



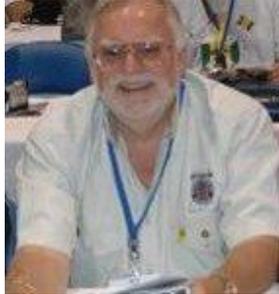
Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



January 2018 Newsletter

President's Message

Happy New Year to all,
Even though it is cold and snowy, we need your attendance at the next chapter meeting on Wednesday, 1/10/2018. I know that there are a few, because of health problems, who cannot attend, but if you can, we will be setting up committees for the Moving Wall, May 31 – June 4. We want to get this project started.



On another note: If you receive a letter from VA regarding RAMP (Rapid Appeals Modernization Program), it is part of the rollout for the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, and you will be given an option to “opt in” by returning the letter. **VVA is currently advising its Veterans not to opt in to the program at this time.** If you get this letter, please give me a call at the IDVA office (317-232-3921) and we can discuss this further.

I hope Santa brought you all the toys you asked for!!!! See you Wednesday.

Mike

Vietnam Veterans of America
President, Chapter 295

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Call 317-313-1577 to schedule an appointment for your VA benefits and claims.

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

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

Jan 8-12	The Bunker will be setup at VA Roudebush Medical Center
Jan 9	Indiana Military & Veterans Legislative Day, 9am-2pm at Statehouse
Jan 10	VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
Jan 13	De-deck the Halls (take down the Christmas decorations) at 10am
Feb 14	VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
Mar 14	VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
Mar 23	Women Veterans Conference, speaker Betty Mosley Brown, more details coming
Mar 29	Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home Event, Senator Donnelly and McCain, details coming
May 31—June 4	The Moving Wall at Lawton Loop & Otis Ave

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Jan 12, 1962** In South Vietnam, the U.S. Air Force launches Operation Ranch Hand, a modern technique designed to defoliate the roads and trails used by the Viet Cong. They will dump about 19 million gallons of defoliating herbicides (Agent Orange, named for the color of its metal containers) over 20% of Vietnam and parts of Laos between 1962 and 1971. This operation succeeds in killing vegetation but not in stopping the Viet Cong.
- Jan 1-19, 1966** Operation Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division conduct Operation Matador in Kontum and Pleiku Provinces, II Corps, to provide security for the incoming 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division.
- Jan 1, 1967** France's President Charles de Gaulle, in a New Year's message, calls on the United States to withdraw its troops and end its "detestable intervention in Vietnam."
- Jan 28-May 31, 1967** The U.S. 9th Infantry Division conducts Operation Palm Beach in Dinh Tuong Province, IV Corps. Purpose of the operation is to provide security for the construction of the division base camp at Dong Tam.
- Jan 1, 1968** U.S. Navy begins Operation Clearwater to interdict enemy bases and lines of communication on inland waterways in I Corps.
- Jan 13-Feb 9, 1969** In the largest amphibious assault of the war, U.S. Marines and troops from the 2nd ARVN Division land on the Batangan Peninsula, as part of Operation Bold Mariner, a cordon and search mission in Quang Ngai Province, I Corps.
- Jan 19-July 22, 1971** Troops from the U.S. 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and 1st ARVN Division conduct Operation Greene River in Quang Tri Province, I Corps, to support provincial pacification programs.

Vice President's Corner

Hello everyone –

Let me begin by saying Happy New Year! Best of Health to you and the family. And from all that you have given in 2017, shall it come back to your ten-fold in 2018.

I was in Hawaii it was 80o and Sunny – In Las Vegas it was 70o and Sunny – In California it was 60o and Sunny – An now back in Indy with 10o and Sunny. What's wrong with this picture?

Oh well. I know it's cold. Stay warm. In doing a quick risk assessment for the winter, here are some items to keep in your car:

a shovel / windshield scraper and small broom / flashlight with extra batteries /battery powered radio / water / snack food including energy bars / raisins and mini candy bars / matches and small candles.

We have lot's to get done for the Chapter in 2018. Be sure to pitch in – Get Involved – and let's make it a big year for all of us –

Look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the year.

As you know, I'm always available to speak about anything that's on your mind – Call me at – 317-696-1367 – or email me at – rs@ronsukenick.com



Regards, Ron Sukenick, Vice President - VVA Chapter 295

2nd Vice President's Corner

Greetings Everyone,

I hope each of you enjoyed a great Christmas and the New Year is off to a good start for you.

Each of you should have received a postcard or email asking you to call to verify your member data for the new directory of VVA and AVVA members that will be coming out. Please place that call soon.

I hope everyone is ready to help with fundraising for The Moving Wall. I will give an update on that fundraising at the chapter meeting.

Brrrrrr! It's cold outside. Stay warm but if you have to go outside , bundle up and don't stay out very long. Frostbite can happen in a few minutes. Be safe and stay warm.

Pray for the safety of our Troops around the world, and their families. May GOD BLESS AMERICA, and you.

Remember we each can do a little, but together we can do a lot.

Larry Shaw, 2nd Vice President—VVA Chapter 295, 765-618-4067

First Navy Jack Flies at Pearl Harbor to Honor Sailors Killed in Collisions

A banner often regarded as the Navy's first flag will fly all year long at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in honor of 17 sailors killed in a pair of Pacific collisions last year.

Sailors raised the First Navy Jack—featuring a rattlesnake, 13 red and white stripes and the “Don't Tread On Me” motto—Monday at base headquarters to renew a “culture of tradition and resolve” in wake of the tragedies, a Navy statement said. The banner will fly directly beneath the American flag throughout 2018.

Last June, a collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a cargo ship killed seven sailors of the coast of Japan. Two months later, the USS John S. McCain ran into an oil tanker east of Singapore, killing 10 more. The Navy has blamed the incidents on tired crews who hadn't received the necessary training due to constant deployments.





The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases at The Bunker support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

The Veteran Magazine Project

Repurpose your copy of The Veteran. VVA board member Jim Pierce brought this terrific idea before the board and membership at our last meeting. After you have read your copy of The Veteran, mark out your name and address. Attach your business card or the VVA business card which is available at the VVA office. Take it to your local library and ask if want your issues of The Veteran. Jim said they were very happy to take his issue. Do this each month to reach out to Veterans in the area and maybe even gain new members. Thank you Jim for a great idea!

AVVA Chapter 295

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is the extended family of VVA. We are made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans, and all persons who support Veterans’ issues. AVVA works in conjunction with VVA striving to ensure that Vietnam Veterans, as well as ALL Veterans, attain the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. We are here to help Veterans and VVA Chapter 295 with their programs and activities.

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).

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

UPDATE on Online PX Shopping: I personally spoke to the PX manager. Currently all Veterans can shop at the **PX Online** once they verify their eligibility at VetVerify.org. Actual online pricing can be seen only by those who are authorized to shop at the websites: shopmyexchange.com; shopcgx.com; mymcx.com; and mynavyexchange.com. Verify your eligibility at VetVerify.org But to shop at physical stores for PX and commissary is **limited** to active duty and retirees and their dependents, members of the National Guard and Reserve and their dependents, 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans and Medal of Honor recipients per Federal Law.

Toys for Tots - A Short History—60 years of making holiday magic

Since its inception 60 years ago, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program has distributed more than 313 million toys to 151 million children. In addition, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has supplemented the collection of local campaigns over a 13-year life, providing more than 47.4 million toys valued at \$243 million, plus promotion and support materials valued at \$2.5 million.

Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The idea came from Bill's wife, Diane. In the fall of 1947, Diane handcrafted a Raggedy Ann doll and asked Bill to deliver the doll to an organization, which would give it to a needy child at Christmas. When Bill determined that no agency existed, Diane told Bill that he should start one. He did.

The 1947 campaign was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign. That year, Marine Corps Reserve units across the nation conducted Toys for Tots campaigns in each community in which a Marine Reserve Center was located. Marines have conducted successful nationwide campaigns at Christmas each year since 1948. The initial objective that remains the hallmark of the program today is to "bring the joy of Christmas to America's needy children".

Bill Hendricks, a Marine Reservist on weekends, was, in civilian life, the director of public relations for Warner Brothers Studio. This enabled him to convince a vast array of celebrities to support Toys for Tots. In 1948, Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots logo, which the organization still uses today. Disney also designed the first Toys for Tots poster used to promote the nationwide program. In 1980 they added the Native American Program to give toys to children on reservations.

Celebrities to help support the program over the years include Nat "King" Cole, Peggy Lee, Vic Damone, Bob Hope, John Wayne, Doris Day, Lorrie Morgan, Tim Allen, Kenny Rogers, Billy Ray Cyrus and many more.

The 2003 Toys for Tots campaign was the most successful campaign in the 56-year history of the program. Marines distributed 15 million toys to 6.5 million needy children. Local campaigns were conducted in 456 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the most extensive coverage ever. For more information for Toys for Tots, visit www.toysfortots.org.

Guitars for Vets

In 2007, Patrick Nettesheim, a Milwaukee guitar instructor was introduced to Vietnam-era Marine, Dan Van Buskirk. For years Dan wanted to learn to play guitar but felt the lasting effects of combat, in the form of post-traumatic-stress-disorder (PTSD), would make it difficult for him to succeed. After only a few months of working with Patrick, Dan discovered that the strong spirit that helped him throughout his time in Vietnam was all he needed to play music. Together, the men realized that guitar lessons were both opportunities for self-expression and positive human interaction. Dan and Patrick shared what they learned with Veterans at The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center and Guitars for Vets was born.

We currently operate more than 60 chapters in 30 states with the assistance of over 200 volunteers nationwide. Over the past seven years, our organization has refined a guitar instruction program aimed at providing Veterans struggling with physical injuries, PTSD and other emotional distress a unique supportive program. G4V pursues its mission to share the healing power of music by providing free guitar instruction, a new acoustic guitar and a guitar accessory kit in a structured program run by volunteers, primarily through the Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and community-based medical centers. For more info or to donate, go to: <http://www.guitars4vets.org/> There is only one chapter in Indiana: Jeffrey Matthews in Marion, IN, email is g4vmarionin2@gmail.com

Why Army helicopters are named after native tribes—Names like Apache, Comanche, Lakota, Kiowa and Black Hawk honor the legacy of Native Americans

December 4, 2017 By Harold Hutchison We Are The Mighty

The Army’s helicopters have a number of names you recognize immediately: Apache, Black Hawk, Kiowa, Lakota, Comanche. They are also known as the names of Native American tribes. This is not a coincidence.

According to GlobalSecurity.org, this was originally due to Army Regulation 70-28, which has since been rescinded. Today, while the regulation is gone, the tradition remains, and there is a procedure to pick a new name. The Bureau of Indian Affairs keeps a list of names for the Army to use. When the Army gets a new helicopter (or fixed-wing aircraft), the commanding officer of the Army Material Command (the folks who buy the gear) comes up with a list of five names.

Now, they can’t just be any names. These names must promote confidence in the abilities of the helicopter or plane, they cannot sacrifice dignity, and they must promote an aggressive spirit. Those names then have to be run by the United States Patent Office, of all places. There’s a lot more bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo to go through, but eventually a name is picked. Then comes something unique – the helicopter or aircraft is then part of a ceremony attended by Native American leaders, who bestow tribal blessings. You might be surprised, given that the Army and the Native Americans were on opposite side of the Indian Wars – and those wars went on for 148 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Don’t be. The fact is, despite the 148 years of hostilities, Native Americans also served with the United States military. Eli Parker, the only Native American to reach general’s rank, was a personal aide to General Ulysses S. Grant. Most impressively, 25 Native Americans have received the Medal of Honor for heroism.

In other words, the Army’s helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft bear names that reflect fierce and courageous warriors who also have fought well as part of the United States Army. That is a legacy worth remembering and honoring with some of the Army’s most prominent systems.

<https://www.military1.com/military-lifestyle/article/1877191014-why-army-helicopters-are-named-after-native-tribes/#Email>

Operation Blanket a Veteran—Helping Veterans One Blanket at a Time

The Weir Cook Memorial Project announces Operation Blanket a Veteran. They will be hand making lap blankets for Veterans in assisted living facilities now until spring. If you would like to get involved and/or make a donation, please visit our website: weircookmemorial.org If you would like to make and donate a lap blanket, we are using Red Heart Yarn “America” #4 which can be purchased at any Jo Ann Fabrics or Walmart. The dimensions for the lap blanket are 25 inches by 32 inches. The finished lap blanket can be sent to:

Weir Cook Memorial Project, P.O. Box 83, Wilkinson, IN 46186

We will be taking pictures when Veterans receive the blankets and posting on Facebook and our website.

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

Legislation that Senator Donnelly Recently Co-sponsored:

Military Sexual Assault Prevention: On December 4, 2017, Senator Donnelly cosponsored S. 2141, the *Military Justice Improvement Act of 2017*. If enacted into law, this bill would reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Specifically, this bill would address the way that the military prosecutes serious crimes like sexual assault, and work to remove the systemic fear that survivors of military sexual assault describe in deciding whether to report the crimes committed against them by removing conflicts of interest posed by the military chain of command's sole decision-making power over whether cases move forward to a trial.

POW-MIA Recovery: On December 7, 2017, Senator Donnelly cosponsored S.Res.61, a resolution calling on DoD and other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States. The resolution also calls upon all foreign governments with information on missing personnel to cooperate fully with the United States to provide the fullest possible accounting for all missing personnel. Currently, over 83,000 personnel of the United States are still unaccounted-for around the world from past wars and conflicts.

Gold Star Families: On December 7, 2017, Senator Donnelly cosponsored S. 2088, the *Gold Star Family Support and Installation Access Act*. If enacted into law, this bill would provide for the issuance of the Gold Star Installation Access Card to surviving spouses, children, and other next of kin of service members who die while serving on certain active or reserve duties. This bill would ensure that a remarried surviving spouse with dependent children of the deceased member remains eligible for installation benefits to which the surviving spouse was previously eligible.

Supporting Advertisers

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U.S. Senator **Joe Donnelly**

WHAT: VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION EVENT

WHEN: MARCH 29, 2018

WHY:

EARLIER THIS YEAR, PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNED JOE'S BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION DESIGNATING MARCH 29 AS **NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY**. JOE IS HOSTING THE EVENT TO GIVE THE NEARLY 150,000 HOOSIER VIETNAM VETERANS THE WELCOME HOME THEY DESERVE.



Call Joe's Indianapolis office at **(317) 226-5555** or email **donnelly_events@donnelly.senate.gov** for more information or if you have questions.

KEEP UP WITH JOE!



@SenDonnelly



@SenatorDonnelly



@SenDonnelly

AND GET UPDATES AT: DONNELLY.SENATE.GOV/VIETNAM-VETERANS-RECOGNITION-EVENT



MAY 31– June 4, 2018

Fort Harrison, Indiana

**1 block north of Finance Center on historic Lawton Loop Parade Field
OPEN 24 HOURS**



Opening Ceremony:

Saturday, June 2



**Brought to you by
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 295
The Fort Harrison Veteran's Center**

