



CORDWORD

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

New England Chapter



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“CALL TO ACTION”

SEAN FERRY’S SUCCESS



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Veterans Day should be a call to action for all Americans to serve those who have served, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Nov. 9 during a National Press Club event in Washington, D.C.

While acknowledging Veterans Day is a day to honor Veterans and their sacrifice, McDonough said it’s a day to fulfill a solemn obligation.

“For most Americans listening today, it can mean something as simple as reaching out to the Vets in their lives and lending a hand,” the secretary said. [....continued on page 7.](#)



Sean Ferry, PVA member, U.S. Air Force Veteran

With the support of PVA’s Veterans Career Program, Sean gained empowerment through employment.

PVA Keystone Chapter member and U.S. Air Force Veteran Sean Ferry was six months into a trying job search when he reached out to PVA’s Veterans Career Program. Sean, who is paralyzed from the neck down (C4 – quadriplegic), wanted to be an engaged and contributing [....continued on page 12.](#)

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**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vehicle Donation Program

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.



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ON THE COVER: PVA National Vice President and New England Chapter President Michael Negrete lays flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Solder during Veterans Day week services in Washington, DC. (Photo by Terry Negrete)

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

As you've no doubtfully seen from this issue's cover image, I had the privileged and honored opportunity to represent PVA at some of the Veterans Day events in Washington, DC. Of all the activities, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by far was the most evocative considering its representation of the countless service members who gave their lives in service to our Nation, but remain "Unknown But To God". 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of this memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. It also marks the first time in 100years the general public was able to approach the memorial at this close range. Another interesting fact is although commonly referred to as the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier", the monument actually has no officially designated name.

On Veterans Day, along with PVA National Vice President Tammy Jones, I attended a luncheon at the Womens Military Memorial for the Veterans Service Organizations who laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Veterans Day being the day after the Marine Corps birthday, was please to have had the opportunity to meet the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League [Johnny Baker](#).

I am proud to have served in both the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, and honored to continue serving my fellow Veterans through the important work of Paralyzed Veterans of America; ensuring each of our members receives the benefits they have earned through their service in our Nation's Armed Forces. It can be very demanding, time consuming and challenging at times, but I'm glad to have the abilities and resources to do so, with the simple goal of ensuring we are always here to make a positive difference in the lives our Veterans with spinal cord injuries and disease.

Speaking of membership, our 75th Annual Membership Gala has been rescheduled to **June 26, 2022**. This was necessitated due to COVID restrictions limiting attendance for the majority of our members and invited guests from the local VA facilities. The Gala will still be held at the elegant [Lakeview Pavilion](#) located in Foxborough, MA. Please mark the date on your calendars and keep an eye out for further updates. The Gala is still being planned be as an exclusive "Black Tie & White Tablecloth" event with a Special Guest speaker, awards and live Band! We are encouraging every Veteran to proudly wear any medals and decoration they have earned.

As you can see from the opposing page, the Chapter has hired a new Executive Director, Steve Robinson. Steve started on October 25th and brings a wealth of experience, skills and ideas to help the Chapter grow and serve our membership. To learn more about Steve, please read the Chapter's press release of his hiring on [page 19](#).

As the holidays start drawing nearer, keep in touch with each other, family, friends and the like, as this can unknowingly be a difficult time for some of us. A simple call or letter just to say "Hi" may go further than you can image to someone in need. For those who are in need, whether that be food insecurity, living expenses, assistance with your VA benefits or anything otherwise, please feel free to give the Chapter office a call anytime at 800-660-1181. You can reach most anybody through their direct extensions. We are all here to help you however we can.

Finally, as the New Year is just on horizon, take a minute to ponder these words and consider the future that lies ahead in 202.

"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
PVA National Vice President and
New England Chapter President



From the Director's Desk

Steve Robinson, Chapter Executive Director

Greetings from the Director's desk! My name is Steve Robinson and I am the new Executive Director. I began my position on October 25th and I am truly honored to serve in this capacity. I have already met many wonderful people in my short time here and I am excited to meet many more in the coming months. I feel that it may be helpful to give some information about my background before arriving here at NEPVA.

I have worked for almost 15 years in the recreational programs and management field designing and delivering a wide variety of programs to people from all aspects of life. I have worked at various institutions of higher education, community recreation programs, and spent six years at the National Ability Center as the Program Manager and Global Education Director. My time at the National Ability Center was a truly powerful experience because they are one of the largest adaptive recreation programs in the US and it afforded me a wealth of opportunity to learn and grow through the adaptive recreation community. One of the marquis programs I was a part of launching in 2014 was the veteran's mountain bike program. We partnered with several veteran's service organizations to create multiple 4-day mountain bike retreats in Park City, Utah. This program was aimed at riders of all ability levels and bike types. Many of the participants were hand cyclists. This was a new frontier in the cycling community as there was not much adaptive equipment and many places that were accessible for off-road hand-cycling. After five years of hard work, determination, and grit we created a robust program that impacted thousands of participants. We also helped to layout a framework for programs around the country to start similar programs in their respective communities.



My Commitment to our Membership:

While I am in a leadership role at NEPVA I commit to:

- Create some fun and engaging programs for our members to get involved active and connected with each other.
- Listen to our membership and their needs. Ensure they feel like their voice is heard and we are following up on their requests.
- Continue to expand the great work being done with our government relations team to advocate for the highest quality healthcare possible for our members.
- Follow and respond to trends, innovations and opportunities that would add value to our members.
- Continue to utilize our resources in a healthy and honorable way.

I would like to reiterate that I am honored to serve as the Executive Director and everyday that I am at that desk, I will seek to be 1% better than the day before.

In gratitude for your service,

Steve Robinson
Executive Director



FROM the HILL

Kristen McCone Gordon, Chapter Government Relations Director

This month we continue to work towards improving access to air travel for our members. Along with the rest of PVA, we believe you have the right to travel the country that you served without barriers due to your disabilities. Below you will find several ways that you can help advance our

efforts. Please consider joining our team and advocating for the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act today.

Contact your Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act

The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act would improve access to air travel by:

- Strengthening ACAA administrative enforcement and establishing a private right of action.
- Ensuring new airplanes are designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities by requiring airlines to meet

defined accessibility standards. These standards will address safe and effective boarding and deplaning, visually accessible announcements, seating accommodations, lavatories, and better stowage options for assistive devices.

- Requiring removal of access barriers on existing airplanes to the extent that it is readily achievable – easily accomplishable and may be done without much difficulty or expense.

Join our efforts by contacting your Representative today. Please fill out your contact information [HERE](#) and ask your friends and family to do the same!

Disability community survey on access to air travel

We need your help to learn more about the current air travel experiences of passengers with disabilities. Please complete a short [SURVEY](#) to help inform our policy efforts on this issue. This survey is sponsored by Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Council of the Blind, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, Cure SMA, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, Epilepsy Foundation, Health Equity Collaborative, Muscular Dystrophy Association, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), National Federation of the Blind, and United Spinal Association.

Immediate Action Needed: Veterans Families Health Services Act

We need your help in advancing a critical piece of legislation. Join us in encouraging the New England Congressional Delegation to cosponsor the Veterans Families Health Services Act (H.R. 2734/S. 1280) by clicking [HERE](#) and sending an email directly to your Representative's office. Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors to do the same! We need Congress to pass the Veterans Families Health Services Act (H.R. 2734/S. 1280). This bill would permanently authorize Assistive Reproductive Therapies (ART) to include In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) services, gamete donation, and surrogacy for veterans with service-connected infertility, and include the treatment of veteran spouses in applicable cases. Currently, Congress has granted a temporary authorization for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide IVF to veterans with service-connected conditions that affect fertility. While it's encouraging that Congress recognizes the need for this benefit, it's important to note that this is a temporary solution and reauthorization is not guaranteed. Additionally, the temporary authorization neglects the fact that infertility does not have a one-size fits all solution. Many of our members require IVF to conceive, but just as many veterans require a gamete donation or surrogacy to start their families. We believe that our government has a moral obligation to restore what has been lost due to a veteran's service and sacrifice to this nation. Veterans with service-connected conditions that prevent the conception of pregnancy deserve more than what our government is currently offering them. They deserve a chance to start a family. For more information on the legislation, and to take action by emailing your Representative, please click [HERE](#).

Immediate Action Needed: AUTO for Veterans Act

I'm excited to announce another opportunity for you to directly help move one of our key pieces of legislation, the AUTO for Veterans Act (H.R. 1361/S. 444). Please take a few minutes and fill out the VoterVoice link below. 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 members of Congress. All you need to do is fill in your address and hit send. As you may have already read in previous editions of the CordWord, our Chapter has been advocating for the AUTO for Veterans Act (H.R. 1361/S. 444). 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. I've been speaking with Congressional district staff about this issue all year but nothing is more powerful than hearing from a constituent. Together, let's get all the New England Delegation onboard! All of the information you need to respond and take action is available [HERE](#).

Veterans Day “Call to Action”, says VA Secretary

via VAntage Point



Veterans Day should be a call to action for all Americans to serve those who have served, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Nov. 9 during a National Press Club event in Washington, D.C.

While acknowledging Veterans Day is a day to honor Veterans and their sacrifice, McDonough said it's a day to fulfill a solemn obligation.

“For most Americans listening today, it can mean something as simple as reaching out to the Vets in their lives and lending a hand,” the secretary said. “And at VA, it means providing Veterans with world-class health care; with the benefits they have earned and so rightly deserve; and with a lasting resting place that is a tribute to their service. The point is that we all have a part to play, no matter who we are or what position we hold.”

He asked everyone to renew their commitment to serving Veterans and serving them well, adding, “because that’s our most sacred responsibility, on this Veterans Day and every day.”

Next, McDonough reported that VA is “laser-focused” on ending Veterans’ homelessness. One moment earlier this summer stood out to him, at a homeless Vets vaccination event outside VA headquarters in Washington, D.C., when a Veteran came to get his shot. The Veteran wasn’t wearing shoes, so he received both a vaccine and a new pair of shoes from the

Veterans Canteen Service staff.

“On the one hand, the story is heartwarming – a job well done,” he said. “On the other, it’s heartbreaking. That man served our country. He should have shoes on his feet. He should have a roof over his head. In fact, there should be no such thing as a homeless Veteran. Not here. Not in the greatest country in the world. So I assure you: We will do whatever it takes to get this country’s 40,000 homeless Veterans into homes – and to keep them there.”

McDonough also acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has been “devastating for all of us.” While most people are focusing on getting back to normal, VA will not go back to pre-pandemic ways of doing business.

“But at VA, there is no going back to the old normal because the work we’ve done to respond to the pandemic has forged us into a stronger and better department for our nation’s Veterans,” he said. “Tele-health, tele-appeals for your claims, the Veterans Legacy Memorial, and our new VA mobile app are allowing us to meet Vets where they want, when they want, in unprecedented ways. Outpatient trust scores for Vets in our outpatient care rose to 90% this year – which, in my mind, should be the floor not the ceiling. We’ve seen more patients and held more benefits hearings than in any previous year in VA history – a result of our goal to make sure Vets get their care and benefits on time, every time.”

That new normal also extends to mental health services. VA’s focus on these services will continue to keep Veterans going during the pandemic. In 2021, Veterans have attended 5.6 million tele-mental health sessions, more than double that of 2020. VA will continue to provide world-class service like this and the secretary will keep fighting for Veterans.

“On this Veterans Day and every day, I promise to fight like hell for the Vets who have fought for us,” he added.

Veterans Eligible for Travel Deals, Airfare Discounts

By Ansley Heninger, Leisure Travel Program Analyst via VAntage Point



Veterans can now get exclusive travel deals and discounted rates through American Forces Travel.

As of July 2021, all Veterans with a discharge status of honorable or general under honorable conditions are eligible to shop for a wide selection of discounted rates on hotels, air fare, rental cars, vacation packages, cruises and much more on www.AmericanForcesTravel.com.

American Forces Travel is the Department of Defense’s official Morale,

Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) platform offering bookings for leisure travel. A portion of all bookings go back to support military quality of life programs. Members can feel confident knowing that their purchases are helping to fund events and activities made just for them.

Structured by Priceline, AmericanForcesTravel.com offers deals up to 50% off hotels to eligible members. With flights from all major airlines and split ticket options, to rental car savings up to 35% and best price guarantee, AFT has travel options for any mode of travel. Customers can also save when booking two or more products together using the Packages feature for flights, rental cars, or hotels.

For more information, visit www.americanforcesttravel.com/?refclickid=VABlog2022. Members can also follow www.facebook.com/AFTMWR to message the AFT Team about login and pre-booking questions.

Disclaimer: The sharing of any non-Chapter or non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products or services on the part of the Chapter, PVA or the VA.



Season Ticket Sports Report

Brad Carlson, Chapter Sports Director

This is the first Sports report I've written in 6 years! We have plenty to talk about in this report.

Let's start with our Annual Golf Tournament to be held on September 26, 2020.

The Tournament will be held at the Marlborough Country Club due to its Central Location.

The Tournament is planned with a 11:00 AM start with a fun day of activities with hopefully a full course of 144 golfers!

We are currently working on Billiard Tournament at Boston Billiards in Nashua, NH and also planning a late June date with the American Pool players of America working with us along with Boston Billiards' Management.

We are next on the list to add a team for the NFL Wheelchair Football League according to Move United who runs the nationwide league. We will be having tryouts in the very near future and will have it posted here soon! Once selected, the Team will be playing at Gillette Stadium in the parking lot there.

I've also been having conversations with Jenny Vulpis at the Brockton VA who has some great sports activities planned as follows:

Weekly bowling Wednesdays at Westgate Lanes in Brockton, MA.

Skiing from various organizations:

- Friday 12/17 New England Disabled Sports (NEDS)
- Monday 1/10 - Thursday 1/13 New England Healing Association (NESHA) modified New England Winter Sports Clinic.
- Friday 1/21 NEDS
- Friday 2/11 NEDS
- Monday 2/29 thru Wednesday 3/2 Lakes Region Disabled Sports *tentative Ski Trip
- Monday 3/7 & 3/8 WOMEN VETERANS Ski Day (NESHA)
- Thursday 3/17 & 3/18 Welcome Home Veterans Ski Day (NESHA)
- Friday 3/25 NEDS
- Saturday 3/26 - 4/2 National Veterans Disabled Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass, CO

A note from Jenny - Sports are not open to all, Veterans need to have an adaptive sports consult prior to signing up for any activities. In the event you need other Recreational therapists names at other Facilities please let her know and she'll be glad to assist!

We are constantly working with the Move United Organization and I will keep you informed on there upcoming events.

In closing, like I used to say, "There's a lot to do out there, go do it!"

Brad Carlson



A Change for Better

By Pete Demarkis, PVA Sr. National Service Officer, Boston, MA



In the following article, I will attempt to shed light on recent updates in federal regulations, which may change the way some people receive aides, devices, equipment and other items from VHA Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Services. While the changes and additions mentioned below are quite lengthy and still leave room for interpretation and many questions, the notion in itself, and of course the governing regulations, are a big win for

Veterans receiving VA health care.

Effective January of 2021, the federal regulations governing VA Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Services have been revised. In addition, entirely new regulations have been established in support of the same. The revised and new regulations, which 'simplify' receipt of prosthetic and rehabilitative services with the VA, establishes a new section in Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the delivery of prosthetic and rehabilitative items and services, and further defines eligibility criteria and the types of prosthetic and rehabilitative items and services available to eligible veterans. Previously found under 38 CFR § 17.150 Prosthetic and similar appliances, the new and revised regulations can be found under 38 CFR § 17.3200-3250, Prosthetic and Rehabilitative Items and Services. Noteworthy changes under the new regulations, are the specificity of eligibility for prosthetic and rehabilitative items and services, definitions of specific items covered, and the regulations governing the delivery of items to eligible Veterans.

Under 38 CFR § 17.3220 Eligibility, essentially, all Veterans who are enrolled in and receiving VA healthcare, both service-connected and non-service-connected, inpatient and outpatient, should be eligible to receive VA prosthetic and rehabilitative items and services; 38 CFR § 17.3230 contains the following Authorized items and services: adaptive household items, adaptive recreation equipment, cognitive and communication devices, certain home exercise and home medical equipment and installations, home respiratory equipment, implants, mobility aides, orthotic and prosthetic devices, specialized clothing, and repairs, replacements and training on all the above-mentioned.

Perhaps the most notable of changes, is that an eligible Veteran can now obtain aides, devices, equipment and other items in a more efficient, clinically-uninterrupted and timely manner, so long as the items are established as direct and active components of the Veteran's medical treatment or rehabilitation, and are not being requested merely for comfort or convenience [38 CFR § 17.3230(a)(1)]. Veterans should now be provided the previously mentioned items and services as suggested by and prescribed by a treating physician; "once the item or service is prescribed...VA will either fill such prescriptions directly or will pay for

such prescriptions to be furnished through a VA-authorized vendor" (38 CFR § 17.3240 Furnishing authorized items and services). As there is a well-known history of Veterans being denied aides, devices, equipment and other items for one reason or another (i.e. not eligible), and subsequently, lengthy appeals processes for the same, the new regulations will hopefully streamline the prosthetic and rehabilitative services and eliminate any denial or appeals processes altogether.

In summary, and to put it plainly, if a Veteran enrolled in VA health care is found by any treating physician to need prosthetic or rehabilitative services, the physician should write the prescription and submit it to Prosthetic and Rehabilitative Services. So long as the physician deems the item or service as a direct and active component of treatment or rehabilitation, the item or service should be satisfied.

Please visit:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/28/2020-27014/prosthetic-and-rehabilitative-items-and-services> for an in-depth overview of the discussed changes, and as always, if you have any questions regarding the above article topic or other VA benefits or issues, please contact your local National Service Office.

**2021-2022:
Blasting off
to Fight Flu
and COVID-19
Together**

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

www.prevention.va.gov/flu
www.va.gov/covid-vaccine-questions

#VAVaxToTheMax

PVA WASHINGTON UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

PVA Washington Update Volume 27, Issue 19

Legislation to Improve Access to VA Housing Modifications Introduced

VA's Home and Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grants help veterans and service members make medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to their primary residence. This includes improving the entrance or exit from their homes, restoring their accessibility to the kitchen or bathroom, and making necessary repairs or upgrades to plumbing or electrical systems due to installation of home medical equipment like a dialysis machine.

A lifetime HISA benefit is worth up to \$6,800 for veterans with service-connected conditions rated 50 percent or more disabling (combined) and \$2,000 for veterans who have a non-service-connected condition. These rates have not changed in nearly a dozen years even though the cost of home modifications and labor have risen more than 40 percent during the past 10 years alone. Instead of covering the cost of needed

modifications, HISA grants now just “contribute” towards them.

On November 2, Representative Al Lawson (D-FL) and 42 bipartisan cosponsors introduced H.R. 5819, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, which would raise HISA rates and tie them to a formula that raises rates annually. Specifically, the legislation would increase the life time grant rate for service-connected veterans to \$10,000 and non-service-connected veterans to \$5,000. It would also tie the grant to the Consumer Price Index to ensure that it better meets the needs of veterans moving forward.

This legislation is one of PVA's priorities and we urge you to [ask your members of Congress to support it](#).

Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act Introduced

On October 26, the long awaited, revised version of the Social Security 2100 Act was introduced by Chairman of the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, John Larson (D-CT), and 193 original cosponsors. Now called the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, H.R. 5723, the new bill includes many of the critical improvements in Social Security benefits that were contained in the previous version. A Senate companion bill, S. 3071, was introduced the same day by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). The new version also features additional provisions that would remove a major work disincentive for beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and penalty offsets for recipients of public pensions.

The legislation would establish a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that better reflects the expenses of older Americans and people with disabilities and a minimum benefit to ensure no one retires into poverty. It would also raise the income thresholds for taxation of Social Security benefits to \$35,000 (single) and \$50,000 (married) and extend the life of

the trust funds by four years and close more than half of the program's long-term (75-year) shortfall. In addition, the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act would finally end the five-month waiting period for all those who qualify for SSDI and replace the so-called “cash cliff” with a gradual reduction in benefits. The waiting period imposes severe economic hardship on many beneficiaries and the abrupt termination of SSDI benefits once someone crosses an earnings threshold has been a longstanding work disincentive. Another new provision would repeal benefit offsets in the law that penalize many people who receive retirement income from public service. Over 30 percent of veterans with significant service-connected disabilities work in local, state, or federal positions and often face these pension offsets.

PVA has endorsed the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act and encourages members to [urge their members of Congress to cosponsor this bill](#).

House Veterans' Committee Markup Addresses PVA Priorities

On November 4, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a full committee mark up and passed eighteen bills that will provide additional support for veterans. An important bill to advance was the Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2021, H.R. 5607, which passed through the markup procedure with bipartisan support. Three Republicans voted with their Democratic colleagues in advancing this important piece of legislation. Survivors of veterans with ALS are eligible to receive VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Under current law, a higher rate of compensation known as the “DIC kicker” can be paid to veterans' survivors who had service-connected disabilities rated as totally disabling for a continuous period of at least eight years immediately preceding their death. The new legislation, if passed, would extend the increased DIC to

survivors regardless of how long the veteran lived with ALS. Please [ask your Representatives to support the Justice for ALS Veterans Act](#). If you'd like to watch the markup, you can do so [here](#).

Another bill approved at the markup was the PVA-supported VA Medical Cannabis Research Act of 2021, H.R. 2916. This legislation would allow VA to conduct research and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes for veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes. VA is a renowned research powerhouse and H.R. 2916 would allow VA to conduct studies to determine the efficacy of cannabis and cannabinoids in reducing chronic pain and the possible improvement of mental health for our nation's veterans.

PVA Joins IATA Mobility Aids Action Group

On November 2, PVA participated in the first meeting of the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Mobility Aids Action Group. The action group is a gathering of airlines, airports, aircraft manufacturers, mobility aid manufacturers, and users of mobility devices to make improvements in mishandling of mobility aids when traveling by air. The group will be meeting on a regular basis for the next year to review the whole issue

of how/why mobility aids get mishandled when they are transported by air, taking into account the entire travel process, work already under way by the Canadian Transportation Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the EU Commission, and others. The goal is to provide concrete recommendations to IATA's Accessibility Working Group on how to address wheelchair and scooter damage.

Build Back Better Retains Provisions Important to Veterans, Aging, and Disability Communities

The latest Build Back Better proposal, while considerably pared back in scope, retains a number of provisions important to the veterans, disability, and aging communities:

- \$5 billion to improve health care delivery for veterans by modernizing VA health care facilities, leasing medical facilities, and speeding up claims processing.
- \$150 billion for Home and Community Based Services expansion under Medicaid along with \$20 million in funding through the Administration for Community Living to support a national technical assistance center for supporting direct care workforce recruitment, education and training, retention, career advancement, and for supporting family caregivers and caregiving activities.
- \$5 million for the Lifespan Respite Care Program in addition to amounts otherwise available for fiscal year 2022 and \$40 million for the National Family Caregiver Program's activities of national significance to fund "initiatives to address the behavioral health needs of unpaid caregivers of older individuals and older relative caregivers."
- Authorizing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices on the costliest medicines, extending the American Rescue Plan's expanded Premium Tax Credit for Marketplace coverage, and increasing access to affordable hearing coverage under Medicare.
- Directing a portion of the funding for apprenticeship programs toward serving individuals with disabilities.
- Designating \$450 billion for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities.
- A HUD grant program that includes funds to make pre-occupancy home modifications to accommodate qualified homebuyers or members of their household with disabilities.
- A Small Business Administration program to support startup businesses owned or controlled by individuals with a disability.
- Funding to upgrade the accessibility of bus or rail public transportation services for persons with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.



What is PVA Veterans Career Program?

By Lauren Lobrano, Director, Veterans Career Program

Paralyzed Veterans of America's Veterans Career Program (formerly PAVE) was launched in 2007 to ensure that PVA members, their spouses, and caregivers, have access to meaningful employment, educational, and volunteer opportunities. Our team of certified vocational rehabilitation counselors and employment analysts provide high-touch, one-on-one assistance to guide Veterans through the process.

Studies have found that there are significant benefits for individuals who are engaged, including improved quality of life, enhanced self-confidence, expanded social network, a sense of community and increased income for those who are employed.

Veterans Career Program staff are specially trained to work with Veterans receiving Social Security Disability Insurance and other government benefits. We work hand in hand with PVA national service officers to take into consideration other benefits a Veteran may be receiving from the VA.

Despite the positive attributes of regular engagement, Veterans with significant service-connected disabilities are not currently seeking

employment. More than 62% of Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 60% or higher either struggle with or opt out of joining the civilian workforce. When layered with the added challenges of managing a new injury or medical diagnosis, many may feel that the barriers to gainful employment are overwhelming.

Veterans Career Program Counselors and Employment Analysts continue to be leaders in dispelling the myths and challenging stereotypes of those with disabilities. Working with dedicated employment partners, we will

continue to create opportunities for quality and sustainable careers for those with significant and catastrophic injuries.

PVA Member Sean Ferry recently found success returning to work through the Veterans Career Program. In late 2018, Sean decided that he was ready to pursue employment opportunities again. He did not have a great deal of success working on his own and reached out to the Veterans Career Program in spring of 2019.

Sean worked one-on-one with Veterans Career Program Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Genia Hachenberg, M.S., CRC, to explore his areas of interest and review the necessary accommodations at work. In September, Sean returned to work for the first time since his injury and shared the following about his experience working with the Veterans Career Program:

"After my injury in 2014, my life was turned upside down. It was not easy to transition from being a Mechanical Engineer, and a rather avid hunter and fisherman, into a wheelchair dependent individual. After five years of unemployment, I turned to the Veterans Career Program and its employees for assistance in getting back into the workforce. They were a great asset to me and a resource that helped me get my job and gain back my independence and self-confidence. Thank you, Veterans Career Program!"

If you, your spouse, or caregiver, are interested in career support including paid employment, education, or volunteer opportunities please visit pva.org/Veteranscareerprogram or email Veteranscareerprogram@pva.org for more information.

Sean Ferry - Veterans Career Program Success Story

By Lauren Lobrano, Director, Veterans Career Program

Sean Ferry, PVA member, U.S. Air Force Veteran

With the support of PVA's Veterans Career Program, Sean gained empowerment through employment.

PVA Keystone Chapter member and U.S. Air Force Veteran Sean Ferry was six months into a trying job search when he reached out to PVA's Veterans Career Program. Sean, who is paralyzed from the neck down (C4 – quadriplegic), wanted to be an engaged and contributing member of society but was having problems finding a position where he could work from home and use necessary adaptive equipment.

Veterans Career Program Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Genia Hachenberg, M.S., CRC, and Sean spent time discussing Sean's passions, including computers, and also discussing adaptive equipment that he needed to accommodate employment. They explored employers who value disabled Veterans and are willing to integrate adaptive equipment into their systems.

One of Genia's colleagues shared information about JLodge, a quality assurance company that focuses on hiring Americans with disabilities. Sean applied for a position, had three interviews, passed their assessments, and was put into a pool of qualified candidates for the next employment class. Genia advocated for Sean with JLodge, working with them on the necessary accommodations and making sure their equipment would be compatible with Sean's online keyboard and other equipment.

Sean was hired as a Quality Analyst and started working four hours a day, five days a week from home. Sean was empowered through employment while also having a schedule that lets him successfully manage his health.

Unfortunately, due to the economic recession and the loss of a contract, Sean's position was eliminated. Again, Genia and Sean worked together to find a variety of different opportunities. In the meantime, Genia learned that J. Lodge, Sean's previous employer, had been acquired by Cognosante and they intended to open several quality analyst positions. Genia reached out on behalf of Sean to share his previous experience and advocate for him to be an early candidate when they started hiring again. This outreach and Sean's exemplary performance paid off and in December Sean accepted a new position with Cognosante as a quality analyst.

Sean was also selected to work with GovernmentCIO and the Kessler Foundation as part of their research and program evaluation initiatives.

"After my injury, my life was turned upside down," says Sean. "It was not easy to transition from being a Mechanical Engineer, and a rather avid hunter and fisherman, into a wheelchair-dependent individual. After five years of unemployment, I turned to PVA's Veterans Career Program for assistance in getting back into the workforce. They were a great asset to me and a resource that helped me get my job and gain back my independence and self-confidence."



Veterans Career Program

Career Support for ALL Veterans

With Paralyzed Veterans of America's Veterans Career Program,

You Will:

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



We Will:

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

PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram • VeteransCareerProgram@PVA.org • [f](#) ParalyzedVeterans • [t](#) [@](#) PVA1946

Caregivers have been Overlooked, those Days are Over, VA Secretary says

via VAntage Point By Air Force Veteran Adam Stump, Public Affairs Specialist w/VA's Digital Media Engagement Team



Caregivers have been overlooked by VA over the years, but those days are over, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said.

Speaking at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Sixth Annual National Convening, McDonough said one of VA's most important jobs is to support caregivers.

"Our job at VA and EDF is to help those caregivers to find ways to make their lives easier

– both because that's the right thing to do, and because supporting caregivers improves outcomes for Veterans," he said.

VA will continue to focus on four pillars: advocacy, access, outcomes and excellence. Focusing on those four is critical, as the stress of managing a household and Veteran's medical conditions during a pandemic is hard.

"This is the type of stress that leads caregivers to suffer from anxiety, depression and health issues more often than most Americans," McDonough said. "And it means that our shared mission to care for those caregivers has never been more important than it is right now."

During the pandemic, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation partnered with VA to provide more than \$500,000-worth of free, professional respite services to caregivers who needed it. On top of that, VA has vaccinated more than 85,000 caregivers and given personal protective equipment, all while delivering more care and benefits than ever before.

McDonough said VA will continue the close collaboration with the Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory committee – which is chaired by Senator Elizabeth Dole. VA's dedication to caregivers shows, with its first ever senior advisor for caregivers: Meg Kabat advises the secretary on families, caregivers and survivors.

"We'll move heaven and earth to get caregivers timely access to their VA resources," he said.

Ensuring that caregivers who help Veterans with assisted daily living get those resources, McDonough noted that the Program of Comprehensive Assistance will soon expand to cover all generations of caregivers. PCAFC was previously expanded in October 2020 to eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service on or before May 7, 1975. Soon, access to PCAFC will include eligible Veterans from all eras who have a serious injury – incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service.

VA announced in September that its Caregiver Support Program is

extending eligibility through Sept. 30, 2022, for Veterans who are legacy participants; it additionally extends to legacy applicants and their family caregivers who participate in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

This extension applies to Veterans who were participating in PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and to individuals who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020. It also applies to those who were accepted into the program after Oct. 1, 2020.

The secretary highlighted other programs, too, including the Program of General Caregiver Support Services. Dedicated staff at every VA medical center meet with caregivers, help identify their Veterans' needs, and come up with a plan to address them. VA's "vitaly important" Peer Support Program for caregivers strengthens relationships between caregivers, providing an opportunity for networking and empowering caregivers to help one another.

"Because as you know, the health and happiness of caregivers is inextricably tied to the health and happiness of the Veterans they serve," McDonough said. "In other words, by improving caregiver outcomes, we improve Veteran outcomes – and we at VA are going to stop at nothing to do both."

The secretary then cited a story of a Veteran who is a quadruple amputee and whose wife is his primary caregiver. He said the Veteran needs daily help, ranging from brushing his teeth to putting on his prosthetics in the morning. The Veteran appreciates when people come up to him and thank him for his service, but noted that nobody comes up to his wife to thank her for the service she's given to the country by being a caregiver. The secretary said that's wrong and he's out to fix it.

"I know that at times, throughout VA's history, caregivers have been overlooked," he said. "Or not included. Or not appreciated for the back-breaking work they do, and the incredible service that they provide. But I'm here today to say, to any caregiver watching, that those days are over. Let me repeat: those days are over."



Veterans Stay Connected with Communications Platform

This article was written and shared by CaringBridge via VAntage Point



Veterans experiencing health challenges can stay connected with loved ones with a free communications platform thanks to CaringBridge.

Family and friends are an amazing source of support, but constantly sharing updates with each and every one of them is impractical. CaringBridge replaces countless texts and emails with a free, easy-to-use and secure communications platform.

[Free Site for Veterans Support | CaringBridge](#)

Brian Muller used CaringBridge for his wife Amie, a Veteran fighting cancer.

“CaringBridge was a huge thing for us,” Muller said. “Amie was a very social person, but when she was sick it was hard to have people around. But she did want people to know what was going on. We used CaringBridge to keep family, friends and those who she served with updated through 10 months of cancer treatment.”

How does CaringBridge work?

More than 300,000 people use CaringBridge’s free private communications platform every single day. The platform has tools Veterans and their families need to easily share updates, read messages of support and coordinate help. Most sites are created by the family caregiver or a loved one as it’s often easier for them to manage the site to rally visitors for emotional and instrumental support.

Online journal to post health updates

When you’re on a journey recovering from illness or injury, even something simple like texting or emailing updates to loved ones can be one-to-do too many. CaringBridge is a website for sharing health updates with everyone in a patient’s circle – saving time and energy.

More ‘Ways to Help’

Even when a patient needs help the most, they may be hesitant to reach out directly to friends and family, worried that it’s asking too much. The Ways to Help section of each CaringBridge site provides

easy access to digitally coordinate meaningful help. The CaringBridge Planner offers relief and support and allows patients or family to easily ask their community to help with daily tasks. Other helpful tools include community meal coordination through Meal Train and starting a GoFundMe personal fundraiser to pay for medical expenses and broader caring activities and services.

Safety

Unlike other online platforms, privacy – not profit – is our main concern. CaringBridge is a secure, ad-free community that never sells user data. Families can also establish their own privacy settings and adjust these at any time.

Expertise

CaringBridge is a nonprofit that has been supporting health journeys for nearly 25 years. We are trustworthy and we know the power of community support in health journey communications.

Quick Set-Up

It only takes a few minutes to create a CaringBridge website – just follow a few simple steps in the start a site process found on www.CaringBridge.org/military.

Easy to use

Personalizing a page and sharing written updates, photos and more are straightforward with our easy-to-use interface. Our live Customer Care team is also readily available to answer user questions.

A free CaringBridge website has all the tools needed to keep family and friends updated during difficult health challenges. Because we’re a nonprofit, we put the patient’s needs first. CaringBridge has helped more than 900,000 patients and their family caregivers make private, personal connections when they need it most. If you or a loved one are experiencing a new health event or ongoing health issues, learn how to start a free site at www.CaringBridge.org/military.

The sharing of any non-Chapter or non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products or services on the part of the Chapter, PVA or the VA.



John Brako Nursing Scholarship Fund

By Michael Negrete, Chapter President

Named in honor of longtime New England Chapter Board member John Brako (1965 – 2019).

New England PVA offers financial assistance through the [John Brako Nursing Scholarship Fund](#) for those clinicians and staff in the SCI/D care specialties at the West Roxbury, MA and Brockton, MA VAMCs.

- **Professional Enrichment** – Financial assistance up to \$500 per year for SCI/D clinical and professional staff of both the West Roxbury and Brockton VAMCs to attend seminars, classes or training in SCI/D related subjects. This includes PT, OT and RTs desiring to add credentials to their existing ones. A one-year commitment to continue working on their current SCI/D ward, specialty, or clinic is required.

- **Nursing Scholarships** – Scholarships up to \$500 per year for those SCI/D clinical and professional staff of both the West Roxbury and Brockton VAMCs wishing to become nurses or add to their existing RN licenses and certifications with a one-year commitment to continue working on their current SCI/D ward, specialty, or clinic.

To apply for financial assistance consideration, please complete and submit the required request form on our website [HERE](#). This request must be received no less than 30 days prior to starting or attending the specific seminar, class or training requesting funding for. Please allow 30-45 days for review and response to your application.

Danielle Manning, LPN



The PVA tuition assistance has helped me in the past paying year and a half paying for future tuition. As an employee of the VA I unfortunately do not meet the parameters for financial aid so I am paying out of pocket each semester at Laboure College, which is a private Catholic college located in Milton. Currently VISN 1 campuses do not offer LPN to RN tuition assistance or reimbursement, so each and every penny counts. The last two tuition assistance checks I have

received have either gone towards books for the upcoming semester, or for tuition for the following semester.

I truly am thankful for the tuition assistance checks I have received, and I thoroughly enjoy working with this special population of Spinal Cord Patients here at the VA in West Roxbury. I hope to further my education to achieve at least my Bachelors to be able to provide better care each day. I strive to constantly improve and learn to provide the best care I can to each patient.

Thank you again for choosing me to be one of the recipients of this assistance, it is more appreciated than I think I can put into words!

Kindly,

Danielle Manning, LPN

Megan McGarry, RN, CRRN



Reaching out to express my sincere gratitude to NEPVA for your continued support in the pursuit of professional development and continued education for myself and the VA Boston SCI nursing staff through the John Brako Nursing Scholarship. I can proudly say that with your support, I was able to add the CRRN (Certified Rehabilitation RN) initials after my name! Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and VA staff.
With Gratitude,
megan mcgarry





ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

December 3, 2021
Camp Pendleton
Camp Pendleton, CA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 11-12, 2022
Milwaukee Tech Area College
Milwaukee, WI

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 2022 (Dates TBD)
Colonial Shooting Academy
Richmond, VA

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament *

April 14-16, 2022
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH
**Buckeye Wheelchair Games*

PVA BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament

September 10-12, 2021
Lake Eufaula
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament

October 8-10, 2021
The Lakes of Egypt
Marion, IL

Southeastern Bass Tournament

October 15-17, 2021
Thurmond/Clarks Hill Lake
Evans, GA

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

April 1-3, 2022
Lake Toho
Kissimmee, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament

April 22-24, 2022
Lake Barkley
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament

June 10-12, 2022
James & Appomattox Rivers
Hopewell, VA

Capital Clash Bass Tournament

June 17-19, 2022
Potomac River
Waldorf, MD

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Buckeye Billiards Tournament

July 17-18, 2021
8 Ball Sports Bar & Billiards
Columbus, OH

Mid-South Billiards Tournament

October 15-16, 2021
Clicks Billiards
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament

March 18-20, 2022
Diamond Billiards
Midlothian, VA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA

BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament

July 29-August 1, 2021
Thunderbowl
Council Bluffs, IA

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament

September 24-26, 2021
Bowl America
Midlothian, VA

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tour.

February 23-25, 2022
Pin Chasers
Tampa, FL

Vaughan Bowling Tournament

April 2022 (Dates TBD)
Bowlero
Romeoville, IL

PVA NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Trapshoot

September 11-12, 2021
Crooks Gun Club
Sioux Falls, SD

Cal-Diego Trapshoot

March 25-27, 2022
Redlands Shooting Park
Redlands, CA

Nevada Trapshoot

April 1-3, 2022
Clark County Shooting Park
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Trapshoot

May 13-15, 2022
Silver Dollar Trap Club
Odessa, FL

Vaughan Trapshoot

June 3-5, 2022
St. Charles Sportsmen's Club
Elburn, IL

Wisconsin Trapshoot

June 10-12, 2022
Brown County Sportsman Club
Green Bay, WI

Iowa Shooting Trapshoot *

June 17-19, 2022
Otter Creek Sportsman Club
Cedar Rapids, IA
**Year-End Tournament*

Mid-Atlantic Trapshoot

(Dates TBD)
Conservation Park of Virginia
Charles City, VA

BOCCIA

KY-IN Boccia Tournament

July 17-18, 2021
Indianapolis, IN

KY-IN Boccia Tournament

September 25-26, 2021
Bowling Green, KY

Bayou Boccia Tournament

February 11-12, 2022
Gulfport, MS

Buckeye Boccia Tournament *

April 14-16, 2022
Geneva, OH
**Buckeye Wheelchair Games*

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament

May 2022 (Dates TBD)
Richmond, VA

Vaughan Boccia Tournament

(Dates TBD)
Carol Stream, IL

HANDCYCLING

Echelon Racing League ToAD Virtual Criterium Races

November 2021 -February 2022

PVAR High Performance Camp

January 29 – February 3, 2022
Brooksville, FL

Museum of Aviation Marathon

January 15, 2022
Warner Robins, GA

Carbonbike USA

February 5-6, 2022
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun

February 18-20, 2022
Phoenix, AZ

Off-Road Spring Expo

April 13-16, 2022
Chesterfield, VA

Redlands Cycling Classic

April 20-24, 2022
Redlands, CA

Gettysburg Marathon

April 2022 (Dates TBD)
Gettysburg, PA

Tour of America's Dairylands

June 2022 (Dates TBD)
Milwaukee, WI

Wichita Omnium

June 2022 (Dates TBD)
Wichita, KS

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



July 7-12, 2022
Tempe, AZ



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2021

CONTACT: Michael Negrete, Chapter President
800-660-1181, Option #1

STEVE ROBINSON JOINS NEW ENGLAND PVA AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



WEST ROXBURY, MA, OCTOBER 26, 2021 – New England PVA is pleased to announce and welcome Steve Robinson as its new Executive Director. Steve will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administrative control of the organization and driving the success of its many service and membership related programs.

Steve has over thirteen years of diverse non-profit and recreational leadership experience. Steve spent six years at the National Ability Center in Park City, Utah overseeing one of the largest adaptive outdoor recreation programs in the country. During his tenure at the NAC, he was personally responsible for creating one of the first veteran's mountain biking programs that eventually served as a model for programs around the country. In addition to many years in the adaptive sports field, Steve spent seven years working at various institutions of higher education directing recreational sports departments. Most recently Steve served as the Executive Director of Recreation and Wellness at Beloit College and previously The College of William and Mary and Florida Gulf Coast University.

Steve comes to New England PVA with a strong desire to use his passion and skills to enliven existing programs and create new and innovative opportunities for the New England membership to flourish in their lives. Steve said, "I have a passion for developing community, creating lasting and meaningful relationships, and mostly serving those men and women who sacrificed so much for us all."

Steve holds a BS and MS in Recreation and Leisure Services Administration from Florida State University. Steve is also a Certified Professional Adaptive Ski and Mountain Bike Instructor, as well as a USA Cycling Level 3 Certified Coach.

Steve lives in Medway, MA with his wife Chelsea and daughter Cali (age 3). When not in the office, you can find him cycling, playing with his family and gardening in the warmer months.

For more information, please contact Chapter President Michael Negrete at 800-660-1181.

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About Paralyzed Veterans of America:

Paralyzed Veterans of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. For more than 75 years, PVA has ensured veterans receive the benefits earned through their service to our Nation; monitored their care in VA spinal cord injury units; and funded research and education in the search for a cure, improved care and quality of life for individuals with paralysis.

1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301 • West Roxbury, MA 02132
T 800-660-1161 • F 857-203-9685
www.newenglandpva.org

 NEPVA1947
#PVAUnstoppable

H A P P Y

Birthday

T O Y O U

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Robert B Hauger	Edward C Gagnon	Robert P Winters	William A MacDonald
Charles E Hopkins	Manuel J Pacheco	Dannie K Hosick	Bruce D Blanchard
Richard A Roberts	Lloyd E Seemann	Howard D Campbell	Daniel J Paradis
Neil R Sigler	William A Teichert	Vincent P Melchionno	John C Felix
Richard Lafontaine	Edward D Slattery	Joseph Rauchle	Thomas A Bolton
Daniel Silva	Charlie Dunn	Jane P Powers	George H Ferreira
Ronald A Sorg	Ellsworth C Stewart	Alfred J Casey	Keith A Stanley
Declan J Murphy	Roger L Springstead	Eugene J Doran	James M Silver
Ronald A Parsons	Victoria A Jones	Raymond H Clary	Gerald C Lallier
Carl P Tedder	Joseph R Gary	Betsy A Jarmolowicz	Craig A Souza
Robert S Whalen	Terry J Howard	Steven E Ross	Dennis P White
Lisa L Paine	Ryland M Page	Michael S Christman	Erasto C Bentick
Victor Alarcon	David H Sawyer	David M Robinson	Ralph R Jerry
John E Tillotson	Paul J Nyerick	Dean G Monos	Robert E Burres
Curtis Bosworth	John H Carlson	Lawrence R Burbridge	Maurice E Morgan
Thomas R Wood	Bruce D Caldwell	James W Meekin	Gary D Robinson
Irving A Rich	Rodney J McDonald	Thomas B Peyton	James G Horgan
John R Childers	Sherrie E Smith-Dunston	Dominick O Maggiore	Corey R McIver
David M Millard	Allen C Weickers	George R Jupin	John P McCarthy

NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Donald C Sluter	Charles W Drinwater	Joseph A Norkus	Jeffrey A Eldridge
Cathy L Martin	Lawrence E Berry	Richard P Canas	Frederick L Fagin
Roy M Maletz	Steven L McGlothen	Jarve G Reid	Francis B Provost
Neal A Williams	Alton W Stone	Edward F Schultz	Walter J Come
Daniel G Shaul	James M Volpe	Thomas E Joyce	James E Smith
Orville R Antilla	Adam W Bigos	Leonard A Badeau	Gregory S Alvarez-Parrisi
Rocky L League	Terrance W Tucker	William C Sibley	John E Steele
Lorence P Quinn	Jeffrey W Swain	Dale R Cook	Billie F Jackson
John V Mullally	Erik A Johnson	Robert A Smith	John H Bacon
Mark C Mechau	Paul F Raiche	Stephen J Evans	Raymond E Sylvester
Barry M Beaulieu	Clyde F Bubar	Justin M Galipeau	Thomas R Ferland
Arthur D Plante	Debra A Freed	Frank Silvia	Frank W Goebel
Keith A Evans	Paul A Veronesi	Richard W Walsh	Guy E Maroon
Dennis C Campbell	Dennis Halls	Nathaniel J Bigelow	

Paralyzed Veterans of America
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F 857-203-9685

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www.newenglandpva.org

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



YOUR INVITED: CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS - ONLINE or IN-PERSON

Chapter members interested in attending our monthly Board of Director's meeting, either online or in-person, may do so by sending an email request with your full name and address to meetings@newenglandpva.org requesting a "BOD Meeting Invite". For Online access you will receive the meeting connection information via email a few days before the meeting. If asking to attend In-Person, you will receive the Chapter's COVID-19 office access policies and protocols.

The regular monthly Board meetings are typically held the first Wednesday of the month and start at 10:30 AM. As with all Board meetings, Chapter members are encouraged to attend, but please be reminded you'll have the opportunity to listen-in to the meeting's discussions, but reserved from speaking unless specifically called upon.

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

Serving Paralyzed Veterans and the Disabled Community Since 1947.