



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



May 2017 Newsletter

May 10th Meeting

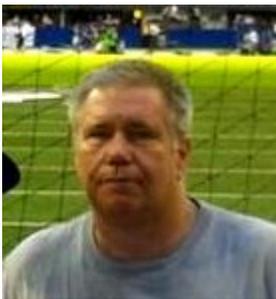
No Food this Month

6:30pm Board Meeting
7:00pm Regular Meeting

VVA 295 Officers

President	Ken Walters
Vice President	Ron Sukenick
Secretary	John Brocklehurst
Treasurer	Tom Donovan

President's Message



May is here! It is always a busy time; Race month, proms, graduations and Memorial Day. On this day we honor the men

and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Remember to thank a Veteran when you see one.

See you at the meeting on Wednesday, May 10.

Ken Walters, President VVA 295

Board of Directors

Mike Hamm, Past President

Steve Mabrey

Steve Anderson

Jim Finney

Jim Pierce

Wes Anderson

AVVA Chapter Representative

Holly Tookolo

AVVA State President

Tony Gigli

The Bunker is open Sunday 10am-2pm. Your Bunker purchase supports VVA 295 and Ft. Harrison Veterans Center.

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

- May 5 Cold War/Vietnam War Veterans Round Table, 8:30am-3pm, Carmel High School, see flyer on page 4.
- May 5 & 6 Region 5 Conference at Doubletree in Columbus, OH
- May 6 Fundraiser for National Desert Storm War Memorial at VFW Post 1152 Kokomo, see flyer on page 5.
- May 10 VVA 295 meeting night; 6:30pm Board Meeting; 7pm Regular Meeting
- May 25 Ride to the Wall and Chair of Honor dedication at Indianapolis Airport, see flyer pg 6 & 7
- May 29 149th Annual Crown Hill Memorial Day Ceremony, 2pm; VVA is doing Roll Call of the Missing; rehearsal is May 28, see Chris Barnthouse for more info.
- June 9-11 3rd Annual Sandbox Reunion, 8am-11:30pm Kokomo, IN
- June 10 Mayors' Veterans Family Appreciation Day at Garfield Park, see flyer page 8
- June 23 & 24 Annual Inside Yard Sale by Vets for Vets, 8am-5pm each day. We are taking donated items for the sale. You can drop off at our meeting or Sundays 10am-2pm or on setup day, Thursday, June 22 noon to 7. See flyer on page 9

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

May 23, 1961 VP Johnson recommends to President Kennedy a “strong program of action” in Vietnam. Johnson says that the loss of Vietnam would compel the U.S. to fight “on Waikiki Beach” and eventually on “our own shores”. He said Asian leaders do not want American troops in Southeast Asia, but Johnson feels that open attack would bring calls for U.S. combat troops.

May 18, 1966 Rep. Melvin Laird (R-MI) states that a “credibility gap” is developing because the Johnson administration is not providing the American public with precise and candid information on planned troop deployment to Vietnam.

May 4-Aug 24, 1968 U.S. Marine Corps units conduct Operation Allen Brook west of Hoi An City in southern Quang Nam Province, I Corps.

VVA Service Officer—Call Dennis Smalling 317-313-1577 to schedule an appointment for your VA benefits and claims.

The Veterans Choice Improvement Act was signed by President Trump on April 19, 2017. It allows the expenditure of the remaining \$950 million in the program, directs the VA to cover co-pays and deductibles directly for private care rather than reimbursing veterans for paying up front and authorizes the sharing of medical records to hospitals outside the VA. VA Secretary Shulkin has till fall to develop a more comprehensive plan for improvements.

Vice President's Corner

Hi everyone - Let me begin by saying that I'm Proud to be a Vietnam Veteran and thrilled to be your new Vice President.

Now onto business - Beginning with the May meeting, we are now adding to the agenda what I'm calling - MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS PROGRAM -

Every month for about 15-20 minutes, a member will get up and speak to you about their experience in Vietnam - Who they were with - What they did - And anything else they would like to say about their experience - I'm encouraging that when you speak, bring pictures - and any other show and tell type items.

Our first speaker will be Fred Bishop. If you would like to be one of our next speakers, call me - 317-696-1367.



If you would like to be the speaker program coordinator, call as well. See you at our next meeting May 10th.

Regards,

Ron Sukenick

Vice President - VVA Chapter 295

Membership Drive—Callers Needed

Hi everyone - We currently have 100 people that are local and are considered “At Large” for VVA membership. I need a few people to jump on the phone and call these people and get two things accomplished -

1. Call and invite them to visit our monthly meeting
2. Tell them that we would love to have them in our local chapter and then forward a transfer form to them -

Want to get involved? You think you can help? - Call me - 317-696-1367.

Ron Sukenick

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.hvafofindiana.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

Attention:

Cold War/Vietnam War Veterans

Would you like to share the history of your military experiences with younger generations?

Please join us at Carmel High School for a series of round table discussions on May 5, 2017 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Feel free to arrive & leave at any time during those hours.)

The program will provide students with first-hand accounts of the events they are studying in class.

If you are interested in taking part in one or more of these sessions, please contact James Ziegler at jziegler@ccs.k12.in.us or 317-748-3660 by May 3, 2016

Carmel High School
520 E. Main St.
Carmel, IN 46032

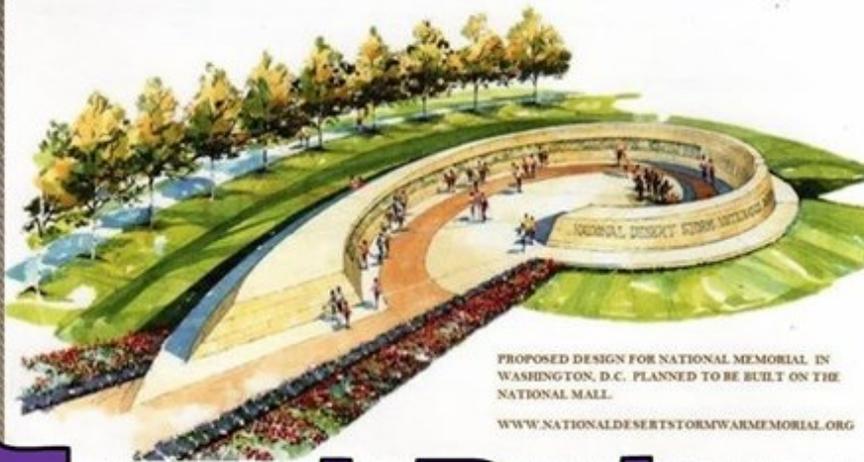
(Parking is available in the Front Lot, by Door 1 & 2, and outside the Freshman Center, Door 13—Please sign-in at the respective offices as you enter.)

THANK YOU for your service to our country!

Food and Beverages will be provided all day.

YOU INVITED TO THE

NATIONAL DESERT STORM WAR MEMORIAL



PROPOSED DESIGN FOR NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C. PLANNED TO BE BUILT ON THE NATIONAL MALL.
WWW.NATIONALDESERTSTORMWARMEMORIAL.ORG

50/50
Drawing

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Fund Raiser

MAY 6, 2017 @ 5 PM

SPAGHETTI DINNER w/ salad and GARLIC BREAD

\$6.00 a Plate

Music at 7:30 pm by Sonsee Cloud

Located at:

VFW Post 1152

920 N. Washington

Kokomo, IN



Contact: Kent Shivley @ 317-716-8641

Jim Proffit @ 317-313-9973



Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Indiana Chapter 1



2017 RIDE TO THE WALL

And

30th Anniversary Ride for Freedom



Join us on our Annual Ride to Washington D.C., to Pay tribute to our fallen American Heroes of the Vietnam War and to honor American Heroes from All Wars. Participate in the 30th annual Ride for Freedom demonstration, **NOT a Parade** through the streets of Washington D.C. to remind our leaders that we are demanding accountability for those that are still listed as Prisoner of War (**POW**) or Missing in Action (**MIA**).

Departing – Thursday May 25th

Returning – Tuesday May 30th

Staging Location - Indianapolis International Airport, 7800 Col. H. Weir Cook Memorial Drive Indianapolis, IN 46241

Staging – Thursday May 25th, 07:30am to 08:30am

Program – Thursday May 25th 08:30am to 10:00am

Departure – Thursday May 25th 10:00 am (*ISP escort to Indiana/Ohio State Line*)

Trip Schedule

May 25th	Thursday	Staging, Program, Depart Indianapolis Airport, and travel to Athens,
May 26th	Friday	Travel to Washington D.C.
May 27th	Saturday	Free Time in Washington, D.C.
May 28th	Sunday	Ride for Freedom Demonstration
May 29th	Monday	Depart Washington D.C. and travel to Athens, Ohio
May 30th	Tuesday	Depart Athens, Ohio and travel to Indianapolis, IN.

The Program will include dedication of POW/MIA Chair of Honor in the Indianapolis Airport

You do not have to be a member to ride with Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter 1

SAFETY NOTE

We are dedicated to provide a safe, and enjoyable trip to Washington D.C. and back home. The rider, and passenger are required to attend 1 of the 3 Ride Orientation meetings at the Fort Benjamin Harrison Veterans Center located at 9450 East 59th Street, Lawrence, IN.

A Motorcycle Endorsement on your Driver License and Proof of Insurance on your vehicle is required to go on the Ride to the Wall. Listed below are the dates for the Ride Orientation, and Registration meetings. The Chapter meeting will follow the orientation meeting at 1:00p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the Chapter meeting to learn more about Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 1.

APRIL 23rd Sunday 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
MAY 21st Sunday 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
MAY 24th Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - **Last Orientation meeting at the Vet Center.**

NOTE **NO registration on the day of the ride. All riders must complete one of the orientation classes and been issued the proper identification and a copy of ride rules.**

COST \$35.00 each for rider and passenger.

Riding with Rolling Thunder® , Inc. Indiana Chapter 1 THE BENEFITS

1. We have reserved a block of hotel rooms at Athens, Ohio and Washington D.C. with a special discounted room rate.
2. We ride in squads with a maximum of 6 to 8 bikes per squad. Each squad will have a squad leader and sweep. The Squad Leader is responsible for leading the squad in a safe manner and will stay in constant radio contact with the Squad Sweep, Road Captain, and other squad leaders and sweeps. The sweep is responsible for staying with a disabled motorcycle and rider until help arrives.
3. We travel with break down trailers for disabled motorcycles at no charge to the participants.
4. The Indiana State Police will provide an escort from the Indianapolis International Airport to the Ohio state line on day of departure.
5. We will have a private vigil at the Vietnam Memorial Wall on the night of arrival. Bus transportation to and from the memorial ceremony will be provided by Indiana Chapter 1.

Rolling Thunder® Indiana Chapter1 Website: <http://www.indianarollingthunder.com>

Please contact: **Mike Clark** at mike.clark@indianarollingthunder.com
or
Bill Bailey at bill.bailey@indianarollingthunder.com

“We Ride for Our Brothers that Can’t “

7th Annual **Mayors' Veterans & Family
Appreciation Day, Picnic & Fish Fry**



Indianapolis | Beech Grove | Lawrence | Southport | Speedway
Joe Hogsett | Dennis Buckley | Steve Collier | Russell McClure | Jacob Blasdel

Saturday the 10th of June 2017
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 & Their Families

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

Support Groups & Sponsors



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: 317-632-4042 | Hawkins@VSCMC.com | www.VSCMC.com

INSIDE YARD SALE

Where: 59th & Lee Rd, Indy
Ft Harrison Vet Center

When: Fri, June 23 8am-5pm
Sat, June 24 8am-?

Lots of
goodies
inside
building!



Something
for
everyone
inside
building

**Drop off donated items on Thur, June 22,
12 noon-7pm, or Sundays, 10am-2pm**

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