



Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



November 2019 Newsletter



VVA 295 Officers

- President Larry Shaw
Vice President Bob Parsons
Secretary Mike Dolan
Treasurer Vacant
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

VVA Service Officer

Dennis Smalling
smallingindy@sbcglobal.net
Thursday 8am-12pm
Sunday 10am-2pm
By appointment, 317-313-1577

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans...

Thank Veterans for Your Freedom

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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

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# Important Dates

- Nov 5** Election Day
- Nov 11** Veterans Day & Veterans Day Parade downtown Indy—read VP Message for details on parade.
- Nov 12** Free Wills Clinic at Roudebush VA Medical Center by Indianapolis Bar Association and Indianapolis Bar Foundation; call 317-269-2000 for application.
- Nov 13** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Nov 16** VVA Indiana State Council Meeting—Short meeting and Thanksgiving Meal-bring a dish.
- Nov 28** Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 7** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 11** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Dec 13** Decorate for VVA Christmas Party starting at 12 noon
- Dec 14** VVA Christmas Party; Door open 5pm; Dinner 6pm; main dish furnished; everyone bring a dish according to first letter of your last name: A-H brings Dessert; I-O brings Salad; P-Z brings Vegetables. Door prizes, awards and entertainment.
- Dec 25** Christmas

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Nov 3-17, 1955** President Eisenhower sends General Lawton J. Collins, the U.S. representative on the military committee of NATO to Vietnam to convey assurances of direct U.S. aid and “coordinate the operation of all U.S. agencies in that country.” General Collins arrives in Saigon. Affirming \$100 million is U.S. aid, he announces that the aid is for “Diem and his Government only.”
- Nov 1, 1961** U.S. Special Forces medical specialists are deployed to Vietnam to provide assistance to the Montagnard tribes around Pleiku.
- Nov 8, 1961** Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and Secretary of State Dean Rusk send a joint memo to President Kennedy agreeing with the findings of the Taylor-Rostow Report which urges increased U.S. economic aid and military advisory support to include intensive training of local forces and large increases in airplanes, helicopters and support personnel. Plus recommending deployment of 8,000 American combat troops to support ARVN.
- Nov 15, 1964** Major General Charles Timmes announces in Saigon that 1,000 of 15,000 American advisers in South Vietnam will be withdrawn beginning December 3.
- Nov 10, 1964** Secretary of Defense McNamara says, at a news conference, that the U.S. has no plans to send combat troops into Vietnam. When asked whether the U.S. intends to increase its activities in Vietnam, he replies “wait and see.”



### The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker will be setup November 4-8 at Roudebush VA Medical Center. We need help in the booth and with loading/unloading. Call Steve to help loading/unloading 317-459-6255. Call Holly to work in the booth 317-294-4607

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**President's Message:**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Things to remember, and be thankful for not only this month, but always.

November 3rd, Daylight saving time ends, remember to change your clocks.

November 5th, Election Day for some of you. Maybe you are one of the lucky ones who did not fight for this right. But others did, many giving their lives. For a Veteran, or his family member not to vote, is saying that those who fought and died, did so in vain. What a let down that is to their families. You can find excuse after excuse to not vote. Too hot, cold, rainy, snowy etc. If you feel that your vote doesn't matter, you just helped elect someone who doesn't care about you, or your rights or freedoms. All politics are local. When people start out in your community and gain power, they long for Washington. Where the big money is, and you helped them, by not voting.



November 11th, Veterans Day. A day to thank all Veterans for their service. We should not limit this to just one day a year. Every time you see a Veteran, and thank them for their service, you have helped to brighten their day. Feel a little prouder, & walk a little taller. A kind word, hand shake or a salute will go a very long way, especially to those who are alone. To those who are not alone it will make those with them feel pride for that Veteran knowing some one was kind enough to speak to them. If you know someone is a veteran ask them to tell you their story. This time of year you can rake their leaves, shovel their walks, take them a meal, invite them over, offer to drive them to the store, doctor, among other things. The things that would make you feel good, will also work for them.

November 28th, Thanksgiving Day. A special time for family and friends to come together to give thanks for all that you have. Be that family, friends, home, job, or what ever. We take so much for granted, that we forget the little things that some people do not have. I was in Vietnam in 65-66, those people lived in huts, with dirt floors, no electricity, which meant no television, range, micro-wave, or lights, air conditioning, bath room, or running water. They raised their own food. But they were happy. They cared for each other. They were a proud people. Along a road in what seemed to be the middle of no where, there sat a beautiful Church. They are a Godly people. I once saw a small boy going through one of the garbage piles at base camp, and finding a leaf of lettuce that had been discarded because it was brown on the edge, and not good enough for our guys. The beaming look on his face as he brushed off the coffee grounds that were on it was like he had just won the lottery. He had found food that he could share with those he loved. Remember, not good enough for us, but a feast for them. How many times have we thrown away food or things that would have brought joy to others?

All of us have lost friends and loved ones, but be thankful you had them, and the wonderful memories that you have of them. Those people, those memories created the person that you are today. Be thankful for that. Share yourself with others who may be alone now.

Don't look down on or judge others for what they might not have at this time. We do not know what life struggles they may have faced. What they may, or may not have had, as they may have been better off than you, but they fell on hard times. Remember always. (There but for the grace of GOD, go I). Be thankful every day for what you have. Go out in the country, state park, or along a stream. look at the beautiful skies, trees, grass, listen to the birds sing, the sound of a water rushing over rocks, and give thanks that you can see and hear, as others can not. Some are not able to leave their home, hospital, or bed to experience that which you are lucky to enjoy. Be thankful. Do something good for some one every day, and if some one does some thing nice for you, thank them, and pass it on.

To those of you who received the Purple Heart Medal, and returned home, as many of our Brothers and Sisters never did, always remember; (GOD gave us a second chance. Don't waste it).

Keep those flags flying. Remember our Service Men and Women serving around the world, and their families.

May GOD bless America, our leaders, and you.

I wish all of you a Happy Veterans Day, and a Happy, safe Thanksgiving.

One last thing, cold weather is here, but we have heat in the building.

In Patriotism

Larry L. Shaw

VVA 295 President

765-618-4067; comdshaw@yahoo.com

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## Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 Brothers & Sisters,

First of all, Thank You to those who volunteered to help out Steve and Patty at the VA the last couple of weeks with Bunker sales. We are going to be there again this coming week and hopefully sales will continue to be strong. This is our "Golden Opportunity" to raise funds for much needed building repairs.



This year's Veterans Day Parade lineup has been finalized and we are in Section 1 (position 1-34). We should meet and enter the parade lineup at the corner of Delaware and St. Clair Streets **no later than 10:30.** I have 10 vehicle passes for vehicles that will be in our group in the parade. Please see me at the designated spot to pick up a pass if you have a vehicle that can transport those who are unable to walk the parade route. **I will be on-site by 9:30.**

Let's have a strong turnout his year, it is a wonderful experience if you have never participated before. Wear clothing denoting you Vietnam veteran status. Some of us wear our "colors" with ribbons and decorations. You earned them so be proud to wear them but be warned, however, that the ROTC kids will typically have many more decorations than we do!

Restrooms will be available in the Indiana War Memorial (north side entrance) and the Salvation Army will have their Coffee Canteen open. In the past there have also been other organizations on site with coffee and donuts. Hopefully I will see you at the parade.

If you have any questions call me at **317-919-7589** or email me at [rcparsons47@comcast.net](mailto:rcparsons47@comcast.net)

**Bob Parsons**

**VVA 295 VP**

**Phu-Bai, Vietnam 1966-67-68**

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## Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office and domestic addresses\*:

- Nov. 6 — APO/FPO/DPO (all ZIP Codes) USPS Retail Ground® service
- Dec. 9 — APO/FPO/DPO (**ZIP Code™ 093 only**) Priority Mail® and First-Class Mail®
- Dec. 11 — APO/FPO/DPO (all other ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services
- Dec. 14 — USPS Retail Ground service
- Dec. 18 — APO/FPO/DPO (**except ZIP Code 093**) USPS Priority Mail Express® service
- Dec. 20 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards)
- Dec. 20 — First-class packages (up to 15.99 ounces)
- Dec. 21 — Priority Mail service
- Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express\* service

### Alaska

- Dec. 18 — Alaska to mainland First-Class Mail service
- Dec. 19 — Alaska to mainland Priority Mail service
- Dec. 21 — Alaska to mainland Priority Mail Express service

### Hawaii

- Dec. 19 — Hawaii to mainland Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services
- Dec. 21 — Hawaii to mainland Priority Mail Express service

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• **Marine Corps 244th Birthday Ceremony** on Friday, Nov 8 at 10am in VA Auditorium, Rousebush Medical Center.

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**FOOD DRIVE for Oct-Nov-Dec**

With the holidays coming soon, we need to build up our food table. We all need bring food to each meeting so we can help the Veterans that HVAF are supporting. Don't come to a meeting without bringing some food for our table. Our organization is suppose to help Veterans. Let's see how much food we can collect!



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**Veterans Portrait Project**

Award winning military photographer and disabled combat veteran, Stacy Pearsall will be taking complimentary individual photographs of veterans as part of her **Veterans Portrait Project**. She has photographed thousands of veterans nationwide, archiving their history and service for posterity. Veterans can sign up at the link below to get your portrait in this project. No charge. It is Nov 5, 2019, 10am-4pm at Indianapolis Central Library at 40 E St Clair St, Indianapolis.

<https://veteransportraitproject.wordpress.com/2019-vpp-schedule/indianapolis-in/>

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**Free Dental Cleaning for Veterans**, Nov 11, 13, 15 at Ivy Tech Dental Hygiene Clinic, 104 W 53rd St, Anderson, IN. Call for an appointment 765-643-7133 x 2321

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**Member Speaker Program at Meetings**— Call Fred Bishop, 317-918-1142 to sign up.

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**Community Guest Speaker at Meetings**

Call Larry Shaw to schedule a speaker from our community. 765-618-4067. At the October meeting Kathleen Vahle with Elmcroft Senior Living spoke. They have Veterans living in their facilities and hopes we will visit or plan events with them.

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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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**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

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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

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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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## VETERANS DAY DISCOUNTS & FREE MEALS

### **Applebee's**

For the past 11 years, Applebee's has offered free entrees from a special menu to veterans and active duty military personnel for Veterans Day. They're continuing the tradition for Veterans Day 2019. California Pizza Kitchen: Free Veterans Day Meal

**Bonefish Grill** offers a free appetizer with purchase of an entree with valid military ID for active duty service people and veterans on Veterans Day 2019 at all locations.

**Buffalo Wild Wings** is having their annual Veterans Day free food deal on Veterans Day, which is Monday, November 11. All day, veterans and active duty military get a free order of small boneless or traditional wings and a side of fries.

**Carrabba's Italian Grill** offers free calamari with a purchase with valid ID for active duty military and veterans. The Italian eatery also offers a special ongoing 10 percent Heroes Discount for all servicemen and women, police officers, firefighters and first responders starting on Nov. 12, 2019.

### **Chili's**

Veterans and active duty military can get a free entree from Chili's on Veterans Day 2019. The special menu includes Chili's signature Chicken Crispers, Margarita Grilled Chicken, Chicken Bacon Ranch Quesadillas, Just Bacon Burger, Oldtimer with Cheese, Cajun Chicken Pasta, or a bowl of chili, soup or salad. Chili's also partners with veterans' causes year-round, including Veteran Jobs Mission, Snowball Express and Wreaths Across America.

**City Barbeque** locations will offer a free sandwich platter to veterans and active duty military with valid ID on Veterans Day 2019. The offer applies to dine-in as well as carry-out orders.

### **Cracker Barrel**

Veterans and active duty military can enjoy a free dessert at Cracker Barrel for Veterans Day 2019

### **Dollar General – November 11, 2019**

Veterans and families receive an 11 % discount on qualifying items in store and online

### **Dunkin Donuts**

At participating Dunkin Donuts, simply show your military ID for a free doughnut while supplies last.

### **Famous Dave's – November 11, 2019**

Military personnel and Veterans are being offered a free meal on **November 11th** at participating locations only.

**Fazoli's** is giving free spaghetti and meat sauce or marinara on November 11.

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steamburgers is giving Free Combo Meal Card on November 11.

### **Golden Corral**

Every year, Golden Corral hosts Military Appreciation Night. This year, on Veterans Day 2019, any person who has served in the US Military (retirees, veterans, active duty, National Guard or Reserves) is eligible for a free meal at any Golden Corral location.

**Goodyear Auto Service** -- Military members get free car care checks and free tire installation. Effective **November 8 through 16**, the free car care checks will include checks on tires, brakes, alignment, battery, wiper blades and shocks and struts. Active and retired military members will also receive free tire installation during the promotion period, creating a minimum savings of \$25 per tire.

**Great Clips** – On **November 11**, veterans and current military members can visit a Great Clips salon to receive either a free haircut or the free haircut card to use at a later date. Non-military customers can purchase a service on Veterans Day and get a free haircut card to give to a veteran you know. Haircuts are redeemable until Dec. 31.

**Home Depot** -- Home Depot offers a 10% discount to all veterans on **November 11**. Home Depot offers the 10% discount year round to for active duty and retirees.

### **Hooters**

Veterans and active duty military with military ID or proof of service can enjoy a free entree from a special Hooters Veterans Day menu with a purchase of a beverage on Veterans Day 2019. The special menu includes several Hooters favorites, including 10-Piece Traditional Wings, 10-Piece Smoked Wings, 10-Piece Boneless Wings, Hooters Burger, Buffalo Chicken Salad and Buffalo Chicken Sandwich.

### **Houlihan's – November 11, 2019:**

All military members – both active-duty and Veterans – will receive a free and complimentary meal on Veterans Day.

**IHOP** offers free pancakes to active duty military and veterans for Veterans Day 2019 at participating locations.

### **Little Caesar's**

Veterans and military with valid ID can snag a free \$5 Hot and Ready lunch combo from Little Caesar's on Veterans Day 2019 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### **Logan's Roadhouse – November 11, 2019**

Veterans and active duty military with valid proof of service will receive a free American Roadhouse Meal on **Veterans Day**.

### **Longhorn Steakhouse**

Veterans and military personnel can get a free appetizer or dessert and 10 percent off of their bill at Longhorn Steakhouse for Veterans Day 2019.

### **McCormick and Schmick's**

Veterans, active duty military, and Gold Star honorees that include parents and spouses are eligible for a free entrée at McCormick and Schmick's on Veterans Day.

### **National Parks – November 11, 2019**

Over 100 national parks will waive admission fees on November 11, 2019, in honor of Veterans Day.

**O'Charley's** will give veterans and active duty military a free meal for Veterans Day 2019. They also offer a 10 percent military discount all year and will donate to the Folded Flag Foundation from now through Veterans Day.

### **Olive Garden**

Veterans and active duty military can enjoy a free entree from a specially curated menu at participating Olive Garden locations for Veterans Day 2019.

**Outback Steakhouse** will, offer a special ongoing 10 percent Heroes Discount for all servicemen and women, police officers, firefighters and first responders starting on Nov. 12, 2019. The Heroes Discount will be upped to 20 percent off their entire check from Nov. 8, 2019 through Nov. 11, 2019. Diners can also donate to Operation Homefront from Nov. 6, 2019 to Jan. 7, 2020 by purchasing a Homefront Hero cocktail or donating a meal to a military family through a gift card purchase or donating on their checks in their restaurant of choice.

**Rack Room Shoes** -- Military personnel & their dependents get a 10% discount off entire purchase on **November 11**.

**Red Lobster**—Active duty military, reserve, and military veterans can stop by Red Lobster and get a free appetizer or dessert on Monday, November 11, 2019.

### **Red Robin**

Veterans and military with proof of service can enjoy a free Tavern Double Burger and Bottomless Steak Fries at Red Robin this Veterans Day.

**Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery** has Veterans Day Menu for free entrée for Veterans and active military.

**Sparkling Image Car Wash** will provide Free Full Service Car Washes to all Veterans and active military personnel on November 11

**Sport Clips** -- Participating locations are offering veterans free haircuts on **November 11**.

**Starbucks**

Veterans and active duty military can enjoy a free tall coffee at Starbucks on Veterans Day 2019.

**Target** -- Active-duty military, veterans, Reservists and their dependents can receive a 10% discount on a purchase made in-store and online from **November 3 through 11**.

**Subway – November 11, 2019**

Military Veterans with a valid ID are being offered a free six-inch sub on November 11 at select locations.

**TCBY Frozen Yogurt** is giving all Veterans their first 6 oz of frozen yogurt Free.

**Texas Road House – November 11, 2019**

Veterans and active military receive a free lunch on November 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at all Texas Roadhouse locations.

**TGI Friday’s** offers a free lunch to veterans and active duty military with ID up to \$12 in value on Veterans Day at participating locations. Check with your local Friday’s to be sure they’re part of it!

**T-Mobile** -- As Veterans Day approaches, T-Mobile announced that, starting **November 1**, active-duty military and veterans can get 50% off the latest Samsung smartphones, including the new Samsung Galaxy Note10 and Note10+. This is in addition to their Magenta Military plan, which includes 50% off family lines, available to military, veterans and their families year-round.

**Twin Peaks**—has special menu for Veterans Day free meal for Veterans and active military on November 11.

**Verizon** -- As Veterans Day approaches, Verizon announced that active-duty military members, Reservists, cadets, Gold Star families and veterans can receive a 1-year membership of Amazon Prime when they add a new line of service. These customers are also eligible for Wireless and Fios discounts. The offer will run from **October 24 to December 2**. This is in addition to their year-round discounts on plans and accessories.

**Walgreens – November 8-11, 2019**

20% off for military, Veterans and their families.

**White Castle**

Military veterans and active duty military who show proof of service can visit a participating White Castle location on Nov 11th, and receive a free breakfast combo or castle combo meal #1-6.

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**Veterans can get their Flu Shot for free at Walgreens**

Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system seeking a flu shot at Walgreens will be required to complete a Walgreens Vaccine Administration Record in order to receive the vaccination. It will be updated on your VA records.

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Some people dream the dream.

Some people live the dream.

Some people defend the dream.

God Bless the Defenders.

**We're ready to serve you**

No-cost flu shots for VA-enrolled Veterans

- Records updated with VA
- No appointment necessary
- Just walk into your local Walgreens