



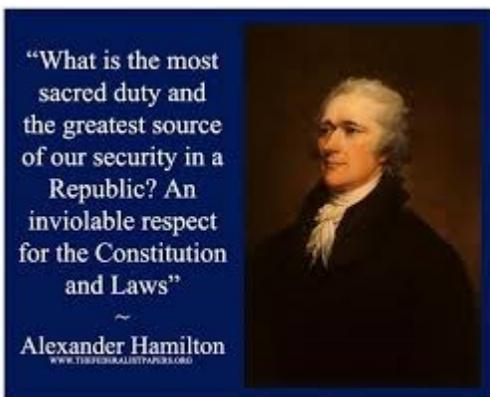
# Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



## September 2018 Newsletter



Over 3,000 died at the hands of terrorists.  
The War on Terror must go on for our Freedom.  
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### VVA 295 Officers

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| President      | Larry Shaw   |
| Vice President | Bob Parsons  |
| Secretary      | Mike Dolan   |
| Treasurer      | Wes Anderson |
| 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 |
|---------------|------------|

### VVA Service Officer

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

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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

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# Important Dates

Sept 3	Labor Day
Sept 5-9	The Wall That Heals in Milan, IN, Baylor Trucking, 9269 E State Road 48, starting 6pm 9/5 until 3pm 9/9. Welcome Ceremony 9/6 at 6pm.
Sept 6	Veteran Stand Down, Indiana National Guard Armory, 3912 W Minnesota St, Indy; setup is 8am; program 11am. IndyGo will be setup to do Veteran bus pass IDs for free; you need to bring DD214 and picture ID or VA ID card. Flyer page 8
Sept 11	Patriot Day
Sept 12	VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:00pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
Sept 14-15	27th Annual Military Vehicle Show & Swap Meet, 9am-5pm daily. Jay County Fair grounds, 806 Votaw St, Portland, IN. Flyer page 9
Sept 21	National POW/MIA Recognition Day at Indiana War Memorial at 12 noon, Flyer page 11
Sept 27-30	The Wall That Heals in Middletown, IN, Dietrich Park, 129 N. Rader Rd.
Sept 29	2018 Women's Veteran Retreat, Lincoln Middle School, 5353 W 71st St, Indy, 8am-5pm with Registration 7:30am, 317-451-9607. Flyer page 10
Oct 10	VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:00pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm

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## THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Sept 21, 1961** The U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group is activated at Fort Bragg, NC. Eventually the group will deploy to South Vietnam.
- Sept 30, 1964** First large scale anti-war demonstration in the U.S. is staged at University of California-Berkeley by students and faculty opposed to the war.
- Sept 1, 1965** The U.S. I Field Force Vietnam headquarters is formed at Nha Trang to coordinate army combat operations in the Central Highlands. The 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) deploys to Vietnam from Fort Benning, GA for combat operations in II Corps.
- Sept 18-21, 1965** U.S. troops from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, conduct Operation Gibraltar, a search and destroy sweep northeast of An Khe in Binh Dinh Province to secure the 1st Cavalry Division's base camp.
- Sept 11-Nov 11, 1967** Task Force Oregon conducts Operation Wheeler in Quang Tin Province, I Corps. Task Force Oregon is redesignated 23rd Division (Americal).
- Sept 20, 1968** MACV defends the use of defoliants in Vietnam at a news conference in Saigon, claiming that their use in selected areas in South Vietnam has neither appreciably altered the country's ecology, nor produced any harmful effects on human or animal life.

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## VVA Calls for the Senate to Pass H.R. 299, & Rename It

"Vietnam Veterans of America calls on the U.S. Senate to honor Vietnam War hero and Navy veteran John S. McCain by passing H.R. 299, The Blue Water Navy Act, and renaming this critical bill in his honor," said John Rowan, VVA National President.

"From his time in captivity in the Hanoi Hilton, where he spurned his captors' offer of early release, putting his fellow POWs first, to his final battle with glioblastoma, Senator John McCain has led an unparalleled life of service to our nation and his fellow Americans. Let us honor the service and sacrifice of Senator McCain by taking care of his fellow Navy Vietnam veterans, who are sick and dying due to their military service, and who unable to receive treatment and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs," said Rowan.

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**President's Message:**

Hello Brothers & Sisters,



I hope this finds you well. If not please let us know. We are family, we should share our joys and pains.

September is here, and several days are to be in the 90's. Those of you who have been attending the meetings know how warm they have been. But hopefully that will change, as we should have our new Portable air conditioner hooked up and in use. Please come to our next meeting to see how it is doing

Kids are back in school, so please obey the laws. Watch your speeds especially in school zones. Stop when School buses stop. Do not go around a bus with its stop sign extended. Keep back a safe distance. Watch for children in the street, and between parked cars. Remember also kids DART and old people FAIL to move as fast as they once did.

Here are a few things for you to ponder on and possibly help with: First we need to get back to Veterans in classrooms. This is what our members used to do to educate students and staff about the war in Vietnam and those who fought it and the effect that it had on them, and those back home. Second; we need to find a needy family here in Lawrence to furnish a meal for at thanksgiving and Christmas.

Third; we need to get involved with long care assisted living facilities, as they have not only veterans but others who may not have family, or visitors. We could go in with a popcorn machine, pop, and movies like Ma and Pa Kettle, Red Skelton, and other comedies from their younger years. These would bring back thoughts of family, friends, and loved ones that they shared these with so many years ago.

From the Vets for Vets Yard sale, and other places I have purchased Christmas Cards that I will make available for the membership to sign so that we may pass them out to those in those facilities, local Police, Firemen, EMT'S and if we have enough to some of the local business owners who have supported us for The Wall. Have some cards to donate? Bring them with you.

In October besides the 50/50 drawing we will also have one for a clock. Proceeds of which will go towards the dinners for the needy. Tickets will be \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00, 12 for \$10.00, 18 for \$15.00, and the best deal 25 tickets for \$20.00. Tickets for both drawings will be sold before the meeting, none sold during meeting, drawings after the close of meeting.

Joe Williams volunteered to chair our Christmas Committee to decorate building, plan meal, and entertainment. If you would like to help with this see Joe, all help appreciated. Party will be December 15<sup>th</sup>, doors open at 5pm, dinner at 6pm.

If you plan to attend the POW/MIA Ceremony, please wear your Green VVA 295 Shirt. Let's show our unity and support for those still missing, and their families.

VVA Building Committee consists of Bob Parsons, Steve Mabrey, Holly Tookolo, and Tony Gigli.

May GOD continue to bless America, our troops and you. Remember always;( We never lose, until we quit trying).

In Comradeship

Larry Shaw—765-618-4067

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## Vice President's Corner

Dear fellow VVA 295 members,



Much of my message this month is comprised of an email that was sent to a few individuals several weeks ago who were concerned about VVA 295's assuming the duties and responsibilities of the Fort Harrison Veteran's Center.

I would like to take a moment to clarify and explain, from my point of view, the events and actions that were taken with regard to the Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

First of all, I would like to state that we, in VVA 295, are very grateful for all of the hard work and effort that the Fort Harrison Building Committee has expended over the last several years with regard to the operation of our building, The Fort Harrison Veterans center, at 59th and Lee Road.

Perhaps a bit of history is in order. Over 10 years ago, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 295, represented by then VVA 295 President Gene Gigli, and the Fort Harrison Re-use Authority entered into a lease agreement that gave Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 295 exclusive use of the building we now know as the Fort Harrison Veterans Center. This lease specifically states that VVA 295 is solely responsible for the operation and upkeep of the facility and prohibits the sub-leasing or renting of space within the building.

Some years ago, Michael Hamm, president of VVA 295 at that time was instrumental in creating the Fort Harrison Veteran's Center, within our building, which provides a home for various veteran's groups. The creation of the Fort Harrison Veteran's Center, however, in no way, negates VVA 295's responsibilities and limitations as specified in the original lease.

It is only through the generosity of VVA 295 that these other veteran's organizations are afforded the privilege of occupying and utilizing portions of our building for their own activities.

Having said that, VVA 295 welcomes these organizations and all that was ever asked of them was that they contribute their fair share in the form of free will monetary donations, work or supplies needed to keep the facility functioning.

The Fort Harrison Building Committee, as it was originally established, consisted of representatives of all of the organizations residing within the center. This committee was established to oversee the overall functioning of the building, including maintenance, bill paying, supply procurement etc. Some of the resident organizations took this responsibility seriously and providing representation on the committee and other much needed assistance. To these organizations, we are most grateful. Other organizations, however, did not bother to attend meetings, participate financially, in housekeeping or with building supply requirements. As a result, the typical attendance at the Fort Harrison Building Committee meetings was woefully sparse, to put it mildly. Further, recently, a number of officers on the building committee indicated their desire to step down from their positions on the committee.

Obviously this created a dilemma, and with all of these factors taken into consideration, the Board of Directors of VVA 295 with the concurrence of the membership, at the August VVA 295 meeting, determined that the only viable solution was for VVA Chapter 295 to take over the operation the building that we are legally responsible for and voted to that effect. This was not a decision taken lightly nor was it one that we really wanted to make.

We are thankful to those individuals and organizations who did contribute their time and effort to operate and improve our facility to what it is today. Of particular note, are the significant renovations and improvements made to the building through a grant from Home Depot facilitated by Ms. Jill Fewell. Rolling Thunder, Vets for Vets and other organizations have orchestrated events to raise funds for the building, efforts for which we are equally grateful. I know I am leaving some organization out, and for that I apologize.

**Continued on next page**

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**Continued from previous page—Vice President’s Corner continued:**

Since taking over the operation of the building , VVA 295 has already made some long needed decisions. One was the purchase of an industrial type air-conditioner for the main meeting room, at a cost of around \$4000. Will this cool the entire building? No...but for now, it will make the main meeting room habitable during the hot summer months.

We are also changing the locks in order to control who has access to the building. Over the years countless keys have been given out and we have no idea as to who they were given, in many cases. On numerous occasions, recently the building was found to be unlocked with no one inside. This is a totally unacceptable situation from a security standpoint , hence the new locks. .

We are fully aware that the decision to re-take the control and responsibilities of operating the building has been met with some degree of resentment by some individuals and organizations. This is indeed unfortunate and this was certainly never our intent.

Hopefully the information above will serve to shed some light on some of the recent changes made and to clear up some misconceptions. VVA 295 sincerely wants to continue to maintain the Fort Harrison Veterans Center as a welcoming home for all current veterans organizations as well as future veterans organizations.

I sincerely want our legacy to be: "Veterans Helping Veterans". But....VVA 295 needs the help and input of all of the organizations currently using the Veteran's Center to keep the building open and functioning in order to continue benefit everyone.

In the near future. VVA 295 intends to solicit input from all of our resident veterans organizations. We want to meet with them individually, to discuss their commitment and how we can all work together to keep the Fort Harrison Veterans Center operating and continuing to provide a welcoming place for all veterans groups to reside.

Many years ago, when our lives were on the line, we depended on each other and were truly a team. I would like to see that feeling of camaraderie continue among us and with all of our associated veteran's groups..

This is your VVA and you have every right to be heard. It is only through your input, ideas and suggestions, be they positive or critical, that we can continue to grow and improve our chapter. Please let your voice be heard.!

Bob Parsons

VVA 295 Vice President

Phu Bai, Vietnam,

1966-67-68

317 919 7589

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This is a picture from the 2017 Veteran Stand Down. Don McFarland, Steve Anderson, Patty Mabrey and myself. Steve Mabrey was there somewhere! This year it is Thur, Sept 6 at Indiana National Guard Armory, 3912 W Minnesota St, Indy; with setup at 8am and program at 11am. IndyGo will be setup to do Veteran bus pass IDs for free; you need to bring DD214 and picture ID or VA ID card. We have Spam and more Spam to pass out this year—\$500 of Spam from VVA 295 and \$500 from Vets for Vets.

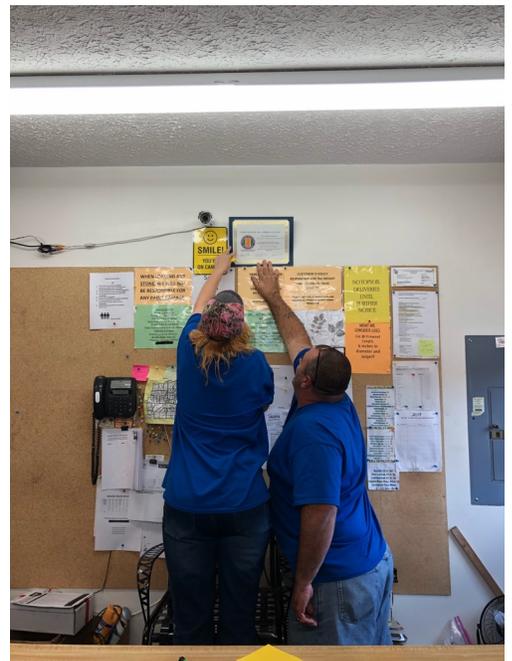
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## Bill Would Make Veterans Involved in 1966 Palomares Nuclear Cleanup Eligible for Benefits

As reported by Julia Bergman for *The Day* on August 30, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., is introducing legislation that would make about 1,000 Air Force veterans, who cleaned up one of worst nuclear accidents in history, eligible for disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. On Jan 17, 1966, an Air Force B-52 bomber collided with a refueling plane, dropping four hydrogen bombs near Palomares, a small farming village on the Spanish coast. The bombs did not detonate, but two of them cracked on impact, releasing more than 3 billion micrograms of plutonium over the Spanish countryside. That’s nearly half the amount released when the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki during WWII. In the months following the Palomares accident, the U.S. military ordered approximately 1,600 service members, mainly U.S. airmen, to the site to search for airplane and bomb parts and to remove irradiated crops and soil. Blumenthal’s bill, the Palomares Veterans Act of 2018, would amend current law to include the Palomares cleanup as a “radiation risk activity.” The VA does not currently recognize Palomares as a radiation risk activity, which would allow vets, who were exposed to radiation during their military service, with certain medical conditions to be entitled to disability benefits. This is S. 3373, introduced into Congress on Aug 23, 2018 and was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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## Supporters of The Moving Wall Visit



**Jimmy John’s on Pendelton Pike  
Proud Manager**

**Indiana Mulch & Stone LLC  
Placing on wall behind counter**

**Larry Shaw and I were honored to present Certificates of Appreciation to supporters that helped when we hosted The Moving Wall.**



### The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center. Steve is getting new items all the time so check out The Bunker.

### The Veteran Magazine Project

Repurpose your copy of The Veteran. VVA board member Jim Pierce brought this terrific idea before the board and membership at our last meeting. After you have read your copy of The Veteran, mark out your name and address. Attach your business card or the VVA business card which is available at the VVA office. Take it to your local library and ask if want your issues of The Veteran. Jim said they were very happy to take his issue. Do this each month to reach out to Veterans in the area and maybe even gain new members. Thank you Jim for a great idea! **Thank you Joann Weaver for taking 25 copies to the Marion County libraries!**

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### AVVA Chapter 295

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is the extended family of VVA. We are made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans, and all persons who support Veterans' issues. AVVA works in conjunction with VVA striving to ensure that Vietnam Veterans, as well as ALL Veterans, attain the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. We are here to help Veterans and VVA Chapter 295 with their programs and activities. **The newly re-designed AVVA website is up and running! Go to [www.avva.org](http://www.avva.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). Most recently Bob Parsons, VVA VP has become a volunteer. Thank you Bob.

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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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**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)

**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](mailto:jonsmitha@comcast.net)

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The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.

~ Norman Schwarzkopf

# VETERAN STAND DOWN



**Thursday, September 6, 2018**

11:00 am: Opening Ceremony

11:15 am—2:00 PM: Veteran Services, Community Resources

Event Site: Indiana National Guard Armory  
3912 West Minnesota Street, Indianapolis, IN

Transportation will be provided from:  
HVAF, Lincoln Apartments, Volunteers of America,  
and The Wheeler Mission to Event Site on rotating basis

**All Veterans with a VA Card or DD214 are invited**



Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation



***STAND WITH THOSE WHO STOOD FOR US***

*27th Annual Salute to the Troops*

# Indiana Military Vehicle Preservation Association

Displays of Military Vehicles, Jeeps, and Trucks. Vehicle Parts & Militaria for sale.  
Living History Displays, Vintage Cars, Food.

## MILITARY VEHICLE SHOW & SWAP MEET

Fri. & Sat., September 14-15, 2018

9AM — 6PM Daily

*Jay County Fairgrounds*

*806 E Votaw Street, Portland, IN 47371*



**\$5.00**

**General Admission**

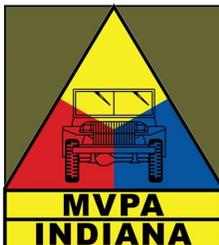
Current Military **FREE** with ID.

Children 6 and under **FREE**.



For Information and vendor sites, contact: Mike Lusty (765) 618-7219 or [Rally@IndianaMVPA.org](mailto:Rally@IndianaMVPA.org)

*Hosted by the Museum of the Soldier in Portland. The annual Museum of the Soldier BBQ chicken dinner is Friday afternoon. \$9/dinner in advance, contact: Jim Waechter at 260-729-7017 or [museum@bright.net](mailto:museum@bright.net).*



- Outdoor & covered vendor spaces—\$20—includes 1 BBQ dinner
- Primitive camping sites
- Vehicle display space—FREE
- Museum of the Soldier—OPEN

Museum  
Of the  
Soldier



Save the Date!

*Pike Township Trustee Committee to  
Support Women Veterans*

*Present*

*2018 Women's Veteran Retreat*

The 2018 Pike Township Women Veterans Retreat theme is "We, Too Served." Please join us Saturday, September 29th, where you will have the opportunity to connect with other women veterans and gather useful information for re-entering and living civilian life.

Topics include

- The War-Torn Heart
  - Military Sexual Trauma
  - Family Adjustment
  - Substance Abuse
  - Suicide Prevention
- The Resilient Veteran
  - The New You at Home
  - Stress Management Techniques
  - Yoga Exercises
  - Spirituality



When: Saturday, 29 September 2018, 8am – 5pm (registration begins at 7:30 am)

Where: Lincoln Middle School, 5353 West 71<sup>st</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

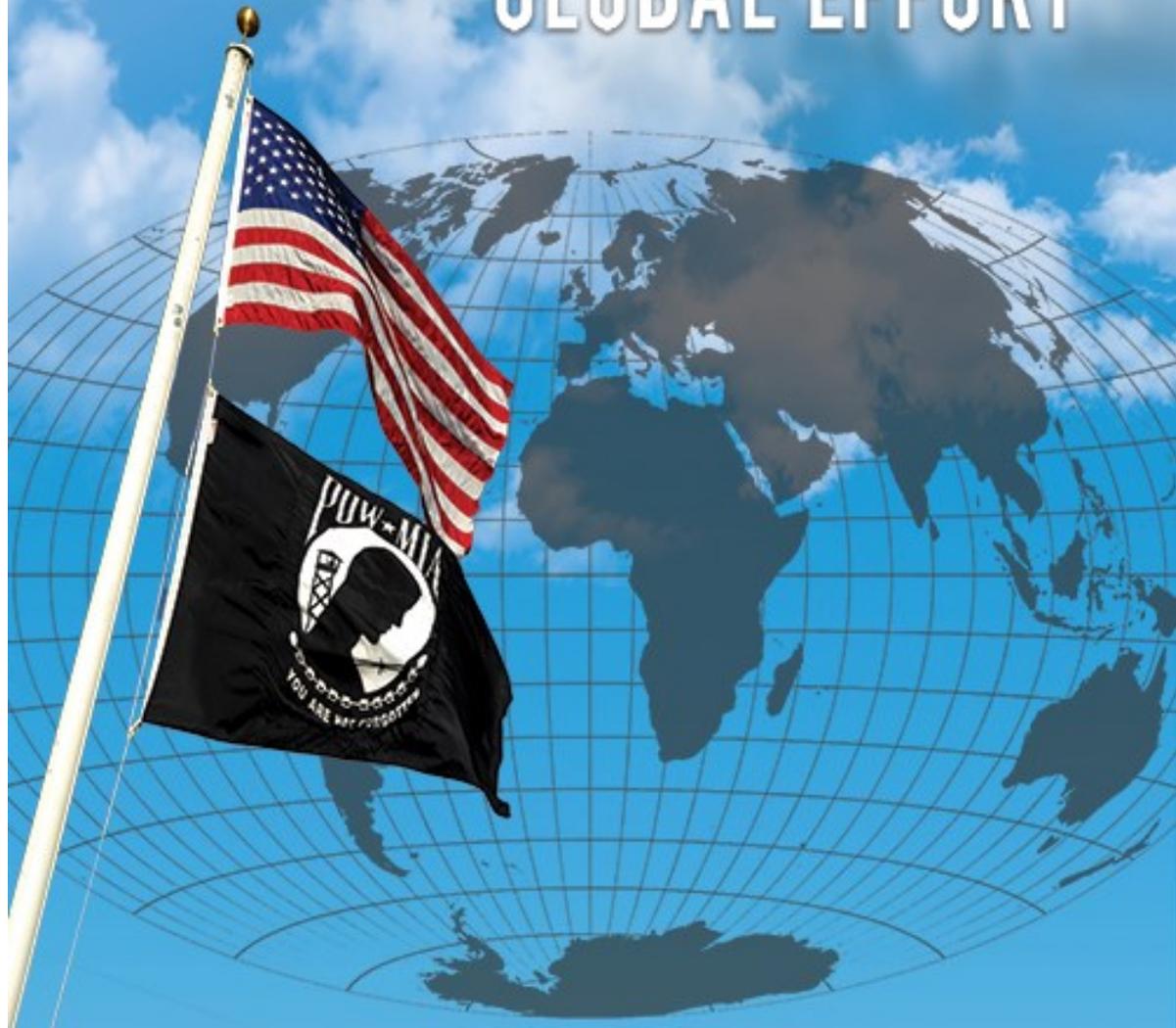
*317-451-9607*

**This event is brought to you by Pike Township Committee to Support Women Veterans:**

**Pike Township Trustee, Lula Patton, Pike YMCA, InteCare Inc, AMVET Post 99, Sister Soldier Network, American Legion Post 438, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**



# NOBLE MISSION, GLOBAL EFFORT



National POW/MIA Recognition Day  
September 21, 2018



[www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)