

RT '14

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Once again, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America presented a special award to the school that created a Future City that best addressed the challenges faced by people with disabilities at the 2014 Future Cities Competition. We want to congratulate Athanasius Kircher Academy of Belleville for winning the 2014 “Best City Disability Award.”





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER



About this Issue:

Please be sure to read the President's Report of this issue to find out all about the Future Cities Competition!

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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

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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

Design & Art Production 734-678-7928



President's Report

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

Athanasius Kircher Academy wins “Best City Disability Award” in Future City Competition

It was an intense competition, with students from 25 Michigan elementary and middle schools coming together to compete in this year's Michigan Regional Future City Competition, sponsored by the Engineering Society of Detroit. This year's Michigan competition was held on January 27th at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

The mission of the Future City Competition is to provide a fun and exciting educational engineering program for seventh and eighth grade students that combine a stimulating engineering challenge with hands-on application to present their vision of a city of the future.

It's a team-based program consisting of students, a teacher and an engineer mentor. Each team creates detailed, often fantastic, cities of tomorrow that give intriguing insights to how young minds envision their future. At the same time, their bold designs and innovative concepts provide a refreshing optimistic appreciation of how our nation can realistically deal with the many challenges facing its cities, including environmental disasters, crime, urban decay and urban sprawl. The students then have to present and defend their city to a panel of judges at the competition.

MPVA Sports Director, Scot Severn, Nominated for Governor Snyder's Fitness Awards

On behalf of all of the Board of Directors and staff at the MPVA, I would like to recognize and congratulate Scot Severn, our Sports Director, for being nominated to Governor Snyder's State Fitness Awards. Scot was named among 63 Michiganders, organizations and events that were nominated for the awards that were selected by a committee of judges for their commitment to personal health, dedication to their communities, and their unique definition of what fitness means to them. The awards will be hosted on April 24th at Ford Field.

Once again, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America presented a special award to the school that created a Future City that best addressed the challenges faced by people with disabilities. We want to congratulate Athanasius Kircher Academy of Belleville for winning the 2014 “Best City Disability Award.”

The “Best City Disability Award” recognizes the school that not only addresses the everyday challenges facing the disability community — but more importantly, provides a blueprint for accessible solutions to these challenges. This special award prompts the students to include the disabled community in their thought processes when creating their future cities.

After four consecutive years of winning The Engineering Society of Detroit Michigan Regional Competition, the team from St. John Lutheran School in Rochester has claimed the title of National Champion, winning the national Future City Competition in Washington, D.C.

Once again, I want to congratulate the talented team from Athanasius Kircher Academy, and all the students who participated in this year's event for a job well done!

We will be sure to notify our membership of Scot's experience at this year's awards in our next issue of the Rollin' Times and via our Facebook page! Be sure to stay tuned! Good luck, Scot!

You can check out the complete list of finalist at: <http://michiganfitness.org/gfa-finalists-2014-news>.



Date: April 10, 2014

Time: 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Place: 40550 Grand River Ave.

Novi, MI 48375

Phone: (248) 476-9000

Fax: (248) 476-9545



Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Annual Awareness Day

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) will be celebrating 53 years of service in Michigan during PVA Awareness Week. The MPVA is inviting all to come out and join us at our Chapter Headquarters in order to find out more about spinal cord injury or disease, MPVA services and programs, and to show support for our veterans and residents with disabilities. This is also a great opportunity for you or your company to strengthen your own relationship with existing clients and potential clients.

Questions? Contact: Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06



Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

Outstanding Support from the Community

Toys for Tots

Every year, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is always amazed at the generosity of support that we receive from the community at large. Usually, the donations we receive are financial contributions, used medical equipment, vans that can accommodate a wheelchair, etc.



A couple weeks prior to the holidays we received a surprised call from the Dollar Tree Store in Farmington Hills, Michigan. They wanted to know if we were interested in receiving a donation of 1500 toys that could be given to veterans in need. Of course we said yes!

We in turn, gave the toys to the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Since the Toys for Tots Program began in 1947, the Marine Corps Reserve Units have collected over 400 million toys and distributed those toys to 189 million children. The mission of the program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as holiday gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

During these difficult economic times, the holidays got a little brighter for families in southeastern Michigan thanks to the generous donation from Dollar Tree

Store. For a kid to come into the living room and see presents under the tree, knowing that Santa Claus has not forgotten them is priceless!

Heritage Elementary School

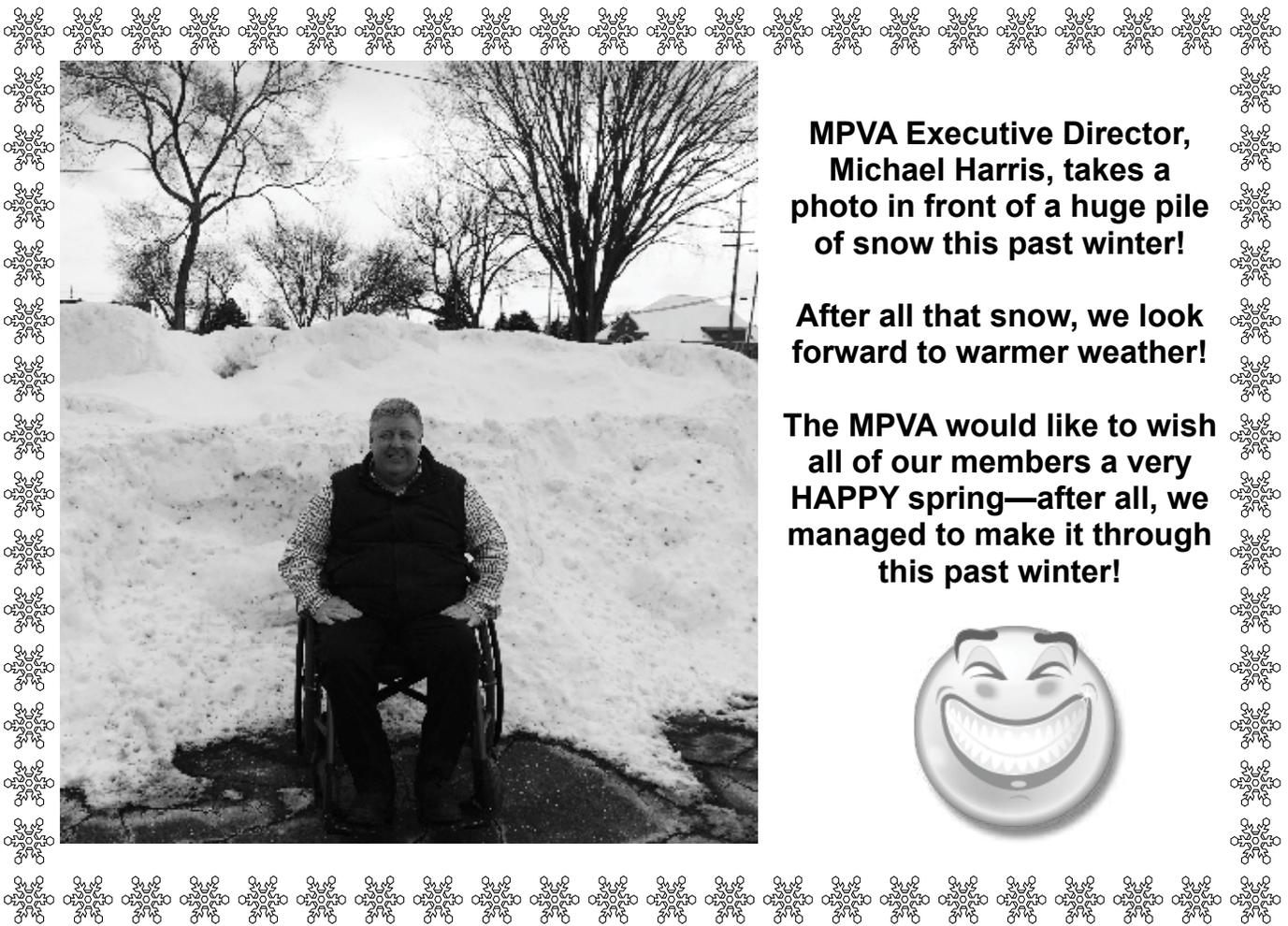
It is with a heartfelt appreciation that I write this article to thank the students at Heritage Elementary for making a difference towards our mission at the MPVA. On February 13, 2014, I was invited to attend a "Dessert Night" at Heritage Elementary School in which students and their parents worked to raise an outstanding \$1,347.00! The money collected on our behalf from that event will go on to offset the cost of paralyzed veterans attending the 2014 Veteran Affairs



(VA) Wheelchair Games in Philadelphia. I told the students that our Chapter will make sure that Heritage Elementary is recognized on the shirts veterans participating in the wheelchair games wear.

All too often, we take for granted the positive efforts of the few, who by their actions, greatly benefit many. When people come together for the sake of others, great

things can happen! The students, staff, and families at Heritage Elementary demonstrated their willingness to give back to their community through this project and we truly cannot say thank you enough for their efforts!



**MPVA Executive Director,
Michael Harris, takes a
photo in front of a huge pile
of snow this past winter!**

**After all that snow, we look
forward to warmer weather!**

**The MPVA would like to wish
all of our members a very
HAPPY spring—after all, we
managed to make it through
this past winter!**





Guest Article

By: Jeff Barnes, DMVA

Emergency grants help Michigan combat veteran's weather financial crisis

Car repairs, medical bills and other emergencies can stretch a household budget to the limit. When the unexpected creates financial distress, Michigan combat veterans can turn to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for help.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) grants are available to veterans who have been honorably discharged and have served:

- 180 days during a period of war;
- 180 days of active duty with award of Armed Forces/ Navy Expeditionary Medal; or
- Less than 180 days of wartime service due to service-incurred disability.

Dependents of an eligible veteran can also apply, under certain circumstances. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate need and show they are able to meet future expenses after the grant.

Contact the MVTF agent in the county where you reside to begin your application. He or she can explain the process and tell you what supporting documents you will need for your application.

Don't let a financial emergency snowball into a bigger problem for you and your family. A Trust Fund grant can help you weather an unexpected storm so your finances stay on course. If you know someone who may qualify for a grant, make sure they know help is available.

For more information on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund or to locate the MVTF agent in your county, visit www.michiganveterans.com or call 517-284-5299.





PVA EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose

The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) primary goal has been to assist its members and their families in improving the quality of their lives.

This goal has been addressed through a variety of activities, including the establishment of the Educational Scholarship Program. This program assists PVA members and their immediate family members by providing scholarship funds to help with a post-secondary education.

PVA will award scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to full-time students and \$500 to part-time students for an academic year.

Eligibility

Applicant must be either a PVA member, the spouse of a PVA member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support.

Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.

Applicant must be accepted and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited US college or university.

Previous award recipients may apply.

Submission Process

Individuals who wish to apply for the scholarship program can download the application at www.pva.org or request an application be mailed to them via telephone (800) 424-8200 Ext. 776, or via e-mail christih@pva.org. Completed applications **MUST** be returned to PVA **NO LATER THAN June 17, 2014**. **Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions. In addition, any incomplete applications will not be considered.**

For more details, please visit www.pva.org



Government Relations & Advocacy

By: Mike Harris

No-fault legislation Introduced in the House

In February, House Speaker Jase Bolger introduced a renewed effort to move auto no-fault reform through the House. The speaker's proposed substitute language (H-3) for House Bill 4612 which was introduced last year by Representative Pete Lund.

The Speaker's proposed changes to Michigan's auto no-fault insurance laws claimed that his proposals reflect a "compromise." Reacting to Speaker Bolger's proposals and his claims of a compromise, Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault (CPAN) President John Cornack issued the following statement.

"If Mr. Bolger believes these new insurance-industry backed changes to Michigan's no-fault system are a 'compromise' then he must be using a non-traditional definition of the word. Not a single CPAN member has agreed to his so-called reforms," said Cornack.

While this latest proposal is slightly different from what the insurance industry pushed for last year, the fact remains that Speaker Bolger and the insurance industry are still pressing forward with changing the state's auto insurance system without the necessary data from the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA). The transparency of MCCA is critical to auto no-fault in Michigan, and without having access to the actuarial tables and economic assumptions it uses to make its projections there is no way to know what changes are appropriate.

Without this information, Speaker Bolger is asking his members to make a blind vote that could cause our state's most seriously injured people to lose the care they need, and force health care providers to lose millions of dollars."

In December 2012, CPAN and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan won a lawsuit in Ingham County Circuit Court that would require the MCCA's rate-making documents to be made public. The MCCA has since appealed that ruling and the case is awaiting a decision by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

While Speaker Bolger's plan provides a guaranteed 10 percent savings over three years, when the \$25 HICA (Health Insurance Claims Assessment) tax is factored into the proposal, the savings remain negligible.

The average auto insurance policy in Michigan is roughly \$1,100. So, the Speaker's proposal will provide drivers with a savings of \$10 a month for three years but then turn around and hit them with a new \$25 per year Medicaid tax. In the long run, there are no real savings at all, and all the while Michigan drivers will be losing the best injury care in the country.

Specifically, the proposed substitute bill (H-3) would:

- Cap long-term care for individuals living with auto-related catastrophic injuries,
- Limit home care by family members even though family members are proven to provide better care than hired strangers,
- Opt out of providing palliative, lifelong care designed to give a reasonable quality of life,
- Limit total home care hours to a maximum of 24 hours per day, which will not allow those who are catastrophically injured to have more than one aide

per shift, even when deemed necessary by a licensed physician,

- Set a 52-week lifetime limit on physical therapy and only provide for additional increases in that limit if medical evidence can prove in advance that the person will make progress,
- Eliminate coverage for anyone riding in the car that is not a Michigan resident, such as visiting relatives and friends.

Paralyzed Veterans from other states cannot believe the incredible coverage that Michigan provides for people that are seriously injured in an automobile accident.

I have always compared it to the coverage our members with a service related spinal cord injury receive from the VA. The only difference is that they receive monthly compensation for the rest of their life.

The insurance industry would have everyone believe that the only way to reduce costs is by cutting personal injury benefits which ultimately pushes their expenses onto Medicaid, and restricting accident victim's rights. MPVA believes there are better solutions.

MPVA has called on Michigan legislators to enact laws that require the MCCA to release financial information so both policy makers and interest groups can make informed decisions on proposed changes to the Michigan No-Fault law.

The information is critical in revealing to Michigan citizens and lawmakers the rationale behind the insurance industry claim that Michigan's current auto no-fault system is financially unsustainable 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 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.

The MPVA believes that the Michigan No-fault system provides the best insurance value in the country and needs to be maintained. Since the early 1990's insurance companies have been attempting to impose strict controls, reduce benefits and promote other reforms that would eliminate no-fault as it is known in Michigan today. Each attempt has ended in the same result: with lawmakers and the public reaffirming their support for a system with a very powerful message – that the protections of the supports necessary to make us whole again are priceless!





Veterans' News

By: Bonnie J. Williams, Chapter Service Officer

Prosthetics Delay Report Form

As most of you know, our service office works diligently to advocate on behalf of issues related to prosthetics and recent changes in the processes that have caused delays for many of our members. We have been trained to confront these issues at various levels; from individual facilities to the Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) to the VA Central Office. Now, we have added one more element to our strategy that should help our members!

Along with this note, I have included in a copy of the newly created Prosthetics Delay Report Form. The form serves two purposes. First, it is intended to give members the timely opportunity to let us know when

their prosthetics are delayed or wrong denied. Second, it provides the PVA with the data needed to identify trends so that we can have a better understanding for future prosthetics policy.

PVA members can complete the form, and send fax them to: (202) 416-7745 or email to: prosthetics@pva.org.

If you have any questions regarding this form, please feel free to contact me at our Service Office: (800) 795-3608.



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Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Prosthetics Delay Report Form

Responsible PVA Service Office: _____ Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

SSN: _____ Age: _____ PVA Member: Yes No

Description of disabling condition that necessitates reliance on prosthetics,
including the date of injury:

Are you service-connected: Yes No

Item/Device/Equipment ordered:

Date Ordered: _____

Prescribing Clinician/Therapist: _____

VA Medical Center: _____

Veteran Integrated Service Network (1-23): _____

Order delayed more than 30 days: Denied:

Reasons given for decision:

Impact of delay/denial:

Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to prosthetics@pva.org



Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director

PVA Sports Update

After a challenging winter, many of you may be looking to get outdoors and get active. There are many upcoming opportunities for you to sign up for. Please see the following list below that highlights some of PVA's upcoming sports tournaments:

PVA/AWBA Bowling Tournament Series (AWBTS)

The second tournament on the 8th Annual PVA/AWBA Bowling Tournament Series will be held by Florida Gulf Coast PVA on April 25-27, 2014, in Las Vegas, NV. For information regarding this tournament, please contact Fabio Villarroel at: FabioV@pva.org or 800-424-8200, ext. 655.

PVA/NWPA National Wheelchair Billiards Tournament Series (NWBTS)

The second tournament on the 8th Annual PVA/NWPA Billiards Tournament Series was held by Kentucky-Indiana PVA on November 1-3, 2013, in Louisville, KY. The next tournament will be held by Mid-Atlantic PVA on March 21-23, 2014, in Richmond, VA. For more information about the NWBTS, please contact Alan Earl at: AlanE@pva.org or 703-462-0504.

PVA Bass Tour

The first tournament on the 2014 PVA Bass Tour schedule will be held by Florida Gulf Coast PVA on March 28-30, 2014, in Kissimmee, FL. For more information about the PVA Bass Tour, please contact Alan Earl at: AlanE@pva.org or 703-462-0504.

PVA National Trapshoot Circuit

The most recent tournaments on the PVA National Trapshoot 18th Circuit schedule were the Arizona PVA

Trapshoot held October 24-27, 2013 in Tucson, AZ and the Mid-Atlantic PVA Trapshoot held November 8-10, 2013 in Richmond, VA. The Florida Gulf Coast PVA Trapshoot will be held March 7-9, 2014 in Odessa, FL. For more information about the PVA Shooting Sports Program, please contact Andy MacDonald at: AndyM@pva.org or 703-244-7547.

PVA Air Rifle/Air Pistol

The first tournament of the 2014 PVA Air Rifle/Air Pistol Competitions was held by Cal-Diego PVA on January 27-28, 2014, in Point Loma, CA. The next tournament will be held by Mid-Atlantic PVA on February 12-13, 2014, in Richmond, VA. For more information about the PVA Air Rifle/Air Pistol Competitions, please contact Fabio Villarroel at: FabioV@pva.org or 800-424-8200, ext. 655.

PVA Fitness and Wellness Program

The Paralyzed Veterans Racing Team will be competing in the following races:

- April 3-6, 2014/ Redlands Classic (TT, RR, Critx2) Redlands CA
- April 24-27, 2014/ Clocktower Classic (Prologue, Hill Climb, RR, TT, Crit) Rome GA
- May 4, 2014/ Pittsburgh Marathon Pittsburgh, PA
- May 8-11, 2014/ UCI Para-cycling Road World Cup #1 (RR, TT) Castiglione Pescaia, Italy
- May 24-26, 2014/ National Championships (TT, Crit) Chattanooga TN
- May 30-Jun 1, 2014/ Wichita Omnium (TT, RR, Crit) Wichita KS

For more information, please contact Jody Shiflett

at handcycling@pva.org or visit the PVA Fitness and Wellness Program webpages at www.pva.org. Furthermore, the 2014 PVA Adaptive Cycling Clinics are open to veterans and the general public, with novice to experienced riders. Register today by calling the site coordinator listed below:

Louisville – April 15, 2014

Chris Fulks

502-287-4367

christopher.fulks@va.gov

Albuquerque – May 9, 2014

Michelle E. McKenzie

505-265-1711, ext. 2030

michelle.mckenzie@va.gov

Milwaukee – early July 2014

Dr. Ken Lee

414-384-2000, ext. 41288

Kenneth.lee8@va.gov



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RT '11
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Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hubbard and his young daughter join him for the last few steps of a 23 mile march he did with Sgt. First Class Jason Holley and Sgt. First Class Russell Tansey in order to raise funds for the MPVA!

July/August 2011

RT '11
Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Michael Harris, MPVA Executive Director, takes a moment to reflect at Oakland Hills Memorial Garden's POW/MIA Memorial site. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is on September 16, 2011.

September/October 2011

RT '11
Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



The 2011 Detroit Free Press Marathon Wheelers get ready to set out onto the 26.2 mile course through Detroit and Canada on Sunday, October 16, 2011
Photo By: Kelly Wadler

November/December 2011

The Ad Agency

RT '12
Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



MPVA Board Director, Teresa Kamphorst, gets a golf lesson from Scott Millman of The Simple World of Golf at MPVA's Open House on April 12, 2012.

May/June 2012

RT '12
Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hubbard is joined by his daughter, Ali, as he finishes a 23 mile march he completed in support of the MPVA on May 19, 2012!

July/August 2012

RT '12
Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Scot Severn, MPVA Sports Director, wins bronze medal in 2012 Paralympic Games
Photo Courtesy of Kevin Wolfe, Howard County Amateur

November/December 2012

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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

January/February 2013

RT '13
Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



This photo was captured by Brenda Wheeler, MPVA Administrative Assistant, while vacationing this past winter at The Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park in Florida. The park acts as a rehabilitation center for injured or disabled animals that would not be able to survive in the wild.

March/April 2013

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

September/October 2013



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

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Spring Edition 2014

Valuable Dates for 2014:



MPVA Awareness Day

Thursday, April 10, 2014
MPVA Chapter Headquarters
40550 Grand River Ave. Novi, MI 48375
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Come out and learn more about the MPVA!
This event is free to the public!



Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2014
Nominations for Board Members continue
Luncheon begins at 12:00 Noon
and meeting begins at 1:00 PM



Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2014
Nominations for Board Members begin
Luncheon begins at 12:00 Noon and
meeting begins at 1:00 PM