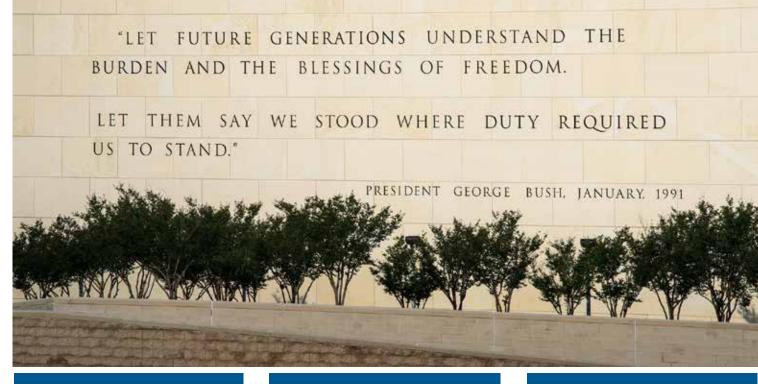
DECEMBER 2018



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

New England Chapter



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PVA STATEMENT



WASHINGTON, DC - Paralyzed Veterans of America issued the following statement today in response to the passing of former United States President George H.W. Bush.

He led an honorable and distinguished life, from serving in World War II as one of the youngest naval aviators, to becoming the director of the CIA, and then fulfilling the role of vice president of the United States under former President ...

... continued on page 4.

PRES. GEORGE H.W BUSH



VA #VETERAND THEDAY GEORGE H.W. BUSH VA Veteran of the Day President George H. W. Bush.

Bush was born in 1924 in Milton, Massachusetts. After the Dec. 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Naval Reserves to become a naval aviator and join the war effort. Bush received his wings just before turning 19 – making him the youngest commissioned pilot. He soon became a combat pilot serving The squadron is credited with sinking 17 enemy...

... continued on page 5.



Out Front Michael G. Negrete, President

President George H.W. Bush was a man of great respect, humility, and character. In his death, as in his life, he reminds us of the genuine meaning of service - to each other and to country. President Bush stands as an example that should guide each of us in our lives.

I know most who have heard me speak of my involvement with PVA could summarize it in a single statement – "To make a positive different in someone's life." This one singular goal is what drives everything I do for the Chapter and PVA. It could

be something as simple as listening to another Veteran's story or issue on the A2 SCI Unit at West Roxbury, or as complex as helping a newly injured Veteran navigate what comes next in their life. In either situation though, at the heart of the matter is a person. A person in need and I want to be there to help that person. I want the Chapter to be there to help that person, and the next. If it wasn't for PVA and the New England Chapter, I wouldn't enjoy near the quality of life I do now. I can't pay the Chapter back for helping me, but I can help to pay it forward so it's there to help that next person. My other hope in doing so, is to help nurture an atmosphere, a true desire, of service to others without any expectation of repayment for it.

This reminds me of a volunteer I recently met while visiting West Roxbury A2 SCI Unit. She volunteers most all her time helping people, Veterans in particular at the VA hospitals. Even though her husband, a Vietnam Veteran, who passed away some time ago, she still feels a unique bond with Veterans. She wants them to know that no matter what, each one of them is special. She does this simply out of the kindness of her heart.

I know at this time of year we think about others distant and near, those we know and some we don't, and what we might do to make a difference in those lives. Some with a "Hello", with a present, with a donation and some with our time. Whatever it might be, think about carrying that spirit of giving throughout the year.

So, as we close out 2018, think about this Viking Proverb - "Animals die, friends die, and I shall die. One thing never dies, and that is the reputation we leave behind at our death." It's clear what President Bush has left behind for us. What will the reputation, the legacy, you leave behind for others say about you?

millel S. Melete

Michael G. Negrete President and Paralyzed Veteran

From the Director's Desk Debra A. Freed, Executive Director



2019 is right around the corner! But for now, let us enjoy the remainder of 2018 and reflect on the past year. It has been rough year financially. However, we are grateful that the Chapter was able to maintain all eight mandated programs and services and that no Chapter member who asked for assistance whether to attend the New England Winter Sport Clinic, New England Summer Sports Clinic, the National Veterans Golden Age Games, or the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (still the hottest ticket) or requesting additional funding through Individual Allotment was denied. We were able to support several nurses and nurses' aides with educational grants as well.

I want to wish you all a safe, healthy, happy, holiday. Let us make 2019 a year to remember!

John A. Fred

Debra A. Freed Executive Director

New England PVA Contact Information

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

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

NEW ENGLAND PVA OFFICERS

President	Michael G. Negrete
Vice President	Mike Guilbault
Secretary	Peter Moore
Treasurer	Peter Moore (Interim)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Brako	Brad Carlson
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Mark Sanders	Dan Shaul
Walter Farrington	

STAFF

Debra Freed Jerry Cole Executive Director Admin/Bookkeeper www.newenglandpva.org info@newenglandpva.org Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:30pm

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Bass Trail Liaison	Jim Wallack
Community Outreach	Mike Guilbault
CordWord Editor	Michael Negrete
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MS/ALS Liaison	John Brako
Peer Mentor Representative	Mike Guilbault
Sports Director	Mike Guilbault
Assistant Sports Director	Michael Moran
Volunteer Coordinator	Debra Freed
Women Veterans' Liaison	Debra Freed
National Director Neal Willi	ams

ADA Coordinator Neal Williams

CHAPTER HOSPITAL LIAISONS

VAMC	CHL
Brockton	Dan Sh
Manchester	Mike M
Togus	Neal W
West Haven	Peter F
West Roxbury	Wayne
White River Junction	Mike M
Northampton	Vacant

Dan Shaul Mike Moran Neal Williams Peter Falcione Wayne Ross Mike Moran Vacant

NEW ENGLAND PVA NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICES

BOSTON VA REGIONAL OFFICE

J.F.K. Federal Bldg. - Room - 1575 C Boston, MA 02203 Phone: (617) 303-1395 or 1-800-795-3607 Fax: (617) 303-1396 Joseph E. Badzmierowski Director of Field Services Serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island

WEST ROXBURY/BROCKTON VAMC

1400 VFW Parkway, Room AG 60 West Roxbury, MA 02132 Phone: (857) 203-6091 Brice Sutton Serving Massachusetts, Rhode Island

TOGUS, VARO, 1 VA CENTER

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

SYRACUSE VAMC

800 Irving Ave, Room C419 Syracuse, NY 13210 Phone: 315-425-4400 Ext. 53317 Fax: 315-425-2940 Charlie Tocci East-North Area Manager Serving New York and Western Massachusetts

MANHATTAN

245 W. Houston Street, Room 212A New York, NY 10014 Phone: 212-807-3114 Fax: 212-807-4047 Bruce Weston, National Service Officer Serving Connecticut and New York

BUFFALO PVA

130 South Elmwood Ave, Suite 621 Buffalo, NY 14202 Phone: (800) 795-3619 Fax: (716) 857-3486 Nona Nixon, National Service Officer Serving Western and up state New York

BRONX SCI/ JAMES J. PETERS VAMC

130 West Kingsbridge Road, Room 1D-52A Bronx, NY 10468 Phone: 718-584-9000 Ext: 6272 Toll Free: 866-297-1319 Fax: 718-741-4237 Amauris Polanco Veterans Health & Benefits Specialist II

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

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Paralyzed Veterans of America Issues Statement on Passing of Former President George H.W. Bush

Originally posted on www.pva.org



WASHINGTON, DC (December 4, 2018) — Paralyzed Veterans of America issued the following statement today in response to the passing of former United States President George H.W. Bush. He led an honorable and distinguished life, from serving in World War II as one of the youngest naval aviators, to becoming the director of the CIA, and then fulfilling the role of vice president of the United

States under former President Ronald Reagan. George H.W. Bush was elected as the 41st President of the United States in 1988.

"Former President George H.W. Bush served his country proudly, and 28 years ago he changed the face of America by signing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law, which became the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities," said David Zurfluh, a disabled Air Force veteran, and national president of Paralyzed Veterans of America. "He signed one of the most extensive pieces of civil rights legislation. With the stroke of a pen, former President George H.W. Bush said 'let the shameful wall of exclusion, finally come tumbling down.'"

For the 61 million Americans with disabilities, 5.3 million of them veterans, the ADA has changed the views of disability, ensuring all Americans receive equal opportunity, independent living, self-sufficiency and respect.

"We join our fellow veterans in saluting former President George H.W. Bush and thank him for his honorable and distinguished service to our great country," said Zurfluh. "His signing of the ADA empowered all people with disabilities, and we owe him a debt of gratitude."

Chapter Board Vacancy: Treasurer



Paralyzed Veterans of America

New England Chapter

The Chapter is currently seeking a Treasurer to serve on its Board. This volunteer position will be appointed by the Chapter President with approval from the Board of Directors. It will be for a 2-year term ending on June 30, 2020. Individual must have relevant financial or accounting skills, be committed to attending monthly Board meetings and available to periodically work in our West Roxbury, MA office, as needed.

The Treasurer has the following general duties and responsibilities in managing the overall finances of the Chapter:

- Oversee the disbursement of funds subject to the regulations set forth by the Board of Directors and the membership.
- Charged with the submission of an annual financial report to the Board of Directors and to the Membership, and more often if directed by the Membership, Board of Directors or President. It shall be his or her personal responsibility to assure the accuracy of each financial report prior to delivery of said report.
- Assist in direct audits of all the Chapter funds according to funding source guidelines and generally accepted accounting principles
- Chair the Finance Committee.

If interested, please send an e-mail to the Chapter President at michael@newenglandpva.org with a copy of your resume and a brief statement of why you would like to serve as Treasurer.

• Oversee the deposit of all monies received by the Chapter.





VA #VETERANOFTHEDAY GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Bush was born in 1924 in Milton, Massachusetts. After the Dec. 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Naval Reserves to become a naval aviator and join the war effort. Bush received his wings just before turning 19 – making him the youngest commissioned pilot. He soon became a combat pilot serving with the Torpedo Squadron Fifty-One aboard the USS San Jacinto in the North Pacific. The squadron is credited with sinking 17 enemy ships during World War II.

In 1944, his TBM Avenger aircraft was hit by Japanese fire. Despite the severity of the damage, Bush was able to drop the aircraft's bombs on the target before flying out over water and ejecting with his fellow crew members. After safely parachuting into the water, Bush was later found by an American submarine, the USS Finback. Serving as a lookout with other rescued pilots, he spent 30 days at sea with the Finback's crew. Bush flew 58 combat missions and is credited with 126 carrier landings and more 1,200 flight hours.

In December 1944, he was assigned to Norfolk Naval Base in Norfolk, Virginia, where he trained new combat pilots. Bush was honorably discharged from the Navy in September 1945.

After the war, Bush received an undergraduate degree in economics from Yale University. He became an executive in the oil industry before beginning his political career. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for Texas's seventh district in 1966 and was reelected for a second term in 1968. Bush also served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, chairman of the Republican Party, director of the CIA and vice president to President Reagan.

He was elected as the 41st President of the United States in 1989. While president, Bush worked to improve U.S. relations with the Soviet Union; led the nation through the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi forces and signed the North American Free Trade Agreement.

For his military service, Former President Bush received the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals. A Presidential Unit Citation was also awarded to the USS San Jacinto. The USS George H.W. Bush was named for the former president in 2009. In 2011, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

Former President Bush passed away on Nov. 30, 2018 at the age of 94. He was buried alongside his wife of 73 years, Barbara Bush, and his daughter Robin at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas.

We honor his service.

Content originally posted on va.gov

Indego Exoskeleton Available for Veterans Thanks to New VA Policy



Powering Veterans Forward



- Injury Level T3 and below
- Lightweight (26 lbs) with modular design that breaks into 5 components for easy transportation
- Slim design can be worn in most wheelchairs
- Ability to transfer in/out of car while wearing Indego
- Rapid self set up (average 5 minutes)
- Extended battery life (4 hours continuous walking)
- Wireless control via iPod allowing for real time software adjustments
- Designed and assembled in the USA





Contact National Sales Manager, Brian Schultz, for more information or to try Indego at a screening day near you.

1.217.343.7506 brian.schultz@parker.com www.indego.com



Indego® is a registered trademark of Parker Hannifin Corporation

2019! By Debra Freed, Chapter Executive Director

I know I sound like a broken record, but I cannot believe we are almost through another holiday season and on to another year.

2018 was a rough year financially, but as I say in my E.D. notes, we did well in providing the eight mandated programs and services to our membership. While we may show some red ink, it will not come close to 2017. Matter of fact it will be about 1/7th of what 2017 expenses were. The other plus is we are now at nearly 70% in spending on our programs versus overhead costs. That is a huge plus concerning fund-raising. To accomplish all this the Chapter Board of Directors put together a difficult, but obtainable 3-year plan to achieve this back in 2016 diligently followed through with it.

So, as we look towards 2019, what will be some of the highlights? Mmmm, well, we know the AEBA is going to participate in three Fish & Wildlife Expos this year to raise as much as they can for the three Chapter fishing tournaments. We also know the New England Winter Sports Clinic is coming up mid January. That usually has a good showing of Chapter members, then there is the National Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado. I don't believe there are a large contingent from New England going this year. At the end of April, the Chapter will again host the Air Gun and Boccia Clinic/tournament. I have to tell you, that I am truly looking forward to this year's event. When we did it in 2017, the Chapter could truly boast the best turnout for both events in one weekend. I am sincerely hoping we do it again. News and information about this event will be forthcoming in January.

So far, I don't think any of the National events conflict with Chapter events

such as the Air Gun/Boccia at the end of April or any of the three Bass Trail events in June, September, & October. Now, there is a bit of kerfuffle about the New England Summer Sports Clinic and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The issue is timing. The Vet Games start in the middle of a week, in the middle of July which coincides with the start of the New England Summer Sports Clinic, so which one will YOU go to? Either way, you will receive one half the room but only if the Chapter is aware of your impending attendance before hand.

Please remember ladies and gentlemen that no funds are expended retroactively. If you planned to go, registered, and were accepted to the New England Winter, New England Summer, or Veterans Games, please let me know as soon as possible. Same goes for requesting Individual Allotment. Again, see the January newsletter for more information.

Getting back of the Veterans Games, there will be a new policy coming in January about what to do because the application is online just like many of the other programs. Where you used to have to forward all of your info to the Chapter, now, you have to register online and the sooner the better. My understanding is registration for the Veterans Games will be in early to mid January. There are no excuses for not reading or finding out what the new requirements will be, call, write, ask, email, etc. I will not accept, I didn't see it, or no one told me. We are U.S. veterans, not 4 year olds!

Finally, I really do want to wish each and every one a good, safe, healthy holiday season. May we all look to 2019 together!

Help with Pressure Ulcers in a Mobile App

My HealtheVet



A skilled and well-informed caregiver can make a difference to a Veterans' health. Roughly 66 million people in the United States serve as caregivers. VA has a new

mobile application (app) that can help caregivers and those they care for with pressure ulcers/injuries.

Pressure ulcers/injuries can develop when skin is pressed against hard surfaces or when skin slides against a surface area for long periods of time. The pressured area can block the blood flow and damage or kill the skin. This often occurs when someone is immobile, bedridden or confined to a wheelchair. While a discolored area of the skin doesn't sound like a huge concern, this minor irritation can quickly develop into a more serious health problem.

The VA Pressure Ulcer/Injury Resource (VA PUR) app can help Veterans and caregivers learn about preventing and taking care of existing pressure ulcers/injuries. The VA PUR app is an easy-to-use tool that helps prevent,

understand and track pressure ulcers. It also provides access to other useful resources to help manage daily care.

There are four main pages of the app:

- Home: Write journal entries, set reminders, find symptoms and causes, ask your medical team questions, and create shortcuts to your favorite features.
- Learn: Learn about pressure ulcers/injuries; preventive measures and ways to manage nutrition, exercise, medicines, pain, vital signs and home safety; and tips for caregivers.
- Tools: Watch videos on how to use the app and how to prevent and take care of existing pressure ulcers/injuries.
- Get Help: Obtain support through text or chat and get directions to a facility or other resources near your home.

The app is now available on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

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

By Glenn Johnson, VAntage Point Contributor

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

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

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

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getting an annual flu vaccination you not only help prevent infection by the flu strain for which this year's vaccination was intended, but also that an annual flu vaccination can help lessen the effects and shorten the duration of other flu strains that are currently active.

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

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

*This wellness benefit is only for Veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care system. Family members and Tricare members are not eligible. The nocost flu shot option is for quadrivalent vaccine only, available now through March 31, 2018. Vaccines subject to availability. State-, age- and healthrelated restrictions may apply. Vaccine may be in limited supply after March 1, 2018. This does not constitute an endorsement of Walgreens or Walgreens products. Patients will also be asked to complete a vaccine consent form at time of service.

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

NEW ENGLAND PVA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Volunteers do invaluable work that makes a real difference to Veterans, their communities and the Chapter. Volunteering can change your life, too! Your talents and time are always welcome.

We are looking for Volunteers to help out in the office, attend local awareness events, and assist with event planning. Everyone can help somehow and in some way, at any place and during any time. If you might be too busy or can't get out, think about a financial donation. Even if its only \$5 or \$10, every little bit helps. To learn more about Volunteer opportunities and how you can help please contact the Chapter office at 800-660-1181 or email info@ newenglandpva.org.

Ravak

Are you a Veteran with a service or non-service connected Spinal Cord Injury?

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its national policy to expand access to ReWalk exoskeletons through a VA SCI Hub and Spoke or the VA Choice Program?



"Using ReWalk, I have more energy and less pain." Ret. Army Specialist Gene L.

ReWalk Robotics 200 Donald Lynch Boulevard, Marlborough, MA 01752 www.rewalk.com





What is ReWalk?

ReWalk is a robotic exoskeleton that enables individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries to stand and walk, and is cleared by the FDA for home and community use.

How Do I Know If I Am a Candidate for a ReWalk?

Contact ReWalk for a Free Screening

www.rewalk.com/contact or 508.251.1154 Option 2

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.





Trucks





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USA's largest accessible van dealer!

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North Attleboro 57 George Leven Drive North Attleboro MA 02760 508-859-0940 Norwood 333 Boston Providence Turnpike Norwood, MA 02062

781-222-3622 **East Hartford** 104 Pitkin Streeet East Hartford, CT 06108 860-215-4100



www.newenglandpva.org

Your Responsibilities if Receiving VA Benefits

Contributed by Mitchell Hinkle, SBA, Senior National Service Officer

If you are receiving Veterans Benefits you have certain reporting responsibilities. For example, if you are receiving VA compensation that is rated 30 percent or above, you may receive dependency payment addition to your compensation. This can be arranged by completing a <u>VA form 21-686c, DECLARATION OF STATUS OF DEPENDENTS</u>. With this form you must submit copies of birth certificate, marriage certificates and possibly any divorce decrees. If there are any changes in your dependency status such as possible deaths, divorces or dependents leaving a household, these must be reported immediately so as not to cause any overpayments.

If you are receiving the VA benefit of none service connected pension for the war time era veterans, dependency changes of any kind also must be reported immediately. With this pension benefit - since it is income based - any income changes also must be reported immediately to the VA so as also to stop any possible overpayments.

If you are in receipt of the VA benefit of Unemployability, each year, you are required to complete and return the <u>VA form 21-8940, Employment</u> <u>Questionnaire</u>. This form is used to report if during the past year you may have had any employment. If not, you just check no and return the VA form as required. The VA does check with Social Security and the IRS through income match on a regular basis. If income is reported, this also may also cause a possible overpayment.

If you are receiving any monitory VA benefits it must be deposited by direct

deposit to your Financial Institution. This can be completed by using the <u>VA form 24-0296, DIRECT DEPOSIT ENROLLMENT</u> or using the Financial Institution form from your Banking agency. You must remember to never close out an old direct deposit account without the funds being deposited at least two months in a row. The VA funds could be returned as a lost check if the account information does not match or if there could be some sort of transfer error. Return VA funds do take a while to be returned and then to reissue them. This does not happen overnight. So be careful when your changing Banking accounts.

Address changes must be completed at both the VA Regional Office and at your VA Medical Center. Medical Center address change can be completed by calling the VAMC or by reporting the change when you check in to your appointment. <u>Changing an address at a VAMC does not change your mailing address at your local VARO</u>. Address change through a VARO can be completed by using a <u>VA form 20-572</u>, <u>Request for Change of Address/</u> <u>Cancellation of Direct Deposit</u>. Because of Identity Thief, the VARO when you change your address and or Bank account may end you a letter to verify you are making the change. Be sure to respond to the letter so the changes can be completed.

The above information is just a few of your responsibilities with VA benefits. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact your local PVA Service Office. . .



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too!



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548 Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation

Individual Allotment Policy Reminder

Member Individual Allotment Program

The Individual Allotment (IA) Program's purpose is to improve the quality of life of New England PVA's members by assisting in the expansion of both the quality and quantity of opportunities in sports, recreation, events and entertainment, especially those activities which enhance lifetime health and fitness, both physical and mental.

IA Funding Availability

The Chapter annually budgets for IA requests based on its fiscal funds available. The amount budgeted may vary from year-to-year based on these funds and its availability is not guaranteed. The budgeted amount is drawn down against on a first-come-first-served basis by BOD approved Individual Funding Requests. Once these funds have been depleted, no more Individual Funding Requests will be accepted for the current Fiscal year.

IA Funding Amount(s)

The maximum total amount allowable per individual per fiscal year is \$500. This amount may be drawn against cumulatively, as separate funding requests submitted throughout the year, or entirely through a single funding request. An individual may not request funding above the maximum amount allowable for the fiscal year.

IA Program Minimum Eligibility Participation Requirements

- 1. Must be a New England Chapter member in Good Standing;
- 2. Must receive Annual SCI/D physical at the West Roxbury, MA, VAMC SCI Center in accordance with VHA Handbook 1176.01.
- 3. Must not have any outstanding receipts, funds, materials or equipment due to the Chapter at the time of request.

IA Request Submission Procedure

All (IA) requests shall be submitted in writing a minimum of 30 days prior to the event, function or trip requested for use. The Request should be as detailed as possible, with regard to the activity and intended use of the requested funds. Requests may be either a written letter of request mailed to the Chapter office at 1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301, West Roxbury, MA 02132, Attention: Individual Allotment Request or email to info@newenglandpva.org, with "Individual Allotment Request" in the subject line.

IA requests received after the event, function or trip has occurred will not be accepted or considered for reimbursement.

IA Eligibility Review

Requests will be reviewed by Chapter administration to determine if the applicant is eligible for IA and what level of funding is available to the applicant at the time of request. Those applicants meeting the IA eligibility requirements, with funds available, will have their IA request forwarded to the BOD for review.

IA Funding Approval Process

All IA requests received by the BOD will be individually reviewed and discussed by the BOD for approval consideration. The BOD has sole discretion and authority to approve, deny or modify any IA request, in whole or in part, for any reason they determine to do so.

Receipt of IA Funding

IA Funding is based on the reimbursement of an individual's expenses as detailed in their IA Funding Request. Actual reimbursement(s) will only be provided for expenses submitted with a corresponding receipt. Reimbursement(s) will not exceed the amount initially requested in the Funding Request or the amount approved by the BOD, if the BOD approved an amount less than the initial amount requested.

Under no circumstance will any IA funds be distributed or release to an individual in advance of receiving the required expense receipts or required Newsletter article.

Required Newsletter Article

In addition to submitting the required receipts for reimbursement, the IA recipient is also required to compose and submit a minimum 500 word article, with pictures, about the event or activity the IA funding was use for. This article will be provided to the CordWord Editor for publishing consideration.

IA funding will not be approved for disbursement prior to receiving this required article.

IA Program's usage for Sports Clinics - As long as funding is available, the Chapter will continue to cover the expense of one half the room rate for members participating in the New England Winter Sports Clinic, New England Summer Sports Clinic, and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Since the Chapter is covering the participant's portion of the room cost, participants may not request IA funding for the purpose of applying it to the other half of the room cost.

Enjoy driving with both hands!

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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.

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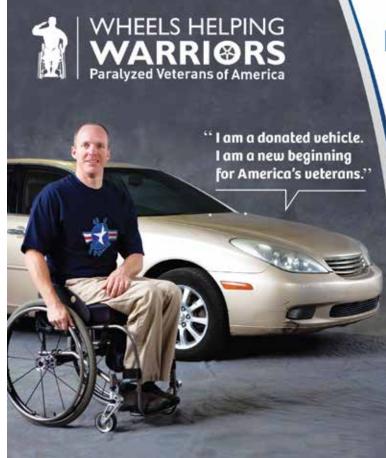
Feel free to reach out to Jack, a mobility specialist on our sales team. Pictured above, Jack has overcome many obstacles after a spinal cord injury 5 years ago. He now advocates for those with disabilities looking for mobility vehicles and equipment. Paralyzed Veterans of America New England Chapter 1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301 West Roxbury, MA 02132

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