



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



October 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
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VVA Service Officer

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

October has been designated as a month to become more aware and informed about Agent Orange, its' development, history and use as a defoliant and a product used in chemical warfare and thus its' long-term effect on the human body. For the latest Agent Orange newsletter: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/agentorange/reviews/ao-newsletter-2019.pdf>

For list of diseases from Agent Orange: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>

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

- Sept 30-Oct 18** Bunker setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center; Hours 7am-4pm each day; Call Steve 317-459-6255 to help load/unload & setup; Call Holly to work in booth 317-294-4607.
- Oct 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Oct 10-14** The Moving Wall at Indiana Wesleyan University, 3777 Priority Way South Dr, Indy, flyer pg 7
- Oct 14** Columbus Day
- Oct 19** VVA Indiana State Council Meeting—10:30am Finance; 12 noon Lunch; 1pm Regular Mtg
- Oct 31** Halloween
- Nov 5** Election Day
- Nov 11** Veterans Day & Veterans Day Parade downtown Indy
- Nov 13** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Nov 16** VVA Indiana State Council Meeting—Short meeting and Thanksgiving Meal
- Nov 28** Thanksgiving Day

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Oct 14, 1962** Cuban Missile Crisis - The U.S. discovered that the Soviet Union had positioned missiles in Cuba capable of reaching the continental U.S.—only 90 miles away. The U.S. erected a naval blockade of Soviet ships, expected to carrying the nuclear warheads to arm the missiles. The Soviets withdrew its ships and eventually the missiles.
- Oct 2, 1963** U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara tells the press that the Kennedy administration intends to withdraw most American forces from South Vietnam by the end of 1965.
- Oct 1, 1964** The first unit of North Vietnamese troops is sent to the South, by May 1965, they will number 6,500.
- Oct 3, 1965** In the U.S., the first mass public demonstrations against American involvement in the war in Vietnam take place. Pacifist David J Miller becomes the first person convicted for burning a draft card under a new law signed by President Johnson in August 1965.
- Oct 1-24, 1966** Operation Irving is conducted by the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, ARVN and ROK units against the North Vietnamese 610th Division in Binh Dinh Province.
- Oct 21, 1967** Thousands march to the Pentagon to demonstrate against the war in Vietnam.
- Oct 24-Dec 6,68** The U.S. 5th Marine Regiment conducts Operation Henderson Hill, a continuation of Operation Mamaluke Thrust, as part of a search and clear effort in Quang Nam Province.



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 Medical Center on September 30-October 18. 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

President's Message:

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

HELP! HELP! HELP! Your Chapter needs your help NOW. It Is time for you to take a stand. If you can't walk the walk, don't talk the talk.

I have been writing that we need money for repairs of our Chapter Building's roof, cooling, and since the busted water pipe in March, we have added heat to the list of repairs. Less than a dozen of you have donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund. Some places have wanted more than that, just for an estimate, luckily we did receive a few free estimates.



My thanks to those of you who have taken the training from Steve & Holly so that you can help in The Bunker. This is the only fundraising activity that Chapter 295 has to pay the bills. True, we do receive donations from the other Veteran Organizations in the building. Yet they are not enough to cover bills and donations that might occur. If you have not been trained call Steve or Holly, and get set up to learn. If you are trained tell them when you can help. Steve, Patty, & Holly do not need to work every day for the rest of their lives so that a few of you can come to a meeting, for an hour or two each month, & say that you support VVA 295.

I passed out membership applications in one of the meetings, with no response. There is an application in each of your National Magazines, still no response. Some of you that are not Life Members do not even keep current on your dues. Thus the reason we do not have more than three hundred members in VVA. You can be an active proud member, if you will just try. It is up to you alone, no one can do it for you.

Christmas is coming, and we have a table set up in the front of the meeting room for food and clothing donations for HVAC. Very little has been coming in lately. If you do not care to help yourselves, then please help others. After all that is what we are here for, to help our fellow Veterans.

A big THANK YOU to those who helped load and unload the truck, set up the Bunker, and do sales at the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion at Kokomo. You showed that you care, and can work together. A big THANK YOU to Holly for filling the place up with vendors. It was really good to see, hear, and talk to Medal of Honor Recipient. Sammy L. Davis, and his wife Dixie. To those of you who do not know, our Chapter is named after Sammy. Steve presented him a shirt from the Bunker. While Holly and I gave him a Chapter 295 shirt. While on the Reunion, National President John Rowan and his wife were there for the first time. Region 5 Director John Riling III, from Michigan, along with VVA members from there. Indiana State President Pat Bessigano was also on hand. The Service Officers from Indiana and Michigan, along with people from Agent Orange were kept busy answering Veterans Questions. Thanks for attending, and all you did for the Veterans.

Fall is here, please help those that need help raking leaves, installing storm windows, visiting families of those deployed, and shut ins.

IWU, will be bringing The Traveling Wall to the North West side of Indy. 3777 Priority Way S. Dr. October 10th thru 14th. They have asked us for help with computers, escorts to the Wall, and security, plus a membership table to name a few. I had sign up sheets at last meeting, and asked for volunteers. Receiving none, I am asking for your help now. If you can help, please contact me with day, time, & phone number where you can be reached.

Pray for our Troops and their families. May GOD bless them, America, our leaders, and you..

As Sammy says; "YOU NEVER LOSE, UNTIL YOU QUIT TRYING". Also remember; VETERANS MAKE IT HAPPEN.

In Patriotism

Larry L. Shaw

VVA 295 President

765-618-4067; comdshaw@yahoo.com

For the Bunker call Steve 317-456-6255, or Holly 317-294-4607; For The Wall, Call Larry 765-618-4067

Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 Brothers & Sisters,

Hope you aren't expecting a chatty "feel good letter" this month. Let's look at some facts:



As most of you know, VVA Chapter 295 as well as other veteran's organizations meet in the Fort Harrison Veteran's Center at 59th Lee Rd. On the old Ft. Benjamin Harrison post.

VVA 295, a number of years ago, leased the building & surrounding area from the City of Lawrence for \$1 per year. One of the most important provisions of the lease agreement is that we keep the property in good repair. At present the building is in desperate need of a new roof & most estimates for this are in the neighborhood of \$50,000. We also need a new heating & air conditioning system to replace the antiquated one that we have been putting "bandaids" on for years. We haven't gotten any firm estimates on these items but a rough guess puts them near the roof cost. Do the math, folks...that's \$100,000 to put our facility in acceptable condition.

In years past, through various fundraisers, we had lot's of money but that's ancient history. VVA 295, at this time has very limited cash reserves. We have never tried to "strong arm" our veteran organization "tenants" to chip in and we never will. Having said that, several of our tenants have generously helped out with fundraisers and donations in the recent past and these generous efforts have helped keep us "afloat". Our biggest benefactor, by far, has been "The Bunker" without who's support we would probably be meeting in a parking lot by now. Steve and Patty have put in countless hours at the VA and various veteran's events. They have had some help, primarily Holly but by and large they have shouldered this burden alone.

Recently the VA Hospital requested that we set the "Bunker" up on a much more regular basis. We make a lot of money every day we set up at the VA Hospital but it takes a tremendous amount of work and frankly Steve, Patty and Holly can't do it alone, nor should they have to. Last month we asked for volunteers to help out and we got a few, and I emphasize few volunteers to help out. Just a few days ago Holly sent out an Email asking for help....she got exactly 3 volunteers !

VVA 295 has a membership of nearly 300 and we get 2 volunteers ! I'm not an Einstein but that comes out to less than 1% participation.....There are some words that describe this level of commitment but they can't be printed here. I know..."I'm busy"... "I don't have time"... "I wouldn't be much help anyway".....

Well folks, here's a thought...if it goes much longer you will have an extra evening free every month, the second Wednesday ! Is this the attitude we displayed in Vietnam ? Not in the units I served in it wasn't.

Hey...Are we ready to give up our VVA family, friendships and pride in our service and spend the rest of our lives sitting on the couch in front of the tube ? I hope not !

The VA has thrown us a "lifeline" ! A lifeline that, if we grab it, we can pull ourselves out of this financial hole and keep Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 295 going for a long time. Our monthly meeting attendance is growing with new members joining each month. Let's continue to show the world that we are proud to be Vietnam Veterans and after all these years we still take pride in our service. Perhaps our chapter namesake, MOH recipient Sammy Davis said it best..."You don't lose until you quit".

The decision is yours and the future of our organization is in your hands, Brothers and Sisters.

If you can help out, even for a few hours it will help greatly. Please let Holly or Steve know.

God Bless America

Bob Parsons, VVA 295 VP

Phu Bai, Vietnam, 1966-67-68

FOOD DRIVE for Oct-Nov-Dec

With the holidays coming soon, we need to build up our food table. We all need to 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 supposed to help Veterans. Let's see how much food we can collect!



Honoring Hoosier Korean Missing in Action

Columbia Club, October 1, 6-9pm, 317-650-9050

More info: <https://www.indianawarmemorials.org/event/they-are-not-forgotten/>

REAL ID—You will need a Real ID to fly starting October 1, 2020, flyer page 8

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

Community Guest Speaker at Meetings

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

At the September meeting David Plunkett, Chaplain At Roudebush VA Medical Center spoke about his inspiring military career. David said to stop by and talk to him when you visit Roudebush.

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).

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

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.hvafindiana.org/>

America's Veterans have served their country with the belief that Democracy and Freedom are ideals to be upheld around the world. ~ John Doolittle

Veterans benefits will see a Cost of Living Bump This Year

By Leo Shane III, Military Times

Veterans will see a cost of living increase in their benefits payouts later this year, but it likely won't be as big as the last one they received. Last week President Trump signed into law the annual Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act, which guarantees that a host of veterans benefits will see the same annual boost as Social Security recipients.

Veterans benefits covered include disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation checks.

The measure is typically just a formality—it passed Congress again this year with no opposition—but is required annual work for lawmakers because federal statute does not link annual COLA increases for the two separate payouts. Legislative efforts in recent years to make the increase automation for Veterans have proven unsuccessful.

The official cost of living boost for social security beneficiaries won't be announced until next month, but multiple analysts have said they expect it to be below the 2.8 percent adjustment awarded last January.

The annual COLA calculation is based on a series of economic indicators, including the private sector wage growth. In the last decade, Social Security recipients (and individuals receiving Veterans benefits) have gone without an annual increase three times. It has only gone about 2 percent twice in that span.

Frequently, lawmakers don't finalize the link between the Veterans cost of living increase and the Social Security one until later in the fall, after the figure has been announced. Because of the timing of check distribution and the federal calendar, the increases in Veterans benefits will be reflected in individuals December payouts.

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PTSD Plummet for Veterans Who Try Horseback Riding

A new study found that PTSD scores dropped 87 percent after just six weeks of therapeutic horsemanship sessions. By some estimates, more than 23 million military Veterans experience post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) each year, described by Rebecca Johnson as “an anxiety disorder that occurs after exposure to life threatening events or injuries and is marked by flashbacks, avoidance and changes in beliefs and feelings.”

While counseling and behavior therapies are often prescribed to help treat the symptoms of PTSD, complementary therapies like therapeutic horseback riding (THR) have also been put into play. Johnson, a professor in the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine and the Millsap Professor of Gerontological Nursing in the Sinclair School of Nursing, was interested in exploring how useful THR could be in treating PTSD. And thus, the study “Effects of therapeutic horseback riding on post traumatic stress disorder in military Veterans” was born.

Working with a nearby VA hospital, 29 military Veterans suffering from PTSD were introduced to a THR program once a week for six weeks. In these sessions, they learned basic horsemanship skills and completed tasks on horseback. The hour long classes consisted of grooming and interacting with the horse before riding, applying the riding tack to the horse, then riding with a horse leader. After six weeks, participants experienced an 87 percent drop in PTSD scores.

VIETNAM TRAVELING WALL MEMORIAL

OCTOBER 10-14 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

3777 PRIORITY WAY S DR, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240

CELEBRATION OF

HONOR & LEGACY

OCTOBER 12, 2019 ★ 12PM-8PM

IWU INDY NORTH EDUCATION CENTER

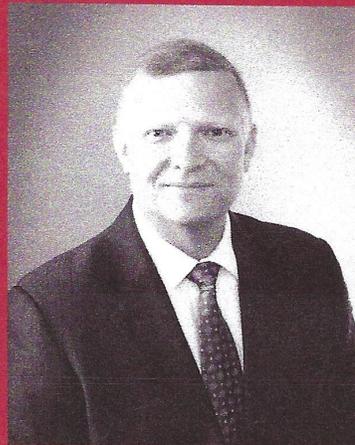
3777 PRIORITY WAY S DR, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240

FREE EVENT ★ FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ★ GAMES FOR ALL AGES



NO GREATER LOVE ★ 6:30PM

with featured guest Justin Roberts
full-length film/documentary



DENNIS WIMER ★ 1PM

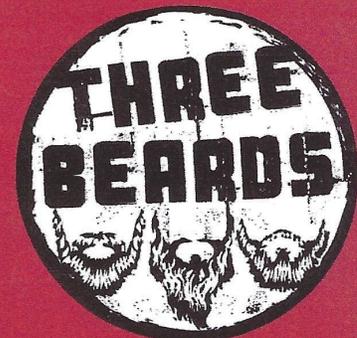
Honoring our Military Community
with keynote speaker Dennis Wimer



LAKEFRONT

AT KEYSTONE

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO STRATEGIC CAPITAL
PARTNERS FOR THE USE OF THEIR LAND



THREE BEARDS ★ 4PM

Alternative Rock Concert

IWUMILITARY.COM



Real ID Documentation Checklist

As of October 1, 2020, a Real ID-compliant driver's license, permit, or identification card will be required to board commercial airplanes, travel by Amtrak trains, or enter certain federal facilities.

Bring the appropriate documentation from each category below to your local BMV Branch to upgrade to a Real ID.



WILL YOUR LICENSE FLY?

REALID.IN.gov | 888-692-6841

1 - IDENTITY

Present **ONE** original document to establish identity. *Name change documents must be provided. More information at the bottom of this page.*

- Unexpired U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card.*
- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate filed with a U.S. state or territory office of vital statistics or equivalent agency in your state of birth.*++
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) issued by U.S. Department of State: Forms FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545.*
- Certificate of Citizenship: Forms N-560 or N-561.*
- Certificate of Naturalization issued by DHS: Forms N-550 or N-570.*
- Unexpired Permanent Resident Card: Form I-551.*
- Unexpired foreign passport in your name with English subtitles or translation, with an unexpired U.S. Visa and an approved I-94.
- Unexpired foreign passport without a U.S. Visa if your authorized admittance and lawful status can be verified by DHS.*
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Card: Form I-766.
- Unexpired Indiana Real ID credential.
- Other documentation as determined by DHS or the BMV Commissioner.

2 - LAWFUL STATUS

Present **ONE** original document to establish lawful status. **More than one document may be required.**

- Unexpired U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card.
- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate filed with a U.S. state or territory office of vital statistics or equivalent agency in your state of birth.**
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) issued by U.S. Department of State: Forms FS-240, DS-1350 or FS-545.
- Certificate of Citizenship: Forms N-560 or N-561.
- Certificate of Naturalization issued by DHS: Forms N-550 or N-570.
- Unexpired Permanent Resident Card: Form I-551.
- Unexpired foreign passport in your name with English subtitles or translation, with an unexpired U.S. Visa and an approved I-94.
- Unexpired foreign passport without a U.S. Visa if your authorized admittance and lawful status can be verified by DHS.
- Proof of application for asylum in the U.S.: Form I-589.
- I-797 Notice of Action received by DHS and accompanied by other U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents.
- Other USCIS lawful status documents that can be used to verify lawful status with DHS.

* Document may establish identity and lawful status.

** If born outside the U.S., delayed birth certificates do not establish lawful status.

3 - SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Present **ONE** original document with your name and Social Security number to establish Social Security number.

- Social Security Card.
- W-2 Form.
- SSA- 1099 Form.
- A non-SSA - 1099 Form.
- Pay stub containing the applicant's name and Social Security number.

All Social Security information will be verified. If you are unable to document eligibility for a Social Security number (SSN), you must provide proof of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration (SSA). Letters that are more than 60 days old will not be accepted.

The applicant's SSN presented to the BMV must match the information that the SSA has in its records for the SSN or for the SSA documentation.

4 - INDIANA RESIDENCY

Present **TWO** original documents with your name and Indiana residential address to establish Indiana residency. **Documents must contain a residential address. A post office box will not be accepted.**

- U.S. Postal Service change of address confirmation.
- An Indiana voter registration card.
- Survey of your Indiana property.
- Utility company, credit card, doctor, or hospital bill issued within 60 days of application.
- Residence mortgage or similar loan contract, or lease or rental contract.
- Bank statement or bank transaction receipt, dated within 60 days of application.
- Current motor vehicle loan payment book.
- Valid homeowner's, renter's, or car insurance policy dated within one year of application.
- W-2 Form, property tax, excise tax bill, or Social Security Administration or other pension or retirement annual benefit summary statement, dated within current or immediately prior year.
- Pre-printed pay stub, dated within 60 days of application.
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration child support check stub, Medicaid or Medicare benefit statement dated within 60 days of application.
- Valid Indiana handgun permit.
- First-class mail from any federal or state court or agency, dated within 60 days of application.
- Valid and active ID card issued pursuant to the Indiana Attorney General's address confidentiality program under IC 5-26.5.

IMPORTANT NAME CHANGE INFORMATION: If your name has been legally changed and now differs from your identity document(s) (e.g., birth certificate or passport), proof of the name change must be provided in order to obtain a Real ID. Acceptable documents supporting a legal name change include a marriage license, divorce decree, or court order. In all cases, the documents must show a clear trail of name changes from the name on the identity document to the current name. *For more information, visit REALID.IN.gov.*