



Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



April 2019 Newsletter



April 21, 2019

America without her soldiers would be like God without his Angels. ~ Claudia Pemberton



VVA 295 Officers

- President Larry Shaw
Vice President Bob Parsons
Secretary Mike Dolan
Treasurer Wes Anderson
Asst Treasurer Jim Pierce
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

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

Important Dates

- April 1-5** Bunker is setup at Roudebush VA; Call Steve 317-459-6255 to help loading/unloading van.
- April 6** VVA Indiana State Council , 12 noon in South Bend; finance mtg at 10:30am
- April 9** Free Dental Care, Aspen Dental Mouthmobile, 9am-3pm; 700 N. Pennsylvania St, Indy, make appt 317-951-0688; see flyer on page 8
- April 10** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- April 21** Easter
- April 27** Shred It Day, 10am-1pm, several locations, see flyer page 7
- May 4** VVA Indiana State Council , 12 noon in Indy; finance mtg at 10:30am
- May 6-10** Bunker is setup at Roudebush VA; Call Steve 317-459-6255 to help loading/unloading van.
- May 8** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- April 15, 1962** Arriving aboard the aircraft carrier Princeton, the first U.S. Marine Corps air unit lands in South Vietnam. The 362nd Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron with 450 marines and 15 Sikorsky UH-34D Sea Horse helicopters will be based near Soc Trang, 100 miles south west of Saigon.
- April 25, 1964** President Johnson announces that General William Westmoreland will replace General Paul Harkins as head of U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.
- April 1, 1965** U.S. Air Force begins Operation Steel Tiger to strike targets in the Laotian panhandle to interdict troops and supply movement down the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
- April 12, 1967** Task Force Oregon is formed in response to MACV's need for reinforcements in I Corps. The task force is stationed at Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province.
- April 21-May 17, 1967** The 1st U.S. Marine Division conducts Operation Union to eliminate Communist strongholds between Chu Lai and Danang Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces, I Corps.
- April 4, 1968** Martin Luther King, Jr is assassinated in Memphis.
- April 15, 1970** The 1st Infantry Division officially departs from Vietnam, bound for duty in Germany and Fort Riley, Kansas.
- April 1, 1971** The 1st Marine Division withdraws from Vietnam.

We're blessed with the opportunity to stand for something—for liberty and freedom and fairness—and these are things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to. Ronald Reagan



The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.
The Bunker will be setup at Roudebush VA on April 1-5.
Call Steve if you are going to help load/unload, 317-459-6255.

President’s Message:

Greetings Everyone,

At this time I am busy conducting important VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veteran Center business. See you at the April 10 meeting.

May God Bless America, our Troops and you.

In Patriotism,

Larry Shaw

765-618-4067



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 members Bob Parsons and Mark Fix have become volunteers Thank you Pat, Bob and Mark.

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

Special Program for Veterans at St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital

The Stars & Stripes Program honors the military service of Veteran patients. The Veteran patient receives:

- A Stars & Stripes arm band
- An American Veteran door magnet displayed on their hospital room door.
- Staff will greet them with a “Thank you for your service” acknowledgement
- A “Final Salute” ceremony conducted by hospital staff will take place to honor deceased Veterans when they leave the hospital.



“We would not have the opportunities and freedom this nation has today without the courageous accomplishments of our veterans, said Mike Schroyer, president, St. Vincent Anderson. “The Stars and Stripes program is to display our support and gratitude for our veterans, ensuring that they are being recognized with the respect and care that they deserve.”

The "Final Salute" is a special ceremony put on by the hospital acknowledging the death of a veteran. The start of the ceremony is signaled by a hospital-wide notice calling a “Code Stars and Stripes unit.” That announcement notifies staff not immediately working with patients to gather in two lines stretching back from the main entrance. All staff stand at attention in the hallway leading to the elevators. Other staff, veterans and non-veterans, may serve as honor guards and are invited go to the patient's room. They drape the deceased veteran with an American flag and prepare to transport him or her to the front entrance. When ready, a hospital operator begins playing "Taps" and an "honor walk" procession escorts the deceased veteran out of the building. There are also plans for a veterans reflection garden in front of the hospital next to the flag pole. The garden will include benches, flags representing each branch of service and a plaque honoring veterans.

Vice President's Corner

VVA 295 Brothers and Sisters,

Hope this finds you all well as we move into Spring and Summer activities.



Thank you for responding to our call for guest speakers at upcoming chapter meetings. I, for one, am looking forward to having you share your experiences and some of what you did while in Vietnam. I think that in 5 or 10 minutes you can give us all an idea of what you did while in country. Having said that, in order to maintain our "PG" rating at meetings we should probably leave our R&R adventures out ! Please contact Fred Bishop if you would like to participate.

I keep bumping into Vietnam vets wherever I go, the grocery, gas station the mall etc. I always try to go up to them and "Welcome Them Home" and chat for a moment. It amazes me how many of them have never heard of our organization. I always try to invite them to attend one of our meetings and many are very receptive. We all need to "get the word out" about the VVA and Chapter 295 in particular. Many of our current chapter members were invited "on board" in just this manner. Please spread the word when you are out and about.

The upcoming VVA National Convention in Spokane, WA, promises to have some very interesting topics. One of these is: What is to become of the VVA in the not too distant future. Several study groups, at the VVA National level, have investigated 2 possibilities. 1. Do we simply dissolve the VVA at some point in the future or 2. Do we form a new organization as an entity to archive all of the information and policies the VVA has instituted and achieved over the past 40 years as a way to assist the newer vets and their groups. It is very likely that the delegates to the convention will be asked to vote on these options and now is the time for you to voice your preference. This is your VVA and you deserve to be heard.

On another topic, we need to get back into the schools to help educate our young folks about the "true history" pertaining to Vietnam which is not necessarily what they find in their textbooks or what is taught by teacher who were not there and in some cases not even alive when the war was being fought. If you have any connection within a school and could help us to be permitted into the schools and to meet with students please share that information at the next meeting. Wallace Vaughn has coordinated this program in the past, so he would be the person you should share your information with.....or any BOD member. We also need volunteers to join this program when we go into the schools. In the past we have found the students to be keenly interested in all aspects of the war, the people, topography, climate , customs etc. This is a way that we can continue our legacy, so please volunteer to assist.

That's all for this month, hope to see you at the next Chapter meeting in April.

Stay safe and God Bless

Bob Parsons VVA 295 Vice-President

Phu-Bai, Vietnam, 66-67-68

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

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/>



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Indiana State Council

P.O. Box 269279 Lawrence, IN 46226-9279
Phone: 317-547-4748 e-mail: info@vva295.org



A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

March 27, 2019

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Veterans Health Administration

Point of contact, insist on quality from Primary Care Physician or doctor you are dealing with. I realize this is the main source of frustration.

Go to "Patient Advocate Office", "A" elevators, second floor. Phone (317) 988-2602. They will attempt to resolve the problem by working with veteran and hospital. Don't lose your temper. Be firm but polite.

After that you are forced into contacting legislature as there is not a higher appeal process in the medical system, short of a tort claim.

Don't let it go. Don't quit. If the medical system doesn't help you, fight, there is another veteran coming in behind you for the same services. You might help him.

Veterans Benefits Administration

Educate yourself. Talk to other vets and make sure they are aware of what they are eligible for. I'm surprised by the amount of mis-information that exists. Stay in touch with your VSO. They have experience with all of your rights and avenues of appeals. VSO's can't change the laws or policies of VA, you have to contribute to that by taking time to contact the legislative branch about issues and bills that are important to veterans issues. "DON'T GIVE UP!"

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

These folks do pay attention to what they hear from constituents. Be respectful, ask for the person who handles veterans affairs. Do your homework and be precise, accurate and straight to the point. Have any info they may need (phone numbers, names, congressional bill numbers etc...) on hand before you call. Again, you catch more flies with sugar than vinegar.

The Honorable Mike Braun
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: 202-224-4814
Fax: 202-224-5011

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: 202-224-5623
Fax 202-228-1820

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The Honorable Andre Carson
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Ph: 202-225-4011
Fax: 202-225-5633

The Honorable Susan Brooks
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Ph: 202-225-2276
Fax: 202-225-0016

Whitehouse VA Hotline --- 855-948-23111

If you are in a different district, call me for their info.

Thanks
Dennis Smalling 317-313-1577

Speaker Program at Meetings—Fred Bishop, Chairman 317-918-1142



Call Fred to sign up. Speakers signed up so far: April Robert Wright
May Don Garhart
June Bob Parsons
July Verne Hanson
Aug Joe Williams
Sept Ron Ayres

Guest Speaker at Meetings

Last month our guest speaker was Katresha Taylor, Manager of Volunteer Services at Kindred Hospice—Indy North. She is seeking Vietnam Veteran Volunteers to help conduct Welcome Home ceremonies for our Veterans. Contact her to volunteer: 317-381-0095, 317-987-4597, Katresha.Taylor@Kindred.com

AARP Real Possibilities **Indiana** Presents Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana's

Community Shred-IT and Electronics Recycling Day

Saturday April 27, 2019
10 am to 1 pm

Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back is Available Onsite Sponsored by **Walgreens**
Trusted since 1901

Five Central Indiana Locations

- Indianapolis: WTHR 1000 N. Meridian St
- Carmel/Boone County: Creekside Middle School 3525 W. 126th St.
- Lawrence/Indy East: Lawrence Police Department
- Speedway/Indy West: Speedway Police Department
- Greenwood/Indy South: Greenwood Park Mall 1251 US Highway 31

- A \$5 donation is requested per shredding box. Help Crime Stoppers raise their reward fund to keep our communities safe.
- No tax dollars are used for the Crime Stoppers operating fund. For more information go to www.crimetips.org.
- There is a \$10 fee for all TV and computer monitors recycled. Personal electronics and computers are free with Technology Recyclers.
- This event will be a DEA Pharmaceutical drug take back. Please no needles or sharp objects.






VETERANS: SIGN UP FOR FREE DENTAL CARE ON ASPEN DENTAL'S MOUTHMOBILE

WHEN Tuesday, April 9th
From 9am - 3pm

WHERE 700 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

HOW To make an appointment call: Audrey Hopkins
 (317) 951-0688

WHAT For one day, Aspen Dental will provide free dental care to veterans. Care includes (but is not limited to) cleanings, fillings and extractions. Veterans should call to make an appointment as we cannot guarantee care for walk-ins.

