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Volume 29, Issue 5



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Tri-State Chapter

Paralog

Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter

Serving Oregon, Idaho and Washington

“Serving Those Who Served”

www.TriStatePVA.org



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RESOURCES

ID Cards www.vets.gov	eBenefits www.benefits.va.gov
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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, Washington, and Idaho.

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.

Paralog Contents

- 4** President News
- 8** National Service Officer Update
- 10** MS Liasion News
- 14** Rec Fund Reimbursement
- 16** Heroes Helping Heroes
- 20** Tri-State Chapter News
- 24** Sports Corner
- 26** Guardians of Never Forget
- 30** Calendar
- 33** Washington Update

Cover Photo: Sawtooth Mountains, Idaho

Page 3 Photo: Messa Falls, Idaho

Photos Courtesy of Adobe Stock Images

Thank You to our Sponsors!

Event Flyers:

Page 6 The Dalles Cruise-in

Page 7 Members Banquet

Page 11 Red, White, & Blue Golf Tournament

Page 19 Trout Fishing

Page 22 PVA Bowling Tournament Series

Page 23 Deep Sea Fishing

Page 28 Showbiz Treasure Hunt

President News



7.19 Gold Cup Golf Tournament



Don Hedlind – President

Wow what a busy summer! Our Tri-State Chapter has been doing an event every weekend since Armed Forces Day at Willamette Speedway on May 17th. We've hosted six PVA sponsored events in the last four months. Thank you to the many volunteers who have stepped up and helped, we would not be successful without you. Thank you to our staff, Laura, Scarlett and Rick for all your hard work! Thank you Secretary Sue Holt for stepping up to serve another term as our secretary, Sue is also the Chapter's new MS Liaison and has written an article about MS.

The Annual Membership Banquet is at 1pm, Sept 27th, at the Chapter office. Please call the office, or email to RSVP. It will help us plan the event. We will have catered food, desserts, music, Bingo and some other fun games. Thank you to Leon

and Donna from "Quilts of Valor" for the beautiful US Navy Veteran seal that you made. You're both wonderful giving and caring people.

Our Chapter recently elected a new Board of Directors (BOD). I would like to welcome to the BOD:

Roger Titus, Roy Lindsay, Ron Clement, Larry Cartales, our Bill Gray, Susan Holt (Sec), and our Immediate Past President Larry Gardner. Keith Wingfield, who was past Treasurer and PVA National Treasurer, is our new Chapter Treasurer. Thank You to the BOD, I look forward to serving with you. What is missing from this BOD, is Idaho and Central Oregon representation. We are looking forward to our new Chapter BOD and their role in leadership they would like to serve. Thank You to all our members who sent in the election ballots.

We recently had our National Senior Vice President (VP) Tammy Jones, from Texas, with her husband Dale and VP Marcus Murray from Colonial Chapter visit us to talk about our Chapter. We had a great visit and learned some things from them that we can use and implement. Thank You Tammy, Marcus and Dale. We also had Cheryl Topping PVA CFO and Arlene Campbell PVA Corporate Controller visit the Chapter in July. Thank you to everyone at National, we hope you enjoyed your trip out to the beautiful Pacific NW. We look forward to your leadership and partnership.

The Chapter needs a Central Oregon and Idaho Ambassador that will work in their local area to spread awareness of PVA. Ambassadors do not have to be members; just someone who would like to volunteer and contribute. We would like them to set up and host sporting, recreational and membership events. Our Ambassador Program is known nationally and creates many opportunities to help the Chapter serve our fellow Veterans.

Like the Northwest and Rocky Mountain States Chapter's, we serve a vast area from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. For us to accomplish our mission, we must travel. Next year, some of us, along with our PVA National Service Officer (NSO) Matt Paige, will be heading out to Idaho, Eastern Oregon and Washington. We would like to set up meeting spots in your area, so we can come and talk with members and potential members. If you can help us with this and have some recommendations, give the office a call.

Welcome Joe Stutzman, our new NSO in Portland. Joe and Matt will be in both offices in Portland and Silverton. If you need to talk to them, make sure to call for an appointment. They will also be at the Oregon State Fair and at our Membership Banquet. Matt has written another article for the Paralog. (See page 8) We welcome and encourage our readers to submit articles of human interest and stories of serving in our nation's armed forces.

Congratulations to our member athletes who went to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) in Minneapolis in July. They brought home eight medals, four of which are GOLD, and we are proud of them. Next year's games are in Detroit, MI.

We had an amazing 16th Annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament this year, Thank You to Golf Pro Larry Bent, and his team at the McNary Golf Course in Keizer. Next year's tournament is July 18, 2026. We will be at the 9/11 Tribute Red, White & Blue Golf Tournament in Stayton, Oregon on Sept 7, (see flyer page 11). If you would like to play or be a hole sponsor, call the Chapter office and sign up.

Associate Member Frank, of Silverton, Marine, retired firefighter from NYC (9/11) has written an article to introduce himself to you. Our Chapter has benefited from his leadership, generosity (donated a portable defibrillator) and made sure we had a BBQ at the Open-House. He did this from a wheelchair after twisting his knee the night before the Open-House. Nothing stops this man!

Please welcome Larry Cartales, our new Shooting Sports Director, and Steve Kinney our new Fishing Coordinator. We need a Bowling Coordinator who would like to help coordinate bowling outings. Just like Ambassadors, our Coordinator's do not have to be members of the Chapter. We also need someone who would be willing to work with us on pickleball, frisbee golf, bocchia ball and other sports. Make sure to read the Sports Article, for more information on our upcoming sporting events.

Thank you Ben Punley, of showbizsalem.com who has become an Associate Member and a fundraiser of the Chapter. He is out promoting PVA to the local businesses. Ben has been instrumental in acquiring the gift cards we have used at many of our events, put in raffles and handed out to winners. He has marketing experience and is helping the Chapter get more outreach within our territory, while bringing new fundraising events/ideas to the table.

Thank you to our sponsors, donors and volunteers for what you contributed this past year. We would not be able to put on PVA sponsored events without your generosity and help. When I say, "Our Chapter is blessed to be a blessing." I mean it. We are working vigorous hours, so we can fulfill our mission. Our mission statement is written on the back of the front page of this Paralog. We would love more volunteers, sponsors and donors, so we can continue "mission forward."

Have a Blessed Day



Tri-State Chapter



TITLE SPONSOR

The Dalles Veterans Home

Cruisin

September 13 2025

It's Better At The Gorge!!!



Location: The Dalles Veterans Home
700 Veterans Dr • The Dalles OR

Show Time: 10am - 2pm



For More Information: 600 N Water St, Silverton, OR 97381 Tel: 503.362.7998 • www.tristatepva.org



Members Banquet Sept 27, 2025

Please RSVP by Sept 12, 2025
503-362-7998 • tristatepva@tristatepva.org

- Check In: 1pm
- Social Time: 1-3pm
- Dinner Served: 3pm
- Live music, awards & prizes

• Address:
600 N Water St
Silverton, OR 97381

Catering by:
The Wooden Nickel
Silverton



National Service Officer Update



Matthew Paige - National Service Officer

A Fading Hero

As National Services officers it is likely we are more aware of the nature of people who overcome disabilities to live productive lives. Our veterans face a lifetime of challenges that the majority of Americans will never have to face. As veterans we are also more likely to take note of disabled veterans who have faced significant disabilities and made outstanding contributions to our nation. Senators Robert Dole, Tammy Duckworth, and Medal of Honor recipient Senator Daniel Inouye are individuals who continued to serve our nation after their injuries. They also inspired other disabled veterans to overcome their physical and mental challenges. However, long before these courageous individuals became household names there was one veteran who became the face of those disabled while serving his country.

Sadly, the name Harold Russell has

faded in the collective conscious of the American public. However, in November 1946 he became the face of our disabled veterans when the movie, "The Best Years of our Lives" was released. For those unfamiliar with the film it tells the story of three World War Two veterans who return home and their struggles in reintegrating into civilian life and dealing with the societal changes that occurred while they were away. Harold Russell played the role of Navy Petty Officer Homer Parrish. Russell's character had lost both of his hands when his ship was sunk in an un-named battle in the Pacific.



Photo Courtesy of Military.com

Russell himself had lost his hands in a training accident on 6 June, 1944 while assigned to the 13th Airborne Division at Camp MacKall, North Carolina. During his recovery he was cast in the Army film, "Diary of a Sergeant". The movie tells the story of his medical rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. The scenes show how he and his fellow amputees at the hospital at first despaired, and then found new hope in the prostheses and training available to amputees through the Army's medical corps. The film's intent was to show injured veterans they could still lead a normal, fruitful, life. Russell's performance led him to be selected by the War Department to travel the country as a speaker during the Eight War Bond Drive.

Director William Wyler saw the film and cast Russell in the role of Homer Parrish. The original script called for Parrish to have suffered a brain injury. However, Wyler saw in Russell an authenticity that the audience could connect with. Much of Russell's own experiences were incorporated into the movie. This included his relationship with his fiancé. The scene where Homer Parrish describes to his fiancé how he prepares for bed, and how removing his prostatic hooks leaves him absolutely helpless, is considered one of the most powerful moments in film history. Wyler's decision to cast Russell was likely the key factor in making the movie a timeless classic. The great film critic Roger Ebert wrote of the film, "As long as we have wars and returning veterans, some of them wounded, "The Best years of our Lives" will not be dated.



Photo Courtesy of O Explorador

Russell made movie history at the Oscars in 1947. He was nominated for the Oscar in the Best Supporting Actor Category, but was not expected to win. At the beginning of the ceremony Russell was awarded a special Oscar for bringing comfort to disabled veteran through the medium of film. Surprisingly, Russell also won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. Today, Russell remains the only individual to have won two Oscars for the same performance. William Wyler called Russell's performance the finest he had ever seen on screen.

Russell, who never had ambitions to become an actor, went to Boston University after completing the film and completed a business degree in 1949. Instead of returning to Hollywood, Russell chose to dedicate his life to public service. It was then Russell began his career helping fellow disabled veterans. In 1949 he co-founded AMVETS, serving three terms as it's National Commander. He was selected by

President Kennedy as Vice Chair the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. He was appointed as the Chair by President Johnson and continued to serve in the position under Presidents, Nixon, Ford, and Carter. He would also serve as the Vice President of the World Veterans Fund.

Russell died in 2002 at the age of 88. He was quoted as saying, "I don't believe in self-pity. Never have. Never will." What is apparent by the way he led his life was that he believed in serving others. First, enlisting to serve our nation in war. Later, in serving as an example to other veterans that a full life was possible despite the injuries they suffered in the service of our country. Harold Russell never experienced combat. He never received an award for valor. He never deployed overseas, yet he stands as one of our true World War Two heroes. He is an inspiration to us in our own efforts to support today's disabled veterans.

** We are grateful to have Matt Paige and his assistant Joe Stutzman working in our office. Their in-person office visits vary. Please call our office at 503-362-7998 to schedule an appointment. You can also reach Matt Paige by phone at 202-416-1255 and via email matthewp@pva.org*

MS Liaison News



Dan Service and Sue Holt April 2025



By: Sue Holt — MS Liaison

Hi, my name is Sue Holt. I will be your MS Liaison for 2025-2026 fiscal year. I've been participating in this Chapter off and on since 2009. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at the office 503-362-7998 or email me at tristatepva@tristatepva.org. I will see what I can do for you. Dan Service will be a hard act to follow.



I am looking forward to our Capabilities Expo here at the Chapter April 18, 2026. It will have

over fifty vendors and activities. While it is not exclusive to MS, we hope to host a MS Walk here in Silverton. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to call our Development Coordinator, Rick Wiley at our office.

In the meantime, some advice on what you should say to a person who has MS:

- Express empathy and support- My husband is my biggest supporter. He might not always understand, but he listens.
- Offer practical help: Offer help with a specific task or "What can I do to support you?"
- Educate yourself- Everyone has a different outlook on MS. Show a willingness to learn. There are

many resources available. You can start with our Chapter Office. We have plenty of reading material on hand. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has an office in Portland. You can reach them by phone at 1-800-344-4867. Or visit them online at <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/>

Any suggestions? Let us know...

What you should NOT say or do:

- Give unsolicited advice: I was told I would be wheelchair within three years by a member. He was wrong. Seventeen year later, I am still walking, sometimes with a cane. Everyone is different. Do not compare yourself to others. MS is known as the "Snowflake Disease." No two individuals are alike.

- The phrase I hate the most is "I'm sorry" or "You don't look sick." Please keep these comments to yourself. Not all disabilities are visible.

Staying active is the key! Have you received your invitation to our annual Members Banquet? I hope you can join us at the PVA Tri-State Office on September 27. Check in time is 1pm. Dinner will be a buffet catered by the Wooden Nickel of Silverton. It will be lots of

fun with games, and door prizes! (Live music too!) Please RSVP no later than Sept 12 by calling the office at 503-362-7998 or email tristatepva@tristatepva.org com. Come see some old friends or make some new one. Don't tell Donnie but we might challenge him to a cornhole tournament! Any takers???



We have a lot to look forward to next year and we hope to see you active.

Next article : Medical Alert Devices

A large promotional banner for the 16th Annual Red, White, Blue Tournament. The background features a soldier in camouflage gear sitting in a chair, with a large American flag draped behind him. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**16TH ANNUAL
RED, WHITE, BLUE
TOURNAMENT**

DATE :
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

TIME:
**PLAYER MEETING,
SHOTGUN STARTS @ 10AM
AWARDS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

LOCATION :
8724 GOLF CLUB RD SE, AUMSVILLE, OR

**PROCEEDS GO TO PARALYZED VETERANS OF
AMERICA TRI STATE CHAPTER**

**HOSTED BY ROB WARNOCK
ALL RAFFLES HANDLED BY BUMA**

Any questions please contact | R.warnock72@gmail.com

PARTNERS IN MOBILITY

FOUR LOCATIONS IN OREGON



HILLSBORO
PORTLAND
WILSONVILLE
SPRINGFIELD

 **ABILITY CENTER**
ABILITYCENTER.COM

 **United Access**
Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles & Equipment
UNITEDACCESS.COM

Your Mobility Specialists

Accessible Vehicles

- Used and New
- Rentals Available
- Financing Available
- Trade-Ins Welcome

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, 600 N Water St, Silverton, OR 97381 - 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

My wife and I recently took a trip to beautiful San Francisco, and had a wonderful time. We explored some of the city's iconic spots, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Coit Tower, Fort Point, and Fisherman's Wharf. Along the way, we enjoyed some incredible food, fresh seafood at the Fog Harbor Fish House, delicious pizza at Square Pie Guys, and of course, ice cream from Ghirardelli.

It was a wonderful and much-needed getaway for us, and we're extremely grateful to the PVA Recreation Fund for helping with some of the cost associated with this trip.

Respectfully,



My boat Pii'lani is serviced & fueled for great summer on the rivers and the sea. We chase crab, salmon, tuna, & bottom fish.

Mahalo Tri-State PVA for the Rec Fund!

Lonnie M.

**Rec Fund Reimbursement
Giovanni's Grandson's Return from
Military Basic Training. 54th Anniversay at
Spirit Mountain and celebrating Mother's
Dayat Outback Steakhouse.**

**Thank you,
Robert B.**





This year, I used my Rec Fund to purchase a dog trailer and some bicycle parts. It has been many, many years since I was last on a bicycle and this has enabled me to get out, get some exercise, enjoy nature and also bring my service dog along with me. I'm very grateful to the Tristate PVA chapter who has been so generous to support veterans!

Sincerely,
Travis N

Thank you so much for this Rec Fund!
I was able to take my girls (daughter and granddaughter) to Newport for the weekend. We went to the aquarium and then had some wonderful eats! This fund will help to pay for some of the crazy prices for accommodations.

Julie P.



Attention Members:

Have you RSVP'd for the
Members Banquet???

September 27, 2025

PVA Tri-State Office

Silverton OR

Heroes Helping Heroes



PVA Members Ryan, Frank and Greg at the Lebanon Veterans Home Spring Fling



Ryan Grant - Member

There are countless HEROES, many are Legends such as William Tell, Robin Hood and Zorro. Seeing it in oneself is difficult, however: one may hear from a friend frequently that one is their hero, not for standing against tyranny, stealing from the rich and giving it to the poor, but because of how well one handles disabilities and the impact it has on life.

No one can deny having low points but facing the issues head on and remaining as positive as one can, although one can go as far as making a definition to describe it.

Gratitude- {n.}

An uncommonly positive attitude regardless of overbearingly negative situations.

Not everyone can do this, but it gives one something to strive for to help with a disability and its effects. Everyone has a cross to bear with one's own disability but as the saying goes "there is more than one way to skin a cat."

Finding one's way over, around, or busting through a hurdle is why so many Veteran's join groups such as

PVA. There are opportunities for comradery, assistance and self-growth. The memories shared are potential building blocks for successfully navigating life with a disability. Many of the Veterans at the Tri-state chapter have excellent listening ears and broad shoulders to help carry one's burden.

The help one receives may often allow them to extend a helping hand to others. Recently, thanks to social media, a friend asked for help because their Veteran Brother-in-law faced a disaster. He and his family's home was destroyed by a tree due to a tornado taking everything from them. They needed all the basic amenities because moving cross country depleted their funds, and as a Veteran, it was an honor to offer a helping hand. Obviously if one is unable to assist in such a manner, don't feel you have to, because others do. Just like the PVA Tri-state Chapter, Veterans help Veterans.

Helping one another is beneficial! One may not feel like a hero or feel they look the part but in someone's eyes you are.

AN HONOR: Serving our veterans



MobilityWorks considers it a privilege to help our nation's veterans. In the last decade alone, we've assisted thousands of veterans obtain accessible vehicles, scooter lifts and adaptive driving equipment.

MobilityWorks has more than 90 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

- Converted minivans and full-size vans, and SUVs — Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Honda and Toyota
- Pre-owned accessible vehicles
- The latest in adaptive technology including transfer and turning seats, scooter lifts and hand controls
- Complete maintenance and service on adaptive driving equipment, lifts and conversions
- Daily, weekly and long term rental vans
- Financing options to fit your personal needs
- 24-hour roadside assistance with wheelchair transportation

MobilityWorks is committed to serving you. Contact us today so we can evaluate your needs and find a solution that best fits your lifestyle.



Certified Mobility Consultants Provide Comprehensive Needs Analysis



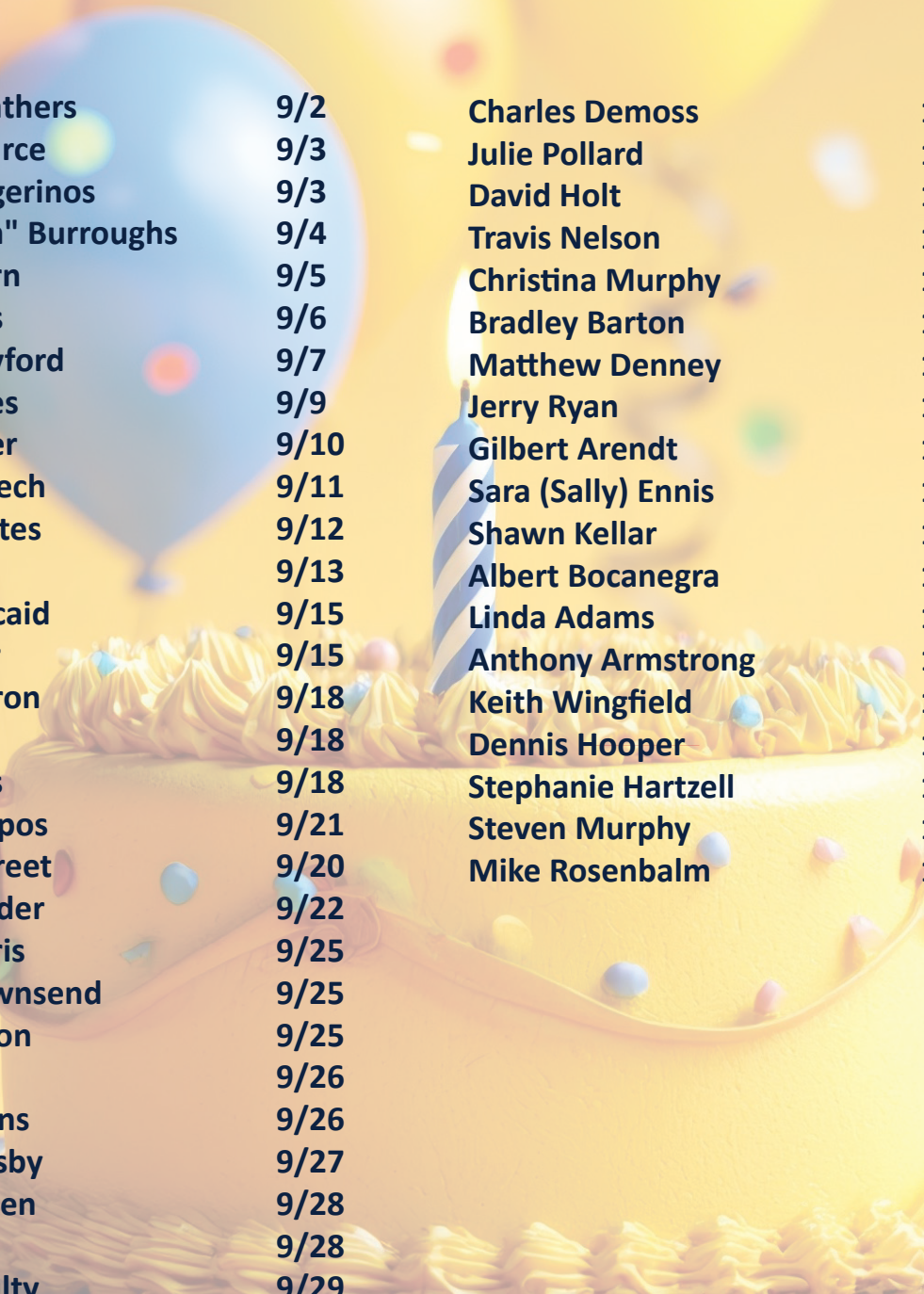
Scooter lifts, turning seats, and driving accessories

MobilityWorks
9740 SW Wilsonville Rd Ste 250
Wilsonville, OR 97070
(971) 206-6154
www.mobilityworks.com

General Manager
Alex Chavarria
alex.chavarria@mobilityworks.com



Happy Birthday!!!



George Weathers	9/2	Charles Demoss	10/4
Gregory Pearce	9/3	Julie Pollard	10/4
Michael Angerinos	9/3	David Holt	10/5
Henry "Evan" Burroughs	9/4	Travis Nelson	10/9
Samuel Learn	9/5	Christina Murphy	10/10
Donald Boss	9/6	Bradley Barton	10/11
Michael Hayford	9/7	Matthew Denney	10/18
Jeremy Gates	9/9	Jerry Ryan	10/19
James Binder	9/10	Gilbert Arendt	10/20
Michelle Beech	9/11	Sara (Sally) Ennis	10/20
Codi Cervantes	9/12	Shawn Kellar	10/20
Colin Dye	9/13	Albert Bocanegra	10/21
William Kincaid	9/15	Linda Adams	10/24
Mary Porter	9/15	Anthony Armstrong	10/25
Carlton Herron	9/18	Keith Wingfield	10/26
John Jirges	9/18	Dennis Hooper	10/27
Wilma Riggs	9/18	Stephanie Hartzell	10/28
Martin Campos	9/21	Steven Murphy	10/29
Cara Overstreet	9/20	Mike Rosenbalm	10/30
Jennifer Binder	9/22		
Andrea Harris	9/25		
Kenneth Townsend	9/25		
Ellena Watson	9/25		
Larry Rilling	9/26		
Jeffry Watkins	9/26		
Michael Bigsby	9/27		
John Siemssen	9/28		
Jimmie Sipp	9/28		
Kristy McNulty	9/29		
Todd Walters	9/29		

2025 Trout Fishing

a bad day fishing beats a good day at work....



What: Casual, friendly, low-stress half-day fishing trips to local ponds and lakes that have adequate accessibility facilities, followed by lunch

Who: Up to 10 Disabled Vets - special consideration given to those with mobility issues

When / Where: 7am-noon at these locations:

~~April 27: Lake Harriet~~

~~Aug 17: Trillium Lake~~

~~May 18: Willamina~~

Sept 14: Estacada Lake

~~June 15: Hagg Lake~~

Oct 12: Salish Ponds

~~July 13: Detroit Lake~~

dates and locations subject to change to account for fishing conditions, etc

Cost: Zero! I have fishing equipment for up to 10 people and will cover the cost of lunch as well

You are responsible for your fishing license - you may be eligible for free Resident Disabled Veteran License

See <https://myodfw.com/fishing/licensing-info> for licensing information



For more information & to sign up: email or call

Larry Kotan

CanDoFishing@yahoo.com

503-784-6439



Tri-State Chapter News



By: Rick Wiley - Developement Coordinator



July began with Frontier days in La Pine, Oregon. The summer weather really kicked in, for two of the four days we were there. The last two days there was a little rain and a thunderstorm. Overall, Frontier Days was a success, La Pine has a large Veteran population.



4th of July at the Oregon State Fairgrounds was fun and there was a spectacular firework show! The Marion County Fair was an exciting time. We sold all 5000 tickets for the black ATV, then picked a winner. Congratulations Eric! He bought

his ticket at the Homer Davenport Days outside our building in Silverton.(2024) A Douglas County Fair ticket buyer was the previous winner. Who will be next? We are currently selling \$5 raffle tickets to our new red C Force 600 ATV and \$10 or 5/\$40 (you get a free one) raffle tickets to our 1972 Chevy ¾ ton pickup. You can buy them at any event we are at, or in person at the office, located at 600 N Water St, Silverton.



We held our 16th Annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament at McNary Golf Club. They told us we did a spectacular job on setting up and running the tournament.

Next Year's 17th Annual Gold Cup is on the schedule for July 18, 2026, we look forward to having some fun out there again. If you would like to get your hole sponsorship in early, or get your team registered, give the office a call and get an early pick, they go fast. Thank you to our friendly Golf Pro Larry Bent, sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Excellent Job!

We went to a couple of car shows, the Brent Strohmeyer fundraiser in Sublimity, and the Mustang club car show at Brooks. We enjoyed talking with our car show DJ, Russ Strohmeyer, and doing a little planning for next year's car show.

In August, we once again set up an awareness booth outside the building for the Homer Davenport Days Parade in Silverton. We attended the Douglas County fair in Roseburg and the Blackberry festival in Sutherlin. Our President was in attendance with his wife Tammy, she says "the blackberry treats are worth the drive."



The Oregon State Fair 8/22 -9/1 is always a very good event for the chapter. We are located outside the Jackman Long Building. If you volunteer to work at the fair, you will get in free, have fun working at the booth, unwind listening to the music in the Amphitheater, and take your family around the fair.

We are looking forward to being at the Harvest Festival Sept 5-7 in Sublimity, Oregon. This is a fun time with tractor pulls, music, Carnival, and lots of things to do. On the same weekend, we will be at the 9/11 Tribute Red, White, and Blue Golf tournament across Highway 22 at the Santiam Golf Club on Sunday. This is our third year to be invited to this event. The cost is \$75 a player which includes cart rental and playing 18 holes of golf in a shotgun scramble tournament. The Hole sponsorships are \$250, at this

time we have openings, so give the office a call. This will be a great weekend to get out and have some fun.

To all the Members of this Chapter WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP at these events. We would like to have members at every event. Come on out and show up and take ownership of your Chapter. On Sept 13th, we are going to The Dalles Oregon State Veterans Home, for our first ever cruise-in car show. We were there last year for the annual BBQ. Jade, the Recreational Therapist, heard about the car show at the Lebanon Veterans home, and asked our President Don, if we could put a show together for their home as well. Here we are, one year later going to The Dalles for a BBQ and a Cruise-In Car Show. Randy Wells and the group over at the Mid-Valley Columbia Car Club are going to be helping with it. We appreciate everyone who contributes to the Chapter and helps us spread awareness about PVA.

Wanna go fishing? Our new "Fishing Coordinator" Steve will be in attendance Sept 8 and 15 at Dockside Charters in Depoe Bay, Oregon. They are heading out at 6AM to fish for salmon. Make sure to get your reservation in 10 days before the boat leaves. Members are free and guests are \$75 each. See you on the dock! No, I'm not going out on the boat. I get seasick, so go have fun and catch a lot of fish!



Sept 27th is our Membership Banquet at the Chapter Office. We are planning a fun time for everyone, so make sure to send back your RSVP's. We must let our caterer Wooden Nickel know how much food we will need. Music, Bingo, and other games and prizes are planned. We will introduce our new Board of Directors to our members. "Quilts of Honor" will be there, taking reservations to make you a quilt. We would like for as many Members who can make it to come, Please RSVP the office 503-362-7998.



Sports & Recreation

PVA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES *FY26 SCHEDULE*

PVA Bowling Tournament Series: Nevada

December 4-7, 2025 • Las Vegas, NV

PVA Bowling Tournament Series: Florida Gulf Coast

February 25-27, 2026 • Tampa, FL

PVA Bowling Tournament Series: Tri-State Tournament

March 13-15, 2026 • Beaverton, OR

PVA Bowling Tournament Series: Texas

April 22-24, 2026 • San Antonio, TX

PVA Bowling Tournament Series: National Championship

June 25-28, 2026 • Omaha, NE



PVA.org/Sports

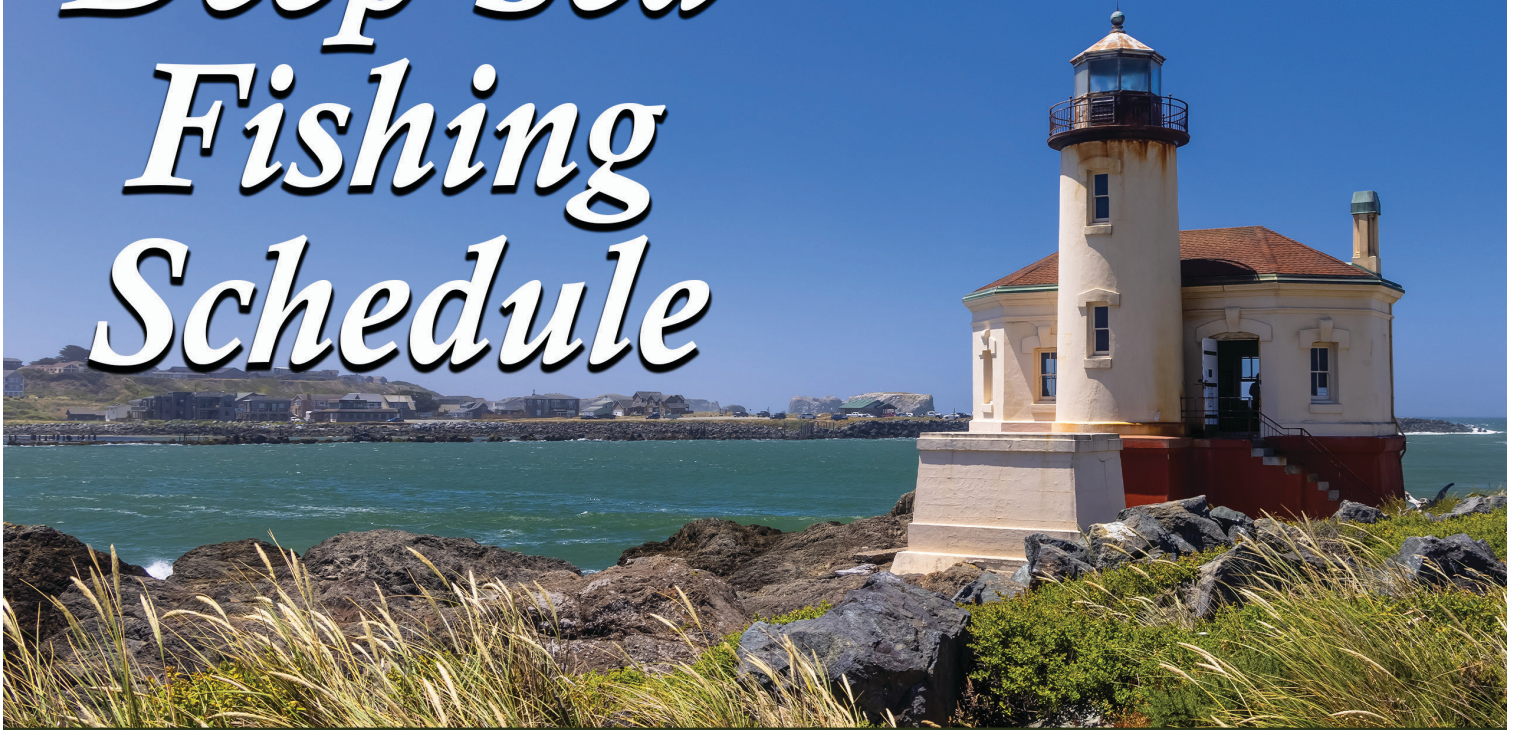
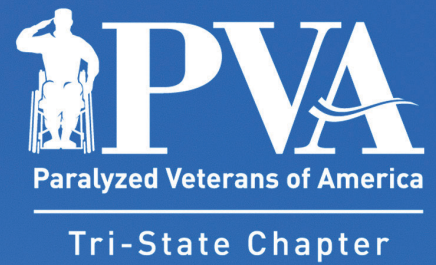


ParalyzedVeterans



PVA1946

2025 Deep Sea Fishing Schedule



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

⚓ Dates and Boarding Times:

5 Hour Trip Lingcod & Rockfish

- May 19th - 5:30am
- June 17th - 5:30am

Salmon Fishing

- Sept 8th - 6am
- Sept 15th - 6am

* Fishing & Shell license required.
Can be purchased online at
<https://myodfw.com>

* Complementary Coffee is provided

* Bring your own lunch, snack and
drinks

⚓ Please RSVP TEN days prior to your date! ⚓

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

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CHARTERS** 

PVA Tri-State Chapter • Serving Oregon, Idaho and SW Washington
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SPORTS

Corner



6.21 Trapshoot Fundraiser at Albany Gun Club

By: Don Hedlind - President



Our PVA member athletes recently attended the 44th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) in Minneapolis in July. They had a blast and brought home 8 medals, four of them GOLD. What does it take to compete in the NVWG? You must qualify in the different categories of athletic strength, ability and are required to participate in the sport from a wheelchair. You do not have to be confined to a wheelchair. Many Veterans who have other than spinal cord injuries are competing in the games. Many amputees play in the games as well. Your VA PT is trained to pre-qualify you to play in the games. If you have never done this before, you should. It's a lot of fun and you get travel.



Larry Cartales is our new "Shooting Sports Director." He is an avid shooter and is excited about bringing more shooting sports activities to our Chapter. One of which is our new Creedmoor Sports portable five individual target air gun competition setup. We were able to buy this with a generous gift from our President's dad Richard Hedlind. This gift will give us the ability to have air gun shoots here at the building. We could use another air gun if anyone wants to donate one or purchase one for the Chapter. We are preparing a shooting team for next year's National Veterans Wheelchairs Games in Detroit. We will be scheduling shoots outside the building as well, stay tuned for more information to come. You can also contact the office or Rick with any questions.

Steve Kinney, is our new "Fishing Coordinator." Steve likes to tie flies and then fish with them. He would like to teach fly tying at the Chapter office and then show you how to fish

with the fly you tied. We have fishing poles and tackle that are ready to use when you need them. We have two deep sea salmon fishing trips out of Depoe Bay at Dockside Charters with Captain JT planned, they are Sept 8 and 15. Check in is at 6AM.

Next on the agenda is to plan next year's fishing outings, BBQ's, Depoe Bay fishing trips and any other fishing ideas you have in your area. We would appreciate help in the Coos Bay area to plan a PVA National Bass Fishing Circuit Tournament on Ten Mile Lake. If you are a guide (anywhere in the Tri-State area) and would like to take some of our members fishing or invite them to go fishing, please let us know. We are also looking for access to private ponds or lakes to go fishing in. If you can help with this, please call the office and ask for Rick.



We are in the process of hosting a PVA National Bowling Circuit Tournament on March 13-15 at Big Al's Bowling Arcade in Beaverton, Oregon. This is the bowling alley where the Portland NVWG Bowling competition was held. We are looking for lane sponsors, title sponsors, trophy sponsors and food/beverage sponsors for this event. If you are a business or organization or know of one who would like to be a sponsor or donor, please give us a call. We encourage you and your employees to come out and volunteer. We guarantee that they will have fun and enjoy helping our Veterans. We will have a community bowl at the end of the Tournament for all who participated and volunteered. Contact the Chapter office and ask for Don or Rick if you are interested in helping as a sponsor, donor or volunteer.



We recently received a grant from Bowlers To Veterans Link, to facilitate us restarting our bowling program. We are encouraging our members to go bowling. To participate, go and bowl at your local bowling alley once a week. Then at the end of the month, turn in your lane and shoe rental receipts along with your scores, to the office, so we can enter them and reimburse your costs to bowl. If you find you need a new bowling ball, you can use your Rec Fund to purchase one and turn the receipt in for it. We look forward to hearing more about your experience. If you would like to host a "bowling event" in your area, we are requesting that you have at least four PVA members attend, and we will pick up the cost of the food, lane and shoe rental.

Sports and Recreation is one of the many programs our Chapter supports. It helps us exercise and is both fun and rewarding. We are asking for help with other sports like pickleball, billiards, boccia ball, and many others. If you have any ideas of how we can get involved or participate in an event in your area, or you would like to come to our area and play, let us know. We are always open to suggestions about having fun. This brings us to your annual Recreational Fund. As a member of the Tri-State Chapter of the PVA, you are allowed a \$300 annual recreational fund allowance (see flyer) to recreate and go out in the "great outdoors." It's easy to use, just send us a picture and a couple of paragraphs of what you did along with receipts, and we will re-imburse you up to \$300.

Have fun and enjoy the rest of the Year.



Adventure is Calling! Join Now!!!

Guardians of Never Forget

9/11
WE WILL
**NEVER
FORGET**



By: Frank Gaide of Guardians of Never Forget

Guardians Of Never Forget's mission is to raise and donate funds to those veterans and first responders that are in need. Besides raising funds we also work with other organizations to help them advance their goals. Our president and vice president are not only USMC and US ARMY veterans but are first responders ie; triage Capt World Trade center tower 1. Firefighter and paramedic. Our symbiosis with PVA was born from, this authors, brother who was a paralyzed vet. For all our brothers and sisters, whether vet or first responder We **THANK YOU** for your service!



Surprise, awe, shock, fear, sadness, pain, regret, remorse, adrenaline, prayer to keep going, prayers for all. These emotions were mixed with smoke, fire desperation, sirens, crying, and hope. There are not enough words to describe the events

of 911. The focus of all our first responders was to do the best job possible. The response time was exceptional, the equipment was the best anywhere, the leadership was the finest. If these things were not in place things could have been much worse. 343 gave the ultimate sacrifice without hesitation.

My honor was to be among the rescue and recovery teams. Who worked 24-7 for many months. Some sustaining health issues and others died from breathing the toxic air and toxins in the debris they handled. We are still losing brave first responders

We as a people are truly fortunate for those men and women who were and are dedicated to the protection and safety of us all. Let us honor them and never forget . 911 WORLD TRADE CENTER



Frank with his tribute mustang

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PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America
TRI-STATE CHAPTER

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September

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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

 **Office Closed**

Save the Date

Aug 22 - Sept 1 Oregon State Fair
 Sept 5-7 Sublimity Harvest Festival
 Sept 8 Salmon Fishing Trip
 Sept 7 Red, White & Blue Golf Tournament, Stayton
 Sept 13 Dalles Veteran Home Cruise-In
 Sept 15 Salmon Fishing Trip
 Sept 27 Members Banquet

Oct 19 Show Biz Treasure Hunt
 Oct 31 Trunk or Treat
 Nov 11 Albany Veterans Day Parade
 Nov 11 Roseburg Veterans Day Parade
 Nov 23 Showbiz Salem Holiday Market



October

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 BOD Meeting	31	



Washington Update



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

Written and produced by the Paralyzed Veterans of America – Government Relations Department

August 18, 2025

Volume 33, Number 15

Check out the PVAction Force page to view legislative campaigns and a list of key legislation.

SENATE PASSES FY 2026 VA FUNDING BILL

The Senate passed its version of the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MILCON/VA) Appropriations Act prior to leaving for the August recess. The bill was coupled with the Agriculture Department's funding bill, so it was approved as an omnibus measure. The VA portion of the bill totaled \$433.7 billion with \$114.9 billion of that figure going toward the delivery of veterans' healthcare and \$300.4 billion for veterans benefit programs. The chamber also allocated an additional \$384.3 billion in advance funding for FY 2027.

The House passed its version of the MILCON/VA bill back on June 25. While there are many similarities between the two measures, there are also some key differences. Both bills provided \$52.7 billion for the Toxic Exposures Fund for FY 2026, which funds the Administration's full request and is more than \$22 billion above what was made available in FY 2025. \$50 billion would go toward the delivery of healthcare stemming from hazardous exposures during the military, with the remaining going toward the Veterans Benefits Administration's expenses emanating from claims-related work that led to the veterans' eligibility to receive that care.

Both bills provided about \$940 million for medical and prosthetics research and roughly \$2 billion for major and minor construction. However, the House measure provides nearly \$19 billion more for the department (\$452 billion total) than the Senate. Also, while the Senate bill garnered broad, bipartisan support for its bill (81 to 15), the House vote occurred largely along party lines (218 to 206).

The differences between the bills are not insurmountable, and the two chambers are already working together to resolve them. It is possible that Congress will hash out their differences in time to pass the bill prior to the start of FY 2026 on October 1.

SVAC APPROVES 25 VETERAN RELATED BILLS

On July 30, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) marked up and approved 25 veterans-related bills, including an amended version of the Veterans' ACCESS Act (S. 275). This legislation aims to improve the provision of care and services through VA's Community Care Program. The bill contains several provisions to enhance access to community care for veterans. They include:

- Codification of eligibility standards for access to community care from VA.
- Standardized screening processes for veterans to participate in mental health treatment programs.

- A pilot program allowing veterans to access mental health and/or substance abuse programs in the community without a referral.
- Tracking of wait times and care availability for mental health programs.
- Increased transparency in the decision-making process regarding care options for veterans, including the appeals process for denied community care.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee approved its version of the bill (H.R. 740) on July 23. The amended version of the bill removed language helping veterans seeking care through the VA's Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP). Not only did the Senate bill retain these provisions, but it also added language requiring the VA to create a plan and establish a pilot to provide access to VA mental health RRTP for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders (Sec. 202). Additionally, the amended Senate bill includes a provision (Sec. 305) that we believe will help improve disability-related access for our members not just at VA facilities, but also with the department's community care partners.

A second bill approved by the committee was the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (S. 879), which would provide greater support for the family caregivers of veterans. It would ensure family caregivers enrolled in CHAMPVA remain enrolled for up to 180 days following their dismissal from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, unless they have been dismissed for fraud, abuse, or mistreatment. Other provisions in the bill would offer bereavement counseling, job training assistance, and help with professional relicensing costs to help caregivers ease into the workforce or into retirement once their time as a caregiver has concluded. Caregivers are often the most important component of rehabilitation and maintenance for veterans with catastrophic disabilities, and their welfare directly affects the quality-of-care veterans receive.

SVAC also approved the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act (S. 1441), which requires the VA to establish a competitive grant program to fund nonprofit organizations that provide

service dogs to veterans with a variety of disabilities, such as mobility or vision impairments or PTSD. This bill would require nonprofit organizations seeking a grant to submit an application to the VA Secretary that includes a description of the training that will be provided by the organization to eligible veterans; the training of dogs that will serve as service dogs; the aftercare services that the organization will provide for the service dog and eligible veteran; the plan for publicizing the availability of service dogs through a marketing campaign; and the commitment of the organization to have humane standards for animals.

Finally, the committee approved the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act (S. 1383), which aims to enhance VA's accessibility for individuals with disabilities. It mandates the VA to establish a new veterans advisory committee that would focus on improving access for disabled veterans to electronic information, benefits, services, health care facilities, and community care providers. The committee would issue reports identifying barriers and provide recommendations to improve accessibility. This is a companion measure to a House bill that was passed back in May.

Much of the discussion during the relatively short hearing centered on the ACCESS Act, while the remainder of the legislation was agreed to en bloc without discussion. A recording of the hearing and a complete list of the legislation is available [here](#).

SVAC MEETS TO CONSIDER A PAIR OF KEY NOMINATIONS

On July 23, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) met to consider the president's nominations for a pair of key veterans-related leadership positions.

Air Force Reserve Major General John Bartrum is the president's nominee to be VA Under Secretary for Health. Currently, he is serving in the most senior medical officer position in the Air Force Reserve, and the most senior Medical Service Corps hospital executive in the Air Force across all components. If confirmed, he would be responsible for overseeing the Veterans Health Administration, which is the largest integrated

health system in the nation. This role involves managing a vast network of health care services for approximately nine million enrolled veterans across various facilities, including medical centers, clinics, and nursing homes.

In his answers to pre-hearing questions, Bartrum apparently said he looks forward to re-examining the balance between direct care and community care. On more than one occasion during the Q&A session he was asked to clarify what he meant by this. He responded by saying that balance should favor the veteran in that they should have greater choice in where they receive care. He talked about the difficulties a veteran had to go through to get a referral to community care, noting these referrals should not require anything more than the initial physician's determination of need with the veteran.

In his opening statement, General Bartrum said he will continue VA's focus on patient safety and quality improvement, while balancing access and improved outcomes. He would also continue to support medical research on veterans' issues and the department's medical education programs, as well as VA's mission to assist the nation during emergencies and disasters.

Also considered was Jeremiah Workman, the president's nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training. Workman served with the US Marine Corps during the Iraq War and received the Navy Cross for gallantry under fire after killing 20 insurgents in Fallujah, Iraq. If confirmed, he would be responsible for formulating and implementing policies and procedures to support veterans' employment and training.

When asked what he would do to ensure veterans can get quality, long-term jobs, Workman stressed the importance of separating servicemembers going through the Transition Assistance Program. He said too many people are not going through the program and he would work to change that.

The hearing, which lasted a little more than an hour, can be viewed here along with General Bartrum and Mr. Workman's written statements. Voting on both nominations is expected to occur when Congress returns after Labor Day.

DOT LAUNCHES NEW COMPLAINT SYSTEM

On August 1, the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Office of Aviation Consumer Protection (OACP) launched a new, modernized web-based system for filing, submitting, and handling air travel service complaints. The launch of the Aviation Complaint, Enforcement and Reporting System (ACERS) will focus solely on submission and handling of new air travel service complaints. DOT announced that ACERS makes it more efficient for airlines and ticket agents to process and respond to consumer complaints, and enhances security and privacy protection of consumer data. Consumers will be able to file air travel service complaints, comments, and compliments by accessing the Consumer Portal. OACP hosted a virtual information session with disability rights advocates after the launch of ACERS to field general questions and obtain feedback on it.

DOJ OPENS INVESTIGATION INTO FLIXBUS AND GREYHOUND FOR DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

On August 4, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division announced that it has launched an investigation into bus companies FlixBus and Greyhound. The notice of investigation comes after complaints that the bus companies violated Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Complaints allege that Flixbus and Greyhound discriminated against passengers with disabilities and denied them reasonable accommodations by failing to properly maintain lifts on buses, refusing to assist passengers with disabilities with using lifts, refusing to allow service animals to accompany passengers with disabilities or improperly asked for documentation, abandoning customers with disabilities between legs of their journey, and failing to allow and assist passengers with disabilities to leave and return to the bus at rest stops, among other allegations.

The department is encouraging those who believe they have been a victim of disability discrimination by FlixBus or Greyhound to file a complaint with the Civil Rights Division.

NCD RELEASES REPORT ON GROUND TRANSPORTATION AND WHEELCHAIR USERS

At the end of July, the National Council on Disability (NCD) issued a report about the state of access to ground transportation for wheelchair users. NCD's report, "Ground Transportation for People with Mobility Disabilities 2025: Challenges and Progress," examines the unique barriers people experience accessing ground transportation options; explores solutions to increase the availability of wheelchair-accessible vehicles; and makes recommendations to policymakers on ways to expand transportation options. The report also includes legislative, regulatory, enforcement, and partnership-based recommendations to address and remove the barriers outlined in the report. PVA was interviewed as part of the report's development.

NEW VA OIG REPORT RELEASED ON MST CLAIMS

In 2018, a VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) report recommended the consolidation of Veterans Benefits Administration claims raters that worked on claims related to military sexual trauma (MST). In that report, the OIG found that almost half of the denied claims were processed incorrectly. By streamlining the decision process and increasing training related to MST claims, the OIG thought claims decisions would improve.

In a report released this July, however, the OIG determined that the efforts did not yield the intended improvements. OIG identified challenges in planning and implementation of

the MST Operations Center which impacted staffing and quality. The Operations Center has struggled to retain quality staff and has encountered challenges finding raters with MST claims expertise. The turnover rate for the Operations Center was 22.6 percent compared to other claims raters who have a turnover rate of just 7.5 percent. The OIG also found that despite the efforts to improve the accuracy of MST claims decisions, in fiscal year 2024, claims accuracy was only 75.3 percent, far below the internal goal of 96 percent.

The OIG made three recommendations for VA: develop and implement a method to identify and report quality statistics for the operations center, improve and update the internal review process, and develop and implement a process to assess reviewers' competency in processing denied MST claims to monitor and improve effectiveness. You can read the full report [here](#).

NEWS OF NOTE

VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Sworn In

The Honorable Samuel B. Brown was sworn in as the eighth Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs on July 29. Secretary Brown is a West Point alumnus who served in the Army for five years. During a deployment to Afghanistan in 2008, he was severely wounded by an improvised explosive device. As the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, he will be responsible for overseeing maintenance and operations at 155 national cemeteries in 42 states, as well as commemorative sites in other locations. You can read VA's official announcement about his appointment [here](#).



VA Announces Launch of Simplified Travel Claim Reimbursements Through Their Mobile App

On August 11, VA announced that eligible veterans could now submit and track “mileage-only” travel claims through the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. In addition, the app automatically identifies when a veteran’s appointment may be eligible for mileage reimbursement and displays a prompt on the home page. VA believes that this new feature will reduce the number of paper claims which take longer to process. To be eligible for health care travel reimbursement, a veteran must meet certain criteria, such as having a service-connected disability rating of 30 percent or higher or traveling for treatment for a service-connected condition or a claim examination. The app can be downloaded [here](#).

VA Expands Yearlong Authorizations for Community Care

VA is extending the length of new community care authorizations to one year for 30 kinds of specialty services. Veterans referred by VA for these types of care will receive 12 months of uninterrupted treatment at VA expense before having to obtain a VA reauthorization. You can read the department’s official press release about the change [here](#).

SSA Adds 13 New Conditions to CAL List
On August 11, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that it has added 13 new conditions to its Compassionate Allowances (CAL) list. The CAL list is designed to fast-track claims for applicants whose diagnoses clearly meet Social Security's statutory standard for disability. The 13 conditions will now be used to help the agency reach decisions more quickly for applicants with those specific diagnoses. SSA encourages applicants with CAL conditions to apply for benefits online.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Veterans’ Committee Activities

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



Southern Oregon Veteran’s Stand-Down and Employment Fair



**Wednesday, September 3, 2025
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Josephine County Fairgrounds
1451 Fairgrounds Road
Grants Pass, Oregon

- Employment Fair
- Legal Services
- Mental Health Services
- Oregon DMV
- VA Eligibility
- VA Homeless Programs
- VA Justice Outreach
- Veterans Benefits Office
- Josephine County Parks
- Lunch and refreshments
- Tools for Troops
- And much more



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MID WILLAMETTE VALLEY VETERANS



STAND★DOWN

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2025
9:00AM - 4:00PM**

**SALEM FAMILY YMCA
685 COURT ST. NE, SALEM, OR 97301**

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OR TO VOLUNTEER, EMAIL SARA@J-ONE-9.ORG



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Please Mark Your Calendars for the Following Stand Downs:

- **Sept 12 Eugene. Time: TBD. Location Lane County Events Center**
- **Sept 18 Albany. Time: 10 am - 2 pm. Location: Linn County Fairgrounds**
- **Nov 7 Hillsboro. Time 10am - 2 pm. Sonrise Church**

Please help spread the word and share with any veterans you know!



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, 1875 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100, 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, 600 N Water St.; Silverton, OR 97381

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: ____/____/____



Physician's Statement Form

_____ is a veteran who has a spinal cord injury or disease.

His/her diagnosis is:

- ☐ Paraplegia
- ☐ Tetraplegia
- ☐ Brown Sequard Syndrome
- ☐ Cauda Equina Syndrome
- ☐ ALS
- ☐ Multiple Sclerosis
- ☐ Transverse Myelitis
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Physician's Signature

Physician's Name

Physician's Title

Physician's Phone/Email

Date Signed



**Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri-State Chapter**
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