



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



August 2016 Newsletter

August 10th Meeting

- 6:00pm** **Cookout & Pitch-in**, please bring a dish to share.
- 6:30pm** **Board Meeting**
- 7:00pm** **Membership Meeting.**

President's Message



Dear Members,

If VVA 295 is going to help Veterans, we need more Service Officers. Are you willing to take the training to become accredited? Are you willing to volunteer in the VVA office to meet with Veterans to help them with their benefits and claims? What is a Veterans Service Officer?

A liaison between the veterans and their families in obtaining benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. They assist in filing service-connected disability claims with the VA. Please consider becoming an accredited Service Officer.

Thanks,

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

- August 4-7 The Wall that Heals in Flora at Flora Community Park sponsored by Carroll County Veteran Remembrance Committee. Aug 6 1pm is program & speakers; Closing ceremony Aug 7 at pm.
- August 7 National Purple Heart Day is August 7 each year.
- August 10 VVA 295 Cookout at 6pm; Board Meeting 6:30pm, Regular Meeting 7pm.
- August 11-16 The Remembrance Wall honoring Indiana soldiers who have died from wounds suffered in Iraq & Afghanistan. Aug 11 is for family members 6-9pm; open to public Aug 12 10-4 & 9:30-11; Aug 13 10-11; Aug 14 12noon-6; Aug 15 & 16 10-10.
- August 12-14 Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in Crawfordsville at Lane Place, 212 S. Water St., sponsored by Byron Cox American Legion Post 72, Sammy Davis, CMH will speak at 1pm Aug 13. Opening ceremony is 11am Aug 12. Wall arrives Aug 10 with parade down town Crawfordsville; Wall setup is Aug 11.
- August 13 Mayors' Veterans & Family Appreciation Day, Picnic & Fish Fry at Garfield Park, 10am to 3:30pm
- August 13-14 American Huey 369—10th Gathering Of Veterans & Patriots at Grissom Aeroplex
- Sept 8 Stand Down 2016, AMVETS Post 99, 2840 Lafayette Rd, Indy, setup 8am, tear down 2:30pm.
- Sept 14 Will there be a VVA 295 meeting??
- Sept 14-18 34th Annual Vietnam Veterans & All Veterans Reunion, at Howard County Vietnam Veterans property.
- Sept 16 POW MIA National Day of Recognition at Indiana War Memorial at 12 noon.
- Sept 21-25 American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall in Mitchell, Indiana, Persimmon Festival on display in the City Hall parking lot.
- Sept 22-25 The Wall that Heals in Richmond, Indiana in Veterans Memorial Park, hosted by Wayne County Veterans and VVA Chapter 777. American Huey 369 on Sept 23; Sammy Davis, CMH is guest speaker 2pm Sept 24.
- Oct 14 Meet & Greet with people from VVA National.
- Oct 15 Indiana VVA State Council Meeting and Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting

Columbus, Indiana Veterans Runs for Suicide Awareness

Kyle Killinger is 28 year old Marine Veteran from Columbus, Indiana. He has lost quite a few friends and brothers that suffered from PTSD and committed suicide. To help raise awareness and funding, to combat the suicide rate among Veterans, Killinger ran 300 miles from Pentwater, Michigan to his hometown of Columbus, Indiana July 1-9. He ran 40 miles a day for nine straight days. All proceeds benefited the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation which honors the life of Chris Kyle, a Navy SEAL and legendary U.S. military sniper.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

August 3, 1965 The Department of Defense announces that it is increasing the monthly draft quota from 17,000 in August to 27,400 in September and 36,000 in October. It also announces that the navy will require 4,600 draftees, the first such action since 1956.

August 15, 1969 The Department of Defense releases figures revealing that U.S. troops strength in Vietnam currently stands at 534,200.

August 21, 1971 Antiwar protesters associated with the Catholic Left raid draft offices in Buffalo, New York and Camden, New Jersey to confiscate and destroy draft records. The FBI and local police arrest 25 protesters.



Vietnam Veteran receives Medal of Honor

President Obama recently presented the Medal of Honor to Army Lt. Col. Charles Kettles in a ceremony at the White House. Kettles is credited with saving 44 lives on May 15, 1967 during an ambush in the Song Tra Cau riverbed in Vietnam while serving as a UH-1 Huey helicopter commander. He was 37 years old at that time and the soldiers called him “Papa”. One of the soldiers he rescued said Major Kettles became our John Wayne. Kettles also

served in Japan, Korea and Thailand. He is from Ypsilanti, Michigan.

TBI Hearing In July the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs held a hearing on inadequate examinations for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) claims. In 2008 the VA issued a directive stating that any veteran who files a disability claim for TBI, and who had not been previously diagnosed with TBI, must have the initial examination performed by either a psychiatrist, physiatrist, neurologist or neurosurgeon. A later report found that 24,000 veterans’ initial exams did not meet the directive’s guidelines. In May the VA sent letters to all affected veterans, giving them one year to contact VA for reexamination.

Author of GI Bill Immortalized in Kansas

In 1944 Harry W. Colmery drafted the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, the GI Bill which was the greatest legislation of the 20th century. Harry Colmery Memorial Plaza near the Kansas State Capitol Building was dedicated in June. This bill transformed the way a nation treats its returning Veterans after war. Colmery used seven or eight pencils in writing this bill. He was the American Legion past national commander from Topeka, Kansas. He died at 88 years old in 1979 at the American Legion National Convention. Colmery served in WWI which had a big impact on him, leading him to be an advocate for Veterans the rest of his life. The Colmery-O’Neil Veterans Administration Hospital in Topeka is named for him too.



Memorial for Veterans lost to PTSD



Channahon State Park in Illinois will be home to a one-of-a-kind memorial for military veterans who have lost their battles with post traumatic stress disorder PTSD. The forgotten Warrior Memorial Wall will be a tribute to all veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and have been afflicted with PTSD and sacrificed their lives beyond the limits of active duty. The memorial, expected to open in November, was funded through private donations to Chicago-based nonprofit K9s For Veteran Warriors.

Based on veterans who have registered for VA benefits, about 22 veterans commit suicide each day. The real number is probably about 28—32 a day. This is not acceptable. The memorial is largely granite and is being constructed in an existing circular turnaround area of the park. Families will have individual bricks etched with their loved ones' names on a volunteer basis. This location is near I-55 and I-80 close to Joliet, Illinois. The Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial in Marseilles, Illinois is relatively close.

We have lost Veteran Advocates

Ed Chow, Jr Died July 22, 2016; was an active advocate for veterans for over 30 years which included serving with the U.S. Army, serving in several positions in VVA including National Vice President from 2001-2006. He was Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs 2009-2015 and a member in several veterans organizations.

Gerald "Dutch" Bole Died July 11, 2016; was an active advocate for veterans, serving in the U.S. Army in WWII and Director of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs 1996-2006. He held many positions with the American Legion including State Commander.

Karen "Montana" Speicher Weimer Died July 30, 2016, was an active advocate for veterans. She served in the Indiana National Guard Reserves and was the founding member of Hoosiers Helping Heroes sending out over 9,000 care packages to troops.

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

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.