

# 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”*

January 2015

## What a great way to start the New Year!

The January 15th membership meeting offers a great way to start the New Year on the right foot as a chapter member. Mike Walsh, a Vietnam War veteran, will discuss his personal quest to document every Vietnam War memorial in the United States. This emotional topic should be of great interest to every member.

Come early to enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members. You never know who you might meet. Better yet, bring someone or a Vietnam War veteran with you. So Fall In for the January 15th membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.



Our generosity fills up Charlie's pickup truck. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## Loop Hole Saves Charlie!

On December 13th Bill and Cheryl Dumsick's hospitality provided the primary ingredient for another great Holiday Party. An abundance of food and house decorations, which challenge Macy's store reputation, were part of the menu too. The icing on the party was the successful children's clothing and gifts collection for the Sullivan House, a family shelter in Arlington County. This holiday sharing spirit is a chapter tradition that is over twenty years old.

Charlie Klein fearing that the odds were not in his favor, drove his pickup truck to transport the children's gifts and clothing donations. So he avoided the threat of riding the hood of Jonathan Olson's car because the car was full of presents. A special kudos to first time attendee and new member, Robert DiFulgo. Hope to see him at the January meeting.

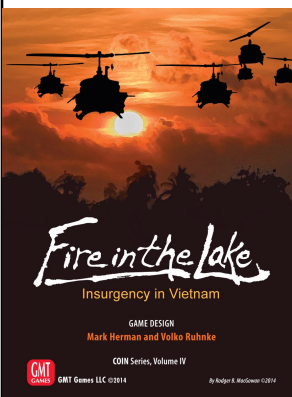
The only party disappointment was that there was still room at the inn for more members. For those who did not attend, another great opportunity to meet your fellow veterans and spouses was missed. The party marked the end of another exceptional year for Chapter 227.

## VIETNAM WAR GAME SUPPORTS CHAPTER

After attending the January 2014 membership meeting and learning about our successful veteran and community outreach programs, Volko Ruhnke, a board game designer, decided to donate the royalties from his game, "Fire in the Lake - Insurgency in Vietnam" to the chapter. The board game objective is to educate the game players about the Vietnam War.

Information about the game is at GMT Games, the publisher, website at <http://www.gmtgames.com/p-450-fire-in-the-lake.aspx>. Game comments are found at > <http://talk.consimworld.com/WebX?14@@.1dd8f40d/0>.

The initial donation is \$ 9,475.38. The chapter thanks Mr. Ruhnke for his generosity and his support of Vietnam veterans.



## HOLIDAY CHEER!

A chapter tradition was successfully fulfilled when thirty \$ 65 VISA gift cards were distributed to needy VASH families for their Holiday needs. The Pentagon Federal Credit Union waived the gift certificate fee. The chapter provided a \$ 500 grant while members contributed \$ 1,465. The balance is being retained for next year holiday's effort. Our assistance augmented the private donations from two sources that paid for the holiday needs of the identified VASH families. The VASH case managers deserve our thanks for their untiring and above the call of duty effort in helping our homeless veterans and their families in their successful transition.

Chuck Harris and his wife, Glenda, successfully provided Holiday Cheer for a wounded warrior family. The soldier is being treated at Ft. Belvoir Hospital has a family of three children. The chapter provided a \$ 500 grant for this Holiday Cheer.



Tom Stryer shares his Tour of Duty with Madeira School students. Photo by Len Ignatowski

## SPEAKER'S PANEL

The chapter's Speaker's Panel had two interesting appearances during December 2014. On December 6th Tom Stryer and Chuck Harris spoke at the Daughters of the American Revolution, Henry Clay Chapter. Chuck is a two Tour helicopter gunship pilot, while Tom served as the Maintenance Officer for the brown water navy in the Delta.

On December 12th, Tom and Joanne Stryer and Len Ignatowski spoke to Dr. Noel Schiller's Advanced Senior Elective: The Vietnam War class of ten students at the Madeira School in Great Falls, Va. The course objective is to investigate the Vietnam War, from its origins to the return of its veterans in terms of government policies and the civilian political responses.

Joanne provided a wife's perspective whose husband was deployed for a year to South Vietnam. Len served as an engineering officer in MR III. Both engagements generated a positive response from the audiences. Tom is always looking for new panel members and speaking opportunities. Call him at 703-323-9032.



Bruce Waxman speaks at the KVVAA dinner. Photograph by Melissa Kalner.

## KVVAA PARTNERSHIP THRIVES

By Bruce Waxman

Korean Vietnam Veterans Association of USA, December 12, dinner was held at the Palace Restaurant in Annandale. Attendees, who served in the Korean army, included Association members from around the United States. Speakers included, among others, the Association's National President Mr. James HW Han, a military attaché from the South Korean Embassy, Bernie Edelman, representing VVA national, a representative from the US Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commission and VVA 227 President Bruce Waxman.

Also present from VVA 227 were Director Jay Kalner and his wife Melissa and Bruce's wife Sarah Elpern. It was particularly moving for 227 members present to hear Mr. Han's unexpected lengthy condolences, comments and praise regarding Byron Sheldon, who died while serving as the prior president of Chapter 227.

## VETERANS COURT DOCKET MENTORS NEEDED NOW!

**Veteran Docket Needs Mentors:** The Veterans Court Docket for the Fairfax County District is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2015. The program needs mentors to work with the veterans. Contact Don Northcutt, Volunteer Mentor Coordinator, 571-232-6076 or Facebook. No legal experience is necessary, just be yourself to help a fellow veteran. You need not live in Fairfax County to serve. The first docket hearing is scheduled for February 12, 2015 at 2 PM in Courtroom 1E in the Fairfax County Court House, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax City. Jay Kalner, Bruce Waxman, Dan Kirby, and Don Drunic have already volunteered. So call now!

## CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **Suits for Vets Success:** The 2014 Veterans Day fundraiser provided \$3,500 for Jos. A. Bank gift certificates and \$ 300 Target gift certificates. The campaign is a partnership between the chapter and the employees of the Mitre Corp. and a federal office. Chuck Harris serves as the chapter POC and collector of high quality used men and women's attire for the Wounded Warriors caretakers. Any questions, call him at 703-729-5665.
- **VASH Veteran Employment Success** The chapter grant to purchase training attire for a VASH veteran resulted in the veteran securing employment as a bus driver with METRO. One down and many more to go! If you can provide an employment opportunity for a VASH veteran, contact Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com.
- **Networking Helps:** When the chapter could not fulfill a VASH request to provide medical treatment transportation for a Prince William County VASH veteran, Desi Arnaiz Chapter 617 President, promptly responded. Thanks to Chapter 617.

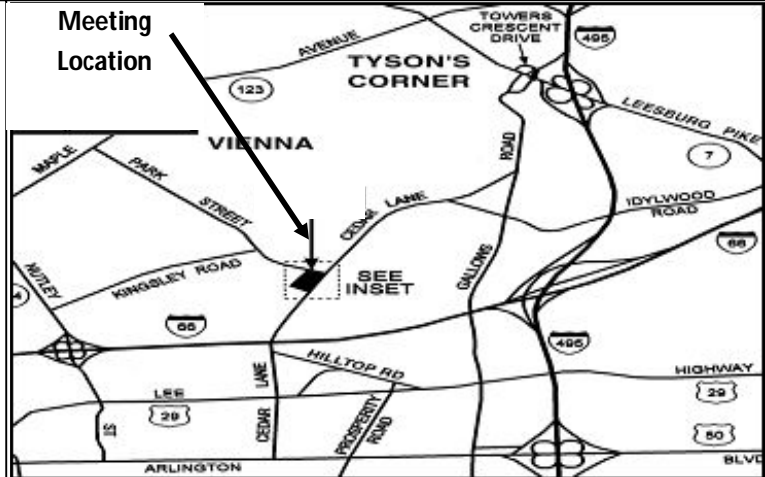
## CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

January 2015



### OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

**President:** Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269  
**Vice President:** Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353  
**Secretary:** Ron Ball  
**Treasurer:** Chuck Harris  
**Sergeant at Arms:** Jonathan Olson  
**Board of Directors:** Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Max Knouse, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer, Bob Tecklenburg, Scott Hurley, Dennis Stephens, and Jay Kalner.  
**AVVA Representative:** Vacant  
**Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353  
**School Speaker's Panel:** Tom Stryer 703-323-9032  
**Meeting Guest Speaker:** Len Funk 703-820-8118  
**Suits for Veterans:** Chuck Harris 703-729-5665  
**Lyons PTSD Visit:** Ben Buckley 703-978-9179  
**Used Books Program:** Charlie Klein 703-509-9469



### MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of the Month except July, August, and December  
Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane  
Vienna, Virginia (Park St. & Cedar Lane)  
Pre-Meeting Dinner (Optional 6:30 PM Meeting: 7:30 PM)

CHAPTER WEBSITE: [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org)

## CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

### Jan. 2015

08: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
15: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Speaker: Mike Walsh, "U.S. Vietnam War Memorials"  
21: Lyons Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at The Wall at 11:00 AM.

### Feb.

05: Board Meeting: 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
19: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Speaker: Jamie Arthurs, "Veteran's Burial Benefits and Burial Pre-Planning".

### Mar.

05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.  
19: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Speaker: Matt Zeller, "Saving Native Afghanistan Who Served as U.S. Military Interpreters."  
21: Virginia State Council Meeting @ South Hill, Virginia. Len Ignatowski is the chapter delegate.

## WELCOME HOME, VIETNAM VETERANS 2015

Our highly successful 2013 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day program inspired Bruce Waxman to host another event for 2015. Several veteran service organizations have tentatively agreed to support and participate in the program. The tentative date is Sunday evening, March 29, 2015 at the Johnson Center Cinema at the George Mason University. The time is not set yet.

The program features the award winning film, "Last Days in Vietnam", a war panel discussion, and a hospitality session. George Mason University Professor Meredith Lair, an expert on Vietnam War films and an instructor on a college course about the war will serve as the moderator. WGBH, a Boston, Massachusetts TV station is providing the film free for the event. The loan conditions are that there is no admission fee, no fundraising, open to the general public, and dignitaries and organizations be from Northern Virginia. The TV station is contacting some of the persons in the movie and who live in the D.C. about their participation in the event.

Dick Weaver, chapter member, is managing the event, but he needs help. His email address is [rlweav23@cox.net](mailto:rlweav23@cox.net). The program needs assistance in working with the university in finalizing the program details, publicity, and financial support or sponsorship. Anticipated costs are the theater rental and staffing, university catering, and incidental. If you have any ideas or resources, contact Dick.

The event is open to USO, Red Cross, Northern Virginia VSOs, diplomatic veterans, CIA, flight attendants, and national organizations from Australia, Thailand, South Korean, and Vietnam. Can you help?

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**January 15th**

**“U.S. Vietnam War Memorials”**

**LYONS COMBAT PTSD VISIT**

**January 21st @ 11:00 AM at The Wall**

**VETERANS COURT DOCKET MENTORS NEEDED**

**NOW!**

*See Newsletter for Details*

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.**

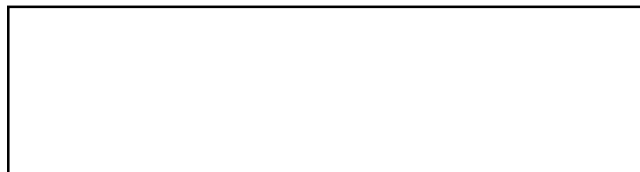
**CHAPTER 227**

**DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER**

**P.O. Box 5653**

**Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653**

**Address Service Requested**



**OUR MISSION**

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

*Since October 11, 1985*