

THE JOURNEY

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



July 2007

OUR SERVICE *"LIVES ON"*

Marcia Selva, CEO of Global Community Service Foundation and Global Spectrum travel agency, told how her business started a foundation. Its mission is to reduce poverty in Southeast Asia by implementing sustainable community based projects and promoting cooperation among governmental and other resource providers.

She went to Vietnam in January 1992, and encountered a hostile reception until she stated with a big smile, "I am an American". These simple words resulted in smiles from the Vietnamese that she met. Her early tours always encountered the same issue; the veterans wanted to do something for the Vietnamese people. Her tour guide started carrying a bundle of cash to answer a veteran's request to assist a Vietnamese friend or village. Initial assistance was buying a buffalo or helping an orphanage. As her clientele grew, they wanted to leave a more meaningful legacy from the war. Marcia stepped in and formed Global Community Service Foundation. As her resources grew, so did the projects and expansion into other Southeast Asian countries. The projects centered at the grass roots level, community libraries, schools, and economic development. The help includes American college students who work on community service projects.

The most interesting story was when she asked why Vietnamese love Americans, despite the war damage. Her guide gave a simple answer, "The GI's helped the villagers during the war from rebuilding orphanages to giving candy to the children." They remember our love and generosity, which is the living legacy of all American veteran generations. We, Vietnam War veterans, need to stand tall and proud of our military service and how the Vietnamese remember us!

SEE YOU AT THE BASEBALL GAME!

The July membership meeting is the Nationals MLB Veteran Appreciation Day at RFK Stadium on Saturday, July 21, at 3:55 pm. The Nationals are playing the Colorado Rockies, and the MVP ticket is ½ price at \$8.00. Although it is late to order your ticket with the chapter, call Bill Bohuslaw at (703) 503-9420 to see if there are any cancellations. If not, buy a ticket and join the chapter in the stadium. The seating location will be determined on game day. Come and have a great time with your fellow veterans and family.

WASH THE WALL

You are invited to wash The Wall on August 4 at 0630 hours. Chapter 641 is the host. Let's meet at the flagpole and give a helping hand to our brothers of Chapter 641. Also, plan on having breakfast afterwards.

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 program 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 event 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.

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>. The deadline for specific name request is Friday, August 17, 2007. 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
1023 15th Street NW
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Attention: Reading the Names
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

SORRY CONGRESSMAN WALZ

The June 2007 newsletter incorrectly identified Congressman Tim Walz as Tim Walsh of Minnesota. The editor regrets this misidentification.

A MOTHER'S "THANK YOU"

Rick Weidman, VVA's Government Affairs Representative and Vietnam War veteran, shared this email with the chapter regarding VVA's monthly Wounded Warriors Night on the Town dinner.

Gentlemen,

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On another note, as a family member, I would like to extend my appreciation for all you have done as Vietnam Veterans...thank you for YOUR service to our country. The dinner last night at the Capital Hilton gave me a chance to breathe, so to speak. The balancing act of coping with my son's injuries, physical and emotional, has been minimized with the new warrior transition brigade. Getting away for dinner, to laugh, to talk, to regain a sense of trust, to feel listened to, to be humbled by your generosity lifted my spirits. God bless you all!

Respectfully,
Mrs. Stacy Fellers
Proud Parent of a United States Soldier, Spc. Edward (EJ) Trautner

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

July 2007



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Bill Dumsick – 703-968-0686

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Secretary: Bruce Waxman

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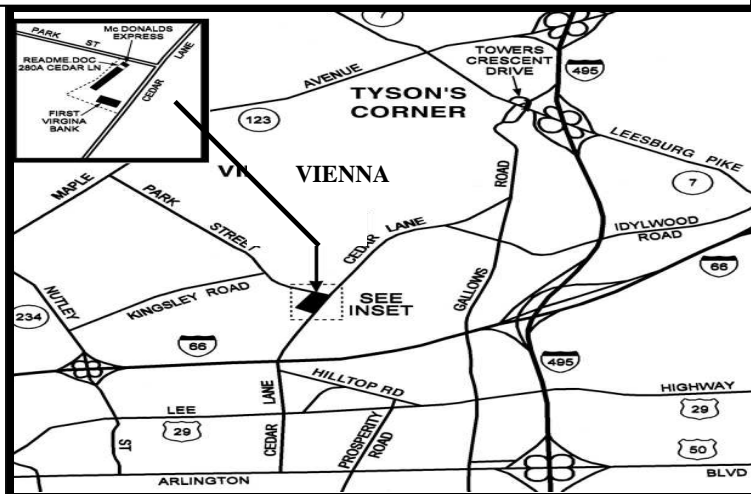
VVA Va. State Council POC: Paul Stancliff

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

CHAPTER WEB SITE: www.geocities.com/vva227

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

CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

July

19: No Membership Meeting: See you at the Veterans Appreciation MLB Game at RFK Stadium.

21: Nationals MBL's Veterans Appreciation Night @ RFK stadium. See article

Aug.

02: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: **American Legion Post 270**, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.

04: Wall Washing @ 0630 hrs. Meet at the Three Soldiers Statue. Breakfast afterwards

03-05: Virginia State Council Campout at Lake Sherando, Va.

16: NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR AUGUST

Sept.

01: Wall Washing @ 0630 hrs. Meet at the Three Soldiers Statue. Breakfast afterwards

06: Board Meeting 7:30 pm: **American Legion Post 270**, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, Va.

20: Membership Meeting and Chapter's 22nd Anniversary

STAPLES "Rewards" \$\$\$\$

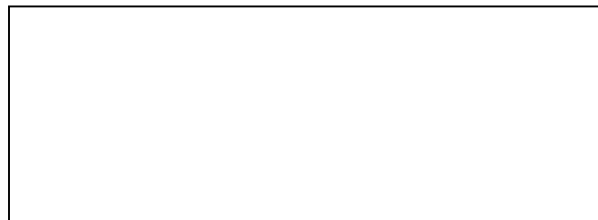
The chapter has a Staples "Rewards" account that earns quarterly cash rebates to pay for the newsletter printing and office supplies. To apply your purchases to this account, use the following number, **3042519359** or ask for VVA account with **Len Ignatowski's name**.

NO AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NATIONALS BASEBALL GAME – JULY 21ST

DANCE SPONSORS NEEDED

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”.**