



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295

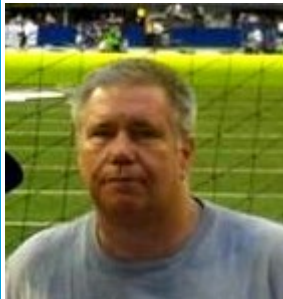


January 2017 Newsletter

January 11th Meeting

- 6:00pm Chili Night—bring crock pot of Chili or side dish to share.
- 6:30pm Board Meeting
- 7:00pm Regular Meeting—Bring Hats, Scarves & Gloves to donate to VA.

President's Message:



Dear Members,

Thank you for supporting The Bunker Shop. If you have time to help, talk to Steve Mabrey.

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



I hope you can attend our Christmas Party on Saturday, Jan 7.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2017.

Ken Walters, President of VVA 295



Today, is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.

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

Important Dates

- Jan 7 Christmas Party Re-scheduled, doors open 5pm, dinner at 6pm; Chicken & Ham will be provided. Please bring a dish—if your last name starts with A-G bring Desserts; H-O bring Salads; P-Z bring Vegetables.
- Jan 11 VVA 295 Meeting; 6pm is Chili Night & pitch-in. Bring Chili or a side dish to share; 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular meeting. . Bring Hats, Scarves & Gloves for container in lobby; these are donated to VA.
- Jan 26 Fort Harrison Veterans Center Building meeting at 7pm.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

January 1, 1955 In Hanoi, at a five and 1/2 hour parade attended by over 200,000, Ho Chi Minh makes his first public appearance in over eight years. In Saigon, Lieutenant General John W. O’Daniel assumes duties as chief of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group-Indochina; the focus of his efforts will be to assist the South Vietnamese government in organizing and training the South Vietnamese army. In Washington, the U.S. government pledges additional military aid for South Vietnam, citing the aid agreement of December 23, 1950, signed by the United States, France and the Associated States of Indochina.

January 24, 1957 The Soviet Union proposes a permanent division of Vietnam into North and South, with the two nations admitted separately to the United Nations. The United States rejects the proposal, unwilling to recognize Communist North Vietnam.

January 19, 1961 Outgoing President Dwight D. Eisenhower warns incoming President John F. Kennedy that Laos is “the key to the entire area of Southeast Asia” and might require the direct intervention of U.S. combat troops.

January 4, 1965 In his State of the Union message, President Johnson reaffirms the U.S. commitment to support South Vietnam in combating Communist aggression, saying that, “Our own security is tied to the peace of Asia.”

Bills Signed into Law

H.R. 4409 was signed into law by the President on December 14, 2016. This law renames the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana as the “Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House.” This bill was introduced by Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN).

More info at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5509/text>

H.R. 4352 was signed into law by the President on December 16, 2016. It is known as the “Faster Care for Veterans Act,” which authorizes VA to conduct a pilot program to establish a patient self-scheduling appointment system. Introduced by Rep. Seth Moulton, (D-MA).

More info at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4352/text>

H.R. 6416 was signed into law by the President on December 16, 2016. It was introduced by Rep. David Roe (R-TN) as the Jeff Miller & Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care & Benefits Improvement Act of 2016 and includes Toxic Exposure Research Act. It also amends health care, homelessness matters, educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation, disability compensation/claims appeals, small business/employment matters, burial/memorial affairs and construction reforms.

For more on this: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/6416/text>



Director of Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs The Indiana Governor-Elect Eric Holcomb has picked Jim Brown for his cabinet. Jim Brown has served as the Director of Veterans Affairs since his appointment by Governor Mike Pence in 2013. Previously, he served as the Indiana National Guard State Command Sergeant Major and has 25 years of small business ownership. Jim is a decorated veteran of the United States Army and the Indiana National Guard, receiving awards such as the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and many more. He and his wife Cheryl Kimler have six children and nine grandchildren.

Indy YMCA to Open First Facility for Veterans in U.S. The inspiration came on a treadmill.

Two men at the Hendricks Regional Health YMCA in Avon were talking about how great it was that the workout facility had a close connection to the neighboring hospital. *I work at the VA hospital*, said one man to the other, a former YMCA employee, *and it would be great for us to have a relationship like that with the Y.*

Rather than wiping away the idea with the post-workout sweat, the two men ran with it. When the YMAC of Greater Indianapolis opens its new Pike facility opens in 2018, it will be the first in the country to offer special services and dedicated space for veterans. The OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA at Pike Township will offer physical and occupational therapy provided by Richard Roudebush Veterans Administration Medical Center staff, as well as pain management and other counseling services. It will also offer classes geared toward veterans. More info: <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2016/11/10/ymca-open-first-facility-veterans-us/93110176/>

U.S. Returns Land to Okinawa

Reuters reports that “the United States and Japan held a ceremony on December 21, 2016 marking the U.S. military’s return of nearly 10,000 acres of land on Okinawa Island to the Japanese government, the largest transfer since 1972.” “Resentment on the southern island has simmered for years among residents opposed to the U.S. Marines’ Futenma air base there. They want the base moved off the island but the central government aims to relocate it to a less-populated part of Okinawa.” “Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy, attended the ceremony in Tokyo, with another event planned on Okinawa.”

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.hvafindiana.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

VA Medication Copayment Changes in 2017

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans' outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either \$8 or \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years.

“Switching to a tiered system continues to keep outpatient medication costs low for Veterans,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Reducing their out-of-pocket costs encourages greater adherence to prescribed outpatient medications and reduces the risk of fragmented care that results when multiple pharmacies are used; another way that VA is providing better service to Veterans.”

This new regulation eliminates the formula used to calculate future rate increases and establishes three classes of outpatient medications identified as Tier 1, Preferred Generics; Tier 2, Non-Preferred Generics including over-the-counter medications; and Tier 3, Brand Name. Copayment amounts for each tier would be fixed and vary depending upon the class of outpatient medication in the tier.

These copayment amounts will be effective February 27, 2017:

\$5 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 1 outpatient medication

\$8 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 2 outpatient medication

\$11 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 3 outpatient medication

These changes apply to Veterans without a service-connected condition, or Veterans with a disability rated less than 50 percent who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law. Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law.

Copayments stop each calendar year for Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8 once a \$700 cap is reached.

More information on the new tiered medication copayment can be found at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-12/pdf/2016-29515.pdf>



The Bunker Shop The Bunker Shop is now on Facebook and eBay. Check it out.

The Bunker Shop is open: Sundays 10am—3pm;

Wednesdays 3pm—7pm;

Online at Facebook and eBay 24-7

Hats, Scarves & Gloves

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

