



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



June 2017 Newsletter

President's Message



Hello all,
I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to Ken Walters for filling in at the top spot for 295 for the last year but I understand his total allegiance to HEP C.

Walter Carter, your elected Vice President has needed to step down due to health issues, and the Board of Directors has asked your acting Vice President, Ron Sukenick to step up to the position.

By election at our last meeting, I was re-installed as your President until the annual meeting next April 2018. Also running in this election was Mmoja Ajuba and Larry Shaw. Since Mmoja is so interested in the Agent Orange issues, he has been appointed as Agent Orange Committee Chairman for the Chapter, and Larry Shaw, because of his experience with the VFW and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, has been installed as the 2nd Vice President.

I feel extremely well supported by experience and energy in the coming year. *PLEASE*, lets keep the lines of communication open and our minds open to new ideas and projects to get 295 back on the road intended.

Thanks for your support,

Michael L. Hamm

President

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 295

June 14th Meeting

No food this month

6:30pm Board Meeting

7:00pm Regular Meeting

VVA 295 Officers

President	Mike Hamm
Vice President	Ron Sukenick
2nd Vice President	Larry Shaw
Secretary	John Brocklehurst
Treasurer	Tom Donovan

Board of Directors

Steve Mabrey	Jim Finney
Steve Anderson	Jim Pierce
Wes Anderson	

Agent Orange Advocate

Mmoja Ajabu

AVVA Chapter Representative

Holly Tookolo

AVVA State President

Tony Gigli

VVA Service Officer—Call Dennis Smalling 317-313-1577 to schedule an appointment for your VA benefits and claims.

Important Dates

- June 5-9 The Bunker will be setup at VA Roudebush Medical Center. Help would be appreciated at VA on Monday, June 5 at 6:30am to unload van and Friday, June 9 at 3:30pm to load van.
- June 9-11 3rd Annual Sandbox Reunion, 8am-11:30pm Greentown, IN
- June 10 Mayors' Veterans Family Appreciation Day at Garfield Park, see flyer page 6
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 14 VVA 295 meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm.
- June 17 PatriotFest at VFW 7119 to raise funds for HVAF, 2pm-12am, food, live music, activities & prizes; Car Show 12-2:30pm with registration 9-12pm; for more info, Micah Sutton 317-829-4258 or Danny Lesley 317-701-7883; Bring non-perishable food items.
- June 23 & 24 Annual Inside Yard Sale by Vets for Vets, 8am-5pm each day. We are taking donated items for the sale. You can drop off at our meeting or Sundays 10am-2pm or on setup day, Thursday, June 22 noon to 7. See flyer on page 7
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 12 VVA 295 meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm.
- July 27-31 The Moving Wall in Columbus, Indiana, see flyer on page 8

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

June 14, 1964 General Westmoreland travels to Malaysia to study the methods used by the British to defeat Communist guerrillas there.

June 2, 1967 A marine patrol is ambushed by elements of a 2,900 man North Vietnamese regiment near Tam Ky, 30 miles southwest of Danang. The U.S. 5th Marines sustain 73 killed and 139 wounded and report 540 North Vietnamese killed.

June 29-30, 1970 The final withdrawal of U.S. ground combat troops from Cambodia is completed, ending two months of operations in Cambodia. Military officials report 338 American killed and 1,525 wounded in the operation. The South Vietnamese report 866 killed and 3,724 wounded. About 34,000 South Vietnamese troops remain in Cambodia. Allied forces claim 11,000 enemy casualties. .

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 7:00 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

Vice President's Corner

Hi everyone -

For those of you that weren't at our last meeting, we field tested our new speaker program and the feedback was terrific. Special thanks to Fred Bishop who shared his story on his experiences in Vietnam in the 60's. Our next speaker will be James Womack. For those that are not sure how the program works, every month we are now having one of our very own stand and share their experience of being in Vietnam. The talk will last for 15-20 minutes and the speaker can share pictures, mementos or whatever they want to share with the group. If you're interested in being one of our speakers, let me know and I'll get you scheduled - If you're interested in heading up the speaker program, let me know that as well.

Regards,

Ron Sukenick

Vice President - VVA Chapter 295, 317-696-1367





A big SALUTE to all those that participated in the Crown Hill Memorial Day Ceremony.

The Bunker is open 10am—2pm on Sunday.

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

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

D.C. World War I Memorial Design Approved

By Chris Isleib, Director of Public Affairs, U.S. World War One Centennial Commission

On May 18, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) approved the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission's design concept for a national World War I memorial in the nation's capital. The presentation was a significant milestone in progress toward building the memorial, on a site authorized by Congress in 2014. CFA is one of the two federal agencies with responsibility for design approval of memorials in Washington, D.C., along with the National Capital Planning Commission.

Edwin L. Fountain, vice chair of the World War One Centennial Commission, said, "The concept for a national World War I memorial in Washington has been in the making for nine years. We are pleased the CFA endorsed our proposal to honor the service of 4.7 million Americans who served in World War I, and the sacrifice of the 116,516 who gave their lives. We look forward to working with the CFA, the public and other stakeholders as we continue to develop the final design."

The memorial will be located on Pennsylvania Avenue at Pershing Park, a 2-acre site one block from the White House. The park currently features a statue honoring Gen. John Pershing, the commander of American forces in World War I, and a pool of water set in a modernist landscape design by M. Paul Friedberg. The new memorial – developed by the design team of Joseph Weishaar, who won the design competition for the memorial project, along with John Gregg (GWWO Architecture), and Phoebe Lickwar (Forge Landscape) – will consist primarily of a 65-foot-long bronze bas-relief sculpture by acclaimed American sculptor Sabin Howard that will be located along the western edge of the water feature, along with additional commemorative elements in the park. <https://www.legion.org/honor/237561/dc-world-war-i-memorial-design-approved>

Three Names Added to the Wall in 2017

Each spring, VVMF (Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund) works with the Department of Defense (DOD) to ensure that The Wall is accurate. When MIAs are recovered in Vietnam or when an appeal has been approved for addition to The Wall, VVMF makes the appropriate changes. On May 2, 2017 three new names took their rightful place among their fallen brothers and sisters. Each year, new names are added to The Wall to fix clerical errors and mistakes, and to honor those veterans who died as a direct result of their wounds sustained while in Vietnam.

When names are added, a highly technical process is required. Precise measurements must be made to ensure letters are lined up, have the right width and are etched into the granite to a depth that matches the etchings already on the memorial. The letters are burned into The Wall as a dust-free sand blasting apparatus is passed over it. The physical work of adding the names and changing statuses is performed by James Lee of the Colorado-based company, Engrave Write.

The Department of Defense (DoD) sets the criteria for and makes decisions about whose names are eligible for inscription on The Wall. VVMF pays for the name additions and status changes and works with the National Park Service (NPS) to ensure long-term preservation and maintenance of The Wall.

The name additions and status changes were recognized during VVMF's annual Memorial Day Observance at The Wall on May 29, 2017 and the number of names on The Wall will be formally changed to 58,318. The names added this year were: Cpl. Kenneth R. McGuire, Panel 34W Line 42; Sgt. John T. Whitson, Panel 32W, Line 58; Sgt. Edward L. Wilmers, Panel 62E, Line 7

Every Day is Memorial Day By Johnathon Clinkscales

More than 1,000 people participated in the 149th National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery to honor and commemorate fallen U.S. service members.

Retired four-star Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., who is the 19th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of Defense Gen. James Mattis gave opening remarks during the ceremony.

“More than 1 million Americans who have answered the call of duty gave the last full measure of their devotion so their fellow citizens could live in freedom and raise their children in peace,” Dunford said. “Today, we reflect on the enormity of the sacrifice. We reflect on the hopes and dreams never realized. Today, we also reflect on the sacrifice of the families left behind, the anguish of parents, spouses, siblings and friends, the sadness of children growing up without their fathers or mothers. And we know that for the families, every day is Memorial Day.”

What’s most important about the fallen service members, Dunford said, is recognizing and honoring how they lived. These were people who not only fought for something larger than themselves, but also understood that the key values and traditions of this nation was worth fighting for, he said.

“The kid on the line who never had a chance to grow old will always be there, to teach us that suffering has meaning if it is accepted out of love for others,” said Mattis. “To the families of the fallen, both here and at home, no words will ease your pain. But I beg you, let it have meaning — unite your sorrow to their awesome purpose.”

President Donald Trump, who laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, gave his first Memorial Day address to the nation.

“Words cannot measure the depths of their devotion, the purity of their love or the totality of their courage,” Trump said. “We only hope that every day we can prove worthy not only of their sacrifice and service, but of the sacrifice made by the families and loved ones they left behind. Special, special people.”

Army veteran Ron Anderson understands the true meaning of sacrifice. Anderson, a Purple Heart recipient from Texas who received his medal on May 26, was shot and wounded in combat during the Vietnam War. Anderson said his life was saved by the heroic act of another fellow comrade, an angel on the battlefield whom he thanks God for every day.

For Anderson, **every day is Memorial Day**. He said he’s proud & humbled to come from a family of veterans. <https://www.legion.org/honor/237623/%E2%80%98every-day-memorial-day%E2%80%99>

Military Appreciation Night at Indy Eleven’s June 17 home game

Our friends at INHP (Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership) are giving away up to five free tickets to any active military, reserve, retired and veteran servicemen and women for Indy Eleven’s June 17 home game. Go to this website www.inhp.org/militarynight You need to fill out the form and you will receive a confirmation if they still have tickets available.

When we honor our flag we honor what we stand for as a Nation—freedom, equality, justice and hope.

~ Ronald Reagan

7th Annual **Mayors' Veterans & Family
Appreciation Day, Picnic & Fish Fry**



Indianapolis | Beech Grove | Lawrence | Southport | Speedway
Joe Hogsett | Dennis Buckley | Steve Collier | Russell McClure | Jacob Blasdel

Saturday the 10th of June 2017
10:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Garfield Park, Indy's Near-South Side

**Come share in the
Camaraderie, Fun, Music,
Free Food** *(for Vets & Family Members)*
**Games for the Kids,
Mobile Vet Van, &
Information Booths will
be Available on most
VA Benefits & Services**



FREE of charge to Marion County Veterans & Their Families

Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show by Donna's Rock & Roll Crusin' Oldies

Support Groups & Sponsors



Directions to Garfield Park by Car:
 The Park is located on Indy's near-south side
 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indy, IN 46203

From Downtown Indianapolis - Head south on Pennsylvania Avenue from downtown. Continue on as Pennsylvania Avenue turns into Madison Avenue. Turn left on Pleasant Run Parkway, which is at the intersection nearest IPS' Manual High School. Turn right on Pagoda Drive and follow the MACV signs.

From Shelby Street. The main entrance to the Park is located only a few blocks South of Raymond St. Turn right into the park and follow the MACV signs.

By IndyGo: Take buses 31 & 13 to the Park

For additional information, please contact: 317-632-4042 | Hawkins@VSCMC.com | www.VSCMC.com

INSIDE YARD SALE

Where: 59th & Lee Rd, Indy
Ft Harrison Vet Center

When: Fri, June 23 8am-5pm
Sat, June 24 8am-?

Lots of
goodies
inside
building!



Something
for
everyone
inside
building

**Drop off donated items on Thur, June 22,
12 noon-7pm, or Sundays, 10am-2pm**

Sponsored by Vets for Vets. Proceeds help homeless and needy veterans.

**FREE
Event!**

AMERICAN LEGION POST #24

**FREE
Event!**

INVITES YOU TO VISIT

The Moving Wall

JULY 27th NOON - 10AM JULY 31st

OPEN & GUARDED 24/7

Honoring All Veterans From All Wars

The Moving Wall is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for more than 30 years.

Guest Speakers EVERY Day

Honoring ALL Conflicts From WWI - Present

Kids Are Welcome - There Will be an Inflatable Obstacle Course

Red Cross Truck With Snacks & Waters

There Will Be Food & Soft Drinks Available For Purchase

National Guard Recruiting Tent With Military Assets on Display

Offering Rides on Vietnam Huey Helicopter

Information Center To Easily Find ANY Name on the Wall

More Information to Come As Project Develops

Call 812-376-7036 For Details

Attempting to Raise \$64,000!! Donate NOW by Going to
www.youcaring.com/2017movingwallmemorialatcolumbusindiana-684321



**BIKER DAY ON SATURDAY,
JULY 29th!!
CHECK-IN WITH YOUR
RIDE CARD 11-4**



Event Held at Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 W. 200 S., Columbus, IN 47201