

# RT '10

*Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America*



Barry Olson, Founder/President of Project12Baskets Foundation, along with Dawn Collins, of Towers Watsons, pose for a photo as the MPVA is awarded \$4,000 from Project12Baskets Foundation at the 2010 MPVA Picnic.





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
**MICHIGAN CHAPTER**



## On the Cover:

The 2010 MPVA Picnic took place on July 18, 2010 at Lake Shore Park in Novi! Read more about this fun event in the Presidents Report.

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## Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

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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

## Good Bye to Summer, Hello to Fall

As we say goodbye to the record breaking 90 degree days, and welcome in cooler breezes and changing leaves, the MPVA will be gearing up for jam-packed season of events. Between Michigan Football beginning on September 4th, POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 17th, the "Run, Walk, Wheel" on September 18th, and Salute to Veterans Gala on November 10, 2010—there will be lots to look forward to.

When I look back on last few months, it seems like this summer absolutely flew by! One event that took place that was especially nice was the Chapter's Annual Picnic on July 18, 2010 at the Lake Shore Park in Novi! Although we had a few sprinkles of rain, the day turned out to be quite enjoyable and we were blessed with a cooler day than what we had typically seen this past summer. Many of our members came out to chat with each other and catch up on the latest news! I was certainly happy to see many of my MVPAs friends and really appreciated the time we had together that day.

I would like to thank the MPVA staff and Board of Directors for their help in organizing our Picnic. I would also like to thank Project12Baskets Foundation as Barry Olson, Founder/President, came out to our Picnic along with Ms. Dawn Collins, of Towers Watson. Due to their efforts, the MPVA was presented with a check for \$4,000 from Project12Baskets Foundation. For those of you who may not know, Project12Baskets Foundation is a business that transforms unwanted goods into dollars in order to support charities and families. The MPVA is so thankful for the continued support of Project12Baskets Foundation and we are happy to announce that they will be recognized as our lead sponsor at the 2010 Salute to Veterans Gala.

As I look forward to the coming months, I know that the Chapter Headquarters will be working feverishly towards our November 10th Salute to Veterans Gala which will be held from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Schoolcraft College's VistaTech Center in Livonia, MI. We are so pleased to announce that Mr. John Register will be joining us as this year's Keynote Speaker.

Mr. Register will be able to share his very inspiring story with us. He is a U. S. Army veteran who served in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm. As a talented athlete, John also qualified for the 1988 Olympic trials in the 110m hurdles, and again qualified in the 400m hurdles in 1992. From there, Mr. Register put his ambitions towards competing as a member of the 1996 Olympic team. But on May 17,

1994, his life was forever altered as he suffered one misstep over a hurdle that would lead him towards a devastating injury which would confine him to a wheelchair. Though devastating, the injury did not stop him. John's life has truly come full circle in his transformation from All-American long jumper, to Paralympic Silver medalist and motivational speaker. All of us at the MPVA are ecstatic to have Mr. Register joining us as our 2010 Salute to Veterans Gala Keynote Speaker!

Additionally, Mr. Rich Luterman, of WJBK Fox 2, will be proudly welcomed back as the 2010 Salute to Veterans Gala Master of Ceremonies. Rich, who is mostly known in and around metro Detroit as a Meteorologist, is also a U.S. Air Force veteran. All of us are pleased to have Mr. Luterman joining the Salute because he always does such a phenomenal job!

Last, but certainly not least, I want to let you know that the MPVA is also striving to host an online auction in conjunction to the Salute to Veterans Gala in hopes to raise more funds that will directly serve our mission. The Salute to Veterans Online Auction will open on November 3, 2010 and run until November 17, 2010 via the website: [www.biddingforgood.com/mpva/mpva-2](http://www.biddingforgood.com/mpva/mpva-2). After seeing last year's online auction, I am really getting excited to see what this year will bring. I don't know about all of you, but, I plan on purchasing some holiday gifts from this site!

You can help to make The Salute to Veterans Online Auction a success! Pass on this information to your friends and family and assist the MPVA in obtaining gifts. We are looking for donations of all different values. Each contribution will be recognized on the auction until it closes—this means that you or your company can receive lots of additional exposure! Furthermore, your donation can be made tax-deductible, and most importantly, you will be helping a really fabulous cause!

As you can see, we have so much to look forward to this fall! I can't wait to see everyone at the upcoming events and, as always, thank you for all your support!

*Register as a dinner guest for the Salute or be a Sponsor! Dinner registration is only \$55.00 and sponsorships vary! Please contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 (ext. 06) soon—seats fill up fast.*





# Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris

## Curb Ramps are Getting Better

Successful accessibility is often measured in inches, so attention to detail can make all the difference between achieving access and excluding or injuring someone. When the America with Disabilities Act (ADA) minimum Wheelchair Accessible Construction Requirements for wheelchair accessible construction are not met, the results can limit or exclude a person with a disability from being able to carry out something as simple as crossing a street.

Curb ramps and sidewalks are essential to enable people with mobility impairments to go to work, to access government buildings, participate in recreational activities, shop, and travel freely through their communities. The ADA recognized the importance of curb ramps/sidewalks by making specific provisions for their installation.

Ideally, we should be able to maneuver our chairs through our cities and neighborhoods with as much ease as the pedestrians with whom we share the sidewalk with. But of course, the real world is more difficult than that. In communities throughout Michigan, wheelchair users have had to put themselves in harm's way by being forced into the streets because curb ramps were not installed correctly, not installed at all, or sidewalks did not exist.

Since the 1970's, city planners have struggled with the requirements to install curb ramps at all street intersections. When specifying the design standards, the ADA puts many decisions in the hands of local officials and design engineers, who in most cases don't have the knowledge necessary to understand the many complexities of the ADA.

In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA accessibility guidelines, curb ramps must be installed at all intersections and mid-block locations

where pedestrian crossings exist. In addition, these federal regulations require that all new constructed or altered roadways include curb ramps.

There are common mistakes that occur during the installation of curb ramps/sidewalks. They are as follows: ramps are too steep; lips at the bottom are not flush with the street; and landings at the top of the ramp were not level enough to allow people in wheelchairs to turn around. Sidewalks are often uneven, crumbling, narrow, sloping or partly obstructed by light poles or shrubs.

Ten years ago, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) was left with no other alternative but to file lawsuits in federal court against multiple municipalities in southeastern Michigan claiming that they were in violation of the Title II provision of the ADA. There was a common theme in each of these complaints: the cities in question were not properly installing curb ramps according to federal accessibility guidelines.

None of the cases ever went to trial. Communities, without ever admitting guilt, agreed to re-do curb ramps installed incorrectly and assured us that all future curb ramps would be done correctly. However, we found one common theme in each of these cases: because of the lack of financial resources, communities are given 10 to 12 years to install ramps or re-do the ones that were done incorrectly. This is very frustrating for wheelchair users because 10 to 12 years is a very long time to go without being able to independently access the community. This is why we are so persistent at the MPVA that curb ramps are installed correctly from the beginning of the project because of the huge consequence that it has for our members.

## Detroit Lawsuit Up-date

The lawsuit that has given MPVA the most grief has been the one filed against the city of Detroit. After repeated, unsuccessful attempts to get the city of Detroit to produce a transition plan we were left without any other recourse but to file a civil rights complaint with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2001. A transition plan allows a community to identify the areas that need to be addressed so they can take the necessary steps to ensure that their programs, services and activities are accessible to people with disabilities.

In the fall of 2003, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division investigated the complaint and found numerous violations throughout Detroit. On February 27, 2004, I participated in a signing ceremony at the Justice Department in Washington D.C. along with representatives from Detroit. Under the agreement, Detroit agreed to take the necessary steps to ensure their core government functions are accessible to people with disabilities. The 72-page agreement required Detroit to improve all aspects of community life including: courthouses, libraries, parks, sidewalks and curb ramps. They also agreed that all future work performed by the city would meet the federal requirements for accessibility.

In 2004/05 the MPVA inspected a sampling of Detroit's intersections that had been recently resurfaced. In our findings, a majority of curb ramps inspected were done incorrectly. In 2005, a meeting took place with representatives from Detroit where the MPVA suggested that a mandatory ADA Curb Ramp training be required for all contractors and inspectors involved in the installation and/or inspection of curb ramps. This training would serve to ensure that curb ramps would be installed correctly throughout Detroit.

Because of their proven track record, we suggested that the city retain the services of H.R. Gray & Associates. H.R. Gray & Associates consulting expertise in ADA curb ramp has been nationally recognized. Their staff has developed a unique "hands on" training program to enable public officials, designers and contractors to comply with ADA requirements during both the design and the construction process.

Unfortunately, Detroit never took any of our recommendations to heart and continued building curb ramps incorrectly. The MPVA finally came to the realization that Detroit had no intentions of complying with the settlement agreement so we were left without any other alternative but to file a lawsuit in federal court in order to "stop the bleeding."

In 2006, a federal judge ruled in our favor claiming that Detroit was in violation of the 2004 settlement agreement. Detroit was required to go back and re-do all the ramps that were installed incorrectly. We are talking about 87,000 ramps. The city wasted millions of taxpayer dollars building ramps and sidewalks that did not comply with the ADA. By the end of this construction season, Detroit will have spent over \$41 million re-doing ramps—a very unfortunate situation for a city with substantial financial difficulties.

The federal judge appointed H.R. Gray & Associates to consult with the city and monitor its progress for the court. Now, all the curb ramps are being installed correctly. If the city had taken our suggestion back in 2005, and trained every entity involved with the installation of curb ramps, we would have never had to file a lawsuit in the first place.

### **Conclusion:**

As each generation of wheelchair users becomes more mobile and independent, more and more communities throughout Michigan are becoming responsible for the demands for completely accessible environments. The gap between what is required under the ADA and what actually transpires seems to have gotten smaller over the years. Community officials responsible for the proper installation of curb ramps are now doing their homework to ensure the work is done correctly before signing off on a project.

Our lawsuits delivered a powerful message to municipalities throughout Michigan that curb ramps installed incorrectly will no longer be tolerated. As the summer comes to a close, numerous street resurfacing and construction projects are beginning to wind down throughout southeastern Michigan and I am happy to report that a majority of curb ramps are being installed

correctly. Prior to our lawsuits this would have never been the case.

Throughout the process of complaints, we have learned that state/federal accessibility codes for public right of ways were not uniformed. When the MPVA brought this to the attention of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), they immediately took corrective steps to address the problem.

MDOT, the American Public Works Association, the Michigan Municipal League, and Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority expressed a willingness to partner with the MPVA in educating their membership about these problems. They realize the importance of having a complete understanding on curb ramp accessibility features before planning, design, and execution takes place.

Through these relationships, I have had the opportunity to serve as a panelist during multiple events sponsored

by MDOT members. During which, audience members would come up to me afterwards and thank the MPVA for bringing awareness to issues that were being overlooked or completely ignored in their communities. They now realize that non-compliance with federal/state accessibility codes has an enormous consequence.

I always wondered how you put a price tag on advocacy accomplishments that have profoundly had a positive impact on society. Sometimes you just can't. There are times when you need to use the expression that you see in the credit card commercial: "it's priceless."



## Valuable Dates for 2010:

- **Labor Day Observed:**

Monday, September 7, 2010

MPVA Chapter Headquarters will be closed

- **31st Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day:**

Friday, September 17, 2010, 6:30 PM

Honor Michigan's Prisoner of War and Missing in Action at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens located at Twelve Mile & Novi Road in Novi, MI. Contact Ms. Marty Eddy at (248) 214-6398 for more details or see the inside back cover of this issue for more details.

- **Membership Meeting:**

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon, and the meeting begins at 1:00 PM (All meetings are on Thursdays at the Novi MPVA office unless otherwise notified)

- **Novi Town Center Presents: 5K Run, Walk, Wheel**

In support of the MPVA and TIA (Triathletes in Action) Saturday, September 18, 2010 Novi Town Center at Grand River and Novi Road 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon For more information contact Jaelyn

Kochis at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06

- **Detroit Free Press Marathon**

Sunday, October 17, 2010. To Register Visit:

[www.freepmarathon.com](http://www.freepmarathon.com). Or Contact MPVA Chapter Headquarters at: (248) 476-9000

- **7th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala:**

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

VistaTech Center at Schoolcraft College  
18600 Haggerty Road  
Livonia, MI 48152

- **MPVA Holiday Party:**

Saturday, December 4, 2010

6:00 PM

Bakers of Milford

Please RSVP to Jan Black at (248) 476-9000 ext. 00





# From The Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis & Patricia Soma

By: Jaclyn Kochis

**T**his Rollin' Times issue marks the end of a full Fiscal Year of featured pieces from the MPVA's Advisory Committee! In this issue, we will get to learn a little bit from a very dedicated MPVA supporter and friend, Ms. Patricia Soma (or as we know her, Patty).

The MPVA's Advisory Committee, which is made up of a group of dedicated business men and women who serve as professional advisors to the MPVA, has proven to be an enormous success that has allowed the MPVA to further it's awareness and support.

Patty, who joined the MPVA Advisory Committee this past year, has helped to advocate and sustain the MPVA's mission through her various commitments. She is someone that the MPVA has come to rely upon and highly regard for her outgoing nature and endless knowledge.

The MPVA is so glad to have her as an Advisory Committee member and friend. Please be sure to take some time and read all about Patty Soma below!



## Time Flies so Quickly

By Patricia Soma



**I**t is an honor to write for this issue of the Rollin' Times as a member of the Advisory Committee.

I enjoy my association with the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America since all my interests come together in this one organization. While in college, I spent many hours in the MPVA Library using research material for papers and projects. After I finished my Paralegal degree, I studied Sign Language Studies at Madonna University. I have come to find the Americans with Disabilities Act information that was made available to me through the MPVA a very valuable tool as I have worked as a Case Manager for Deaf Senior Citizens with the Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services in Farmington Hills.

My other job is a Production Administrative Assistant for SWOCC (Southwest Oakland Cable Commission) Studios in Farmington. I am also a Public Access Producer and Host of "Equal Access," a program about disabilities and "Senior Spotlight," a program about senior citizens. In addition, I am also a supporter of the Americans Diabetes Association and I am on the planning committee for the Tour de Cure for 2011.

On a personal level, my husband and I are proud to be associated with MPVA through our membership in the POW/MIA Committee of Michigan. My husband's cousin, Martin Massucci has been MIA since October 1, 1965.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that September 17, 2010 marks the 31st Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day. This observance starts at 6:30 PM at the Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens at Novi Road and 12 Mile. Michael Harris, MPVA Executive Director, will again speak this year. We are proud to announce that changes will be made to the memorial site to make it more user-friendly. An Eagle Scout will make the site more handicapped accessible with the counsel of MPVA in time for the 2012 ceremony.

I can always count on the MPVA for advice on story ideas and background information, or event as a sounding board. This year marks an important anniversary—the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Although I have not been associated with MPVA for that long, I hope this association continues for many more years.





# Government Relations & Advocacy

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

## MPVA Joins Lansing Celebration Anniversary of ADA Signing

On July 26th, 2010, the State Capitol lawn was a gathering place of people from all spectrums. Individuals in wheelchairs, visually impaired, individuals without disabilities, families and fellow advocates joined forces as the country celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Government and non-profit organizations, with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (MDNRE), and some dedicated individuals, orchestrated together that day to replicate a historic event which occurred twenty years ago on a similar hot summer day in Washington, D.C. A wide variety of events took place including bike rides, races, picnics, and other activities in recognition of this momentous anniversary with more scheduled to take place throughout 2010. These ongoing activities have been planned to pay tribute to what is recognized as the major civil rights law protecting people with disabilities or physical challenges.

A free box lunch, along with ice cold bottled water was handed out to ensure no one would overheat in the extreme temperatures. Halfway through the day, many of the groups participated in a parade around the front of the Capitol. Photographers and the local Lansing news media were there covering the event.

The crowd listened attentively as guest speakers were introduced. Duncan Wyeth of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns spoke about that very important day in July 1990 as President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA into law. Mike Harris, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) Executive Director, spoke about the fact that conditions have improved since his earlier years in a chair, but advocates still need to break down the barriers that exist in the employment of people with disabilities and ensure that public transportation becomes a viable option in every community throughout Michigan. The

last speaker was a young man named Collin Northrup, an active member of the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living. Collin, dependent on the use of a wheelchair for mobility, made his mother and father proud as they sat in the audience listening to him as he talked about the positive impact that the ADA has had in his life.

That same day President Obama signed an executive order stating that the federal government would be setting the example by increasing employment opportunities for those with disabilities. This came in response to a recent report from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that showed the federal government is represented by only 1% of People with disabilities.

### Disability Website with Great Information

Current information on all types of disability issues can be found at <http://www.disability.gov>. They provide an informative newsletter you can subscribe to which can be sent to you via email on a daily basis for free. It is a great place for news links on Accessible Air Travel, as well as information about all types of transportation. The site also offers a new guide for information about the Air Carrier Access Act with tips for transferring and lifting passengers, security screenings, and how to file a complaint against an airline or their personnel.

### MPVA Advocacy Bulletin

2011 is not far away! This January, the MPVA will duplicate a program that has been successful in other Paralyzed Veterans of America Chapters by sending out an Advocacy Bulletin periodically. Due to the

fact that the Rollin' Times is a bi-monthly newsletter, we often have a difficult time delivering the most up-to-date information to our members. The Advocacy Bulletin will allow the MPVA to educate our members on advocacy/legislative issues important to the veteran community in greater detail. This will be an addition to my normal column in the Rollin' Times. Three or four times a year I will compile information and send the publication out by email or mail. The bulletin will also be available on our website. I look forward to getting the project started.

### Wayne State University Town Hall Meeting

Admiral Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and highest ranking military officer in the United States Armed Forces, convened a public town hall meeting on the campus of Wayne State University on August 26th, 2010. The focus of the event was meeting on veterans from the Iraq/Afghanistan war; more specifically, it addressed how to help them get successfully transitioned into their family life and American society. Some issues he touched on were health care, changes with the "new" GI Bill, and financial and career training.

### Women Veterans Council of Michigan Benefit Seminar

In June, Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, Assistant Adjutant General, Veterans Affairs, initiated a new advisory group, *Women Veterans Council of Michigan*, to study and increase the dissemination of information to benefits and news specific to women veterans. This group meets monthly at the MPVA Chapter Headquarters in Novi.

For women who have served in any branch of the military, the *Women Veterans Council of Michigan* is hosting five seminars throughout Michigan to offer more information about benefits available in the areas of education, employment, housing, medical care, starting a business and more. The events are scheduled to occur during the month of October. If successful, they hope to make this an annual event.

Please spread the word! This seminar is free. All interested attendees must register by calling 517-373-3130 or 517-335-6523. Lunch will be provided free at each event. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 248-476-9000 (ext. 05).

*See the inside of the back cover of this Rollin' Times issue for more information.*

### Veterans with Catastrophic Disabilities Co-pay Exemption under New Law

Thanks to a new law passed in May, the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, veterans are determined by the VA to be "catastrophically disabled" qualify for an exemption from inpatient, outpatient and prescription co-pays. However, they may still be subject to copayments for extended care (long-term care) services.

A catastrophically disabled determination may be authorized when a VA clinician determines that there is sufficient medical documentation without the need for further evaluation. Veterans may also request a catastrophically disabled evaluation by contacting the enrollment coordinator at their local VA health-care facility. It is VA policy to provide veterans with catastrophic disabilities an evaluation within 30 days of the request. There is no charge for this examination. Veterans who believe they may qualify for catastrophic disability status are encouraged to apply for enrollment or, if already enrolled, to request an evaluation through their primary care team or their local enrollment coordinator.

The VA is also currently reviewing copayments made by veterans with catastrophic disabilities for inpatient care, outpatient care, and prescriptions received on or after May 5, 2010, when the law was signed into effect. The VA has indicated that copayment charges will be cancelled, or if veterans have previously paid, refunds will be issued. For more information, veterans should contact the enrollment coordinator at their VA Medical Center by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387); or visit [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).





By: Charles Henning, Senior National Service Officer

## GRAND RAPIDS HOME FOR VETERANS: AN ALTERNATIVE RESIDENCE FOR PVA MEMBERS

I recently toured the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, and I must say that this is one beautiful facility for veterans with special medical needs to consider as an alternative housing site. Some PVA members are already residents of this facility at this time.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is a modern facility that serves and encourages its members to function at their maximum ability. The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans' staff places great emphasis on flexibility and adaptability to its members' individual needs and desires to encourage their independence, rather than dependence.

This facility has adopted a needs assessment process. Every person admitted to the Home is thoroughly evaluated by social services, nursing, and therapy services in terms of abilities and disabilities. From this comprehensive assessment, a care plan is derived which is reevaluated every 90 days. This ensures each member's progress is adequately documented for the best possible healthcare.

### History

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans was established in 1886 for Civil War veterans and has been serving Michigan veterans ever since. The Home plays a significant role within the community by providing healthcare and hospitality for those who fought for our country.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is located on 90 acres of land adjacent to the Grand River. It provides a wooded area, a pond formed from Lamberton Creek, an amphitheater and a picnic section. The buildings and grounds are groomed and maintained by an experienced and dedicated staff. Beautification and remodeling projects are continuously under way.

### Services

- Skilled Nursing Care for the person with severe disabilities requiring continuous nursing care and supervision
- Basic Nursing care for the person with moderate disabilities
- Special Needs Unit for the person with Alzheimer's disease or other diseases of aging
- Domiciliary Unit for the person who needs little nursing care but has some limitations that require a structured environment
- Rehabilitation Therapy: Monday-Friday
- Pharmacy
- Specialty Clinics
- Social Services
- Staff Physicians
- Dental Services
- Vision Care
- Barber Shop: Monday-Thursday
- Beauty Shop: Appointments available
- Pastoral Care

### Cost

The cost to live at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans will be determined by a monthly assessment, based on the member's ability to pay. However, the maximum monthly amounts that can be charged are:

#### Veteran's Domiciliary Care

- If veteran is eligible for Federal Aid, the maximum monthly cost is \$2,125
- If veteran is not eligible for Federal Aid, the maximum monthly cost is \$3,200

## Eligibility Dates

### Veteran's Nursing Care

- Maximum monthly cost is \$3,925

### Dependents' Domiciliary Care

- Maximum monthly cost is \$3,200

### Dependents' Nursing Care

- Maximum monthly cost is \$6,268

**Note:** Monthly costs are reevaluated every October 1

- \* These amounts are only assessed when the member has the ability to pay

## Eligibility

### To be eligible, a veteran must:

- Be a Michigan veteran or resident
- Served for at least 90 days or have been honorably discharged prior to 90 days due to service-related disability
- A spouse, widow(er) or parent of an eligible veteran may also become a member
- Ex-spouse is eligible (if remarried, not eligible.)

**WWI:** April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (can also be extended to April of 1920 if served in Russia)

**WWII:** December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946

**Cold War, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War or Persian**

**Gulf War:** Beginning December 31, 1946, to present

## How to Apply

Admission Applications are available at:

- Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
- Hospital Social Service Departments
- VA Medical Centers
- Veterans Organizations
- Veteran Trust Fund: County Counselor
- County Soldiers/Sailors Relief Offices
- WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV

**\*For more information about the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, call (616) 364-5389 to ask about a tour or an informational DVD**



*Sincere Condolences to the family of:*  
*Jerry Carter*  
*George Duffy Jr.*



On behalf of all of our members at the MPVA, we would like to send our most sincere condolences to the family of our dear friend:

*Michael D. Hogue*  
May 25, 1948 ~ August 23, 2010

You will be truly missed!





# Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director

## Summer Sports and Fall Fun



### Michigan PVA Wheelchair Team

**E**ight Athletes from Michigan travelled to Denver in July to compete in the 30th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Michigan athletes competed in 13 of the 17 different events offered at the games ranging from archery, to power lifting, to wheelchair rugby. At the end of the week, the Michigan PVA team brought home 17 medals. If you would like

to get involved with the Michigan PVA Wheelchair team, e-mail Scot Severn, MPVA Sports Director, at [ssevern@michiganpva.org](mailto:ssevern@michiganpva.org). You can also check out the National Veterans Wheelchair Games at [www.wheelchairgames.va.gov](http://www.wheelchairgames.va.gov). I am sure you'll find a sport that's right for you!

## Thumbs up for golf



Wheelin' Team 457 once again held their annual "Thumbs Up" golf tournament at Washakie Golf Course in North Branch, Michigan. The annual event places one physically challenged golfer on each team to even out the competition. The event, which is in its third year, was a great success. Golfers were able to appreciate a beautiful course and accommodating staff. Proceeds from the tournament go to help fund the numerous events put on by Wheelin' Team 457.



## The 2010 Detroit Free Press Marathon

The Detroit Free Press Marathon is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 17, 2010. The MPVA will be acting as a sponsor of the Wheelchair/Hand Cycle Division and would like you to get out and join them that morning for the race! All registered participants will receive: free admission to the Health and Fitness Expo which will be taking place prior to the event, an official long-sleeve performance wicking shirt, a commemorative finish medal, entertainment at every

mile of the race, finish-line refreshments, and a finish-line massage.

We hope that the 2010 Detroit Free Press Marathon Wheelchair/Hand Cycle Division sees more participants than any race before! If you are interested in partaking in the fun, please visit: [www.freepmarathon.com](http://www.freepmarathon.com) or contact the MPVA by calling 248-476-9000.





# Member Hobbies

By Michael Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

Photos by Kevin Elya, President, MPVA

Recently, we have been exploring ways to better serve our Rollin' Times readers as well as our members as a whole. Upon reviewing other PVA Chapter's newsletters, we decided that it was time to hear from our members and see what they were busy doing.

Please take a moment to look at some remarkable fall photos that were taken by our very own President, Kevin Elya, below. Kevin enjoys taking photos when he has time and has even been able to put together books featuring his photographs. He thought that

the photos below, taken at Hudson Mills Metro Park, would be perfect to feature in our September/October Rollin' Times Newsletter as we are all getting ready for the cool fall weather!

Please also feel free to contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06, or at [jkochis@michiganpva.org](mailto:jkochis@michiganpva.org), if you would like to be recognized for your Member Hobbies in our newsletter! Come on, don't be shy! We would love to hear from you!

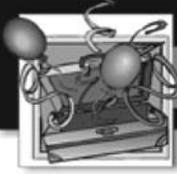








# BIRTHDAYS



## SEPTEMBER

Alice M. MacNaughton	September 02	James Sewell
Janet L. Summers	September 02	Gary L. Grubbe
Naida A. Schelter	September 03	Inez A. Waller
Ada Louise Grassmyer	September 04	Richard L. Lang
Jaclyn K. Kochis	September 04	Raymond Larsch
Roger L. Putman	September 04	William D. Nee
Michael A. Richter	September 05	Benjamin F. Taylor
Truman Yoder	September 05	Jan M. Black
Richard H. Rapp	September 06	Christ K. Rasmussen
Bruce M. Hayden	September 07	Richard T. Harner
Percy L. Lampkin	September 07	Ernie Richardson
James D. Hyatt	September 08	Joseph M. Sabatini
Jose V. Davila Martinez	September 09	
Michael D. Leonard	September 09	
Kenneth M. Owens	September 09	Michael E. Baldwin
Ralph C. Spence	September 09	Rodney K. Hawes
Russell C. Andersen	September 10	Norman J. Ochelski
Paul R. Brown	September 10	Donald D. Ransom
Willie Daniels	September 11	Jeffery D. Risner
Arthur D. Dodge	September 11	William Bromley
Larry E. Pratt	September 11	Kevin P. Wolf
Thomas F. Schneider	September 11	Anthony P. Daschke
James R. Witz	September 11	Dennis M. Kochanowski
Francesco Guerra	September 12	Stephanie E. Strickland
Bonnie J. Williams	September 12	John R. Jackson
Kenneth E. Bezemek	September 13	Robert E. Goble
Ian Minicuci	September 13	Mark E. Gulch
Jamie R. Monroe	September 13	Roland A. Heaton
Carl A. Larkins	September 14	Mary E. Estes
Kimberly S. Keeter	September 15	Christopher V. Greenhouse
David C. MacKinder	September 15	Scot D. Karevich
Amy E. Shuler	September 16	Byron R. Arrowsmith
Deborah Adams-Roraback	September 17	Michael W. Gates
Thomas A. Dever	September 17	Jacob Gormezano
C William Helwig	September 17	Bonnie L. Morgan
Brian D. Walker	September 17	Ronald K. Gimik
George T. Coward	September 18	Gerald D. Childs
Jerrold A. Weathers	September 18	Carey Glaze
William R. Sampey	September 19	Timothy L. Guilford
Dorethea Harrison	September 21	Michael R. Leonard
Frederick L. Moore	September 21	Arthur A. Potter
Stephanie D. Calendar	September 22	William J. Zinow
Daniel S. Kemp	September 23	Gary R. Dillon

## OCTOBER

September 23		
September 24	Joseph R. Poterek	October 16
September 24	George J. Priest	October 16
September 25	Debra L. Grubbe	October 17
September 25	Fred G. Minx	October 17
September 25	Dale R. Wood	October 17
September 25	Renee A. LaForest-Diggs	October 18
September 26	Marlene T. Shotwell	October 18
September 26	Kenneth O. Johnson	October 19
September 27	James G. Tanner	October 19
September 27	Mark R. Brorson	October 20
September 28	Christian M. Gouin	October 20
	William H. Horen	October 20
	Merwin E. Root	October 20
October 02	Lorenzo M. Woodson	October 20
October 02	Lynn Houghton	October 21
October 02	James E. Lay	October 21
October 02	Norma Smith	October 21
October 02	Charles L. Havens	October 22
October 04	Richard L. Owens	October 23
October 05	Roger C. Putnam	October 23
October 06	Daniel C. Evans	October 24
October 06	Nathan R. Moore	October 24
October 06	Randy L. Hilkert	October 25
October 07	Nickolas Wercely	October 25
October 08	Charles F. Wilson	October 25
October 08	Jerry S. Beard	October 26
October 09	Margo H. Bradley-Mark	October 26
October 10	Juan E. Flores	October 26
October 10	Herbert S. Lewis	October 27
October 10	Kenya A. Hyatt	October 28
October 12	Willie Mooney	October 28
October 12	Mark A. Van Slambrouck	October 28
October 12	Tammy M. Bova	October 29
October 12	Kenneth Jones	October 29
October 13	Terry Katajamaki	October 29
October 14	Kenneth H. Laudenslager	October 29
October 14	James D. Webber	October 29
October 14	Frank G. Craig	October 30
October 14	Dale Weaver	October 30
October 14	James L. Mauney	October 31
October 16		

**The Novi Town Center Presents:**  
**5K RUN, WALK, & WHEEL**

**Saturday, September 18, 2010**

**Race Start: 9:00 AM**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00**

Early Bird Registrations can be completed and mailed in with a check or your credit card information to the attention of Jaclyn Kochis at the MPVA located at:

**40550 Grand River Ave.**

**Novi, MI 48375**

**Or Fax: (248) 476-9545**

**Or Email: [jkochis@michiganpva.org](mailto:jkochis@michiganpva.org)**

**Or register online by visiting:**

**[www.michiganpva.org](http://www.michiganpva.org)**

Click on the "Donate Now" button and then be sure to check the "Special Event" drop-down menu and select "2010 5K Run, Walk, Wheel." Check-In for the race will begin at 8:00 AM.

**REGISTRATION THE DAY OF EVENT: \$30.00**

**(CASH OR CHECK ONLY THE DAY OF)**

Registration & Event Check-In will begin at 8:00 AM at in the Novi Town Center near Bonefish Grill.

Immediately following the 5K fun, there will be an after party with delicious food provided by Bonefish Grill of Novi! Please be prepared to stick around for the fun—you may also have a chance to win some money in a 50/50 Raffle Drawing!

**WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS**



**John P. Mihal**

**We are proud you are part of the MPVA family!**

## Women Veterans Council of Michigan Invites

All women who have served in any branch of the military  
to attend a Women Veterans Benefits Seminar

Benefits information on education, employment, housing, medical care,  
small businesses and more will be provided by:

State of Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs  
State of Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth  
United States Department of Labor  
United States Department of Veterans Affairs Health and Benefits Administrations

The Women Veterans Benefits Seminar is FREE!  
Five dates and locations are available for your convenience. Pick the date and  
place of the seminar you want to attend, then call to register.

Check in begins at 8:30 am  
Presentations start at 9:15 am  
\*Lunch Provided\*  
Seminars end by 3:00 pm

Join us for the day to learn about YOUR benefits! They can vary throughout your lifetime.

### Seminar Dates

Tuesday - October 12, 2010  
DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans - 425 Fisher St., Marquette, MI

Thursday - October 14, 2010  
American Legion Post 416 - 10064 Ford Dr., St. Helen, MI

Monday - October 18, 2010  
American Legion Post 439 - 5190 Weiss, Saginaw, MI

Thursday - October 21, 2010  
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans - 3000 Monroe N.E., Grand Rapids, MI

Friday - October 22, 2010  
American Legion Post 216 - 510 W. Commerce, Milford, MI

REGISTER BY CALLING: 517-373-3130 or 517-335-6523  
Registration required to provide accurate lunch count to sponsors

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**



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

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September/October 2010



Presents  
The 7th Annual  
**Salute To  
Veterans Gala**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

40550 Grand River Ave. • Novi • MI • 48375  
PH: 248-476-9000

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### WHEN?

Wednesday,  
November 10, 2010  
6:00 PM-9:00 PM

### WHERE?

VistaTech Center  
Schoolcraft College  
18600 Haggerty Road

### WHO DOES THIS EVENT SUPPORT?

This is MPVA's largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds for this event go towards MPVA programs & other organizations serving Michigan's veterans. Visit [www.michiganpva.org](http://www.michiganpva.org) to see all of the photos and sponsors from the 2009 "Salute!"

### Be a "Salute Sponsor" in 2010! Here's how you could be recognized:

- You or your company logo could be recognized on MPVA's website which receives approximately 800 hits a day and is also linked with the state of Michigan's website at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)
- You or your company logo could be recognized in our *Rollin' Times* newsletter which reaches more than 2,000 people every two months
- You or your company could receive tickets to attend the event and be recognized on site that evening

For more information, contact  
Jaclyn Kochis, Director of  
Development, at:

248-476-9000 ext. 06