

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”

June 2013



President Byron Sheldon
1942-2013

TAPS for PRESIDENT SHELDON

Byron Sheldon, Chapter President, passed away on May 17, 2013 after a brief battle with cancer. He was a retired USMC Gunnery Sergeant with twenty years of service and two Tours in Vietnam. Byron joined the chapter in 2001 when he decided that he needed to do more for his fellow veterans and active duty military personnel. After supporting many chapter activities, he became a chapter director in 2005, chapter vice president in 2008, and president in 2010. He was currently serving his second president's term. After becoming a chapter delegate to the state council, he was appointed to the Region 3 Disciplinary Committee in 2012. One immediate achievement was revising the council's bylaws. He noticed that the bylaws contained numerous grammar and syntax errors. In true Marine fashion, he brought the matter to the state council attention and volunteered to correct the errors.

Byron's exceptional leadership and down-to-earth demeanor added to the chapter's success by attacking problems head-on and representing the chapter at veteran organization events. His dedication and compassion were always evident at the many events in which he represented the chapter especially if there was a young Marine in attendance. The board held a board meeting at Byron's home on May 14th with an agenda of Marine humor and Byron's contributions and what they meant to the chapter. Although he had difficulty in speaking, his facial expression said that he was enjoying every minute of it even though he could not counter attack the pundits. It was an enjoyable but very emotional experience for all who attended. Diane, his wife, said that the chapter was a large part of his life, and she was extremely grateful of the board coming to meet with Byron.

Bruce Waxman becomes the chapter president in accordance with the bylaws. The board will appoint a new vice president. Any member who wants to be considered for the vice president position, contact Bruce Waxman at 703-323-0269. A memorial service is scheduled for 4:00 PM on June 5, 2013 at Reston Bible Church, 45650 Oakbrook Court, Dulles, Va. Internment with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery is being scheduled. His obituary is at http://www.funeralchoices.com/mgxroot/page_10782.php?task=Current&listing=A1. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to the chapter to support Byron's desire to help veterans. The chapter was very fortunate to have Byron's service.

MODERN MILITARY MEDICINE

LTC Kevin M. Franke, USAF, will discuss modern military health and medical policies and treatment at the June 20th membership meeting. He is the current Chief, Medical Current Operations Division with responsibilities for medical wartime and peacetime crisis situations, operations, and exercises.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members! Spouses and family are always welcome. Better yet, bring fellow veterans with you. You never know who you might meet at the meeting. No drinking of alcoholic beverages is allowed during the meeting.

8 IN A ROW??

The chapter is presenting a plaque to the Nationals at home plate before the game for their continuous military support, and the chapter is giving a grant to Final Salute, a woman's homeless veteran home, in honor of the Nationals.

The chapter's traditional family baseball event will be the Mets vs. Nationals game on Sunday, July 28th at 1:35 PM. The ticket price is \$9. Mail your check payment to Bill Lynch, ATTN: VVA Baseball Game, 6322 Applegarth Ct., Alexandria, Va. 22312. Questions, call 703-256-4484. Ticket order deadline is July 5th. Please include your phone and email address. Will our attendance make it "8" straight wins for the Nationals. Bring family, friends, and fellow veterans for a great time.



Jim McGinty (L) and Tom Worrell (R) carry the wreath to The Wall for our memorial service. Photo by Chris Beverley.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The chapter successfully accomplished its multi-operational mission for Memorial Day weekend. Bill Dumsick, Project Manager, with Len Ignatowski, Max Knouse, Charlie Klein, and Fran Knouse operated the information booth at Viva Vienna. Many contacts were made with local Vietnam veterans who expressed a strong desire to join the chapter. That evening, Diane and Len Ignatowski hosted the traditional family barbecue. Special kudos to Diane Ignatowski as the Master Host, while Max Knouse performed his duty as Barbecue Chef Extraordinaire.

The traditional wreath laying at The Wall on Memorial Day morning was accomplished with a special spirit of remembrance due to the passing of Byron Sheldon. The service at The Wall apex included laying our wreath, a private prayer, the naming of brothers and sisters whose names are on The Wall by chapter members, and Len Funk reciting the epic war poem, Flanders Field. He recited a second poem, "Ode To The Fallen", another WW I poem, which he revised as a tribute to Byron Sheldon's death. Len Ignatowski served as host, while Chris Beverley took

photographs of the service. Jim McGinty, newest member, and Tom Worrell, most senior active member, carried the wreath to The Wall. The chapter gave a \$200 grant for the Memorial Day Writers' Project tent rental near The Wall for Memorial Day.

After the service, members and family had breakfast at a local restaurant. Special kudos to Bob Dadomoff, who traveled from his Florida retirement home to ride in Rolling Thunder and to attend our memorial service and breakfast. Joe Celesnik and Zeke Seville represented the chapter at the Viva Vienna Salute to Vietnam Veterans, while others attended the memorial service at The Wall. Overall, our Memorial Day mission was highly successful.

DANCE IS ON!

The contract for the 25th Anniversary DMZ to Delta dance for a new home has been signed. The dance is set for the traditional November 10th date. Our new home is the Holiday Inn Alexandria SW, which has the same amenities including close proximity to a Metro station. Mark your calendar for attending this chapter event.

The dance is in need of silent auction products which can range from Vietnam War memorabilia to hotel or meal gift certificates. If you can provide an item, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: KASPAR AWARDS

The 17th Annual Vince Kaspar Awards for Excellence in the Arts was held at the May 16th membership meeting. The student recognition program is a joint effort of the chapter and the Memorial Day Writers' Project. Bruce Waxman was the Master of Ceremonies. The art competition had six entries from three high schools, and the poetry competition had thirty-one entries from three high schools. Megan Harmeyer of West Springfield HS submitted sixteen poems. Each student received a Vince Kaspar dog tag, while the winners and honorable mentions received a certificate for their accomplishment. Bruce Waxman served as the project manager. Nancy Session, a local artist, was the arts judge, while Cathie Solomonson and Mike McDonnell of the chapter and Clyde Wray and Dick Epstein of the Writers' Project judged the poems. Special thanks to Cathie for managing the poetry entries while Bruce was tending to a personal matter. The judges considered the art and poetry to be of exceptional quality and only a hair thin line separated several selections. The Fairfax County Public Schools are doing a great job.

The art winners are:

1st Prize (\$250): Rebecca Stibrik, Sr., West Springfield HS, When All Are Gone, computer graphic

2nd Prize (\$150): Megan Ganley, Jr. Thomas Jefferson H.S., Ground Zero: Day One, steel sculpture

3rd Prize (\$100): Alyssa Debra, Sr., West Springfield H.S., Imagine of a woman (Great Garbo), pencil and charcoal drawing

Honorable Mention: Briana Brui, Jr., Herndon HS, image of a woman, digital photography

The poetry winners are:

1st Prize (\$250 each): Jei-si Ang, Jr., West Springfield HS, Passing

Eric Thompson, Sr., Robert E. Lee HS, A Night With Lady Literature

3rd Prize (\$100): Eric Thompson, Sr., Robert E. Lee HS, Tick Tock.

Honorable Mention: *Shaniqua K. Burhans, Sr., West Springfield HS, Bittersweet Lectures *, *Megan Harmeyer, Sr. West Springfield H.S., end result, musing of dusk *, *Elsie Hendricks, Jr., Fairfax HS, Language Buckets and Pitter Patter *, *Christy_Von Wald, Sr., Robert E. Lee HS, Hand in Hand, They Stand, The day is bright with the might of a new dawn, and

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

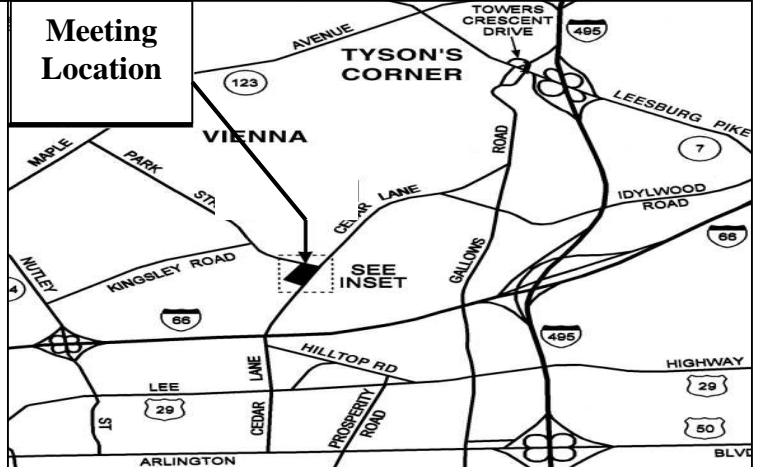
June 2013



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269
Vice President: Vacant, Open for appointment
Secretary: Ron Ball
Treasurer: Chuck Harris
Sergeant at Arms: Jonathan Olson
Board of Directors: Paul Stancliff, Len Ignatowski, Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Joe Celesnik, Max Knouse, Bill Lynch, Chris Beverly, 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
Lyons PTSD Visit: Ben Buckley 703-978-9179

Meeting Location



CHAPTER INFORMATION: 703-968-0686

CHAPTER WEB SITE: 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

June 2013

06: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 20: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: LTC. Kevin M. Franke, USAF, "Modern Military Medicine"

July 2013

04: 4th of July – Board meeting rescheduled to July 11th.
 July 5th: Deadline for purchasing Nationals baseball game tickets
 10: Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at the flagpole at 11:00 am.
 11: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 18: **NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
 28: Annual Washington Nationals MLB Family Baseball Game

August 2013:

01: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 13-17: VVA National Convention

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

HOUSEHOLD GOODS DONATION – "It Works for Us!"

The VVA Household Goods program provided over \$ 3000 of annual income. You can help in three ways.

- Donate household goods and clothing by calling 1-800-459-8387 to schedule a pick-up, or drop off the items at the Unique Thrift Store on 2956 Gallows Road (the old Levitz Store) and buy something.
- Shopping at the store offers an excellent source for home furniture and decorations for children's new apartments or your second home. Clothing and other items are like new. One member's teenage son enjoys shopping for clothes and bedroom decorations at the store which has great prices. The store hours are Mon. – Sat.: 10 AM to 8 PM, and Sun.: 11 AM to 6 PM.
- Drop-off sheds, similar to the ones that are at shopping centers, are available. If you can provide a location, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353. Every donation helps!

“MODERN MILITARY MEDICINE”

Membership Meeting

June 20th

LYONS VAMC COMBAT PTSD CLASS VISIT

July 10th

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July and August

NATIONALS MLB FAMILY GAME

July 28th

Ticket order deadline: July 5th

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”