



# Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



## May 2021 Newsletter



In May 1868, General John A Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the 620,000+ soldiers killed in the Civil War. On Decoration Day, as Logan dubbed it, Americans should lay flowers and decorate graves of the war dead. In 1968 it was changed to the last Monday in May. It did not become a federal holiday until 1971 when America was deeply embroiled in the Vietnam War.



In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother’s Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers. Anna Jarvis started her campaign to make Mother’s Day a recognized holiday in 1905 when her mother died. She believed a mother is “the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world”.

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Website: [www.vva295.com](http://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](mailto:htookolo@indy.rr.com) 317-844-3554 or cell 317-294-4607

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## VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw	comdshaw@yahoo.com	765-618-4067
Vice President	Don McFarland	dmac101@comcast.net	812-593-2554
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
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Steve Mabrey	spmabrey@comcast.net	317-459-6255
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

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## 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.



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**Reminder: The Veteran Magazine is online at [www.vvaveteran.org](http://www.vvaveteran.org)**

**The March/April issue is out there now. Read the article about 100 years of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On President Woodrow Wilson's last day in office, March 4, 1921, he signed into law a congressional resolution authoring the "bringing to the U.S. of the body of an unknown American" who served in Europe during World War I for burial in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.**

# Important Dates

- May 8** V-E Day, in 1945 marking the end of World War II in Europe.
- May 8** Operation Clean Up 10am, outside clean up
- May 9** Mother's Day
- May 12** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm
- May 14** Salute to Veterans Golf Outing, VVA295 is sponsoring a hole which benefits Wish For Our Heroes. Brookshire Golf Club, SAichele@dva.IN.gov for more info.
- May 15** Armed Forces Day
- May 15** VVA Indiana State Council Meeting in South Bend; 11am Finance; 12pm regular meeting
- May 31** Memorial Day
- June 9** VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 20** Father's Day

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- May 11, 1961** President Kennedy approves sending 400 Special Forces troops and 100 other U.S. military advisers to South Vietnam to train South Vietnamese soldiers.
- May 1, 1965** U.S. III Marine Amphibious Force headquarters is established in Danang to control marine combat operations in I Corps.
- May 2, 1966** The U.S. 1st Aviation Brigade is organized in Vietnam to provide army invasion support for U.S. forces throughout Vietnam.
- May 10-July 30, 1966** The U.S. 25th Infantry Division and ARVN troops conduct Operation Paul Revere/Thang Phong 14, a border screening and area control mission in Pleiku Province, II Corps.
- May 3, 1967** U.S. Special Forces begin Operation Daniel Boone, covert intelligence missions into Cambodia to recon the Ho Chi Minh Trail and enemy staging areas.
- May 9-17, 1968** The 1st Cavalry Division conducts Operation Golden Valley, the evacuation of 1,400 personnel from the Kham Duc Special Forces camp, 60 miles west of Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province, I Corps.
- May 9-12, 1969** The U.S. 5th Marines, in an effort to defend the area's rice and corn fields, engages North Vietnamese troops near Hill 67 in the "Arizona" area, about five miles northeast of An Hoa.
- May 5, 1970** U.S. Air Force launches Operation Freedom Deal to strike targets in Cambodia in support of Cambodian army.



### The Bunker

**Hours 10am-2pm Sunday**

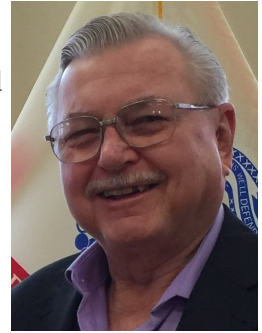
Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. The Bunker is scheduled to be at the VA most of the year. Steve is still looking for another manager to help with the Bunker. Right now Steve and Wallace Vaughn take turns as manager at VA. To volunteer call Holly 317-294-4607; to manage, call Steve 317-459-6255.  
Hours 7am-3pm at VA

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**President's Message:**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Here it is May with temperatures rising, grass greening, and farmers planting. Hopefully the snows are behind us, and a way off in the future. We have a busy month of which you can all take part in, and we hope you will.



First, on May 8th, we can all honor and thank those of the Greatest Generation for V.E. Day 1945.

Second, on May 8th everyone needs to meet at the grounds to do an old police up the grounds, as you did in the service. Remember trash, cig. butts, weeds if it moves pick it up, if it doesn't salute it and move on. If my memory serves me correctly is how they politely used to say it, with a few other words that I will not mention here. But I am sure that you too can remember them. See the enclosed flyer for more information, and please remember to bring your work gloves. The better the grounds look, then the better you as a member will look. Thus making it more appealing for others who might want to join.

The big day that everyone should remember is May 9th, Mother's Day. I know most Mothers have passed on, but there are wives, aunts, daughters, neighbors, or the lonely widow who has no one left. You have it in your power to brighten up their day, by remembering them. To all the Mothers, We wish you a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, hope you have a great day, and THANK YOU, for all that you have done.

May 15th, is ARMED FORCES DAY, THANK YOU FOR SERVING. Please tell all other Veterans that you meet THANK YOU as well. Share your pride, and you will both stand a little taller.

May 31st, MEMORIAL DAY. A day to pause, remember, and give thanks to those who gave their lives fighting for our great country, those who returned home, since passed, and all their families. Be thankful that you made it home. To have a home, family, a career, and to live in freedom. We take so much for granted, We complain if every little thing doesn't go our way. If we are stuck in traffic, or a long line at a check out when someone pays with cash and change. As we gripe and moan about how bad we have it, think of those who never got the chance to experience any of that, and how much they and their loved one's wish that they could have. Life is short, and getting shorter for most of us. Be kinder to everyone, especially those that you love. Reach out to family, friends, even old Army buddy's that you haven't seen or talked with in a while, before it is too late to. You may never get to tell them how much they mean to you, or tell them goodbye. Our lives are filled with I should have done this or that, and didn't. Don't let this be one of yours. Maybe some day after you pass someone, will pause, remember, and thank you. Let's hope that their memory's of you are kind.

Speaking of remembering, some of you may have forgotten that THE BUNKER NEEDS HELP. We just had a few volunteer, and they are not enough help, we need more. We need you. They gave us a larger area to set up in. All you do mainly is write up the ticket as to what they purchased, and maybe help them find what they are looking for. You are not busy all the time as if you were on a time clock. There is a lot of free time for you to shop also. But we need two people a day for lunch and rest room breaks. If you try it, you will have a good time, meet interesting people, and here a lot of good stories. So please give it a try. It is our only fundraiser, and it is doing better all the time. The more money we make, the sooner we can finish getting our roof completed. Then we can focus on helping our fellow veterans, and community.

Please keep those serving, and their family's, in your thoughts and prayers. Keep those flags flying.

Remember; "WE NEVER LOSE UNTIL WE QUIT TRYING" and "WE CAN EACH DO A LITTLE, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN DO A LOT".

May GOD bless America, our troops, and you. Hope to see you at our meeting, and in the Bunker.

In Comradeship,

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

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**New VA Clinic in Peru, IN Still Set for Fall Opening:** The multimillion dollar project broke ground in September 2020 to build the new 20,000 square foot clinic that will double the size of the current clinic in Peru, IN and offer more services like mental health and physical therapy. Despite obstacles created by the pandemic, it is still scheduled to be done by the end of August.

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**VVA Service Officers**

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

**Michael Dolan**  
317-374-5578  
michaeledolan@prodigy.net

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**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/>

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**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).

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**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](mailto:hvaf@hvaf.org)

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**Member Speaker Program at Meetings**– Call Fred Bishop, 765-621-5515 to sign up.

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**Community Guest Speaker at Meetings**

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

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**Membership Report**

As of March 31, 2021 the VVA membership total is 343.

By Steve Anderson

AVVA membership total as of March 31, 2021 is 33.

By Holly Tookolo

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**Something to Think About:** April 2021 former President George W. Bush spoke to 30 people that just became U.S. citizens. He said to be a citizen, not just a spectator. Bush originally said this in his 2001 Inaugural Address. Think about this for a minute. We can apply that to VVA 295. Be an active member, not just a member that does not participate to make VVA 295 better, help with fundraising so we can make the building better and to help Veterans. Be an Active Member.

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**Governor signs law extending hyperbaric oxygen therapy program for veterans**

The state legislature appropriated \$1 Million during the fiscal year 2018-19 biennium for the hyperbaric oxygen program for veterans but only \$272,000 of that has actually been spent. On April 8, Holcomb signed Senate Enrolled Act 91, which extends the program through the year 2025. It also requires the Indiana State Department of Health to send out a new request for proposal or RFP to find hospitals and other facilities that are able to offer hyperbaric oxygen therapy. For more on this story, go to: <https://www.wrtv.com/news/wrtv-investigates/governor-signs-law-extending-hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy-program-for-veterans>

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# **Operation Clean Up**

**Time to clean up outside  
Fort Harrison Veteran Center**

**Date: May 8**

**Time: 10am**

**Bring whatever tools you can.**

**We will need to trim the area with mowers, weed eaters, hedge trimmers and perhaps even chain saws as well as rakes. Roundup too.**

**Please let me know if you plan to join us.**

**Thank you in advance.**

**Steve Anderson,**

**Chairman Grounds Committee**

**317-431-9683**

## Bunker Schedule at VA in May

Below is the schedule for the next four weeks. We could still use more volunteers. Call Holly to volunteer 317-294-4607 or to manage, call Steve 317-459-6255 Hours open at VA are 7am-3pm.

May 3	Andy Thimlar
May 4	Terri Anderson
May 5	Mike Dolan
May 6	
May 7	Ron Ayres(PM)
May 10	
May 11	
May 12	Mike Dolan
May 13	
May 14	Ron Ayres(PM)
May 17	
May 18	
May 19	Mike Dolan
May 20	
May 21	
May 24	
May 25	
May 26	Mike Dolan
May 27	
May 28	



Steve is still looking for a manager. If we could have several managers, they could take turns at the VA.

Thank you to all the volunteers.