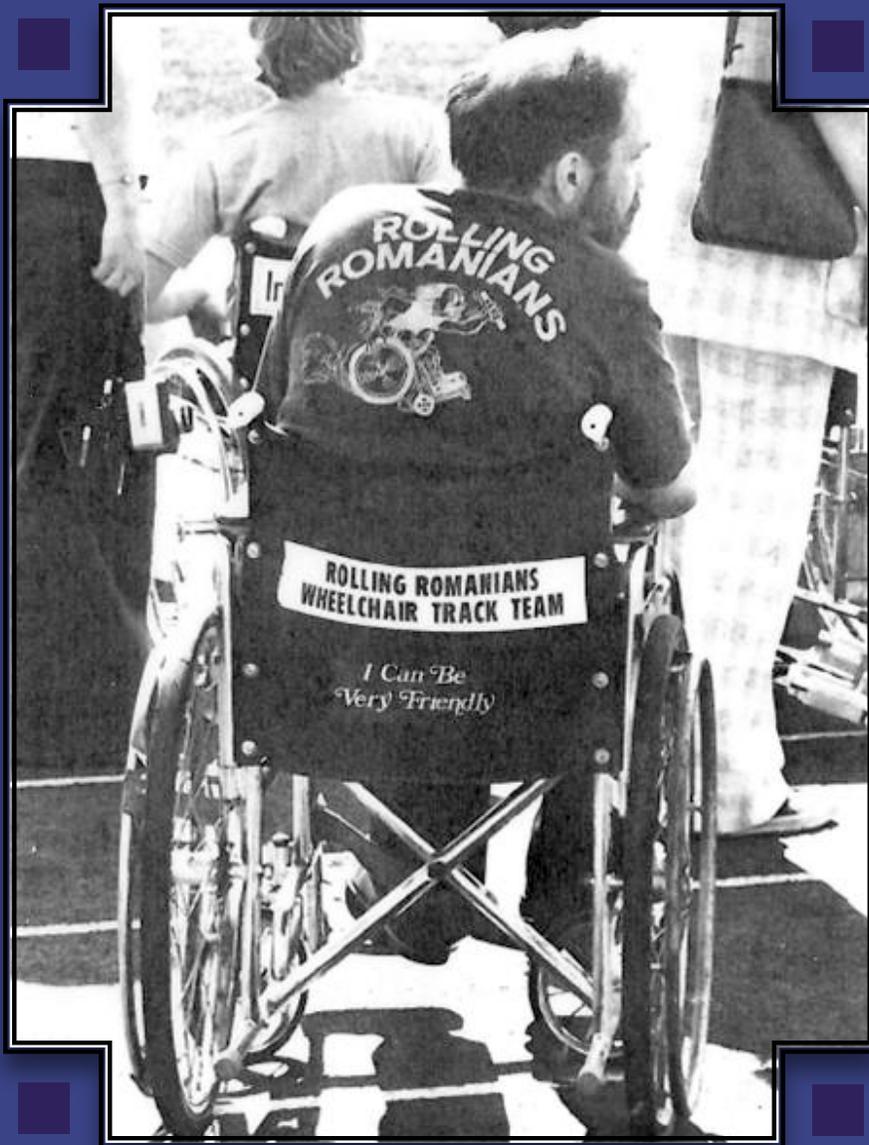


RT '11

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Saying Goodbye to an Outstanding Person

Stefan Florescu

December 26, 1926-October 29, 2010





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER



On the Cover:

Stefan Florescu, a dedicated supporter and outstanding member of the MPVA, passed away on October 29, 2010. Please be sure to read the President's Report which features a lovely tribute to Stef who will be truly missed by everyone at the MPVA.

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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

Saying Goodbye to an Extraordinary Person

Just before the holidays, the MPVA was saddened to hear about the loss of a very extraordinary person who was a long time member and great advocate for the PVA and many other outstanding organizations. Stefan Florescu, who passed away on October 29, 2010, was an amazing person who accomplished so many remarkable things throughout his 80 years.

When we got together to compile all the articles for this newsletter, we were at a loss as to where we would even begin when it came to all of the great things Stef accomplished in his life. His wife, Caroline, was kind enough to let us take the beautiful tribute she had written

about Stef after his passing and include it in this Rollin' Times issue. Please take a moment to read about our friend Stef who will be dearly missed, however, we are all certain that his legacy and inspirational spirit will always live on:

Stefan Florescu (December 26, 1926-October 29, 2010) was born in Chicago, Illinois, to two poor Romanian immigrants: Peter Florescu of Bungard and Ana Boitan Florescu of Fofeldea, in Sibiu County, the second of three sons.

His mother sent him to Catholic School at 4 years of age, with his lunch and bottle of water—in a whiskey bottle. He couldn't speak English. The nuns couldn't understand



Stefan Florescu and family from Romania circa 1966



Camp Abe Lincoln staff in 1948. Stefan is second from the right next to his friend Kim Yung Yik

Romanian. They sent him to the hall or the basement and there he spent much of the year. But Stef didn't mind. He knew he was going to school and there he was supposed to be.

Stefan and his mother were very close. They loved the church and were very respectful of the priests. Stefan became an altar boy and served every Sunday and every holiday as his house was next door to the church. His mother wanted the boys to learn music and he studied piano, practicing at the convent.

In 9th grade, Stefan decided, on his own, to enter the monastery. With no help from anybody, he applied and travelled to Wisconsin. Although the monks did not keep him beyond the first year, he always appreciated the advice of his spiritual director, who told him he had the talent to become a teacher, which he later did.

When WWII broke out, Stefan and many of his classmates volunteered for the draft. He attended summer school so he could graduate after his 18th birthday and be inducted. Stef said it was very lonely when they boarded the troop ships in California for the planned invasion of Japan. No one expected to come back alive. But the war ended and his division was diverted to Korea.

Returning home from Korea, he brought a Korean student with him, Kim Yung Yik, who became an author of children's books, in Korean and English, including the book "Blue In The Seed" about a blue-eyed Korean son of an American soldier who was persecuted for his parentage. Years later, Stefan would be the sponsor of Kim's daughter, into the USA, as her godfather, a relationship recognized by the Immigration Service.

College was a carefree time for Stef, now a world traveler. A natural athlete in tip-top condition, he won track awards and division championships in Iowa. Piano playing in the boogie-woogie era made him popular with his peers. The GI

Bill sponsored him and he worked summers and vacations in summer camps. He graduated with his teaching certificate and had a contract to teach high school choral music in Michigan for the fall of 1952. Then, in a freak diving accident in a lake, working at the YWMC camp outside Flint, he broke his neck and became a quadriplegic. Barely alive, he was sent to the VA Hospital in Allen Park where he spent the next two years of his life.

Somehow, he found a house for his family and they all came to live in Lincoln Park. There, he met and married his wife, Caroline. After he learned all over again to dress and feed himself and drive a car, he discovered wheelchair sports in a VA Hospital. He found that by exercising he could compete although most of the athletes were less disabled than he was.

He began winning at many sports: table tennis, swimming, field events, bowling and racing (but not archery). Then he became more excited about starting a regional wheelchair Olympics in Michigan and began knocking on a lot of doors and talking to a lot of coaches. His vision became their vision in 1965, those regional wheelchair games started first in the U.S. right here in Detroit.

Many young disabled persons became athletes for the first time in their lives and were looking for teams. Stef then started teams and coached, first a team for veterans (the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter team)



Stefan and his wife Caroline dressed in traditional Romanian clothing



A more recent photo of Stefan who typically wore a hat and a smile! Rest in peace friend, you will be missed.

then a civilian men's team (the Rolling Romanians) and finally a girl's team (the National Association of the Physically Handicapped, Detroit Chapter team). He was so busy coaching and organizing events that he barely had time to practice his own events. During this time, he also was teaching baby-sitting through the Lincoln Park Recreational Department, the first in the area. He also served as President and Service Officer for the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America. There, he wrote news releases, columns, and letters to the editors. He published a sports magazine, *The Wheelchair Competitor*, the first of its kind and edited a newsletter, *The Rolling Times* (this very newsletter that you are reading right now). Most importantly, he began to visit Romanians in Romania. He searched out relatives on all sides of the family and brought them to America. Liliana Loria came from his mother's family and Radu Florescu. Every one of the relatives came to stay on the conditions that they learn English, learn to drive, and become active in their church.

Stefan has been honored in many ways including entry into the U.S. Wheelchair Sports Hall of Fame, the Michigan Athletes With Disabilities Hall of Fame, St. Ambrose University Hall of Fame and the Lincoln Park Sports Hall of Fame. He attributed his success in sports to God who gave him the abilities not himself. He never questioned WHY or complained. He thanked God every day for letting him sit in a wheelchair without pain.

And he thanked God for his Romanian heritage, another of his passions. He appreciated the folk music, the traditions, the language and the culture, but mostly the Romanian religious community which preserved that heritage and welcomed him as a native son.

Music was never lost in his life. Although his piano-playing days ended June 1, 1952, his singing won tributes weekly in church and when he sang the national anthem for the Pistons at a game, flanked by his honor guard, and also won him a national hospitalized veteran's award in Washington, D.C. for the "Titanic" a comedy song which he sang for the Vice-President.

At the age of 80, Stef suffered a stroke that took his independence but left his speech intact. Recently, another stroke or two further incapacitated him. He passed away peacefully in his sleep October 29, 2010. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Dumnezeu sa-l irate.



Sincere Condolences to the family of:

Stefan Florescu Daniel D. Hicks

Evan F. Mayday Darrell Robins

William J. Zinow



Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris

Boy Scouts Volunteer Their Efforts To Make MPVA Chapter Headquarters Even More Accessible

Andy Bakerjian, of Boy Scout Troop 263 in Farmington Hills, completed his Eagle Scout project in October by making improvements at our Novi Chapter headquarters that will allow wheelchair users to navigate the property without facing obstacles.



About a year ago, Andy came by our Chapter office to ask if there was a project he could do for us in order to earn his Boy Scout of America Eagle Badge. I showed him the deck that had been built the previous

year which also had some help from a local Boy Scout that used the project to earn his Eagle Badge. I suggested that the sidewalk leading from the deck to the back of our property was in dire need of repair.

After agreeing to take on the project Andy set off to get several of the items donated, including the concrete from Piedmont Concrete, equipment from Chet's Rent-All and items from Eagle Landscape, among others.

Often, people hire a licensed concrete contractor for the project since they possess the appropriate equipment and specific knowledge: they know which kind of material is needed, how much is required, how it should be prepared, and they are responsible for delivery, application, and final finishes.

Because no one had the knowledge on how to correctly install a sidewalk it became apparent early on that we needed to find a qualified person to oversee the project.

We did not have to go very far to find such a person. Bill Helwig, a carpenter by trade, agreed to oversee the project from preparation to the pouring of the cement. Bill is an outstanding supporter of the MPVA, and without his hard work and benevolent nature our accessible deck that was completed last year would not exist.

It is not easy to become an Eagle Scout as it is considered the highest honor in Boy Scouts. You need at least 21 merit

badges. The rank of Eagle Scout demonstrates how a scout has applied what they have learned during his time in the Scouts. He must plan, develop and lead a service project that is beneficial to his community. The project must benefit an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America, but it cannot be performed for an individual or a for profit business.



Throughout the project Andy had the support of his fellow Scouts from Troop 263 of Farmington Hills. Nearly all our members require the use of wheelchair and very few of us have the skill or fortitude to attempt this project ourselves. Without community support this valuable work would only be accomplished by hiring an outside contractor.

On behalf of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America, I want to thank everyone that participated in the successful completion of the installation of the sidewalk. The Boy Scouts demonstrate what sets our nation apart from others, which is our ability to "give back to our community." Their willingness to take time out to give back to their community through this project benefiting paralyzed veterans shows that all-American spirit in action.



The sidewalk will allow our members to freely access the chapter complex without having to encounter any obstacles. We will enjoy the outdoors as a group, and we'll reflect on the pride and patriotism that we knew when we served our nation and which is alive and well in this generation of American Boy Scouts. Thank you so much for initiating this project.

I look forward to attending the ceremony in the spring where Andy will be presented his Eagle Badge. He will join a rare select group of Scouts where less than 1% of the Scouts go on to earn their Eagle Badge. He will be the 102 Scout from his troop to receive such an honor.

Thank you again to everyone who was able to support in making the MPVA Chapter Headquarters even more accessible.

The DOJ Announces Settlement Agreement with AMC Theaters

An unprecedented settlement agreement between the Department of Justice (DOJ) and AMC Entertainment offers the guidance that will allow the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) to finally go after establishments that designed/built "stadium-style" movie theaters that requires wheelchair users to sit in the front of the movie screen.

The DOJ filed the lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1999 after receiving complaints about wheelchair access at AMC theaters and conducting their own investigation. The lawsuit alleged that AMC's theaters failed to provide people who use wheelchairs with comparable lines of sight to those of other moviegoers. Accessible seating was often situated at, or near, the very front of theater.

From the beginning, when "stadium-style" movie theaters began popping up across the country in the mid 1990's, wheelchair users began complaining about the poor views from wheelchair seating locations.

Stadium style seating, as the name suggest, has the look and feel of a sports stadium. In most theaters, the tiered seating is accessible only by climbing steps. Patrons enter the theater in front of the screen and climb to the seats of their choice, leaving wheelchair users no other choice but to sit in the front.

Just a few feet away from the screen, wheelchair users usually have a frustrating experience because they are required to tilt their head back at an uncomfortable angle because they are required to sit so close to the screen. It was like watching television at home sitting one foot from the screen.

The DOJ regarded the new theater designs as clear violations of its regulation, which calls for wheelchair seating areas that are an "integral part of any fixed seating plan" and provide people with disabilities "lines of sight comparable to those for members of the general public." Many of the theater chains disagreed with the Department's view, and argued that those "front row" seats provided a "comparable" line of sight because the view was "unobstructed."

About the time that the ADA Accessibility Guidelines went into effect stadium style theaters were springing up throughout the country. They became the industry standard

because they were offering patrons a superior line of sight. However, the arrangement presented unique challenges for the placement of moviegoers in wheelchairs.

The trouble was the ADA and the DOJ's implementing regulations were largely mum on what was required of theater owners. Most theater owners believed that the ADA required only that patrons with disabilities be afforded an unobstructed view.

It was the MPVA's contention that stadium style theaters violated Title III of the ADA because they did not provide wheelchair users sightlines comparable with nondisabled patrons. Instead they were relegated to the worst seats in the auditorium. It was exactly the same issues that we encounter when we filed a lawsuit against the University of Michigan because the only wheelchair locations available were in the end-zones.

In the last five years, court decisions began to go against many of the national theater chains, and settlement agreements and consent decrees began to appear on the horizon. To date, the following theater chains have agreed to improve the design of stadium-style theaters, and in many cases, to make changes in existing facilities as well: Regal Entertainment Group, AMC Entertainment, Inc., Cinemark USA, Inc., and United Artists Theatre Circuit, Inc.

With this settlement agreement with AMC Entertainment we now have an opportunity to go after movie theaters in Michigan where wheelchair seating locations are still located in front of the screen.

Because the ADA is a relatively young statute, there has been very little case law explaining the requirements for the dispersal of wheelchair seating in stadium style theaters. Architects have been put in the position for interpreting the law themselves and acting accordingly. Architects will certainly look at the settlement agreement for guidance as to what the law requires. They will now have a public pronouncement on the DOJ's position.

It has been proven that with proper planning stadium-style theaters can be designed that give patrons in wheelchairs a choice of viewing options. In fact, designers started implementing architectural plans that "ramped" all patrons entering the theater into the middle of the auditorium, rather than the front. Wheelchair users have an option of viewing locations above and below the entry level while at the same time maintaining stadium-style seating.

The settlement agreement will now allow MPVA to go after theaters not in compliance with the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. The goal is to work with the industry to let them know that with proper planning wheelchair users and their companions can have an enjoyable experience.





From The Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis & Patricia Soma

Reflecting on Veterans Day 2010

On November 10, 2010, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) celebrated Veterans Day by hosting the 7th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala at Schoolcraft College's Vista Tech Center in Livonia, Michigan.

The event was a great success as nearly 275 guests gathered to pay tribute to Michigan's veterans of the past and present. Guests included Keynote Speaker John Register, Master of Ceremony WJBK FOX 2 Weatherman Rich Luterman, Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, and a wide array of proudly decorated service men and women.

At the MPVA, we strive to make Veterans Day the most important annual holiday of the year. We believe that it is more than a day off from school, work, or a department store sale. It is our day to honor the more than 703,000 veterans in Michigan and the 23 million nationwide, as well as their families, who stepped forward to defend our country. It is a day to pay tribute to those who have given so much.

Each year, we host our Salute to Veterans Gala with the hope that as many people as possible will join us in an evening of paying tribute to the many veterans who have served our country. We see it as a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

There is no group of people to hold in a higher regard than our veterans. Because of veterans, we live in the strongest, freest, greatest country in the world. Throughout history, our country has been blessed to have men and women willing to answer the call to duty and accomplish great things for the benefit of their fellow man.

There is a concern, today, for whom we regard as heroes. We look to those who hit home runs, make touchdowns or shoot three-pointers. These people are athletes, not heroes. Today's heroes are charging through the desert, fighting for the causes of freedom and peace. Today's

heroes believe in freedom, and this belief is tested every day as these men and women in uniform face the perils of war. Veterans Day, and our celebration of it at our Annual Salute to Veterans Gala, is our reminder and way of saying thank you to the brave men and women who have served before us and are serving for us today.

This year, our Salute to Veteran's Gala Keynote Speaker, John Register, was able to remind us of this powerful message with his inspiring speech. Mr. Register, who completed a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Arkansas in 1988, enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served from 1988 to 1994. A Desert Shield and Desert Storm Veteran, in 1988, John qualified for the Olympic trials in the 110m hurdles; he again qualified in the 400m hurdles in 1992.

John seemed destined to compete as a member of the 1996 Olympic Team. But on May 17, 1994, his life was forever altered with one misstep over the hurdle. A faulty landing hyper-extended John's left knee, resulting in an injury severing the popliteal artery. An attempt to reconstruct the artery using a vein from his right leg failed; eventually requiring his leg to be amputated.

After being fitted with a running prosthesis in late 1997, he set a goal of competing in track and field at the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia. John did not just begin to run - he began to make history. Two years after taking his first running step, he earned the Silver Medal in the long jump at the 2000 Paralympic Games, setting the American long jump record in the process with a distance of 5.41 meters (18.4 feet). He also took fifth place in the 100 and 200 meter dashes.

John remained active with soldiers, first as a civilian employee working as a Sports Specialist with the Army's World Class Athlete Program. In 2003, he took a job with the United States Olympic Committee and now manages the Paralympic Academy Youth Outreach Program and the Paralympic Military Sport Program serving members of the Armed Forces who were injured in combat.

To his credit he did not let the injury define him. Instead, his life is a portrait of courage in the face of great adversity. John powerful message, "Hurdling Adversity," challenges audiences young and old to unleash the inspiration in them.

We are truly thankful for the amazing turnout we had at this year's event. We would be remiss if we did not take time out to say thank to some very special people who helped to make the event possible. Because of the support of the MPVA staff, MPVA Board of Directors, MPVA members, MPVA Advisory Committee, volunteers, and sponsors, this year's dinner exceeded all expectations. Every single contribution made a difference.

To our sponsors and supporters, the MPVA thanks you for your generosity and support towards our Veterans Day dinner and our Salute to Veterans Online Auction—which was also an enormous success (a very many thanks go out to Nicole Roofner for your outstanding assistance in setting up our online auction!). Given the tough economic times, our supporters and sponsors could render their regrets and quietly backed off. But, you did not! Your support this year, and always, has been nothing short of magnificent. Thank you!

The MPVA would like to especially thank the

following groups and individuals for supporting our 2010 7th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala:

John Register, Rich Luterman, Nicole Roofner, Brigadier General Fausone, Josie Boore, Patty Soma, SWOCC Studios, Cheryl Angelelli, Mary Bujold, Sue Burstein-Kahn, Linda DeVore, Doug Peacock, Brian Sheridan, Katie Rose Turnwald, The VistaTech Center, MSgt. Karen Christon, Post 216 of Milford, Bill Helwig, American House Senior Living, Adult Well Being Services, Fausone Bohn LLC Attorneys at Law, Foundation For American Veterans, General Motors, Gresham Driving Aids, Health Partners, Huron Valley Professional Center, JVS, Leslie Tire, Medical Care Coordinators Inc., Project12Baskets Foundation, Rehab Institute of Michigan, Shaz & Mary Khan, SKF, St. John Providence Health System, The Sam Bernstein Law Firm, The Senior Alliance, The Novi Rotary, Trillacorpe, UAW Region 1, University of Phoenix, Wright & Filippis.

God bless our men and women in uniform! God bless our veterans!

Please see the inside and outside back cover of this issue which features photos of the Salute to Veterans Gala that were taken by our photographer Josie Boore!



The MPVA would like to once again thank:

Project12Baskets Foundation

for presenting the MPVA with another check that will go on to support the MPVA's mission in FY 2011!

We appreciate your hard work and continued benevolence!





Government Relations & Advocacy

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

A New Year with New Beginnings

First, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! This year, we will see many changes taking place as a result of the congressional elections that took place in November of 2010. The House of Representatives saw a vast change as it gained 60 additional Republican seats for a total of 239, changing its past Democratic majority to a Republican majority. There will be almost 100 new members in the House as of this month. Republicans also picked up seven additional seats in the Senate.

Due to the turnover in the House, Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA), previously Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, will become the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL) will take the position of the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. In addition, former Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif), will now become a minority leader as Congressman John Boehner (R-OH) will serve as the new Speaker of the House.

In Michigan, we will look to new leadership as well. As of January 1, 2011, Michigan's leadership includes:

- Governor: Rick Snyder (R)
- Lieutenant Governor: Brian Calley (R)
- Speaker of the House: Andy Dillon of Redford (D-17)
- Speaker Pro Tempore: Pam Byrnes of Lyndon Township (D-52)
- House Majority Floor Leader: Kathy Angerer of Dundee (D-55)
- Assistant House Majority Leader: Kate Segal of Battle Creek (D-62)
- House Minority Leader: Kevin Elsenheimer of Bellaire (R-105)
- Minority Floor Leader: Dave Hildenbrand of Lowell (R-86)

The MPVA will not waste any time to have our voices heard on behalf of those we serve as we work to have a good relationship with the incoming legislators, as well as ones who have been there for us before. It is our job to introduce our organization and ourselves to our Representatives and let them know our issues and concerns here in Michigan. We know that we can set the tone for our future, and make it one that serves our veteran's and the physically challenged community as best as possible. In addition, as one of PVA's Government Legislative advocates, I will work to help better the VA, its programs, and to guarantee the best possible future for the people we serve in Michigan and across our country.

One primary issue we are preparing to discuss with the incoming legislators will be the contracting of outside health care services or vouchering as a platform to reform the VA which was a discussion point among the recent campaign trail. PVA has long opposed this idea as being detrimental to the provision of specialized services to PVA members as well as the delivery of healthcare across the VA System.

As we move forward into 2011, there are other changes that our members should be aware of, please take a moment to read through the following information:

Applying for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay Once Again Extended To March 4, 2011:

The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP), providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries who had their enlistment extended or retirement suspended due to stop loss are eligible to apply for this special pay if they served on active duty between September 11, 2001 and September 30, 2009. This is the second time this date has been extended.,

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay by March 4, 2011. Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations, and the media. But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching. The average benefit is \$3,700. If you are uncertain if you are eligible for the RSLSP benefit, you can visit the Department of Defense website to find out more information at: www.defense.gov/stoploss, or contact our local service office at (800) 795-3608.

Change of Address for a Local Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC):

Previously, the Pontiac CBOC was operated by a contract medical group. However, a new clinic has been formed and will now be staffed by VA employees. This clinic opens on January 3, 2011 and will be moving from its former location on Baldwin Road to its new location in the Lexus Building (2nd floor) at 44200 Woodward Ave. The Clinic Coordinator is Wanda Whitmore (313) 576-4484.

Address Change for Army Board of Corrections of Military Records (ABCMR) and Army Discharge Review Board (ADRB):

Previously located in St Louis, in conjunction with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), applications for corrections (DD form 149) and Army Discharge

Review Board (DD 293) should now be mailed to: 1901 South Bell Street, Arlington, VA 22202-4508. Applications can be printed out via the website: <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil>. The website provides instructions for online processing of the application versus mailing a hard copy and is encouraged by the VA. The applicant or legal representative must sign the application. This website is useful for locating forms, information about the applications, as well as links to other helpful sites.

Documentary to Recognize Vietnam Veteran Generation Taking Place At Fox Theatre in Detroit on January 28, 2011:

Last year, it was an honor to be a part of the events for "Detroit's Greatest Generation" tribute to WWII veterans. Later this month, the premiere for this newest documentary film, "Our Vietnam Generation" will give a long overdue thank you and "welcome home" that Vietnam era veterans did not receive on their return back to the states. Tickets are \$25-\$35 through Ticketmaster or the Fox Theatre box office. You can call (248) 869-0096 Visionalist Entertainment for further information, or go to: www.ourvietnamgeneration.com. You can also see a trailer for this documentary at http://v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html. The documentary will be on PBS, February 21, 2011 for those who are unable to make it to the Premiere. Please check your local listing for the correct channel.



Valuable Dates for 2011:

- **Martin Luther King Day**
January 17, 2011
Office Closed
- **Washington's Birthday**
February 21, 2011
Office Closed
- **Membership Meeting**
Thursday, January 27, 2011
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)
- **PVA Awareness Week**
The MPVA will host their Annual Open House on Thursday, April 14, 2011! Please mark your calendar as this event is free to the public. There will be educational vendors, light refreshments, and recognition of MPVA supports!





Veterans' News

By: Stephanie Strickland, PVA Service Officer

The Importance of a SCI Annual Interview

In this issue, I will be describing all of the measures that should be taken when given an annual exam and the different departments you, as a veteran, should visit while having a Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) annual exam. Every spinal cord injured veteran should have a yearly exam completed at one of the Veterans Affairs (VA) SCI centers to access the extent of their disabilities and for any prosthetic changes or medical needs in general.

I cannot express the importance of this yearly exam. Please take the time for it.

The primary goal of the SCI/D (Spinal Cord Injury/Disease) program is to support, promote, and maintain the health, independence, quality of life and productivity of the veteran with spinal cord injuries. A large part of the program is the annual comprehensive preventative health evaluation. The main focus of the evaluation is the prevention and early identification of complications related to the spinal cord injury itself. The annual evaluations are done either at a SCI center or at a SCI support clinic that has been approved by the Chief Consultant of the SCI/D program.

The annual evaluation is a comprehensive evaluation with services offered by a multidisciplinary team. The veteran is admitted to the hospital and is evaluated by the medical team which may be done by the SCI chief, a neurologist or psychiatrist. The treating team will consult other medicine services to evaluate the veteran. These services include, but are not limited to, urology,

podiatry, gastroenterology, pulmonary, and cardiology as well as the eye clinic and dental for some patients. The veteran is also evaluated by physical and occupational therapy, as well as prosthetics if equipment is needed. Nutrition is very important for patients with spinal cord injuries, therefore as part of the annual evaluation all veterans are seen by a registered dietician.

Basic tests and labs are also completed, including a chest x-ray, an EKG, an ultrasound of the peritoneal, pulmonary function test and a comprehensive set of blood and urine tests are also completed. The psychosocial issues including home care needs such as nursing, home health aides, transportation issues, family dynamics, income, recreation, and benefits are addressed by the SCI social worker.

How long can all of these tests take? When the veterans are admitted to the SCI clinic for an annual evaluation they are usually admitted on a Tuesday and discharged on Friday, unless there is a complication. In a case where a veteran is admitted for an emergency, the duration of one's stay will depend on the situation. Sometimes the stay can be from a few days or as long as 2 months.

In closing, I would like to share a quote from a famous author which once said: "It requires wisdom to understand wisdom: the music is nothing if the audience is deaf." ~Walter Lippmann



WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

Forrest D. Snow

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Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director

31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games Registration is Now Open

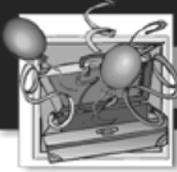


Registration is now open for the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) August 1–6, 2011 in Pittsburgh. This year's Games are hosted by the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and the Keystone Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America. Official events are air guns, archery, basketball, bowling, field, hand cycling, motor rally, nine ball, power soccer, quad rugby, slalom, softball, swimming, table tennis, track, trapshooting, and weight lifting. The deadline to register is April 15, 2011.

Registration is limited to 550 athletes. Completed registration forms are accepted in the order they are received, with priority given to novice athletes after the first 500 entries.

Make plans to join fellow veterans at the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games! Find more information at www.pva.org.





BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY

Raymond A. Todd	January 01	Ernie J. Dearing	January 19	Paula H. Shuler	February 09
Melvin G. Eisenberg	January 02	Dennis Minnifield	January 20	Robert M. Vance	February 09
Raymond D. Hill	January 04	Robert M. Lareau	January 22	Diane L. Dusa	February 10
Terry L. Laurain	January 05	Peter J. Pappas	January 22	James W. Greer	February 10
Matthew W. Nedela	January 05	Randall Charon	January 23	Charles P. O'Loughlin	February 10
Jerome A. Winston	January 05	Joan Hamilton-Walker	January 23	Lawrence L. Byers	February 12
Michael V. Hall	January 06	Maurice L. Jordan	January 24	Arturo G. Torres	February 12
Joe T. Harvey	January 06	Robert D. Boyd	January 25	Haile Garrison	February 13
William L. Watts	January 06	Tameka R. Citchen	January 25	Jackie Lyons	February 13
Thomas M. Durkee	January 07	Leon S. Tallman	January 25	Angeline C. LeVasseur	February 14
Richard R. Ference	January 07	Alexander M. Urquhart	January 27	Gregory L. Union	February 14
Laverne W. Coleman	January 08	Pasquale Perna	January 29	James F. Hogg	February 15
Marc P. Ferguson	January 09	Darrell Robins	January 29	Larry D. Anderson	February 16
Paul E. Goodpaster	January 09	George B. Whitehead	January 29	Roberta Brezzell	February 16
John W. Hart	January 10	Fred Lauback	January 30	Gregory L. Herban	February 16
Raymond H. Mays	January 10	Vernon R. Bach	January 31	James W. Suhay	February 16
Roy J. Randolph	January 10	Rebecca A. Forbes	January 31	Kenneth V. Giorgio	February 17
Leonard J. Sposato	January 10			Anthony T. Bush	February 19
Michael J. Manfrom	January 11			Gary D. Houghton	February 19
		FEBRUARY			
Chester J. Grew	January 12	Claude G. Curry	February 01	William A. Oltersdorf	February 20
Michael J. McMahon	January 12	Raymond E. Langley	February 01	Calvin P. Aldrink	February 24
David G. Peck	January 12	Pauline P. Littles	February 01	Joel C. Boyd	February 24
James E. Hillaker	January 13	Eric M. Hudson	February 02	Wendell J. Thompson	February 24
Gary E. Klatt	January 13	Richard V. Voss	February 04	Bobby Bryant	February 25
Mary E. Dingeldej	January 14	Joseph L. Yax	February 04	Eddie J. Collier	February 25
William B. Milzarski	January 15	Cheryl A. Vatcher-Bunke	February 05	Gary L. Cunningham	February 25
Richard A. Crawley	January 16	Charles E. Armour	February 06	Shannon L. Rhodes	February 26
John T. Koehler	January 16	David M. Cohen	February 06	Eric A. Appleberry	February 27
Timothy A. Berczel	January 17	John V. Miron	February 06	Adis A. Laws	February 27
Michael J. Marko	January 17	Nick Ivan	February 07	Anthony A. Nemeskal	February 27
James C. Pittman	January 17	Larry Robinson	February 07	Diane E. Norton	February 27
Debra J. Hoogerhyde	January 18	Donna L. Calderon	February 08		
John E. Tominac	January 18	Anthony McNeal	February 09		





Veterans Day 2010





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