



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



March 2017 Newsletter

March 8th Meeting

No Food this Month

6:30pm Board Meeting

7:00pm Regular Meeting

President's Message



We have several events coming up. Please participate in each of these events which are listed on page 2.

Remember to thank a Veteran when you see one.

See you at the meeting on Wednesday, March 8.

Ken Walters, President of VVA 295

We find it hard to believe that liberty could ever be lost in this country. But it can be lost, and it will be, if the time ever comes when these documents are regarded not as the supreme expression of our profound belief, but merely as curiosities in glass cases. Harry Truman

The founding of our Nation was more than a political event; it was an act of faith, a promise to Americans and to the entire world. The Declaration of Independence declared that people can govern themselves, that they can live in freedom with equal rights, that they can respect the rights of others. Gerald Ford

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 269279, Indianapolis, IN 46226-9279

Phone: 317-547-4748

Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN

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

- Mar 4 Veterans Center Cleanup & Maintenance Day starting at 10am. All organizations in the building are suppose to participate. The Sea Bees and Celadon Trucking volunteers will help too.
- Mar 8 VVA 295 Meeting Night; 6pm NO Food this time; 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular membership meeting.
- Mar 18 VVA Indiana State Council Meeting; 12 noon lunch; 1pm meeting.
- Mar 25 Bunker Sale & Open House 9am-4pm
- April 12 VVA 295 Meeting Night
- April 28 Meet & Greet 6pm with guests from VVA National Office and Indiana State Council.
- April 29 VVA Indiana State Council Meeting; 12 noon;
3-8pm Agent Orange & Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

March 18, 1962 Secretary of Defense McNamara acknowledges in a press conference that American “training” of the South Vietnamese “occasionally takes place under combat conditions.”

March 6, 1965 The White House confirms that the United States is sending two battalions of U.S. Marines (3,500 men) at the request of South Vietnam to be deployed in security work at the Da Nang air base., freeing South Vietnamese troops for combat.

March 10, 1968 The New York Times breaks the story of General Westmoreland’s 206,000 troop request, saying that it has stirred controversy with administration ranks. President Johnson is reportedly “furious” at the leak.

March 1, 1971 A bomb explodes in the Capitol Building in Washington D.C., causing an estimated \$300,000 in damages but hurting no one. A group calling itself the Weather Underground claims credit for the bombing as a protest of the U.S. supported Laos invasion.

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/>

Hero Day

Hero Day is Tuesday, March 14 at the Indiana Flower & Patio Show. It is at the Indiana State Fairgrounds March 11-19, 2017. Hero Day will recognize the dedication and sacrifices made every day by our local heroes. All past and present law enforcement officers, firefighters and military personnel will receive free admission to the show and free parking at the Fairgrounds. One complimentary ticket per ID.

Dream Foundation partners with VA to fulfill final dreams for Veterans

On Veterans Day in 2016, Dream Foundation, the only national dream granting organization for terminally ill adults, was honored to enter into a new strategic partnership with VA to improve the lives of Veterans with life limiting illnesses. The program acknowledges Veterans and honors their service by fulfilling their final Dream, providing them, their families, and caregivers inspiration, comfort, and closure at the end of life. Since its inaugural year in 2014, Dreams for Veterans has fulfilled nearly 400 dreams. Dreams for Veterans and the VA are working closely together to facilitate positive events, provide motivational support and fulfill final dreams for Veterans and their families. In addition, we are connecting to VA hospice care providers and palliative care social workers to offer resources available to address some of the unique needs of Veterans adjusting to end of life care. Dreams can be as simple as paying a heating bill to relieve financial stress, creating happy memories, meeting a personal hero, reconnecting with aspects of former military life—any request that provides support and compassion. Dream Foundation does not receive any federal or state funding and relies solely on individual donations and corporate partnerships to fund its programs. For more information, visit DreamFoundation.org

VA Dental Insurance Program

VA's VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) gives enrolled Veterans and CHAMPVA beneficiaries the opportunity to purchase dental insurance through Delta Dental and Met Life at a reduced cost. Participation is voluntary. Purchasing a dental plan does not affect Veterans' eligibility for VA dental services and treatment. For more information about VADIP, explore their Fact Sheet https://www.va.gov/healthBenefits/vadip/VADIP_fact_sheet.pdf or Frequently Asked Questions https://www.va.gov/healthBenefits/vadip/VADIP_faq_02-18-15.pdf and Delta Dental at <http://www.deltadentalvadip.org/> and Met Life at <https://www.metlife.com/VADIP/index.html>

VA Research Survey to Test Spiritual Therapy as treatment of PTSD

Veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder are often treated with medication and psychotherapy. But a research survey at Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Georgia is hoping to find out if spiritual therapy might be of interest as well. The research is being done in conjunction with the Durham VA and Duke University. Anywhere from 11-20 percent of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have PTSD within a given year, compared to 12 percent who served during Desert Storm and 30 percent who served in the Vietnam War, according to the National Center for PTSD at the VA. The therapy will be voluntary and incorporate the patient's own religion and religious texts.

New Secretary of VA

On February 14, 2017 Dr. David J. Shulkin was sworn in as the new Secretary of the VA. Shulkin is the first Secretary of the VA that is not a Veteran. His father was an Army psychiatrist and both his grandfathers were Army Veterans. His paternal grandfather served as chief pharmacist at the VA hospital in Madison, WI and as a young doctor, Shulkin trained in VA hospitals. On September 2016 Shulkin said, "Losing even one Veteran to suicide is unacceptable, which is why suicide prevention is a top priority at the VA." In his speech after taking the oath of office, he said, "There is no nobler mission. There is no higher calling for any American. I am humbled and proud to serve with you."

National Medal of Honor Day

In 1990, the United States Congress designated March 25 of each year as National Medal of Honor Day to honor all Medal of Honor recipients. It was on March 25, 1863 when the first Medals of Honor were presented. Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton presented the Medals of Honor (Army) to six members of "Andrews Raiders" for their volunteering and participation during an American Civil War raid in April 1862. Created in 1861, the Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor. It is awarded only to U.S. military personnel, by the President of the United States in the name of Congress, for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. There are three versions of the Medal of Honor, one for the Army, one for the Navy and one for the Air Force, with personnel of the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard receiving the Navy version. Since its creation, there have been 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded to the country's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. On March 25, 2017 our very own Sammy L. Davis will be honored in Washington D.C. and attend the wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery.



America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand. Harry Truman

Region 5 Conference - VVA & AVVA

May 5 & 6, 2017 at Doubletree by Hilton in Columbus, Ohio. Registration deadline is April 3, 2017. Registration is \$85 which includes Friday night cook-out & Saturday night banquet. Spouses are \$60. If you want to go Saturday only & no banquet, it is \$25 and mark "No Meal". Rooms at Doubletree for this event are \$125 per night. This will be discussed at the meeting. AVVA members can see Tony Gigli or Holly Tookolo if interested in going. VVA members should see Mike Hamm.

The Bunker Shop

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

The Bunker Shop is open: Sundays 10am—2pm; Wednesdays 4pm—6pm;

Online at Facebook and eBay 24-7, on VVA295.com, click The Bunker Shop



ALL KINDS OF PATRIOTIC & MILITARY ITEMS
U.S. ARMY ★ NAVY ★ AIR FORCE ★ MARINE CORPS,
COAST GUARD ★ HATS, PINS, SHIRTS, JACKETS,
PATCHES, DECALS, ACCESSORIES - GIFTS FOR EVERYONE!



Ft. Harrison Veteran's Center
 9450 E. 59th St - 59th & Lee Rd



OPEN SUNDAYS 10am - 2pm ★ WEDNESDAYS 4pm - 6pm

PayPal VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

ONLINE 24-7

www.TheBunkerShop.com



VVA295.com

YOUR PURCHASES GO TO SUPPORT:

- ★ The Fort Harrison Veterans Center
- ★ Indy Vet House
- ★ Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation
- ★ Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 295



SAVE 5% ★ BRING IN ITEMS FOR HVAF
 HOOSIER VETERANS ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

Canned meat (tuna, chicken, ham, etc.), Canned fruit & soups, Pasta & pasta sauce, Peanut butter, Men's boxers & briefs (all sizes) Men's undershirts (all sizes), Bath towels, Pillows, Wash cloths, Bus passes, Calling cards, Umbrellas, Ponchos
 Men & Women's: Shaving cream, Razors, Deodorant

\$ BUNKER BUCK \$
IN-STORE COUPON FOR \$1 OFF
LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE