

RT '16

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. We want to congratulate **Trinity Lutheran School, Utica** for winning the 2016 “Best City Disability Award.”





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER



About this Issue:

Please read the Executive Directors Column to find out more about this year's Future City 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 (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

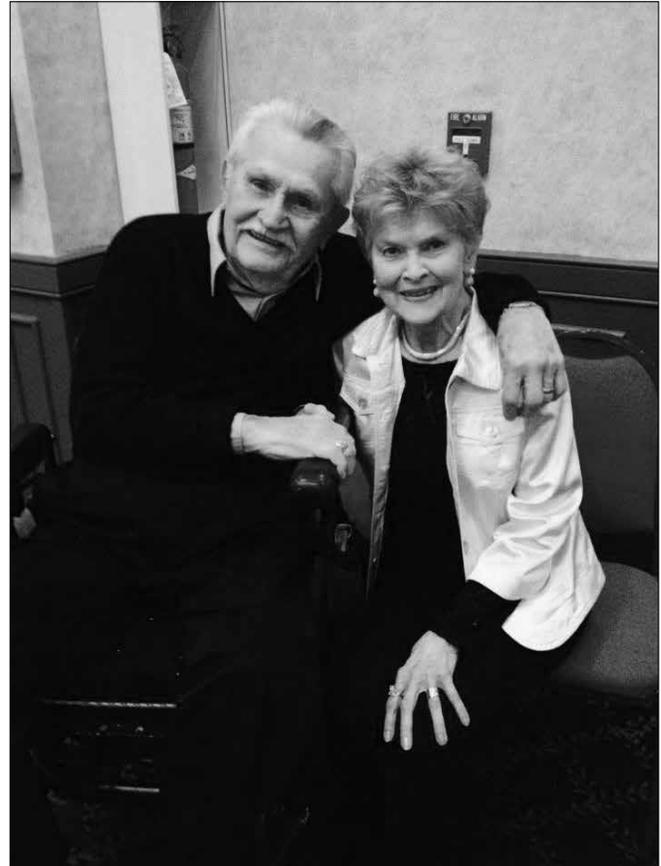
By David Peck, President, MPVA

Remembering John Dusa

On April 29th, the MPVA lost a dear friend, Korean War Veteran, and one of our longest elected Board Members, Mr. John Dusa. John, who served as a board member of Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) and traveled with the Ann Arbor VA Wheelchair Team for 22 years, will be dearly missed. Yet, as I write this, I know that our members, friends, and his family will remember him fondly.

John was born at home in Deerfield on July 13, 1933, to John and Irene (Kurutz) Dusa. In high school, he scored the football team's first touchdown when the school moved the football field to the land next to the family's farm. He proudly served his country in the US Army during the Korea War from 1952-1954. Upon returning home, he married Diana McKenna, on August 16, 1958.

In addition to his service to the MPVA, he was also a longtime member of the Deerfield American Legion and had served as Past Commander. He also worked as treasurer of the Deerfield Athletic Boosters for many years.



John's friends knew they could stop by anytime for a taste of his latest homemade wine or find him trimming his grapevines and tending to his garden. He often brought in fresh vegetables to share with the MPVA team and was very proud of his harvests.

John could be counted on for his love of animals. He would never fail to get the attention of our friendly service animals at the Chapter as his pockets were always filled with dog treats! John was also good for telling humorous stories about his cats and dogs chasing each other, too!





(DuJuan) Daniels of Indianapolis, Ind., Valarie Velez of West Palm Beach, Fla., Jessica (Hughes) Milligan of Columbia, S.C., Julia Hughes of Indialantic, Fla., John (Daniella) Hughes of Irvine, Calif., and Harrison Downing of Bloomington, Ind.; and two great-grandchildren, Gracie Dusa and Kingston Daniels.

The MPVA would like to extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Dusa family. However, we would also like to assure you that his legacy will live on through our hearts and minds!

God bless you, John!

John was very proud of his family! He, along with his wife Diana of 57 years, have two daughters, Joan “Joni” (Todd) Downing and Jeannie Hughes, both of Indianapolis, Ind.; a brother, Bill Dusa of Hudson, Mich.; grandchildren, John Dusa (Jessica) Dusa IV of Adrian, Mich., Natalie





Executive Director's Report

By Jaclyn Kochis, Executive Director, MPVA

Trinity Lutheran School 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 25th 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.

This year's theme: *Waste Not, Want Not*, which challenged students to design waste management systems of the future. Teams participating in this year's event were required to design an innovative citywide solid waste management system for their “future city” that is safe, environmentally sound, and energy efficient.

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 *Trinity Lutheran School, Utica* for winning the 2016 “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.

St. John Lutheran School in Rochester, once again won this year's Michigan Regional Future City Competition, earning them the right to represent Michigan in the national contest in Washington, D.C. in February.

Once again, I want to congratulate the talented team from *Trinity Lutheran School in Utica*, and all the students who participated in this year's event for a job well done!





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Guest Article

By: Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA)

MVAA encourages conversations about mental health with online tool

How are you feeling? Have you been feeling empty or hopeless on the inside? That might be depression.

Are you constantly worried or feeling anxious? You might be experiencing Generalized Anxiety Disorder.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency encourages you to ask yourself these and other questions. Mental health is a sensitive yet important subject, and for this reason, MVAA has collaborated to offer an online tool to screen for mental health concerns such as depression, bipolar, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, alcohol and substance abuse and eating disorders.

The free online mental health and substance abuse screening tool is available at MichiganVeterans.com/Mental-Health-Screening. The screening is anonymous and can be taken 24/7.

“Mental health is key to overall health, and MVAA wants to make sure all Michigan veterans have the tools they need to care for themselves both

mentally and physically,” MVAA Interim Director James Robert Redford said. “With this online tool, veterans can complete a quick and easy mental health screening and get the help and information they need when necessary.”



You'll begin the screening by selecting a statement that best fits how you've been thinking or behaving recently. Based on that response, you'll then answer a brief set of questions about yourself and how you are feeling. The survey ends with general explanations about your moods and behaviors as well as available mental health care support and where to find care closest to you.

If you are having suicidal thoughts or immediate health needs, the Veterans Crisis Line is available by calling 800-273-8255 and pressing 1.

To take the online survey, visit MichiganVeterans.com/Mental-Health-Screening.



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By: Joe Shaeffer, Veterans Service Officer

Clothing Allowance Eligibility

As the summer approaches, a lot of you will be making plans for vacations, family events, and setting money aside for the things you enjoy this time of year. That being said, wouldn't an extra \$777.29 be helpful?

August 1st is clothing allowance day! Make sure you are not in "static/recurring" status and file by the August 1st deadline. Please read below to find out more and ensure you get your benefits turned in on time.

Eligibility:

Veterans who are rated for a service-connected disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance. The allowance is also available to Veterans whose service-connected skin condition requires prescribed skin medication that irreparably damages the Veteran's outer garments.

Clothing Allowance Applications:

The application for the Annual Clothing Allowance can be downloaded from [VA Form 10-8678 Application for Annual Clothing Allowance](#).

Applying for Benefits:

All Clothing Allowance Applications forms are to be submitted to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) at the [VA Medical Center closest to you](#) on or before August 1 of each calendar year.

You can submit forms by:

1. Delivering the application to your [local VA Hospital or Clinic](#) during normal business hours
2. Mailing the application to your [local VA Hospital](#)

[or Clinic](#)

3. Faxing the application to your [local VA Hospital or Clinic](#)
4. Call Detroit Regional office at (313) 471-3996

Note: Please **DO NOT** attempt to email the application. (This is for your own privacy protection.) Please **DO NOT** submit your application/form to PSAS Central Office in Washington, DC. (Processing is done at your local facility.) If you have previously received or intended to apply for more than one clothing allowance, you must apply on an annual basis. If you are in a "static/recurring" status for one clothing allowance and do not intend to apply for more than one clothing allowance you do not have to apply on an annual basis.

Rate Table:

Benefit	Rate	Date Rate Changed
Automobile Allowance	\$20,174.68. once	10-01-15
Clothing Allowance	\$777.29	12-01-14
Medal of Honor Pension	\$1,299.61	12-01-14
Special Benefit Allowances Rate Table		

Lastly, as Memorial Day approaches (Monday, May 30th) the MPVA and I would like to invite you to join us for the Novi Memorial parade! Please see the event flyer in this issue for more details! This year, I am fortunate enough to be the keynote speaker after the parade. We would love to see all of our members come out and make a strong showing for our fallen brothers and sisters.





ANNUAL MPVA PICNIC

Saturday, July 23, 2016

10:00 AM-1:30 PM

Plymouth Miracle League Field

357 Theodore

Plymouth, MI 48170



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

Please R.S.V.P. by July 10, 2016

MPVA: (800) 683-6782

Email: chapterhq@michigan



Government Relations & Advocacy

By: Mike Harris

'Rosie the Riveters' from Michigan Honored With Visit to D.C.

Seven decades after their “we can do it” attitude proved invaluable to the Allied victory in World War II, dozens of “Rosie the Riveters” from southeastern Michigan were honored on March 22, 2016 with trip from Detroit to Washington, D.C. While in Washington, D.C. they were treated to a luncheon, a visit to the World War II Memorial, to Arlington Cemetery, and a stop at the U.S. Capitol.

The special honor flight had one very special passenger, my Aunt Pat Duncan, who worked at Ford’s Willow Run bomber plant in Ypsilanti during the war in the 1940s. When I found out that they were being honored for their service to our country I wanted to thank all the women for a job well done. While women are an essential part of the workforce today, 70 years ago that was not the case. These jobs were thought to be for men only, and these heroes stepped up and filled the work boots with grace and enthusiasm.

Many of us have an image in our minds when we hear “Rosie the Riveter.” The woman in the red bandanna rolling up the sleeve on her raised bent arm. Rosie the Riveter’s famous portrait features the four words “We can do it!” After all, life on the home front may have been quite different if women did not work in factories and shipyards during the war.

An Original Rosie is a woman who stepped up during World War II, joining the work force to keep our country running. These women left the home, their traditional role in our society, to build planes, tanks and other necessities for the war effort.

These were the women who worked in Ford Motor Company’s Willow Run Plant and other factories as part of the Arsenal of Democracy during World War II. At the peak of its production during World War II, the Willow Run Plant employed 42,000 workers, as much as one third of whom were pioneering women



industrial workers, collectively nicknamed “Rosie the Riveter.”

Willow Run produced more aircraft every month on its mile-long assembly line than Imperial Japan did in a year, earning it, and the area surrounding southeast Michigan, worldwide fame as the center of America’s “Arsenal of Democracy.”

Tom Brokaw’s 1998 book declared the generation that suffered and persevered through America’s Great Depression and then went on to fight World War II was America’s “Greatest Generation.”

In his book, Brokaw described that everyone from the “Greatest Generation” had a common, almost unspoken, message: *“They had a job to do—and they*

did it. No complaints, no whining, no seeking of celebrity status, or special treatment—just the quiet, personal satisfaction of doing the right thing for the good of their country. And then, they came home to restart and get on with their lives and attempted to provide a better life for their children. All the while, not saying much to anybody about what they had been through and accomplished—even when asked.”

Not many of them are left. The youngest are in their late-80s, and they are dying at the rate of more than 8,000 per week. Most now live in nursing homes or with their children. They all truly earned the worthy description of the “Greatest Generation” and our everlasting thank you.

Let us never stop honoring the accomplishments of the “Greatest Generation” nor forget how quickly the last remaining members are leaving us.

MPVA Settles Lawsuit Against Oakland Township

Nearly five years of contention around a state-of-the-art housing project for disabled veterans in Oakland Township is coming to an end with a settlement agreement that provides for an expansion and a long list of community amenities. The settlement agreement, reached between the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA), Mocerri/DM Investments, LLC, former Oakland Township Supervisor Joan M. Buser and Oakland Township, allows for a housing development to move forward serving both veterans and individuals with disabilities in metropolitan Detroit.

The MPVA, who filed a lawsuit against Oakland Township in Federal Court in December 2014, contended that the Township had violated the Federal Fair Housing Law, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The complaint charged that the Township discriminated by means of a highly restrictive and exclusionary zoning regime by refusing to grant a reasonable accommodation to paralyzed veterans, other disabled persons, and the elderly.

The agreement enabled the development to move forward with a 189-unit, age-in-place facility that will be called “Blossom Ridge.” The facility was proposed by Mocerri on 42 acres of land it owns at the northwest corner of Dutton and Adams Roads, will include 100

congregate care residences; 21 two-to-three bedroom cottages; 20 duet residences and 48 four-plex ranch style residences.

Carillon Creek, a 140 residential development located a quarter mile north of Blossom Ridge, will also be built. This facility will include 56 health and wellness suites to accommodate assisted living as well as other services to the disabled and elderly; a family style bistro with outdoor seating and 84 custom townhomes for lease.

Mocerri has dedicated 30 acres of parkland for public enjoyment throughout both properties. In addition, the settlement also stipulated that Oakland Township’s insurance carrier match \$400,000 (\$800,000 total) to enable rental assistance for those veterans who wish to live in Blossom Ridge/Carillon Creek.

These funds will ensure that veterans below the statistical median income in Oakland County will be able to live in these units—which is fantastic as we wanted to see the housing units built properly but were worried about their affordability.

This is a landmark agreement for disabled veterans and seniors who are seeking the simple dignity of living in the community of their choice. Oakland Township also will raise contributions of \$125,000 to match funds provided by Mocerri to erect a military veterans’ memorial on land donated by Mocerri. In all, more than \$1 million will go towards aiding and honoring Michigan veterans.

We are at our strongest when communities are more diverse and inclusive. This settlement agreement will ensure that the equal housing opportunities required by law are available to all citizens of Oakland Township. It sends a powerful message to other municipalities that we will have no tolerance for discrimination against disabled veterans and/or persons with any type of disability.

On behalf of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) Board of Directors, staff and members, I want to thank our attorneys George & Dean Googasian for providing pro bono legal representation in helping us reach a historic settlement agreement with Oakland Township. Without their efforts, this day would have never been possible.





Sports & Recreation

By: Ray Brown

Spring Turkey Hunt

Hunters, Guides, and Volunteers all gathered at Copper Creek Ranch, owned by John and Sherry Lee in Columbiaville, Michigan, for the annual kickoff of our Spring Turkey Hunt. In all, 50 people showed up to the tasty potluck! The main dishes were: buffalo, venison chili, and mostaccioli. As we gathered, a prayer over the meal included the blessing of the hunt.

Director of Hunting, Roger Wilcox, paired up each hunter and guide and assigned them to properties in Lapeer County. Standing Vehicle permits and licenses were checked for validity and door prizes were awarded.



MPVA hats were passed out to all and everyone was grateful to receive them! The three day hunt consisted of 17 teams and yielded 10 Toms. One of our hunters, Tom Beck, Jr, scored his first turkey harvest ever! According to the guides out hunting with him, his smile was as big as they have ever seen.



Although I was not able to attend this hunt, I was honored by a new group called Memory Outdoors that awarded me an all-expense paid hunt to Kansas. Six veterans from across the country were given this opportunity. During that trip, I did score a nice big Kansas Jake and brought home a front page story from their local paper. I also received a memory that I'll never forget.

Come go hunting with us....cause that's how we roll!





★ Remembering our Veterans and Showcasing Community Pride ★

2016 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday
May 30
10:00 AM
★★★★★

PARADE ROUTE ALONG TEN MILE BEGINNING at KARIM BLVD

Join us for a Memorial Service at
Novi Civic Center after the parade concludes



Pre-register to be a part of the parade.
Veteran and group entry forms are available at cityofnovi.org
or by contacting 248.347.0414.



MPVA AWARENESS DAY





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

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Valuable Dates for 2016



Memorial Day

Office Closed on May 30th
in observation of holiday



Membership Meeting

Nominations Continue
Luncheon begins at 12:00 Noon and
meeting begins at 1:00 PM



Independence Day

Office Closed July 4th
in observation of holiday



MPVA Membership Picnic

Saturday, July 23th 10:00 AM-1:30 PM
Plymouth Miracle League Field 357
Theodore Plymouth, MI 48170
Bring your baseball glove to play
from 10 AM-12 PM!
Lunch from Delilah's Deli served at Noon!



Membership Meeting

Thursday, August 25th
Counting of Ballots
Luncheon begins at 12:00 Noon and
meeting begins at 1:00 PM