

July/August 2017  
Volume 21, Issue 4



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

# PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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**4th of July**



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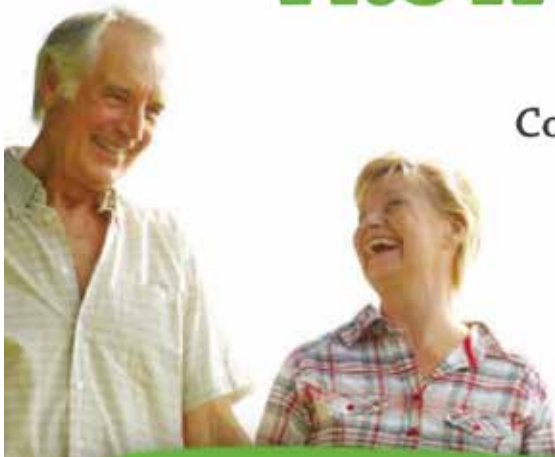
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Oregon Chapter

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## ATTENTION MEMBERS

If you are receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to receive this via email, please contact me at the Chapter Office ([oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org) / 503.362.7998) with your email address. This will help save the Chapter on postage and printing costs.

## OPVA Mission Statement

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA), incorporated in 1976, is a chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. OPVA serves the needs of its Members – U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) – and helps them enjoy the highest possible quality of life.

OPVA, Members, Associate Members, Family Members, Volunteers, and allied organizations work to provide leadership and advocacy in

- Improving health care and SCI/D research and education
- Protecting veterans rights and benefits
- Improving awareness of disability rights
- Offering sports and health-promotion activities
- Increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Idaho.

A 501(c)(3) charity, OPVA relies on grants and donations from members of the public.

### Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305

503-362-7998      800-333-0782

[www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)

Email - [oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)

OPVA is a 501(c)(3) Tax ID# 93-0713859

# DONATED ITEMS

OPVA has many items that have been donated to us for the purpose of giving to someone who needs it. Check with us before you purchase. All these items are given out **FREE** of charge.

If you or someone you know needs one of these items, contact Gary Atwood, Donation Coordinator, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at 503.362.7998







Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

Show & Shine

# CAR SHOW

August 12, 2017



Location: Home Depot - 3795 Hagers Grove Rd. SE, Salem, OR 97317

● Free Admission ● Vehicle Registration: \$15.00

● Gates Open at 9:00 AM

● Show begins at 10:00 AM ● Presentation of Raffle at 2:00 PM



Information: 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305. Tel: 503-362-7998

[www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)



Daniel Service – President

In March of this year I received a phone call from Ken Weas from Paralyzed Veterans of America. He mentioned that a new resolution was going to be voted on at the May convention dealing with telemarketing. He told me this because we are the last chapter still using telemarketing. This put a bit of a concern in my mind because if telemarketing is to be done away with, OPVA will be losing about \$80,000.00 a year. That income has been going down over the years, but we were still getting that revenue.

Sure enough, at the May PVA convention the resolution passed with flying colors. So now we need to figure out a way to make up that revenue. Other chapters have already been successful in their transition and have offered to assist us with ideas that have worked for them. We will receive assistance from our

new PVA National Vice President that will be assigned to us. One thing I found comforting is that we will have backing of PVA.

Here is where you, the member, comes into the picture. Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America is your organization. We are here for you first, as well as all who are disabled.

The programs are set up for you. Our mission statement says OPVA works to provide leadership and advocacy in improving health care and SCI/D research and education. Money we receive is granted to nurses who want to continue their education within these areas to learn how to assist us, the member.

We give funds for the purpose of research by different organizations for you, our member.



We are active in advocating for you, our member, in different areas like increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers. We go to the capital and Washington D.C. to educate congressional leaders to understand the challenges we go through.

new revenue. We need suggestions on new events that you think of. We want to come to your area to support a function in your area, because what helps us helps you, our member.

**We need your help...  
your suggestions**



We offer you, our member, the opportunity to get out of the house, take up a hobby, or go fishing, trap shooting, bowling, ping pong, or some other activity to help you both mentally and physically. I guess what I am trying to say is we need your help to be able to keep offering these programs to you. We need your suggestions on ways to bring in

We are working for you, and now we need you more than ever. It's your organization. Let's keep it going.

## **FREE Adaptive Kayaking and Mountain Biking Experiences for Veterans**



Thanks to the support from **Disabled Sports USA** and the **Department of Veteran's Affairs**, all summer long in Bend, OR, Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS) is offering **FREE** adaptive kayak and mountain bike experiences to veterans and members of the armed forces with disabilities.

You can Kayak right in town on the Deschutes River or have OAS take you to one of the many iconic Cascade Lakes, OR test your skills on one of OAS' off road handcycles or rental mountain bikes from Pine Mountain Sports, some of the world renowned singletracks of Central Oregon.

OAS has adaptive equipment for both sports and is able to accommodate a wide range of abilities.

Reservations must be made two weeks in advance.

Register/information at:  
[www.oregonadaptivesports.org](http://www.oregonadaptivesports.org) or call  
541-306-4774.



*In Memory of*  
**Terry L. Brown**  
January 9, 1964 – June 5, 2017



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) is mourning the loss of Past President Mr. Terry Brown who passed away Monday, June 5, 2017 at the Veteran's Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was 53 years old.

Terry dedicated several years of his life to OPVA, most recently serving the organization as Chapter President. His service to veterans, people with disabilities and others in the community will be missed by all that knew him.

Terry Lee Brown originally of McCook was born on January 9, 1964, to parents, Gilbert and Joan Marie (Wallace) Brown at McCook, Nebraska. He lived in McCook until his senior year in high school. He graduated from Lebanon High School, Lebanon, Oregon in 1982.

Upon graduation, he entered the US Army. He spent 18 months in Germany and returned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Terry sustained injuries in a car accident while at Fort Campbell in September 1986 and became a quadriplegic.

He made the best of his injury and went to Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, OR, and graduated with an Associate's Degree.

He became a National Service Officer for the Veteran's Administration for two years. After that, he became involved with the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans and served with them for approximately 25 years. At the time he left Oregon in 2015 he was the President of the Paralyzed Veterans of Oregon.



He is survived by his parents, Gilbert and Joan Brown of McCook; five siblings, Debbie (Scott) Malleck of McCook, Sherry Bandy and Perry Brown (Jane) all of Albany, OR, Deanna McMackin of McCook and Dennis Brown (Candace) also of Albany, OR ; 19 nieces and nephews and 22 great-nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be given in his name to the Nebraska Paralyzed Veteran's. Visitation will be Friday, June 9, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Herrmann Jones Funeral Chapel in McCook. Friends may go online at [www.herrmannfh.com](http://www.herrmannfh.com) to extend condolences to the family.

Terry enjoyed his little Yorkie dog "Bear" who is now 15 years old. They were inseparable; Terry said Bear was his "son".

Funeral Services will be Saturday, June 10, 2017, 10:30 a.m. at Assembly of God Church in McCook with Pastor Barry Johnson officiating. Burial will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery with Military Honors.

He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal Grandparents, Thomas and Helen (Brisby) Wallace of McCook and Gerald and Margaret (Glendenning) Brown of Indianola.

Herrmann Jones Funeral Chapel of McCook, Nebraska has been entrusted with the arrangements.



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# SPORTS NEWS ALERT



Larry Gardner—Sports Director

OK, OPVA members, our summer is here so let's get out and enjoy it as much as possible before it's over. We have lots of events for our members to participate in this summer.

First of all everyone who has any interest of volunteering at events or getting involved in sports programs to please call our office and ask for Larry Gardner or Tom Hurt so we can hopefully answer any questions you have. It has been a real challenge with as many members we have, to try and work with those who are interested and who are not interested, so if you would just call us it would help things go lots better.

Our first deep sea fishing trip is coming up August 22nd out of Depoe Bay. This year, our members are free and member assistance are \$65.00. Just call the office and get your reservation for the trip of your choice. There are three trips this year, August 22nd, September 15th, and October 4th.



We also have trap shooting for all interested members. If you are just wanting to try shooting for the first time, we have shot guns available and we will be more than happy to help you get started.



Photo courtesy Disabled Sports USA

There are some other programs in the works, e.g. bocce ball, air guns and archery. Again, those of you with any interest please call me. That will help me know you are interest.



Before I forget, we are having our Chapter Picnic this year at a members home in the Carlton area on a farm with lots of food and drinks, ATVs, a gun range (Please bring your own gun and ammo).

Please see more information and address in the ad in this Paralog. Call the office for any questions. We also have lots of other activities ahead that you will read about in this Paralog so get in touch and get involved.

Thank you everyone.

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## Annual Convention 2017



(Photo: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Maryland)



Bill Gray– National Director

May 16-21, 2017–Oxon Hill, MD on the National Harbor.

Oregon Chapter was able to send Dan Service, Chapter President and Tom Hurt, our Development Coordinator to the National Convention in Washington D.C. to better equip them for their duties and responsibilities at the chapter level.

It was a quick trip for Tom as he flew the red-eye in and had a big layover on his out bound flight. He spent the night in the airport?.

This was my second convention as National Director. It seemed to me to go very smoothly. The Executive Committee went through the agenda with a mission to be on point and to make this convention a success.

**I'm sad to report that one of the chapters will lose its charter and will be dissolved**



One of the big highlights was the Key Note Speaker, Dr. David J Shulkin, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He mentioned five points that he wants to focus on;

1. Greater choice for the Veteran for community care.
2. Modernize systems throughout the VA.
3. The reduction of the wait time is on going.
4. Focus resources to improve care by reaching out to the private sector, there by creating a better partnership which would lead to new innovation and discovery, making the Veterans health a successful experience.
5. Increase the number of Community Living Centers to meet the need of all veterans.

We had several Executive sessions during our regular session. This involved only National Directors and the Executive Board, covering Chapter issues. I'm sad to report that one of the chapters will lose its charter and will be dissolved; mainly because of member lack of participation. There were several who worked hard and spent many hours trying to get things back on track. Sadly it all boiled down to lack of membership involvement. So, I would encourage each one to get involved and be a part of what makes a successful chapter. Volunteer, bring new ideas, fund raise, help our chapter be of great benefit to our Veteran population.

Numerous Resolutions were presented at this convention. I will go through these in great detail in our next issue.

There were many awards passed out not only on the first day but also on the last. Speedy Awards are given out to Member and a Non-Member.

The individual who received the Member Speedy Award was Holly Koester a Sports Director for the Buckeye Chapter. She has competed in over 157 marathons and competed in all 50 States; many thousands of miles getting there. Boy, I'm tired already. What a great inspiration. The Non-Member Speedy award went to Former Senator Bob Dole. The Senator was honored for Injures while serving in WWII and for his many years of service in the US Senate and being an advocate of the Veterans for many years.

He has reached the age of 93 and still continues to be a champion for those who have made the sacrifice in service to our country.



Daniel Service, Al Kovach, William Gray

Our chapter was recognized for the contribution we made for medical research which in the amount of \$1250.00.

As of this convention we now have new leadership. I would like to congratulate each one as they step into their newly acquired duties and may they all continue to make this organization better.

They are as follows: President Dave Zurfluh, Senior Vice Ken Weas, 4 Vice Presidents are Hack Albertson, Charles Brown, Joseph Fox, and Robert Thomas, who continues to be our Parliamentarian, Secretary Larry Dodson and Treasure Thomas Wheaton.

It was a great convention and we covered over 1,000 pages of material that we discussed and made decisions on that will carry us through the coming year.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as National Director and again, consider getting involved!





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## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 8, 2017

**CONTACT: Tracey Lynn Shifflett**

**202-416-7670**

[TraceyS@pva.org](mailto:TraceyS@pva.org)

### **Paralyzed Veterans of America Joins Forces with Disability Rights Partners to Urge Support of Air Carrier Access Amendments Act**

*Senator Baldwin introduces new legislation to strengthen and expand protections for airline passengers with disabilities*

WASHINGTON, DC— [Paralyzed Veterans of America](http://www.pva.org) (Paralyzed Veterans) today banded with like-minded advocacy organizations in support of the newly introduced Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2017 that will strengthen the rights of airline passengers with disabilities and close service gaps frequently encountered in air travel.

Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, the landmark Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) prohibited discrimination based on disability in air travel. Although the ACAA led to improved access for passengers with disabilities, significant disability-related problems persist in air travel. Introduced today by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and co-sponsored by Senators Duckworth (D-IL), Markey (D-MA), Hassan (D-NH), and Blumenthal (D-CT), the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act would strengthen the original law's protections to ensure that airplanes are accessible, and that individuals have increased opportunities for their rights to be enforced and protected.

“Last year more than 30,000 passengers, including many Paralyzed Veterans of America members, filed disability related complaints with airlines,” said National President David Zurfluh. “The historic passage of the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) more than thirty years ago prohibited discrimination against disabled passengers in air travel. Yet, despite this progress, many travelers with disabilities still encounter damaged equipment, delayed assistance, lack of seating accommodations, and other challenges when traveling by air. We urge Congress to expediently act on updating this important civil rights law.”

Specifically, the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act will:

- Strengthen ACAA enforcement to include specific protections of the rights of passengers with disabilities and a private right of action.

- Ensure airplanes are designed to accommodate people with disabilities and airlines meet accessibility standards, including safe and effective boarding and deplaning, visually accessible announcements and better stowage options for assistive devices.
- Improve access to seating accommodations.
- Close service gaps in air travel for passengers with disabilities.

“In order to keep America’s promise of full equality for all, we must work to break down the barriers that individuals with disabilities and our veterans face when they travel,” said Senator Baldwin in an official statement released earlier today. “Equal access to air travel ensures individuals with disabilities are able to participate in today’s economy and enjoy their travel opportunities.”

Disability Advocacy partners today joined Paralyzed Veterans in the support of the new legislation:

“The Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) was signed into law over 30 years ago, yet travelers with disabilities are still experiencing barriers to air travel every day,” said Helena Berger, President & CEO of the **American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)**. “The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAAA) will strengthen the provisions and enforcement of the ACAA so that people with disabilities can benefit from the same travel opportunities that other Americans experience. We are grateful to Senator Baldwin for introducing this legislation and hope to see it achieve strong bipartisan support.”

“**United Spinal Association's** members are pleased to support the Air Carrier Access (ACAA) Amendments Act. Thirty years after Congress blazed a bold trail of rights for people with disabilities to have equal access to air travel, it is time to take stock of where the law works and where it does not. Senator Baldwin's ACA Amendments Act strikes a fine balance in addressing demonstrated inadequate accessibility, damaged wheelchairs and discriminatory actions with a call for reasonable standards, regulations and an airline passengers with disabilities bill of rights,” said James Weisman, President & CEO.

The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act is also supported by **Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, National Association of the Deaf, American Council of the Blind, Easterseals, The Arc of the United States, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Disability Rights Network, Muscular Dystrophy Association, and National Council on Independent Living.**

A section-by-section summary of the *Air Carrier Access Amendments Act* is available at <http://www.pva.org/about-us/recent-news/air-carrier-access-amendments-act-of-2017,-section>

Disabled traveler stories can be found on [airaccess30.org](http://airaccess30.org).





Carolyn Hamstreet Shores – Treasurer

Greetings and happy days to all of you and your families. I hope that the sun has been notified that summer is officially here and that the rain and cold temperatures are supposed to be gone. As I write this they are still present and not appreciated. Personally, I'm tired of being cold.

Summer months are usually busy with multiple activities and this summer is no exception.

Last weekend was free fishing day up at Detroit Lake. We had lots of kids who went fishing with their families. I was lucky enough to spend the day with 3 boys, Licos, Brady and Troy, and taught them how to bait their

hooks with different types of baits, how to cast and how to sit patiently for the fish to bite. The last part was the hardest. Unfortunately the fish in the lake didn't cooperate but the boys caught some big trout in the ODFW fish pond, which made their day. Only Licos stuck it out with me till the end. I don't know if you were there but you should try to make it next year. It's a blast. The kids get so excited.





In July and August there are lots of opportunities to come out, enjoy yourselves, donate a few hours to the chapter, eat some tasty treats and meet your fellow OPVA members. You never know... maybe you just might have some FUN.

**We always need members to help run the booth**

July starts out with a BOOM. Is there anything as American as spending Independence Day at the ball park, eating hamburgers and hot dogs and watching fireworks in the evening? The only thing one could add would be some apple pie. Once again we'll have a booth at Volcanoes' Stadium. If you go, stop by for a visit and introduce yourself and your family.

Next is the Marion County Fair. We always need members to help run the booth. Same with First Tuesday in Sublimity, a small town Craft and Fun Day. Volunteer hours available and needed. Then comes the MEMBER'S PICNIC for all members and their families. It is going to be in Carlton this year.



The Member's Picnic is our biggest event of the summer because it is just for YOU and your family. There'll be BBQ steak, hot dogs and all the fixings as well as games. I'll be calling each of you to issue my personal invitation.



In August we also have some big activities that require volunteers. August 12th is the Show & Shine Car Show at Home Depot on Hagers Grove Rd. SE in Salem. It is at this event we will be raffing off our beautiful yellow Barracuda. Remember, it only takes one ticket to win and tickets are still available at the office.



We close out the month with our booth at the Oregon State Fair; eleven days of fun, food and lots of things to see and do. There are big name stars in free concert every night, animals to interact with, various competitions anyone can enter, the carnival and best of all you get a chance to volunteer and spend time with other OPVA members and volunteers. Plus, you can do all this for nothing because admission is free if you volunteer.





# RECREATION FUND REPORTS

Dear OPVA,

I want to take a moment to thank you for making the Recreational Fund program available to Oregon veterans. This year I used it to spend Memorial Day in Central Point to pay for lodging. My time was spent with extended family doing the traditional activities. We placed flowers at several family grave sides at many different cemeteries.

The most memorable was Eagle Point National Veterans Cemetery where crosses and flags seemed to fill hill and valleys for a great distance. It was sobering to know each marker represented a loved one that was missed by family and friends at some point and that each had contributed to our nation's security.

We attend a Memorial Day ceremony with color guard, bugle and speech recounting the heroism and price many individual vets paid in the line of duty to protect our freedom. This was very meaningful moment allowing time to reflect on my own experience in the US Air force.



We ate our meals, breakfast and dinner, together catching up on the family news, sharing plans and planning activities. The women enjoyed getting away to engage in shopping and visiting high school friends. In all, it was a refreshing four days full of activities and all made possible because of the OPVA Recreation Fund.

Thank you for the catalyst,  
*Dennis and Karen Harbour*



Dear OPVA,

Thanks to you my wife, Cindy and I were able to have a great time for our 19th Wedding Anniversary. We went to the Wild Horse Resort and Casino in Pendleton and had a wonderful dinner, did a little gambling. Even got a little swimming in. **The room we stayed was great and very accessible for my chair.**

*Chris W.*





My husband and I took a long Easter weekend vacation. We stayed at Channel House in Depoe Bay, a very nice B&B. He went whale watching (I chickened out at the last minute), and saw 1 whale. We also saw 2 seals from the shore. It was a nice break, but we were happy to return to home to our own bed. (Why do I always forget to take my pillow!?) Thanks, OPVA, for Recreation Fund assistance.

Susan K. Hruza

OPVA,

Please consider this request for Recreation Fund reimbursement.

On May 2, 2017 we went to Odell Lake for our second annual early Spring Kokanee fishing adventure. We had to make the reservations quite a bit ahead of time and were concerned about what the weather might do to us, but decided that if we were snowed or blown off the lake we could still enjoy the weekend in the cozy cabin at Shelter Cove resort. Our son, Seth, his wife Megan and friend Kevin came along with Seth's boat in tow.

Access at the resort is a bit difficult for me that time of year as there is still a lot of snow on the ground and the plowed areas can be a bit wet and icy. I'm able to get around for short distances using crutches, so with great care I could get from the car to the cabin and to the boat dock where my family could (literally) roll me into the boat. Once in the boat all is well. I really had no desire to go anywhere else, anyway.

The weather turned out to be excellent. We were able to fish both evenings and mornings, although the first morning was foggy for a couple hours. Then warm and sunny. We hung out in front of the cabin Saturday afternoon enjoying the sun and the view of the lake. Fishing was fair and we managed to jig up 25 nice Kokanee to take home. Maybe next time I'll remember to get some pictures.



We really appreciate the Recreation Fund for helping to make a trip like this possible for us.

Sincerely,  
*Richard Kyser*



**“Serving Those Who Served”**  
**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Dear OPVA,

I would like to start off by saying Thank You to all those who make it possible for the Oregon PVA to have a recreation fund to help disabled Veterans get out and enjoy the good life we are surrounded by: my wife and I truly appreciate it. I am a veteran with an 80% disability rating for a lower back injury and all the complications that over time go with it that I sustained during my service in the United States Navy.

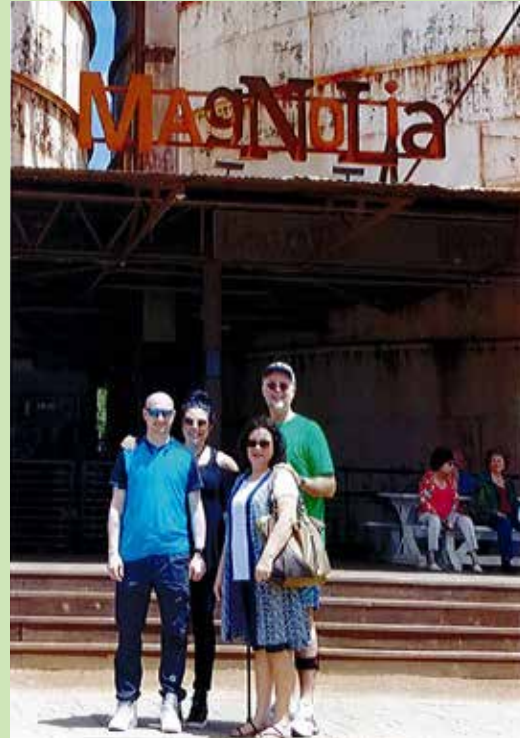
I also have remitting relapsing multiple sclerosis. I am writing to share with you the vacation my wife and I took this month to Dallas, Texas; to visit one of our daughters and son-in-law.

Our trip started off with an overnight stay at the Radisson Hotel near the Portland Airport and then we were off on an early morning flight to Dallas, Texas. We had a wonderful visit them as we always do.



They took us to a number of restaurants and other places of interest, including several of the many malls and stores in the area. If you ever make it to Dallas, you have to go to visit the Nebraska Home & Furniture Store; wow, what a place.

We visited Magnolia Market & Gardens in Waco, Texas as well; it too was awesome and definitely worth the visit!



We visited the new Dallas Cowboys practice facility, and a number of a very good restaurants. One of the restaurants that always leaves a lasting impression on us is Razzoo's; a Cajun restaurant. Every time we have been to Razzoo's we have an alligator appetizer; it's awesome! We also went on a guided fishing trip on Lake Ray Hubbard and had a blast catching Hybrid Bass and Sand Bass. One of the Hybrid Bass I caught was a 20" longer; wow, what a fight she put up.



There is a really to much to write about, but I will say this, our trip to Dallas to see our daughter and son-in-law was good for the soul. My wife Rosa and I had a very enjoyable trip, and helping make it possible is the OPVA Recreation Fund! Again, Thank You from the heart to all those who make it possible for the Oregon PVA Recreation Fund for it's disabled veteran member. May God Bless you all in a special way...

Sincerely,  
*Don & Rosa Boss*



Remember to Use

## Your Recreation Fund

Oregon PVA members are eligible to **receive \$250 each fiscal year** through the Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund.

It begins October 1st and runs through September 30th each year.

Simply send in your receipts along with a one to two paragraph description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too, they may make it into the Paralog.

- ◆ **Eating Out** ◆ **Movies** ◆ **Games** ◆ **Hobby Supplies** ◆ **Motel** ◆ **Sports**
- ◆ **Event Tickets** ◆ **OPVA Events** ◆ **Guns** ◆ **Trips** ◆ **Vacation Expenses, etc.**

All receipts must be dated within this current fiscal year and used within this current fiscal year (10/1/16 - 9/30/17). - Mail to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**

**Your request must be received in the office no later than September 30th**

**Special Thank you to our Recreation Fund Sponsors**

- **Marie LamFrom Charitable Foundation**
- **The Edward+Romell Ackley Foundation**



Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 or 1-800-333-0782 if you have any questions or require additional information.







Paralyzed Veterans  
of America  
Oregon Chapter

**Members FREE!**

**Nonmembers \$65**

Dockside Charters  
270 Coast Guard Dr  
Depoe Bay, OR 97341

**Dates**

Tue Aug 22nd-6:30 am  
Fri Sep 15th-6:30 am  
Wed Oct 4th-7:30 am



*Fishing and shell license required, may be purchased at Dockside Charters  
Complementary Coffee is provided. Bring your own lunch, snack or drinks*

# Hi-SCHOOL pharmacy

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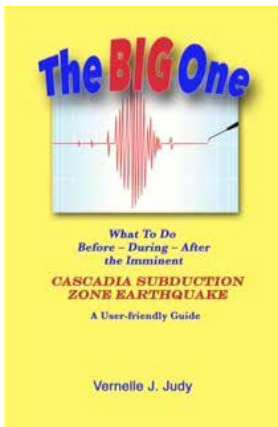
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# “Hope” is NOT Preparedness!



My name is Vernelle J. Judy. If you Google it, you will find that I seemingly am the only one. Anyway, I am the only one that Google knows about and they know everything don't they? Well, by way of introduction to you, I am a writer and the author of several books. My last one is “The BIG One, what to do before-during-after the imminent Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, A user-friendly guide”.

Most of you are probably familiar with that dastardly beast waiting its turn with us. But, here in Cascadia, only 8% of us actually are prepared and know how to live our best lives when the shaking stops. My job is to provide a path which is not difficult, not expensive and not time consuming so each one of us can be prepared.

When I first heard of the Cascadia Subduction Zone in the mid 1970's it was apparent to this fourth generation Western Oregonian that moving to the dry side of the state to avoid trouble was not an option. The moss between my toes would surely dry up! That would not do. So my choice was to learn all I could about this new looming disaster and deal with it.

As a child growing up in the Coast Range of Oregon, my family traveled out to “town” twice a year. It was during these forays into the “city” that they purchased items that were not easily obtained in our little valley. They loaded up on coffee, sugar, flour (in a gingham sack of my choosing for my next new dress), spices, canning jar lids and the like.

Gardening in the Coast Range is a foot race. You plant a seed then run like crazy to get away from

the jungle that literally springs from the Earth. Since my family had settled there in the 1890's we had fruit trees, grape arbors and vegetable gardens in the rich soil providing us with the best food.

Along with the fruits and vegetables were the plentiful elk, deer, quail, grouse, and trout. Going hungry was not an issue in that little valley.

While electricity was available in “town” the line had not been run into the remote hills of the Coast Range. My father, when he constructed our home, wired it “just in case” the day would come when he could actually “turn on the juice”.

Indoor plumbing was an anomaly and my family was one of the lucky ones. We had it! Many of our neighbors did not. We did not have hot water but we did have running water. Who knew we would want for more?

In today's world we do not like to think of living without the three “F's”: Flip a switch; Flush a toilet; Flip around a tap.

Electricity, plumbing and clean running water are something we take for granted as we go about life today. However, it was not always so, and will not be again after the Cascadia Subduction Earthquake rocks our world.

The good news is that we can prepare and we can live our best lives after the shaking stops. We just need a bit of preparedness before hand. So in the ensuing issues, I will be presenting you with preparedness techniques that you can employ. Remember “Failing to prepare = Preparing to fail” That is not the option any of us want.



# Members Picnic | 2017

Saturday, July 15, 2017 9am-3pm

17415 NW Panther Creek Rd Carlton, Oregon 97111

RSVP July 1st - 503.362.7998



## RANGE TIME

Bring your firearms & ammo

## 4/6 WHEELS RIDES

## Games

## Food

...and so much more



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## VA Portland HCS Fisher House

### First Anniversary



Daniel Service – President

It was an honor for Tom Hurt and me to attend the VA Portland HCS Fisher House for their one year anniversary in Vancouver, WA. The Fisher House program provides a “home away from home” for “families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. The homes provide free temporary lodging so military and Veterans’ families who live 50 miles or further from the treating facility can be close to their loved ones during a medical crisis.”

The Portland VA Fisher House has 16-suites; some having one bed and others two beds, each with an ADA bathroom. There is a nice size gourmet kitchen, a dining room, communal living room, laundry facility, a library,

and an elevator for accessibility to the second floor. It is located right next door to Critical Rehabilitation Unit (CRU) where a family member may be recovering.

Since opening in March 2016, the Portland VA Fisher House has served approximately 725 families, 1300 individuals, and 4400 nights.



Fisher houses provide comforting, first class accommodations while loved ones receive care in an unfamiliar environment – all at NO COST to the service member or their families. This special support is very important during the most stressful time – the hospitalization of a loved one. Each Fisher House provides all the comforts of home – allowing families to retreat and rejuvenate after a stressful day at the hospital. While the road to recovery is different for every family, one thing remains the same – Fisher House is there to provide comfort and compassion.



### VAPORHCS

Mail Code: FISHER

1601 E. 4th Plain Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661

Phone: 360-567-4647

Email: [PortlandVAFisherHouse@va.gov](mailto:PortlandVAFisherHouse@va.gov)

Website: [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)



“Cline’s Condo for Charities” sends donations to the charities of their guest choices

# \$50

per paid night of their visit

Supporters book vacation nights at our condo and then designate their chosen charity in our guest book during their stay (e.g. Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America). At the end of each quarter, “Cline’s Condo for Charities” (CCC) sends checks to the charities designated. To book a stay, just check the website

**[www.keystonevacationsoregon.com](http://www.keystonevacationsoregon.com)**

then go to Pacific Winds Condominiums and then to “Sand & Sunsets”. You can also phone our manager, Chris Walson, at **503-443-1414**.

Tell him you want to stay at CCC, also know as “Sandcastles and Sunsets”. YOU’LL LOVE IT!





# DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Tom Hurt – Development Coordinator

Greetings from the development office. Summer is finally here and the opportunity to get out and enjoy yourselves abound.

We finished our series of pizza and bowling events. Those who made it out had a great time. These meetings are so important for the board to be able to meet with the membership face to face and answer any questions for you but also for the board to hear from you as to what's on your mind and any activities in the different areas that your chapter can participate in, such as a Car Show out in Prineville with George McCart. If there is an event in your area in which you would like to have the chapter participate, give the office a call so we can get it on the calendar.



Photo by Rob Lambert/Doc's Photos

For those of you who know our sports director Larry Gardner, you know that he has his roots into the dirt track racing. On any given Saturday night during the summer months you will find him down at the Lebanon dirt track (Willamette Speedway). Larry has arranged for the last three years for OPVA to have a fundraising table at the track on Armed Forces Day.

This year was no exception, Larry had his volunteers all lined out to work the event and he also brought in the Marines, more specifically the Young Marines. They sold 50/50 tickets for the OPVA, and did a great job for the group. To top off the night the winner of the 50/50 raffle then donated all of his winnings to the chapter.

We closed out the month of June with the Annual OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament and Banquet. Everyone had a great time. We had just under 40 players this year. We would like to thank Bonaventure Retirement Living who was our title sponsor this year and also Hi School Pharmacy, our food sponsor. Without these great community supporters we would not be able to have this fundraising tournament.



July is here and so it begins. The Marion County fair will be July 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th. We need volunteers to work our tables, selling raffle ticket, hats and helping let people know about Oregon Paralyzed Veterans.

Please call the office at 503-362-7998 to sign up to volunteer your time. Also on July 11th will be the first Tuesday event in Sublimity. This is kind of a local city fair but in the country. They hold this at Church Park in Sublimity, if you are interested in helping let me know and I will get you the information. Don't forget about the MEMBERS PICNIC, which is on the Calendar for JULY 15th and will be out in Carlton OR (that is just outside of McMinnville. There will be lots to do and great BBQ to boot.

What a better way to end the first full month of summer than some Car Events. On Saturday July 22nd we will be at Roberson MOPAR car show in Salem, following up on Sunday July 23rd we will

be at the Woodburn Drag Strip for MOPAR Day. For both of these events we need you to volunteer to help work your Chapters booths.



August will be here before you know it and we need to get our volunteers all scheduled now. On August 1st will be the big event out in Sublimity it's the big community BBQ and Vendor fair, Marion County Sherriff office will be hosting the BBQ and putting on dog demonstrations. Then on Saturday August 12th we (OPVA) will be holding our 2nd annual Show and Shine Car Show at Hagers Grove Rd right here in Salem.

We would love to have you volunteer to make this just a spectacular event. Not only will there be some pretty amazing vehicles we will also have food vendors. At the end of the Car Show we will be drawing the winner for the 1965 Barracuda. We will also be unveiling the Next Raffle Vehicle, you won't want to miss this. So pick up your phone and give us a call in the office so we can get you signed up to help at these events. August 22nd will kick off the Deep Sea Fishing trips for 2017, this year our voting members get to go fishing at no charge. So sign up early, this is a great trip.

The Oregon State Fair starts on August 25th and runs thru September 4th. We will have a limited number of FREE concert tickets available, our volunteers will get the first opportunity to use these tickets so now would be a great time to Volunteer to work the OPVA booth at the Fair we will need to fill around 90 time slots to work our booth. Please call the office to sign up for your time slot.





Here it is May 6th 2017 and I have been looking forward to the OPVA bowling and pizza party at Lava Lanes in Bend. I brought my wife Barbra and our daughter Paula.

When we arrived I saw a gentleman using a walker and noticed he had a clipboard with him so I ask if he was with PVA and he said yes so we exchanged names. It was Dan Service our new President a really great and fun guy to be around. Then I saw Tom and Steven which I recognized from the deep sea fishing trip in July last year. Tom is another really fun guy to be around so when you put Dan and Tom together and you get double the fun.

George was already there and I recognized him from the Band of Brothers group in Prineville. I had expected to see more of our members in attendance but with such a small group we were able to get to know each other a bit better.

After we ate some pizza and talked about getting a group of us in this area together for some trap shooting, and bringing the OPVA

raffle Automobile to a car show in Central OR and a few other things we all went and threw a few gutter balls.

I wasn't going to bowl but Dan got my wife and daughter to bowl so I figured I would too. I had a great time George and I were in one lane while Dan, Barbra, and Paula were in the lane on our right.

Tom had just recently had surgery so was unable to bowl but it seems to me I saw him with a camera taking photos. Well even though I came in last place (okay so I threw a lot of gutter balls, what a blast it was)

I had a great time! I hope more members from this area will join us next year.

Thank you OPVA.

Thank you, Dan and Tom for coming to Central OR to spend some time with us. Looking forward to the OPVA fishing trip in August.

*Kenneth Townsend*



Today I went to a bowling/pizza party at Lava Lanes in Bend, Oregon with my parents. My dad is a disabled veteran, the last event I went to with them there was hardly anywhere to sit so many people showed up. However, today, I was shocked to see that only 3 veterans from the Central Oregon area had shown up.



This event was put on for the veterans, and so few came, it was disheartening. One of the veterans left after eating some pizza and talking with my dad, George (the other Central Oregon Veteran), Dan (the Oregon PVA Chapter president), and Tom (the events coordinator), as he had recently had shoulder surgery and was unable to bowl.

I went to this today because I enjoy spending time with my parents, and let's be honest, who can say no to free food? I loathe bowling, and had no intention of participating in that part of the event.

Dan asked, and he seemed so disappointed that I wouldn't be bowling, I couldn't stick with my "no bowling" stance. I'm glad I did, as it turned out that I had a bunch of fun.

Dan was kind, and funny, as was Tom who didn't bowl due to a recent surgery, but he gave great advice, I even beat my dad's score on my last shot. I threw a lot of gutter balls (but I still beat my dad) and I even enjoyed myself immensely.

**My dad is a disable veteran, the last event I went to with them there was hardly anywhere to sit so many people showed up. However, today, I was shocked to see that only 3 veterans from the Central Oregon area had shown up.**

My mom did pretty well too scoring in the 50's, and she had a blast. I don't think I've ever seen her bowl before, she also threw a bunch of gutter balls. But the point is everyone involved today had a bunch of fun.

*Paula Townsend (and Barbra Townsend too)*

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Bill Gray– National Director

## Trap Team goes to Roseburg Rod and Gun Club for their Annual PIG Shoot. *No, we didn't shoot pigs!*

Well, here it is May already and trap shoots are picking up. On April 22-23rd Bill Loyd, Toby Newton, Brad and Larry Gardner and myself attended the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club for their Annual PIG Shoot. No, we didn't shoot pigs! It consisted of 500 targets total. 100 16 yards, 300 Handicap targets and 100 doubles. Larry, Brad, Toby and Bill Lloyd pulled their trailers down for the shoot. Saturday, we got started about 10:30 a.m. The weather consisted of some little low clouds and some wind, but not bad compared to last year's shoot when it rained and blew and was a lot colder. That's when I ask myself why am I doing this? Fun right? Well, we all got through the first hundred pretty well. Then we waited a couple hours before we shot the handicap or yardage targets.

Bill Lloyd shot these with another group because his yardage is more than two yards different. The weather stayed pretty good except for the crazy wind. It changed directions and would suddenly would blow a crazy gust without warning, it made it interesting, at least now I had an excuse for many misses. It's got to be my gun!

Next, we moved to the doubles and boy was I in for a ride. We started and it seems we all started well, and then my gun fired both barrels when I shot at

the first target. What a surprise, I just continued and it happened again and again. Needless to say, I had become a little gun shy not knowing if both barrels would go off again at the same time. I can blame my bad score on that, can't I?



We repeated our shooting on Sunday and just shot 200 Handicap targets. The weather was a little different. It rained and blew most of the day and we all got a little wet.

Friday & Saturday they served breakfast and lunch and for dinner. On Saturday we had smoked ribs, beans, a salad and dessert.

Yum yum!

We all came away with some winnings and Brad shot his first 25 targets in a row for a patch. Hope to see you out on the trap range and happy shooting to all.



# NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

## NWBA Operation Rebound Clinic

2017 Seattle Adaptive Sports revised **5/24 highlighted**

**What:** A NWBA wheelchair basketball camp supported by the Department of Veteran Affairs during the 2017 National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament presented by ABC Medical. This camp will provide assistance with chair fitting, instruction from coaches on game fundamentals, introduction to classification, opportunity to view elite competition and participation in games.

**When:** Friday August 11-Sunday August 13. August 10 is a travel in day. Camp will start on Friday morning. Camp will conclude Sunday at lunch time. Sunday is also the travel out day.

**Where:** West Seattle High School, 3000 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116

**Who:** All active duty or injured service veterans who are not on a current NWBA team

**Fee:** The NWBA will provide lodging, meals, basketball, uniform and tournament shirts. A stipend for travel will be available. The agreed covered expenses duration is from from Friday August 11-Sunday August 13

**Registration:** Complete and return the registration form to [brandonmcbeain@nwba.org](mailto:brandonmcbeain@nwba.org).

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, July 21 at 12:00 PM (MST)

**Registration Capacity:** There are 25 spots available, provided on first come first serve basis.

**Schedule:** Detail schedule will be provided when available.

\*Participants must make full commitment to attend entire camp from Friday to Sunday

### Questions:

NWBA  
Staff  
**Brandon McBeain**  
[brandonmcbeain@nwba.org](mailto:brandonmcbeain@nwba.org)  
(719) 266-4082 ext 108

Operation Rebound  
Head Coach  
**Doug Garner**  
[dgarner@uta.edu](mailto:dgarner@uta.edu)  
(501) 655-6507

Operation Rebound  
Lead Administrator/Coach  
**Parnes Cartwright**  
[heatwheels@gmail.com](mailto:heatwheels@gmail.com)  
(917) 545-5949





# NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

## Registration Form *NWBA Operation Rebound Clinic*

*Please print or type legibly*

### Contact Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size      Small   Medium   Large   XL   2XL   3XL

### Military Information

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty or Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Years Involved \_\_\_\_\_

### NWBA Information

Experience w/wheelchair basketball \_\_\_\_\_ Own a sport chair   Y   N

### Travel Information

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mode of Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Preference (two vets per room) \_\_\_\_\_



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter



## Spirit Mountain Casino

27100 SW Salmon River Hwy Grand Ronde, OR 97347

**Make Dinner Reservations by September 7th**  
**Games & Prizes**

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

1-800-760-7977  
(Cutoff Date 8/17/17)  
Check in Time for  
Hotel Rooms is 4:00 pm

### BANQUET

Banquet Check in 1 pm  
Social Time, 2 - 3 pm  
Appetizers served at 2 pm  
Dinner served promptly at 3 pm

**Oregon Paralyzed Veteran of America** 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305  
www.oregonpva.org • email: oregonpva@oregonpva.org • 503-362-7998

Daniel Service – President



# Election 2017



It's that time of year again and we are opening nominations for all elected positions to all general members. Those nominations will be for the Board of Directors positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five elected board members.

As required by PVA national headquarters, all officers and members of the board of directors are required to have their membership eligibility certified by the national secretary prior to being sworn into the appropriate office. The Staff will assist with this process.

It is the responsibility of every member of the board of directors to attend all regular and special meetings of the body (this can be done telephonically); establish policy; approve the hiring or termination of an Executive Director; approve the annual budget; monitor all chapter finances; create and update a long-term plan for the chapter; adopt key operating policies and procedures; approve contracts as appropriate; monitor policy implementation by the executive director and other members of staff and program directors.

Basically speaking you as a team will be responsible for the direction of the organization.

That sounds like a lot of responsibility, and it is. Without the Board of Directors there is no Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. Take a look at your skills gained through life and bring it to the board. Offer to fill a position by nominating yourself. Remember, without these positions being filled, we too can lose our charter and be dissolved.

A couple of the board members thought these responsibilities were going to be hard, but decided to see what they could do in support of the chapter and other members of the organization. After learning the job they found they could successfully fulfill their responsibilities.

How this will work is we will mail nomination forms to you around the end of June 2017. This will open nominations and the close will be midnight on the last day of July. All names placed in nomination for any office must be accompanied by a written or verbal acceptance from the



nominee.

We will then send out ballots not later than the fifteenth of August 2017 to all voting members. The ballots shall reflect the names of all eligible nominees who have expressed an acceptance of their nomination. The polls shall close upon receipt of mail in the chapter office on the fifteenth day of September 2017.

All general mail ballots shall comply with the

rules requiring ballots to be submitted in a sealed envelope with the member's name and signature on the outside of that envelope.

It's that simple. We will work to make things work no matter where you live. We appreciate you and want to support you. Any question? Give us a call

Daniel Service

503-362-7998

## Hot Dog Feed

### Lebanon Veterans' Home



What a great day we had at the Lebanon Veterans Home Hot Dog Feed. It was a time we could sit and talk, laugh, and just relax with others who enjoyed our company.

It didn't last very long but those that did show up and their guests thanked us for the meal, and our service and time in the military. We were able to visit with William Wingett, a PFC in the 101st Airborne who is recognized as one of the "Band of Brothers".

You may have seen the series on TV known by the same name that showed some of the reenactments of what the 101st Airborne

experienced. If you find yourself in a position where you may need a care center, the Lebanon Veterans Home is recognized as one of, if not the best care center in Oregon.

We certainly don't want to forget mentioning The Dalles Veteran Home. They will be having their Hot Dog Feed in September. These hot dog feeds and other events like them are not just for them. They are for you, our members as well. Your being there helps them know others care for them.

Watch for other events coming up real fast

# HOSPITAL LIAISON REPORT



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

As Hospital Liaison, I am happy to report that the Seattle SCI Unit now has a VA Wi-Fi guest network up and running. Patients can utilize their Wi-Fi capable devices on the VA guest network and avoid data charges.

The Seattle SCI Unit also recently installed autoME environmental control units on over half of their patient bed sites. The environmental control units allow a patient to operate:

- Bed Controls
- Entertainment/Games
- Lights
- Nurse Call
- Phone
- TV
- \*Internet, email coming soon

The above systems can be operated using a touchscreen, sip and puff, eye gaze, or voice. So if you are a patient that can benefit by the use of environmental controls request to be assigned to a bed with environmental controls when being admitted. The system is very intuitive and easy to use.

The Oregon PVA chapter recently donated money so that the Vancouver VA Comprehensive Rehab Unit (CRU) can purchase an Amazon Alexa and environmental controls that are compatible with Alexa for one patient bed. Hopefully, these items will be purchased and installed soon.

Staffing at the Seattle SCI Unit still remains an issue and the unit currently is limiting admissions to 23 of their 38 available beds. While the unit has made progress in hiring new nurses, there is still turnover with SCI nurses transferring to other units within the VA and/or leaving for other opportunities outside the VA. Hiring nursing staff continues to be a priority. On a positive note, a new nurse manager was recently hired and should be on the job soon.

Remember the chapter is here to serve you. We would love to hear from you about your experiences with the SCI/D care you receive from Seattle – Vancouver – Outpatient Clinic. Please let us know if you have had delays in receiving your healthcare and/or prosthetic equipment as well as if you've had exceptional service from a program and/or employee.

Call the PVA Oregon Chapter office at 503-362-7998.

Oregon PVA members if you experience a prosthetics delay that is more than 30 days old. Please complete the Prosthetics Delay Report Form on the next page- Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to: [prosthetics@pva.org](mailto:prosthetics@pva.org)





Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

# Prosthetics Delay Report Form

Responsible PVA Service Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ *no dashes* Age: \_\_\_\_\_ PVA Member: Yes  No

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

Are you service-connected: Yes  No

Item/Device/Equipment ordered:

Date Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescribing Clinician/Therapist: \_\_\_\_\_

VA Medical Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran Integrated Service Network (1-23): \_\_\_\_\_

Order delayed more than 30 days:  Denied:

Reasons given for decision:

Impact of delay/denial:

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

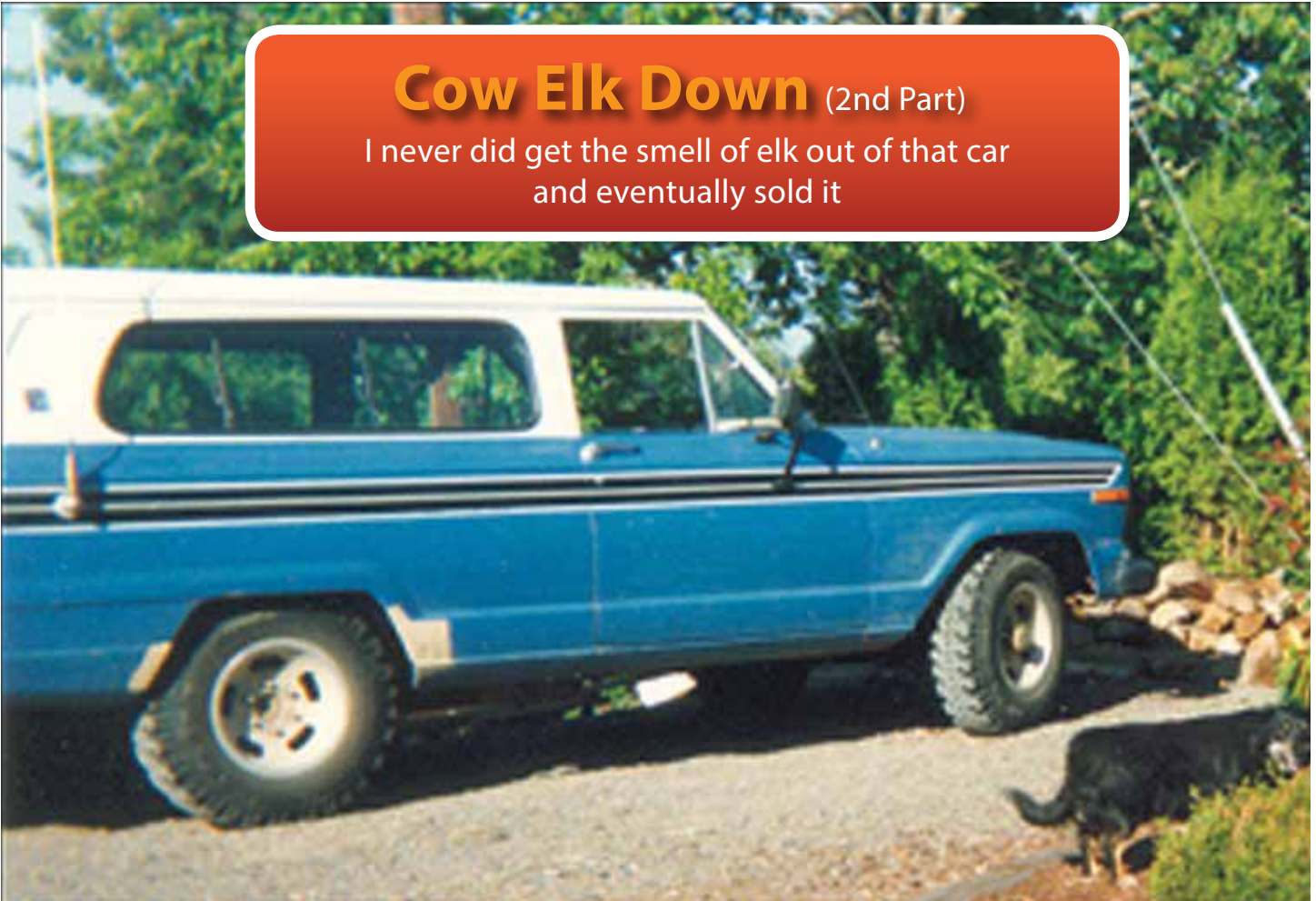
Clear Form 2014



# WHEELCHAIR ADVENTURES

## Cow Elk Down (2nd Part)

I never did get the smell of elk out of that car and eventually sold it



Louie Grimmer – Vice President

I bought a broken down 1974 Jeep Cherokee for \$1,300.00 and fixed it up mainly for hunting and fishing trips. It was on the back row of an old car lot with a flat tire and the salesman told me, “You don’t want that old thing.” He did not know if it even ran or if it was a 4X4.

I bought it after I got it running and the flat fixed and brought it home to the shock of my wife saying, “WHERE DID YOU GET THAT THING?.” It was not pretty at all but the body was in good condition and it ran. The tires were not up to par and I took it to a little tire shop in Brooks, Oregon, and bought a set of mud grippes that were 10 ply tires. That big of a tire seemed

to suck the power out of the old Jeep but I didn’t mind. It was just for the mountains.

**The old blue Jeep was pretty reliable except it used a lot of gas**

On one trip into the mountains I took my kids. We got a FLAT tire which was not supposed to happen but it did anyway. It was very cold and those tires were really big, especially because the kids were pretty small at the time.

The lug nuts were on real tight. With a little teamwork we got the spare out and the jack in position but I could not get the lug nuts to budge.

The road we were on was out in the back country where no one hardly ever travels. It was quite late in the afternoon and close to dark. It looked like we were going to have to spend the night.

All of a sudden there was a pickup coming down the road toward us and the good ol' boy stopped to help us out. He grabbed the lug nut tool and gave a hard tug and nothing happened. It was too tight. Well, he had some magic tobacco chew in his pocket, took one big bite and he turned into the GREEN INCREDIBLE HULK and those lug nuts flew off. The spare tire was put on and cinched down. We said thanks and he was off. The joke the kids have is "IF IT IS TOO TOUGH MAYBE A CHEW WILL DO."

One other trip we took was to Hoodoo Ski Lodge and the driver side window kept falling down the slot making it cold. It was doubly so when Andy (Andrew, #3 son) broke the heater core by tugging on the heater hose two weeks prior to the trip.

The old Jeep was quite a gas hog and the round trip to Hoodoo required us to get gas on the way home. We stopped at a little town 50 miles East of Salem to get gas and naturally it was raining. The window would not cooperate so I poked a \$10 bill through a small crack to the station attendant.

It might not have seemed much at the time but those were memories being made and the kids still talk about them to this day.

## 1974 Jeep with homemade Wheelchair Carrier

The old blue Jeep was pretty reliable except it used a lot of gas. It got about 10 MPG and much less in the mountains. I packed an extra five gallon can around with me all the time.

I built a carrier on the exterior of the left side of the rig to carry my wheelchair. I know this was a jury rigged setup but it kinda worked with the use of a couple bungee cords so it wouldn't



blow off going down the highway. There were a few times when the mountain roads were really brushy and the branches would pull the chair off the carrier. I would have to get Chuck to retrieve it.

One morning we planned on going to Rock Creek via the "shortcut." You might remember this was the nasty road we slid down in the 2-wheel drive Datsun pickup. Early in the morning before sunrise, Pete, in his rig, and Chuck and I in my Jeep went down this old skid trail that had deep ruts. When we almost got to the bottom Chuck told me to avoid those very ruts but, sure enough, the jeep ended up in the middle of them all by itself. This happened with the wheelchair mounted on the outside and, naturally, the rut was on the same side and the dirt bank was there also. A loud ripping noise was heard when the dirt bank came in contact with the wheelchair but we couldn't stop to look. It was then that we heard Pete calling on the CB saying, "Partner, I think you lost something along the trail."

He picked up the chair and brought it down to the road below. That was the same road we went down in his Pickup. That old road was not scary with a rig that was up to the challenge.



# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 First Tuesday Sublimity	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Members Picnic
23 Mopar Woodburn	24	25	26	27 BOD 10:00 a.m.	28	29
30	31					



**Office will be closed**



*"Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected."  
George Washington*





# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 First Tuesday Sublimity	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Show & Shine Car Show
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Deep Sea Fishing	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Oregon State Fair	
Oregon State Fair						

## Save the Date

- 9/15**      **Deep Sea Fishing**
- 9/16**      **Albany Fun Shoot**
- 9/16**      **OPVA Ruger Gun Raffle**
- 9/17**      **Members Banquet**
- 10/4**      **Deep Sea Fishing**
- 11/11**     **Albany Vets Day Parade**



Roger C. Robinson – Government Relations

September 15, 16 and 17th will be “Reno International Air Races”. If you would like to go, call me, Roger Robinson, at the office and reserve how many seats you would like. Bracelets include Pitt passes and all static line demonstrations.

These passes are worth \$60.00 each. Use your recreation fund for Hotels and gas and/or meals. Guaranteed a great time. This may be the last year races will be offered. Call me for reservations, passes will be mailed in August. First come, first served.



June 3th was Free Fishing Day and was enjoyed by all. Lots of fish were caught. Hot dogs and potato salad were served along with a beautiful day. Our big prize was a kayak donated by Cabela’s of Tualatin OR. We even ran out of food this year. People asked us if we’re going to be here next year.



## DONATED ITEMS TESTIMONY

OPVA,

I want to say thank you to OPVA and to Gary Atwood, the Donation Coordinator there, for the really nice mobility scooter they gave me in May.

I’ve already used the scooter several times when my wife and I visited the display gardens at Schreiner’s Iris Farm in Brooks, the Crystal springs Rhododendron Garden and the Japanese Garden in Portland, and the “Berries, Brews and Barbecues” festival in St. Paul. The scooter gets around really well and is relatively easy to load into my Astro van. Now we’ve scheduled a trip to Seattle/Tacoma to visit several public gardens up there in July. My wife is a regular walker and now I can wear her out. I go, go, go.

And to any of you PVA members who need mobility equipment, Gary has a great selection of both manual and power chairs and some scooters as well as other stuff that gets donated to OPVA to pass along. Give him a call at the office in Salem and let him know what you need.

He, as well as everyone at OPVA are very friendly and helpful.

Again, thanks. I really appreciate this scooter. It is a great assistance to both, me and my wife as I can get out and go places we wouldn’t be able to go without it. I also keep it in my van for frequent use for shopping and such.

Sincerely,  
*Dick Kyser*



# DONATED ITEMS

OPVA has many items that have been donated to us for the purpose of giving to someone who needs it. Check with us before you purchase. All these items are given out **FREE** of charge.

**If you or someone you know needs one of these items, contact Gary Atwood, Donation Coordinator, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at 503.362.7998**

**All items are "As Is"  
No Warranty**

CareGuard Hydraulic Lift  
INVACARE Model No. 9805



Electric Hydraulic Lift  
INVACARE Reliant 450



Dolphin Mattress



Manual  
Wheelchairs



TiLite  
TR Wheelchair



Shower Chair



Coach Recliner





# M.S. NEWS

Sue Holt - M.S. Liaison



I love a good mystery. Over the years from Sherlock Holmes to Perry Mason, the list goes on. Medical Mysteries have been my favorite and Multiple Sclerosis is by far the biggest I have faced.

In order to solve a mystery information must first be gathered. (Clues!) For me that is where Providence Health and Services comes in with the Pacific Northwest MS Registry.

In conjunction with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Oregon Chapter they hope to identify every person with MS in the Pacific Northwest. Participation is strictly voluntary and you won't receive any payment.

For more information or to sign up to participate contact them at:  
**PACIFIC NORTHWEST MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS REGISTRY**  
9155 SW Barnes RD Suite 304  
Portland OR 97225  
Phone: 503-216-1022 Fax: 503-216-1039  
[www.pacificnwms.org](http://www.pacificnwms.org)  
Email: [msregistry@providence.org](mailto:msregistry@providence.org)



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter



I had a great time on Free Fishing Day. This is a picture of me and two of my fishing buddies. I can't wait until next year!



*Cabela's*



# Birthday

Curtis Ketchum	7/2/1947	David Vincent	8/4/1953
Michael Gardner	7/3/1947	Gregory Schouweiler	8/5/1950
Roger Watson	7/3/1949	Daniel Musloff	8/10/1949
Kenneth Woodward	7/4/1950	Marc Stump	8/11/1958
Kirk Parkhurst	7/4/1956	Lisa Travis	8/11/1973
Daniel Gifford	7/5/1959	Richard John	8/12/1935
Douglas Powell	7/6/1950	Eric Johnson	8/12/1954
Charles Younglove	7/6/1956	Dinah Wells	8/13/1957
Robert Huffman	7/9/1950	Lawrence Rathbun	8/14/1949
Craig Colerick	7/12/1960	John Brasch	8/15/1952
Louis Di Croce	7/13/1943	Roger Crawford	8/15/1952
Dale Neely	7/14/1969	Bob Mahler	8/16/1949
Matthew Lexow	7/17/1959	Richard Rayas	8/16/1969
Daniel Umbriaco	7/17/1980	Gerald Caldwell	8/17/1940
Thomas Morgan	7/19/1962	Randy Black	8/17/1947
Vern Spaur	7/20/1942	Katheren Picaso	8/17/1955
George Faust	7/21/1930	Elmer Childress	8/18/1953
Donald Darland	7/21/1955	William Lytle	8/19/1931
Carl Griffith	7/22/1951	Leo Espinoza	8/19/1964
Charles Wheeler	7/23/1949	Richard Weaver	8/21/1947
William Hobbs	7/24/1957	Keith Miller	8/21/1953
Samuel Hennon	7/26/1948	Michael Hebert	8/22/1954
Terry Dean	7/26/1968	Daniel Fairchild	8/23/1960
Randle Reddett	7/27/1955	Robert Blackman	8/24/1945
Leon Wheeldon	7/28/1959	Diane Grady	8/25/1951
Neal Tooze	7/29/1942	Craig Ackerson	8/27/1947
Robert La Favor	7/29/1947	Troy Allender	8/27/1959
Gary O'Donnell	7/29/1951	Casey Jones	8/28/1982
Virginia Facer	7/30/1946	Joseph Heidrick	8/29/1948
William Shields	8/1/1951	Hosie Stadamire	8/30/1946
Bruce Dunbar	8/1/1956	Timothy Vixay	8/30/1987
Douglas Carr	8/2/1959	Karl Nuse	8/31/1947
Jeff Deleon	8/2/1979	Timothy Walusiak	8/31/1968
Stephen Bergseng	8/3/1949		



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# Washington UPDATE

*Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.*

**June 15, 2017**

**Volume 23, No 6**

**\*\*\*PRIORITY\*\*\***

The Government Relations staff is still looking for stories about problems that our members have experienced during air travel. Please visit [www.AirAccess30.org](http://www.AirAccess30.org) and share your story.

## **Administration Finally Releases its FY 2018 Budget Request**

On May 23, 2017, the President finally released his Administration's detailed Budget Request for all federal programs, including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for FY 2018. The request includes a fair increase for VA programs (despite most other federal agencies getting significant cuts). The budget proposal does include a significant reduction in funding for Major and Minor Construction in VA, as well as cuts to Medical and Prosthetic Research, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and Information Technology.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs subsequently held a hearing on the President's Budget Request on May 24, 2017 followed by a hearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on June 14, 2017. PVA Associate Executive Director of Government Relations Carl Blake testified for the Senate VA Committee hearing. In testimony, PVA expressed serious concerns with the VA's plan for continued funding through a mandatory account. We believe that Congress must reject continued funding of the Choice program through a mandatory account and place it in line with all other community care funded through the discretionary Community Care account established previously.

Additionally, we expressed strong opposition to two legislative proposals that are being used to fund the Choice program continuation—round down of cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) payments to the nearest whole dollar and the elimination of Individual Unemployability (IU) for veterans who reach Social Security eligibility age (62). It is beyond comprehension that the Administration would propose such a benefit reduction in order to pay for a flawed funding mechanism for a program (Choice) that sometimes provides health care access to non-service connected disabled veterans. Eliminating IU benefits for veterans over the age of 62 provokes numerous questions. Will veterans who have statutorily protected evaluations (the 20-year rule) also be subject to reduction? Will those dependents using Chapter 35 education benefits based on their sponsor's IU rating be forced to drop out of school? Will those veterans on IU who are covered by Service-Disabled Life Insurance at no premium be forced to now pay premiums in order to keep coverage? What about state benefits, such as property tax exemptions or state education benefits that are based on 100 percent VA disability ratings? How will this proposal affect efforts to combat veteran suicide and homelessness? The impact of the answers to these questions clearly dictates that Congress should reject this proposal out of hand.

PVA's formal written statement for the record on behalf of The Independent Budget—co-



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authored with DAV and VFW can be viewed at [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org). support for the Senate bill.

### **PVA Testifies Before Senate Committee on the Evolution of the Choice Program**

On June 7, 2017, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing entitled "Examining the Veterans Choice Program and the Future of Care in the Community." Gabe Stultz, Legislative Counsel for PVA, testified on PVA's behalf. This testimony marked Gabe's first opportunity to testify before the U.S. Congress. VA Secretary David Shulkin unveiled during the hearing what he hopes will be the next iteration of the Choice Program, called the C.A.R.E. (Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences) Program. PVA has contributed extensively to VA's planning efforts over the last year and into the new administration, and while we support many of the major components being offered, we still have concerns over a number of details and omissions.

The major change to the previous plans for expanding the Choice program is a change to the eligibility standards. Current eligibility is determined by whether the veteran will have to wait more than 30 days for a needed service or if the veteran lives more than 40 miles from a VA facility. The new eligibility would be based on a clinical decision that would consider whether the service is available at VA, how long the wait times are, and whether it is feasible to force the veteran to travel to VA for the services. This decision would be made by the VA clinician based on conversations with the veteran instead of a bureaucrat or administrator.

The second component allows VA to offer Choice to all veterans who are affected when the quality of a particular service line falls below the local community standards. VA will identify

underperforming service lines, such as urology or cardiology, within its own system, and then it will compare those services with the individual local health care market. If the service line is also underperforming as compared to the local market, VA will allow veterans needing those services to use the community until that service line is fixed.

Finally, a new addition to the plan is for veterans to have the ability to utilize walk-in clinics two times per year subject only to the copayment structure they use with VA. Any visits after two will be charged a copayment of \$50, regardless of service-connection.

The hearing covered the basics of this plan. However, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) pointed out a few details that looked reminiscent of privatization plans highlighted in a straw man document used by the Commission on Care last year. She pointed out a few pilot project authorizations that would allow VA to try out different payment models and governance structures reminiscent of the ideas recommended by Concerned Veterans for America.

PVA continued to express our concern that all of the attention is focused on expanding Choice while failing to plan simultaneously for strengthening VA's own specialized services. We noted that the Secretary has committed verbally to PVA that VA will increase nursing staff levels by more than 1,000; however, we need to see definitive action taken on this promise. VA must invest in its own foundational services, such as SCI/D care, in order to successfully build a high-performing network.

Senator Tester also highlighted PVA's testimony on the importance of ensuring that veterans getting care in the community are protected in the event of medical malpractice. In an exchange with PVA, he stressed the point to his colleagues that veterans out in the community are not eligible for service-connected status due to malpractice. If a veteran is injured receiving

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care inside a VA medical center, he or she is eligible for service-connection under 38 U.S.C § 1151.

Going forward, VA has proposed legislative text, and it is our understanding that the Hill will also be offering legislative packages in the coming weeks representing the future of VA care delivered in the community. To read PVA's full written statement, please visit [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org).

### **Bi-Partisan Accountability Bill Passed by Congress**

On June 13, 2017, the House of Representatives approved the "VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act," which was previously passed by the Senate, ensuring that the bill will become law. The bill was originally introduced by Senate VA Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-MT). The legislation was also co-sponsored by Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL). PVA offered our strong support for this critical piece of legislation. The principle goal of the legislation is to allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to terminate bad employees faster while also strengthening protections for whistleblowers. The bill streamlines the VA's process for reviewing and firing employees who engage in misconduct or perform poorly without sacrificing their due process rights.

Subsequent to passage of the bill, PVA Executive Director Sherman Gillums offered the following statement in support of the bill:

"No other large healthcare system rivals VA's competence to deliver specialized services at a national level, such as spinal cord injury and disease and polytrauma care, or synthesizes access to healthcare, benefits, support, and peer mentorship better than VA. But what VA needs most right now is the one 'ability' it

presently lacks and can no longer be taken for granted — accountability. Whether that means better protecting whistleblowers, shortening the reprimand process, or recouping ill-gotten bonuses and relocation expenses, achieving a state of being answerable to the public, the Congress, and most importantly, veterans, will be dictated by the worst behavior the VA Secretary has to tolerate. This bill will be a major step toward having to tolerate such behavior no more."

PVA also had the opportunity to participate in a press conference following House passage of the bill where we reiterated our support for stronger accountability. Our support is based on our exposure to problems during our annual site visits to VA medical centers that have resulted from lack of proper accountability of VA employees at several levels.

### **Air Carrier Access Amendments Act Introduced in the Senate**

On June 8, 2017, Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) introduced S. 1318, the "Air Carrier Access Amendments Act." This legislation would make needed improvements to the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and provide increased opportunities for stakeholders to work with airlines and the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve the air travel experience for passengers with disabilities. Four original co-sponsors, Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Edward Markey (D-MA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), joined with Senator Baldwin in supporting the legislation.

Over 30 years ago, President Ronald Reagan signed the ACAA into law. The ACAA prohibits discrimination based on disability in air travel. Despite progress, too many travelers with disabilities still encounter significant barriers, such as damaged assistive devices,

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delayed assistance, and lack of seating accommodations. Unlike most other civil rights laws, the ACAA lacks a guaranteed private right of action. Consequently, people with disabilities typically receive little if any redress to their specific grievances.

Access for people with disabilities in air travel must move into the 21st century. Otherwise, people with disabilities will be left behind unable to compete in today's job market or enjoy the opportunities available to other Americans.

The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (S. 1318) will address these problems by:

- Strengthening ACAA enforcement through referral of certain complaints to the U.S. Attorney General, increased civil penalties for damaged wheelchairs, and a private right of action.
- Ensuring airlines acquire airplanes that meet broad accessibility standards. Improved structural access includes safe and effective boarding and deplaning processes, procedures, and equipment, along with better stowage options for assistive devices.
- Improving training for air carrier personnel and their contractors, including requiring heightened training for personnel who assist with the boarding and deplaning process.
- Requiring the Secretary of Transportation to work with stakeholders to develop an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights.
- Creating a U.S. Department of Transportation Advisory Committee on the Air Travel Needs of Passengers with Disabilities.

PVA urges its members to contact their U.S. Senators and ask them to co-sponsor this important legislation. It is our hope that this legislation will be attached to the FAA Reauthorization currently pending in Congress. It is critical that we show widespread support for S. 1318 in the coming weeks.

## President's Budget Proposes Cuts to Important Disability Programs

While the Administration's FY 2018 Budget Request provides some increases to the VA, it proposes significant cuts in a number of programs important to people with disabilities. Those programs are outlined below:

**Social Security** - In a reversal of campaign promises not to cut Social Security, the President's proposed 2018 budget recommends over \$74.2 billion in cuts over ten years from Social Security, including \$72.4 billion in proposed reductions to Social Security's disability programs. The budget projects nearly \$50 billion in savings would be generated through Social Security demonstration programs to help disability beneficiaries to stay at work or return to work. Cuts of this magnitude would likely be accomplished through stringent work requirements and other measures aimed at reducing benefits or cutting off eligibility entirely for those who do not comply with the work rules.

At the same time, the budget also proposes offsetting unemployment benefits and disability payments for a savings of \$2.5 billion. Beneficiaries who attempt to work, but get laid off from a job through no fault of their own, may qualify for Unemployment Insurance benefits that their employers have paid for. Cuts to these benefits would put beneficiaries' ability to meet their day to day living expenses at risk and would create disincentives by punishing people who attempt to work. Another \$10 billion in savings would be achieved by reducing retroactive SSDI benefits to six months from the current 12 months retroactive payments, which has been the standard since 1958. The average disabled worker receives approximately \$1,170 per month in SSDI and those affected by this change could lose over \$7,000 per year by this



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cut. The budget proposes to cut an additional \$4 billion out of Social Security—including the retirement, survivors', and disability programs.

Department of Health and Human Services - The budget proposes more than \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts (estimates have been as high as over \$1.4 trillion) over the next 10 years from a combination of repealing and replacing the ACA and an estimated \$610 billion in additional cuts. Block grants in the President's budget would make even further cuts than those allowed under the American Health Care Act (AHCA). The budget also proposes a \$142.4 million decrease in overall funding for the Administration for Community Living and level funds one component of the nationwide Independent Living system at \$78 million. However, the budget consolidates money for a second Independent Living account with funding for State Councils on Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury funding into one "Partnership for Innovation, Inclusion, and Independence." The funding for this new Partnership line item is \$45 million, a \$57 million loss from the \$102 million combined for all these programs in funding in FY 2017. The cuts resulting from this consolidation would be detrimental to all three programs.

Department of Labor - The President's budget proposes to eliminate roughly one fifth of the Department of Labor's (DOL) overall budget. To achieve a \$2.5 billion cut, the document calls for the elimination of "duplicative, unnecessary, unproven, or ineffective" programs while focusing on "highest priority functions" but provides few details on particular program reductions or eliminations. One of the few specifics in the document concerns the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) which is directed to eliminate "less critical technical assistance grants." Advocates are concerned that the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), one of the main grant programs, may fall victim to these budgetary directions. The DOL budget proposal also includes elimination of the Office of Federal

Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) which oversees implementation of VEVRAA and Section 503 governing federal contractor obligations to recruit and hire targeted veterans and people with disabilities. These OFCCP functions would be transferred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Civil rights supporters are concerned that such a move would impede the work of both the OFCCP and the EEOC as each have distinct missions and expertise, and thereby undermine the civil rights protections that employers and workers have relied on for almost fifty years.

### Update on the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017

The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017, H.R. 620, has gained additional co-sponsors in recent weeks. PVA opposes H.R. 620 because it would ultimately lead to decreased accessibility in public accommodations under Title III of the ADA. The legislation was introduced in January by Representative Ted Poe (D-CA), with co-sponsors Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Ami Bera (D-CA), Jackie Speier (D-CA), and Michael Conaway (R-TX).

As of June 14, the following members have signed on as co-sponsors:

- Representative Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
- Representative Ralph Lee Abraham (R-LA)
- Representative J. Luis Correa (D-CA)
- Representative Doug Collins (R-GA)
- Representative Bill Foster (D-IL)
- Representative Jeff Denham (R-CA)
- Representative Krysten Sinema (D-AZ)
- Representative Paul Mitchell (R-MI)
- Representative Darrell E. Issa (R-CA)
- Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL)
- Representative Tom Emmer (R-MN)
- Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL)
- Representative Mike Coffman (R-CO)

# Washington Update

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Please contact your Representatives to let them know that PVA opposes this legislation. We are opposed to H.R. 620, because it would require a person with a disability to send a very specific letter of notification to the owner or operator of a non-compliant business prior to being able to file a lawsuit. There is no penalty under the ADA that accrues for the length of time that a business was out of compliance. As a result, businesses (large and small) could decide to simply wait until a person with a disability provides them with the required notice before taking any action to meet ADA accessibility requirements. We believe that businesses should proactively seek to comply with the ADA and work with the ADA National Network and other entities for any needed technical assistance.

The bill is pending before the House Judiciary Committee and may be marked up by the full committee in the coming weeks.

### ADA Symposium

In May, National Advocacy staff attended the annual National ADA Symposium in Rosemont, Illinois. Hosted this year by the Great Plains ADA Center, this annual conference brings together disability advocates, subject matter experts, government officials and service providers for three days of workshops and networking opportunities. Sessions ranged from basics about the Americans with Disabilities Act and its enforcement to advanced workshops delving into specific components of disability law such as internet accessibility, workplace leave policies as employment accommodations, and accessible housing requirements under the International Building Code, Architectural Barriers Act and ADA.

Ann Raish, Acting Chief of the Department of Justice Disability Rights Division, presented an update on that agency's work in enforcing the ADA's Title II (State and local governments) and Title III (public accommodations) and continued

efforts to implement the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision calling for federal programs to serve people with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. Other workshops focused on what is likely to happen to long term services and supports in the wake of revisions to the Affordable Care Act, how service animals are treated under different disability rights laws, emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, and ADA requirements for light rail and commuter transportation systems. The 2018 ADA Symposium will take place in Pittsburgh, PA.

### PVA Participates in Afghan Disability Rights Conference

The Embassy of Afghanistan hosted a disability rights conference from May 23-24 during which PVA was invited to take part in an employment panel on the second day of the meeting. Organized by the U.S. Council on Disabilities (USCID), the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council, and Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, the conference was a follow up to the first National Conference for Persons with Disabilities held in Kabul, Afghanistan in the fall of 2016. A 2012 signatory to the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, Afghanistan has over 600,000 people with disabilities in that small country. The Georgetown University meeting was intended to highlight progress and challenges since the 2016 conference and bring together advocates and subject matter experts from the U.S. with their Afghan counterparts to discuss practical approaches for inclusive education, public health care and employment programs and policies.

The theme of the conference's first day was "From Policy to Programming" and featured presentations on education reforms as well as public health and vocational training initiatives being undertaken by the government and

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various non-profit organizations in the country. Attendees were welcomed by Dr. Hamdulla Mohib, Afghanistan's Ambassador to the U.S., who spoke of the challenges implementing a law adopted by his country requiring that 3 percent of government jobs be reserved for individuals with disabilities. Many of the difficulties faced by Afghanistan in living up to the spirit of this law would sound familiar to many Americans with disabilities including inaccessible buildings, lack of funding resources and stigma. A hopeful note was sounded in a video by First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani who highlighted her commitment and that of President Ghani to measures assuring integration of people with disabilities into society. She was followed by a keynote address from Judy Heumann, former Senior Advisor on International Disability Rights at the U.S. State Department. Heumann urged the Afghan attendees to monitor construction of schools, civic facilities and health centers built with U.S. foreign aid and to raise objections if they fail to include accessible features.

Conference delegates also heard from disability rights leader retired Senator Tom Harkin and Tim Shriver, chairman of the Special Olympics.

On the second day of the conference, USCID hosted the Afghan delegates at its offices for a full day of panel presentations from U.S. policy experts and advocates on the three main topics covered by the conference. Susan Prokop, Senior Associate Advocacy Director for PVA, took part in an employment panel along with representatives from RespectAbility and TransCen. In her remarks, Susan discussed the history and scope of vocational services offered to U.S. veterans and described PVA's own vocational rehabilitation program, Paving Access to Veterans Employment (PAVE). Posts from the conference can be found on Twitter at #AFGDisabilityConf.



**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
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# Share Your Story

Please share your stories, photos, videos, and graphics about your air travel experiences as a passenger with a disability.

**Paralyzed Veterans of America** [pva.org](http://pva.org) [ParalyzedVeterans](https://www.facebook.com/ParalyzedVeterans) [PVA1966](https://www.instagram.com/PVA1966) [#VeteransMatter](https://twitter.com/VeteransMatter)

**AirAccess30.org** [#ACAA30](https://www.facebook.com/ACAA30) [#ACAA30](https://www.instagram.com/ACAA30) [#ACAA30](https://www.youtube.com/ACAA30) **ACAA**

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America "Serving Those Who Served"





# MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted or commissioned for active duty service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, or our allies as evidenced by other-than-dishonorable character of service documented by a verifiable DD-214 or DD-215 (entry-level separation not acceptable); (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. **Complete and return application to the chapter or by mail, email, or fax to:** Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) ChristiH@pva.org; (F) 202.416.1250. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

**Chapter Name:** Oregon Chapter

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Middle Initial:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Social Security Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

**Race/Ethnicity:**

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- African American/Descent
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Caucasian

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

**Please submit the following with application:**

- Proof of U.S. or U.S. Territorial Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport, INS Form, or Voter’s Registration Form).
- DD214 showing character of discharge.
- Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician’s statement).

***Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval.***

**Have you been discharged under conditions that are less than honorable?**  Yes  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected?**  Yes  No

## DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION

***Injury or diseases involving the brain but not the spinal cord do not qualify.***

**SPINAL CORD INJURY**

Complete only if you have a traumatic spinal cord injury.

**Date of Injury:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Cause of Spinal Cord Injury:**

- Vehicular (car, motorcycle, aircraft, etc.)
- Violence (gunshot, explosion, etc.)
- Flying/Falling object
- Sport/Recreation (swimming, diving, etc.)
- Pedestrian (car accident, etc.)
- Unknown
- Other traumatic injury: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPINAL CORD DISEASE**

Complete only if there is no spinal cord injury.

**Date of Diagnosis/Onset of Condition:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific Disease Involving Spinal Cord:**

- Multiple Sclerosis (involving bowel & bladder)
- Poliomyelitis
- Syringomyelia
- Amyotrophic diseases (lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

# MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

The Veterans Benefits Department advocates for quality health care for our members and can assist you to obtain the appropriate benefits available as a result of your military service.

Is Paralyzed Veterans of America presently your accredited representative?  Yes  No

*If yes, I hereby request that my eligibility for membership in the Paralyzed Veterans of America be certified. I consent to process my submitted medical documentation to a confidential review by a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Medical Staff, to validate that my condition presents as having spinal cord involvement and to allow official Certification by the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Secretary. I have no objection and hereby permit Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Officers to provide information to the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership/certification.*

*I declare that I have read and meet the qualifications. I understand that my membership/certification could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.*

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

I do not wish to become a certified member

## OFFICE USE ONLY

### CAUTION TO ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THESE DOCUMENTS

The documents provided by the requester are personal in nature and are for membership eligibility and certification only. Information contained within these documents shall be treated with extreme confidentiality and released only to those employees of Paralyzed Veterans of America authorized to access.

I certify that I have personally examined the documents provided by the requester and find him/her to be eligible for membership/certification.

**National Secretary's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Acted Upon:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Member ID Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Processed:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

# SUPPORT LOCAL HEROES

# DONATE NOW



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter



## Donation Form

Oregon PVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit. Federal Tax I.D. # 93-0713859

To mail in your donation, fill out this form and make checks payable to **Oregon PVA** or visit our website, [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org) to set up a payment or reoccurring payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Program requested support:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation       | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sport            | <input type="checkbox"/> General Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy         |  |

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305. Tel: (503) 362-7998







**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
3700 Silverton Rd. NE  
Salem, OR 97305

**Address Service Requested**

Non Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
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Salem, OR  
Permit #779

July/August 2017

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