

# RT '13

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



Melissa Stockwell, 2012 Salute to Veterans Gala  
Keynote Speaker, shares her compelling story

*Photo Courtesy of: Bill Lynn*





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
**MICHIGAN CHAPTER**



## On the Cover:

Melissa Stockwell, Iraqi War Veteran, above the knee amputee, 2008 Paralympian, World Champion Paratriathlete x2, Certified Prosthesis, Triathlon Coach, and Motivational Speaker shares her story with the audience that attended the 2012 Salute to Veterans Gala this past November. See the Presidents Report in the inside back page of this issue for more details and photos.

### MPVA Officers and Directors

President..... Kevin G. Elya	Director ..... Gary Grubbe
Vice President..... David Peck	Director ..... Teresa Kamphorst
Secretary..... Clark Shuler	Director ..... Scot Severn
Treasurer..... Timothy Agajeenian	Director ..... Maurice Jordan
Director ..... John Dusa	

### MPVA Staff

Executive Director  
Michael Harris  
mharris@michiganpva.org

Deputy Executive  
Director/Development  
Jaclyn K. Kochis  
jkochis@michiganpva.org

Director of Government Relations  
& Advocacy  
Vacant

Sports & Recreation Director  
Scot Severn  
ssevern@michiganpva.org

Administrative Assistant  
Brenda Wheeler  
chapterhq@michiganpva.org

Financial Officer  
Linda Highland

Office Maintenance  
Willie DeBerry

Legal Advisor  
Steve Cohen

Certified Public Accountants  
and Consultants  
Croskey, Lanni & Company, PC

Published by  
Michigan Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

### 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  
National Field Director Rickey Grant  
(202) 374-2032 Washington, D.C

### 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.

## Inside this Issue

President's Report	3
Executive Director's Report	6
Birthdays	8
Veterans' News	10
Special Edition	11
Sports & Recreation	13

## 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.

The Ad Agency

Design & Art Production 734-678-7928



# President's Report

By Kevin G. Elya, President, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

## Reflecting on Veterans Day 2012

On November 8, 2012, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) celebrated Veterans Day by hosting the 9th Annual "Salute to Veterans" dinner at the Schoolcraft College 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 Melissa Stockwell, 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.

I have always been amazed how Americans confuse Veterans Day with Memorial Day. Both holidays celebrate our veterans service, but with one significant difference. Memorial Day honors servicemen who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle. Veterans Day is set aside to thank and honor living and deceased veterans who served honorably in the military, either during wartime or peacetime.

Most people see Veterans Day as a day off from work. At MPVA we see it as an opportunity to properly thank veterans for their service to their 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.

The Keynote Speaker at this year's dinner was Melissa Stockwell. A first lieutenant in the United States Army, she was the first women soldier to lose a limb in the Iraq War. She lost her left leg on April 13, 2004, when a roadside bomb exploded while leading a convoy in Baghdad. For her service in Iraq she was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Melissa spent a year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center undergoing multiple surgeries and rehabilitation. During her physical therapy at Walter Reed, Melissa was introduced to swimming. After learning of the Paralympic Games, Melissa set her sights on becoming a Paralympic athlete. She eventually became the first Iraq veteran chosen for the Paralympics. She competed in three swimming events, the 100 meter butterfly, 100 meter freestyle, and 400 meter freestyle, at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in China and finished sixth, fifth, and fourth in her heats, respectively. She was the U.S team flag bearer at the closing ceremonies. Melissa has remained active as an athlete in the sport of Para-triathlon where she has won her division at the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Para-triathlon World Championships.

To her credit she did not let the injury define her. Instead, her life is a portrait of courage in the face of great adversity.

We are truly thankful for the amazing turnout we had at this year's event. The inspirational annual fundraiser is an opportunity to highlight the impact that MPVA programs have played in improving the quality of life for disabled veterans.

I would be remiss if I did not take time out to say thank to some very special people for making this 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. Everyone contributions truly made a difference.

It's amazing in just nine years the Veteran Dinner has turned into MPVA signature event of the year. Because of this, the Chapter has been lifted to a new level in the eyes of our members and guests.

This year's success can be contributed to the direction and leadership of Jaclyn Kochis. In just five years she has taken the event to heights never seen before. Any successful event takes organization, focus and a lot of creativity. She, along with our very committed MPVA Advisory Committee Members, brought a focus to the event that was lacking in previous years.

I would also like to thank Brenda Wheater for her hard work in helping organize this year's event. Our staff has proven that by working together you can accomplish some outstanding things!

In addition, Patricia Harris & Patty Soma were two key parts of this year's dinner. Patricia went out of her way to personally go out and ask for contributions for our Online Auction while Patty worked to write and coordinate the outstanding opening video that kicked off the Salute to Veterans Gala. Thank you, both, for your dedication, time and effort!

All of the attention to detail made this year's "Salute to Veterans" dinner a huge success. At the end of the

evening everyone I spoke with commented on how enjoyable and inspirational the dinner had been. In fact, the greatest compliment you can get is when they request not to forget to invite them for next year's event.

To our sponsors, MPVA thanks you for your generous support! Given the tough economic times sponsors could render their regrets and quietly backed off. But, they did not, their support this year has been nothing short of magnificent.

On behalf of MPVA and we thank the 700,000 Michigan veterans for a job well done.

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



*Veterans of Modern Warfare Southeast Michigan Chapter 4 display their fallen hero wall at the 2012 Salute to Veterans Gala.*

I would like to take a moment to especially thank the following groups and individuals  
for supporting our 9th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala:

Melissa Stockwell

Rich Luterman

Patricia Harris

Patty Soma

Brigadier General Fausone

The VistaTech Center

Post 216 of Milford

Veterans of Modern Warfare Southeast Michigan Chapter 4

Adult Well-Being Services

American House Senior Living

Bath for All

Brain Injury Association of Michigan

Cohen, Lerner & Rabinovitz

DTE Energy, Eisenhower Center

Foundation for American Veterans

General Motors

Health Partners Homecare

Hospitalers Committee Commandary 1

HVPC LLC, International Union-UAW

Legal Help for Veterans PLLC

Littler Mendelson

Miller Tischler P.C.

NuStep, Providence Hospital

Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan

SEIU Healthcare Michigan

The Sam Bernstein Law Firm

The Sinas Dramis Law Firm

Walk the Line to SCI Recovery

Wright & Filippis



# Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

## Brain Injury Association of Michigan Files Lawsuit Against MCCA

**T**he Brain Injury Association of Michigan filed a lawsuit against the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) to obtain vital financial information on behalf of all auto-insured citizens and all Michiganders catastrophically injured in an auto accident.

The information is critical in revealing the rationale behind the insurance industry claim that Michigan's current auto no-fault system is financially unstable and that the MCCA will soon go bankrupt without capping benefits and enforcing strict cost controls.

To date, the MCCA has continued to assert its claim of exemption from all attempts to secure this essential information – including the recently filed FOIA lawsuit by the Coalition to Protect Auto No-Fault (CPAN) – effectively blocking the ability of all concerned parties to assess the no-fault system, address its shortfalls, and collaborate on appropriate solutions to fix the system without sacrificing no-fault's core principle of immediate access to appropriate, unlimited care for catastrophically injured victims.

This is about transparency and access to information. The MCCA is a public body that collects millions of dollars from millions of Michigan citizens, including our state lawmakers, and we have a right to see the records of how that money is managed. Releasing financial information is the only way that policy makers and interest groups can make informed decisions on proposed changes to the Michigan no-fault law.

### Survey: Michigan Voters Want MCCA

### Transparency, Support State's No-Fault System

Lawmakers have spent nearly two years debating the

insurance industry's proposed cuts to Michigan auto no-fault insurance benefits and whether to impose government price controls on health care providers. A new survey, however, shows that their efforts may be better focused on improving the transparency of the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) and getting tough on insurance fraud.

The survey, conducted by Denno Research on behalf of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, found that 86 percent of respondents support the full injury and rehabilitation benefits provided to accident survivors under Michigan's auto insurance system. This support was demonstrated across all demographics of respondents, with African Americans (65 percent strongly agree), Macomb County residents (60 percent strongly agree) and 18-34 year-olds (59 percent strongly agree).

When respondents were asked about their awareness of the MCCA, only 20 percent of respondents claimed to be familiar with the organization. The MCCA helps pay for auto injury benefits for severely injured accident victims by reimbursing auto insurance companies for claims that exceed \$500,000. By law, every Michigan auto insurance policy is charged \$175 annually to fund the organization. All insurers that sell auto insurance in Michigan must pay the MCCA an annual fee for each vehicle insured. That fee is known as the MCCA assessment, and is passed on in whole or in part to the policyholders.

Once hearing an explanation of the MCCA and the \$175 per vehicle assessment charged to fund it, respondents were nearly split on whether the cost was too little, too much or just right. About 40 percent of respondents stated the assessment was just right, 33 percent said it was too much and 7 percent said that it should be higher.

Michigan citizens realize that people seriously injured in an auto accident can get the medical care they need without bankrupting their families and turning to welfare. They understand that it is not worth throwing away the best auto insurance system in the United States just to save a couple of bucks.

This survey reaffirms the message that Michigan voters sent to the Insurance Industry in 1994 when they overwhelmingly defeated the Michigan Auto Insurance Referendum, also known as Proposal C.

Michigan voters sent a powerful message that the value of providing quality of life for all Michiganders is priceless!

### **MPVA Deeply Disappointed in Senate Failure to Ratify Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America was extremely disappointed that the United States Senate failed to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities Treaty (CRPD), a treaty inspired by the landmark civil rights legislation the American with Disabilities Act.

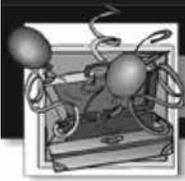
“Today marks a very sad day for all Americans with disabilities and an enormous missed opportunity for American leadership,” said Bill Lawson, National President of Paralyzed Veterans of America. “Paralyzed Veterans has long championed the rights

and freedoms of people with disabilities, particularly those men and women who honorably served this nation. Ratification of this treaty would have helped to expand accessibility across the world for millions of people with disabilities, a portion of who wore the uniform of this nation to preserve and advance freedom. That freedom includes the right to travel to other parts of the world and to access the global economy.”

The CRPD, signed by more than 150 countries, addresses the equal rights of persons with disabilities. Countries who have ratified the treaty agree to “undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability.” Despite bipartisan support in the Senate, ratification of the treaty failed on a 61-38 vote, with 67 votes needed for ratification.

“At a time when people with disabilities continue to face hardships at home, in the community, and in the workplace, we cannot understand the reluctance of some members of the Senate to ratify this important treaty,” stated Lawson. “We urge the Senators who voted against this treaty to reconsider their vote, and encourage Senate leadership to keep bringing the treaty up for vote until it is ratified.”





# BIRTHDAYS



## JANUARY

Christina M. Lowe January 01  
 Raymond A. Todd January 01  
 Melvin G. Eisenberg January 02  
 Raymond D. Hill January 04  
 Terry L. Laurain January 05  
 Matthew W. Nedela January 05  
 Jerome A. Winston January 05  
 Michael V. Hall January 06  
 Joe T. Harvey January 06  
 William L. Watts January 06  
 Erik Cuolahan January 07  
 Thomas M. Durkee January 07  
 Richard R. Ference January 07  
 Laverne W. Coleman January 08  
 Marc P. Ferguson January 09  
 Paul E. Goodpaster January 09  
 John W. Hart January 10  
 Raymond H. Mays January 10  
 Donald M. Petrelius January 10  
 Roy J. Randolph January 10  
 Leonard J. Sposato January 10  
 Michael J. Manfrom January 11  
 Chester J. Grew January 12  
 Michael J. McMahon January 12  
 David G. Peck January 12  
 James E. Hillaker January 13  
 Christopher D. Blaxton January 14  
 Mary E. Dingeldey January 14  
 Charles S. Mathews January 14  
 William B. Milzarski January 15  
 Richard A. Crawley January 16  
 John T. Koehler January 16  
 Timothy A. Berczel January 17  
 Michael J. Marko January 17  
 James C. Pittman January 17  
 Debra J. Hoogerhyde January 18  
 Kevin T. Keck January 18  
 John E. Tominac January 18  
 Ernie J. Dearing January 19  
 Dennis Minnifield January 20  
 Peter J. Pappas January 22  
 Brian Barna January 23

Randall Charon  
 Joan Hamilton-Walker  
 Curtiss C. Thompson  
 Maurice L. Jordan  
 Robert D. Boyd  
 Tameka R. Citchen  
 Alexander M. Urquhart  
 Pasquale Perna  
 George B. Whitehead  
 Fred Lauback  
 Vernon R. Bach  
 Rebecca A. Forbes

## FEBRUARY

Claude G. Curry  
 Raymond E. Langley  
 Pauline P. Littles  
 Eric M. Hudson  
 Thomas R. Woods  
 Richard V. Voss  
 Joseph L. Yax  
 Harry L. Papke  
 Cheryl A. Vatcher-Bunke  
 David M. Cohen  
 Nick Ivan  
 Larry Robinson  
 Donna L. Calderon  
 Robert M. Chance  
 Donald L. McLaughlin  
 Raymond J. Sacker  
 Anthony McNeal  
 Paula H. Shuler  
 Robert M. Vance  
 Diana L. Dusa  
 James W. Greer  
 Charles P. O'Loughlin  
 Lawrence L. Byers  
 Arturo G. Torres  
 Haile Garrison  
 Jackie Lyons  
 Bishop Pennington  
 Angeline C. LeVasseur

January 23  
 January 23  
 January 23  
 January 24  
 January 25  
 January 25  
 January 27  
 January 29  
 January 29  
 January 30  
 January 31  
 January 31

February 01  
 February 01  
 February 01  
 February 02  
 February 02  
 February 04  
 February 04  
 February 05  
 February 05  
 February 06  
 February 07  
 February 07  
 February 07  
 February 08  
 February 08  
 February 08  
 February 08  
 February 09  
 February 09  
 February 09  
 February 10  
 February 10  
 February 10  
 February 12  
 February 12  
 February 13  
 February 13  
 February 13  
 February 14

Gregory L. Union  
 James F. Hogg  
 Larry D. Anderson  
 Roberta Brezzell  
 Gregory L. Herban  
 James W. Suhay  
 Kenneth V. Giorgio  
 Dean C. Cutler  
 Anthony T. Bush  
 Gary D. Houghton  
 William A. Oltersdorf  
 Joel C. Boyd  
 Wendell J. Thompson  
 Bobby Bryant  
 Gary L. Cunningham  
 Shannon L. Rhodes  
 Eric A. Appleberry  
 Adis A. Laws  
 Anthony A. Nemeskal  
 Diane E. Norton  
 James S. McGinn

February 14  
 February 15  
 February 16  
 February 16  
 February 16  
 February 16  
 February 17  
 February 18  
 February 19  
 February 19  
 February 20  
 February 24  
 February 24  
 February 25  
 February 25  
 February 26  
 February 27  
 February 27  
 February 27  
 February 27  
 February 28





MPVA 2012

Holiday Party





By: Mike Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

## Senate Finally Approves COLA Bill

Immediately upon returning from the long election recess, the Senate approved S. 2259, the “Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act.” The legislation was delayed, prior to Congress recessing for the election in September, due to a “hold” which was placed on the bill by an unnamed Republican senator. A “hold” is a procedural tool available to senators that allows them to prevent consideration of legislation on the Senate floor, usually until disagreements with the legislation are worked out. “Holds” have often been criticized by both parties because they are used more as a political tool and because a hold can be placed on legislation anonymously.

PVA is pleased to see that partisanship was set aside to complete this critically important legislation. The COLA is projected to provide a 1.7 percent increase to disability compensation, pension, and dependency and indemnity compensation.

### Access to VA Mental Health Services Remain a Problem

On November 30, the Senate Committee of Veterans' Affairs held a hearing entitled, “VA Mental Health—Addressing Wait Times and Access to Care.” The purpose of the hearing was to examine barriers that are preventing veterans from receiving timely, quality mental health services. The hearing served as a follow-up to a July hearing when the Committee first brought attention to excessive wait times for veterans seeking mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The panels that testified before the Committee consisted of a retired U.S. Army Colonel who served on active duty for 20 years as an internist and psychiatrist, the president of a non-profit mental health service provider, the executive vice-president of Mental Health and Family Services for Wounded Warrior Project, a mental health professional from a VA medical center, and the Director of Mental Health Operations for the VA. Each panelist discussed the ongoing problem of wait times for mental

health services, despite VA efforts to address this issue by increasing the number of mental health professionals and incorporating mental health as a component of primary care within VA's Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Most recently, the VA has provided medical centers with \$13 million in funding to hire additional mental health staff, implemented a spouse telephone support hotline, and launched an online mental health campaign titled, “Make the Connection,” which is a mental health information resource for veterans and their families.

The lack of availability for follow-up appointments, and variability of mental health care across VHA were issues identified as barriers to VA providing quality mental health services. Also during the hearing, many panelists advocated for VA providing appointments for mental health services during times that are outside of the traditional scheduling model. Panelists testified that often veterans are not able to receive the mental health care that they need because they cannot leave work, or find child care during the day. Therefore, flexible hours were recommended to the VA as a way to better accommodate veterans' schedules, and encourage them to seek the mental health services they need. The Committee encouraged the VA to “think outside of the box,” and develop new ways to improve mental health services that make VA care more accessible for veterans.

The hearing ended with Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC) informing the VA that there will be many more hearings in the near future to address VA mental health care services. The Committee promised to aggressively work to ensure that VA mental health services are addressing the needs of veterans. PVA will continue to work with VA and Congress to help improve mental health care for veterans and their families to ensure that they receive care when it is needed.





By: Jaclyn Kochis

## 2012 Detroit Free Press Marathon

The 2012 Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank Marathon took place on Sunday, October 21, 2012 and welcomed approximately 35 handcyclists and wheelchair racers to take on the 26.2-mile course that twists through Detroit and Canada. Once again, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans (MPVA) of America proudly sponsored the Disability Division of the race.

The marathon festivities were kicked-off on Friday, October 18, 2012 at an Expo held at Cobo Hall in Detroit. Thousands of runners, walkers, wheelers, and interested supporters came out to see what sponsors who were supporting the race, and charities receiving support, had to offer.

The Detroit Free Press Expo ended on Saturday evening after 35 individuals who had registered for the Disabilities Division had checked in to collect their race bibs and packets. Bright and early the following morning, the MPVA met all 35 racers at the start line. Some had traveled from all over the United States and Canada to compete and they were eager to get out onto the course.

Once again, the participants in the Disability Division were paired with bicycle escorts who were assigned one-to-one with each racer. The addition of the bicyclists seemed to be a hit with the disability participants who can sometimes encounter problems with their equipment ranging from flat tires or broken chains which can greatly hinder their race time. Likewise, the bicycle escorts came across the finish line expressing their admiration and marvel over the tough feat that the handcyclists and wheelers had accomplished.

Furthermore, the MPVA also had the opportunity to once again greet the Achilles Freedom Team of

Wounded Veterans who brought 23 military members and veterans from all across the country to participate in this year's marathon.

Tom Davis was the first handcyclist to reach the finish line with a time of 1:20:27, follow by Adrianus Geeve with a time of 1:28:37. Grant Berthiaume was the first wheelchair racer to reach the finish line with a time of 2:03:41, followed by Andrew Barnhart with a time of 3:19:31.

Meanwhile, the first and only woman to enter the Disability division, Tabitha Landon of Lake Odessa, concluded her race with a smile and a personal best time of 2:28:16.

Michael Harris, MPVA Executive Director, served on a board which advised the Detroit Free Press Marathon staff on this year's race stated, "I am always thoroughly impressed by the athletes that participate in this race. Each year that we have been able to sponsor, I have been able to witness the work that goes into this race from both planning perspective and the athletes' perspective. It takes a great deal of work on both sides. This year was absolutely no exception. I hope that we continue to see the Disability Division of this race grow as we have this year. It truly proves how limitless individuals with disabilities can be."

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America would like to congratulate each and every person who competed in this year's Detroit Free Press Marathon! We look forward to next year's event and supporting the 2013 Disability Division.



# Snapshots from 2012!





# Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director

## Third Annual Army vs. Navy Wheelchair Basketball Game

In November, the normal sound of squeaking shoes on the floor of the Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor was replaced by the rumbling of wheelchair tires rolling across the court. Disabled veterans and student-veterans from the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, as well as veterans from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, made up the Army vs. Navy Wheelchair Basketball teams. Each team also featured a couple National Team Players from some of Michigan's wheelchair basketball teams.

The event was the culmination of the University's "Investing in Ability Week," a disability awareness initiative organized by the University's Council for Disability Concerns. It also included performances by the Men's Glee Club, the University Dance Team, Tri-Service Color Guard and the 338th Army Band. Student volunteers from the Maize Rage, Circle K and the Men's Swimming and Diving team also helped out. The game coaches were UofM Army ROTC Commander LTC Allana Bryant, PMS, and MSG Nicholas LaChance, SMSI. Navy coaches were also from ROTC MIDN 1/C Kevin Nguy, MIDN 2/C Jeremy Heimke. Regent Katherine White also served as Grand Marshall of the event.

The score was tied 8-8 at the end of the first quarter. A couple steals in the last 30 seconds of the half gave Navy an 18-14 lead. The game remained close throughout the third quarter, with Army trailing 24-21. The Navy Midshipmen

pulled away in the fourth to defend their championship and the game ended with a final score of 32-27.



*Army & Navy veterans battle it out on the basketball floor this past fall*

Event organizer, Gerald Hoff, an insurance verification representative for the University Health System, said the event served as a means for the University to support veterans, both with and without disabilities, and urged students to get to know veterans at the University. Special thanks go out to Brian Stark and the UM Student Veterans of America for the silent auction. Everyone that participated in the event helped, they all gave back in their own special way.



## Wheelin' Team 457 Annual Deer Hunt

By Ray Brown

More fun, more excitement, more challenges, and more success—that sums up Wheelin' Team 457's Annual

Deer Hunt! We beat rain, wind, fatigue, ditches, branches, mud, medication, nurses, doctors, clinics, hospitals and lost are "identities" of being disabled!

That weekend of October 18-21, we were HUNTERS!

Sponsors, guides, family, volunteers and property owners assured us this hunt. We gained friends and enjoyed the outdoors. We traded our time for all the wisdom nature could give and rolled away from the hunt much better for it. Our hunts are about the deer and the harvest, and, much more than that, they are also about the people.

The hunt ended with a harvest dinner in which 104 people attended and many were there in spirit. Scot Severn took our big buck with a nice 10 pointer and was guided by Jason Stockdale. Scot was awarded the Ernie Leach Memorial Award. In addition, Austin Jones captured his 1st deer ever! He was guided by his father and Marty, a property owner, who witnessed Austin's outstanding journey!

I would also like to thank The "G" Team who helped us enter our deer in the Q1 buck pole and took them to be processed.



*Austin Jones celebrates the capture of his 1st deer at Wheelin' Team 457's Annual Deer Hunt*

All in all, it was another outstanding event!



# 2012 Salute to Veterans Gala



“Oh beautiful,  
for heroes proved,  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self,  
our country loved,  
And mercy more than life...”

~America the Beautiful~





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

Change Service Requested  
DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE!  
Januari/Februari 2013

### Valuable Dates for 2013:

---

 **Martin Luther King Day**  
January 21, 2013, Office Closed

 **Washington's Birthday**  
February 18, 2013, Office Closed

 **Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, January 24, 2013  
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 11, 2013!  
Please mark your calendar as this event  
is free to the public. There will be  
educational vendors, light refreshments,  
and recognition of MPVA supports!