



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295**



July 2016 Newsletter

July 13th Meeting

- 6:00pm Cookout & Pitch-in, please bring a dish to share.**
- 6:30pm Board Meeting**
- 7:00pm Membership Meeting.**

VVA 295 in Lawrence July 4th Parade



This is just one of the vehicles VVA295 had in the parade.

Thank you to all that participated in the parade.

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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

- July 14 Veteran Town Hall by VA Medical Center at Noblesville City Hall, 6:30pm
- July 19-23 VVA & AVVA Leadership Conference; <https://vva.org/events/leadership-conference/> in Tucson, AZ at HILTON EL CONQUISTADOR.
- July 27-31 American Veterans Traveling Tribute in Berne during their Swiss Days Festival
- August 4-7 The Wall that Heals in Flora at Flora Community Park sponsored by Carroll County Veteran Remembrance Committee.
- August 7 National Purple Heart Day is August 7 each year.
- August 12-14 Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in Crawfordsville at Lane Place, 212 S. Water St., sponsored by Byron Cox American Legion Post 72, Sammy Davis, CMH will speak at 1pm on Aug 13. Opening ceremony is 11am on Aug 12.
- August 13 Mayors' Veterans & Family Appreciation Day, Picnic & Fish Fry at Garfield Park, 10am to 3:30pm
- August 13-14 American Huey 369—10th Gathering Of Veterans & Patriots at Grissom Aeroplex
- Sept 14-18 34th Annual Vietnam Veterans & All Veterans Reunion, at Howard County Vietnam Veterans property.
- Sept 8 Stand Down 2016 at AMVETS Post 99, 2840 Lafayette Rd, Indy, setup 8am, tear down is 2:30pm.
- Sept 21-25 American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall in Mitchell, Indiana, Persimmon Festival on display in the City Hall parking lot.
- Sept 22-25 The Wall that Heals in Richmond, Veterans Memorial Park, hosted by Wayne County Veterans and VVA Chapter 777. American Huey 369 on Sept 23; Sammy Davis, CMH is guest speaker Sept 24.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

July 28, 1965 - During a noontime press conference, President Johnson announces he will send 44 combat battalions to Vietnam increasing the U.S. military presence to 125,000 men. Monthly draft calls are doubled to 35,000. "I have asked the commanding general, General Westmoreland, what more he needs to meet this mounting aggression. He has told me. And we will meet his needs. We cannot be defeated by force of arms. We will stand in Vietnam."

"...I do not find it easy to send the flower of our youth, our finest young men, into battle. I have spoken to you today of the divisions and the forces and the battalions and the units, but I know them all, every one. I have seen them in a thousand streets, of a hundred towns, in every state in this union-working and laughing and building, and filled with hope and life. I think I know, too, how their mothers weep and how their families sorrow."

July 6, 1966—U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) are led through the streets of Hanoi, where they are attacked by angry mobs.

Doolittle Raiders Member David Thatcher Passes

Retired Staff Sgt. David Jonathan Thatcher, one of the last two surviving members of the Doolittle Raiders, has died in Montana after suffering a stroke. He was 94.

Thatcher's death leaves Retired Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole of Comfort, Texas, as the only living airman from among 80 who took off from an aircraft carrier on 16 B-25 bombers to target factory areas and military installations in Japan on April 18, 1942.

Thatcher, engineer-gunner of Aircraft No. 7, received a Silver Star for gallantry after his plane - "The Ruptured Duck" - crashed near China after the bombing.



The plane, which was running low on fuel, flipped over and all the crew members except for Thatcher were seriously injured. After regaining consciousness, Thatcher administered first aid to his crew members and convinced some Chinese guerrillas to take the crew to safety in inland China.

The crew's experiences were documented in the movie "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," based on the book written by the plane's pilot, Lt. Ted Lawson.

In November 2013, Thatcher was among three of the four surviving Doolittle Raiders at that time who performed the final toasting ceremony for their fallen comrades at the United States Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

During an interview with The American Legion, Thatcher said they volunteered for the mission as a sense of duty.

"The most memorable moment of the mission wasn't the training, long over-water flight or the dropping of the bombs in Tokyo," he said at the time. "It was the crash landing. You just can't forget something like that."

<http://www.legion.org/honor/233080/doolittle-raiders-member-david-thatcher-passes>

2016 Brickyard 400 Named in Honor of Veteran's Charity



Retired U.S. Navy Seal Jason Redman was the winner of this year's annual Crown Royal "Your Hero's Name Here" program, which renames the Brickyard 400 after a deserving hero. Instead of using his name, he decided to name the race in honor of a non-profit organization he founded with his wife Erica. The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race will officially be referred to this year as the "Crown Royal presents the Combat Wounded Coalition 400 at the Brickyard." The Combat Wounded Coalition provides clothing and clothing modifications to combat wounded warriors. To

date, they have helped over 500 wounded warriors return to daily life after serving. This is the first year the race will be named after a charity. The race is July 24



Marion County Veterans can receive Free Bus Passes

This is a partnership program between the city of Indianapolis and IndyGo. It is expected to provide more than 23,000 bus rides annually to those that have served in the American armed forces. Mayor Joe Hogsett said, "Our Veterans have made incredible sacrifices for our country. This program will ensure they have access to jobs and medical facilities, as well as re-

sources and retail establishments across our great city." The bus passes will be available thru veteran services and community centers across the city. One place that has the passes is Operation Job Ready Vets at 9130 Otis Ave in Lawrence. 855-456-2732

VVA 295 Officers

Congratulations to our new and returning officers of VVA295. As the past officers ride off into the sunset, we will continue to look back to make sure the new officers have all the resources that we had to run our chapter smoothly. We will never forget VVA295 and all our friends. Our new officers are:

President	Ken Walters	Board of Directors	
VP	Walter Carter	Steve Anderson	Steve Mabrey
Secretary	John Brocklehurst	Mike Hamm	Jim Finney
Treasurer	Tom Donovan	Jim Pierce	Wes Anderson
AVVA Chapter Representative: Holly Tookolo		State AVVA President: Tony Gigli	

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@hvae.org

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.