

# 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 Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”*

May 2014



Where are you? AWOL? No excuse, Sir!  
Photo by Daniel Ignatowski

## HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

You heard, “Fall In” many times in your military career, and now the call is being repeated for our Memorial Day events. The weekend provides ample opportunities for you to fulfill our pledge, “Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”. Bring your family and other veterans too.

The wreath laying at The Wall is our most honorable event on Monday, May 26th. Meet at the flag pole at 8:00 AM. Our service is unique in that everyone has the opportunity to remember a fallen brother or sister. The family breakfast follows at the Metro Diner on Route 29 at 4711 Lee Highway, just off of Glebe Road. At noon, the Town of Vienna is honoring the chapter and Vietnam veterans with a special ceremony as part of Viva Vienna! Members are encouraged to attend. The Memorial Day Writers Project is hosting their special poetry and music programs near The Wall from 11:30 to 5:00 PM on Memorial Day.

The traditional family barbecue is on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM at the home of Len and Diane Ignatowski. Call Diane at 703-255-0353 for a dish selection. The address is 2408 Oak Vale Court, NW, Vienna, Va. Beverages and the main dish of

barbecue hot dogs and hamburgers are provided. Chef Max Knouse will work his magic on the grill. Bring a fellow veteran?

Max Knouse is managing our veteran outreach booth at Viva Vienna from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Your help is needed to answer questions. So, FALL IN! for our Memorial Day events!

## VINCE KASPAR AWARDS NIGHT

The May 15<sup>th</sup> membership meeting features the 18th Annual Vince Kaspar Excellence in the Arts presentation which recognizes outstanding high school talent in poetry and art in partnership with the Memorial Day Writers Project. The program honors the contributions of Vince Kaspar, a chapter member and one of the Memorial Day Writers Project founders, in using poetry and writing to relieve the painful memories of their Tour of Duty. The program is the chapter’s hallmark for our community outreach. Bruce Waxman, who missed his true life calling of being a comedian, will host the event.

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.

## 2014 ELECTIONS

The 2014 election of officers and directors was conducted at the April 17<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The re-elected officers are serving a one year term and directors are serving a two year term. President is Bruce Waxman, Vice President: Len Ignatowski, Secretary: Ron Ball, and Treasurer: Chuck Harris. The directors are Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Tom Stryer, Max Knouse, Bill Lynch, Jay Kalner, Scott Hurley, Bob Tecklenburg, and Dennis Stephens. Jonathan Olson was appointed as the Sgt. of Arms. The AVVA members re-elected Diane Ignatowski as the AVVA representative. David Shelby of the Vienna Historical Society administered the oath of office to the VVA officers and directors. A special welcome to new directors, Dennis Stephens, Scott Hurley, and Jay Kalner.

Special thanks to Paul Stancliff and Joe Celesnik for their many years outstanding service as chapter leaders. They decided not to seek re-election

for personal reasons. We hope to continue to see them at chapter events. Chris Beverley’s retirement resulted in his moving to another state and transferring to another chapter. With the combination of experience and new leadership and with strong membership support, the chapter’s success can continue.



The new chapter leadership with a few missing. Tom Stryer, Jay Kalner, Chuck Harris, Charlie Klein, Scott Hurley, Ron Ball, Len Ignatowski, and Bruce Waxman (L to R). Photo by Diane Ignatowski

## Battle of the Bismark Sea

Ed Connor, a WW II bomber and Korean War veteran, presented his personal combat experiences as a B-25 crew member in the Pacific Theater during WWII at the April 17th meeting. The presentation revealed amusing and tragic stories. His military career started when he enlisted at the age of 18 in 1940. The army performed an air show to recruit pilots in Tampa, Florida. He qualified as a radio operator and was assigned to a B-25 bomber crew as the navigator/lower turret gunner.

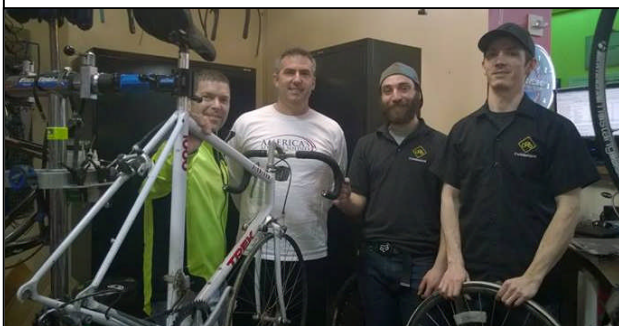
After Pearl Harbor, Ed's squadron was ordered to defend Australia against an approaching Japanese invasion. The U.S. broke the Japanese military code, which allowed the tracking of military operations. A combined Australian and U.S. aerial armada was assigned the mission of destroying a large Japanese convoy that was reinforcing island garrison in the Bismark Sea. The attack was delayed when the convoy movement was lost in bad weather. When the armada attacked the convoy, twelve ships that were carrying troops and critical gasoline, were sunk. The successful attack delayed the Japanese offensive operations. He flew 67 combat missions. Also, Ed proudly mentioned that B-25's were attacking Japanese bases in the Pacific before Doolittle's famous Tokyo raid.

Returning from a combat mission, the bomber developed engine trouble. The pilot ordered that anything not bolted down including the 50 caliber machine guns to be thrown overboard. The lower twin 50's could not be removed. A Japanese Zero attacked the bomber, and Ed used his twin 50's to shoot down the Zero and save the crew. Ed was awarded the Silver Star for his action.

After the war, he enlisted in the new air force as an officer. He flew as an electronics warfare officer on RB-29's and 50's during the Korean and Cold War. Their mission was to detect and locate enemy radar locations and military movements. His Korean War flights flew over North Korea near the Chinese border. Upon retirement after a 22 year career, he continued his national service with the CIA that involved duty in Saigon during the Vietnam War. As with all veterans, he states that he is not a hero, but a survivor. The chapter thanks Ed for sharing his Tour of Duty with us.

## CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** The June 19<sup>th</sup> membership meeting initiates a new community outreach program by asking members to bring a selected item to the membership meeting. The selected item for the June meeting is snacks which will be given to the Lamb Center in Fairfax City. The daytime homeless service center provides relief for the homeless and time for Vet Center staff to service homeless veterans. Snacks from fruit to candy are acceptable.
- **NEW DIRECTORS STEP UP TO THE PLATE:** Scott Hurley, Dennis Stephens, and Jay Kalner, newly elected directors, stepped up to the plate at the May 1st board meeting. Dennis is transitioning to the Vince Kaspar program director, while Jay and Scott will work with Bob Tecklenburg on the chapter being a partner in the DOD 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War.
- **SUITS FOR VETS:** Chuck Harris reported that seventy high quality suits were given for the caretakers of our wounded warriors at the Ft. Belvoir Hospital. Chuck's work involves receiving, processing, and delivering the donated clothing. Attire that does not meet our high standards is donated to the Unique Store for VVA's household goods program. The successful program is a joint effort of the chapter and the employees of the Mitre Corp.



Todd Mader, The Bike Lane owner, Blake Badolato, America's Adopt A Soldier volunteer, and Ben and Chris, bicycle service technicians, (l to r) perform the final inspection on the bike for a VASH veteran transportation need. Photo by America's Adopt A Soldier.

## NETWORKING WORKS!

The chapter's Minuteman Alert of an appeal from a Veterans Administration Supportive Housing manager's request for a bicycle to meet his transportation needs of a new VASH veteran was quickly and successfully fulfilled.

The appeal was immediately distributed to chapter members and friends. Mary Keeser of America's Adopt A Soldier responded to the appeal. Blake Badolato, an avid bicyclist, contacted The Bike Lane of Reston, Virginia for help. The business agreed to provide a high quality bicycle, which was delivered to the veteran.

Mary and her organization is a strong supporter of assisting VASH veterans in providing used computers to purchasing and installing a set of bunk beds for a VASH single mother veteran.

The chapter salutes Mary, Blake Badolato, and Anne and Todd Mader, The Bike Lane owners, for their prompt and generous support.

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

**24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**DD-214:** Provide a copy of your DD-214 to the chapter to comply with an IRS audit standard. Mail your copy to the chapter's post office box address. The social security number can be made illegible.

# CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

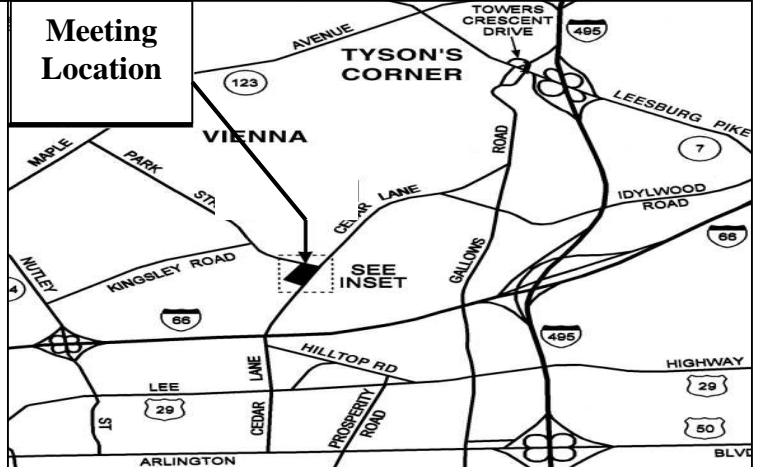
May 2014



## 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:** 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
- Suits for Veterans:** Chuck Harris 703-729-5665
- Lyons PTSD Visit:** Ben Buckley 703-978-9179

### Meeting Location



**CHAPTER INFORMATION: 703-323-0269**

**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

### May

- 14: Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit: Meet 11:00 AM at the flagpole by The Wall
- 15: Membership Meeting: Vince Kaspar Excellence in the Arts Awards
- 25: Viva Vienna! Information Booth: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- 25: Family Barbecue: Call Diane Ignatowski (703-255-0353) for a dish selection. A headcount is needed for the food and beverage menu.
- 26: Wreath Laying at The Wall: Meet at the flagpole at 8:00 AM.
- 26: Post Wreath Laying Breakfast at the Metro Dinner
- 26: Memorial Day Writers' Project near The Wall from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM.
- 26: Town of Vienna Salute to Vienna Veterans on the Town Green at noon. Members are requested to attend.

### June

- 05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 19: Membership Meeting: Guest Speaker: Tom Redmon, Lobbying in the Military". Bring snacks for the AVVA Community Outreach to the Lamb Center, a daytime homeless shelter including providing time and space for the Vet Center staff to service homeless veterans.
- 25: Lyons VAMC Combat PTSD Visit: Meet 11:00 AM at the flagpole by The Wall



Bruce Waxman, Caleb Johnson and Camilla Schoebel, Virginia Wounded Warriors Program, and Len Ignatowski (l to r) initiated a mutual aid relationship with the Virginia Wounded Warriors program.

## NOT FORGOTTEN!

On March 21st, Bruce Waxman, President, and Len Ignatowski, Vice President, met with Caleb Johnson, Northern Regional Coordinator, and Camilla Schoebel, Northern Regional Director, of the Virginia Wounded Warrior program to develop a mutual aid relationship.

The state program addresses veteran needs that are not met by VA programs or eligibility. The program works on upgrading military discharges, peer counseling, and supports NG, reservists and incarcerated veterans problems. The latter issue is addressed at four months prior to release and three months after release. Their resources are state government programs and assistance from community and veteran organizations.

The Northern Virginia office staff is composed of military veterans. The office location is 11150 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax City, Va. The telephone number is 540-671-8425, and the website is

[www.wearevirginiaveterans.org](http://www.wearevirginiaveterans.org).

The meeting has already resulted in the chapter referring an incarcerated veteran request for a discharge upgrade to the program. Networking works!!!!

**Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts**  
**May 15th Membership Meeting**

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

**May 25th**

**Viva Vienna! Information Booth**  
**Family Barbecue**

-

**May 26th**

**Wreath Laying at The Wall**  
**Post Wreath Laying Breakfast**  
**Vienna Salute to Vietnam Veterans**

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”  
Since October 11, 1985