



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



February 2019 Newsletter



Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. I always include Abraham Lincoln's birthday which is February 12.



VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw
Vice President	Bob Parsons
Secretary	Mike Dolan
Treasurer	Wes Anderson
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
Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Phone: 317-547-4748
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

Important Dates

- Feb 4-8 Bunker is setup at Roudebush VA; Call Steve 317-459-6255 to help loading/unloading van.
- Feb 11 Indiana Veterans Legislative Day at 10am, at Statehouse
- Feb 13 VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm.
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 18 Presidents' Day
- Feb 23 Bunker is setup at VFW Spring Conference at Marriott East, Call Steve 317-459-6255 to help loading/unloading van.
- Mar 4-8 Bunker is setup at Roudebush VA; Call Steve 317-459-6255 to help loading/unloading van.
- Mar 13 VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Mar 16 VVA Indiana State Council, 12 noon
- Mar 29 Remember the 51 Hoosiers Still Missing from Vietnam,, Memorial Brick Dedication at Monument Circle North Quad 11:30am, reception at Indiana War Memorial following this.
- Mar 29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Feb 2, 1962** The first U.S. Air Force plane is lost in South Vietnam. The C-123 aircraft crashes while spraying defoliant on a Viet Cong ambush site as part of Operation Ranch Hand.
- Feb 1, 1965** A Cuban publication reports that Cubans are helping to train the Viet Cong.
- Feb 7, 1965** As part of the already planned Operation Flaming Dart, 49 U.S. Navy jets from the carriers Coral Sea and Hancock drop bombs on barracks and staging areas at Dong Hoi, a guerrilla training camp 40 miles north of the 17th parallel in North Vietnam in retaliation for VC attacks on Pleiku.
- Feb 10, 1966** The U.S. 1st Infantry Division and a battalion from the Royal Australian Regiment conduct Operation Rolling Stone to provide security for road building crews on highways in Binh Duong Province, III Corps.
- Feb 11, 67-Jan 21, 68** The U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, assisted by elements of the 25th Infantry Division, the 22nd ARVN Division, and the ROK Capital Division conduct Operation Pershing in Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh Provinces, I and II Corps.
- Feb 27-May 8, 69** U.S. Marines conduct Operation Purple Martin in Quang Tri Province, I Corps. This is aimed at driving North Vietnamese troops back across the DMZ.
- Feb 1, 1970** Operation Good Luck is initiated by the U.S. Air Force to strike North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao forces in the Plain of Jars.



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 on Feb 4—8 and at VFW Spring Conference Feb 23 at Marriott East. Call Steve if you are going to help load/unload, 317-459-6255.

President's Message:



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Hope you are well, and surviving Indiana weather. This winter has been about all that you could ask for, with rain and snow. Mild temperatures to record lows. please be careful when you are out, and if you can let someone else do your shoveling for you

. February 2nd is Ground Hog Day. Will he see his shadow? Will we have six more weeks of winter? Wait and see.

February 11th is Legislative Day at the Indiana State House. This is when you can meet with your Representatives, and discuss Veterans needs. If you plan to attend please let your Representatives know ahead of time, of your desire to speak with them.

February 12th Lincoln's Birthday.

February 14th Valentines Day. A time to show love for those you love with a card, flowers, candy, and or dinner out. I know that some of us have lost our life partner. In that case have dinner with a child or friend. While you're dinning, if you see a man or woman eating alone, if you can afford to, pick up their check. Either way, as you leave smile and say hello. You may not only brighten their day, but yours as well.

February 15th-24th Indiana Boat, Sport, and Travel Show, State Fairgrounds. This will allow you to get out of the house, get some exercise, and dream of warmer days. It is also a great place to meet other Veterans, and ask them to join VVA 295, for a life time membership of only \$50.00.

Besides new members we need fund raising ideas. We can not wait for money to drop into our laps. We need to go to work and earn it, the results of your hard work will mean so much more to you, when you can say WE DID THAT. WE MADE IT HAPPEN. Nothing can stop us if WE really care about what WE are doing. If WE want to succeed in making VVA 295 GREAT AGAIN. Don't sit back and wait to see what the other guy is going to do, get involved. Always remember, WE CAN EACH DO A LITTLE, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN DO A LOT. As Sammy says," YOU DON'T LOSE, UNTIL YOU QUIT TRYING."

February 18th is Presidents Day.

February 22nd is George Washington's Birthday. A special day for Purple Heart Combat wounded Veterans. do you know why it is special? If not ask a Purple heart veteran.

If you can please attend the meetings, and bring someone new with you, or offer transportation to a member who needs it.

Keep those FLAGS flying, and Pray for the safety of our Troops around the world.

May GOD BLESS America, our Troops, and you.

In Patriotism

Larry

765-618-4967

Navy denies Claims of Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune

On Thursday, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said that despite the Navy's acknowledgement there were harmful cleaning solvents and fuels that may have been connected to cancers found in Camp Lejeune personnel from 1953 to 1987, he decided this week to deny claims from those Lejeune lawsuits. In all, the claims sought \$963 billion in damages.

For the full article, go to:

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/navy-denies-claims-related-to-contaminated-water-at-camp-lejeune-1.565888>

Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 Brothers and Sisters,



Now that we are well into the New Year we need to look ahead to building an even stronger VVA Chapter. In order to move forward sometimes it helps to look back and learn from the past.

50 or so years ago our country called on us to stand up for what America stands for. We answered that call regardless if we were white, black, Hispanic, Native American or other ethnicities. We represented all faiths, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and many others. We were all different with a myriad of personalities and talents, but regardless of our differences, regardless of whether we were Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Or Coast Guard we formed a team, a strong team. Perhaps it was our differences that made us such a formidable force. Perhaps it was because we all had individual strengths and talents. We all had our own ideas, strategies and personalities and, yes, we sometimes disagreed but by compromising, listening to and perhaps more importantly respecting each other as well as treating each other with respect, we persevered. In short...we were a team with a common goal.

Fast forward a half a century...have we changed that much? Well, when I look around the room. I still see a variety of ethnicities, faiths and yes, personalities. Our views, ideas and opinions are still widely varied, and yes, perhaps we are a bit more opinionated but one thing has not changed, we are all entitled to express our views and to be treated with courtesy and civility and we are obligated to show our brothers and sisters no less.

Open mindedness, courtesy and a willingness to listen as well as compromise by all members and officers is the key to a VVA Chapter that can go forward and achieve the potential that it is capable of.

God Bless each of you and God Bless America

Bob Parsons
VVA 295 Vice-President
Vietnam, 1966-67-68

Valentine's Day Cards for American Soldiers



Send a Valentine's Day card to an American Soldier.

A Recovering American Soldier

% Walter Reed Army Medical Center

6900 Georgia Avenue

NW Washington, D.C.

20307-5001

Read Newsletter from Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

Here is their website: <https://www.in.gov/dva/3324.htm>

You can also sign up to receive the newsletter by email.

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). Most recently members Bob Parsons and Mark Fix have become volunteers Thank you Pat, Bob and Mark.

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/>

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

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

Court rules VA must pay disability benefits to ‘blue water’ Vietnam veterans

By: Leo Shane III; Military Times

A federal court ruled Tuesday that the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot deny disability benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans who claim exposure to cancer-causing chemical defoliants simply because those vets served in the waters off the country’s coastline, and not inland.

The ruling marks a major victory for so-called “blue water” Navy veterans who have fought the department for years over the denials. VA officials have said the existing scientific evidence doesn’t justify the presumption of toxic exposure for the group and have strongly opposed legislative efforts to overturn their decision.

So while a veteran who served on the shoreline could receive disability payouts after contracting Parkinson’s Disease or prostate cancer, another vet who served on a ship a few miles away would have to provide evidence of direct contact with hazardous chemicals. Advocates have said that, given the time that has passed since the war, obtaining such proof is impossible and unfair. In their ruling, the federal judges agreed.

“These statutes cast no doubt on our conclusion that, by using the formal term ‘Republic of Vietnam,’ Congress unambiguously referred, consistent with uniform international law, to both its landmass and its 12-nautical-mile territorial sea,” the ruling states.

If VA officials opt not to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court in the next 90 days — or if the court decides not to hear the case — the result means that up to 90,000 blue water veterans could see disability payouts as early as this year.

If the court order stands, VA will be forced to cover the costs regardless of whether an offset is agreed upon, a potential drain on the department’s annual budget. Several new bills on the issue are already pending before Congress, and the chairmen of both the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees have promised to deal with the topic quickly this year. In a statement, Senate chairman Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said that he was pleased with the court decision and would work closely with VA on the next steps.

For full article, go to: <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2019/01/29/court-rules-va-must-pay-disability-benefits-to-blue-water-vietnam-veterans/>



HRH
HHOOT



We Serve Veterans, ExOffenders & our Homeless Friends

HHOOT's Street Outreach Distribution Center Needs Your Help!

Winter is just around the corner and we are starting to store and distribute the following items for our friends in need during the winter months:

- 1) **Men's Clothing (especially large sizes) & Personal Hygiene Items:** Jackets, Coats, gloves, shoes, socks, underwear, sweat shirts, hoodies, blankets, sleeping bags.
- 2) **Hygiene Items, such as:** shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, chap stick, tooth paste, tooth brushes, mouth wash, hand lotion, hand sanitizer, etc.
- 3) **Non-perishable food products, such as:** package cookies & crackers, fruit & pudding cups, potato chips, small cans of meat, water, sodas, etc.
- 4) **Paper and cleaning products, such as:** large paper plates, small paper plates, cups, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, plastic forks & spoons, trash bags, To-go containers, cleaning supplies, etc.

If you have any of the above items that you can help us with; you can drop them off at the address below, call (317) 632-0500, or email me at Hawkins@HRH.ooo

Or, you can

Make a Cash Donation thru PayPal on our web site: www.IndyHelpers.com

Your Cash Donations are Tax Deductible and will help buy what is needed but not donated, and help pay our utilities, insurance, etc.

Please consider making a monthly donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$200.

(HRH has been an Indiana Non-Profit Corporation, Public Charity, 501 (c)(3) since November 2008)

"We believe that everybody is somebody at HRH & HHOOT and everyone deserves our respect and our help.

We may not be able to help everyone get everything they need, but that doesn't stop us from trying!"

Remember, Jesus loves you, and so do we! Don Hawkins, Founder & CEO of HRH & HHOOT.

HRH & HHOOT's Warehouse | 2457 E Washington St, Suite F, Indy 46201

(317) 635-0500 Office | Hawkins@HRH.ooo | www.IndyHelpers.com



OUR PANTRY IS RUNNING LOW!

We need your help!

This week, we are running very low on most of our food items in our pantry. And due to the government shutdown, most of our veterans will not receive federal food assistance next month-- meaning they need us now more than ever.



OUR NEEDS INCLUDE:

Ravioli
Rice
Spaghetti sauce
Canned meat
(Spam, vienna, chicken, fish)
Soup
Cereal
PB&J
Canned fruit
Hamburger helper
Stuffing
Pasta
Beans
Snacks
Instant potatoes
Chili
Ramen
Bagged beans
Granola Bars

PLEASE DROP OFF DONATIONS AT OUR HEADQUARTERS:

964 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana
46204

THANK
you

Questions?
317-951-0688



**CAROLINE SCOTT HARRISON CHAPTER,
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
REMEMBERS THE 51 HOOSIERS
STILL MISSING IN ACTION
FROM THE VIETNAM WAR**



You are cordially invited to attend a dedication ceremony presented by
The Daughters of the American Revolution

**Honoring Indiana's
Fifty-One Vietnam War MIA**

**Memorial Brick Dedication
Friday, March 29, 2019*
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Monument Circle North Quadrant

Honored Guests

Families of MIA Veterans
Vietnam War Veterans

Keynote Speakers

CW5 Peter Lautzenheiser,
U.S. Army (Ret.)
and Joy Brinduse

National League of Family Members
Siblings of

SP5 Michael Lautzenheiser, MIA

Reception following ceremony

Indiana War Memorial
Shoop Hall

Hosted by the

Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter,
National Society

Daughters of the American Revolution

* Inclement weather date:
Monday, April 1, 2019