



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



September 2016 Newsletter

September Meeting Cancelled

President's Message



Dear Members,

The Bunker will be setup as a vendor at the 34th Annual Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion near Greentown, IN. Setup is 8am on Wednesday, Sept 14; Tear down and load truck is 6-8pm on Saturday, Sept 17.

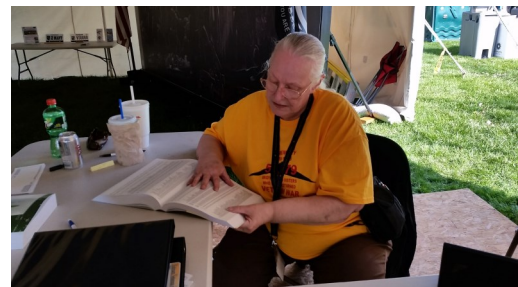
Steve and Patty could use help with Setup/Tear Down/Load Truck, plus to work in the booth during all four days.

Please help out. The Bunker is VVA's only income.

Thanks, *Ken Walters*, President of VVA 295

Member Update:

Linda Conway is in Evergreen Crossing, 5404 Georgetown Road, Indianapolis, IN 46254, Room 151; phone 317-593-1151. Please give Linda a call or visit. Linda would greatly appreciate it.



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 269279, Indianapolis, IN 46226-9279

Phone: 317-547-4748

Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN

Website: www.vva295.com

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm; Board Meeting 6:30

Important Dates

- Sept 7 Stand Down setup at 1-4pm.
- Sept 8 Stand Down 2016, AMVETS Post 99, 2840 Lafayette Rd, Indy, starts at 11am.
- Sept 11 Remembering 9/11 at 9/11 Memorial, 421 W. Ohio St, Indy at 3:30pm
- Sept 14 VVA 295 meeting is CANCELLED.
- Sept 14-18 34th Annual Vietnam Veterans & All Veterans Reunion, at Howard County Vietnam Veterans property.
- Sept 16 POW MIA National Day of Recognition at Indiana War Memorial at 12 noon.
- Sept 21-25 American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall in Mitchell, Indiana, Persimmon Festival on display in the City Hall parking lot. Former Navy Seal, Dan Cabel is speaker at Opening Ceremony at noon Thursday, Sept 22.
- Sept 22-25 The Wall that Heals in Richmond, Indiana in Veterans Memorial Park, hosted by Wayne County Veterans and VVA Chapter 777. American Huey 369 on Sept 23; Sammy Davis, CMH is guest speaker 2pm Sept 24.
- Oct 12 VVA 295 Meeting; 6pm is Chili Cook-off & pitch-in. Bring a pot of chili or a side dish to share; 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular meeting.
- Oct 15 Tentative—Indiana VVA State Council Meeting and Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting

VA Adds New Women's Chat Service: The VA's Women Veteran Call Center is expanding its outreach to women Veterans with a new online, one-to-one Chat Function. The new service enables women Veterans to go online and anonymously chat via real-time text messaging with a trained WVCC representative. The new feature provides women Veterans with another avenue to ask general questions about benefits, eligibility and services specifically for women Veterans. WVCC chat is available by visiting the Women Veterans Health Care webpage at www.womenshealth.va.gov and clicking the "Chat with the Women Veterans Call Center" icon. As the Chat Function is anonymous; please do not use personally identifiable information such as social security numbers. WVCC Chat is available Monday through Friday 8 AM - 10 PM ET, and on Saturdays from 8 AM - 6:30 PM ET. - See more at: <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/programoverview/wvcc.asp#sthash.DHj0v2xX.dpuf>

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

September 30, 1966 Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower tells newsmen in Chicago that he favors using "as much force as we need to win the war in Vietnam."

September 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.

September 5, 1969 Lieutenant William Calley is charged with six specifications of pre-meditated murder in the deaths of 109 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in March 1968.

September 16, 1974 President Ford offers amnesty to Vietnam-era draft evaders.

VA Pilot Program Provides Service Dogs for Mental Health

<http://www.militarytimes.com/articles/va-pilot-to-cover-service-dogs-for-mental-health-conditions>

Veterans with mental disorders that prevent them from leaving their homes or moving around may qualify for a service dog under a new Veterans Affairs program introduced this month.

VA officials said Tuesday that a Service Dog Benefits pilot will cover the veterinary costs of a service dog for a veteran with a mental health condition that limits their mobility.

This would include patients whose medical teams believe their lives would be improved by a dog that can help get them out of bed each morning, go outside, shop or go to social functions.

While VA already covers veterinary care for service dogs that assist blind or deaf veterans and those with mobility restrictions caused by a physical disability, the pilot marks the first time the benefit is being extended to veterans whose primary diagnosis is a mental health disorder, said Dr. Harold Kudler, chief medical consultant for the Veterans Health Administration.

Kudler said many mental health conditions, including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia and post-traumatic stress disorder, can limit a sufferer's mobility.

Under the pilot, interested veterans will be assessed by their VA medical team to determine whether they would benefit from a service dog, whether they can care for the dog and what goals would be achieved by having a dog.

A consult then would be sent to the VA's national Prosthetics and Sensory Aids office, which would refer the veteran to Assistance Dogs International, an organization that contracts with the VA to manage the pairing and training of a veteran and a dog.

VA will cover the cost of travel to get the dog and veterinary care and equipment such as harnesses or backpacks for the animal. ADI organizations usually provide the dog at no cost to a veteran. The veteran is responsible for the costs of food, over-the-counter medications, grooming, boarding and any other dog-related expenses.

The pilot, created by the new VA Center for Compassionate Innovation, expects to enroll up to 100 veterans from around the country, at an estimated total cost of \$230,000 per year.

Veterans are encouraged to talk to their mental health doctors and treatment teams if they are interested, said Leila Jackson, director of the VHA Center for Compassionate Innovation

"We said 100 veterans will participate because we want to be able learn from the pilot to see if this really will help," Jackson said. "We are sharing information to get the word out so veterans will know

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about it.”

The pilot is separate from an ongoing study at VA on the effectiveness of dogs for treating PTSD. That research, which has paired 67 veterans with service dogs and companion dogs, seeks to determine whether trained service dogs are more effective in helping a veteran manage PTSD symptoms than an “emotional support dog,” otherwise known as a pet. Kudler said the pilot specifically targets mobility issues related to mental health conditions because by regulation, VA only can cover the veterinary costs of service dogs for visual, hearing or mobility disabilities. Including mobility limitations tied to mental health disorders was the fastest way to extend the service dog benefit to these patients, according to Kudler. Kudler said that for some patients, like a former World War II prisoner of war he treated early in his career, the pilot could prove to be a great benefit.

“He would go to the grocery store and fill up the shopping cart and then get in line, and at that point, the anxiety built because he was trapped in line,” Kudler recalled. “So he would just up and leave the groceries, get in his car and go home. I honestly believe a dog would have been a very big help for that man.”

Phone Scam

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is warning about a telephone scam being conducted in its name. Unknown individuals have been cold-calling people across the United States, often from 315-516-2512, and requesting donations for the upcoming presidential election. The callers say they are doing so on behalf of MOPH and mention the name of the group’s national commander, Robert Puskar. “These calls are a hoax,” read a MOPH statement, which asks people to contact local authorities if they receive such calls.

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 meats, 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.



The American Flag represents all of us and all the values we hold sacred. ~ Adrian Cronauer