

## Dear Friends,

By Mark Murphy, Executive Director NEPVA

Spring has arrived - finally - and with it, a renewed sense of energy and focus throughout our New England Chapter. While we continue to serve our members year-round, the change in seasons always brings new opportunities to connect, advocate, and grow stronger together as a community.

In this April newsletter issue, I want to highlight a powerful and practical piece written by one of our own, Chapter Board Member Ericka Haddad. Ericka, who lives with multiple sclerosis, shares her springtime survival strategies in a heartfelt article that includes equal parts of humor and wisdom. Her story is a reminder that living with MS doesn't mean living without joy, adventure, or even backyard water balloon battles. Ericka's voice is also a key part of our incredible and ever impactful NEPVA Veterans with MS Program, which we continue to strengthen thanks to the involvement of members like her. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to read her article - you will come away with a few good tips and even better perspective.

Next month, Chapter President Brad Carlson, his wife Kathy, and I will be representing the New England PVA at PVA's 79th Annual Convention in Austin, Texas. This annual gathering is an important time for all Chapters of PVA to come together, share best practices, and shape the direction of the national organization. It is also a time to ensure that our voices from here in New England are heard loud and clear in the conversations that matter most to our members.

Looking a bit further ahead, we are already preparing for one of our most important advocacy efforts of the entire year - PVA's 2025 Advocacy and Legislation Seminar in

## PVA Needs You – Sign Today!

Over the last couple of years, we have seen VA health care staffing shortages, a lack of investment in infrastructure, and an overall growing trend towards care in the community. In light of our ongoing concerns about changes at the VA, we created an online petition to quantify the need to improve funding and support of the VA's spinal cord injuries and disorders system of care. Nearly 2,700 individuals have already signed the petition. See page 7 to sign your name and show your support.

**We need veterans, caregivers, and supporters to sign!**

Washington, D.C., this June. This event brings PVA members and staff from across the country to Capitol Hill to advocate for critical legislation affecting veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Chapter volunteer Kathy Carlson for her help in coordinating our meetings with members of Congress during that week. Her support ensures that our voices are not only heard - but heard in the right rooms.

As always, thank you for being a part of this Chapter and our mission. Whether you are preparing for spring gardening, firing up the grill, dusting off your golf clubs, or getting ready to meet with your elected officials, know that we are with you every step of the way.

Looking forward to a season of strength, connection, and advocacy for us all.

Sincerely,

Mark Murphy  
Executive Director

The New England Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America (New England PVA) is a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1947 that has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members – veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.



The New England PVA uses that expertise to be the leading advocate for:

- Quality health care for our members
Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction
Benefits available because of our members' military service
Civil rights and opportunities that maximize the independence of our members

To enable paralyzed veterans to continue to honor this commitment, we recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for the Chapter to achieve its mission.

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VA Improves the Veteran Experience with Contact Centers

VA Office of Information and Technology

To provide fast, tailored and reliable support for the Veterans who call VA contact centers, as well as slash costs associated with older, legacy platforms, the VA Office of Information and Technology is transforming Veteran support by migrating VA contact centers to a new cloud platform.

Deploying solutions at the speed of need

The Women Veterans Call Center launched this effort on March 5, 2025, followed by the Office of Inspector General Contact Center on March 10. This shift from outdated systems boosts the resilience of VA's critical Veteran-facing platforms, cuts costs, and drives exceptional service to the Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors that VA serves.

These upgrades empower Women Veterans Call Center agents with scalable, reliable tools to provide swift, tailored support for women Veterans, and the Office of Inspector General Contact Center gains sharper insight and increased efficiencies to bolster oversight of Veteran care and benefits. Next up? The Veterans Crisis Line.

This new cloud platform's flexibility and AI-driven analytics allow VA to adapt instantly to Veterans' needs, from surges in Veteran outreach around benefits claims to national crises. Spread across fortified data centers, this new platform is as unyielding as those it serves—guaranteeing every voice is heard.



Slashing costs with zero compromise: Reinvesting in Veterans

Legacy systems are a financial anchor for many government organizations, draining funds into hardware, maintenance and bloated IT overhead. This new cloud platform reduces that burden, slashing costs with a lean, subscription-based model that eliminates the need for endless infrastructure spending. For VA, this isn't about saving pennies—it's about redirecting every dollar toward the Veterans we serve. Efficiency isn't a buzzword here—it's a lifeline.

This upgrade isn't simply incremental progress—it's a commitment to a new way of doing business, where advanced tools and rock-solid reliability redefine VA's services, allowing us to return our focus to the Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors that VA is privileged to serve.

We need your help in pushing our priorities forward. Sign PVA's SCI/D System of Care petition and count your voice. Scan the QR Code or click the link below.



https://www.votervoice.net/PVA/Petitions/5455/Respond

## Washington Update

### NOVA Legislative Seminar

PVA's National Legislative Director Morgan Brown and Senior Health Policy Advisor Roscoe Butler participated in the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA) Legislative Seminar which was held on March 21 in Washington D.C. This year's event brought together representatives from more than two dozen like-minded organizations from around the country plus congressional staff to discuss issues like preserving the VA and fixing the department's critical staffing shortages.

The impact of VA's recent dismissal of approximately 2,400 employees and future plans to reduce the department's workforce by another 80,000 later this year was front and center of many of the day's discussions. PVA briefed attendees on key priorities for 2025 which include preserving VA's SCI/D system of care by ensuring its proper funding, addressing current staffing shortfalls, and fixing infrastructure deficiencies that compromise veteran's care.

### House Reintroduces HISA Legislation

A priority piece of legislation has been reintroduced in the House by Representative Don Bacon (R-NE), H.R. 2245, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act. This legislation would increase the amount for veterans using the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant. This bill has been in play for several congresses now and PVA is eager to see it be signed into law.

H.R. 2245 would increase the HISA grant amount from \$6,800 to \$10,000 for service-connected veterans and from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for non-service-connected veterans. The bill would also authorize the HISA grant to be tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), allowing the grant amount to rise as the cost of construction increases.

Unfortunately, the legislation does not authorize additional grant funding retroactively, meaning that if someone previously exhausted the HISA grant before the legislation becomes law, they will not be eligible for additional funding after passage.

### SSA Announces Implementation of Stronger Identity Verifications

**O**n March 18, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that it is taking steps to implement stronger identity verification procedures for both benefit claims and direct deposit changes to enhance the security of its services. Initially, on March 31, the SSA will enforce online digital identity proofing and in-person identity proofing. Individuals who are unable to verify their identity online to access their "my Social Security" will have to visit a local office to prove their identity in person. These individuals will also have to start their claim for benefits on the phone but cannot complete the claim until after they verify their identity in person. Identities will have to be verified before starting a transaction. The SSA also plans to implement the Account Verification Service, which provides instant bank verification services. On March 26, SSA issued an update to the plan explaining that they would extend the policy's effective date by two weeks to ensure employees have the training necessary to help customers. Additionally, Medicare, Disability, and SSI applications will now be exempt from in-person identity proofing because opportunities exist to verify a person's identity during the decision process. April 14 is the new enforcement date for identity verification.

### PVA Meeting with VA Secretary Doug Collins

On March 21, CEO Carl Blake and Chief Policy Officer Heather Ansley met with VA Secretary Doug Collins. Our discussion focused on the importance of the VA's SCI/D system of care, the accountability offered by PVA's site visits, and the training provided to VA clinicians through PVA's Healthcare Summit. The Secretary is focused on providing services and care for veterans and holding VA employees accountable for their work. We look forward to working closely with Secretary Collins on ensuring that the needs of PVA members and their families, caregivers, and survivors are met.

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

**S**pring is officially here, and with it comes a full slate of exciting events, new programs, and strong momentum for our Chapter. I'm proud to report that our New England Chapter is doing fantastically - and it's all thanks to the incredible efforts of our members, volunteers, and staff who keep us moving forward.

First, I want to share how honored I am to once again represent our Chapter at the 79th Annual PVA Convention this May in Austin, Texas. As both Chapter President and PVA National Director, it's a privilege to bring the voice of New England to the national stage, along with Executive Director Mark Murphy and my wife Kathy. These gatherings are crucial opportunities to advocate for our priorities, connect with other Chapters, and help shape the future of PVA. I look forward to bringing back new ideas and renewed energy to our chapter.

On the sports front, we've got some exciting news: Vice President and Sports Director Mike Moran, along with Board Member Jim Wallack, have been hard at work launching our newly formed NEPVA Bass Trail. This is a great addition to our adaptive sports programming and opens new opportunities for members to enjoy the outdoors, build camaraderie, and engage in friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned angler or brand new to fishing, I encourage you to get involved - there's nothing like a day on the water with fellow veterans.

We're also looking ahead to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, coming up this summer. These Games are the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world and a true celebration of ability, resilience, and the power of community. Our New England delegation will have a strong showing again this year, and we can't wait to cheer on our athletes as they compete on the national stage.

And speaking of summer, don't forget to mark your calendars - August is going to be busy in the best way. We'll be holding our Annual Chapter Gathering & Clambake and our Annual Golf Tournament in the same week (August 18th and 24th, respectively). These events give members and supporters alike the chance to come together for great food, great fun, and great causes. More details will be coming soon but trust me - you won't want to miss either event.

As we gear up for a busy and fulfilling season, I want to thank all of you for being part of this incredible community. Whether it's through advocacy, sports, or simply showing up to support one another, what we're building together is something truly special.



by Brad Carlson  
NEPVA President

### See you out there!

Sincerely,

Brad Carlson,  
Chapter President  
& National Director



## Springing Into Action: MS Tips for Warmer Days

By: Ericka Haddad, Chapter Board Member

It's been a long winter, but (dare I say it?) spring might be here. Soon I hope to be eating grilled foods, getting garden dirt under my fingernails, and ambushing my toddler with water balloons. After living with multiple sclerosis for over 20 years I've found that my greatest path to victory isn't in outrunning my kid, but in laying the right trap.

Being ready is a big part of what makes the warmer months survivable with MS. A lot of us have problems with the heat. Heat can make symptoms worse. It makes me clumsier than usual and reduces the time that I can walk and stand. Luckily, there are some tools in my MS toolbox that help. Maybe some of these tools will find good use in your MS toolbox.

Let's start simple, an ice cube tray. Simple enough. You probably have some in your freezer. Are they full? Are they easy to get ice out of? I've found that an ice cube tray with a silicone bottom helps a lot when fighting to get the ice out.

The next simple one is a water bottle. One that you'll actually use. One that has a neck big enough to fit your ice cubes. I'm partial to my Camelbak, because when it gets knocked over (which isn't an if in my world, it's a when) it doesn't spill. But I've known people to live a very hydrated life drinking from an old milk jug. Nothing fancy needed. Staying hydrated is an easy way to help your body maintain body temperature. Ice water can do some heavy lifting on a hot day.

For the next simple item, I always plan my outings based on where I can sit down. So, I use my garden bench a lot this time of year. I can carry it around the backyard so I don't have to sit on the ground (unless I want to, of course). And on sunny days it's good to know where your shade is. A wide brimmed hat helps with that - and I have several.

Finally, less basic, but amazing to have, is a cooling vest. Mine has gel packs that I put in the freezer. So, it does take some prep time. There are other vests and scarves that don't need the freezer, they just need to be soaked in cold water for four hours of lower body temps. Just resoak when needed. These items make things like cookouts and farmers markets so much more enjoyable. Check with the VA, they may be able to buy some for you.



I really hope that this list helps someone who loves the outside and wants to spend more time out there. And I'll be over there, filling water balloons to be ready for a toddler with a water gun.

### PVA Files Motion to Intervene in Legal Challenge to DOT Wheelchair User Rule

PVA recently filed a motion with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for leave to intervene in *Airlines for America et al. v. U.S. Department of Transportation*, a legal challenge brought in February by major U.S. airlines against the Department of Transportation's (DOT) final rule titled, "Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs." The rule, published in December 2024, is focused on improving the safety and dignity of air travel for wheelchair users through increased training and notification requirements. In its motion, PVA argues that it and its members have a direct and protectable interest in defending the rule. The motion underscores that no party in the case adequately represents its unique interest and that the organization must be at the table to defend the regulations.

## REMINDER:

### Survey to Assess Accessibility During the 2024 General Election

PVA National is conducting a survey on accessible voting. The study aims to learn more about the voting experience of people with disabilities in the 2024 general election. The feedback received from this survey will inform our efforts to educate members as they face accessibility barriers in voting. This information will provide valuable insight and guide preparation for future webinars and other resources related to voting accessibility. To take the survey, scan the QR or click [here](#).



## Oppose Dismantling the VA's SCI/D System of Care

Time has proven that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the best provider of care for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D). It is essential that leaders in Washington, DC know this so they can ensure the VA's SCI/D system of care is protected. In recent years, we have seen cracks begin to develop in the system as it struggles with numerous clinical vacancies and infrastructure deficiencies that compromise veterans' care. We need to reverse these trends.

Join PVA National President Robert Thomas by signing your name to ensure Congress and the Administration know that its SCI/D system of care is necessary for the health of paralyzed veterans and is an essential part of the VA system. Our goal is to uplift your voice with the petition when President Thomas testifies before a Joint Session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees this spring.

### Petition Text

We urge you to oppose dismantling the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders (SCI/D) system of care, as veterans overwhelmingly prefer to receive their care at the VA and community providers are not equipped to adequately meet their needs. Veterans with an SCI/D tend to have complex medical needs, resulting in a need to see a multitude of medical specialists in a variety of different fields. The cohesive medical care provided by the VA medical system ensures that veterans can receive the care they need in one place. It also alleviates the often burdensome need to forward their complex medical history from one specialist to another to ensure their complex cases are fully cared for.

The VA's SCI/D system is the crown jewel of its health care system. The VA's integrated approach enhances continuity of care and fosters trust among veterans, who value the specialized services tailored to their unique needs. The failure in recent years to properly fund, staff, and invest in the system's infrastructure is slowly dismantling the SCI/D system of care, leaving paralyzed veterans with inferior care options in the community. The United States government must affirm its commitment to those who served, particularly those with the most significant disabilities, and ensure they receive the best possible care where they feel safe and comfortable.

Scan the QR code to access the petition and help save the VA SCI/D system of care.



## Sports & Recreation

### Northeast Passage Veteran Recreation

We strive to create an open and welcoming environment for Veterans in all of our programs. Veterans and Active Duty Service Members from all eras and of all ability levels are encouraged to participate in this program. Most options are provided at no cost to Veterans & Members of the Armed Forces through funding from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a partnership with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Operation Hat Trick and local organizations.

Join Northeast Passage for any of our regularly scheduled Adaptive Sports & Recreation events or check out one of our competitive teams in sled hockey, wheelchair rugby, wheelchair lacrosse or power soccer.

We also have a consistent offering of Veteran specific recreation events throughout the year. Join us, and other local Veterans, for group outings that shift with the seasons.

[northeastpassage.org](http://northeastpassage.org)

### Enjoy Massachusetts State Parks with the Universal Access Program

Discover adaptive recreation programs in Massachusetts state parks. These programs offer specialized equipment, modifications, and staff support and instruction.

The Universal Access Program offers guided adaptive recreation programs year-round and statewide. We strive to make our programs accessible to as many people as possible. We want our programs to feel welcoming, safe, and approachable to people with disabilities.

Our structured programs offer adaptive equipment and gear. Our staff have experience in providing activity instruction and support to people with a broad range of disabilities. We choose our programs locations to be as accessible as possible to people using mobility devices. Our program bases have accessible parking close by.

You will need to pre-register to attend a program. We understand that our program designs and locations may not be accessible to you depending on your individual situation. If you need an accommodation, please let us know during registration. We will do our best to provide the type of support you need to take part in our programs.

Each program has Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC). For safety and risk management considerations, everyone who attends our programs must meet these EEC. If you have questions about the EEC or about accommodations at programs, please get in touch with us.

[www.mass.gov/orgs/universal-access-program](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/universal-access-program)

### Northeast Passage offers to Veterans:

Cycling

Saltwater and freshwater fishing

Fly Fishing/Tying

Indoor rock climbing

Wood carving and art

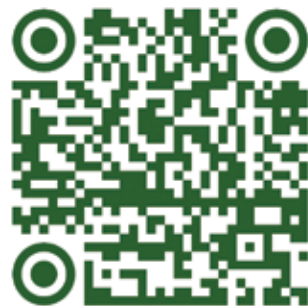
Water skiing

Kayaking & Paddleboarding

Archery

Bowling

Air Riflery



*The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Universal Access Program provides outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts state parks for visitors of all abilities.*

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

## Veterans Fishing Tournament

The Veterans Fishing Tournaments are open water bass tournaments for veterans or service members with a permanent physical disability, visual impairment or PTSD. Tournaments are held in May on Candlewood Lake in Danbury, CT or in September on Lake Congamond in Southwick, MA. Each veteran will be paired with an experienced angler and boat captain for a day on the water. The tournament includes all fishing equipment, a weigh-in and an awards luncheon. Prizes are awarded for the top 3 weights.

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. More Info at <https://sportsassociation.gaylord.org>

## Gaylord Veteran Adaptive Sports

The Sports Association Veteran Adaptive Sports Series (SAVES) is designated adaptive sports programming for veterans who have a physical disability or visual impairment.

### Programs have included;

- \* Kayaking,
- \* Fishing,
- \* Waterskiing,
- \* Adaptive Cycling,
- \* Archery,
- \* Yoga,
- \* Golf,
- \* Bowling.

We work with several groups from the VA who join us for regular adaptive sports programs. We also encourage veteran participation in any of our regular programs, to not only offer a wide range of opportunities, but to support veterans in attaining a healthy lifestyle, better quality of life and new peer relationship.

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

## Candlewood Lake Fishing Tournament

**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025

**Location:**  
Candlewood Lake, Danbury, CT

**Time:** 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Check-in:** 7:00 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.

**Fish:** 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Weigh-In:** 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Awards and Lunch:**  
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



## Service Officers Report

by Michael Snape,  
Senior National Service Officer

### The Home Improvement Structural Adaptations (HISA) Program

Spring is here, and with it warmer weather and blooming flowers and trees (sorry for those chapter members with allergies to pollen). This article will address the HISA (Home Improvement Structural Adaptations) program, including current proposed legislation.

#### What is the HISA program?

The HISA program provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to a veteran's primary residence. To be eligible for a HISA grant, a veteran needs to have a service-connected disability or a non-service-connected disability that requires home modifications. They must also be enrolled in the VA health care system, and have a prescription/consult from a VA or fee-basis physician for the necessary modifications.

An grant of \$6,800 is provided to address a service-connected disability, or to address a compensable disability treated "as if" is a service-connected disability and which the Veteran is entitled to medical services under 38 USC 1710(a)(2)(c) ( a disability acquired through treatment or vocational rehabilitation provided by VA), and to address a non-service-connected disability if the beneficiary has a service-connected disability rated at least 50 percent disability; note: in this instance no combining or combination of disability percentages is allowed. A grant of \$2,000 is provided for non-service connected issues not covered by the conditions noted above in this paragraph.

#### What types of modifications does the HISA grant cover?

Modifications that allow entrance to or exit from the primary residence, allowing ease of use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities, accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters, modifications that improve entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping, and upgrading/improvement of plumbing or electrical systems necessary due to installation of home medical equipment. Some examples of common modifications are walk-in showers, lowered counters, widened doorways, and ramps.

#### What types of modifications will HISA not cover?

Some examples of excluded HISA alterations are exterior decking; purchase and/or installation of spa/hot tubs/Jacuzzi type tubs; home security systems; removable equipment or appliances such as portable ramps; porch lifts, stair glides; and routine repairs of home maintenance like replacements of roofs, furnaces, or air conditioners.

#### How do you apply?

You need a prescription written or approved by a VA physician which includes a beneficiary's name, address and phone number, description of the prescribed project, including the area of the home to be improved or structurally altered; type of modification and items requiring installation, the diagnosis and medical justification for the prescribed improvement or structural alteration. The medical justification should demonstrate the project's clinical appropriateness, that is, the beneficiary's clinical needs should support the type of home improvement or structural alterations being prescribed. You also need to submit a completed and signed VA Form 10-0103 "Veterans' Application for Assistance in Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations." Generally, the application should also be accompanied by a contractor's approved estimate which contains labor and material costs, any necessary permits and inspections for the proposed modifications, along with a photo of the unmodified area. The completed application package is submitted to the prosthetics department at your local VA hospital for approval.

Legislation has been recently introduced in the House of Representatives, HR 2245-Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, which would increase HISA grant amount from \$6,800 to \$10,000 for service-connected veterans and from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for non-service-connected veterans. The bill also would allow HISA grant amounts to be tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which will allow the grant amount to rise as cost of construction increases. The bill will not retroactively increase the grant amounts, which

continued on page 13

...get to know  
your PVA service  
officer, they can  
help you navigate  
through the  
questions you may  
have on disability  
ratings and  
navigating  
the VA system.

### PVA Policy Priorities

With a new Congress and a new Administration in Washington, D.C., PVA's priorities for 2025 are focused on ensuring access to the care and benefits PVA members have earned and the civil rights protections they deserve. We look forward to working with our champions to move these priorities forward throughout the year.

#### PVA priorities for 2025 are as follows:

- Protect VA's Specialized Health Care Services
- Increase Access to Long-Term Services and Supports for Veterans with SCI/D
- Improve Veterans' Financial Security
- Enhance Access to Health Care Services for Veterans with SCI/D
- Defend the Freedoms of Veterans with Disabilities

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# EVENT SCHEDULE

## FY25

### April 2025 | Continued

National Air Gun Camp	April 14-18, 2025	Centreville, VA
Salt Lake City Pickleball Clinic	April 24-25, 2025	Salt Lake City, UT
Texas Bowling Tournament	April 30-May 2, 2025	San Antonio, TX

### May 2025

Puerto Rico Bocchia Tournament (Year-end event)	May 2-4, 2025	San Juan, PR
Land of Lincoln Bass Tournament	May 2-4, 2025	Whittington, IL
Intro to Paracycling Camp - Stop 2	May 8-9, 2025	Salt Lake City, UT
Intro to Paracycling Camp - Stop 3	May 21-22, 2025	Milwaukee, WI
Vaughan Trapshoot Tournament	May 23-25, 2025	Elburn, IL
Texas Air Gun Tournament	May 31-Jun 1, 2025	San Antonio, TX

### June 2025

Wheelchair Basketball Camp	June 6-8, 2025	Arlington, TX
Capital Clash Bass Tournament (Year-end event)	June 13-15, 2025	La Plata, MD
Colonial Pickleball Tournament	June 14-15, 2025	Perry Point, MD
Iowa Trapshoot Tournament	June 20-22, 2025	Cedar Rapids, IA
Grand Teton Outdoor Experience	June 23-27, 2025	Jackson Hole, WY
PVA Bowling Nationals - Great Plains	June 26-29, 2025	Omaha, NE
PVA Wisconsin Trapshoot Tournament (Year-end event)	June 27-29, 2025	Green Bay, WI

### July 2025

National Veterans Wheelchair Games	July 17-22, 2025	Minneapolis, MN
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Scan the QR Code or click the link below

to Register for the Games.

<https://wheelchairgames.org/athletes/registration>



Washington Update continued

### DOJ Announces Withdrawal of ADA Guidance

On March 19, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the withdrawal of 11 pieces of guidance related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). DOJ took the action in response to a January 20 Presidential Memorandum, “Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis.” The withdrawn guidance documents were released to the public between 1999 and 2021. A majority of the guidance was related to the COVID pandemic. However, the documents provided helpful information for how ADA protections should be addressed during other health emergencies, including whether caregivers can be excluded from health care settings. Other guidance withdrawn includes assistance at self-service gas stations.

### HISA continued from page 10

means if a chapter member has previously applied for a HIS A and used all their funding, they would not be entitled to additional funding on the increased amounts. We will continue to monitor this proposed legislation and advise of any changes in the status of the bill.

As always, if you have questions while completing the HISA process, you should reach out to your local National Service officer for assistance.

### Health Subcommittee Holds Oversight Hearing

On March 25, the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing titled, “Breaking Down Barriers: Getting Veterans ACCESS to Lifesaving Care.” The hearing consisted of five witnesses broken down into two panels. Chairwoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) opened the hearing noting that \$20.9 billion is the amount of funding VA received in 2001 at the onset of the Global War on Terrorism. In that same year, 16 to 18 veterans took their lives each day. She then noted that \$121 billion is the amount of funding VA received in 2024. Unfortunately, the number of veterans who died by suicide hasn’t improved.

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**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

New England Chapter



## Join Us at Upcoming Events

### **Annual Chapter Golf Tournament**

**Monday, August 18th**

South Shore Country Club in Hingham, MA

12 noon shotgun start on

Dinner, drinks, and awards to follow

**A great day of golf!**

### **Annual Chapter Banquet & Clambake**

**Sunday, August 24th**

Italian American War Veterans Post 45

Marlborough, MA

Free for members and guests, VA and Chapter Staff,  
and volunteers. Under a pavilion with DJ and cash

bar. **Fellowship and fun for all!**