

# 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 “



May 2024

### Fall In!”

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, you can fulfill the true meaning of Memorial Day by attending the chapter’s memorial service at The Wall at 8:00 A.M. Meet by the flagpole. The traditional family breakfast follows at the Metro 29 Diner at 4711 Langston Blvd. (formerly Lee Highway), near the Glebe Road intersection in Arlington County.

The May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting features Rachel Thompson, a historian, who will discuss the Cold War’s first major confrontation, the Berlin Blockade and role of the Candy Bomber. The Soviet blockade to Berlin necessitated a daily and massive airlift to maintain the city’s life. American pilots initiated Operation Little Vittles which was parachuting candy to the children of Berlin. Come and learn about this first Cold War victory and act of American generosity to the Berlin children.

A cash bar will be open 5:30-6:45pm, buffet dinner is served at 6:15pm (\$25/person, cash only), and the meeting begins at 7:00pm. Anyone planning to attend should **RSVP to Melissa Kalner, [mkalner77@gmail.com](mailto:mkalner77@gmail.com) or call/text 703-819-1480 by noon, Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, and indicate whether you plan to eat dinner and if you plan to bring a spouse or a guest. Meeting location is American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. The AVVA will be collecting cash donations at the meeting for The Lamb Center, our successful community homeless outreach. For questions about The Lamb Center’s activities, call Diane Ignatowski at 703-772-5303 or visit <https://www.thelambcenter.org/>.



Diane Ignatowski (L) leads the singing of happy birthday for Peggy Kelly (R).

### BRATWURST OR COLD SHOWERS?

After graduating from college in June 1969, Peggy Kelly declined the opportunity to serve in the Army’s Special Services in Europe because of a three year commitment. A few weeks later, she accepted an American Red Cross offer to serve as a Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas representative (aka Donut Dollie) in Vietnam for one year. The position required a college degree, good health, and to be 21 to 24 years old. Her training was a two week course in Washington D.C. before her departure. Although she was a civilian with no veteran benefits, Peggy shared the same daily war dangers and cold showers as the troops. The fading monsoons greet her arrival in October 1969. She was stationed at Tuy-Hoa AFB recreational center. In February, she was transferred to the 25th Division at Chu Chi. Her daily duty was to fly to two forward bases to bring a touch of home to the troops. The ladies repertoire included childhood type games, songs, and just chatting with the troops. Later Peggy served the 11th ACR, 3rd Brigade of the 9th Division, and the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Their arrivals were greeted with broad smiles despite the sun, heat, monsoons, dust, and the threat of an attack. 627 Dollies served in Vietnam, and tragically two were killed. Peggy’s effusive personality ensured that every presentation was a Broadway hit with the troops that eventually came back later. While staffing the Red Cross booth at the Welcome Home event on The Mall, a soldier approached her and asked if she knew the Donut Dollie in the photograph. With a broad smile and hug, she shouted, “Its me!” The event was at a forward base. The veteran lives in Washington D.C.

Her love for Vietnam veterans was demonstrated when she postponed her family birthday dinner to speak at the meeting. The chapter’s appreciation was demonstrated when a birthday cake was presented to her and we sang happy birthday. Then donuts were passed out to all to enjoy the event. Many thanks to Diane Ignatowski for the cake and donuts. Peggy and Mike, her husband and Army veteran, are now chapter members, and we look forward to their involvement. These brave ladies along with other civilian employees showed that not all heroes wore green in South Vietnam.

### NEW LEADERSHIP SWORN-IN

Dan Creed, Nomination Committee Chairman, conducted the voting and swore in the re-elected officers and directors at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. They include Jay Kalner, President, Len Ignatowski, Vice President, Bob Tecklenburg, Secretary, Chuck Harris, Treasurer, and the Directors include Andy Bender, Tom Brown, Tom Davis, Stan Derr, Don Drusic, Bill Dumsick, Scott Hurley, George Jones, Bill Lynch, Bob Pezold, Dennis Stephens, Tom Stryer, Don Sutherland, Bruce Waxman, and Norm Williamson. The one new director is Jerry Krueger, who replaces Fred Ducca. Diane Ignatowski was re-elected as the AVVA Representative. Congratulations to all! Many thanks to Dan Creed and Fred Ducca for serving on the Nomination Committee. And a final thanks to Fred Ducca for his years of chapter service.

# 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. 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**

## Just In Time!

Grants are awarded and vetted from appropriate government and non-profit agency requests to eliminate scams. Your funds assist legitimate veterans and active duty personnel and their family financial needs.

- \$125 Paid a delinquent utility bill
- \$380 Partnered with other VSOs to pay delinquent rent
- \$250 Partnered with other VSOs to pay delinquent rent.

## CALENDAR

### MAY

16: Membership Meeting 7:00 PM: Guest Speaker: Rachel Thompson, "The Candy Bomber" of the 1948 Berlin Airlift.

23: VVA's Congressional Charter approved in 1986

25: "Flags-in-the-Ground" at Alexandria National Cemetery at 9:30 AM: Volunteer to place an American flag on each grave.

27: Memorial Day: Wreath laying at The Wall at 8:00 AM and breakfast after the service.

### JUNE

06: Board Meeting 7:30 PM. Zoom format

20: Membership Meeting 7:00 PM: Guest Speaker: John K. Schwarz, "The U.S. Houston (CA-30): A Survival Story"

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.**

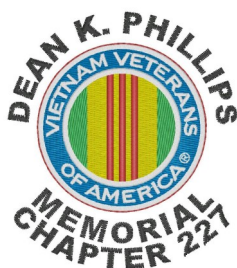
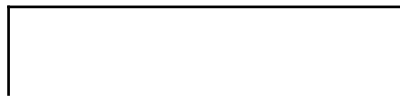
**CHAPTER 227**

**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*