



# Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



## December 2018 Newsletter



### **This is for military that cannot be home this year or in the past for Christmas and New Years:**

A soldier has a soldier's duty that takes no holiday.  
So because you're far from home this winter,  
There's one thing I'd like to say.  
Thank you for the gift of freedom  
That lights these holy stars  
Thank you for each and every Christmas tree  
Across this sacred land of ours  
May angels fly beside you  
May Heaven steal your hearts  
May God remind you in his grace  
Though tonight I cannot touch your face  
When home seems a hundred million miles away  
Just close your eyes and you will see his sleigh  
It's doesn't matter if you're near or far  
It's Christmas where you are.

By Jim Brickman, featuring Five for Fighting  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsvK1aGp8xo>

### **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, 317-313-1577

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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 6:00pm

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)

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# Important Dates

- Dec 3-14 Bunker is setup at VA Medical Center for two more weeks.
- Dec 5 Christmas Project—There are 39 Veterans at HVAF and we are going to provide Christmas for each one. We did get the money from the VVA State Council for this project. We will meet at the Veterans Center at 6pm, get our instructions and go shopping. Then return with the gifts at 9pm.
- Dec 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 12 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:00pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- Dec 13 Veterans Job Fair at Lucas Oil Stadium, 11am-3pm, flyer on page 7
- Dec 15 2018 Spirit of Christmas—Indiana Blue Star Program 10am-2pm at Hendricks Co Fairgrounds, for military families in need. See flyer page 11
- Dec 15 VVA Christmas Party, doors open 5pm, dinner 6pm; main entree will be provided but we need everyone to provide a dish to share. If your last name starts with A-G bring a Salad; H-O bring Vegetables or P-Z bring a dessert. There will be entertainment.
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Jan 1 New Year's Day

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Dec 31, 1962** President Kennedy authorizes the expansion of Operation Farm Gate. 11,300 U.S. advisory and support personnel are now in Vietnam.
- Dec 14, 1964** Operation Barrel Roll begins with U.S. planes attacking targets of opportunity in Laos.
- Dec 8-9, 1965** In some of the heaviest air raids of the war, 150 U.S. Air Force and Navy planes launch Operation Tiger Hound aimed at interdicting troops and supplies along the Ho chi Minh Trail in the southern panhandle of Laos.
- Dec 8-20, 1965** USMC and South Vietnamese forces join to conduct Operation Harvest Moon/Lien Ket-18, intended to clear Viet Cong forces from the Que Son Valley in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces, I Corps.
- Dec 1, 1967** The 11th Light Infantry Brigade deploys to Vietnam from Hawaii to join the Americal Division in Quang Ngai Province, I Corps. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) deploys to Vietnam from Fort Campbell, KY to join its 1st Brigade elements already in country for combat operations in II Corps.
- Dec 1, 1967-Jan 8, 1968** The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division & a battalion from the 1st Cavalry Division conduct Operation Klamath Falls in Binh Thuan & Lam Dong Provinces, II Corps. This is to eliminate the headquarters of the enemy's Military Region 6 & enemy forces in the area.
- Dec 7, 1968-Mar 8, 1969** The U.S. 1st Marine Division conducts Operation Taylor Common in the An Hoa Basin in Quang Nam Province, I Corps.



### The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker will be setup at Roudebush VA December 10-14. Help is needed to load the van at VA on Fri Dec 14 at 3pm. Call Steve if you are going to help load/unload, 317-459-6255.

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**President's Message:**

Greetings Everyone,

Hope this finds you well, and recovered from Thanksgiving. If you are ill, please let us know , so we can keep you in our thoughts and prayers.



December is here and can be looked upon in many different ways. The last month of the year. The end of the year. A house to decorate. A tree too get. Possible travel plans. Clean the house for company. To host and attend parties. Presents to buy, meals to fix Presents to wrap, cards to mail. School and Church Programs to attend. A million and one things to do. How will we ever get them all done? Some may buy things that will take weeks or months to pay off. Why? How long will what we buy last? Will those receiving these gifts remember who gave them? Is that what Christmas is for? To out do the other family members and neighbors? Have we forgotten the true meaning of Christmas? I hope not. Most people our age have what they need already. For many people a warm smile, hug or handshake means the most to them. Remembering the good and bad times, when you shared a laugh or a tear. Sharing of ourselves with those we love. To share a smile or a kind word of hope. The lonely shut in, who desperately needs a visit, or have an errand ran. Their leaves raked, or their walks cleared of snow. The Military family that has a spouse deployed, sit with their kids for a while, help them to get presents to surprise their parents. Let the adult have some free time to their selves, but be there for them if they would like to talk about what they are going through during the deployment. We know that is stressful being alone, taking care of the home, and family. Plus trying not to make the one deployed be worried about home. Send Christmas Cards full of cheer and thanks to those at Walter Reed Hospital, local V.A. Hospitals, area hospitals, nursing facilities, and retirement centers. Let people know that you care. The smile that they give back and their words of thanks will mean a lot to you and them. Love can melt the coldest of hearts. We can't always do everything that we want, but we can try to do our best at those of which we can.

Hope to see you in our meetings and at the Christmas Party on December 15th.

May GOD BLESS America, and you. Please keep our Military and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

May you each have a Blessed and MERRY CHRISTMAS, and a safe and HAPPY NEW YEAR. Remember to buckle up, and if you drink, please don't drive. Watch out for the other guy also.

In Comradeship

Larry Shaw—765-618-4067

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**Walgreens No Cost Flu Shots Still Available**

If you have not made it the VA to get your flu shot, you can get it at Walgreens with their Veterans program which ends March 31, 2019. Of course, the flu shot is available for the public also, using Tricare, Medicare or other insurance.

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**VA Releases Hospital Performance Ratings for 2018**

The Roudebush VA Medical Center received a 3 out of 5 stars rating for 2018 which is an improvement. Fort Wayne received a 2 out of 5 which was better than 2017. Eighteen received 5 star ratings, the best possible. Four of them were located in Pennsylvania. Overall, 38 hospitals improved their star ratings in 2018, 40 dropped in the ratings and 68 stayed the same as last year. For the full article in Stars & Stripes:

<https://www.stripes.com/va-releases-2018-performance-ratings-for-its-hospitals-1.550251>

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**Subscribe to IDVA newsletter at <https://www.in.gov/dva/3324.htm>**

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## Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 and VVA 295 Associate members,



Hello all. I hope that everyone enjoyed a pleasant and safe Thanksgiving holiday. It is a time for family to gather and, at least for me, it always causes me to remember fondly those family members who are no longer around the table with us. All of us have lost family members, it is a unavoidable part of life.

We have also lost many of our VVA 295 family over the years and I often think of them. We have lost far too many brothers and sisters due to injuries and maladies, both physical and mental, incurred during their service to our country. Some were compensated, to some degree, by the VA system before they passed on but far too many were not. Many veterans are still fighting for the compensation due them today against a system that can only be likened to a "minefield". Thankfully we have Veteran's Service Officers who can make the convoluted path to benefits a bit easier to navigate. Please take advantage of their training, expertise and experience now. You have earned it. When you are gone, it's too late. File your claims now if not for yourself but for your families.

The annual Veteran's Day Parade was held November 10 in downtown Indianapolis under sunny but chilly skies. We had a decent turnout, I suppose, maybe 15 or 20 Chapter 295 members but with our large membership it would seem that we should have had more. The crowd, witnessing the parade, if short on numbers, made up for it by their patriotic support and enthusiastic greetings. Special thanks go to Tony Gigli, Tom Madden and Steve Mabrey for providing vehicles for those with mobility issues. Thank you also, to the organizations who provided complimentary coffee, donuts and such. Try to make it next year, it is a very rewarding experience (and the donuts were great!)

I repeat: VVA Chapter 295 is your organization and any ideas or concerns that you have deserve to be heard. Please let us know what they are. My phone number is at the bottom of this page.

The annual Chapter VVA 295 Christmas Party will be December 15 and hopefully all can attend. It is always an evening of fun and comradeship, not to mention plenty of great food. Santa has not confirmed a visit this year but the chapter has more than enough pleasantly plump, jolly and bearded men to stand in for him. Hope to see you all there.

Since this will be my last message this year, I and my wife would like to wish everyone a joyous and safe holiday season, no matter how you celebrate it.

In closing, I guess that if I could be granted one wish this holiday season it would be for a world where wars and veteran's organizations commemorating them would be nothing more than distant memories.

God Bless,

Bob Parsons

VVA 295 Vice-President, Vietnam 1966,67,68, 317 919 7589

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## Indiana Veterans Home

<https://www.in.gov/ivh/>

Located in West Lafayette, Indiana, the Indiana Veterans' Home (IVH) offers long-term skilled nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, independent living, and memory care services to honorably discharged Indiana veterans and their spouses. New in 2018, IVH is now accepting Gold Star parents!

With a comprehensive array of on-site services offered in a newly renovated home-like setting along with veteran-specific programming and events, IVH is the best choice for Hoosier veterans and their spouses. Effective October 1, 2017, the current rate to reside in comprehensive care at IVH is \$361.48 per day. The independent living rate (domiciliary) is \$138.00 per day. IVH accepts Medicare A, Medicaid, private insurance and private payment. IVH will assist residents in applying for any services they may qualify for to assist with payment. Additionally, IVH participates in the Veteran's Administration higher per diem program and special benefits are available for veterans with a service connected disability rating of 70% or higher.

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**BUNKER SPECIAL**

**During November & December**

**For all VVA & AVVA Members**

**15% off what's in stock!!**

**Time to buy Christmas Presents!**

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**When you are filling out your  
Christmas Cards this Year take  
a Card and Send to this Address:**

**A Recovering American Soldier  
C.O. Walter Reed  
Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue  
NW Washington, D.C.  
20307-5001**



**Pass this on and Think of how many  
Cards these Wonderful, Special People  
who have Sacrificed so much would  
get. Please Share on your Wall,  
it's the Least we can do!**

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VVA's Christmas Project this year is to provide gifts for all 39 Veterans housed by HVAF. We did get the funding from the VVA State Council for this project. Shiela is picking up the info for each Veteran. Wed, Dec 5 anyone wanting to help shop for these gifts needs to meet at the Veteran Center at 6pm for instructions, do the shopping and report back to the Veteran Center by 9pm.

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### HATS, SCARVES & GLOVES

Vets for Vets is having their annual drive for HATS, SCARVES & GLOVES. These are donated to Roudebush VA Medical Center in December. Please place a donation in the box in the lobby of Fort Harrison Veteran Center. Thank you.

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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). Most recently members Bob Parsons and Mark Fix have become volunteers Thank you Pat, Bob and Mark.

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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.hvafofindiana.org/>

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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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**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](mailto:jonsmitha@comcast.net)

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### Blue Water Navy Bill Sinking in Senate Despite Late Hour Talks

As many as 90,000 ailing “Blue Water Navy” Veterans are likely to have to wait for a new Congress to see legislation passed that would make them eligible for Agent Orange related disability compensation and VA paid health care. The negotiations exposed a deepening desire among Senate Republicans to impose tighter controls on creating presumptions or service connection between certain exposures, including herbicides sprayed in Vietnam and diseases of Veterans involved in past or future wars. Battle lines are forming over whether Congress and past Department of Veterans Affairs secretaries have gone too far in building lists of conditions that VA presumes are linked to toxins, burn pits and battlefield environments. Under current law, a VA secretary can add an ailment to VA’s presumptive list if the National Academy of Medicine confirms either a “limited or suggestive” association between exposure and disease or a “sufficient” association. If, as expected, the Blue Water Navy bill sinks in the Senate, Republicans are likely to keep its fate in the next Congress tied to their desire to strengthen the science behind presumptions of service connected exposures. For full article in Stars & Stripes:

<https://www.stripes.com/blue-water-navy-bill-sinking-in-senate-despite-late-hour-talks-1.558464>

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A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

~ Joseph Campbell

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# JOBS FOR VETERANS!



## VETERANS JOB FAIR



120+  
JOB OFFERS  
EXPECTED!

## LUCAS OIL STADIUM

**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

11:00 am – 3:00 pm  
500 South Capitol Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46225

### A FREE HIRING EVENT

FOR VETERANS, TRANSITIONING MILITARY PERSONNEL,  
NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS, RESERVE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES

**= COMPANIES ARE HIRING! =**

Job Opportunities ▶ Continuing Education Opportunities ▶ Business Ownership Opportunities

## REGISTER NOW!

▪ Follow us on  @RecruitMilitary / Facebook 

For more details, visit [RecruitMilitary.com/Indianapolis](http://RecruitMilitary.com/Indianapolis)

# Indiana Blue Star Program



## 2018 Spirit of Christmas

For: Our Hoosier Military Families in need \*  
Where: Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds, Danville, IN  
When: Sat, December 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00am—2:00pm  
Who: IASAR Huey with Santa Claus!  
What: Food & Gifts for their children

The Huey will arrive at 10:45am with Santa, who will then go into the HCF Expo Hall to give out Children's gifts.

Corporate and individual sponsors make this wonderful event possible. A very special 'thank you' to all who have made contributions, and we are still accepting donations.



*Please make checks payable to Indiana Blue Star Program,  
8103 E. US Hwy 36, Suite 176, Avon IN 46123.*

*On behalf of all our sponsors, thanks and have a blessed Christmas.*

*Zoe (317.750.4265)*



Donate now at [www.GoFundMe.com/yyct7hgc](http://www.GoFundMe.com/yyct7hgc)

501(c)(3) EIN 27-1682023

\* By invitation only – Military families have been pre-qualified by various social service agencies.



Presented by  EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA  
[www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org](http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org)

A project of Eta Pi Chapter-Epsilon Sigma Alpha

## **Winter Warm-Up for Homeless Veterans**

Help make winter a little warmer for United States Veterans  
who are homeless or at-risk.

**Show your gratitude to these heroes in need by donating  
November 10 - December 14, 2018  
at any of these locations:**

Akard True-Value Hardware, Zionsville  
Hussey-Mayfield Public Library, Zionsville  
American Legion Post #470, Fishers  
Decatur Branch Indianapolis Library, Indianapolis

### **Items Requested:**

#### **Men's Winter-Wear:**

Jeans (waist 32"-38"; length 32"-34")  
Boxer Shorts (sizes: L-2XL)  
Socks (white and black crew)  
Work Gloves and Heavy Gloves  
Athletic Shoes (new) (sizes: 10-13)  
Hats

#### **Personal Care Items:**

Toothbrushes & Paste  
Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Shaving Supplies  
Travel Sized Lotion

***All items should be new.***

Donations benefit veterans served by Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation (HVAF)



Like Epsilon Sigma Alpha Eta Pi on Facebook!



**HRH**  
**HHOOT**



## **We Need Your Help!**

**Winter is just around the corner and we need to start storing the following items to serve our friends in need when it gets cold:**

- 1) Men's Clothing (especially large sizes) & Personal Hygiene Items:**  
(Jackets, shoes, socks, shorts, underwear, blankets & sleeping bags)
- 2) Hygiene Items, such as:** shampoo, soap, razors, deodorant, chap stick, tooth paste, tooth brushes, etc.
- 3) Non-perishable food products, such as:** package cookies & crackers, fruit & pudding cups, potato chips, small cans of meat, etc.
- 4) We need paper and cleaning products, such as:** large paper plates, small paper plates, cups, toilet paper, napkins, plastic forks & spoons, To-go containers, trash bags, cleaning supplies, etc.)

**We are also in need of Shelving, Clothes Racks, and Sorting Bins for our New Warehouse.**

If you have any of these items that you can help us with, please call my cell phone (317) 632-0500 or email me at [Hawkins@HRH.ooo](mailto:Hawkins@HRH.ooo)

**Or, you can**

**Donate thru PayPal on our web site at: [www.IndyHelpers.com](http://www.IndyHelpers.com)**

**5) Your Cash Donations are Tax Deductible that will help pay;**

**phones, electric, cable/internet, web site, insurance, trash bills, etc.**

*Please consider making a donation of \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 per month that will be used for water, snacks, paper products and utilities.*

*Thank You, Don Hawkins, Founder & CEO*

HRH & HHOOT'S Home Office 2457 E Washington St, Indy 46201

We Serve Veterans, ExOffenders & our Homeless Friends



# HVAF'S FOOD, CLOTHING, AND HYGIENE NEEDS

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## Food

### Canned Vegetables:

Baked Beans

Green Beans

Corn

Condensed Soup

Peas

Sweet Potatoes

Ready-to-eat soup



### Dry Goods:

Cereal

Granola Bars

Oatmeal

Pasta

Rice

Ramen Noodles

Pancake Mix

### Canned Meats:

Tuna

Chicken

Spam

Ravioli

Beefaroni

Chili

Salmon

### Canned Fruits:

Peaches

Applesauce

Pears

Fruit Cocktail

Mandarin Oranges

Pineapples



## Clothing & Hygiene

NEW underwear & undershirts

Socks

Gently used men's & women's clothing

Deodorant

Bar Soap

Razors

Shaving cream

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DROP OFF DONATIONS AT HVAF  
HEADQUARTERS:  
964 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204  
8 AM TO 5 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

Or put on HVAF donation table at Ft. Harrison Veteran Center