



Vietnam Veterans of America
Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



OCTOBER
**AGENT
ORANGE**
AWARENESS MONTH

October 7th - VVA 295 Monthly Meeting
Board Meeting 12:30PM
General Meeting 1:30PM

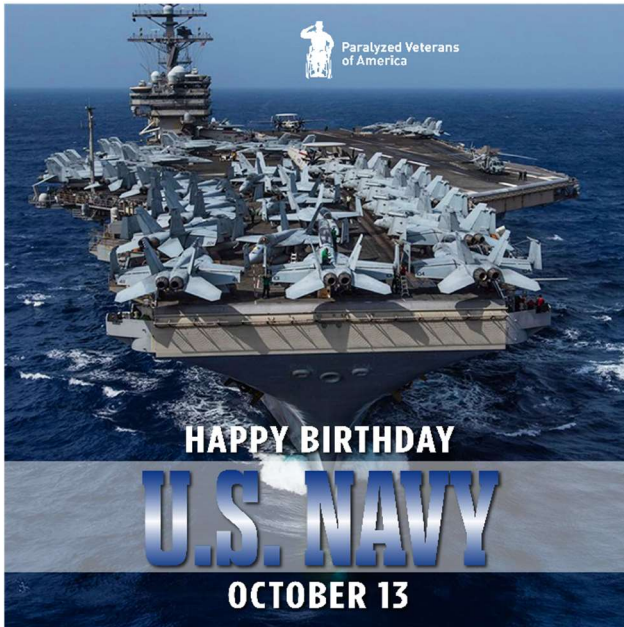
October 9th - Columbus Day

October 14th - October Indiana State
Council Meeting

October 26th - Day of the Deployed

October 27th - Navy Day

October 31st - *Halloween*



NATIONAL

DAY OF THE

DEPLOYED

OCTOBER 26

*Thank you to all our deployed
services members and their
families for their sacrifices*

*Deployment can last anywhere
from 90 days to 15 months. On this
date we honor all military serving
outside the US and their families.*



VVA CHAPTER 295 MONTHLY MEETING, 2ND SATURDAYS

BOARD MEETING: 10:00 AM

GENERAL MEETING: 11:00 AM

Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216

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

Phone: 317-547-4748

Website: www.vva295.com



VETERANS STAND DOWN



Friday, October 6, 2023

SAM-2PM

GARY SOUTHSIDE RAILCATS

US STEEL YARD

ONE STADIUM PLAZA

GARY, IN 46402

SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Friday, October 6th, 2023

GARY, IN 46402

Gary Southside Railcats
US Steel Yard
One Stadium Yard
Gary, IN 46402

Contact: Lorese Wesley
Phone: 260-234-8688

- ASSISTANCE WITH ACCESSING VA BENEFITS & SERVICES
- HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS
- COUNSELING & SUBSTANCE REFERRALS
- EMERGENCY SHELTER & OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES including FOOD
- LEGAL SERVICES
- HEALTH SCREENING
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (BE PREPARED FOR ONSITE INTERVIEWS)
- HAIRCUTS
- And GIVEAWAYS

Friday, October 13th, 2023

FORT WAYNE, IN 46802

Grand Wayne Center
120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort
Wayne, IN 46802

Contact: Adam Colone
Phone: 260-234-8688
Email:
Acolone@WorkOneNE.org

SAVE THE DATE

Allen County Homeless Veterans Stand Down 2023

Grand Wayne Center

120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

10 a.m.-2p.m., Friday, October 13, 2023

Free services for Veterans in need include:

Housing Resources
Recovery & Mental Health
Veterans Benefits Counseling
Haircuts

President's Corner:

October Newsletter

- **October's General Meeting is Saturday Oct 7th at 1:00PM, Board Meeting at 12:30PM.**
 - **NOTE:** There is a Half Marathon Saturday morning and E 59th Street will be closed 7:45 AM -12:00 PM so this month's meeting was moved from the normal meeting time.
- October is Agent Orange Awareness Month. Approximately 300,000 Vietnam Veterans have died from complications of herbicide exposure. Let us remember and honor their sacrifices.
- The October State Council Meeting will be 14th at Grissom Air Museum in Peru, IN. Finance Meeting will be at 11:00AM, followed by the General Meeting. Lunch will be catered at 12:30PM by the Golf Course Club House. After lunch we are free to visit the the Museum and enjoy the many aircraft on display. Many have been refurbished and there will be guides available for questions. Join Us!
- "Big Thank You" from Andrea Carlisle @ HVAF for our Standdown participation. They served 135 veterans. They reported that in August they took 95 veterans into their transitional housing, and assisted 217 veterans with Rent or Utilities. They had 224 people visit their pantry for food, clothes and hygiene items. Let's continue our support!
- This past week VVA 295 gratefully accepted a \$1,800 check from Sharp Cars as a part of their Customer Choice Donation Program! Every customer who purchased a vehicle got to choose from a list of vetted City of Lawrence Non-Profit organizations and Sharp Cars donated \$200 to a charity of their choice. Thank you to everyone who chose VVA 295!!!
- [Please Click Here to Read Sharp Cars Facebook Post](#)



- Dennis Smalling
(317) 313-1577



If you're thinking of donating this Holiday Season...



I spoke to folks at a food bank and here are some things I learned from those in need...

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal (which they also get a lot of).
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni (which they also get a lot of).
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix, and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.



In all the years I have donated food on the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a Family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. It does for me!

-Mike Dolan

Indiana State Council President

- Oil, Salt/Pepper, Spices
- Sugar, Flour
- Eggs, Fresh Produce
- Butter/Margarine
- Sandwich Bread
- Tuna & Crackers
- Coffee, Tea bags
- Meat
- Boxed Milk
- Cake Mix, Frosting
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Dishwashing Detergent
- Pop Top Soups
- Can Opener
- Rice a-Roni
- Pasta Sauce
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Kraft Mac and Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Items that require a lot of ingredients

October Important Dates:

Thursday, October 5th – Pact Act Town Hall and Resource Fair 5-8PM
Vincennes University, Governors Hall Trailblazer Room 1&2

20 W Indianapolis Ave, Vincennes, IN

- Meet the Executive Leadership of the Marion VA Health Care System, Vincennes Veterans Outpatient Clinic, and more.
- Contact Name: Todd Wright
- Contact Phone: (618) 694-6717
- Contact Email:
richard.wright9@va.gov

Choose VA

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY

The new PACT Act

- Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov
1-800-698-1111 (300-698-1111)

Veteran PACT Act Town Hall & Resource Fair
Thursday Oct 5th from 5:00 - 8:00 EST.
Vincennes University - Governors Hall
20 W. Indianapolis Ave, Vincennes IN

Saturday, October 7th – VVA 295 Monthly Meeting

Fort Harrison Veteran Center

9450 E 59th St Indianapolis IN

- Board Meeting 10:00AM
- General Meeting 11:00AM



Saturday, October 14th – October Indiana State Council Meeting 11:00AM

Grissom Air Museum

1000 W Hoosier Blvd, Peru, In 46970

Finance Meeting at 11AM followed immediately by General Meeting

Thursday, October 19th – Veterans Resource Fair & Hiring Event 1PM-5PM

First Bank Center @ Wayne County Fairgrounds

861 Salisbury Rd N Richmond, IN

- Resource and wellness providers
- Hiring employers
- FREE Veteran Haircuts, Health screenings, etc.

FREE EVENT
for Veterans and their families!

Resource and wellness providers,
hiring employers, and light refreshments!

Along with FREE services for Veterans:
Haircuts, health screenings, etc.

OCTOBER 19, 2023
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

First Bank Center @ Wayne County Fairgrounds
861 Salisbury Rd N - Richmond, IN

THURSDAYS, ALL OCTOBER (Sept 28th – Nov 16th) 6PM – 7:30PM

Intro to Playwriting for Women's Veterans

ALL ONLINE Register at <https://angelinelarimer.com/theatreforveterans>

- Free to all United States Military Women Veterans.
- An 8- week intensive playwriting workshop held entirely online.

October Important Dates:

Thursday, October 26th – Day of the Deployed



Friday, October 27th

Tuesday, October 31st – Halloween



Veterans Art Wellness Workshop

THURSDAYS ALL OCTOBER (Sept 14th to Dec. 7th) 3:30PM-5:30PM

Herron School of Art & Design
Eskenazi Hall, Room 239 735 W
New York St, Indianapolis, IN

- Weekly groups to make art, build community, & promote wellness!
- Lead by art therapy interns exploring a wide range of materials.
- Free for Veterans and current military
- **Parking validation provided for IUPUI Sports Garage**
- Contact Name: Kaylin Cook
- Contact Email: Kaelcook@iu.edu

A promotional poster for a "FREE VETERANS ART WELLNESS WORKSHOP". The top half has a green background with the text "FREE VETERANS ART WELLNESS WORKSHOP" in large, bold, white letters with a red outline. Below this is a white horizontal bar. Underneath the bar are three dark brown rectangular boxes. The first box on the left shows a pair of hands holding a black square. The middle box shows a white outline of a military medal with a star below it. The right box is white with the text "WEEKLY ON THURS 3:30-5:30PM" in bold black letters, and "Sept. 14th, to Dec. 7th, 2023" in smaller black letters below it.

Punch for Veterans Boxing Class

SATURDAYS Oct 7th to Nov. 9th

9:00AM-10:00AM

Mike Ford Fitness
2160 86th St. Suite 101
Indianapolis, IN 46260

- \$5 per class
- Free for disabled veterans
- Veterans in this program will gain new connections with each other, because of one similar goal. Good health.
- Contact Name: Karen Lawrence
- Contact Email: 317-329-2020

A poster for a boxing class. The background is dark with a close-up image of a red boxing glove on the left. Text on the right side reads: "For disabled veterans or civilians with a disability" at the top, "Saturdays 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM" below that, "Fitness Clinic of Indy 2160 W 86th St., Suite 101 Indianapolis, IN 46260" in the middle, and "\$5 Per class FREE for disabled veterans" at the bottom. At the very bottom right, there is a white box with the text "SCAN HERE TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO" and a QR code.

God Bless every one of you!



Veteran Service Officers:

Dennis Smalling

317-313-1577

smallingindy@sbcglobal.net

Mike Hamm

317-232-3921

mhamm@dva.in.gov

Michael Dolan

317-374-5578

michaeledolan@prodigy.net

Veteran Resources:

VSC (Veterans Support Council) Resource Center for Veterans:

www.veterans.ooo/resources

The VVA Self Help Guide to Agent Orange:

<https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AgentOrangeGuide2022forWeb.pdf>

Gulf War Benefits Guide:

<https://vva.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2014/12/DisabilityCompGuide_Final_Singles.pdf](https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/DisabilityCompGuide_Final_Singles.pdf)

AVVA Survivor Benefits Brochure:

https://www.avva.org/documents/programs/SB_brochure_2020.pdf