



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



February 2016 Newsletter

February Meeting

Reminder: During the winter months the regular meeting will be 7:00pm instead of 7:30pm. Board Meeting is 6:30pm. See you February 10, 2016.



Vietnam 50th Commemorative Gift

For more information, please visit:
www.WHVV.org

The Commemorative Gift that each Indiana Vietnam Veteran receives—distributed through Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans, an Indiana based non-profit partner, along with founding and Indiana Partners—will include all four of the following components:

1. 160 page hardbound book, entitled “A Time To Honor: Stories of Duty, Service and Sacrifice”
2. Interactive eBook: Indiana specific, with hundreds of additional pages to include interview clips, documents, letters; no sharing restrictions.
3. Feature documentary: “A Time to Heal: Still Coming Home After 50 Years”
4. Digitized archives of all Vietnam-Era Division publications.

To sign up the this Commemorative Gift, go to this website: www.WHVV.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 269279, Indianapolis, IN 46226-9279

Phone: 317-547-4748

Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN

Website: www.vva295.com

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm (7pm during winter months); Board Meeting 6:30



Combat Wounded Parking

This photo was taken in Kokomo, IN at Lowe's. Lowe's in Marion, IN also has Combat Wounded Parking.

There are an estimated 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients, combat wounded service members who have transitioned back into civilian life. They have made great sacrifices to ensure our freedoms but often go unrecognized. Wounded Warriors Family Support's founder, Colonel John Folsom, decided to change that. Wounded Warriors Family Support offers Combat Wounded Parking Signs, free of charge, to establishments as a way of honoring and recognizing these veterans. The response has been tremendous, stretching from coast to coast. The signs have been placed in the parking lots of businesses, churches, schools and colleges, government, and medical facilities. Some paint the parking lines purple while others paint the whole parking spot purple. For more information about Combat Wounded Parking Signs, call Ron Julianelle at Wounded Warriors Family Support at 402-502-7557. Thank you for your interest in receiving combat wounded parking signs. You will not be charged for the signs. However, please email or send a FedEx or UPS label to cover shipping.

Local Organization needs Men's Dress Shoes

Danny's Closet of Hope is affiliated with St. Vincent Hospital. They help men looking for work with seminars for several weeks getting them ready for that job interview. They provide them the appropriate clothing, underwear, belts, socks and shoes. They are in need of men's black dress shoes sizes 13, 14, 15 & 16. They are also needing volunteers. If you can help, call 317-415-5775, or stop by 9101 Wesleyan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

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.hvafindiana.org/>

CBS Investigation Raises Questions About Wounded Warrior Project

January 27, 2016 6:04 PM By Lauren Leamanczyk

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2016/01/27/cbs-wounded-warrior-project-lavish-spending/>

BOSTON (CBS) – A CBS News Investigation into lavish spending by the Wounded Warrior Project has veterans groups in Massachusetts reacting. More than 40 current and former employees of the prominent veterans charity told CBS about lavish parties, \$2500 bar tabs and expensive resort trips for employees.

New Hampshire native Erick Millette, a combat vet and former Wounded Warrior Project employee, helped blow the whistle on over the top expenditures.

“You’re using our injuries, our darkest days, our hardships so you can make money,” he said. “Donors don’t want you to have \$2500 bar tab. Donors don’t want you to fly every staff member once a year to some five star resort to whoop it up.”

Financial reports show Wounded Warrior Project spent more than \$26 million in 2014 on conferences, meetings and events for staff members.

That’s almost the same amount they spent on combat stress recovery, its largest program for veterans.

It’s a far cry from the work done by Dominic Marcellino and Mike McNulty who run Disabled and Limbless Veterans, Inc. They provide clothing, food and rides to combat vets in Massachusetts.

“100 percent of everything we do goes back to veterans,” Marcellino says.

He was reluctant to criticize Wounded Warrior Project but says expenses like theirs should raise red flags. He stresses that that is why it is so important for donors to research where their money is going.

“If you look at the numbers they’re so large and where does the money go? I don’t know anyone that’s ever had a house built by him,” Marcellino says.

WBZ contacted several local veterans charity organizations. None could point to disabled veterans who had received direct services from Wounded Warriors Project.

The I-Team looked through recent filings and found the group gave \$250,000 to Massachusetts General Hospital and another \$150,000 to an organization that defends charities.

In an email, a spokesman for the group says they’ve served 2700 injured veterans and their families out of the Boston office in 2015.

In addition, they are partnering with Massachusetts General Hospital and the Home Base Veterans program to expand mental health care to veterans. That will mean a \$15 million investment in Boston over three years.

NOTE: Disabled American Veterans spends 96% of its budget on vets. Fisher House devotes 91%. But according to public records reported by “Charity Watch”, the Wounded Warrior Project spends 60% on vets. In another article, Wounded Warrior Project has gone after other veterans group using a logo or name similar to theirs. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/05/04/wounded-warrior-charity-unleashes-hell-on-other-veteran-groups.html>

WWI Memorial Design Selected: The World War I Centennial Commission announced the winning design for a new national memorial. “The Weight of Sacrifice,” created by 25-year-old Joe Weishaar, a 2013 University of Arkansas graduate who now works in Chicago, and New York-based sculptor Sabin Howard, was selected out of five finalists from 350 total entries. The design met the challenge of creating a concept to appropriately honor the service and sacrifice of the nearly 5 million Americans who served, and the more than 116,000 who died. The

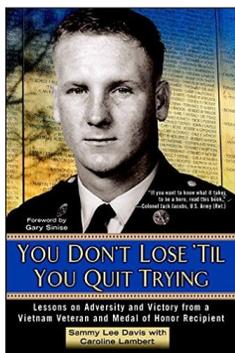


new national memorial is hoped to be dedicated on Veterans Day 2018, the centennial of the end of “The Great War.” It will be built a block away from the White House in Pershing Park, and include the existing statue of Army Gen. John J. “Blackjack” Pershing, commander of American Expeditionary Forces, and member of VFW Post 27, which was formerly located in the Philippines. See the winning design at:

<http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/644632/officials-announce-winning-design-concept-for-national-wwi-memorial?source=GovDelivery>

Discounts on Wireless Service

Active military and veterans can receive a 15% discount on their Verizon or AT&T wireless service. Active military need to show a paystub. Veterans need to show a DD Form 214, Veterans ID card or Veterans organization membership card.



Books Coming Out Soon

You Don't Lose 'Til You Quit Trying: Lessons on Adversity and Victory from a Vietnam Veteran and Medal of Honor Recipient by Sammy Lee Davis should be out May 3, 2016. You can preorder on Amazon.com

Endless Love and Second Chances

By Dixie Davis is due out mid-February.

Dixie will keep us posted.

Dixie is the wife of Sammy Lee Davis, CMH.

