



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



December 2016 Newsletter

December 14th Meeting

- 6:00pm Vegetable Soup, bring crockpot of soup or another dish to share.
- 6:30pm Board Meeting
- 7:00pm Regular Meeting—Bring Hats, Scarves & Gloves to donate to VA.
- 8:00pm After meeting we will arrange & decorate the tables for our Christmas Party.



President's Message



Dear Members,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Veterans Day Parade.

Thank you to those the helped decorate all the Christmas trees in Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

Please bring Hats, Scarves or Gloves for the container in the lobby. They will go to the VA.

Be sure to attend our Christmas Party on Dec 17.

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Ken Walters, President of VVA 295

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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, please send it to my email: htookolo@indy.rr.com

Important Dates

- Dec 14 VVA 295 Meeting; 6pm is Vegetable Soup & pitch-in. Bring a pot of soup or a side dish to share; 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular meeting. After meeting we will arrange & decorate the tables for the Christmas Party. Bring Hats, Scarves & Gloves to donate.
- Dec 17 VVA 295 Annual Christmas Party; Doors open 5pm; dinner is 6pm. Violin player will perform. This is a pitch-in meal. If your last name begins with A-G, bring Desserts; H-O bring Salads and P-Z bring Vegetables. Main entrée will be provided. Bring Hats, Scarves & Gloves to donate.
- Jan 11 VVA 295 Meeting; 6pm is Chili & Pitch-in. Bring a pot of Chili or a side dish to share. 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular meeting.
- Jan 26 Fort Harrison Veterans Center Building meeting at 7pm.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Below is a chart showing the number of troops in Vietnam on December 31 of each year. It also shows the number killed and wounded each year.

| YEAR | Troops in Vietnam | Killed | Wounded | Killed and Wounded |
|------|-------------------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| 1959 | 760 | | | |
| 1960 | 900 | | | |
| 1961 | 3,200 | | | 14 |
| 1962 | 11,300 | | | 109 |
| 1963 | 16,300 | | | 489 |
| 1964 | 23,300 | 140 | 1,138 | |
| 1965 | 184,300 | 1,369 | 7,000 | |
| 1966 | 385,300 | 5,008 | 30,093 | |
| 1967 | 485,600 | 16,021 | 99,742 | |
| 1968 | 536,100 | 14,314 | 200,000 | |
| 1969 | 475,200 | 9,414 | 260,000 | |
| 1970 | 334,600 | 4,204 | | |
| 1971 | 156,800 | 1,386 | | |
| 1972 | 24,200 | 4,300 | | |

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.

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 meats, 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. Contact Robin Close at 317-951-0688 or rclose@hvaf.org

Memorial for War Dogs Planned The planned War Dogs Memorial in Colorado Springs, Colorado would be located under the shadow of the Veterans Memorial at Memorial Park. A plot at Memorial Park has been approved, and the estimated cost for the memorial is \$200,000. War Dog Colorado has raised \$55,000 towards that goal. The memorial would honor military and contract working dogs, which serve for patrol purposes, explosive detection and drug detection. War dogs are estimated to have saved ten of thousands of lives since World War II. For more info: <http://www.wardogmemorialcolorado.com/>

New Study Could Pressure VA to Expand Agent Orange Benefits

by Charles Ornstein, ProPublica, and Mike Hixenbaugh, The Virginian-Pilot Nov. 15, 2016, 11 a.m.

A new study has found a close relationship between Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War and high blood pressure, a conclusion that could lead the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to dramatically expand the number of veterans eligible for compensation.

The study, published last week by VA researchers in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, found a higher rate of hypertension among members of the Army Chemical Corps who handled Agent Orange during the war compared to those who didn't. Corps members who served in Vietnam but did not spray the chemicals also had a higher rate of hypertension than their peers who served outside Vietnam.

Both results were statistically significant and add to a body of evidence linking Agent Orange exposure and hypertension.

The findings come 41 years after the close of the Vietnam War and decades since the last supplies of Agent Orange were incinerated. Since then, veterans have become increasingly distrustful of the VA. They maintain that their exposure to Agent Orange, which contained the toxic chemical dioxin, has harmed their own health and has been passed on to their children. In 2009, a federal advisory panel said there was evidence suggesting a connection between Agent Orange exposure and several conditions, including Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and hypertension. In late 2009, then-VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said he would add ischemic heart disease and Parkinson's disease to the VA's list, but not hypertension.

Whitney Smith had Passion for Flags From The New York Times, by William Grimes NOV. 22, 2016

Whitney Smith, who turned a childhood fascination with flags into a scholarly discipline — vexillology — of which he was the leading light, died on Thursday in Peabody, Mass. He was 76.

Mr. Smith, the author of the standard work “Flags Through the Ages and Across the World” (1975), became obsessed with flags around the time he started kindergarten, his enthusiasm amplified by the heritage of his hometown, Lexington, Mass., and its annual displays on the town green.

“While other boys were memorizing baseball statistics, he amassed newspaper clippings and articles on flags and wrote to obscure foreign consulates asking for precise information on colors, stripes and symbols. The fever never cooled. At 18, deciding that the study of flags deserved its own name, he coined the term vexillology, combining the Latin word for flag, “vexillum,” with the Greek suffix meaning “the study of.” “I’ve been criticized because it combines Latin and Greek, a barbarism,” he told Smithsonian, “but I say, ‘I was a teenager!’”

As a political science undergraduate at Harvard, he designed a flag for newly independent Guyana. In 1961, with a fellow enthusiast, Gerhard Grahl, he created the bimonthly Flag Bulletin, the first journal of its kind. A year later he founded the Flag Research Center, a consulting firm that answered inquiries from filmmakers, historians and commercial flag makers.

Mr. Smith designed flags for the Saudi Navy. He advised the Smithsonian Institution on how best to preserve the Star-Spangled Banner, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor during the War of 1812. He helped design flags for the islands of Bonaire and Aruba. He eventually amassed a collection of more than 4,000 flags.

Interviewing Mr. Smith in 2011, the editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica noted that he was their most prolific contributor, having written more than 250 flag histories.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in political science from Harvard in 1961, Mr. Smith studied at Boston University, where he was awarded a doctorate in political science in 1964. He wrote his dissertation on political symbolism. He taught at Boston University but left academia in 1970 to devote himself full time to flags, whose importance he never tired of pointing out. “Flags express the unity and identity of one group as against all others,” he told Smithsonian.

With the Dutch scholar Klaes Sierksma, he organized the First International Congress of Vexillology in Muiderberg, the Netherlands, in 1965. He also helped found the North American Vexillological Association and the Flag Heritage Association. **His many books on flags included “The Flag Book of the United States” (1970) and “Flag Lore of All Nations” (2001).**

In 2013, the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas acquired his enormous collection of flag material, which includes more than 10,000 books, a quarter-million documents and ephemera.

He had a firm opinion on the American flag: too busy. He argued for a return to the original Stars and Stripes.

“This 13-star flag is aesthetically superior to the 50-star model, as well as easier and less expensive to make,” he wrote in The New York Times in 1971. “But more importantly, a ring of stars better symbolizes our harmony in diversity.”

Bunker Update

The Bunker is now on Facebook as The Bunker Shop. They are also on EBay selling t-shirts. Check it out.

Hats, Scarves & Gloves— There is a container in the lobby for donations of Hats, Scarves & Gloves for the VA. Please donate.



**ALL KINDS OF PATRIOTIC & MILITARY ITEMS
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Ft. Harrison Veteran's Center

9450 E. 59th St - 59th & Lee Rd



OPEN Sundays 10am - 3pm

Wednesdays 3pm - 7pm



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YOUR PURCHASES WILL HELP SUPPORT:

- ★ The Fort Harrison Veterans Center
- ★ Indy Vet House
- ★ Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation



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Canned meat (tuna, chicken, ham, etc.), Canned fruit & soups, Pasta & pasta sauce, Peanut butter, Men's boxers & briefs (all sizes) Men's undershirts (all sizes), Bath towels, Pillows, Wash cloths, Bus passes, Calling cards, Umbrellas, Ponchos

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