



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

New England Chapter

# CORDWORD

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

## On the Hill for PVA 2020



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### VA READY FOR COVID-19

### PVA CONTINUES FIGHT



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#### VA Secretary Robert Wilkie: White House Press Briefing on Coronavirus.

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VA has four specific missions. Three are Veterans health care, ...continued on page 4.



#### Paralyzed Veterans of America Fights for Continued Access to Life Sustaining Health Care during the Coronavirus Pandemic

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# Out Front

Michael G. Negrete, Chapter President

First, if you haven't already received or seen the notice, the Chapter office has temporarily closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Massachusetts Governor Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency. With this closure though, our staff is working remotely and still committed to meeting the continued needs of the membership. If you have an immediate need, with which the Chapter can assist, please continue to call the office number 800-660-1181, as calls are either being re-routed or you may leave a voicemail.

If you feel ill or require VA services otherwise, all VA Healthcare facilities are asking patients to call first, before attempting to arrive in person. Regardless of where you receive your care in New England, the VA Boston Healthcare System can provide you with guidance before visiting any VA facility or community care provider. Their direct number is (617) 232-9500. As this pandemic is a fluid situation, please keep an eye on your email's inbox for any other news related to the Chapter and/or PVA and any scheduled activities.

Moving on with just quick note - we had another successful Advocacy and Legislative Seminar, having met with 21 of our 33 New England Congressional offices. That's 2 more than last year! Kristen McCone Gordon, our new Government Relations Director, was able to attend the entire week, getting an immediate and educational immersion into the legislative priorities of PVA and then presenting them in a meaningful way to our Congressional leaders. Just having been hired 3 days prior, she did an impressive job, and will continue to be asset to our Chapter. Please see page 4 to read "From the Hill" for her first-hand experience of PVA's Ad/Leg Seminar and visit to the "Hill".

In the last 3 month's we've hired a new Executive Director and Govt. Relations Director, but the Chapter still has a great need for volunteers. Volunteers are an invaluable part of the Chapter - from helping in the office or with patient activities, participating on the Board, to simply sharing their personal stories with someone. If you have an interest in volunteering, no matter what it might be, please give Mark Murphy a call.

Michael G. Negrete  
President and Paralyzed Veteran

## From the Director's Desk

Mark Murphy, Chapter Executive Director

I shared with you last month how much I was looking forward to the annual 2020 PVA Advocacy/Legislation Seminar in Washington, D.C. I am happy to report that I was not disappointed as we had an incredible week full of solid advocacy work from our NEPVA delegation. This was my first time attending the seminar, and I was struck by the great work PVA is doing to raise so many important issues that impact our members, especially their focus on strengthening and improving the VA health care system and services. Pushing Congress to protect access to specialized services within the VA, including the spinal cord injury/disorder system of care, is of paramount importance today. Additionally, Congress needs to ensure that VA's health care system can effectively meet its staffing requirements.



We had an opportunity to meet several legislators from across New England, including Senator Shaheen and Senator Hassan from New Hampshire. One of Senator Shaheen's staff members shared with our group that NEPVA's past visits to their office, particularly from Michael and Terry Negrete, have resulted in the Senator signing on to meaningful legislation that supports disabled veterans and their families. This is proof positive that these in person meetings are invaluable to furthering NEPVA's mission and legislative priorities, and that we are making a difference.

I was delighted that our new Government Relations Director, Kristen McCone Gordon, was able to join us for the entire the week on Capitol Hill. We are fortunate to have Kristen on our staff as she brings many gifts and vast experience to this role, and we are excited about her plans to grow our legislative reach here at home in New England. Welcome Kristen!

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the feelings of uncertainty we are all facing as a result of the pandemic of Coronavirus. On that note, I came across this quote recently by the famous Dutch watchmaker and writer Corrie ten Boom: "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength." These words were encouraging to me, so I thought I would share them with you in the hopes that it might offer you some strength with all that is happening throughout the world today.

Mark Murphy  
Executive Director

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## CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

### NEW ENGLAND PVA OFFICERS

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| President      | Michael G. Negrete |
| Vice President | Mike Guilbault     |
| Treasurer      | Peter Moore        |
| Secretary      | Mike Moran         |

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## PROGRAM DIRECTORS

### PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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## CHAPTER HOSPITAL LIAISONS

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West Haven  
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White River Junction  
Northampton

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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](mailto: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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# Secretary: VA ready for COVID-19 Pandemic

via *VAntage Point*



VA is ready for the COVID-19 pandemic, said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie during a White House press briefing March 18.

“One of the things we do at VA is that we prepare for national emergencies, be they national emergencies or epidemics,” Wilkie said.

VA has four specific missions. Three are Veterans health care, Veterans benefits and running

national cemeteries.

“Our fourth mission is to support the federal government in times of natural disasters and pandemics,” he said. Wilkie said VA is the “buttress force” if the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) needs medical professionals for crises.

“We plan for that every day,” he said. “We are gaming out emergency preparedness scenarios and we stand ready when the President needs us to expand our mission.”

Wilkie said VA has stockpiled equipment and its supply chain is stable.

## Helping Veterans

The secretary said VA has tested several hundred Veterans and 44 have tested positive for coronavirus. He said many of those Veterans self-quarantined in their homes. He added that VA works with state laboratories and private companies for testing kits.

The secretary said that Veteran care and protection is an important part of VA’s mission.

“My instructions from the President were very clear,” Wilkie said. “I was to do everything imaginable, as aggressively as possible, to protect the 9.5 million Veterans who are part of the Department of Veterans Affairs.”

The secretary said VA established 19 emergency operations centers across the country last month. Additionally, VA started limiting the number of visitors to facilities to try to stop the virus’ spread. He said VA also was one of the first health care systems that started questioning and testing visitors before allowing access. He added VA also restricted access to its Community Living Centers to help keep Veteran residents safe.

Wilkie said VA took additional steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure, including cutting back dental surgeries, routine appointments and elective surgeries.

All these actions help protect Veterans, he said.

“These were all parts of the President’s directive to be as aggressive in a public health sense as we could be,” Wilkie said. “I think we have set the pace for the entire country.

“We’ve often said we work the most noble mission in the federal government,” he continued. “Our Veterans have been in the toughest spots in the world. They have been put in conditions that are unimaginable to most Americans and they have responded.”

For the latest VA updates on coronavirus and commonsense tips on preventing its spread, visit <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus>.

# Paralyzed Veterans of America Fights for Continued Access to Life Sustaining Health Care during the Coronavirus Pandemic

via *PVA.org*



WASHINGTON (March 19, 2020) — Paralyzed Veterans of America Executive Director Carl Blake issued the following statement regarding the medical treatment of veterans with spinal cord injury (SCI) and diseases such as MS and ALS, and other people with

disabilities during the coronavirus pandemic.

“During this unprecedented pandemic, it’s important to remember everybody deserves quality health care. As such, we are coordinating closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the SCI

system of care remains strong and fully accessible to paralyzed veterans. PVA is coordinating with the VA and Capitol Hill to address the needs of veterans who receive crucial, life-sustaining daily care in their homes. PVA is working diligently to ensure that the broader community response to the coronavirus addresses the needs of people with disabilities, particularly as major support systems are impacted and vital supplies become more difficult to obtain.”

“As the pandemic moves forward, medical professionals must not stereotype someone’s quality of life when assessing medical priorities. We have yet to see this occur in the United States, but as the number of coronavirus patients increases, PVA stands ready to continue our commitment to fight for quality health care for catastrophically disabled veterans and all people with disabilities.”

# From the Hill

Kristen McCone Gordon, Chapter Government Relations Director

First and foremost, I thank you all for your service. It's an honor for me to join this organization and I look forward to the opportunity to meet you.

As the Government Relations Director, I'll be collaborating with both the Board of Directors and Executive Director to establish and execute a legislative and advocacy agenda for NEPVA. One of my priorities is to establish strong relationships with our congressional delegation and their district staff, as well as with state legislators throughout New England, to ensure our elected officials understand the issues and challenges facing NEPVA members.

At the beginning of this month, I joined my NEPVA colleagues at the Pushing Access Forward 2020: PVA Annual Advocacy Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. We had an opportunity to hear directly from the national staff and various government officials on PVA's legislative priorities. We also heard and shared stories about how these issues directly affect the lives of PVA members nationwide. If you haven't yet

had an opportunity, I encourage you to review these priorities which are included on page 6. While in D.C., we also had an opportunity to meet with our New England congressional delegation and/or their staff on Capitol Hill. We found the congressional offices to be engaged and very open to future collaboration on these issues. I look forward to sharing updates with you.

I'm committed to advancing the legislative priorities of PVA, and the New England Chapter in particular, but I need your help to be successful. In order to best demonstrate the urgency and importance of these issues to legislators, I need to hear from you. As Speaker O'Neill once said, "all politics is local" as the needs of constituents really do matter most to elected officials. Please let me know if you would be willing to speak with me about your experiences with the issues highlighted on page 6.

I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.



L-R Back - Senator Shaheen (D-NH), Chapter Volunteer Terry Negrete, Chapter Executive Director Mark Murphy, Government Relations Director Kristen McCone Gordon and Front - Chapter President Michael Negrete



L-R Chapter Volunteer Denise Pease, Congressman Larson (D-MA), Government Relations Director Kristen McCone Gordon



L-R Senator Reed (D-RI), Government Relations Director Kristen McCone Gordon and Chapter Volunteer Denise Pease



L-R Chapter Executive Director Mark Murphy, Congresswoman Kuster (D-NH), Chapter President Michael Negrete, and Chapter Volunteer Terry Negrete

# 2020 POLICY PRIORITIES

**Veterans must have access to high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-centric health care as well as timely and accurate delivery of all earned benefits.**

## Strengthen and Improve the VA Health Care System and Services

### **A Protect Access to VA's Specialized Services**

Congress must protect access to specialized services within VA, including the spinal cord injury/disorder (SCI/D) system of care, to ensure that it remains strong and effective. Congress must also ensure that VA's health care system is able to effectively meet its staffing requirements.

### **B Improve Access to VA's Long-Term Services**

Congress must provide oversight of VA's expansion of its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to ensure it is executed in a fair and timely manner and expand eligibility for the PCAFC to include veterans with serious illnesses like ALS and MS. Congress must also maintain a safe margin of community living center capacity for veterans with SCI/D.

### **C Access to IVF**

Congress must make in-vitro fertilization (IVF) a permanent part of VA's medical care package.

### **D Care for Women Veterans with SCI/D**

Congress must ensure VA is able to meet the needs of women veterans with catastrophic disabilities, including their needs in decisions involving delivery of gender-specific health care.

## Strengthen VA Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans and their Surviving Spouses

### **A Improvement to Veterans Benefits**

- Increasing the Automobile Allowance Grant and ensuring that veterans receive appropriate Automotive Adaptive Equipment reimbursement;
- Addressing the transportation needs of non-service-connected veterans to help restore, promote, and preserve the highest state of health possible; and
- Prioritizing claims for Specially Adapted Housing grant for veterans with ALS and increasing the amount and usability for all catastrophically disabled veterans.

### **B Benefits for Surviving Spouses**

Congress must ensure survivors of veterans who die from ALS receive the full benefits they are due.

**Veterans with disabilities must have access to the opportunities and freedoms to allow them to live, work, travel, and fully participate in society.**

## Strengthen and Protect the Systems and Civil Rights that Support People with Disabilities

### **A Improve Access to Air Travel for Passengers with Disabilities**

Congress must improve access to air travel by requiring airlines to ensure that airplanes meet broad accessibility standards and strengthening Air Carrier Access Act enforcement through referral of certain complaints to the U.S. Attorney General and a private right of action.

### **B Protect and Increase Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Congress must continue to protect the rights of people with disabilities to seek immediate redress of discriminatory barriers in public accommodations under the ADA and increase and expand the tax incentives available to assist businesses with ADA compliance.

### **C Preserve and Strengthen Financial and Health Security for People with Disabilities**

Congress must strengthen and enhance the Social Security system and protect Medicare, while rejecting efforts to undermine these earned benefits programs that represent an economic safety net for millions of Americans.

### **D Disaster Response and Recovery that Meets the Needs of People with Disabilities**

Congress must address current gaps in the ability of the emergency response and recovery system to address the needs of people with disabilities and ensure disability inclusive disaster management policies and practices.



L-R - Chapter Executive Director Mark Murphy, Government Relations Director Kristen McCone Gordon, Chapter President Michael Negrete, and Chapter Volunteer Denise Pease



On Capitol Hill - Chapter Executive Director Mark Murphy, Chapter President Michael Negrete and Chapter Volunteer Denise Pease



L-R Chapter President Michael Negrete, Senator Hassan (D-NH), Chapter Volunteer Terry Negrete, Chapter Executive Director Mark Murphy



House Congressional Press and Media Rotunda - Chapter President Michael Negrete and Chapter Executive Director Mark Murphy

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# Making a **DIFFERENCE.**

Making a difference in the lives of Veterans and the Disabled Community throughout New England since 1947.

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Paralyzed Veterans of America is the only non-profit Veterans' Service Organization chartered by the U.S. Congress to support and advocate for the benefits and medical care of our country's armed forces Veterans who have experienced a spinal cord injury or dysfunction spanning conflicts from WWII thru Iraq and Afghanistan.

PVA has developed a unique expertise, on a wide variety of issues,

involving the special needs of our catastrophically injured members. PVA uses this expertise to be the leading advocate and supporter for:

- Quality health care for our members.
- Research and education.
- Benefits available, because of our members' military service.
- Civil rights that maximize the independence of our members.

 @NEPVA1947  
[www.newenglandpva.org](http://www.newenglandpva.org)



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

New England Chapter

# PVA WASHINGTON UPDATE

PVA Washington Update Volume 26, Number 5

## Reeve Foundation Hosts First Summit

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation held its first summit in Washington, DC in late February. Its theme: Where Care, Cure and Community Connect was meant to encompass the broad range of topics affecting those with spinal cord injuries and diseases (SCI/D). The conference brought together people with SCI/D, advocates, researchers, health professionals, family members, caregivers and other stakeholders for two days of workshops, briefings, and presentations about living with SCI/D, the state of research, and information on initiatives of the Reeve Foundation and Paralysis Resource Center (PRC). The work of the Foundation, the PRC and the conference are supported through the Administration on Community Living (ACL) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Keynote speakers included Julie Hocker, ACL Commissioner and nominee to head the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), disability rights advocate Emily Ladau, former Senator Tom Harkin, and co-anchor of ABC's Good Morning America Robin Roberts. In her remarks, Hocker described some of the work ACL has undertaken to change the medical model mindset of the health care community and its challenge grants program to highlight best practices in employment of people with disabilities. Ladau spoke of her efforts to be a self-advocate for accessibility and the value of collaboration rather than confrontation when she encountered disability-barriers in businesses. Sen. Harkin reflected on the work to gain passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the progress that has been achieved in its 30-year lifespan, as well as the challenges that remain to fulfill the goal of economic self-sufficiency embodied in the law.

Break-out sessions included presentations on "Building Resilience through Self-Advocacy," "State of Spinal Cord Injury Research," "Finding a Good Caregiver," information about the Reeve Foundation Quality

of Life Grants program, preparing for emergencies, and making travel less stressful. At a session on Reeve Foundation advocacy priorities, representatives of the organization reported on their ongoing work to ensure access to insurance coverage for treatments, devices, and rehabilitation for those with paralysis and coalition efforts with organizations such as PVA and others to protect the rights of air travelers with disabilities.

Another session on women living with SCI/D featured Elizabeth Leef, Program Specialist at ACL; Jennifer Sheehy, Acting Assistant Secretary for ODEP; writer and founder of the Great Scuba Adventure, Cody Unser; and Bernadette Mauro, Director at the Reeve Foundation and manager of its Military and Veterans Program. Each woman shared her experiences living with SCI/D, barriers she encountered and solutions she found most effective in overcoming those challenges. A common thread in their comments were ongoing problems in accessing health care from parking and access to health clinics, inaccessible exam tables, and doctors' lack of understanding physical manifestations of their condition.

Through its Paralysis Resource Center - <https://www.christopherreeve.org/living-with-paralysis/about-the-paralysis-resource-center> - the Reeve Foundation offers a 400 page resource guide - <https://www.christopherreeve.org/living-with-paralysis/free-resources-and-downloads/paralysis-resource-guide> - covering a range of topics from SCI/D treatment modalities and therapies, health and wellness tips, information about peer and family supports, rehabilitation professionals, recreation, travel advice, tools and technology, useful resources and basics on disability rights. One chapter in the guide is devoted to the Reeve Foundation's Military and Veterans Program, a description of the Military Veterans Program Council and lists of Departments of Defense, VA, and caregiver resources.

## Annual Disability Statistics Compendium and Report Released

The University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability released the 2019 Annual Disability Statistics [Compendium and Report](#) on February 11. The Compendium features extensive tables of data about people with disabilities, including state and national values and trends over time. The Compendium covers topics such as employment, health, and

education, and contains one section devoted to statistics on veterans with service-connected disabilities. An Annual Report accompanying the Compendium highlights state and trend data, and complements the detailed tables available in the Compendium & Supplement.

## VA Publishes Proposed Regulations on Automobile Adaptive Equipment

On March 12, VA published a [proposed rule](#) in the Federal Register that addresses reimbursement to eligible persons who have paid for automobile adaptive equipment (AE) and payments made by VA directly

to registered AE providers. The proposed rule does not address eligibility to receive adaptive equipment.

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## VA COVID-19 Response

VA announced on March 17 that it plans to ask for an additional \$16.6 billion to respond to the health care needs of veterans with the corona virus (COVID-19). Action is pending in Congress on this and other virus-related spending.

The response to COVID-19 is a rapidly unfolding situation. Contact your local VA for up to date information as this continues to evolve.

### Things to expect from VA Medical Centers:

- Every person entering a VA hospital will undergo a daily screening for the corona virus.
- The spinal cord injury (SCI) population is one of VA's most susceptible populations to the novel corona virus. All VA SCI/D Centers will adopt a "no visitor" stance, meaning no outside visitors will be permitted to see inpatients. Exceptions will be when veterans are in their last stages of life or any other extenuating circumstance.
- Routine SCI/D admissions including annual examinations and respite will be rescheduled.
- Outpatient clinics are only accepting urgent appointments. Non-

urgent, routine appointments are being rescheduled to a later date or scheduled as a telehealth appointment when feasible. The VA has increased telehealth appointments to continue meeting veterans' health care needs.

- Recreational therapy outings are canceled.
- Physical therapy is performed at bedside.
- Dayrooms and common areas are closed.
- Food delivery from outside restaurants is prohibited.

If you have symptoms, or think you may have come in contact with the corona virus, contact your provider before visiting your local VA medical center or doctor's office.

Information on the novel corona virus can be found here: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/>. Information on the visitor policy for SCI can be found here: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5400>.

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## VA Publishes Proposed Caregiver Program Regulations

On March 6, VA published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would improve and standardize VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) and ensure the program's regulations reflect changes required by the VA MISSION Act of 2018.

In the proposed rule, VA seeks to standardize eligibility by expanding the definition of serious injury to include any service-connected disability that is rated at 70 percent or more by VA or is combined with any other service-connected disability or disabilities, and a combined rating of 70 percent or more is assigned by VA; defining what it means to be in need of personal care services; and ensuring that the eligibility criteria capture the personal care service needs of veterans and service members with cognitive or neurological impairment or mental health conditions, among other things.

Additionally, VA is proposing changes to the stipend payment methodology, definitions for financial planning and legal services, and procedures for revocation and discharge, to include advance notice

requirements aimed at improving communication between VA and PCAFC participants.

The regulation also accounts for the VA MISSION Act's expansion of eligibility for the PCAFC to eligible veterans from all eras, beginning with those who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. Two years after the first phase of program expansion, PCAFC will include eligible veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty after May 7, 1975, and before September 11, 2001. Prior to expanding, VA must fully implement an information technology system required by the VA MISSION Act.

The proposed rule is open for public comment for 60 days. Written comments must be received on or before May 5. PVA will be submitting comments on the proposed changes to the program.

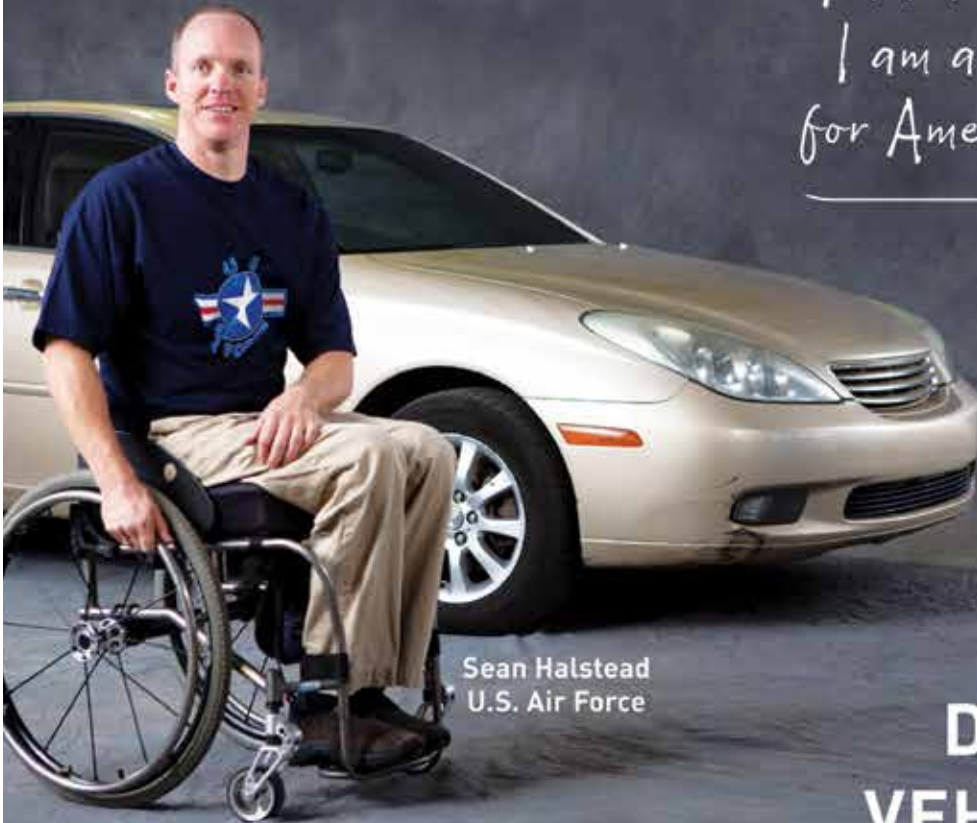
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## AMTRAK Accessible Viewliner

On March 9, Senior Associate Advocacy Director Lee Page viewed the next generation of the Amtrak Viewliner car. The new cars include an accessible sleeper and a sit and takeout café car. The mockup of the café car includes an accessible path of travel that allows a wheelchair user to independently select and purchase items. There is accessible seating in the car or the passenger can return to his or her sleeping compartment

in the adjacent train car. The accessible sleeper includes a 360-degree turning space with the bed extended behind the closed door. Also, inside are a power door switch to secure the door, a fold out table for dining, and a roll-in shower. The Viewliner is a long-distance train car that runs from New York City to Chicago, New Orleans, and Miami in different train sets.

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I am a new beginning  
for America's Veterans."*



Sean Halstead  
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**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

**WHEELS HELPING  
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Regardless of the condition, all vehicles have value and are sold at auction. Proceeds from the sale help provide jobs, care and benefits for severely injured veterans and their families. Scheduling a pickup is free and easy, and you may be eligible for a tax deduction, too! There's no better way to give back to those who have given so much.



**WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548**

# New Appeals Process

Michael Snape, National Service Officer II

The claims appeals process has changed significantly with the implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA) on February 19, 2019. Previously a veteran had one track for appealing decisions; filing a notice of disagreement (NOD) which then had to be processed through multiple steps prior to being certified and placed on the docket for Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) review. Veterans now have three tracks from which to choose. They can file a supplemental claim with new evidence, request a higher-level review with the same evidence (can only occur within 1 year from date of the notification letter of the rating decision), or submit a notice of disagreement directly to the BVA. Submission of a NOD directly to the BVA requires a veteran to choose between 3 tracks, a direct review by a law judge, 90-day period to submit new evidence prior

to NOD by a law judge, or a hearing before a judge. Veterans have one year from the date of the notification letter of the rating decision with which they disagree to file one of the three options noted above. The majority of appeals can be addressed via a supplemental claim or higher-level review without need of a hearing or BVA review. These changes in appeals structure have significantly reduced the time veterans must wait prior to receiving a decision on their appeal. Due to the changes in appeal structure and evidence submittal rules, it is recommended that veterans work through their service organization when considering an appeal of a rating decision.



## Getting Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again with Indego®

New VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® Exoskeleton at no cost.



### What is Indego?

**A robotic device that enables veterans to walk again.**

Indego is an FDA-approved exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

Indego can currently be used with spinal cord injury levels of T3 to L5 in community or home settings. The device offers:

- Lightweight, modular design
- Slim profile compatible with most wheelchairs
- Rapid setup and breakdown for easy transportation
- Can be used with forearm crutches or walker



**Contact us today to find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton**

**Email:** [support.indego@parker.com](mailto:support.indego@parker.com)

**Phone:** 844-846-3346





Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

# PAVE

Paving Access for Veterans Employment

## Employment Support for ALL Veterans

With PAVE, Paralyzed Veterans of America's Employment Program,

### You Will:

- Receive carefully tailored **one-on-one support** from a PAVE team member.
- Set goals to achieve your career objective.
- Learn how to craft an effective resume and cover letter specific to your career interests.
- Develop effective interview and communication skills so you are confident in interviews.
- Craft job search strategies to meet your employment goals.
- Create an effective LinkedIn profile.
- Identify and engage in networking opportunities in your community.
- And much more!



### We Will:

- Provide one-on-one guidance to help you find **meaningful employment**.
- Guide you through development and enhancement of your resume and cover letter.
- Assess your current abilities, training, and experience and help you identify career goals.
- Teach you how to build an effective LinkedIn profile page.
- Practice mock interviews to hone your skills before you interact with employers.
- Regularly communicate with you to track progress and identify other resources to assist in the job search process.
- Be a **Partner for Life** to assist you for the duration of your career.

[pva.org/pave](http://pva.org/pave) • [info@pva.org](mailto:info@pva.org) •  ParalyzedVeterans •   PVA1946

# Fast Facts

- PAVE has helped more than 4,100 veterans, military spouses and caregivers find meaningful work.
- Recent data shows that **more than 80%** of PAVE program clients stay in their position for more than a year.
- We work with more than 1,200 nationwide employer and community partners to engage and employ PAVE clients.
- PAVE's vocational rehabilitation counselors are experts in assisting people with significant employment barriers.
- PAVE provides a Partner for Life Guarantee. We are always available to help you reach your next employment goal!

“ Without [PAVE] I don't know if I would've had that confidence to go after the current job I have, whereas I might've settled for something less just because of the stigma that surrounds disabled employment. ”

— **Bobby Fecteau**  
U.S. Army veteran, PVA member



“ PAVE literally saved my life. They came into my life when I was about to lose everything. I was working part-time, but I was not able to make ends meet. The paid training program led to a full-time position and ultimately to the position I have now. ”

— **Edna Jackson-Jones**  
U.S. Marine Corps veteran



## PAVE Regional Offices

Visit [pva.org/pave](http://pva.org/pave) to find out more about regional contacts.

POWERED BY:





# Take Charge of Your Own Health Care in 2020

The Whole Health System is an approach to healthcare that **EMPOWERS** and **EQUIPS** Veterans to take charge of their health and well-being, and to live their life to the fullest.

*Please join us for an*

## Introduction to Whole Health

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Jamaica Plain VA</b><br/><b>2nd Thursday/month</b><br/><b>10-11am</b><br/>150 S Huntington Ave<br/><u>Primary Care Clinic</u><br/>Conf Rm F2-04</p> | <p><b>West Roxbury VA</b><br/><b>3rd Wednesday/month</b><br/><b>10-11am</b><br/>1400 VFW Parkway<br/><u>Canteen Conference Room</u><br/>Bldg 3, 1st Floor</p> | <p><b>Brockton VA</b><br/><b>4th Wednesday/month</b><br/><b>10-11am</b><br/>940 Belmont St<br/><u>Primary Care Clinic</u><br/>Bldg 3, 3rd Floor</p> |
|---|---|---|

**Transitioning Service Members, Veterans, Families and Employees are invited and encouraged to attend.**

**\* DROP-IN \*\* NO Appointment Needed \***

For questions and more information, contact:  
Whole Health at 857-203-4876



# Connect With What Matters



## Being there makes a difference

Recently the Ride-Away team joined forces with MobilityWorks so that we could provide our veterans with the largest selection of mobility solutions that best fit their physical capabilities and lifestyle. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together find the best solution. Collectively, Ride-Away and MobilityWorks will continue to build on our mission to help veterans connect with who and what matters most.

MobilityWorks has more than 50 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

- Minivans, full-size vans and trucks
- The latest in adaptive technology
- Complete maintenance and service
- Rental vans — veterans receive a 10% discount

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



SUVs



Trucks



Lifts and stowage products



Electronic control systems

**USA's largest accessible van dealer!**

**Gray**  
32 Lewiston Road, Unit 2B  
Gray, ME 04039  
207-747-2064

**Londonderry**  
54 Wentworth Avenue  
Londonderry, NH 03053  
603-210-4610

**Norwood**  
333 Boston Providence Turnpike  
Norwood, MA 02062  
781-222-3622

**Essex Junction**  
5C David Drive  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
802-222-0265

**North Attleboro**  
57 George Leven Drive  
North Attleboro MA 02760  
508-859-0940

**East Hartford**  
104 Pitkin Street  
East Hartford, CT 06108  
860-215-4100

  
**mobilityworks®**  
www.mobilityworks.com



# NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



# JULY 3-8, 2020

Portland, OR • [WheelchairGames.org](http://WheelchairGames.org)

Co-Presented by:



**VA** U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America



**ANNUAL AIR RIFLE &  
AIR PISTOL PROGRAM**

**Camp Pendleton Air Rifle  
and Pistol Tournament**  
December 2-3, 2019  
Camp Pendleton, CA

**Cal-Diego Air Rifle  
and Pistol Tournament**  
January 27-28, 2020  
San Diego Naval Base  
San Diego, CA

**Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle  
and Pistol Tournament**  
March 4-5, 2020  
Colonial Shooting Academy  
Richmond, VA

**Wisconsin Air Rifle and  
Pistol Tournament**  
March 21-22, 2020  
Milwaukee Area Tech College  
Milwaukee, WI

**Buckeye Air Rifle and  
Pistol Tournament\***  
April 16-18, 2020  
Spire Institute  
Geneva, OH

*\*Buckeye Wheelchair Games*

**PVA BOATING/FISHING  
TOUR**

**Mid-America Bass Tournament**  
September 20-22, 2019  
Lake Eufaula  
Eufaula, OK

**Vaughan Bass Tournament**  
October 4-6, 2019  
Rend Lake  
Mount Vernon, IL

**Florida Gulf Coast  
Bass Tournament**  
April 3-5, 2020  
Lake Harris  
Tavares, FL

**Kentucky-Indiana  
Bass Tournament**  
April 24-26, 2020  
Lake Barkley  
Kuttawa, KY

**Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament**  
June 5-7, 2020  
James River  
Hopewell, VA

**Capital Clash Bass Tournament\***  
June 12-14, 2020  
Potomac River  
Marbury, MD

*\*Year-End Tournament*

**ANNUAL PVA/NWPA  
BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT  
SERIES**

**Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament  
Chuck Willis Memorial**  
March 13-15, 2020  
Diamond Billiards  
Midlothian, VA

**Mid-America  
Billiards Tournament**  
April 3-5, 2020  
Slick Willies Pool Hall  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Buckeye Billiards Tournament**  
June 5-6, 2020  
Wickliffe Lanes  
Wickliffe, OH

**Mountain States  
Billiards Tournament**  
June 20-21, 2020  
Widefield Corner Pocket Billiards  
Fountain, CO

**ANNUAL PVA/AWBA  
BOWLING TOURNAMENT  
SERIES**

**Nevada Bowling Tournament**  
December 5-8, 2019  
Sunset Station Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

**Mid-America Bowling Tournament**  
April 9-12, 2020  
Firelake Bowling Center  
Shawnee, OK

**Vaughan Bowling Tournament**  
April 30–May 3, 2020  
Bowlero  
Romeoville, IL

**PVA NATIONAL SHOOTING  
SPORTS CIRCUIT**

**Nevada Shooting  
Sports Tournament**  
March 13-15, 2020  
Clark County Shooting Park  
Las Vegas, NV

**Cal-Diego Shooting  
Sports Tournament**  
March 27-29, 2020  
Redlands Shooting Park  
Redlands, CA

**Mid-Atlantic Shooting  
Sports Tournament**  
April 24-26, 2020  
Conservation Park of Virginia  
Charles City, VA

**Lone Star Shooting  
Sports Tournament**  
May 22-23, 2020  
Desoto Gun Club  
Waxahachie, TX

**Vaughan Shooting  
Sports Tournament**  
June 5-7, 2020  
St. Charles Sportsman Club  
Elburn, IL

**Iowa Shooting  
Sports Tournament**  
June 12-14, 2020  
Otter Creek Sportsman Club  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Wisconsin Shooting  
Sports Tournament\***  
June 26-28, 2020  
Brown County Sportsman Club  
Green Bay, WI

*\*Year-End Tournament*

**BOCCIA**

**PVA National  
Boccia Tournament**  
October 22-26, 2019  
The Pavilion at Lemay  
St. Louis, MO

**Bayou Gulf States Boccia  
Tournament**  
January 31-February 1, 2020  
Harrison County Shelter  
Gulfport, MS

**Buckeye Boccia Tournament\***  
April 16-18, 2020  
Spire Institute  
Geneva, OH

**Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament**  
May 8-9, 2020  
Fort Monroe Community Center  
Hampton, VA

**Vaughan Boccia Tournament**  
June 26-28, 2020  
Fountain View  
Recreation Center  
Carol Stream, IL

*\*Buckeye Wheelchair Games*

**CODE OF HONOR QUAD  
RUGBY INVITATIONAL**

February 7-9, 2020  
The St. James  
Springfield, VA

**NATIONAL VETERANS  
WHEELCHAIR GAMES**



**July 3-8, 2020  
Portland, OR**

**HANDCYCLING**

**Off-Road Spring Expo**  
March 27-29, 2020  
Chesterfield, VA

**PVA Racing  
High Performance Camp**  
April 15-20, 2020  
Tucson, AZ

**Redlands Cycling Classic**  
April 22-26, 2020  
Redlands, CA

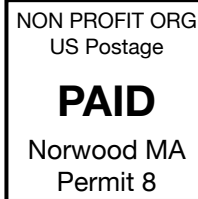
**Blue and Gray Half Marathon and  
Criterium**  
April 25-26, 2020  
Gettysburg, PA

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

T 800-660-1181  
F 857-203-9685

info@newenglandpva.org  
www.newenglandpva.org

**Office Hours**  
Mon-Fri, 8:30am - 4:30pm



## COVID-19 - CHAPTER OFFICE CLOSURE

In closely monitoring the fluid circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially in light of Massachusetts Governor Baker's recent declaration of a State of Emergency and the recommended public restrictions associated with it, our West Roxbury Chapter office will be closed for at least the next 15-30 days.

This closure is in an effort to comply with the State and City of Boston's recommended restrictions and to protect the health and well-being of those who regularly work in the Chapter office day-to-day.

During this office closure, all office employees have the capability and will be working remotely from home to continue meeting the needs of our membership and the Chapter office. Additionally, if you need to contact the Chapter office, you'll still be able to reach the Chapter leadership, employees or resources through our existing

phone system's auto-attendant at 800-660-1181. At the end of the closure period, it and the office operations, will be re-evaluated for any needed modifications, adjustments and/or continuances.



*For info and updates on upcoming sporting events or activities please contact the Chapter office at (800) 660-1181 option #5.*

*Mike Guilbault - Sports Director*

*Mike Moran - Asst. Sports Director*

**New England PVA's Official Facebook Page**  
**[www.facebook.com/NEPVA1947](http://www.facebook.com/NEPVA1947)**

*Serving Paralyzed Veterans and the Disabled Community Since 1947.*