



# THE HOOSIER VETERAN

ISSUE 2-24 • FEBRUARY 2024

[in.gov/dva](https://in.gov/dva)

*Black  
History  
Month*



## WELCOME!

BY JOE DEVITO  
IDVA OUTREACH DIRECTOR

This month, we honor the remarkable contributions of Black veterans to Indiana's rich military history. Additionally, we're excited for the Healthy Heart Fashion Show, presented by Veteran Health IN and IDVA, which promotes heart health for women veterans. As we approach Spring, we look forward to celebrating Vietnam War Veterans Day in March and the IDVA Women Veterans Wellness Retreat in April! The IDVA remains dedicated to making Indiana a premier state for all veterans to Live, Work, and Thrive. Share your feedback and 2024 newsletter content ideas at [outreachedva.in.gov](mailto:outreachedva.in.gov).

THE HOOSIER  
VETERAN  
NEWSLETTER

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Find an Event Near You! [vetsgift.com](http://vetsgift.com)



# INDIANA VIETNAM VETS GIFT



FREE GIFT INCLUDES:  
A *Time To Honor* - HARDCOVER BOOK, EXPANDED DIGITAL BOOK & E-BOOK  
A DVD DOCUMENTARY: *The Journey Home* & WELCOME HOME LAPEL PIN



**A FREE GIFT OF GRATITUDE FOR  
INDIANA VIETNAM  
ERA VETERANS**  
WITH MILITARY SERVICE DURING 1955-1975  
REGARDLESS OF DUTY STATION



**FIND ★ THANK ★ REPAY**  
[www.VETSgift.com](http://www.VETSgift.com)  
**INFO, EVENTS & PHOTOS**



Info:  
317-549-5900  
[Jill@WHVV.org](mailto:Jill@WHVV.org)



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OF REVENUE FROM THESE PLATES  
FUNDS THE MFRF



# Honoring Indiana's Black Veterans: A Legacy of Service and Sacrifice

## Commentary by Kirsten Clark

In the heartland of America, among the rolling fields and bustling cities of Indiana, lies a legacy of courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to duty. This legacy is embodied by the black veterans who have served their nation with valor and distinction, often in the face of adversity and discrimination. From the battlefields of the Civil War to the present-day conflicts in distant lands, Indiana's black military veterans have left an indelible mark on history, shaping not only the state's military heritage but also its broader social fabric.

The story of Indiana's black veterans is one of triumph over adversity. In the early days of the Republic, when the nation was torn asunder by the Civil War, thousands of black Hoosiers answered the call to arms, eager to fight for their freedom and the promise of a better future. Despite facing prejudice and discrimination both on and off the battlefield, these brave men distinguished themselves through their courage and tenacity, earning the respect of their fellow soldiers and the admiration of future generations.



The Twenty-Eighth Regiment was assigned to the Fourth Division, U.S. Colored Infantry. Company E of the Fourth Division is shown here sometime between 1863 and 1866 at Fort Lincoln during the Civil War. Credit: Library of Congress

One such group was known as the 28th Infantry Regiment and was activated in Indiana in the spring of 1864 as part of the U.S. Colored Troops. The regiment was formed in response to Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raid into Indiana in the summer of 1863. They were mustered into service on January 12, 1864, and trained at Camp Fremont in Indianapolis before being sent to Washington, D.C. To this day, there is a marker at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and McCarty Street that honors the area where those troops trained.

The legacy of the 28th and others like it are carried on by Indiana's black veterans of today, who continue to serve with honor and distinction in the armed forces. From the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan to the jungles of Vietnam and the beaches of Normandy, these modern-day heroes have upheld the proud tradition of service established by their predecessors, demonstrating courage, resilience, and selflessness in the face of danger.

Yet, despite their sacrifices and contributions, Indiana's black veterans often remain unsung heroes, their stories overlooked or forgotten in the annals of history. It is essential that we recognize and honor their service, not only to pay tribute to their bravery and sacrifice but also to ensure that their legacy endures for future generations.

Moreover, Indiana's black veterans are not only vital to the state's military heritage but also play a crucial role in its broader veteran community. Their unique perspectives, experiences, and talents enrich our collective understanding of service and sacrifice, helping to bridge the gap between past and present, and ensuring that the lessons of history are not lost to time.

As we reflect on the remarkable contributions and achievements of Indiana's African American veterans, let us also recommit ourselves to honoring their legacy and supporting their ongoing efforts to make Indiana the state where veterans Live, Work, and Thrive. Whether through volunteering, advocacy, or simply listening to their stories, each of us has a role to play in ensuring that the sacrifices of these brave men and women are never forgotten.



Indianapolis native Les Brown shown in uniform while serving in the Army during World War I. Credit: Indiana Historical Society.



A soldier playing a trumpet during a radio broadcast at Service Club No. 3 at Camp Atterbury, Dec. 20, 1943. The photos in this collection were donated by John William Moriarty and taken for the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Credit: The Indiana State Library

At Camp Atterbury during World War II, black soldiers served in segregated units, including the 980th and 569th Quartermaster Service Companies. They performed various duties, including loading tin cans for recycling and participating in recreational activities like dancing. They also served in the Military Police Section, 1560th Service Unit and women served in the Medical Section, 3561st Service Unit of the Women's Army Corps. Despite racial segregation, these soldiers played a vital role in the Allied forces victories around the world in 1943 until the end of the war.

As the civil rights movement in the US began to heat up in the mid-1950s, rising tensions in Vietnam initiated a nation-wide draft. The social movement that aimed to abolish legalized racial segregation, discrimination, and disenfranchisement in the country also saw traction during the Vietnam War.

Harry William Brooks, Jr. (1928–2017) was born in Indianapolis, the son of Harry William, Sr. and Nora Elaine Bailey Brooks. He attended public school in Indianapolis, graduating from Crispus Attucks High School in 1947. He enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army at age 19. He retired as a Major General in 1976, completing 29 years of a successful military career. During his military service, he received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Legion of Merit Medals, two Bronze Star Medals, and seven Air Medals. He was also recognized for his bravery by two foreign governments.

The story of Indiana's black veterans is one of courage, sacrifice, and resilience. From the battlefields of the Civil War to the modern-day conflicts of the 21st century, these brave men and women have served their nation with honor and distinction, leaving an indelible mark on history.

As we honor their legacy, let us also recognize the vital role that they play in our veteran community and commit ourselves to ensuring that Indiana remains a place where veterans can truly Live, Work, and Thrive.

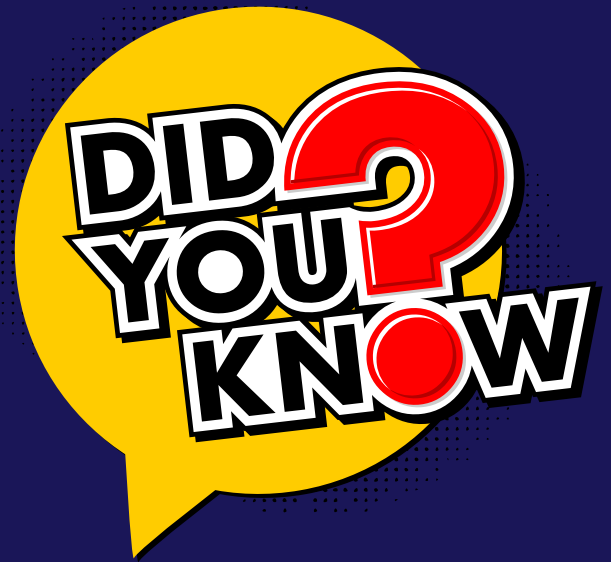


Harry W. Brooks, Jr. is pictured with fellow soldiers in Vietnam in 1966. Brooks is holding a punji stick. These sharpened sticks were often deployed in traps to slow enemy troops and cause injuries requiring medical evacuation for the victim. Credit: Indiana Historical Society

CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERS

# INDIANAPOLIS URBAN LEAGUE

VETERAN SERVICES PROGRAM



[Visit the website here.](#)

The IUL has a veteran services program? It is designed to assist veterans and those that served in the military with the tools and support needed for transitioning back to civilian life. The goal of the IUL Veteran Services CARE Program is to provide veterans and those serving in the military with a continuum of supportive wraparound services throughout their adjustment to civilian life over a two-year-period regardless of their military separation date.



**Indianapolis**  
**Urban League**

Contact *Sam Ellis*  
Family Services Coordinator  
777 Indiana Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 693-7620

VSP participants will also receive the following service and support regardless of their completion of the New Beginnings Program and military separation date:

- Assistance accessing military service records (DD214s and NGB 22s)
- Support applying for veteran benefits
- Assistance with transitioning to civilian life
- Access to IUL food pantry and other support to address food insecurity
- Housing and utility assistance
- Assistance identifying employment opportunities
- Support transferring military experiences and skills to traditional work experience

# LOCATE YOUR COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

## CVSO SPOTLIGHT

Sam Daugherty &  
Angela Miller

## WABASH COUNTY

This Veteran Service office offers assistance in the following:

- Obtaining your DD-214 military discharge
- Discharge Review
- Filing claims for service connected or non-service connected disabilities
- Education benefits
- Low Income Wartime Pension Benefits
- Survivor Benefits
- VA Medical Care
- VA Home Loans
- G.I. Bill Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Burial Benefits
- Property Tax Abatement
- Tuition and Fee Exemption for Children of Disabled Veterans
- Motor Vehicle License Plates
- Peddlers, Vendors License
- Resident Veteran Hunting & Fishing License
- Golden Hoosier Passport



**LEARN MORE**

Courthouse  
1 West Hill Street  
Wabash, IN 46992  
Monday to Friday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Office: (260) 563-0661 ext. 1260

[vetservice@wabashcounty.in.gov](mailto:vetservice@wabashcounty.in.gov)

# February

**05: Free Women Veteran Art Wellness. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. IVC 777 N. Meridian St., Ste. 300 Indianapolis, 46204.**

**12: VA Benefits & Information Event. 2 to 4 p.m. Meadow View Nursing Home 900 Anson St. Salem, 47167.**

**13-14: IDOC Staff VA Claims Event. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (13th) & 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. (14th) Plainfield Correctional Facility 727 Moon Rd., Plainfield 46168.**

**17: Dog Tags & Go Bags presents Boots in the Ballroom. 7 to 11 p.m. Knights of Columbus 3600 W. Purdue Ave., Muncie, 47304.**

**29: Indiana Law Enforcement Academy VA Benefits Info Event. 5 p.m. 5402 Sugar Grove Rd., Plainfield 46168.**

**29: INNG Retirement Briefing. 9 to 10 a.m. Johnson County Armory 325 Minuteman Way, Franklin, 46131.**

## FASHION SHOW HEALTHY HEART

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

6:00pm-7:00pm  
Social Hour with free hors d'oeuvres

7:00pm PROMPTLY  
Fashion Show

Free Parking ♥ Free Parking ♥ Free Parking

777 North Meridian St  
Indianapolis

RSVP at [Tamara.whitlow1@va.gov](mailto:Tamara.whitlow1@va.gov)

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

CONTACT TAMARA WHITLOW  
[Tamara.whitlow1@va.gov](mailto:Tamara.whitlow1@va.gov)  
317-988-9422

IDVA



Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs  
777 North Meridian St  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Veteran Health Indiana

PROMOTING HEALTHY HEARTS FOR WOMEN VETERANS



For more events and to see what's coming up in March & April, check out our calendar [here](#).

**SUBMIT A  
VETERAN EVENT!**



**Tell us about your event to support, serve, and advocate for the veteran community in your area! We want to know about events happening all across our great state. [Visit our site](#) and let us know to add it to our website calendar!**

# ROLL CALL!



Learn More about the

## Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery



*A place of honor for those who served*

### ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL

#### **Military Discharge:**

Veterans separated under conditions other than Dishonorable are eligible for burial.

#### **National Guard & Reservist:**

Must have been eligible for retirement pay at time of death.

#### **Active Duty Death:**

Service members who die on active duty, in the line of duty.

#### **Surviving Spouse:**

The surviving spouse of an eligible veteran can be buried at the IVMC.

#### **The Child of a Veteran:**

Child must be under age 21 or permanent dependent of the veteran.

### ELIGIBLE VETERANS AND SPOUSES

#### **No Cost For:**

- Opening & closing of the burial plot
- Outer burial container
- Monument
- Use of chapel

#### **Types of Burials:**

- Casket Burial "Vault"
- In-ground Cremation
- Columbarium
- Scatter Garden

### INDIANA GOVERNOR'S MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

- Certificate can be requested by the family or funeral home
- Request form and application process:
  - <https://www.in.gov/dva/veterans>
- Completed forms faxed to:
  - IVMC (812) 273-9221

**Visit  
the  
website  
here.**



# Veteran Events for All 2022



**RHI | SPORTS PROGRAM**

**PUNCH FOR VETERANS BOXING CLINICS**

For disabled veterans or civilians with a disability

Saturdays  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Fitness Clinic of Indy  
2160 W 86th St., Suite 101  
Indianapolis, IN 46260

\$5 Per class  
FREE for disabled veterans

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO

<https://punchforveterans23.eventbrite.com>

**fitness clinic** LEARN TO MOVE. MOVE TO LIVE.

**MOVE UNITED MEMBER**

**BOSE MCKINNEY & EVANS LLP** ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Suburban** REAL ESTATE

**BOSE** EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Journaling & Creativity Workshops  
to Inspire Guided Action

He said. She said. They said.

with Meghan Barich

**He said. She said. They said. - Veteran Writing Workshop**

This workshop focuses on using dialogue to enhance characters and move narratives forward

Eventbrite: Mar 27, 2022

Join us for our next installment of Journaling & Creativity Workshops to Inspire Guided Action.

In this two-hour workshop, we will craft dialogues that express nuance, personality, emotions, and that move a story forward with meaning. Through written dialogue, participants will gain understanding of the conversations they have with themselves and others.

Your facilitator is Meghan Barich. Megan is most passionate about helping folks reclaim their highest self—the part of you who embraces curiosity, play, and creativity to be conscious to the decision they make. She helps folks build a new toolkit to stop people pleasing and start choosing and creating their own joy and satisfaction. Meghan is a Journal to the Self® certified instructor and is studying to be a Certified Journal Facilitator through the Therapeutic Writing Institute. She is a certified creativity coach and knows first-hand how a daily art and personal expression practice lowers stress and deepens connection to self and to others.

Workshop is for veterans only. Learn More [Here](#).

**Veterans Helping Veterans**  
FREE VETERANS FOOD PANTRY

**4th Tuesday of Each Month**  
From 0900 to 1200

At the Richmond Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)

For Questions Please Call (765) 983-2183

**TOYOTA**

**CRONIN**  
Richmond

**THE CIRCLE**  
HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

# LETS CONNECT *Socially*

IDVA Events Calendar: [Click Here](#)



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Text VET to  
79848

**SHARE**