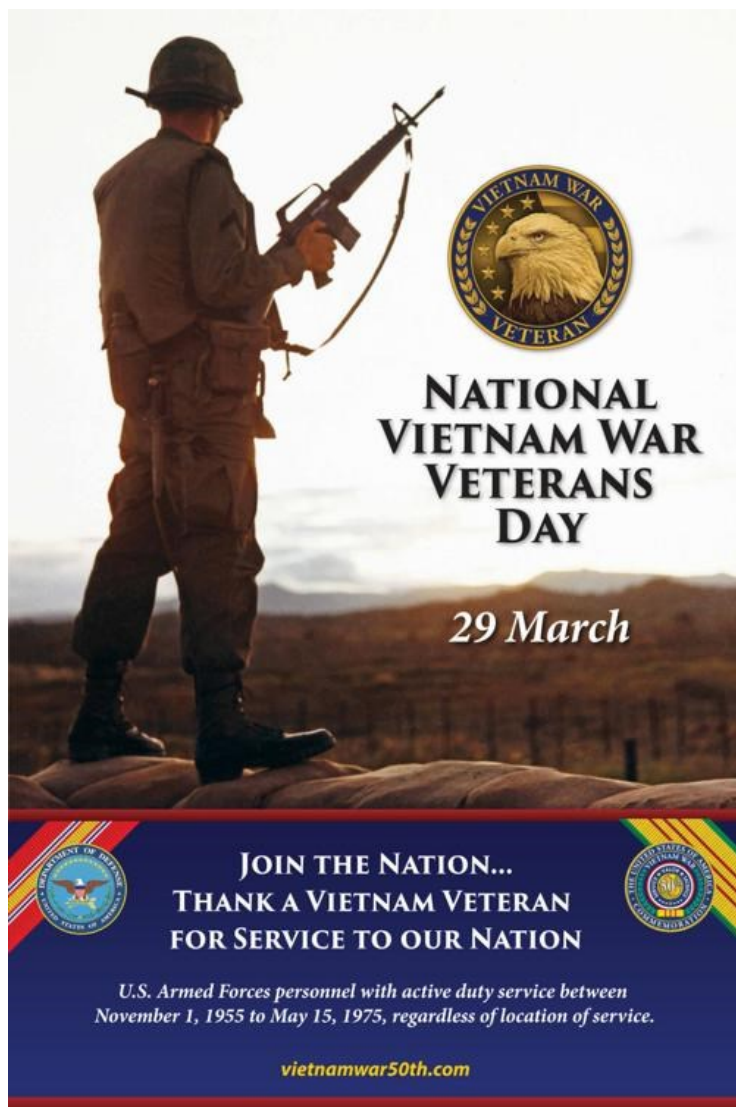




**Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295**



March 2022 Newsletter



**Vietnam Veterans Day
Celebration**

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

12 noon—5pm

American Legion Post 64

601 S. Holt Road, Indy 46241

Door Prizes, Music, Free Meals,

Free Book Gift, Federal & State

Benefits Assistance on Site



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 317-844-3554 or cell 317-294-4607

VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw	comdshaw@yahoo.com	765-618-4067
Vice President	Don McFarland	dmac101@comcast.net	812-593-2554
Secretary	Mike Dolan	michaeledolan@prodigy.net	317-374-5578
Chaplain	Robert Wright	gospelbobw@gmail.com	317-714-4618

Board of Directors

Steve Anderson	asteton@aol.com	317-431-9683
Ron Ayres	ron.ayers@att.net	317-319-6968
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AVVA Liaison

Tony Gigli	Anthony.gigli@gmail.com	317-965-1976
Holly Tookolo	htookolo@indy.rr.com	317-294-4607

WARRIORS HOPE

Every Thursday evening at 6pm you will find John Smitha at the Fort Harrison Veteran Center leading and helping a group of veterans with fellowship. Coffee and donuts are usually available. All veterans are welcome. It is good to talk with other veterans. If you have questions, call John Smitha, 317-439-6304.



Reminder: The Veteran Magazine is online at www.vvaveteran.org

The January/February issue was mailed and on website. Read the article about Canadians in the Vietnam War: A Desire to Serve. It tells the story of the 40,000 Canadian citizens who crossed the border and joined the U.S. armed forces and the consequences of their participation.

Membership Report

VVA membership total as of January 31, 2022 is 347. By Steve Anderson

AVVA membership total as of January 31, 2022 is 36. By Holly Tookolo

Important Dates

- Mar 9 VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm
- Mar 13 Daylight Saving Time
- Mar 17 St Patrick's Day
- Mar 19 VVA Indiana State Council 11am Finance; 12 regular meeting
- Mar 20 First Day of Spring
- Mar 29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- April 13 VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm

ELECTION NOTICE:

April 13 at the regular meeting the elections will take place.
Nominations will be held at the March and April regular meetings.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Mar 7, 1955** The U.S. and Vietnam sign a new agreement supplementing the economic cooperation agreements of September 1951.
- Mar 1, 1961** Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "1060" Device" is authorized by the government of the Republic of Vietnam for members of the U.S. armed forces who serve in Vietnam.
- Mar 5, 1964** The Joint Chiefs of Staff orders a U.S. Air Force air commando training advisory team to Thailand to train Lao pilots in counterinsurgency tactics.
- Mar 3, 1965** Over 30 USAF jets strike targets along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
- Mar 3-6, 1966** The U.S. 1st Infantry Division conducts Operation Cocoa Beach in Binh Duong Province, III Corps.
- Mar 7, 1967** South Korean forces launch Operation Oh Jac Kyo I, their largest operation to date, which involves a linkup between forces along the central coastal area of II Corps.
- Mar 8-May 17, 1968** The Americal Division, the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, elements of the 1st Brigade, 101st Division, and troops from the ARVN 1st Infantry Division conduct Operations Carentan I-II in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces, I Corps.
- Mar 15-May 2, 1969** Troops from the U.S. 5th Infantry Division Mechanized, U.S. Marines, 2nd ARVN Regiment, and 7th ARVN Cavalry conduct Operation Maine Canyon.
- Mar 14, 1970** The 26th Marine Regiment of the 5th Marine Division conducts its last patrol, stands down, and departs Vietnam.
- Mar 3, 1971** The 5th Special Forces Group departs South Vietnam.

The Bunker



Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker is scheduled to be at the VA all year. Steve is still looking for another manager to help with the Bunker. Right now Steve and Wallace Vaughn take turns as manager at VA. To volunteer call Holly 317-294-4607; to manage, call Steve 317-459-6255.
Hours 7am-3pm at VA

Lawsuit over Bible display at VA hospital dismissed; separate POW/MIA display proposed

By Kathy McCormack, The Associated Press and Kent Miller



CONCORD, N.H. — A judge on Wednesday granted the dismissal of a lawsuit over a Bible displayed on a table at a New Hampshire veterans hospital after the plaintiffs' lawyer proposed a separate display.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation filed the federal lawsuit in May 2019 on behalf of an Air Force veteran against Alfred Montoya, the director of the Manchester VA Medical Center, seeking the re-

removal of a Bible on display at a POW/MIA table within the hospital. The display violates the First Amendment's establishment of religion clause, according to the lawsuit. A second Air Force veteran joined the lawsuit as a plaintiff in October 2019.

The table, usually set up near military dining facilities, is set for one person and features a white tablecloth, single rose, a lit candle and more. In some displays, a Bible is also displayed on the table.

The lawsuit said the table should be a memorial to all missing or fallen veterans, not just Christians. The veterans had suggested replacing the Bible with a Book of Faith containing the writings and prayers from seven religious groups. Government lawyers argued the lawsuit should be dismissed, saying some of the allegations were vague and undefined, and that the lead plaintiff acknowledged he wasn't offended by the display. The matter then went to mediation.

"One of the focuses was us putting up our own table," attorney Lawrence Vogelmann, who represents the veterans, said at a hearing in requesting the dismissal. He said the VA has a specific procedure for requesting a table and would negotiate the details with the hospital's lawyers in an effort to avoid any more litigation.

"I think that we're close enough, or hopefully we are, and in the event it doesn't work out, then you'll see us again, but I am very optimistic," Vogelmann said to the judge.

Mike Weinstein, president and founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, is also representing the Air Force veterans who filed the lawsuit. He said the table, which MRFF is sponsoring, would have the American flag draped on it and contain a published, generic Book of Faith. A granite stone would display the opening words of the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

"We want them to honor them all," he said.

An attorney representing the hospital director did not object to the voluntary dismissal request and agreed it would be fine for the veterans to use the hospital's procedure for the display of the additional table.

U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro approved of the idea and noted that it doesn't involve any necessary change to the current missing man table.

Barbadoro told Vogelmann that from the beginning, "I've had some confusion about exactly how to conceptualize your claim." He said he thought it would be better poised for resolution if it were a "restricted or limited public forum case, rather than a government speech case."

Weinstein said MRFF is now waiting to see if the VA will approve and display its proposed table. If not, the group plans to swiftly refile its lawsuit, he said.

Volunteer for the *In Memory* Roll Call at *The Wall*



On June 17, VVMF will host the first in-person *In Memory* Honor Roll Call, an on-stage reading of the more than 5,000 *In Memory* honorees inducted from 1993-2021. Over the past couple of years, this reading happened virtually. Families are invited to register to read their honoree's name during the roll call. *In Memory* Honor Roll Call registration will be open from Monday, February 14, through Monday, March 14. You can learn more about this event and request a reading name slot here: <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/Honor-Roll-Call/>

U-Haul Supports Vietnam Veterans of America's National Convention

In a February 16 article for U-Haul, Emily Gadberry reports, Vietnam Veterans of America, a non-profit organization founded in 1978 to support and advocate for veterans of the Vietnam War, has the motto: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." U-Haul, founded by a World War II veteran and his wife, has proudly supported the VVA in its mission since 2006. As the VVA's longest-serving corporate partner, U-Haul puts together binders for attendees at the organization's biannual national conventions and leadership conferences, which take place on alternating years. Each year, the U-Haul Central Services team in Phoenix sources the materials, proofs and prints the inside contents, and hand-assembles each binder – numbering in the hundreds. For the VVA's most recent national convention in late 2021, U-Haul produced more binders than ever. Volunteers from the U-Haul Midtown Campus came together to organize and assemble the 250-page binders, and ultimately completed 700 binders for convention attendees. To read more, go to

<https://myuhaulstory.com/2022/02/16/uhaul-supports-vietnam-veterans-americas-national-convention/>

Dennis Smalling
317-313-1577
smallingindy@sbcglobal.net

VVA Service Officers

Michael Dolan
317-374-5578
michaeledolan@prodigy.net

Community Guest Speaker at Meetings

Call Larry Shaw to schedule a speaker from our community. 765-618-4067.

Jessica Lynch will also be at the VFW Spring Conference on March 19 at Marriot East- 9:45am meeting and 6pm banquet.

LEARN ABOUT JESSICA'S STORY: POWJESSICALYNCH.COM



An afternoon with Iraq War Veteran and former POW Jessica Lynch

MARCH 19, 2022

INDIANA WAR MEMORIAL

55 EAST ST INDIANAPOLIS, IN

1 - 4 PM EST PRESENTATIONS 1:30PM - 3:00PM

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

JESSICA LYNCH IS A TRUE HERO IN THE BEST TRADITION OF A NATION THAT INTUITIVELY
PREFERS MODEST HONESTY TO GRANDSTANDING BRAVADO."

-- LOS ANGELES TIMES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

INDIANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS &
THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



For Questions: 317.232.3910 Lamckee@dva.in.gov