



# Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



## April 2017 Newsletter

### April 12th Meeting

No Food this Month

6:30pm Board Meeting  
7:00pm Regular Meeting

### VVA 295 Officers

President	Ken Walters
Vice President	Ron Sukenick
Secretary	John Brocklehurst
Treasurer	Tom Donovan

### President's Message



Last month we appointed a temporary Vice President. It is Ron Sukenick. Come to our meeting to meet Ron. We have a

very important event, the Agent Orange & Toxins Town Hall on April 29. See flyer and please attend.

Remember to thank a Veteran when you see one.

See you at the meeting on Wednesday, April 12.

*Ken Walters*, President VVA 295

### Board of Directors

Mike Hamm, Past President

Steve Mabrey

Steve Anderson

Jim Finney

Jim Pierce

Wes Anderson

### AVVA Chapter Representative

Holly Tookolo

### State AVVA President

Tony Gigli

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**The Bunker** is open Sunday 10am-2pm. Your Bunker purchase supports VVA 295 and Ft. Harrison Veterans Center.

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Phone: 317-547-4748

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Website: [www.vva295.com](http://www.vva295.com)

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm; Board Meeting 6:30

Newsletter Editor: Holly Tookolo If you have any information for the newsletter, please send it to my email: [htookolo@indy.rr.com](mailto:htookolo@indy.rr.com)

# Important Dates

- April 6 World War I Centennial Celebration at Indiana War Memorial, 12 noon—1pm
- April 12 VVA 295 Meeting Night; 6:30pm Board Meeting; 7pm Regular Meeting
- April 28 Meet & Greet 6pm with guests from VVA National Office and Indiana State Council.
- April 29 VVA Indiana State Council Meeting; 12 noon;  
2-7pm Agent Orange & Toxins Town Hall; see flyer on page 5.
- May 5 Cold War/Vietnam War Veterans Round Table, 8:30am-3pm, Carmel High School, see flyer on page 6.
- May 5 & 6 Region 5 Conference at Doubletree in Columbus, OH, see page 4 for more details.
- May 6 Fundraiser for National Desert Storm War Memorial at VFW Post 1152 Kokomo, see flyer on page 7.

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**April 4, 1959** In an address at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, President Eisenhower makes a commitment to maintain South Vietnam as a free and independent state. He asserts the “inescapable conclusion that our own national interests demand” U.S. support of South Vietnam.

**April 11, 1963** One hundred U.S. troops of the Hawaiian based 25th Infantry Division are sent to South Vietnam to reinforce U.S. Army aviation units by serving as door gunners aboard Army H-21 helicopters.

**April 24, 1965** President Johnson issues an executive order designating Vietnam a “combat area” and authorizes “hostile fire” pay, retroactive to January 1, 1964.

**April 10, 1972** U.S. aircraft carriers Saratoga and Midway are ordered from Florida and California to join the four other carriers and warships already engaged in the bombardment of North Vietnam.

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**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

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## 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 meats, pasta and noodles. You can visit their website to see what they do. <http://www.hvafofindiana.org/>

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**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. Contact Robin Close at 317-951-0688 or [rclose@hvaf.org](mailto:rclose@hvaf.org)

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## **Medal of Honor Society paid tribute to citizen heroes**

Annually the Medal of Honor recipients honor Americans who display extraordinary heroism not on the battlefield, but back home. This is done on Medal of Honor Day March 25 in the Citizen Honors Program. This year's recipients include: Jacob Ellis of Columbia, MO; Molly Hudgens of Ashland City, TN; Travis Ellis of Senola, GA; Katelyn Ibarra of Steamboat Springs, CO; Fisher House of Rockville, MD

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## **Camp Lejeune Vet Claims to Be Approved Faster for 8 Illnesses**

The Marine Corps has begun outreach to hundreds of thousands of veterans who served at Camp Lejeune, NC at least 30 days from August 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987, inviting them or surviving spouses to file a VA compensation if veterans suffered one of eight ailments linked to water contamination on the base. On March 22 the Corps sent an email "blast" to more than 120,000 Lejeune veterans who had shared current online addresses on a registry created to identify and educate potential victims of polluted drinking water at Lejeune over a 34 year period. The email explained that veterans who can show they served during that time for 30 days or more are now eligible to file fast track VA disability compensation claims for eight conditions. The presumptive ailments for Lejeune vets are: adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; liver cancer; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; Parkinson's disease.

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**Arlington Faces Future Burial Issues** On March 29 the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs held a hearing to discuss current operations and concerns with shrinking space for future burials at the Arlington National Cemetery. Currently, Arlington is estimated to reach capacity around the year 2040 unless more space is added or eligibility is changed. This means a veteran from the 1991 Gulf War who lives to normal life expectancy would not have the option of being buried at Arlington. The Army and subcommittee members are looking for ways to keep Arlington open for new burials beyond 2040. Options discussed include: costly expansions, some of which would be annexes not physically connected to Arlington; changes of eligibility for burial in Arlington, which range from restricting eligibility for military retirees to reducing the amount of eligible veterans to those who have earned certain valor awards such as the Medal of Honor and service members who were killed in action.

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## **H.R. 873 Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act**

The VFW Washington Office hosted a press conference March 28 to announce the introduction of H.R. 873, the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act, which is a necessary first step toward the building and placement of a GWOT Memorial in Washington, D.C. The VFW-supported bipartisan bill was sponsored by Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wisc., and Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass. Gallagher is a Life member of VFW Post 2037 in Green Bay, Wisc., and Moulton is a member of VFW Post 2005 in Marblehead, Mass. GWOT Memorial Founder and Executive Director Andrew Brennan is a Life member of VFW Post 3945 in Pittsburgh, Pa. VFW supports the creation of a GWOT Memorial by the passage of Resolution 302 at the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

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## **35th Anniversary of Groundbreaking for Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

March 26, 1982 was the groundbreaking for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. So on March 26, 2017 there was a ceremony to commemorate the 35th anniversary. There was a wreath laying and remarks by Jan Scruggs and Bob Doubek. Scruggs is founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and Doubek is the former Executive Director of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Bob Doubek wrote the book called Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Inside Story.

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**Freedom is the oxygen of the soul. ~ Moshe Dayan**

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## Region 5 Conference - VVA & AVVA

May 5 & 6, 2017 at Doubletree by Hilton in Columbus, Ohio. Registration deadline is April 3, 2017 Registration is \$85 which includes Friday night cookout & Saturday night banquet . Spouses are \$60. If you want to go Saturday only & no banquet, it is \$25 and mark "No Meal". Rooms at Doubletree for this event are \$125 per night. This will be discussed at the meeting. AVVA members can see Tony Gigli or Holly Tookolo if interested in going. VVA members should see Mike Hamm.

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### Report on Age Demographics

#### Members of Vietnam Veterans of America

As of December 2, 2016

Age Group	Number of VVA Members	% of Total Known
59 and under	239	0.32%
60-64	4,960	6.60%
65-69	35,108	46.73%
70-74	26,522	35.30%
75-79	5,754	7.66%
80-84	1,785	2.38%
85-90	608	0.81%
90 and above	153	0.20%
Unknown	5,206	
Total Known	75,129	100.00%
Total Members	80,335	

Currently 1500 Vietnam Veterans are dying per month.

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### National Desert Storm War Memorial Site Location Approved

March 31 President Trump signed the resolution approving the site location of the National Desert Storm War Memorial. This resolution was led by U.S. Senators Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) and John Boozman (R-Ark.). Scott Stump, President and CEO of the National Desert Storm Memorial Association has worked on this project for over 4 years. Stump is from St. Joseph County, Indiana and served in Operation Desert Storm and Shield. Now the fundraising begins for this memorial.

# AGENT ORANGE & TOXINS TOWN HALL MEETING

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ★ FREE PARKING ★ FREE ADMISSION



**SATURDAY - APRIL 29, 2017**

**FORT HARRISON VETERANS CENTER**

9450 E 59TH ST, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46216

**2 - 7PM**



## 2:00PM - AGENT ORANGE

Subject matter experts in an open forum discussion and hear the latest news about agent orange & dioxin exposure

## 4:00PM - TOXIC EXPOSURE

Gulf War, Desert Storm, Camp Lejeune  
Hear about the 8 recognized exposures and other important information from subject matter experts

THE MOBILE VET CENTER AND  
VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SITE

### IT WASN'T JUST AGENT ORANGE:



Brought to you by:  
**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 295**  
**VIETNAM VETERANS INDIANA STATE COUNCIL**  
**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



Chapter 295



For more information contact:  
**Michael Hamm**  
317-232-3921  
mhamm@dva.in.gov



# Attention:

## Cold War/Vietnam War Veterans

Would you like to share the history of your military experiences with younger generations?

*Please join us at Carmel High School for a series of round table discussions on May 5, 2017 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Feel free to arrive & leave at any time during those hours.)*

The program will provide students with first-hand accounts of the events they are studying in class.

*If you are interested in taking part in one or more of these sessions, please contact James Ziegler at [jziegler@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:jziegler@ccs.k12.in.us) or 317-748-3660 by May 3, 2016*

Carmel High School  
520 E. Main St.  
Carmel, IN 46032

(Parking is available in the Front Lot, by Door 1 & 2, and outside the Freshman Center, Door 13—Please sign-in at the respective offices as you enter.)

***THANK YOU for your service to our country!***

***Food and Beverages will be provided all day.***



# YOUR INVITED TO THE

## NATIONAL DESERT STORM WAR MEMORIAL



50/50  
Drawing

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# Fund Raiser

MAY 6, 2017 @ 5 PM

**SPAGHETTI DINNER w/ salad and GARLIC BREAD**

**\$6.00 a Plate**

**Music at 7:30 pm by Sonsee Cloud**

**Located at:**

**VFW Post 1152**

**920 N. Washington**

**Kokomo, IN**



Contact: Kent Shivley @ 317-716-8641

Jim Proffit @ 317-313-9973