



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

New England Chapter

CORDWORD

The Monthly Magazine of the New England Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America

New England Winter Sports Clinic



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PVA NAMES EXEC. DIR.

SERVICE ANIMALS



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Paralyzed Veterans of America Names Executive Director

WASHINGTON, DC — Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) today announced that its President and Executive Committee have named Carl Blake as the organization's executive director. Blake has led Paralyzed Veterans' government relations program since 2014 and has been serving as the organizations' interim executive director since November 2017. ...continued on page 4.



Delta Airlines to Require Doctor Notes for Service Dogs

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Federal law requires airlines to allow people with trained service and support animals to fly free of charge, although airlines do charge a fee to allow regular pets on board ...continued on page 6.



Out Front

Michael G. Negrete, President

There's been a lot going on this past month and still more in the months to come. First I'd like to recognize our members who served during the Vietnam war era, as this past January 28th marked the 50th anniversary of the TET Offensive. I bring attention to this because next month a Delegation from the Chapter will be meeting with New England's Senators and House Representatives and one of many issues we continue to advocate for is the expansion of Caregiver Benefits to include Veterans who served prior to September 11, 2001. Currently only Veterans who served after this date are eligible for this benefit. Opening this benefit to pre-9/11 Veterans with catastrophic injuries would allow them to receive a certain amount of VA covered care in their homes, thus improving their overall quality of life. The dangers, sacrifice and devotion to duty are no different by era served and by not providing this benefit as a recognition of that service, simply diminishes these Veterans service to our country.

Secondly, I want to say "Thank you" to all the Volunteers that made the Annual New England Winter Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans held at Mount Sunapee, NH another huge success! We had over 20 Chapter members participate in this challenging, yet exciting and fun event. Without Volunteers from the New England Healing Sports Association, VA Boston Healthcare System and many others, this annual event would not be possible. It's not only a chance to get out and ski, but a great opportunity to enjoy some camaraderie with other Veterans.

Finally, what do both of these things have in common? Without the help and support of your local New England Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America, neither would be available to our members. Both are equally important, as we must continue to advocate for new benefits, as well as, protect our existing ones in Washington, D.C. . All the while, continuing to provide therapeutic and recreational activities locally.

This being said, the Chapter continues to need your help, whether volunteering your time or resources, or a simple monetary donation. Without your help, it's exceedingly difficult to continue the administrative and legislative work needed to be done, as well as, maintain the level of funding to support our recreational programs. Give it a thought and see how you can make a difference.

Michael G. Negrete
President and Paralyzed Veteran

From the Director's Desk

Debra A. Freed, Executive Director



Well, the National Football League season has ended. But now, our veterans' sports programs are heating up. This is extremely important. For those who are going to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games as part of the NEPVA Coasters team, here are a couple of requirements if YOU wish to have half your room compensated or request Individual Allotment.

- All Chapter athletes and VA Staff must register online between now and March 15th. This is the Chapter Deadline - it has always been the Chapter deadline.
- If you are Long Term Care, your paperwork MUST BE TO THE CHAPTER by 5PM March 15th.
- MARCH 15TH REMAINS THE DEADLINE IF YOU ARE OUTPATIENT AS WELL.
- If YOU are outpatient, YOU MUST LET ME KNOW you are applying to the Games BY March 15th.
- THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE DATE REQUIREMENTS NO MATTER WHAT THE VA DATE IS.
- You can send your paperwork directly to VA Seattle but I sure would appreciate a copy.
- Chapter members in good standing: If you wish to request Individual Allotment - \$500, please know it cannot be used for the other half of the room per Chapter Board Ruling in December. Please, you need to get your requests in as soon as possible.
- Next Board meetings are: Feb 15th & April 4th.
- It is FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, when the funds run out, you may end up missing out.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions concerning the registration both online and paperwork.

Debra A. Freed
Executive Director

New England PVA Contact Information

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CordWord is the New England Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America's (New England PVA) monthly magazine that covers news, health, research, lifestyle and issues of interest and concern to Veterans and others with spinal cord injury and disease. Anyone interested in submitting an article to *CordWord* should email media@newenglandpva.org. The assertions and opinions expressed in articles and announcements in *CordWord* reflect the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the New England PVA. New England PVA can in no way whatsoever be held responsible for the content of such views nor can it be held liable for any direct or indirect damage that may arise from such views.

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Paralyzed Veterans of America Names Executive Director

PVA - February 2018



WASHINGTON, DC — Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) today announced that its President and Executive Committee have named Carl Blake as the organization's executive director. Blake has led Paralyzed Veterans' government relations program since 2014 and has been serving as the organization's interim executive director since November 2017.

Blake, a West Point grad and U. S. Army veteran, first became a member of Paralyzed Veterans in 2001, and has served as its associate executive director of government relations for the past three years.

"Carl Blake has shown unfailing dedication and commitment to the members of Paralyzed Veterans of America, all veterans and the greater disability community for more than a decade," said National President David Zurfluh. "His leadership of our national advocacy and legislative efforts has given severely disabled veterans and their families new hope and opportunities for a better quality of life, families of their own and the benefits they've earned in service to our great country. We are confident he will continue to put the needs and concerns of our paralyzed veterans first, and do everything possible to improve the lives of our members and their families, as well as the lives of all veterans and disabled Americans."

As head of the organization's government relations department, Blake has been responsible for the planning, coordination, and implementation of its national legislative and advocacy program agendas with the United States Congress and federal departments and agencies. He has developed and executed Paralyzed Veterans' Washington agenda in the areas of budget, appropriations, health care, and veterans' benefits issues, as well as disability civil rights. He has also spearheaded the consortium of veterans service organization partners who annually plan, author and publish *The Independent Budget*, a collaborative policy and budget recommendation publication that is presented each year to the United States Congress.

In this role, Blake has also represented Paralyzed Veterans to federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, Department of Labor,

Small Business Administration, the Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, and the Office of Personnel Management. He has coordinated all activities with Paralyzed Veterans' Association of Chapter Government Relations Directors, as well its Executive Committee, Board of Directors and senior leadership.

"I am honored and privileged to be asked to carry the responsibility of advancing the mission of Paralyzed Veterans of America," said Blake. "As a Paralyzed Veterans' member, I take seriously the organization's commitment to the men and women who rely upon us to be their advocates. The leaders who have come before me have built this organization into an influential force in the veterans and disability communities, and I humbly intend to build on their legacy."

More About Carl Blake

Carl Blake was raised in Woodford, Virginia. He graduated the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1998, with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Upon graduation from West Point, Blake was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry in the United States Army. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (1st Brigade) of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He graduated from Infantry Officer Basic Course, U.S. Army Ranger School, U.S. Army Airborne School, and Air Assault School. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Expert Infantryman's Badge, and German Parachutist Badge. Carl retired from the military in October 2000 due to injuries suffered during a parachute training exercise.

Blake is a member of the Paralyzed Veterans Mid-Atlantic Chapter in Virginia. He lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia with his wife Venus, son Jonathan and daughter Brooke.

It's Still Not Too Late to Get Your Flu Shot

By Glenn Johnson, Vantage Point Contributor

The 2017-18 flu season is shaping up to be one of the worst on record. Featuring a particularly nasty strain of flu that is both virulent and hard hitting, this year's flu has resulted in a number of deaths throughout the nation and has left thousands home from work and school fighting high fevers and other extreme flu symptoms. Not only that, but this flu epidemic has yet to reach its peak in terms of the number of influenza victims infected and that number is increasing daily.

Currently, nine states are experiencing moderate influenza-like illnesses activity—Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North

Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. The District of Columbia and six other states experienced low flu-like activity, including Connecticut, Michigan, New Hampshire, Utah, Vermont, and Washington. Three states — Delaware, Maine and Montana — are experiencing minimal activity.

However, there is good news in this scenario. The CDC reports that by getting an annual flu vaccination you not only help prevent infection by the flu strain for which this year's vaccination was intended, but also that an annual flu vaccination can help lessen the effects and shorten the duration of other flu strains that are currently active...*continued on Pg 5.*

New England Winter Sports Clinic - Always Inspiring

By Katherine Tang, Public Affairs Specialist, White River Junction, VT

You can taste the excitement in the brisk cold air as a bus full with our nation's heroes arrives at the ice rink in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Within moments the Veterans exit -- some out the front and others using a wheelchair lift. Volunteers hustle around unloading equipment and setting Veterans up for the sled hockey event.

The chatter was loud as seasoned players were eager to help rookies learn a new sport; it was clear the first event of the 2018 New England Winter Sports Clinic was going to be a success!

Fifty-three disabled Veterans -- most from New England but also some from California, South Carolina and New York -- were on hand January 22 for the New England Winter Sports Clinic. The clinic is the second largest of its kind for disabled Veterans and offers downhill skiing, snowboarding, sled hockey, kayaking, air rifle, yoga, wheelchair basketball and massage.

And, to make it more exciting, they did the unthinkable. They got me

to experience the rush of adaptive sports skiing -- something I had no intention to ever do.

"Rehabilitation through recreation," said Jenny McLaughlin, VA Boston's Adaptive Sports case manager, "this is the motto and the essence of the clinic. I say this every year at our closing ceremonies but it's amazing to watch Veterans come in on day one and leave a different person on Friday."

Volunteers and Veterans helped one another get fitted into their sleds and helmets. As they entered the rink you could hear laughter and see the camaraderie. "Use your muscles!" one yelled. "Don't be shy, just go for it," another said. "We all have fallen and will again, just shake it off..."

This was my second year at the clinic to help share in the Veteran successes. I was again blown away with their bravery and how they wanted everybody to participate...*continued on Page 11.*

PVA Conducts Training Webinar for TSA Officers

Washington Update, Volume 24 Number 11



On January 10, 2018, PVA recorded a webinar for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) that will be available to TSA officers around the nation. The purpose of the webinar is to educate TSA personnel about PVA, spinal cord injuries, wheelchairs and accessories. Also included were important items for TSA officers to consider when screening someone with a spinal cord injury. TSA asked PVA to conduct the webinar as part of their series on disability awareness. Heather Ansley, Associate General Counsel for Corporate and Government Relations, and Lee Page, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, served as presenters for the webinar.

Delta Airlines to Require Doctor Notes for Service Dogs

New England ADA Center



Delta Airlines says it will soon require additional documentation for passengers flying with service animals.

Federal law requires airlines to allow people with trained service and support animals to fly free of charge, although airlines do charge a fee to allow regular pets on board.

Delta says it is seeing a growing number of people posing their pets as service animals when they are really not.

“Delta has seen an 84 percent increase in reported animal incidents since 2016, including urination/defecation, biting, and even a widely reported attack by a 70-pound dog,” Delta said in a statement.

The airline says they have seen passengers try to fly with comfort turkeys, sugar gliders and snakes.

“Ignoring the true intent of existing rules governing the transport of service and support animals can be a disservice to customers who have real and documented needs,” Delta said in a statement.

Starting March 1, Delta Airlines will require additional documentation for service animals. This includes signed forms from a doctor verifying a service animal is authentic, and a requirement that passengers sign a promissory note stating their animal will behave.

Other airlines may soon follow suite. Representatives for American, United, SouthWest, JetBlue, and Spirit say they are reviewing their policies.

Caregiver Benefit Expansion Stalled

Terry Negrete, Chapter and PVA Volunteer

Bill that includes Caregiver Benefit Expansion stalled in Senate.

In December, PVA, along with DAV and VFW delivered a petition with more than 182,000 signatures calling on Congress to expand the VA comprehensive caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras. “Representing the population of veterans with the most catastrophic injuries, who require some of the most intensive and expensive institutional care, Paralyzed Veterans of America understands better than most that caregivers are essential to our members’ longevity and quality of life,” said PVA Executive Director Carl Blake. “There is simply no justifiable reason that our government should not provide their caregivers with the means to care for them at home with family, and the opportunity to live more normal lives, while also delaying the costs of institutional care. This should not be a debate about the era of service, it’s part of our country’s responsibility to care for the injured men and women who wore the uniform.”

Senate Bill 2193, the Caring for our Veterans Act, is a comprehensive bill that would expand external access to healthcare to Veterans, invest in infrastructure, and offer incentives to health professionals which would aid in recruiting and retaining providers. Included in the bill is a provision to expand benefits to caregivers of veterans from earlier wars, instead

of the current policy that limits them to those who were injured after September 11, 2001.

The Senate Veterans Affairs committee recently asked for feedback from the White House. Included in its response is a request for offsets for these costs, and estimated \$54 billion over 5 years. In addition to concerns about the high price tag, White House officials are warning about inexact eligibility rules, and calls for limits on “grand fathering” current users of the VA Choice program.

Regarding Caregiver Benefit Expansion, the White House wants lawmakers to drop that provision, stating in the memo that the administration “cannot support such a costly expansion”. Senate committee members had already approved this provision, but dropping it may be considered as a way to lessen the cost of the bill.

PVA will continue to fight for expansion of caregiver benefits. Next month members of the New England chapter will join members from other chapters across the country to meet with lawmakers and again urge them to keep this important provision that would benefit hundreds of thousands of dedicated caregivers, many of whom have performed their role without support for decades.

Saving Our VA Healthcare

Debra A. Freed, Executive Director

Was that a game or what? For those of us who watched, speaking for myself, I thought a number of the commercials were actually better!!!

As stated, the football season may be over but opportunities for veterans to be able to participate in sports, whether in or out, such as the recent New England Winter Sports Clinic continue and not just through the VA. And there is an increase in the indoor practice events at Brockton – air rifle, air pistol, boccia, and archery. Hopefully we will all start enjoying some warmer weather. The New England Winter Sports Clinic had over 50 athletes, some who have never participated before. I heard they all had a great time and I bet it will not be their last!

On Sunday, the 4th, I had the opportunity to attend the first of what is to be many Veterans Legal Defense Roundtables. It was specific for LGBTQ Veterans and those who provide for them. There was about a 50/50 pro/con for/against the VA and especially the VA Boston Healthcare System. The VA while not perfect remains the best to provide specialty care for spinal cord injured/dysfunction (SCI/D) veterans. I know a couple of fellows who are forever grateful the VA exists and especially the SCI/D center at the West Roxbury VA.

In my last article I asked for your help. This wasn't just because I needed to fill up space. I truly want and need your help. I have heard from three. REALLY? THREE? Last time I checked, we have over 850 members. I'm asking for a paragraph, a photo, something I can take to DC to let Congress

know YOU EXIST. YOU NEED THESE SERVICES. YOU WANT THE VA TO STAY. Don't You? I know I do! Oh, our PVA Annual Advocacy & Legislative Seminar will be March 5th through the 8th. We continue to make strides, but without you, it takes longer.

Why should I or the Chapter President and the Chapter National Director take time out of our lives to protect your benefits? Yes, I get paid, they are volunteers. So, please, I know we all have busy lives. Keep it short, sweet, and simple, good or bad, let Congress know why the VA is important and what is needed to make it better!

I know the VA system is not perfect, but we can't get there if we don't work together. That by the way, includes a number of these sporting events a number of you participated in or plan on participating in. They do not happen without the VA. VA goes, so do the VA Winter Sports Clinic, the Creative Arts Festival, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the Golden Age Games, and finally the Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego. So, come on and BE HEARD!

Finally, I have already noted the Vet Games applications are a 2-stage process. For those who want to be a part of NEPVA Coasters, you must register online as well as accomplish the paper portion of it. March 15th is the Chapter's deadline. And Yes, we have two great volunteers who will drive truck so we will again be taking a truck!



MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY!

Mail your check of any amount to:

New England Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America
1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Please write "CordWord" in the memo section of your check.



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It's Still Not Too Late to Get Your Flu Shot

Continued from Page 5.

The 2017-18 flu season is shaping up to be one of the worst on record. Featuring a particularly nasty strain of flu that is both virulent and hard hitting, this year's flu has resulted in a number of deaths throughout the nation and has left thousands home from work and school fighting high fevers and other extreme flu symptoms. Not only that, but this flu epidemic has yet to reach its peak in terms of the number of influenza victims infected and that number is increasing daily.

Currently, nine states are experiencing moderate influenza-like illnesses activity—Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. The District of Columbia and six other states experienced low flu-like activity, including **Connecticut**, Michigan, **New Hampshire**, Utah, **Vermont**, and Washington. Three states—Delaware, **Maine** and Montana—are experiencing minimal activity.

However, there is good news in this scenario. The CDC reports that by getting an annual flu vaccination you not only help prevent infection by the flu strain for which this year's vaccination was intended, but also that an annual flu vaccination can help lessen the effects and shorten the duration of other flu strains that are currently active.

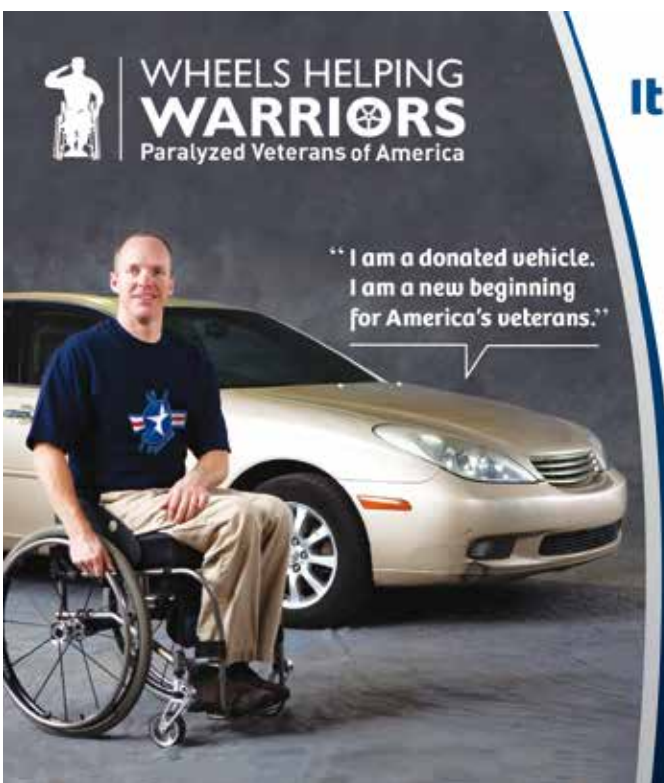
For those living in a high-to-moderate activity area, the CDC recommends that people get an annual flu vaccination, even this late in the traditional flu season because of the virulent nature of the flu this year. This is especially important for people over the age of 50. If you are living in one of the states with a lower incidence of infection, you should still get your flu vaccination as the rate of infection in those areas could increase at

any time.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care are eligible for a no-cost flu shot at any of the over 8,000 Walgreens nation-wide in addition to local VA health care facilities. Simply present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens or Duane Reade location. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.* VA and Walgreens are committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccinations are the best way to prevent the spread of flu.

*This wellness benefit is only for Veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care system. Family members and Tricare members are not eligible. The no-cost flu shot option is for quadrivalent vaccine only, available now through March 31, 2018. Vaccines subject to availability. State-, age- and health-related restrictions may apply. Vaccine may be in limited supply after March 1, 2018. This does not constitute an endorsement of Walgreens or Walgreens products. Patients will also be asked to complete a vaccine consent form at time of service.

About the author: Glenn Johnson has been with VA since 2001 and currently serves as the chief of communications for VA's Office of Community Care. He is a graduate of Syracuse University and is an Army Veteran who served from 1990 to 2000 as a photographer, photojournalist and war correspondent.



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It's a difference you can make by donating your vehicle to Paralyzed Veterans of America. Scheduling a pickup is FREE. Regardless of the condition, all donated vehicles will be sold at auction and proceeds will benefit Paralyzed Veterans of America. Through your vehicle donation, you'll make a difference to veterans suffering from spinal cord injury or disease. You may even earn a tax break, too!

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New England Winter Sports Clinic - Always Inspiring

Continued from Page 5

“You stood on the sidelines watching. Are you waiting for someone to invite you out?” a Vietnam Veteran asked me.

I had to decline because I missed the fitting, but I spent the next few minutes getting to know this Veteran. I heard his inspiring story as an infantry soldier who saw tragedy that no one should ever witness; a man who was shunned as he returned from war and later in life would be diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. He is now in a wheelchair, but this clinic helps him see what is still possible.

As the buses loaded to return to bring the Veterans to their lodging, he still wasn't taking “No” for an answer. “If you want to impress me, then you will take a ‘bucket’ ski ride down the mountain this week,” he told me.

The remaining days of the NEWSC were at Mount Sunapee and the Sunapee Lake Lodge in New Hampshire where Veterans took part in adaptive skiing, kayaking, air rifle, yoga, basketball, massages, and so much more. It was rainy and cold Tuesday, but that did not deter our Veterans from getting on the slopes. They were excited to virtually have the mountain to themselves!

I saw my new friend at the Sunapee Lake Lodge in the morning while he tried his luck at air rifle. He turned to me with a smirk and said, “I just scored a 522, let's get you off the sidelines and have you try to beat me.”

This time I couldn't refuse. I pulled up a seat next to him, put my safety glasses on, aimed, pulled the trigger, and hit the target! I ended up having a few bull's-eyes but scored a 506. Good but not good enough. “Better luck next time,” he chuckled.

We met again at lunch on Mount Sunapee. I saw my new friend outside the New England Healing Sports Association's office where he was getting fit for his adaptive sit ski. He looked anxious, yet eager, to try this out and when he caught my glance. “Remember you cannot leave this week without going down from the top!” he yelled.

I gave a thumbs up and proceeded to the lodge where I would meet up with one of our White River Junction VAMC recreational therapists. I discussed with her the possibility of getting in a ‘bucket seat’ and taking

a ride down the slopes. Truth be told, I was nervous with a side order of terrified. I had never been downhill skiing before. But I was on a mission and got a spot for the next day.

It was hard to sleep that night. The next morning, I saw my friend make his way to the shuttle. Before he could say anything, I knelt beside his wheelchair. “At 13 hundred, I will be getting into a bucket because you dared me to,” I told him. This Vietnam Veteran reached out to shake my hand, an honor I don't feel I deserved. “Make me proud” he said. Make him proud. This shook me to the core.

How can I possibly make a hero like him proud? How can I live up to that? Before my voice could falter I replied, “Sir, I will record every moment for you.” His words – “Make me proud” – still echoed in my head as we loaded the shuttle bus.

My ski instructor put my fears at ease. “I have been doing this for 18 years,” he said. “I know this mountain like the back of my hand.”

I was fitted in the ‘bucket’ and fastened in. We took the chair lift to a lower slope off of South Peak here the volunteers asked where I wanted to go, all the way down or to the summit. In my head I heard the Vietnam Veteran saying, “Make me proud.” That sealed it. “Bring me to the top!”

My heart raced and muscles tensed. My mind wandered to all the terrible things that could happen. I pulled out my phone to press record and yelled, “Let's do this!” I cannot tell you how long it took to go down that slope but it was exhilarating. “Everyone has got to try this!” I yelled. What a rush of freedom, fear, and cold air. We ended up going back to the summit twice more before calling it quits for the day.

I got back to the lodge but couldn't find my friend. I sent my video to be posted on the White River Junction VAMC Facebook page and hopes he sees it. I hope others see it to learn the therapeutic benefits of adaptive sports and how it changes lives every day.

I hope my friend knows what he did for me and changed my life that day on the slopes.

I hope I made him proud.



“I was 1 of the 11 Veterans to attend the first winter sports clinic at MT Sunapee, out of the 21 years since it began I have attended 20. It is not a ski vacation but a life changing event that all NEPVA members should attend at least once. People keep asking me why I go back, the clinic changed my life for the better and my goal is to pass it forward to any Veteran who attend. I will keep trying to make the clinic the best it can be by getting donations, mentoring newly injured Vets and teaching them how to ski, play basketball and many other things. Thank you NEPVA for your continued support for this great program.” - Eddie Dusick, New England PVA Chapter Member

The VA Government Work Study Program

Nona R. Nixon, National Service Officer II, Buffalo, NY

The VA Government Work Study Program was created for military or Veteran college students under these programs:

- (38 U.S.C. Chapter 31) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- (38 U.S.C. Chapter 33) Post-9/11 GI Bill
- (38 U.S.C. Chapter 32) Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program
- (10 U.S.C. Chapter 30) Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty
- (10 U.S.C. Chapter 1607) Reserve Educational Assistance Program
- (10 U.S.C. Chapter 1606) Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve
- (38 U.S.C. Chapter 35) Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

Students are chosen to complete work study contracts in accordance to the end of their eligibility to educational benefits. Another aspects of the VA Government Work Study Program is determining availability of openings with VA-related work local to Veteran's jurisdiction. Priority is always given to service-connected Veterans who are rated at thirty percent or higher with their disability compensations.

Veterans will earn the Federal Minimum Wage or State Minimum Wage, whichever proves greater. They can work between or during periods of college enrollments. Veterans can select their work hours during their college enrollments. Where Veterans can choose their work hours, the overall number of hours cannot exceed twenty-five times the number of weeks in a college enrollment period.

Veterans can elect to receive "Advance Payments", which is forty percent of the number of hours in their work-study contract, or for fifty hours, whichever proves less. After the hours are completed to cover the "Advance Payment", the Veterans Affairs will give payment once monthly or upon completion of fifty hours, whichever comes first. The supervisor will submit a time card to the VA Regional Office to report hours worked.

Any type of work can be performed with the VA Government Work Study Program. Some examples are as follows:

- Working in a State Veterans Agency
- Working at any activity in a VA Facility such as a VA Regional Office or VA Medical Center
- Processing VA Paperwork for Veteran Students, or others at colleges

The VA Government Work Study Program is not easy to perform, especially with the stress of college and one's personal life. Where the program is not easy, it can prove quite rewarding in the means of monetary value and work experience. Please contact your local VA Regional Office for more information or contact your local Paralyzed Veterans of America National Service Officer for more exciting details of this great opportunity for Veterans, military members, and family members.

PVA Contributes to Vikings' Super Bowl Stadium Accessibility Redesign

PVA Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – 2/2/18, The Minnesota Vikings NFL team will be hosting this year's Super Bowl in a 65,400-seat stadium featuring superior wheelchair access and seating options, thanks in part to guidance from Paralyzed Veterans of America's (Paralyzed Veterans) Architecture Department and Minnesota Chapter.

The stadium's redesign began in 2016 when the Vikings' advisory board formed a committee to provide insight into meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The ADA, established in 1990, prohibits discrimination based on disability and outlines equal accessibility requirements. As the leading veterans service organization experienced in ADA compliance, Paralyzed Veterans joined the committee as a trusted advisor.

"Our aim was to not only meet the ADA requirements, but exceed them wherever possible as an additional level of access for mobility restricted individuals. The 1.75 million square foot facility features wheelchair-accessible seating at various ticket price points and in more than 100 private suites," said Mark Lichter, director of architecture for Paralyzed

Veterans of America.

As the only veterans service organization that employs full-time architects, Paralyzed Veterans is able to provide the highest level of guidance tailored to the needs of disabled veterans and all people with disabilities. Paralyzed Veterans' architects operate on a small to large-scale basis, with a broad scope of work ranging from private homes to national sporting arenas. Notable achievements include advising on the accessibility of the Washington National's Ballpark, the Virginia Governor's Mansion and the National Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial.

Though sports fans this weekend will be able to enjoy a fully accessible stadium, the battle for nation-wide accessibility is far from over.

"What it comes down to is seeing the ADA as not something you have to comply with, but as a means of treating people with disabilities with dignity and equality," Lichter said. "Once that mindset in society changes, then we will make big strides, but we're not there yet. Good accessible design often does not cost more, and typically leads to better design."

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Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle Tournament

March 7-8, 2018
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle Tournament

March 23-25, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Buckeye Air Rifle Tournament

April 20-21, 2018
Geneva, OH

**indicates combined events*

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

Florida Gulf Coast Shooting Sports Tournament

March 1-3, 2018
Odessa, FL

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament

March 16-18, 2018
Pistol Tournament - March 16
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Cal-Diego Rifle/Pistol

March 23-25, 2018
Pistol & Rifle Tournament - March 23
Redlands, CA

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament

April 20-22, 2018
Edwardsville, IL

Minnesota Shooting Sports Tournament

May 18-20, 2018
Minneapolis, MN

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament

June 22-24, 2018
Waxahachie, TX

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

June 15-17, 2018
Pistol Event - June 15, 2018
Cedar Rapids, IA

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

April 6-8, 2018
Kissimmee, FL

KY-IN Bass Tournament

May 4-6, 2018
Kuttawa, KY

National Bass Tournament

June 1-3, 2018
Marbury, MD

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament

June 8-10, 2018
Richmond, VA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament

March 23-25, 2018
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament

April 20-22, 2018
Oklahoma City, OK

Mountain States Billiards Tournament

June 29-30, 2018
Fountain, CO

Buckeye Billiards Tournament**

June 22-23, 2018
Wickliffe, OH

****non-sanctioned events**

BOCCIA

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament

Feb. 22-23, 2018
San Diego, CA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament

Feb. 23-25, 2018
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament

April 12-15, 2018
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament

May 3-6, 2018
Woodridge, IL

PARALYZED VETERANS RACING

Top End Euro-American HC Championship

Feb. 3-4, 2018
Clermont, FL

Valley of the Sun

Feb. 16-18, 2018
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon

March 4, 2018
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo

April 13-15, 2018
Chesterfield, VA

Paralyzed Veterans of America Learn to Race Camp

April 17-20, 2018
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray

April 21-22, 2018
Gettysburg, PA

Redlands Cycling Classic

May 2-6, 2018
Redlands, CA

Pittsburgh Marathon

May 6, 2018
Pittsburgh, PA

Clocktower Classic

May 2018
Rome, GA

Wichita Omnium

May 2018
Wichita, KS

Para-Cycling Nationals

June 13-14, 2018
Augusta, GA

Tennessee Paracycling Open

June 16-17, 2018
Knoxville, TN

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Mini-Camp

June 19-28, 2018
Delafield, WI

Tour De Nez

June 23, 2018
Reno, NV

Tour of America's Dairylands

June 22-24, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Treasure Valley Grand Prix

July 7-8, 2018
Nampa, ID

National Veterans Wheelchair Games

July 30, 2018
Orlando, FL

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Hi Performance Off Road Camp

Aug. 19-24, 2018
Crested Butte, CO

Off Road Handcycling Championships

Aug. 24-26, 2018
Crested Butte, CO

Pensacola Cycling Classic

Sept. 15-16, 2018
Pensacola, FL

Air Force Marathon

Sept. 15, 2018
Dayton, OH

Off-Road Fall Expo

Sept. 29-30, 2018
Chesterfield, VA

Army Ten Miler

Oct. 7, 2018
Washington, D.C.

Marine Corps Marathon

Oct. 28, 2018
Washington, D.C.

38TH NVWG

July 30-Aug. 4, 2018
Orlando, FL



For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports



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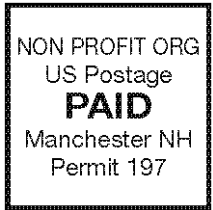
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Office Hours
Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 4:30pm



COMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES



Feb 24: West Roxbury SCI Pizza Party

Mar 4-9: PVA Annual Advocacy & Legislative Seminar

Mar 28: Brockton SCI Pizza Party

Apr 1-6: National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic Snowmass Village, CO

Apr 18: West Roxbury SCI Pizza Party

Apr 27-29: Brockton Gym Bldg. 23, Air Gun/Boccia Tournament – Spaulding Rehab/VA Rec Therapy

May 23: Brockton SCI Pizza Party

Jun 2: NEPVA Bass Fishing - Newton Yacht Club, MA

Jul 16-20: New England Summer Sports Clinic

Jun 20: West Roxbury SCI Pizza Party

Jul 25: Brockton SCI Pizza Party

Jul 29-Aug 5: National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Orlando, FL

Aug 15: West Roxbury Annual Ice Cream Social

Sep 7-9: NEPVA Bass Trail Fishing - Lake Winnepesaukee, NH

Sep 26: Brockton SCI Pizza Party

For more information on any upcoming events please contact the Chapter office at (800) 660-1181.

Mike Guilbault - Sports Director

Mike Moran - Asst. Sports Director

Serving Paralyzed Veterans and the Disabled Community Since 1947.