

RT '10

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Congratulations Hazel Park Junior High for Winning
“Best City Disability Award” in Future City Competition





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER

www.michiganpva.org



On the Cover:

Hazel Park Junior High School poses with MPVA Future City Judges as they show off their award for the best city for individuals with disabilities at this year Future City Competition. Please see the President's Report for more information.

Inside this Issue

President's Report	3
Executive Director's Report	4
From the Development Office	6
Government Relations & Advocacy	8
Veterans' News	10
Birthdays	12
Sports & Recreation	13

MPVA Officers and Directors

President	Kevin G. Elya	Director	John Dusa
Vice President	David Peck	Director	Nickolas Wercely
Secretary.....	Patrick Adams	Director	Quintin Williams
Treasurer	Clark Shuler	Director	Scot Severn
Director	Gary Grubbe	Director	Russell Stewart

MPVA Staff

Executive Director <i>Michael Harris</i> mharris@michiganpva.org	Administrative Assistant <i>Jan Black</i> chapterhq@michiganpva.org
Director of Development & Public Relations/Editor <i>Jaelyn K. Kochis</i> jkochis@michiganpva.org	Financial Officer <i>Linda Highland</i>
Director of Government Relations & Advocacy <i>Bonnie L. Welbaum</i> bwelbaum@michiganpva.org	Office Maintenance <i>Don Swale</i>
Sports & Recreation Director <i>Scot Severn</i> ssvern@michiganpva.org	Legal Advisor <i>Steve Cohen</i>
	Certified Public Accountants and Consultants <i>Morris, Kalish + Walgren, P.C.</i>
	Published by <i>Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America</i>

VETERANS BENEFITS DEPARTMENT

McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1233, Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 471-3996 or (800) 795-3608
Service Office Supervisor Charles Henning
Service Officer Stephanie Strickland • Service Officer Bonnie Williams
Service Office Secretary Marilyn Kittrell • Service Officer John A. Brezzell
National Field Director Laura Ellington
(202) 374-2032 Washington, D.C

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

40550 Grand River Avenue
Novi MI 48375
(248) 476-9000 Fax (248) 476-9545
Toll free: (800) 638-MPVA (6782)

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

Hazel Park Junior High School Wins “Best City Disability Award” in Future City Competition

It was an intense competition, with hundreds of students from Michigan elementary and middle schools coming together to compete in this year's Michigan Regional Future City Competition, sponsored by the Engineering Society of Detroit. This year's competition was held on January 25, 2010 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

The mission of the Future City Competition is to provide a fun and exciting educational engineering program for seventh and eighth grade students that combine a stimulating engineering challenge with hands-on application to present their vision of a city of the future.

The competition is a team-based program consisting of students, a teacher and an engineer mentor. Each team works hard to create a detailed, often fantastic, city of tomorrow that gives judges intriguing insight on how young minds envision their future. At the same time, their bold designs and innovative concepts provide a refreshing and optimistic appreciation of how our nation can realistically deal with the many challenges facing its cities, including: environmental disasters, crime, urban decay and urban sprawl. The students even present and defend their city to a panel of judges at the competition.

This year, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America once again presented a special award to the school that

created a Future City that best addressed the challenges faced by people with disabilities. We want to congratulate Hazel Park Junior High School for winning the 2010 “Best City Disability Award.”

The “Best City Disability Award” recognizes the school that not only addresses the everyday challenges facing the disability community — but more importantly, provides a blueprint for accessible solutions to these challenges. This special award prompts the students to include the disabled community in their thought processes when creating their future cities.

At this year's National Engineers Week Future City Competition, PVA will sponsor a special award that will be presented to the school that best demonstrates a city structured to accommodate people with disabilities. Birney Middle School in Southfield won this year's Michigan Regional Future City Competition, earning them the right to represent Michigan in the national contest in Washington, D.C.

Once again, I want to congratulate the talented team from Hazel Park Junior High School, and all the students who participated in this year's event for a job well done!



WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

James Willingham

We are proud you are part of the MPVA family!



Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris

Travel Information You Should Know

AIR TRAVEL: two words that can invoke thoughts of a relaxing vacation, sightseeing in a new city, or a visit to an exotic place. However, these two words can have a variety of other meanings and if you mention air travel to wheelchair users you are more likely to hear war stories rather than happy and exciting memories. Almost all wheelchair users have a few horror stories from their air travel experiences; and they can range from ignorance and discrimination, to lost or damaged chairs, and sometimes even damaged bodies.

Last year, I attended the Delta Airline Customers with Disability Advisory Board meeting. This was the first meeting since the Northwest/Delta merger. The 10-member-board consists of representatives from regional and national disability advocacy groups who review Delta policies, procedures and training programs related to customers with disabilities.

One of the positive developments to come out of the meeting was the announcement that Delta has partnered with a company called "Scootaround." Scootaround works with aviation companies throughout North America to ensure that mobility devices, which have been damaged due to airline negligence, are getting an efficient and timely resolution to their airline claim.

They have simplified the claims process by utilizing a toll-free phone number that takes you directly to their Airline Services Team. They are responsible for ensuring that the passengers' immediate needs are met and then they initiate the resolution process if necessary.

Here is an overview of Airline Service Program that Scootaround has initiated to ensure that someone with a damaged wheelchair gets the service and the attention they deserve:

OVERVIEW

Scootaround Optimum Service Vision:

Implementing claim servicing that is efficient for the Airline carrier and positive for the passenger.

Scootaround Optimum Service Benefits:

Improving the claims workflow by optimizing existing processes and providing centralized access to all the information necessary to service the claim.

Scootaround Point of Difference:

Implementing better collaboration and communication across all departments involved in the claims process, from first notice of loss or damage to settlement by:

- Following the passengers and their equipment resources that include rentals/repairs
- Maintaining online web reporting on individual claims that people will be able to access (e.g. "World Tracer Numbers")

Rental Equipment for Passengers:

Customers will be provided with a suitable mobility equipment rental for the duration of the claim if a rental is required as part of the solution.

Rental Process:

Once the passenger claim has been initiated, and a rental is deemed necessary, airlines will be required to follow these simple steps to get passengers up and running with a Scootaround rental in hundreds of major locations:

- Provide Scootaround with the customer's basic information (e.g. height, weight, and travel details), so that they may arrange for their immediate equipment needs
- Scootaround will deliver the rental equipment to the customer's location (e.g. airport, hotel,

resort, residence)

- Upon successful repair or replacement of their original equipment, Scootaround will collect the rental equipment from the customer's location (whether or not they have traveled home or to another geographical location)

REPAIRS:

Assessment by Equipment Repair Expert:

Equipment Repair Experts assess the damaged equipment and provide a comprehensive, cost effective solution. If deemed repairable, Scootaround will restore the damaged unit back to its original factory specifications.

Repair Process:

Damaged equipment is assessed and if repair is possible, Scootaround will use one of the following methods (depending on the assessment results and logistical requirements):

- The parts may be shipped to a qualified local or national repair shop for repair
- The equipment may continue traveling on with the passenger to be retrieved and repaired later in their destination city
- The equipment may be repaired on the spot (for minor issues), parts will be ordered from the appropriate manufacturers

Upon successful repair, the equipment will be shipped to the customer's chosen location. Scootaround coordinates all communication between the airline, passenger and repair facility.

REPLACEMENTS:

Factory-Direct Replacement When Required:

If the equipment is deemed irreparable (or if the cost of repair outweighs the cost of a replacement unit), a new unit can be ordered and delivered to the customer's location.

Replacement Process:

If the equipment is deemed irreparable, Scootaround

will provide comparative quotes and initiate a new equipment purchase upon approval.

- Scootaround will work directly with the equipment manufacturer or distributor to obtain a replacement unit that meets and satisfies the passenger's original equipment specifications.
- The equipment will be shipped to the customer's chosen location.
- If necessary, the equipment will be adjusted onsite so that the customer is satisfied with the replacement unit.
- All replacement equipment is provided to the customer with the full manufacturer's warranty.

If your personal mobility device incurs damage as a result of an airline-related mishap, you can call Scootaround's Airline Repair Department for an efficient and timely resolution to your airline claim. Their goal is to get you back up and running on your own mobility device as soon as possible, no matter what the issue. From a simple joystick repair to a complete vehicle replacement, Scootaround will help you process your airline claim from start to finish.

Scootaround's One-Call System allows someone to contact them with your airline claim number so that they can initiate the repair process on your behalf. Their support staff has years of experience in dealing with major airlines and carriers and have helped many travelers receive their mobility equipment back with the least amount of hassle.

Once the claim is verified with the airline, Scootaround will provide you with a mobility rental for the duration of the claim. Claim status reports can also be made available along the way via a toll-free hotline or by going online and accessing their website. Scootaround can be reached toll-free at 1-888-441-7575 during any day of the week. You may also visit their website at www.scootaround.com to learn more about them.

To ensure that this information is with you at all times a wallet size plastic card can be obtained by contacting our Chapter office at (248) 476-9000.





From The Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis & Linda DeVore

The Perks of Being an MPVA Advisory Committee Member

By: Jaclyn Kochis

As you may already know, the MPVA has an Advisory Committee which is made up of a group of dedicated business men and women who serve as professional advisors to the MPVA. Last year, the MPVA's Advisory Committee proved to be an enormous success as the 2009 Salute to Veterans Gala and Open House were among the best the Chapter has ever seen.

If you have had an opportunity to visit the MPVA's website at www.michiganpva.org, you will have seen that there is a portion of the site that recognizes the MPVA Advisory Committee. Under this portion of

the site, the MPVA has quoted famed political activist and author, Helen Keller, stating, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to do a little more for the individuals and businesses who have together done so much for us by opening a few of our Rollin' Times pages to our Advisory Committee Members. Please take some time to read the first of many articles written by our very talented and hard working Advisory Committee Members.



Feeding the Homebound

By: Linda DeVore / Program Manager, The Senior Alliance

AThe Senior Alliance, (TSA) Area Agency on Aging 1-C is a non-profit organization serving the 34 communities in southern and western Wayne County. TSA's mission is to coordinate a comprehensive network of services to enable older persons to function as independently as possible in the community environment, which best suits their needs. TSA provides advocacy, programming, planning, contracting, funding and personnel necessary to accomplish the foregoing purpose. Services are also provided to individuals with physical disabilities.

TSA has a comprehensive network of nearly 50 programs and services, such as: home delivered meals, Holiday Meals, Care Management, Caregiver Support Services, Information and

Assistance, Chore Services, Transportation, Senior Employment Program, MI Choice Waiver program, Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), and many other services critical to the welfare of older adults. The efforts of TSA are only possible through the help of volunteers, government support and fundraising provided by individuals and our corporate partners.

In the past year, The Senior Alliance has had remarkable success in all of its programs and has continued to provide services to meet the needs of hundreds of seniors. Older Americans and the disabled have witnessed many turbulent times in the history of our country including World Wars, The Great Depression, and tragedies of diverse kinds. They have made it through those times with

great resolve and dignity and are a valuable asset to the next generation. Without the fundamentals they have laid, this country would not be what it is today.

One of the programs that TSA provides is the Holiday Meals program, which delivers meals to seniors who otherwise would not get a hot meal on Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Labor Day. Seniors receiving these meals are homebound due to disability or frailty. Many of them may have no family to assist them or visit with them during the holidays. Meals on Wheels does not deliver on holidays, so programs like Holiday Meals through TSA ensure vulnerable and delicate seniors receive a meal for that day. Sadly, it is the only sustenance many of these elderly will receive during their day.

For many, this brief encounter with someone from the outside is very beneficial to the welfare of the senior and leaves a lasting impression on their hearts and minds, along with the actual nutrition that the meal provides. These seniors look forward to the companionship of the individual bringing the meals, if only for a few minutes. Sometimes, this is the only opportunity that they have to speak to another human being. How difficult this must be. I can only imagine how this brief visit tugs at

the heart strings of the senior. The Holiday Meals program has managed to reach its arms far into the community. Schools and churches participate by having children create beautifully colorful placemats that are delivered along with the meal; many times these seniors keep these placemats for the entire year as a keepsake.

TSA will be holding its 2010 Golf Classic at the beautiful Woodlands of Van Buren on July 30, 2009 with a 9:00 A.M. shotgun start. All of the money raised for this event will go towards the Holiday Meals program. So sign up to be a golfer, donate raffle and silent auction prizes, or even be a sponsor! By participating in the event, you will not only have the opportunity to support our community's homebound seniors, but you may also have the chance to win some fabulous prizes. Contact Linda DeVore, Program Manager, at 734-727-2017 or email me at LDevore@tsalink.org to purchase a sponsorship, register to be a golfer, or to request additional information.

Please see the photo above of Linda DeVore and Jaclyn Kochis at the 2009 Salute to Veterans Gala.



Valuable Dates for 2010:

- **Membership Meeting**

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon,

and the meeting begins at 1:00 PM

(All meetings are on Thursday at the Novi MPVA Chapter Headquarters unless otherwise notified.)

- **PVA Awareness Week**

April 11-17, 2010

Each year, the second week of April is recognized as Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Awareness Week, and 34 PVA Chapters across the country take time to recognize their years of service. "PVA Awareness Week was created with the hope of sharing the PVA's mission and its countless accomplishments with our nation's citizens.

- **MPVA Open House**

Thursday, April 15, 2010

10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

MPVA Chapter Headquarters

The MPVA will be celebrating nearly 50 years of service to Michigan during PVA Awareness Week. Please join us to find out more about spinal cord injury or disease, MPVA services and programs, and to show support for our veterans and residents with disabilities. Light food and refreshments will be served courtesy of the MPVA and MPVA Open House Sponsors. *Please see the inside back cover of this issue for more details*





Government Relations & Advocacy

By Bonnie L. Welbaum, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy

Springing Forward Into Legislative Training 2010

The spring season is upon us and I am expecting it will bring fourth warmer weather, chirping birds, buzzing bees, blossoming flowers, and of course, some exciting governmental debates at this year's PVA Legislative/Advocacy Conference which is scheduled to be held in Washington D.C. during the very first week of March.

Among the legislative talks, I am looking forward to seeing our PVA friends and family who always manage to put together an extremely informative conference. I am also looking forward to learning more about some key issues affecting veterans.

One of the issues we plan to find out more about will be the amendment of title 38 (HR 1335), United States Code, which will prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled. This has been an immense topic that PVA has kept watch over for the past few years and we are all advocating so that we can see this bill passed.

Similarly, we will be questioning the progress of the Severely Injured Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2009 (HR 3407). The bill, which was introduced in July of 2009, would improve compensation for severely injured veterans by increasing aid and attendance rates and expanding the number of veterans who would qualify for the benefit. More specifically, this measure would:

- Increase benefits for catastrophically injured veterans who require regular aid and attendance by fifty percent. Qualifying veterans would receive a monthly payment of \$7552, and those in need of the highest level of care would receive \$8642.

- Authorize aid and attendance payments for certain veterans with severe traumatic brain injuries.
- Codify a U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruling that protects non-service connected pension payments for severely disabled or house-bound veterans with low income. The bill would also increase the special pension by ten percent.
- Authorize certain veterans with severe burns to receive specially adapted auto grants.
- Double the monthly pension paid to Medal of Honor Recipients. The new monthly amount would be \$2,000. Brown of South Carolina had previously introduced this measure in H.R. 394.

In addition to finding out more about the Severely Injured Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2009 (HR 3407), we will also emphasize our stance on the importance of protecting specialized services the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides to injured veterans who are transitioning from military to civilian life. As recently as January 2010, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a meeting on Capitol Hill to discuss this very subject matter. It was concluded that the care of our returning and injured veterans should be looked at with a more critical eye so that it can become as seamless as possible. As PVA works directly with injured veterans, I look forward to hearing more about the protection and improvement of the VA's specialized services and will be sure to keep Rollin' Times readers posted on this topic, and all of the key points we discuss in Washington this spring.

Facing Health Care Reform Facts

While keeping our eye on important bills affecting veterans, we are also paying close attention to the health care debate. This controversial issue has left many wondering what to expect as no one can seem to agree on what the best way to move forward with any changes to our health care system.

Unfortunately, an issue that has remained under the radar is discussions on finding alternatives to nursing homes and other institutions when long term care services are needed. Historically, our long term care system has a heavy institutional bias. Every state that receives federal funding for Medicaid must provide nursing home services whereas community base services are optional.

In June of 1999, the United States Supreme Court decided in *Olmstead vs. L.C.* to support the 1990 American with Disabilities (ADA) "Integration Mandate" which declares that the unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions may constitute discrimination based on disability. What this means is that when professionals determine that a disabled individual can live in the community, and can be served effectively, the person must be given the choice of doing so.

There are currently two separate Acts that are imperative for individuals with disabilities to be aware of: The Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act (The Class Act) and the Community Choice Act (CCA). Prior to his death, Senator Kennedy introduced the CLASS Act, which would establish a national voluntary long-term care insurance program for actively employed individuals through a payroll deduction system

The CLASS Act would help individuals with functional impairments and their families pay for services and supports that they need to maximize their functionality and independence, and have choices about community participation, education, and employment.

The CLASS Act is designed for people with disabilities that have the ability to do some type of work. It is a national insurance program financed by voluntary payroll deductions, and administered by the Social

Security Administration. To qualify you must have paid through payroll deductions for at least 5 years. Those who are unable to work will not directly benefit from this act, however, they may indirectly benefit as it will allow offset some of the monies being used for Medicaid assistance.

Community Choice Act (CCA) is designed for people with disabilities that have not or cannot work. This bill is a community based alternative to nursing homes and institutions for people with disabilities. It is a plan to work with the Department of Justice to develop the "most integrated setting" criteria for determining and enforcing a model under the American with Disabilities Act. Under the CCA, Americans with disabilities or their families would be given the freedom to choose where they live; either in an institution or home

A term called "money follows the person" is a proposed concept where a much higher amount of money is set aside in all states so those who wish to be home with their families get the same money allocated for services that is currently allocated for nursing or institutional homes. Presently, the first choice is that the person must be hospitalized for Medicaid to be given. The amounts should be the same to those families who wish to hire caregivers for treatment or attendant care in their home, comparable as to what the Institutional homes receive.

Older Americans and people with disabilities often need long-term care, a type of care provided when a person is unable to care for him or herself. As the U.S. population ages and the baby-boomers reach age 80 and older, the total number of people needing this type of care is predicted to increase substantially. The demand for long-term care services, along with the cost of care, will surge.

Please stay tuned as we hope to find out more about the status of these two key issues while we visit Washington D.C. this spring.





By Charles Henning, Senior National Services Officer

ELIGIBILITY FOR WHEELCHAIRS FROM THE VA (Part II)

In my last article for the Rollin' Times, I discussed the basic eligibility criteria for obtaining a wheelchair through the VA Prosthetics Department at the VA Medical Center. I would like to continue on this topic by discussing the different types of wheelchairs a veteran can receive, what kinds of wheelchair accessories the VA can issue, and type of repairs that can be made on a veteran's wheelchair.

How Many and What Style Wheelchairs Can I Receive?

If you are an eligible veteran who requires the constant and continued use of a wheelchair, you may receive up to three wheelchairs. The first wheelchair is issued for your primary daily use. A second of equal quality will be issued as a spare or backup; for those times when your primary chair is being repaired or is otherwise unavailable.

A backup wheelchair may be necessary due to wear and tear on your primary chair. Thus, if your original chair becomes too worn down, it can be replaced with a your backup wheelchair. The backup chair may be the same as the original or may be a different make or model, as you and your physician determine.

A third wheelchair may be issued for use during sports activities, such as wheelchair racing or marathons, basketball, tennis, rugby, and so on. Generally, sports-model wheelchairs are designed for specific activities and are not appropriate for everyday use. For instance,

it would be difficult, if not impossible, to maneuver a three-wheeled racing wheelchair at home. However, this does not mean that a sports model, such as a rigid-frame tennis or basketball wheelchair, cannot be issued as a primary or spare wheelchair. The VA will provide you a sports wheelchair in lieu of a primary or spare wheelchair if it is appropriate for your everyday use in a given situation. The VA considers each case individually, as each case is unique. You may receive a rigid-frame wheelchair (tennis or basketball model) as your primary wheelchair, another rigid or folding-frame wheelchair as a spare, and a specialized racing wheelchair as a sports model.

For the VA to issue a sports-model wheelchair as a third wheelchair, the veteran should be actively engaged in a sport or recreational activity that requires a specially designed wheelchair, and your participation must enable you to obtain a higher level of rehabilitation.

If your primary wheelchair is motorized, the VA will not generally issue a spare motorized wheelchair. The VA will instead provide a manual wheelchair for back-up purposes; however, for unusual circumstances and severe hardship situations, a spare motorized wheelchair will be considered. Motorized wheelchairs can be issued if you have anatomical loss or loss of use of both legs, combined with a loss, loss of use, or severe impairment of both arms to the extent that you are unable to satisfactorily propel a manual wheelchair. You must have enough strength and control to operate the motorized wheelchair safely. If necessary, the Chief

of the Prosthetics Service may make a visit to assess the environment in which you will use your wheelchair.

What Kinds of Wheelchair Accessories Can The VA Issue?

Wheelchair manufacturers make many different kinds of accessories, including custom seat cushions, larger footrests, leg extenders, modified pushrims, removable arm or leg rests, anti-tipping devices, wheel locks, adjustable/custom backrests, and semipneumatic or high- pressured tires.

If your disability requires the issuance of a motorized wheelchair, the VA will provide batteries and a battery charger, since these are necessary components. Other accessories to the wheelchair may be added, such as a chin-operated joystick or a sip-and-puff controller. If you have residual strength in one or both arms, careful consideration will be given to issuing a manual wheelchair equipped with a one-arm drive or modified handrims. If there is an accessory available for the wheelchair you have selected that you feel is necessary to accommodate your disability, you should request the item from your prosthetics representative.

Will The VA Repair My Wheelchair?

The VA has the authority to repair the wheelchairs it issues to you if you are enrolled and receiving care from a VA hospital or clinic. Wheelchair repairs include parts replacement, alterations, modifications, or additions to a wheelchair furnished by VA. You should submit your request for repairs to the prosthetics representative or prosthetics clerk. Wheelchairs may be repaired if the cost of the repair is less than half the cost of replacement of the wheelchair. The prosthetics representative will determine whether it is more economical or practical to repair or replace the wheelchair.

If your wheelchair requires repair and you are enrolled at the local VA, but you are unable to obtain advance authorization, you may be reimbursed for the repair if you file a timely claim with appropriate documentation. You must show that the repairs were necessary and urgent, that you did not select the vendor to avoid using authorized sources, and that the cost was reasonable. If the VA deems the cost excessive, the claim may be allowed for the reasonable cost and the remainder of the cost disallowed. Repair costs are not paid for intentional damage or damage caused by your negligence.

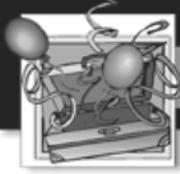
If you have any questions on this or any other topic please feel free to contact us at 1-800-795-3608



Sincere Condolences to the family of:

Raymond Ballog

Larry Bennett



BIRTHDAYS



MARCH

Joseph C. Haller March 01
 James D. Delaforce March 02
 Harold E. Edwards March 03
 Brian S. Felice March 03
 William H. Ramsay March 03
 Marilyn J. Kittrell March 04
 Leonard Davenport March 05
 Brian E. Sweet March 05
 Linda S. Froberg March 07
 Richard L. King March 09
 Joseph B. McDonald March 09
 James D. Rudolph March 09
 David A. Saukas March 09
 Howard P. Glover March 10
 Kenneth G. Timpe March 10
 John R. Hammann March 11
 William H. Parent March 11
 Ladell P. Bass March 12
 Christopher L. Clark March 14
 Steven T. McKay March 14
 James E. Saunders March 14
 Clark W. DeLoach March 15
 Stephen J. Egged March 16
 Cal Howarth March 16
 Gary L. Wood March 16
 Michael W. Ballard March 17
 Gary L. Calhoun March 17
 Peggy A. Campbell March 18
 Richard J. Idolski March 18
 Dennis W. Barton March 19
 Jane E. Brown March 19
 David T. Highland March 19
 Clark B. Shuler March 19
 Joseph T. Franz March 20
 Marshall C. Wittliff March 22
 Brian K. Chalmers March 23
 Duaine F. DePotie March 23

Derry L. Williams March 23
 Michael J. Ziebell March 24
 Gary L. Mallory March 25
 David S. Williams March 25
 Gordon Beerbower March 26
 Edwin Z. Mays March 28
 Robert J. Angiano March 29
 Stacey Boyd March 30
 Bradley R. Gomoluch March 30
 William J. Jones March 30
 Kenneth R. Landenberg March 30
 Roosevelt Steverson March 30
 George G. Wood March 30
 Bruce E. Beresh March 31
 Ronald E. Jervis March 31
 Lewis D. Johnson March 31
 Carl A. Pardon March 31
 Kevin J. Stone March 31
 Eugene C. Wilber March 31

APRIL

William B. Bresette April 01
 Elmer L. Hardy April 03
 Harvey Nussbaum April 03
 Lester Woodworth April 03
 Jerry R. Carter April 04
 Dale W. Verrill April 05
 Deborah K. Ward April 05
 Giovanni Bonacci April 06
 Gordon E. Lantz April 07
 James T. Rajda April 07
 David A. Feldman April 08
 Thomas A. Huber April 08
 William J. LaPratt April 08
 Henry J. Verner April 08
 Carl F. Hedley April 09
 Willie J. Henry April 09
 Alan J. Pomranka April 10
 Paul R. Schoonover April 12
 Ben L. Sincler April 12

Ronald S. Sams April 13
 Jack E. Teachout April 13
 Michael F. Harris April 14
 Santiago O. Gascon April 15
 Walter J. Miller April 15
 Catherine Morrison Graham April 15
 Joseph M. Connelly April 16
 Mary L. Dixon April 16
 Timothy G. Agajeenian April 18
 Kenneth L. Seaman April 18
 Jonas Hicks April 19
 Bobby R. Newsome April 19
 Pat Covington April 20
 George W. Kennon April 20
 Leroy D. Robbins April 20
 John C. Gretziner April 21
 Orville L. Hoath April 21
 Christian Key April 21
 Arvid Bowens April 22
 Theodore A. Fisher April 23
 Robert E. Williams April 23
 Kevin W. Bennett April 24
 Robert D. Boyd April 24
 Christopher Kemp April 24
 Tommy J. Meadows April 24
 Vince Pellerito April 24
 Paul J. Simasko April 24
 Willie Dexter April 25
 James A. Martin April 25
 Barbara A. Schoen April 26
 Paul E. Bazner April 27
 William J. Falzon April 28
 William D. Newland April 28
 Mark L. Carnes April 29



Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director



SAVE the DATES

Sunday/Monday May 23 & 24, 2010

"TIGHT LINES for TROOPS"

Saturday June 12, 2010

"TIPS-UP for the TROOPS"



HEROES in HELMETS

Sun/Mon
May 23 & 24, 2010

Little River Casino Resort &
Manistee County Charter Boats'
"TIGHT LINES for TROOPS"
Veterans Charity Salmon Tournament
Lake Michigan, Manistee, MI

*LRBOI Warrior's BBQ
Awards Banquet
Activities, Fishing and more*

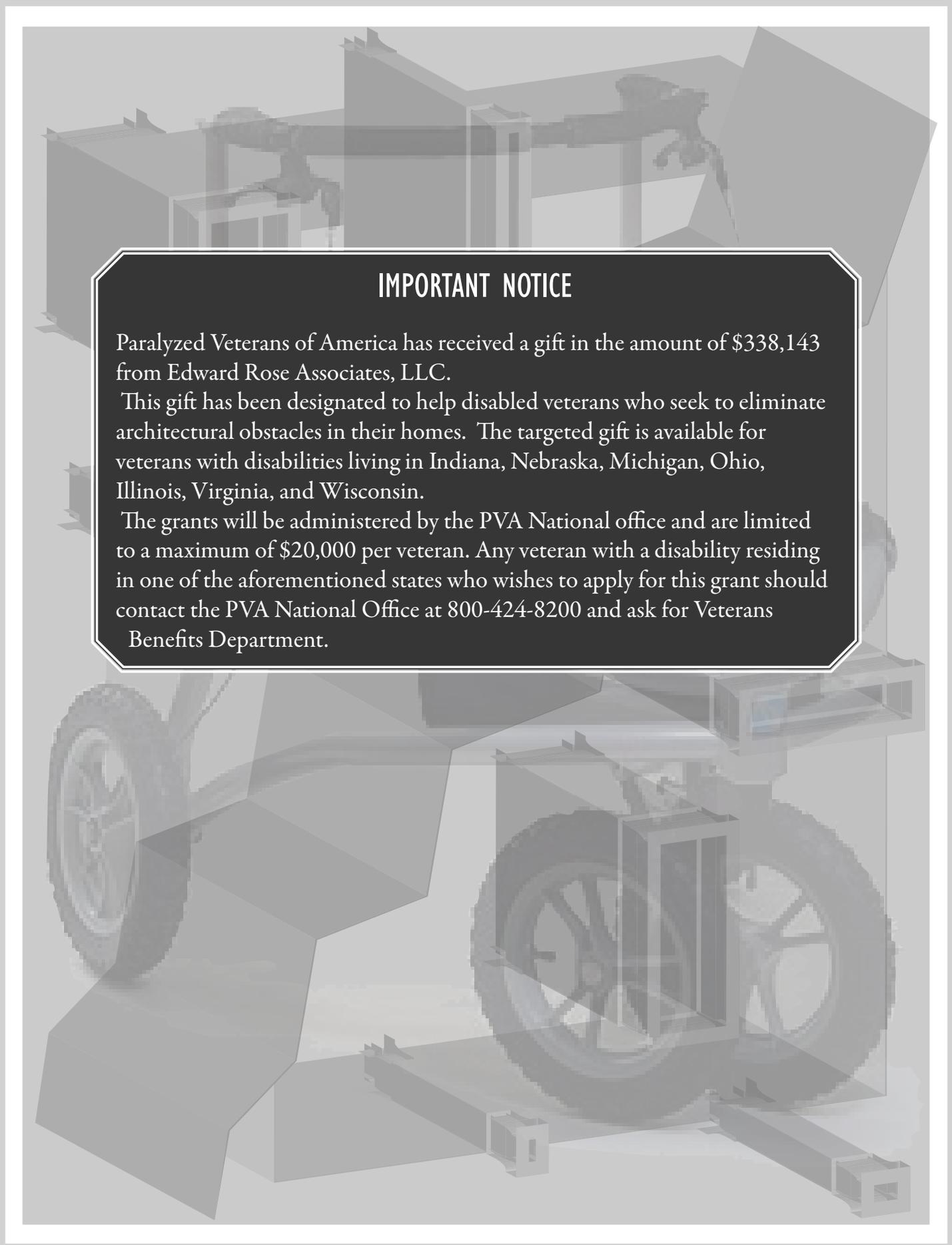
Join us in recognizing the dedication, leadership and sacrifice demonstrated by our military personnel as they fight to raise awareness on behalf of spinal cord and traumatic brain injury survivors and their families.

For more information please visit www.tips-up.com or contact Rick Briggs at veterans@biami.org or call (810) 229-5880. BIAMI and MPVA are 501-c-3 non-profit organizations.

Saturday
June 12, 2010

Legal Help for Veterans'
"TIPS-UP for the TROOPS"
Veterans Charity Bass Tournament
Kensington Metro Park, Michigan

*Eisenhower Center's BBQ
Nature Walk, Activities
Fishing and more*



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Paralyzed Veterans of America has received a gift in the amount of \$338,143 from Edward Rose Associates, LLC.

This gift has been designated to help disabled veterans who seek to eliminate architectural obstacles in their homes. The targeted gift is available for veterans with disabilities living in Indiana, Nebraska, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The grants will be administered by the PVA National office and are limited to a maximum of \$20,000 per veteran. Any veteran with a disability residing in one of the aforementioned states who wishes to apply for this grant should contact the PVA National Office at 800-424-8200 and ask for Veterans Benefits Department.

Date: April 15, 2010

Time: 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Place: 40550 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48375

Phone: (248) 476-9000

Fax: (248) 476-9545



Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Open House

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) will be celebrating nearly 50 years of service to Michigan during PVA Awareness Week. The MPVA is inviting all to come out and join us at our Chapter Headquarters in order to find out more about spinal cord injury or disease, MPVA services and programs, and to show support for our veterans and residents with disabilities. This is also a great opportunity for you or your company to strengthen your own relationship with existing clients and potential clients.

See the back of this invitation for more details!

Contact, Jaclyn Kochis, at (248) 476-9000 or jkochis@michigan_pva.org



MICHIGAN PARALYZED
VETERANS OF AMERICA
A Member Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America
40550 Grand River Avenue
Novi, MI 48375

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Plymouth, MI
Permit #217

Change Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE!
March/April 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Michigan PVA Bowling Tournament
May 20-23, 2010



Skore
Lanes
Taylor
Michigan