

# THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

*The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter*

*"Serving Veterans and the Community in Northern Virginia"*

*"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"*



In Service to America

December 2011



Charlie Klein doesn't believe that he will have to ride the hood after the Holiday Party. Let's make a believer out of him! Come to the party with a load of children's gifts!  
Photo by Len Ignatowski

## HOLIDAY PARTY!

### *Make Charlie Ride the Hood!*

Bill and Cheryl Dumsick are hosting the Holiday Party on December 10, 2011, at 6:00 pm in their home at 13606 White Stone Court, Clifton, Virginia. Directions are on Page 4. Beverages and meat dishes are provided, while members bring a covered dish. Call Cheryl (703-968-0686) for a dish selection. Bill asks that the starting time be observed. No early arrivals please! The HBO miniseries, "Pacific" in DVD's will be sold at the party.

A very warming Holiday Party tradition is to bring a wrapped child's gift with the gift's gender and age marked on it and a child's winter clothing item from gloves to jackets. The gifts and clothing serve as an emergency supply for the Sullivan House in Arlington County. Jonathan Olson and Charlie Klein deliver the gifts and clothing. Our goal is to completely fill Jonathan's car with our generosity so that Charlie, his car pooler, has to ride on the hood. Please attend and bring those gifts so Charlie will have to ride on the car hood. If you can't attend the party, gifts can be dropped off at Len Ignatowski's home at 2408 Oak Vale Court, N.W., Vienna. Call for a delivery time

at 703-255-0353. If not, see you at the party with your armful of gifts and clothing, a covered dish, and your holiday spirit.

The Holiday Party replaces the December membership meeting. Let's make this tradition the greatest one yet by making the holidays a little more joyful for the less fortunate.

## LAMB CENTER OUTREACH

The 2nd Annual Food Drive for the Lamb Center, an interdenominational daytime homeless center at Fairfax Circle, was a smashing success with over 150 cans and dry packages of soup and assorted cereals, candy, and snack bars to replenish the center's winter pantry. The donations were collected at the November 17<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The Number One soup flavor is tomato.

Many thanks to the members who made donations to this AVVA community outreach project. Another AVVA program is the collection of hotel and travel size toiletries for the Center's shower facilities.

The Lamb Center provides space and time for Vets Center staff to meet with homeless veterans regarding their benefits and will use a chapter grant of \$1,500 to transport homeless veterans to two VA hospitals for health care and to support other homeless veteran needs.



John MacPherson, Lamb Center Executive Director, accepts our food donation from Diane Ignatowski, Chapter 227 AVVA Representative. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## 2012 CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The chapter bi-annual elections will be held at the April membership meeting. If you have a strong desire to serve your fellow veterans, active duty military, and our community, offer to serve as an officer or director. If you are not sure, try a directorship as most past and current officers have done. Contact Len Funk (703-368-5888) if you have any questions or want to be a candidate for an officer or directorship. Elections will be held at the April membership meeting.

## VETERANS DAY 2011

- **DMZ to Delta® Dance:** The DMZ to Delta® dance was another veteran outreach success including a large turnout of chapter members. Thanks to Jonathan Olson and Paul Standcliff who manage the 50/50 raffle, Charlie Klein and Ardis Mills for staffing the silent auction, Sharon Celesnik, Fran Knouse, Sarah Waxman, and Margaret Stern for selling tickets, and Max Knouse, Bob Mills, Joe Celesnik, Len Funk, and Byron Sheldon for guarding the ballroom doors. Special thanks to Cyndy Stancliff for printing the dance tickets for free. Charlie Hobbs, VVA Membership Affairs Chairman, and his wife, Sharon, were in attendance. Charlie was managing the VVA information tent on the mall on Veterans Day. Wayne Reynolds, VVA National Treasurer, and his wife, Carol, attended the dance too. The dance attendees gave high marks for the incredible friendly atmosphere, great food, and great sounds. Special thanks to Len Ignatowski, Dance Chairman, for another successful dance. Another special thank you for the members who made a dance donation. The dance earned \$1,065.4. The contract for the 2012 dance has already been signed in anticipation of a large turnout for the 30th Anniversary of The Wall.
- **MEMORIAL DAY WRITER'S PROJECT:** A \$200 grant was given to the Memorial Day Writer's Project to pay for the tent rental for their Veterans Day program on the mall near The Wall. Several chapter members help establish this special program for Veterans Day and Memorial Day on the mall. The program provides a venue for veterans and spouses to express their military experiences in music, poetry, or other literary media.
- **LEESBURG HONORS VETERANS:** Chuck Harris, Chapter Treasurer, represented the chapter at the City of Leesburg's Veterans Day Commemoration at The George C. Marshall International Center. He led the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. This is the second year that Chuck has been an official program participant. Thanks, Chuck.

## HOMELESS VETERAN OUTREACH

- **2012 WINTERHAVETERAN STANDDOWN:** The annual homeless veteran standdown is set for January 21, 2012 from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. The day promises to be a very rewarding experience and spouses and female AVVA members are strongly encouraged to volunteer for the day. The hospital provides beverages, snacks, lunch, and a hard day's work in helping female veterans and their children in need. One memorable event was when a teenage daughter of a mother veteran found a great evening gown for her senior prom. Her facial expression and tears were an instant medical remedy for our tired bodies. The volunteer deadline is December 12th. Fax your form, which is on Page 3, **NOW!**
- **VIETNAM LADY VETERAN EMERGENCY GRANT:** At the request of Martha Valdez, VASH Case Manager, a \$212 grant was given to a Vietnam War female veteran to assist in her apartment rent shortage due to a family emergency that required her to miss work without pay. This assistance fulfills our chapter legacy as being known as "the source of last resort!" and we are happy to continue it.

## SPEAKER'S PANEL

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Tom Stryer, Speaker's Panel Chairperson, launched the 2011-12 campaign by discussing his Tour of Duty with the brown water navy to 119 seventh grade students in five classes of Ms. Amy Smith, Social Studies teacher at Frost Middle School in the Fairfax County Public Schools. Tom was among several veterans and military personnel who were at the school for Veterans Day observances.

Tom's initial outreach to the local schools has resulted in one appearance before the Arlington Public Schools social study workshop and a future classroom appearance. If you wish to work on the speaker's panel, call Tom at 703-323-9032. Special thanks to the members who have already responded to the Minuteman Alert regarding the panel.

He was impressed with the students' intelligent and thoughtful questions, which gives hope that our country's future is very promising. To insure that they understand the real costs of any war, offer to provide your story to our future voters and leaders.

## WHITE HOUSE WORKSHOP

by Bruce Waxman

On November 16th, Bruce Waxman, Vince Kaspar Awards for Excellence in the Arts Chairperson, attended a National Endowment for the Humanities event, "Using the Humanities to Support the Veteran Community" at the White House Executive Office Building. The program featured veteran poetry and selective play scenes for discussion. The purpose was to develop awareness in the use of literature as a proven and effective tool in engaging, sensitizing, and improving understanding for those who treat veterans as well as the veterans themselves and their families. Bruce invited Dick Epstein of the Memorial Day Writer's Project to the event.

**WINTERHAVEN HOMELESS STAND DOWI**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012**  
**7:00 am – 4:00 pm**

VA Medical Center Date

The information requested on this form is solicited under the authority of Title 38, US Code, Sec 213 and will be used in the selection and placement of potential volunteers in the Voluntary Service Program. It will not be used for any other purpose. Disclosure is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the information will hamper our ability to arrange the most satisfactory assignment for you and the Veterans Administration.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Street Address and City, State & Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth (mm/dd/year):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Shirt size:**  
 S  M  L  XL  XXL

**Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **In Case of Emergency Notify:**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you work at Winterhaven last year?**  yes  no  
**If yes, where did you work?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Which area will you be working?** Ladies Clothing Station

**Which Organization are you representing?** Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227

**Waiver:** I hereby waive all claims to monetary benefits for services rendered as a volunteer worker on a "without compensation basis". I understand that this waiver applies only to compensation for specific services rendered in the Voluntary Service Program and has no relation to any compensation for other services or benefits to which I may be entitled.

X \_\_\_\_\_

( Volunteer's Signature)

(Date)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All persons participating in the Winterhaven, 2012, MUST complete a Voluntary Service Application for this event. This includes all VA, DoD, and all regularly scheduled volunteers of the VAMC. All volunteers MUST be at least 18 years of age or older.

**Return Completed Form to:** DCVAMC, VOLUNTARY SERVICE,#135  
50 IRVING STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC, 20422  
OR FAX to (202)745-2281  
**PLEASE CALL 202/745-8320 TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF APPLICATION!**

**Application deadline is Monday, December 12, 2011.**

## Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts

The 16th Annual Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts is officially opened. The chapter and the Memorial Day Writers Project sponsor the program to recognize local high school talent in poetry and the visual arts. Prizes for each medium are \$200 for 1st Place, \$100 for Second Place, and \$50 for Third Place.

The contest is open to all high school juniors and seniors who reside or attend school in Arlington and Fairfax Counties, the Town of Vienna, and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Fairfax. The deadline is March 3, 2012 and the awards will be presented at the May 2012 membership meeting.

Art judges are needed for this year's contest. Entry submission directions and "frequent asked questions" are on the chapter webpage at [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org). Questions or art judge recommendations can be directed to Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269 or email at [bruce\\_waxman@vva227.org](mailto:bruce_waxman@vva227.org).

## HOLIDAY PARTY DRIVING DIRECTIONS

I-66 to Centreville, Exit 53, Rte. 28 South Centreville

Left Turn at New Braddock Road, Rte. 620, East

Right Turn on to Union Mill Road

Right Turn on Springstone Drive

1<sup>st</sup> Left turn on to Sandstone Way

1<sup>st</sup> Left turn on to White Stone Court 13606, (driveway is at the end of the cul de-sac)

**Lost: Call Bill or Cheryl at 703-968-0686.**

## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The November 17th membership featured RADM Thomas Morrison who spoke about his 29 year navy career as a line officer and as a navy JAG lawyer. He went to law school after six years as a line officer as part of his advanced career education. He claimed to have the lowest LSAT score for a navy officer accepted into law school. Upon graduation, he never set foot on ship as a duty officer. His law degree taught him to think clearly and logically, speak and write with confidence, and view the issues outside of his domain. One surprising comment was that military personnel have more legal rights in a military court than in a civilian court. He cited three legal cases that made a major impact on his life perspective.

- Passenger bumping case: As the only legal assistance officer on base, he heard the troubling case of a military dependent that was bumped from her airline flight for Christmas with her family. The airline had a policy of canceling flights if the aircraft was not fully loaded. After the airline president basically hung up on him, he decided to pursue the case in civilian court. The Justice Department selected his brief as the test case against certain airline practices. The federal government won the case, and the mother was properly compensated. This case taught him that government has a role in protecting the little guy.
- St. Valentine: He was selected to defend the navy against a public organization that wanted the navy to cease operations for a bombing range on an island. He won the court case for the continual use of the island to maintain our pilots' flying proficiency.
- U.S.S. Stark attack: He was selected to defend the captain of the U.S.S. Stark which sustained physical damage and casualties from an Iraqi missile attack. This case taught him that bad things happen to good people and nothing can be done to help the person. The captain retired with a reduction in rank for retirement.

He answered several questions regarding the law and personal views, but he had to decline giving a legal opinion since he is not licensed in Virginia. One important recommendation is "don't be your own lawyer" if the legal matter has major financial or personal costs. He recommended interviewing two or three lawyers before selecting one, and he believes that you should not have to pay to have a lawyer to determine if you need a lawyer.

Byron Sheldon presented a VVA baseball can and a U.S./Veteran flag lapel pin to the speaker. As his last act, he drew the 50/50 raffle ticket that was owned by Bill Lynch.

## GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

**Give a VVA Membership to a fellow Vietnam Veteran**

*"It is the gift that keeps on giving!"*



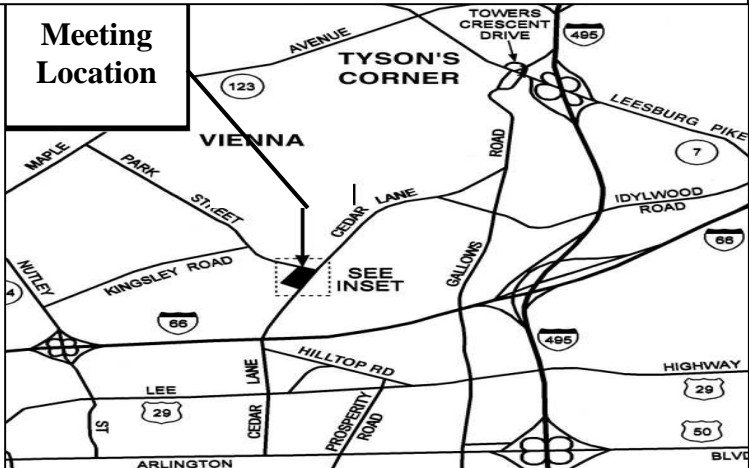
# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

December 2011



## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

**President:** Byron Sheldon – 703-850-3498  
**Vice President:** Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269  
**Secretary:** Ron Ball  
**Treasurer:** Chuck Harris  
**Sergeant at Arms:** Jonathan Olson  
**Board of Directors:** Paul Stancliff, Len Funk, Len Ignatowski, Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, and Tom Stryer.  
**AVVA Representative:** Diane Ignatowski 703-255-0353  
**Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353  
**School Speaker's Panel:** Tom Stryer 703-323-9032  
**Meeting Guest Speaker:** Len Funk 703-820-8118  
**DMZ To Delta@Dance:** Len Ignatowski  
**Suits for Veterans:** Chuck Harris 703-729-5665



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

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

### 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 OPERATIONS PLAN

### December 2010:

- 01: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va., 7:30 PM
- 03: Virginia State Council Meeting, Virginia Beach, Va.
- 10: **Holiday Party 6:00 PM:** Host: Bill & Cheryl Dumsick at 703-968-0686. Call for covered dish selection and bring children winter clothing and gifts in support of a homeless family shelter.
- 15: No membership meeting
- 25: Merry Christmas

### January 2012

- 01: Happy New Year
- 04: Lyons PTSD Class Visit to The Wall: Meet at the flag pole @ 11:00 AM. POC: Ben Buckley 703-978-9179
- 05: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va, 7:30 PM
- 19: Membership Meeting 7:30 AM: Speaker: Len Ignatowski, "Rebuilding QL-20 in 1970 and His 2011 Return Visit"
- 21: Winterhaven Standdown: DC Veterans Administration Hospital.

### February 2012

- 02: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va., 7:30 PM
- 16: Membership Meeting 7:30 AM: Speaker: Leroi Mason, "How to help military veterans from returning to prison"

### VETERAN'S HOTLINE 1-800-273-8255

**24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK  
 DON'T HESITATE! CALL NOW**

### VVA CAR DONATION PROGRAM

**1-800-Help Vets**

## **WHY ARE YOU NOT IN ONE OF OUR PHOTOGRAPHS?**



# **NO DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

## **HOLIDAY PARTY**

*“Make Charlie Ride the Hood!”*

**December 10, 2011**

## **2012 WINTERHAVEN STANDDOWN**

## **D.C. VETERANS HOSPITAL**

**January 21, 2012**

***VOLUNTEER FORM DEADLINE: December 12, 2011***

**VOLUNTEER NOW!**

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