



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



July 2019 Newsletter



July 4 isn't just a day for fireworks, cookouts and pool parties. It's a day when we should pause to reflect on the forefathers and foremothers who risked so much to build this country—the land of the free. May we remember them, and may we honor those who are still fighting for our freedoms today. May we also recognize our shared humanity and all the things that make this big, diverse, beautiful nation so great. Our humanity lives in the DNA of what it means to be an American. On this Fourth, let's celebrate that.

Outback is offering 20% off with valid ID for Veterans and Military during July 4-7. They offer 10% off during the rest of the year.

VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw
Vice President	Bob Parsons
Secretary	Mike Dolan
Treasurer	Vacant
Asst Treasurer	Jim Pierce
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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 269279, Indianapolis, IN 46226-9279
Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Phone: 317-547-4748
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

Important Dates

- July 3-7** Field of Honor Flag Display, Memorial Park, 9120 Otis Ave, Lawrence,
July 4 Independence Day
July 4 Lawrence July 4 Parade, VVA is #22 in the lineup. Meet at the park at 8am to lineup.
July 8-12 Bunker setup at Roudebush VA; Call Steve if you can help load/unload 317-459-6255.
July 10 VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
July 11-14 The Wall that Heals will be at Greenfield, see page 6
July 12 2019 Women Veterans' Conference, 8am-4pm at Indiana War Memorial, flyer pg 8
July 15-20 VVA/AVVA National Convention in Spokane, WA
July 20 Ride for the Veterans Center and Mayors' Veterans Appreciation Day, flyer pg 7
Aug 7 VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- July 8, 1959** Major Dale R. Buis and Master Sergeant Chester M. Ovnand are killed when guerrillas strike the MAAG compound in Bien Hoa, 20 miles northeast of Saigon; they are the first two Americans to die from hostile fire.
- July 6, 1964** At Nam Dong in the northern highlands, as estimated 500 man Viet Cong force attacks an American Special Forces camp but is forced to withdraw after a bitter 5 hour battle. Captain Roger C. Donlon will later be awarded the Medal of Honor for valor during this battle, the first such award for the war in Vietnam.
- July 8, 1964** President Johnson decrees that a Vietnam Service Medal be awarded to Americans serving in the conflict, even though there has been no official declaration of war.
- July 1, 1965** The Vietnam Service Medal is authorized by Presidential Order 11231.
- July 4-Oct 28, 1966** U.S. Marines and ARVN troops conduct Operation Macon, a security operation to protect An Hoa industrial complex in Quang Nam Province, I Corps.
- July 21-Sept 5, 66** Troops from the U.S. 4th Infantry Division, the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, and the 47th ARVN Regiment conduct Operation John Paul Jones, a mission to secure the Vung Ro Pass in Phu Yen Province.
- July 30, 1969** President Nixon makes an unscheduled 5 1/2 hour visit to South Vietnam, where he meets with President Thieu and privately discusses U.S. troop withdrawal and possible changes in military tactics with U.S. commanders. Nixon also visits U.S. troops of the 1st Infantry Division at Di An, 12 miles south of Saigon.



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 on July 8-12.
Call Steve if you are going to help load/unload, 317-459-6255.

President's Message:

Brothers and Sisters,



Happy Birthday America! 243 years old, and counting. Think back to that time when people wanted to be free of England's control. They had ideas for new beginnings, a new country, a dream for the future. Farmers, trappers, shop keepers, explorers, and hunters all came together to fight for one cause. Freedom. Can you imagine their hardships? Leaving their families, homes, farms, lively hoods, with limited supplies of food, clothing, boots, tents, transportation, weapons, ammo, and warmth for the winter, lack of medical supplies and physicians. Plus no rapid communications with other units or home that we have today.

But with all these bleak hardships in mind they joined together united in one thought, one purpose, freedom for themselves, their families, friends, and neighbors. A free land for America. But, freedom is not free. It comes at a high cost, and not just financial. The high cost of human suffering to those fighting, and to their families. The loss of life, arms, legs, sight, hearing, and minds. Over all these years millions of men and women have fought to not only keep America free, but other countries around the world as well. From then, to today probably a million people have given their lives for freedom.

To all who have ever served, and those serving today; Thank you for serving. Thanks for all that you have done. Thanks to those who still try to make a difference today, even though you do not wear a uniform of our Country.

The following are my thoughts, and possibly some of yours. If I offend anyone, "SORRY ABOUT THAT". Most people living here in America look at this years 4th of July, as a four (4) day weekend. A time to party, at home , or on the water. A time to cook out, a time to drink, and to set off fireworks. I am writing this on June 20th, already people are setting off the fireworks on the ground and aerial exploding shells. Pretty certain most of these people have never been in the military, or ever will be. They do not think of, or care about the elderly residents around them that are fearful, have bad hearts, other illness, or diseases. They do not care about those who need to rise early to go to work. Nor do they care about the Veterans that are still suffering from PTSD, who still jump at the slightest sound, or movement. Where is PETA, ASPCA, and the Humane Society? After all dogs and other animals are worth more than humans.

I have mixed feelings for the 4th, for what it means, and for those who show respect for our FLAG, and our VET-ERANS, I am thankful, and hope that GOD will continue to bless America and you. But to those who take a knee, disrespect our FLAG, our Country, and say that our President should be killed, infringe on my rights of peace and quiet, really tick me off!

Please have a safe and Happy 4th of July.

Building Fund

My thanks to the one (1) percent of our members who read my article last month, and donated \$100.00 to the building fund for our roof.

We did find out that at least a few of you read the news letter. Holly works hard on this, and except for Bob Parson and my article does it all on her own. So again, thank you for giving, and Holly a big THANK YOU to you.

I made a mistake asking the way I did though. Those who donated made their checks out to VVA 295. The checks should have been made out to Fort Harrison Veteran Center. We are in control of both accounts, but it keeps the record tracking easier this way, as we then must deposit the checks in VVA 295 account, and then write a check to the Fort Harrison Veteran Center. So if you have not donated yet, and plan to remember to make your check out to the Fort Harrison Veteran Center. Thank you. Larry

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3—President’s Message

August Election

Attention VVA Members, we will be holding an election during our August Meeting to finish Wes Anderson's 2019-2020 term of office as Financial Secretary. Presently Jim Pierce is acting as Wes's assistant. To keep things above board we must have an election to fill this office.

The person elected must be able to keep accurate records of all accounts, able to use a computer, and be able to come to the building several times a month, to keep our bills current. You can have someone nominate you, or nominate yourself. see you at the meeting on August 8, 2019. Larry

Indiana

They said on the news that Indiana ranks 44th in the nation for patriotism. Wonder how they base that, as Indiana has the second most monuments to Veterans, behind D.C.. Or could it be that Indiana is way down on the list for how they provide Veterans Benefits, which should be called entitlements, as the Veterans earned them. Or could it be based on the sales of fire works. What ever it may be, we need to thank those serving today, and those who served in the past. Plus we need to thank their families, as they to served in their own way.

May GOD bless America, and you.

Larry L. Shaw

VVA 295 President

765-618-4067

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.

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

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/>

Along with freedom also comes responsibility. Let us never forget that. Let us never take freedom for granted. May you have a Happy 4th of July!

Vice President's Corner

VVA Brothers & Sisters,



Hard to believe that it is already July, the month that we celebrate our nation's birthday. We, as veteran's, know that the 4th is about much more than 4th of July Sales and corner fireworks stores touting "Buy 1..get 5 Free !" . (Ever wonder what their actual cost on the first one is ?...must be pretty cheap !)

Later This month is the bi-annual VVA Convention in Spokane, WA. Our chapter will be sending several delegates, including VVA 295 President Shaw and myself to represent the membership. If you have areas of interest or concern or would like information on any VVA topic please let us know as we are there solely to represent the membership. A number of critical topics, not the least of which, is the future of our organization will be addressed. Let us know how you want us to represent you !

We still need ideas on ways to raise funds to pay for critical repairs needed for the building. (Individual donations, no matter what size, earmarked for the building fund would be most welcome as well.) Also, If you have any experience in writing grant proposals your input would be invaluable.

Many merchants offer veteran's discounts and/or make a special effort to employ veteran's. I just got a nice card from Lowe's who not only offer veteran discounts but employ over 20,000 veteran's. Home Depot, Chik-Filet, Ponderosa are also among many who honor our service with discounts. Thank them and let them know that we appreciate their commitment when you receive a veteran's discount.

Unfortunately, because some non-veterans and even non-citizens have abused their kindness and lied about their (lack of) military service in an attempt to receive discounts, many of these merchants , understandably, now require some sort of proof of service. (VA card etc.) It would be far easier for business to simply discontinue their gracious discounts but they don't....please thank them and let them know that you appreciate their kindness !

It's interesting that when many had the opportunity to serve and found many ways to avoid it , they now want to avail themselves of the benefits that we "earned". Many years ago, when I was in the automobile business, a very well known , wealthy, auto dealership owner (who will remain nameless here) was running for political office and military service would have looked very good on his "bio". He said to me, "Bob, sometimes I wish I had served" to which I replied " _ _ _ _ , you could have if you had really wanted to. As I recall, the line to get on the airplane wasn't all that long" ! Needless to say, my employment with this dealership ended soon thereafter....(and, poetic justice, he was soundly defeated in the election as well).....Oh well !

In all seriousness, I repeat, please let us know your thoughts pertaining to the VVA Convention and the future of the VVA so that we can full represent you in Spokane. Hope to see you all at the July VVA Chapter 295 meeting on the 10th.

Thank you for your service to our great nation,

Bob Parsons, VVA 295 V.P.
Phu Bai, Vietnam
1966-67-68
317-919-7589

One flag, One land, One heart, One hand, One Nation evermore! ` Oliver Wendell Holmes

Member Speaker Program at Meetings—Fred Bishop, Chairman 317-918-1142

Members can call Fred to sign up. Speakers signed up so far:

- July Verne Hanson
- Aug Joe Williams
- Sept Ron Ayres

Guest Speaker at Meetings

Call Larry Shaw to schedule a speaker from the outside. 765-618-4067

Last month we had no guest speaker.



The Wall that Heals, Greenfield, Indiana, July 11-14, 2019

We will be helping to sponsor this event and taking part in it. It should be a well attended program since the primary sponsor has TV ads running now on Channel 8 and they have planned a parade upon the Wall’s arrival to be led by the “Indiana Patriot Guard” motorcycle group.



To help ensure its success, we need many volunteers from our chapter to help out. Review the job options and time spots available online at <http://signup.com/go/wRzTDfz> or you may phone Nick

directly at 317-462-5536. Those who sign up first get heir choice of time and jobs. A training class will be held on Wed, July 10 at the site below to explain specific duties. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt with sponsors listed.

We will be the only group permitted to setup a booth at the wall for signing up new members. Please consider helping with it as well.

Location: Pasco-Stillinger Funeral Chapel
1780 W. Main St.
Greenfield, IN



Peace Cross Stays

The US Supreme Court delivered a major ruling allowing the use of religious symbols in American life Thursday. The court ruled that a World War I memorial in the shape of a 40-foot cross can remain on public land in Bladensburg, Maryland. The justices ruled seven to two in favor of the supporters of the Bladensburg cross, which has also been referred to as "the Peace Cross". The Supreme Court ruled the nearly 100-year-old cross, which stands on a highway median, doesn't violate the First Amendment's establishment clause.

9th Annual
**Mayors' Veterans Appreciation Day,
 Motorcycle Ride, Picnic & Fish Fry**



Indianapolis | Beech Grove | Lawrence | Southport | Speedway

Joe Hogsett | Dennis Buckley | Steve Collier | Russell McClure | Jacob Blasdel

Saturday the 20th of July 2019

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Marion County Fair Grounds

Indy's Far South-East Side

7300 E Troy Ave.

**Come share in the Fun,
 Camaraderie, Music,
 Free Food, Free Parking,
 VA's Mobile Vet Van, and
 Information Tables will be
 available on most Veteran
 Services, Programs & Benefits.**

**Job Fair with over
 50 Employers so far.**



FREE of Charge to Marion County Veterans, Military & Their Families

Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show & by Donna's Rock & Roll Crusin' Oldies

Welcome Home Ceremony | 2 Local Bands | Games & Bounce Houses for the Kids | Job Fair | Door Prizes
 50/50 Drawings | Free Haircuts & Phones for our Homeless Vets | Blood Mobile | Mobile License Branch



**Still looking for
 additional Sponsors**



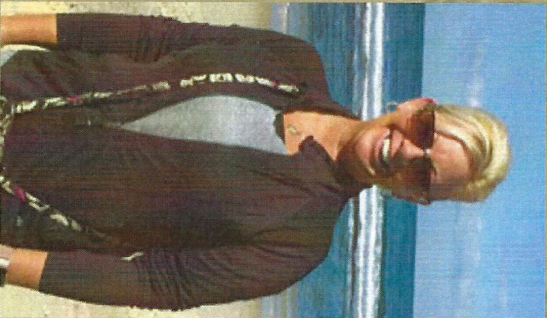
Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs

2019 Women Veterans' Conference

Indiana War Memorial

55 East Michigan St, Indianapolis

Friday July 12 / 8:00-4:00



Meet Navy Veteran
Rebecca Mills
and learn about her
success with
Veterans' Court

★ Breakout Sessions
Veteran Mental Health Panel,
Indiana Veterans' Court, Benefits
of Massage Therapy

★ Vendors Include
Make-Overs, Massages,
Indiana Department of Veterans
Affairs, VA Healthcare, VA
Benefits, Mobile Veteran Center,
and MORE

Registration <https://inwomenveteranconf.rsvpify.com>

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs www.in.gov/dva

 Women of Indiana Who are Veterans

317-232-3910

