



# Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



## June 2018 Newsletter



### Flag Day.....

Commemorates the adoption of the U.S. flag on June 14, 1777 by the Second Continental Congress. In 1916 President Wilson established June 14 as Flag Day. In 1949 President Truman signed the Act of Congress for observing Flag Day. Flag Day is a state holiday in Pennsylvania. New York designates the 2nd Sunday of June as Flag Day. Our flag represents liberty, justice and humanity. It is a living symbol of the Constitution of the United States. and the Bill of Rights.

### 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

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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 6:30

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

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# Important Dates

- June 6, 1944 D-Day, World War II, Operation Overlord, Allied invasion of Normandy
- June 9 8th Annual Mayors' Veterans, Military & Family Appreciation Day, Picnic & Fish Fry at Garfield Park 10am-3:30pm, Bunker will be setup, flyer on pg 6
- June 13 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 15 & 16 Vets for Vets Yard Sale, 8am-5pm, donate your items, flyer on pg 7
- June 17 Father's Day
- June 23 2nd Annual Cruise-In, Paying tribute to Veterans, 10am-4pm Wilkinson, IN Town Park; Bunker will be setup, flyer on pg 8.
- June 27 Operation Hire a Hoosier Veteran, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 9am-3pm for Servicemembers, Veterans & family members; 12-3pm for public & military; register online: [www.ohhv.org](http://www.ohhv.org)—flyer on pg 9
- June 29 Maddie Smiles Act of Kindness Day at 1:30pm at Lawrence Government Center, Ice Cream Truck , VVA & AVVA 295 are invited to participate. This honors Lawrence police and Veterans. They are honoring Lawrence Firemen earlier at the fire stations. Maddie Smiles donated red roses and some donuts & coffee during The Moving Wall.
- June 30 Honor Veterans Celebration, 10am-2pm, Military & Veterans Thank You Luncheon, Indianapolis Metro Airport, register online: [www.wingsoverindy.com](http://www.wingsoverindy.com)—flyer on pg 10
- July 4 Independence Day and Lawrence Parade
- July 10 Ft Harrison Veterans Center Building Meeting 6pm
- July 11 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm

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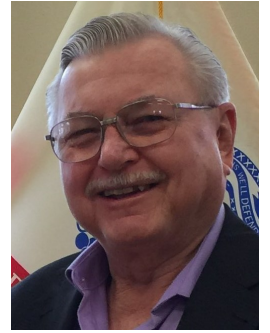
## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- June 2, 1965** As U.S. Marines & ARVN troops mount a joint operation against Viet Cong forces in the area of Chu Lai air base, they are supported by naval gunfire from USS Canberra offshore.
- June 19-July 1, 1966** Elements of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division & 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, conduct Operation Nathan Hale, a search & destroy mission to clear and secure Tuy Hoa Valley in Phu Yen Province, II Corps.
- June 1-July 26, 1967** The 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, and the Mobile Riverine Force conduct Operation Coronado, their first major operation in the Mekong Delta.
- June 8-Aug 14, 1969** The 101st Airborne Division and 3rd ARVN Regiment conduct Operation Montgomery Rendezvous, a follow-on operation to Apache Snow to deny the North Vietnamese use of the A Shau Valley in Thua Thien Province, I Corps.

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**President’s Message:** Greetings to all VVA and AVVA Members,



WOW! Sorry this is late but with the Wall here, everything was put on hold. We had a few problems, set backs, and hard ground. But our people came together, adapted, and over-came. To everyone who helped in any way, “THANK YOU”. A lot of long hours were put in by many. But the rewards were great. The feedback by those in attendance was very positive. We had a few people express interest in possibly joining both VVA and AVVA which is always good. They have been invited to our meetings to learn more about us.

June 6 is D-Day. To all who served and their families, a big “THANK YOU”.

June 14 is Flag Day. Display your flag and show the love you have for your country.

June 15 & 16 is Vets for Vets Annual Inside Yard Sale in Ft. Harrison Veteran Center. Come find a new treasure or donate items you do not need any longer. Refreshments may be purchased.

All VVA members can be a dual member and belong to both VVA and AVVA. It helps their membership growth, and you can assist in their projects, as they help in ours. This is a challenge to you, as I am the only dual member a this time. We are a team. Let’s pull together.

Kids are out of school. Please drive safely as they may dart into the street. Watch also for bikes, scooters and motorcycles. Drive safely and buckle up.

Never forget "We can each do a little, but together we can do a lot".

Keep those flags flying.

May GOD Bless America our Military Men and Women serving around the world, and you.

In Patriotism,

Larry Shaw

President VVA 295

765-618-4067

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## **Sweeping Veterans Health Care Bill becomes a Law**

In a ceremony June 6, President Trump signed the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act, also called the VA MISSION Act, into law. The comprehensive legislation impacts how veterans receive their health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It also includes provisions to consolidate community care programs into a single, streamlined service; provides sufficient funding to extend the program through 2019; expands comprehensive assistance; strengthens ability to recruit, hire and retain quality medical personnel; and reforms the VA health-care infrastructure. The legislative package is comprised of five titles that address major areas of deficit, including increased access to private-sector care, consolidation of community care programs, expansion of the Family Caregiver Program and the recruitment of qualified medical professionals.

**Title I: Caring for our Veterans—Establishment of Community Care Programs**

**Title II: VA Asset and Infrastructure Review**

**Title III: Improvements to Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals**

**Title IV: Health Care in Underserved Areas**

**Title V: Other Matters**

**For more info:**

**<https://www.legion.org/legislative/242153/sweeping-veterans-health-care-bill-becomes-law#>**

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## Vice President's Corner

Dear brothers and sisters of VVA Chapter 295

As you read this we are in the midst of hosting "The Moving Wall" once again. This time our task was made somewhat more challenging by the necessity of displaying the "Wall" in an alternate location. This new site was chosen after some rather spirited debate because of it's undulating topography, lack of electrical power and the work involved in preparing it for the arrival of "The Wall" But...we got the job done !!



A huge "Thank You" to the many volunteers who tirelessly worked for two days in 90 degree heat to prepare the site and foundation on which the memorial sits.

Another huge "Thank You" to those individuals and businesses who have generously contributed funds, goods, expertise and time to make this event a reality !

Even though it has been 50 years, the open wound of Vietnam and the memory of the price paid by the fallen and missing men and women who's names appear on it has not faded. It is through events such as the displaying of "The Moving Wall" and it's accompanying ceremonies that we can keep their memory and the sacrifice they made alive. It is up to us honor them as long as we are able. I consider it an honor that VVA Chapter 295 has been chosen to host this sacred memorial in 2018.

Even after 51 years, I get very emotional when I look upon the names of 6 of my comrades, on Panel 26E, who perished in the crash of a C-130 in 1967. I won't bore you with a story but, it is only by the "grace of God" that my name isn't among them. I'm certain that many of us have friends who's names appear on the "Wall" perhaps harbor guilt as I do. I think it is our solemn duty to keep their memories alive as long as we live.

On another note, I would invite each and every one of you to communicate your ideas, views, suggestions, and yes "gripes" to President Shaw, myself or any other VVA 295 officer or Board of Director. Only through communication and teamwork can we make VVA Chapter 295 better. As I mentioned last month, time is running short for we, as Vietnam Veterans, to create the legacy that we will leave behind.

President Shaw and myself are planning to attend the VVA National Leadership Conference in July. There is a tremendous amount of information available at this conference pertaining to Vietnam Veterans. If you have areas of interest or concern you want addressed or desire more information on, please let us know. VVA is "your" organization and VVA 295 is "your chapter" so you have a right to know how the organization is being run at the National and local level and what issues need to be concentrated on and addressed.

Enough for now...please participate and make your voice heard !!

Bob Parsons, 317-919-7589

VVA 295 Vice-President

Vietnam 1966-67-68

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**Maddie Smiles Act of Kindness Day—June 29** marks the 4th anniversary of losing our daughter/sister, Maddie. On this day, we ask everyone to be a little nicer to one another and do an act of kindness in honor of Maddie or a loved one that you have lost. Maddie Smiles does acts of kindness every day and promotes paying it forward, but this is our Big Act of Kindness day! We will be passing out roses around the community and giving ice cream to our local hero's in Lawrence. This year, we are honored and excited to include our Military Veterans in our Kindness Day!! (VVA & AVVA was personally invited) If you would like to participate in passing out flowers, please let us know! Also, look for our Kindness signs that we will place on the side of the roads to brighten your day and if you know a great place that needs a kindness sign, please let us know that too! This is a super fun event for everyone and a great way to teach children about kindness! :) Donations are appreciated and will help purchase flowers and ice cream for this event! Thank you so much! Remember Maddie Smiles is a 501(c)3 and all donations are tax deductible. <http://www.maddiesmiles.com/>

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### **The Bunker**

**Hours:** 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases at The Bunker support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

June 4-8 The Bunker will be setup at VA

### **The Veteran Magazine Project**

Repurpose your copy of The Veteran. VVA board member Jim Pierce brought this terrific idea before the board and membership at our last meeting. After you have read your copy of The Veteran, mark out your name and address. Attach your business card or the VVA business card which is available at the VVA office. Take it to your local library and ask if want your issues of The Veteran. Jim said they were very happy to take his issue. Do this each month to reach out to Veterans in the area and maybe even gain new members. Thank you Jim for a great idea!

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### **AVVA Chapter 295**

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is the extended family of VVA. We are made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans, and all persons who support Veterans’ issues. AVVA works in conjunction with VVA striving to ensure that Vietnam Veterans, as well as ALL Veterans, attain the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. We are here to help Veterans and VVA Chapter 295 with their programs and activities.

### **Check Out the New Vendor for AVVA and Agent Orange Products**

Find their link on the AVVA website, under AVVA Products / The Agent Orange Store. <http://www.agentorangestore.com> Make sure you say AVVA when you place order.

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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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### **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)



8th Annual **Mayors' Veterans, Military & Family Appreciation Day, Picnic & Fish Fry**



Indianapolis | Beech Grove | Lawrence | Southport | Speedway

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



**Saturday the 9th of June 2018**  
**10:00 AM to 3:30 PM**  
**Garfield Park, Indy's Near-South Side**

**Come share in the Camaraderie, Fun, Music, Free Food** (for Vets & Family Members), **Games for the Kids, Mobile Vet Van, & Information Booths will be Available on most VA Benefits & Services**



**FREE of charge to Marion County Veterans, Military & Their Families**

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

Support Groups



**Directions to Garfield Park by Car:**  
 The Park is located on Indy's near-south side.  
 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indy, IN 46203

**From Downtown Indianapolis** - Head south on Pennsylvania Avenue from downtown. Continue on as Pennsylvania Avenue turns into Madison Avenue. Turn left on Pleasant Run Parkway, which is at the intersection nearest IPS' Manual High School. Turn right on Pagoda Drive and follow the MACV signs.

**From Shelby Street.** The main entrance to the Park is located only a few blocks South of Raymond St. Turn right into the park and follow the MACV signs.

**By IndyGo:** Take buses 31 & 13 to the Park

For additional information, please contact: 317-917-0500 | Hawkins@VSCMC.com | www.VSCMC.com

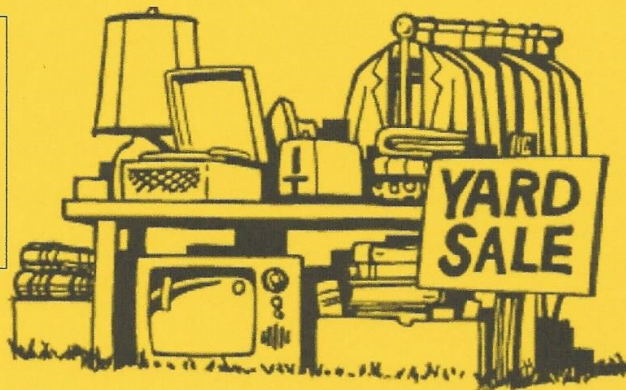


# INSIDE YARD SALE

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

**When:** Fri, June 15 8am-5pm  
Sat, June 16 8am-?

Lots of  
goodies  
inside  
building!



Something  
for  
everyone  
inside  
building


**Drop off donated items on Thur, June 14,  
12 noon-7pm, or Sundays, 10am-2pm**

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





Condo &  
St. Pierre



**Weir Cook Community Day - Wilkinson, IN. Town Park**  
**Paying Tribute To The Veterans**  
**~100th Anniv. of WWI - 50th Anniv. Vietnam War~**

***2ND ANNUAL CRUISE-IN***

***ALL VEHICLES WELCOME - COST \$10.00 PER VEHICLE***  
***1ST 50 PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A DASH PLAQUE***  
***ON SITE REGISTRATION-EMAIL WEIRCOOKMEMORIAL@GMAIL.COM***

***PRIZES*** ★ **JUNE 23, 2018** ★ ***PRIZES***  
**10:00AM. 4:00PM**

***TOWN GARAGE SALE***  
***TRAVELING***  
***MILITARY MUSEUM***  
***VENDORS***  
***FOOD BY POLICE DEPT.***

***LIVE MUSIC:***

***JASON "DOWNS"***  
***DOLL EYES***  
***PISTOL GRIP SHIFT***  
***WILLOW BRANCH BAND***



12<sup>th</sup> Annual

9AM—12PM: OPEN TO SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS  
12PM-3PM: OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MILITARY COMMUNITY

# OPERATION HIRE A HOOSIER VETERAN

## EMPLOYMENT & RESOURCE FAIR



June 27th, 2018 9am-3pm  
Indiana State Fairgrounds

**REGISTER ONLINE: [WWW.OHHV.ORG](http://WWW.OHHV.ORG)**

### Employers from Throughout Indiana

Resource Area Providing Job Seeker Assistance All Day  
Resume | Interviewing | Social Media | Fair Strategies

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**





# HONOR VETERANS CELEBRATION

**Military & Veterans Thank You Luncheon**

**Saturday ☆ June 30th ☆ 10am-2pm**

**Indianapolis Metro Airport**

96th & Allisonville Rd - 9913 Willow View Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

**REGISTER FOR FREE LUNCH & CREDENTIALS**

**ONLINE: [www.WingsOverIndy.com](http://www.WingsOverIndy.com)**

