



Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



January 2019 Newsletter



phillipmartin.info

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better person.
~ Benjamin Franklin

Each day be thankful.
Each day help others.
As a member of VVA & AVVA 295, we need each of you to help Make 295 Great Again. We need to do fundraising so we can help Veterans and work on Ft Harrison Veterans Center. It takes all of us. It should not fall on just a few members. So I am asking each of you to help.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
~ Galatians 6:9

VVA 295 Officers

- President Larry Shaw
Vice President Bob Parsons
Secretary Mike Dolan
Treasurer Wes Anderson
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

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

Important Dates

- Jan 1 New Year's Day
- Jan 9 VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm.
- Jan 11 Veterans Commission Meeting 1pm at Government Center South, Conference Room 1 & 2
- Jan 15 Legal Clinic at Roudebush VA Medical Center, Room C1202, 11am-4pm
- Jan 17 Carmel Palladium has Salute to Heroes, 7:30pm, see page 6
- Jan 21 MLK Day
- Feb 11 Indiana Veterans Legislative Day at 10am, at Statehouse
- Feb 13 VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm.
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 18 Presidents' Day

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Jan 19, 1961** Outgoing president Dwight D. Eisenhower warns incoming President John F. Kennedy that Laos is “the key to the entire area of Southeast Asia” and might require direct intervention of U.S. combat troops.
- Jan 12, 1962** U.S. Air Force launches Operation Ranch Hand, a “modern technological area-denial technique” designed to defoliate the roads and trails used by the Viet Cong. U.S. will dump an estimated 19 million gallons of Agent Orange, named for the color of its metal containers over 10% to 20% of Vietnam and parts of Laos in the years between 1962 and 1971. The herbicide has a small proportion of dioxin, a chemical that is considered a carcinogen which is dangerous to human beings.
- Jan 1-8, 1966** Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade and Australian troops conduct Operation Marauder, a search and destroy operation in Hau Nghia Province, III Corps.
- Jan 8-14, 1966** In Operation Crimp/Buckskin, a massive search and destroy operation in III Corps, U.S. forces from the 173rd Airborne Division and other elements of the 1st Infantry Division, supported by troops from Australia and New Zealand, converge on the “Iron Triangle,” a stronghold area northwest of Saigon. The Allied forces uncover and destroy a huge tunnel network before pulling out of the area.
- Jan 6-15, 1967** The U.S. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, and South Vietnamese Marine Brigade Task Force Bravo launch Operation Deckhouse V, which includes amphibious operations in Kien Hoa Province in the Mekong Delta, located 62 miles south 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 Roudebush VA on Jan14—18 Steve will be packing/loading for VA on Wed Jan 9 & Sat Jan 12. Help is needed to load the van at VA on Fri Jan 18 at 3pm. Call Steve if you are going to help load/unload, 317-459-6255.

President's Message:

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope as usual that this finds you well. If not please let us know so we can keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

The hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Years planning and travels are over for another year. I wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous 2019.

For those of you who did not attend the Christmas Party, you missed out on good food, entertainment, and prizes. I had the honor of presenting the VVA member of the year to two very deserving members for fund raising, volunteering, and innovative ideas to help the chapter. They are Jim Finney and Jim Pierce. AVVA Member of the Year went to Tony Gigli, for his writing an Application for Veterans Assistance, serving on that committee, as well as the building committee, and being Treasurer of same. Plus his help in getting the site for The Moving Wall.

This years Gene Gigli Award was designed by Wanda and Tony Gigli in Honor of their Husband and Father. The plaque had Gene's picture as well as his signature. Tony presented the award to Holly Tookolo. There isn't any one in this Chapter more deserving of this award. She is not just the President of AVVA. She is on the Building Committee, and in charge of renting the building. She picks up the mail from the post office, and distributes mail to the other organizations in the building. Plus paper work comes from the VA, in the Federal Building she files what stays here, and mails out that which goes to Service Officers in other VVA Chapters in the State. She has also helped our Treasurers, helped Steve with the Bunker at the VA. Does the newsletter by herself, as well as sending it to you. Will be Chairman for the Vendors at Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunions again this year. Plus helps Me with the Purple Heart. If everyone did half as much as her we would have the best Veterans Organization in the State.

To Holly, Jim, Jim, and Tony. Thanks for all that you do for VVA and AVVA 295. You have my deepest respect. Too bad we did not have a professional photographer to take pictures of those receiving awards.

VVA has lowered the Life Membership to \$50.00. How many of you know people that are eligible? Now is the time to sign them up, and make the chapter stronger. I had asked that we reach 300 members by the end of 2018, we didn't make it. Please lets do it now. Thank you.

That was the good news, now for the bad. As you know we need new air conditioning plus roof repair or replacement we are looking at \$100,000.00-\$160,000.00. So far no one has come up with an idea to get these funds except by grants of which they have not applied for. Raising the money seems out of the question, as most members do not wish to do anything that will involve them, or cost any out of pocket expense to them, such as raffles or silent auctions. If each member of the VVA and AVVA could afford to donate \$100.00 (which I know they can't) would only bring in \$31,000.00.

We have gone to many years of not working on membership, and raising funds. We have gone from \$100,000.00 in the bank to less than \$10,000.00. If not for Steve Mabrey and the Bunker, we would not have that. This building costs us money. More than we receive from the other organizations. Please prove me wrong, get off your duffs, and help the Chapter, with membership and fund raising. Help make VVA 295 GREAT AGAIN.

As Sammy Davis says ;"YOU DON'T LOSE, UNTILL YOU QUIT TRYING". Remember, we can each do a little, but together we can do a lot.

Keep those flags flying, and pray for the safety of our troops.

May GOD bless America and you.

In Patriotism,

Larry Shaw—765-618-4067



Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 and VVA 295 Associate Members,



Hello all. Hope that you had a pleasant and safe Holiday season and that your New Year will be one of good health. I have been listening to a number of YouTube videos interviewing MOH recipients this past week. WOW ! Is all I can say. The segments are short, 5 -10 minutes but well worth watching. I think that the thing that struck me the most was the quiet humility of these individuals who did things under fire that are almost unimaginable.

As we begin the new year, I would ask all of you to voice your concerns and ideas on how we can make VVA 295 a better organization for all. I have mentioned this before and , frankly, I have yet to hear from a single member. Either you are shy (which I doubt) or are completely satisfied by your current leadership (which I doubt even more) we need you input.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Christmas Party a success, I think that it was enjoyed by all who attended. I “grazed” my way through the dessert area several time. Again, Thank You to all who helped decorate the room and who brought the delicious food.

Now that we are into the new year we need to turn our attention to the upkeep of our “home”, The Ft. Harrison Veteran’s Center. Although the interior has been improved drastically over the last several years , we a sorely in need of a new roof and HVAC system. We need to redouble our efforts towards fundraising and the acquisition of grants to accomplish these very expensive but necessary improvements. Again...we need you input and expertise in the areas of fundraising and grant acquisition !

Let’s make 2019 a banner year in the areas of Veteran’s Assistance and raising the communities’ awareness of who we are, what we did years ago and what we stand for now !

Bob Parsons
VVA 295 Vice-President
Vietnam, 1966-67-68

The National Museum of the United States Army

A great Army deserves a great museum. The National Museum of the United States Army will serve as the capstone of the Army Museum Enterprise and provide the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions. The Museum will celebrate the selfless service and sacrifice of over 30 million men and women who have worn the Army uniform since 1775. The Museum will be a technological marvel incorporating the latest advances in museum exhibits while providing advanced educational opportunities that will capture the attention of visitors old and young. As the Army’s national landmark, the Museum will honor United States Soldiers—past, present, and future—and provide an interactive educational experience explaining the Army’s role in creating and defending our nation, as well as the Army’s social initiatives and contributions for more than 240 years. The Museum will be located on 84 acres at Fort Belvoir, VA, less than 30 minutes south of our nation’s capital in Washington, D.C. The main building will be approximately 185,000 square feet and display selections from the Army Art Collection, artifacts, documents, and images. The vast majority of these rare and priceless artifacts have never been seen by the American people. The Museum will welcome an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 visitors every year. To read more, go to: www.armyhistory.org

Korean War Veterans Memorial Update

The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three year period of the Korean War. In an effort to better convey the extent of the ultimate sacrifice of the U.S. servicemen, Congress authorized the addition of a “Wall of Remembrance”. It will be etched with the names of 36,574 Americans who mad the ultimate sacrifice, as well as those wounded, Missing in Action or Prisoners of War. For more info, go to www.koreanwarvetsememorial.org

PEDCOR AND FRIENDS PRESENTS

Salute to Heroes

JANUARY 17, 2019

7:30 PM | THE PALLADIUM

50% DISCOUNT

ON INDIVIDUAL TICKETS FOR
VETERANS, ACTIVE MILITARY,
& FIRST RESPONDERS



This special performance, created for this occasion by Music Director Janna Hymes, features the ever-popular Wright Brothers along with bluesy powerhouse Jennie DeVoe. Also adding to the entertaining evening with be Actors Theatre of Indiana (ATI), Indiana University's Singing Hoosiers and Ball State University Dancers.

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). Most recently members Bob Parsons and Mark Fix have become volunteers Thank you Pat, Bob and Mark.

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/>

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

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