



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



August 2020 Newsletter

VVA 295 Officers

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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

- Aug 7** National Purple Heart Day
- Aug 8-9** American Huey 369 Gathering of Veterans & Patriots, flyer page 8
- Aug 12** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Aug 29** Support Ride for Veteran Center, we need volunteers from each organization in bldg., flyer pg 7
- Sept 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Sept 14-20** Howard County Veterans Reunion Week, Sept 14-20—Sandbox Reunion Mon & Tue, Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be Thur—Sat. Bunker will be setup at reunion
- Sept 18** National POW/MIA Recognition Day

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Aug 1, 1962** President Kennedy signs the Foreign Assistance Act of 1962, which provides military assistance to countries on the rim of the Communist world and under direct attack.
- Aug 26 1964** Lyndon Johnson is nominated to run for re-election at the Democratic National Convention. During the campaign, Johnson declares, “We are about to send American boys ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.”
- Aug 31, 1965** President Johnson signs into law a bill making it illegal to destroy or mutilate a U.S. draft card, with penalties of up to 5 years and a \$10,000 fine.
- Aug 1-25, 1966** The U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), South Korea and ARVN forces conduct Operation Paul Revere II, a border screening/surveillance and area control operation in Darlac and Pleiku Provinces, II Corps.
- Aug 11-28, 1967** The 1st Marine Division conducts Operation Cochise, a continuation of search and destroy operations in the old Union II area in the Que Son Valley.
- Aug 4-20, 1968** A combined U.S.-ARVN task force conducts Operation Somerset Plain/Lam Son-246 in the A Shau Valley.
- Aug 12-14, 1969** U.S. Marines and NVA regulars fight an intense battle in the “Arizona Territory,” in Quang Nam Province.
- Aug 2, 1971** The Nixon administration officially acknowledges that the CIA is maintaining a 30,000 man force of irregulars fighting throughout Laos. This force has been recruited and is paid directly by the U.S. Intelligence Agency.
- Aug 11, 1972** The last U.S. ground combat unit in South Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, Task Force Gimlet, is deactivated, along with G Battery, 29th Field Artillery. Delta Company had completed the 3rd Battalion’s last patrol on Aug 5, ending the U.S. Infantry war in Vietnam. The unit had been guarding the U.S. air base in Danang. This leaves only 43,500 advisers, airmen and support troops in country. This number does not include the sailors of the Seventh Fleet or the Air Force personnel in Thailand and Guam.



The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

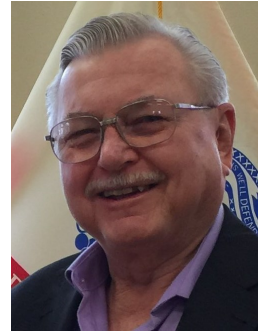
Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker will be setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center for two weeks, August 3-7 & 10-14. If you can help packing, loading, setup or selling, call Steve, 317-459-6255 or Holly 317-294-4607

President's Message:

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Hope this finds you well, and safe.

To bring you up to date, if you did not attend the last meeting, those that were elected are on the cover of this news letter, along with how to get in touch with them on ideas, comments, or complaints.



Remember in the last issue of the Veteran, it said that you will need to go on line to read it in the future. We are now into the future, so please ask your kids, or grandkids if you can use their computer.

Times are changing all around us in our towns, cities, state, nation, as well as the world. What hasn't changed is my desire for VVA 295 to grow. Not just in membership, but grow and be recognized in the community. Talk to people with in two blocks of the building who we are, and what do we do. They can't tell you as they do not know. I can tell them who we are, and that we have brought the Wall here, but other than that nothing. Most people will tell you that they do not know what the wall is, or what it represents. We have been in this location for over at least nine (9) years or more, and they do not know us. That must change, and change now. We must get involved with the community. There are veterans living just a few blocks away . We can offer them friendship, programs, and honor them on their special days. We can get involved with other organizations and help them. But coming to a meeting once a month, sitting there not saying a word does not help anybody, or anything.

Why do we need fund raisers? Why do we need money? The answer is simple. We have a new heater, air conditioning, over half the roof covered so we have no leaks. That is the good part. Now to tell you what that means. Our insurance went up to seven hundred dollars (\$715.00) a month. We had to replace the bladder on our heating system, install a thermostat, and put money into the new roof repair. To do this we used money from our savings and Wall accounts. We received our electric bill this month for eight hundred dollars (\$800.00). The Bunker has not been open so our funds are low. I have asked you to donate in the past, and some of you did, and I thank you for that. But a lot of you never did. and we are hurting. please as the big boys say please send \$1,000.00, \$500.00, \$100.00, \$50.00, \$35.00, or what ever you can afford. Make it a monthly donation. What ever we get helps. None of us are paid, and we are not wasting your money.

Please come to the meetings, get involved, sign up a new member. Remember I have not given up on VVA 295, have you? Please stand with me, so we can finish the roof, and bring the Wall back. As MOH recipient Sgt. Sammy Davis says " YOU NEVER LOSE, UNTIL YOU QUIT TRYING". Are you with me? Can I count om your help and support? I sure hope so, I am depending on each of you.

VP Bob Parsons and I trimmed bushes and cut weeds around the front door, and the chiller. Stop in and see how it looks. Thanks for the help Bob. That is a hint to the rest of you start helping, and working together.

May GOD bless each of you, our service members and their families, our nations leaders, but most of all may God bless AMERICA.

In Comradeship

Larry Shaw
President VVA 295
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GoFundMe for Ft Harrison Veteran Center

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fort-benjamin-harrison-veterans-center-fundraiser>

You can donate to our building thru this link. This was created in conjunction with the Support Ride for our building which is August 29. See flyer page 7.

Vice President’s Message:

VVA 295 brothers and sisters,

We held our annual VVA election some 2 weeks ago at our first “face to face” VVA meeting in many months. There was discussion as well as proposals that we postpone the elections in order to hopefully garner more participation from the membership. While this was a valid point, and one that I personally agreed with, VVA National Headquarters has an established deadline of July 15 to submit election results. If not submitted by this date a chapter is suspended by the national organization. Since we had not heard about any extension of this rule we felt obligated to move forward with the election irregardless of the rather sparse attendance at the July meeting.



This year, as in recent years, considering the size of our membership , we had far too few individuals willing to run for office. Larry Shaw and Dennis Smalling sought the office of President with Larry winning. President Shaw has served this chapter admirably during his past term and has accomplished a myriad of improvements. I think that his accomplishments speak for themselves and I look forward to his next term. Fred Bishop and Mike Dolan agreed to assume the duties of treasurer and secretary, respectively. When it became apparent that no one wanted to run for Vice- President, I reluctantly agreed to serve another term. My goal is to assist President Shaw in any way I can. We also were able to fill the BOD spots.

My point is, with nearly 300 VVA members, why do we have such tepid interest in assuming leadership positions ? With many new members it would be beneficial for them to lend their experience and expertise to the organization rather than just sit back and let a handful of individuals “call the shots”. I would hope that, at the very least, members would make their concerns known to the officers and BOD.

Let’s face it, we are all getting on in years as is the VVA but we aren’t done yet. We have a common bond that was forged 50 or so years ago in a little country 9000 miles from here. We are understandably proud of the service we performed for our country and rightfully so. Most of today’s citizens have no idea what we went through to preserve the type of country that now many of them take for granted or worse, speak disparagingly of.

VVA is committed to leave a lasting legacy as a testament to our service for future generations. We need to do everything that we can to preserve that legacy before we are gone and that means stepping up to help our organization achieve that goal. John F. Kennedy once said “ Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” . I think that you can insert the word “chapter” in that quote and appropriately summarize our need to get involved and help our fellow vets.

I, for one, as a Vietnam Veteran would rather go out with a roar rather than a whimper ! How about you ?

God Bless America
Bob Parsons
Phu Bai, Vietnam 66-67-68
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VA would be forced to add three illnesses to Agent Orange presumptive list

Senate lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Wed, Aug 22 to force the Department of Veterans Affairs to add three serious illnesses — bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson’s-like symptoms — to the list of conditions presumed linked to chemical defoliant exposure in Vietnam. The move has the potential to extend veterans disability benefits to tens of thousands of veterans, but still faces a long legislative road ahead. The proposal was added to the Senate’s draft of the annual defense authorization bill, which still must survive negotiations with the House in coming months. But the 94-6 vote sent a strong message of support from lawmakers to administration officials, who have resisted the change in recent years because of the potential costs of the move. The measure does not include hypertension, which could have added up to 200,000 more veterans to the potential list of eligible veterans and billions in additional costs each year.

VVA Service Officers

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National Purple Heart Day

Purple Heart Day is observed on **August 7** each year and is a time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

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.hvafofindiana.org/>

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

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

Community Guest Speaker at Meetings

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

Reminder: The Veteran Magazine is online at www.vvaveteran.org

Fort Wayne museum plans permanent Vietnam War memorial wall

By - Associated Press

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) - A military veterans museum in Fort Wayne is planning to add a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to its grounds in the coming months.

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum has bought a retired 360-foot-long traveling replica that's 80% as large as the black granite memorial wall in Washington, D.C., inscribed with the names of more than 58,000 Americans killed or missing during the Vietnam War.

Organizers hope to have the replica wall installed by Veterans Day in November 2020, said Greg Bedford, commander of the nonprofit museum on Fort Wayne's western edge.

The memorial wall itself will be where trees currently sit at the Shrine and Museum. The organization needs to add a walkway, bathrooms, parking lots and more. The total amount to be raised is \$1.75 million.

Rebecca True, chief operating officer of American Veterans Traveling Tribute, said the Fort Wayne museum has bought a traveling wall that's been on the road since 2008.

"We decided to retire it, and rather than putting it into storage, we decided to sell it and let it have a good resting place where it can be honored and viewed," True told The (Fort Wayne) Journal Gazette.

The Fort Wayne shrine, which was started in 1950 by World War I veteran Eric Scott and his wife, also is looking to raise money for separate monuments to World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the post-9/11 war in Afghanistan. Another new monument would honor Gold Star Families, the immediate family members of war dead.

The completion target date for the five monuments is Veterans Day in 2021.

"We think it is going to be an economic driver that will support what we are trying to do, and that is a memorial to all wars and all men and women that gave all," Bedford said.

Mail-in donations can be sent to VNMS&M, P.O. Box 26, Arcola, IN 46804.

House OKs free national park access for Gold Star families

The Associated Press

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a proposal from two Maine lawmakers to give families of fallen military service members free access to national parks. Independent Sen. Angus King and Democratic Rep. Jared Golden introduced the Gold Star Families Park Pass Act, which passed Tuesday, July 21 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The proposal would give immediate family of the service members access to the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program.

Golden, a Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, said the free access is "a small but meaningful way for our country to thank Gold Star Families."



**Sixth Annual
Ride to Support the
Ft. Harrison Veterans Center**



**Support your
Indiana Veterans**



The Ft Harrison Veterans Center provides meeting space for the following Veteran Organizations and we need your help.



Post 438



**Chapter One
POW/MIA**



Hope Happens Here



**Navy Club
Ship 35**



**Task Force
Omega**



Vets for Vets



**Indy
Sea Cadets**



**VVA 295
Indiana State
Council**

Ride Details

Date: August, 29, 2020

Location: Ft Harrison Veterans Center

Address: 9450 East 59th Street, Lawrence, IN

Registration Time: 08:00am - 08:45am, **Depart Time:** 09:00am

Cost: \$20.00 for rider and \$5.00 for passenger

Featuring

The route will be approximately 90 miles through the Indiana back roads. We will stop at a few of the Veteran Memorial parks along the route. Upon our return to the Veterans Center we will have Snacks, fun and games.

The Veterans Center Bunker will be open where you can find assortment of military items to purchase.

For those that wish to participate but will not be riding, a Go-Fund-Me page has been set up for you to donate

www.gofundme.com/f/fort-benjamin-harrison-veterans-center-fundraiser

All proceeds from the Ride will go to support the Ft. Harrison Veterans Center

Point of Contact: Mike Kraner, Email: nasfreak03@gmail.com, Phone: 317-460-9348

2020 14th Annual Gathering of Veterans & Patriots August 8th & 9th

CELEBRATION!

Held at the New Museum Property
2901 W. Broadway, Bunker Hill, IN

Entrance is across from the Chrysler Dealership, (IN 218)

Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students
Children under 10 are free!

All proceeds from this Celebration go towards the continued maintenance of 369, 803
Gunship 049 and their future home, "The National American Huey History Museum".

Become a Member and get a complimentary flight
on Huey 369 or 803 / Warrior 11

Membership is \$100 per person per year. You must be a member to fly.

Saturday Only, 10 a.m. 3 Huey National Anthem Flyover

Air & Ground Re-enactment both Saturday & Sunday after lunch featuring:
Gunship 049, 803 Warrior 11, Dust Off 369, 026 Little Bird (owned & operated by Peter Bales, Janesville, WI)
and the First Hounds (aka, the Wolfhounds) Living History Group

Annual Auction Saturday Morning at approx. 11 a.m. with Veteran Auctioneer, Rex Gordon.
Rex has been auctioning items for American Huey since 2006. Come out and bid on some great items!

Catered lunch available both Saturday & Sunday by: Rochester Meats & Deli, Rochester, IN.

Music & sound system provided by : DJ George Mize, Peru, IN.
10 a.m. Sunday morning service by: Rev. John & Donna Steer



Back this year to entertain us is award winning impersonator,
Lynn "Win" Roberts

BECOME A FOUNDER TODAY!
Building to begin Spring 2021!

Third Phase fundraising is underway!

Get your name on the Bronze Plaque
by making a \$1000.00 donation to the
"National American Huey History Museum"



Limited camping areas
are available
NO HOOK-UPS
Please call John Walker
for additional information
765.469.2727

WWW.AMERICANHUEY369.COM AMERICANHUEY369INFO@GMAIL.COM

American Huey 369 Inc. is a 501(c)3 Not for Profit Organization. Our Mission is to preserve the history of the Huey Helicopter,
Educate the Public as to WHY they are important, and MOST IMPORTANT, to Pay Tribute to our Veterans from ALL Wars!

