

RT '13

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



MPVA Members take time out from playing baseball to present the Plymouth Miracle League with a donation while sharing their outstanding facility during the MPVA's 2013 Membership Picnic





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER



On the Cover:

The MPVA held their Annual Membership Picnic on Saturday, July 20, 2013 at the Miracle League of Plymouth for the 2nd year in a row! This year's event came with an added bonus as our members were not only able to play on the fully accessible ball field, but, Miracle League team members joined in on the fun. Check out photos from this year's picnic on the inside back cover of this issue.

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Vice President..... David Peck	Director	Teresa Kamphorst
Secretary..... Clark Shuler	Director	Scot Severn
Treasurer..... Timothy Agajejian	Director	Maurice Jordan
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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.

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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.

The Ad Agency

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President's Report

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

Capital Improvements at the MPVA

Our philosophy at the MPVA has always been to strive to use this newsletter to inform and inspire our readers. In this issue, I am going to roll away from an unspoken rule our Chapter has to never bombard our supporters for donations. It has been our philosophy that people will give when they truly believe in the work you do. Thus far, we have been able to maintain this idea.

As you may know, the MPVA is a small-staffed, yet, powerful organization. Our services reach the entire state of Michigan and provide (to name only a few):

- as much as \$9.3 million paid directly to veteran households through our Service Office who assist to provide free services in the filing or re-filing of claims for VA benefits,
- the funding of nearly 10 major wheelchair sporting events annually, including sponsoring the Detroit Free Press Marathon "wheeler" division,
- our advocacy and legislation program which continuously improves and addresses the rights of people with disabilities to ensure that they receive equal rights while flying, enjoying entertainment, dining, leisure, recreation, and more,
- free loan closet services that enable anyone throughout the state to borrow durable medical goods, which can include exceptional power wheelchairs that can sometimes cost up to thousands of dollars.

Again, these are only a few of our services, and know that I am truly preaching the choir. As a Rollin' Times recipient, you are our supporter. You are the people that keep this mission alive. And that is why I want to tell you about a few things our Chapter needs to help keep our momentum going.

As owners of our building, we have sole responsibility for our capital improvements. Just this past month, our insurance provider stopped in to do a site visit. She was impressed with our facility. However, she did express concerns about our parking lot which has become uneven in areas and shows signs of broken and hazardous gravel. We were not surprised by her assessment. Yet, we are uneasy about the cost of repair. This repair is estimated to cost the Chapter approximately \$8,000.

Furthermore, we have 2 large heating units on the roof our building that work to heat our entire Chapter Headquarters. As of last year, we were informed by our heating and cooling service that both units still work but have significant cracks in them. The damage to the units means that they will need to be replaced with the possibility that they will not make it through the next winter. The cost to repair our heating units will be approximately \$11,000.

Lastly, our Chapter has operated off the same phones and phone system for nearly 15 years. Although they are not broken, we are often limited in how we can reach out to our state-wide membership as we do not have the capability to phone conference in more than one person at a time. That said, it is sometimes next to impossible to have a full Board quorum, and it makes in literally impossible for members that live outside of our geographic area to attend membership meetings. We took the time to research updating our phone system and that investment will roughly cost \$2,000. We most certainly consider this undertaking the least of our capital improvement priorities, however, we do really want to be able to advance the way we serve and communicate with our members.

We realize times are tough for everyone, but, we wanted to ask for your consideration in making a donation to our Chapter for these capital investments which, in

total, will cost us approximately \$21,000. Every bit can help us and your support can ensure that we will not have to make tough decisions to cut funding to our essential programs somewhere down line.

By making a tax-deductible donation for our capital investments you will be directly contributing to sustaining our mission of enhancing the quality of lives of veterans and individuals with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) in this state.

You can support these endeavors by visiting our website

at www.michiganpva.org and make your donation online, or you can or fill out and return the enclosed pledge sheet on the following page.

I promise that I will not make these requests on a regular basis. I also just want to thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for your consideration and for taking the time to read this message!



The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA), a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 and all contributions made to MPVA can be made tax-deductible.

Among our many programs for veterans, MPVA provides free benefit filing services and last year we assisted nearly 2,000 veterans or their family members in filing for VA benefits. Our free service resulted in over \$5,000,000 in new or increased benefits paid directly to those Michigan homes. We also support research on spinal cord injury, working with doctors and patients to improve physical rehabilitation. MPVA wheelchair sports and recreation take place statewide through our sports partnerships. Our advocacy benefits every disabled resident as we inspect public places for accessibility. Our goal is to increase the quality of life for our members and others living with catastrophic spinal cord injury or illness.

We hope you will want to visit our website at www.Michiganpva.org for news and recent events, and for information about our progress in advocacy on behalf of our mission. Our free service www.ThePumpGuide.com directs drivers to nearly 900 Michigan gas stations ready to provide full service fuel-ups at self-service prices for qualified disabled drivers.

We appreciate your donation, and thank you in advance for your consideration. We can do many things with the help of good people like you.

I am pledging \$ _____ to Make a Difference in the lives of Michigan's paralyzed veterans.

Please charge my gift to my: **Master Card** **Visa**

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

I am paying by check: **Please send me more literature on MPVA:**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____



Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

PVA Submits Statement on Why Veterans are Waiting Years on Claims Appeals

On June 18, 2013, the Subcommittee Chairman Jon Runyan (R-NJ) and the House VA Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs received testimony on a situation that has faced thousands of veterans awaiting decisions on their appeals for veterans' benefits. This issue has been challenging the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for years. Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) expressed concerns that while it is good to conduct the hearing to try and find answers, answers without action are simply meaning less.

With much of the discussion focusing on the VA disability claims backlog (defined by the VA as initial claims that have been pending more than 125 days) and the litany of initiatives launched by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to address it, very little attention has been placed on the appeals process. However, the downstream effects of the backlog, which sits at over 613,000 claims, fall to the jurisdiction of the Board of Veterans Appeals where nearly 43,000 appeals now await adjudication. Veterans who have endured the wait associated with backlogged claims may now face a new waiting game that will last 251 days on average once those claims become appeals. The current remand rate now sits at 46 percent, which means nearly half of appeals are returned to VBA due to error or incompleteness. This also means those appeals will spend an average of 251 days in the process plus the time it takes to fulfill a remand order. This can take months or even years in some cases.

PVA identified a number of reasons for the appeals backlog including the number of appeals that have to be sent back, or remanded, to VBA for additional development, inadequate medical exams, inadequate reasons and bases, and inadequate notice of

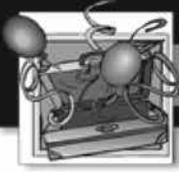
examination. In addition, when an appeal is remanded, it returns to the jurisdiction of VBA through the Appeals Management Center (AMC), a separate entity where assigned VBA staff are tasked to remedy flaws in claims development identified by the Board. It is at the AMC where many remanded appeals idle on a procedural "hamster wheel" due to a failure to comply with the remand order, an automatic basis for continued remand. In some cases, AMC will simply reiterate the rationale of a medical opinion without applying legal analysis or render a decision without complying with the Board's remand directives thus unnecessarily extending the process.

PVA also pointed out that the Board and appellants are also culpable to an extent. Both the Board and VBA share a predilection for wrongly favoring VA exams over most others and will require one before rendering a decision, even when private medical evidence or treatment notes from an appellant's treating VA physician is sufficient. This is an issue PVA has testified about on multiple occasions.

PVA offered the following recommendations for improvement:

- In order to reduce remands, the Board should order VA medical exams only when necessary and give appropriate weight to private medical evidence and treatments records from treating VA physicians.
- Grant the Board settlement authority, similar to that allowed by the Veterans' Court, to eliminate the need for time consuming additional development in cases where the appellant, an accredited representative, and the Board can agree to a resolution based on existing evidence of record.

Continued on page 8



BIRTHDAYS



SEPTEMBER

Alice M. MacNaughton	September 02	Walden K. Robinson
Janet L. Summers	September 02	Inez A. Waller
Naida A. Schelter	September 03	Richard L. Lang
Ada Louise Grassmyer	September 04	Raymond Larsch
Jaclyn K. Kochis	September 04	William D. Nee
Roger L. Putman	September 04	Benjamin F. Taylor
Truman Yoder	September 05	Jan M. Black
Richard H. Rapp	September 06	Christ K. Rasmussen
Bruce M. Hayden	September 07	Richard Terepin
Niel K. Klein	September 07	Richard T. Harner
Percy L. Lampkin	September 07	Joseph M. Sabatini
James D. Hyatt	September 08	
Jose V. Davila Martinez	September 09	
Michael D. Leonard	September 09	Michael E. Baldwin
Kenneth M. Owens	September 09	Rodney K. Hawes
Eugene Povlock	September 09	Norman J. Ochelski
Ralph C. Spence	September 09	Donald D. Ransom
Russell C. Andersen	September 10	Jeffery D. Risner
Willie Daniels	September 11	Kevin P. Wolf
Thomas F. Schneider	September 11	Anthony P. Daschke
James R. Witz	September 11	Gerard J. Macheske
Francesco Guerra	September 12	Stephanie E. Strickland
Bonnie J. Williams	September 12	John R. Jackson
Kenneth E. Bezemek	September 13	Robert E. Goble
Ian Minicuci	September 13	Mark E. Gulch
Jamie R. Monroe	September 13	Robert M. Lee
Carl A. Larkins	September 14	Roland A. Heaton
Kimberly S. Keeter	September 15	Mary E. Estes
Amy E. Shuler	September 16	Christopher V. Greenhouse
Deborah Adams-Roraback	September 17	Scot D. Karevich
Thomas A. Dever	September 17	Byron R. Arrowsmith
C William Helwig	September 17	Ronald A. Drake
Rodney A. Pierce	September 17	Michael W. Gates
Brian D. Walker	September 17	Jacob Gormezano
George T. Coward	September 18	Bonnie L. Morgan
Jerrold A. Weathers	September 18	Desmond Baumann
William R. Sampey	September 19	Ronald K. Gimik
Wayne E. Bryant	September 20	Gerald D. Childs
Dorethea Harrison	September 21	Carey Glaze
Frederick L. Moore	September 21	Timothy L. Guilford
Stephanie D. Calendar	September 22	Michael R. Leonard
Andron R. Shoup	September 22	Arthur A. Potter
Daniel S. Kemp	September 23	Gary R. Dillon

OCTOBER

September 24	John P. Pondo	October 16
September 24	Joseph R. Poterek	October 16
September 25	George J. Priest	October 16
September 25	Debra L. Grubbe	October 17
September 25	Fred G. Minx	October 17
September 25	Dale R. Wood	October 17
September 26	Renee A. LaForest-Diggs	October 18
September 26	Marlene T. Shotwell	October 18
September 26	Kenneth O. Johnson	October 19
September 27	James G. Tanner	October 19
September 28	Matthew W. Wermer	October 19
	Mark R. Brorson	October 20
	Christian M. Gouin	October 20
October 02	William H. Horen	October 20
October 02	Lorenzo M. Woodson	October 20
October 02	James E. Lay	October 21
October 02	Norma Smith	October 21
October 02	Charles L. Havens	October 22
October 05	Richard L. Owens	October 23
October 06	Nathan R. Moore	October 24
October 06	Randy L. Hilkert	October 25
October 06	Nickolas Wercely	October 25
October 07	Jerry S. Beard	October 26
October 08	Margo H. Bradley-Mark	October 26
October 08	Juan E. Flores	October 26
October 08	Michael D. Estep	October 27
October 09	Herbert S. Lewis	October 27
October 10	Earsel Daniels	October 28
October 10	Willie Mooney	October 28
October 10	Allan L. Shakelford	October 28
October 12	Mark A. Van Slambrouck	October 28
October 12	Joe D. Walker	October 28
October 12	Tammy M. Bova	October 29
October 12	Kenneth Jones	October 29
October 12	Terry Katajamaki	October 29
October 13	James D. Webber	October 29
October 13	Robert G. Hoover	October 30
October 14	Dale Weaver	October 30
October 14	James L. Mauney	October 31
October 14		
October 14		
October 14		
October 16		





From The Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis

Veterans Events You Must Mark Your Calendar For!

MPVA's 10th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala is Just Around the Corner

It is hard to believe that while I write this article we are approximately 2 months away from our 10th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala which will be once again held at the VistaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan.

Each year around Veteran's Day, the MPVA gears up to host an event that recognizes the men and women who are serving now, have served, or have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We are so proud to have hosted an event that aims to truly reflect on the meaning of Veteran's Day for 10 years!

As we approach our 10th Annual Salute which is taking place on Veteran's Day (Monday, November 11, 2013), our office will be busy coordinating details for the event. One detail that we are excited to announce is the name of this year's Keynote Speaker: Ms. Kari Miller. Kari's story is quite compelling:

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. However, Kari's injury did not stop her. Miller began training in athletics. She first competed in wheelchair basketball, and then discovered 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 said. "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 to 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 the training with the sitting volleyball team, Kari works with the Paralympic 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."

Lastly, I would like to mention that the MPVA will be hosting our 5th Annual Salute to Veterans Online Auction from November 4, 2013-November 18, 2013. There will be tons of outstanding items at various values for you to bid on. You can make a gift donation today by visiting: <http://www.biddingforgood.com/mpva/2013>.

Gifts and sponsorships can be made tax-deductible. Proceeds from the 2013 Salute to Veterans Gala and Salute to Veterans Gala Online Auction will go on to benefit MPVA Programs. Please contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06 for a full event brochure, or email her at jkochis@michiganpva.org.

POW/MIA Recognition Day

The United States National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. This is an opportunity for Americans to pay tribute to the American men and women who have not returned from the battlefield and

express our gratitude to those who returned only after facing unimaginable hardship on our behalf.

Our Chapter places a special emphasis on the efforts to account for missing, captive or killed American service men and woman. I think you will find that Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, past and present, share those values. It is part of a code that all service members live by “that no one shall be left behind.”

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) will be supporting and paying tribute to the POW/MIA veterans, their families, and loved ones on Friday, September 20, 2013 at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi. There will be a 24-hour vigil with a 6:30 PM memorial that Friday (a 5:00 PM memorial will also take place on Saturday, September 21, 2013) put on by the POW/MIA Committee of Michigan and VVA 154.

As you may recall, the MPVA teamed up with an outstanding group of volunteers who collaborated with a young man to complete his Eagle Scout badge approximately 2 years ago. They worked together to give paralyzed veterans and individuals with disabilities a chance to literally have an opportunity to get bit closer to the POW/MIA Memorial featured in Oakland Hills Memorial Garden as the grounds that surround the memorial have been made accessible.

If you cannot make it out to the memorial site, the MPVA would like to ask you to find some time to pay tribute to these brave service men and women and their families so that we can remain steadfast in our commitment of leaving no warrior behind or unaccounted for.



...Continued from page 5

- Review examination scheduling procedures to reduce the number of remands related to inadequate notice.
- Review AMC procedures and quality review as part of the VBA’s 21st Century transformation effort, to include the implementation of new technologies where applicable.

Without improvements in the appeals process, PVA does not believe the VA will be able to meet the Secretary’s deadline of 2015 to end the claims backlog that has damaged VA’s credibility and negatively impacted the lives of many disabled veterans.

With all this in mind, I want to remind you that these preverbal “hoops” are not a result of our Service Officers, who often find themselves “behind the eight ball” trying to rectify many of these situations as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, they, too, share the frustration regarding these issues as they have their hands tied once they have processed a veteran’s claim and send it to the VA for review. The Service Office, and all of us at the MPVA, want you to know that we truly have your best interest and are working to make sure that these matters get changed for the better—please stay tuned!



*Sincere Condolences
to
the families of:
Kenneth M. Painter*



Government Relations & Advocacy

By: Mike Harris

The promise of the ADA has not been fully realized

July 26, 2013 marked the twenty-third anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). When signed into law, the ADA was hailed as the most sweeping piece of legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Twenty-three years after its passage the importance of the ADA cannot be denied. It has propelled into the spotlight: accessibility, universal design, and the idea of equal opportunity for those of us who live with disabilities. In the process, we have discovered that an accessible society benefits everyone.

As part of this year's anniversary, Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who was a chief sponsor of the ADA in 1990, released a report that identified shortfalls for many states in implementing the Supreme Court's 1999 decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which ruled that the ADA requires people with disabilities be integrated into the community rather than forced into nursing homes and other institutions.

The Supreme Court in *Olmstead* envisioned that states would use Medicaid dollars to make this possible by providing appropriate long-term services to people with disabilities through home and community-based supports. By 2010, only 12 states had made acceptable progress in implementing *Olmstead*, the report found.

Medicaid, the federal program that provides medical assistance for poor and people with disabilities, is biased in favor of institutionalized care. When seniors qualify financially and are deemed to require care, Medicaid funding for a nursing home bed is guaranteed. But if qualifying seniors want to receive care at home, they must request funding and wait for services to become available.

Institutional care is an entitlement under Medicaid; community-based care is optional. But it is an option most people prefer. It has been proven that it is more cost effective to provide the necessary supports that enable people to live in their community.

Unfortunately, many states continue to approach community living as a "social welfare issue" instead of a civil rights issue. This is a failure on the part of many state leaders, who are only willing to expand access to community-based supports when they can cap the number of people eligible to receive the services.

The progress that has occurred has been a result of the Department of Justice (DOJ) taking action to force the states to do more. Yet, it is rather unsettling that, fourteen years after the landmark *Olmstead* decision, litigation should even be necessary to enforce the federally protected right to community living.

However, Senator Harkin's report identified two ways to correct this injustice. First, states need to move quickly to adopt programs created by the Affordable Care Act, like the Community First Choice option, that provides significant additional federal resources in exchange for requiring a state to serve all of the eligible populations in the community. We also need joint state and federal efforts to implement a national action plan to expand access to affordable, integrated, and accessible housing for people with disabilities.

Second, Congress needs to act. The ADA should be amended to clarify that every person who is eligible for long-term services and supports has a federally protected right to real choice in where they will receive these services and supports. In addition, Congress needs to end the institutional bias in the Medicaid program by requiring every state that participates in

the program to pay for home and community based services for those who are eligible, just as every state is required to pay for nursing facilities for people with significant disabilities.

As public perception of disability has changed over time, so have the goals of programs supporting people with disabilities. In the past, the emphasis was to provide support to people with disabilities primarily through benefits. Today, the emphasis has shifted to supporting independence and promoting involvement in all aspects of society.

A “disability” is not the experience that will touch just a minority of Americans. Rather, it is an experience that will touch most Americans at some point during their lives. People with disabilities come from all walks of life, in all colors, sizes, genders and ages. Those of us living with disabilities bring something to the table whether it is fresh perspective, indomitable spirit or an energizing presence.

When analyzing the ADA I would not characterize it as a complete success, but I also would not characterize it as a failure. I think it is an important piece of legislation whose promise has not been “fully realized.” When the ADA became law most people with disabilities assumed that the front door would be open and everyone would welcome us with open arms! As we know, this is not always been the case.

As we have benefited by the actions of the thousands of people who have come before us, it’s up to us to pave the way for those who will come after. In advocating

for our rights, disabled people must work to establish several important principles. One is to be considered on the basis of individual merit, not on stereotyped assumptions about disabilities. Another is that society must make certain changes to ensure that people with disabilities can freely access their community without having to encounter architectural barriers.

We do know that the world is an easier place to get around in that it was prior to the ADA. Many places that were completely inaccessible to us have now opened their doors to people with disabilities. Stadiums, amusement parks, public parks, and theaters that would otherwise have been poorly designed are now accessible due to the fact that we advocated for accessible design.

It is obvious that the ADA has made a difference in the lives of so many. But there are many others who still face barriers, barriers that man-made structures create and barriers stemming from people’s attitudes. Those barriers took generations to create. It will take continued vigilance and dedication to remove them.

As we celebrate the 23rd anniversary of this civil rights law, let’s commit to redouble our efforts to identify and knock down the remaining barriers to full citizenship that continue to hamper the beautiful vision of the ADA. Working together, we can build on the progress of the last 23 years and create an America that celebrates and invests in the talents, dreams, and aspirations of its more than 54 million people with disabilities.



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Sports & Recreation

By: Coach Phil Chester

VA Wheelchair Games

We traveled by air, we traveled by ground, and we finally arrived in Tampa Bay this past July 13-18, 2013 for the VA Wheelchair Games which were presented by Paralyzed Veterans of America & the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Michigan PVA Wheelchair Team was led by team captain Ray Brown. Even as we welcomed some new athletes, we were, once again, eight athletes strong!

The team was made up of Ray Brown, Kevin Bradley, George Coward, Dave Cutsinger, Carl Larkins, Judy Ross, Brian Sweet and Robert Williams. The coaches were Pam and Harry Wilcox and Phil Chester. Pam and Harry brought along their grandson Michael Wilcox. Michael was an great asset as he worked right along with the Tampa Wheelchair Games volunteers and that was greatly appreciated.



Much to everyone's pleasure, we were also able to better our medal count from years prior. The team got a total of 27 medals: 18 Gold, 5 Silver and 4 Bronze. For a eight-person team, that was pretty good!

We would really like to encourage others to join the team. If you have never even seen the games let alone





never competed in them, you really have no idea what you are missing! Please do not hesitate to go online and check out what the VA Games have to offer at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/wcg/index.asp>. Next year's games are going to be held in Philadelphia, August 12-17, 2014.

I would be amiss if I did not mention the way the volunteers and the people of Tampa made us feel. We were their guest and they went out of their way to make Tampa our home while we were there competing and it was really a wonderful experience.

In closing, I would just like to say that our team was very saddened to not have our good friend and teammate, Gary Grubbe, with us this year. His passing this last summer was a shock to many of us. His family will remain in our thoughts and prayers. Gary was part of the team. We could see his spirit and how much he loved to compete each year and we will take that with us as we go forward! Rest in peace dear friend!



Sports & Recreation

Paralympic Committee Athletics World Championships

After U.S. Army Sergeant Rob Brown led the United States into the 2013 International Paralympic Committee Athletics World Championships in Lyon, France as the flag bearer at the Opening Ceremony, Team USA went to work on the track and in the field, winning an unprecedented 52 medals. Military Veterans earned three of those medals.

U.S. Army Veteran Scot Severn of Caro, Mich. won a silver medal in the men's shot put F52/53 with a season's best 8.26 meters to secure a spot on the podium on the fourth day of competition in Lyon, just a few weeks shy of the 24th anniversary of his accident while serving with the U.S. Army Reserves at Camp Grayling, Mich.

On August 14, 1989, Severn was directly struck by lightning, resulting in incomplete quadriplegia. A year

after discovering wheelchair sports, he competed in the 2004 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which laid the groundwork for his career with U.S. Paralympics.

"My only regret about this world championships is that it is at the same time as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which I love being at," Severn said. "Hopefully, I'll be able to make it next year. I've missed them two years in a row and I really miss them."

On the fifth day of competition, U.S. Army Veteran Ce-Ce Mazyck of Columbia, S.C. claimed the bronze medal the following day in the women's javelin F57/58 with a throw of 19.83, only two hundredths from a silver medal.

"It felt awesome to find out I was on the podium," Mazyck said. "Thank you Jesus. I made it on the

podium. It felt awesome to do this and to represent Team USA. I came here to do it and I did it.”

Mazyck was injured in November 2003, just prior to Thanksgiving, while doing a parachute jump with the U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne Division. A competitor at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, she did not medal in her field events.

“I felt really, really good today, going out there and competing for Team USA,” Mazyck said after winning her medal in Lyon. “Just getting on the podium was the main thing for me because in London, I kind of missed the mark a little bit. This was a chance for me to redeem myself. I’m so blessed to be on the podium.”

U.S. Army Veteran Scott Winkler of Pittsburg, Pa., added a bronze medal to the Team USA tally on Day 8. On Saturday, he won the bronze medal in the men’s shot put F54/55 by throwing 10.82 meters in his final attempt of the competition.

“I used to fight for my country, now I win for it,” Winkler said.

While serving in Iraq in 2003 with the 549th Military Police Company out of Fort Stewart, Ga., Winkler fell from a truck and severely injured his spinal cord, resulting in paralysis from the chest down. He joined the U.S. Army a few years after high school, becoming a service technician.

In 2006, he was introduced to track and field at a U.S. Paralympics Military Sports Camp. Winkler competed at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games two years later and also represented Team USA at the 2011 IPC Athletics World Championships and the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The 2013 IPC Athletics World Championships, which were July 19-28, included more than 1,100 athletes from almost 100 countries competing at the Stadium of Parilly. Among the 76 members of Team USA, 10 Veterans and two active duty service members who represent four military branches.

Through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, U.S. Paralympics and its partners provide thousands of

opportunities for Veterans and service members with physical disabilities to compete in Paralympic sport at the recreational, intermediate and elite levels.

A look at the performances of U.S. military athletes in Lyon:

Sergeant Rob Brown (Chula Vista, Calif.), U.S. Army

Brown, the U.S. flag bearer for the Opening Ceremony of the 2013 IPC Athletics World Championships, competed in the men’s 400 meter T43/44 race, finishing fourth in the second semifinal with a time of 58.21. He did not qualify for the final. On Sept. 24, 2006, Sgt. Brown was injured in firefight with insurgents in Iraq. He suffered multiple gunshots to the hip, one of which cut his sciatic nerve, leaving the lower half of his right leg without sensory or motor functions. His right leg was amputated below the knee in 2008.

Kate Callahan (San Antonio, Texas), U.S. Air Force Veteran

Kate Callahan threw 9.12m in her fifth of six attempts to finish fifth in the women’s shot put F55/56/57 on July 21. On July 27, she finished sixth in the women’s discus F57/58. Her final throw of the event was her best, reaching 26.02m.

In 1983, she enlisted in the Air Force. After attending nursing school, she continued her service with the Army as a combat medic and flight nurse. In 2000, Callahan paralyzed from the waist down because of complications from surgery.

Robbie Gaupp (Gatesville, Texas), U.S. Army Veteran

Gaupp finished eighth in the men’s triple jump T45/46/47 with a mark of 11.33m. Before making his debut with the U.S. Paralympics Track and Field Team, Gaupp competed at the 2012 Warrior Games presented by Deloitte, a competition for wounded, ill and injured service members and Veterans. Gaupp joined the Army in 2003, right out of high school. While supporting Operation Jumpstart, he shattered his right shoulder assisting border patrol units along the Texas-Mexico border, and lost his range of motion. He was medically retired in Jan. 2010.

Steven Hancock (Pueblo, Colo.), U.S. Navy Veteran

Steven Hancock finished 13th in the men’s discus

F54/55/56 with a personal best 28.17m on July 21. In the men's shot put F54/55 on July 27, Hancock placed 15th with a throw of 8.27m. A competitor at the 2013 Warrior Games, Hancock made his debut with Team USA in Lyon. Hancock was paralyzed during his deployment to Bahrain. His cable snapped during repelling training and he fell five stories.

Ce-Ce Mazyck (Columbia, S.C.), U.S. Army Veteran

Mazyck claimed the bronze medal in the women's javelin F57/58.

Jose Nieves (Gurabo, Puerto Rico), U.S. Army Veteran

On July 25, Nieves finished 13th in the men's javelin throw F54/55/56. While serving in 1997, Nieves suffered a spinal cord injury that paralyzed him.

Luis Puertas (Orlando, Fla.), U.S. Army Veteran

Puertas competed in one event in Lyon, the men's 200m T42 competition. He finished fifth in the second semifinal but did not advance to the final. On Sept. 20, 2006, Puertas was serving with the 4th Infantry Division in Baghdad when his convoy was hit by an explosively formed penetrator (EFP), trapping him beneath the 400 pound armored door of his Humvee. A bilateral above the knee amputee, Puertas was the Army torchbearer at the 2013 Warrior Games.

Max Rohn (Longmont, Colo.), U.S. Navy Veteran

In the men's shot put F44, U.S. Navy Veteran Max Rohn (Longmont, Colo.) finished 11th with a throw of 11.24m. His best throw came on his first attempt of the competition. In Jan. 2009, he was serving with a Marine police transition team in Iraq when his Humvee was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade. After two-and-a-half years and 14 surgeries on his right leg, his right leg was amputated below the knee. Rohn competed at the Warrior Games.

Scot Severn (Caro, Mich.), U.S. Army Veteran

Before winning the silver medal in the shot put, Severn placed seventh in the men's discus F51/52/53 with a throw of 20.44m, which came on his fourth attempt. He also finished seventh in the men's javelin F52/53 on July 26 with a season's best 16.91.

Chief Petty Officer Casey Tibbs (San Antonio, Texas), U.S. Navy Veteran

In the men's long jump F44, Chief Petty Officer Casey Tibbs, who became the first active duty service member to represent the United States in a Paralympic Games in 2004, narrowly missed the podium in Lyon. In his lone event of the IPC Athletics World Championships, he finished fourth with a jump of 6.45m.

Stephanie Timmer (Naperville, Ill.), U.S. Marines Corps Veteran

Stephanie Timmer, who began losing her sight in 1996 due to a progressive eye disease known as macular degeneration, finished eighth in the women's discus F11/12. She had a season's best throw of 27.68 meters, which came on her fifth attempt.

Scott Winkler (Pittsburgh, Pa.), U.S. Army Veteran

The lone event of the competition for Winkler was the men's shot put F54/55, where he earned a bronze medal.

This article was taken from the Veterans Affairs website at http://www.va.gov/adaptivesports/va_about_announcements.asp





2013 Membership Picnic at the Miracle League of Plymouth





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!
September/October 2013

Valuable Dates for 2013:

 **Labor Day Holiday Observed**
September 2, 2013
MPVA Chapter Headquarters will be closed

 **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. (MPVA office unless otherwise notified.)

 **Membership Meeting**
Thursday, September 19, 2013
Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon, and the meeting begins at 1:00 PM

 **Columbus Holiday Observed**
October 14, 2013
MPVA Chapter Headquarters will be closed

 **10th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala**
November 11, 2013, 6:00-9:00 PM
VistaTech Center
Schoolcraft College
18600 Haggerty Road
Livonia, MI 48152
Register Today! Dinner tickets are only \$75.00 and sponsorship packages vary!
Contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 or at jkochis@michiganpva.org for more details!