



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



# June 2021 Newsletter



The Second Continental Congress adopted the flag of the United States by resolution on June 14, 1777. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation officially establishing June 14th as Flag Day. Although it is not a federal holiday, it is observed in communities across our great nation.

Flag Day isn't simply about honoring a particular design on a cloth. It is more about taking time to reflect on our freedoms and the principles of our great nation...for which that flag stands. The flag is a reminder of who we are. America is not only the land of the free, it is the land of opportunity. The flag represents all that America has to offer. It is our hope.

Crown Hill's Virtual Memorial Day Service with Chris Barnthouse: <https://youtu.be/FUMQWSf9zms>

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Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216 Website: [www.vva295.com](http://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](mailto: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	Don McFarland	dmac101@comcast.net	812-593-2554
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.ayers@att.net	317-319-6968
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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)**

**The May/June issue is out there now. Read the article about Widows Need DD-214s. It is very informative. It tells Veterans to be organized with their paperwork. The two most important papers are the DD-214 and the Award Letter from the VA.**

# Important Dates

- June 4-6** Midway 1942
- June 6** D-Day 1944
- June 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm
- June 14** Flag Day and U.S. Army Birthday 1775
- June 20** Father's Day and Summer begins; Great Seal of United States adopted 1782
- June 22** G.I. Bill signed 1944
- June 25** Start of Korean War 1950
- June 25 & 26** Annual Inside Yard Sale by Vets for Vets, starts 8am each day, flyer page 6
- July 4** Independence Day
- July 14** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- June 27, 1950** President Truman announces that he is increasing the military aid program for Vietnam that he initiated earlier in the year. This includes a military mission and military advisers. Aid is to be funneled through the French
- June 1, 1954** Colonel Edward G. Lansdale (USAF) arrives in Vietnam to assume the duties of chief of the Saigon Military Mission. Lansdale, actually a member of the CIA, has been sent to Vietnam to run covert, political psychological operations aimed at disrupting the North Vietnam government.
- June 24, 1957** The U.S. Army's 1st Special Forces Group is activated in Okinawa. This unit will send advisers to Vietnam to help organize and train the initial contingent of South Vietnamese Special Forces at the commando training center in Nha Trang.
- June 17, 1965** Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, while admitting the complexities of the situation, urges Americans to support President Johnson's policies.
- June 1, 1966** The U.S. 3rd Naval Mobile Construction Brigade (Seabees) is formed at Danang to support navy and marine operations in I Corps.
- June 12-26, 1967** Troops of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division conduct Operation Billings, a drive into War Zone D, 50 miles north of Saigon, in an effort to trap three Viet Cong battalions.
- June 5, 1968** Senator Robert Kennedy (D-NY), a leading critic of administration policy in Vietnam, is shot after announcing his victory in California's Democratic presidential primary; he dies the next day.



### The Bunker

**Hours 10am-2pm Sunday**

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker is scheduled to be at the VA most of the year. Steve is still looking for another manager to help with the Bunker. Right now Steve and Wallace Vaughn take turns as manager at VA. To volunteer call Holly 317-294-4607; to manage, call Steve 317-459-6255.

Hours 7am-3pm at VA

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**President's Message:**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

June is here with many things that we should look back on, and ponder about. Battles that changed the course of war and history.

June 4-6 Naval Battle of Midway, the start of our winning in the Pacific.

June 6; D-Day1944, 156,000 Americans, British, and Canadian Forces landed on 5 beaches in a 50 mile stretch. The turning point in the war in Europe.

June 14 1775 The United States Army was formed.

June 14 1777; A resolution by Congress gave us our National AMERICAN Flag.

June 20 Fathers Day; Celebrated the third Sunday of June since1910. Did not become a holiday until 1972, 58 years after Mothers day.

June 22 1944; G.I. Bill was signed.

June 25,1950; Start of the Korean War.

As we think back upon this month, over these years, try to imagine all the pain and hardship that they had to endure. The heat and cold. Rain and snow. Lack of food, clothing, ammo, gear, and mail just to name a few. Plus years away from home. Taking weeks, possible months to receive mail, their not knowing who was still alive, wounded, or missing. We owe so much gratitude to the men and women who served in these wars. They set the path for us to follow. They set us a mark to achieve. A goal to succeed. To all who fought and died in these battles, we give our heart felt thanks. Thank you to all who have served before, during, and after.

Our Army is 246 tears old. Happy Birthday Army.

Our Flag is 244 years old. Long may she wave.

Fathers Day is special, as we honor Fathers and those who have filled the role of a Father. A father is one who raises and supports his family. Not someone who has 20 different children with 20 different women, and not married to any of them, He is just a donor and nothing more. He doesn't want a wife kids and family. He just wants fun and games. A true Father is there through it all, even if the service takes him away. We can all remember how our Fathers raised us, and how we tried to instill in our children the desire to be better than us. Better mannered, healthier, wiser, and hopefully wealthier than us, to better enrich there community. To the Fathers out there, and to those who filled the void of those who weren't THANK YOU! To those who never did what you were supposed to, SHAME ON YOU. One day you may wish that you had done what was right and expected of you.

Now that the nice stuff for the month is out of the way, it is time to get down to business. Where are you people? Are you enjoying every thing that is being given to you by a few people? For several months now we have asked nicely, and even begged for you to volunteer in the Bunker, to no avail. This is our only fund raiser, as every one else will not do one, or even try. We have Poppy's in the Office that could be used again as a fund raiser as they have been in the past. At the V.A. you are there for 8 hours you get rest room breaks, and time to eat. When some one buys some thing you write up a ticket for the purchase this consists of the following.

What the item is {example shirt, hat, pin, patch, bag, and etc.} Quantity {how many}, Price {of one} Total price then the tax on that total amount. Then mark the slip cash , charge, or debit card. Then scan the card, or make change if needed, It isn't hard. You meet new and interesting people. Dang I went back to being nice again.

Supposedly years ago we were in a war, excuse me a police action, where we all fought together. Well now we are fighting to put a roof over our heads. It is over half completed. but that doesn't mean that we should quit. Those who quit never prosper. Those who quit always fail to complete their mission. Don and I travel over 60 miles one way to help out in the bunker, and most of you say it is to far for you, when you live in Marion County.

Continued on page 6

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VVA Service Officers

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

Michael Dolan  
317-374-5578  
michaeledolan@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, 765-621-5515 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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Membership Report

VVA membership total as of April 30, 2021 the VVA membership total is 343.

By Steve Anderson

AVVA membership total as of April 30, 2021 is 33.

By Holly Tookolo

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**Free Entrance to National Parks** Gold Star Families and US Military Veterans are eligible to receive free access to more that 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges and forests. You must proved picture ID: Veteran ID Card, Veteran Health ID Card, Veterans designation on state issued drivers license or ID card, Department of Defense ID Card or Retired Military ID Card. Please visit these links for more info:

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/military/index.htm>

Note: They will not accept a DD 214 or VA Disability Award Letter because they do not have your picture.

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Continued from page 4—President's Message

We have heard lots of excuses, as every body has one. The old let some one else do it doesn't fly, as they are not, because they are waiting on you. I believe for the most part that you think that you are to good to lower your selves to work in the Bunker. If that is your attitude we can't use you there.

Just a few years ago both VVA and AVVA were complaining about no fund raisers, and the way things were going. Between the two organizations we had around 60 people attend the meetings. Since the national shut down we have dropped to around 20 members from both groups. AVVA you have really let Holly and Tony down. Combined, we have over 374plus members, and only a dozen people helping. That is one heavy load. If I have said or done something that you don't like and are not coming to the meetings because of that suck it up and come hate me. I don't care. Be brave enough to do it in my face, and not behind my back. So get back in here, there is work to be done. But I do care about those who are carrying the full load that you should help carry. Remember you are not here for me, but for VVA and AVVA 295. So act like it.

Call Holly to volunteer in the Bunker. as I said before if Don and I can each drive over 60 miles one way you ought to be able to drive a little.

Call Steve if you would like to be a manager. He really needs the help, as he too is not as young as he used to be either.

May GOD bless America, our Troops, and you.

Please don't blame Holly for this letter being late she was waiting on me to write this, and I didn't know exactly how to word it.

In Comradeship,

Larry Shaw

President VVA 295

765-618-4067, comdshaw@yahoo.com

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## **Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day – Indiana Military Museum**

### **June 19, 2021 at 10am-4pm**

The Indiana Military Museum will host the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day on Saturday, June 19. The public is invited to this special event in honoring our Vietnam Veterans. Meet and greet Indian's own Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant Sammy L. Davis! Gates open at 9am with events beginning at 10am. Enjoy FREE outdoor events, living history exhibits, battle scenarios, military artifact vendors, reenactor demonstrations, Huey rides by Search & Rescue and food vendors! For more information on the event, please email Jon Andrews at sianoil@hotmail.com or call 812-882-1941.

Indiana Military Museum

715 S. 6th Street

Vincennes, Indiana 47591

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## **Bill to Expand VA's Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions List**

A bill that could add two new conditions to the VA's Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions List was introduced in March to the Senate. If passed and signed into law, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021 (S. 810) would require VA to add hypertension, better known as high blood pressure, and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) to the list of presumptive conditions caused by Agent Orange to veterans serving the Vietnam War. MGUS is caused when abnormal changes happen in plasma cells and is discovered through blood tests. MGUS also is connected to multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer.

Urge your Senators to pass this bill.

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Freedom is not a gift of heaven, you have to fight for it every day. ~ Simon Wiesenthal

# **INSIDE YARD SALE**

**Where:** 59<sup>th</sup> & Lee Rd, Indy  
Ft Harrison Vet Center

**When:** Fri, June 25 8am-5pm  
Sat, June 26 8am-?



**Drop off donated items  
on any Sundays, 10am-2pm**

**Sponsored by Vets for Vets. Proceeds help homeless and needy veterans.**

## Bunker Schedule at VA in May

Below is the schedule for the next four weeks. We could still use more volunteers. Call Holly to volunteer 317-294-4607 or to manage, call Steve 317-459-6255 Hours open at VA are 7am-3pm.

May 31	Holiday
June 1	Don McFarland
June 2	Mike Dolan
June 3	Don McFarland
June 4	Holly Tookolo, Ron Ayres(PM)
June 7	Andy Thimlar
June 8	Terri Anderson
June 9	Mike Dolan
June 10	
June 11	
June 14	
June 15	Terri Anderson
June 16	Mike Dolan
June 17	
June 18	Ron Ayres
June 21	Andy Thimlar
June 22	Terri Anderson
June 23	Mike Dolan
June 24	
June 25	

Thank you to all the volunteers.



Steve is still looking for a manager. If we could have several managers, they could take turns at the VA.