellow members and learn a bit about American civil war history

“Desperate Engagement”

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