

RT '15

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



From left to right: PVA's Julia Walker joins MPVA Executive Director, Michael Harris, and MPVA Veterans Service Officer, Joe Shaeffer, at the Pure Michigan 400 Race in August where Michael Harris was asked to be the Grand Marshall.





About this Issue:

The MPVA looks forward to plenty of excitement and upcoming events this fall! Be sure to take a look at Pure Michigan's 400 Race Grand Marshall's article (otherwise known as Michael Harris).

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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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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

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Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris, Executive Director, MPVA

Positive Changes for the Chapter

The signs of fall are all around us, and just like the weather, change is in the air for Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA). The change I refer to is a positive one, one in which I have given a great deal of thought and am excited for.

As of October 1st, I will be transitioning my role at the MPVA back to the Government Relations Director position. After serving as Executive Director for almost a decade, I am ready to change up my daily routine and get back to something that truly inspires me. The role of Executive Director of the MPVA is a fantastic opportunity to serve this Chapter, but my greatest passion has always been driven by advocacy. This step will allow me to take advantage of that passion and my time while I am in good health and still “somewhat” youthful.

I was first introduced to MPVA in 1986 after I suffered a spinal cord injury in an automobile accident. After meeting others with spinal cord injuries, I became convinced that a fulfilling life with an injury was not only possible, but achievable. Then, in 1995 I was asked to become a Board Member at the Chapter. The following year I was hired as the Government Relations Director.

I never, in my wildest dreams, thought I would still be involved with the organization almost 20 years later. But my involvement with MPVA has been one of the most rewarding things I have done with my life since becoming injured. I cannot imagine anything that would have been more satisfying.

Now, as Government Relations Director, I will be committed to strengthening and expanding programs that drive our mission, ensuring the

same quality programs that have made MPVA a household name in the disability community continue, while we work diligently to develop new services that effectively respond to emerging needs of our membership.

In reflecting on 20 years of involvement in MPVA, I rest well knowing our organization played a role in improving the lives of paralyzed veterans and people with disabilities, but I know there remains much to do. I also know that any success to which I was a part of occurred because of the truly talented and dedicated people with whom I worked with and the rightness of our mission.

I look forward to my “new” relationship with our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the community we serve as we work together to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families. I also encourage each of you to get involved. We need all the support we can get at the grass roots level. Whether that is writing letters to legislators, attending one of our many events, donating your time and energies, or making a monetary contribution—your effort and involvement makes a difference.

The MPVA is indeed very fortunate not to have to look too far for my replacement. Upon my recommendation, the MPVA Board of Directors, unanimously approved the promotion of Jaclyn Kochis, MPVA Deputy Executive Director, to become the new Executive Director effective October 1st, 2015.

When we were interviewing Jaclyn in 2008 for the position of Director of Development and Public Relations, we indicated that it was our goal to groom her so one day she would be able to take over the Executive Directors position when

it became available. What impressed me was her understanding of the positive impact that social media might have in MPVA's ability to reach out to people.

Because of social media, non-profits, such as MPVA, now have the ability to focus their social efforts to drive awareness, share their story, cultivate donor relationships and open up two-way communication with advocates in ways never before possible.

I am confident that Jaclyn will continue the MPVA's proud tradition of ensuring that a new generation of veterans coming home with a spinal cord injury/disease enjoys the opportunity to live the American dream they helped defend.



MPVA's Salute to Veterans Online Auction

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

November 3, 2015—November 17, 2015

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!

Make a gift donation today! Contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000, or at: 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 2015 Salute to Veterans Gala benefit MPVA Programs.

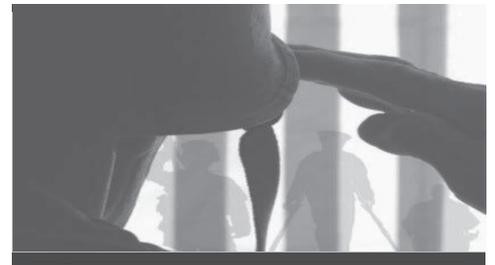
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Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48375**



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



The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Present the: **Salute to Veterans Gala**

Keynote Speaker:
Jeremy Briggs, CPT, MIARNG
Veteran Advocate, Former President and
Chairman of Camp Liberty

&
Master of Ceremonies:
Rich Luterman,
United States Air Force Veteran and
WJBK FOX 2 News Chief Meteorologist

Friday, November 13, 2015
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48374



From The Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis, Deputy Executive Director/Development, MPVA

Good Bye Summer, Hello Fall

As I look back at the last few months, it seems like the summer has absolutely flown by! It's hard to believe we are now welcoming the fall months and are accompanied by a jam-packed season of events ahead.

This summer, the MPVA enjoyed an awesome day for our Membership Picnic at The Miracle League of Plymouth. For the past few years, the Miracle League of Plymouth has been incredibly kind in allowing the MPVA to use their completely accessible field for a morning of baseball followed by a picnic lunch! Although it ended up being probably one of the hottest days of the summer, we had a great time playing some ball and visiting with our fellow members and their families. I would just like to thank all of our friends at the Miracle League for their continued generosity and support of the MPVA. We are very lucky to have such a great relationship with you and look forward to building upon that in the future. I would also like to thank our good friends at Delilah's Deli for catering our events! We couldn't be luckier to have such a great partnership with such fantastic people! (Please see the inside back cover of this issue for photos from our Membership Picnic!)

As I look forward to the coming months, the Chapter will be working feverishly towards our November 13th Salute to Veterans Gala which will be held at the Suburban Collection Showplace from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Novi, MI. We are pleased to announce that our very good friend, Captain Jeremy Briggs, Michigan Army National Guard, will be joining us as our Keynote Speaker.

Jeremy has courageously served in several deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Throughout his military career he has also held the positions

of acting Squad Leader, Platoon Leader, Battalion S1 Administrative Officer, Battalion S3 Medical Operations Officer, and acting Detachment and Rear Detachment Commander. In his spare time, he also works full time with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles as a Supervisor in Pilot Operations at their headquarters in Auburn Hills, and occasionally at Conner Assembly Plant in Detroit with the Viper. Captain Briggs holds a B.A. from Michigan State University in Advertising. He has performed volunteer work for many different charity events within the community.

All of us at the MPVA are thrilled to have Mr. Briggs as our 2015 Salute to Veterans Keynote Speaker. Additionally, Mr. Rick Luterman, of WJBK Fox 2, will return as our Master of Ceremonies. Rich, who is most known in and around the metro Detroit area as a Meteorologist, is also a U.S. Air Force veteran. All of us are so pleased to have Rich joining us as he always does such a phenomenal job!

Last, but certainly not least, I want to let you know that the MPVA will be hosting our online auction in conjunction to the Salute to Veterans Gala in hopes to raise more funds that will directly serve our mission. The Salute to Veterans online Auction will open on November 3, 2015 and will run until November 17, 2015 via the website: www.biddingforgood.com/mpva/2015. After seeing last year's auction items, I am really getting excited to see what this year will bring. I don't know about all of you, but I plan on purchasing some holiday gifts from this site!

You can help make The Salute to Veterans Online Auction a success by passing along this information to your friends and family and assist in obtaining items! We are looking for donations of all different values. Each contribution will be recognized on the auction site until it closes—this means that you or your company

can receive lots of additional exposure! Furthermore, your donation can be made tax-deductible, and most importantly, you will be helping a really fabulous cause!

As you can see, we have so much to look forward to this fall. I can't wait to see everyone at the upcoming events, and as always, thank you for all your support!

*Register as a dinner guest for the Salute or be a Sponsor!
Dinner registration is only \$75.00 and sponsorships vary!
Please contact me at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06 soon—seats are filling up fast!*



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Guest Article

By: Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA)

MVAA celebrates Veterans Day and the role of veterans serving veterans

Benefits counselors from veteran's service organizations like the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America are often on the road, meeting with veterans and helping to connect them with the benefits they earned while in uniform. They spend much of their time traveling around Michigan, meeting with MPVA members and other local veterans and encouraging them to revisit their VA benefits.

Eligibility for many VA benefits has been expanded or revised, especially for Vietnam-era veterans – whose eligibility has changed more than 50 times in the past few years. What's more, wait times are down nationwide, meaning that many veterans receive a VA decision more quickly and can begin receiving compensation.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency works closely with veteran's service organizations like MPVA, as well as county veteran's service offices and accredited benefits counselors throughout the state to ensure veterans' services continue to improve.

Through 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) and MichiganVeterans.com, veterans and their families can connect with the many services and VA benefits available in health care, education, employment, housing and more. MVAA also provides information about local, state and national programs and often helps connect veterans to VSO benefits counselors.

This Veterans Day, MVAA celebrates its partnership with MPVA – and the veterans who make up its membership. We say thank you, both for your service to this country and for your work to enhance the lives of fellow veterans with spinal cord injury or disease.

Whether you have been a MPVA member for 20 years or two months, veterans should consider performing a benefits checkup through an accredited benefits counselor. A full list of counselors can be found at MichiganVeterans.com, all of whom will work to determine eligibility and prepare the necessary paperwork to file a claim.

Veterans Day is a time to honor those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, but it's also a good time to take a second look at your VA benefits.

MPVA serves its community, and MVAA is committed to serving the members of MPVA.



Picture Perfect

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



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 Tansy 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 '14
Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



MPVA Vice President, David Peck, takes a moment to test drive an Action Track wheelchair at MPVA's Annual Awareness Day this past spring.

Summer Edition 2014

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, Ally, 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



Scott Severn, MPVA Sports Director, wins bronze medal in 2012 Paralympic Games.

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.

January/February 2013

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



This photo was captured by Brenda Wheatler, MPVA Administrative Assistant, while vacationing this past winter at The Honnossa 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 2013 Membership Picnic.

September/October 2013



Veterans' News

By: Joe Shaeffer, Veterans Service Officer

News from the MPVA Service Office

My name is Joe Shaeffer and I am honored to introduce myself as the new Veterans Service Officer for the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA). I served in the Army from September 2003 to November 2006. I attended Basic at Fort Benning Georgia then AIT in Virginia. I was eventually stationed at Fort Benning Georgia as part of the 498th (AA) medevac unit. During my time at Fort Benning I did several state-side deployments, including disaster relief for hurricanes Katrina, in New Orleans, and Rita, in Texas.



Joseph Shaeffer poses with Rutland Township Supervisor, Jim Carr (left), in front of Joe's home office.

I have been married to my amazing wife, Jessica, for 11 years and we have two beautiful children; our daughter, Makayla, who is 7 and our son, Roman, who is 6 months. When I am not spending time with them, I enjoy hunting and fishing along with almost any sport imaginable. We also love taking trips as a family and camping whenever we have a chance.

Since joining the MPVA this past June, I have been



Joseph Shaeffer poses with MPVA Executive Director, Michael Harris, and Joe's Grandfather, Vaughn Dingedline, at the Pure Michigan's 400 Race this past August.

stationed in the Barry County area of Michigan and work out of the Rutland Township Hall in Hastings. I am able to meet with veterans in person at that location on a weekly basis. I also commute and work out of the Battle Creek VA once a month (the second Thursday of every month), as well as the Novi Chapter Headquarters once a month (typically when the MPVA is hosting a Membership Meeting). Additionally, I am available to speak with veterans regarding their VA benefits via phone at: (248) 974-5788, or toll free at: (800) 638-6782.

I am extremely excited about this opportunity, to be a part of the MPVA team, and to help my fellow veterans in any way I can. If you ever need my assistance, please contact me—I would love to meet you!



Amtrak Accessible Boarding Technologies Program



Message from the Federal Railroad Administration

This year, the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) grant to Amtrak included funding for the Accessible Boarding Technology (ABT) program. Thanks to the grant, Amtrak is developing new solutions to greatly improve the boarding and alighting experience for all passengers, especially passenger with disabilities. Historically, Amtrak has not offered a level boarding experience at stations on corridors where Amtrak and freight trains share the same tracks due to the wide loads that freight trains often carry. As a result, boarding and alighting can be difficult for many passengers. Passengers using wheelchairs must use mobile lifts that take additional time and staff to deploy. The "Shuttle Platform" prototype that will be tested at Ann Arbor station this year is an effort to overcome this problem. FRA looks forward to this initial test, and is committed to helping Amtrak remove all barriers to access, ensuring all Americans can travel throughout Amtrak's system.

Amtrak's Accessible Boarding Technologies (ABT) Program

The goal of the Amtrak Accessible Boarding Technologies (ABT) Program is to create additional accessible boarding solutions that are ADA compliant, creating equal boarding and detrainment experiences for Amtrak passengers, including those passengers who have a disability or may use a wheeled mobility device. The Ann Arbor Amtrak Station has been selected to receive the first prototype test hardware deployment of the Setback Level Boarding Platform, featuring a modular platform section that mechanically extends or shuttles towards the passenger train after the train has stopped, bridging the gap created when a level boarding platform is desired, creating a level boarding experience for all Amtrak passengers. The prototype test hardware will remain in use at the Ann Arbor station for approximately twenty-four months and then be removed. RLE International, an engineering firm located in Madison Heights, Michigan, is responsible for the engineering, design, prototype testing, validation, site development, construction and implementation of the prototype test hardware.

Quick Facts:

- Site preparations began in May 2015.
- Installation is scheduled to be complete by July 23, 2015.
- Testing to begin in late July, 2015.
- Prototype test hardware tentatively scheduled to be removed July, 2017.
- All costs associated with the ABT program and Ann Arbor prototype test hardware deployment, test, adjust, removal are the responsibility of the ABT program.



For More Information Contact: RLE INTERNATIONAL 248-498-5200



By: Mike Harris

Amtrak Unveils Level Boarding Platform for Passengers with Disabilities

On July 23, 2015, I had an opportunity to see the Amtrak unveiling of a level-boarding train platform that will provide a safer and more efficient boarding for passengers in wheelchairs, the elderly and others with mobility issues.

The first-of-its-kind platform mechanically extends toward the train, bridging the gap between the platform and train. The ribbon-cutting event, which took place at the Ann Arbor Amtrak station, was timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

The new platform, developed by RLE Engineering in Detroit, will be pilot-tested in Ann Arbor for two years. If successful, Amtrak's plan is to install the level boarding platform at all stations that service more than 7,500 riders or more per day.

The platform upgrade was a necessary step for Amtrak in complying with the ADA. The challenge for Amtrak in designing level boarding was that passenger service often utilizes the same rail as freight cars, which often are much wider, thus requiring passenger platforms to be positioned lower to the ground. In such instances, able-bodied passengers would have to climb up and down stairs to access the train, while people with disabilities were boarded using a bulky, hand cranked platform lift. This often resulted in bad experiences for passengers as well as delays for the train service.

To remedy this challenge, Amtrak and RLE International designed the new removable platform prototype that moves out to connect with the proper width of train cars as well as a bridge to plate to provide level boarding to wheelchair passengers. Once passengers have gotten on or off the train, the platform can be easily stowed until the next passenger train arrives.

I had an opportunity to board a train for the first time using the new platform and came away impressed with the design. The goal whenever you travel is to have an enjoyable experience, but frustration comes when any mode of transportation cannot accommodate a wheelchair.

The event drew a number of dignitaries including Michigan Lt. Governor Brian Calley and Richard Bernstein, the first blind justice to ever serve on Michigan's Supreme Court.

Paralyzed Veterans of America relationship with Amtrak dates back to 1992, when regulations under the ADA went into effect. Since that time, PVA has provided numerous services to Amtrak, including consulting on ADA compliance, personnel training and accessible design for train cars and stations.

The ADA: Twenty-Five Years Later

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). When signed into law, the ADA was hailed as the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Twenty-five 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.

During the past twenty-five years, the accepted definition of disability has been changing for the positive. In the 1970's, the concept of a disability referred to an underlying physical or mental condition. For example, a person with paraplegia would have been considered disabled based solely on their physical condition. Today, disability is seen as a complex

interaction between a person and their environment. The same person with paraplegia may be considered disabled due to their physical impairment as well as the barriers in the environment that prevent full social participation.

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.

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.

Since the signing of the ADA much has changed. America's built environment, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure have been transformed by the ADA's gradual approach to accessibility improvements. This change comes at a critical moment as America is aging and the demand for accessibility is increasing.

Because of the ADA, millions of Americans have grown accustomed to accessibility features when they are pushing strollers or pulling roller bags through public spaces, when they are watching captions in an airport, or when they are riding their bikes up/down curb cuts.

Prior to the ADA, millions of Americans with disabilities lived as second-rate citizens in a society based on the promise that "All men are created equal." There were no laws to ensure access to or a benefit from the most basic of freedoms that a majority of Americans take for granted.

People with disabilities who had traditionally been isolated, not only from the mainstream of society, but from one another, began coming together to speak out and demand an end to unequal treatment and seeking control over their own lives.

Upon passage of the ADA on July 26th, 1990, President George H.W. Bush described the ADA as "the world's first comprehensive declaration of the equality of people with disabilities," declaring that "every man woman and child with a disability can now pass through once closed doors, into a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom."

When analyzing the ADA I wouldn't characterize it as a complete success, but I wouldn't 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.

With that being said, we still have our work cut out for us. There has always been a perception in the disability community that because the ADA is in place our elected officials are automatically enforcing it. Unfortunately, this is not the case. State and local officials throughout Michigan do not have the authority to enforce Title III of the ADA on behalf of the Federal government unless the Department of Justice certifies Michigan building codes. The likelihood of that happening anytime soon is very remote.

It is for that reason that we become advocates in the communities we live in so we can provide insight on the issues that prohibits us from being active participants. We need to work to create conditions, to establish policies and practices which facilitate the full integration and participation of persons with disabilities into all aspects of community life.

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

...continued on page 14



Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director, MPVA

2015 Pure Michigan 400 Grand Marshal



The Pure Michigan 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race was held this past August at the Michigan International Speedway. The day was met with 43 competitors, tons of excited fans, warm and sunny weather, and MPVA's own Michael Harris as its Grand Marshal!

Driver, Matt Kenseth, dominated the competition and led for 146 of the 200 total laps. This excitement took place only after Mike Harris had his moment of exhilaration by giving the drivers the signal to start their vehicles! Harris, who took to the center of the track that afternoon, was proud and honored to say the most famous words in motor sports, "Drivers, start your engines!"

"Many thanks to Pure Michigan and Michigan International Speedway for giving us the opportunity to share our mission with so many this coming weekend during the Pure Michigan 400 race," Harris said. "Now more than ever, our role in this community is critical in providing quality healthcare, benefits and jobs for America's heroes. We can't do it alone, and we're grateful for all the support here this weekend as we share our story."

Michigan International Speedway has worked with Paralyzed Veterans of America on a number of initiatives. The track routinely honors its veterans at the races with special ticket packages and celebrates the Army's birthday. In June, the United States Army Chorus sang the national anthem for the Quicken Loans 400.

"It's special to work with an organization like Pure Michigan who holds the same philosophy as the track in providing lifetime memories," speedway President Roger Curtis said.

The MPVA is so appreciative of the opportunity they had to be a part of such a sensational day! Many thanks to Pure Michigan and Michigan International Speedway allowing us to join them—we know it will be a day Michael Harris will never forget!



...continued from page 12

around than 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 25th anniversary of the 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 25 years and create an America that celebrates and invests in the talents, dreams and aspirations of its more than 54 million people with disabilities.



2015 MPVA PICNIC AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE OF PLYMOUTH





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FALL Edition 2015

Valuable Dates for 2015



Columbus Day

Office Closed October 12th 2015
in observation of holiday



Veterans Day

Thank those who have served, are serving,
and remember those who have paid the
ultimate sacrifice



Salute to Veterans Gala

November 13, 2015
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
The Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave
Novi, MI 48375
Register Today! Dinner tickets are only
\$75.00 and sponsorships vary! Contact
Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 or at
jkochis@michiganpva.org for more details.



Thanksgiving

Office closed November 26, 2015 in
observation of holiday