



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295**



January 2022 Newsletter



2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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 | Don McFarland | dmac101@comcast.net | 812-593-2554 |
| Secretary | Mike Dolan | michaeledolan@prodigy.net | 317-374-5578 |
| Chaplain | Robert Wright | gospelbobw@gmail.com | 317-714-4618 |

Board of Directors

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Steve Anderson | asteton@aol.com | 317-431-9683 |
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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.



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

The November/December issue was mailed and on website. A few AVVA members did not receive this issue in the mail. Be sure to read the article about Operation Paperback that has been sending books to veterans and active duty military since 1999.

Membership Report

VVA membership total as of November 30, 2021 is 346. By Steve Anderson

AVVA membership total as of November 30, 2021 is 36. By Holly Tookolo

Important Dates

| | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 1 | New Year's Day |
| Jan 12 | VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm |
| Jan 17 | Start of Operation Desert Storm 1991 |
| Jan 18 | Martin Luther King, Jr Day |
| Jan 27 | Vietnam Cease Fire 1973 |
| Feb 1 | Ground Hog Day |
| Feb 3 | Four Chaplains Sunday |
| Feb 9 | VVA 295 Board Meeting at 6pm; Regular meeting at 7pm |
| Feb 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 15 | Presidents Day |

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Jan 19, 1961** Outgoing President Eisenhower warns incoming President Kennedy that Laos is the key to the entire area of Southeast Asia and might require the direct intervention of U.S. combat troops.
- Jan 12, 1962** In South Vietnam, the U.S. Air Force launches Operation Ranch Hand designed to defoliate the roads and trails used by the Viet Cong. They will dump an estimated 19 million gallons of Agent Orange between 1962 and 1971.
- Jan 18, 1964** The USS Providence, flagship of the Seventh Fleet, arrives in Saigon on what Washington describes as a goodwill mission and show all powers the U.S. commitment.
- Jan 4, 1965** In his State of the Union message, President Johnson reaffirms the U.S. commitment to support South Vietnam in combating Communist aggression, saying that, "Our own security is tied to the peace of Asia."
- Jan 1, 1966** Advance elements of the 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division, arrive in Vietnam from Camp Pendleton, CA, to conduct combat operations in I Corps; rest of the division will follow by March.
- Jan 8-14, 1966** In Operation Crimp/Buckskin, a massive search and destroy operation in III Corps. U.S. forces from the 173rd Airborne Division and other elements of the 1st Infantry Division, supported by troops from Australia and New Zealand, converge on the Iron Triangle, a stronghold area in northwest Saigon.
- Jan 28-May 31, 67** The U.S. 9th Infantry Division conducts Operation Palm Beach in Dinh Tuong Province, IV Corps. Purpose of the operation is to provide security for the construction of the division base camp at Dong Tam.



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 all 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

Biden Green-Lights Medal of Honor Memorial in Washington, DC

27 Dec 2021, Military.com by Richard Sisk

President Joe Biden signed a bill Monday to build a monument in tribute to recipients of the Medal of Honor in Washington, DC. In a brief statement, the White House said Biden authorized the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation in Arlington, TX, to establish a commemorative work to honor Medal of Honor recipients and the values they represent somewhere in the District of Columbia. The specific site has yet to be determined.

In an interview last week, retired Navy Capt. Chris Cassidy, president of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation, said the authorization would not permit a Medal of Honor memorial site on the "Reserve" of the National Mall, now home to the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Cassidy said he hoped for a site "in the vicinity of the Mall but not on the Reserve." A former Navy SEAL and astronaut, Cassidy projected a budget of about \$60 million for the Medal of Honor memorial, which he said was "purely an estimate, but that's what our target is for fundraising."

Nearly 4,000 Americans have received the Medal of Honor since it was established during the Civil War, and currently there are 66 living recipients. The MOH is presented by the president and is awarded to service members who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor "above and beyond" the call of duty.

Biden separately signed the annual defense policy bill, which included approval for a Global War On Terrorism memorial to be built at a prime spot on the National Mall.

The GWOT memorial was included as part of the massive National Defense Authorization Act also signed by Biden on Monday while the MOH monument was in stand-alone legislation passed unanimously by the House and Senate. In a press release, the GWOT Memorial Foundation said: "The Memorial will honor all who have served and sacrificed in the ongoing international military campaign launched by the U.S. government following the September 11th attacks in an effort to defeat terrorists intending to harm our country and its citizens."

The authorization for the estimated \$40 million GWOT Memorial gave approval for a site that's part of the Reserve on the Mall.

Biden's authorizations for a GWOT Memorial and an MOH monument set off a lengthy and painstaking process involving several agencies, including the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, to gain approval for site selection and design for both projects.

Under terms of the authorizations, funding for the GWOT Memorial and the MOH monument will rely solely on private donations and will not involve any taxpayer money. The eventual designs for the two projects would come from an arts competition.

VA Extends Presumptive Period for Gulf War Veterans

The VA in October announced it has extended the presumptive period for illnesses related to Gulf War burn pit exposure to December 31, 2026. The original deadline was the end of 2021. In a press release, VA announced that it now presumes some illnesses are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. This includes:

Chronic fatigue syndrome, Fibromyalgia, Functional gastrointestinal disorders.

VA stated that it also includes undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms such as:

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VA Caregiver Program Updates

In recent weeks, and unfortunately around the Thanksgiving holiday, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began sending notifications to individuals who have been participating in the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) about their new status in the program as a result of the MISSION Act.

We recognize that this transition and the timing of the notifications are causing anxiety and confusion among many of the veteran caregivers we serve.

Taking a step back, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 expanded the PCAFC program to include caregivers supporting veterans of all eras. To address this new change, in October 2020, VA published a [Final Rule](#) to clarify new eligibility for the PCAFC program. New criteria were established to ensure that veterans with the most acute needs were being served and enough resources were available to support the new group of caregivers that would become eligible during Phase 1 and Phase 2 expansion.

The new criteria places greater emphasis on the frequency and cadence of the Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) in which veterans need assistance. ADLs include eating, bathing, dressing, transferring, and toileting. EDF has raised concerns about these new criteria in all of our public comments and feedback to the VA, particularly around how caregivers and veterans will be evaluated to determine if support for ADLs is needed on a "daily basis" and "each time" they perform an ADL. For more information on the Final Rule, click [here](#) <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/pdfs/MissionAct/CaregiversPCAFCeEligibilityFAQ73120.pdf>

Participants who applied or were accepted into the PCAFC program before October 1, 2020 are considered Legacy Participants. In accordance with the Final Rule, these participants are to be re-evaluated to determine whether or not they meet the new criteria. These re-evaluations were planned to be completed by October 1, 2021, however the VA was unable to complete them due to the influx of new PCAFC applications. To address this, the VA is continuing to conduct re-assessments past October 2021. If a Legacy Participant is found to be eligible for a higher tier, they will immediately be moved and see an increase in their stipend. However, if a Legacy Participant is found to be ineligible for PCAFC under the new criteria, they will stop receiving their stipend on October 1, 2022. For more information on Legacy Participants, lick [here](#). <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/pdfs/MissionAct/Legacy-Reassessment-Factsheet-11192020-Final.pdf>

If you have been removed from PCAFC and disagree with this determination, a recent court ruling has allowed caregivers and veterans to appeal their decision. Over the next six months, all PCAFC applicants will receive a letter explaining their appellate rights. For more information on the appeals process and VA forms, click [here](#). https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/PCAFC_Appeals.asp

For more on the Caregiver Program, go to <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/> or call the VA Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274, Monday-Friday 8am-10pm ET and Saturday 8am-5pm ET

Continued from pg 4, VA Extends Presumptive Period for Gulf War Veterans

Abnormal weight loss, Cardiovascular disease, Muscle & joint pain, Headache, Menstrual disorders, Neurological & psychological problems, Skin conditions, respiratory disorders, Sleep disturbances.

Some veterans who have illnesses caused by burn pit exposure, officially known as particulate matter exposure, now can apply for VA disability benefits. Veterans who served in the Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan wars should contact an accredited service officer to discuss if they are eligible to file a VA claim.

Bunker Schedule at VA

We need volunteers every week at the VA. Call Holly to volunteer 317-294-4607. Steve is still looking for another manager so they can take turns at the VA. To manage, call Steve 317-459-6255. Hours open at VA are 7am-3pm.



Dennis Smalling
317-313-1577
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VVA Service Officers

Michael Dolan
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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.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

Community Guest Speaker at Meetings

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

Signs of PTSD

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental health issue that can develop after witnessing a life-threatening event like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault. Symptoms may last for several months. The first step to helping those with PTSD is [becoming aware of the symptoms and seeking help](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/print/understandingptsd_booklet.pdf). (For more: https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/print/understandingptsd_booklet.pdf)

Four of the most common symptoms are:

- Reliving the event
- Avoiding things that remind you of the event
- Having more negative thoughts and feelings than before the event

Feeling on edge or using substances to cope

Seeking treatment can help Veterans and their loved ones learn how to manage and understand what they are experiencing. Treatment may help improve overall quality of life and teach useful coping skills. For help, call 1-800-273-8255 or 911 or go to your local emergency room or chat online at <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

Indiana Virtual Veterans Experience Action Center is Jan 25-27, 2022, 10am-3pm. This is 1-on-1 personalized assistance. To learn more about this event & register online, go to www.va.gov/veac