



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



February 2017 Newsletter

February 8th Meeting

- 6:00pm BBQ Pulled Pork Night—bring a crockpot of pulled pork or side dish to share.
- 6:30pm Board Meeting
- 7:00pm Regular Meeting



President's Message:

I am asking you to think and act on this thought. Veterans have already served this country and you to protect our freedoms. Some giving the ultimate sacrifice. So ask yourself what you can do to help Veterans and their families. Some may just want a visitor and a smile. Some may need a ride to the store or doctor. Volunteer at the VA Medical Center. There are many ways to help Veterans. So ask yourself, "What can I do to help Veterans and their families?"

Be sure to Thank all Veterans you meet.

See you at the meeting on Wednesday, February 8.

Ken Walters, President of VVA 295

Liberty has never come from Government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it.

Woodrow Wilson

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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

Important Dates

- Feb 8 VVA 295 Meeting; 6pm is BBQ Pulled Pork Night & pitch-in. Bring Pulled Pork or a side dish to share; 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular meeting. . Bring Hats, Scarves & Gloves for container in lobby; these are donated to VA.
- Feb 16 Indianapolis Career Fair 11am—2pm Sheraton City Centre 31 W. Ohio St. Indy
- Mar 4 Clean Up Day at Ft Harrison Veterans Center starting at 10am.
- Mar 8 VVA 295 Meeting; 6pm is Potato Soup Night & Pitch-in. Bring Potato Soup or a side dish to share; 6:30pm is Board Meeting; 7pm is regular meeting.
- Mar 18 VVA Indiana State Council Meeting; 12 noon lunch; 1pm meeting.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

February 6, 1967 Senator Robert Kennedy (D-NY) returns to the United States after holding informal discussions in Vietnam with Western leaders. Kennedy says American participation in the Vietnam War has resulted in the undermining of U.S. prestige abroad. After reporting to President Johnson on his visit, Kennedy denies a Newsweek magazine story reporting that he has received North Vietnamese peace proposals for ending the war.

February 6, 1969 President Nixon, at a news conference, says that while an American troop reduction in Vietnam is high on his list of priorities, there will have to be progress in the peace talks before he can announce any reductions.

February 10, 1971 Four journalists, including Larry Burrows of Life magazine, Kent Potter of UPI, Henri Huett of AP, and Keisaburo Shimamoto of Newsweek are killed in a South Vietnamese helicopter accident in Laos.

February 1, 1973 In a secret letter to North Vietnamese premier Pham Van Dong, President Nixon pledges to contribute to “postwar reconstruction in North Vietnam” in the “range of \$3.25 billion” over five years.

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.

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.hvafindiana.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. Contact Robin Close at 317-951-0688 or rclose@hvaf.org

National Landmark

The Indiana Soldiers & Sailors Monument has been designated a National Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior on Jan. 13, 2017. It is the largest of more than 200 Civil War memorials in the U.S. at 284 foot. It is the only large scale sculpture made of bronze and stone. One other Indiana structure was designed a National Historic Landmark on Jan. 13, 2017. That is the West Union Covered Bridge in Park County.

DoD to Open Online Exchange Shopping to Veterans

The Defense Department announced Jan. 13, 2017 that honorably discharged veterans will be able to shop online at military exchanges starting Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017. Online shopping excludes tobacco products, uniforms and alcohol.

Bills for Veterans

Federal bill H.R. 299 was introduced 1/5/2017 by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA-21) and referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs. Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017

Federal bill H.R. 504 was introduced 1/12/2017 to the House of Representatives by Rep. Leonard Lance, (R-NJ-7) to amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the American flag is displayed on certain Federal property.

Indiana Senate Bill 517 introduced 1/17/2017 by Sen. Ron Alting, Sen. Michael Delph, Sen. James Merritt and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs & the Military. Requires state lottery commission to adopt rules to establish a scratch off game to benefit Indiana veterans and deposit part of the sales into the veterans homelessness assistance fund.

Indiana Senate Bill 454 introduced 1/12/2017 by Sen. Michael Delph. Reassigned to Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Military. Veterans treatment pilot program requiring state lottery commission to adopt rules to establish a scratch-off game to provide treatment to Indiana veterans.

Indiana Senate Bill 452 introduced 1/12/2017 by Sen. Michael Delph. Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Establishes veterans' court fund requiring the criminal justice institute and Indiana judicial center to coordinate to apply for federal grant for veterans' court fund.

Indiana Senate Bill 328 introduced 1/9/2017 by Sen. Michael Delph and referred to Committee on Tax & Fiscal Policy. Provide 100% income tax deduction for all military service income received by an individual or surviving spouse, removing minimum age requirement.

Indiana Senate Bill 329 introduced 1/9/2017 by Sen. Michael Delph and referred to Committee on Tax & Fiscal Policy. Provides 100% state income tax deduction for all military service income received by an individual or surviving spouse.

Indiana Senate Bill 307 introduced 1/9/2017 by Sen. Brandt Hershman, Sen. Michael Delph, Sen. Frank Mrvan, referred to Committee and adopted 1/31/2017. Veteran preference for any federal or state employment or training.

Indiana Senate Bill 142 introduced 1/4/2017 by Sen. Lonnie Randolph and referred to Committee on Natural Resources. Provides that a disable veteran may not be charged a fee for a Golden Hoosier Passport for admission to Indiana State Parks.

VA Secretary Nominee Dr. David Shulkin

Dr. David Shulkin has served as under secretary for 18 months and been a leading force in VA's health care reform. His confirmation hearing starts Feb 1. If confirmed, the 57 year old would be the first non-veteran ever to hold the post and the first appointee from Obama's administration to be held over into Trump's administration.

Indy Honor Flight

Their mission is to transport America's Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their sacrifices. They are taking applications from WWII, Korea and Vietnam Veterans. Their flights are free. They are also taking applications for Guardians if you would like to assist a Veteran of the flight. Guardians will pay a donation of \$450 for their flight. You can also volunteer with the Ground Crew by completing a form. All these forms/applications are found at www.indyhonorflight.org

The Bunker Shop The Bunker Shop is now on Facebook and eBay. Check it out.



The Bunker Shop is open: Sundays 10am—3pm; Wednesdays 4pm—7pm;
Online at Facebook and eBay 24-7, on VVA295.com, click The Bunker Shop



BRING THIS VOUCHER WHEN YOU VISIT
(DINE IN OR TO GO) THE CHILI'S LOCATION
IDENTIFIED BELOW AND **15%** OF YOUR
PRE-TAX PURCHASE WILL BENEFIT:

KY-IN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS

Group/Charity

12/12/16 - 3/6/17

Event/Exp. Date

One coupon per person, per visit at participating Chili's restaurants only.
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer ends per expiration date above.

ALL PARTICIPATING ERJ DINING CHILI'S LOCATIONS IN:
KENTUCKY & INDIANA

Chili's Locations

#9999900007435

Chili's Give Back Program

All Chili's restaurants in Indiana and Kentucky have a give back program for the Indiana and Kentucky Paralyzed Veteran Chapters. The program runs until March 6, 2017. When you present the attached voucher, 15% of your pre-tax purchase will go to help Veterans thru the Indiana and Kentucky Paralyzed Veterans Chapters.

A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. Theodore Roosevelt