

## NEPVA Gathering Support on Capitol Hill

by Kristen McCone Gordon  
Director of Government and Community Affairs

As you know, a small group of our Advocacy Team went to Washington, D.C. for another round of in-person meetings with members of the New England congressional delegation. The fall is a critical time for key pieces of legislation affecting our Chapter— particularly the Elizabeth Dole Act and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Re- Authorization process— and we wanted to make sure that the voices and concerns of our members were properly represented.

Over the course of a day, we met with Senator King, Congressman Courtney, and Senator Hassan. We also met with key staff members from the offices of Senator Collins, Senator Warren, and Senator Shaheen. In addition to the Elizabeth Dole Act and raising concerns about air travel accessibility, we also advocated for PVA's Justice for ALS legislation and improving social security benefits for our members.

As always, our meetings were positive and met with general agreement. However, our Chapter's work doesn't stop until members of Congress formally pledge their support to our legislative priorities. I'm thrilled to report that following our conversation, Senator Shaheen agreed to cosponsor the Elizabeth Dole Act. I look forward to updating you as our cosponsor lists continue to grow.

We now need your help. Please take a moment to join [PVA Action Force](#) (formerly known as VoterVoice) to send a message to your Representatives on these and other PVA priorities. PVA Action Force is a national grassroots advocacy network, led by PVA, that helps

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*I'm happy to report that our Chapter had a very effective day on Capitol Hill last month!*

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individuals contact their Representatives on legislation affecting Veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases, like MS and ALS, as well as people

with disabilities. Free and open to all Americans, the group takes part in petitions, receives important legislative alerts, and more. For those of you who haven't yet engaged with this platform, please consider doing it today. All the information you need to get started can be found here: <https://pva.org/research-resources/pva-action-force/>. I assure you that your emails really do help our Chapter's efforts!

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L to R: Kristen McCone Gordon, Senator Hassan of NH, Brad and Kathy Carlson and Mark Murphy.



THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS ISSUE

Mike Guilbault, Fishing article



NEPVA on Capitol Hill

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Executive Director's Report

By Mark Murphy

Executive Director NEPVA

Dear Friends,

As I had previewed in my article last month, in mid-September I travelled to Washington, D.C. with Kristen McCone Gordon and Brad and Kathy Carlson for "AD/Leg 2.0" as we called it. We had the pleasure of meeting in-person with Sen. Angus King from Maine, Sen. Maggie Hasson from New Hampshire, and Rep. Courtney from Connecticut in addition to several other meetings with Congressional staff. Each meeting was very productive as we

continue to advocate for important legislative issues that directly impact our members. A very special thank you to Kristen for all her hard work in facilitating these successful visits. On our last full day in DC myself, Brad, and Kathy also visited the new PVA National offices. It is such a beautiful space, and we were delighted to

see it and speak with many PVA staff members who were present there. I am pleased that we made this trip as it was very worthwhile.

On the fundraising side of things, I am happy to share that our Chapter was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant through the Red Sox Charitable

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Foundation. For a bit of background on the Red Sox Foundation, they seek to connect the passion of Red Sox Nation by making a difference in the lives of children, veterans, families, and communities in need throughout New England by facilitating health, education, and recreational opportunities. Founded by Red Sox

Principal Owner John Henry, Chairman Tom Werner, President/CEO Emeritus Larry Lucchino, and the team's generous partners in 2002, the Red Sox Foundation is the official team charity of the Boston Red Sox. With a focus on healing, educating, and promoting physical activity, they achieve their mission through key programs and partnerships such as



the Red Sox Scholars, RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities), the Home Base program, the Dimock Center, and Dana-Farber. It is through these initiatives and others that they strive to make a positive impact on the lives of all of those in Red Sox Nation. We are so grateful to receive this grant from the Red Sox Foundation and have their steadfast support of our Chapter's mission and values.

From October 21-23rd I will be in Orlando, Florida for the 2023 PVA Fall Board of Directors Meeting. Throughout the three days we will attend meetings where a variety of important issues impacting the PVA National organization and Chapters across the nation are discussed. This year they are also conducting training for Chapter Executive Directors, which I am looking forward to. I will of course report back to you next month on any matters of importance for our Chapter and members. Hopefully I can bring some of the warm weather back with me as well!

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NEPVA with Congressman Courtney.



# Washington News

## EO Subcommittee Holds Hearing on VA Education Benefits

On September 20, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Economic Opportunity (EO) Subcommittee held a hearing titled, "Less is More: The Impact of Bureaucratic Red Tape on Veterans Education Benefits."

The focus of the discussion was risk-based surveys that are intended to be administered when a VA-approved campus falls out of compliance. In 2017, with the passage of the Forever GI Bill, State Approving Agencies (SAA) were tasked with evaluating the risk of programs that harm student veterans, have improper financial practices, and those identified as potential bad actors. The Isakson Roe Act in 2020 improved the survey model which rolled out in 2022. SAAs and other oversight partners say that the VA is not working within the intent of the law, often assigning surveys to schools that are compliant.

Testifying at the hearing was VA Education Service Director Joe Garcia; Dr. Joe Wescott, the National Legislative Director for the National Association of State Approving Agencies; and several organizations representing student veterans, college campus programs, and school certifying officials.

## Veteran Families Health Services Act Reintroduced

On September 14, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), and Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA) introduced the PVA-supported Veteran Families Health Services Act of 2023 (H.R. 5492/S. 2801). This legislation would help servicemembers and veterans build their families by allowing for cryopreservation before deployments, providing adoption assistance, and increasing access to IVF and other forms of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART).

Increasing access to ART and other infertility treatments is a priority for PVA. Veterans should have access to a full medical benefits package through VA to ensure that they have the care and support needed to grow their families.

You can find the legislation [here](#) and can read Sen. Murray's press release [here](#).

## House Committees Scrutinize VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization Effort

In mid-September, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MILCON/VA) and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) held oversight hearings on VA's Electronic Health Record (EHR) modernization project. In May 2018, VA awarded Cerner a contract to replace its current EHR systems with the commercial off-the-shelf solution, Cerner Millennium. Late in 2021, Cerner merged with another digital information system provider, Oracle, and has since become known as Oracle Cerner. Currently, just five of VA's major medical facilities are using the new EHR because problems with user experience, patient safety, and frequent blackouts forced VA to pause any further rollouts until these issues are resolved.

Witnesses from VA and Oracle participated in the [hearing before the MILCON/VA Subcommittee](#) and did their best to convince lawmakers that progress is being made to correct problems with the new system. However, members of the Subcommittee were skeptical, with multiple expressions of concern over the cost of the project, delays, user dissatisfaction, and lack of transparency over what is being done and what still needs to be done throughout the question and answer session.

Lawmakers' frustrations with the EHR project were more visible during the HVAC hearing. Chairman Mike Bost (R-IL) expressed a lack of confidence in Oracle Cerner and that the VA made the project worse by requiring customization. He made it clear that the VA should not deploy the new EHR to any more sites until the current problems are resolved and the five original sites are fully operational.

Similar sentiments were expressed by HVAC Ranking Member Mark Takano (D-CA) who noted that legislation, such as a new bill introduced by him and the Chairman, was needed to provide additional tools to oversee the program. Questions over costs, patient safety, diminished provider productivity and satisfaction using the system, interoperability between the Department of Defense and the VA, training, and overall usability of the system dominated the question and answer portion of the hearing. Among those issues, diminished provider productivity and satisfaction stood out because none of the VA facilities using the new system have yet to achieve the same level of productivity and satisfaction it had with the Veterans Health Information Systems Technology and Architecture (VistA). You can watch a video of the HVAC hearing [here](#).

# From the President's Desk

by Brad Carlson  
NEPVA President

Dear Friends,

Over the past several weeks we have had many important things happening in our Chapter, while also looking ahead to several exciting things on the horizon. On September 19-22<sup>nd</sup> I was in Washington D.C. with my wife Kathy, Executive Director Mark Murphy, and Chapter Director of Government Relations and Community Affairs Kristen McCone Gordon. We were on Capitol Hill all day on Wednesday of that week, where we were fortunate to have many meetings with members of Congress from across New England and their staff. These meetings were incredibly effective as several legislators agreed to sign onto important bills that both our Chapter and PVA are currently prioritizing. I am very grateful to Kristen for organizing this trip and Mark and Kathy for their positive contributions as well. On Thursday of that week, we also paid a visit to PVA's National's new office in Washington D.C., and wow! I was so impressed with how modern, efficient, clean, and innovative their new office space is. We are so grateful to have such a positive relationship with the entire team at PVA National, and they have been and continue to be supportive of our Chapter work and operations.

*We are so grateful to have such a positive relationship with the entire team at PVA National... they have been and continue to be supportive of our Chapter work and operations.*



L to R: Mark Murphy, Kathy and Brad Carlson, Senator Angus King of Maine and Kristen McCone Gordon.

Looking ahead, on November 11-12<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our annual Bocchia Tournament at the Marriott Boston in Quincy, MA. More information will be sent via email to all members very soon on how to register. We expect this weekend to be as much of a success as last year's event. Also, and as you may be aware, in addition to serving as Chapter President of our local Chapter I am also the Chapter National Director to PVA.



With that, on October 21-23<sup>rd</sup> I will be in Orlando, Florida for the PVA Annual Fall Board of Directors Meeting. As National Directors we will review several resolutions that are offered with the aim of helping PVA in its operations, administration, and programs. Most (if not all) of the resolutions that are offered directly affect our Chapter and members, so each discussion and vote is enormously important. It is my singular honor to serve in this role, and I will take careful notes throughout the weekend so I can share any relevant matters of importance in my November column.

As we look at what is happening throughout the world during these times, especially in Israel and Palestine, I recognize that passionate feelings exist regarding this highly complex situation across the globe. Indeed, over the past weeks, the world has witnessed the heinous atrocities inflicted on innocent Jewish Israeli citizens by the terrorist group Hamas. Killings targeted entire kibbutz communities, families, and clusters of individuals, including young people attending a concert. Even more

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# Government Relations Report

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We now need your help. Please take a moment to join [PVA Action Force](#) (formerly known as VoterVoice) to send a message to your Representatives on these and other PVA priorities. PVA Action Force is a national grassroots advocacy network, led by PVA, that helps individuals contact their Representatives on legislation affecting Veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases, like MS and ALS, as well as people with disabilities. Free and open to all Americans, the group takes part in petitions, receives important legislative alerts, and more. For those of you who haven't yet engaged with this platform, please consider doing it today. All the information you need to get started can be found here: <https://pva.org/research-resources/pva-action-force/>. I assure you that your emails really do help our Chapter's efforts!

Kristen McCone Gordon  
Director of Government and Community Affairs



Finally, I want to thank Brad Carlson, Mark Murphy, and our Board of Directors for their continued support of the Chapter's government relations program. We are an effective and growing team and I'm so proud of all we have accomplished on behalf of paralyzed veterans in New England. **I want to give a very special thank you to Kathy Carlson, who is an incredible asset to our government relations efforts and the Chapter as a whole. I am always impressed by Kathy's ability to advocate for the needs of our members, her knowledge of PVA policy priorities, and her unwavering commitment to the Chapter. We are lucky to have her.**

With gratitude for your service,

Kristen McCone Gordon

*Please take a moment to join [PVA Action Force](#)*

...more from Washington

## House Passes Four Veterans-Related Bills

On September 21, the House passed four veterans-related bills. They included H.R. 1530, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, which would improve VA benefits accessibility by requiring VA to publish disability benefit questionnaires on the VA's website for use by a veteran's private provider. It also requires a report on improving access to travel reimbursement pay for veterans living abroad who must attend a disability exam. Other provisions in the bill will improve communication regarding the scheduling of disability exams between contractors, veterans, and the veteran's accredited representative.

Another bill, the Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act (H.R. 3981), would strengthen reporting requirements imposed on entities that are recipients of

GI Bill education benefits. This bill requires educational entities to self-report any noncompliance within 30 days. Schools that have not reported any compliance issues and are found not to be compliant may face additional penalties. It also requires the VA to create a previously mandated database of risk-based surveys within 180 days to ensure programs receiving federal funds are legitimate and properly serving their veteran populations.

The two remaining bills strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida (S. 112) and designate the VA clinic in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic (S. 475). H.R. 1530 and H.R. 3981 will be headed to the Senate for their consideration, whereas S. 112 and S. 475 are headed to the President for his signature.

# NEPVA's Veterans with MS Program

information sharing & community building

## Veterans with MS Informational Zoom: Understanding SSDI Benefits and Eligibility with National Service Office Michael Snape

All NEPVA members with MS and/or their caregivers are invited to an informational zoom on December 7th at noon. Mr. Michael Snape is highly skilled at securing benefits and VA assistance for veterans with MS. Co-hosted by Director Chuck Houle, the zoom will include a brief presentation by Mr. Snape followed by an informal Q & A session for members.

A zoom link will follow soon.

In the meantime,

**please save the date**  
**Thursday, December 7th at noon**

and contact Kristen ([kristen@pvanewengland.org](mailto:kristen@pvanewengland.org)) with any questions!

## NEPVA launches the Veterans with MS Committee

NEPVA hosted the inaugural meeting of the Veterans with MS Committee earlier this fall. We are so excited about the launch of our new Veterans with MS program and are committed to providing quality programming for our members. The objective of this committee, composed of NEPVA members with MS and/or their caregivers, is to help advise us on what opportunities and information would be most beneficial to our members. Previous experience is not necessary – just a desire to join an inclusive and motivated group of people committed to serving other veterans with MS and having some fun along the way. It was wonderful for the Chapter to meet so many members and we look forward to seeing you again!

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Kristen McCone Gordon at [kristen@pvanewengland.org](mailto:kristen@pvanewengland.org). We plan to reconvene this group early in the new year, so please stay tuned!

## News you need:

Our National PVA organization is a significant resource for veterans with MS. Beyond connecting veterans to the resources they need, PVA offers Veterans with MS a warm welcome to a community of Veterans, caregivers, and families going through similar struggles. Through community support and pertinent information, Veterans can get back to living their lives to the fullest. Please read the latest newsletters from National and let us know what you found most helpful. Make sure you follow the prompts to have these delivered straight to your inbox! <https://pva.org/research-resources/publication/ms-newsletter/>

## Online MS Newsletter



Scan this QR to Sign Up for the Multiple Sclerosis Newsletter!



# Fishing with Mikey G!

by Mike Guilbault

## Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program

On September 19th Gaylord Hospital and the Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach program held their 2nd Bass Fishing Tournament this season on Lake Congamond on the MA-CT border. I joined two CT Chapter members to participate. Ed Dusick and I have attended each event they've hosted during the 11 years Gaylord Hospital has been hosting these Bass Fishing Tournaments for Military Veterans. Thomas luckily hasn't been injured that long but now also attends each one of the tournaments with us.

We arrived to register, have some breakfast and get paired up and meet our boat captains. After the National Anthem twenty-five veterans and their boat captains headed off looking for the right spot to catch "the big one" on Lake Congomond.

It is always a great time and we meet awesome volunteer boat captains as well as all the other staff who make such events possible. After going for so many years it's a great chance to see friends we've met through the years. They may be boat captains, other anglers, Gaylord staff and the great muscle that lifts us wheelchair users from our chairs and into the boats when it's time to launch and return for



NEPVA Member Ed Dusick with Captain Vinnie show off their catch after weighing in.

the weigh in. The Tournaments are a lot of work and Move United Veterans Sports Grants also help fund the events as well as Gaylord and the Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program.



**"I do it for all the vets. I meet great people and get them out on the water. I really enjoy it."**

*Boat Captain, Tommy Marzano*

"I'm part of Connecticut Bass Nation, so I got all of my buddies involved, Jimmy and Tommy and all the guys and got them to donate their time and boats," said Joe "Sarge" Kowalski from Major Steven Roy Andrews

Fishing Outreach. "I said let's do a separate day of fishing."

Boat Captain, Tommy Marzano said, "I do it for all the vets. I meet great people and get them out on the water. I really enjoy it."

It's not only a bonding experience for each pair but also the Vets delve into the excitement of reeling one in. Many look forward to the peaceful and scenic environment, but they also walk away with new friendships and a new kind of competition.



Chapter member Thomas Ferland and his boat captain with their day's catch.

# Gaylord Sports Association

## Sports Association Veteran Events Series (SAVES)

SAVES is a program of the Gaylord Sports Association that offers adaptive sports programs specifically for veterans who have experienced permanent physical disabilities, visual impairment or PTSD. The goal of the program is to support veterans in attaining a healthy lifestyle, better quality of life and new peer relationships through adaptive sports. The flagship program of SAVES are the Veteran Fishing tournaments held each year in May and September. Additional veteran specific sport programs are offered in golf, archery, bocchia, kayak and yoga. The program has served over 140 veterans since its inception in 2009. We also welcome and encourage veteran participation in any of our adaptive sport programs.

### Veterans Fishing Tournaments

The Veterans Fishing Tournaments are open water bass tournaments held on either Candlewood Lake in Danbury, CT or Lake Congamond in Southwick, MA. Each veteran will be paired with an experienced angler and boat captain from CT BASS NATION for a day on the water. Fishing equipment and tackle will be provided by the boat captain. All participants will receive a bag with snacks and drinks for the day. After fishing, each pair will bring their fish to the weigh-in station. Prizes are awarded for the top three weights. The event will conclude with an awards luncheon. This event is organized in collaboration with the Major Steven "Roy" Andrews Fishing Outreach Program and CT Bass Nation. This program is funded in part by a grant from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs in partnership with Move United Warfighter Sports Program and is offered at NO COST for veterans.

"I've been doing this for 2-3 years now. I've met some wonderful people," said Jim Tarzia, Boat Captain. "It's all about giving back. I mean if it wasn't for these guys, I don't know where our country would be right now."

I try to post when the events are coming up and veterans must register through Gaylord Sports Association. If you would like to check it out you can always view the news article which aired on Channel 3 in CT. It's located at: <https://www.wfsb.com/2023/09/19/gaylord-hospital-sponsors-bass-fishing-tournament-military-veterans/>

There is also a Facebook page for Gaylord Sports Association where you can see photos and find out about other upcoming events.

Gaylord Sports offers Veteran specific sport programs

including; fishing, golf, archery, bocchia, kayaking and yoga.



Gaylord Fishing QR



Mike Guilbault and boater Steve Deguzis show a few bass they caught.

Photos courtesy of Katie Joly of Gaylord Sports Association.



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## Service Officers Report

The foreign medical program (FMP) is a program that provides medical services for veterans not in the United States and may be beneficial to veterans who live or travel abroad. However, there are some notable differences from VA provided medical care in the United States versus when traveling abroad. This article will provide a brief overview of what the FMP is, what is and is not covered, and how to enroll. The foreign medical program is a program that will pay for medical services/ health care services, durable medical equipment and medications for service connected conditions and/ or conditions that are held to be aggravating a service connected condition. Unlike VA medical care domestically, the FMP will ONLY provide reimbursement for health care related to service connected conditions, even if the condition is only rated at 0%. Reimbursement

for services requires supporting medical documentation. At the moment reimbursement is only through paper checks and not yet available for electronic funds transfer. The FMP does cover medications as long as the medications are for a service connected condition and the prescribed medication for the service connected condition is FDA approved. Prior to filing a claim for reimbursement, veterans need to register for the program. The enrollment form that is used is the VA Form 1-7959F-1. After the form is completed, it is submitted to the VHA Office of Integrated Care. The VA will then send an approval letter which will outline the medical conditions that will be covered under the program.

When submitting a claim for reimbursement, it is important to provide supporting medical documentation that the services

**Prior to filing a claim for reimbursement, veterans need to register for the program.**

rendered were for a service connected condition. This medical evidence needs to include a diagnosis that is linked to a service connected condition, the providers name, title, and information, a discharge summary with itemized description of services provided for inpatient care. For prescriptions, the FMP will require the name and detailed description of the prescribed item, the expected medical benefit of the item, duration of need, dosage and quantity, and justifications for non-standard items or modifications. It is important to note that the medical documentation provided for the claim needs to be clear and not vague. However, the documentation can be

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### PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – REGIONAL NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

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**Ex. Director***continued from page 3*

With the unrest that is currently happening in the Middle East I would ask you to refer to our Chapter President and National Director's column this month. Brad shares some wise words of history and wisdom as we all hope for peace and concord both in the Middle East and throughout world during these troubling times.

Sincerely,  
Mark Murphy, Executive Director

**President's Report***continued from page 5*

tragic is that many Israeli victims were critical of their government's policies toward Palestine. Several strongly advocated for finding a more just and sustainable solution for peacefully living alongside their Palestinian brothers and sisters. Yet they were murdered with impunity. Adding to the tragedy, due to Hamas' actions, innocent Palestinians are losing their lives, homes, neighborhoods, and religious institutions. Many are being forced to flee, yet it is unclear where they can escape the bloodshed, given the significant restrictions within their region. None of this should suggest that we as a Chapter do not recognize the deep complexities around this situation, including past atrocities against Palestinians that have – in part – led to the growing animosity and sense of desperation within Palestinian people to be recognized and treated with the respect that they deserve. It is also important to acknowledge that for countless centuries, Jewish people have been subjected to some of the worst atrocities on the historical record, including but not limited to a

centuries-long forced diaspora and the Nazi holocaust, which claimed millions of lives and inflicted trauma for generations of survivors up through the present day. Given this, we stand with our Jewish, Israeli, and Palestinian brothers and sisters who stand for ending these atrocities and desire peace and justice for all. Furthermore, we all hope this war can be resolved as soon as possible to stem the loss of human life on all sides, with the ultimate objective of bringing individuals back to the negotiating table to determine a sustainable future for all. In the spirit of our community, let us continue talking to one another, exploring how we can work together and act as a Chapter where we can to advance the health and well-being of all communities, including those in the Middle East.

Sincerely,  
Brad Carlson,  
Chapter President  
and National Director

**Service Officer Report***continued from page 11*

in any language and does not need to be translated into English.

**The foreign medical program will NOT pay for:**

- Medical evacuations, injuries sustained while working as a mercenary (i.e. fighting in the Ukrainian conflict).
- Travel costs associated with the health care services.
- Services not recognized by the VA or US medical communities.
- Services not related to the service connected condition
- Physical Therapy not under the supervision of a licensed physician.

For a more comprehensive list of exclusions, additional information can be found at

[https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/fmp/fmp\\_benefits\\_claims.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/fmp/fmp_benefits_claims.asp)

**If any veteran is interested in enrolling into FMP, or would like additional information, they should contact their local PVA National Service Officer.**

Sincerely,  
Zachary T. Nuetzel  
National Service Officer  
Paralyzed Veterans of America

**DOT Settlement Announced In Response to Complaint of Disability Rights Advocate Engracia Figueroa**

On September 28, PVA and three other disability organizations issued a [joint statement](#) in response to a [settlement agreement](#) between the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and United Airlines following a complaint from the late disability rights advocate Engracia Figueroa.

In July 2021, Figueroa returned home to Los Angeles after speaking at a rally in Washington, D.C. and discovered the airline had severely damaged her custom wheelchair. Stuck in a low-quality manual wheelchair for five hours at the airport, the airline sent her home in an ill-fitting loaner chair. After spending weeks in an improper chair fighting for the airline to fix her wheelchair, Figueroa developed pressure ulcers that became infected and spread to her bones. Despite emergency surgeries, she passed away on October 31, 2021.

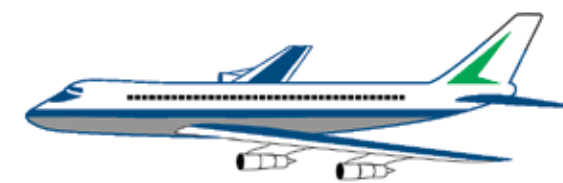
**The DOT settlement with United requires the airline to undertake a number of efforts to improve the air travel experience of wheelchair users.**

**Specifically, the settlement requires the airline to:**

- Roll out a flight filter on its booking engine to make it easier for passengers who use wheelchairs to find flights where their wheelchairs can fit and be safely transported.
- Refund the fare difference for passengers with wheelchairs that use the flight filter when the passenger's preferred flight cannot accommodate their wheelchair and the flight that they travel on with their wheelchair is more expensive.

- Conduct a pilot program to explore whether additional equipment, such as a medical wheelchair or other form of moveable or non-moveable chair, can be utilized to safely accommodate passengers waiting for loaner wheelchairs because of damage or delay to their personal wheelchairs during a flight.
- Provide passengers whose wheelchairs were damaged or delayed accommodation options, including United ensuring the timely delivery of the loaner wheelchair to the passenger, as part of the pilot program.
- Seek feedback from each passenger who checks a wheelchair for transport in the aircraft cargo compartment. United will take the feedback into consideration when developing and enhancing its practices and procedures for handling wheelchairs.

The joint statement released by PVA says that, "While nothing can erase the pain and suffering Engracia endured, nor bring her back to her family and community, we recognize the actions that United Airlines will be required to take as part of the settlement with the [DOT] and see it as an important first step forward in acknowledging the challenges and real dangers that many people with disabilities encounter when they travel by air." It further states, however that "much more needs to be done to increase air travel accessibility and prevent injury and loss of life."







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**WHEELCHAIR CURLING ON CAPE COD**



**Thursday thru Sunday, November 9 -12, 2023**

\$400 USD Rink Fee per 4 person Team (\$100 USD per curler)

\$175 USD per person Transportation Charge (optional)

\$70 USD per Non-Curling attendee for all meals

(Entries are accepted through October 15, 2023)



**Includes:**

- 3 games guaranteed, 3 events
- Continental Breakfast every morning during the competition
- Casual Lunch on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
- Cocktail Reception: Thursday Eve.
- Supper on Friday & Saturday night.
- Finals & Awards Brunch on Sunday Morning

*Schedule is subject to change based on the number of entries received*



Cape Cod Curling Club  
37 Highfield Drive, P.O. Box 396  
Falmouth, MA 02541 • (508) 540-2414

**On-line registration is available at:**

<https://tinyurl.com/CapeWheelSpielReg23>

**Reservations plus all applicable fees must be received in US dollars on or before October 15, 2023.** Payment can be made electronically or by check.

**Entry fee** includes all curling games, meals and awards.

**Transportation charge** includes one round trip from/to Logan Airport and the Curling Club, plus a daily round trip from/to hotel and the Club (some restrictions apply).

**Non-curlers** who wish to guarantee advance meal reservations will include all breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Otherwise, meals may be available during the course of the event on a pay-as-you-go limited basis.

**For Registration and Information, contact:**

**Kathy Maloney**, Co-Chair • Phone: 617-834-0807  
Email: kaamaloney@gmail.com

**Nanci Pacheco**, Co-Chair • Phone: 774-392-0106  
Email: nanpach7@gmail.com

[www.capecodcurling.org](http://www.capecodcurling.org)



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