



CORDWORD

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

New England Chapter



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COVID-19 HOME TESTING



What does a positive result mean for you?

In recent weeks, the number of COVID-19 cases broke records in the United States. This pandemic peak comes as the delta and omicron variants spread. You may need to know if you have the COVID-19 virus, but don't want to go in person or wait in long lines. This may be when you need to use a self-test.

Is self-testing for you?

You may have COVID-19 even if you don't have symptoms and [....continued on page 13.](#)

VA TECH FUNDING



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology grants available for fiscal year 2022 to develop new technologies that enhance the ability of seriously disabled service members and Veterans to live more independently.

VA encourages researchers, organizations and individual technology developers to apply for SAHAT grant funding via Grants.gov. by 11:59 p.m., ET, March. 11, to develop specially adapted housing assistive technologies that will improve the [....continued on page 15.](#)

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



**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.



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

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



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

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PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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ON THE COVER:

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

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**The biggest
mistake
we make
is thinking
we have
Time.**

From the Director's Desk

Steve Robinson, Chapter Executive Director

We are thinking warm thoughts as January ended with a very snowy bang! Here at the chapter office we are starting to think about the warmer seasons and dreaming of getting outside to gather and recreate. Our Sports and Recreation Director, Brad Carlson, and myself have begun planning a menu of activities and programs that we hope will be engaging and fun for our members. Stay tuned for more information soon. Additionally, we always welcome event and programming ideas from our members. If you would like to see us host a particular sport or recreational activity, please email me at steve@newenglandpva.org. I would love to hear from you!

In January we participated in a video conference call with several key members the VA healthcare systems in the New England area. They gave us updates on the status of their COVID testing operations and booster vaccination clinics. They emphasized that they are working hard their testing programs are accessible. Many of the testing and vaccination clinic sites are now offering walk-ins. Please check your local VA for specific information. Please note that boosters are available for adults whose last Moderna or Pfizer vaccine was more than 5 months ago or 2 months ago for the J&J / Janssen vaccine. Full 3rd and 4th doses are only for individuals who are immunocompromised; visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html> for more information.

Going into March, our team is preparing for the 2022 PVA Advocacy/Legislation Seminar. I am really looking forward to this event as it will be my first time partaking. While the event continues to be virtual I have full faith that the skilled leadership of our chapter president Michael Negrete and our Government Relations Director, Kristen McCone Gordon will continue our chapters positive legislative momentum.

I hope you are all staying safe and warm. I continue to believe that we are getting closer to the other side of this pandemic and that we will all emerge stronger because of it.

Respectfully,



Steve Robinson
Executive Director





FROM the HILL

Kristen McCone Gordon, Chapter Government Relations Director

I'm thrilled to announce that two additional members of the New England Congressional Delegation have pledged their formal support to two of our legislative priorities.

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley co-sponsors the Air

Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAA) of 2021

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley has signed on as a co-sponsor to the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAA) of 2021. This legislation would: 1) strengthen ACAA administrative enforcement and establish a private right to action; as well as, 2) ensure 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, restrooms, and better storage options for assistive devices. They would also require the removal of access barriers on existing airplanes to the extent that it is readily achievable and may be done without much difficulty or expense.

As you may recall, Chapter President Michael Negrete and I participated in a small roundtable discussion with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley late last year and raised the importance of this legislation. We greatly appreciate the Congresswoman's immediate responsiveness to our members' needs. The Congresswoman joins the following members of the New England Delegation as a co-sponsor: Senator Blumenthal, Senator Markey, Senator Hassan, Congresswoman Pingree, and Congressman Pappas. Our Chapter will be strongly advocating for this legislation in 2022 and we look forward to growing this co-sponsor list. If you would like to join our efforts, please consider joining our team at the 2022 Pushing Access Forward Advocacy/Legislation Seminar.

Congresswoman Ann Kuster co-sponsors the AUTO for Veterans Act

Congresswoman Ann Kuster has signed onto the AUTO for Veterans Act, which would allow eligible veterans to receive an Automobile Allowance Grant every ten years for the purchase of an adapted vehicle.

Both our Chapter and the National PVA office requested the Congresswoman's support on this critical piece of legislation. Congresswoman Kuster now joins the following members of the New England Delegation as a co-sponsor: Senator Susan Collins (lead sponsor); Senator Hassan; Senator King; Congresswoman Pingree; Congressman Golden; Congressman Moulton; Congresswoman Pressley; Congresswoman Hayes; and, Congressman Himes. If your Representatives are not included on this list, please consider sending an email today via our VoterVoice system and joining me in future briefings with their offices.

All of the information you need to respond and take action on any of

PVA's legislative priorities, including those listed above, is available here: <https://www.votervoicenet/PVA/campaigns/78011/respond>.

NEPVA submits testimony to the Massachusetts State Legislature

Last month, our Chapter submitted testimony in support of three bills before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security: The Accessible MA Act (S.1629); The Accessible Workplaces Act (H.2419); and, The Adaptable Housing MA Act (H.2420). As we told the Committee, our organization strongly supports these three pieces of legislation as they have a direct impact on the quality of our members' lives and their ability to contribute as dignified and productive members of their communities.

These three bills would address significant gaps in the authority of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), which has been responsible for providing accessibility in the state of Massachusetts since 1968.

The Accessible MA Act (S.1629) and The Accessible Workplaces Act (H.2419)

The MAAB does not currently have jurisdiction over workplaces that are not open to the public. As a result of the law's deficiency, citizens with disabilities are routinely denied employment opportunities. The ACCESSIBLE MA Coalition has reported, as one of several examples, that a building on the Boston waterfront undergoing a major renovation had to be allowed by the MAAB to retain stairs throughout its offices, rendering hundreds of office jobs off-limits for people with mobility impairments. S.1629 and H.2419 would require more workplaces to be accessible and thus provide more employment opportunities for citizens with disabilities.

The Accessible MA Act (S.1629) and The Adaptable Housing MA Act (H.2420)

In addition, the MAAB cannot require buildings constructed before 1991 that are renovated into housing to include features such as wide doorways. Wide doorways would allow these buildings to be adapted into accessible units. S.1629 and H.2410 would close this loophole by requiring that adaptability features be added to units in older buildings being gut-rehabilitated into multi-unit housing. Adaptability features are inexpensive and widely considered to be easy to install during construction or reconstruction, but can be cost-prohibitive to add later. These bills make financial sense and would allow disabled citizens the same opportunity to live as independently as anyone else.

We look forward to sharing updates on these important pieces of legislation. Our Chapter continues to monitor issues at the state level throughout New England that could impact your lives. If there is a specific issue in your state that you would like the Chapter to look into, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We are here to serve and protect your rights.

VA Celebrates Black History Month

via Vantage Point by Hans Petersen is senior writer/editor for Digital Media, VHA Office of Communications

February is Black History Month and VA is proud to join our country in celebrating the extraordinary legacy of Black Americans.

There are more than two million Black Veterans in the United States who have made incredible sacrifices for our country. One of them was Lawrence Brooks, who was the oldest known World War II Veteran. Brooks was drafted in 1940 and served in the Army's 91st Engineer Battalion. On Jan. 5, 2022, Brooks passed away at 112.

Black History Month is celebrated each year in February to recognize the significant contributions that Black Americans have made in our nation's history. It is a time to collectively celebrate racial pride, assess our nation's commitment to the ideals of freedom, and reflect on and commemorate the struggle for freedom and equality.

National African American History Month had its origins in 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of the Negro Life and History. Through this organization, Dr. Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926. Dr. Woodson selected the week in February that included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.



[Dr. Howard Kenney](#) was the first Black director to integrate the VA hospital system with his position at the East Orange, New Jersey, VA facility. In 1969, he again made history by becoming the first Black American to be appointed as a VA Regional Medical Director. Dr. Kenney also worked as an associate deputy chief for policy, plans and operations at VA central headquarters before retiring in the 1970s.



[Brandy Woods](#) is a 2020 recipient of the Veterans Healing Veterans (VHV) Medical Access & Scholarship Program. Woods, an Army Veteran, attends Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. Morehouse is one of 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the country and one of nine medical schools participating in VHV.



[Jesse Brown](#) was the first Black secretary of Veterans Affairs. Former Secretary Brown was a Marine Corps Veteran and a fierce trailblazer in developing medical, housing and employment programs for injured Veterans. In 2004, the VA Chicago Health Care System was renamed in honor of Former Secretary Brown.



VA Access, Supplies, Quality Standards?

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

PVA's Government Relations Department needs your assistance with gauging how the VA is doing regarding the Access and Quality Standards VA established in 2019.

VA published the following access standards:

1. For primary care, mental health, and non-institutional extended care services, 30-minute average drive time standard.

2. For specialty care, 60-minute average drive time standard.

"From the Hill" continued from page 6

Last call to participate in the 2022 Pushing Access Forward Advocacy/Legislation Seminar

A final reminder to all that there is still time to join our growing Advocacy team. We are looking for interested members to participate in the 2022 annual Advocacy/Legislation Seminar, which will be held virtually March 7th - March 11th. The seminar provides participants with in-depth knowledge of PVA's legislative priorities and an opportunity to meet

3. Appointment wait-time standards of 20 days for primary care, mental health care, and non-institutional extended care services, and 28 days for specialty care from the date of request with certain exception

In addition to this, PVA would also like to know if any members have experienced difficulties in receiving any medical supplies, such as gloves, catheters, or any medications from the pharmacy.

Knowing these access standards and supply concerns, please let your covering PVA Service Officer know if you've experienced any issues or delays with the VA providing access to these services or supplies. You can find a list of Service Officers covering New England and New York on [page 3](#).

(virtually!) with Members of Congress and/or their staff. These meetings are incredibly important to our work at NEPVA, and often result in Members of Congress signing onto our priority legislation.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to me at kristen@newenglandpva.org or 571-289-8276. I look forward to speaking with you and telling you more about this opportunity!



Season Ticket Sports Report

Brad Carlson, Chapter Sports Director

Hello everyone,

Spring will be here before you know it & so will many new programs being worked on as we speak!

First I'd like to talk Veterans games. As you know registration is happening right now & ends on 4/4/22. If you have questions on your Medical forms please call the SCI Clinic in West Roxbury & they will steer you in the proper direction.

The NEPVA OFFICE MUST BE NOTIFIED THAT YOU ARE ATTENDING!

We would like that information as soon as possible & no later than APRIL 1ST! ANYONE attending the Games MUST BE VACCINATED! There will be daily testing at the games. All Events will be held indoors so don't worry about the heat

Unfortunately there will be no track events this year but there will be home participation again. Please note that if you sign up to attend the Veterans Games and do not go any future application may be denied.

If you have ANY questions regarding the games please feel free to call the office.

Well here's some good news. New England PVA has chosen to team up with & be part of Move United.

Move United is very large in promoting wheelchair sports throughout the

Country with over 150 Community parasports.

In teaming with them it will help our programs become larger & known throughout the country. They are on the same idea that using sports to push what's possible so everyone, regardless of ability, has equal access to sports and recreation. This is a very well planned move between both organizations & will be a benefit for all! More information will follow as it becomes available.

Next on the list is our second Annual Golf Tournament which will be held on June 26th at Marlborough Country Club.

This Tournament is one of our Major fundraising events throughout the year. This is a Championship Course & a course full of happy golfers. A awards ceremony & Fantastic dinner will follow. For a great day of volunteering this is the one for you!

Also, if you are a paragolfer and would like to play please notify the office early so we can make arrangements for you.

Also on the agenda is Boccia. On November 5th & 6th we will be hosting PVA's National Boccia Season opener at the Brockton VAMC Gym. We are waiting on the material for registrations & will have it out in plenty of time for you.

Many more programs are on there way! Get excited & try to support them all & support your Chapter!

Hope to see you out there!

Brad

Curling Clinic with Paralympian Meghan Lino!

Brad Carlson, Chapter Sports Director



For any of you interested in this Curling craze, here's your chance to try it out.

On March 6th from Noon to 2:00 p.m. the Cape Cod Curling Club will be hosting a FREE Paralympic Wheelchair Curling open house. With 2 time Paralympian Meghan Lino will demonstrate all about Curling along with other Wheelchair Curlers to assist on what will be a fun day on the Ice.

Please dress warm as it is a little chilly on the ice. There is a warm room above the ice where family, Aides or friends can watch & stay warm.

Proof of Vaccination is required.

Please register online at www.capecodcurling.org

The Cape Cod Curling Club is located at:

37 Highfield Drive

Falmouth, MA 02540



8 Important Facts About COVID-19 Booster Shots at VA

There has been a lot of talk about booster shots for COVID-19 vaccines. While the vaccines developed to fight COVID-19 have been shown to be safe and highly effective at both preventing the disease and lessening the effects in breakthrough cases, experts believe receiving an additional dose can provide further protection. To reduce confusion, VA presents you with 8 Important Facts About COVID-19 Booster Shots at VA.

1. What is a booster shot?

A booster shot is an additional dose of vaccine, given several months after the first series or single-dose regimen of a vaccine and timed when antibody protection is falling, with a goal of “boosting” antibodies and protection.

2. What is the difference between a booster shot and an additional/third dose for immune-compromised people?

A booster shot is a supplemental dose of the vaccine given to people who should have had a strong initial response to the vaccine, but whose antibody protection has fallen over time. An additional/third dose for immune-compromised people following an initial vaccine series is given to those who may not have a strong enough immune response after receiving the initial vaccine series, because of their weakened immune system. VA offers both third doses for immune-compromised individuals, and COVID-19 booster shots.

3. Who is eligible to get a booster shot at VA?

VA will offer boosters to staff and Veterans receiving VA care; and, as supply and capacity permits, additional Veterans, spouses, caregivers and CHAMPVA recipients under the authority of the SAVE LIVES Act.

4. Will VA contact me about receiving a booster shot?

You don't have to wait to be contacted to schedule your booster shot! Veterans who fall into

populations recommended by the CDC for booster shots will be identified through the VA's Veterans Outreach Tool, then contacted and advised of the recommended booster shots, which may be offered by appointment or walk-in basis.

5. When should I expect to get a booster shot?

If you got an initial series of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, you can get a booster shot at least six months after your second shot. If you initially got the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, you can get a booster shot two months after your initial dose.

6. Will boosters be available for each vaccine?

Following FDA and CDC recommendations, VA is offering booster shots of the Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines. However, every facility may not have all three vaccines, so please call ahead if you have a specific preference.

7. Can I get the Pfizer booster shot if I first received the Moderna or J&J shot?

Individuals who are 18 years and older may receive any of the COVID-19 vaccines as a booster dose. Individuals younger than 18 years old may only get the Pfizer-BioNTech as a booster.

8. Can I get the booster shot and the flu vaccine in the same visit?

Flu vaccines are recommended for everyone, and can be given on the same visit with COVID-19 vaccines.

Haven't gotten or finished your first COVID-19 vaccine series yet? VA is still offering initial COVID-19 vaccines. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine lowers your risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including hospitalization and death, even with the current circulating Delta variant of COVID-19.

For more information, please go to
[VA's COVID-19 Vaccine Questions site:](https://www.va.gov/covid-19/vaccine-questions/)

[va.gov/initiatives/have-questions-before-you-get-your-covid-19-vaccine/](https://www.va.gov/initiatives/have-questions-before-you-get-your-covid-19-vaccine/)



PVA WASHINGTON UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

PVA Washington Update Volume 29 Issue 3

PVA Welcomes New Advocacy Attorney

Danica Gonzalves, Esq. recently started as PVA's Advocacy Attorney focusing on disability civil rights. For five years, Danica directed The Veterans Consortium's Discharge Upgrade Program. The program provided legal assistance to thousands of veterans that received less than honorable discharges for conduct related to mental health conditions and military sexual trauma. She received a competitive Equal Justice Works fellowship to build the program and was a key player in obtaining a \$1,000,000 grant for continual funding. Danica is a graduate of The George Washington University Law School where she focused on disability rights and health care.

During law school, Danica interned at University Legal Services, now

known as Disability Rights DC, and Mental Health America, where she protected and advocated for individuals with mental health conditions. She gained federal experience at the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel, and the Department of Justice (DOJ), Disability Rights Section. At DOJ, Danica worked on physical accessibility, community integration, accommodations, and employment. Her unique background brings greater knowledge of disability civil rights and veterans law to PVA.

Independent Budget Recommendations Released

The Independent Budget veterans service organizations (IBVSOs) – DAV, PVA, and the VFW – recently released [VA budget recommendations for fiscal years \(FY\) 2023 and 2024](#). The recommendations serve as a roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future.

The Independent Budget's (IB) recommendations, coupled with the Administration's FY 2023 budget proposal, will be used to guide Congress with its spending decisions for the coming year. For FY 2023, the IBVSOs recommend \$121.2 billion for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to meet the full demand for care both within VA's health care facilities and its Community Care Networks. The IB report details specific funding levels and targeted increases for VHA programs, including a \$490 million increase for the Caregiver Support Program, \$395 million boost for homeless veterans' programs; \$288 million more for mental health services and suicide prevention efforts; \$160 million increase for health care for women veterans and minorities; and \$1.8 billion to close the gap in clinical care and support vacancies across VHA. This year's IB recommendations also contain significant plus ups for VA's Home and Community-Based Services, including additional funding to expand the Veteran Directed Care Program into every VA Medical Center.

For the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), the IBVSOs recommend a total of \$3.9 billion for FY 2023—an increase of approximately \$510 million over the estimated FY 2022 appropriations level—and \$251 million for the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). The IB recommendations include additional information technology (IT) funding for both VBA and BVA to modernize their IT infrastructure, reduce backlogs, and streamline the delivery of benefits.

The IBVSOs believe VA infrastructure projects, including those that present a safety risk to veterans and employees, must continue to be fully funded even as the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) process plays out over the next several years. To accomplish this, the IB recommends Congress appropriate \$3.8 billion for VA's major and minor construction programs in FY 2023 to fund new and existing major construction projects, begin advance planning and design development on VA's highest-priority health care construction projects, and boost support for pending minor construction projects.

House Committee Examines Dependent and Survivor Benefits

On February 8, the House Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs conducted an oversight hearing entitled, "Honoring Our Promise: Reviewing the Effectiveness of Services for Dependents and Survivors." The Subcommittee examined ways to increase VA's outreach and education efforts, the quality of services provided, and areas for improvement in the delivery of care and benefits to survivors and dependents. They also looked at the experience of survivors and dependents, challenges to unique populations such as caregivers and members of the LGBTQIA+ population, and COVID's continued impact on service delivery, as well as discussing ways to

improve and increase collaboration between VA and other federal agencies.

PVA submitted a statement for the record focused on survivors' general lack of awareness of the benefits they are entitled to, and the need for VA to improve its outreach to them. We also addressed the urgent need for better financial protections for surviving spouses, including the need to increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, and reiterated our calls for Congress to pass H.R. 5607, the Justice for ALS Veterans Act. The hearing is available [here](#). The written statement is available [here](#).

Stop the Wait Act Introduced

On February 3, Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Chair of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced the Stop the Wait Act (H.R. 6583/S. 3575) to end the waiting periods during which Americans with serious disabilities are denied access to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Medicare. Under current law, those who qualify for SSDI must wait five months before their disability benefits begin and two years before they can access Medicare.

These waiting periods have imposed considerable hardship on many SSDI beneficiaries who may have exhausted all their savings while going through the application process for benefits and may no longer be covered by an employer health insurance plan. Representative Doggett featured his bill in a hearing before his Subcommittee on the day that the Stop the Wait Act was introduced. The hearing can be viewed [here](#).

Caregiver Councils Meet for Updates on National Caregiver Strategy

The RAISE Family Caregiver Advisory Council and Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren [met jointly on January 25](#) for updates on the development and implementation of the national family caregiving strategy called for by the [Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage \(RAISE\) Family Caregivers Act](#) that was signed into law in 2018.

The main aim of the meeting was to inform the members of the two councils about the progress made to date in data collection, cross agency coordination, and planning for a final set of recommendations to launch the national family caregiver strategy later this year. Preliminary themes and recommendations were part of an [initial report](#) to Congress submitted in September 2021.

Under the direction of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), several stakeholder and federal agency partner meetings were convened in 2021 to receive input about the needs of family caregivers and identify the array of federal programs designed to support them. Eighteen federal agencies were asked to submit action items to ACL on ways their programs can fulfill the goals of the national caregiver strategy. Seven agencies have reportedly completed their action plans, including VA, which submitted 25 proposals across the five caregiving strategy goals identified in the September report. These action plans from the federal agencies will be reviewed by ACL and the Councils before the final release of the strategy in August.

PVA Need Your Stories

PVA is advocating for a critical piece of legislation that will have significant impact on women veterans with SCI/D. H.R. 4794/S. 2533, the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act or MAMMO Act, will increase access to mammography services for all veterans. But, for women with SCI/D, this bill will ensure accessible

mammography services. Receiving informed, gender-specific care at VA can be a challenge for women veterans with catastrophic disabilities. If you have experienced a difficult appointment while attempting to receive mammography services either in VA or in the community, please contact Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, at JulieH@pva.org.

House Approves New Stop-gap Funding Bill

In early February, the House approved another temporary funding bill—the third one this fiscal year to buy more time to set federal agency spending levels and avoid a government shutdown. The Senate is

expected to consider the measure soon which would give lawmakers until March 11 to pass other legislation that funds the federal government through the remainder of the fiscal year.



VA Proposes Updates to Disability Rating Schedules for Respiratory, Auditory and Mental Disorders Body Systems

via *VAntage Point* by

In a [news release](#) posted today, VA proposed changes to the [VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities](#) (VASRD) specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory, and mental disorders body systems. The changes would incorporate medical advancements for treating certain disabilities and modern medical knowledge to more accurately compensate Veterans.

VASRD is used to determine the appropriate level of compensation for each service-connected disability based on the severity of the condition as documented by supporting medical evidence. VA is in the process of updating all the body systems in the VASRD to reflect modern evaluative criteria based on advancements in medical terminology, diagnostics and treatment.

On Feb. 15, the Veterans Benefits Administration will publish proposed rules in the [Federal Register](#) regarding changes to the regulations for the two body systems: respiratory system; ear, nose and throat conditions, and auditory disorders; and mental disorders. Veterans and the public will have 60 days to comment on these proposed rules.

Since these are proposed changes, they will not affect evaluations of any Veteran currently receiving compensation for an impacted disability. Instead, this is an opportunity for Veterans and the public to comment on these proposed changes over the next 60 days. VA will consider the comments received and address them in a subsequent final rule which may make these changes effective.

Some of the proposed changes include modernizing the evaluation criteria for sleep apnea by evaluating it based on the symptoms' responsiveness to treatment. If symptoms are fully treated by a CPAP machine or other treatment, a Veteran would be rated at 0% and not receive compensation; VA will award progressively higher percentage evaluations based upon how symptomatic the condition remains after treatment. This will bring the rating criteria for sleep apnea more closely in line with the stated purpose of the rating schedule, which is to provide evaluations based upon average impairment of earning capacity.

For respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the proposed rules would slightly lower the requirements for a 100% rating. For tinnitus, the proposed changes would recognize that symptom within the Veteran's broader ailment and provide service-connected compensation for tinnitus through the disease to which it is attributed.

The proposed rules for mental health conditions would increase the minimum disability rating from 0% to 10%. The rule would get rid of a dated part of VASRD that prevents a Veteran from getting a 100% rating for a mental health condition if they are able to work.

VA will ensure Veterans get the compensation they need and deserve, especially when it comes to mental disorders. Under the proposed changes, VA plans to use new evaluation criteria to more accurately

capture the different domains of impairment caused by mental disabilities and provide more adequate compensation for financial losses experienced by Veterans with service-connected mental disorders.

Rather than assigning an evaluation based on the number and type of symptoms present, these changes would evaluate mental disorders based on how impactful the disability is across five domains of impairment: Cognition, interpersonal interactions and relationships, task completion, life activities and navigating environments, and self-care.

Veterans, their caregivers and other partners can read the proposed rules for themselves on the Federal Register and are welcome to provide feedback.

1. [87 FR 8474 – Schedule for Rating Disabilities: Ear, Nose, Throat, and Audiology Disabilities; Special Provisions Regarding Evaluation of Respiratory Conditions; Schedule for Rating Disabilities-Respiratory System – Content Details – 2022-02049.](#)
2. [87 FR 8498 – Schedule for Rating Disabilities: Mental Disorders – Content Details – 2022-02051.](#)

Once again, there will be no change to any Veteran's current rating based on these proposed changes. When the proposed changes are finalized, Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition can apply for increased compensation. And even if a Veteran's symptoms no longer warrant the current evaluation they have based on the finalized changes, no reductions shall be made unless an improvement in the Veteran's disability is shown to have occurred based on the last schedule used to assign their evaluation.

Since September 2017, VA has updated the rating schedule for the following body systems:

- [Dental and oral conditions.](#)
- [Endocrine system.](#)
- [Gynecological conditions and disorders of the breast.](#)
- Organs of special sense (eye conditions).
- [Skin.](#)
- [Hematologic and lymphatic systems.](#)
- [Infectious diseases, immune disorders, and nutritional deficiencies.](#)
- [Musculoskeletal system and muscle injuries.](#)
- [Genitourinary and cardiovascular systems.](#)



COVID-19 Testing at Home

via MyHealthVet

What does a positive result mean for you?

In recent weeks, the number of COVID-19 cases broke records in the United States. This pandemic peak comes as the delta and omicron variants spread. You may need to know if you have the COVID-19 virus, but don't want to go in person or wait in long lines. This may be when you need to use a self-test.

Is self-testing for you?

You may have COVID-19 even if you don't have symptoms and haven't been exposed to someone with the virus. Consider using a self-test before and 1-3 days after traveling or gathering indoors with people (for more than 1 hour) whose vaccination status you don't know. This is important before gathering with unvaccinated children, older individuals, immunocompromised individuals, or those at risk of severe disease.

Getting an at-home test

Testing at home might be easier than waiting in line. COVID-19 tests are available online, in pharmacies, and even in retail stores. Before buying a test, make sure it has the FDA's stamp of approval. In late January, the federal government is preparing to make them available for ordering online for free. You can get free tests from <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

To perform the test at home

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Open the box and carefully follow the instructions included with the self-test to collect your own nasal specimen and to run the test itself. If you don't

collect the specimens and run the test as directed, your test results may be incorrect. This [video](#) walks you through the entire process.

What do positive results mean?

A positive test means you likely have COVID-19, and you should [isolate](#). You should visit the [CDC's isolation calculator](#) to see how long. Wear a well-fitted mask for ten whole days any time you're around others inside your home or in public. Don't go to places where you're unable to wear a mask. Send a [Secure Message](#) to your doctor before ending your isolation. If you have trouble breathing, high fever, or severe medical conditions that reduce your immune system, please contact your doctor and get additional instructions. You can also do a [symptom review](#) on the CDC website for a [symptom self-checker](#) and follow instructions on when to seek emergency medical attention.

A negative test shows you may not be infected. But a negative result doesn't rule it out. Repeating the test over two days or [serial tests](#) will increase the confidence that your result is accurate. For more help, you can watch this video on [How to Interpret Self-Tests](#). If your result shows 'Invalid' or 'Error', and you have further questions, please contact your provider and schedule a laboratory test with your VA medical center.

Update your health record

When you get your Self-Test result, upload it to My HealthVet. In a few simple steps, you'll be able to keep all your health information in one place. Sign in and visit [Self-Entered Tests](#) and add the requested information. This is for your own records, and it cannot be shared with anyone unless you give it to them. Please also note the result of home testing (Self Entered Information) is not part of the official record and will not appear in your laboratory testing result section in your medical record.



VA proposes updates to rating schedule for respiratory, auditory and mental disorders

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs



mental disorders body systems.

The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable VA to incorporate modern medical data and terminology to provide Veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions.

“Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated,” said Thomas Murphy, Northeast district director, performing the delegable duties of the undersecretary for benefits. “Updating the rating schedule allows Veterans to receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge relating to their condition.”

By incorporating modern medical data in the assessment of disabilities and how they impact earning capacity, Veterans will receive evaluations which more accurately compensate them for their service-connected disabilities. Proposed updates include:

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing changes to the [VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities](#) specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory and

Modernizing the evaluative rating criteria for sleep apnea, using developments in medical knowledge to evaluate it based on its responsiveness to treatment, bringing the rating criteria for sleep apnea more closely in line with the stated purpose of the rating schedule.

Evaluating tinnitus (ringing in the ears) as a symptom of the underlying disease which causes it, rather than as a stand-alone disability.

Evaluating mental health conditions based on a more robust and holistic approach that assesses how impactful the disability is to cognition, interpersonal relationships, task completion, life activities and self-care. Additionally, the proposed evaluation criteria include a 10% minimum evaluation for having one or more service-connected mental health conditions and will no longer require “total occupational and social impairment” to attain a 100% evaluation.

No change to a Veteran’s current rating would occur due to these proposed changes. If the proposed changes are finalized, Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition can apply for increased compensation, but no reductions shall be made unless an improvement in the Veteran’s disability is shown to have occurred.

The public has 60 days to provide comments to VA regarding the two proposed updates via the Federal Register notices located [here](#) and [here](#).

VA delays electronic health record implementation date due to COVID-19 surge in Ohio

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs



Healthcare System in response to a surge in COVID-19 cases affecting the workforce and community.

In consultation with leaders at the Ohio facility and VA senior leaders, the department shifted implementation of the new EHR system to April 30 from the previously scheduled date of March 5.

“Our primary mission is to serve Veterans,” said Dr. Terry Adirim, program executive director of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, who manages the daily operations of VA’s EHR effort. “As we see the pandemic surge in the Columbus community, we need to support the medical professionals while they focus their attention on meeting the health care needs of their patients. EHR deployment activities must be weighed against community health and can be resumed when it is appropriate to do so.”

VA data shows, as of Jan. 13, the VA Central Ohio Healthcare System

WASHINGTON — Effective Jan. 14, the Department of Veterans Affairs is delaying the scheduled deployment of its new electronic health record effort at the VA Central Ohio

is currently experiencing a COVID-19 positivity rate of 34.9% across its 15-county service area, with Franklin County experiencing a 153% increase in COVID-19 cases over the past 14 days. A significant number of the workforce at the facility (approximately 209 employees) are “unable to work,” doubling the number of employees reporting this status the previous week and one of the largest changes in this status across all VA medical facilities nationwide. Adding an EHR deployment during this pandemic surge would risk significant impact to health care operations at the facility and the ability of staff to adequately serve Veterans.

VA officials are continuously reviewing the conditions at upcoming implementation sites to ensure local conditions allow for a safe deployment.

The new EHR will replace VA’s current Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture and will link with the Department of Defense’s health records to create a lifetime of seamless care for service members and Veterans. For more information about the overall effort visit EHR Modernization.

VA amplifies access to home, community-based services for eligible Veterans

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs' [Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care](#) is expanding its [Home-Based Primary Care](#), [Medical Foster Home](#) and

[Veteran-Directed Care](#) programs to make them available at all VA medical centers by the end of fiscal year 2026.

VA will add 58 medical foster homes and 70 Veteran-directed care programs to VAMCs across the nation and add 75 home-based primary care teams to areas with the highest unmet need.

"These [evidence-based programs](#) allow Veterans to age-in-place, avoid or delay nursing home placement and choose the care environment that aligns most with their care needs, preferences and goals," said Executive Director of VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care Scotte Hartronft, M.D. "Veterans using these programs have experienced [fewer hospitalizations](#) and emergency department visits, reduced hospital and nursing home days and fewer nursing home readmissions and inpatient complications."

According to VA's [Policy Analysis and Forecasting Office](#), the number of Veterans of all ages who are eligible for nursing home care is estimated to expand from approximately 2 million Veterans in 2019 to more than 4 million by 2039. As this population grows, VA remains steadfast in providing the highest levels of care to Veterans in the least-restrictive settings.

These programs provide an in-home or smaller care setting than traditional institutionalized long-term care. This smaller setting of care supports less risk of transmission of COVID and other infectious diseases. Many Veterans have chosen these programs instead of institutionalized care during the pandemic for more flexibility in care preferences and less risk of COVID transmission.

Learn more about [VA geriatrics](#).

VA funding available to create technology helping eligible service members and Veterans adapt their homes

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has [Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology](#) grants available for fiscal year 2022 to develop new technologies that

enhance the ability of seriously disabled service members and Veterans to live more independently.

VA encourages researchers, organizations and individual technology developers to apply for SAHAT grant funding via [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59 p.m., ET, March 11, to develop specially adapted housing assistive technologies that will improve the livability of Veterans' adapted residences.

VA issues the Notice of Funding Opportunity in the Federal Register to foster competition among technology developers, funding innovation that will best serve the needs of certain seriously disabled service members and Veterans.

Since 2016, when VA awarded its first SAHAT grant, VA has awarded 22 grants. To date, these grants have resulted in the introduction of new products to the accessibility industry used to improve the lives of Veterans, including:

AI-powered mobile scanner and reader enabling blind and visually impaired users to read text independently.

Smart guidance: a customized disability-adapted bathroom module

designed to bring users closer to independent living by providing a safer bathroom environment and permitting home care.

Robotic overbed table for beds, recliners and wheelchairs allowing users to independently deploy, position and store mobile devices using accessible switches or a remote from a bed or chair.

"Awarding up to \$200,000 per grant to develop technology will ultimately help make homes more livable for seriously disabled service members and Veterans," said Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits Mike Frueh. "In addition to the SAHAT program, VA also administers [Specially Adapted Housing](#) grants to eligible service members and Veterans with certain serious service-connected disabilities to purchase or adapt a home that suits their individual needs."

To learn more about SAHAT, visit [VA.gov](#) and [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).



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](https://www.facebook.com/ParalyzedVeterans) • [i PVA1946](https://www.instagram.com/PVA1946)

One Year after Enactment: Isakson-Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act

via Vantage Point by Mike Frueh, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits

[The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020](#) (Isakson-Roe Act) was signed into law in January of 2021. This week, we're continuing our examination of the many ways the Act improves the benefits and care Veterans receive from VA by looking at the burial needs, education opportunities, and other benefits in the law.

Expands efforts to deliver timely and accurate education benefits

The law impacts some of the benefits Veterans receive. The Isakson-Roe Act includes updates to the GI Bill enrollment process, entitlement opportunities and substantial changes to VA oversight of GI Bill approved schools.

Educational and vocational benefits are key to helping Veterans transition from military to civilian life. One such benefit that has been incredibly successful is the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses, or [VET TEC](#).

The program is designed to help Veterans gain high-tech computer experience to start or advance careers in the industry. It boasts over 3,400 graduates with an average annual salary of over \$60,000. As an acknowledgement of the program's positive impact, the Isakson-Roe Act has increased annual funding from \$15 million to \$45 million.

Other Veterans benefits expanded by the Act include eligibility for educational scholarships and Veteran entitlement for the GI Bill.

Broadens home loan benefits to Veterans impacted by natural disaster

The law goes beyond improving educational benefits by also expanding access to the VA home loan benefit, while reducing financial burden to Veterans whose homes were damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster.

The Act expands eligibility for the VA home loan guaranty to members of the National Guard who have been activated to perform full-time National Guard duty.

The law allows VA home loan borrowers whose residences were substantially damaged or destroyed by a federally declared natural disaster to be charged a first-time use funding fee on a VA-guaranteed loan rather than a subsequent use funding fee.

The new loan must be for repairs or construction and be obtained within 3 years of the date that the home was damaged or destroyed.

Finally, the law revises the timeframe of eligibility for Vietnam War Era Veterans, who served in the Republic of Vietnam, expanding the start of the qualifying era from Feb. 28, 1961, to Nov. 1, 1955.

"I'm happy to report that one year after enactment, the Act has improved access to benefits, and enhanced the programs and quality of care Veterans receive from VA in a multitude of ways, especially education, home loan and burial benefits." Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits Mike Frueh.

First ever committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs

As part of VA's efforts to ensure it cares for the nation's Veterans, VA has created its first-ever Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs. The committee will provide advice and guidance to the VA secretary on all matters relating to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Native Hawaiian

organizations and Native American Veterans.

The group offers an unprecedented voice in how programs, policies and services may be delivered, providing for the approximately 160,000 American Indians, Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives Veterans across the country.

In just one year, the Isakson-Roe Act has allowed for significant progress toward cutting down barriers and addressing Veterans' unique concerns. The Act serves as a clear practice of VA's on-going commitment to ensuring Veterans have access to the best care and benefits available.

Increases support of Veteran burial needs

The Isakson-Roe Act enacted provisions for the National Cemetery Administration to improve VA's ability to meet the burial needs of more Veterans and their family members.

Increased monetary allowances will cover transportation expenses for eligible Veterans to be interred in VA grant-funded State and Tribal Veterans cemeteries. Beneficiaries of eligible Veterans can receive increased payments for funeral expenses and plot allowances.

Families can also receive reimbursement for privately purchased outer burial receptacles for qualifying interments in VA grant-funded State and Tribal Veterans' cemeteries.

Increased monetary support is just one way the Isakson-Roe Act is reaching more Veterans and their families. VA is also implementing program expansion to inter eligible decedents in VA grant-funded county Veterans' cemeteries.

"The National Cemetery Administration honors the legacy of Sen. Johnny Isakson and his dedication to improving programs that support Veteran burial needs. Burial and funeral allowances were expanded to assist our Veteran community, and the Act authorized innovative ways to commemorate Veteran service and recognize their lost loved ones." Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Matt Quinn.

Accomplishes NCA's mission to honor Veterans with lasting tributes

We have increased funding for grantee-cemetery operation and maintenance, and can authorize funding to train grantee-cemetery employees.

For families that do not opt for burial but wish to hold on to a beloved Veteran's cremated remains, VA can furnish a commemorative plaque or cremation urn.

VA can include on an eligible Veteran's government-furnished headstone or marker inscription information for the Veteran's spouse or dependent child.

These additional benefits and services accomplish NCA's mission to honor Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our nation.

Here's the [first blog post](#) on the accomplishments of the Act.



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

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament *

May 9-19, 2022
**Virtual 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 Tourn.

February 23-25, 2022
Pin Chasers
Tampa, FL

Vaughan Bowling Tournament

April 29-May 1, 2022
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*

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 18-19, 2022
Gulfport, MS

Buckeye Boccia Tournament *

May 9-19, 2022
**Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games*

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament

May 2022 (Dates TBD)
Richmond, VA

Vaughan Boccia Tournament

June 11-12, 2022
Glen Ellyn, IL

HANDCYCLING

Echelon Racing League ToAD Virtual Criterium Races

November 2021 -February 2022

PVAR High Performance Camp

January 29 - February 3, 2022
Brooksville, FL

Swamp Classic

February 5-6, 2022
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun

February 18-20, 2022
Phoenix, AZ

US Paracycling Open

April 13-10, 2022
Huntsville, AL

Off-Road Spring Expo

April 13-16, 2022
Chesterfield, VA

Redlands Cycling Classic

April 20-24, 2022
Redlands, CA

Pittsburgh Marathon

May 1, 2022
Pittsburgh, PA

Tour of America's Dairylands

June 16-20, 2022
Milwaukee, WI

Wichita Omnium

Dates TBD
Wichita, KS

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



July 7-12, 2022
Tempe, AZ



FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Alfred J Ghergia

Bruce E Millen

Drew A Prescott

Wayne N Ross

Russell Suarez

Dale H Hallowell

Jimmie Pugh

Neil C Lewis

Anne Marie Cuellar

David J Stephens

Walter H Seeba

Charles E Hall

Kevin Hebert

Michael J Dechene

Paul D Matula

Bernice B De Blois

Michael J Dowling

Wendy F Mabins

Harold A Decker

Glenn S Friar

Christine M Griffin

Lloyd G Jones

Mark R Winchell

Robert E Heller

Gary Okeefe

David L Cogley

Donald V Baker

Louis J Dupilka

Daren J Gorneault

Michael A Guilbault

Thomas L Batchelder

Richard L Eno

Kenneth J Kane

Bunker L Davis

Ronald J Evans

Robert T Parsons

Thomas P McDonald

Monique M Laverdure

Peter D Cappella

John E Corbett

Peter P Virtuoso

Ryan M Levy

Michael Benedetto

Paul A Batutis

Tim A Bryant

Kevin W Deeds

James R Cummings

Leo F Williams

Sean P Martin

David M Gregory

Gary N Denmark

Robert P Matseas

William M Banyas

Timothy D Smith

Charles L Lalumiere

Kevin C Hickey

Bryan J Donisi

Norman Voter



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

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Indego® Gets Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again

NEW VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® exoskeleton at NO COST!



What's the Indego exoskeleton?

It's an FDA-approved robotic device that enables spinal cord injury patients (level T3-L5) to walk again.

- ✓ Regain your independence
- ✓ Enjoy eye-level conversations
- ✓ Improve your cardio & bone density



Scan with your mobile phone to receive information or schedule a demonstration.

Contact us today to find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton at no cost.

Phone: 844-846-3346
Email: support.indego@parker.com

