



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



July 2017 Newsletter

President's Message



Hello all,
You are probably wondering what is happening to "sleepy" Chapter 295! Well, one word... "Energy"!

These past few months has seen new blood, new energy, new ideas, new monies, and new programs for the same goal that we have always had---Taking care of our brothers and sisters. I encourage you to come to our next meeting and take part in this energy. You are my friends, and I don't want even one of you to be left behind.

I hope that you all got the info about the Lawrence 4th Parade---park at the Community Center 8-8:30; parade step off at 10:00; and parade ends back at the Community Center for the Lions Fish Fry lunch.

We will have my truck and Tom's SUV for riders and, of course, we need walkers to carry the banners and flags.

I WILL see you there.

Michael L. Hamm

President

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 295

One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, One Nation evermore!

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

July 12th Meeting

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

VVA 295 Officers

President Mike Hamm
Vice President Ron Sukenick
2nd Vice President Larry Shaw
Secretary John Brocklehurst
Treasurer Tom Donovan

Board of Directors

Steve Mabrey Jim Finney
Steve Anderson Jim Pierce

Wes Anderson

Agent Orange Advocate

Mmoja Ajabu

AVVA Chapter Representative

Holly Tookolo

AVVA State President

Tony Gigli

VVA Service Officer—Dennis Smalling

Call 317-313-1577 to schedule an appointment for your VA benefits and claims.

Important Dates

- July 4 Independence Day
- July 4 Lawrence 4th Fest Parade, VVA will participate. Gather of Community Center just off Franklin Rd at 8am. Wear navy blue shirt from Crown Hill ceremony or patriotic shirt.
- July 9 The Invisible War Wounds-Soul Repair after moral injury, speaker Rita N. Brock, 5pm at Church of the Nativity-Episcopal, 7300 Lantern Rd, Indy 46256, see flyer on page 5
- July 12 VVA 295 meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm.
- July 13 FHVC meeting 7pm
- July 27-31 The Moving Wall in Columbus, Indiana, see flyer on page 6
- Aug 5 3rd Annual Ride to Support Fort Harrison Veterans Center, see flyer on page 7
- Aug 8-12 VVA & AVVA National Convention, New Orleans

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- July 3, 1965** The Vietnam Service Medal is authorized by Presidential Order.
- July 7-Aug 3, 1965** A force of more than 8,500 U.S. Marines and 2,500 South Vietnamese conducts Operation Hastings/Lam Son—289 in Quang Tri Province, I Corps, to drive the North Vietnamese 324—B Division back across the DMZ and preempt and disrupt enemy plans to mass and attack Quang Tri and Thua Thien.
- July 29, 1967** Fire sweeps the aircraft carrier Forrestal off the coast of North Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin in the worst U.S. naval disaster in a combat zone since World War II. The accident takes the lives of 134 crewmen and injures 62. Of the carrier's 80 planes, 21 are destroyed and 42 damaged.
- July 23, 1970** U.S. troops abandon Fire Base Ripcord north of the AShau Valley after heaving bombing strikes and artillery barrages fail to stop a North Vietnamese build-up around the base.
- July 1, 1971** The 26th Amendment to the Constitution, granting 18 year olds the right to vote, is ratified and becomes law. The Vietnam War, fought mostly by U.S. soldiers too young to vote, is the major cause for this reform, as antiwar activists have pointed to the injustice of asking those who have no voice in the political decision to sacrifice themselves in battle.

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

Vice President's Corner

Hope all is going well for everyone during this summer season. Next get together is on July 12th and our next speaker is one of our newest members Jim Rosebro. Jim was a helicopter pilot that was shot down 4 times and was able to rescue approx 60+ people on the ground. I'm sure that Jim has some great stories.



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The board met on June 27th with 14 people in attendance. We got lot's done. We have been able to add 2 assistants to support our chapter. One for John our secretary and one to support Tom our treasurer. You can expect a streamlined straight to point agenda at our meetings with full reporting from your officers and committee members.

Want to get involved with the chapter? Give me a call and I'll share with you some of the opportunities that are available for support.

Oh by the way, I almost forgot to tell you - WFYI (the PBS station) will be coming out for the July meeting to record our speaker and set up times to speak to some of Vets. They seem to be very interested in speaking with us since Ken Burns will be doing a documentary for PBS on the Vietnam conflict.

Stay safe until we meet again -

Regards,

Ron Sukenick

Vice President - VVA Chapter 295, 317-696-1367

The Bunker is open 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases at The Bunker support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

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



Old Glory Quilters

Honoring each Veteran, one Quilt at a time. Old Glory Quilters is dedicated to honoring those who have served in order to protect our freedoms. They are 100% non-profit. We can never repay the debt that we owe to the men and women who sacrificed everything for us, but we can say thank you through our quilts.

Judy Brown, founder of Old Glory Quilters & Quilts of Honor

says “After being deployed to Iraq, I wanted to come home and make a difference. Everyone has a story and I believe I can tell mine by the

stitches that I put in a Quilt of Honor. When I present a quilt to a Veteran, young or old, and see his or her smile, or tears, it makes me feel that my service to my country is honored.” She donated four quilts to the Indiana War Memorial. This picture shows one of them on display. Judy Brown’s contact info: 765-592-3840, P.O. Box 84, Hillsdale, IN 47854, jdbrown88@live.com



Online Exchange Shopping Eligibility to Expand: Beginning Veterans Day 2017, almost 13 million honorably discharged veterans will be permitted to shop online at all four military exchanges, but you have to first register with VetVerify.org, which will use Defense Manpower Data Center records to verify eligibility. On Veterans Day, eligible veterans will be able to shop online by logging on to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Navy Exchange, Marine Corps Exchange, and Coast Guard Exchange websites at, respectively, shopmyexchange.com, mynavyexchange.com, mymex.com and shopcgx.com. Military exchange shopping is tax-free, plus your patronage helps to return more than \$300 million annually to support on-base morale, welfare and recreation programs.

Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 was signed into law by President Trump. This comprehensive accountability bill provides VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin the authority to manage his people in a manner expected of all senior executives, public or private.

VA Secretary announces decision on next-generation Electronic Health Record

VA Secretary David Shulkin decided that the VA will adopt the same EHR system as DoD, now known as MHS GENESIS, which at its core consists of Cerner Millennium. VA’s adoption of the same EHR system as DoD will ultimately result in all patient data residing in one common system and enable seamless care between the Departments without the manual and electronic exchange and reconciliation of data between two separate systems.

As we celebrate our nation’s freedom, we honor the courageous men & women dedicated to preserving it.

INVISIBLE WAR WOUNDS—

Soul Repair after moral injury

Our young soldiers return from non-traditional battles in Iraq and Afghanistan but have great difficulty re-entering our society. Too many commit suicide.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

RITA N. BROCK,

Co-founder of the
Soul Repair Center,
will speak on the new
diagnosis,

MORAL INJURY,

and guide us in how care for those who return from harm's way with their minds and souls more wounded than their bodies.



Sunday, July 9, 5pm

Church of the Nativity-Episcopal

7300 Lantern Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256

Between Fall Creek and Sargent Roads

Reception follows



**FREE
Event!**

AMERICAN LEGION POST #24

**FREE
Event!**

INVITES YOU TO VISIT

The Moving Wall

JULY 27th NOON - 10AM JULY 31st

OPEN & GUARDED 24/7

Honoring All Veterans From All Wars

The Moving Wall is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for more than 30 years.

Guest Speakers EVERY Day

Honoring ALL Conflicts From WWI - Present

Kids Are Welcome - There Will be an Inflatable Obstacle Course

Red Cross Truck With Snacks & Waters

There Will Be Food & Soft Drinks Available For Purchase

National Guard Recruiting Tent With Military Assets on Display

Offering Rides on Vietnam Huey Helicopter

Information Center To Easily Find ANY Name on the Wall

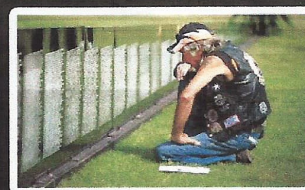
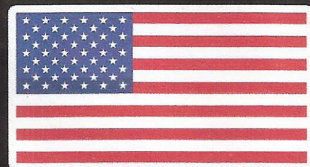
More Information to Come As Project Develops

Call 812-376-7036 For Details

Attempting to Raise \$64,000!! Donate NOW by Going to
www.youcaring.com/2017movingwallmemorialatcolumbusindiana-684321



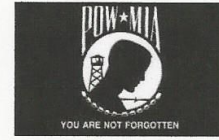
**BIKER DAY ON SATURDAY,
JULY 29th!!
CHECK-IN WITH YOUR
RIDE CARD 11-4**



Event Held at Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 W. 200 S., Columbus, IN 47201



**Third Annual
Ride to Support the
Ft. Harrison Veterans Center
Saturday, August 5th, 2017**



**Support your
Indiana Veterans**



The Ft Harrison Veterans Center provides meeting space for the following Veteran Organizations and we need your help.



Post 438



82nd Airborne



Chapter One
POW/MIA



VVA 295



Navy Club
Ship 35



Task Force
Omega



Vets for Vets



Indy
Sea Cadets



CVMA 14-1



Ride Details

Location: Ft Harrison Veterans Center
Address: 9450 East 59th Street, Lawrence, IN
Registration Time: 9:00am —10:45am
Depart Time: 11:00am
Cost: \$20.00 for rider and \$5.00 for passenger

Featuring

Ride through the Indiana back roads.
Display of the Hoosier POW/MIA Memorial Wall.
Enjoy great Food, Silent Auction, and much more.
The Bunker will be open where you can find assortment of military items to purchase.
Visit the Mobile Veterans Center and see what services they provide.

All proceeds will go to support the Ft. Harrison Veterans Center

Point of Contact

Mike Clark, Email: mike.clark@indianarollingthunder.com



Hoosier POW/MIA Memorial Wall



Ft Harrison Bunker Store



VA Mobile Vet Center