



# THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter

*“Just In Time”*



*“Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”*

April 2022

## 2022 CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Nominations for chapter offices and the AVVA representative for the April 21, 2020 elections are open. Each office has a two-year term. The current officers and directors are seeking re-election. Andy Bender and Tom Brown are seeking their first term as a director for two vacant spots. The AVVA spot is open. If you want to serve, contact the Nomination Committee members, Len Funk at 202-368-5888 and Dick Weaver at 703-851-9811. For AVVA representative, call Diane Ignatowski at 703-772-5303. The deadline for the VVA and AVVA candidate registration is **April 15th**.

## TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

The April 21st meeting speaker is Ms. Raisa Velez, an Army veteran, who will discuss traumatic brain injuries and current treatment. The face-to-face meeting is at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax, Va. At 7:30 PM. The buffet dinner cost is \$20 per person and starts at 6:45 PM, while a cash bar is available at 6:00 PM. Meeting policy prohibits consumption of alcoholic beverages during the meeting. RSVP dinner reservations to Melissa Kalner at [mkalner@gmail.com](mailto:mkalner@gmail.com) or 703-819-1480 by Sunday, April 18th. For continuing AVVA community outreach, members are asked to bring paper towels or trail mix packets for the Lamb Center, a local daytime homeless shelter.

## WHERE IS CHINA HEADED?

Former CIA official Joseph DeTrani gave a very informative talk on China's history and current behavior at the March 17th meeting. Briefly, China wants to claim world leadership to avenge recent centuries of Western exploitation. China recognizes that it must adopt certain western values to accomplish its goal. The policy is “open up economically, but control politically”. The latter is one reason why China accepts North Korean behavior. Better to have a strong dictator at its border than a thriving democratic government like South Korea with its U.S. military ally. Occasionally China is a friend and recently an opponent. It allowed CIA listening posts against the USSR when the Iranian ones were lost in 1979. Outstanding bilateral issues are theft of U.S. technology and intellectual property and Taiwan. Its size and population will make China eventually the leading world economy. DeTrani's presentation provided a better understanding of China's domestic and international policies. Many thanks for Mike DeFazio, a new member, for arranging the speaker. Also, thanks to George Jones for donating two of his wood carvings to the 50/50 raffle including the monetary award.

## CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **Chapter Attire Sale:** Military Best is offering a 10% discount on chapter attire and all merchandise. Visit [www.MilitaryBest.com](http://www.MilitaryBest.com), click on VVA box, then VVA227 box. Discount code is “vva227”. For questions, call 866-514-1517. Wearing chapter attire is a great recruitment tool and shows your pride as a Vietnam War veteran.
- **VVA Virginia State Council Scholarship:** The Council is offering a \$500 scholarship to a member or family member. Go to the council's website for the directions and form. A raffle drawing selects the winner at the June 25th council meeting. Any questions, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353.
- **Congratulations to Bill Shugarts:** For the second year in a row, the VVA calendar features a photograph by Bill. He serves as the official photographer for the Lyons VAMC PTSD class visits to The Wall and Arlington Cemetery.
- **Mental Health Care Survey Request:** Bill Stewart, an Army veteran and a clinical mental health graduate student at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, is requesting active military personnel and veteran participation in a study about mental health care related to suicide. The university approved survey takes approximately ten minutes. Higher participation ensures more reliability in analyzing this important topic. Please feel free to share this link with other people you served with: [https://uncc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6lEU3kfWIDqTOui](https://uncc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6lEU3kfWIDqTOui). The student can be reached at 704-953-3043. His bio is at [www.linkedin.com/in/bstewartmba](http://www.linkedin.com/in/bstewartmba). Members can decide on whether to participate in the survey.
- **Assistance Grant:** A \$1000 grant was approved for rent and moving assistance for a woman veteran with three young children. Unlike our veteran generation, a high number of veterans are single women with children.
- **VVA Car Donation Program:** The program is a simple way to donate your car to fund VVA's activities. Call today at 1-800-Help-Vets (435-7838) or use our online donation form to schedule.

## Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: Bill Lynch, Attn: VVA Chapter 227, 5328 Taney Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22304-2039

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

H ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ C ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter No. **227**

• Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, for Vietnam-era veterans. Return this application along with a copy of your DD Form-214.

### Special Life Membership: \$50

• Payment Option:  Check  Money Order  Credit Card (Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# WE WANT YOU

QUESTIONS

CONTACT

**BILL LYNCH**

**703-474-4891**

## SPEAKER'S PANEL NEEDS HOSTS

The Speaker's Panel, a chapter hallmark, needs group or classroom engagements. The retirement of Vietnam-era student teachers has created a void in sharing our Tour of Duty with current students and groups. The format is two veterans sharing their Tour of Duty followed by a Q&A period. Students of all ages and civic groups are acceptable. For information, contact Tom Stryer, the Program Director, at 703-201-7611 or [stryertom@gmail.com](mailto:stryertom@gmail.com).

### APRIL:

15: Chapter candidate filing deadline

21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Spkr: Ms. Raisa Velez, "Traumatic Brain Injuries And Treatment"

21: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Chapter elections

### MAY:

05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: Virtual meeting format

19: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Spkr: Chuck Harris, Easter Offensive, "Break In The Chain-Intelligence Ignored."

23: Congress approves VVA Charter in 1986

29: Memorial Day Party 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM: Details to be announced

30: Memorial Day 8:00 AM: Chapter Wreath Service at The Wall and Breakfast

**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*