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Volume 27, Issue 4

Paralog

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri-State Chapter



"Serving Those Who Served"

www.TriStatePVA.org



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PVA Tri-State Chapter Mission Statement

Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter, incorporated in 1976, is a chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. We serve the needs of our Members – U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) – and help them enjoy the highest possible quality of life.

Tri-State Chapter, Members, Associate Members, Family Members, Volunteers, and allied organizations work to provide leadership and advocacy in

- Improving health care and SCI/D research and education
- Protecting veterans rights and benefits
- Improving awareness of disability rights
- Offering sports and health-promotion activities
- Increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Idaho.

A 501(c)(3) charity, PVA Tri-state Chapter relies on grants and donations from members of the public.

The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter who hereby disclaims any responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors and printed in the Paralog.

PVA Tri-State Chapter - 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305

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Cover Photo: Idaho State Capitol
Courtesy of Adobe Stock Images

Thank you to all our Sponsors!

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President News



2023 Show and Shine Car Show



Larry Gardner – President

Well, summer is here and we hit the ground running. We started June off with our first Members Meeting at St. Louis Ponds, in Gervais. The weather was nice and sunny and we had a great turnout! The fish weren't biting but we still had fun and enjoyed Tom's grilling. Thank you to everyone who came and joined us!

Don't miss out on the next Member Meeting at Bowman Pond, July 29th, in Winston OR. (See page 17 for more info) There will be fishing, archery, disc golf, food and lots of fun! I look forward to seeing you there.



Next, we had our annual Show and Shine Car Show. Let me tell you, it was packed! We had the largest turnout of cars I have ever seen! We even had to put out a sign saying we were full. It was great to see our members and the public enjoying the cars, food and music. Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers for making the Car Show a huge success!



June 13th was our second Deep Sea Fishing trip. Our next trip is August 16th and Salmon Fishing on Sept. 11th. These trips are FREE for members and you can bring a guest for \$75. Don't forget about the Rec Fund to help cover travel expenses.

The PVA Tri-State Chapter has been very busy with fund raising events. We will be drawing the winning ticket for our CF Moto ATV, July 9th, at Marion County Fair. Our Eagle Raffle drawing will be July 15th at the PVA Tri-State Gold Cup Golf Tournament, at McNary Golf Club. You can purchase a ticket in person at the office or at one of our events for \$5 each. So stop by our table, say "hello" and get your tickets!


held July 4th-9th, in Portland Oregon. We are excited to be the host Chapter. The games are free to attend. Please join us in rooting for our local athletes. If you would like to help volunteer at our table please give the office a call to sign up.

Here at the Chapter, we are still in need of a Membership Director, Sports Director and Coordinators to work on the individual sports programs that our members are interested in. We are also looking for a Central Oregon Ambassador that would like to work with our members in Bend and north and south of there. If anyone is interested in helping the Chapter with any of these positions, please call the office. We will be more than happy to work with you to get started.


With all the events going on we can always use more volunteers, just get in touch with the office so we can sign you up. Well, that's all I have as my message, so keep reading the Paralog for all the updated reports.



We have also been busy preparing for the National Veterans Wheel Chair Games being



Free Food & Prizes!!!




NRA

Mark Your Calendar
for the Next:

Tri-State Chapter
Air Gun Competition

July 21, 2023
11 am to 3 pm

Location:
Albany Rifle and Pistol Club
29999 Saddle Butte Rd, Shedd OR



Executive Director Update



**PVA Tri-State Chapter's
NEW Building in Silverton**



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Greetings from the Chapter Office, Things have been busy getting everyone ready for the NVWG in Portland, I am pleased to announce that this year we have approx. 15 athletes representing our local Chapter. The games start July 4th and run thru the 9th. By the time you receive this Paralog, you should still have time to make it over to the Oregon Convention Center and root on our Local Team.

I am very pleased to inform the members that your Board has closed the deal on a New Location for your Chapter office. After 27 years in the current location in Salem we have just out grown the building and the neighborhood has changed drastically. The current office is 3200 sq ft with two (2) small out buildings and a free-standing garage.

The New Chapter Office is located at 600 N. Water St in Silverton OR, this new space is nearly 11,000 sq ft. this is going to allow for plenty of growth over the next 30 plus years. We will be able to store all Chapter assets

inside safe and secure (this includes vehicles as well as trailers). The plan is to have a recreation area inside to hold our own air rifle shoots, have archery range, Bocci Ball competitions, as well as many other sports activities all at your own facility.



This new expansion is going to be a great place for Member Meetings as well as possibly the annual Members Banquet, with that said we will need to form a construction / remodel committee to help line up contractors that are supportive of veterans and specifically our organization. Any and all help is appreciated. To go right along with the remodel

committee, we do need a fundraising committee working directly on the Building Remodel fundraising. This will be a pretty big nut to crack, to be able to fulfill all the want lists, we need to raise around \$200k. The plan is to be able to be moved into the new building by the first of the year. However, if we can get enough hands helping out with the committees it could even be sooner.

Another exciting event on the calendar, for you to get involved in, is your 14th Annual Gold Cup Golf tournament. It will be July 15th, at McNary Golf Club. This is our largest fundraiser we do all year. We already have lots of teams signed up and we always have a great turn out. Also, we will be drawing the winning ticket for our Eagle Raffle and unvailing the new ATV there, as well. We will need volunteers to help out. Please call the office to sign up.

You should receive your nomination ballot in the mail in the next day or so. Please take a minute and read thru it. I would like you to think if PVA has done anything for you through whatever life journey you are on. From medical equipment to working on a claim for your benefits, the Chapter is looking for members willing to step up and make a difference in the lives of our paralyzed veterans. Now is the time that you can pay it forward and help in directing the course of the Chapter.



I wanted to remind all of the voting life time members that you are always welcome to zoom into or be at the Chapter office in person for the monthly Board of Directors' meetings. These meetings are all about what is happening within the Chapter and where we are going. Board meetings happen the last Thursday of every month, with the exceptions of November and December. If you would like to sit in on the Board meeting, please contact me and I can get you the zoom meeting information.



**Kick off summer at the Oregon State Fairgrounds
4th of July Spectacular!**

**Come enjoy a family fun event, carnival, food, a
concert by Alabama and a 20 minute fireworks show!**

**Guests can donate to Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri-State Chapter**

**For more information visit:
www.oregonstatefair.org/spectacular**



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

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July 4–9, 2023 • Portland, OR

Join 500+ Veterans
competing in 22 sports!



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Co-Presented by:



**Saturday
July 15,
2023**

14th Annual PVA Tri-State Gold Cup Golf Tournament

**Title
Sponsors**



155 McNary Estates Dr N
Keizer, OR 97303

Prizes:

- \$10,000 Hole in 1
- Putting Contest Cash Prize
- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Putt
- Longest Drive
- Prizes on holes 4, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17 & 18

Cost:

- \$125 Individual
- \$400 Foursome

10 am Registration & Team Photos

1 pm Shotgun

**Awards:
Mens, Womens
& Mixed Teams**

Register Online

www.TriStatePVA.org
503-362-7998



Thank You to our Sponsors!!!



MS Liaison Corner



St. Louis Ponds
Member Meeting



By: Dan Service – MS Liaison/ Treasurer

Do You Know There is A Difference?

Q. What is the difference between depression and anxiety?

Dr. Nancy Anoruo M.D. Faculty - Harvard Medical School · 5 years of experience · USA

There are many variations of both anxiety and depression. Anxiety can be a temporary excessive worry or unease or it can be a more persistent or recurrent psychiatric disorder. The term depression is often loosely used to describe when someone is just feeling down or sad about a situation. The psychiatric definition of depression depends upon specific symptoms. For example, the symptoms of major depression are defined as lasting at least two weeks but usually they go on much longer. Those symptoms include:

- Distinctly depressed or irritable mood
- Loss of interest or pleasure
- Feeling worthless or guilty
- Poor concentration or indecisiveness
- Thoughts of death, suicide attempts or plans

**Dr. Gustavo Campos
Doctor of Medicine · 9 years of experience · Brazil**

Depression is characterized by feelings of melancholy, worthlessness, and a loss of energy and interest in activities. Anxiety is a condition of excessive and uncontrollable worry and apprehension over an uncertain future or event.

**Dr. Mayank Saxena
Doctor of Medicine (MBBS) · 1 years of experience · India**

Depression is a persistent feeling of sadness. A depressed person will have decreased energy, loss of interest in doing thing he used to love doing, sleeping difficulties. He/She may also have suicidal thoughts. Anxiety refers to fearfulness due to a stressful situation. People may experience fear of injury, illness or death, dizziness, sweating, rapid breathing and may be irritable.

**Dr. Anet Varghese
Doctor of Medicine (MBBS) · 1 year of experience · India**

Anxiety is a psychological, physiological and behavioral state induced in humans by a threat to wellbeing or survival, either actual or potential. While depression is a mood disorder that cause a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest.

Dr. JYOTHI ELIZABETH Roy
MBBS · 3 years of experience · India

Simple strategies, such as relaxation techniques and regular exercise, are effective in reducing anxiety and contributing to emotional well-being.

Dr. ANUVITHA KAMATH
MBBS · 3 years of experience · India

Anxiety is a state or mental health condition where there is tension or worry caused by a difficult situation or extreme concern about future events. People with this condition develop symptoms like suicidal tendencies, repeated nightmares, depression disorders, substance abuse, avoiding social life, sleeplessness, and negative thoughts about themselves and the world. In such cases, strong emotional support and good counseling will help them recover from anxiety.

Dr. Pooja M
MBBS · 2 years of experience · India

The signs and symptoms of deep-seated anxiety may include: fear; worry; anxiety; irritability; frustration; an inability to relax; fear of being judged; overthinking; over analyzing; anxiety before events; increased heart rate and heavy breathing; sleep issues; reduced appetite; and digestive issues. The primary treatment includes psychotherapy and anti-anxiety medications. Cognitive behavioral therapy is an effective treatment for anxiety disorders.

I learned more about the basic facts of mood changes in MS, and I now understand how mood impact wellness behaviors, communication, and relationships. I also learned how members of the healthcare team can assist with mood management.

Mood – a person’s emotional state at a particular time.

Emotions – brief feelings in response to event/people around us (e.g. “I felt relieved when my MRI showed no new lesions this year”).

Differentiating between normal emotions and mood changes that require treatment, can cause “Invisible Symptoms”, that Frequently go underreported, underdiagnosed and undertreated Depression/Anxiety – Did you know Anxiety disorders are 3x greater in MS patients than the general population? Anxiety may relate to neuroinflammation (inflammation of the nervous tissue).

Up to 40% of people with MS experience anxiety. Anxiety can exacerbate cognitive dysfunction, specifically processing speed in memory. Increased fight or flight response, due to anxiety, can also decrease problem-solving skills. Depression and MS – Depression is one of the most common symptoms of MS. It may worsen pain, cognition, and fatigue. It is important to know some of the symptoms of depression: irritability; anger; frustration; sadness; grief; worry; feeling bad about yourself; trouble sleeping; reduced appetite; difficulty concentrating; feeling emotionally numb, and moving or speaking slowly.

All of these symptoms overlap. They affect our mood, and our cognition, which can cause us to feel “foggy” and discouraged, or it can cause us to withdraw from social interaction. What we want to watch out for is these feelings being constant, we need to communicate our needs for assistance. We should talk to our day-to-day supporters, attend our appointments, read resources, and attend support group meetings. Learn and keep healthy habits like exercising, having a good nights sleep, eating a healthy diet, engaging in hobbies, spending time with friends and family, reading good books and so forth.

I personally feel it is important to take care of ourselves by talking to those who can help us, our support family and friends, and our healthcare teams, e.g., Primary Care Provider, Neurologist, or maybe a psychologist if you feel the need for one. Just don’t let yourself get so “low” that you are constantly depressed, or in a “discouraged” mood. Therefore, it is important that we do all you can do to be as positive as we can! It helps everyone!

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Other Solutions

- Scooters & Lifts
- Driving Aids
- Assist Seats
- Service & Repairs

ABILITY CENTER



UNITED ACCESS



Recreation Fund Reimbursement

(Voting Members Only)

PVA Tri-State Chapter voting members are eligible to **RECEIVE \$300** each fiscal year through the Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund. It begins **October 1st** and runs through **September 25th** each year.

Include Name, Address, Phone Number, your Legible Receipts (legible photo copy is ok) and a short description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too (digital pictures are best), they may make it into the Paralog. Please note: drugs and alcohol will not be reimbursed.

◆ **Eating Out** ◆ **Movies** ◆ **Games** ◆ **Hobby Supplies** ◆ **Motel** ◆ **Sports**
◆ **Event Tickets** ◆ **Guns** ◆ **Trips** ◆ **Vacation Expenses (lodging food, gas etc)** ◆
PVA Tri-State Events etc

All receipts must be dated and used within this current fiscal year (10/1 - 9/30). Rec Funds **NOT** received in a timely matter will be denied.

Mail or email to: PVA Tri-State Chapter, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 - tristatepva@tristatepva.org
Please be sure to include your address and phone number. Your request must be received in the office no later than **September 25th**. Earlier is better in case of any problems.

Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation Fund.



Especially now,
we need your support.

Donate a car, truck or other vehicle.
The process is easy, the pick-up is free,
and your gift is tax-deductible.

www.pva.careasy.org



Get Paid to Have Fun!



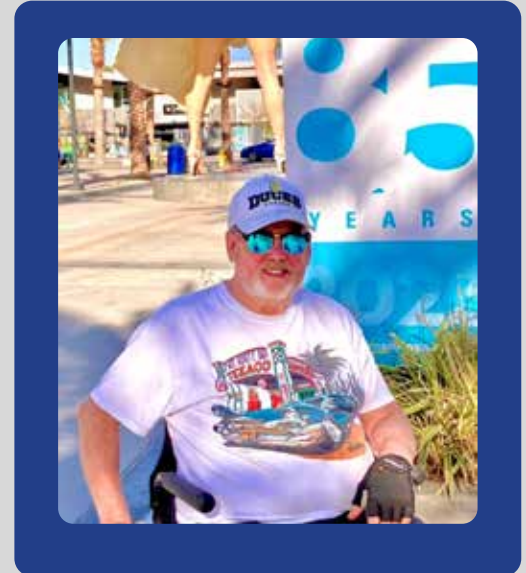
\$300 Rec Fund Reimbursement

Dear Tri-State PVA,
Thank you for the Rec. Fund. This year, I would like to apply it towards helping my wife and I enjoy a seven-day trip to Palm Springs, CA. It is amazing that we could leave Eugene, OR, on a rainy, cool morning, fly south and be sitting poolside in 90+ degree sunshine, in about two hours.

We stayed in a World Mark resort near downtown. It was within walking distance to a variety of good food and drink choices, so we didn't rent a car. Exploring the streets of Palm Springs and people watching was an interesting experience. One night we had dinner with some school mates at Blue Coyote, but most of the time was spent soaking up the sunshine at the pool and meeting fellow vacationers.

Thanks,

Joe H.



In May, I rented a car for four days and went to the Oregon Coast. I enjoyed visting Bandon and then going on Deep Sea Fishing trip on the Tackle Buster

Thanks for the memories!

Sue H.

We kicked off our summer with a fun-filled trip to Silverwood Theme Park and Boulder Beach, in Idaho. It has been over 5 years since we were last there and this visit brought back many nostalgic memories. Thank you so much to the PVA Tri-State Chapter for this generous Recreation Fund. Our family enjoyed our little getaway!

Thank you,

Travis N.



With what seemed a protracted winter and cabin fever, it was time for a break! We headed to Lincoln City where the factory outlets were a nice shopping adventure for BJ, not so much for me. Then on to Newport's Hallmark Resort- a welcome change from the daily rat race. Our first stop was Georgie's Beachside Grill for great sea food, servie and a wonderful view of the crashing ocean waves. It was fun to watch the hilarious antics of the dogs on the beach running through the sand with their people. We enjoyed a terrific weekend away thanks to the Recreation Fund.

Larry and BJ R.



I really am honored to have served this great country. The perks we are able to enjoy because of our service to this great nation can be very humbling.

I for one enjoy a good concert. So to cross two more entertainers off my bucket list, the Rec Fund Reimbursement has definitely given me more incentives to attend more bucket list shows in the future.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing Carrie Underwood, in March. Then Shinedown and Three Days Grace at the Moda Center here in Portland.

Thank you PVA Tri-State for making this possible.

Michael H.

Please find enclosed a receipt for our flight to North Carolina. We were present for our grandson's graduation from basic training, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Needless to say how proud we are of Kingston's achievement in this endeavor. Our daughter, his mom, had rented an Air B&B for us all to stay at during our time there. It was a great family reunion!

We all would like to thank PVA Tri-State's Recreation Fund to assist us in our traveling expenses.

Sincerely,

Don and Donna L.



Let's Go Fishing!



Tri-State Chapter

2023 Deep Sea Fishing Schedule

🚢 Free for Voting Members! Bring a Guest for \$75!

🚢 Dates and Boarding Times:

May 22nd - 5:30am

June 13th - 5:30am

August 16th - 6:30am

5 Hour Trip - Lingcod
& Rockfish

* Fishing & Shell license required.
Available for purchase at
Dockside Charters.

* Complementary Coffee is provided

* Bring your own lunch, snack and
drinks

🚢 **New: RSVP TEN days prior to your date!** 🚢

Check in:
270 Coast Guard Dr, Depoe Bay
541-765-2545

**DOCKSIDE
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You're Invited:
July 29, 10am to 4pm
MEMBERS PICNIC
AT
BOWMAN POND
1965 Olalla Rd, Winston

Join us for
Archery, Disc Golf, Fishing,
Food, Games and Prizes!

Bring the whole family and
meet other members!

Please RSVP:
Call: 503-362-7998
Email: tristatepva@tristatepva.org

Do You Remember Kilroy ???

By: Joel Satoris- PVA Tri-State Member



He is engraved in stone in the National War Memorial in Washington, DC - back in a small alcove where very few people have seen it. For the WWII generation, this will bring back memories. For you younger folks, it's a bit of trivia that is a part of our American history.

Anyone born from 1913 to about 1950 is familiar with Kilroy. No one knew why he was so well known, but everybody got into it, I even remember seeing him around public places in the late 60s... So who the heck was Kilroy?



In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the real Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts, had evidence of his identity.

'Kilroy' was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war who worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet. He would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in

semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark.

Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his check mark on each job he inspected, but added 'KILROY WAS HERE' in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message.

Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks. Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With the war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific.

Before war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long hauls to Berlin and Tokyo. To

the troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that someone named Kilroy had "been there first," as a joke. U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived.



Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, in the Statue of Liberty, on the underside of the Arc de Triomphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.)

As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for coming invasions by U.S. troops (and

thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo!

In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. Its' first occupant was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"



To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy yard in Halifax, Massachusetts. And the tradition continues...

14th Annual PVA Tri-State

Thank You to our Title Sponsors!



Gold Cup Golf Tournament

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO THIS SUMMER?

Come JOIN us at any of our upcoming events:

July 4: Patriotic Day at Volcanoes Stadium, Keizer

July 4: 4th of July Spectacular, Oregon State Fairgrounds

July 4 - 9: National Veteran Wheelchair Games, Portland

July 7 - 9: Marion County Fair

July 15: Gold Cup Golf Tournament, McNary Golf Club, Keizer

July 28 - 30: Night of Fire at Woodburn Dragstrip

July 29: Member Meeting at Bowman Pond, Winston

Aug 5 - 6: Steam-Up at Powerland Heritage Park, Brooks

Aug 5 - 7: Homer Davenport Community Festival, Silverton

Aug 9 - 12: Douglas County Fair, Roseburg

Aug 10 - 13: KeizerFest

Aug 12: KeizerFest Parade

Aug 18: Blackberry Festival, Sutherlin

Aug 25 - Sept 4: Oregon State Fair

*** Call the office at 503-326-7998 to sign up!**





MEMBERS BANQUET

SATURDAY SEPT 16, 2023

RSVP BY: SEPT 5, 2023

- Hotel Reservations
888-244-6665
(Rec Fund Can Be Used)

- Check In: 1pm
- Social Time: 1- 3 pm
- Dinner Served: 3pm

- Limited ADA
Rooms Available
(Ask about
Special Pricing)

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SHOW & SHINE



2023



Car Show



Thank You to
all our



Sponsors and Vendors!!!



Government Relations Update



Don Hedlin fishing at St. Louis Ponds with our Trac Chair



By: Don Hedlin – Government Relations Director

"An apple a day will keep the doctor away." I am blessed to live in a beautiful home, with a loving wife, a year-round creek, old growth trees, flowers, ivy, ponds, and plenty of wildlife. There is this squirrel that keeps coming in every morning to feed on our red house bird feeder knocking seed onto the ground to feed the birds. My wife has affectionately named him "Chubby Checker." She's right, this guy is big for a squirrel. You know that ole Chubby likes apple cores and I keep feeding his habit. When I eat an apple a day, to keep the doctor away; Chubby gets a treat. Chubby and his buddies live on our property, no one harasses them, they get to play in the cedars, eat our offerings and hang out under the Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Chubby and his friends are safe here, they get the best care we can give them, they live a good life, and so should you when it comes to Home-Based Community Care (HBCS)

JUST GET IT DONE! On June 7, 2023, PVA Executive Director Carl Blake testified in front of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee in DC, headed up by Senator John Tester of Montana. In his testimony Carl sounded the battle cry "Just Get It Done" and you could tell by his voice fluctuations he was tired of the political games DC plays with our members lives. A package of 5 Bills to address the staffing shortages, recruitment, retention, payments, maintenance, new VA Hospitals, Clinics and Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities for our Vets was brought to the floor and because of political games did not make it into law.

That ole saying "If it ain't broke, then don't fix it" rings false for Washington DC when it comes to our expensive and demanding system of care. Senator Tester stated, "We must meet our obligation to our service members who signed up and need our help when they come back home." It seems like these rights, freedoms

and liberty are being taken away. Whether it is in the courts, politicians or unelected bureaucrats, someone or something is always getting in the way of “doing the right thing.” **The system is broken and needs to be fixed!**

So, how do we fix this mess we are in? PVA strongly supports the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act (H.R. 542/S. 141) this is why Senator Tester and his committee had Carl Blake there. When it comes to HBCS, the Dole Act addresses the shortfall between costs for in-home Veteran care in the current system. Currently the VA only pays 65% of the nursing facility cost to the Veteran for in-home care vs the 100% of the cost they would pay a nursing facility. Once passed, the Dole Act will end this shortfall; it will require the VA to pick up 100% of the cost for in-home care. Yes, there were other guest speakers, but none of them forcefully told these Senators to quit playing games with Veteran’s lives and “JUST GET IT DONE!”

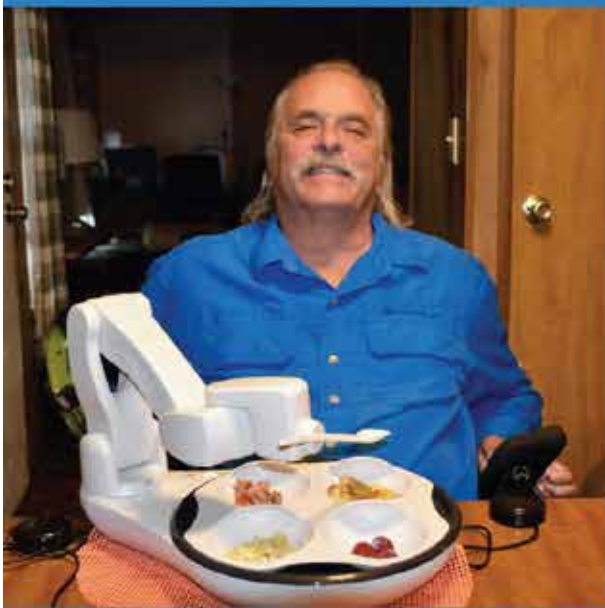
I say BRAVO Carl Blake BRAVO my man, you nailed it. When it comes to HBCS and the right of a veteran to stay in their homes, while having caregivers come to them; DC needs to “do the right thing” 90% of vets have told the VA they would prefer to stay in their homes and have the VA pay for it. Studies show they are happier, they heal better, and their lives are less complicated than at a nursing home or facility and it is good for the VA which has a major shortage of beds and staff, especially in our SCI/D centers. VA is recommending and prefers that our vets remain in their homes and receive community-based care, if it is possible. The recommendation is to talk with your social worker and your primary care provider to work out a plan. If you are having issues with paying for your in-home care, your social worker may get you access to Veteran Benefits to help with the cost.

Part of the 5 Bills is the **CAREERS** Act: VA is suffering from a staffing shortage, they need to change their hiring practices, so they can hire the best and brightest to take care of our vets. They understand that they need to start working with high schools and community colleges and get the students interested in working at the VA. They also need to address the pay shortfall, along with providing retention bonuses, just like the military did when we were serving. **BUILD** Act: VA needs new hospitals, as I revealed in my May/April Paralog article, we only have 1 Long-Term Care (LTC) facility in the west in Long Beach, CA which currently serves 2/3rds of the country. VA knows this is an issue and they insured us they are trying to address it through the **BUILD** Act. A new LTC is scheduled for completion in 2023 in Dallas and 2024 for San Diego. Community Living Centers (CLC’s) are not designed, nor staffed for LTC, they are a temporary care facility and in some cases hospice care like they have in Vancouver, WA. VA has been using our 25 CLC’s throughout the nation as LTC’s, due to the shortage of beds, maintenance issues and staff in the designated LTC’s.

Let’s hope the Senators “Do the Right Thing” and make sure every Veteran Bill is passed. You can help, call, write, text, send a pigeon, or enlist Chubby Checker and his friends. Learn to use Voter Voice available at pva.org this is PVA’s new advocacy program which gives instant access to our Representatives in Washington DC and back at home, send them the message. Give it a try, tell them to “Do the Right Thing.” And in the words of our illustrious Executive Director **JUST GET IT DONE**



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11 am to 3 pm**

**Free Event!
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Snack Provided!**



**All Members
Friends &
Family are
welcome to
participate!!!**



**See YOU at the next:
Tri-State Chapter
Air Gun
Competiton!!!**

**Location:
Albany Rifle and Pistol Club
29999 Saddle Butte Rd, Shedd OR**

**For More Information:
PVA Tri-State
503-362-7998 • www.TriStatePVA.org**



NRA





NRA

PVA Tri-State Air Gun Competition

May 12, Top Scores:

Vincent Cartales	69 pts
Dennis Harbour	68 pts
Stephen Muphy	66 pts

June 16, Top Scores:

Larry Cartales	84 pts
Bill Gray	84 pts
Steven Hruza	84 pts

Congratulations to our winners!!!

Thank you to everyone who came out!

**We look forward to seeing you at our next competition
July 21, 2023**

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on all the fun!

Please call the office at 503-362-7998 for more info.



SPORTS

Corner



**Don't Miss Out
on our Upcoming
Salmon Fishing
Trip, Sept. 11th!!!**



By: Larry Gardner – President

PVA Tri-State Chapter has been doing real good with the Air Rifle team. We've been putting on a shoot every two months at the Albany Rifle and Pistol Club indoor range. With the Board's approval, we are going to begin shooting once every month. The dates are going to vary because of availability for the range, but we will be sure to keep everyone posted of the dates. If you haven't tried Air Rifle shooting, come on out and join us. Its lots of fun and the Chapter has four new air rifles, three loaners and plenty of ammo to use. The next competition will be July 21. (See page 27 for more info.) So just show up and have a good time.

The Trap team has really slowed down since Covid. Pacific International Trap Shooting Assoc (PITA) use to hold a lot of shoots. They have really cut back with only a few shoots a season along with the multiplexes every month,

but keep checking the schedule. (www.shootpita.com) We are hoping to build the team back up. (a Sports director and coordinators would really help).

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are taking place this month in Portland, Oregon. (July 4-9). I am pleased to announce that the Chapter has the largest team that we have ever had competing this year! As the host Chapter, we have the honor of carrying the torch and lighting the cauldron during the Opening Ceremony, at the Oregon Conv. Center. Entry to the games is FREE! You just have to pay for parking. I hope to see you there!

Don't forget that August 16th is our next Deep Sea Fishing trip and there is a Salmon fishing trip Sept. 11th. Be sure to sign up 10 days in advance to ensure your spot. You don't want to miss the boat!

September 11, 2023
FREE for Members!

Mark Your Calendars:



**SALMON
FISHING TRIP**

Check in at 6:30am

- * Fishing license can be purchased at Dockside Charters
- * Complementary coffee is provided
- * Bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks
- * Don't forget about the Rec Fund to help with expenses
- * **Bring a guest for \$75!**

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- * Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter • www.tristatepva.org



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **SAVE *the* DATE** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

LOCATION: SALEM YMCA

VETERANS



STAND ★ DOWN



EMAIL ROSY MACIAS FOR MORE INFORMATION -
rosa.macias@va.gov

Southern OR Ambassador Report



Left to right: Dennis Harbour & Dennis Hooper at Willamette Speedway



By: Dennis Hooper – Southern Oregon Ambassador

This past May was a month of "firsts", for me. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, through their local Chapters, have provided myself with numerous opportunities. I was fortunate enough to attend some dirt track racing at Willamette Speedway, in Lebanon. My first visit to this track on Armed Forces Day, did not disappoint. We were there to help the Tri-State Chapter sell some 50/50 raffle tickets; some hats and auto shades. Our tables underneath the grandstand were in a great location and the support we received was splendid. The facilities are totally wheelchair accessible. I was able to get right up to the fence and catch the action. My clothes got filled with dirt from the track! I will add that the food there is not too shabby. It is a great idea for a day trip. If you choose to, you can use your Recreation Fund to help.

With that race experience under my belt, I was primed to proceed to my next first, the Indianapolis 500. I have always wanted to attend this event. They say sporting events are not captured properly on the

television. They are correct. The race experience live is remarkable! The sounds, the smells, the atmosphere, make the live experience way better than the TV. I must say that the wheelchair seating, leaves nothing to be desired. We were mere feet from the action! All along the straightaway, is accessible seating with numerous ramps to get into your space. No one will be standing in front of you. The plaza, infield and all entrances are very wheelchair friendly. The Legend's day exposed us to the old cars and drivers, with ample chances to purchase memorabilia. Make sure you bring a thick wallet. Everyone should experience, "The Greatest Spectacle In Racing"!



Things do not slow down this summer. We have already had two member meetings, with another one on July 29th, at Bowman Pond, in Winston. There will be fishing, archery, corn hole disc golf, food, and prizes. It will be lots of fun with some great people! (See page 17 for more info.)



As you can see in this issue of the Paralog, your Chapter is busy throughout Oregon and Idaho. For those that chose not to participate in the wheelchair games, I hope you will make the trek to Portland to support your team. We will have several novice athletes this year. As the Team Captain for the Tri-State Chapter, I can tell you that all our athletes appreciate the support. It is not often that we are the home team. Folks from all over will flock to Portland for the games. I hope to hear some familiar voices in the crowd. I am confident your team will bring home some gold!



I wanted to update an event I mentioned previously. Operation High Altitude, put on by Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra, was canceled from the first week of June. (Too much snow.) I am ecstatic to announce it has been rescheduled for August 20-25. I can tell you from experience that this camp in Mammoth Lakes, California, is an awesome fishing, kayaking and rock

climbing adventure. There will be an opportunity for cycling and sightseeing. They treat you really well and the air is fresh and clean. Check out <http://www.disabledsportseasternsierra.org/> to register.

Speaking of August, your Chapter outreach booth will be at two Southern Oregon fairs this year. We will be at the Douglas County Fair in Roseburg, August 9-12. Then Blackberry Festival, August 18-20, in Sutherlin. Please take the time to visit some of your fellow members. Let this summer be the best one yet!



Good news from the local front. The Roseburg VA is expanding their Community Care Program, beginning in June. The expanded options include access to additional community care programs and non-traditional care to area Veterans who can benefit greatly from added specialty care services. Some services include chiropractic care, acupuncture, and massage therapy, all provided by non-VA providers in the VA Community Care Network (CCN). To learn more, contact your VA care team or the RVAHCS Community Care Team at 541-440-1296.

Make sure you all keep up with the PACT Act provisions now available to those that served in the middle east and other theaters. If you feel you have been exposed to burn pits; dust storms; asbestos; chemicals or contaminated water, you deserve to be compensated for any related health issues. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Our Veteran Service Officer, is here to help us. There are many health symptoms that could be caused by your service. We find out new things all the time. I want you all to stick around for a long time. I need an audience for my ramblings! I hope to see some of you at our numerous events. I always enjoy meeting our members and hearing their stories. Stay safe!

Happy Birthday !!!

Curtis Ketchum	7/2	Millard Tope	8/10
Roger Watson	7/3	Marc Stump	8/11
Kirk Parkhurst	7/4	Lisa Travis	8/11
Kenneth Woodward	7/4	Gerhard Alexander	8/12
Daniel Gifford	7/5	Eric Johnson	8/12
Douglas Powell	7/6	Dinah Wells	8/13
Charles Younglove	7/6	Robert Campbell	8/14
Craig Colerick	7/12	Lawrence Rathbun	8/14
Dale Neely	7/14	John Brasch	8/15
Daniel Umbriaco	7/17	Bob Mahler	8/16
Kay Workman	7/18	Richard Rayas	8/16
Thomas Morgan	7/19	Gerald Caldwell	8/17
Vern Spaur	7/20	Katheren Picaso	8/17
Donald Darland	7/21	Elmer Childress	8/18
Charles Wheeler	7/23	Leo Espinoza	8/19
William R.C. Hobbs	7/24	Gloria Johnson	8/20
Samuel Hennon	7/26	Keith Miller	8/21
Robert La Favor	7/29	Richard Weaver	8/21
Neal Tooze	7/29	Michael Hebert	8/22
Bruce Dunbar	8/1	Daniel Fairchild	8/23
William Shields	8/1	Diane Grady	8/25
Douglas Carr	8/2	Rick Steinle	8/25
Stephen Bergseng	8/3	Craig Ackerson	8/27
David Vincent	8/4	Casey Jones	8/28
Rodney Ontiveros	8/5	Joseph Heidrick	8/29
Gregory Schouweiler	8/5	Timothy Vixay	8/30
Joshua Geddis	8/7	Addam Green	8/31
		Timothy Walusiak	8/31





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July

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 BOD Meeting	28	29
30	31					

 Office Closed



August

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 BOD Meeting		

Save the Date

July 4	Volcanoes Patriotic Day Keizer	July 29	Member Meeting Bowman Pond, Winston
July 4	4th of July Spectacular Oregon State Fairgrounds	Aug 9-13	KeizerFest
July 4-9	NVWG, Portland	Aug 16	Deep Sea Fishing Check in at 5:30am
July 7-9	Marion County Fair	Aug 25 - Sept 4	Oregon State Fair
July 9	ATV CF Moto Drawing Marion County Fair	Sept 11	Salmon Fishing Check in at 7am, Depoe Bay
July 15	Gold Cup Golf Tournament	Sept 16	Annual Members Banquet Chinook Winds, Lincoln City
July 15	Eagle Raffle Drawing		



Washington Update

Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department

June 16, 2023

Volume 31, Number 11

Check out the PVAAction Force page to view alerts and a list of key legislation.

PVA TESTIFIES AT SVAC HEARING ON LONG-TERM CARE

On June 7, PVA Executive Director Carl Blake appeared before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) to discuss the critical need for increased VA long-term care services. In his written statement, Blake noted that more than half of the veterans on VA's spinal cord injury registry are over the age of 65. He urged Congress to develop and implement a comprehensive plan that addresses future spinal cord injury and disorder (SCI/D) long-term care needs. He also addressed current and proposed SCI/D long-term care construction projects, and the urgent need to expand VA's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). As part of expanded access to HCBS, he discussed the need for Congress to eliminate VA's existing cap on the amount they can pay for HCBS, so they can cover the full cost of needed services for veterans with the greatest support needs.

In his oral comments, Mr. Blake passionately stressed the importance of putting politics aside to pass critical legislation that would greatly help veterans with SCI/Ds. He said, "Our members are tired of political posturing, and election year politics that are standing in the way of much-needed reforms." He further urged members to "Just get it done. Do the right thing." You can read his entire written statement and watch a video of the hearing here. His oral presentation begins around the 1:29:20 mark.

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES FAA REAUTHORIZATION

On June 14, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously passed H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act. This legislation would reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for five years. We are pleased that the legislation includes several important provisions that will improve the air travel experience for people with disabilities. Some of these provisions include training requirements for assisting passengers with limited mobility and properly stowing assistive devices; improving the Department of Transportation's (DOT) complaint process; and addressing the need for more access standards. The bill also requires continued study into safe and secure in-cabin wheelchair restraint systems; and for DOT to perform a more in-depth analysis of mishandled wheelchairs as reported by airlines. Additionally, the legislation reauthorizes the Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee and includes a focus on the needs of passengers with disabilities in evacuations. The bill includes elements of the PVA-supported Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAAA) (H.R. 1267) and the MOBILE Act (H.R. 3082). The legislation will now head to the House floor.

The Senate's FAA bill also includes several of the provisions in the House bill. It was slated to be marked up on June 15, but committee action was postponed. We are working to add elements of the ACAA (S. 545) to the Senate bill as amendments during the Committee markup process.

PVA PARTICIPATES IN HEARING ON CARE COORDINATION

On June 13, the House Veterans' Affairs, Health Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the

effectiveness of VA's health care coordination efforts. Senior Health Policy Advisor Roscoe Butler represented PVA at the hearing. His testimony focused on the VA's ability to coordinate care in its spinal cord injury and disorder (SCI/D) system of care and in the community.

Mr. Butler explained how ensuring proper staffing at SCI/D spokes and hubs allows VA to more quickly and completely coordinate its care for SCI/D veterans. He also relayed PVA's concerns about the serious knowledge deficit about SCI/D care that exists in the community, and explained why many civilian facilities are simply not equipped or properly staffed to handle SCI/D patients' acute and long-term care needs. He concluded his presentation by explaining how VA's lack of SCI/D long-term care beds is severely impairing its ability to coordinate that care for veterans needing this level of assistance. He urged the Subcommittee to pass H.R. 542, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act, which would make critically needed improvements to VA's HCBS programs. You can watch a video of the hearing here and read Mr. Butler's written statement here.

PVA PRESENTS SESSION ON HOTEL ACCESSIBILITY AT THE NATIONAL ADA SYMPOSIUM

In May, Danica Gonzalves, PVA's Advocacy Attorney, presented on hotel accessibility at the National ADA Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri. The National ADA Symposium is a comprehensive conference on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The National ADA Symposium is an initiative of the ADA National Network and coordinated by the Great Plains ADA Center. The Symposium offered 91 sessions covering a wide variety of ADA topics, including accessible parks and recreation, venue accessibility, accessible transportation, and accessible housing. Ms. Gonzalves' presentation, "Hotel Accessibility Requirements under the ADA," discussed the accessibility barriers wheelchair users encounter at hotels, ADA requirements for hotels, and how hotels can go above and beyond the minimum legal requirements. The National ADA Network and the Great Plains ADA Center's websites offer ADA webinars, resources on ADA topics, and provide technical assistance to answer ADA questions.

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING HELD ON VA TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

On June 6, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, held a joint hearing focusing on technology modernization. With only one panel, the witnesses answered several rounds of questions pertaining to various information technology (IT) platforms used by the VA.

Testifying for the VA was Raymond Tellez, Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Automated Benefits Delivery. He was joined by Robert Orifici who serves as the Director, Benefits and Memorial Systems Portfolio in VA's Office of IT. Testifying for the American Federation of Government Employees was David Bump, who is a member of the National Veterans Affairs Council.

Several members stressed the need for improved and modernized IT platforms across all systems within the VA. Many also flagged the need for transparency around the increasing demand on artificial intelligence (AI) technology used in various steps of the benefits decision process. The subcommittee members pushed VA for in-depth answers to complex difficulties around rollouts, updates, and training for modified IT systems across the system.

Although the VA stressed the existence of a robust training schedule for all Veterans Benefits Administration employees using legacy platforms as well as modernized systems, Mr. Bump countered these claims. He testified that the VA needed to include staff in modernization efforts. He also stressed the need for additional training and engagement to ensure technology that meets the needs of staff and veterans.

SECOND HOUSE HISA BILL INTRODUCED

Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL) recently introduced the PVA-supported Autonomy for All Disabled Veterans Act (H.R. 4047). This legislation would make much needed changes to VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program. His legislation would restructure the program so it offers a single rate of \$10,000 for all users and ties future grant increases to the same formula as VA's four other home modification grant programs. Currently, a lifetime HISA benefit is worth up to \$6,800 for

veterans who need a housing modification due to a service-connected condition. Veterans who rate 50 percent service-connected may receive the same amount even if a modification is needed due to a non-service-connected disability.

Veterans who are not service-connected but are enrolled in the VA health care system can receive up to \$2,000. Unfortunately, Congress has not adjusted the grant rates for over a decade even though the cost of home modifications and labor have risen more than 50 percent during the same timeframe.

A similar bill that was recently reintroduced, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act (H.R. 2818), would retain the existing grant scheme by increasing the \$6,800 grant to \$10,000 and increasing the \$2,000 grant to \$5,000. It would also require VA to increase the amount of the grant in line with inflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index. PVA supports all efforts to make improvements to the HISA program.

JUSTICE FOR ALS VETERANS ACT REINTRODUCED

VA provides Dependency and Indemnity-Compensation (DIC) to qualified survivors of service members and veterans. Eligible survivors can also receive an additional \$331.84 per month in DIC in cases where a veteran who, at the time of death, was in receipt of or was entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated totally disabling for a continuous period of at least eight years. This extra payment is commonly referred to as the “DIC kicker.” Unfortunately, the surviving spouses of veterans diagnosed with ALS rarely qualify for the kicker due to the aggressive nature of the disease.

H.R. 3790/S. 1590, the Justice for ALS Veterans Act, has been reintroduced in the House and Senate. Both bills would make future surviving spouses eligible for the higher rate of DIC. The House version would also direct VA to study

and advise Congress on other conditions that might warrant similar consideration for the DIC kicker. The additional language addresses past concerns by some lawmakers who felt other conditions deserved similar consideration. PVA agrees other conditions should be considered, but the review should not delay payment to the surviving spouses of veterans who pass away from ALS.

NEWS OF NOTE

New House Bills Expanding VA Work-Study Program Introduced

Recently, PVA endorsed a set of bills introduced by Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA) that would make long-needed improvements to VA’s work-study program. VA work-study is a program offered to student veterans enrolled in education benefits as a way to earn money and gain work experience while attending school.

The first bill is the Student Veteran Work Study Modernization Act of 2023 (H.R. 3600), which would create a five-year pilot program that would expand eligibility to student veterans enrolled at half-time. This provision would have a big impact on student veterans with disabilities or who have a family, as full-time enrollment is often a challenge for some. Additionally, it would require the VA to provide work-study data to Congress, including the number of participating veterans, the number of students who earn a four-year degree, and the number of student veterans who obtain full-time work within the VA.

The second bill is the VA Work Study Improvement Act of 2023 (H.R. 3601). This bill would allow student veterans to participate in the work-study program while working in \ settings, such as nonprofits and state agencies, which are currently not authorized. The legislation would also ensure student veterans are paid the highest rate of compensation after comparing



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri-State Chapter
Serving those who Served!

federal, state, and local rates. Lastly, it would finally authorize electronic timesheets.

If passed, these bills would drastically improve the VA work-study program as well as the experience for the student veterans, and dependents, who rely on this program to supplement their life outside of the classroom and improve their employment situation.

Update on Wheelchair Spot Inside the Cabin

In early June, at the annual Hamburg, Germany Aircraft Exhibition, Delta Flight Products (DFP), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, debuted a full prototype of a first-of-its kind airplane seat that allows customers who use a power wheelchair to remain in it for the entire journey. DFP has partnered with UK-based consortium Air4All on the seat, which converts a standard passenger seat to an accommodation for wheelchair restraint. The product also enables airlines to retain the design of their cabin on every seat. Following the exhibition, the seat will be sent for final design and validation. Testing and certification programs to install the seat will begin once certified.

Million Veteran Program Update

The Million Veteran Program (MVP) is only 50,000 veterans away from reaching the historic milestone of enrolling one million veterans. You can be part of history and help shape the future of health for veterans by joining MVP today.

HEARINGS, SURVEYS, AND WEBINARS

Reminder: Hoteling While Disabled – We Want to Hear Your Stories!

Ever feel frustrated because a hotel website doesn't provide enough – or any – information regarding accessibility? Tired of having to call and get the run-around just to find out which room has the accessibility features you need? How about the time you showed up and they'd given away the accessible room or the hotel didn't have one at all? We want to hear about your experiences! Please fill out the survey on hoteling while disabled.

The Supreme Court is hearing a case about whether a person who investigates hotel websites – sometimes called a “tester” – should be allowed to sue when the website does not have the required information about accessible rooms and accommodations. Disability rights

advocates are writing a brief to the Court and want to include as many stories as possible of the realities of traveling with a disability. Specifically, how hard it is to make hotel reservations and secure a room with accessibility features because of the lack of information about accessibility on hotel websites. You can help educate the Court by sharing your experiences of traveling with a disability. Please fill out the survey by June 30.

Recorded Webinar Now Available: Advocacy Through Effective Complaints

Complaints are an effective tool to magnify advocates' voices and can result in more immediate action to remove accessibility barriers and modify discriminatory policies. The recorded webinar, “Advocacy Through Effective Complaints,” presented by PVA's Advocacy Attorney, Danica Gonzalves, outlines concrete steps to documenting barriers, filing complaints with companies, collaborating with companies to improve accessibility, and other successful advocacy tools. The webinar explains how complaints result in systematic change and accessibility barrier removal. The webinar recording and presentation materials are posted on PVA's website, along with other informative webinars that cover disability laws and advocacy.

Upcoming Veterans' Committee Activities

Please visit the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee webpages for information on upcoming hearings and markups.



PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

April 2023

Partner For Life



Mr. Floyd Graves III is a 51-year-old Veteran. He served as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist in the Air Force; and as a Tree Trimmer and Water Meter Worker for the City of Oceanside. Floyd has been a client of the Veterans Career Program since 2019.

In 2022, shortly after learning that his position as a Water Maintenance Worker would be ending, he contacted our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Darah Gerou, for assistance. He was looking for a new position, preferably permanent. Like many individuals, Floyd had accepted part-time or contract work to fill the gaps between permanent positions.

Floyd's main motivation for finding a position was rooted in his desire to continue helping to support his family. Before starting the job search process, Darah helped him apply for unemployment and navigate other helpful local resources. She then assisted Floyd with updating, revising and tailoring his resume. They also updated his LinkedIn profile, practiced his interview skills, and discussed the best to "sell" himself to potential employers.

Floyd went on several second-round interviews with different companies – not an uncommon situation for many job seekers. In mid-April 2023, Floyd received and accepted a job offer with Caltrans as a Tree Maintenance Worker. He began his new job the first week of May.

Congratulations Floyd!

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

20 Client Placements

- 15 Paid Employment
- 5 Education/Training
 - 17 Veterans
 - 3 Family Members
 - 5 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 12 clients placed in full-time employment was \$93,923 (a record high monthly average); and the average income for the 3 clients placed in part-time work was \$11,304.



Exploring Self-Employment



According to the National Disability Institute, 74% of people with disabilities do not participate in the labor force, but continue to turn to self-employment and small business development as a viable alternative.

On April 19th, graduates of Paralyzed Veterans of America's 8-week Disabled Veterans Self-Employment Pilot Program had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished panel of small business experts including Aaron Sharp Miranda (Wells Fargo), Tracy Cassady (Penske Automotive Group), Laura Wages (U.S. Small Business Administration) and Meghan Ogilvie (Dog Tag Inc).

Thanks to a generous donation from the Wells Fargo Foundation, we were able to award two \$2,500 grants to help PVA Members test and launch their businesses. Congratulations to Howard Cleland (PVA Wisconsin Chapter Member) and Tiffany Davison (PVA Buckeye Chapter Member); and congratulations to all the participants in our pilot program.



PVA.org/find-support/veterans-career-program

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Membership Application

An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted or commissioned for active duty service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, or our allies as evidenced by other-than-dishonorable character of service documented by a verifiable DD-214 or DD-215 (entry-level separation not acceptable); (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. **Complete and return application to the chapter of choice or by mail/email to: Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) members@pva.org.** Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: PVA Tri-State Chapter, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Social Security Number: _____ Male Female

Race/Ethnicity:

Asian/Pacific Islander African American/Descent Hispanic/Latino

Native American/Alaskan Native Caucasian

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

Please submit the following with application:

- DD Form 214 showing character of discharge.
- Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician's statement).

Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval.

Have you been discharged under conditions that are less than honorable? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you a United States citizen? Yes No

Do you have a spinal cord injury or disease? Yes No If disease, specify: _____

Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? Yes No

If Paralyzed Veterans of America is your accredited representative, do you permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to PVA National Membership Department relative to your membership eligibility? Yes No

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I have read and meet the qualifications and I understand that my membership could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri-State Chapter
 3700 Silverton Rd. NE
 Salem, OR 97305

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