



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



September 2020 Newsletter

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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

Important Dates

- Sept** National Suicide Prevention Month; Sept 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day
- Sept 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Sept 11** Patriot Day—Let us not forget Sept 11, 2001.
- Sept 14-20** Howard County Veterans Reunion Week, Sept 14-20—Sandbox Reunion Mon & Tue, Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be Thur—Sat. Bunker will be setup at reunion Tues-Sat. VVA Indiana State Council will be setup Mon-Sat at reunion. Help Bunker pack totes at Vet Center Sept 7-11 starting at 12 noon each day (May not need whole week to pack). Load van & truck on Mon Sept 14 at 12 noon. Tues Sept 15 leave Vet Center at 8am to drive to reunion and setup booth at 10am. Sept 16-19 need help in booth selling. Sat Sept 19 at 6pm help needed to tear down booth and load. Call Steve on this 317-459-6255. Flyer page 6
- Sept 18** National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sept 19** Indianapolis POW/MIA Council will honor POW/MIA Recognition Day at 12 noon online at [FACEBOOK.COM/INDYPOWMIA](https://www.facebook.com/INDYPOWMIA)
- Oct 12** Columbus Day
- Oct 14** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Oct 17** VVA Indiana State Council meeting 11am

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Sept 2, 1945** Japan surrenders, WWII
- Sept 21, 1961** The U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group is activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
- Sept 1 1963** The U.S. Army establishes the 145th Aviation Battalion in Vietnam.
- Sept 30, 1964** General Westmoreland initiates Hop Tac, a pacification operation focused on six provinces around Saigon and based on tactics used by the British in Malaya.
- Sept 2, 1965** The United States announces that over 100 U.S. servicemen are volunteering every day for duty in South Vietnam.
- Sept 6, 1966** Three U.S. soldiers who have refused to serve in Vietnam are court martialed at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The court rejected their idea that the war was illegal and immoral.
- Sept 23, 1967** The Soviet Union signs a new aid agreement with North Vietnam in a Moscow ceremony.
- Sept 4-24, 1968** Troops from the Americal Division and 2nd ARVN Division conduct Operation Champagne Grove in Quang Ngai Province, I Corps.
- Sept 3, 1969** Ho Chi Minh dies in Hanoi at the age of 79.
- Sept 5-Oct 1971** 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in coordination with the ARVN 1st Infantry Division, conducts Operation Jefferson Glen, a search and clear mission to prevent a North Vietnamese buildup & to support pacification operations in Thua Thien Province, I Corps.



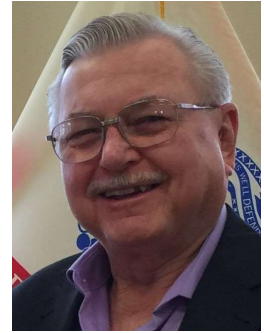
The Bunker

Hours 10am-2pm Sunday

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker will not be setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center in September, since they will be at reunion. If you want to help load at Vet Center on Monday, Sept 14, call Steve 317-459-6255 or help unload/setup on Tuesday morning at reunion. Help needed Tues-Sat at reunion.

President's Message:

Hello Brothers and Sisters,



Hope this finds you well, or getting better. If you are under Doctor's care, please follow their instructions. If you have a family member, or neighbor that is ill, please check on them. You just might be the one that helps them get well sooner.

Many thanks to Tony Gigli, the State Council President for AVVA, and a member of our local chapter, who nominated our own AVVA Chapter 295 President Holly Tookolo for two National Awards. First being the Cathy Keister Spirit of Excellence Award, and the other being the AVVA National Member of The Year. Two Awards, two different committee's, and she was selected for both. Possibly making her the first person to win both awards the same year. Congratulations Holly you deserve these honors and many more for all that you do. The down side of these awards was the fact that National cancelled our Conference in Ohio this year, so that Holly could not be called up on stage to receive these awards in front of her peers.

Speaking of awards in case you did not know, or remember, we give out awards during our Annual Christmas Party each year. The President gives one each to the VVA and AVVA Member that has done the most for the Chapter the past year. Plus Tony and Wanda give out The Gene Gigli Award to the person that they select who has done the most for the Chapter. There is plenty to do both inside and out of the building. You can help to load and unload the van when the Bunker sets up at the VA, or Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion. Plus, you can also help sell at these events. Steve can always use the help, and the Bunker is what has kept this Chapter going as long as it has financially.

Remember, President John Kennedy said "ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY". So, I say to you ask what you can do for our chapter, not what it can do for you.

Rolling Thunder has just held a ride, and challenged all Organizations in the building to donate. We are not sure of the final total yet, but seems like it will be the largest that they have ever had. Along with the ride they also held a 50/50 drawing, and a silent auction, with all proceeds to the building fund. Thank you Rolling Thunder and to all who donated.

Speaking of donations, we still have a few members donating now and then. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Fort Harrison Veteran Center, and mail to VVA 295, PO Box 269279 Indianapolis, In. 46226. Thank you.

Share a smile and kind words with family, friends, and those you meet. It will make theirs and your day brighter. After what we have been through these last few months, wouldn't it be nice to smile a little? I know if you are wearing a mask who will know? You will, that's who.

One more Thing if you are not registered to vote, then please get registered. We fought for the right to vote, so please use it.

May GOD bless America, our troops around the world, and you.

In Comradeship

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

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

VA Helps Families "Remotely Honor" Those Who Served

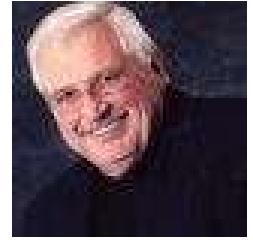
VA's National Cemetery Administration recently expanded its Veterans Legacy memorial website to help family and friends share memories of veterans. The Veterans Legacy Memorial website is the first digital platform dedicated to preserving the memory of some 3.7 million veterans buried or interred at VA cemeteries across the U.S. and its territories After creating an account on the website, visitors can leave a "tribute" to any veteran. Using this website is a great way to honor fallen troops. The VA operates 142 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 41 states and Puerto Rico. To view the Veterans Legacy Memorial website, visit at:

www.va.gov/remember

Vice President's Message:

VVA 295 and AVVA 295 Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that this newsletter finds you healthy and I hope that you are coping with this quarantine as well as you can.



This past Saturday, Rolling Thunder sponsored a charity ride to benefit The Veteran's Center. They had a great turnout for the ride as well as the picnic, games and auctions that followed. This event has been mentioned several times both at past meetings as well as in the newsletter where we asked for volunteers to help with the vent. I am disappointed to report that the turnout of VVA 295 and AVVA 295 members was to put it bluntly, very disappointing. Here is an organization, Rolling Thunder, going out of their way to host an event which directly benefits us and our home, The Ft. Harrison Veteran's Center and we can't even show up with a respectable number of volunteers to help them out. Enough said.

I have been appointed by President Shaw, to chair the fundraising committee and I/we need input as to what you think would be good avenues to help raise money for the chapter. We still have 1/2 of a roof to replace (and pay for). If we don't raise money to help keep the center "afloat" we won't have a "home". We have nearly 300 members and when less than 10 show up it is disheartening.

The Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion is only a couple of weeks away and Steve and Patty can use all the help they can get manning our "Bunker Booth". The "bunker" has been hugely responsible for helping us out. Please help if you can. It is always a lot of fun and I almost always see old friends and re-connect those that I served with. Lots to do, great music and awesome food. Plan on coming if you can.

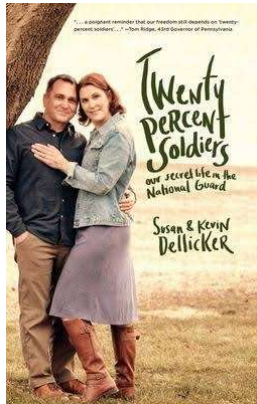
That's it for this month, hope to see you in Kokomo !!

Bob Parsons VVA 295 VP

Phu-Bai, Vietnam, 1966-67-68

PH: 317-919-7589

National Guard Service Affects Family



For about 20 years and counting, Kevin and Susan Dellicker have inhabited a complicated space between military and civilian life. In their recent co-authored memoir, *Twenty-Percent Soldiers: Our Secret Life in the National Guard*, the couple calculated that 20% of their lives together was spent with Kevin on some kind of active military status. In the past, National Guard members were called "weekend warriors." That is not the case the past 20 years. Without a steady support system in place to help ease in the transition, those part time National Guard members are often left alone in reconnecting with their civilian life. Although the military recognizes the discrepancy, the Dellickers noted, things remain at a snail's pace while the need for regional based services multiplies. Kevin said, "That support system is crucial with soldiers and airmen simultaneously supporting overseas combat operations, domestic security missions and coronavirus mitigation efforts." The Dellickers have vouched to donate the book's net proceeds to charities that include the Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors Inc, the 193rd Special Operations Wing Association and the Pennsylvania National Guard Foundation.

Medal of Honor Monument in DC

As reported August 7 by Bing Xiao for *Military Times*, if two senators get their way, Washington, D.C., will make way for another monument — this time, to honor Medal of Honor recipients, according to bipartisan legislation introduced Aug. 5. *The National Medal of Honor Monument Act*, introduced by Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Tim Kaine, (D-VA), would authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to build a monument in recognition of the more than 3,500 recipients who represent its values and performed acts of extraordinary valor in combat.

VVA Service Officers

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September is National Suicide Prevention Month

All of September, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies and community members will unite to promote suicide prevention awareness. One day, World Suicide Prevention Day, is set aside to highlight the message. This year it is Sept 10. Additionally, National Suicide Prevention Week is the Monday through Sunday surrounding World Suicide Prevention Day. In 2020, it runs from Sept 6-12. In March 2019 Trump signed an executive order, titled National Initiative to Empower Veterans and End Veterans Suicide, which aimed to lower the veterans suicides rate by establishing a task force that addressed veterans' wellness, empowerment and suicide prevention. This order is also known as PREVENTS. The PREVENTS Task Force is co-chaired by VA Secretary Robert Wilkie and White House Domestic Policy Council Director Brooke Rollins. The PREVENTS roadmap includes these steps:

- Launching a national suicide prevention campaign.
- Improving suicide prevention research.
- Building partnerships with organizations across the country, as well as local & state governments.
- Develop a public health roadmap that sets a plan needed to lower veterans' suicide rates.
- Propose a program to Congress that gives grants to local communities, which would increase their ability to provide resources to veterans.
- Develop a strategy to improve research in veteran suicide prevention.

To learn more about PREVENTS Task Force, visit www.va.gov/prevents

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

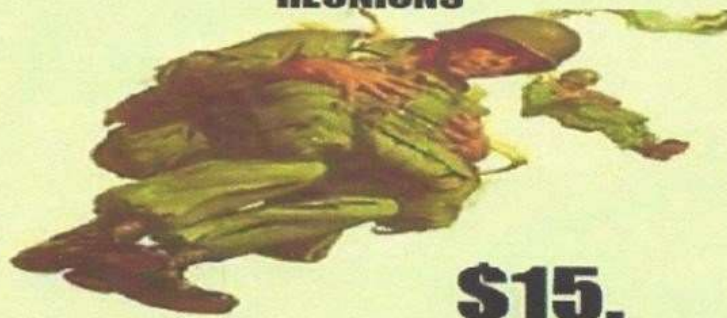
Call Larry Shaw to schedule a speaker from our community. 765-618-4067.

H.C.V.V.O. PROUDLY PRESENTS



SEPTEMBER 14 - 20 2020

6TH ANNUAL SANDBOX & 38TH ANNUAL VIETNAM VETERANS REUNIONS



\$15.

ADMISSION
FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND

~THE PUBLIC IS INVITED & ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND~

MON. SEPT. 14
MERLE CASH JR.
NO NAME BLUES BAND
PEARL JAM TRIBUTE

TUE. SEPT. 15
MONEY SHOT TUCKER
BLINDBOY WILLIAMSON
THAT 90'S BAND

THURS. SEPT 17
TWO FOR THE SHOW
TIME TRAVELERS
ENDLESS SUMMER BAND

FRI. SEPT. 18
RUSS CHANDLER
DOUBLE SHOT DUO
THE BEEPLINE
LIVING PROOF

SAT. SEPT. 19
GRACE SCOTT BAND
BLINDSIDE
BIGGER IS BETTER BAND

SUN. SEPT. 20
CHURCH SERVICE 10AM.

**FOOD, VENDORS, DISPLAYS
LIVE MUSIC SPEAKERS**



THANK YOU SPONSORS



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