

Advocating for Veterans on Capitol Hill: New England PVA Attends 2025 Advocacy and Legislation Seminar

By Mark Murphy, Executive Director NEPVA

From June 10–14th representatives from our New England Chapter traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in PVA's Annual Advocacy and Legislation Seminar. This important event brought together Chapters from across the country to amplify the voices of paralyzed and disabled veterans and ensuring that their needs and rights remain a national priority.

Our New England delegation included me, Chapter President and PVA National Director Brad Carlson, Vice-President Mike Moran, and longtime Chapter volunteers and caregivers Kathy Carlson and Denise Pease. The week began with a comprehensive training seminar led by PVA's national staff on Tuesday, preparing us to bring a strong, unified message to Capitol Hill.

On Wednesday and Thursday, we met with several members of Congress and their staff to advocate for key legislative priorities that impact the lives of veterans with spinal cord injury and disease. Brad Carlson delivered a compelling case for the passage of the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act (H.R. 2245 and S. 1644), which would expand vital home modification grants. Mike Moran advocated passionately for increased access to adaptive vehicle modifications through H.R. 1364, emphasizing the importance of mobility and independence for paralyzed veterans. I stressed the urgent need for full funding and adequate staffing at the VA, particularly within the Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders (SCI/D) system of care, where recent cuts threaten the quality of services veterans depend on. Meanwhile, Kathy Carlson and Denise Pease

brought a powerful personal perspective to the conversation, sharing their lived experiences as caregivers to veterans with spinal cord injuries - a role that is too often under-recognized in policy discussions.

One of the standout moments of the week was our in-person meeting with Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a longtime

advocate for veterans. Senator Sanders commended our Chapter's incredible work and echoed concerns over current staffing

shortages and budget constraints at the VA. His continued support and attentiveness to our mission reminded us why

continued on page 13

We returned home energized, inspired, and more committed than ever to fighting for the rights, dignity, and independence of paralyzed and disabled veterans.



Chapter Vice-President Mike Moran, Senator Angus King of Maine, Brad and Kathy Carlson, Volunteer Denise Pease and Mark Murphy.

photo Keith Melnick

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.

NEPVA OFFICERS & BOD

Officers

President, Brad Carlson
 Vice President, Mike Moran
 Acting Secretary, Mark Sanders
 Treasurer, Chuck Houle

Executive Board

Bernice DeBlois	Paul Nyerick
Erica Haddad	Mark Sanders
Chuck Houle	Dustin Soroka
Gary Jezierski	Jim Wallack
Mike Moran	Keelan Zenion

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Bass Trail Liaison, Mike Moran
 Community Outreach, Mark Sanders
 MS/ALS Liaison, Chuck Houle
 Peer Mentor Rep., Mark Sanders
 Sports Director, Mike Moran
 National Director to PVA, Brad Carlson
 Women Veterans POC, Bernice DeBlois

NEPVA Staff

Executive Director, Mark Murphy
 Office Volunteer, Denise Pease

HOSPITAL LIAISONS

Brockton, MA VAMC, Gary Jezierski
 West Roxbury, MA VAMC, Mark Sanders
 Northampton, MA VAMC, Tim Kelly
 Providence, RI VAMC, Mike Guilbault
 Manchester, NH VAMC, Mike Moran
 West Haven, CT VAMC, Ed Dusick
 White River Jct, VT VAMC, Chuck Houle
 Togus, ME VAMC, Neal Williams

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS

Jim Clark	Denise Pease
Denise Harvey	Holly Warshaw
Maureen Morrison-Bohnwagner	

NEPVA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

1208 VFW Parkway, Ste 301,
 West Roxbury, MA 02132
 Telephone: (617) 942-8678, 1-(800) 660-1181
 FAX: (857) 203-9685;
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm

Cord Word is published twelve times a year by the New England Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, 1208 VFW Parkway, Ste 301, West Roxbury, MA 02132 in the interest of Chapter members. Membership in NEPVA entitles you to a free subscription to *Cord Word*. Articles published in *Cord Word* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, New England Chapter. NEPVA neither endorses nor guarantees any of the products or services advertised herein.

Executive Director's Report

By Mark Murphy

Executive Director NEPVA

I am writing to share some exciting and important updates from our New England Chapter as we continue our mission to support and empower paralyzed and disabled veterans through advocacy, health and wellness, adaptive sports, and community engagement.

From June 10-14 our Chapter proudly participated in the Annual PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar in Washington, D.C. Our team - including Chapter President and PVA National Director Brad Carlson, Vice-President Mike Moran, dedicated volunteers and caregivers Kathy Carlson and Denise Pease, and myself - spent several meaningful days engaging with national leaders, learning about policy developments, and advocating on Capitol Hill for the critical needs of our members. Advocacy is of course a cornerstone of what we do as a Chapter. Whether it is pushing for increased access to VA healthcare, improving transportation services, or expanding benefits for caregivers, our voices matter. We were honored to speak directly with members of Congress from across New England, emphasizing the importance of strong federal support for disabled veterans. These conversations are not just sym-

bolic - they help shape policies that directly impact the daily lives of our members and their families. Please see my cover article for more information and pictures from our extremely impactful week of advocacy in DC.



Looking ahead, we are gearing up in earnest for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games taking place this July in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This incredible event is the largest annual wheelchair sports competition in the world, and we are proud to have many Chapter members participating and VA staff and Chapter volunteers attending and supporting the athletes as well. These Games serve as a testament to the unbreakable spirit and shared bond of veterans living with disabilities. We look forward to cheering on our athletes as they represent our New England Chapter with pride and determination.

And mark your calendars! Our Annual Chapter Golf Tournament will return to South Shore Country Club in Hingham, Massachusetts on Monday, August 19th. This event is not only one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, it is also a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together in support of our mission. Whether you are swinging a club or sponsoring a hole, your support helps us continue providing programs and services to veterans living with spinal cord injury and disease.

As always, thank you for being part of this critical work. Your involvement - whether through advocacy, sports, volunteering, or giving - makes a discernible difference. May we keep pushing forward together.

Sincerely,

Mark Murphy
Executive Director

photo Keith Melnick



Washington Update

House Committee Hearing Examines Veterans Legislation

On June 12, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Health met to examine a dozen bills impacting the availability of health care for veterans. In a statement for the record, PVA strongly endorsed the CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act (H.R. 1404), which would allow dependent children to retain VA health coverage until age 26. For most Americans with health insurance, their adult children can remain on their plan until this age with no separate premium, as mandated in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). That is not the case with the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA). Coverage for children under CHAMPVA currently expires when they turn 18, unless they are full-time students. In this case, they continue to receive coverage until they turn 23, stop attending school full-time, or get married. CHAMPVA and the military's TRICARE programs were not affected by the ACA, so they required separate congressional action to extend these benefits to children up to age 26. Congress addressed this discrepancy for TRICARE in 2011, but they have yet to act on similar legislation that would make the change for CHAMPVA.

The VA testified in opposition to this bill. While we agree that CHAMPVA was not directly affected by the ACA, we disagree with VA's assertion that

CHAMPVA is not health insurance. For example, certain types of care and services require preauthorization. This approval is extremely important, and the failure to obtain it may result in denial of the claim. We also pointed out that the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which advises Congress on programs like this, seems to view it the same way. In an October 2024 report to Congress on VA health-care programs for dependents and survivors, CRS said, "CHAMPVA is primarily a health insurance program where certain eligible dependents and survivors of veterans receive care from private sector healthcare providers..." The bottom line is that the government shouldn't deem veterans' dependents and survivors less worthy than civilians for support, and we urge Congress to correct this inequity as soon as possible.

The subcommittee also reviewed and discussed the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (H.R. 2148), which would provide greater support for the family caregivers of veterans. It would ensure family caregivers enrolled in CHAMPVA remain enrolled for up to 180 days following their dismissal from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, unless they have been dismissed for fraud, abuse, or mistreatment. Other provisions in the bill would offer bereavement counseling, job training assistance, and help with professional

relicensing costs to help caregivers ease into the workforce or into retirement once their time as a caregiver has concluded. Caregivers are often the most important component of rehabilitation and maintenance for veterans with catastrophic disabilities, and their welfare directly affects the quality-of-care veterans receive.

Finally, PVA also testified in support of H.R. 2605, the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act, which requires the VA to establish a competitive grant program to fund nonprofit organizations that provide service dogs to veterans with a variety of disabilities, such as mobility or vision impairments or PTSD. Service dogs provide invaluable assistance to disabled veterans with the greatest support needs, allowing them to live more independent lives in their communities. This bill would require nonprofit organizations seeking a grant to submit an application to the VA Secretary that includes a description of the training that will be provided by the organization to eligible veterans; the training of dogs that will serve as service dogs; the aftercare services that the organization will provide for the service dog and eligible veteran; the plan for publicizing the availability of service dogs through a marketing campaign; and the commitment of the organization to have humane standards for animals. Passage of this legislation will increase veterans' access to service dogs and their independence.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

As we enter the heart of summer, I want to reflect on the great momentum we've built so far this year - and share a look at what's ahead for our Chapter. Earlier this month our Chapter delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. for the 2025 PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar, where we joined fellow Chapters from across the country to raise our voices on the issues that matter most to our members. I was especially proud to be joined by Chapter Vice-President Mike Moran who attended his first-ever PVA advocacy seminar. Mike represented our Chapter with passion and professionalism, asking sharp questions and making a real impact in our meetings with lawmakers. It's no small task to dive into federal policy discussions on your first trip, and Mike handled it like a seasoned pro. Mark Murphy, my wife Kathy, and Chapter volunteer Denise Pease were also huge contributors in making the week such a success!

During our time on Capitol Hill, I personally focused on advancing improvements to VA home modification grants

in our conversations - a critical need for many of our members. Accessible housing is not a luxury; it's a foundation for independence and quality of life. I informed Congressional members that the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program rates have not increased since 2010, but the cost of home modifications and labor have risen more than 50% during that time. Sadly, many



We are strong because we show up for each other, for our community, and for the innovative future we're building together.

of our veterans incur astronomical out of pocket expenses precisely because the grant amount is too low to cover the costs of accessible home improvements. I was encouraged by the interest and support we received from several members of the New England congressional delegation. These conversations are ongoing, but we left D.C. with renewed confidence in our ability to effect change.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share again that our Chapter will be sending a strong team of athletes to the 2025 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Minneapolis, Minnesota in July. I'm honored to be competing too and am looking forward to representing our Chapter in several events. The Games are always an inspiring reminder of what's possible through adaptive sports and peer support - and I can't wait to see my fellow New England athletes in action.

And of course, one of our favorite Chapter traditions is just around the corner: our Annual Chapter Clambake, which will be held on Sunday, August 24th at the ITAM Post 45 in

photo Keith Mellnick



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.

PVAction Force Update: Sign Our Petition

We need your help as we raise our united voice through our petition urging Congress to oppose any efforts to dismantle the VA's spinal cord injuries and disorders system of care. Our goal is to reach 5,000 signatures by June's Advocacy/Legislation Seminar. We currently have over 2,800 signatures. When we meet with members of Congress in June, we plan to share the number of individuals in their states and districts who have signed the petition to raise awareness on how important this is to us. If you have not had the chance to sign it, there is still time. Sign your name to our petition today.

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



VA Summer Sports Clinic July 21st-July 25th

We hope to see you there!



Veteran Usability Recruiting Opportunity

PVA recently participated in a briefing by VA's Section 508 Compliance Office, which ensures systems and information technology platforms are compliant with federal laws related to digital accessibility. According to the office, their efforts have increased website compliance from 26 percent in 2022 to 98 percent today.

The VA would like to hear from veterans about the accessibility barriers they encounter. Participating in user experience research studies pro-

vides them with a direct link to veterans about how they engage with VA platforms, apps, and other VA systems. If you would like to participate in the user experience studies, visit <https://veteranusability.us/>. After registering, you'll be asked to fill out a Participant Recruiting Screener Questionnaire which will determine your eligibility for specific studies. The VA will send studies that align with the responses given in the Screener Questionnaire to further determine your eligibility for participation in each study.



SCAN QR TO PARTICIPATE

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

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

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.



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

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**
- * **Water Skiing**
- * **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.



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.

<https://sportsassociation.gaylord.org/veterans-fishing-tournament>

Lake Congamond

Date: September 16, 2025

Check-in: 7 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.

Fishing: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Weigh-In: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Awards and Lunch: 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.



Service Officers Report

by Michael Snape,
Senior National Service Officer

Summer is here, and with it the arrival of warmer temperatures. Make sure to stay hydrated and cool during the higher heat prevalent during summertime.

This article expands on the May 2025 CordWord article which discussed the SAH (specially adapted housing) grant.

An alternative grant known as the Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grant is also available for those chapter members who qualify for the SAH (specially adapted housing) or SHA (special housing adaptation) grants. The TRA grant assists chapter members with service-connected disabilities who are temporarily living in a family member's home; with the purpose of making that home more accessible. The TRA grant provides financial assistance in adapting a family member's home to meet specific needs related to the individual's service connected disabilities. For chapter members eligible for the SAH (specially adapted housing) grant, the TRA grant can be up to \$49,062. For chapter members eligible for the SHA (special home adaptation) grant, the TRA grant can be up to \$8,760. The May 2025 CordWord article provided the criteria for eligibility for an SAH (specially adapted housing) grant. The criteria for SHA (special home adaptation) is different and is noted below.

A veteran must be entitled to compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for a disability that meets the requirements described in paragraph (c) of this section (shown below)

VA has rated the disability as permanently and totally disabling and it:

- (1) Includes the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands;
- (2) Is due to deep partial thickness burns that have resulted in contracture(s) with limitation of motion of two or more extremities or of at least one extremity and the trunk;
- (3) Is due to full thickness or subdermal burns that have resulted in contracture(s) with limitation of motion of one or more extremities or the trunk; or
- (4) Is due to residuals of an inhalation injury (including, but not limited to, pulmonary fibrosis, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

If chapter members believe that they may eligible for the TRA grant benefit under the eligibility requirements for either the SAH (specially adapted housing) or SHA (special home adaptation) criteria, they should reach out to their local National Service officer for assistance in applying for the grant.

REMINDER: Seeking Potential Class Members in Lawsuit Against Car Rental Company

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) filed a class action lawsuit against Hertz for failing to provide hand controls in most of the types of vehicles they offer for rent. DRA is seeking policy changes on behalf of a proposed class of people with mobility disabilities. If you have ever tried to rent a vehicle with hand controls from Hertz but could not get the type of vehicle you wanted, DRA wants to hear from you! DRA has put together a simple survey to collect potential class members' contact information. DRA will contact everyone who fills out the form. You can access the survey using the QR.. You can learn more about this lawsuit on [DRA's Ho v. The Hertz Corporation webpage.](#)



...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**

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

Zachary T. Nuetzel
1400 VFW Parkway, Room AG 60
West Roxbury, MA 02132
West Roxbury phone: (202) 416-1075
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

Daisy Lozada, Senior Administrative Assistant
Paralyzed Veterans of America
201 Varick St., Room 4W59.50
New York, NY 10014
phone: (212) 807-3114.
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
Serving New York & Western MA



NEW ENGLAND PVA CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

The Event

Serving paralyzed and disabled Veterans for over 75 years, the New England Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America is pleased to offer the 5th Annual Golf Classic. We invite all companies, individuals and friends of New England PVA to participate in this grand charity tournament.

Tournament

11:00 a.m. Have lunch, purchase your raffle and Mulligan entries and check out our silent auction items.

Noon. Shotgun Start, rain or shine. Scramble format.

4:00 p.m. Enjoy a beverage and place your bids on silent and ticket auction items.

4:30 p.m. "Golf in Italy" buffet served from Ironwood of Hingham.

Registration

Golf \$600 – Foursome or \$150 Single
Includes all meals and a swag bag

Who Benefits

We hope to fill the playing field with 120 golfers supporting the free programs and services provided by New England PVA to paralyzed veterans throughout New England.

NON-Profit

New England Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America is a Registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit. EIN: 04-6112881

Questions

Contact Holly Warshaw

Phone 508-846-0538

Email holly@pvanewengland.org

**MONDAY
AUGUST 18, 2025
NOON
SHOTGUN**



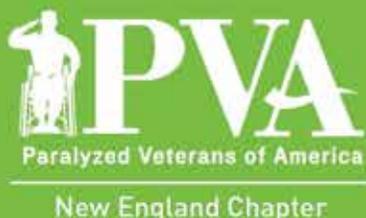
SOUTH SHORE
COUNTRY CLUB

**SIGN UP EARLY WE WILL CLOSE
TOURNAMENT AT 120 GOLFERS**

DEADLINES

Sponsorships Friday August 1, 2025
Registrations Friday, August 1, 2025

www.pvanewengland.org/golfclassic



charity
GOLF
classic

continued from page 1
this advocacy matters.

We returned home energized, inspired, and more committed than ever to fighting for the rights, dignity, and independence of paralyzed and disabled veterans. The voices of our Chapter were heard loud and clear - and we will continue to make sure they are never forgotten.



President's Report

continued from page 5

Marlborough, MA. It's always a great day of good food, good company, and good fun. I hope to see many of you there as we celebrate summer and the strength of our community.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our incredible Chapter. We are strong because we show up for each other, for our community, and for the innovative future we're building together.

Sincerely,

Brad Carlson
Chapter President & National Director

www.pvanewengland.org



One of the standout moments of the week was our in-person meeting with Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont.



photo Keith Melnick

MAXIM HEALTHCARE SERVICES

**You Served Us;
Now Let Us
Serve You.**



Maxim Healthcare Services offers a variety of home care services that allow veterans to receive care in the comfort of home. We serve veterans with ALS, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, tracheostomies, ventilators and more.

We work with the VA, TRICARE and CHAMPVA to serve veterans and their families.

Contact us today!
www.maximhealthcare.com





obi

INDEPENDENT EATING IS POSSIBLE

TRY OBI!

Request to try Obi
and experience
independent eating
in your home!

**CONTACT US
TODAY!**

- Eat what you want, when you want!
- Easy to use and easy to clean
- Custom positions and switches

**Qualifying veterans may receive
Obi at no cost through the VA.**
Manufactured in the USA

VA@MeetObi.com (844) 435-7624 www.MeetObi.com

House Passes Legislation Supporting Employment of People With Disabilities

The first week of June, the House of Representatives passed several pieces of legislation, most of which related to the Small Business Administration (SBA).

One of these bills, H.R. 1634, the Think DIFFERENTLY About Disability Employment Act, would establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the SBA and the National Council on Disability. The MOU seeks to provide assistance for people with disabilities who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs or who want to be self-employed. It would also help small businesses with hiring individuals with disabilities and increase accessibility for the

workplace. Additionally, it increases outreach and education to help more people with disabilities access information about how to become business owners. H.R. 1621, the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Report Act of 2025, also passed the House. This bill would require the SBA to submit a report to Congress highlighting challenges faced by entrepreneurs with disabilities. These bills will now move to the Senate for further consideration.



Access ramps are offered both custom and modular.





Metal Ramp Concrete Ramp Wood Ramp

Gianni is available for your ADA Solutions



www.starterlineconstruction.com
 865@starterline.com
 MA License # CS-057801



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
1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301
West Roxbury, MA 02132

tel: 617 942-8678
800 660-1181
fax: 857 203-9685

Email: info@pvanewengland.org

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



New England Chapter

VA Summer Sports Clinic
July 21st-July 25th

Register for the
2025 NEPVA Golf
Tournament



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!**