

RT '08



MPVA presents \$5,000 to Tuskegee Airmen

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



January/February 2008

Quotabilities

“For success, attitude is equally as important as ability.”

- Harry F. Banks

On the Cover:

MPVA presents \$5,000 toward the planned Tuskegee Airmen National Museum in Detroit.

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Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is one of 34 member chapters of Washington, D.C.-based Paralyzed Veterans of America. A Congressionally chartered veterans service organization, MPVA has been assisting veterans with spinal cord injuries or diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis and ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease), in Michigan since 1961.

MPVA programs include:

- Veterans' Benefits
- Wheelchair Sports and Recreation
- Spinal Cord Injury Research
- Equipment Donation
- Advocacy to eliminate architectural barriers and protect civil rights for persons with disabilities
- Referral Services for assistive devices, housing, employment and transportation
- Literature on a variety of topics including self-care, independent living, and disability rights.
- The Pump Guide: an online directory of gas stations throughout Michigan that will pump gas at the self-serve price for persons with disabilities.
- MPVA is a nonprofit organization and receives no federal funding. MPVA relies on grants, sponsorships, and private and corporate donations to support its programs.

The MPVA headquarters is in Novi, Michigan. Our service officers are based out of the McNamara Federal Building in Downtown Detroit.

Disclaimer:

The Rollin' Times is a publication of the Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. It is designed to inform the members of the PVA and other interested parties on veterans' issues, legislation, legal decisions, medical technology and other matters deemed to be relevant to the disability community.

The contents of this publication do not always reflect the views or policies of Michigan PVA, and no endorsement or approval is made or should be inferred with respect to products or services advertised herein. Consult an appropriate professional before making use of any product or service mentioned.



President's Report

By Kevin G. Elya

A Time for Reflection

Dear Friends,

The holidays having come and gone we all can again look toward this New Year as a fresh start. I often find I cannot move forward without reflecting back and learning from the steps in life I have already taken. I look at last year and our MPVA chapter and remember the wonderful times. Our open house in April and how we again were able to invite the public into our MPVA home and let them embrace us with what we truly stand for. I think about the many sporting events Scot headed up last year and all the fun times that were had by many. I reflect about our membership meetings, and the smiles and laughter we were able to share, as well as working together on ideas to make our organization better. I think back on our summer picnic and how great it is every year to see so many bring their families. I think about the board meetings and how lucky I am to have continually had board members who are on the board to truly help make a difference and not just fill a seat. I think about the office changes, we have had some staff members move on to bigger positions and some move higher within the office. We have added a new face, her name is Bonnie and she truly seems to already love her work. My mind drifts to the Veterans Day Dinner and what an honor it is each year to be a part of it. As I take a deep breath and sigh I remember how proud I am to be part of this organization and all of you who are in this with me. Last year was just another great chapter in my life and I look forward to making this next year an even better one.

I am preparing to go to Midwinter Boards in Florida where we will again be working on many resolutions. Last year at this time I had spinal surgery and good friend Ken Huber was kind enough to go for me. This year I look forward to the challenge of making positive choices for positive change for the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

With this New Year here I am sure you are like me and have tried to make a resolution or two. I have learned from my wife that making one is not the skill it is keeping it. She tells me every year to only make one heart felt one and I better my odds of keeping it. For this year it is to be more active at our VA hospital in Ann Arbor. I

chose the VA there because it is a short drive from my house and I have been going there myself for so long I truly feel at home. I cannot tell you how I feel working the volunteer desk and getting to meet our young soldiers returning from war. To look into these brave faces and realize the struggles many of them face just really hits me in my heart. I feel after all they have done the least I can do is be there to tell them how proud I am of them and assist them in any way I can. I want to extend an invitation to every MPVA member to join me in volunteering and reap the rewards of assisting our fellow veterans.

With these years PVA awareness week soon upon us I want to ask that this year we have new faces helping. If you would like to be involved this is a great time to become active in helping your chapter. Let's all try and do more in this New Year. We all can truly make a difference in the lives of our fellow veterans.

In closing I want to take time to say in the past year I have had many changes in my life, many good, some losses, and I would like to say some personal growth. I know that I still have a lot to do; we all can be better people. Being part of the MPVA offers us a great chance to do this. I again am asking to please if you have not attended a membership meeting please let now be the time you do. Let this year be the year you become involved. Not only will it help you but might help another member just get to know you. Let's grow together; I look forward to meeting you soon. ❄️





Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris

Judge Lets Justice Department Join MPVA lawsuit

Some interesting developments have taken place since the last time I wrote on this topic. In a hearing at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan the Department of Justice (DOJ) was granted permission to join the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) in its lawsuit against the University of Michigan that challenges whether the university's football stadium meets federal accessibility standards.

The DOJ was also granted permission to send a team of investigators to survey the stadium and gather evidence of potential American with Disabilities Act (ADA) violations before the proposed renovation and expansion projects begin.

In its complaint filed with the court the DOJ alleges that the University and its Board of Regents violated and continue to violate Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA, illegally discriminating against persons with disabilities by failing to make its football stadium accessible.

The DOJ complaint states that the program accessibility requirements of the ADA and Section 504 apply to the football stadium regardless of when that stadium was built, and imposes obligations upon the University to make the football stadium accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, because the University has added to and altered its football stadium over the past 16 years, federal law imposes additional accessibility requirements.

The DOJ action follows an investigation by the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR), which, on Oct. 26, 2007, issued a formal findings letter to the University concluding that the University violated Section 504 and the ADA. In a harshly worded 42 page report the OCR stated that the University of Michigan repeatedly violated federal law by failing

to retrofit its football stadium with adequate wheelchair access during recent renovations that have been on-going since 2004.

On Nov. 9, 2007, the Department of Education notified the

University that negotiations to achieve voluntary compliance had reached an impasse and referred the matter to the DOJ for litigation on Nov. 20, 2007. The reason given for the impasse was because the University proposal was unacceptable since it doesn't commit to any additional wheelchair seating until 2010 and does not commit to providing any permanent wheelchair-designated seating.

The unacceptable plan fails to meet many of the goals established for an accessible public stadium. Michigan Stadium currently has 90 wheelchair-accessible seats, all of them located behind the end-zones. The renovation plans approved by the University Board of Regents in May of 2006 included the addition of 207 more accessible seats. The plan offered by the University in response to the OCR letter would add up to 300 more, depending on demand. The University would analyze need for wheelchair-accessible seating at the start of each season and install or remove disabled seating platforms accordingly.

With a present seating capacity of 107,501, the University takes pride in having a stadium that holds more fans than any other collegiate stadium. In maintaining its status as the so-called "Big House," the stadium has undergone several renovations over the course of its 80 years. For each wheelchair location on a removable platform, approximately five to six non-accessible ambulatory seats are located below the platforms.

The University proposal would allow them to use removable and portable platforms which would extend over three rows of ambulatory (non-wheelchair accessible) seating. When the platforms are not used by wheelchair users, the University intends to remove the platforms in order to make more non-accessible, ambulatory seating, available to the public. Once the University removes any of the wheelchair platforms and uses the seats below the platforms for other guests, then the number of "fixed" wheelchair locations falls below the minimum standard established under the ADA for new construction.

With a plan like this, it seems the University doesn't understand that residents of Michigan who are wheelchair users are a permanent part of our society. It has provided a plan that is closer to a shell game: first you

Photo courtesy of Robert Chase, Ann Arbor News



The University of Michigan's \$226,000,000 stadium project which the university calls a "repair".

see the wheelchair seating, and then you don't. This design gives the University significant economic incentive to remove the wheelchair platforms in order to increase attendance and revenue at stadium events. It's also a disincentive to market the wheelchair seating locations to the disabled public.

We believe that if the stadium changes continue as planned then it fails to provide the minimum number of structurally "fixed" wheelchair locations as required by law. Further, we believe that the intended use of removable platforms violates the ADA because such a system does not comply with the mandatory requirements that the wheelchair locations be an integral part of a fixed seating plan. An impermissible alteration of the stadium will occur whenever the University removes any of the removable platforms during an event.

Repairs: Where is the proof!

The distinction between "repair" and an "alteration" in the federal accessibility standards is significant because buildings built before the ADA, each project will be interpreted by the builders according to their best interests which may not be aligned with ADA requirements. It could lead to greater difficulty for disabled individuals who frequent public places such as movie theaters, shopping malls; etc. since each project will be interpreted by the builders according to their best interests which may not be aligned with ADA requirements.

For example, an on-going project at the Stadium since 2004 has been the removal and replacement of concrete surfaces and the replacement of benches throughout the seating bowl. The University position has been, and continues to be, that this

work is nothing more than repairs, therefore excluding them from meeting the higher accessibility requirements. MPVA, DOJ and Department of Education disagree.

For one reason, the scope and nature of the project affected the usability of the seating bowl and were so extensive that they were precisely the type of renovation that the law contemplates would allow for increased accessibility. .

At no time has the University offered any support for its position. We have asked repeatedly for any information, factual or legal, that demonstrates or supports assertions that the concrete project does not constitute an alteration that triggers additional legal obligations on the part of the University. To this date, they haven't produced anything!

MPVA believes that the lawsuit is more far-reaching than simply providing wheelchair access during football games. A federal court ruling in favor of the University could have a devastating impact on the ADA both because it would open the door for other developers looking to sidestep ADA provisions and because it demonstrates that there are leaders who will go to great lengths in order not to accommodate disabled citizens. It is difficult to say which potential outcome is the more offensive.

Providing proper accommodation at Michigan Stadium for fans in wheelchairs is not up for debate. Yes, there are laws mandating that disabled people be properly accommodated, but the University – a public school supported by my taxes and yours -should not need such laws to do the right thing. 🇺🇸



Government Relations & Advocacy

By Bonnie L. Welbaum

Another New Year

It's another new year and I hope yours ended on a good note. We have much to be thankful for. Hope you had an opportunity to show your thanks to our veterans who served or are presently serving. I participated in two parades: the Milford Veterans Day Parade, and Detroit Veterans Day Parade, which was re-organized in November 2006 after a break of 36 years from the Detroit area. I'm pleased to report to you on the following legislative initiatives that benefit veterans like you and me.

National and State legislators, along with MPVA and other Veterans Service Organizations, are working to improve conditions for military personnel when they return home. Senator John Thune (R-South Dakota) announced Senate passage of the Appropriation Measure for Fiscal Year 2008. The bill provides Veterans Affairs with \$87.5 billion, an 11.5 percent increase

over last year and \$3.6 billion more than requested by the President. It's the largest increase in the VA's 77 year history. Of this \$600 Million will go toward five poly-trauma centers and also three centers dedicated to mental health.

Here in Michigan, Senate Bill 752 amends the Michigan Military Act to require that discharge certificates (DD214 for enlisted personnel discharged from the National Guard or Reserves) be sent to the home county clerk office for recording.. Another bill to benefit Michigan's veterans is Senate Bill 754 which creates the "Veterans Welcome Home Act". This bill requires the Dept of Labor and Economic Growth to provide returnees with a list of all State-funded veterans service

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Caregiver's Corner

By Annie Elya

From Our Family to Yours

The year sped past and here we are already starting a new year. I am sure many of you are like me and glad the holidays are over as it brings us a bit closer to the thought of spring and nicer weather. I do not mean to say I do not enjoy the holidays, I love being with friends and family, just could do without the Michigan weather. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. We did and I have to say it reminds me how lucky I am for those in my life. I over heard someone the other day telling Kevin how lucky he is to have me as a wife, I found my mind thinking, I am the lucky one. I know many think my being Kevin's wife and nurse is a hard task, but I laugh thinking this great man has to put up with a feisty Hungarian like me, I am the lucky one trust me.

We are planning to have a special support meeting. We will not be having it during the membership meeting as this meeting is for anyone to attend so we will be mailing out a special mailing announcing the date and time. We are having a meeting about sexuality and spinal cord injuries. We will be having a speaker and also be showing some products that are out that might help with this topic. I know for some this is a touchy topic but trust me, it will be informative and be presented as helpful information and will not make anyone feel uncomfortable. I feel we need this kind of information presented from time to time; this topic is as important a medical topic as any. I

encourage you to attend.

Due to low turn out for our meetings we will not be having our caregiver support meeting that runs along side of the membership meeting again until May. The regular membership meeting will still be going we will just be having special meetings from time to time until after May. I will keep all of you posted.

With spring not that far away I was hoping to organize an activity with the kids of the MPVA. We were thinking about maybe a bowling event for the kids. If you think this is something children in your family might like to do please contact me at 517-304-0765 and let me know. If we have enough interest I will be organizing it soon.

P.S I want to take a moment and thank someone. An MPVA member called me telling me their family member who usually hangs their Christmas lights was too sick this year to hang them and did I know of anyone who they could pay to put the lights up. My mind went to my friend Ken Vanblarcum. He is a kind man who is also a veteran and is the store manager for the Wendy's Restaurant in Howell on Grand River. He also hangs Christmas lights as a side job during the holiday season. When I called him to help he not only offered he helped for free. If any of you find yourself near the Howell Wendy restraint on Grand River stop in and say hello to Ken. He loves to meet fellow veterans. Thanks again Ken for helping. xoxoxo

Continued from page 5

Government Relations Report, Cont.

organizations (VSO's) in the veterans' welcome-home letter.

As a new Government Relations Advocate, I'm learning about state and federal departments, community services organizations, and provider services offered for the disabled or challenged, as well as Veterans Service Organizations assisting those who have served their country. With today's aging society, it is easy to see how MPVA's accomplishments (through ADA laws and Civil Liberty Acts) benefit both current wheelchair-users and future generation of aging seniors. Recently MPVA sponsored an Architectural Accessibility Seminar for 175 architects from the Detroit Metropolitan area. The sooner they learn about adaptive design the more likely they are to include it in their plans.

MPVA's www.ThePumpGuide.com is one way to learn about the gas stations eager to assist drivers with disabilities. Another initiative comes from Chicago-based Inclusion Solu-

tions (IS) which produces "FuelCall"™ a "BigBell Co."™ solution to ensure refueling assistance at the service station pump. Easier to reach than a button on the pump, this is a wireless alert that notifies the attendant inside with a doorbell melody versus just honking the drivers' horn. Mike Harris and I recently met with Adam Lauth and Brad Reinig from Marathon Petroleum to discuss Marathon's partnership in Michigan with IS. Marathon is encouraging its independent station owners to implement "FuelCall"™ pump service. Station owners can apply for a tax credit or a tax deduction when they take this added step toward ADA compliance which can make their total costs under \$350, if station qualifies for both the deduction and credit. It would cost \$532.00 if the station only qualifies for the deduction but not the credit, to fully imple-

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ment this solution for their grateful customers. Those interested in more information about the tax credit and tax deduction provision can contact the DOJ ADA info Line at <http://usdoj.gov/crt/ada/publicat.htm>.

I attended my first DMB (Dept of Management and Budget) meeting in Lansing recently. Doug Spade and Mike Clement, staff members for the DMB's Supplier Diversity Program, reported on the fulfillment of P.A. 91 and 92 which encourage businesses owned by service-disabled veterans to compete for contracts with the State of Michigan. An important provision of the program was the mandate to report back on its success. Spade and Clements announced results for FY 2007 and provided comparisons with 2006. Highlights include:

- 22 awards to service-disabled veterans in FY 2007, compared with 1 in FY 2006.
- \$2.481 million in award value in FY 2007, compared with \$191,800 in FY 2006.
- \$1.161 million payments in FY 2007, compared with no payments in FY 2006.

It was also noted that all contract awards and payments for service-disabled veteran owned businesses in FY 2007 went to Michigan businesses. They also reported that in the first six weeks of the 2008 fiscal year the State has already awarded contracts worth nearly \$1.3 million to service-disabled veteran owned businesses. They reported that their database of businesses owned by people with disabilities is now up to 665 (609 of which are Michigan businesses). Of that total, 295 are owned by service-disabled veterans (266 of which are Michigan businesses). MPVA was proud to support passage of PA 91 and 92 since an important provision was educating qualified business-owners about this new opportunity for success.

As I close, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and wish our readers the best in 2008. 🐾



Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn

A Great Weekend For Physically Challenged Hunters

Wheelin Team 457's Disabled Deer Hunt was held October 19, 20 and 21. When most guys are thinking about playing a last round of golf on a seventy degree day in October, there were 24 physically-challenged hunters with thoughts of bagging a white tailed deer.

The event was held once again at the Lions Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer and the Fowler Center in Mayville. There were twelve hunters at each camp.

A total of 12 deer were harvested, 6 from each camp. Wheelin Team's Hunting Director John Stockdale said, "There were more deer taken this year

then on any of the previous hunts, and the deer for the most part were bigger. We had everything from a 10 point buck down, to good size does. What a great hunt!"

Jim Bradley, from Snover, MI. was one of the lucky hunters who received a donated shoulder mount from Terry Cavanaugh - T.C. Taxidermy of Metamora. Greg Noe from Davison, MI. was another fortunate hunter who received a donated antler mount from Charles Rathka of Metamora.

Stockdale also stated, "With out the help of our guides, land owners, volunteers and sponsors this hunt would not have been as successful!"

As always, Stockdale offered a special thanks to his sponsors, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans, H. Morocco & Sons (Imlay City), Sporting Land Alliance, Whitetails Unlimited (Caro chapter) and Tim Horton's (Lapeer). The following donated processing for the hunters-Clarks Country Market, Country Smoke House, Crooked Creek, Francisco's Game Processing, H & S Market, McNees Processing.

For more information on Wheelin Team 457 or how to get involved with hunting programs, contact John Stockdale at 989-635-0090, e-mail js.wt457@yahoo.com or Ray Brown 989-225-9259 🐾





Sports & Recreation

By Jennell Connors, PVA Volunteer

Winter Sports Opportunities

Well, it's begun to snow, and you're all wondering what is there productive that you can do. I'll tell you. There are a lot of accessible, adaptive sports just waiting to be played throughout most of Michigan. Thanks to the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (CIL) recreation program, you don't have to be a couch potato all winter long. They offer Tennis on Fridays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the U of M Varsity Tennis Center). Also, they have Adapted Cycling Programs among the many valuable CIL activities. All events are free and open to people with all levels of abilities and experience.

For more information on their sports activities contact Mary Stack at **(1-734) 971-0277 x56** or mstack@aacil.org.

Another good way to have some fun while Jack Frost is nipping at your nose is looking into the Michigan Sports Unlimited, Inc. (Access to recreation ~ without limitations) The Winter Sports Include: Rugby, Basket Ball, Soccer, and Fitness. To find out more about these programs contact: Jeff Coupie, Program Director.

1915 Fordney Street , Saginaw MI 48601
www.misportsunlimited.com
jeffcoupie@misportsunlimited.com
(989) 771-5530

Another good activity to consider is Sled Hockey; it's in a lot of areas so get prepared. For the GLSC Sled Dogs it's in Great Lakes Sports City Arena in Fraser, MI . Also, For the Grand Rapids Program called the Sled Wings contact: Tanya Campbell 616-242-0352 or Tanya.campbell@maryfreebed.com. For more hockey related activities try the www.usahockey.com

For details and times, please contact Charlene Trick (Michigan Amateur Hockey Disabled Sports Director) 248-680-0839 or d3sledhockey@aol.com.

Unbelievable how many great things are available for everyone during the winter, right? Well don't tell

me about it, try it for yourself. Try places like the Sports Ability (Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan). They have plenty of things for you to try. Such as; Wheelchair Basket Ball, Fitness Training, Adaptive Bowling, Weightlifting Clinics, Hand cycling Clinics, and Tennis Clinics, if any of the following interests you contact:

Sue Boeve, Sr. CTRS
(Sports Ability Supervisor)
(248) 305-7386
sboeve@dmc.org
Or Myreo Dixon (Sports Ability Coordinator)
(313) 748-3548
mdixon@dmc.org

I can vouch for RIM, I so happen to receive treatment from the Rehabilitation of Institute in Michigan and everything they do with you is fun, and enjoyable.

My final activity is one I would suggest to anyone who likes to be fit and active. The CrossTrainers Fitness Forum is a good place to start with their upscale adult fitness facility for people of all abilities and disabilities. Meticulously maintained locker & shower areas, Personal and Semi-Personal & Adaptive Personal Training Sessions, Aerobics Classes, Paramount, Cybex, and Vortex Equipment, Recumbent & Upright bikes, Nutritional Guidance. CrossTrainers Fitness

It's located at 20596 Hall Road (facing South Heydenreich) Clinton Township , MI 48038
(586) 263-6600, crosstrainersfitness.com.

I would next like to ensure the ultimate possibilities to a fun, active, exciting summer with these activities. There is nothing we can't do as human beings, not disabled humans. If you try only one activity I would be satisfied with just you trying, I can't let this opportunity pass you by. All you have to do is pick up a phone and call, or e-mail, or even just howing up at the door.

All the information is available to you right here in this article. Take advantage of this opportunity and release your jingle bells during the holiday. 🎅

Holiday Party



For Sale

1995 Chevy full-size hi-rise van (Beauville).
Low mileage, excellent condition. Totally fitted
for independence for the driver with disabilities.
Asking \$9,000. Located in Michigan's thumb.

Contact Jewell Hacker
(989) 658-2579



BIRTHDAYS



Raymond A. Todd	January 01
Melvin G. Eisenberg	January 02
Eugene J. Cole	January 04
Douglas P. Gowing	January 04
Raymond D. Hill	January 04
Terry L. Laurain	January 05
Matthew W. Nedela	January 05
Jerome A. Winston	January 05
William L. Watts	January 06
Thomas M. Durkee	January 07
Richard R. Ference	January 07
Laverne W. Coleman	January 08
Patrick L. Smith	January 08
Marc P. Ferguson	January 09
Paul E. Goodpaster	January 09
Raymond H. Mays	January 10
Leonard J. Sposato	January 10
Michael J. Manfrom	January 11
Chester J. Grew	January 12
Michael J. McMahon	January 12
David G. Peck	January 12
James E. Hillaker	January 13
Gary E. Klatt	January 13
Mary E. Dingeldej	January 14
William B. Milzarski	January 15
Richard A. Crawley	January 16
John T. Koehler	January 16
Timothy A. Berczel	January 17
Michael J. Marko	January 17
James C. Pittman	January 17

Debra J. Hoogerhyde	January 18
John E. Tominac	January 18
Dennis Minnifield	January 20
Robert M. Lareau	January 22
Randall Charon	January 23
Joan Hamilton-Walker	January 23
Maurice L. Jordan	January 24
Dennis E. Neigebauer	January 24
Tameka R. Citchen	January 25
Leon S. Tallman	January 25
Alexander M. Urquhart	January 27
Pasquale Perna	January 29
Darrell Robins	January 29
George B. Whitehead	January 29
Fred Lauback	January 30
Vernon R. Bach	January 31



Claude G. Curry	February 01
Raymond E. Langley	February 01
Pauline P. Littles	February 01
Alvin J. Holmes	February 02
Richard V. Voss	February 04
Cheryl A. Vatcher-Bunke	February 05
Charles E. Armour	February 06
David M. Cohen	February 06
John V. Miron	February 06
Bradley J. Anderson	February 07
Nick Ivan	February 07
Donna L. Calderon	February 08
Anthony McNeal	February 09

Paula H. Shuler	February 09
Robert M. Vance	February 09
Charles P. O'Loughlin	February 10
Roberta Brezzell	February 11
William H. Burton	February 12
Haile Garrison	February 13
Jackie Lyons	February 13
Gregory L. Union	February 14
Angeline C. LeVasseur	February 14
James F. Hogg	February 15
E.R. Johnson	February 15
Larry D. Anderson	February 16
Gregory L. Herban	February 16
James W. Suhay	February 16
Kenneth V. Giorgio	February 17
Frank J. Smith	February 18
Anthony T. Bush	February 19
William A. Oltersdorf	February 20
Matthew R. Winters	February 23
Calvin P. Aldrink	February 24
Wendell J. Thompson	February 24
Bobby Bryant	February 25
Eddie J. Collier	February 25
Gary L. Cunningham	February 25
Donal S. West	February 25
Eric A. Appleberry	February 27
Adis A. Laws	February 27
Anthony A. Nemeskal	February 27
Diane E. Norton	February 27





Little guy needed big help

The problem wasn't that little Joey Dickinson uses a wheelchair; the problem was loading the heavy chair into Mom's SUV so they can do the important things like shopping for toys and cheering at his big sisters' baseball games. MPVA made that problem go away after a donor contributed a wheelchair lift perfect to meet Joey (and Mommy's) needs.

Wesley's standing thanks to a caring donor

An anonymous donor gave a Standing Chair to MPVA. We knew that MPVA member Wesley Russell was eager to have such a chair after getting repeated denials from the Veterans Administration. The donor was easily convinced to give the chair to Wes, and beyond that, paid all expenses related to the precise fitting required for Wes to use the wheeled alternative. That's a gift that makes a difference every day for Wes.



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3075 Grand River Ave., Suite 111, Howell, MI 48843
Phone: 517-548-5480, Fax: 517-548-5482



These locations serving all eleven counties quickly and efficiently.

SAVE the DATE!

Valuable Dates for 2008

Membership Meetings

(all meetings are on Thursdays)

at the Novi MPVA office unless otherwise notified)

January 24 April 24 May 22

August 21 September 18

Special Events

April 13-19

Paralyzed Veterans Awareness Week

April 17

MPVA Open House

July 19

MPVA member picnic

July 24-30

National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Omaha, NE

Nov.7

“Salute to Veterans” event

Dec. 6

MPVA Member holiday party



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A Member Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Permit No. 104

Change Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE!

January/February 2008