



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



October 2018 Newsletter

2018 POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony



Thank You to Tom Madden for laying the wreath for all Indiana Vietnam POWs and representing VVA 295.

VVA 295 Officers

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| President | Larry Shaw |
| Vice President | Bob Parsons |
| Secretary | Mike Dolan |
| Treasurer | Wes Anderson |
| 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	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

Important Dates

- Oct 8 Columbus Day
- Oct 9 Ask a Lawyer for Free at Roudebush VA Medical Center 11am-4pm
- Oct 10 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:00pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- Oct 20 VVA Indiana State Council, 12 lunch & 1pm meeting
- Oct 20 Community Shred-It & Electronics Recycling Day, 10am-1pm at Lawrence Police Dept. at 59th & Post, also Drug Take Back; \$5 donation for each shredding box; \$10 fee for all TV & computer monitors but computers and other electronics are free.
- Nov 6 Election Day
- Nov 9 Operation Alpha by HVAF at The Tinker House, 1101 E. 16th St, Indy, flyer 8
- Nov 10 Indianapolis Veterans Day Parade
- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Nov 14 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:00pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- Nov 17 VVA Indiana State Council, 12 lunch & 1pm meeting
- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Day

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Oct 19, 1962** Operation Morning Star, a major South Vietnamese effort to clear Tay Ninh Province, north of Saigon, ends in failure.
- Oct 1, 1965** U.S. Special Forces launches Operation Shining Brass in which teams are inserted into Laos to watch and disrupt traffic along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
- Oct 6-Nov 19, 1965** The 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile) joins with South Vietnamese marines to conduct Operation Happy Valley, a search and clear operation conducted in Binh Dinh Province, II Corps.
- Oct 1, 1966** The U.S. Air Force 834th Air Division and 483rd Tactical Airlift Wing deploy to Vietnam. U.S. Navy begins Operation Sea Dragon to interdict enemy supply vessels in coastal waters off North Vietnam.
- Oct 11-20, 1967** The 3rd Marine Division, in conjunction with ARVN troops and elements of the Marine Special Landing Force (SLF), conducts Operation Medina/Bastion Hill/Lam Son 138 targeted at the enemy's Base Area 101 in the rugged Hai Lang National Forest, southern Quang Tri Province.



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 October 1-5. Help is needed to load the van Fri Oct 5 at 3pm. Call Steve if you are going to help load, 317-459-6255.

President's Message:

Hello Brothers & Sisters,



I hope this finds you well, if not, please let us know. Always remember that you are not alone. Someone cares for you. As you walk through life you can usually find someone worse off than you. If you are a Veteran, you were our Country's best, if you are married to a Veteran, that makes you double special, as they chose you.

Attention all VVA and AVVA Members: the Chapter needs your help soon. Those of you who attend the meetings know, it is rather warm in the summer months. To replace the air conditioner is from \$50,000.00 to \$80,000.00. A few years back the Chapter had the money, but years of spending without fund raising has left our coffers mighty low. We need to turn this around. We have our license from the State to do Charity Gaming, such as; Bingo, Raffles, or Gaming Nights. This license allows members of VVA and AVVA to sell tickets for raffles, but your name, address, phone number, and driver's license number must be on the application. Plus, if we have a raffle we must decide what to raffle, price of tickets, how long to sell tickets, when and where to draw for a winner. The fastest way too raise money is to put on a meal like Fish Fry, Chicken dinner, Bar-B-Que, Tenderloin, Etc. We have a building, tables, chairs, and a parking lot. We need someone with a portable cooker, and to invite the public.

So please give us your ideas, and volunteer to help. It will take all of us working as a team to make it work. Remember the words of MOH Sammy Davis: "YOU DO NOT LOSE, UNTIL YOU QUIT TRYING." I will not quit. Will you? Rolling Thunder, the next largest group in the building, has challenged their members to donate individually to the building fund, and some have. So, I challenge you to do the same. Who knows, next year may be even hotter than this year.

Last month I warned about kids and school buses. This month watch out for deer, standing at the edge of the road, or crossing it. At night watch on coming cars head lights to see if one dashes past them, be alert for their eyes in your own head lights. If you see one, there could be more. Also watch for Farm Machinery on, or alongside of the road, and pulling in and out of fields.

October 31st, Halloween watch out for kids dashing across the streets for treats.

A lot of people are out hunting these days. If you are one of them, be alert to your surroundings, and of your shot. Keep the safety on, and the chamber empty. Never climb a fence holding your firearm. Place it where it will not fall over and go off. Always tell someone where you will be, and when you will return. If you use a tree stand, once you get it in place, do not step back to see how it looks, unless you are on the ground

Are you registered to vote? Last day to register is October 9th, so that you can vote November 6th. Many of you fought for this right, so use it. To not vote is not only a slap in the face of all those who fought and died fighting for these rights so that all we can use them, but their families as well. The only true way to honor our dead is to support the living. We are part of the minority, we served. So please do not be part of the majority that do not vote.

May GOD continue to bless America, our troops and you.

Remember always: "We never lose, until we quit trying."

In Comradeship

Larry Shaw—765-618-4067

Vice President's Corner

Dear fellow VVA 295 members,



Autumn is upon us once again and with it comes several important veteran's events. One of our most significant events is Veteran's Day on the 11th. This year's Indianapolis Veteran's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, Nov. 10 and, as in years past, VVA 295 will participate. Our attendance in past years has been somewhat sparse but hopefully, this year, we can all put it on our calendars and participate. It is a very gratifying experience. We will have vehicles available for those unable to walk the parade route. Please contact me if you would like to ride so that I can coordinate the number of vehicles needed. We will meet at the corner of North and Pennsylvania Streets at around 9:30 AM. (Where the old "Elbow Room" tavern was located.) Let's have a good turnout this year.

A number of VVA 295 members attended this year's POW/MIA Ceremony in downtown Indianapolis at the World War memorial. VVA 295 was represented officially by Tom Madden who laid a wreath in honor of Indiana's Vietnam POWs and MIAs. Attendance was good and the weather was beautiful.

In the past VVA 295 had an excellent educational program where we visited local high schools. In the past members of VVA 295 visited schools, spoke about our experiences and answered question from students studying the Vietnam War in their history classes. I would like to see us resume this program as it is a good way for us to perpetuate our legacy and to enlighten students about the contribution and sacrifices our generation made in Vietnam. This type of information is typically addressed in a very cursory fashion, if at all in their history texts. Our past experience has been that the students ask some very insightful questions about the country of Vietnam, it's people, customs, topography, weather and our role in it's history.

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, we are looking for ways to serve those in need in our community, particularly veterans and their families. If you have any ideas on how we can do this or know of anyone specifically in need please bring it to the attention of a board member or bring it up at the next meeting. Our resources are somewhat limited but, in spite of this, we can still do something positive within our community.

Now that we are getting older, and some retired we often have more spare time on our hands. Please consider volunteering at the VA Hospital to help your fellow veterans. Volunteer Services is very appreciative of any time you can give them and is very accommodating, schedule wise.

Our food pantry is getting pretty sparse. HVAC can use all of the help that we can give them. Please consider bringing a non-perishable item (canned meat (tuna, chicken etc.) mac & cheese, oatmeal, SPAM, TREAT, pasta etc.) to our next meeting to help our fellow vets in need.

When we returned from Vietnam, we all returned to different family dynamics and economic circumstances. Life threw us all many curves and pitfalls, some more than others, and any one of us, if we are honest, must admit that we could find ourselves homeless and in need as many of our fellow vets now are. Let's help them all we can. After all we are all "brothers and sisters" who just happened to take the worst "senior trip" in history !

That's all for this month, hope to see you all at the October Chapter VVA 295 meeting (hopefully with canned goods or non-perishable food in hand)..

Bob Parsons

VVA 295 vice-president

Vietnam 1966,67,68

317 919 7589

More pictures from POW ceremony



Military Exchange Shopping—PX

Just a reminder that the Army, Air Force and Navy Exchange has online shopping. This is like Amazon but cheaper and no taxes. You must register first by calling 1-844-868-8672.

A Breakthrough for U.S. Troops: Combat-Ready Pizza

NATICK, Mass — The American military calls its combat field rations M.R.E.’s, for Meals, Ready to Eat, since they require no cooking. But the troops long ago decided that those initials stood for Meals Refused by Everyone. The stuff may have been filling, but it sure wasn’t appetizing.

Even the head of the Army’s combat ration program acknowledged that the first few generations of M.R.E. entrees were full of “mystery meat and no-name casseroles,” and that troops in the field quickly grew sick and tired of them.

Worried about morale, the Army set out on a long-term effort to upgrade the menu with items that the troops might actually like. And its food scientists have finally hit on what many say is the holy grail of field rations: the M.R.E. pizza.

Now being shipped to military bases around the world, the newest of 24 current M.R.E. options is a humble three-by-five-inch Sicilian-style slice, scattered with melt-proof shreds of mozzarella and pebbles of mild pepperoni, sealed in a dun-colored laminate pouch.

NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM TO OPEN OCTOBER 27

On Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. the National Veterans Memorial and Museum will host a dedication and grand opening ceremony. The ceremony will feature distinguished veterans whose stories are highlighted in the museum, military leadership and appearances or performances by men and women of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Reserves. General Colin Powell (U.S. Army, Retired) will deliver the keynote address. The public is encouraged to attend the dedication to celebrate the opening of this historic institution.

The museum, located at 300 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215, will open immediately after the dedication and will remain open until 9 p.m. that evening to allow as many guests as possible to experience the exhibits.

Please RSVP for the Dedication and Grand Opening Ceremonies at www.nationalvmm.org/grandopening/.

VA Opens New Research Center Focused on Veteran Caregivers

A new Department of Veterans Affairs research hub will focus on veteran caregiver challenges and services, officials announced today. The Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence will operate under the VA Health Services Research and Development program, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced today. The virtual center is named in honor of former Sen. Elizabeth Dole whose foundation focuses on caregiver issues, support and research. For more info on this center, go to: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/09/07/va-opens-new-research-center-focused-veteran-caregivers.html>

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund pulls plug on building a museum on the Mall

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund announced Friday that it is ending its troubled project to build a \$130 million underground Vietnam education center on the Mall. The proposed center, which would have been adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and near the Lincoln Memorial, had been plagued by funding problems almost since the project was launched in 2001.

The fund's president, Jim Knotts, said Friday that the fund had raised only \$45 million and that prospects for raising the rest were dim. The center would have been a kind of Vietnam War museum featuring exhibits and a projection of thousands of pictures of the 58,000 people who died in the war and whose names are on the memorial's hallowed black wall.

Critics of the project, which was begun by the memorial's creator, Jan C. Scruggs, argued that there was no need for an education center when the Wall was such a profound statement about the war. Knotts said the unanimous decision was made by the seven voting members of its board at a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting at the fund's office in Crystal City. He said that the fund plans to create an online education center in place of the building. Knotts said Friday that he and his staff are "sad and disappointed that we were not able to make the project a success, resulting in a physical building on the National Mall."

John Dibble, chairman of the board, said in a statement: "This project has faced many difficult challenges since Jan Scruggs conceived the idea in 2001. It has been a long road and we have had many successes along the way. . . . Unfortunately, we've reached that point regarding a physical building . . . [that] the funding has simply not materialized."

Chuck Hagel, a prominent Vietnam veteran and former defense secretary, said in a statement provided by the fund: "An Education Center building would have become a treasured national asset. However . . . I believe the Board made the right decision to focus in technology to educate visitors about the memorial."

Scruggs, the former head of the fund who once championed the project, had soured on it since he left the fund three years ago. He had once traveled the country trying to raise money for the project. He hosted a gala groundbreaking ceremony in 2012 featuring then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, Jill Biden — the wife of the vice president — and singer Jimmy Buffett, who sang "God Bless America." "It's not just another interesting little museum," Scruggs said at the time. It will be "an amazing place where you can connect with the nation's past." Last year, the project got a \$10 million grant from the Lilly Endowment — the largest single cash donation in the fund's history.

But the price of the center kept going up, and fundraising couldn't keep pace.

Scruggs and the fund gradually realized the effort was futile.

"The time has come for the VVMF to return the money" to all its donors, he said Friday. Asked if he was sad about the project's demise, he said, "No. I think it's great."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/vietnam-veterans-memorial-fund-pulls-plug-on-building-a-museum-on-the-mall/2018/09/21/727ac48a-bdd0-11e8-8792-78719177250f_story.html?utm_term=.ee716d9e1f2b

My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth.

~ Abraham Lincoln



Firewood

Any Veteran needing nice split hardwood maple firewood, call Russ Eaglin at 317-201-7066. The firewood is located at the Marine Corps League building at 500 S. Audubon. Thank you Andy Smith for donating the firewood.

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! **Thank you Joann Weaver for taking 25 copies to the Marion County libraries!**

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. **The newly re-designed AVVA website is up and running! Go to www.avva.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 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.

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

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

You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore. Christopher Columbus

*Your favorite Veterans Day event is back on
November 9th!*



Get your tickets TODAY!

www.eventbrite.com/e/operation-alpha-2018-tickets-49568918971

Operation Alpha is a collaborative event between HVAF of Indiana, Hotel Tango Artisan Distillery, and The Tinker House Events, to raise funds for HVAF's important work in helping Hoosier veterans.

Join us at The Tinker House (1101 East 16th Street, Indianapolis) for a casual night of entertainment, tradition, reflection, and fine food and beverage, all in support of local veterans.

Early bird ticket sales end October 26th at 11:30 pm.

6 pm: VIP Reception for sponsors (*If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Aaron Carmichael at 317-951-0688 or acarmichael@hvaf.org.*)

7 pm - 8 pm: Guests Arrive, Cocktail Hour, Food, Silent Auction

8 pm: Silent Auction Ends, Live Auction Starts

8:30 pm: Grog Bowl Ceremony

9 pm - 11 pm: Live Entertainment TBA

Food by TBA

Spirits by Hotel Tango, The Wine Group, Upland Brewing Co.

For more information, please contact HVAF's
VP Advancement Aaron Carmichael:
317-951-0688
ACarmichael@hvaf.org



Service

10:30 a.m. Musical Prelude Indiana War Memorial
Performed by the 38th Division Band,
Indiana Army National Guard, on the
North steps of the Indiana War Memorial

11:00 a.m. Veterans Day Service on the
North steps of the Indiana War Memorial

Parade

12:00 p.m. Veterans Day Parade Downtown Indy
The parade kicks off as soon as the Veterans Day
Service concludes. More than 80 units march
in this annual parade, which begins at Michigan
and Pennsylvania Streets, moves south on
Pennsylvania to New York Street, west to Meridian
Street and finishes at North Street.

Banquet

5:30 p.m. Reception Primo Banquet Hall
Primo Banquet Hall & Conference Center,
2615 National Avenue, Indianapolis.

6:30 p.m. Dinner Primo Banquet Hall

An awards ceremony follows dinner to recognize
all who sacrifice so much for the Indianapolis and
surrounding communities, our veterans and the
youth that participated in the Veterans Day events

VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served.

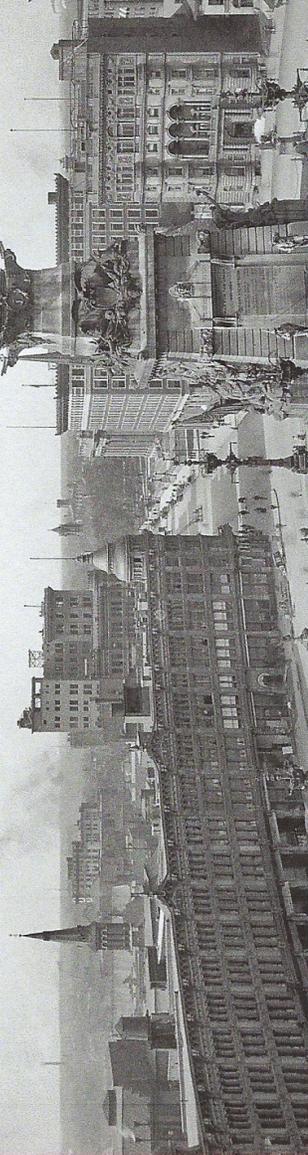
THANK YOU.

Indiana War Memorial
431 N Meridian St.,
Indianapolis, IN 46220

(317) 630-1322

gevans@legion.org

Gina Evans, Secretary



VETERANS DAY
COUNCIL
of Indianapolis, Inc.

ABOUT US

The Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis is a voluntary, 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to bring about a wholesome and constructive relationship between the community and veterans of our Armed Forces. The activities of the Council culminate in our annual observance of Veterans Day in Indianapolis.

Events Guide

Indianapolis

Veterans Day Observance
Saturday, November 10, 2018

The Veterans Day Service begins with a musical prelude on the north steps of the Indiana War Memorial at 10:30 a.m. on November 10. Parking is limited so please arrive early.

www.veteransdayindy.org/service

Or contact:

Jill Druskis, Vice President, Veterans Service
317-860-3020; jdruskis@indlegion.org

SERVICE



PARADE

More than 80 units are expected to march in the 2018 Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 10. To learn more, or to register to march, visit:

www.veteransdayindy.org/parade

Or contact:

Parade Coordinator
vetsdayindy@gmail.com

BANQUET

Submit form below for Banquet reservations. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Tickets will not be distributed. Reservations will be verified the evening of the Veterans Day Banquet at the check-in desk of Primo's Banquet Hall at:

Primo Banquet Hall & Conference Center
2615 National Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Attire: Military Dress uniform, Business/Dress



Send to: Veterans Day Banquet
Attn: Larry Powers, Banquet Vice President
7637 Sand Run Court, Indianapolis, IN 46259
majorpain38@hotmail.com; (317) 258-2825

Enclosed is \$_____ for the following:
_____ Reservations @ \$30 per person
_____ Table Sponsorship @ \$500 each (tables are rounds of 8)

Make checks payable to: Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis, Inc., -OR-
Pay online at www.veteransdayindy.org/reservations

**Check in at front desk of Primo's Banquet Hall for seat assignments.*

Name: _____ Rank: _____
Organization (if any): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____
Preferred Seating? (check one) YES NO
If Yes, Specify: _____