



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

New England Chapter

CORDWORD

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



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VETERANS DAY MSG



On Veterans Day in 1988, Ronald Reagan said ...”We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty. . . Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause.”

Each Veterans Day is a remembrance set aside to honor those who have defended our country in peace and war. [....continued on page 6.](#)

ARMISTICE DAY 1945



On Nov. 11, 1919, the nation celebrated Armistice Day, marking the first anniversary of the end of the First World War. In 1945, Armistice Day commemorations took on new meaning as the Second World War ended. Sixteen million active duty service members transitioned back into civilian life.

Parades and celebrations honoring new and old Veterans alike occurred throughout the country that day. President Truman, a World War One Veteran, recognize....[continued on page 8.](#)

Turn Your **Used Vehicle** Into Support for Paralyzed Veterans of America



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

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We'll use the proceeds from the sale of your car, truck, RV or boat to change lives and build brighter futures for our seriously injured heroes.



Donating your car is easy, and your gift is tax-deductible

Vehicle donations to PVA are tax-deductible! Most vehicles are sold through local used-car markets. Our vehicle donation program works to get the highest return per vehicle and handles all the paperwork, too! Whether your vehicle sells for \$500 or less, more than \$500, or more than \$5000, you will be provided with the proper donation tax receipt(s).



Call 877-900-VETS or donate online at pva.careasy.org

New England PVA Contact Information

1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301
West Roxbury, MA 02132
Phone: (800) 660-1181
Fax: (857) 203-9685

www.newenglandpva.org
info@newenglandpva.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

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PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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NEW ENGLAND PVA NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

BOSTON VA REGIONAL OFFICE

Joseph E. Badzmierowski
Director of Field Services
J.F.K. Federal Bldg. - Room - 1575 C
Boston, MA 02203
Phone: (617) 303-1395 or (800) 795-3607
Fax: (617) 303-1396

WEST ROXBURY/BROCKTON VAMC

Pete Demarkis, National Service Officer II
1400 VFW Parkway, Room AG 60
West Roxbury, MA 02132
West Roxbury Phone: (857) 203-6091
Brockton Phone: (774) 826-2219
Serving Massachusetts, Rhode Island

TOGUS, VARO, 1 VA CENTER

Michael Snapes, National Service Officer II
Bldg. 248, Room 112
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: (207) 621-7394 or (866) 795-1911
Fax: (207) 621-4829
Serving Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont

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Syracuse, NY 13210
Phone: (315) 425-4400 Ext. 53317
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ON THE COVER:

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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Out Front

Michael G. Negrete, Chapter President

On this Veterans Day, I'd like to personally thank each of my fellow PVA and New England Chapter members for their service to our country and the sacrifices they, and their families, made to do so.

Having spent a combined 10 years in the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, Veteran's Day has a distinct meaning for me. There is no greater honor than to wear the cloth of our nation, and I am privileged and proud to now serve those who have through PVA and as your Chapter President. It's a reminder to me, to share my appreciation and gratitude with you and your families.

Veterans Day is also a reminder that our freedom isn't guaranteed. It's protected by the men and women in our Armed Services who swore an oath to put themselves in harm's way to do it. President Ronald Reagan said it best, "*Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.*"

Executive Director Mark Murphy and I attended PVA's virtual Fall Board of Director's meeting. The meeting had a lengthy agenda of items scheduled, which were all accomplished, included a unanimous approval of PVA's adjusted budget for the remainder of its fiscal year. Three resolutions of Chapter interest before the Board were voted on.

FAILED - 20-O-07 PVA Chapter Locations. This resolution, if passed, would require Chapters to relocate to within a VA SCI facility. There were a number of arguments pointing out potential conflicts of interest, VA oversight, control and access of the Chapter's office that led to its failure to pass.

PASSED - 20-O-08 Chapter Fundraising through Direct Mail. This resolution removes the Chapter's requirement to provide all mailing addresses to PVA when initiating direct mail campaign. The passage of this resolution makes it quicker and easier to submit Fundraising Request to PVA by removing the burdensome task of collating and including all of the mailing addresses for the campaign.

PASSED - 20-O-11 Change of PVA Eight Mandated Programs. This resolution restructured the Chapter's 8 mandated programs into 5, moving Administration, Service and Fundraising to the newly created "Support Services".

PVA's 2021 Advocacy and Legislative Seminar scheduled for March 2021 has been canceled as an in-person event and will be held virtually due to Congressional COVID-19 restrictions. The 2021 May PVA Annual Convention scheduled to be hosted in Las Vegas is still planned to occur as an in-person meeting, but naturally subject to change in response to any COVID-19 restrictions or developments.

Closing out October and moving into November was the start of the Chapter's [new website](#) project and launch on Veterans Day. This [new website](#) completely redesigns and improves the user experiences in a number of ways, but primarily in ease of information access for members, visitors, and donors, ability to [securely accept online donations](#), and most importantly all in a responsive design, which means its desktop, tablet and mobile friendly. Another new feature is the ability to view all [activities and events](#) in a variety of formats - [list](#), [day](#), [month](#) or use the search feature to view by category, state, event type or whatever you want. As with any project of this scope, we're still refining things and working out a few bugs, but please take time to visit the new website at <https://www.newenglandpva.org>. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with what you'll see, and we certainly welcome any feedback you might have to offer.

As I write this, COVID-19 is surging throughout the country with New England being no exception. If you, or you know a Chapter member, find you're having difficulty with food insecurity, purchasing PPE, keeping up with utilities, rent or other basic living expenses due to COVID-19, the [Member COVID-19 Relief Grant](#) is still available to you. Simply complete the online grant application [HERE](#).

Finally, as we start to wind down the final months of 2020, ponder these words and consider the future that lies ahead in 2021.

"For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." - John F. Kennedy

Michael G. Negrete
Chapter President/PVA National Director
and Paralyzed Veteran

From the Director's Desk

Mark Murphy, Chapter Executive Director

On November 11th, we as a country of course celebrated Veterans Day. This was an important day for the New England PVA, because as a Veterans Service Organization we always strive to show reverence and appreciation for all of our members who have served our nation so selflessly through their military service. As an Army veteran myself, I am very proud of my service and am grateful for the many experiences I had in uniform that have in many ways formed me to be the person I am today. So, a belated happy Veterans Day to one and all!

During the week of Veterans Day this month we were delighted to launch our new Chapter website at <https://www.newenglandpva.org/>. A lot of time, effort, and resources went into putting this new website together, and several Board and staff members contributed to the formation and content of the site. I am very grateful for the support of our Board and the talent of our chosen vendor who helped to make this such an outstanding and state of the art website. Please check out the [new site](#), and I hope you will be edified by all the great content and presentation therein.



I have been continuing to ship our New England PVA branded masks and neck gaiters to members who request them through the form we have on our website. To date I have sent over 300 of these face coverings to our members, including at building 8 in Brockton and the West Roxbury VA. We have received several donations from members to help defray shipping costs and the costs of the masks, which has been very helpful.

On October 19-23rd I was happy to participate with Chapter President and National Director Michael Negrete in my first PVA Fall National Board of Directors meeting. This annual meeting is traditionally an in-person conference, but because of the public restrictions across the country because of the pandemic it was held virtually via Zoom this Fall. Although the meetings were virtual, the days were still long, full, and substantial. Some important topics that came up for discussion that I found interesting included the committee report on the evaluation of the current Chapter model, the planned giving committee update, the audit committee chairman's report, various proposed resolutions, the PVA Executive Director semi-annual report, and some other interesting Chapter matters and updates. As always, I was impressed by the dedication and talent of leaders from other Chapters across the country in addition to those from the PVA National leadership team and staff. We are certainly fortunate to have many people who so willingly offer their gifts and talents to furthering the values and mission of PVA in such a variety of ways.

I would ask you to please be conscious of our fundraising efforts ahead of #GivingTuesday on December 1st. #GivingTuesday refers to the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, and it is a global movement that aims to support people and organizations whose mission is to transform their communities and the world. We will be following up with more information on this day via social media, on our new website, and by email, but if you or someone you know would like to make a #GivingTuesday donation on December 1st in support of our ongoing efforts to assist paralyzed veterans throughout New England, you can donate through our new secure website link at <https://www.newenglandpva.org/ways-to-give/make-a-donation/>.

Finally, with cases of COVID-19 rapidly increasing throughout Massachusetts and in many other places across the nation, I would like to offer you my best wishes for a safe, healthy, and precautionous time as we enter into this holiday season. Awareness, vigilance, and safety will help all of us navigate through the sad and challenging reality of this ongoing pandemic. May we all do the best we can to limit the spread of the virus to promote the health and safety of all those around us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Murphy".

Mark Murphy

Chapter Executive Director



FROM the HILL

Kristen McCone Gordon, Chapter Government Relations Director

I'm excited to announce another opportunity for you to directly advance one of our key pieces of legislation, the AUTO for Veterans Act (H.R. 5761/S. 4155). **Please help our Chapter encourage more members of the New England Delegation to cosponsor this legislation by**

taking a few minutes to fill out this [VoterVoice](#) message. As you may recall, VoterVoice is a new program from PVA that allows us to harness the grassroots power of our members in a quick, easy, and effective way. The VoterVoice system enables members to take action by sending a pre-written email to your representatives in Congress. All you need to do is fill in your name, address, and hit send.

The AUTO for Veterans Act (H.R. 5761/S. 4155) has been one of our most pressing legislative priorities this year. This legislation would lessen the financial burden and expand access to transportation for eligible, disabled veterans by allowing them to receive an additional Automobile Grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), every ten years.

VA is currently authorized to provide eligible veterans with a one-time grant of approximately \$21,400 to be used to purchase a new or used automobile and necessary adaptive equipment, such as specialized pedals or switches. The average cost to replace modified vehicles ranges from \$40,000 to \$65,000 when the vehicle is new and \$21,000 to \$35,000 when the vehicle is used. Because of the high cost to procure replacement vehicles, many veterans retain vehicles beyond their useful life which places them, and those around them, at risk.

Along with Chapters across the country, we strongly believe that Veterans should not have to shoulder the burden of the full cost of a vehicle. Though NEPVA wishes this legislation included non-service-connected injuries, it is a strong start and fills an important void.

On behalf of our Chapter, I've been discussing this issue with Congressional district staff throughout the year. While many offices have been receptive to our message, nothing is more powerful than hearing from a constituent. **Please take a moment and fill out our [VoterVoice](#) message to request that your Representatives cosponsor this important legislation.** Together, let's get the New England Delegation onboard with helping paralyzed veterans!



VA Secretary Robert Wilkie Veterans Day Message

via VAntage Point

I'm Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie.

On Veterans Day in 1988, Ronald Reagan said ... "We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty. . . . Most of all, we

remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause."

Each Veterans Day is a remembrance set aside to honor those who have defended our country in peace and war.

On November 11th, we pause to reflect on American Veterans, men and women who have served and sacrificed while wearing the uniforms of the Nation—ordinary Americans performing extraordinary service.

In March of 1864, after almost 3 years of devastating fighting in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln reminded the nation of the sacrifices veterans make for us all ... "All that a man hath he will give his life for his country ... the soldier puts his life at stake, and often yields it up in his country's

cause. The highest merit, then, is due the soldier."

That demonstration of "highest merit" has now spanned 244 years, founded upon a singular, enduring principle—Liberty and Justice for All.

Every American is a beneficiary of veterans' vigilance and valor, and their contributions to our way of life are incalculable. At the Department of Veterans Affairs, every day is Veterans Day. We are privileged to work to repay, in full, our country's debt of gratitude... to Veterans who were there when we needed them most. We represent our grateful nation in delivering to those Veterans the programs and services they earned.

In doing so, we keep faith with the promise of President Lincoln, who promised in his iconic second inaugural address to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." On Veterans Day 2020, we remember and honor all "champions of a noble cause" ... and pledge never to forget the sacrifices they made for us.

On behalf of VA's over 415,000 employees, I am proud to extend to America's veterans our department's heartfelt appreciation and thanks for your service in the formations of the United States Armed Forces.

Thank you and God Bless you all.

VA and the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

via www.publichealth.va.gov

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

See [here](#) for the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus information.

What is VA doing?

VA has implemented an aggressive public health response to protect and care for Veterans, their families, health care providers, and staff in the face of this emerging health risk. We are working directly with the CDC and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak of the virus.

On November 9, VA shared its COVID-19 Response Report detailing its response to the COVID-19 pandemic from early January 2020 through June 30, 2020. This new report is a continuation of VA's pledge to share best practices and lessons learned with other government agencies and the private health care system as the nation fights COVID-19.

- [Read the COVID-19 Response Report Synopsis](#)
- [Read the COVID-19 Response Report](#)

On March 27, VA shared its COVID-19 response plan. We updated the plan in August and added five additional appendices. This best-practice guide is a valuable tool, which may be useful nationwide for the medical community.

- [Read the VHA COVID-19 response plan](#)
- [See VA testing numbers and other COVID-related statistics](#)

VA is taking aggressive steps to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

These measures include outreach to Veterans and staff, [clinical screening at VA health care facilities](#), and [protective procedures](#) for patients admitted to community living centers and spinal cord injury units.

Part of the department's "[Fourth Mission](#)" is to support non-VA health care systems in the event those systems encounter capacity issues. VA is currently supporting non-VA health care systems' COVID-19 response efforts in the following ways:

- [VA New Jersey Health Care System, East Orange campus, to assist COVID-19 response](#)
- [VA to assist New York City with COVID-19 response](#)
- [VA announces 'Fourth Mission,' actions to help America respond to COVID-19](#)
- [VA COVID-19 Support of States](#)

What should Veterans do?

Veterans with symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. VA urges Veterans to contact VA before visiting – you can find contact information for your [closest VA facility](#). Alternatively, Veterans can sign into [My HealthVet](#) to send secure messages to their VA providers or use [telehealth options](#) to explain their condition and receive a prompt diagnosis.

Read responses to Veterans' [frequently asked questions](#) about accessing their VA benefits.

Upon arriving at VA, all patients will be screened for flu-like symptoms before they enter in order to protect other patients and staff. A VA health care professional will assist you with next steps once this screening process is complete.

At this time, VA is urging all visitors who do not feel well to please postpone their visits to VA facilities.

How to protect yourself

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent the COVID-19 infection and no medication to treat it. CDC believes symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. Avoid exposure and avoid exposing others to an infection with these simple steps.

- Learn to use VA Video Connect through the [VA mobile app store](#) or by contacting your VA care team, before any urgent problems arise.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An easy way to mark the time is to hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice while scrubbing.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick or becoming sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue (not your hands) and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Getting a flu shot is recommended.

VA COVID-19 Cases

Real-time, map-based data on COVID-19 case counts is available on [VA's Access to Care Website](#).

More can be learned through the following CDC sites, about:

- [Status of outbreak*](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions*](#)
- [Information for Travelers*](#)

* Links with an asterisk (*) next to them will take you outside the VA website. VA is not responsible for the content of the linked site.



Reflections on Armistice Day 1945

By VA Historian Katie Delacenserie via Vantage Point



How VA met the moment on Veteran health care 75 years ago

On Nov. 11, 1919, the nation celebrated Armistice Day, marking the first anniversary of the end of the First World War. In 1945, Armistice Day commemorations took on new meaning as the Second World War ended. Sixteen million active duty service members transitioned back into civilian life.

Parades and celebrations honoring new and old Veterans alike occurred throughout the country that day. President Truman, a World War One Veteran, recognized the sacrifices so many had made by dedicating the day to peace in his Armistice Day proclamation.

Photo above: Armistice Day parades took on new meaning 75 years ago, in 1945, as the nation's Veteran population increased by 16 million that year. Peace and rapid demobilization brought new meaning and challenges for what was then known as the Veterans Administration.

The end of the Second World War increased the nation's Veteran population more than any other time in our nation's history that year. The care of those returning Veterans fell upon newly appointed VA Administrator General Omar Bradley.

Chosen by his fellow Missourian President Truman to transform the Administration, Bradley was only three months into the job in November 1945. He understood the gravity of the situation and sought to rapidly modernize VA to meet the growing demand.

Modernizing medicine for Veterans

Providing medical care for the millions of returning GIs was Bradley's most pressing concern. He enlisted his chief surgeon from the European Theater, Major General Paul R. Hawley, and together they initiated several major changes. Among these was altering the way doctors and nurses were hired. Bradley removed the hiring practices from the limited and outdated confines of the Civil Service System.

Along with Dr. Paul Magnusen, they also sought affiliations with the nation's major medical schools. They transformed the nature of VA medical care and placed an increased focus on teaching and research. Lastly, they shifted the locations of new VA hospitals away from rural areas to larger cities. They could provide care to a larger number of Veterans and be closer to the medical schools with which they sought partnerships.

Although his tenure as administrator was brief, Bradley looked back at his time at VA, noting that "Nothing I have done in my life gave me more satisfaction than the knowledge that I had done my utmost to ease the Veterans way when they came home."

In 1954, after the Korean War, President Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Nov. 11 became an annual day to honor and recognize the service and sacrifice of all Veterans – living and deceased – of all wars.



Dr. Paul Magnusen, General Omar Bradley and General Paul Hawley, the architects of the Department of Medicine and Surgery, 1946.

Confidential help for Veterans and their families



• • • Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to **838255** • • •

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

Free Indego Webinars

During the first Thursday of every month you can join a free live webinar to learn more about the Indego and hear from a veteran who owns a device already.



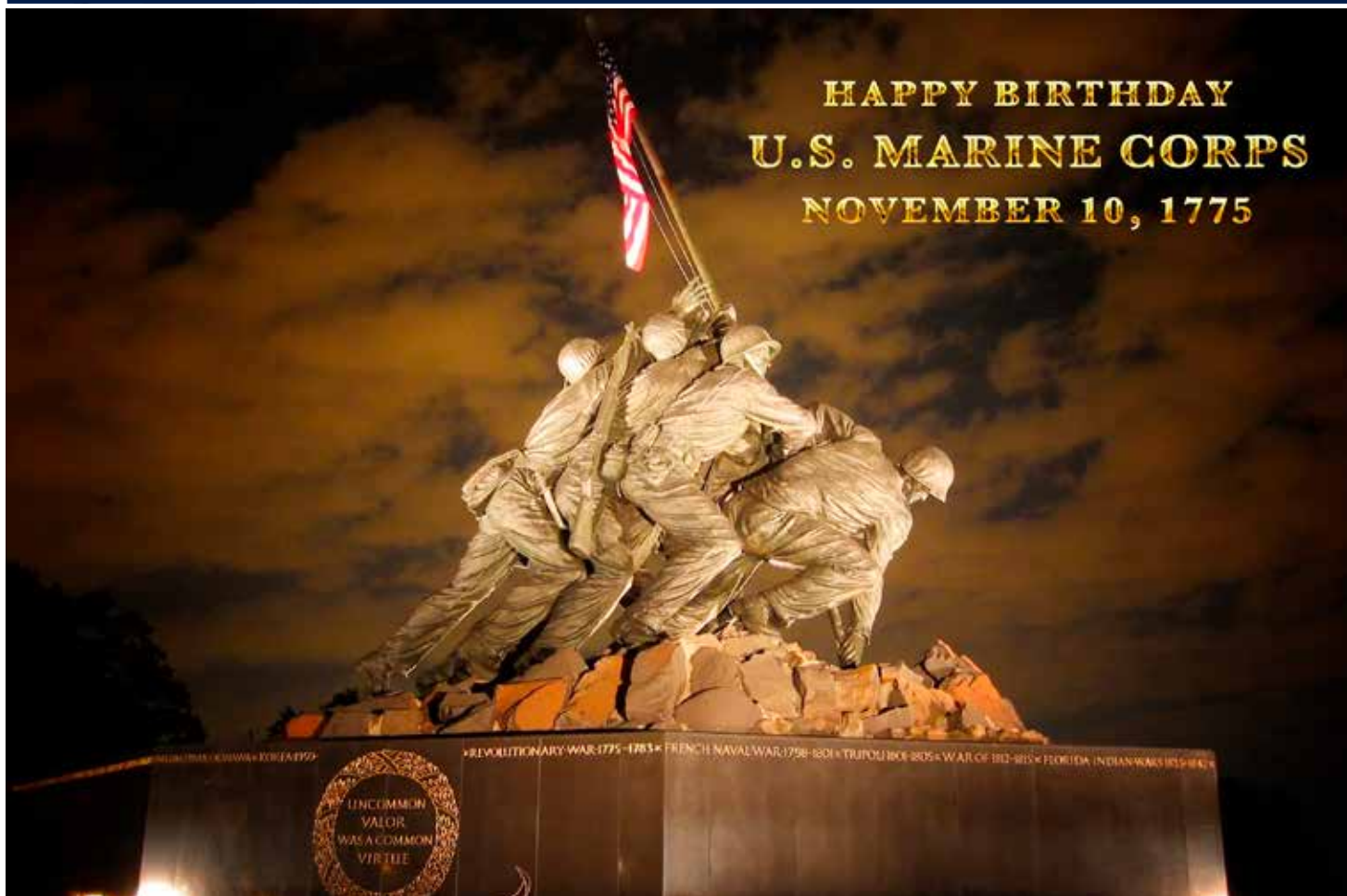
Contact us today to find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton

Email: support.indego@parker.com

Phone: 844-846-3346



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
U.S. MARINE CORPS
NOVEMBER 10, 1775



Thankful for Fishing, Family, and Friends

By Chapter Volunteers Lori Chase and pictures by Lori & Sherri Brousseau



Thanksgiving 2020, a time to give thanks. This year most of us have reevaluated our priorities and what matters most to us. The NEPVA BASS TRAIL, not only thought about it, but was given the chance to show it on September 12th at the picturesque Newton Yacht Club in Newton, MA. The NYC had cancelled all events from July through September except our tournament. Ongoing collaboration with them ensured they would host the 21st annual New England Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Trail. This would not have been possible without the loyalty and dedication of the Bass Trail BOD, American Eagle Bass Anglers Club, Nam Knights Merrimack Valley and Boston Chapters, the Newton Yacht Club and NEPVA. We are convinced that anything is possible as demonstrated by the success of this tournament despite challenges of COVID-19.

Arrivals began the day prior with one angler who drove 3 hours and volunteer nurse & her husband who traveled by boat from Southern MA the night prior. Not surprising, they were greeted with the Yacht Club hospitality of a boat slip with electricity and dinner. Tournament day behind the scenes, Ray, (Hunter) of the Nam Knights loaded up their clubs wheelchair van and drove across NH to transport one of our loyal anglers who would not have been able to come without assistance. Meanwhile, the Yacht Club was busy providing starter fluid AKA coffee, individually wrapped breakfast sandwiches & donated bag lunches to assist with adhering to state COVID-19 guidelines. We cannot forget that they couldn't let the day go by without providing their award-winning clam "Chowdah". Next year they promised they will return to treating us to their grand buffet upon returning to the docks. The NEPVA BASS TRAIL BOD was busy organizing swag bags for anglers complete with hand sanitizer, fishing towels, T-shirts, hats as well as reuniting with participants and other bass trail "family." The Nam Knights, Merrimack Valley and Boston Chapters were assisting in any way they could as always and coordinating their mission to get anyone in a boat who needed assistance.

Participants began arriving at 5:30 AM for a boat launch at 8AM. All Participants were requested to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing, easily accomplished at this Yacht Club spanning the Charles River waterfront. As you can imagine, we had a lot to catch up on since our last tournament in Oct of 2019, COVID-19 and the passing of our

founder, Director of 21 years and legend, Tiny Lafontaine. The smiles and laughs were endless even hidden behind masks. Fish stories began and for several hours, life appeared to be "normal." For many, this was their first time fishing this year because of our tournament and an army of volunteers making it possible.

Rules and regulations were provided, pairings began, combined with the lunker pool. With the utmost skill, laughs and camaraderie, the Nam Knights positioned themselves at the ramp and docks with ropes, and anything else it took to assist our anglers in the boats. Our two volunteer registered nurses, Stephanie Kealey, Sony Fernandez, volunteers accompanying them Dave and Chris were also dockside along with Dane Grasso of the Newton Yacht Club. Sherri Brousseau assisted with action photos of this amazingly smooth process. 21 years and no wheelchairs or anglers have gone for an unplanned swim yet. Once all the boats were positioned in the water, engines were cut, a moment of silence was held for Tiny, followed by Amazing Grace and the National Anthem sung by volunteer Elaine Sangilo. Now it was time to GO FISH!

Bass Trail BOD, American Eagle Bass Angler Members and a host of volunteers began setting up the weigh in, tents and awards ceremony. A brief meeting was held of BOD, reminiscing of Tiny, and lunch was graciously served compliments of the Yacht Club. Volunteers on shore were treated by Chris Nielsen to a boat ride on the scenic Charles River past Harvard and MIT. We couldn't have asked for a better day, Mother Nature and Tiny definitely set the stage for a beautiful 70 plus degree September day.

The moment we were all waiting for finally arrived. Promptly at 2PM boaters arrived back at the docks. They were called up one by one and most departed following weighing their fish due to COVID-19. They shared some secrets or "lies" about where they caught their fish and what they used for baits, as well as posed for pictures. This year we had many who did not participate due to COVID-19, however we had several new boat captains and anglers who were able to have the opportunity to join us. Greg Reynolds, US ARMY combat Veteran, single amputee and member of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team was home and fished with us for the first time. Greg spoke about the "family" atmosphere, volunteerism as well as the work that goes into an event of this magnitude. He stated we can be sure he will be participating in future tournaments. Mike Moran, NEPVA BOD member, another "newbie," who reluctantly came as he had gotten away from fishing is also now "hooked." He stated he had lost and found the enjoyment of fishing. He also will be a new member of the "Bass Trail family."

As you all have waited with "baited breath," here are the winning teams; total weight for up to 5 fish

- 1st Place Ben Hale & Wayne Ross, 8.21
- 2nd Place Chip Servant & Stephen McCann 7.55
- 3rd Place Pat Hannan & Rick Nelson 6.94
- Lunker Chip Servant 3.88

Special thanks to our BOD, Mark Fournier, Jim Wallack, Mark Fournier,

Ray (Hunter) Brunelle, Bob (Soupy) Campbell, Tom Blanchard, Gary Clawson and myself. We want to thank Drew Ingoldsby for providing video coverage, Mass B.A.S.S Nation, NH B.A.S.S Nation, and Maine B.A.S.S. Nation, Volunteers, Linda Rinaldi, Sherri Brousseau, Liz Tocce & Stephen, Merri Anne Shippee, Dave Bertocci, Chris Neilsen, Sean McCann, RN's Stephanie Kealey and Sony Fernandez. Donations of lures were generously provided by Daddy Mac Lures to winning teams. Monetary donations were received from Captain Shawn Tibbetts of Mainetunafishing.com, Dan & Ben Kenney of Ben's Tackle Shack, Area 51 American Legion Riders,

Fairview Machine Company, Sons of American Legion Post 70, and Dalton Manufacturing Group. We cannot thank them enough as our tournaments exist on donations and sponsors.

We look forward to our 2021 season providing no cost bass tournaments to paralyzed Veterans and disabled individuals. Please like our FB page NEPVABASSTRAIL and obtain registration info at NEPVA.org

We would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.



New England PVA Chapter Secretary Mike Moran



Merrimack Valley Chapter Nam Knights roll anglers down to the boats.



1st Place Ben Hale & Wayne Ross total weight 8.21



NEPVA Bass Trail Liaison Jim Wallack



3rd Place Pat Hannon & Rick Nelson total weight 6.94

PVA WASHINGTON UPDATE

PVA Washington Update Volume 26, Number 20

Preliminary Election Results

PVA is continuing to monitor the results of the November 3rd election. While the majority of individual elections have been called, none of the results are yet official. Currently, it appears there will be a new Administration, that Democrats will retain the House, and that control of the Senate will not be decided until January's Georgia Senate runoff elections. We also know that there will be some changes on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee as Ranking Member Phil Roe (R-TN) decided not to run for reelection. Regardless of the outcome of the outstanding races, there will also be fewer veterans serving in the 117th Congress.

Of those up for reelection, nearly all of the sponsors of some of PVA's Legislative and Advocacy priorities from this Congress will return in January. Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), sponsor of the AUTO for Veterans Act, won reelection in Maine. Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), sponsor of the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act, will also be returning to the Senate for another

term. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), sponsor of the Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2019; Rep. John Larson (D-CT), Chair of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee and chief sponsor of the Social Security 2100 Act; and sponsor of the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act and the REAADI for Disasters Act, Rep. James Langevin (D-RI), were also reelected. However, the chief sponsor of the Disaster Relief Medicaid Act (DRMA), Rep. Donna Shalala (D-FL), lost her bid for another term.

We will continue to assess the outcome of the election and provide greater coverage of the results and their potential impact on PVA members in our next issue of the Washington Update.

Favorable Down Ballot Decisions Will Benefit Veterans and Their Survivors

In addition to electing candidates to office, voters in the November election also considered state and local issues. We are aware of at least three states where voters overwhelmingly approved down ballot issues significantly benefiting veterans or their survivors.

First, Florida residents approved an amendment that would transfer Homestead Property Tax discounts of veterans with permanent combat-related disabilities to their surviving spouse. This discount will remain in effect until the spouse remarries, dies, or sells or disposes of the property. Currently, the discount expires upon the veteran's death.

Meanwhile voters in New Jersey agreed to an amendment that gives a \$250 property tax deduction to veterans who did not serve in a time of war and the widow or widower of such a veteran would still be able to receive this deduction after the veteran's death. It also extends the 100 percent property tax exemption for disabled veterans to veterans who became disabled during peacetime military service. Currently, these

property tax deductions and exemptions are only given to veterans who served during a period of war.

Finally, roughly half of all states charge a vehicle property tax, including Virginia, but that will soon change for certain veterans residing there. Voters agreed to provide veterans who have 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disabilities with a tax exemption for one automobile or pickup truck. Prior to the election, proponents of the change noted many of these disabled veterans need adapted vehicles and the personal property tax was often a barrier for catastrophically disabled veterans with lower incomes to obtain such cars. The disability rating must be confirmed by VA, and the veteran's car or truck would be exempt from taxation beginning on the date the veteran gets the vehicle or on January 1, 2021, whichever is later.

Free National Parks Access for Veterans

The U.S. Department of Interior recently announced they will be granting free entrance to national parks, wildlife refuges, and other federally-managed public lands to all U.S. military veterans and Gold Star families. Unlike previous years where fees were waived for a set period, this change is permanent—meaning entrance fees and standard amenity fees charged by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation will be waived for veterans and Gold Star families from this point forward. For purposes of this program, a veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the forms of identification

listed below.

- Department of Defense Identification Card
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

The Access Board Reports Resolved Cases in Fiscal Year 2020

The Access Board is charged with enforcing the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968. The ABA requires that buildings or facilities that were designed, built, or altered with federal dollars or leased by federal agencies after August 12, 1968, be accessible.

In Fiscal Year 2020, the Access Board resolved 55 cases through corrective action taken by the responsible federal party. The majority of cases concerned access to U.S. post offices, which is typical of the Board's yearly caseload. There are over 30,000 post offices in the U.S., many of which occupy older buildings. The U.S. Postal Service completed action to correct accessibility issues at 37 facilities under the ABA over the course of the fiscal year. Most cases concerned entrance doors and customer parking.

Other cases concerned access to parking, elevators, or restrooms at military bases and camps, shipyards, fleet readiness centers, and VA

medical facilities. At the Kilauea Military Camp in Volcano, Hawaii, the Department of the Army installed compliant toilet and shower rooms in four accessible cottages and two guest buildings at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center.

The ABA is not limited to federal facilities and applies to other sites that received federal funding. One case concerned New York City's Rockaway Boardwalk, which was severely damaged by Super Storm Sandy in 2012. The City's Department of Parks and Recreation, which received federal grants to rebuild portions of the boardwalk, restored ramp access at two locations in response to the Board's investigation. Recipients of funding from the Department of Transportation, including a city in North Carolina and a regional transit authority in Washington, undertook corrective action to address access to public sidewalks and parking.

Research Brief: "The Extra Costs of Living with a Disability in the U.S."

National Disability Institute (NDI), in partnership with the Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare and the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, released a brief that summarizes research on out-of-pocket expenses faced by individuals with disabilities compared to individuals without disabilities. Research indicates that a household with an adult who has a work-related disability will need an average of 28 percent more income to obtain the same standard of living as a

comparable household without a member who has a disability.

The brief recommends "resetting the policy table" for greater equity by addressing the tax code and eligibility criteria for public benefits. To review the brief, please click [here](#).

"Ready to Roll" Initiative to Improve Disaster Preparedness for Wheelchair Users

United Spinal has announced the launch of a comprehensive disaster preparedness initiative for individuals with spinal cord injuries and disorders, designed to lessen the effects and risks associated with natural or human-caused disasters. The "[Ready to Roll](#)" initiative will address the

significant challenges wheelchair users and other individuals living with disabilities face when disasters strike.



Roll of Honor

Honoring 2,028,811 Americans Who Served

SELECT SERVICE BRANCH SEAL TO VIEW OUR LIVING, FALLEN AND DECEASED VETERANS



Together We Served: National Veterans Roll of Honor

By Beth Lamb via Vantage Point

To coincide with Veterans Day, Together We Served has just launched its new National Veterans Roll of Honor, a tribute to the service of more than 2 million servicemen and women registered on Together We Served in one of the most complete and easy to look up formats available.

Also honored are every soldier, sailor, Marine, airman and Coast Guardsman who gave their life serving our country, from the Vietnam War to Afghanistan, as well as many thousands who died during WW2 and the Korean War.

Here is a preview, which does not require a login:

<http://VeteransRollOfHonor.org>



Roll of Honor entry for Marine Sgt. Matthew Barrios

This Roll of Honor pays tribute to every Veteran who served, including those who have passed, with a summary profile of their military service, similar to the following entry for Sgt. Matthew Barrios, which includes a free, downloadable and frangible plaque of his military service. Veterans are welcome to take part, which has no cost whatsoever.

As a point of interest, the official National Museum of the Surface Navy is installing this Together We Served Roll of Honor on several kiosks located

throughout the battleship USS Iowa to honor all Surface Navy sailors and Veterans.

Prolific Veteran Locator



Veteran locator profile for Marine Sgt. Matthew Barrios.

With over 2 million Veterans represented on this Roll of Honor, Veterans can easily search for and find people they served with by entering their years of service at the top of the Roll of Honor and conducting a simple name search. Contact can be made through our Administrators or by joining Together We Served via the free VA Join Channel at:

<https://join.togetherweserved.com/VA>

For more information on how Together We Served can help you find old service friends, visit our blog:

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/Vantage/67464/together-served-website-help-find-old-friends/>.

Preserving Veterans' Digital Legacy: A Free Offer from GoodTrust

By Rikard Steiber, VAntage Point Contributor



Do you know what will happen to your digital “stuff” when you die?

Perhaps no one understands the importance of technology connecting people more than the men and women who serve in the military across the country and around the world. Technology has extended a once-unimaginable lifeline across any distance around the globe and opened up entirely new ways for families to stay in touch and share precious memories. GoodTrust would like to extend a special offer to all Veterans to help preserve their digital legacy in a new, easy way at no cost.

GoodTrust – Protecting Everyone’s Digital Legacy

The GoodTrust digital legacy platform gives you control over what happens to your digital assets and reputation when you pass away. Think of it like a digital safety deposit box for your digital accounts and information.

Your Premium GoodTrust Plan will include:

- Save websites and online accounts
- Create and store your social media will
- Store important documents
- Create and store (free) last will and testament
- Create and store (free) medical and funeral directives
- Share all accounts and documents now or when you pass away

The importance of a digital legacy

At GoodTrust, we offer anyone the opportunity to delete, preserve or transfer the contents of their digital life. And, yes, most of us now have

a digital life – the average person spends over six hours per day online.

Staying connected with family and friends via social media, sending and receiving emails, searching for information, storing photos and documents, shopping and paying bills, managing banking and insurance, and connecting with healthcare is mostly done online today.

You may want to keep all of your digital life intact. Or you might prefer to erase some or all of your digital life. Regardless of your decision, which is personal to you, we are here to help.

Eligibility: All Veterans

GoodTrust is offering all Veterans the Premium GoodTrust Plan for FREE for the next 10 years (value \$500) starting on 11/11/2020.

Sign up now on www.MyGoodTrust.com – be sure to check the “Veteran” box to claim the offer. It only takes 2-3 minutes. *Offer expires on 12/31/2020.*

In addition, all Veteran families will receive a 50% discount on GoodTrust service fee when helping to manage the digital accounts of a Veteran that passed away. Using promotion code: “GoodTrustVeteran”.

How does GoodTrust work?

Once you signed-up on www.MyGoodTrust.com, you’ll go through the following simple steps:

1. Add your important digital media accounts and documents – your social media, email, online documents, photos, financial accounts, life insurance, will etc. For each account or document, you add instructions for what you want to happen if you pass away.
2. Assign “deputies,” those friends, family or people you trust to manage your accounts and take action on your behalf. These folks are granted selective access to your accounts and document along with the instructions you left for them.
3. If you do not already have important documents like Last Will and Testament, Medical Directive and Funeral Directive, you can easily create them and store them on GoodTrust at no cost.

GoodTrust keeps your data secure and uses two-factor authentication security.

Rikard Steiber is the CEO and founder of GoodTrust.

Confidential help for Veterans and their families



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.



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Lifts and stowage products



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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



www.mobilityworks.com

www.newenglandpva.org



Rollin' with Gilbo

By Mike Guilbault, Chapter VP and Sports Director

There are so many virtual programs available to our disabled community during these crazy pandemic times. You can follow on our website everything that is being offered by National PVA as well as VA Recreation and NEHSA. Whether it be yoga, book club, air rifle, Spin Classes and Sit Strong Adaptive fitness training there is something for everyone. Recently Wheelchair Dancing has

been added to the choices. You can see for yourself the latest schedule at <https://pva.org/adaptive-sports/special-events/> and I will add another activity which I've been participating in. E-Gaming is very popular and will even be an event at next year's Wheelchair Games in New York City. It was an event in the past NVWGatHome which replaced the Games scheduled for Portland this past summer. Every Friday is E-gaming day with PVA National.

Many of us do plenty of pushing daily, I have been joining some virtual races via Bay State Race Services. The beauty of these events is that you can do them at your own convenience unlike many virtual events which follow a strict schedule and you either get on at that time or miss out. These are a fun way to stay competitive while getting out and staying fit getting some fresh air and building up some miles. One just gets an app on their phone which tracks your miles and time. While it is mostly for runners and even just those who are just going for a walk, they are willing to allow wheelchairs and handcycles. You can check out the current Ditto Towns Challenge I am participating in at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/100973/IndividualResult/DDbQ?resultSetId=221766#U46078404>

There are plenty of other options; yet, they all run basically the same as far as tracking miles via a phone app or for those who may use a handcycle indoors on a training roller I believe miles are captured by Cats Eye which

I believe is used by PVA Racing. They allow double dipping so if you are participating in the PVA Racing Spin classes you can also log those miles in the running challenges. I am looking into others besides those I have been involved in and will share more information as I learn it.

For those of you who enjoy Bingo, there are also some virtual Bingo Programs and we are trying to find out if members are interested in any of these other virtual opportunities. We are also considering a Photo of the Month Contest for those who like photography and are considering posting your photos on the website and then people can visit the gallery and vote on their favorite. This is just a concept at this point but sounds like something that many members could participate in. I know when pushing on some of the bike paths and around my neighborhood I have taken some interesting photos. We would like to hear some feedback from our members as to what may be of interest to you. If you have any interest in the programs I've mentioned in addition to the ones which we have been posting from VA and PVA please email sports@newenglandpva.org and let us know.

Since so much has gone virtual I am happy we at least started the year with a successful January Winter Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans before the resorts closed for the season and us skiers were robbed of our season. Despite COVID-19 cancelling so many of our regular activities we were also able to at least hold one Bass Trail Tournament on the Charles River September 12, 2020. See the article in this issue. I hope you are all staying active and healthy still with the usual kayaking, cycling and shooting events all being cancelled.

Hopefully, we may still be able to hold a ski day in January even if not our complete week long clinic. Watch for more info as we will share it once things are confirmed. It seems NEHSA has posted the requirements for skiing with them this season at Mount Sunapee and Lesson Reservations open November 16, 2020 while Lessons will begin Saturday January 2, 2021.

VA Recruiting Volunteers for COVID-19 Clinical Trials

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs



WASHINGTON — As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the department announced today its nationwide effort to [recruit volunteers for COVID-19 clinical trials](#)

at select VA facilities across the country.

More than [50 VA medical centers](#) are participating in trials to test vaccines and treatments for COVID-19.

“VA is eager to play a role in this important endeavor,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Volunteering for our trials is a way people can help our country more quickly find vaccines and treatments to end the pandemic and get life back to normal.”

[VA's volunteer list](#) is open to Veterans and non-Veterans, 18 years old or older. Participation in any research study is strictly voluntary. Volunteers go through an informed-consent process that ensures they understand the risks and benefits to joining a study before they make the decision to participate.

Vaccines being studied by VA include candidates developed by Moderna, AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Janssen. VA's trials for COVID-19 treatments include remdesivir, monoclonal antibodies, Tocilizumab and others.

Sign up for [VA's volunteer list](#) and get more information about [VA's COVID-19 clinical trials and research studies](#).

New England PVA Rollers

By Debra A. Freed, Chapter Member



The founder, Mr. Richard Carlson was an avid bowler in his hometown of Huntsville, Alabama. However, Mr. Carlson was a wheelchair user. At home, his league was accepting of his bowling from a wheelchair. However, when he traveled to out of state tournaments, he was a bit of an anomaly. His persistence in creating an all-wheelchair bowling tournament did not abate and in June 1962, the American Wheelchair Bowling Association (AWBA) was born. *

Since its inception, the AWBA has grown from that first tournament of 30 to over 100 entries of varying levels. The AWBA has also grown its alliances to include the Veterans Administration, Paralyzed Veterans of America and its many chapters which includes the New England Chapter. AWBA has recently been in talks with the Para-Olympics to hopefully have bowling as a sport.

The New England Chapter held their first AWBA National Tournament in 1992 at Westgate Lanes in Brockton, followed by another National's in 2003 and 2011. The latter was the 50th Anniversary. Throughout the years many local bowlers won championships. A few were Duane Johnson in 1966, Steve Kuketz(singles), Wally Farrington(team), and Dick

Spizzirri(doubles)

Westgate has been the primary home for the New England PVA Rollers since 1979 after Sammy Whites closed. Why? In part because it has a high level of accessibility. For those who have difficulty gaining the lane area, the folks at Westgate bring out floor ramps. They are not very wide, but long allowing bowlers to access the lanes with ease. Westgate is also home to the Long-Term Care (LTC) Building 8, Spinal Cord Injury Ramp Bowlers.

As with everything, Covid-19 put the skids on the tournaments. The AWBA was forced to cancel all its remaining 2019/2020 season to include its National Tournament in June 2020. The New England PVA Rollers had their 2019/2020 season halted in March and it looked like the chances of returning for the 2020/2021 season might not happen at all.

A couple of the Chapter's long-time bowlers decided it was time to limit their travel and when the opportunity arose to start the season (the Tuesday after Labor Day), they did not return. However, I, Moe Morrison, Denise Pease, and Wayne Ross did return. It was not known as to whether the Rollers could continue if they only had four players?

It turns out that the League Secretary, found three new players. While our league is not large nor is it fast paced, it has continued to stay active even during this period. We welcome husband and wife Ed & Judy Godino, and Ms. Carol Fosdick.

We want to thank the New England Chapter Board for their support and sponsorship of the required AWBA and USBC dues. We also want to thank the Chapter Board for giving the Rollers a set of New England PVA masks and neck gaiters.

One does not need to be in a wheelchair to participate in the New England PVA Rollers. The league runs for 35 weeks, weather and Covid dependent, starting the day after Labor Day and ending probably in mid-April, again weather and Covid dependent.

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NEVER GIVE UP.**

Paralyzed Veterans of America
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all people with disabilities.

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Paralyzed Veterans
of America
New England Chapter

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Retired Army Sergeant Terry Vereline crosses the finish line of the 2019 New York City Marathon after walking 26.2 miles in her ReWalk Exoskeleton. She received this device in 2014 and has used it to take nearly 1,000,000 steps in the past five years.

Did You Know That Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible For a ReWalk Exoskeleton?

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Veterans, Gold Star Families get Free Entrance to National Parks, Refuges, other Public Lands

via VAntage Point

Veterans and Gold Star Families will be granted free access to national parks, wildlife refuges and other Federal lands managed by the Department of the Interior starting on Veterans Day this year and every day onward.

“With the utmost respect and gratitude, we are granting Veterans and Gold Star Families free access to the iconic and treasured lands they fought to protect starting this Veterans Day and every single day thereafter,” said Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt.

Entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation sites will be waived for Veterans and Gold Star Families. They will have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle, from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing and climbing.

Many Department managed lands have direct connections to the American military, such as frontier forts, Cold War sites, battlefields, national cemeteries, and memorials. These special places pay tribute to our veterans and serve as reminders of their courage and sacrifice throughout the history of our nation, from Minuteman National Historic Park where colonists stood in defense of their rights, to Yellowstone National Park, which was protected from vandalism and poaching by the 1st U.S. Cavalry before the National Park Service was established, to Mount Rushmore where modern warriors attend reenlistment ceremonies.

Details on Program

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who

has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of identification:

- Department of Defense Identification Card
- [Veteran Health Identification Card \(VHIC\)](#)
- [Veteran ID Card](#)
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card



Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

The Interagency America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program already includes a free annual pass for active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Other free or discounted passes are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, volunteers, and senior citizens age 62 years or older.

The Department also offers free entrance days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration including the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day, and the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act.

[APPLY FOR A VETERAN ID CARD](#)

[APPLY FOR A VETERAN HEALTH IDENTIFICATION CARD \(VHIC\)](#)





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

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- 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.

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FREE Member Masks and Neck Gaiters



New England PVA Chapter members can now receive two free reusable cloth masks and neck gaiters. Simply complete and submit the request form on the [Chapter website](#) with your name, current mailing address and phone number. Limit one request per member while supplies last.

To offset shipping cost for you and/or other members in need, please help by making a donation in any amount by click associate [website link](#).



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vehicle Donation Program

We'll use the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle to change lives and build brighter futures for our seriously injured heroes.

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NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

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Cathy L Martin
Roy M Maletz
Neal A Williams
Rocky L League
Daniel G Shaul
Orville R Antilla
John V Mullally
Lorence P Quinn
Mark C Mechau
Barry M Beaulieu
Arthur D Plante
Keith A Evans
Charles W Drinwater
Lawrence E Berry
Dennis C Campbell
Steven L McGlothen
Alton W Stone
James M Volpe

Terrance W Tucker
Adam W Bigos
Jeffrey W Swain
Paul F Raiche
Raymond A Daigle
Debra A Freed
Clyde F Bubar
Paul A Veronesi
Eugene T Kelly
Dennis Halls
Joseph A Norkus
James F Moynihan
Richard P Canas
Jarve G Reid
Edward F Schultz
Thomas E Joyce
Constance A Gilbert
William C Sibley
Leonard A Badeau
Dale R Cook

Robert A Smith
Stephen J Evans
Justin M Galipeau
Frank Silvia
Richard W Walsh
Nathaniel J Bigelow
Frederick L Fagin
Jeffrey A Eldridge
Francis B Provost
Walter J Come
James E Smith
John E Steele
Gregory S Alvarez-Parris
Billie F Jackson
John H Bacon
Raymond E Sylvester
Frank W Goebel
Guy E Maroon
Thomas R Ferland

YOUR INVITED: CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS

Chapter members interested in attending the “virtual” monthly Board of Director’s meeting may do so by sending an email request with your full name and address to info@newenglandpva.org requesting a “BOD Meeting Invite”. You will receive the meeting connection information via email the day of the meeting. The regular monthly Board meetings are typically held the first Wednesday of the month and start at 10:45 AM. As with the in-person meetings, you’ll have the opportunity to listen-in to the meeting’s discussions, but reserved from speaking.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Chapter Board meetings, please email them to info@newenglandpva.org.

Do You Have a Mask?

via www.myhealth.va.gov



During the coronavirus pandemic, we’re all trying to do our part and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Whether it’s social distancing, washing our hands, or cleaning surfaces, we’re trying to protect ourselves and stay healthy.

We recommend you bring your own face covering, such as a cloth mask or scarf. This is required for all patients and families in public and administrative areas of facilities. If you don’t have a face covering, ask a staff member, and they will provide you with one. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers [helpful guides](#) on making suitable masks at home for personal use.

If you have non-urgent medical concerns, schedule an appointment with your health care team through [VA Video Connect](#). This tool allows Veterans at home to meet with VA health care providers through live video on any computer, tablet, or mobile device with an Internet connection.

Face coverings or masks now required at all VA facilities

All VA facilities require the use of face coverings or masks for all patients, families, staff, and volunteers. The health and safety of Veterans, and the staff who care for them, is and always has been VA’s top priority.

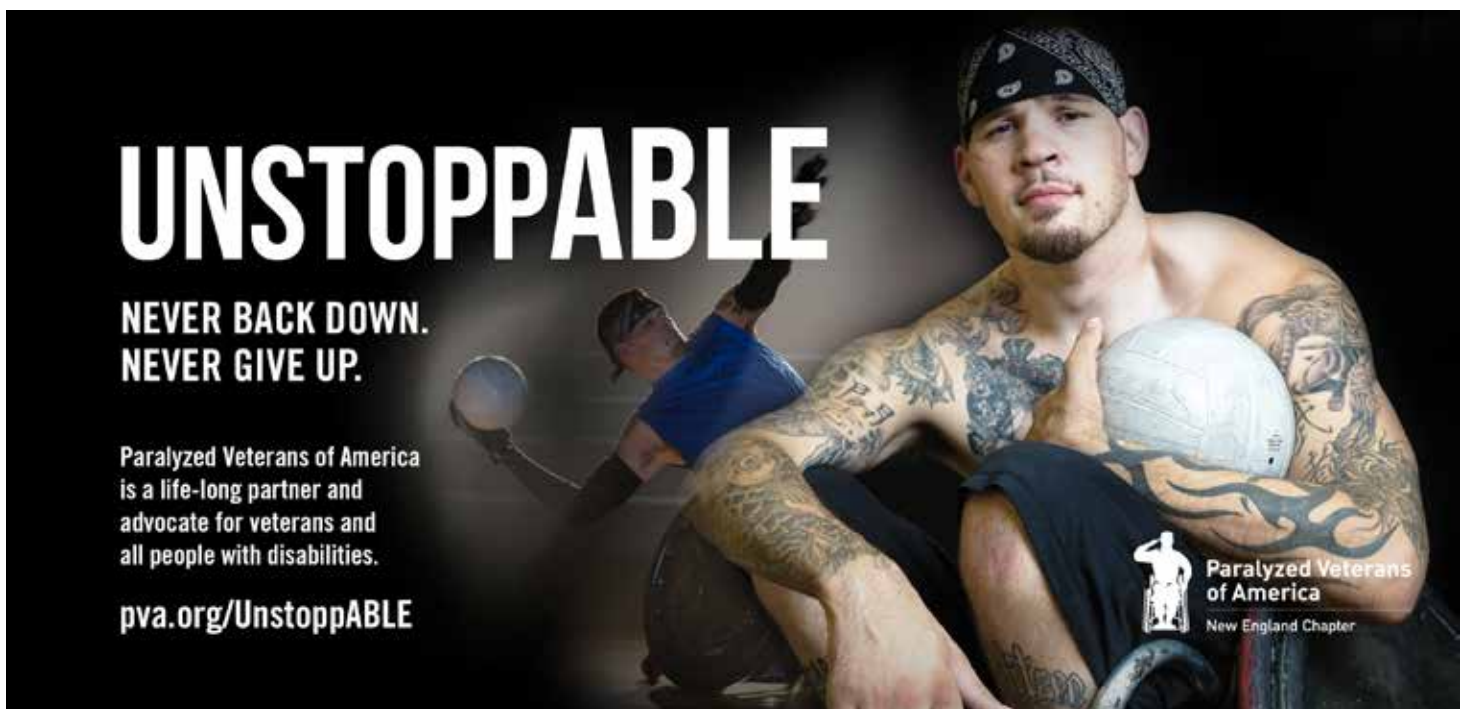
Paralyzed Veterans of America
New England Chapter
1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301
West Roxbury, MA 02132

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

info@newenglandpva.org
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 Paralyzed Veterans
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New England Chapter

For the most timely Sports and Activities information
please visit the Chapter website at www.newenglandpva.org or email sports@newenglandpva.org

Serving Paralyzed Veterans and the Disabled Community Since 1947.