

# 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

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

January 2012



Charlie Klein is overjoyed that he doesn't have to ride the hood despite a high number of gift and clothing donations for needy children. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## HOLIDAY PARTY!

Bill and Cheryl Dumsick were great Holiday Party hosts. They deserve special accolades since Cheryl is recovering from a foot injury, and Bill was a one man band in decorating their home. Diane Ignatowski and Diane Sheldon, AVVA members, helped by buying the hot meat selections, the party plates and silverware. Len Ignatowski and Byron Sheldon set up the party amenities under Cheryl's direction.

Byron Sheldon, chapter president, gave a very warm welcome and prayer with a special acknowledgement to our spouses who made this all possible by sharing us with the chapter's endeavors. A special note to first time party attendees, Bev Burns, a Vietnam veteran, and Scott and Glynda Hurley. Hope to see them at the January meeting.

The only party flaw was that there was still room at the inn for more member attendance. For those who did not attend, another great opportunity to meet your fellow veterans and spouses was missed.

The party fulfilled our community commitment by supplying children's gifts and winter clothing to the Sullivan House, a family shelter in Arlington County for over twenty years. Unfortunately, our generosity did not fill up Jonathan's car, so Charlie Klein got to ride in the car for at least another year.

## JANUARY MEETING: ROAD BUILDING IN VIETNAM & VN TODAY

The January 19th membership meeting features Len Ignatowski, who will discuss the military road building program during the Vietnam War and his July 2011 visit to Vietnam and to QL-20, the road that his unit rebuilt from QL-1 to just beyond the II/III MR border. He will include a Power Point presentation.

Come early to meet fellow members and enjoy a great dinner. Family members and guests are always welcome. Our meetings are alcohol and smoke free. The meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

## 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 "frequently 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).

## SPEAKER'S PANEL

On December 7th, Tom Stryer, Speaker's Panel Chairman, and Len Ignatowski shared their Tour of Duty at an Arlington Public Schools history and social studies teacher workshop. The Q&A period was enhanced with the specially prepared talking points that compared the Vietnam War with the current Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. The VVA PTSD booklet, The VVA (continued Page 3)

# ANOTHER GREAT YEAR 2011



John Rowan, VVA President, presents the 2011 VVA Member of the Year Award to Len Ignatowski (L) at the National Convention.



Max Knouse prepares the hot dogs and hamburgers for the Annual Memorial Day Barbecue.



Bruce Waxam (L) received the prestigious chapter's Dean K. Phillips Award for Exceptional Service to Veterans



Ben Buckley (R) welcomes Rodney Smith, Team Leader of the Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Class, N.J. to The Wall. The visit to The Wall and Arlington National Cemetery is part of the PTSD treatment. The chapter hosts the visits on a 45 day schedule.



A new veteran assistance relationship was established with Elks Lodge 2188 of Fairfax. The lodge held a barbecue fundraiser to help homeless veterans and needy military personnel.



Chapter members attended the funeral of a Vietnam War veteran in response to his daughter's appeal since no family members were attending. The chapter paid for lodging and meals and provided transportation to the funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

***WHAT CAN YOU DO  
TO MAKE 2012 A BETTER YEAR?***

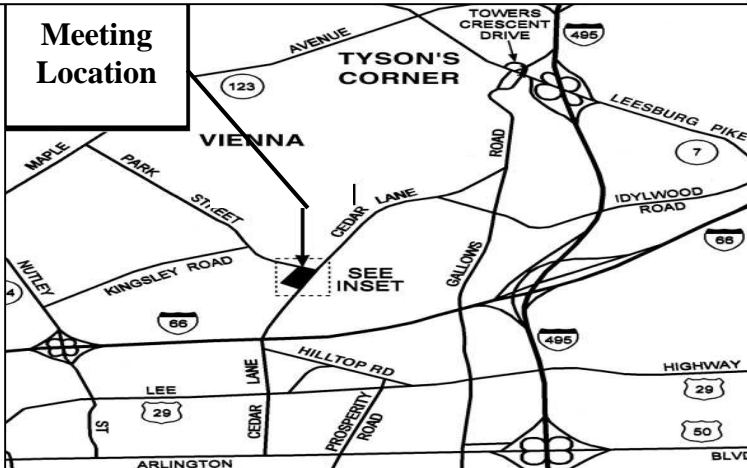
# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

January 2012



## 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

### 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"

### March 2012

- 01: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va, 7:30 PM
- 10: State Council Meeting, Lynchburg, Va.
- 15: Membership Meeting 7:30 AM: 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative Program

### April 2012:

- 05: Board Meeting: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va, 7:30 PM
- 19: Membership Meeting 7:30 AM: Speaker: Ed LaClare, "Memories of a WW II Pilot, My Dad"

### 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**

## 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.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:** Veteran newspaper, and the Speaker's Panel Handout were distributed. Several teachers remained after the workshop to ask additional questions. Many thanks to Ms. Diana Hasuly Ackman, Social Studies Supervisor, and Ms. Cathy Bonneville Hix, K-12 Social Studies Specialist, for inviting the Speaker's Panel to the workshop. Their response indicates that the Speakers Panel will be busy in Arlington Public Schools in 2012. Members can volunteer to be on the Speaker's Panel by contacting Tom at 703-323-9032.

**START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT**  
**ATTEND THE JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
*“Road Building during the Vietnam War  
and Vietnam Today”*

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***NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION***  
***“I WILL SUPPORT ONE CHAPTER ACTIVITY”***

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”