



# Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



## September 2019 Newsletter



In the United States, Patriot Day occurs on September 11 of each year in memory of the people killed in the attack on September 11, 2001. The flag of the United States is flown at half staff and a moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, beginning at 8:46am Eastern Daylight Time, the time the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Over 3,000 died at the hands of terrorists. Never forget.

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Let us also remember those killed on September 11, 2012 in Benghazi, Libya. They were Ambassador Chris Stevens, Information Officer Sean Smith, and two CIA operatives, Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, both former Navy SEALs.

### VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw
Vice President	Bob Parsons
Secretary	Mike Dolan
Treasurer	Vacant
Asst Treasurer	Jim Pierce
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
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### VVA Service Officer

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

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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

- Sept 2** Labor Day
- Sept 5** Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, 11 am at Indiana National Guard Armory, flyer page 7
- Sept 11** Patriot Day
- Sept 11** 9/11 5K Walk Run, Registration 5pm at 421 W. Ohio St at 9/11 Memorial
- Sept 11** 9/11 Candlelight Event, 7:45pm at 421 W. Ohio St at 9/11 Memorial
- Sept 11** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Sept 17-21** Bunker will be setup at 37th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion at Kokomo
- Sept 18** Women Veterans 7th Social & Networking Event, 12 noon at VA Medical Center, flyer pg 8
- Sept 20** POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, 12 noon at Indiana Wall Memorial, flyer pg 6
- Oct 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Sept 21, 1961** The U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group is activated at Fort Bragg, NC. They deploy to South Vietnam and assume control of all Special Forces operations in country. Based on his belief in the potential of the Special Forces in counterinsurgency, President Kennedy visits the Special Warfare Center to review the program, and authorizes the Special Forces to wear the distinctive green beret that becomes their symbol.
- Sept 30, 1964** First large scale anti-war demonstration in the U.S. is staged at University of California-Berkeley by students and faculty opposed to the war.
- Sept 7-10, 1965** U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese forces follow up Operation Starlite with Operation Piranha on the Batangan Peninsula, 23 miles south of their base at Chu Lai.
- Sept 16, 1965** In their 1st strike over the Mekong Delta, B-52 bombers hit targets in Vinh Binh Province.
- Sept 18-21, 1965** U.S. troops form the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, conduct Operation Gibraltar, a search and destroy sweep northeast of An Khe in Binh Dinh Province to secure the 1st Cavalry Division's base camp.
- Sept 6-9, 1966** Three U.S. soldiers who have refused to serve in Vietnam are court martialed at Fort Dix, NJ. The court rejects their argument that the war is illegal and immoral.
- Sept 14-Nov 24, 1966** In the largest operation to date, more than 20,000 U.S. and ARVN troops from the U.S. 1st Infantry Division, a brigade from the 9th Infantry Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, several ARVN units, and eventually the newly arrived U.S. 196th Light Infantry Brigade conduct Operation Attleboro in War Zone C, 50 miles north of Saigon.



### The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker will be setup at the 37th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion near Kokomo on Sept 17-21. We need help in the booth and with loading/unloading. Call Steve if you are going to help 317-459-6255.

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**President’s Message:**



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

September is here with the last 3-day weekend of the summer. A time to spend with your family, enjoy parades, or go camping and swimming in the State Parks before they close the beaches. Kids are back in school and out of mom’s or grandparent’s hair, for a few hours. Speaking of kids watch out for them crossing streets, riding their bicycles, or while they are waiting on the corner, and playing around. Remember also when following, or meeting a school bus and its red lights come on and it’s STOP ARM is extended you must stop. All lanes, in both directions, unless you are on a divided highway, separated by a barrier, cable, or grassy expanse. Be safe save a life wear your seat belt, use proper car seats, and do not text or talk while driving.

September the 8<sup>th</sup>, is Grandparents Day. Congratulations for living so long that now you can allow, or let your children’s children eat or do the things that you would not allow their parent to do. Just one of the perks of growing older. Enjoy!

Our next meeting will be Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, which has become another infamous day in history, like Pearl Harbor. For those of you who may have forgotten on September 11, 2001 Twenty-Nine (29) Terrorists hijacked four (4) planes. Two (2) were used to take down the Twin Towers in New York, killing Two Thousand Six Hundred and Six (2606) people from Seventy- Eight (78) different Countries, including Three Hundred Forty-Three (343) Firemen. One (1) more crashed into the Pentagon, killing One Hundred Twenty-Five (125) people. The last plane crashed into a field when the passengers overpowered the Terrorists, Possible saving countless lives. Two Hundred Forty-Six (246) people died in air planes, total of all killed was Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Six (2996). The loss still mounts from those who searched the ruins, and their dogs who have gotten cancer, or some other killing disease.

Also, on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, The Consulate in Benghazi was attacked. The dead included the Ambassador, Information Officer, two (2) CIA Agents, which were both Navy Seals.

Autumn begins on Sept.23<sup>rd</sup>.

Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion Will be Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Late Friday afternoon, and Saturday Medal of Honor Sammy Davis will have a booth in the big tent. If you have a Chapter shirt, this would be a good time to wear it.

Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, POW/MIA Day. Please pause and remember them, and their families. Those who still pray and wait for their return. Plus, those who have died waiting for word of their loved ones. For most of us each day is just a day, to those who wait each day is a life time.

Keep those Flags flying. Do something nice for someone else. Remember our Troops serving around the world, our injured who are recovering in hospitals, or at home, and their families.

May GOD bless them, you, and America.

Always remember “YOU NEVER LOSE, UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING”, and “VETERANS MAKE IT HAPPEN”.

In Comradeship

Larry L. Shaw

VVA 295 President

765-618-4067, comdshaw@yahoo.com

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## Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 brothers and sisters,



Summer is drawing to a close putting an end to many activities associated with it. Many of our Veteran's events however, lie just ahead.

The Howard County (Kokomo) reunion is the week of September 16 and it is always a great event. Unit mini-reunions, both planned and impromptu, helicopters and displays, vendors, music and great food and the chance to re-connect with friends from long ago are just some of the highlights. Many of the more significant events take place on Saturday (21st) and this year will be no exception. Our own Sammy L Davis, MOH will be on hand with his always patriotic and inspirational words. I always feel very humble in his presence wondering how a young man from rural Indiana could do all of what he did that night long ago in Vietnam.

This year, on Saturday, there will be a special presentation of 2 Gold Star commemorative flags to the Travis family of Grant County. Many of you may remember Mrs. (mom) Travis who faithfully attended The Moving Wall ceremonies as well as other Vietnam Veterans events before her passing some years ago. It is hard to fathom the grief of losing a loved one in Vietnam but to lose 2 sons slightly more than a year apart is unimaginable. Mrs. Travis was an inspiration to all who met her with her ever present smile and kind demeanor.

My late wife, LaTrelle attended high school with both Ed and Bill Travis as well as Mark Black who was also killed in Vietnam in Sweetser, Indiana. Oak Hill High School near Sweetser has a permanent memorial to 6 of it's students and graduates who died in Vietnam. If you ever happen to be in that area, take a few minutes to view it, it is quite a moving experience when you stop to realize that Sweetser had a population of approximately 1800 at the time.

November, of course brings us to Veteran's Day on the 11th. We always participate in the parade as well as other events on that day and it is quite an experience. In today's world where many treat Veteran's Day as just an excuse for yet another "Giant Veteran's Day Sale" it is gratifying to see those who line the sidewalk to show their patriotism, greet us along the parade route and to celebrate the real reason for Veteran's Day.

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting. Recent attendance has been great and to hear of the individual Vietnam experiences of our members has turned into a highlight of the meetings. Until then, stay safe.

God Bless America

Bob Parsons, VVA 295 VP  
Phu Bai, Vietnam, 1966-67-68

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### Traveling Wall Schedules for 2019:

**The Moving Wall.** Half scale, [www.themovingwall.org](http://www.themovingwall.org)  
10/10-10/14 at Indiana Wesleyan University, 3777 Priority Way South Drive, Indy

**The Wall That Heals,** 3/4 scale, [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org)  
9/19-9/22 at St Joseph Cemetery at 25751 Grant Rd, South Bend, IN

**American Veterans Traveling Tribute AVTT,** 80% scale, [www.americanveteranstravelingtribute.com](http://www.americanveteranstravelingtribute.com)  
9/11-9/15 at Plymouth, IN River Park Square, parking area, downtown Plymouth; American Legion Post 27;  
Opening ceremony Thur, Sept 12 7pm; Fri, Sept 13 7pm local veterans ceremony; Sat, Sept 14 7pm ceremony for First Responders.  
9/26-9/30 Highland, IN

**The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall,** 3/5 scale; [www.travelingwall.us](http://www.travelingwall.us)  
Nothing scheduled in Indiana

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**Disrespect:** It was brought to my attention after the August meeting that someone put their waded up napkin from eating pizza on the POW/MIA Table in our lobby instead of putting it in the trash. How disrespectful.

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**National Museum of the U.S. Army is set to open June 4, 2020.**

It will be located at Fort Belvoir, VA. For more info go to: <https://thenmusa.org/>

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**House Bill 1010 signed by Gov. Holcomb on August 5:** Income Tax Deduction for military retirements, pensions and survivor benefits will be phased in over a 4 year period.

For more info: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2019/bills/house/1010>

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**Member Speaker Program at Meetings—**



Fred Bishop, Chairman 317-918-1142

Members can call Fred to sign up. Speakers signed up so far: Sept Ron Ayres

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**Community Guest Speaker at Meetings**

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

At the August meeting Flanner and Buchanan staff, Stephen Kirby and Todd Dashley spoke about Veterans benefits for burial. Call Stephen at 317-296-0916 if you have questions.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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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**First Day of Autumn is September 23**

**Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall. ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald**

# NEVER FORGOTTEN

THEIR SACRIFICE ★ YOUR MEMORY ★ OUR MISSION

## CARRY ON



## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

JOIN US AT 12:00 PM  
INDIANA WAR MEMORIAL  
55 E. MICHIGAN ST. INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

[WWW.DPAA.MIL](http://WWW.DPAA.MIL)



# VETERAN STAND DOWN



**Thursday, September 5, 2019**

11:00 am: Opening Ceremony

11:15 am—2:00 PM: Veteran Services, Community Resources

Event Site: Indiana National Guard Armory  
3912 West Minnesota Street, Indianapolis, IN

Transportation will be provided from:  
HVAF, VA Domiciliary, Lincoln Apartments, Volunteers of  
America, and The Wheeler Mission to the Event Site on a rotating  
basis from 8:30 am—11:00 am.



Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation

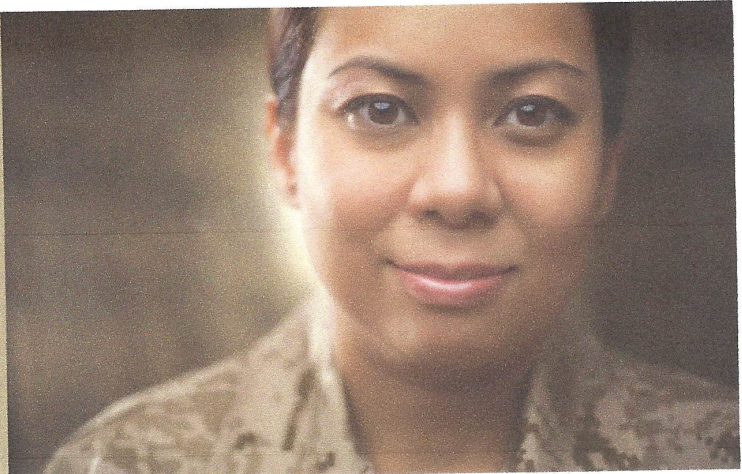


***STAND WITH THOSE WHO STOOD FOR US***

WOMEN VETERAN



VETERAN HEALTH INDIANA



PRESENTS

7<sup>th</sup> Social & Networking Event

Wednesday, September 18, 2019  
12noon to 3:50PM – Room C-1202  
*Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center*  
1481 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

**TOPICS**

- 12:00-12:05p - Introduction/Event Remarks
- 12:05-12:25p - Agent Orange, Camp Lejeune, Burn Pit Information
- 12:30 - 1:30p - **Indiana State Veterans Affair (INDVA)**
- 1:40-2:40p - **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)**
- 2:50-3:50p - **National Cemetery Administration (NCA)**

JOIN US!



VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs