



Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



May 2019 Newsletter



Memorial Day is a day we as the country come together to honor and remember our servicemen and women who answered America's call to service and paid the ultimate price. Memorial Day is the time for Americans as one body to stand up and say, "Thank you. We remember you.

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.
~ Joseph Campbell

VVA 295 Officers

- President Larry Shaw
Vice President Bob Parsons
Secretary Mike Dolan
Treasurer Wes Anderson
Asst Treasurer Jim Pierce
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

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

- May 4** VVA Indiana State Council , 12 noon in Indy; finance meeting at 10:30am
- May 4** Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans, 4pm to ? at 934 N. 5th St, Terre Haute, IN 47807; if questions, call Jim 317-692-1636, sponsored by 40/8
- May 6-10** Bunker is setup at Roudebush VA; Call Steve 317-459-6255 to help loading/unloading van.
- May 8** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- May 10** Carmel High School Veterans Program, 8:30am-3pm, see flyer page 7
- May 11** International Food Festival at Carmel High School 12-5pm to bring awareness of Veterans suicide and PTSD, see flyer page 11
- May 12** Mother's Day
- May 17** 6th Annual Salute to Veterans Golf Outing, flyer page 10
- May 18** Armed Forces Day
- May 27** Memorial Day
- May 27** Crown Hill Memorial Day Ceremony, 2-3pm, see page 6
- May 31** Bunker setup at VFW State Convention at Marriott East
- June 7 & 8** Region 5 Conference for VVA & AVVA at Marriott East. The Bunker will be setup at this event on Saturday, June 8. Must register by May 16, see pages 8 & 9
- June 12** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- June 28 & 29** Vets for Vets Annual Yard Sale 8-5

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- May 10-July 30, 66** The U.S. 25th Infantry Division and ARVN troops conduct Operation Paul Revere/Thang Phong 14, a border screening and area control mission.
- May 1, 1967** U.S. Special Forces begin Operation Daniel Boone, covert intelligence missions into Cambodia to recon the Ho Chi Minh Trail and enemy staging areas.
- May 11, 1967** Task Force Oregon conducts Operation Malheur I-II in Quang Ngai Province, I Corps.
- May 14-Dec 7 1967** The U.S. 25th Infantry Division conducts Operation Kole Kole, a search and destroy operation in Hau Nghia Province, III Corps.
- May 18-28, 1967** U.S. Marines conduct Operation Hickory, the western prong of a multforce offensive aimed at clearing the area southeast of the DMZ in I Corps for construction of Strong Point Obstacle System.
- May 4-Aug 24, 68** U.S Marines Corps units conduct Operation Allen Brook west of Hoi An City in southern



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 May 6-10 and at VFW State Convention on May 31 at Marriott East. Call Steve if you are going to help load/unload, 317-459-6255.

President's Message:



Greetings Everyone,

Hope you are all well, and feeling fine.

They say April showers bring May flowers. With that said, we should have flowers every where. Instead we have lakes where the crops should be. There will be late planting this year, with the fear that we will not receive rain when we need it. Mosquitoes and ticks should be plentiful this year.

Saturday, May 4th, will be the VVA and AVVA Indiana State Meeting here in our building. This will be the last meeting before the Region 5 Conference that we will have in June in the Marriott East. If you wish to attend this meeting you must fill out the form located else where in this news letter, along with \$10.00 for each application. Get yours in now, as they will need a head count for the meetings, and banquet.

Mother's Day is May 12th. Most of us have lost our mothers, some of us our wives. We can remember those who have passed, and honor our girl friends, daughters, sisters, and neighbors.

Saturday May 18th, is Armed Forces Day, when we honor those presently serving, along with those who have served. This was started in August 31st, 1949 by Louis Johnson, Secretary of Defense.

Thursday May 23rd 10am, will be the send off for Rolling Thunders Last Ride To The Wall. Our Governor along with the Mayor of Lawrence, have been invited. Bikes will fill the parking lot, and we can park across the street.

May 27th, Memorial Day Observed. It is a time to pause, remember, and honor all who have given their lives in defense of America. Be they in uniform or not. Service Members or civilians. They fought and died so that we may be free, and live in peace. Remember their families as well, as they are grieving the loss of loved ones. Most people today look at this as a three days off work to drink, party, watch or listen to the 500 mile race. Do NOT DRINK AND DRIVE, use a designated driver, and buckle up. The life you save may be your own.

We are having guest speakers from the community come in to enlighten us as to what is happening around us, and how we can get involved. Plus our own members have been telling us of their military experiences.

Remember our Chapter Meeting on May 8th, hopefully there will not be any snow or ice, plus the days are staying light longer each day. So come see some old friends, and make some new ones.

Remember our Chapter is only as good, as you make it.

Pray for the safety of our troops, and their families.

May GOD bless America, our troops, and you.

In Patriotism,

Larry L. Shaw
765-618-4067

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.

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

Vice President's Corner

Brothers and Sisters,



Well, Spring has finally arrived and with it summer activities and commemorations. Memorial Day, the day that is set aside to honor our fallen brothers and sisters is but a month away. Unfortunately, it has become a day that, to many, is more synonymous with auto races, picnics and family parties than honoring the fallen. Let us do our part to honor those who have paid the supreme price for our freedom by attending and participating in Memorial Day ceremonies honoring veterans. Crown Hill Cemetery always has a very moving program which is well worth attending.

Hopefully many of you have registered for the VVA Regional Conference which will be held in Indianapolis in June. With many highly knowledgeable presenters, Regional Conferences are excellent places to acquire important Veteran's information and have your questions answered. It was at a regional conference, years ago, that I was able to acquire the information to successfully complete and attain my VA Disability rating. It is also a great place to make new and rekindle old friendships. Plan to attend if you can.

As I mentioned last month, the very future of the VVA will soon be determined, perhaps as soon as the VVA National Convention in Spokane this summer. Last month's VVA Veteran went into detail about several possible scenarios regarding our future. This is YOUR VVA, so please let the convention delegates know how you wish them to vote. We are, by the very nature and structure of our organization obligated to vote in accordance with your wishes...so please make them known.

Last month's VVA member/guest speaker was, to me at least, very interesting and informative and I am looking forward to future presentations. Please see Fred Bishop if you would like to participate. No matter what you did in Vietnam, a description of your duties and experiences will, I guarantee, be of interest to your fellow chapter members.

Lastly, when you meet a fellow Vet, invite them to visit and perhaps join the chapter. It amazes me how many Vietnam or Vietnam Era vets don't even know we exist. Let's extend to them the welcome that we didn't receive many years ago. And, when you meet a vet from a more recent era....Thank them for their service! Remember our motto:

“ Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”

Hope to see you all at the May meeting.

Bob Parsons, Vice President, VVA 295

Vietnam, 1966-67-68

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

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/>

Speaker Program at Meetings—Fred Bishop, Chairman 317-918-1142

Call Fred to sign up. Speakers signed up so far:

- May Don Garhart
- June Bob Parsons
- July Verne Hanson
- Aug Joe Williams
- Sept Ron Ayres



Guest Speaker at Meetings

Last month our guest speaker was Pets Healing Vets from the Humane Society of Hamilton County. They train dogs or cats to be comfort/companion pets for Veterans. They pay all expenses for the pet including food and vaccinations. They do take donations for this program, such as \$50/month for food or \$75/year for vaccinations. Email PetsHealingVets@HamiltonHumane.com, or call (317) 219-4630. You can donate online at: <http://www.hamiltonhumane.com/programs/pets-healing-vets> or mail to: 1721 Pleasant St, Suite B, Noblesville, IN 46060

Food for Thought

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
 Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend meetings and mingle with the flock?
 Or do you meet in private and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?
 Or are you satisfied to be the kind who just belongs?

Do you work in committees—to this there is no trick.
 Or leave the work to just a few—and talk about the clique?

Please go to meetings often and help with hand and heart.
 Don't just be a member, but take an active part.

Think this over, members—you know what's right from wrong.
 Are you an active member—or do you just belong?

Author Unknown

The Wall that Heals

Greenfield, Indiana

July 11-14, 2019

We will be helping to sponsor this event and taking part in it. It should be a well attended program since the primary sponsor has TV ads running now on Channel 8 and they have planned a parade upon the Wall's arrival to be led by the "Indiana Patriot Guard" motorcycle group.



To help ensure its success, we need many volunteers from our chapter to help out. Review the job options and time spots available online at <http://signup.com/go/wRzTDfz> or you may phone Nick directly at 317-462-5536. Those who sign up first get their choice of time and jobs. A training class will be held on Wed, July 10 at the site below to explain specific duties. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt with sponsors listed.

We will be the only group permitted to setup a booth at the wall for signing up new members. Please consider helping with it as well.

Location: Pasco-Stillinger Funeral Chapel
1780 W. Main St.
Greenfield, IN

151st ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY—May 27 at **2:00-3:00 p.m.** - Crown Hill presents the longest-running Memorial Day Ceremony in Indiana! This year marks the 151st annual ceremony, first held on May 30, 1868, shortly after General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, established this day to honor the soldiers and sailors who died during the Civil War. With nearly 10,000 people in attendance, our first ceremony was held on the grounds of the Crown Hill National Cemetery, located behind the historic Gothic Chapel. Our first ceremony featured many speeches, including from by Gov. Conrad Baker, a veteran and former commander of an Indiana Infantry Regiment. The graves of the soldiers in the National Cemetery were decorated with fresh-cut flowers.



- We welcome **Brigadier General J. Stewart Goodwin (Ret.) USAF**, as our keynote speaker (pictured). General Goodwin is the Executive Director of the Indiana War Memorials Commission in Indianapolis, which includes a museum and 25 acres of parks, monuments, sculptures, statues, and fountains. Other guests include **Rodney Strong**, Department Commander for the Indiana American Legion, and **Abraham Lincoln**, the Civil War President, reciting the Gettysburg Address during the ceremony.

(Please come early and visit with President Lincoln inside the Gothic Chapel from 12:15-1:15 p.m. Pres. Lincoln is portrayed by Danny Russel.) - We welcome back the support of the men and women of the **Indiana Army National Guard** as they join us again as they have for many years. In addition to the band concert by the 38th Division Band at 1:30 p.m., a Howitzer 21-gun salute will be conducted by the Indiana Army National Guard. Patriotic music provided by throughout the ceremony by "**The Central Sound**," a Lawrence Central High School choir. Folding chairs will be available or feel free to bring your own chair or blanket. Cookies and bottled water will also be available, as well as indoor restrooms. You're welcome to arrive early or stay late to picnic. (The funeral home and cemetery office closes at 5 p.m. but the gates will remain open until 8:00 p.m.)

Attention:

Cold War/Vietnam War Veterans

Would you like to share the history of your military experiences with younger generations?

Please join us at Carmel High School for a series of round table discussions on May 10, 2019 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

(Feel free to arrive & leave at any time during those hours.)

The program will provide students with first-hand accounts of the events they are studying in class.

If you are interested in taking part in one or more of these sessions, please contact James Ziegler at

jziegler@ccs.k12.in.us or 317-748-3660 by May 7, 2019

Carmel High School

520 E. Main St.

Carmel, IN 46032

(Parking is available in the Front Lot, by Doors 1 & 2, and outside the Freshman Center, Door 13—Please enter through Doors 2, 4, or 13)

THANK YOU for your service to our country!

Food and Beverages will be provided all day.



**REGION 5
CONFERENCE
JUNE 7 & 8, 2019**

**MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS EAST
7202 E. 21ST Street
Indianapolis, Ind. 46219
317-352-1231**

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ CHAPTER NUMBER _____

Make checks payable to: Indiana State Council
5308 W. 171st Ave. Lowell, Indiana 46356
"See reverse side for details"

Reservations can be made at:

**Marriott Indianapolis East
7202 East 21st Street.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219**

Direct line: 317-352-1231

On Line Reservations: <https://book.passkey.com/e/49808470>

Room rate: \$125.00 per/night plus tax.

.....
Indianapolis International Airport served by all major airlines
.....

Conference Registration fee: **\$10.00**
Registration form on front side of flier
Check made out to: **Indiana State Council**
Send check to: Ms. Pat Bessigano
5308 W. 171st Avenue, Lowell, Ind. 46356
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NOTES:

Conference seminars begin Friday the 7th. Convention resolutions, Constitution changes
begin on Saturday the 8th. Candidate forum will also be held on Saturday the 8th.

Friday lunch & dinner and Saturday lunch will be on your own.

There are several eateries around the hotel.

The Saturday night banquet is NO charge, compliments of the Indiana State Council.
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Travel days are Thurs. 6th and Sunday 9th.

Registration deadline: May 16, 2019

6th Annual Salute to Veterans Golf Outing



Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs & Helping Hands for Freedom

Our 6th Annual Salute to Veterans Golf Outing will be held on Friday, May 17th, 2019 at the wonderful Valle Vista Golf Club. We will be partnering with Helping Hands for Freedom, a 501c3 dedicated to supporting the families of the fallen, wounded, and deployed.

Cost: \$300 per team

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Tee-off: 8:00 a.m.

144 golfers - 36 Teams

Price includes cart, green fee, extraordinary buffet, and free drinks while golfing!

- Long drive contest
- Closest to the pin contest
- Longest putt contest
- 50/50 raffles
- Awesome raffle items
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams

We are only able to have 36 teams on the course, so pre-register as soon as possible!!

Location:

Valle Vista Golf Club
755 East Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46143
Phone: 317-677-6899

Time:

7:00am - Registration
8:00am - Tee-off

Carmel High School
Veterans22.org
International Food
Festival



Sat, May 11, 2019

12:00-5:00 PM

Carmel High School Football Stadium
Stadium Dr & 136th St., Carmel IN 46032



Family Fun, Games & Food
ADMISSION IS FREE!

More Info/Donate:
Veterans22.Org

