



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



March 2018 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

This month kicks off our first "WALL" committee meeting. In this meeting, we will be receiving reports from the Chairpersons, detailing the duties of each committee and starting to assign tasks to those who want to participate, I encourage anyone, member or associate, to come to this meeting and get involved in the best event for the "WALL" that we have ever had.



Holly continues to put together an interesting and resourceful newsletter every month but she needs help with submissions from you, our readers. Articles, events, and happenings, or anything that you like to see or feel that someone else would like to read is important.

On a side note...Holly and Larry Shaw became engaged recently, so let's all offer them a large congratulation. There are not two better people in our organization. Love you both.

See you at the "Wall" meeting, March 7th and the chapter meeting March 14th.

Michael L. Hamm
Vietnam Veterans of America
President, Chapter 295

VVA 295 Officers

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

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Agent Orange Advocate

Mmoja Ajabu

AVVA Chapter Representative

Holly Tookolo

AVVA State President

Tony Gigli

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

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

- Mar 3 & 4 Poppy fundraiser at Commissary 10-4
- Mar 7 Wall Meeting 6pm
- Mar 11 Daylight Saving—change clock forward one hour.
- Mar 12 Sachem Award presented to Sammy Davis, 10am at Indiana War Memorial, RSVP, pg 7
- Mar 14 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- Mar 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar 17 The Bunker will be setup at the VFW Spring Conference at Marriot East
- Mar 17 Indiana VVA & AVVA State Council meeting at FHVC; 12 noon lunch; 1pm meeting
- Mar 21 Wall Meeting 6pm
- Mar 23 Women Veterans Conference, 8:30am-4pm, speaker Betty Mosley Brown, see page 7
- Mar 25 National Medal of Honor Day—A big Salute to all Medal of Honor Recipients.
- Mar 27 Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration & Dinner, Carmel American Legion Post 155, Cocktails 5:30pm, Dinner 6pm, Speaker is Jerry Blake, RSVP, flyer page 7
- Mar 29 National Vietnam Veterans Day
- Mar 29 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Event, Senator Donnelly, Plainfield High School, 6pm is Veterans Resource Fair and 7pm is Vietnam Veterans honored, flyer page 8.
- April 4 Wall Meeting 6pm
- April 11 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- April 18 Wall Meeting 6pm
- May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wall Meeting 6pm
- May 31—June 4 The Moving Wall at Lawton Loop & Otis Ave. Opening Ceremony 2pm June 2.

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.

~ Thomas Jefferson

2nd Vice President's Corner



Hello Everyone,

Hope that you are well. If not, please let us know, so we can send a card and our prayers.

March is upon us with lots to do, and we in 295 are ready for them. Check Holly's Events, for a list of some of these. But here is what we will be doing to raise money and awareness for The Moving Wall. March 3rd and 4th, we will be set up in the Commissary with Poppies.

March 17th, the Bunker will be set up in the Marriott East with the VFW Spring Conference, we will have poppies there also. For those who may not know what the Bunker is, it is our store that operates out of our building on Sunday's, they also set up at the VA in Indy by the Cafeteria now and then. If you have not been able to make any of those times, please come over with family and friends to shop. This is the main fund raiser for our Chapter.

We have Donation Letters and Flyers for The Moving Wall printed and ready to go. We are close to half way of our financial goal. We can attain this by all of us working together. What better goal to have when we Honor our Fallen Brothers and Sisters. Their family's, friends and for those who served along side of them. We will never know how many times that it has been thought and said; (Why him or her, why not me?) As I tell my Fellow Patriots in the Military order of the Purple Heart, GOD gave us a second chance. We must always do our best to help others understand love for our Country, Flag, respect for those who have served, and those still serving.

All donation checks should be made out to V.V.A .295, and in the memo line write for The Moving Wall. Mail to V.V.A .295 P.O.Box 269279 Indianapolis, In. 46226-9279 Thank you.

Remember we each can do a little, but together we can do a lot.

Larry Shaw, 2nd Vice President—VVA Chapter 295, 765-618-4067

USS Indianapolis Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship

This scholarship is for descendants (including stepchildren) of a survivor, honorary survivor, lost at sea (LAS) or rescue crew. For more info, go to:

<http://www.gtrcf.org/scholarships/uss-indianapolis-gwinn-angel-scholarship-application.html>

Indiana Veterans Home

U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in health care rankings, today identified the *Best Nursing Homes* for 2017-18 and released its new *Nursing Home Finder*. For full story see full list, go to: <https://www.usnews.com/info/blogs/press-room/articles/2017-10-31/us-news-names-best-nursing-homes-for-2017-18>

Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties. ~ Abraham Lincoln



The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

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

March 5-9 The Bunker will be setup at VA Medical Center.

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

Wall of Faces Project

Indiana has 1621 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Wall of Faces Project has 1620 pictures of those 1621 from Indiana. The Lake Central High School U.S. History students and their teacher Tom Clark have found 1100+ of those 1620 pictures. The missing picture is Harvey Gene Graham, Home of Record is Indianapolis, Date of Birth 3/13/1945, Date of Casualty 5/18/1970, Army SP4, Panel/Line 10W, 61. He was a paratrooper serving with E Troop, 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was killed along side Carl Taylor Barnett from Bluffton, IN. Graham is buried in Hayes Cemetery, Monroe County, AR. To view the pictures found for Indiana or any of the states, go to this website and click on All Photos for that state:

<http://www.vvmf.org/state-photos>

Boatsie's Boxes

They ship boxes to deployed soldiers around the world. The list of wanted items is long but can be found at <http://www.boatsie.com/home.html> . Mail donations to Boatsie's Boxes, 33 Forest Hills Drive, Wheeling, WV 26003

Indiana US Aircraft Carrier to make Landmark visit to Vietnam in March

A U.S. aircraft carrier will make a port call in Vietnam's central coastal city of Da Nang from March 5-9, marking the very first visit of its kind since the Vietnam War ended in 1975. The USS Carl Vinson will arrive in Da Nang accompanied by a cruiser and a destroyer.

The visit is part of the U.S. Navy's annual Pacific Partnership mission that "aims at helping improve disaster-response preparedness, resiliency and capacity while enhancing partnerships with regional nations and civilian humanitarian organizations," according to a report by *Defense News*. The arrival of a U.S. aircraft carrier in Vietnam will be welcomed by an emerging network of countries that are nervously eyeing China's military rise, particularly its assertive stance and island-building activities in the East Sea (known internationally as the South China Sea), *Reuters* said in a Sunday report.

"(Vietnam) does have one of the region's fastest growing economies and so freedom of navigation and access in the South China Sea will be critical to them economically and of course in their security efforts," U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Mar 23, 1962** The first U.S. Army regular unit, the 39th Signal Battalion arrives in Vietnam.
- Mar 11, 1965** U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet begins Operation Market Time, the blockade of South Vietnam coastal waters to detect and interdict waterborne infiltration and resupply by seizing or destroying enemy craft.
- Mar 3-6, 1966** The U.S. 1st Infantry Division conducts Operation Cocoa Beach in Binh Duong Province, III Corps.
- Mar 8-May 17, 1968** The Americal Division, the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, elements of the 1st Brigade, 101st Division, and troops from the ARVN 1st Infantry Division conduct Operation Carentan I-11 in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces, I Corps.
- Mar 30-May 29** The U.S. 7th & 26th Marine Regiments conduct Operation Oklahoma Hills to clear North Vietnamese troops from the area southwest of Danang in Quang Nam Province, I Corps.

VA Pilot Program Pairs Pups with Veterans suffering with PTSD

The VA is studying how service dogs might be able to help veterans with post traumatic stress disorder. Though the results are years away, a group helping with that research isn't waiting to pair its pups with service members. Canine Companions for Independence, Inc, a nonprofit in Santa Rosa, CA that's been providing service dogs for people with physical disabilities since 1975, is preparing to launch a pilot program that will train and pair dogs with veterans with PTSD based on a curriculum developed for the VA study. The most recent group of participants received their dogs in December. The VA will compile and publish the results after 18 months.

New PTSD Study at Fort Hood shows Recovery in just Two Weeks

A recent Fort Hood based study holds hope for a speedy recovery from PTSD symptoms, in as little as two weeks for service members returning from combat. The study involved 370 active duty service members seeking PTSD treatment. The Department of Defense said it will make the treatment more available at its clinics on military installations across the country. At Fort Hood's Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, researchers studied the effect of prolonged exposure therapy, in which patients repeatedly recounted and discussed their most traumatic memories in an effort to process the trauma they experienced and reduce the anxiety caused by the memories. Service members listened to recordings of those episodes, practiced confronting real-life situations that spark anxiety and did controlled breathing exercise. Despite the promising results, combat related PTSD remains more difficult to treat than other forms of PTSD. Recovery rates among civilians using prolonged exposure therapy are up to 80%, compared to about 50% for military veterans.

Native American Veterans Memorial on National Mall

Native Americans have participated in every major U.S. military encounter from the Revolutionary War through today's conflicts in the Middle East. Contributions by Native Americans have saved lives, enabled our country's victories, and exemplified the courage that defines American patriotism. Yet they remain unrecognized by any prominent landmark in our nation's capital. Though we celebrate those who dedicate themselves to defending our nation, many Americans are unaware of the exceptional service performed by Native American veterans. Taking up the charge given by Congress, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) will establish a National Native American Veterans Memorial in the heart of Washington, DC. When the memorial is unveiled, we will recognize for the first time on a national scale the enduring and distinguished service of Native Americans in every branch of the U.S. armed forces. This permanent veterans memorial on the nation's preeminent stage—the National Mall—will shed light on the countless Native American warriors who have given so much of themselves throughout history, and who continue to defend our nation today. The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian has announced the five finalists for the design of the National Native American Veterans Memorial. To see those designs, to donate or learn more, go to <https://nmai.si.edu/nnavm/>

VA Welcome Kit

Whether you're just getting out of the service or you've been a civilian for years now, the VA Welcome Kit can help guide you to the benefits and services you've earned. Based on where you are in life, your VA benefits and services can support you in different ways. Keep your welcome kit handy so you can turn to it throughout your life—like when it's time to go to school, get a job, buy a house, get health care, retire, or make plans for your care as you age. You can download and print it out on this website:

<https://www.vets.gov/welcome-to-va/>

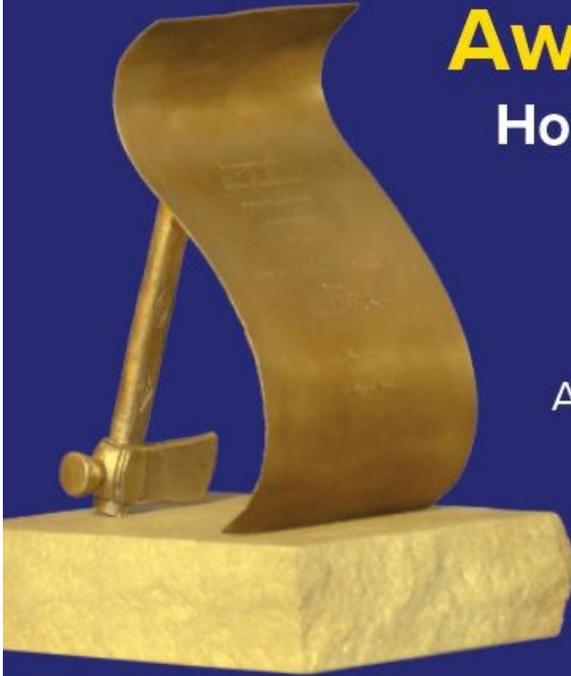
2018 Sachem Award Ceremony

Honoring Sgt. 1st Class
Sammy Davis

March 12, 2018

At The Indiana War Memorial
10 a.m. Ceremony
11 a.m. Reception

RSVP to Joe Elsener
joelsener@gov.in.gov



Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs 2018 Women's Veteran Conference

Indiana War Memorial 431 North Meridian St Indianapolis



Friday March 23 8:30a - 4:00p

Keynote Speaker
Marine Veteran
Dr. Betty Moseley Brown



- Free**
- ◆ Food
 - ◆ Massages
 - ◆ Makeovers
 - ◆ Breakouts
 - ◆ Networking
 - ◆ Projects:
 - I Am Not Invisible
 - Military Tattoo Pics

Hosted by IDVA

Sponsored by the following:



Register Online/Eventbrite ◆ Vendors-Invite Only

U.S. Senator **Joe Donnelly**

WHAT: VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION EVENT

WHEN: MARCH 29, 2018

DOORS OPEN & VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR
BEGINS AT 6 PM EST

EVENT HONORING HOOSIER VIETNAM WAR VETERANS
BEGINS AT 7 PM EST

WHERE: PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
1 RED PRIDE DRIVE
PLAINFIELD, IN 46168



Call Joe's Indianapolis office at
(317) 226-5555 or email
donnely_events@donnelly.senate.gov
for more information or to RSVP
to this event.

KEEP UP WITH JOE!



@SenDonnelly



@SenatorDonnelly



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AND GET UPDATES AT: DONNELLY.SENATE.GOV/VIETNAM-VETERANS-RECOGNITION-EVENT



MAY 31– June 4, 2018

Fort Harrison, Indiana

**1 block north of Finance Center on historic Lawton Loop Parade Field
OPEN 24 HOURS**



Opening Ceremony:

Saturday, June 2, 2pm

Native American Blessing, American Huey 369, Master Model Display



**Brought to you by
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 295
Fort Harrison Veteran's Center
City of Lawrence, IN**





Carmel, Indiana

#1 BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA*

*CNN Money Magazine 2012



The City of Carmel,
Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Carmel American Legion

Cordially Invites All Veterans

March 27, 2018

Vietnam Veterans

Welcome Home

Celebration & Banquet

**Veterans from all eras are
encouraged to attend!**

Veterans groups and Units are welcome!

SPECIAL GUEST AND SPEAKER

JERRY BLAKE

US ARMY CSM RETIRED

2016-2017 VFW STATE COMMANDER

VIETNAM VETERAN

Location: Carmel American Legion Post 155

852 West Main Street, Carmel, IN

Date: March 27th, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm Cocktails – 6:00 pm Dinner

RSVP: RWLeirer@yahoo.com or 317-846-0917

No cost to Veterans and/or their spouses. All others \$5.00