



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



April 2018 Newsletter

President's Message

Hello my friends,

I hope you all had a pleasant Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. Each year on this day I feel satisfied that FINALLY the nation realizes that we, the veteran, did not create the political climate that resulted in the Vietnam



War. We only did what we were asked to do by our nation. I continue to be thanked for my service and I appreciate it, particularly from the younger generation. Respect is not dead, no matter what I read or hear from the media. Welcome Home brothers and sisters...Welcome Home!

I am reminded that this will be my last post as your President of Chapter 295. I will stay on as a Director, but I am not running for President. We will elect new officers and board members at our April meeting. Please come and make your concerns heard and take control to better our organization.

Thank you for all your past support and know that I, in turn, will continue to have your "six".

Michael L. Hamm

Vietnam Veterans of America

President, Chapter 295

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.

May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please,
but as the opportunity to do what is right. ~ Peter Marshall

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 6:30

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 4 Wall Meeting 6pm
- April 4 Ft Harrison Veteran Center meeting 7pm
- April 11 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- April 18 Wall Meeting 6pm
- May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wall Meeting 6pm
- May 9 VVA 295 Meeting; Board meeting at 6:30pm; Regular meeting 7:00pm
- May 19 Indiana State Council meeting 12 noon
- May 31—June 4 The Moving Wall at Lawton Loop & Otis Ave. Opening Ceremony 2pm June 2.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- April 15, 1962** The first U.S. Marine Corps air unit lands in South Vietnam aboard the aircraft carrier Princeton. The 3625 Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM-362) with 450 marines and 15 Sikorsky UH-34D Sea Horse helicopters will be based near Soc Trang, 100 miles southwest of Saigon. The unit dubbed Task Force Shoofly reinforces the three U.S. Army helicopter companies already in Vietnam. The unit's mission will be to carry supplies and troops in support of the South Vietnamese army.
- April 24, 1965** President Johnson issues an executive order designating Vietnam a "combat area" and authorizes "hostile fire" pay, retroactive to January 1, 1964.
- April 1966** U.S. Navy TF116 (River Patrol Force) begins Operation Game Warden, the interdiction of enemy traffic in South Vietnamese inland waterways.
- April 4, 1968** The Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis.
- April 8-Nov 11** The U.S. 198th Infantry Brigade and other elements of the Americal Division conduct Operation Burlington Trail, a combat sweep in Quang Tin Province along the Quang Nam Province border in 1 Corps.

Vietnam Helicopter Pilot & Crewmember Monument will be Dedicated



The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association spearheaded the effort, working with Arlington National Cemetery and Congress to get the monument approved. Since this war was known as the "helicopter war", it is fitting to have this monument. The dedication is April 18, 2018 at 4pm Eastern time and is open to anyone who wants to attend. The monument will be placed in Section 35 along Memorial Drive, not far from the Tomb of the Unknowns. It honors the nearly 5,000 helicopter pilots and crew members who were killed in Vietnam.

2nd Vice President's Corner



Hello Everyone,

We hope you are well, as we did not hear from you other wise.

Less than two months until The Moving Wall is here, meaning different things. We need volunteers for security, computers, and escorts around the clock. Also we need people to help erect and take down The Wall, and tents . Plus move tables chairs and Bunker from building, and back. Please if you can help call Holly with your info, and when you can help.

I wish to thank everyone that has taken a donation letter and flyer to promote and fund The Moving Wall. However, I need a list from each of you as to where you have placed flyers, and asked for donations. Why? Because we do not wish to make the Chapter look bad by asking for multiple donations. I need this information ASAP. Please, Thank you.

We will have poppy's in the Fort Ben Commissary April 7th and 8th. If you haven't gotten a poppy yet, and would like to donate, here is your chance. If you would like to volunteer while there, you may.

We will be at the Commissary again May 5th and 6th.

Wall Meetings this month are April 4th and 18th, 6 pm.

Chapter Meeting and Election April 11th, Board meets 6:30, regular meeting at 7 pm

May God Bless America, our Service Members serving around the world, and you.

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

TRIVIA TIME

The **P-38**, developed in 1942, is a small can opener that was issued in the canned field rations of the United States Armed Forces from World War II to the 1980s. Originally designed for and distributed in the K-ration, it was later included in the C-ration. As of 2017, it is still in production and sold on a worldwide market. The **P-38** is known as a "John Wayne" by the United States Marine Corps, either because of its toughness and dependability or because of an unsubstantiated story that the actor had been shown in an as-yet-unidentified training film opening a can of K-Rations. A larger version called the **P-51** is somewhat easier to operate. The **P-51** is not an official Army can opener although it is often marketed as such. Official military designations for the **P-38** include "US ARMY POCKET CAN OPENER" and "OPENER, CAN, HAND, FOLDING, TYPE I". As with some other military terms, *e.g.*, "jeep", the origin of the term is not known with certainty; the **P-38** opener coincidentally shares a designation with the Lockheed **P-38** Lightning fighter plane, which could allude to its fast performance, additionally the **P-51** can opener *also* has an aircraft namesake in the North American **P-51** Mustang. **P-38s** are no longer used for individual rations by the United States Armed Forces, as canned C-rations were replaced by MRE rations in the 1980s, packed in plastic pouches. The larger **P-51s** are included with United States military "Tray Rations" (canned bulk meals). They are also still seen in disaster recovery efforts and have been handed out alongside canned food by rescue organizations, both in America and abroad in Afghanistan.



Crown Royal Packages for Troops Crown Royal has partnered with Packages From Home to support soldiers. Every donated Crown Royal bag is turned into a car package for active military around the world. It is free to send package via their website: <https://apfco.com/secure/W1725/Home/Intro>



The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

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

April 2-6 The Bunker will be setup at VA Medical Center.

The Veteran Magazine Project

Repurpose your copy of The Veteran. VVA board member Jim Pierce brought this terrific idea before the board and membership at our last meeting. After you have read your copy of The Veteran, mark out your name and address. Attach your business card or the VVA business card which is available at the VVA office. Take it to your local library and ask if want your issues of The Veteran. Jim said they were very happy to take his issue. Do this each month to reach out to Veterans in the area and maybe even gain new members. Thank you Jim for a great idea!

AVVA Chapter 295

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is the extended family of VVA. We are made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans, and all persons who support Veterans’ issues. AVVA works in conjunction with VVA striving to ensure that Vietnam Veterans, as well as ALL Veterans, attain the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. We are here to help Veterans and VVA Chapter 295 with their programs and activities.

Check Out the New Vendor for AVVA and Agent Orange Products

Find their link on the AVVA website, under AVVA Products / The Agent Orange Store. <http://www.agentorangestore.com> Make sure you say AVVA when you place order.

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

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

News from our Service Officer

Liver flukes are parasitic worms that spend part of their life cycle in freshwater snails that inhabit rivers throughout parts of the Far East, including Southeast Asia, China and the Korean peninsula. The snails release larvae that burrow into the flesh of fish and can infest the bile ducts of humans who eat the fish. They can reside symptomless in a victim's body for decades. The adult worm is believed to release an irritant during its quarter century life span—an irritant that can lead to cancerous lesions in the bile duct decades after the parasitic infestation has died out. In some south Asian villages where raw fish consumption is part of the culture, more than one in two people harbor liver fluke infestations. Since 2013, the VA has received 240 disability claims related to bile duct cancers associated with liver fluke. It has rejected more than 76 % of those claims.

Nearly one in four Vietnam War combat veterans who participated in a small study at the Northport (NY) VA to detect past infestations of the cancer causing liver fluke parasite tested positive. The pilot study, titled "Screening US Vietnam Veterans for Liver Fluke Exposure 5 Decades After the End of the War," is in the current edition of the periodical Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice.. Exams for the study had to be conducted at Seoul National University College of Medicine in South Korea because no facility in the U.S. is equipped to do the exam. Sen Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep Tom Suozzi (D-Glen Cove) are calling for a broader study to determine whether wartime exposure to liver fluke should be considered service related.

Liver flutes (parasites) have been detected in an alarming rate in Vietnam Vets. By the time it makes its appearance, it is fatal liver cancer. A test named ELISA can detect it early enough to treat you before it is cancerous. At this time, the test is only available in Korea. ELISA can't be used in USA because the FDA has not approved it. Vets are dying. We don't need another Agent Orange. Contact Congress, White House, anyone who will listen.

VVA Shirts

We are selling a new green polo shirt to help raise money for The Moving Wall. This has the outline of Indiana. At the top, inside it reads: "Sammy L. Davis Chapter". Included is a circle with the American Flag and the country of Vietnam. Around the inside edge it reads; "In recognition of those who served in Vietnam".

Under the circle reads; "Indianapolis VVA 295. These shirts are \$29.00 Each, and come in sizes-M,L,XL,XXL, and XXXL. Order one or more today. They will look nice at The Moving Wall, or where ever else you decide to wear them. Show your pride in the Chapter and help fund The Moving Wall. Order today. Thank you. Please call 765-618-4067, with your name, phone number, size, and quantity. When the shirts are ready I will call you, and you can pick them up at the building. Money is due at this time.

Thank you. Larry



COSTCO EXCLUSIVE MILITARY OFFER

This offer is available for all Members of the United States Armed Forces, Veterans and their families. Purchase a Costco Membership Activation Certificate to join Costco as a new member and receive over \$60 in savings. Costco also hires Veterans. For more on this membership go to: <https://costco.sheerid.com/military/>

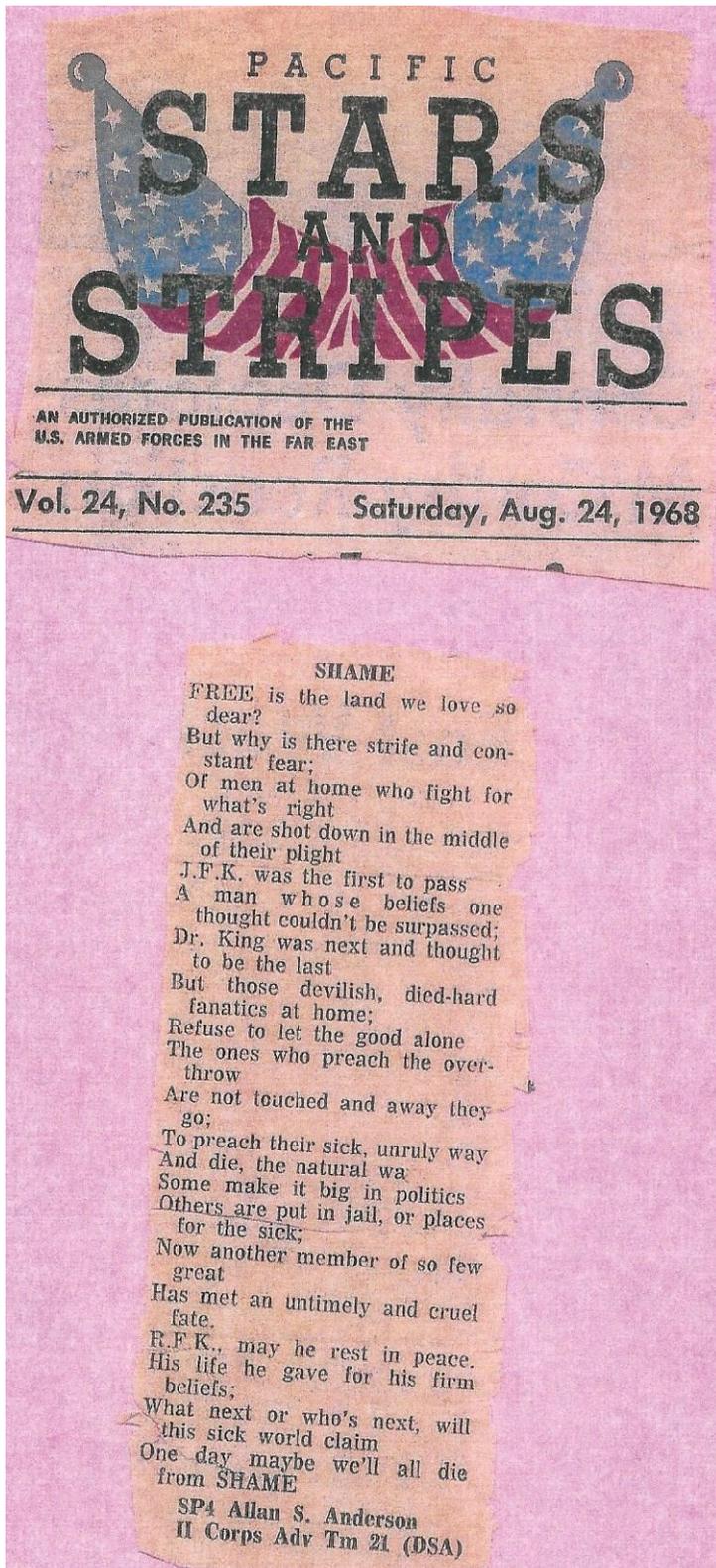
The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.

~ Norman Schwarzkopf

WHO KNEW?

Our very own Steve Anderson writes poetry and was published in Star and Stripes in August 24, 1968.

April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King was killed. That was 50 years ago. So it is fitting to publish Steve's poem again.



SHAME

FREE is the land we love so dear?
But why is there strife and constant fear;
Of men at home who fight for what's right
And are shot down in the middle of their plight
J.F.K. was the first to pass
A man whose beliefs one thought couldn't be
surpassed;
Dr. King was next and thought to be the last
But those devilish, die-hard fanatics at home;
Refuse to let the good alone
The ones who preach the over throw
Are not touched and away they go;
To preach their sick, unruly way
And die, the natural way
Some make it big in politics
Others are put in jail or places for the sick;
Now another member of so few great
Has met an untimely and cruel fate.
R.F.K. may he rest in peace.
His life he gave for his firm beliefs;
What next or who's next, will this sick world claim
One day maybe we'll all die from SHAME

SP4 Allan S. Anderson

II Corps Adv Tm 21 (DSA)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Gold Star Mothers have asked for our help in getting 1000 volunteers to participate on race day for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon Motivational Mile. Contact Mr. Glen Amos to volunteer.

I would like to quickly e-introduce myself. My name is Glenn Amos and I am the Event Manager for the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, one of the largest half-marathons in the country. It is with great pleasure that I get to introduce myself to you and your organization.

Last year we started the Motivational Mile on the backstretch of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We are looking to make that mile as motivational to our participants as possible. Our plan for 2018 is to get as many people as possible, goal of 1,000 volunteer, to line up along the backstretch of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway with American flags and gold shirts, both provided by the 500 Festival, and cheer on our participants. We would also like to those volunteers to help spread their message of how our important heroes of the military are to our country. We would also welcome those volunteers to bring pictures of their heroes, motivational messages, and sentimental items.

This idea originally came from conversations that we had with Survivor Outreach Services when planning our Gold Star Ceremony for the 500 Festival Memorial Service. We realized our Gold Star families wanted to be more involved to help people remember their fallen hero. With the correct participation it could be a very impactful mile for our participants, sponsors, families involved, and our military personnel.

The timeline for the day would look like the below.

- 6:30am - Arrival at Indianapolis Motor Speedway
- 7:00am - hard closure of all the roads that are part of the course
- 8:00am - In place waiting on the first wheelchair participants
- 8:30am - Awaiting the arrival of the first runners
- 10:30am - Last participants pass by the Motivational Mile
- 11:00am - Clean up and start to depart Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Your support would be greatly appreciated. We want to make this an event these families will not forget. Please let me know if you have any further questions. I would be glad to help.

Thank you,
Glenn

Glenn Amos Senior Program and Event Manager

Office: (317) 614-6130 | gamos@500festival.com



Half scale replica of Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC

MAY 31– June 4, 2018

Fort Harrison, Indiana

**1 block north of Finance Center on historic Lawton Loop Parade Field
OPEN 24 HOURS**



Opening Ceremony: Sat, June 2

1:00pm Prelude Music
1:30pm Native American Blessing
1:55pm Helicopter Fly-in
2:00pm Welcome, Posting Colors,
National Anthem, Invocation,
Pledge of Allegiance, Speakers,
St. Crispin's Day, Laying Wreaths,
Roll Call Of Missing,
21 Gun Salute, Taps, Retire Colors

**Brought to you by
Vietnam Veterans of America,
Chapter 295
Fort Harrison Veteran's Center
City of Lawrence, IN**

For more info, 317-547-4748

Master Modeler Display, The Bunker