



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



July 2018 Newsletter



On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies claimed their independence from England, an event which eventually led to the formation of the United States. Each year on July 4th, also known as Independence Day, Americans celebrate this historic event.

Let us never forget the brave souls that fought and served for the pride and peace of our nation. A nation that makes me proud, America.

God Bless America

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
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VVA Service Officer

Dennis Smalling
smallingindy@sbcglobal.net
Thursday 8am-12pm
Sunday 10am-2pm
By appointment

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 6:30

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

- July 4 Independence Day and Lawrence Parade-VVA will participate. Gather at Community Center just off Franklin Rd at 8-8:30am. Wear the dark green VVA shirt or a patriotic shirt.
- July 9-13 The Bunker is setup at VA; physical help is needed Fri, July 13 at 3:30pm.
- July 10 Ft Harrison Veterans Center Building Meeting 6pm
- July 11 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- July 24-28 2018 VVA National Leadership Conference
- Aug 4 4th Annual Ride to Support Ft Harrison Veterans Center, flyer pg 8 & donation letter pg 9 so you can seek donations from businesses.
- Aug 8 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- July 2, 1962** A team of 30 Australian military advisers arrives in Vietnam to join with American advisory teams training South Vietnamese military forces.
- July 6, 1964** At Nam Dong in the northern highlands, an estimated 500 man Viet cong force attacks an American Special Forces camp but is forced to withdraw after a bitter five hour battle. Captain Roger C. Donlon will later be awarded the Medal of Honor for valor during this battle, the first such award for the war in Vietnam.
- July 7, 1966** A force of more than 8,500 U.S. Marines and 2,500 South Vietnamese conducts Operation Hastings/Lam Son 289 in Quang Tri Province, I Corps, to drive the North Vietnamese 324-B Division back across the DMZ and preempt and disrupt enemy plans to mass and attack Quang Tri and Thua Thien.
- July 7, 1969** The first U.S. troops to be withdrawn from South Vietnam depart Saigon. Eight hundred men of the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division leave for home. They will land at McChord Air Base in Washington the next day. The unit will be stationed at nearby Fort Louis.
- July 9-15, 1970** Elements of the U.S. 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), the 101st Airborne Division, and the 3rd ARVN Regiment conduct Operation Clinch Valley, an airmobile assault into the border area near Khe Sanh to exploit the enemy sightings from July 8.

BLUE WATER NAVY ACT

House passed the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, H.R. 299 last week. Now it goes to the Senate for passage, S.422. This bill includes as part of the Republic of Vietnam its territorial seas for purposes of the presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure by veterans to certain herbicide agents while in Vietnam. (Agent Orange)

The Vietnam War: A Film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick

This documentary was shown on PBS last September and at Indy's Old National Theater. For those that missed it or want to see it again, it is now on Netflix.

All American Flag Act

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown is introducing the All American Flag Act that would require flags purchased by the government to be 100 percent made in the USA. Currently, any American flag purchased by the government must be at least 50 percent made in the USA.

President’s Message:

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

Please join us if you wish to be in the 4th of July Parade in Lawrence. If you can walk and wish to carry a flag, please let me know in advance. We gather at the Community Center on Franklin Rd, just south of 56th St about 8-8:30am on 7/4. Wear your dark green VVA shirts or a patriotic one.



The Chapter meeting is the 11th with a special guest speaker. Please plan to attend to hear his story.

242 years ago America attained it’s freedom from tyranny. Today we still have troops fighting around the world for those oppressed. Be thankful of where you are and the freedom that you have. We can complain of taxes, no air conditioning or heat, leaky faucets, pot holes in roads and streets, and poor leadership in government at all levels. But that is one our main freedoms of which many of you have fought for. We can complain, but many areas of the world cannot. We have fresh clean water, sewers, and septic systems that they don’t. We have electricity, gas, drug stores, food, clothing, sporting goods and many more things that we take for granted. We grew up with these things that a lot of people do not have. We are a blessed nation.

Thanks to every one who has defended this country for those last 242 years. To each of you Thank You for my freedom and that of my family and friends. Pass this comment on to all Veterans you know and meet, and tell them also Welcome Home, Happy Birthday America.

Never forget "We can each do a little, but together we can do a lot".

Keep those flags flying.

May GOD Bless America our Military Men and Women serving around the world, and you.

In Patriotism,

Larry Shaw

President VVA 295

765-618-4067

VA OPENS NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION CALL CENTER IN KANSAS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has opened a new Veterans Crisis Line Center in Topeka, Kansas, to help handle the crush of calls from veterans seeking help and guidance when they have thoughts of suicide.

The new facility at the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka, which officially opened last Friday, will be the third in the system aimed at curbing the suicide rate among veterans, estimated at 20 per day. "Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide -- and those who know a veteran in crisis -- can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year," the VA said. "Call 800-273-8255 and press 1; chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat; or text to 838255."

Design for National Native American Veterans Memorial

After months of work and several revisions, a version of Harvey Pratt’s drawing was named the winner of the international contest to design the National Native American Veterans Memorial. Pratt’s design is titled “Warriors’ Circle of Honor”.

Pratt is an accomplished painter and sculptor and previously designed a memorial in Denver that commemorates the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado. Groundbreaking for the memorial will take place Sept. 21, 2019, and the monument is slated to open in late 2020. Its construction — projected to cost \$8 million — will end more than a decade of anticipation: Congress authorized the memorial in 1994, though it did not permit fundraising until 2013.

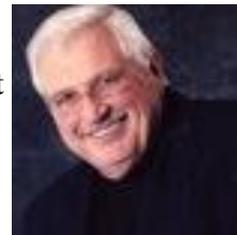
Special Speaker at the July 11th VVA Meeting

A special Vietnam Veterans t-shirt was left at The Moving Wall. Our special speaker will tell us the story about it. You do not want to miss this.

Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 brothers and sisters:

We should all be proud of the job we did hosting the "Moving Wall" this past month. A lot of work went into this endeavor and it showed. I heard nothing but positive comments and I think that, once again, it demonstrated the undeniable power this memorial has to promote healing among ourselves and understanding and perhaps education to those who were not there. Our interactions with visitors desiring to locate specific names on and explaining some of the facts pertaining to the Wall go a long toward keeping the sacrifice our generation made from fading into history. Thank you, again, to all who contributed to this event.



On another note, I can't express how good it makes me feel, at our monthly chapter meetings, to look out and see so many members, many of them new, attending. It seems like chapter participation was really dwindling in recent years but lately we are seeing an uptick in interest as well as many new members. Perhaps some of the reason is because more of us are nearing retirement and find we have more time to devote to organizations such as ours but I have heard on several occasions that our new members only recently learned that our chapter even existed!

We need to reach out to our fellow vets and invite them to attend a meeting or even better...join us.

President Shaw and I will be attending the VVA 295 Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, California in late July. There is a tremendous amount of veteran's information available at this conference and we will endeavor to gather as much as possible. I know that some of you have areas of veterans issues that you are particularly interested in.....PLEASE let us know what they are! This is not a vacation...make us work for you and be your voice ...

Until next month...Welcome Home !!!

Bob Parsons, 317-919-7589

VVA 295 Vice-President

Vietnam 1966-67-68

Appeals court tosses veterans' lawsuits over burn pits

By: Denise Lavoie, The Associated Press

Military veterans who claim that the use of open burn pits during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan caused myriad health problems cannot move forward with dozens of lawsuits against a military contractor, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday. A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with a federal judge in Maryland, who last year threw out the lawsuits brought against KBR, a former Halliburton Corp. subsidiary. More than 60 lawsuits allege that KBR's practice of dumping tires, batteries, medical waste and other materials into open burn pits created harmful smoke that caused neurological problems, cancers and other health issues in more than 800 service members. The lawsuits, which were filed in multiple districts around the country and then consolidated, also alleged that at least 12 service members died from illnesses caused by the burn pits. Like the lower court judge, the appeals court panel found that the lawsuits are barred under a legal doctrine holding that courts are not equipped to decide political questions; only Congress and the president have the power to resolve those. The panel found that the military had unrestricted control over KBR so that KBR's decisions on waste management and water services were "de facto military decisions" not appropriate for judicial review. "The facts found by the district court plainly show that KBR had little to no discretion in choosing how to manage the waste," Judge Henry F. Floyd wrote for the panel in the 3-0 ruling. "The military mandated the use of burn pits as a matter of military judgment. KBR could not unilaterally choose to use landfills, recycling, or incinerators instead." During arguments before the 4th Circuit last month, Susan Burke, a lawyer for the service members, argued that KBR repeatedly violated the terms of its contract with the military to handle waste disposal. She said KBR also disobeyed a military directive against burning hazardous materials. Burke said she and the veterans are disappointed in the court's ruling. She declined to say whether they plan to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case. KBR's attorney, Warren Harris, told the court that the decision to use burn pits was made by the military, which also made decisions on where the pits would be located, what hours they would operate and what would be burned.



The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

July 9-13 The Bunker will be setup at VA.

Steve could use physical assistance to load van on Fri, July 13 at 3:30pm

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!

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.

Check Out the New Vendor for AVVA and Agent Orange Products

Find their link on the AVVA website, under AVVA Products / The Agent Orange Store.

<http://www.agentorangestore.com> Make sure you say AVVA when you place order.

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).

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

Bob Dole's Final Mission

by Steve Hendrix, The Washington Post

Each Saturday, before Bob Dole sets off on his latest vocation, he has cornflakes, a little sugar on top, and a bottle of chocolate Boost.

It takes less time to get dressed now that the 94-year-old finally allows a nurse to help him but it remains a rough half-hour on a body racked by injury and age. The blue oxford has to be maneuvered over the dead right arm and the shoulder that was blown away on an Italian hillside. The pressed khakis over the scarred thigh. A pair of North Face running shoes, the likes of which his artillery-blasted hands have been unable to tie since 1945.



Then comes the hard part — getting there. On this particular June Saturday, the Lincoln Town Car with the Kansas plates is unavailable, so Nathaniel Lohn, the former Army medic who serves as Dole's nurse, helps the nonagenarian into Lohn's Honda Insight. It's tight, but good enough for the 20-minute drive to a monument the former senator all but built himself.

There, from a handicapped parking spot, he eases into the wheelchair as the greetings begin — “Oh my gosh, Bob Dole!”— finally rolling into his place in the shade just outside the main entrance to the National World War II Memorial.

And then they come, bus after bus, wheelchair after wheelchair, battalions of his bent brothers, stooped with years but steeped in pride, veterans coming to see their country's monument to their sacrifice and to be welcomed by one of their country's icons.

He'll do it for more than three hours on this muggy day, more than six hours on others, staying until the last veteran has gone on by to see the grand columns and fountains behind him. They pump his left hand — the one with some numb feeling left — and squeeze his shoulders, and sometimes he gets home not just tired but gently battered by humanity and humidity alike.

“Physically, it takes a toll,” Lohn says, watching his charge from a few feet away with a waiting bottle of water. “I may find five new bruises on him tonight. But he won't miss it.”

Dole has been coming for years — weather and his health permitting — to greet these groups of aging veterans, brought at no cost from throughout the country by the nonprofit Honor Flight Network. As the many missions of a mission-driven life have faded into history — combat hero, champion for the disabled, Senate majority leader, 1996 Republican presidential candidate — this final calling has remained, down to just Saturdays, sometimes derailed by the doctors, but still a duty to be fulfilled.

“It's just about the one public service left that I'm doing,” he says. “We don't have many of the World War II vets left. It's important to me.”

But it's important *for* him, too. He seems to get more energized with each encounter, frail in his chair but his still-bright eyes locking in on the next old tail gunner or rifleman or supply corps clerk trundling toward him.

Maybe it keeps him young, these Saturdays in the shade of history and heroism. Lohn thinks they do, with this year a vast improvement over 2017, when serious health problems kept Dole grounded for months. Dole's wife, former senator Elizabeth Dole, says her husband is wired to serve.

She joins him frequently on the Saturday outings, helping to direct the receiving line, sharing the tears, doubling the number of Senator Doles in the pictures and stories visitors take home. For the whole article, go to: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/bob-doles-final-mission/2018/06/18/93962908-6fff-11e8-afd5-778aca903bbe_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ad6d74e51e08

INDIANA WILL HELP VETERANS GET A JOB AND PAY \$5,000 TO MOVE THERE Military.com, By Jim Absher

Veterans seeking work may just want to give Indiana a look. The state, in cooperation with several large corporations, is offering \$5,000 in relocation expenses to veterans who accept a job offer and move to Indiana. The Next Level Veterans Initiative will help veterans get good, high-paying jobs with companies like Allison Transmission, Faurecia auto equipment, Honda, Subaru, Toyota or dozens of other employers from healthcare to high-tech.

The Next Level Veterans Initiative has partnered with INvets.org, a regional economic growth public-private partnership that seeks to match employers desperately seeking employees with veterans who may not think of moving to Indiana for employment. According to Indiana's Governor, Eric Holcomb, there are 85,000 unfilled jobs in Indiana because employers can't find people with the right skills. Some of the employers that are participating in the Next Level Veterans program have over 2,000 openings for skilled and unskilled workers. According to Wes Wood, an Army veteran who founded the Invets program, a public-private partnership that works with the state, "these employers are specifically looking for veterans to fill their vacancies, because the specialized skill-set and mind-set that veterans bring to the job is unmatched by their civilian counterparts". If you are a veteran who has been looking for work, you know that sometimes military experience doesn't translate to the civilian world. You may have supervised 50 people and millions of dollars in inventory or equipment, but when you go to the civilian world, you may end up pushing a broom. These jobs are specifically chosen with high potential for advancement, so while some of the jobs may start out at a low pay rate, the ability for advancement is good. You could start out at \$35K annually but be making over \$90K in 3 - 4 years. That's good money in Indiana - that's good money almost anywhere! In case you didn't know it, that Honda CR-V or Toyota Highlander you see on the road was probably made in Indiana. The state has a vibrant manufacturing sector.

The state also has a low cost of living and one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and offers several benefits to veterans and retirees. Also, if you have a disability rating, your children may be able to get a huge savings on the cost of college. Many employers in the program also offer free college to their employees.

To apply, visit the [INvets.org website](http://INvets.org) and create an account.

You can enter your military and civilian job experience including your MOS/NEC, military education, training and jobs held. You can even upload your NCO Eval Report. The organization can help translate your military skills to experience that civilian employers can understand and submit your information to the employers who are looking for veterans.

The group will forward your information to employers who will then review all applications. Applications submitted via this website will get special consideration. If you are offered a position, the employer will offer you a \$5,000 relocation allowance to move to the state and take the job.

Site Selected for National Desert Storm & Desert Shield War Memorial

A federal commission approved a site on the National Mall for the future National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial after several months of debate over whether to choose another location along the Potomac River. The U.S. Commission on Fine Arts voted to place it on one-quarter acre at the southwest corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, a decision celebrated by supporters who advocated for a spot on the National Mall during the three-year site selection process. This spot is just north of the Lincoln Memorial, a short walk from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and less than a half mile from the World War II Memorial and Korean War Veterans Memorial.



**Fourth Annual
Ride to Support the
Ft. Harrison Veterans Center
Saturday, August 4th, 2018**



**Support your
Indiana Veterans**



The Ft Harrison Veterans Center provides meeting space for the following Veteran Organizations and we need your help.



Post 438



82nd Airborne



Chapter One
POW/MIA



VVA 295



Navy Club
Ship 35



Task Force
Omega



Vets for Vets



Indy
Sea Cadets



CVMA 14-1



VeteranEvents.org



Indiana State Council

Ride Details

Location: Ft Harrison Veterans Center

Address: 9450 East 59th Street, Lawrence, IN

Registration Time: 9:00am —10:45am

Depart Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$20.00 for rider and \$5.00 for passenger

Featuring

Ride through the Indiana back roads.

Display of the Hoosier POW/MIA Memorial Wall.

Enjoy great Food, Silent Auction, 50/50, and much more.

The Bunker will be open where you can find assortment of military items to purchase.

All proceeds will go to support the Ft. Harrison Veterans Center

Point of Contact

Mike Clark, Email: mike.clark@indianarollingthunder.com



Hoosier POW/MIA Memorial Wall



Ft Harrison Bunker Store



FORT HARRISON VETERANS CENTER

9450 E. 59th Street
Lawrence, Indiana 46226



*Home of
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 295, Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter #1, Warriors Hope,
American Legion Posts 438, 82nd Airborne Association, Navy Club Ship 35,
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans, Veteran Events, Vietnam Veterans Indiana State Council
Indy Sea Cadets, Vets for Vets, Task Force Omega, and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 14-1*

Dear Friend,

The Fort Harrison Veterans Center is seeking donations in support of the 4th Annual Veteran Center Support Ride on August 4th, 2018. The donation will be used to help continue with the operations and maintenance of the Veteran Center. The Fort Harrison Veterans Center provides meeting, and office space for the above Veteran organizations so they can continue to perform their important missions.

These Veteran Organizations actively work within the community to improve the lives of our Indiana Veterans. Without these Veteran Organizations, the community would not be the same.

The operational and maintenance cost of the Fort Harrison Veterans Center is funded by the above Veteran Organizations, and the cost is becoming to be a real hardship on these Veteran organizations. We need your help to keep the Fort Harrison Veteran Center operational and pay for needed upgrades to the facility.

The purpose of the event, is to raise money to help keep the Veteran Center operational and pay for needed facility upgrades. **All proceeds will go directly to support the Fort Harrison Veteran Center.** Your donation would be greatly appreciated.

The Fort Harrison Veterans Center is a 501© (3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible. The EIN number will be provided upon request.

Please consider a donation to support the Fort Harrison Veterans Center, and promote the well-being of our Veterans in our community. These men, and women deserve our attention.

Donations may be mailed to Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter #1
P.O Box 26458
Indianapolis, IN 46226

**Make check payable to Fort Harrison Veterans Center.
Please make comment on the check "Veteran Center Support Ride"**

Sincerely Yours,

Mike Clark
Event Coordinator
mike.clark@indianarollingthunder.com
317-991-3805

We provide a meeting place of our Veterans