



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



October 2017 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings, all,

These past few weeks have been very busy with the Kokomo Veterans Reunion, The Texas Tenors and preview showing of the PBS special "the Vietnam War", the POW/MIA ceremony, and the Chapter 295 meeting.



Steve Anderson, Ron Sukenick & I were there to meet and greet other Vietnam Vets and their families at the Texas Tenors. We had a table and we gave out info for our chapter and a few lapel pins. A special thanks to Joanne Weaver from AVVA, who was there to support us as well. Ron also had the opportunity to deliver a three minute message that also helped us get the word out on what we do at the local chapter. Nice job, Ron, on making this event happen for us, and, hopefully, solidifying our relationship with WFYI, Channel 20.

The only thing that could have made it better was a greater participation by our membership...come on guys, get off the couch and get involved! You too, AVVA.

Thanks,

Michael L. Hamm

Vietnam Veterans of America

President, Chapter 295

Stand for our flag because it represents each soldier who died protecting it. Author Unknown

October 11th Meeting

6:30pm Board Meeting

7:00pm Regular Meeting

VVA 295 Officers

President	Mike Hamm
Vice President	Ron Sukenick
2nd Vice President	Larry Shaw
Secretary	John Brocklehurst
Treasurer	Tom Donovan

Board of Directors

Steve Mabrey	Jim Finney
Steve Anderson	Jim Pierce
Wes Anderson	Ken Walters

Agent Orange Advocate

Mmoja Ajabu

AVVA Chapter Representative

Holly Tookolo

AVVA State President

Tony Gigli

VVA Service Officer—Dennis Smalling

Call 317-313-1577 to schedule an appointment for your VA benefits and claims.

Important Dates

- Oct 2-6 The Bunker will be setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center. Help would be appreciated at VA on Monday, Oct 2 at 6:30am to unload van and Friday, Oct 6 at 3:30pm to load van.
- Oct 4-7 306th Bomb Group Historical Association Reunion at Hilton Garden Inn Indy Airport
- Oct 10 Fort Harrison Veterans Center Building Committee meeting, 7pm
- Oct 11 VVA 295 meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm.
- Oct 14 Red, White & Brew Fest, 2-6pm, American Legion Mall, downtown Indy
- Oct 21 VVA & AVVA State Council meeting, 12 noon lunch; 1pm is meeting.
- Oct 22 VVA-AVVA 295 Family Cookout & Silent Auction, 2-7pm, see article on page 4
- Oct 26 US Air Force Concert Band, Free, 7:30pm. See article on page 4 & flyer page 8
- Nov 8 VVA 295 meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm.
- Nov 11 Veterans Day—Indianapolis Veterans Day Parade, more details coming soon
- Nov 18 VVA & AVVA State Council meeting & Thanksgiving meal; bring a dish to share; 12 noon is lunch; meeting to follow
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Oct, 1964** U.S. Fifth Special Forces Group deploys to Vietnam from Fort Bragg, NC, to oversee Special Forces operations in-country.
- Oct, 1965** The 1st Infantry Division deploys to Vietnam from Fort Riley, KS; it will initially be stationed in Bien Hoa Province, III Corps. U.S. Navy establishes support base at Danang.
- Oct, 1967** People's Army of Vietnam forces begin attacks near the U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh. The U.S. 198th Infantry Brigade deploys to Vietnam from Fort Hood, TX, to join the Americal Division for combat operations in I Corps.
- Oct, 1969** An Air Force magazine cover story: "The Forgotten Americans of the Vietnam War," ignites national concern for the prisoners of war and the missing in action. It is reprinted in condensed form as the lead article in the November 1969 issue of Reader's Digest, and read in its entirety on the floor of Congress and inserted into the Congressional Record on six different occasions. This article stirs the conscience of the nation and rallies millions to the cause of the POWs and MIAs.

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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 6:30

Newsletter Editor: Holly Tookolo If you have any information for the newsletter, please send it to my email: htookolo@indy.rr.com

Vice President's Corner

Hi everyone and welcome to the fall season here in Indiana.

Special thanks to fellow VVA member, Lloyd Atterson for a funny and interesting rendition of his military career . Never knew he did an Elvis tribute. Maybe we can get him to entertain us if we make the request.



We have a FUN get together / Cookout / Silent auction that's being scheduled in Oct - Please see if you and your love one can join us - You'll learn more about this at the Oct 11th meeting.

SPECIAL MEMBER OUTREACH TEAM COMING TOGETHER - "OPERATION VVA295 OUTREACH"

Fred Bishop, our Chapter Chaplin, has agreed to lead a team of callers starting in October to reach out to all current members. The purpose of the call will be to simply check in and see how our members are doing. We currently have approximately 260 members and as we know, at the most, maybe only 50 show up on a monthly basis. We want to increase that number and need your help in making the calls. We also want to help our members if help is needed. We never know what support our member's need unless we communicate with them. If you would like to be on that team - (meaning that your willing to make at least 10-15 calls for the chapter) - then put the time aside to meet with Fred and myself after the October 11th meeting.

Lastly, I hope that everyone is enjoying the Ken Burns series on PBS. I personally find the series interesting with lots of knowledge on how it all came together. I'm noticing that watching it brings up a little bit of emotion that's controllable. If you would like, maybe we can take a few moments to discuss the series at the Oct 11th meeting.

As always, I'm always available to speak - I'm reachable at rs@ronsukenick.com or 317-696-1367

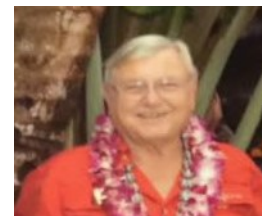
Look forward to seeing everyone on the 11th.

Regards, Ron Sukenick, Vice President - VVA Chapter 295

2nd Vice President's Corner

Greetings Everyone,

Our next meeting will be October 11th. At this time you will be asked what food you will be bringing to our Chapter get together on Oct. 22nd.



We will be having a silent auction during that time. If you attend the Chapter meeting, I ask that you bring some thing for the auction. Please include your name and cost of item so we can get a fair starting bid. The money raised will go into an account to bring The Wall here again next year. You may also go to businesses to see if they will donate items or gift cards for the event. Plus, we will need a large turn out from you to bid on these items, and make it a success. Thank you

I have noticed a decline of some of our VVA and AVVA members at the past meetings. .This is your Chapter and your meeting. If you feel that there is a problem, your staying away will not resolve it. But it will allow it to get worse. We have an election in April. You should come to these meetings, to find out who you wish to represent the Chapter and you for the next two (2) years both in the community, and in our meetings,

Pray for the safety of our Troops, and Nation.

Remember we each can do a little, but together we can do a lot.

Larry Shaw, 2nd Vice President—VVA Chapter 295, 765-618-4067

Free Flu Shots for Veterans that are VA patients at Walgreens & Duane Reade, see attached flyer on page 7. You can also go to the VA for flu shot.

VVA-AVVA 295 Quarterly Family Cookout Sunday Oct 22 - 2 - 7 pm

Mark your calendars and plan to bring your family! Bring a side dish and we will supply hamburgers and hot dogs from the grills. SPAM has also been requested! Tea and soft drinks will also be provided. Larry Shaw is planning a Silent Auction to raise a little money for the chapter during the picnic. How it works is members donate nice new or gently used items or collectibles for the auction. Members can also get donated items from businesses, There is a sheet by each item and people can bid on those items. If you'd like to donate please bring items to the next chapter meeting on Oct 11 (6:30 pm) or the day of the picnic. At the chapter meeting Oct 11 we'll also pass around a sign up sheet and you can list what side dish you'd like to bring and an estimate of how many family members may attend. If you have any lawn games like lawn darts, corn hole etc., it'd be great if you brought them to the picnic along with checkers, sidewalk chalk, bubbles. We'll talk about it Oct 11 but if you have any questions, please call either Joann Weaver (765) 432-9908 (picnic) or Larry Shaw (765 618-4067 (silent auction). Come eat, drink, play with your families and comrades!

US Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants

Please take this opportunity get your *free* tickets to join the MSD of Pike Township in welcoming the United States Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants for "Breaking Barriers". This is a free concert celebrating the 70th anniversary of your United States Air Force on **October 26 at 7:30 p.m.**

WHERE: **Pike Performing Arts Center**

WHEN: **Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**

COST: **All Air Force concerts are free and open to the public.**

Additional ticket and concert information: www.pike.k12.in.us or [click this link to get tickets now!](#) Please note, seating is on a first come basis.

The Air Force Concert Band is excited to play a new wind ensemble version of "Red Tail Skirmish", which *celebrates the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen*. They will also be joined on stage by some of Pike High School's very talented band and choir students. The onstage experience affords our students the opportunity to perform alongside musicians demonstrating Air Force excellence and professionalism.

Pike Performing Arts Center is located at 6701 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. There is plenty of free parking and is handicap accessible. Lobby doors open at 6 p.m. and seating begins at 7 p.m. This concert is the last stop on their national tour, that will have included performances throughout Missouri, Kansas, Illinois and Indiana. We hope you can attend this show. Please invite your family and friends! This is a free, ticketed event, open to the public. **Download your free tickets now.** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/usaf-band-concert-band-and-singing-sergeants-indianapolis-in-tickets-36215936842>

RAND Study Finds ACA Repeal Will Strain VA

“Last week, RAND Corporation, a widely respected, nonpartisan research institution, released the report, *Veterans Health Insurance Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act & Implications of Repeal for the Department of Veterans Affairs*,” said John Rowan, President of Vietnam Veterans of America. “The study released by RAND Corporation adds weight to this argument that we’ve been making to Congress through countless meetings and hearings.” The report found that efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act would result in the VA being flooded with older, lower income, and less-healthy nonelderly veterans. This additional patient load would be caused by the end of ACA insurance plans that formerly uninsured veterans have opted to use. “We’re at a time when demand at the VA is increasing because the Vietnam generation is aging, and new veterans are starting to deal with health issues related to their recent deployments,” Rowan continued. “VVA urges in the strongest possible terms that any ACA repeal must be tied to an increase in funding for the VA to offset any influx of new VA patients. Our veterans shouldn’t be an after-thought.”

The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases at The Bunker support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.

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).

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/>

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

Supporting Advertisers

Disclaimer: The ad solicitations posted here do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of VVA Chapter 295. They are established vendors that support the VVA chapter and seek to do business with you.



Linda Begley
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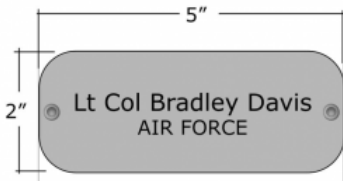
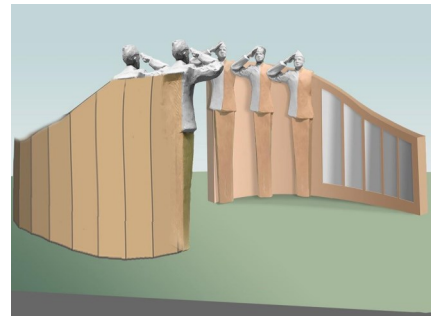


My name is Mike Dolan and I am retired Air Force and a member of VVA Chapter 295. I am a specialist in Medicare and am here if you need someone to help you in navigating the many options for Medicare and Medicaid and how these benefits interact with VA benefits. There are several medical plans that many folks are unaware of and it is my mission to help veterans understand their options and act on the appropriate ones. A great client is someone over 65 who served in the military for a tour or so but did not draw military retirement (Tricare), and is eligible for VA healthcare but not 100% disabled.

If you would like to review your options, please contact me. Most of these plans offer a wide network of doctors and hospitals outside of the VA system and offer an expanded formulary of available prescription drugs., all with low or no monthly cost. There are also incidental benefits such as dental, vision, gym membership, etc. If you would like to visit, please contact me using the information below. I speak a foreign language- I speak **Medicare!!** Michael E. Dolan, Maj USAF (Retired), 317-374-5578, michaeledolan@prodigy.net

Pike YMCA - Leave a Legacy, Honor a Veteran

Donate to add your veteran's name to SALUTE, a one-of-a-kind monument at the OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA in Pike Township honoring the men and women of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. The new Pike YMCA will open in 2018 at 5313 N. Lafayette Rd, Indy replacing the current Y in Pike Township.



It will be the first facility of its kind in the nation to offer specialized medical services for veterans. The sculpture called Salute by Clay Enoch features five service men and women saluting each other and represent their branch of service. Veterans' names will be added to the sculpture with a donation of \$100 or more to ylovesvets.org or call 317-266-9622. The veteran's name, rank and branch of service will be engraved on a 5"x2" stainless steel plaque and mounted on the wall of the sculpture.

Israel and US Open First American Military Base in Israel

Associated Press, 19 Sep 2017, by Yaniv Zohar

Bislach Air Base, Israel—Israel and the U.S. inaugurated the first American military base on Israeli soil on Monday, which will serve dozens of soldiers operating a missile defense system.

The move comes at a time of growing Israeli concerns about archenemy Iran's development of long-range missiles. Together with the U.S., Israel has developed a multilayered system of defenses against everything from long-range guided missile attacks from Iran to crude rockets fired from Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

The base's opening is largely symbolic and isn't expected to bring operational changes. But the Israeli military says that along with other measures, it sends a message of readiness to Israel's enemies.

The base is located within an existing Israeli air force base and will operate under Israeli military directives.

Israeli and U.S. military officials cut a ribbon at the base Monday, where the American and Israeli flags flew side by side and soldiers from both countries commingled.

Israel's multi-tier missile defense system includes the Arrow, designed to intercept long-range ballistic missiles in the stratosphere with an eye on Iran, and Iron Dome, which defends against short-range rockets from the Gaza Strip. David's Sling is meant to counter the type of medium-range missiles possessed by Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants.

Israel considers Iran to be its greatest threat, citing the country's nuclear ambitions, its development of long-term missiles, hostile anti-Israel rhetoric and support for anti-Israel militant groups. Israel has grown increasingly concerned about Iran's involvement in the civil war in neighboring Syria, where its troops are supporting President Bashar Assad.

Israel is worried that Iran and its proxy Hezbollah will establish a long-term presence in Syria near the Israeli border.

National Veterans Museum set to Open Next Summer in Columbus, Ohio

The National Veterans Museum and surrounding memorial grove will occupy a seven acre riverfront site in Columbus, Ohio. The museum will feature permanent and temporary exhibits. The exhibits will focus on honor, connect, inspire and educate. The memorial grove will be a site of reflections and celebration. It has been designed for processions, memorial ceremonies, military weddings and other veterans events. Col. Tom Moe, member of the veterans advisory committee said, "This is not a military museum; it is not about tanks. It is about the people and their stories."

no-cost flu shots for VA patients*



For veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System, getting a flu shot at Walgreens or Duane Reade is easy

Step 1 Just fill out the flu vaccination form below

Step 2 Bring the completed form, your VA ID card and a photo ID to your neighborhood Walgreens or Duane Reade location

Step 3 Walgreens or Duane Reade will automatically update your VA Electronic Health Record in the VA Health Care System

Patients will also be asked to complete a vaccine consent form at time of service

A wellness benefit brought to you by Walgreens and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Information below must be completed prior to receiving your shot.

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Home ZIP code: _____

Plan ID: VAFLU

Recipient # (Social Security number): _____

Walgreens pharmacist:

- Only veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System are eligible. Family members and Tricare members are NOT eligible.
- Verify information by checking VA ID card and a photo ID.
- Use the Social Security number in the Recipient # field.
- This voucher is for Quadrivalent vaccine only.

To find a location near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733) or visit Walgreens.com/FindAStore



For questions or more information about the program, call 866-964-1812 or go to www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp

*This wellness benefit is only for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care system. Family members and Tricare members are not eligible. No-cost flu shot option is for Quadrivalent vaccine only available now through March 15, 2016. Vaccinees subject to availability. State-, age- and health-related restrictions may apply. Vaccine may be in limited supply after March 1, 2016. This does not constitute an endorsement of Walgreens or Walgreens products. Patients will also be asked to complete a vaccine consent form at time of service.
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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs





The United States
AIR FORCE BAND
WASHINGTON, D. C.



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CONCERT BAND



SINGING SERGEANTS

FREE CONCERT

Thurs., Oct. 26, 2017
7:30 p.m.

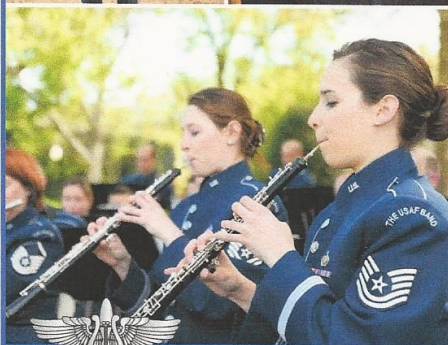
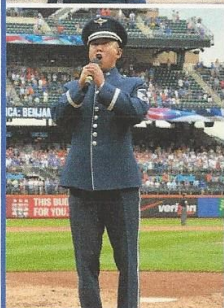
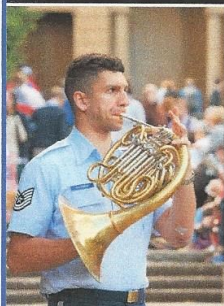
Pike Performing Arts Center
6701 Zionsville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Free Tickets Available

www.pike.k12.in.us

317-216-5450 for Information

★ *FREE admission* ★ *No reserved seats* ★ *First-come, first seated*



★ www.usafband.af.mil ★