

RT '18

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Being in a wheelchair does not mean your world must be limited. The possibilities are endless and MPVA members always prove that! Check out President David Peck, pictured above, taking advantage of the summer by cruising around Michigan's Dunes with his son-in-law!





**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**
Michigan Chapter



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER

www.michiganpva.org

About this Issue:

The summer season is flying by, with lots of exciting activities taking place and even more coming up this fall! Be sure to read through this issue and get up-to-date on your Chapter news!

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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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The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is a chapter of the 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 David Peck, President, MPVA

Summer Fun!

As I look back at the last few months, it seems like the summer is going by so quickly! It's hard to believe we will be welcoming the fall months here in no time. That also means that we will be accompanied by a jam-packed season of events ahead.

The MPVA enjoyed a hot summer 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 an outstanding lunch prepared by New Venture Café and Catering. Our only negative was how hot it was. Looking forward to next year, there is a great possibility that we may move our Annual Picnic outing to a spring or fall evening so that we can enjoy the Miracle League Field just a bit more!

We are very lucky to have such good relationships with the Miracle League of Plymouth and the families and children who participate in their programs. We couldn't be more fortunate 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 7th Salute to Veterans event! As we have been trying out new locations and times for our membership events to better serve you, we thought it would be time to try out something new for our Salute! We will be hosting our Salute to Veterans Luncheon at the Suburban Collection Showplace on November 7th from 11 AM to 1:30



Michael Harris presents The Plymouth Miracle League representatives, Deb Madonna and Kelly Hermann, with a donation at our Annual Picnic this summer.

PM in Novi, MI. We are pleased to announce that our Keynote Speaker will be Noah Currier!

It took Noah Currier all of six years to get out of his 'funk'. Six years after the traumatic accident that paralyzed him from the chest down, former Marine Corporal, Currier finally found the drive to get back into competitive sports and has been "Oscar Mike" ("on the move") ever since.

After joining the Marine Corps in 2000, Noah was among the first soldiers deployed to Afghanistan following the attacks of September 11. As a gunner for Charlie Company, he was subsequently deployed to Iraq in 2003 as part of the leading combat units, the “tip of the spear.” He returned to Camp Pendleton after seven months in Iraq—days later, a trucker fell asleep at the wheel and Noah suffered a C-6 spinal cord injury.

Six years later Noah finally let go of the funk that was holding him back and, as he says, “became addicted” to sports. Thanks to friends at Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans), Noah regained his motivation to play competitive sports. Since then, Noah has been involved in weightlifting, rowing, skydiving, skiing and his personal favorites, rugby and hand cycling.

It’s therefore appropriate that Noah would found a company named after the military term “Oscar Mike.” Oscar Mike is a military apparel company

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 October 31st and will run until November 14th via the website: www.biddingforgood.com/mpva/2018. 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

that makes, designs, and prints its military-themed T-shirts and “hoodies” in the United States. The company officially launched on Veterans Day 2012. Proceeds from Oscar Mike go on to support Veteran Service Organizations, including the PVA!

All of us at the MPVA are thrilled to have Noah as our 2018 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!



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. 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 \$75.00 and sponsorships vary! Please contact Jaclyn Kochis, Executive Director, at (248) 476-9000 ext. 122 soon—seats are filling up fast!



Be a "Salute Sponsor" in 2018!



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Michigan Chapter

Sponsorship Levels:

4 Star Sponsor \$ 3,000

- 1 table of 10 near stage
- Full page Color ad in Gala program booklet (**2 spots available**)
- Color ad in MPVA Quarterly Newsletter that reaches over 2,000 homes and businesses

3 Star Sponsor \$ 1,500

- 1 table of 10
- Full page ad in Gala program booklet

2 Star Sponsor \$ 500

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

1 Star Sponsor \$ 250

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

Other Opportunities:

ROTC Sponsor \$ 1,000

- Underwrite the cost for a table of 10 for a local University ROTC program
- Full page ad in program book

Sponsor a Veteran \$ 75

- Underwrite the cost for veteran(s) lunch

Your support makes a difference!

By joining us at our Salute to Veterans Luncheon Gala, you can help to make a difference in the lives of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease! Proceeds from this event go on to support the MPVA's mission of advocating for civil rights, assuring quality health care, exploring continuing research and education, and encouraging the healthy living of veterans with disabilities throughout the state of Michigan!

Can't join us as a sponsor or luncheon guest? That's ok! Why not support our *Salute to Veterans Online Auction!* There will be tons of outstanding items at various values for you to bid on at:

biddingforgood.com/mpva/2018

The auction will run from:

October 31—November 14

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

I am registering for...

_____ # of Luncheon Seats at \$75 per person

A Sponsorship Opportunity: _____

Other/ Donation/In-kind: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

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State: _____

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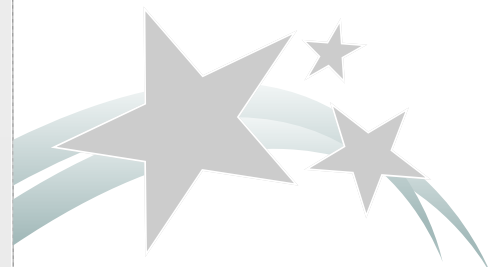
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Questions?
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Executive Director's Report

By Jaclyn Kochis, Executive Director, MPVA

Member Spotlight

The cover of this issue says a heck of a lot! While life in a wheelchair may offer up some unique challenges, it should not ever quell a desire to achieve and conquer new terrain. Paralyzed Veterans of America was formed for that very reason—to ensure that veterans with spinal cord injury or disease had the best quality of life.



David having some fun with his Grandson, Foster

Throughout our years of service, we have had many extraordinary examples of our members and their dedication to achieve! Each story is unique and it's sometimes hard to properly spotlight all of them.



Enjoying an awesome moment during PVA Convention

This past summer, after the Chapter had moved to its new location successfully, President David Peck reminded the Board that our yearly elections were to start for our governing body of Directors and Officers. He also told us that he was not going to run for re-election as an Officer and was stepping down as President so that he could spend more time with his grandchildren and family. After all, David has served as an Officer to the Board for well over a decade, spending the last three years as our President, and probably ten as Vice President.

While shocked and bummed, the Board and staff understand his decision completely (and begged him to continue serving as a Board Member with the promise that he would have the capability to call into most meetings rather than making the sometimes hour-long drive to the Chapter office).

You see, David has shown up to events and represented our organization with great dedication and a sincerely modest attitude. As an active Chapter member since 1999, David has taken on his volunteerism and support without question. For years, while he served as our Chapter's National Vice President, David would travel across the nation for PVA's fall Board Meetings and Conventions representing our members. Despite long drives to events here locally, he has continually shown up, offered guidance and governance, and has helped us steady the ship, so to speak, during periods when we have lost members and/or had huge undertakings (like selling a building and moving to a new location).

I am sure there were many instances when David could have reeled back on all he was doing, but that isn't his style! Since his injury in 1969, David has been on the move! Beyond his service to the Chapter, David is a very active family man—often taking on adventures with his wife Anne, his children, and grandchildren! You would think this would not leave much time for hobbies, but you would be wrong! He also keeps busy by hitting the gym most mornings, mowing the acres of lawn surrounding

his family home, woodworking, volunteering at other veteran services organizations, swimming, and much more!

Although we know David will continue to serve our Chapter in a more relaxed capacity, we wanted to be sure that his commitment and energy thus far was recognized. He has never asked anything of us, yet has given a lot to us! David has embodied our mission very humbly, and we would be remiss if we did not spotlight his achievements and service!



David's lovely family



By: Stephany Strickland, PVA Service Officer

VA and Mental Health Awareness

The non-stop coverage of deaths of two high-profile people by suicide has managed to refocus the public's attention on mental health illness and how we discuss it and deal with it. Suicide is among the leading causes of death affecting military service members in the United States. According to the government, veterans who are in their first year of civilian life commit suicide nearly twice as much as other veterans, and veterans are twice as likely to commit suicide as those who never served. Recent estimates suggest that 20 to 22 veterans may die by suicide each day. Nearly 30,000 Americans commit suicide every year and on average, 1 person commits suicide every 16.2 minutes and about 2/3 of people who complete suicide are depressed at the time of their deaths.

This May, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) emphasized the positive impact of mental health treatment through a video campaign spotlighting hundreds of Veterans who have stepped forward to combat the stigma around mental health that is still deeply entrenched in American culture, in recognition of mental health month. The video histories found on www.MakeTheConnection.net document in extraordinary detail the human spirit's ability to overcome significant trauma. The stories also aim to inspire, influence and shape communities, culture and policies for those who may be suffering from mental illness.

The VA also recently announced that the White House approved an interagency plan to implement President Trump's January 2018 executive order titled, "Supporting Our Veterans during their transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life." This order provides that VA, Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security will collaborate to provide seamless access for Veterans to mental health care and suicide prevention resources for a full year after separation from uniformed service to civilian life, regardless of verified service connection.

Overall, VA is encouraging citizens to help mobilize their communities in support of understanding that mental health treatment can work and recovery is possible. Veterans and their family members and friends can take the first step to learn more about mental health and find local resources by visiting www.MakeTheConnection.net. Make the Connection is also on VA's Facebook, Instagram and YouTube platforms.

Remember, everyone can play a positive role in suicide prevention. All communities, peers, close associates, and the media are critical in preventing death by suicide. Be mindful of risk factors such as mood and anxiety disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, prior suicide attempt, stressful situations (e.g., childhood trauma, traumatic experiences, medical issues such as treatment

for depression or PTSD, relationship problems, legal issues, financial troubles), and physical health problems. If you are concerned about a friend or loved one:

- Be direct. Talk openly and matter-of-factly about suicide.
- Be willing to listen. Allow expressions of feelings. Accept the feelings.
- Be non-judgmental. Don't debate whether suicide is right or wrong, or whether feelings are good or bad. Don't lecture about the value of life.
- Get involved. Become available. Show interest and support.
- Don't dare him/her to do it.
- Don't act shocked. This will put distance between you.

- Don't be sworn to secrecy. Seek help.
- Offer hope that alternatives are available, but do not offer general reassurances such as, "it will get better" or "it could be worse."
- Get help from persons or agencies specializing in crisis intervention and suicide prevention, such as the Military Crisis Line.

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide – and those who know a Veteran in crisis – can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255.



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Government Relations & Advocacy

By: Mike Harris

The Veterans Tribute of Oakland Township

On July 31, 2018 the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America attended the Oakland Township veteran's dedication ceremony of the *Veterans Tribute Memorial* to honor the patriotism and valor of military veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

The dedication ceremony featured patriotic music from the Adams High School band, a U.S. Air Force F16 flyover, posting of colors and first flag raising from USAF Honor Guard.

Despite rainy weather, hundreds of people gathered at the site at 5236 Adams Road to view the monument: six glass panels honoring the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and Air Force. The *Veterans Tribute Memorial* also recognizes the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America contributions to disabled veterans by placing our name on the wall of the memorial.

This is a result of Oakland Township residents forming a Michigan non-profit corporation, The *Veterans Tribute of Oakland Township* (VTOT), with the goal of erecting a lasting tribute to military Veterans in the Township.

The focal point of the tribute is six massive glass panels, 14-feet tall and 4-feet wide, one for each of the Military Services – Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and Air Force in ascending order of their dates of commission. Each glass panel is laser inscribed with the Service crest, the date the Service was established and the Service's motto. These glass panels are lit with internal LEDs so each will glow with the etchings highlighted.

The glass panel's rise from a semicircular granite base on which the words, "UNITED STATES ARMED



Michael Harris poses with Dominic Mocerri at the VTOT Dedication Ceremony showing off the outstanding recognition of MPVA's logo and the slogan "More than one way to stand tall" at the base of the American Flag

FORCES" are inscribed in large letters. At the center of the radius is a large American flag in a granite base with the words "FOR GOD and COUNTRY" as well as an inscription to honor Disabled Veterans. Walkways and the Tribute grounds will be paved with bricks, which can be purchased and laser-engraved for individual recognition.

The residents of Oakland Township and Oakland County have been extremely generous. Local and regional businesses have been equally generous – having contributed material, services and pledges to construct significant portions of the Tribute.

Artist Rendition of the Tribute

Hopefully future generations will be inspired by the sacrifices made on their behalf that they will honor their memory by giving back to their communities. If the veteran's memorial can achieve one thing it is



Despite the rain, over 500 people donned rain gear in order to take part in the patriotic festivities, highlighted by an Ohio National Guard F16 flyover and a stirring rendition of our national anthem.

elevating the idea of service to our country, making it something meaningful, something to be proud of.

It is our responsibility to ensure that our children and grandchildren appreciate the sacrifices made by those serving our country and never forget them. Each year, as the percentage of our population who has worn a uniform declines, fewer and fewer individuals and families have a personal connection with the military. Instilling in America's youth an awareness of the contributions of veterans past and present becomes even more important.

Even though many Americans will not serve, knowledge of those who have served is essential. The traits we learn from veterans - courage, honor, duty, sacrifice, patriotism, heroism - are characteristics that make us better citizens. Their everyday acts inspire us to reach beyond our limits. Their losses remind us to live a life worthy of their sacrifice. And through their service on our behalf, we remember the obligations we owe. These are important lessons only a veteran can teach us.

Phase two of the project will include a maintenance fund for upkeep and repairs to the site. Planned improvements include an entrance marker, additional landscaping, a pedestrian bridge over Gallagher Creek, and historical American documents exhibit.

**Auto Insurance Bills Passed by State Senate:
Legislation Would Shift Cost of Care Resulting from
Catastrophic Car Injuries to Michigan Taxpayers**

On June 7, the Michigan Senate passed Senate Bills

(SB) 1014 & 787, which would erode protections for residents who suffer catastrophic injuries in car accidents and shift the cost of care to Michigan taxpayers.

Specifically, if they ultimately become law, SB 787 and SB 1014 will change the law as follows:

Below is a summary of Senate Bill 787:

- When an individual age 65 or over applies or renews an insurance policy, he/she shall select to cap benefits at either a \$50,000 or keep it at no maximum limit. (Under the current state of the law, there is no maximum limit.) If the insured selects to cap benefits at \$50,000, such cap only applies to the insured and the insured's spouse.
- This will inevitably lead to a greater number of persons age 65 or over enrolling in Medicare or Medicaid if they elected the \$50,000 and their medical bills in an accident exceed the cap.

Below is a summary of Senate Bill 1014:

- Attendant care provided in the home by a family or household member is capped at "a reasonable and customary amount" for the first 56 hours of care provided per week and capped at \$15.00 per hour for each additional hour of care per week. These caps are to apply regardless of the level of care provided.
- No Fault benefits payable by the assigned claims plan are capped at no more than \$400,000.
- Creates the Michigan Automobile Insurance Fraud

Authority which provides support to programs designed to reduce the incidence of auto insurance fraud. However, the bill makes no mention of providing or offering any support to reduce the incidence of fraud perpetrated by auto insurers.

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America is a member of the “Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault (CPAN). CPAN President John Cornack issued the following statement in response to the Senate’s last-minute ramming through of these bills just before the Senate left for their summer recess.

“These bills would turn anyone who doesn’t own a car into second-class citizens, and the cost of their care would be shifted to Michigan taxpayers. This legislation would severely harm children, seniors, bicyclists and others who rely on public transportation, such as young professionals living in downtown Detroit.

“We are extremely sensitive to what Michigan drivers pay for auto insurance, particularly those who live on a fixed income, such as seniors. Unfortunately, this legislation does not adequately address the high costs of insurance in this state and does nothing to guarantee rate reductions.

“CPAN has fought for the creation of a balanced fraud authority, one which will fight fraud on all sides. This legislation, however, would protect only one side — insurers. Insurers win and consumers lose because the legislation would not investigate fraud in all forms.”

“The bills passed by the Senate does not provide comprehensive reform to address the costs in the auto no-fault system, including real factors behind Michigan’s auto insurance premiums: the discriminatory practice by insurance companies of using factors like credit scores, occupation, ZIP codes and gender to set rates.”

CPAN has not stopped its efforts to find the necessary bipartisan support for a reform package that could receive legislative approval. Discussions continue with legislative leadership and certain House members willing to be thoughtful and seek balanced reform to achieve cost savings.

MPVA agrees that Michigan auto insurance rates need to be lower. SB 1014 & 787 are not the solution. This legislation is a bad deal for Michigan drivers and accident victims. In fact, the only group that benefited

from the bill will be the auto insurance industry which would have seen benefits capped for accident victims and no permanent requirement to lower costs. It is time for the Legislature to consider a real solution with strong bipartisan support that would provide rate relief for all drivers without gutting benefits.

Once again, MPVA is calling 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 that allows people seriously injured in an auto accident to get the medical care they need without bankrupting their families and turning to welfare.



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 Tansley in order to raise funds for the MPVA!

July/August 2011

RT '16
 Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Take a look inside this issue and learn about the MPVA's Annual Picnic at the Miracle League of Plymouth (photo above), what 20 years of dedicated service to the MPVA looks like, the opening of a new Veteran Service Office in west Michigan, and much more!

Summer Edition 2016

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 '14
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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 Athanasios Kiriakou of Belleville for winning the 2014 "Best City Disability Award."

Spring Edition 2014

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




Sox Sevens, MPVA Sports Director, wins bronze medal in 2012 Paralympic Games.

November/December 2012

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RT '17
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MPVA Board Member, Michael Harris, participates in a ground breaking ceremony this past August for a Veteran Tribute being built in Oakland Township.

2017 Fall Edition


RT '18
 Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Executive Director, Jelyn Kechis, signs documents during the closing of our Chapter building sale as President, David Peck, watches over.

2018 Spring Edition

RT '18
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Being in a wheelchair does not mean your world must be limited. The possibilities are endless and MPVA members always prove that! Check out President David Peck, pictured above, taking advantage of the summer by cruising around Michigan's Dunes with his non-in-law!

2018 Summer Edition



Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
January 28-29, 2019
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 6-7, 2019
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 30-31, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament*
April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
April 26-27, 2019
Geneva, OH

**indicates combined events*

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Trapshoot
September 8-9, 2018
Sioux Falls, SD

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament and Handgun Shoot
November 9-11, 2018
Charles City, VA

Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament
February 8-10, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
March 29-31, 2019
Redlands, CA
Pistol Shoot - March 29, 2019
Lytle Creek, CA

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
May 17-19, 2019
Rifle/Pistol Shoot - May 17, 2019
Green Bay, WI

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
May 31-June 2, 2019
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
June 14-16, 2019
Pistol Event - June 14, 2019
Cedar Rapids, IA

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 21-23, 2019
Waxahachie, TX

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament
September 21-23, 2018
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament
October 5-7, 2018
Whittington, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
March 29-31, 2019
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament
May 3-5, 2019
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 7-9, 2019
Henrico, VA

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach
September 14-16, 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
October 12-13, 2018
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem
March 22-24, 2019
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 5-7, 2019
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament
June 14-15, 2019
Wickliffe, OH

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 21-22, 2019
Fountain, CO

BOCCIA

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament
October 5-6, 2018
Richmond, VA

Gateway Boccia Tournament
October 18-20, 2018
St. Louis, MO

Bayou Boccia Tournament
November 30-December 1, 2018
Biloxi, MS

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament
February 19-20, 2019
San Diego, CA

Arizona Boccia Tournament
April 6-7, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament
April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
July 12-15, 2018
Council Bluffs, IA

Mountain States Bowling Tournament
August 15-18, 2018
Colorado Springs, CO

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
September 28-30, 2018
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament
November 29-Dec 2, 2018
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
February 21-24, 2019
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 12-14, 2019
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
June 27-30, 2019
Romeoville, IL

HANDCYCLING RACING

Museum of Aviation Marathon
January 12, 2019
Warner Robins, GA

PVA Racing High Performance Camp
January 26-February 1, 2019
Brooksville, FL

Top End Euro-American HC Championships
February 2-3, 2019
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun
February 16-18, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon
March 2, 2019
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo
April 19-21, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

PVA Learn to Race Camp
April 23-26, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray Half Marathon and Criterium
April 27-28, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports



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Sports & Recreation

By: Coach Phil Chester

2018 National Veteran Wheelchair Games (NVWG)



The Michigan team competitors get together for a team photo at the 38th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

A group of eight of us took off to Florida, the sunshine state, this summer to participate in the 38th National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The fierce competition took place the full week of July 30th-August 4th. More than 610 athletes from across the nation, Puerto Rico and Great Britain gathered to take on a wide array of recreational game, such as: ramp bowling, motorized rally, motorized slalom, power soccer, air pistols, air rifle, archery, bocce ball, trap shooting, discus, javelin, shot put, softball and weightlifting.

Our Michigan Team of consisted of Captain Ray Brown, followed by team members: Kevin Bradley, Tom Coward, Dave Cutsinger, Scot Severn, and Judy Ross.

Our team is rather seasoned, having partaken in many of the NVWG before, but it is always so impressive to

be there and see these men and women take the week by storm. Our Michigan crew elicited some aggressive competition, and we certainly managed to rack up some medals:

- 22 Gold Medals
- 3 Silver Medals
- 4 Bronze

A whopping 29 medals, total!

Although the medal collection is always outstanding, it is not what truly fills our hearts at the end of the day. What really leaves a lasting impression are the moments of team building, fellowship, and perseverance! Flashes of laughter amongst Kevin and Dave at the Expo prior to the games. Judy and Ray enjoying some awesome chicken



Dave Cutsinger checks out the Expo at the NVWG with his beloved pup

tenders at lunch. Tom being awarded with the Team Sportsmanship Award. Scot Severn being stuck with a sun burnt “82” on his arm due to the large sharpie that is used to mark our athlete numbers. Ray Brown being awarded his gold medals in front of his grandchildren and family, as well as PVA Vice President Hack Albertson, PVA National President David Zurfluh—those are the

our awesome team shirt sponsors! Team Captain, Ray Brown, coordinated with Tony Freeland at JAS Expedited Trucking, LLC located in Imlay City, Michigan! Tony was super generous in donating spectacular gear for each of our teammates! Not only was this a great savings to the Chapter, but it was a really cool way for us to stand out as we competed. We are beyond grateful to Ray and especially to NAME at JAS Expedited Trucking, LLC for their kindness in donating to athletes! It means the world to us!

I would be remiss if I did not mention one moment of great sadness our team had this year with the loss of our fellow teammate, Carl Larkins. Carl’s untimely passing occurred just days before we left for the games. We had his spirit with us as we wore black wrist bands in his memory while we played. He was sorely missed, but will never be forgotten. We most surely have him, and his entire family, in our ongoing thoughts and prayers.

Join us in 2019 at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Louisville, Kentucky on July 11-16, 2019.



Ray Brown proudly sports his gold medals with PVA leadership and his family

moments we will remember most! These games are truly inspirational and prove that life with a disability does not limit what you can do!

Another exciting development for this year’s games was

Registration will begin at right around the first of the year! Congrats to all of our team and everyone who participated in the 2018 National Veteran Wheelchair Games!





MPVA Annual Picnic at The Miracle League of Plymouth







MICHIGAN PARALYZED
VETERANS OF AMERICA
A Member Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America
46701 Commerce Center Drive
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2018 Summer Edition

Valuable Dates for 2018

 **MPVA Membership Meeting**
September 27th
Location and Time: TBA—Membership
Mailing Notice to Follow!

 **Labor Day**
September 3rd, Office Closed.

 **Salute to Veterans Online Auction**
The auction will run from:
October 31—November 14
Via: biddingforgood.com/mpva/2018
Make a gift donation today! Contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 or at: jkochis@michiganpva.org

 **Salute to Veterans Luncheon**
November 7, 2018
11:00 AM-1:30 PM
The Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave
Novi, MI 48375
Tickets start at: \$75, Sponsorships vary