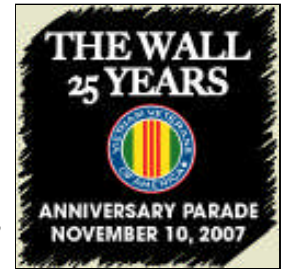


THE JOURNEY

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



August-September 2007

22nd TOUR OF DUTY

The September 20th membership meeting inaugurates our 22nd Tour of Duty of continuous service to our Nation, veterans, and community. The anniversary celebration features the traditional cake and a great speaker. All members and guests are invited to this gala event. Come early for dinner and meet your fellow Vietnam veterans.

Jon B. Norswothy, Founding Director, will discuss The Sanctuary, a program to help restore peace, hope, and significance to military, law enforcement, intelligence, and emergency response personnel who experience trauma in the line of duty, as well as support to their families since May 2003. Jon is an army airborne veteran, ordained minister, and federal intelligence officer. His unique qualifications and experience combine to make The Sanctuary an effective program.

Bring the entire family and friends including a fellow veteran to our 22nd Tour of Duty celebration. Come early and enjoy a great meal and meet your fellow members and their families. You never know who you may meet?



Members and guests stand for the Star Spangled Banner. Photo by Bruce Waxman.

THE GAME!

The July membership meeting was at RFK Stadium where thirty plus members and guests participated in the Nationals MLB Veteran Appreciation Night on Saturday, July 21st. Everyone had an enjoyable time especially since the Nationals beat the Colorado Rockies, 3 to 0.

Special thanks to Bill Bohuslaw who coordinated the event. Special note to Tom Stryer and Max Knouse for hosting the two largest contingencies to the game.

The game was the second year that the chapter combined our July meeting with the Nationals Veteran Appreciation Night. Its success guarantees another repeat next year in the "new" baseball stadium.

WOUNDED WARRIORS NIGHT ON THE TOWN

On July 11, Tom Stryer, Len Ignatowski, and Byron Sheldon, served as hosts to the *Wounded Warriors Night on the Town* at the Capital Hilton. About twenty recuperating service men and women and their family members accepted VVA's invitation for dinner. Rick Weidman and Bernie Edelman of VVA were hosts too. Again, the dinner is a low key evening out to relieve the stress of recovering from one's combat injuries. Len Ignatowski sat with three New York City army reservists who Len had met at a previous dinner. They are dinner regulars.

Again, the Capital Hilton provided an excellent dinner with the same high level of service. The chef and the hotel staff stood at attention and thanked the men and women for their service to our country at the end of the dinner. One of the waiters has a son who is in Iraq with the Marines. He is very proud of his son and passed a photograph around. If you want to serve as a host, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or email at grunt69@gmail.com.

CHAPTER'S NEW WEBSITE

Under the leadership of Bruce Waxman, the chapter has a new website at www.vva227.org. Changing technology and the pending departure of the current webmaster, Kevin Flatley, initiated the action for a new website. Special thanks are due to Kevin who developed and maintained the original website since its inception. Thanks, Kevin.

READING OF THE NAMES

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is hosting the *Reading of the Names* of 58,256 service members whose names are on The Wall to commemorate The Wall's 25th Anniversary. If you wish to participate, mail the registration form at <http://www.vvmf.org/index.cfm?SectionID=582>. Registrations are due by September 14, 2007. Notification of reading times will be sent by October 1st. The mailing address is:



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Attention: Reading the Names

1023 15th Street NW, 2nd Floor

Washington, D.C. 20005

FAX: 202-393-0029

The tentative schedule is:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Start</u> | <u>End</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wednesday, Nov. 7 | June 1956 | October 1966 |
| Thursday, Nov. 8 | October 1966 | March 1968 |
| Friday, Nov. 9 | March 1968 | April 1969 |
| Saturday, Nov. 10 | April 1969 | May 1975 |

CONVENTION AFTER ACTION REPORT

Paul Stancliff, Bill Dumsick, and Len Ignatowski represented the chapter at the 13th VVA National Convention in Springfield, Ill. from July 17 to 22. Diane Ignatowski attended the AVVA Leadership Conference.

The major debate centered on whether to expand our membership to the current generation of veterans and active duty military personnel. After much honest and emotional debate, the delegates voted not to open our membership. The two primary reasons are that the new generation needs to form their own organization to address their own issues and that Congressional action would be required to change the law that created VVA. There was some apprehension that Congress may make changes that are not wanted too. VVA voted to support the Warriors of Modern Warfare, whose ranks are open to veterans from the first gulf war to the present one. VVA has been a mentor to their leadership by sharing our successes and mistakes. Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund donated \$10,000 for their first national convention next year. See The VVA Veteran newspaper for convention details.

The election of national officers and directors resulted in the re-election of the four officers and the director election resulted in a mixture of new and re-elected directors. The director election demonstrated democracy in action, i.e. you have to earn your stripes every two years. VVA is the only veteran service organization that elects its officers and directors on a ballot every two years. Any member can apply for any office after submitting the candidate form.

Len Ignatowski's proposed amendment to allow chapter access to the state's at-large membership roster was not approved for a vote. The membership committee did investigate the issue and recommended that each state council implement a procedure for opening its at-large member list for chapter recruitment. Len accepted their decision.

VVA is the only veteran service organization that recognizes literary and entertainment accomplishments by veterans or in support of veterans. Excellence in the Arts Awards was presented to Lee Greenwood, Big and Rich, and Nancy Sinatra, who has not lost a step since her Vietnam USO trip. Bill Nelson, CEO of HBO, Vietnam War veteran, and VVA member, was presented with the Excellence in the Arts. The award was based on HBO continual veteran support with its shows on veteran issues and the reality of combat. VVA Achievement Awards were presented to Clarence Page, Vietnam War veteran and national journalist, while the Ding-a-Lings (Michelle DellaFave, Susie McIver, and Wanda Bailey) were recognized for their Bob Hope Christmas Tours to Vietnam. Their convention appearance marked their first reunion since the Vietnam War. They stayed and danced with the veterans until the last song was played, and they have not lost a beat during this time.

Overall, the convention marked another VVA success. Special kudos is due to Wes Guidry, CMP, a Vietnam War veteran and VVA event manager, for his outstanding convention management. Our 2007 convention Tour of Duty demonstrated that we may disagree on issues, but we are family and remain focused on serving our fellow veterans, present military personnel, and our community. We should all be proud in that we served then and now!

19th Annual "DMZ TO Delta"[®] DANCE

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. ® Chapter 227

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2007

TIME: 8:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT

All veterans, their families, and their friends are welcome. The dance salutes all who served our Country.
The dance proceeds support the chapter's veteran and community service programs

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

HOLIDAY INN ROSSLYN at Key Bridge

1900 N. Ft. Myer Dr., Arlington, Va.

For Hotel Reservations, call 1-800-368-3408, ask for Reservation Code: VIE

- Located in Rosslyn, Virginia, at the crossroads of I-66 and U.S. 50 and across from Georgetown.
- Special room rate of \$ 100 plus tax for single/double occupancy.
- Reservation cut-off date is October 10, 2007
- Credit card is needed to guarantee the reservation.
- Free parking.
- Rosslyn METRO Subway Station is 1-1/2 blocks.
- Ride METRO to THE WALL, Washington National Airport, and Arlington National Cemetery.
- Portraits will be available for sale by CLIX Portrait Studios, the digital portrait experts!
Delivering instant memories that will last a lifetime. Official dance photographers.

DANCE TICKET ORDER FORM[®] NL

I want to order _____ tickets at \$30 per person. \$ _____

I cannot attend, but I want to purchase _____ guest tickets
(Gold Star Mother, guest veteran) \$ _____

I want to make a donation \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

Please mail my tickets to the following address:

NAME: _____ EMAIL (Optional) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

Ticket orders received after October 10, 2007 will be held at the Will Call Desk, which opens at 7:00 pm.
Questions, call 703-912-1681 or visit our website at www.vva227.org.

Please make your check payable to **Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. ® Chapter 227**,
and mail your ticket order to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.® Chapter 227

P.O. Box 5653
Arlington, Virginia 22205

ORDER YOUR DANCE TICKETS NOW!!!!

Members are strongly urged to immediately purchase the DMZ to Delta dance tickets. Since this year is the 25th Anniversary of The Wall, a very large dance turn-out is expected. The ticket order form is in the newsletter, and tickets will be sold at the September membership meeting. If you can't attend the dance, purchase two tickets for a Gold Star mother or make a donation. Write that check and mail your order now!

GATEWOOD WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Veterans Administration's Center for Veterans Enterprise presented its 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award to Wayne Gatewood, a service-disabled Vietnam veteran business owner and a dedicated chapter member. Wayne is a charter member of the Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force, (VET-Force); he has been instrumental in leading the assault in spreading the word in the veteran's community and keeping veteran business issues on the legislative radar screen. This award is very well deserving to a man whose efforts are known and highly respected throughout the veteran's community.

Wayne was a chapter guest speaker when he discussed how to start your veteran-owned business. We learned that business success is more dependent upon that time test military response, "Can do! Sir!" He financed his business start-up and his daughter's college education at the same time with the credit cards in his wallet and \$600. His first contract came about with a contract proposal rejection. When the answer to his question regarding how many contracts were awarded to veteran owned business was "I don't know", he received a contract to determine how many veteran owned business contracts that the agency had awarded. His company, Quality Support, Inc., is managed like a military organization with high standards and accomplishments. This 21-year Marine veteran now employs 100 persons with a wide range of support services to local, state, and federal agencies and private businesses with a multi-million dollar income.

Besides managing his company, he devotes a large amount of time and energy to helping veterans start their businesses and addressing our issues at the federal level. He has testified before congressional committees and works with VVA in its legislative actions. He is a good friend of our new senator, Senator Jim Webb, a Vietnam War combat veteran. He is currently working with VVA in insuring that the 25th Anniversary celebration is a success.

The chapter salutes Wayne Gatewood for his continual actions to help veterans and active duty personnel. His dedication and loyalty represents what veterans are to our country, "We served then, and we serve now!"

NANCY SINATRA NEEDS YOUR HELP

During her acceptance of VVA award, Nancy mentioned that she had only her personal photographs of her Vietnam visit. A technical error prevented the only professional filming of her Vietnam show, while a robbery resulted in the loss of her tour's professional photographs. So, you are being asked to send any photographs or movies of Nancy on her USO tour to Len Ignatowski so that they can be presented to her.

STAND TALL!

Each VVA National Convention has a special story, and this year's has a very special one that makes us all proud to be veterans. The story starts when Debbie Holtz, a waitress, mentions to a group of delegates that her father was killed in Vietnam in 1968. She was only eight months old and always wanted to know more about her father's death. Grant Coates, VVA's National Sergeant at Arms, immediately made it his quest to help Debbie. Her father, Alfred J. Holtz, who was assigned to the 2nd of the 2nd Infantry of the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) was fatally wounded on July 2, 1968. She was introduced to the delegates the next day, and an appeal was made if someone knew her father. During the next recess, veterans of the 1st Division met with her. Yes, one of the delegates was able to provide information about her father. If any chapter member knew her father, please contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353.

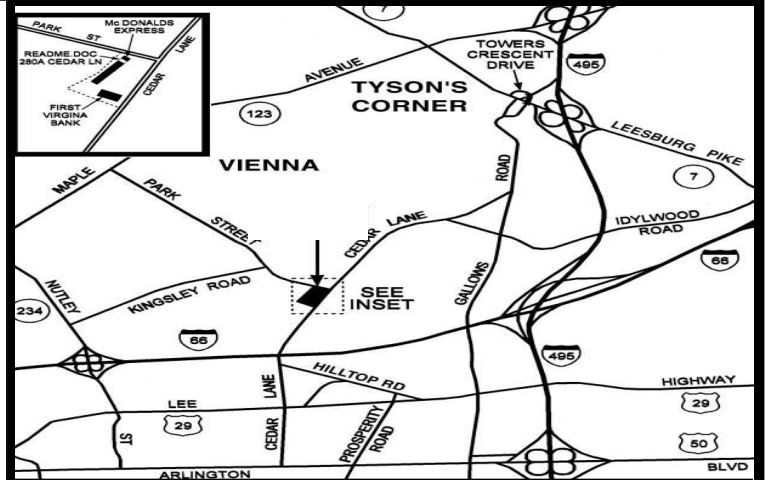
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

August-September 2007



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Bill Dumsick – 703-968-0686
Vice President: Joe Celesnik – 703-938-7669
Secretary: Bruce Waxman
Treasurer: Ed LaClare
Past President: Len Ignatowski
Master of Arms: Jonathan Olson
Board of Directors: Paul Stancliff, Len Funk, Chuck Harris, Jim Hewitt, Phil Saulnier, Charlie Klein, Byron Sheldon, and Bill Bohuslaw.
VVA Va. State Council POC: Paul Stancliff
AVVA Representative: Margaret Stern
Newsletter Editor: Len Ignatowski
Speaker's Panel: Len Ignatowski
DMZ To Delta@Dance: Len Ignatowski



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: 703-912-1681

NEW CHAPTER WEB SITE: www.vva227.org

**VVA THRIFT STORE (HOUSEHOLD GOODS
COLLECTION: 1-800-448-9870**

CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

Sept.

- 06: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: **American Legion Post 270**, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 15: State Council Meeting, Culpepper, Va. 0900 hrs @ Best Western Motel. Come on out!
- 20: Membership Meeting and Chapter's 22nd Anniversary
- 21: POW/MIA Remembrance Day

Oct:

- 04: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: **American Legion Post 270**, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 13: Fairfax City Fall Festival @ 10:00 am to 5 p.m.: Information Booth. Volunteers needed.
- 18: Membership Meeting: Speaker to be announced

Nov.

- 01: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: **American Legion Post 270**, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.
- 10: VVA's Celebration of The Wall's 25th Anniversary. Go to www.vva.org for information.
- 10: DMZ to Delta Dance @ 8:00 p.m.: **Order your tickets NOW!**
- 11: **Veterans Day: 25th Anniversary of The Wall**
- 15: Membership Meeting: LTC. Brad Bradshaw, USAF, Ret. will discuss his duty on a C-130 gunship in the Vietnam War.

STAPLES "Rewards" \$\$\$

The chapter has a Staples "Rewards" account that earns quarterly cash rebates to pay for the newsletter printing and office supplies. To apply your purchases to this account, use the following number, **3042519359** or ask for VVA account with **Len Ignatowski's name.**

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 20TH**

**BUY YOUR
DANCE TICKETS
NOW!**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.
CHAPTER 227
DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER
P.O. Box 5653
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653



OUR MISSION

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