



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



December 2020 Newsletter



MERRY CHRISTMAS ORIGIN AND HISTORY

These days, it's common practice to wish "Merry Christmas" to one another around the 25th of December, Christmas Day. The origin of this practice is a little obscure. However, it's believed that an English admiral first used the term Merry Christmas in an informal letter, way back in 1699. In the same era, the phrase was used in non-religious Christmas song 'We wish you a Merry Christmas', which is still popular today. In 1843, Charles Dickens used the same phrase in "A Christmas Carol." also in 1843 the first ever Christmas Card was produced for purchase, which contained the saying! It was a perfect storm of popularity for "Merry Christmas" and the phrase became an instant hit for Christmas Greetings all around the world!

No Christmas Party

At VVA 295's November meeting it was decided to not have our annual Christmas Party. With the virus totals increasing and our ages, it was best to be safe and not have the party.



Origins of the Candy Cane

Legend has it that the candy cane dates back to 1670, when the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the Living Creche ceremony," Schildhaus says. "In honor of the occasion, he bent the candies into shepherds' crooks

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	VACANT		
Secretary	Mike Dolan	michaedolan@prodigy.net	317-374-5578
Treasurer	Fred Bishop	fbishop89@gmail.com	765-621-5515
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
Rick Brown	rbrown46140@gmail.com	317-509-2022
Mike Hamm	indyhambone@sbcglobal.net	317-371-9833
Verne Hanson	ver61el.handon@comcast.net	317-439-7982
Steve Mabrey	spmabrey@comcast.net	317-459-6255
Don McFarland	dmac101@comcast.net	812-593-2554
Ken Walters	kennethgwalters@gmail.com	317-372-2231
Dennis Smalling	smallingindy@sbcglobal.net	317-313-1577

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.



If

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

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. ~ Roy L. Smith

Important Dates

- Dec 7** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm
- Dec 25** Christmas Day
- Jan 1** New Year's Day
- Jan 13** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm
- Jan 18** Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 20** Inauguration Day

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Dec 31, 1960** Approximately 900 U.S. military personnel are now in Vietnam; strength of South Vietnamese armed forces remains at 243,000.
- Dec 11, 1961** The ferry carrier USNS Core arrives in Saigon with the 8th and 57th Transportation Companies, the first U.S. helicopter units sent to Vietnam as part of the expanded military aid ordered by President Kennedy. On board are 33 Vertol H-21C Shawnee helicopters and 400 air and ground crewmen to operate and maintain them. Their assignment will be airlifting ARVN troops into combat.
- Dec 26 1961** Specialist Fourth Class George Fryett is the first American captured by the VC. He will be released in June 1962
- Dec 3, 1964** It is announced that the first U.S. women to serve as military advisers will be assigned to a South Vietnamese Women's Army Corps training camp at Saigon.
- Dec 8-9, 1965** In some of the heaviest air raids of the war, 150 U.S. Air Force and Navy planes launch Operation Tiger Hound, a major air campaign aimed at interdicting troops and supplies moving along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the southern panhandle of Laos.
- Dec 1, 1966** The 9th Infantry Division deploys to Vietnam from Fort Lewis, Washington, to conduct combat operations in III Corps (initially), establishing its initial headquarters at Bearcat, near Bien Hoa.
- Dec 19, 1967** The 11th Light Infantry Brigade, part of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), officially arrives in South Vietnam and is stationed at Duc ho in I Corps.
- Dec 26, 67-Jan 2, 68** Operation Badger Tooth is launched to clear the "Street Without Joy" area near the coastal village of Thon Tham Khe on the border of Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces. As part of this operation, about 1,000 marines land by boat and helicopter along the coast of Quang Ngai Province and exchange fire with entrenched Communists.



The Bunker

Hours 10am-2pm Sunday

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. Steve & Patty cannot be at VA in December. Steve had to cancel our time there for December since we do not have volunteers to help manage The Bunker. Steve is still asking for volunteers to step up. The Bunker needs you!

President's Message:

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I will start out by apologizing to two people that were not mentioned in the last newsletter, and that is a shame as they each did so much to make the day a success for Operation Clean Up. First would be Holly Tookolo, who made up a flyer to distribute to the other organizations in the building, plus sending out e-mails to them also in case they did not find the flyer. Thank you Holly. Last but certainly not least is Connie Parsons, who purchased, prepared, served the meal to the volunteers, and cleaned up afterwards. Thank you Connie.



The Bunker will not be set up at the VA this month due to an accident resulting in a need for an operation, leaving the Bunker under staffed, as not enough people have volunteered to help keep it going. For several months now we have been asking for help, to give Steve a break, lighten his load, and in case he was not able to be there. Thank you to each and everyone for volunteering to help. Oh did you forget to volunteer? Maybe that is why we do not have enough help. The money that we take in from Bunker sales is what helps to pay the utilities of gas and electricity, insurance, phone, web site, post office box rent, water bill, office and rest room supplies. Most of these are costs that we have each month. They will not stop when the Bunker stops. Steve feels that we are not getting the message out to you members that we need help in the Bunker. It was brought up in our meeting last month that we ought to tell the membership in a newsletter that we need help. Well, I am telling you now. "WE NEED HELP IN THE BUNKER!!" There, I hope you heard me this time, and answer the call.

Steve would like to have three (3) dedicated people to alternate running the Bunker for a week at a time. that means being there at 6:30 am to 3pm Monday thru Friday. Steve would be there part time, and do the ordering of what is needed by the supply list that is given to him by who ever is in charge that week. We need two people there all day, each and every day for food and rest room breaks. Please do not tell Steve that you will be there, and come in one or two hours late, or leave early. You would not want someone doing that to you, so why should you do it to them? We presently have both VVA and AV-VA Members helping in the booth, and that help is appreciated. Thank you. If we do not get enough help so that we can open in January, then the VA will give that spot to another vendor, and we will lose out on not only our biggest fund raiser, but our only fund raiser. You can send an e-mail to Holly, or come to the meeting and volunteer in person. But please help. PLEASE!!!

Just received another transfer this one from Muncie. Are you ready for this? It only took the postal service two (2) months to get it to Indy, and they thought that the Pony Express was slow. We are approaching 340 in membership, and still growing. Know of someone to sign up? Maybe to work in the bunker? You could work together. Don't just think about it, do it.

Remember December 7, 1941? A Day of Infamy. The day a sleeping giant woke up. The sneak attack that got us involved in WWII. A time when our whole nation came together to fight for a common cause, making the The Greatest Generation. A lot of those solders fighting then were recent immigrants, or children of those who still lived in Europe. They came to America with a dream, and hope in their hearts. They knew what oppression was like, and they wanted freedom to live, work, raise their families, and own ground in a free world. They did not come here as they do today knowing that they can receive free health care, college education, housing, money, and citizenship. My how times and life has changed, and not for the better. The first half of the 1900's had a depression, and two world wars. Jobs didn't pay then as well as today. But people cared more about each other and helping out when and where they could. Our parents and grandparents went through a lot of hard times for us. What are we leaving to our children, and grandchildren? Please GOD help them.

Christmas is fast approaching, so be careful when putting up your lights, decorations, and selecting a real tree. You must keep it watered, and with no flames around it. Plus keep pets and small children out of it also. Christmas is more than just lights and trees, and I hope you remember that.

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Vice President’s Message:

VVA brothers and sisters,



Due to personal ongoing health issues I have made a very difficult decision. Since I can no longer devote the time and effort needed to fulfill my duties as your Vice President, BOD member and member of various committees I have decided to resign from these obligations and make way for someone who can better serve the membership.

I intend to remain a VVA 295 member and will participate as fully as I can. I have been a VVA 295 member for over 30 years and consider it a second family.

Please accept my best wishes for the upcoming holiday season.

Bob Parsons
PhuBai, Vietnam 66-67-68

Continued from page 4—President’s Message

It is a time to share yourselves with family and friends. To spread good cheer, a smile, a laugh. No hugs or kisses, as we must be masked, and six (6) feet apart. Christmas for most people is when Christ was born. The beginning of his short life, in which he did so much to heal the sick, with a tender touch of his hand. No masks or six (6) feet apart in those days. We can still offer a hand up to someone in need, and not a hand out. One simple gesture to someone who is sick, alone, or away from home, could always be made to make them feel better with just a simple chat, cup of coffee, or a meal. You have the human touch, and that is what most of us need besides our pets. Don't forget our service members and their families. They need to know that we care about them, and if we can try to make their Christmas a little brighter. Police, Firemen, Dr.'s, Nurses, and everyone else you meet thank them for what they do, and wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Be kind to one another. Not just at Christmas, but every day. Who knows, you might find a friend.

May GOD bless you, our troops, and America.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

In Comradeship,

Larry Shaw
President VVA 295
765-618-4067
comdshaw@yahoo.com

Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence “I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years experience.” That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember—Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!

Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day. ~ Helen Steiner Rice

What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future.
~ Agnes M. Pahro

VVA Service Officers

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

Michael Dolan
317-374-5578
michaeledolan@prodigy.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.hvafofindiana.org/>

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

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.

The Bunker Needs You

The Bunker will not be setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center for two weeks in December. We need managers.

Steve & Patty cannot be there in December.

Steve 317-459-6255; Holly 317-294-4607





HRH & VSC
Have Teamed
Up to:



Serve Veterans, ExOffenders & our Homeless Friends

HHOOT's Distribution Center for Professional & Faith Based Street Outreach - Needs Your Help!

Our new Distribution Center is now open.

We have an ongoing need to collect, store and distribute the below items for our friends in need:

- 1) Men's Clothing (especially large sizes):** Jackets, Coats, shirts, pants, socks, shoes, underwear, sweatshirts, hoodies, gloves, blankets, sleeping bags, etc.
- 2) Hygiene Items, such as:** shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, chap stick, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouth wash, hand lotion, hand sanitizer, etc.
- 3) Non-perishable food products, such as:** package cookies & crackers, fruit & pudding cups, potato chips, small cans of meat, water, sodas, etc.
- 4) Paper and cleaning products, such as:** large paper plates, small paper plates, cups, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, plastic forks & spoons, trash bags, To-go containers, cleaning supplies, etc.

If you have any of the above items that you can help us with; you can drop them off at the address below, call (317) 632-0500, or email me at Hawkins@VSC.ooo

Or, you can

Make a Cash Donation thru PayPal on our web site: www.Homeless.ooo

Your Cash Donations are Tax Deductible and will help buy what is needed but not donated, and help pay our utilities, insurance, etc.

Please consider making a monthly donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$200.

(HRH has been an Indiana Non-Profit Corporation, Public Charity, 501 (c)(3) since November 2008)

"We believe that everybody is somebody at HRH & HHOOT and everyone deserves our respect and our help.

We may not be able to help everyone get everything they need, but that doesn't stop us from trying!"

Remember, Jesus loves you, and so do we! Don Hawkins, Founder & CEO of HRH & HHOOT.

HRH & VSC's Warehouse | 2457 E Washington St, (Behind 30 S Temple Ave)

Homeless | (317) 632-0500 Office | Hawkins@HRH.ooo | www.Homeless.ooo

Veterans | (317) 917-0500 office | Hawkins@VSC.ooo | www.Veterans.ooo



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