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Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Oregon Chapter

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



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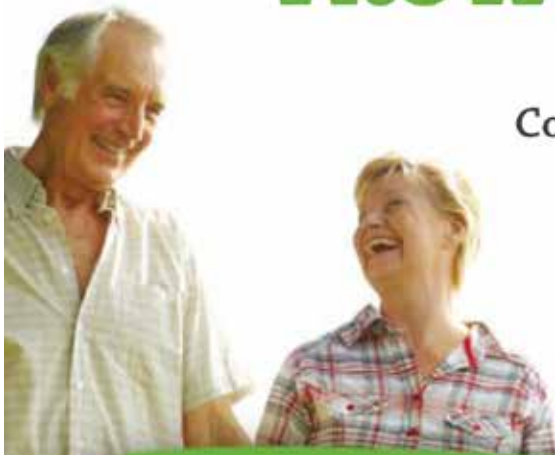
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PARALOG CONTENTS



8 President News

10 Executive Director Report

12 Sports News Alert

16 Recreation Fund Reports

22 Hospital Liaison Report

28 Wheelchair Adventures

30 A Lebanon Vet's Home Testimony

38 M.S. News

44 Washington Update

48 Classified Adds

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Oregon Chapter

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 / 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

Email - 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. (for more information see page 36)

**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

Voting Members FREE!

All Others \$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*

PRESIDENT NEWS



Daniel Service – President

What a great picnic we had on 15 July 2017! Darrel Von's property was a great place to do something different. We started arriving around 9 AM and slowly trickled in until around 11 AM. We had 27 people at this year's picnic, and we had fun.

Everyone had an opportunity to sit around and converse with one another. Everyone that wanted to shoot at the gun range was able to shoot either the big rifles or the smaller 22's. Some of us played bocchia ball, or tried our hand at ladder golf in which we attempted to throw ropes that had balls attached to the end, across the lawn to try and wrap them around the colored rungs.



We had a very short member meeting, doing Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, roll call of members, mention about nominations, then we adjourned, very quick and easy meeting.

We hope to see more of you at next year's picnic.



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

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

This has been a Great Summer so far, with lots of great events and activities going on.

July started with an event we do every year out in Sublimity “Tuesday in the Park”. They have live music and local vendors from the community to come together and support. They hold the event on the first Tuesday of July and August; however this year since the first Tuesday fell on the fourth of July it was moved to the second Tuesday. The August date is in conjunction with National Night Out and the local sheriff’s deputies come out and barbecue burgers and dogs for all who attend.

This was a record year for fundraising

Marion County Fair was also in July, we took part in the Real Hero’s section, and this has become a great venue to promote Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. We sold a ton of raffle tickets for the 1965 Barracuda as well as for the Gun Raffle. This was a record year for fundraising at the fair.

Also held in July was the Members Picnic. This year it was held at an associate members property, they had a shooting range for all types of guns shot gun; large caliber; small caliber; as well as pistol shooting. Not to mention the other yard games that were played. A great group of volunteers took care of the set up tear down as well as cooking for the members. At the same time as the picnic halfway across the state, in Redmond the Oregon Department

of Veterans Affairs was holding their annual Veteran Expo, your Chapter had an informational booth set up to hand out information about your chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.



If that wasn’t enough in July we were invited to take part in an annual MOPAR Cruise-In at the Roberson dealership in Salem. This was a great opportunity to show off and again sell raffle tickets for our 1965 Barracuda. The weekend didn’t stop there, the very next day we attended the MOPAR Days at the Woodburn Dragstrip. I want to send a big THANK YOU to Larry Gardner (Your Sports Director) he grabbed these two events by the horns and ran them like a pro, arranging for volunteers to get the raffle car transported to each event as well as getting our booths manned with volunteers.



**Show & Shine OPVA Car Show had more than doubled the amount of cars this year...
Everyone had a great time**



August is always a busy month for the chapter, with fairs, festivals, and car shows. August 1st kicked off the month with Sublimity's Tuesday in the park, and then on August 12th we double booked the weekend. The chapter was hosting a trap shoot at the Hillsboro Trap and Skeet club, and the Chapter was also holding their 2nd Annual Show and Shine Car Show. So like any good strategic strike we divided and conquered. Larry Gardner took the trap team to Hillsboro and put on a great event for the shooters up in that area. While the rest of the board went to the Show and Shine Car Show. Both events were very successful, the OPVA Show and Shine Car Show was held at the Salem Home Depot, this event was sponsored by The Home Depot, Batteries NW, and Les Schwab Tire Center. The car show more than doubled the amount of cars this year. I believe we had 78 vehicles being judged and another 10 to 12 that were there just to be shown. Everyone had a great time. There were door prizes, 50/50 raffle drawings, and of course we had the drawing for the 1965 Barracuda as well as unveiling the next Raffle Vehicle a 1959 Chevy Pickup. This was so much fun that we have already set the date to have another car show next year on August 4, 2018, so mark your calendars and come on out.

To make these events even better we **NEED YOU** to **VOLUNTEER**.



This year we will be hosting 3 Deep Sea Fishing Trips out of Depot Bay. The first trip was on August 22nd the day after the GREAT ECLIPSE. The last two trips are as follows Sept 15th and Oct 4th, if you are interested in going Deep Sea Fishing and a little crabbing as well get in touch with the office as soon as possible, remember there is no charge for the fishing this year for our voting members. (Free is a very good Price)

As August comes to a close, we will finish the month off out at the Oregon State Fair, as you receive this Paralog there is still time to come on out to the Fair and stop by and visit with some of the board members. The fair ends on Labor Day Sept 4th which is Heroes Day and all active military, veterans, first responders and their families get in free all day.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Just because summer is coming to an end there are still thing for you to do. In September is the Sublimity Harvest, we will be there on Sunday September 10th for Cause Day.

Don't forget to RSVP to the office for the Members Banquet time is of the essence. Your Members banquet is on Sunday September 17th back out at Spirit Mountain Casino.

As always for any of the events to be a success I am asking for your assistance, the most successful events we have or participate in are the ones where the members are attending and or volunteering at. So as you read through the Paralog and you see something we are doing or attending, check your schedule, hope to see you there.

SPORTS NEWS ALERT



Larry Gardner—Sports Director

Attention to all members, summer is coming to an end way to fast, and along with that the weather is starting to change. Even with that said we still have lots of events in the near forecast.

First of all on September 15th and again on October 4th, out of Depoe Bay, is our last two of the three Deep Sea Fishing trips, this year the trips are free for voting members and \$65.00 for all others. If you are interested in one of the trips please call the office at 503-362-7998 and let us get you on the list.



Then on Saturday September 16th at the Albany Trap Club OPVA is having our end of the year Fun Shoot. This Fun Shoot is open to the public for anyone who likes to, or would like to try trap shooting. This is the perfect event to try it even if you have never before shot trap. Don't worry if you don't have a shot gun we will provide one for you to use, so come on out and join us for a day of fun even if you don't shoot. Also on this same day at the club we will draw for the Ruger Gun Raffle.

August 12th and 13th OPVA put on our chapter shoot at the Hillsboro Trap and Skeet Club, without the chapter volunteers we could not have done this event, but thanks to all that attended the event went very well.

The next shoot is at the Hillsboro Trap and Skeet Club on September 9th and 10th, members are always welcome to join us, just call me at 503-930-9589 I am working with the Bend Trap Club and Roseburg Rod and Gun Club to set up trap teams in those areas. Please call me if interested 503.930.9589. I can always use your help and input.

OPVA is working with a gentleman that is putting on some bowling clinics in the Salem area, I'm not sure when the next clinics will be but if anyone has any interest please call me for and up and coming event.



And last of all I want to remind all about our Members Banquet on September 17th at Spirit Mountain Casino, in Grand Round, hope to see you there and please RSVP at the office.

That's all I have for now and thank you for all you do.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Oregon Chapter

Trapshoot



Fundraising



- Location:** Albany Gun Club
35305 Hwy 20 SE, Albany, OR 97322
- Date & Time:** September 16, 2017
Registration is at 9:00 a.m.
Trap Event 10:00 am - 4 pm
- Event Type:** Games
Pepperoni Fun Shoot
- Cost:** \$4.00 each game

Raffle prizes from Cabelas & Sportsman's Warehouse
Spectators welcome. New Shooters encouraged

All proceeds support
OPVA Trap Team

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Thanks you to all our Sponsors





CAR RAFFLE WINNER



TICKET #172078

I am having the time of my life with this car, I don't know if driving this classic is recommended, but I'm DRIVING. I tell everyone that asks about it that I won it from OPVA. I've wanted a hot rod for decades; my kids would tell you that it is my dream come true. Every year I go to the State Fair with some money, and your raffle has always been the only thing I spend it on. I go to see the draft horses and hopefully their competition, and I go to enter your raffles.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I WON!! (Well, maybe I can- I told Dan Service that I made my husband take me to the Nova drawing at the golf course a few years ago because I felt like it could happen)

I've been so incredibly blessed, and I just wish the best for all of you as well, and am thankful for your service and sacrifice. Thank you!

Lori



66TH ALBANY'S VETERANS DAY PARADE

November 11, 2017. 11:00 am



**Paralyzed Veterans
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Oregon Chapter

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Veterans Day Parade
West of the Mississippi!**

or JOIN us on the
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"Thank you for your
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RECREATION FUND REPORTS

Dear OPVA

Enclose please find receipts for this current fiscal year. Once again, thank you for providing this great program. It has helped my veteran husband and myself to have somewhat of a social life, as we both are home bound. Most of the time, people come to our place as opposed to going out. Luckily, our friends are understanding. This is truly a great way to say "Thank you" to our VETS! Much appreciation.

Karen & William Cooper (ret'd ARMY)



Getting Ready for Winter.

Hunting season is getting close real fast and I have been rebuilding my rifle this year for hunting season. It is crazy how the cost can multiply, but now it's almost complete except for the scope. I had no idea how I was going to purchase a scope.

Thanks to my recreation fund I was able to buy my scope and complete the project. Now it's time to put meat in the freezer. Thank you OPVA.

Larry Gardner



I would like to use some of the Rec. Fund for a boat rental that I rented at Odell Lake. I did this last year and would like to mention the pontoon boats are accessible by wheelchair, power or manual chairs. All you will need is a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch piece plywood 32"x32". Thanks!

Charles DeMoss



Hi OPVA,
I took my wife Monika, and went to Diamond Lake Resort for a two day trip. I participated in the Diamond n Vets Fishing Day. This was the fifth year of the event, but my first. There were volunteer boats, and captains taking veterans fishing for the day on Diamond Lake. These volunteers provided all the fishing and safety gear.

There was even a boat available for wheelchairs! My boat caught seventeen lake trout the largest was seventeen inches.

The event is funded by the Purple Heart foundation, although you do not have to have earned the Purple Heart. We were also provided with a breakfast and lunch. The Diamond Lake Resort had facilities available at a discounted fee. The Umpqua National Forest donated free campground space at Diamond Lake Campground for those who had recreation vehicles or tents. It was time to relax, talk with other veterans and just have a good day of fishing. A good time was had by all in attendance.

Robert (Bob) Moore



I bought 3 cases of shotgun shells for practice to help me get better at shooting trap.

Jack Howell

Dear Folks:

I sure am glad I still have (a little bit) of time to submit this request for reimbursement. We had a wonderful time on the trip I'm requesting for. Saw are two grand twins and Hawaii in one fantastic vacation! We are getting ready to embark on another fun trip.

As ever I am grateful for OPVA and the Rec Fund.

Sincerely,
Anne Wyatt

Dear Oregon PVA,
I am writing for the Recreation Fund. My wife and I always spend a week at the Oregon coast. We stay at the Ecola Inn at Cannon Beach. It has one of the best motel room views of the beach. Our window faces Hay Stack Rock and all the people coming and going to the beach.

We enjoy beachcombing, people watching, whale watching, and traveling up and down the coast.

Thank you for this fund.
John Phillips

To whom it may concern,
Because of the Rec Fund I was able to buy an "Uptop Creeper" which allows me to lay above the motor on my truck and do maintenance work so I can get back to fishing and camping.

I've just had surgery on my right hand and waiting to have surgery on my left hand, when I am recovered from both surgeries I will be able to go camping, fishing and crabbing again, which I do year around. Thanks to the Rec Fund, I will be ready to go again once I'm healed.

Richard Dean



Dear OPVA

Today was a great day, was able to take the grandkids out to Olive Garden for Father's Day. They get me this shirt, I will wear it proudly. Thank you

Steve L. Grogan



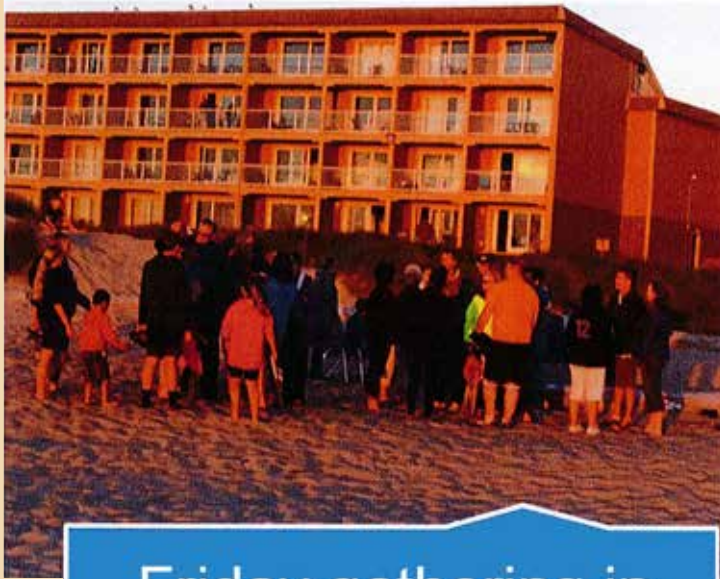
Here are my receipts for purchases of some Pendleton shirts I will wear on a number of fishing trips. I really enjoy the opportunity to take advantage of the recreation fund.

Thank you very much.

Joel Satoris

Dear OPVA,

In July, my wife and daughter and I attended a family reunion in Florence, Oregon. We stayed at the Driftwood Shores Resort. At sunset, we were treated to a bonfire and s'mores on the beach.



Friday gathering in Florence, Oregon



Saturday was a family banquet with over 85 family members participating.



Tom, Mark, Chloe



Please contact the office at 503.362.7998 or 1.800.333.0782 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation fund.



Paralyzed Veterans of America



Kathleen and Chloe, Tom and Cousin Mark. We had a really good time and are looking forward to the next family reunion.

Thomas Morgan



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

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- **The Edward+Romell Ackley Foundation**

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Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison



Prosthetic Medical Equipment Purchase and Repairs



As Hospital Liaison for Paralyzed Veterans of America Oregon Chapter, one of the most common issues members contact me about are delays obtaining new prosthetic equipment and repairs to prosthetic equipment issued through the VA. Many of our members endure long waits not only for customized wheelchairs, patient lifts, and other high-dollar prosthetics equipment, but lower cost non-customized prosthetic equipment as well. How does the prosthetic purchasing and equipment repair process work, how long should I wait before contacting prosthetics and who do I contact? My goal is to try and answer some of those questions.

I will first talk about purchase/repair of durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, patient lifts and etc. Then second, how long a veteran should wait before contacting prosthetics and who the veteran should contact.

Prosthetic Medical Equipment Purchase and Repair

Medical Equipment Purchase

Typically the process for obtaining new or replacement prosthetic equipment is as follows:

1. Physician, primary care provider or rehab specialist i.e. physical/occupational therapist submits prescription/consult to prosthetics. That consult should go directly to veteran's assigned prosthetic representative.
2. The prosthetic representative will confirm veteran's eligibility then send VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to medical equipment vendor identified in the consult. If no medical equipment vendor is identified, the prosthetic representative should contact the veteran to determine veterans preferred medical equipment vendor. Then send VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to veteran's preferred vendor.
3. Once the prosthetic representative receives the quote back from the vendor he/she will do one of the following.
 - a) If less than \$3,500 notify the purchasing unit that the request is ready for the purchasing agent to enter a purchase order into the system and notify the vendor the purchase is authorized. The vendor will then fulfill the purchase order. The equipment will be sent to the veteran or VA based on information in the consult. If not sent directly to the veteran the prescribing provider will follow up with the veteran. The vendor cannot begin to work until the purchase order is received.
 - b) If \$3,500 or more the VA prosthetic representative is required to forward the consult to VA contracting. A VA contracting officer will create a purchase order to purchase prescribed equipment according to Federal Acquisition Regulations. Once



the VA contracting officer enters the purchase order into the system he/she will notify your prosthetics representative that a purchase order to purchase the prescribed equipment has been entered into the system authorizing purchase. Then the prosthetic representative should follow through and make sure the veteran or prescribing provider receives prescribed equipment. If the veteran will either receive the equipment delivered to their home or will be delivered to the veteran's provider depending on directions in the consult. If equipment is going to the provider he/she will follow up with the veteran.

Medical Equipment Repair

If the veterans prosthetic equipment issued from the VA breaks down and/or needs repair, maybe a wheelchair flat tire, power wheelchair needs new batteries or power wheelchair electronic control module goes out. The following is the typical process for getting prosthetic equipment issued from the VA repaired or replaced.

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PROPERTY
Group LLC



Real Estate Broker

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503.550.2765
casey@cmacrealty.com

WWW.CMACREALTY.NET

Lake Oswego | W. Portland | Hollywood | Sunnyside | Yamhill | Gresham | Bend



The veteran has a couple options

1. The veteran can contact their primary provider or rehab specialist and request a medical equipment repair consult be sent to prosthetics. The consult should go directly to the veteran's prosthetic representative.

a) Then the VA prosthetic representative will send VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to medical equipment repair vendor identified in the consult. If no medical equipment repair vendor is identified, the prosthetic representative should contact the veteran to determine veterans preferred medical equipment repair vendor. Then send VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to veteran's preferred vendor.

b) Once veterans prosthetic representative receives the quote back from the vendor he/she should enter a purchase order into the system and notify the vendor the repair is authorized.

c) The vendor will then make arrangements with the veteran to repair the medical equipment identified in the purchase order

2. The veteran can call or go to the medical equipment repair vendor of their choice and let them know they are having problems with their prosthetic equipment. Then that medical equipment repair vendor must contact VA prosthetics who will notify veteran's prosthetics representative and notify them the veteran needs a medical equipment repair. (Sometimes the repair vendor will include a quote at the time they notify prosthetics the veterans equipment needs repaired)

a) The prosthetic representative will then contact the veteran's primary provider to request a consult for medical equipment repair confirming that the veteran's current equipment still meets the veteran's needs. If your primary provider thinks the veteran's medical equipment no longer meets his/her needs, prosthetic will work with the provider in determining if veteran needs new equipment and/or modification to his/her current equipment.

b) Once the VA prosthetic representative receives a consult from veteran primary provider he/she will send VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to medical equipment repair vendor identified in the consult. If no medical equipment repair vendor is identified, the prosthetic representative should contact the veteran to determine veterans preferred medical equipment repair vendor. Then the prosthetics representative will send VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to veteran's preferred repair vendor. (Note: at times veteran prosthetics representative will already have a quote from repair vendor, if repair vendor is the one who notified prosthetics the veteran needed a repair and included a quote with the notification.)

c) Once the veteran's prosthetic representative has a quote from the repair vendor he/she should enter a purchase order into the system and notify the vendor that the repair is authorized.



If the repair cost exceeds the \$3,500 threshold the prosthetic representative is required to forward the request to contracting for the purchase order to be provided to the vendor.

d) The vendor will then contact the veteran and set up a time to complete the repair.

How Long Should I Wait-Who Should I Contact-Regarding Prosthetic Equipment and Repair Delays

How Long Should I Wait

This is somewhat dependent on the specific issue. If it is a critical issue, such as the power for your power wheelchair has gone out and you have no mobility you might not be able to wait hours. In this situation you may want to contact your primary care provider directly and ask them to enter a consult to prosthetics. Then follow up the next day to ensure your prosthetic representative received the consult and sent VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to repair vendor. If they received the consult and say they have sent VA form FL 10-90 request for quote to the repair vendor but have not received a quote back. You may want to follow up with the vendor and make sure they have received the FL 10-90 on their end and encourage them to expedite sending it back to your prosthetic representative.

If the tires on your wheelchair are wearing out and need replacing soon but not immediately you might want to wait a week or two. Then if you have not heard anything, follow-up with your prosthetics representative to see the status of your repair request.

If it has to do with automotive adaptive equipment make sure all the appropriate paperwork is submitted

1. A copy of a certified VA Form 21-4502
2. A copy of veteran valid driver's license and is capable of operating a motor vehicle, if operational equipment is authorized.
3. Reimbursement for a replacement vehicle does not exceed two vehicles in any 4-year period.

4. All adaptive equipment authorized is consistent with VA policy, e.g., cost limitations have not been exceeded, the equipment has been approved for issue to VA beneficiaries, etc.
5. Prescriptions have been written and are supported by medical findings for all items where a prescription is required.
6. The supplier has certified that the amounts billed do not exceed the usual and customary cost for the items or services furnished.
7. The equipment furnished has been inspected (if required).
8. The veteran's request for adaptive equipment is processed within 5 days after all information, invoices, prescriptions, reviews, inspections, etc., have been completed.



If all information identified above for automotive adaptive equipment is included, number eight indicates the veterans request for adaptive equipment is to be processed within five days. Remember these are business days and do not include weekends or holidays and the prosthetic rep may need to contact the vendor to answer a question. Ten business days may be a realistic expectation versus five business days.

Try to be realistic and remember while the prosthetic representatives are there to serve veterans, if veterans bombard them with phone calls we take them away from processing the paperwork for our prosthetic equipment and repairs. That said it is important that veterans advocate for timely prosthetic services and hold all prosthetic representative's accountable.

If you're seeking personal reimbursement for an Auto Adaptive Equipment repair that you paid for have the repair vendor sign and date the following statement on your invoice **"amount billed is not above standard/customary cost for this service."**



Prosthetic Representatives serving veterans served by the Portland/ Vancouver VA

Last 2 of Social Security

00-19 Curtis Walker	Phone 1-800-949-1004 ext. 53469
20-39 Joe Heredia	Phone 1-800-949-1004 ext. 52162
40-59 Craig Dwyer	Phone 1-800-949-1004 ext. 54014
60-79 Rand Mello	Phone 1-800-949-1004 ext. 31902
80-99 Theron Cameron	Phone 1-800-949-1004 ext. 33448

Prosthetic Representatives serving veterans served by the Seattle/ American Lake VA

Last 2 of Social Security

00-16 Jordan Bignell	Phone (206) 227-3420 Fax (206) 764-2554
17-33 Kim Langone	Phone (253) 583-1821 Fax (253) 589-4081
34-50 Robert Johnsen	Phone (253) 583-1898 Fax (253) 589-4081
51-67 Brian Selby	Phone (206) 277-3544 Fax (206) 764-2554
68-83 Alexis Niiyama	Phone (253) 583-1802 Fax (253) 589-4081
84-99 Mai Dang	Phone (206) 277-3534 Fax (206) 764-2554

Prosthetic Representatives serving veterans served by the Roseburg VA

Last 2 of Social Security

00-49 Kay Harris	Phone (541) 440-1221 press 1
50-99 Nancy Johnson	Phone (541) 440-1221 press 2

Who Should I Contact

You should contact your veteran prosthetic representative first. As you may have noticed in the above discussions veteran prosthetic representatives were mentioned several times.

This is because the VA assigns veterans receiving prosthetic services to a prosthetics representative. Veterans are assigned to a prosthetics representative based on the last two digits of their Social Security number. If you have contacted your prosthetic representative regarding delays in processing equipment consults for new equipment and/or equipment repairs and you feel processing time frames are unreasonable you can contact any of the following for help.

- OPVA Hospital Liaison, Mike Rosenbalm at 360-713-3075
- PVA National Service Officer, Ken Fink 800-795-3627
- Portland VA Medical Center, Chief Of Prosthetics, Tracy Brown 503-721-1429
- Seattle VA Medical Center, Chief Of Prosthetics, Valerie Bishop 206-764-2554

PVA National Office has been concerned with the increasing prosthetic delays over the past several years and has notified the VHA Network Directors that it's going to bring problems in the network directly to their attention. PVA National Service Officers (NSO) will bring all prosthetic delays more than 30 days old that they are aware of to the attention of the national office. PVA will take those cases to the VA central office to review and resolve.

Veterans with spinal-cord injuries or disease, members of PVA or not, should bring prosthetic delays or problems to a PVA NSO, who will forward that to the national office to resolve. PVA will hold VHA accountable.

Oregon PVA members if you experience a prosthetics delay of more than 30 days. 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



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:

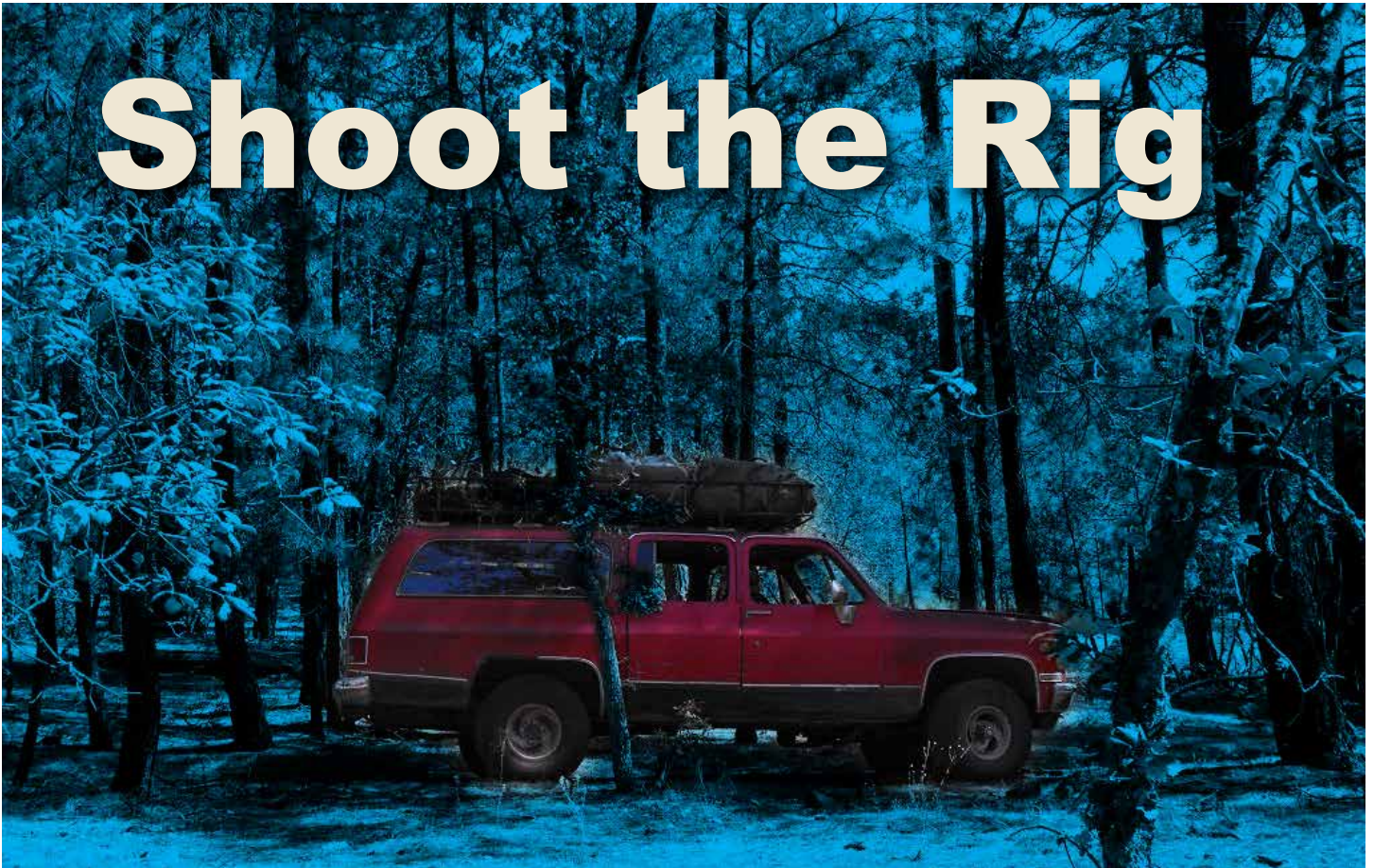
Reasons given for decision:

Impact of delay/denial:

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

Clear Form 2014

Shoot the Rig



Louie Grimmer – Vice President

Sometimes things do not work out as planned and sometimes the plans need to be concocted as one goes along. We were watching an area just before sun-up hoping to spot the elk. After about two hours we noticed a pickup slowly moving down the road when he turned into the log landing below us and ventured out to the end of it.

He just drove to the edge and peered over the edge, had a cup of coffee, saw nothing and drove off. People are lazy and rarely get out of their rig to hunt. I guess they expect the animals to be walking down the road, turn sideways, hold still and get shot. If that happened they would not know what to do next. They would probably sit in their truck until someone came by to help them field dress it.

Chuck and I watched him leave the area that he “SUCCESSFULLY SCANNED”. We moved down to that area and got out of the rig. I positioned myself near the edge while Chuck dropped over the rim and into the deep, thick, wet brush.

My assignment was to watch the tree line where an elk trail was. While Chuck was thrashing around in the brush, a large spike elk bolted out of his hiding place and Chuck took a quick shot with his 300 Weatherby magnum while he was falling. He hit the elk and it immediately changed course and went downhill. This event excited me and I was ready for anything. Still, I wondered what happened because there was no way to communicate, this was before we had hand held radios.

Eventually Chuck tromped up to the landing where I was and he called Pete on the CB asking him to come over to our location. He had an elk down and needed his help to locate it. I was still sitting on the edge of the clearing watching the elk trail when all a sudden an elk appeared walking at a quick clip and I pulled down on it and shot. I missed. My excuse was that I led it and shot the tree just in front of it. Pete finally arrived and we all had a good laugh because Louie thought he was shooting a shotgun and missed a cow elk at 100 yards.

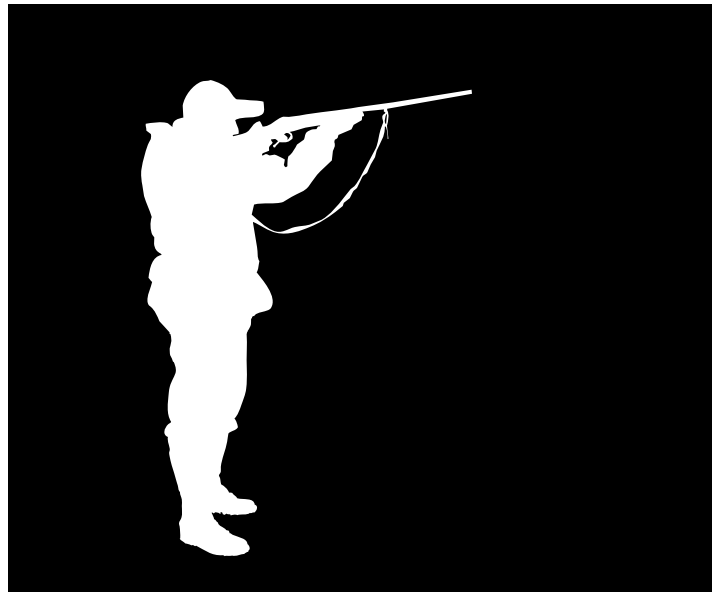
Chuck and Pete dropped over the edge into the brush to look for the downed elk. When they finally found the blood trail they were baffled. It was not a trail but consisted of LARGE patches of blood and bits of bone. There was no other sign until another 20' downhill when they found another large blood patch with more bone.

Finally Chuck pulled some brush aside and there was the 900 pound bull with 3' spike horns pointed directly at him. He said, "HI THERE ELK," and put the brush back. Pete had a .308 to plug him in the head.

What happened when Chuck fired was that he was falling. He hit the elk that was running uphill in both front legs at the knee joint level blowing off both front legs. That was the reason there were those blood patches and bone every 20 feet. In my mind I was glad he shot the spike because it put the elk out of his misery.

They finally got their gear down to the elk and started butchering the animal. It was grueling to pack that animal a piece at a time UP to the landing where the rig was parked, that was before we had a winch.

After all the packing out of the animal was done, they went down one last time to retrieve their gear. They decided to go to the road below because it was easier to go downhill. When they decided to do that they yelled to me what they were going to do because it was getting dark. I was to take the Suburban around to the lower road by a waterfall and wait for them. Just think a wheelchair user is going to "drive" a Suburban 19 miles without hand controls in fact it was quite exciting.



It is VERY important to follow instructions and do exactly as told because when something different is done the lives of others are put into jeopardy. I did move the rig to the lower road next to the waterfall and waited. Hearing nothing for two hours, I thought I was stopped in the wrong location so I moved to a different waterfall a few miles up the road and waited there for an hour with no results. I started second guessing my decision so I went back to the original location and waited there for another two hours. No matter how much I yelled, honked the horn, or anything, nothing to get their attention worked.

I decided to move back to the other location when all of a sudden there was a loud rifle shot. I could not determine where it came from and after applying the brakes I resumed going forward. That is when Chuck told Pete to "Shoot the TRUCK." As soon as the second shot went off (luckily he missed) I put it into reverse and stopped.

What happened to those two hunters was when it got dark they were using a flashlight and the batteries went dead. With no light they had to feel their way down. That trek downhill sounds pretty easy but the area they were in was NOT a straight shot. There were logs and thick brush and devils club. When they got close to the waterfall there was no way they could see how to get down with no source of light. It took them longer than expected.

A LEBANON VETS' HOME TESTIMONY

Joel Satoris – Member



My name is Joel Satoris, after much prodding I was encouraged to write this testimonial about the Vets' home. Great, fantastic, marvelous, super, good, beautiful, unbelievable, any favorable descriptive adjective that you could dream of.

That only begins to describe life in the home in LEBANON. You really can't put words to how wonderful life really is. If you want to sit by a fire place and tell stories, this is the place to do it.

Dave Parker and I joked about having a room together up at the Dalles when it first opened up some 20 odd years ago, but LEBANON is so much better. Please don't get me wrong the Dalles is a wonderful place to be. What I am trying to say is the home in LEBANON is being held up as the model for future Vets' homes.

I have been here for two years and have been very happy. I have my own private room and private bath. The personnel here are wonderful. We have 154 beds here. There are 4 1/2 residents to one CNA. There are 14 beds in each house and three houses to each neighborhood. There are four neighborhoods, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta.

Delta unit is for memory loss so that is secured. We have a common eating area or you can be served in your room.

Meals are served on a regular schedule but if you want to snack in-between the schedule that is ok as well. The kitchen is open 24 hours a day. Each house has its own fully equipped kitchen.

If you want to sit by a fire place and tell stories, this is the place to do it

We have a lot to do here. Recreation has a number of things scheduled in the house as well as outings. We make a trip to a casino monthly, local fishing trips, picnics and lunch outings at different restaurants in the area.

Come down and see the place sometime you will really be amazed. 600N 5th St. LEBANON Oregon, just 10 miles east on Highway 34 off I-5, south of Salem.

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Medford:
541.245.4846



OPVA Birthday List

Steven Herron	9/1	Charles Montague	9/28
George Weathers	9/2	John Siemssen	9/28
Charles Abernathy	9/2	Kristy McNulty	9/29
Gregory Pearce	9/3	Todd Walters	9/29
Michael Angerinos	9/3	Charles Demoss Jr.	10/4
Henry "Evan" Burroughs	9/4	Julie Pollard	10/4
Samuel Learn	9/5	Tom Weare	10/9
William Smith	9/5	Travis Nelson	10/9
Larry Selby	9/6	Michael Johnson	10/10
Donald Boss	9/6	Jeffery Fortner	10/10
Edward McKinney	9/8	Bradley Barton	10/11
Dennis Watson	9/9	Amy Sanders	10/13
James Bender	9/10	Albert Wagoner	10/15
Gary Cooper	9/11	Matthew Denny	10/18
Michelle Beech	9/11	Jerry Ryan	10/19
Colin Dye	9/13	Gilbert Arendt	10/20
Donald Knapp	9/14	Shawn Kellar	10/20
William Kincaid	9/15	Albert Bocanegra	10/21
Rita Baugh	9/17	Linda Adams	10/24
Carlton Herron	9/18	Jerome Brewer	10/26
Cara Overstreet	9/20	Keith Wingfield	10/26
Martin Campos	9/21	Dennis Hooper	10/27
Westley Carter	9/24	Stephanie Hartzell	10/28
Kenneth Townsend	9/25	Larry Von Schell	10/29
Andrea Harris	9/25	Steven Murphy	10/29
Larry Rilling	9/26	Richard Smith	10/30
Jeffry Watkins	9/26	John Jabson	10/30
Daniel Ash	9/27	Mike Rosenbalm	10/30
Michael Bigsby	9/27		



GIFT YOUR OLD WHEELS FOR GOOD.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

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WARRIORS**

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too! Schedule your free, easy pickup today.



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548

Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					State Fair	
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
State Fair						
10 Sublimity Harvest Festival	11	12	13	14	15 Deep Sea Fishing	16 Gun Raffle, Albany Fun Shoot
17 Members Banquet	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 BOD 10:00 a.m.	29	30



Office Closed

Save the Date

9/15	Deep Sea Fishing	11/10	Office Closed
9/16	Albany Fun Shoot	11/11	Albany Vets Day Parade
9/16	OPVA Ruger Gun Raffle	11/22-23	Office Closed
9/17	Members Banquet	11/30	BOD
10/4	Deep Sea Fishing	12/25	Christmas
10/9	Office Closed		



October

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

 Office





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

Dolphin Mattress



Electric Hydraulic Lift
INVACARE Reliant 450



Coach
Recliner



Quickie Iris
(special manual
wheelchair)



TiLite
TR Wheelchair



CareGuard Hydraulic
Lift INVACARE Model
No. 9805



DONATED ITEMS TESTIMONY

My name is Larry (BEAR) Rilling and I needed a chair to be able to get around my yard which my wheelchair was not capable of doing. As a member of OPVA I knew that they had donated equipment for Vets that were in need. I talked to Gary from the main office and he was very helpful and made an appointment to come down and meet with him. He showed me the different chairs and we tried several to see how they fit me for safety and what I needed.

I found the one that was best suited for me and as I was not able to haul it to Beaverton from Salem he brought it up the next day for me. It was a great experience as everything went smooth and I was treated with much respect. If you are in need of something to make your life easier give OPVA a call and see what they might have to help you out.

With much appreciation
Larry (BEAR) Rilling

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 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



MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND THE VA

Part I

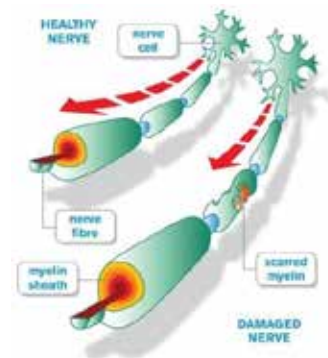
By Cassandra Crosby

About Cassandra Crosby, Claims Advocate

Cassandra Crosby is a Veteran's Claims Advocate for Hill & Ponton. She has over 20 years of experience of management of non-profits programs in Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Victim Services. She started at Hill & Ponton in the Spring of 2016. She is currently focusing on reviewing files for evidence that can be beneficial to disability claims. She is a Florida native and is also a full time student working on a Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies.

What is MS and how did I get it?

[Multiple Sclerosis](#), or MS, is an autoimmune and neurological disease that affects the central nervous system of the body. When your body sends a message to another part of the body, it does so through nerve cells. The nerve cells transmit these signals through fibers to ensure that every electrical impulse gets to its intended target. In a healthy nerve, the electrical impulses travel easily from one nerve cell to the other. In someone with MS, there is a disruption. MS causes the body to destroy the coating, the myelin sheath that protects the fibers, leaving them exposed and damaged. Nerve impulses now travelling down these fibers experience distortion or interruptions, often producing a variety of symptoms. MS is like having your electrical wires crossed, you expect one thing, and sometimes get something else. Often what you get is not working correctly anyway.



MS symptoms sound so much less severe than they really are. The list of symptoms includes common and less common symptoms.

Common			Less Common	
Fatigue	Walking problems	Bowel Problems	Speech Problems	Swallowing Problems
Numbness	Spasticity	Sexual Problems	Breathing Problems	Itching
Weakness	Vision Problems	Cognitive Changes	Headaches	Hearing Loss
Dizziness & Vertigo	Bladder Problems	Emotional Issues	Tremors	Seizures
Pain	Depression			

When my daughter was 21, she called me to complain about inheriting my vision. She had just had to get a stronger prescription and new glasses because her vision had changed so much since she had been working at her new job the AF base on radar equipment. She had also not been hanging out with her friend as much because she was tired, but she blamed that on the new job and taking classes. She was having lunch with her friends one day and started losing her balance so severely she could not walk back

to her office. By the time they got her to the emergency room, she was slurring her words, and they thought she was having a stroke. It took her two months in a rehab hospital to learn how to walk, brush her teeth, and take a shower again. It took them a year to diagnose her with MS.

How did she get MS? No one knows for sure. But, for military members, there is a scientific link to environmental factors and MS. First, she fits the demographics. Most people who get MS are between 20 and 50 and the majority is women. Most come from northern areas, which is a demographic she did not fit. Because the causes of MS are so unknown and many scientific studies link MS to environmental factors.

What kinds of MS are there?

There are four main types of MS:

Clinically Isolated Syndrome (CIS) which is a first episode that lasts for 24 hours or more. It is characteristic of MS but does not yet meet the [diagnosing criteria](#). Until criteria can be met, there are sometimes provisional diagnoses given to ensure treatment can be authorized. Some of these include encephalitis, lupus, sarcoidosis, lyme disease, Vitamin B-12 deficiency, and several others. The initial treatment protocols are similar and most of these issues will respond positively.

Relapsing Remitting MS (RRMS) is the most common; consists of attacks (exasperations) of new or increasing symptoms followed by periods of partial or completed recovery or remissions. Approximately 85% of people diagnosed with MS have this type.

Primary Progressive MS (PPMS) is worsening function from the initial onset of symptoms without relapses or remissions. It can be stable or not active, with no increased progression, but it never decreases in progression or goes into remission. About 15% of people with MS have this type.

Secondary Progressive MS (SPMS) Most people with RRMS eventually transition to this type of MS; it consists of increased progression over time with remissions disappearing.

How can I get VA Compensation for MS?

To be eligible for any benefit from the VA you must meet certain criteria:

- Be separated or discharged from Active Duty by other than dishonorable conditions
- Have a diagnosed disability
- That disability was caused by, during, or aggravated by or during your active duty service.

For more details on eligibility, see our blog titled: [“Am I Eligible for VA Disability Benefits?”](#)

MS is listed as presumptive if it is diagnosed during active duty or within 7 years of discharge from Active Duty service. So applying for VA Compensation within this time frame is imperative if you have been diagnosed during service or the seven years post discharge. Presumptive means that you do not need a [nexus statement](#), something linking your disability to your service. If you do not file during the presumptive time, you will need a nexus from a doctor.

Whether service connected or not, the VA also offers other benefits to all veterans who have MS. The VA has [Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence](#) to serve these veterans with specifically targeted treatments, benefits, and care. We will cover those benefits in depth in Part II of this blog.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

2017–2018 BASS TOUR STOP LIST

BASS TOUR TOURNAMENTS

Okie Open

September 22–24, 2017

Southeastern Challenge

October 13–15, 2017

Citrus Slam

April 6–8, 2018

Capital Clash

June 1–3, 2018

Texas Roundup

September 29–October 1, 2017

Land of Lincoln

October 27–29, 2017

Bluegrass Bass Bash

May 4–6, 2018

Old Dominion Brawl

June 8–10, 2018

STOP 1: OKIE OPEN

LAKE EUFAULA, EUFAULA, OK

Hosted by Mid-America Paralyzed Veterans of America

September 22–24, 2017

Disabled anglers entry due by August 22, 2017.

Marina:

Nichols Point Launch, Dabbs Road, Eufaula, OK 74432

Registration:

September 22, 2017 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
V.F.W. Post 8798, Hwy 9, Eufaula, OK 74432

Host Hotel:

Best Western, 1300 Birkes Rd., Eufaula, OK
918.689.5553

Tournament Contact:

Bill Kokendoffer • 800.321.5041 • midamericapva@yahoo.com

STOP 2: TEXAS ROUNDUP

LAKE RAY HUBBARD, GARLAND, TX

Hosted by Lonestar Paralyzed Veterans of America

September 29–October 1, 2017

Disabled anglers entry due by August 29, 2017.

Marina:

John Paul Jones Park, 4099 Zion Rd., Garland, TX 75043

Registration:

September 29, 2017 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
Bass Pro Shops, 5001 Bass Pro Dr., Garland, TX 75043

Host Hotel:

Discovery Inn, 825 E. Interstate 30, Garland, TX 75043
972.303.1900

Tournament Contact:

Glen Bentley • 800.583.5252 • lspva@lspva.net

STOP 3: SOUTHEASTERN CHALLENGE

CLARKS HILL LAKE, CLARKS HILL, GA (OPEN)

GORDON'S POND, LINCOLNTON, GA (BANK)

Hosted by Southeastern Paralyzed Veterans of America

October 13–15, 2017

Disabled anglers entry due by September 13, 2017.

Marina:

Wildwood Park, 3780 Dogwood Ln., Appling, GA 30802

Registration:

October 13, 2017 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
Patriots Park, 5445 Columbia Road, Grovetown, GA

Host Hotel:

Best Western, 452 Park West Dr., Grovetown, GA 30813
706.651.9100

Tournament Contact:

Kurt Glass • 706.796.6301 • paravet@comcast.net

STOP 4: LAND OF LINCOLN

REND LAKE, MOUNT VERNON, IL

Hosted by Vaughan Paralyzed Veterans of America

October 27–29, 2017

Disabled anglers entry due by September 27, 2017.

Marina:

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park, Rend Lake, 11094 Ranger Rd.,
Whittington, IL 62897

Registration:

October 27, 2017 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, 800 27th St.,
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Host Hotel:

Double Tree, 222 Potomac Blvd., Mount Vernon, IL 62864
618.244.7100

Tournament Contact:

Robert Arciola • 630.204.2015

pva.org/sports •  ParalyzedVeterans •   PVA1946

BASS TOUR TOURNAMENT STOPS (CONTINUED)

STOP 5: CITRUS SLAM

LAKE TOHO, KISSIMMEE, FL

Hosted by Florida Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans of America

April 6–8, 2018

Disabled anglers entry due by March 6, 2018.

Marina:

Big Toho Marina, 101 Lakeshore Blvd., Kissimmee, FL 34741

Registration:

April 6, 2018 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
Flamongo Waterpark Resort, 2261 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy.,
Kissimmee, FL 34744

Host Hotel:

Flamongo Waterpark Resort, 2261 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy.,
Kissimmee, FL 34744

Tournament Contact:

Wayne Webber • 800.397.6540

STOP 6: BLUEGRASS BASS BASH

LAKE BARKLEY, KUTTAWA, KY

Hosted by Kentucky-Indiana Paralyzed Veterans of America

May 4–6, 2018

Disabled anglers entry due by April 4, 2018.

Marina:

Lyon County Boat Ramp, Lake Dr, Kuttawa, KY 42055

Registration:

May 4, 2018 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
Lyon County Convention Center, 1677 State Hwy 3305 S,
Eddyville, KY 42038

Host Hotel:

Days Inn Kuttawa, 139 Days Inn Dr, Kuttawa, KY 42055
270.388.4060

Tournament Contact:

Kevin Sparks • 502.599.1122 • ksparks9755@att.net

STOP 7: CAPITAL CLASH

POTOMAC RIVER, WALDORF, MD

Hosted by National Paralyzed Veterans of America

June 1–3, 2018

Disabled anglers entry due by May 1, 2018.

Marina:

Smallwood State Park, Potomac River, 2750 Sweden Point Rd.,
Marbury MD 20658

Registration:

June 1, 2018 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 82, 6330 Crain Highway, La Plata, MD 20646

Host Hotel:

No Boats
Holiday Inn, 6860 Crain Hwy., La Plata, MD 20646
301.392.0065

With Boats

Hilton Garden Inn, 10385 Odonnell Pl., Waldorf, MD 20603
240.222.0000

Tournament Contact:

Alan Earl • 703.462.0504 • alane@pva.org

STOP 8: OLD DOMINION BRAWL

JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Hosted by Mid-Atlantic Paralyzed Veterans of America

June 8–10, 2018

Disabled anglers entry due by May 8, 2018.

Marina:

Osborne Landing, 9530 Osborne Tpke., Henrico, VA 23231

Registration:

June 8, 2018 at 5:30–7 p.m. • Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 233, 8088 Recreation Rd.,
Henrico, VA 23231

Host Hotel:

Homewood Suites, 5996 Audubon Dr., Sandston, VA 23150
804.737.1600

Tournament Contact:

Dan Watkins • 919.880.4858 • bassingwheels@nc.rr.com



Deep Sea Fishing

History



As soon as I received my July issue of the Paralog I read through and found there was an OPVA Deep Sea Fishing trip scheduled on August 22nd. So I called Dockside charters in Depoe Bay and scheduled a Halibut trip on Friday August 18th. Then I called and reserved a camping spot at an RV park in Lincoln City. Now all I had to do was show up and I did.

The 18th we went out on the Tackle Buster. There were 16 fishermen on the boat and we paired up so we could take turns reeling, however my partner (my daughter) wasn't feeling too well so I did most of it with some help from the crew. On our first drift, I reeled the second Halibut of the day to the boat and lost it at the net. Then I caught a flounder, a blue shark, another flounder, a black cod which I kept, then a ling cod which had to be released. By this time I had reeled that 3 pound sinker up 600 feet and caught more fish than anyone on the boat.

My daughter made a comeback and caught a 37 ½ inch Halibut. Well I was tired and there were only 3 of us that didn't have one yet. So when I dropped that sinker for the last time of the day I was thinking this is the last time I am going to reel that sinker to the boat. Any I hooked into the biggest one of the day.

On Tuesday August 22nd, the day after the Eclipse, we went out with the OPVA Veterans caught fish and had a great time. The crabs this year were big and delicious. I don't know who scheduled this trip for the day after the Eclipse but I just want to say Thank You, Thank You, Thank You as I am from Prineville and I heard it was quite a rat race here while I was gone fishing.



Thank you PVA for paying for my Deep Sea Fishing trip.

Thank you
Kenneth Townsend



Press Release

August 23, 2017

Paralyzed Veterans of America Applauds Veterans Appeals Improvement & Modernization Law

Veterans organization that specializes in complex appeal cases calls it a 'significant win'

WASHINGTON, DC— Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) Executive Director Sherman Gillums Jr. today released the following statement, after witnessing President Trump sign the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act:

“The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Law represents a major step toward ensuring justice for the veterans, dependents and survivors who believe in their entitlement to a denied benefit. These people aren’t asking for a handout; they simply want fairness and timely review when they file appeals. Paralyzed Veterans of America fights on behalf of the most catastrophically disabled veterans with the most complex claims in the system. Our unrivaled expertise is often challenged by a labyrinthine, protracted review process where a growing backlog, coupled with inconsistent and arbitrary decisions, hurt those who rate the benefits they’re pursuing. For those appellants who choose to file without an accredited representative, it’s nearly impossible to get a fair decision. We commend the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for hearing our concerns and working with us to preserve due process and develop new and improved standards. This new law is a culmination of those efforts. It is also a significant win for President Trump and VA Secretary Shulkin, both of whom are keeping their promise to veterans with the passage of this law.”





Paralyzed Veterans
of America

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Washington UPDATE

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

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*****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 and share your story.

Congress Approves Choice Funding Extension

Prior to leaving for the August recess, the House of Representatives and Senate approved legislation that would provide additional funding to keep the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Choice program operating. Due to significant increases in utilization of the Choice program over the last 6 months, the VA faced the prospect of the program running out of funding by August 15th. In an effort to relieve that problem, Congress approved a bill that provides approximately \$2.1 billion to keep the Choice program running for an additional six months. The bill also includes funding to open 28 capital leases that have been held up for budget reasons for nearly two years, as well as provisions to improve workforce innovation, recruitment and retention of providers in the VA health care system.

Unfortunately, Congress will be forced to deal with this issue again six months from now. A long term solution for how VA will manage its community care programs, which includes the current Choice program, has not been finalized. Meanwhile, the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs are already developing their own legislative solutions to community care. They range from VA coordinating all community care decisions to veterans having unfettered choice to decide when and where they will seek care.

PVA has already testified on a couple of occasions this year on the future of the Choice program. In the spring, the VA unveiled its own C.A.R.E. program that it hopes to make the basis of all of its community care going forward. However, much work remains to reach a consensus on the final program, **to include how VA will invest in and sustain its “foundational commitments” (spinal cord injury/disease care, blinded rehabilitation, prosthetics, etc).**

Congress Approves Permanent Change to the Post-9/11 GI Bill

The latest update to the Post-9/11 GI Bill made its way through Congress prior to the August recess and now awaits the President's signature. The “Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017,” wielded strong bipartisan support throughout both chambers of Congress allowing the bill to be fast-tracked to the President's desk. After a unanimous vote in the House, the Senate followed suit by passing the bill by voice vote.

The bill's namesake, the Forever GI Bill, comes from the elimination of the “use it or lose it rule” that requires the benefit to be used within fifteen years. In today's world, it is common for veterans to make career changes later in life. This makes it all the more important to retain education

benefits that can help facilitate successful transitions. One significant change makes all Purple Heart recipients eligible for 100 percent of the benefit. Because the benefit percentages are based on time in service, veterans removed from service due to wounds sustained in combat were often unable to reach the full 100 percent rating.

The bill addresses a number of other inadvertent inequities as well. One deals with the Fry Scholarship. Surviving spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, who are utilizing the GI Bill to attend school are currently ineligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program which fills the gap between the GI Bill benefit amount and full tuition at private institutions. Another oversight in the original law precluded reservists mobilized in support of a Department of Defense (DOD) combatant command and when Governors' request federal assistance in responding to major disasters or emergencies from counting that service time for eligibility.

Other changes include a long-overdue increase in monthly payments for Dependents' Education Assistance (DEA) by approximately \$200. However, the eligibility time period will be reduced from 45 months to 36 months. Most, if not all, GI Bill benefits now cover 36 months of education time, which equates to approximately four school calendar years. The bill also encourages more students to enter into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, and it restores benefits to students whose schools closed or lost accreditation in the middle of a semester, costing the veteran a semester of eligibility without actually earning any credits.

While the provisions in the bill were far from controversial, the bill got off to a rocky start as VSOs battled over how it would be funded. The original proposal that had widespread support would have mimicked the Montgomery GI Bill, which required active duty service members to pay a nominal amount of their salary into the program to become eligible. Some groups, however, balked at forcing service members

to pay for this benefit. The visceral backlash sunk the bill initially. It regained momentum, however, and was ultimately successful using a different funding mechanism which aligns Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates for GI Bill users with current DOD rates for active duty service members. The GI Bill's current rates were higher than DOD rates, and the reduction in amount will ultimately cover the cost of expanding the GI Bill.

Senate Approves Appeals Modernization Act

On August 2, 2017, the Senate moved appeals modernization one step closer to becoming a reality. H.R. 2288, the "Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017," was introduced and overwhelmingly passed in the House earlier this year. The Senate tacked on a few more technical refinements and passed the bill under voice vote just before the August recess. Despite being in recess, the House passed the appeals modernization bill by unanimous consent (meaning there were no objections to the minor technical changes) on August 11, 2017.

Once the bill is enacted into law, the earliest changes are expected to be seen approximately eighteen months after enactment. The massive overhaul of the disability claims and appeals process has long been in the works, but the new law will require extensive efforts to implement and widespread changes to the regulations that govern the process.

PVA Files Lawsuit over Wheelchair Damage Rule

At the end of July, PVA filed suit against the Department of Transportation (DOT) for abruptly rolling back a rule intended to make airline travel safer and easier for passengers with disabilities. The rule, which requires domestic airlines to track and report data on lost and damaged wheelchairs and scooters, was delayed by the Administration without seeking input from people with disabilities. DOT originally published the rule in November

2016, following a five-year rulemaking process that included input from air travelers, consumer and disability advocacy groups, and airlines.

The rule was scheduled for implementation in January 2018. In March 2017, DOT abruptly delayed the rule's implementation date by one year, until January 2019, without providing the public any notice or opportunity to comment, in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act. DOT claimed the delay was necessary due to implementation "challenges" faced by the airline industry. However, the only evidence of these challenges DOT presented was a single email the agency received from the airline industry.

Since DOT's decision, PVA has informed Administration officials and members of Congress about how the rule's delay will hurt people with disabilities and asked that DOT allow these critical protections to move forward. Together with the complaint, PVA filed a motion to reinstate the rule's original effective date. The case was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Senate Effort to Repeal and Replace Affordable Care Act Fails

In a series of votes over the course of a week in late July, the Senate rejected a variety of proposals intended to repeal all or parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and replace the 2010, health care law with dramatically different provisions that would have resulted in increased numbers of uninsured Americans and millions more exposed to insurance discrimination due to pre-existing health conditions and disabilities. Senators were first presented with an amendment to the bill that passed the House of Representatives in May that would have capped and cut Medicaid by over \$700 billion, eliminated most home and community based services programs in Medicaid, adjusted downward the ACA's affordability tax credits and allowed insurers to sell health plans that imposed lifetime caps on benefits and excluded from coverage many services vital to people with disabilities. That bill—the "Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA)"—failed on a vote of 43 to 57.

The Senate then considered a motion to repeal the entire ACA with nothing to replace it. The effective date of the repeal would have been delayed for two years under the assumption that Republicans would draft a replacement plan during that period. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that this proposal would have resulted in 32 million more uninsured over the next decade. That proposal also failed with all Democrats and seven Republicans voting against the measure.

During the course of the week, numerous motions were made to send the bill to the appropriate committees with instructions to conduct hearings on the proposals to amend the ACA, obtain CBO scores and receive input from stakeholders affected by suggested changes to the law. All of these efforts failed along with other motions designed largely for political messaging purposes

In a final effort to pass something that could ostensibly go to conference with the House-passed bill, the Senate GOP leadership put forward what was called "Skinny Repeal and Replace." This amendment would have eliminated both the individual and employer mandates of the ACA as well as the medical device tax but left the remainder of the ACA intact. Even so, this measure would have destabilized insurance markets, added 16 million Americans to the ranks of the uninsured and still have cut Medicaid by over \$200 billion. Moreover, there were serious concerns among Senators on both sides of the aisle that a conference report would be drafted in secret and return with provisions reinstating insurance discrimination, making steep reductions in financial assistance to make insurance affordable and even more damaging cuts to Medicaid. These were the concerns that had compelled the opposition of Senators Collins and Murkowski throughout the debate and which led them to vote "No" on this final package. Their votes, coupled with the 48 Democratic votes against the amendment, set the stage for one of the most dramatic scenes witnessed in the Senate in years.

Earlier in the week, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) returned to the Senate after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer to vote in favor

of advancing the debate on health care reform. Sen. McCain made a very eloquent statement about the failure of the Senate to pursue bipartisan solutions to health care reform and to follow “regular order” on this very important legislation. Regular order is a Senate term of art which means that the health care bill or bills would have been considered in committee hearings, been open to amendment, received full vetting by the CBO and provided opportunities for those affected by the proposals to testify. In the early morning hours of July 28, the vote on the “skinny repeal” was defeated when Sen. McCain shockingly voted against the measure.

At the beginning of debate, PVA sent a letter to all Senators echoing the concerns expressed by Sen. McCain. Lack of transparency in the development of the Senate bill and the method under which the legislation was put forward meant that many of PVA’s objections to the legislation could not be addressed. As written, the Senate bill would continue to exclude the children of catastrophically disabled veterans covered by CHAMPVA from its provisions ensuring dependent insurance coverage up to age 26. Unanswered questions remained regarding the availability of affordability tax credits for veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system if the Senate bill had become law. Perhaps most significantly, little attention was paid to the impact of Medicaid cuts to over 2 million veterans that rely on that program and what that might mean for increased demand on the VA health care system. The VA Secretary himself had expressed concern about potential new demand on the VA health care system if these veterans lose Medicaid coverage but without hearings on the bill there was no chance to examine this issue.

There is increasing bipartisan consensus that something must be done to help those in the small employer and individual insurance markets who face increasing premiums, excessive deductibles and loss of health plan choices. Perhaps most urgent is an impending need to fund the ACA’s cost sharing subsidies for lower income health plan customers. Insurers will soon be making decisions for 2018, about their participation in the health insurance exchanges based on these subsidies.

Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), the chairman and ranking member of the Health, Education and Labor Committee, plan to hold hearings in September to explore options for shoring up the financing of health insurance exchanges and other fixes to the ACA that have bipartisan support. Meanwhile, in the House, a Problem Solvers Caucus that is almost evenly comprised of Republicans and Democrats has begun putting together proposals that would increase the number of workers from 50 to 500 for companies subject to the ACA employer mandate and create a federal stability fund to help states reduce premiums and other costs for those with expensive medical needs.

It remains to be seen how far these discussions will progress after the August recess in light of other demands on Congressional time, such as completion of the budget and the need to increase the debt limit. PVA will nonetheless be encouraging Congress to pursue a more open and bipartisan approach to health system reforms that respond to the needs of all Americans, including veterans and people with disabilities.



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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:** ___ / ___ / _____

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Date Received: ___ / ___ / _____ **Date Processed:** ___ / ___ / _____



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