

## State of Our Chapter

by Mark Murphy, Executive Director NEPVA

Each year the President of the United States gives his annual State of the Union speech before a joint session of Congress. When I was watching President Biden's address on March 7th (which happened to be on my birthday, still upset I didn't get invited!) I was thinking that there is some wisdom to the tradition of the Commander in Chief talking to all US citizens about the nation's challenges and successes. Leaving the politics out of it, and no matter who the sitting President is, they usually expound upon their legislative wins and what they have done to improve the lives of Americans. The President always gives a kind of summary statement as well, which typically says, "The State of our Union is Strong!"

With that, I thought for my article this month I would lay out a "State of Our Chapter." Here are some points that shows the current strength of our Chapter, while looking ahead to a year that will be full of events and opportunities

### GET OUT AND GO FISHING IN 2024



to continue positively impacting the lives of paralyzed and disabled veterans throughout New England:

...looking ahead to a year that will be full of events and opportunities to continue positively impacting the lives of paralyzed and disabled veterans throughout New England.

**Serving our Members:** Over the last year we have offered many free adaptive sporting and recreation opportunities. These programs empower veterans to grow physically stronger and more confident and provide them with opportunities to travel and build relationships. This is one of the greatest acts of service that we can provide as a Chapter in improving the quality of life for our members. Our NSO's are also indispensable in serving our members and connecting them to VA benefits. In collaboration with our NSO's, we have served and helped many veterans with catastrophic disabilities who encounter barriers in their communities by empowering them to advocate for the removal of those barriers. At a time in this nation when many government services are underfunded, we help to fill an important void. Without our assistance, many paralyzed veterans in New England would not have proper access to the benefits, services, and rights they have earned through their honorable service.

**NEPVA Veterans with MS Program:** In February 2023, we launched this program to create activities and resources geared towards a growing population of paralyzed veterans. The program is managed collaboratively by Board of  
*continued on page 3*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**NEPVA Chapter Golf Tournament**  
**August 19, Hingham, MA**  
**South Shore Country Club**

**NEPVA OFFICERS & BOD**

**Officers**

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 Vice President, Mike Moran  
 Acting Secretary, Mark Sanders  
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**Executive Director's Report**

By Mark Murphy

Executive Director NEPVA



*continued from page 1*

Director Chuck Houle and staff member Kristen McCone Gordon. We offered several events specific to our members with MS and geared to their interests and abilities. We co-hosted an adaptive "Learn to Curl" event in partnership with Home Base, hosted information Zoom sessions for members, established the NEPVA Veterans with MS Committee, and prioritized effective communication with members by creating flyers, sending direct mailings, and producing newsletter articles and Facebook posts on program activities.

**A Strong Government Relations Program:** Because 2023 marked the beginning of a congressional session, with Kristen McCone Gordon's leadership we placed an emphasis on federal congressional outreach. We changed our Chapter's strategy for our annual Capitol Hill visits to reflect a growing advocacy team and a new focus on priority legislation impacting caregivers. Our Chapter sent a delegation of 6 people to Washington D.C. for the Annual PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar (AD/LEG) in March and divided our delegation into teams to cover additional ground. In a 2-day period, our teams met with 17 congressional offices. During last Spring and early Summer, we continued meeting with legislators in their district offices. A highlight of the year was Rep. Larson and Rep. Hayes from Connecticut inviting our Chapter to speak at their joint press conference on critical PVA Social Security legislation and we secured Chapter President and National Director Brad Carlson a speaking role there. We also continued promoting PVA's VoterVOICE platform on our Facebook page, in this CordWord, and at Chapter and community events. In the Fall, Kristen also proposed a new effort for our Chapter: New England PVA AD/LEG 2.0. Kristen, Brad and Kathy Carlson, and I travelled back to Washington, D.C. for more in-person meetings with members of the New England congressional delegation. In addition to the Elizabeth Dole Act and raising concerns about air travel accessibility, we advocated strongly for PVA's Justice for ALS legislation and improving social security benefits for our members.

**Strong Chapter Communications:** Communicating

regularly with our members, producing and distributing monthly newsletters, and creating public awareness of issues of concern for members has been of utmost importance to our Chapter. This CordWord effectively provides current information about Chapter programs and activities. We also email our members regularly to keep them up to date on what is happening in the Chapter. Our Chapter Facebook page has been an increasingly effective way to communicate with and disseminate information to members and friends, and overall engagement on Facebook has increased exponentially over the past year.

**Strong Chapter Fundraising Program and Finances:** Our Chapter has grown in our financial stability, primarily through increased and successful fundraising efforts. We received generous grants over the last year from The Boston Red Sox Foundation, The Disabled Veterans National Foundation, and The Pilot Company. We also re-engaged current and new donors to support our Chapter's mission while also growing our Chapter's planned giving program. At the end of 2023 we received many generous major gifts and bequests, which enables us to serve and impact our members more effectively.

At this year's State of the Union address, President Biden said "The State of our Union is strong and getting stronger!" Depending on your politics and point of view you may agree or disagree with that. With the points listed above, and although it only scratches the surface of all the many programs and services our Chapter offers, I can say with absolute confidence that the State of our New England PVA Chapter is strong and getting stronger each day.

Sincerely,

Mark Murphy, Executive Director



## NEPVA WOMEN'S VETERAN NETWORK JOIN US FOR OUR INAUGURAL ZOOM APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> AT NOON

Women Veterans make up 1.8 million of the U.S. population, of which roughly 10 percent are disabled and enrolled with the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are the fastest growing Veteran population, yet many of these women often feel forgotten and pushed aside while trying to navigate a system that wasn't designed to address their unique healthcare needs.

PVA's ties to women Veterans date back to its first meeting in 1946 with the arrival of its first female Veteran member, Anita Bloom (affectionately known as "Nita"), who fought to ensure women Veterans' healthcare needs were properly met. PVA continues Nita's legacy to this day as part of its Women Veterans Initiative. From the development of its Anita Bloom Committee and creation of its Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat to its advocacy efforts and informative webinars, PVA serves as the nation's leader in securing safe, equal, and accessible health and wellness services that are at least equal to what they had prior to joining the service and suffering a disability.

The New England Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America is committed to listening to and serving our women veterans! Please join us for our inaugural NEPVA Women's Veteran Zoom on April 30th at noon to learn more about what PVA can offer you. All women veterans are invited and encouraged to attend!

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87285976995?pwd=uLrxTKnXvnIwT0JmhHfCfBIVa2pY0j.1>

Please contact Kristen McCone Gordon, NEPVA's Director of Government and Community Affairs, with any questions! Kristen can be reached at [kristen@pvanewengland.org](mailto:kristen@pvanewengland.org)

## Washington Update

### National President Robert Thomas, Jr. Testifies Before Congress

On March 6, PVA National President Robert Thomas, Jr. testified before a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees regarding PVA's public policy priorities. During the hearing, he stressed the need for comprehensive support systems and policies that address the unique challenges faced by our nation's veterans with catastrophic injuries and diseases. President Thomas fervently advocated for legislative initiatives aimed at enabling and empowering disabled veterans, their families, and caregivers. He increased the impact of his message by referencing real-life challenges faced by actual PVA members, like [U.S. Army Veteran/PVA National Vice President Anne Robinson and her husband, Harry](#), who are among those unable to hire direct care workers due to the low pay and labor shortages. Throughout his testimony, President Thomas addressed several key policy priorities, including the dire need to protect and strengthen VA's specialized systems of care; address staffing shortages; expand access to long-term care services; improve availability of home and community-based services; and enhance VA benefits for paralyzed veterans and their survivors.

During the Q&A session, President Thomas was invited to comment on the process that SCI/D veterans must follow to get assistive devices through VA and how the Veterans Spinal Trauma Access to New Devices Act (Vet-

erans STAND Act) (H.R. 6373) would improve this process. The STAND Act seeks to improve veterans' access to assistive devices that promote independence and mobility. It also directs the VA to do a better job reaching out to SCI/D veterans about the importance of having annual medical exams. President Thomas testified that technologies that improve mobility and independence are great to have and noted that they are improving constantly. Also, he noted that annual exams are extremely important to maintaining the health and wellbeing of SCI/D veterans.

The two-panel hearing lasted nearly three and a half hours. At the start of the second panel, former Senator Elizabeth Dole talked briefly about the [Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act](#), which is now part of an omnibus package of veterans-related legislation currently being negotiated between the House and Senate. She spoke of the bill's importance and urged the two chambers to work together to pass it quickly. You can watch a recording of the hearing [here](#). Senator Dole's comments begin around the 1:26:00 mark and President Thomas's oral statement follows shortly thereafter. His full written statement is located [here](#).

Produced by PVA  
Government Relations Department

### DOD and VA Announce Expansion of IVF Services

Last month, we highlighted the announcement from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the VA that the departments intended to expand access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) for some veterans and servicemembers. As a reminder, longstanding DOD and VA policies required that servicemembers and veterans be able to produce their own genetic material and the benefit was only allowed for heterosexual married couples.

The DOD and VA have formally announced that both healthcare systems will soon drop the marriage requirement to access care meaning that single and same sex couples will now be able to access the benefit. Additionally, the prohibition on the use of donated genetic materials will be dropped, meaning that veterans and servicemembers can now access donations to facilitate IVF.

The VA policy for IVF has been linked to a DOD policy that originated in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. The policy stated that as long as appropriators authorized the resources to provide infertility treatments, then the VA and the DOD were allowed to offer the services. This year's appropriations bill included the resources to offer treatments and services and with both agencies expanding the eligibility criteria, this should allow more veterans and servicemembers access to the benefit. However, veterans still need to have a service connected infertility diagnosis. Thus, we will continue to push forward legislation that includes infertility services in the medical benefits package at the VA which would remove the service connection requirement. You can read the PVA press release on the announcement [here](#).

# Government Relations Report

Dear NEPVA Members,

It's been a busy month for the Chapter and PVA as a whole. I'm thrilled to share the following updates and opportunities below. As the nice weather (hopefully!) approaches, I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and on zoom. As always, please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, comments, or ideas for how the Chapter can best serve our members.

With gratitude for your service,

Kristen McCone Gordon

*Kristen McCone Gordon  
Director of Government and Community Affairs*



## Independent Budget Recommendations Released

While Congress remains focused on passing this year's funding, The Independent Budget (IB) which is formulated by PVA, DAV, and VFW is looking to the future. The report serves as a comprehensive 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 IB's recommendations, coupled with the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget proposal, still yet to be released, will be used to guide Congress with its spending decisions for the coming year. For FY 2025, the IB veterans service organizations are recommending \$151.8 billion for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to ensure that all veterans choosing VA for their care receive timely and high-quality medical services. The IB report details specific funding levels and targeted increases for VHA programs, including a \$2.8 billion increase to fill clinical and support care vacancies across VHA and a \$1 billion boost in long-term care to account for the increasing number of aging veterans and their need for essential services. We also called on Congress to significantly increase funding for VA's major and minor construction programs and recommend a total of \$6.1 billion for FY 2025.

To view The IB's full budget recommendations, please visit [independentbudget.org](https://independentbudget.org).

## NEPVA to launch a Women Veterans Network in April 2024

Women Veterans make up 1.8 million of the U.S. population, of which roughly 10 percent are disabled and enrolled with the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are the fastest growing Veteran population, yet many of these women reportedly feel forgotten and pushed aside while trying to navigate a system that wasn't designed to address their unique healthcare needs.

At the New England Chapter, we are here to listen to and serve our women veterans. Please join us for our inaugural NEPVA Women's Veteran Zoom on April 30th at noon to learn more about what PVA can offer you. All women veterans are invited and encouraged to attend!

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87285976995?pwd=uLrxTKnXvnIwT0JmhHfCfBlVa2pY0j.1>



# NEPVA's Veterans with MS Program

**BUILDING COMMUNITY  
INFORMATION SHARING**

**NEPVA Veterans with MS Program offers two upcoming opportunities. Our NEPVA Veterans with MS Program is gearing up for two great events open to our members with MS and their caregivers.**

## Upcoming Informational Zoom: Ask a Social Worker!

All NEPVA members with MS and their caregivers are invited to an informational zoom on April 16th at 5:30 p.m. with VA social workers Michelle Turcotte-Smail and Tina Birdsall. Co-hosted by NEPVA Director Chuck Houle, the zoom will include a brief presentation on benefits available to veterans with MS followed by an informational Q&A session.

### Presenters:

**Chuck Houle:** Member of the New England Chapter Board of Directors and Chapter MS lead to National PVA.

**Michelle Turcotte-Smail, LICSW:** Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders Clinic and Polytrauma Clinic Social Work Coordinator at the White River Junction VA Medical Center. Michelle has worked for Veterans Health Administration for 14 years in the Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders Clinic, Polytrauma Clinic, Primary Care, and Geriatrics.

**Cristina Birdsall, LCSW:** Received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from University of Connecticut and her Master's Degree in Social Work from Southern Connecticut State University. She began her social work career at the West Haven VA in 2012 on the inpatient hospital units before transitioning to the Spinal Cord Coordinator position in 2016. Tina took over the role as ALS Coordinator in 2020.

Please contact Kristen McCone Gordon at [kristen@pvanewengland.org](mailto:kristen@pvanewengland.org) with any questions on this event or NEPVA Veterans with MS program.

## NEPVA MEMBERS WITH MS INVITED TO THE BOSTON HOME'S OPEN HOUSE

NEPVA is thrilled to be invited to participate in The Boston Home's upcoming Open House featuring Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers on March 29th at 10am. The Boston Home, located at 2049 Dorchester Avenue in Boston, is a community for adults with MS and other advanced neurological disorders offering residential care as well as wellness programs. The open house will feature a demonstration from the Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers team to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn about the adaptive sports equipment and programs they offer, and find new ways to stay active while living with MS. This event is free to NEPVA members with MS. For more information, and to register for the event, please contact [Kristen@pvanewengland.org](mailto:Kristen@pvanewengland.org).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81131798705?pwd=i0xwqY7QdgScea8gDChWht3jnK4Mkj.1>



Meeting ID: 811 3179 8705  
Passcode: 124060

# Fishing with Mikey G!

by Mike Guilbault

## Fishing Season has Begun

With many trout fishermen already reeling in some of the tough to find tasty fish, it's time to inform everyone of the upcoming opportunities to do some fishing in 2024.



The Major Steven Roy Andrew's Fishing Outreach Program is another opportunity for veterans to fish in Bass Tournaments. NEPVA has sponsored this program for years and with the help of Move United, Gaylord Hospital and the CT Bass Federation there are 2 veterans fishing tournaments hosted by them and open to our members.

The VA Recreation crew also has 2 days when Massachusetts clubs are hosting a trout fishing derby for veterans.

## Get Out on the Water in 2024

**Major Steven Roy Andrew's Fishing Outreach**  
**May 7, Candlewood Lake Danbury, CT**

**September 17, Lake Congamond**  
**Southwick, MA**

**VA Veteran Trout Derbies**  
**May 18**  
**Marlboro Fish and Game Association**

**June 1**  
**Hudson, MA**

## INTRO to CYCLING INDOOR CLINIC - Durham, NH - Free for Veterans!

Are you looking to try cycling for the first time? Are you looking to purchase your own recumbent trike or handcycle? Are you looking to explore different riding styles? If so, this is the event for you!

Northeast Passage staff and volunteers will work with participants to demo various cycles and to find the best fit for you. Northeast Passage will have several options in the following categories: foot powered trikes, hand cycles, and tandems. We will also have representation and cycles from our friends at Bike-on.com available to try.

This event is held on an indoor track and is designed as an introductory event (this is not an indoor riding event). This event is appropriate for all ages. Saturday, April 13, 2024. Please choose one session:  
Session 1: 9:00 -10:30AM  
Session 2: 10:30-12:00PM  
Session 3: 12:00 - 1:30PM

**Free for Veterans thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.**  
**TO REGISTER: Pre-registration is required. Please contact Northeast Passage at 603-862-0070 or northeast.passage@unh.edu.**



# Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month March 2024



## Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers Information Session & Demo Event

The Boston Home, 2049 Dorchester Avenue, Boston MA 02124  
Friday, March 29, 2024, 10 am -1 pm, Free Admission

In honor of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Month, The Boston Home is proud to welcome Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers (SASC) for an information session and demo event. The Boston Home is a community for adults with MS and other advanced neurological disorders offering residential care as well as wellness programs. Join us to meet the SASC team, learn about the adaptive sports equipment and programs they offer, and find new ways to stay active while living with MS. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Victoria Stevens, Director of Communications at The Boston Home, 617-326-4310 or vstevens@thebostonhome.org.

## Service Officers Report

by Michael Snape,  
Senior National Service Officer

Flowers will bloom soon, as spring is arriving. There is hope that winter is ending. Greeting to all chapter members. This article is a follow-up to the article on DIC written in January 2024 by NSO Zachary Nuetzel and provides some additional information related to DIC.

As Zachary noted in his article “DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to surviving spouses, children, and in some cases surviving parents on a monthly basis. There are certain eligibility requirements which need to meet.” In some cases, unfortunately, the VA decides that the veteran has not passed as a result of a service connected disease or injury.

Recently, as part of legislative changes incorporated by the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (aka- PACT ACT), some modifications were made related to previous DIC denials.

Surviving spouses of a veteran who were denied DIC previously for a veteran who had passed from one of the new presumptive conditions added in the Pact Act may request to have those denials re-evaluated (this is due to the Pact Act adding those new presumptive conditions). If the revaluation grants DIC based on one those newly added presumptive conditions, the claimant’s (surviving spouse) award for DIC may be assigned retroactively back to the date of submission of the original claim.

As a refresher, we have listed below the presumptive conditions, times frames, and locations on which the above noted re-evaluation of DIC may be based.

Presumptive conditions due to burn pit exposure-Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease, Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis. Sarcoidosis, Chronic sinusitis, Chronic rhinitis.

Presumptive cancers due to burn pit exposure: Glioblastoma, Head cancer of any type, Neck cancer of any type, Respiratory (breathing related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Reproductive cancer of any type, Lymphoma cancer of any type, Lymphomatic cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Brain cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Melanoma.

Covered under these presumptions are: Veterans who served on or after August 2, 1990, on active duty in any of the following locations (including the airspace above those locations): Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates.

Veterans who served on or after September 11, 2001, on active duty in any of the following locations (including the airspace above those locations): Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan

For Vietnam-era veterans the following new conditions are considered presumptive for Agent Orange exposure: Hypertension (High Blood Pressure), MGUS or Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (a blood disorder which affects plasma within bone marrow).

### Veterans who served in below locations are presumed to have exposure to Agent Orange:

- 1) Service in Laos from December 1st, 1965 until September 30, 1969
- 2) Any U.S. or Royal Thai Military bases in Thailand from January 9, 1962 until June 30, 1976
- 3) Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, until July 31, 1980
- 4) Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977
- 5) Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969

### Other service locations for presumption to exposure to Agent Orange:

- 1) Service in the Republic of Vietnam, or on a U.S. Military vessel that operated in the inland water ways of Vietnam, or on a vessel that operated within 12 nautical miles from Vietnam and Cambodia (Blue Water Navy) from January 9, 1962 until May 7, 1975.
- 2) Service in or near the Korean DMZ from April 1, 1968 until August 31, 1971.
- 3) Service in the Air Force in which the veteran regularly and repeatedly operated, maintained, or served onboard a C-123 aircraft known to have been used to spray an herbicide agent during the Vietnam era.

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If your deceased veteran spouse served in one of time periods noted above, served in one of the locations noted above, and passed from one of the conditions noted above, and you were denied DIC because one of the conditions above was noted/listed as the primary or contributing factors to your spouse’s passing, please contact your local PVA office so that they may assist in determining if you are eligible to have the previously denied DIC claim reevaluated.

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

#### BOSTON VA REGIONAL OFFICE

Joseph E. Badzmierowski  
Director of Field Services  
J.F.K. Federal Building - Room - 1575 C  
BOSTON, MA 02203  
phone: (617) 303-1395  
fax: (617) 303-1396

#### WEST ROXBURY/BROCKTON VAMC

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

#### TOGAS, VARO, I VA CENTER

Michael Snape, National Service Officer III  
Bldg. 248, Room 112  
Augusta, ME 04330  
phone: (207) 621-7394  
fax: (207) 621-4829  
Serving Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

#### BRONX SCI

Amauris Polanco, National Service Officer III  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
James J. Peters VAMC  
130 West Kingsbridge Rd., Room 1D-52A  
Bronx, NY 10468  
phone: (718) 584-9000 ext. 6272

#### MANHATTAN

Zachary T. Nuetzel, National Service Officer  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
201 Varick St., Room 4W59.50  
New York, NY 10014  
phone: (212) 807-3114  
zacharyn@pva.org  
Serving New York, New Jersey and Connecticut

#### SYRACUSE VAMC

Charlie Tocci, East-North Area Manager  
800 Irving Ave., Room C419  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
phone: (315) 425-4400 ext. 53317  
fax: (315) 425-2940  
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# OUR VETERAN JOURNEY 2023-2024

From the bedside to the transition home and beyond, PVA fights for catastrophically disabled veterans, their families and caregivers at every twist and turn along their life journey. PVA advocates before Congress to ensure their claims are filed, their benefits are secured, and that they receive specialized, veteran-centric health care. PVA also works to ensure our members' voices are heard year-round and that they are given equitable access to meaningful careers, adaptive housing and automobile grants, accessible communities, assisted reproductive technologies, and more. And when a veteran has passed on, PVA works to ensure their families are taken care of.



Protect Access to VA's Specialized Health Care Services  
**S. 10 VA CAREERS Act**  
**H.R. 3225/S. 42 BUILD for Veterans Act**  
**✓S. 2174 VA Minor Construction Threshold Adjustment Act of 2023**  
**S. 2516 Veterans Accessibility Act of 2023**



Expand Access to VA Long-Term Services and Supports  
**H.R. 542/S. 141 Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act**  
**H.R. 1815/S. 495 Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act**



Increase Access to Home Modifications  
**H.R. 2818/S. 3290 Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act**  
**H.R. 4047 Autonomy for All Disabled Veterans Act**



Improve Veterans and Survivor Benefits  
**H.R. 303/S.1515 Retired Pay Restoration Act**  
**H.R. 333 Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act**  
**H.R. 1282/S. 344 Major Richard Star Act**  
**H.R. 1083/S. 414 Caring for Survivors Act**  
**H.R. 2441/S. 1028 Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act**  
**H.R. 3790/S. 1590 Justice for ALS Veterans Act**



Improve Access to Assisted Reproductive Technologies  
**H.R. 544 Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2023**  
**H.R. 5492/S. 2801 Veteran Families Health Services Act of 2023**



Improve Access to Air Travel  
**H.R. 1267/S. 545 Air Carrier Access Amendments Act**  
**H.R. 3082/S.1459 Mobility Aids on Board Improve Lives and Empower All Act**



Increase Employment Prospects for Veterans with Disabilities



Improve Access to Social Security Benefits  
**S. 3400 We Can't Wait Act**  
**H.R. 883/S. 320 Stop the Wait Act**  
**H.R. 671 Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act**  
**H.R. 3729/S. 1211 Social Security Caregiver Credit Act**  
**H.R. 4583/S. 2280 Social Security 2100 Act**

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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





Paralyzed Veterans of America  
New England Chapter  
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Email: [info@pvanewengland.org](mailto:info@pvanewengland.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm



**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**New England Chapter**

**Visit Us on the internet at  
[pvanewengland.org](http://pvanewengland.org)  
for all the latest event info**

## **Join Us** at Our Upcoming Events

additional dates to be announced soon.

**VA Summer Sports Clinic,  
July 22-26, Rhode Island**

**National Veterans Wheelchair  
Games, July 25-30, New Orleans**

**NEPVA Chapter Golf Tournament  
August 19, Hingham, MA**