



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



October 2016 Newsletter

October 12th Meeting

- 6:00pm Chili Cook-off, bring crockpot of Chili or another dish to share.
- 6:30pm Board Meeting
- 7:00pm Regular Meeting



President's Message

Dear Members,

I attended the 34th Annual Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion on September 17 and worked a booth for ARC, Hepatitis C. I had a good time. You should have been there.

Ken Walters, President of VVA 295

EDITORIAL

I want to personally thank Don & Carol McFarland, Joann Weaver, Jim Pierce, Jim Cinkoske, Steve Anderson and Tom Donovan for working in The Bunker's booth during the reunion in Kokomo. I know Steve & Patty Mabrey thank you also. The Bunker is VVA 295's only income. We need to have more officers and members helping to earn the money needed to keep VVA 295 going. The Bunker will be setup at the Roudebush VA Medical Center on Oct 11 thru 14. They will be setup at the Mayors' Appreciation Day on Oct 15. They could use the help. Holly Tookolo

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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

Important Dates

- Oct 11-14 The Bunker setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center. Help out Steve & Patty.
- Oct 12 VVA 295 Meeting; 6pm is Chili Cook-off & pitch-in. Bring a pot of chili or a side dish to share; 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular meeting.
- Oct 15 Mayors' Veterans & Family Appreciation Day; 10am-3:30pm at Garfield Park
- Oct 15 Indiana VVA State Council Meeting; 12 noon is lunch; 1pm is meeting.

War Studies Suggest a Concussion Leaves Brain Vulnerable to PTSD

There's growing evidence that a physical injury to the brain can make people susceptible to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Studies of troops who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have found that service members who have suffered a concussion or mild traumatic brain injury are far more likely to develop PTSD, a condition that can cause flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety for years after a traumatic event.

And research on both people and animals suggests the reason is that a brain injury can disrupt circuits that normally dampen the response to a frightening event.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

October 14, 1962 An Air Force reconnaissance flight photographs nuclear-armed Soviet missiles in Cuba, causing a major showdown between President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Khrushchev that results in what will become known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

October 12, 1965 Senator John Stennis, D-Miss states that it may be necessary to keep U.S. forces in Vietnam for another 15 years. The Defense Department orders a draft call for 45,224 men for December, the largest quota of men drafted since the Korean War in 1950.

October 11, 1969 A Gallop poll reports that 57 percent of Americans say they would like to see Congress pass legislation that calls for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops by the end of 1970.

October 29, 1971 The total number of U.S. troops remaining in Vietnam drops to 196,700, the lowest level since January 1966.

Assistance for Veterans with Service-Connected Infertility: The president signed a bill that will authorize VA to provide assisted reproductive technology treatments or cover the cost of adoption for veterans who have lost their ability to conceive due to a service-connected condition.

Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind.

~ Theodore Roosevelt

Indiana State Museum seeking Photos of Hoosier Veterans

The Indiana State Museum is seeking photos of Hoosiers who have served in the military. The museum says the photos will be used in a mural for an exhibit called "Heroes from the Heartland". The exhibit will run from Nov 1 thru Veterans Day, Nov 11. The mural will thank veterans and active duty personnel for all that they do to secure our safety and freedom. Photos should be emailed by Oct 21 to kcoyne@indianamuseum.org and include the veteran's name, date of service, military division, hometown and nominator's name. The museum also encourages special stories about veterans such as those participating in D-Day or serving as combat medics in Afghanistan.

VA Starts Nationwide Study of Vietnam-era Vets

The Vietnam Era Health Retrospective Observational Study (VE-HEROeS) is a nationwide survey study that will help the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) understand the current health and overall well-being of Veterans as they age. Comparing Vietnam Veterans and Veterans who served elsewhere during the Vietnam Era (1961-1975) to similarly aged people who never served in the military, we want to know if there are differences in: physical and mental health conditions; age-related health conditions; lifestyle, including tobacco use and health care use; and health experiences of children. This study involves a questionnaire for every study participant and medical records review for a smaller group of participants.

Who can join? VA researchers will invite approximately 43,000 Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans, including Blue Water Navy Veterans and 11,000 similarly aged U.S. residents who never served in the military. If you are invited to participate in VE-HEROeS, please do so. Your participation is voluntary. VVA's Dr. Tom Berger serves as a member of the VE-HEROeS advisory committee.

VA estimates 107,000 vets have undiagnosed or untreated Hepatitis C

With more than \$2 billion appropriated for new hepatitis C drugs during the past two years, the Department of Veterans Affairs treated 65,000 veterans for the virus, but about 87,000 remain untreated and 20,000 are undiagnosed. VA officials are seeking \$1.5 billion in the 2017 fiscal year to treat more veterans, a group in which hepatitis C is especially prevalent. Funding for the latest drugs, which have a high cure rate, is not the biggest problem. Instead, its challenge is finding ways to help veterans who are unwilling or unable to be screened or treated for the contagious virus, which lives in liver cells and is the most common blood borne disease in the U.S. Until two years ago, the disease was considered incurable. Get tested for hepatitis C.

VA & Walgreens Team Up for Flu Shots

The VA and Walgreens have teamed up to allow all Veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able to walk into any Walgreens nationwide to receive a flu shot to no cost. Flu shots will be available thru March 31, 2017. Veterans simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID at any Walgreens to receive the flu shot. Walgreens will transmit the information about the flu shots given securely to the VA where it becomes part of the patient's medical record.

Nominate a Military Child of the Year: The military family-oriented nonprofit Operation Homefront is now accepting Military Child of the Year nominations through Dec. 5, 2016. The annual awards program, now in its 9th year, will recognize six outstanding young people ages eight to 18 with \$10,000 each, new laptops, and will be flown with a parent or guardian to attend an awards gala April 6 in Washington, D.C. Nominations are also being accepted for a Military Child of the Year Award for Innovation, for youth age 13-18. The winner of this category will receive \$5,000, mentorship by award sponsor Booz Allen Hamilton, as well as be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington for the gala. Operation Homefront received 502 nominations last year, with the winners ranging in age from nine to 18. For more information, go to: <http://www.militarychildoftheyear.org/>.

President Signs Bill Helping 37,000 GI Bill Users: President Obama signed the *Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016*, which extends various forms of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. One of those extensions pertains to benefits for nearly 37,000 veterans using their GI Bill to attend one of the institutions which recently lost its accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). After an extended investigation, the Department of Education terminated the organization's accreditation for numerous cases of fraud and skewing data of student success, amongst other reasons. The bill now provides Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald the authority to extend funding of the GI Bill for student veterans attending these schools for up to 18-months. One such school is ITT Technical Institute with headquarters in Carmel, Indiana. For VA resources being provided to ITT and ACICS students, please visit: <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

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.

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/>

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

Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it the only safeguard of our liberties. ~ Abraham Lincoln