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

October 2026

Chapter's first parade appearance way-back-when

41st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Can you believe it! The Chapter is 41 years old, and getting better with each passing year! Wow! For this special celebration on October 15th, the guest speaker is John McLaughlin, former Deputy CIA Director. He served as an Army infantry and intelligence officer with a tour in the Vietnam War. He will discuss his Vietnam service and current international affairs. He is also a world class magician.

The meeting starts with a cash bar from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax, Va. Dinner is served at 6:15 PM. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Drinking alcoholic beverages ceases at 7:00 PM. The dinner price is $25 per person. ***Please bring exact cash amount or check for payment.***

RSVP to Melissa Kalner at mkalner77@gmail.com or call/text her at 703-819-1480 by 3:00 PM, Tuesday, October 13th. A headcount is needed to ensure adequate food and seating. No meal reservations after the deadline, but members and guests are welcome to the meeting without purchasing a meal. Meet your fellow veterans and maybe a friend from the past. **Contact Melissa NOW**! **A special invite is extended to the founding chapter members and all former officers.**

AVVA is collecting cash donations for The Lamb Center, our successful community homeless outreach. For questions about The Lamb Center's activities, call Diane Ignatowski at 703-772-5303.

GRANTS APPROVED:

• $ 1,469	Car repair
• $ 3,085 ($306/ $ 312/ $2467)	Partial or full rent
• $ 867 ($508/$359)	Utilities
• $ 90	The Lamb Center
• $ 546	Car payment

Jay Kalner (L) presents a chapter challenge coin to Molly Brooks of Hero's Bridge.

HERO'S BRIDGE

At the September 17th meeting, Molly Brooks, CEO of Hero's Bridge, a veteran service organization, provided a very inspiring presentation of her dynamic organization. She is a registered nurse. The Warrenton base organization provides various veteran assistance including a buddy program that unites young veterans with older ones, a paw patrol that gives service dogs to veterans, and home improvements to ensure safe and functional housing repairs, and a mental health service since 2016. The organization conducted 10,498 home visits, provided 1,269 rides, and served over 5,435 meals.

The crown jewel of their work is the Hero's Bridge Village on four acres of donated land in Warrenton, Virginia. The cottages will be rented to 65 and older veterans. The 43 single veteran cottages are grouped around a community center that serves meals and offers other services. The 573 square feet cottage has a combined single room for a kitchen, dining area, and living room, a private bedroom and a bathroom. The rent is one half the local market rent. The site layout is landscaped with a pedestrian walkway that creates a friendly neighborhood. Construction is to start shortly.

Our veterans and country are blessed with people like Molly and her staff in fulfilling a vital social need. A chapter challenge coin and a $500 donation to the Hero's Bridge was presented to Molly at the end of her presentation.

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 November 1, 1955 - May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, for Vietnam-era veterans.

Special Life Membership: $50

• Payment Option: ❑ Check

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date__/__

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return with a copy of your DD-214 & payment

❑ I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).

WE WANT YOU

QUESTIONS

CONTACT

BILL LYNCH

703-474-4891

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

15: 41st Anniversary Celebration: Spkr. John McLaughlin, former Deputy CIA Director, "My Vietnam Tour and Current International Affairs".

NOVEMBER

05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: Zoom format
11: Veterans Day
19: Membership Meeting: Speaker: Peter Maer, Former CBS White House Correspondence.

DECEMBER

03: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: Zoom format
11: Holiday Party 5—9 PM **The party is on a Friday**
17: **No membership meeting**

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