



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295**



**July 2021 Newsletter**



Many of us celebrate the Fourth of July every year with fireworks, barbecues, concerts and parades. Growing up, you may have heard that we celebrate Independence Day on July 4 because that's the day the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, but that's not technically true! Although the Declaration was adopted on July 4, 1776, it wasn't signed by most people until a month later.

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of declaring independence from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was officially adopted two days later, marked by the ringing of the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

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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](http://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](mailto:htookolo@indy.rr.com) 317-844-3554 or cell 317-294-4607

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## VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw	comdshaw@yahoo.com	765-618-4067
Vice President	Don McFarland	dmac101@comcast.net	812-593-2554
Secretary	Mike Dolan	michaedolan@prodigy.net	317-374-5578
Treasurer	Fred Bishop	fbishop89@gmail.com	765-621-5515
Chaplain	Robert Wright	gospelbobw@gmail.com	317-714-4618

## Board of Directors

Steve Anderson	asteton@aol.com	317-431-9683
Ron Ayres	ron.ayers@att.net	317-319-6968
Rick Brown	rbrown46140@gmail.com	317-509-2022
Mike Hamm	indyhambone@sbcglobal.net	317-371-9833
Verne Hanson	ver61el.handon@comcast.net	317-439-7982
Steve Mabrey	spmabrey@comcast.net	317-459-6255
Ken Walters	kennethgwalters@gmail.com	317-372-2231
Dennis Smalling	smallingindy@sbcglobal.net	317-313-1577

## AVVA Liaison

Tony Gigli	Anthony.gigli@gmail.com	317-965-1976
Holly Tookolo	htookolo@indy.rr.com	317-294-4607

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## WARRIORS HOPE

Every Thursday evening at 6pm you will find John Smitha at the Fort Harrison Veteran Center leading and helping a group of veterans with fellowship. Coffee and donuts are usually available. All veterans are welcome. It is good to talk with other veterans. If you have questions, call John Smitha, 317-439-6304.



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**Reminder: The Veteran Magazine is online at [www.vvaveteran.org](http://www.vvaveteran.org)**

**The May/June issue is out there now. Read the article about Accounting For The Dead: The Wall and shifting Casualty Classifications. The 58,279 on The Wall is not a complete listing of those killed in Vietnam. Very interesting story.**

# Important Dates

- July 4** Independence Day
- July 10 & 11** Remembering the Korean War at Fort Harrison State Park, 1-am-4pm each day
- July 14** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm
- July 17** Honoring Women Veterans Conference, 3300 E Division St, Evansville, IN 8am-4pm CDT
- July 24** Navy Club Ship 35, 4th Annual Golf Outing at Winding Ridge Gold Course, 10am; need more info, call Jim Henderson .317-285-8874
- July 27** Korean War Cease Fire in 1953
- Aug 4** Coast Guard founded 1790
- Aug 7** Purple Heart Day & Operation Desert Shield begins 1990
- Aug 11** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- July 27, 1953** With the signing of the Korean armistice at Panmunjom, Chinese aid to Vietnam, such as trucks, artillery and anti aircraft guns, increases.
- July 2, 1961** Hanoi captures 3 members of Lansdale's U.S. trained First Observation Group when their U.S. C-47 aircraft is shot down. The First Observation Group is the clandestine warfare unit ordered by President Kennedy in May 1961. The group expanded to 805 men. Their activities were focused on the Viet Cong but shifted to operations against North Vietnam.
- July 1, 1962** A team of 30 Australian military advisers arrives in Vietnam to join with American advisory teams training South Vietnamese military forces.
- July 23, 1964** At a news conference in Paris, President Charles de Gaulle proposes that the U.S., France, the Soviet Union and Communist China negotiate an end to the hostilities in Vietnam and Laos by agreeing to leave the Indo-Chinese peninsula, guaranteeing its neutrality and independence and providing economic and technical aid.
- July 15, 1965** New Zealand deploys a field artillery battery to Vietnam for combat operations in support of the Australian forces in III Corps.
- July 30, 1965** It is reported that 29 nations now give some kind of aid to South Vietnam; this aid runs the gamut from material and funds to personnel.
- July 4, 1966** U.S. Marines and ARVN troops conduct Operation Macon, a security operation to protect the An Hoa industrial complex in Quang Nam Province, I Corps.



### The Bunker

**Hours 10am-2pm Sunday**

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker is scheduled to be at the VA most of the year. Steve is still looking for another manager to help with the Bunker. Right now Steve and Wallace Vaughn take turns as manager at VA. To volunteer call Holly 317-294-4607; to manage, call Steve 317-459-6255.

Hours 7am-3pm at VA

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## President's Message:

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to thank those people, who either donated or purchased items for or from the Vets For Vets Inside Yard Sale. A big THANK YOU to the parents of the Sea Cadets who donated also. It is nice when the different groups work to help each other. But speaking of that, the only VVA 295 members who were there, were the ones who belong to Vets For Vets.



This month, we celebrate the 4th of July. Independence Day. 245 years ago all sorts of people came together from farms, black smiths, store keepers, hunters, trappers with one goal in mind, to be free to govern themselves. They had very little of any thing in the way of money, arms, horses, tents, and food. Yet they had a dream. A desire that took them away from their homes and families. They fought in winter's freezing temperatures and snows, in the dry hot summer days, in mountains and swamps. With very little in the way of fighting a big ruling Country. They had limited food, men, weapons, tents, and clothing. But they stood together father, son, brother, and neighbor to not only fight, but to win. They did not sit back, as many of you do today, and say let the other guy do it. I don't have the time for that. Or even a better line is I am too good to lower myself to do that, beside everyone else will do it for me. But, when all the work is done, money has been earned, I will gladly take credit for it. Plus say how we should spend it, and not for the good of VVA 295. Well the day is coming when those who are doing it all now, wont be there. Where do you think you will be then? Who will you get to do what you are too good for? Those brave men from back then, would be ashamed to see not only how our great Country is going, but how well we as a group, do not support each other. I am not talking about all members, as we do have a small hand full so to speak, that are helping with the building, and the Bunker. To those, I say Thank you. To the rest of you, it is time to step up and volunteer to help. STOP WATCHING, AND START DOING.

Steve needs more help at the VA through the week. That is Monday through Friday from 7am to 3pm. Plus he needs more people to help manage. Call Steve to learn how you can become a manager. Call Holly to volunteer during the week. We need people every day, and our short list of volunteers can not always be there when needed. Steve Anderson is fighting with the weeds and brush around the building, and in the parking lot. Ken Walters is fighting our moles around the building. They all need, and can use your help. Plus we need more Service Officers, as the ones that we have are getting busier, older, and maybe not in the best of health.

For several years VVA 295 wanted to hit the 300 membership mark. But no one ever did anything to get there. Today, we have 343 members. But you can't tell any difference. As it is said in all organizations only a hand full of people do all the work, while the others talk about them, and complain. We need less talk, and more action. One day those who are doing all the work now, will not be here. What will you do then? Do you have a plan? Have you even thought about that happening? Or do you think that those who are doing it now will go on for ever? What will it take for you to wake up, and do your part. Will that ever happen? Or will you just let 295 fade away? I shouldn't say fade, because with the right people, it could go fast. For several months, even years, we have begged and pleaded with you to get involved and help. But to no avail. I even thought that if the person who this chapter is named after would come to one of our meetings, that it just might motivate you enough to do something. But I can't even get him to come.

If this has made you mad, or if I have hurt your feelings, I could care less. What about the feelings of Steve, Holly, and the others that have asked you for help, and you ignore them. They have feelings also. How do you think it makes them feel in a meeting when they ask for help, and you look the other way? I have seen the disappointment in their faces, and I wonder how some of you can sleep at night, or even live with yourselves. Over the years I have served in many organizations, but never in one that wants to do less than this one, except for spending money.

Everyone that I talked about has their phone number in this news letter. Call them and volunteer. Or stay home and hide. If I do not see you at the meeting, I will know why, and so will everyone else.

May GOD bless America, our troops, and you.

"You never lose, until you quit trying." "We can each do a little, but together we can do a lot."

In Comradeship

Larry Shaw

765-618-4067

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**Bunker Schedule at VA**

We could still use more volunteers. Call Holly to volunteer 317-294-4607.  
Steve is still looking for another manager so they can take turns at the VA.  
To manage, call Steve 317-459-6255  
Hours open at VA are 7am-3pm.



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**VVA Service Officers**

**Dennis Smalling**  
317-313-1577  
smallingindy@sbcglobal.net

**Michael Dolan**  
317-374-5578  
michaedolan@prodigy.net

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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 meat & tuna, pasta and noodles. You can visit their website to see what they do. <http://www.hvafindiana.org/>

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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 or call driver Pat Parrish, 317-632-4263 (he's a VVA member).

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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. Call 317-951-0688 or email [hvaf@hvaf.org](mailto:hvaf@hvaf.org)

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**Member Speaker Program at Meetings**– Call Fred Bishop, 765-621-5515 to sign up.

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**Community Guest Speaker at Meetings**

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

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**Membership Report**

VVA membership total as of May 31, 2021 the VVA membership total is 343.

By Steve Anderson

AVVA membership total as of May 31, 2021 is 32.

By Holly Tookolo

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Arlington National Cemetery contains over 400,000 reasons why you stand for the National Anthem.

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Visit your local [PBS station](#) for broadcast times. It will air at various times on various stations though most will show it at 10 pm on June 28th. It will be rebroadcasted at various times until July 5th on various PBS stations. It will also be available until July 11th for free on the [PBS website](#).

After decades of struggle and tragic personal losses, two heroic women are leading a worldwide movement to end the plague and hold the manufacturers accountable. In France, Tran To Nga is suing the American chemical industry for poisoning her in Vietnam. In America, Carol Van Strum exposes the continuing use of toxic herbicides, many still containing dioxin. Incriminating documents disappear. Activists are threatened. A helicopter technician secretly films the contamination of reservoirs, while a massive industrial cover-up continues. The fatal decisions that led to the Agent Orange “ecocide” and its cover-up are the underpinnings of our film’s investigation, exposing what the key players knew when they knew it, and the actions they took and continue to take to protect their lethal products. The legacy of Agent Orange is not just a cautionary tale. It is a critically pressing and pervasively ignored humanitarian issue today. Through the crafting of this character driven investigative documentary, interweaving the personal with the political, our fundamental goal is to finally expose the heedless decisions that resulted in the ongoing Agent Orange tragedy.

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**Indiana Veterans Home New Visitation Instructions**

Visitation is back at IVH! Below are requirements for in-room visits.

- Must be screened at the Pyle Switchboard for any signs or symptoms of illness.
- Complete the Visitor Screening Tool.
- Complete the Visitor Log to include your contact information in case we need to reach you for any reason.
- Bring proof of your vaccinations; we will make a copy of this and attach it to your Visitor Screening Tool.
- Leave the Pyle building and walk to the building where your loved one resides.
- You can go directly to their room and visit. You will also be required to wear a surgical mask when in any common area, but you may take your mask off in their room during your visit.
- After you visit, report back to Pyle Switchboard to checkout. It is very important that you do this.
- If you are not vaccinated, you will be able to continue to schedule your visits online and have your visits supervised in the Mitchell Dining Room.

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**Need to Call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs? 800-698-2411 (800-MyVA411)**

Federal Veterans Benefits, Healthcare & Services: Veterans Crisis Line, Live Assistance, VA Health Care, Community Health Care, National Cemeteries, Debt Management, Facility Locator, Benefits Assistance, Homeless Veteran Line and Covid-19 Information.

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**VVA REGION 5  
CONFERENCE  
SEPT. 24 -26<sup>TH</sup> 2021  
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

**Double Tree by Hilton  
(Info on reverse side)**

.....DETACH HERE.....RETURN W/ PAYMENT.....

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_ EXTRA MEALS (SPOUSE) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Buckeye State Council

614-228-0188

*"See reverse side for details"*

Reservations can be made at:

**Double Tree by Hilton**

**175 Hutchinson Ave.**

**Columbus, Ohio 43235**

Direct line: 614-885-3334

***Mention: VVA Region 5 conference***

Room rate: \$99.00 per/night plus tax. (inc. 2 Breakfast buffets)

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John Glenn - Columbus International Airport served by all major airlines  
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Conference Registration fee: **\$35.00**

*Registration form on front side of flier*

Registration fee cover's: Fri. night Welcome Home party & Sat. night banquet  
& Conference material

Meals only option: **\$25.00**

Check made out to: **Buckeye State Council**

Send check to: 35 E. Chestnut St. Suite 501

Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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**NOTES:**

National Veterans Memorial & Museum tours begin Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Convention resolutions, Constitution changes begin on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Candidate forum will also be held on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Friday & Saturday lunch will be on your own.

There are several eateries around the hotel.

The Fri. Night party is BIG 10 theme & Saturday night banquet is Business Casual  
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***Registration deadline: AUGUST 15, 2021***