

# RT '13

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



Gary L. Grubbe

September 24, 1956-May 15, 2013

MPVA Board Member & Friend.

You will be so missed, may you rest in peace.





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
**MICHIGAN CHAPTER**



## On the Cover:

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) and the disability community lost a true friend when Gary Grubbe passed away on May 15, 2013. He was a caring man who will be dearly missed by so many. Please see the Presidents Report to read more about Gary.

### 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 Agajejian	Director .....	Maurice Jordan
Director .....	John Dusa	

### MPVA Staff

<b>Executive Director</b> Michael Harris mharris@michiganpva.org	<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Brenda Wheeler chapterhq@michiganpva.org
--	--

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

**Financial Officer**  
Linda Highland

**Office Maintenance**  
Willie DeBerry

**Legal Advisor**  
Steve Cohen

**Director of Government Relations & Advocacy**  
Vacant

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

**Sports & Recreation Director**  
Scot Severn  
ssevern@michiganpva.org

**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 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	5
Guest Article	7
Veterans' News	9
Sports & Recreation	11

## 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

## Losing Great Friend

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) and the disability community lost a true friend when Gary Grubbe passed away on May 15, 2013. He was a caring man who always aimed to make those around him smile.

Gary's service to our country started in 1980 when he joined the United States Navy where he was a member of the Construction Battalion (Seabee) until he was honorably discharged in 1983. However, his service did not end there. A life member of MPVA since 2006, Gary served on MPVA's Board of Directors for nearly a decade and he was also the Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 75 in Caro, Michigan.

The obstacles Gary encountered daily were numerous, but he did not let those challenges deter him. His disability did not define him; instead his involvement in wheelchair sports provided inspiration for both able-bodied and disabled athletes alike. Gary was the co-founder of the Wheelin' Team 457 and the Ann Arbor VA Wheelchair Team. He excelled in wheelchair sports, winning numerous medals and making many friends.

I, along with all of you, will miss my dear friend. But, I know his spirit and his legacy will live on forever in the multitude of lives that were touched by his compassion. On behalf of the MPVA family, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Debra, son Chris; daughters Heather and Andrea; and two grandchildren, Jade and Devyn.

Along with my message, I wanted to share the thoughtful words that a few of his family members were able to put together below:

*"It is so hard for me to find words to say about my dad. But, he was my backbone and I loved him so very much."*

~By: Chris Grubbe



*"Trying to put into words what kind of man my dad was is next to impossible. To say he was a great man doesn't even come close! He was an amazing father and an even better papa. He was a great husband and a true patriot. He never let this "disability" define who he was as a person. "CAN DO" was his motto, and he lived by that.*

*As kids he would tell us, "there's no such thing as can't!" Growing up he coached mine and Chris's baseball teams and he would play catch with us (yes, that old one handed gimp :). He was always involved in every moment of our lives. He will continue to be. Jade and Devyn will always remember their papa chasing them around the house in his wheelchair or giving them rides outside. That laughter*



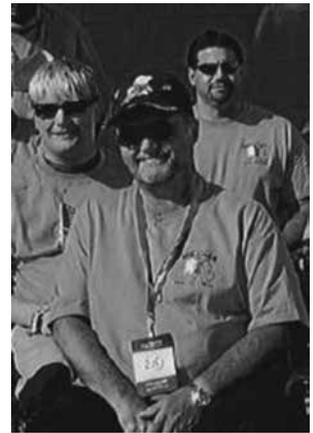
and those memories are who he was. He always looked on the bright side and if that light was dimming he was there to hold your hand and walk through it with you. He would do everything he could to help anybody and he did it with a smile. That kind of man isn't what you simply call great...CAN DO!...MY HERO!"~By: **Heather Grubbe**

"Wow, I don't even know where to begin. My dad was the best father there ever was for a lot of reasons. First, he had a heart of gold and went out of his way to help people even when he didn't always have it to give. He was happy to lend a hand when he could. He was an amazing father, husband, and papa to his beautiful granddaughter and handsome grandson. Second, he was a fighter who never gave up no matter what the obstacles were. He was always pushing to hang on for a while longer, to overcome all that he went through right till the end. Time, and time again, the doctors told my mom that he wouldn't make it. That here was no hope. And, time, and time again, he proved them all wrong. He fought to be the husband and father he needed to be, right from the start of his first child to the end trying to fight to stay for his grandbabies. Because of that fighting spirit he is and always will be my hero, I'm so proud to be his daughter. I hope to take that spirit and be able to be as strong as he was for whatever life throws my way."~By: **Andrea Michelle Grubbe**

"Gary and I started dating in 1975, we got married in 1981, we had our first child, our son Christopher, on July 8th, 1982. In December of 1982, Gary suffered a stroke. His doctors told me he wouldn't make it, but his nurses told me to bring a picture of me and our son. So, I did. The next day they called me and told me he was improving and fighting hard, and he made it, so they nicknamed him "Miracle Boy". In 1985, our second child, Heather, was born. In 1987, our third child, Andrea, followed.

He loved all of us very much and we love him. He was a terrific husband, a great father to our three kids (plus a few more we called our own), he was a wonderful papa to our two grandchildren, Jade and Devyn.

He was a member of the American Legion, the Forty and Eight, Commander of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Board member of the MPVA (Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America) and life member of the Seabee Veterans of America. Gary never let anything get him down. His motto was



"SEABEES CAN DO!" He was a member and co-founder of the Wheelin' Team 457, also co-captain and athlete with the Ann Arbor Wheelchair team. He looked forward to going to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games every year. He enjoyed his family and his life.

Gary would've given anyone the shirt off his back if he could have. He was a fighter up until the end, he loved life, and he loved the outdoors. He is loved and will be deeply missed by all of his family and friends." ~By: **Debra Grubbe.**





# Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

## Michigan Dog War Memorial

Recently, and to my amazement, I find out that Governor Snyder designated March 13, 2013 as K-9 (military working dog) Veterans Day and that Michigan has a War Dog Memorial located at the corner of Milford & 11 Mile Road in Lyon Township.

Founded in 1936, the Michigan War Dog Memorial began as a pet cemetery. In 1947, residents erected a granite War Dog monument in honor of dogs that served in the military saving the lives of soldiers during World War I and World II.

Earlier this year a military family fought to get Sgt. Mina, military working dog, the proper military funeral he deserved. The male black Labrador Retriever was an Army mine detection specialist who served two tours in Bosnia and nine in Afghanistan. Two of the Afghanistan tours were spent with of Sgt. Corey McCourt, who adopted Sgt. Mina after the Army retired the dog last year.

Upon Mina's passing, the McCourt family was hoping to have Sgt. Mina buried at Great Lakes National Cemetery but they were informed that the United States Veteran Affairs National Cemetery Administration does not allow animals to be buried in any National Cemetery.

Once the Michigan War Dog Memorial Board members became aware of Mina's plight they offered to give Mina a proper burial at no cost. Mina received full military honors and was buried on May 5, 2013 at the Michigan War Dog Memorial and cemetery in Lyon Township, one of two places in the United States that serves as the final resting place for dogs who were a soldier's best friend on the battlefield.

The ceremony included two flag lines consisting of 40 Patriot Guard Riders and 25 German shepherds. A color guard went down the middle of the two lines, followed by Staff Sgt. McCourt, who placed Mina's ashes on the table of honor. Mina was given a slow hand salute, his biography was read and a chaplain spoke. Staff Sgt. McCourt was presented with a folded American flag, and taps was played.



Then four German shepherds offered a dog salute to their fallen comrade: They howled and then stomped on command. I was told that there was not a dry eye in the crowd.

The ceremony does not pretend that a dog's honors should be equal that of a fallen soldier. It is just a way to honor one of the military's greatest assets.

The Michigan War Dog Memorial is also dedicated to the thousands of military working dogs that served during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial also recognizes the

service the military war dogs give to the United States of America on countless missions around the world for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines.

The Department of Defense has been using military working dogs since World War I; however, it was not until 2000 that a bill was passed that allowed these dogs to be adopted after their service to the military is no longer needed. Prior to this, older war dogs were required to be euthanized.



Recently, the “*Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act*” passed by the House and Senate, was signed into law by President Obama. This legislation classifies military working dogs as members of the

armed forces, instead of their former classification of equipment. This allows the government to assist in the process of getting the former war dogs adopted, if they qualify for civilian life.

At this very moment military working dogs are deployed around the world with our fighting forces; places like Iraq and Afghanistan. They are guarding the sleeping, securing bases and supplies, hunting the enemy, scouting for snipers and booby-traps and finding explosives.

America’s war dogs have a long and legendary history for bravery and courage on thousands of unnamed foreign fields of battle, saving countless American lives. Some military analysts estimate as many as ten thousand U.S. and allied lives were saved during the Vietnam War alone. The casualty rates in all other wars were significantly reduced by thousands as a result of deploying our four-legged soldiers!

It is awesome that we honor “man’s best friend” in fitting tribute for a job well done!

For more information go to [www.mwdm.org](http://www.mwdm.org).



## *Sincere Condolences*

*to*

*the families of:*

*Gary L. Grubbe*

*John E. Mayer*

*John E. Senn*

*Michael A. Karjala*



## Guest Article

By: Mike Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

### Disabled Veterans Enjoy a Day of Fishing on Lake Michigan

**O**n Armed Forces Day, 2013, Michigan veterans converged on the town of Manistee for an all expenses paid fishing event on Lake Michigan.

For most Americans, Memorial Day is celebrated on the fourth Monday in May. But for me, the official start of Memorial Day kicks off one week prior, during the "Tight Lines for Troops" Veterans Fishing Tournament.

The event, now in its fourth year, was hosted by the Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) and the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA).

On May 18th, 2013, Manistee County Charter Captains join other fishing boat Captains from around Northern Michigan to host close to 300 Michigan military service personnel and veterans on 60 - four-person "Teams."

Lake Michigan Charter Boat Captains gave up a day's pay to honor veterans from World War II to Afghanistan. Some of the Boat Captain's came as far as 100 miles away to donate their time. Veterans that had difficulty paying for the trip were given financial support to help offset the cost in their travel, meals & lodging and the purchase of a fishing license.

Five boats carried veterans from the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard where a friendly rivalry was created amongst the branches of the arm forces. Once again, the Air Force won the Governors Cup.

This year, I noticed that there were more disabled veterans participating that were injured either in Iraq or Afghanistan. Seeing them is a reminder that these young men and women have served our country with honor and distinction.

For some recently injured veterans, this is an opportunity for them to reclaim themselves. Some have difficulty accepting their disability. Doing something they did prior to their injury shows them that their disability

does not have to define them.

The brainchild behind the fishing tournament was Army veteran and Manistee County Charter Boat Captain, Bob Guenthardt. His motivation for hosting the event was to express his gratitude to disabled veterans for their distinguished military service and the sacrifice they made on behalf of our Nation.

Around dawn on Saturday morning the boats gathered on Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Manistee River Channel. With all the boat engines turned off, the bag-pipers performed Amazing Grace followed by a trumpet playing taps. Sitting back listening to their rendition with my fellow veterans is something I will never forget.

At the conclusion of the tournament boats again gathered together in the harbor and were escorted down the River Channel by the United States Coast Guard all the way to Seng's Marina on Manistee Lake. At the entrance to the channel on both piers and all along the river walk hundreds of people gathered, standing shoulder to shoulder saluting, cheering and welcoming the veterans back from their excursion - with over five hundred American Flags, provided by Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 and Patriot Guard, blowing in the breeze. It was an incredibly moving and very emotional moment for many.

I can assure you that the veterans who participated in the event were treated like VIP's, and journeyed home with the greatest of memories of this event.

The event was capped off with an awards ceremony along with a dinner donated by the Little River Casino Resorts.

Without the support of many this event would have never been possible. All the heavy lifting for the event was provided by Bob Guenthardt, Rick Briggs and Judy Ball. Rick Briggs, of the Brain Injury Association,

deserves a great deal of credit for the coordination of this event.

I want to personally thank the Boat Captains for donating their time and resources. Saturday is a prime day in the charter boat industry. For them to have given up an opportunity for a big payday to honor disabled veterans is a statement within itself!

The collective efforts of over 200 volunteers including representatives of Rolling Thunder MI Chapter #1, Little River Casino Resort, LRBOI Warrior Society, Seng's Marina, US Coast Guard, Manistee National Guard Armory, American Legion Men's Auxiliary who hosted the Captains dinner, VFW, American Legion, Local Boy Scouts, Manistee Chamber of Commerce, BIAMI and MPVA, and countless others worthy of recognition made this year's event the most successful Tight Lines for Troops tournament to date.

Special thanks go out to everyone who sponsored the event. Without their support this day would not have been possible. Their donation is a tribute to those who

honorably served, and are serving, our country. Many of these veterans would have been unable to travel to Manistee for the event; most would never have been able to afford a charter fishing trip, a hotel, or even fuel for the trip. Cash donations allowed us to provide financial assistance to veterans most in need, and also to help offset the expenses of the actual tournament – trophies, t-shirts, etc.

Please visit our website: [www.tightlinesfortroops.com](http://www.tightlinesfortroops.com) and visit the "Tight Lines for Troops" Facebook Page to see photos, news reels, and comments – all real accounts of the experience of May 18, 2013.

Proceeds from the event benefit The Manistee County Veterans Endowment Fund, The Brain Injury Association of Michigan and the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America.

We very much look forward to next year!



## Valuable Dates for 2013:

 **Independence Day Holiday Observed**  
July 4 & 5, 2013  
MPVA Chapter Headquarters will be closed

 **Mark Your Calendar for MPVA's Annual Picnic!**

All MPVA members, associate members, and their families are welcome for a fun afternoon of baseball on a completely accessible ball field! Be sure to bring your baseball glove and appetite! Lunch served from Delilah's Deli.

Where: Plymouth Miracle League Park

When: Saturday, July 20, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

RSVP BY: July 10th Contact: Brenda Wheeler

PH: (800) 638-6782

 **Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, August 22, 2013  
Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon, and the meeting begins at 1:00 PM  
Counting of Ballots for MPVA Board of Directors (All meetings are on Thursdays at the Novi MPVA office unless otherwise notified)

 **31st Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day**  
Friday, September 20, 2013, 6:30 PM  
Join the MPVA in honoring Michigan's Prisoner of War and Missing in Action at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens located at Twelve Mile & Novi Road in Novi, MI.



By: Doug Woodard, Sr. National Veterans Service Officer

## Veterans' Eligibility For a Temporary 100% Rating

I occasionally receive calls from veterans who inquire about an increased service-connected rating based on hospitalization and/or convalescence. These ratings do exist and they are commonly referred to as "temp 100%." Therefore, I would like to discuss what this benefit specifically entails and what must be demonstrated in order for a veteran to receive a favorable decision on this type of claim.

In accordance with 38 CFR 4.29, a veteran can receive a temporary 100 percent rating if he or she is hospitalized for a service-connected disability, in excess of twenty-one days. Once the twenty-one day requirement is met, the temporary 100 percent rating will have an effective date from the first date of continuous hospital care and continue until the last day of the month in which hospital discharge occurs. Interestingly, this statute also allows for a temporary 100 percent rating even if the disability that triggers the hospitalization is not service connected, as long as a service-connected condition is continuously treated during the hospital stay. For example, let's say that a veteran is service-connected at thirty percent for a heart condition and she has a car wreck. If her injuries are severe enough from the accident to render a hospital stay in excess of twenty-one days and her service-connected heart condition is continuously treated during that stay, it could be argued that her service connected heart condition at thirty percent should be temporarily increased to 100 percent.

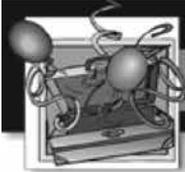
In addition, pursuant to 38 CFR 4.30, a temporary 100 percent rating can be granted for convalescence of a service-connected disability. To receive this type

of 100 percent rating, one of three requirements must be met: 1) the veteran has undergone surgery that requires at least one month convalescence; 2) the veteran has undergone surgery that has resulted in severe postoperative residuals; or 3) a major joint is immobilized by a cast. Veterans can receive three or six months extensions, if the evidence demonstrates the need for continued convalescence. The effective date of the grant is from the date of hospital admission or outpatient treatment, which precipitates the required convalescence.

The issue of what convalescence actually means was settled in the decision *Feldon v. West*. That decision set the precedent that convalescence, for VA purposes, is defined as "the act of regaining or returning to a normal or healthy state," *Feldon v. West* 11 Vet. App.427 (1998). It has been my experience as a PVA service officer that a doctor's note describing the need for some type of convalescence is sufficient to obtain a favorable decision for this claim.

I encourage readers to talk about this issue among your veteran friends and acquaintances. It is likely that some veterans are not aware that these benefits exist. As always, I am available for questions regarding this article or any other VA questions, please contact your MPVA or PVA Service Officer at: 800-795-3608.





# BIRTHDAYS



## JULY

Timothy D. Bishop	July 01	Douglas R. Kline
Gary L. Bennett	July 02	Kenneth J. Vajcner
Joseph W. Sutschek	July 03	Brent W. Christensen
Mira K. Pierson	July 04	John W. Dowdle
Michelle L. Marsh	July 05	Richard P. Van Eenenaam
James A. Kochis	July 06	Kirk J. Dowding
Terry L. Novak	July 06	Robert Robleski
Joseph M. Salvia	July 06	Kelly F. Whalen
Herbert J. Spring	July 06	Steven B. Wilson
Russell C. Stewart	July 06	Elizabeth A. Greenwood
Merlin L. Ihrig	July 07	James M. Cisco
Archie A. MacIntyre	July 07	Teresa Kamphorst
James E. Willingham	July 07	Dwayne "DJ" L. Murray
Jerry S. Adams	July 08	James E. Rutherford
Harry Gregorian	July 08	Carl E. Heath
Gerald A. Baier	July 09	James T. Jensen
Wendell H. Ming	July 09	Samuel L. Harding
Alan D. Opra	July 09	Mary J. Pellerito-Barenbrugge
John R. Jacques	July 10	Ronald E. Truitt
Bruce P. Chargo	July 11	
Jason G. Peck	July 11	
Gerald H. Talerico	July 11	
Kristine I. Wolff	July 11	Cheryl L. Angelelli
Patrick M. Adams	July 12	Diego E. Marrero
Tom Boyd	July 12	Gregory M. Noe
Mark J. Cristao	July 12	Heidi M. Plante
Eric A. Gentile	July 12	Leondriss Davis
Ronald C. Richardson	July 12	Andy L. Lemon
Brenda Wheeler	July 12	James A. Przybylo
John Dusa	July 13	Gerald W. O'Chel
Mark T. Ozanic	July 15	Norman D'Angelo
Alan R. Armitage	July 17	Verlyn T. Kveen
Elizabeth M. Barrentine	July 17	Richard Mitchell
Thomas E. Hughel	July 18	Evan B. Petros
Charles E. Sobieck	July 18	Richard C. Shellenberger
Cleophus J. Teague	July 19	Brian E. Ellicott
David W. Compton	July 20	Jeffery S. Dawson
George Y. Duffy	July 20	Douglas A. Freiburger
Keith B. Ingle	July 20	Clarence Hill
Scot E. Severn	July 20	John N. Martel
Curtis H. Arthurs	July 21	Michael T. Monaghan
Peter M. Choreff	July 21	Lizabeth I. Burgess
Christopher A. Durant	July 22	Ronald K. Derhammer

## AUGUST

July 22	Fredrick George	August 09
July 23	Brian P. Kaule	August 10
July 25	Robert E. Colthorp	August 11
July 25	Michael J. Cortright	August 11
July 25	Daniel R. Keefer	August 11
July 26	Richard S. McKee	August 11
July 26	Don W. Downey	August 12
July 26	Jose L. Garcia	August 13
July 26	Robert J. Kaminski	August 13
July 27	Joseph R. Bottang	August 14
July 28	Joseph Jefferson	August 14
July 28	Edward V. Lowery	August 14
July 28	Douglas W. Stone	August 14
July 29	Michael D. Wall	August 14
July 30	Donald F. Wilkinson	August 15
July 30	Terence L. Austin	August 16
July 31	William A. Cash	August 16
July 31	Dwayne Pingston	August 17
July 31	Charlene L. Baker-Rutland	August 18
	John A. Brezzell	August 18
	Linda K. Highland	August 19
	George E. Dolan	August 20
August 01	Tara Pearson	August 20
August 01	Mary A. Huber	August 21
August 01	Darren P. Seward	August 21
August 01	Mayqulla Y. Squire	August 21
August 02	Robert W. Hayes	August 22
August 02	Florine L. White	August 22
August 02	Joseph Lewis	August 23
August 03	Patricia N. Harris	August 25
August 04	Michael J. Jones	August 25
August 04	Rodney A. King	August 25
August 04	Rex A. Roe	August 25
August 04	Jim J. Saliba	August 25
August 07		
August 08		
August 09		
August 09		





# Sports & Recreation

By: Jaclyn Kochis

## Thunder In the Valley Games

The Thunder in the Valley Games, Michigan's wheelchair sports competition, took place this year on May 30-June 2, 2013. It marked the games 6th annual event. The games allow for the athletes to have a chance to excel in wheelchair sports, partake in healthy competition, and build fellowship.

Once again, those in attendance were greeted by Saginaw Valley State University's beautiful facilities which offered housing for athletes, families and coaches for reasonable rates. Competitive events included the following categories:

- Track
- Field
- Air Rifle
- Archery
- Swimming
- Power Lifting
- Handcycling
- Table Tennis

Many of MPVA's close friends and members participated and proved to be amazing in many of

competitions. MPVA member, Kevin Bradley, was named "2013 Most Outstanding Master Male" during the awards portion of the games. In addition, MPVA member and our Peer Support Services Director, Evan Petros, was named the "2013 Most Outstanding Adult Female." Furthermore, our friends on Wheelin' Team 457 were honored with the "Large Team Award."

Overall, everyone who put forth the effort to volunteer, support, and compete came out a winner. We look forward to seeing the results of next year's games and we are certain it will be just as much of a success.

Congratulations to all who participated in the 2013 Thunder in the Valley Games!

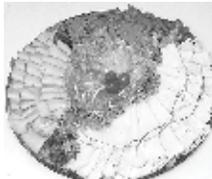
*Please see in the inside, back, cover of this issue to view photos from this event!*



## Delilah's Deli and Catering

Mike Bannoura  
2755 Farmington Rd.  
Farmington Hills, MI  
48331

PH: (734) 812-1074  
Fax: (248) 454-9214



Ray Bannoura  
26711 Northwestern  
Hwy.  
Suite #100  
Southfield, MI 48304

PH: (248) 354-3061

[www.delilahsdeli.com](http://www.delilahsdeli.com)



Presents  
The 10th Annual

## Salute to Veterans Gala

With Keynote Speaker:  
**Kari Miller,**  
Army Veteran & Paralympian  
&  
Master of Ceremonies:  
**Rich Luterman**

**Monday, November 11, 2013**  
**6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

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

## MPVA's Salute to Veterans Auction

The MPVA is hosting an online  
auction during the following dates:

**November 4, 2013—November 18, 2013**

There will be tons of outstanding  
items at various values for you to bid  
on! Not only will you have a chance  
to win some fabulous prizes, but, you  
will be supporting a great cause!

The MPVA's Online Auction will be  
available at:

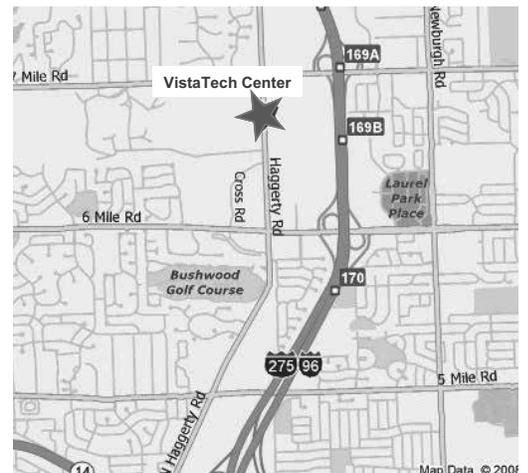
[www.biddingforgood.com/mpva/2013](http://www.biddingforgood.com/mpva/2013)

Make a gift donation today! Contact  
Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000, or  
at: [jkochis@michiganpva.org](mailto:jkochis@michiganpva.org)!

### MPVA's Mission

The mission of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is to enhance the lives of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease as well as all citizens with disabilities, by advocating for civil rights, assuring quality health care, supporting continued research and educations, and encouraging independence and healthy living through various health, sports and recreational programs. MPVA shall continue striving to remain at the forefront of both veterans' benefits services and disability rights, while working toward a better quality of life for all American citizens. Proceeds for the 2013 Salute to Veterans Gala benefit MPVA Programs.

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



40550 Grand River Avenue  
Novi, MI 48375

Or Fax to:  
(248) 476-9545

Questions?  
Contact: **Jaclyn Kochis**  
Deputy Executive Director/Development  
PH: (248) 476-9000 ext. 06

## Be a "Salute Sponsor" in 2013! Your Sponsorship will entail:

- You or your company will be recognized on MPVA's website, [www.michiganpva.org](http://www.michiganpva.org), which receives approximately 800 hits a day and is also linked with the state of Michigan's website
- You or your company will be mentioned in our *Rollin' Times* newsletter which reaches more than 2,000 people every two months
- You or your company will be recognized in the Gala program booklet with a full page ad or half page ad (see sponsorship levels)

### Sponsorship Levels

#### 5 Star Sponsor

**\$ 10,000**

- 2 tables of 8, seated with event Keynote Speaker and event Master of Ceremonies
- Cover photo with Keynote Speaker & full page story in MPVA's newsletter
- Full page, color ad in Gala program booklet

#### 4 Star Sponsor

**\$ 5,000**

- 2 tables of 8 with preferred placement near stage
- Full page ad in Gala program booklet

#### 3 Star Sponsor

**\$ 2,500**

- 1 table of 8
- Full page ad in Gala program booklet

#### 2 Star Sponsor

**\$ 1,000**

- 4 tickets to event
- Half-page ad in Gala program booklet

#### 1 Star Sponsor

**\$ 500**

- 2 tickets to event
- Half-page ad in Gala program booklet



### ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER...



Kari Miller was serving in active military duty, getting ready for officer training school, when a drunk driver smashed into the car she was traveling in. The driver of her car was killed. Kari survived, but lost both her legs in the crash; one amputated above the knee, one below. Kari's injury did not stop her. Miller began training in athletics. She first competed in wheelchair basketball, then discovering sitting volleyball. It was an intense experience: the first

ball came at her "like it had smoke and fire shooting from it. I just screamed and dove out of the way," she says. "My coach immediately informed me that there is no screaming in volleyball!" Miller joined the U.S. Paralympics Women's Sitting Volleyball National Team in 2006, and two years later helped the team earn a silver medal in the Beijing Games.

The awards have continued since: Miller served as a starter for Team USA when they took the silver medal at the 2010 Sitting Volleyball World Championships, and that year she was ranked No. 1 libero in the world. Today, in addition to training with the sitting volleyball team, Kari works with the Paralympic Military Program at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She teaches wounded soldiers how to use sports in their recovery, works with the families of the soldiers in adapting, and coaches at the Warrior Games. "You can see the hope come back," Miller said. "It's easy for a doctor to say it, but for someone to actually see it in someone like me, it makes a difference."

### Other Opportunities:

#### ROTC Sponsor

**\$ 1,200**

- Underwrite the cost for a table of 8 for a local University ROTC program
- Full page ad in program book

#### Sponsor a Veteran

**\$ 55 (per person)**

- Underwrite the cost for a veteran(s) dinner

#### Business Card Advertisement

**\$ 50**

- Business card ad in program booklet

## Please Register by October 14, 2013!

I am registering for...

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Dinner(s) at \$75 a person

A Sponsorship Opportunity: \_\_\_\_\_

Other/ Donation/In-kind: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying via credit card

Please circle one:

**Master Card**                      **Visa Card**

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

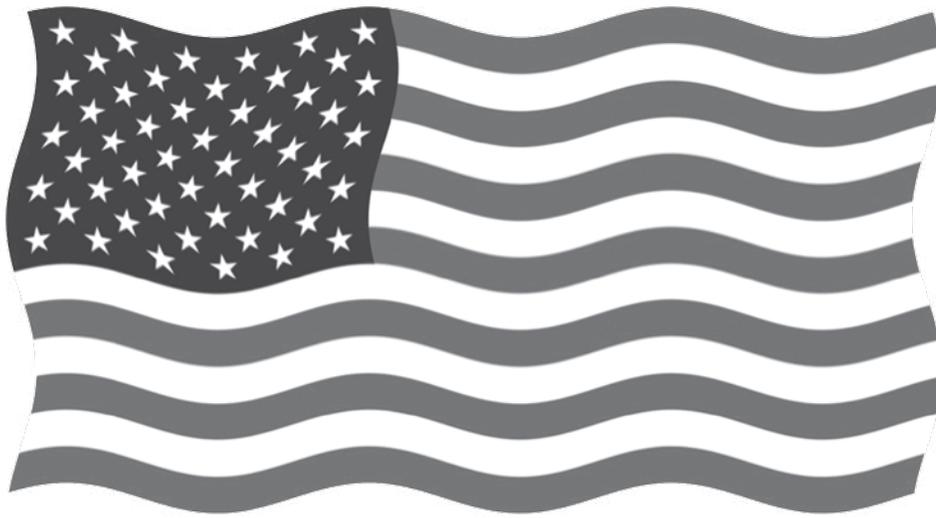
Our Check is enclosed

**40550 Grand River Avenue  
Novi, MI 48375**

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

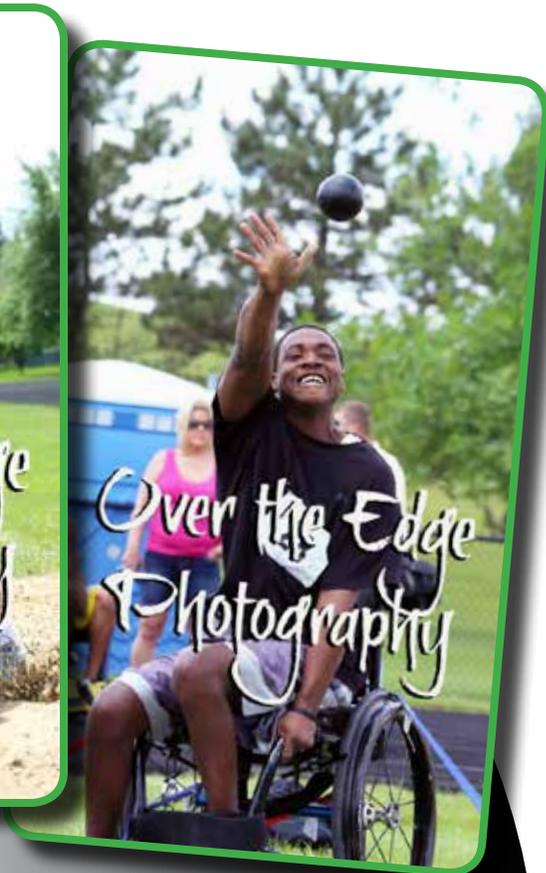
**Questions?  
Contact: Jaclyn Kochis  
Deputy Executive Director/Development  
PH: (248) 476-9000 ext. 06**

**H  
A  
V  
E  
  
A  
  
H  
A  
P  
P  
Y  
&  
  
S  
A  
F  
E**

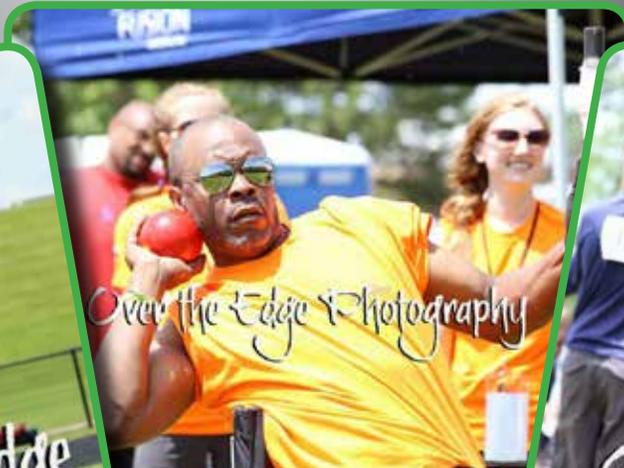
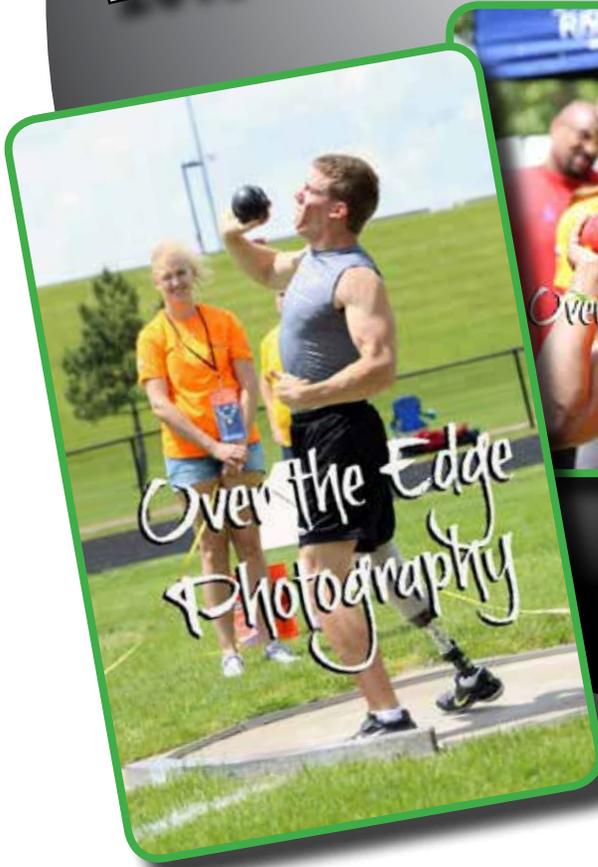


**F  
O  
U  
R  
T  
H  
  
O  
F  
  
J  
U  
L  
Y**





# 2013 6th Annual Thunder in the Valley Games





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!  
July/August 2013



## ANNUAL MPVA PICNIC

**Saturday, July 20, 2013**

**10:00 AM-1:30 PM**

**Plymouth Miracle League Field**

**357 Theodore**

**Plymouth, MI 48170**

**Accessible ball field—bring your baseball  
glove to play from 10 AM-12 PM! Lunch  
from Delilah's Deli and refreshments will be  
served from 12-1:30 PM.**

**Please R.S.V.P. by July 10, 2013**

**Phone: (800) 638-6782**

