



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



## November 2020 Newsletter

# This is November

## VOTE

Veterans fought for our right to VOTE.



## VETERANS DAY

Be thankful VETERANS fought for our rights and freedoms.



## THANKSGIVING

Be thankful for everything you have.



Don't forget the Marine Corps Birthday November 10—245 years old!.

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 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 6:00pm  
 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    317-844-3554 or cell 317-294-4607  
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## VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw	comdshaw@yahoo.com	765-618-4067
Vice President	Bob Parsons	rcparsons47@comcast.net	317-919-7589
Secretary	Mike Dolan	michaedolan@prodigy.net	317-374-5578
Treasurer	Fred Bishop	fbishop89@gmail.com	765-621-5515
Chaplain	Robert Wright	gospelbobw@gmail.com	317-714-4618

## Board of Directors

Steve Anderson	asteton@aol.com	317-431-9683
Ron Ayres	ron.ayres@att.net	317-319-6968
Rick Brown	rbrown46140@gmail.com	317-509-2022
Mike Hamm	indyhambone@sbcglobal.net	317-371-9833
Verne Hanson	vernehanson@netzero.net	317-439-7982
Steve Mabrey	spmabrey@comcast.net	317-459-6255
Don McFarland	dmac101@comcast.net	812-593-2554
Bill Smither	williamsmither44@yahoo.com	317-965-1636
Ken Walters	kennethgwalters@gmail.com	317-372-2231
Dennis Smalling	smallingindy@sbcglobal.net	317-313-1577

## AVVA Liaison

Tony Gigli	Anthony.gigli@gmail.com	317-965-1976
Holly Tookolo	htookolo@indy.rr.com	317-294-4607

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## WARRIORS HOPE

Every Thursday evening at 6pm you will find John Smitha at the Fort Harrison Veteran Center leading and helping a group of veterans with fellowship. Coffee and donuts are usually available. All veterans are welcome. It is good to talk with other veterans. If you have questions, call John Smitha, 317-439-6304.

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**Reminder: The Veteran Magazine is online at [www.vvaveteran.org](http://www.vvaveteran.org)**

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To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God bless you and thank you.

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# Important Dates

- Nov 1** Daylight Savings Time ends—turn clock back one hour.
- Nov 3** Election Day—VOTE
- Nov 2-13** Bunker at VA 7am-3pm Monday thru Friday—Help needed
- Nov 11** Veterans Day
- Nov 11** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm; Cake will be provided for Veterans Day; no homemade food allowed.
- Nov 21** VVA Indiana State Council meeting 11am—Thanksgiving meal
- Nov 26** Thanksgiving
- Dec 7-18** Bunker at VA 7am-3pm Monday thru Friday—Help needed
- Dec 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Nov 4, 1953** President Eisenhower will greatly increase U.S. military aid to the French in Vietnam.
- Nov 16, 1961** In accordance with President Kennedy's earlier decision to increase military aid to South Vietnam without committing U.S. combat troops, U.S. Air Force cargo planes being shuttling in more U.S. instructors and advisors.
- Nov 24 1963** President Johnson decides that there will be no break from the Kennedy policies, reaffirming the U.S. intention to continue military and economic support to South Vietnam.
- Nov 10, 1964** Secretary of Defense McNamara says, at a news conference, that the U.S. has no plans to send combat troops into Vietnam. When asked if U.S. intends to increase its activities in Vietnam, he replies, "wait and see."
- Nov 11, 1964** NBC shows a film provided by a Japanese agency that gives the North Vietnamese version of the conflict between U.S. and North Vietnam. The film shows the first U.S. POW, Lt Everett Alvarez, who was shot down following the Gulf of Tonkin incident.
- Nov 14-16, 1965** During Operation Silver Bayonet, in one of the fiercest battles of the entire war, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, from the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, battles the entire 66th NVA Regiment at Landing Zone X-Ray, near the base of the Chu Pong Massif in the Ia Drang Valley. Only artillery fire, tactical air support, and the tenacity of the 1st Cavalry troopers prevent the NVA from overrunning the American positions.
- Nov 27, 1965** The Pentagon recommends that President Johnson increase U.S. troop strength in South Vietnam during the coming year from 120,000 to 400,000 men so that General Westmoreland can conduct the major sweep operations he deems necessary to destroy enemy forces.



### **The Bunker Hours 10am-2pm Sunday**

The Bunker will be setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center November 2-6 & 9-13. If you can help pack/load/setup, etc, call Steve 317-459-6255 Help needed 7am-3pm Mon thru Fri each week to sell—let Holly know, 317-294-4607.  
Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

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## President's Message:

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

We hope that this finds you, and your family well.

Most of you may not know that along with putting out this newsletter, and many other things, that Holly is President of AVVA 295, our Associate Chapter members. Tony Gigli also a member of her chapter, and State President For AVVA, ( son of Gene Gigli, a Past VVA 295 Chapter President ) nominated Holly for two (2) different National Awards, for all of the hard work that she has done, and is still doing to help our chapter. Hoping that she might win one (1) of them. A surprise to everyone, she was selected for both awards. They are the Cathy Keister Spirit of Excellence Award, and AVVA Member of The Year Award. Most people do not win either award, much less both at the same time. Congratulations Holly. Thank you Tony for her nomination. Holly then went on to the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion, (where she is The Vendor Chairman), and was presented on stage for all to see with a 30 Year Service Award. Again Congratulations. Your hard work and determination has at last been recognized.



If you have not voted yet, please do in honor of those who fought and died to give you that right.

To all Veterans, THANK YOU for your service to our great Country. To all the wives and families, THANK YOU for taking care of them. We will have our chapter meeting on Veterans Day. Following the meeting we will celebrate with cake. Please do not bring any food to the meeting, as it is not allowed.

As you see in the newsletter and emails, the Bunker needs you. Steve, and the chapter needs you. We have the opportunity of being set up at the VA next year every day of every weekday that they are open. We need you to step up and help make this possible. It is not fair to ask one (1) or two (2) people to do this alone. They need to have lives too. A group of dedicated people can make this work. We need you to volunteer a couple of days each week, or a whole week at a time. The more people that we have, the easier it will be for everyone. We worked as a team in the service, we need to do it again, and now.

We are the largest chapter in the state, and have been trying for several years to reach 300 in membership. In the last few months we have been able to transfer in thirty-five (35) at large members. Giving us a total of 331 members. To those of you who transferred, Thank You. to those of you who went to a Life Member, Thank You. Know of someone to sign up for membership? Remember it only costs them \$50.00. If you are a VVA member, and wish to help our Associate Chapter Members, you can become a dual member, for only \$50.00. You may also sign up your wife, family members, or other Veterans for \$150.00 if under 60 years of age, and \$100.00 if older than 60 years of age. Remember, they can work in the Bunker also. You can work together, or with other members.

The last of the month is time for Thanksgiving. A day to spend with family and friends. A day to share and remember shut ins and neighbors that are alone, or in need. You can do this on your own, or with your church, or other organizations that help the less fortunate or lonely people.

Please pause, remember, and give thanks for who you are, and what you have. You served in the service, possibly in combat. Maybe you were wounded. You may still suffer from those wounds, both physical, and mental. But you came home to family and friends. Thousands were not that lucky. God has given you a second chance. For some of us several second chances. Over the years you have had a family, job, friends, laughter, and tears. All of which you can be thankful for. Maybe you have traveled, had parties, worshipped, ate out, went to shows, sporting events, fishing, walked in the woods, climbed mountains, all kinds of things that those who never came home, or those confined to home, hospital, or poor could not do. Give thanks that you wake up each day to see the sun, trees, hear the birds sing, and remember those who cannot see, or hear. Count your blessings, for they are many. We can each feel sorry for ourselves, our aches and pains. Problems, lack of this or that. But if we look around we can always find someone who is worse off than us. But with a smile on their face, and a kind word for those that they meet.

**Continued on page 5**



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**Vice President’s Message:**

VVA 295 Brothers and Sisters,



Our “Operation Cleanup” went quite well and the area around the Vet Center looks much nicer. A huge Thank You to all who helped and a special thanks to my wife who paid for and prepared our lunch of ham & beans, cornbread & cookies. Several others brought food as well...Thank You We were joined by members of Rolling Thunder, the Sea Cadets, the American Legion and several community members. I am sure I left someone out , and for that I am sorry, but your help and hard work was greatly appreciated.

Your efforts went a long way toward making our facility suitable to rent for various functions such as wedding recep-tions, retirement parties, family reunions etc. I have become the “go to” person for individuals or groups wishing to rent the Veteran’s Center and I am in presently in the process of re-writing our rental agreement to protect us and minimize our liability when we do rent it. One major change is to totally ban alcohol from the premises. If we permit alcohol our exposure to liability is huge and we simply can’t afford to take that kind of risk. I will also propose that there be no smok-ing or vaping in the building and that a Chapter member be present at all events to ensure compliance. While this may sound harsh and might even discourage some potential renters we can’t take the chance of one lawsuit putting us out of business. I have looked at rental contracts from other facilities and most have take a similar path. Your input on this would definitely be appreciated. Please feel free to call or email me.

By next meeting we will know who won the Presidential Election and hopefully that won’t usher in another 4 years of protests, violence and civil disobedience. We are one country and we need to start acting like it. A chapter member re-cently shared an insight with me...he said it all boils down to one word, “hatred”. How true. I would like to think that we, as an organization, have largely put our differences aside and function as the type of organization that was en-visioned when the VVA was founded many years ago...a true brotherhood. A brotherhood, who’s members , while they might disagree, still treat each other with respect and courtesy. VVA Chapters also should be a place where politics and ethnicity differences are left at the door.

Hopefully everyone is staying safe during this COVID pandemic and that we will see a viable treatment program/ vaccine in the near future.

Hopefully we will see you at the next Chapter Meeting and if you know a Vietnam Vet who doesn’t know about us...bring him or her along. Unfortunately we sometimes lose members and since they “ain’t” making Vietnam Vets anymore we need everyone we can get.

In Brotherhood,

Bob Parsons, VVA V.P.  
Fund Raising Committee, Rental Committee, Grounds Committee  
Phu Bai, Vietnam, 1966-67-68

Phone 317-919-7589  
Email: [rcparsons47@comcast.net](mailto:rcparsons47@comcast.net)

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**Continued from page 4—President’s Message**

Be thankful that you have a place to live, and a car to drive, as others do not. Think of all that you have had over the years, and remember it was that they made you who you are today. While giving thanks, pray for peace, and the safe return home of our service members from around the world, and an end to this virus. Pray that people step up to help the Bunker and the chapter. Pray that each day we each become better people to help our fellow veterans, our youth, and our community.

Remember alone, we can each do a little, but together we can do a lot. A fine example of this was displayed on the 24th of October when we had a clean up day at the building. Thirty (30) people from six (6) different groups made this possible. They were The Navy Sea Cadets, American Legion post 438, Rolling Thunder Chapter 1, Vets For Vets, VVA 295, and AVVA 295. My thanks to each and every one of you for your help in making our grounds look so much better.

May we all pray that GOD will bless America, our troops, and you.

In Comradeship,

Larry Shaw  
President VVA 295  
765-618-4067  
[comdshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:comdshaw@yahoo.com)

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VVA Service Officers

Dennis Smalling  
317-313-1577  
smallingindy@sbcglobal.net

Michael Dolan  
317-374-5578  
michaedolan@prodigy.net

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**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.hvafindiana.org/>

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**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).

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**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](mailto:hvaf@hvaf.org)

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**Member Speaker Program at Meetings**– Call Fred Bishop, 317-918-1142 to sign up.

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**Community Guest Speaker at Meetings**

Call Larry Shaw to schedule a speaker from our community. 765-618-4067.

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# Operation Bunker at VA

## Volunteers Needed

### Bunker will be setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center for two weeks,

### November 2-6 and 9-13

To help with packing/loading/setup/etc., Call Steve 317-459-6255

Call Holly to volunteer to sell, 317-294-4607; hours to work 7am-3pm

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America's Veterans have served their country with the belief that democracy and freedom are ideals to be upheld around the world. -John Doolittle

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## 2020 Veterans Day Restaurant Discounts

### Sunday, November 8, 2020

#### McCormick and Schmick's Free Entree

Veterans and Gold Star families (parents and spouses) can enjoy a complimentary lunch or dinner at McCormick and Schmick's on Sunday, November 8th, 2020.

### Wednesday, November 11, 2020

#### 7-Eleven

Get a free coffee or Big Gulp on Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veterans Day. Download the 7-Eleven app and sign in or register.

#### Applebee's

Veterans and Active Duty Military can select a free meal from a limited menu on Veteran's Day. Provide proof of service required.

#### Bob Evans

Bob Evans Restaurants are offering free select menu items to Veterans and Active Duty Military on Veterans Day, Wednesday., Nov. 11.

#### Casey's General Store

Casey's is providing free coffee on Veterans Day across its more than 2,200 locations. In addition, \$1 will be donated for every online or in-app purchase of a large pizza and two-liter Pepsi brand drink, up to \$50,000 total.

#### Chili's Grill & Bar

All veterans and active duty military personnel can choose a complimentary meal from a select menu on Veterans Day 2020.

#### Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

During Military Family Appreciation Month Cracker Barrel will offer in-store specials on Veterans Day for military veterans and promotions throughout November to support military families in partnership with Operation Homefront.

Denny's In observance of Veterans Day, participating Denny's locations nationwide will offer service members a complimentary Build Your Own Grand Slam<sup>®</sup> on Monday, Nov. 12. This staple includes a choice of four delicious breakfast items such as two fluffy buttermilk pancakes, two eggs or egg whites cooked to order, two sizzling bacon or turkey bacon strips, buttermilk biscuits or hash browns. The offer is valid for dine-in only from 5 a.m. to noon with a valid military ID or DD 214.

#### Famous Dave's

On Nov. 11 in honor of Veteran's Day all former and current military personnel will receive a free two meat Combo. Dine-in or To-Go.

Golden Corral

On Wednesday, November 11th, 2020 from 5 PM to 9 PM, Golden Corral offers a free sit-in “thank you” dinner for Military veterans, retirees, and active duty members.

Houlihan’s

Receive a free entree from a select menu on Veteran’s Day 11/11 with proof of veteran status or active service in the military.

IHOP

All active duty and Veterans are invited to come in and enjoy Free Red, White, & Blue Pancakes on Wednesday, November 11, from 7 am to 7 pm.

O’Charley’s

All active and retired military service members are invited to enjoy a free meal from O’Charley’s. Veterans can choose from O’Charley’s “Veterans Thank You Menu” all day on November 11 simply by showing their military IDs. Restaurant participation may vary by location. O’Charley’s also offers military discount of 10 percent off all year long.

Pilot, Flying J/U.S. Pilot

All active-duty and retired military veterans get a free breakfast including a coffee, Monday through Sunday, Nov. 9-15. The offer is available via the app.

Red Lobster

On Wednesday, November 11th to thank Veterans, active duty military and reservists, Red Lobster will offer a free appetizer or dessert from their select Veterans Day menu. To receive offer, show a valid military ID.

Red Robin

All Veterans and Active Duty Military get a free dine-in Red’s Tavern Double Burger and Bottomless Steak Fries in honor of Veterans Day. For 2020, to reduce crowding, this offer is available Nov. 12 – Nov. 30.

Starbucks

On Veterans Day, active duty service members, reservists, veterans and military spouses are invited to enjoy a free Tall Brewed Coffee.

Texas Roadhouse

is handing out vouchers for a free meal to all Veterans and Active Duty military from 11 am to 2 pm on Veterans Day. Vouchers will be distributed in the parking lots at Texas Roadhouse locations.

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As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. -John Fitzgerald Kennedy

The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. – Douglas MacArthur

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