



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



March 2020 Newsletter



National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on **March 29** and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.



VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw
Vice President	Bob Parsons
Secretary	Mike Dolan
Treasurer	Verne Hanson
Chaplain	Fred Bishop

Board of Directors

Steve Anderson	Jim Finney
Mike Hamm	Steve Mabrey
Dennis Smalling	Tom Madden
Wallace Vaughn	Ken Walters

AVVA Liaisons

Holly Tookolo	Tony Gigli
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VVA Service Officer

Dennis Smalling
smallingindy@sbcglobal.net
 Thursday 8am-12pm
 Sunday 10am-2pm
 By appointment, 317-313-1577

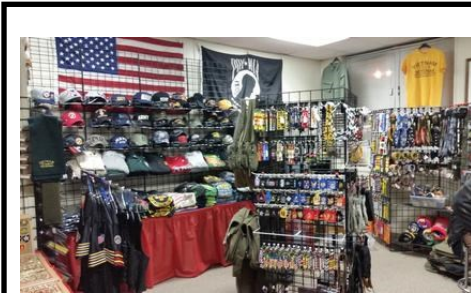
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 269279, Indianapolis, IN 46226-9279 Phone: 317-547-4748
 Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216 Website: www.vva295.com
 Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm; Board Meeting 6:00pm
 Newsletter Editor: Holly Tookolo If you have any information for the newsletter, the deadline is the last day of the month—email me: htookolo@indy.rr.com 317-844-3554 or cell 317-294-4607

Important Dates

- Mar 8** Daylight Savings Time begins; turn clocks ahead one hour.
- Mar 11** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Mar 17** St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19** Spring begins
- Mar 19** Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003
- Mar 25** National Medal of Honor Day
- Mar 29** National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- Mar 29** To celebrate National Vietnam War Veterans Day, an event is being planned, more info coming at the VVA meeting.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Mar 22, 1962** Operation Sunrise, South Vietnam's first long range counteroffensive against the Viet Cong, is launched in Binh Duong Province, 35 miles north of Saigon, as part of the Strategic Hamlet program.
- Mar 7, 1964** In a press conference, President Johnson says that the U.S. will move armed forces to and from South Vietnam depending on the need.
- Mar 9, 1965** President Johnson authorizes the use of napalm by U.S. planes bombing targets in North Vietnam.
- Mar 25, 1966** At a New York City rally sponsored by Veterans and Reservists to End the War in Vietnam, 15 veterans from both world wars and the Korean conflict burn their discharge and separation papers.
- Mar 2, 1967** Senator Robert Kennedy proposes a three point plan to help end the war in Vietnam. It includes suspension of U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, and the gradual withdrawal of U.S. and North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam, with replacement by an international force. Secretary of State Dean Rusk rejects this plan.
- Mar 31, 1968** In a televised speech to the nation, President Johnson announces that he has "unilaterally" ordered a halt to air and naval bombardments of North Vietnam "except in the area north of the DMZ where the continuing enemy build up directly threatens allied forward positions." He also says he is sending 13,500 more troops to Vietnam and will request further defense expenditures. He goes on to say, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."
- Mar 16, 1969** Ho Chi Minh urges the Vietnamese people and armed forces to press the fight until the United States is defeated.
- Mar 29, 1971** Lt. William L. Calley is found guilty of premeditated murder at My Lai in U.S. Army court martial proceedings at Fort Benning, Georgia.



The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.
The Bunker will NOT be setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center in March.

President's Message:

Hello Brothers and Sisters,



Here we are moving right along starting the third month of the year, and ending the first quarter. Hope this finds you well, rested, and waiting for spring. Did you try to break your cabin fever, and winters cold grip by attending the Indianapolis Boat, Sport, and Travel Show last month? Thus allowing you to think of warmer weather to fish, go boating, picnic, camp, or travel. For most a chance to sit outside drinking your morning coffee, listening to the birds sing, and watching the grass grow. While mentally planning to plant flowers, a garden, or tune up your mower to mow that grass.

Sunday March 8th, be sure to set your clocks back so you will not be early for Church, work, meetings, or any appointments that you might have coming up.

March 17th, sure and be guaran, tis St. Patrick's Day. For all Irish people, and (wanna be's) to celebrate the wearing of the green, and eating of Irish cooking.

March 19th, SPRING BEGINS, let those dreams start. Remember though if you live in Indiana that March is basketball sectional time, and is when we generally get our largest snows. Don't think that you can hold out until nice weather gets here? Think of how many times that you have thought that over the past years, and you are still here. So Hang on. Be tough. Remember; "YOU DON'T LOSE, UNTIL YOU QUIT TRYING". Keep putting out the bird seed for our little feathered friends who have come back to Indiana early.

March 25th, National Medal of Honor Day. To all who have received this award, both living and dead, we salute you. Your bravery, love of country, and your fellow comrades in arms is what GOD has instilled in each of you. We, along with the families and friends of those whose lives you had an effect on, Thank GOD that you were there, and did what you did to earn this award. We never know how the looks we give, our words, and actions will be taken by those around us. For better or worse, life is as good or as bad as we make it.

March 29th, National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Welcome home! Hopefully you have heard these words before. If not you have now. They are given with deep respect for your service. Your being away from family and friends. The blood, sweat, tears, fears, and loneliness that you felt there. Those past thoughts will accompany you through out your life. Again, WELCOME HOME!

Lawrence Central High School has asked that we have a few Vietnam Veterans visit their School. if you would like to volunteer for this, please let me know, as I told them that I would know more after our meeting on the 11th. We have the choice of one large group, or a smaller group, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with lunch provided. This may be set up for either March, April, or May. They will let us know the time and date later.

March 11th, will be our next Chapter Meeting. We will be having our first round of nominations for Chapter Officers, and Board. Final round of nominations plus election will be during our April 8th Meeting. You will be nominating and voting for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and Board Members. Those Elected will serve for two (2) years. If you just want a title, or feel like you will not be coming to the meetings with any ideas to help Veterans, or raise money for our Chapter, then please do not run, or nominate any one like that. This Chapter can be a lot better than it presently is, but it will take everyone working together. You will need to attend both the Board and Membership Meeting. Have ideas, be willing to make those ideas work, and wish to head a committee. The Board Meeting should not be deemed as a social club. You can do that on your own time, either before, or after the meeting, or possibly at another location and time. If you wish to head a committee, then plan to give reports at the meetings. We are supposed to be here to help our fellow Veterans, their families, and educate the public. We can not do that by sitting around doing nothing. Please get involved. You can make a difference. Just do it.

Keep our troops, and their families in your prayers.

May GOD bless our Troops, their family's, and you.

In Comradeship

Larry Shaw

President VVA 295
765-618-4067

comdshaw@yahoo.com



No message from VP Bob Parsons this month. Get Well Bob!

ATTENTION, ATTENTION!!!

Chapter 295 election of officers and board members will take place at the April meeting. Nominations will be done at the March and April meetings. We are looking for members who want to do something for our Chapter, not just take a position and do nothing. You need to ask each candidate what they will do for our Chapter. Please consider being an officer or board member if you want to do something for Chapter 295 and make our chapter better. We need to do more for Veterans and that could happen if you step up and run for an office or board member position.



Students Seeking to Interview Vietnam Veterans

From James Ziegler, Social Studies teach at Carmel High School. Carmel High School History students are partnering with a Vietnam Veteran, documentary film maker, and professor at Indiana University, Ron Osgood, on an interview project where they seek to interview Vietnam Veterans about their experiences during the war. The interviews will be used as part of a larger project/website Professor Osgood is building for both veterans, educators and students across the United States. The goal of his website is to help keep alive the oral histories of Vietnam Veteran and those implicated by the war, on all sides, and to give some insight into the war at a micro-level. His goal isn't really to get into any of the politics of the war but just to provide an outlet for people to hear about how the war was experienced by veterans, refugees, civilians, as well as the Vietnamese people themselves. (The website is an off-shoot of his most recent documentary: "The Viet Nam War/American War: Stories from All Sides".) Here is the link to the website if you'd like to check it out and see some of the clips of the interviews he has already conducted.

Vietnamwarstories.indiana.edu

Our hope is for students to begin conducting interviews in March and April, 2020. We intend to continue moving forward with this project into next school year. If you are interested in being interviewed as part of this project, please send an email to James Ziegler at jziegler@ccs.k12.us or call 317-846-7721, ext 7221.



Indiana Connection to National Desert Storm & Desert Shield War Memorial

The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial is a new national monument that has been approved by Congress and President Trump (March 2017) to be built by 2021 on the National

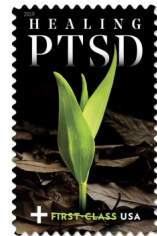
Mall in Washington, DC. The Memorial will be built at the SW corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street NW in Washington D.C. which is near the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. An Indiana company has been selected for the structural engineer and stone cladding for the memorial. That company is Arsee Engineering of Fishers, IN.

Kuwait Pledges \$10 million to National Desert Storm & Desert Shield War Memorial

The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, H.E. Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, expressed Kuwait's pleasure in contributing \$10 million to the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial, stressing that this memorial, once complete, will embody and eternalize the strong relationship that exists between the State of Kuwait and the United States of America.

Post Office Issues PTSD Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service announced in November that it is selling a new postage stamp that features “a powerful symbol of the healing process” for American suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the 65 cent “Healing PTSD” stamp will go to VA and the National Center for PTSD.



VA Benefits

There are some twenty-one-and-a-half million veterans in the United States, of which almost two-thirds never interact with the VA. Most are ignorant of the array of benefits which they have earned by virtue of their military service. Even the one-third of vets who do interact with the VA’s healthcare system and/or its benefits administration are not familiar with much of what is available to them, to their families, and to their survivors. See a Veteran Service Officer who will help the veterans.

Food Drive for HVAF

Bring non-perishable food to the next meeting for HVAF (Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation) for the Veterans they are helping. What they need the most is canned meat & tuna, pasta and noodles. You can visit their website to see what they do. <http://www.hvafindiana.org/>

Member Speaker Program at Meetings– Call Fred Bishop, 317-918-1142 to sign up.

Community Guest Speaker at Meetings At the February meeting representatives from Finance Center Federal Credit Union spoke about what they have to offer.

Call Larry Shaw to schedule a speaker from our community. 765-618-4067.

Roudebush VA Medical Center is needing volunteer drivers. Veterans Transportation Service provides Veterans a ride to their medical center or outlying clinic. This is a great way to help Veterans. To volunteer, visit or call Volunteer Services, 317-988-2734 or call driver Pat Parrish, 317-632-4263 (he’s a VVA member).

Company/Coffee All Veterans WWII to present day are invited for free coffee & safe space to share.

Come every Tuesday 10am—2pm at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop inside Geist Christian Church, Promise Rd & 126th St. Fishers. If you have questions, contact John Smitha 317-439-6304 or jonsmitha@comcast.net

HVAF needs volunteers. Volunteers help sort and stock donations that come to HVAF. They provide essential services to Veterans to help promote them towards self-sufficiency. Volunteers also beautify housing properties by raking leaves, painting and landscaping. Call 317-951-0688 or email hvaf@hvaf.org

MEDAL OF HONOR MAIL CALL

CONNECTING THANKFUL AMERICANS WITH OUR NATION'S MEDAL OF HONOR HEROES ONE LETTER AT A TIME

The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation is joining forces with Janine Stange for the 4th Annual Medal of Honor Mail Call.

Today there are 71 living Medal of Honor recipients. Each has a powerful story. And we owe each a debt of gratitude.

Help us show America's heroes how thankful we are for their service and sacrifice by writing a personal letter of thanks.

**ALL LETTERS WILL BE DELIVERED AROUND MARCH 25TH -
NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEDAL OF HONOR MAIL CALL:



Pick a living recipient from the database at www.MoHMuseum.org/recipient-database



Research your recipient's service & learn about their life



Write your letter - speak from the heart, tell them what you learned & why it matters



Mail your letter (must be received by March 18) to:

National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation
ATTN: RECIPIENT'S NAME
1905 East Randol Mill Road
Arlington, TX 76011

**NEW
ADDRESS:**

All the details may be found here: www.janinestange.com/moh
Groups of 20 or more must visit the website to be assigned a recipient.

Medal of Honor Mail Call was created by Janine Stange in 2017 as a way for everyday Americans to learn from and connect with those who have sacrificed so much for our country.