

July/August 2019
Volume 23, Issue 4



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



"Serving Those Who Served"

www.oregonpva.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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

www.oregonpva.org

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

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888-233-8305

Portland VA Contact Phone Number

503-273-5308

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.



August 6th



August 23rd

2019

Summer

Fairs



July 11th



August 14th

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Thank you to all our Sponsors!

The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America who hereby disclaims any responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors and printed in the Paralog.

PRESIDENT NEWS



Larry Gardner – President

During the last year the chapter has been busy reaching out to the members to gather input on your needs and suggestions about anything we can do to enhance and improve what we do for the benefit of our members, that's why we are here.

In order to connect with members that live so far away, we have the Ambassador Program: Ken Townsend 541-604-4770 Central OR Don Wyatt 208-484-3537 Idaho Dennis Hooper 541-531-6171 Southern OR. These Ambassadors are busy setting up awareness tables at events in their areas for the benefit of OPVA.

Here at the chapter we are taking on more events than we have in the past. With this said we are in real need for members and volunteers to help us at these events by talking with the public; selling hats, raffle tickets and such; setup and tear down at events, as well; or anyway you can.

Coming up we have OPVA Day at the Volcanoes order your tickets at www.bit.ly/opva75 and password "opva". We also have the OPVA Show & Shine Car Show; Marion County Fair; Air show of the Cascades; Members Picnic; Deep Sea Fishing Trips; Sate Fair, and lots more.

Our first Deep Sea fishing Trip was May 28th out of Depoe Bay at Dock Side Charters and was very successful with everyone limiting out in one hour. We have two more trips ahead in August and September, so be sure to call the office and get on board.

Another event we participated in was the Iris Festival Parade in Keizer. We put a float together pulled by the Chapter Van with members and Volunteers riding and some wheeling their chairs alongside. The weather good and the parade went very well.



Here at the OPVA office we take in donations of wheel chairs, power chairs, walkers, crutches, canes, and lots of other items that in return we donate out to help people with disabilities, this is a very good program but we are lacking someone to coordinate this program. A volunteer is needed for about six hours a week to keep this program alive. It would include taking in the donations and donating out along with some paperwork for the records. So, anyone reading this that would like to volunteer to help out the chapter please call 503-362-7998 we would love to have your help!

We need a volunteer for the Donation Program

All of our members should have received the Nomination form in the mail. I cannot begin to tell you how important it is for you to take a couple minutes and fill the Nomination form out and mail it in with your choices.

We understand that not everyone knows all the members qualifications for the ballot so if you want more information on someone, please feel free to call the office so we can help. That's all I have for now, so enjoy your summer.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Oregon Chapter

SHOW & SHINE Car Show JULY 27 2019



Vehicle Registration \$15
www.oregonpva.org

Thank you to
our sponsors



Location: Home Depot 3795 Hagers Grove Rd. SE Salem, OR 97317
Show begins at 10 AM Vehicle Raffle at 2 PM

Information: 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 Tel: 503.362.7998 • www.oregonpva.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Greetings, the 2019 OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament was held at McNary Golf Club on Saturday June 22nd. This event was a huge success, we had over 50 golfers supporting OPVA. I want to give a special thanks to our Title Sponsors Price Financial Group and Price Financial Group Wealth Management, owners Matt, TJ and Bo all put teams together, we can't thank them enough for all of their support! Our Eagle sponsor this year was Pinehurst Development Company,

and Willamette Valley Bank was our hole sponsor, Jane from Willamette Valley Bank with the help from her son, stayed busy handing out cigars to all the golfers. The team at McNary Golf Club Larry, Jordan and Brian always do such a professional job with handling all the details for a successful event. Our volunteers working behind the scenes are an invaluable asset to the chapter, thank you Marcie, Terri, Larry, Nicole, Sue, Francisco, Tyler and Cole.



OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament Winners. (Left to Right) Women's Team, Mixed Team, Men's Team

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
"Serving Those Who Served"



Larry Bent, McNary's Golf Pro, OPVA Appreciation Award

I would like to publicly thank OPVA's Ambassadors, Ken Townsend (Central Oregon), Don Wyatt (Idaho) and Dennis Hopper (Southern Oregon). These guys are lining up events for the members to attend, and if you have a heart for Veterans they could use your help at the events in their areas.

We set up the Ambassador program, due to the feedback from the membership, you expressed a desire for the chapter to do more events in your areas. Now that we have the Ambassadors in place THEY NEED YOU to come along side of them to make all of the events successful.



As you read this Paralog I am preparing to head to Louisville KY for the 39th National Veteran Wheelchair Games. I'm happy to tell you that your Ambassador in southern Oregon Dennis Hooper is going to compete and represent the Oregon Chapter. Dennis will be publishing an article in the next Paralog on how the games turned out.

Please **REMEMBER** that next year the 40th Anniversary of the games will be coming to **Oregon in 2020**. Contact the chapter office for more information.

We are winding down to the drawing for the 1946 Willy's Jeep Raffle. We have done very well with this vehicle as a fund raiser this year.

By the end of the Marion County Fair I expect to be down to the last couple hundred tickets!

We will draw the winner at the Show and Shine Car Show on July 27th, which is looking to have a GREAT turn out this year, BIG thanks to Niccole Geck your Development Director. Car Shows are her big thing and she has done a great job this year. Don't forget we will be unveiling our next Raffle Vehicle at the Car Show.



Just A Reminder:
If you have changes to your Phone Number, Mailing Address or Email, please contact the chapter office and update us.

OPVA Gold Cup
Golf Tournament
+ 2019 +
10th Annual

**OPVA Gold Cup
Golf Tournament**

**Thanks to our Title Sponsors
Price Financial Group and
Price Financial Group Wealth
Management**



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

Salem-Keizer Volcanoes with their Volcanoes Care Program has partnered with Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America to benefit OPVA!

OPVA will have a special night at Volcanoes Stadium this summer to spotlight our amazing organization's influence in Salem-Keizer.

You can help us raise significant funds by purchasing your Volcanoes tickets online, and here's how:

Friday July 5th is Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America night!
Login to www.bit.ly/opva75 and enter Password: opva
Fifty (50%) percent of the ticket price purchased through this portal (prior to the day of game) will be donated to OPVA!

Such a great way to make a substantial difference in our amazing organization
PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR FRIENDS and help us celebrate on July 5th.



Thank you to our Sponsors



Howling Wolf Construction





Thank you to our joint Title and Beverage Sponsors
Price Financial Group and
Price Financial Group Wealth Management
we can't thank them enough for all of their support!



Thank you to our Eagle and Hole Sponsors,
Pinehurst Development Company,
and Willamette Valley Bank.

SOUTHERN OR AMBASSADOR REPORT

The weekend of May 10-12, I had the privilege of attending the **First Annual Fishing Veterans of America Event on the Umpqua River**



By Dennis Hooper – Southern Oregon Ambassador



Co-sponsored by Operation Rebound and Project Healing Waters, the event hosted some 40 veterans from all over Oregon. The food was supplied by some local restaurants which donated elk burgers, hot dogs and ribs grilled on site with all the fixins.

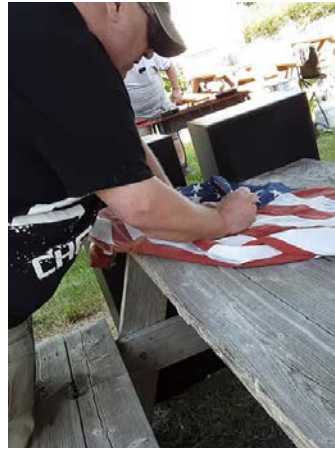


There was a display from the Kellogg Rural Fire Department and Oregon PVA . An employee from the Roseburg VA attended, as well as many other civilians.

The event, held at the Umpqua RV campground off highway 138 near Elkton, Oregon, was a serene and peaceful setting along the Umpqua River.

There were plenty of boats available to take all veterans onto the water. I had my choice of steelhead, shad, or smallmouth bass fishing, of which I tried all three.

There was plenty of fish to be caught. The guides were very knowledgeable and provided excellent positioning for our boats.



The weather was a warm low 90s and cool evenings for the campfire. The park host was very accommodating. The three-day event was well worth the trip and I hope it becomes a regular event!

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RECREATION FUND REPORTS

OPVA, Thanks for the Rec Fund help it's such a blessing. My wife and I were able to travel to see her sister and her sons this past month. Two of her sons are retired vets. I so enjoyed visiting with them.

Pat Cain

IDAHO AMBASSADOR NEWS



By Donald Wyatt – Idaho Ambassador

Well, well, well. It is now 7 pm on May 25th at my Memorial Day Weekend BBQ, the sun is shining and the afternoon cookout was a success. I am however disappointed that no OPVA members could attend. I do understand.

The early morning was rainy but around 7 am it stopped. The remainder of the morning and afternoon was cloudy with no rain. We got the picnic tables in place and debated on if we should set up the canopies. I made the executive decision not to. It remained mostly cloudy and no rain.



The temperature stayed in the mid to high 60s. We set up the food tables and griddle, I made baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw. I also cut the onions, tomatoes and lettuce. All was set up and ready by 1 pm.

Yes, I had my John Deere stuff all set up for a parade. It is Memorial weekend and I do have a deceased

brother who is a veteran, buried in the National Veterans cemetery in Houston. I miss him.



My neighbors and friends, Jim and Linda Pearson arrived with the hamburger, German sausage and hot dogs.

I started cooking as other neighbors arrived with more food. We had a total of 12. Last year we had around 45 individuals.

I bought a new picnic table this year and made it accessible as I was hoping some OPVA members would be able to attend. You missed a good afternoon of fellowship and food.

Please don't think I did it all by myself, I didn't. Cathy, helped immensely, both with set up and cleanup.

Thank you, Cathy.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Oregon Chapter

PARTICIPATE!

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

Please consider adding OPVA to your will or trust



Members Banquet



Chinook Winds

CASINO RESORT

777 NW 44th St, Lincoln City, OR 97367

Save the Date

Saturday September 21, 2019. 1 pm - 6 pm
RSVP by September 9th



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

Hotel Reservations 877-423-2241
(limited number of rooms)
Reserve room by August 12th

Mention OPVA for special discount
Remember your Rec Fund!

Come to the banquet, stay for the weekend!!!

"Celebration of Honors" weekend at Chinook Winds

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305
503.362.7998 • oregonpva@oregonpva.org • www.oregonpva.org



RECREATION FUND REPORTS



Another year another chance to take a break thanks to the Oregon PVA Recreation Fund.

We took a week and headed for San Diego to enjoy some sun and fun. Now, as it turned out home had more sun but, not more fun. Trips to Little Italy and a boat ride to Santa Catalina Island really made this trip.

One day was on the beach at the North Island Navy base where we missed by one day a chance to catch filming of Top Gun 2. All in All a great time was had thanks Oregon PVA.

Gordon Pike



I am writing this letter regarding a Medical Visit to the Portland VAMC at the Multiple Sclerosis Clinic. We were in two different RV sites (my husband and I with our two labs) camped for a total of 6 days in conjunction with my medical visit.

During the trip we visited Carhart's Clothing and the Lotus Harley Davidson

Motorcycle Store along with riding our new bike through the Oregon countryside. Not to mention the great restaurants we ate at, which were all delicious!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Michelle Beech, USAF



Dear OPVA,
Every year we set family time aside to do something meaningful with our Oregon PVA Recreation Fund. 45 years ago we were newlyweds we had just built our first home in our favorite town Ashland and were expecting our first son when my husband was diagnosed with M.S. Not knowing what the future would hold, we sold our home and had to relocate. Instead of sad memories we revisit Ashland along with our 3 adult sons and their spouses; 3 granddaughters and 4 great granddaughters. We have made great new wonderful fun memories.

Sincerely,
Gary Cooper and family

Remember to Use **Your Recreation Fund**

Oregon PVA voting 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.

Include name, address, phone number, your receipts and a short description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too (digital pictures are best), 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 and used within this current fiscal year (10/1/18 - 9/30/19).

Mail or email to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 - oregonpva@oregonpva.org**

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

Earlier is better in case of any problems.



Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation Fund.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Dear Oregon Chapter PVA Members.

Whether you are in a wheel chair or have another disabling condition, if you are functioning well enough to volunteer a couple of hours or more, your gift is crucial to the chapter's survival.

If you are interested in getting out and being involved and are able to join in, your presence will make a real difference.

Our chapter will continue to succeed if members come forward to volunteer some of their time and experience. If you have experience and interest in any of the committees below:

- Sports & Recreation
- Volunteers
- Fund Raising
- Special Events

You are urged to contact:

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, 97305 • 503-362-7998

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

Or, visit our website:

www.oregonpva.org/Programs/Membership/

[Scroll down to volunteer Opportunities, click on the Link:

"Volunteer Application Form" and Membership]

THANK YOU!



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

Members Picnic



July 20, 2019

Saturday 9 am - 3 pm

Bring the Family

South Salem Elks Lodge

2336 Turner Rd SE, Salem, OR 97302

Information & RSVP

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305
www.oregonpva.org • 503.362.7998



OREGON STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

The Oregon State Parks Foundation desires to place Electric All-Terrain Wheelchairs in a number of the Oregon State Parks, for use by anyone with a mobility challenge.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLs_c-oPBRs&feature=youtu.be

These chairs will allow visitors to get off the paved paths and into the woods, on the beach or along the rivers – greatly expanding the areas they are able to explore in our State Parks.

The chairs will be housed in trailers in the maintenance yards of the parks. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to meet the guests who have reserved a chair, get the chair out of the trailer, show the visitor how to use it and check it out to them; and then reverse the process when they are done, checking the chair in, rinsing it down if necessary, and putting it away. The chairs will be available on a reservation-only basis, and the reservation will have to be confirmed with you before it is confirmed to the guest.

If you would be interested in talking with us about helping with this project, please send a note with your name, address, phone number and email to seth@orspf.org, along with an indication of which park or parks would be most convenient for you to help in.

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Wilsonville, OR 97070
(971) 224-5895

ABILITY CENTER OF EUGENE

3574 Marcola Rd.
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 726-4001

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SCAMS COME IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS



Securing today and tomorrow

Social Security is at the forefront of keeping your online data secure, but you play a vital role in safeguarding your personal information too.

Scammers commonly target people who are looking for Social Security program and benefit information. You might receive an advertisement in the mail, but it could be from a private company or even a scammer. U.S. law prohibits people and businesses from using words or emblems that mislead others. Their advertising can't lead people to believe that they represent, are somehow affiliated with, or endorsed or approved by Social Security or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (Medicare).

If you receive misleading information about Social Security, send the complete advertisement, including the envelope it came in, to:

Office of the Inspector General Fraud Hotline
Social Security Administration
P.O. Box 17768
Baltimore, MD 21235

Scams can also happen online. A growing tactic for scammers is to use online dating sites. According to the United States Postal Inspection Service's recent messaging, before starting an internet-based relationship, we should always keep our personal details to ourselves until you meet face-to-face. Next, do an internet search of the other person's name and the town they claim to be living in.

Here are indications that someone may not be who they say they are:

- A mismatch between their name and the name embedded in their email address.
- There are obvious spelling and grammar errors.
- They asked if you would send or receive money/packages on someone else's behalf.
- They need money right away due to a medical emergency, or they need a visa or air tickets. Or, a business opportunity arose that was too good to turn down. Can you wire a loan?



If anyone asks for your Social Security number, never give it to them. And if they are specifically pretending to be from Social Security, please report the information to the Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-269-0271 or online at oig.ssa.gov/report.

Protecting your information is an important part of Social Security's mission. You work hard and make a conscious effort to save and plan for retirement. For more information, please visit oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/scam-awareness.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

**indicates combined events*

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

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

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

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

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament
June 7-9, 2019
Las Vegas, NV

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

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 20-22, 2019
Waxahachie, TX

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

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

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

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

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach
November 16-18, 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

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

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem
April 26-28, 2019
Midlothian, VA

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

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

BOCCIA

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

Bayou Boccia Tournament
February 1-2, 2019
Gulfport, MS

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

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

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament
May 3-4, 2019
Hampton, VA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
May 23-26, 2019
Romeoville, IL

HANDCYCLING RACING

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

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

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

Pittsburgh Marathon
May 5, 2019
Pittsburgh, PA

Wichita Omnium
June 14-16, 2019
Wichita, KS

PVA Para-Triathlon Camp
June, 2019
Colorado Springs, CO

PVA Racing Mini-Camp
June 19-26, 2019
Delafield, WI

Tour of America's Dairylands
June 20-23, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports



One Day, You're Going to Die. Don't Leave Your Spouse Unprepared!



Submitted by Ken Fink—National Service Officer

The death of a loved one is one of the most difficult and confusing times we will ever experience. The emotional stress and time constraints for making arrangements and contacting family and friends can be overwhelming, even when the deceased's last wishes are known. Rest assured that PVA will assist your surviving dependents in obtaining all the VA benefits they are entitled to. That said, a little knowledge about future benefits can provide peace of mind today, and lighten the burden for your survivor in the future.

The VA assistance a veteran's survivor may be eligible for include a monthly monetary benefit, burial benefits, educational assistance, reimbursement of medical expenses, and home loans.

The surviving dependent of a veteran may receive a monthly monetary benefit if eligible for

either Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or a Survivors Pension.

DIC may be paid under the following conditions:

- A service connected disability was the principal cause of, or a significant contributing cause of death
- Death was due to a non-service connected injury or disease and the veteran was receiving, or entitled to receive VA compensation for a service connected disability rated totally disabling:
 - For at least 10 years immediately before death, *or*
 - For at least 5 years after release from active duty preceding death, *or*
 - For at least 1 year before death, if the veteran was a prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999

- The veteran died while on active duty
- The veteran died while hospitalized at, or while receiving medical care from the VA *and* death was:
 - A direct result of VA fault such as negligence or lack of proper skill, *or*
 - Not a reasonably expected result *or* complication of the VA care or treatment, *or*
 - The direct result of participation in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation program
- \$328.77 for each dependent child under age 18:
- \$326.77 if a surviving spouse is found to be in the need of Aid & Attendance
- \$153.08 if a surviving spouse is found to be housebound
- \$282.00 2-year transitional benefit for each child under the age 18

The current monthly DIC rate is \$1,319.04. Additional monthly allowances may include:

- \$280.09 if at the time of death, the veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service connected disability rated totally disabling (including a rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death, *and* the surviving spouse was married to the veteran for those same 8 years.

Survivors Pension may be paid to eligible survivors on a financial need basis. Additional summaries of pension and the other potential VA benefits veteran's survivors may be eligible for will be provided in future articles.

Buyer Beware: applying for VA benefits can be difficult and time consuming, even for those who are "familiar" with the process. Please don't try to go it alone. Your PVA service officers and their assistants have the training and experience required to make the VA claims process as easy as possible for you, and to ensure you receive the benefits you are entitled to as quickly as possible.

Disabled Veterans eligible for FREE National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass

Good for entry into 400+ National Parks and over 2,000 recreation sites across the country

Veterans with a service connected disability rating (10% or higher) can enter Federal parks for FREE with the Lifetime National Parks Access Pass granted by the U.S. department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Disabled veterans can apply in person at a participating recreation site. Photo ID and documentation proving permanent disability is required. See the attached document for a list of participating sites.

To apply by mail send a completed packet and \$10 processing fee to the United States Geological Survey. The packet should include:

- The Access Pass application form (visit online: <https://store.usgs.gov/access-pass>)
- Proof of residency
- VA disability award letter, VA Summary of benefits or proof of SSDI Income

The Lifetime Access Pass is another way to express the national gratitude for the service and sacrifices of Veterans with disabilities.

The VA Mission Act is now in Effect!



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched its new and improved Veterans Community Care Program on June 6, 2019, implementing portions of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (MISSION Act), which both ends the Veterans Choice Program and establishes a new Veterans Community Care Program.

The MISSION Act will strengthen the nationwide VA Health Care System by empowering Veterans with more health care options.

“The changes not only improve our ability to provide the health care Veterans need, but also when and where they need it,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “It will also put Veterans at the center of their care and offer options, including expanded telehealth and urgent care, so they can find the balance in the system that is right for them.”

Under the new Veterans Community Care Program, Veterans can work with their VA health care provider or other VA staff to see if they are eligible to receive community care based on new criteria. Eligibility for community care does not require a Veteran to receive that care in the community; Veterans can still choose to have VA provide their care. Veterans may elect to receive care in the community if they meet any of the following six eligibility criteria:

1. A Veteran needs a service not

available at any VA medical facility.

2. A Veteran lives in a U.S. state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility. Specifically, this would apply to Veterans living in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

3. A Veteran qualifies under the “grandfather” provision related to distance eligibility under the Veterans Choice Program.

4. VA cannot furnish care within certain designated access standards. The specific access standards are described below:

- **Drive time to a specific VA medical facility**
- Thirty-minute average drive time for primary care, mental health and noninstitutional extended care services.
- Sixty-minute average drive time for specialty care.

Note: Drive times are calculated using geo mapping software.

- **Appointment wait time at a specific VA medical facility**
- Twenty days from the date of request for primary care, mental health care and noninstitutional extended care services, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.

- Twenty-eight days for specialty care from the date of request, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.
- 5. The Veteran and the referring clinician agree it is in the best medical interest of the Veteran to receive community care based on defined factors.

In preparation for this landmark initiative, senior VA leaders will visit more than 30 VA hospitals across the country to provide in-person support for the rollout.

The VA MISSION Act:


- Strengthens VA’s ability to recruit and retain clinicians.
- Authorizes “Anywhere to Anywhere” telehealth across state lines.
- Empowers Veterans with increased access to community care.
- Establishes a new urgent care benefit that eligible Veterans can access through VA’s network of urgent care providers in the community.

VA serves approximately 9 million enrolled Veterans at 1,255 health care facilities around the country every year.

For more information, visit www.missionact.va.gov
 Source: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/61286/va-launches-new-health-care-options-mission-act/>




6. VA has determined that a VA medical service line is not providing care in a manner that complies with VA’s standards for quality based on specific conditions.



Support Our Local Heroes

Donate Now



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Oregon Chapter

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 OPVA, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, OR 97305

Or visit our website, www.oregonpva.org to set up a payment or recurring payments

Name: _____

Address: _____

General Donation
 Membership

Recreation Fund
 Sport

Hospital Liaison
 Legislation
 Advocacy

Alaska Fishing Adventure



Bill Gray—National Director

When I was putting in for the chance to go on this trip, I really did not think I'd have a chance. But by surprise I was selected as well as Travis Nelson from Prineville. I was able to fly out of Eugene, to Seattle and then to Anchorage. I was met at the airport with Joe and we loaded up and headed for Soldotna about a 3 hour drive.

We stopped on the way at a game park that had lots of native animals to see, the bears were neat as well as the Bald Eagle. We arrived at the Guide's house and got situated in our rooms and had a bite to eat. Monday morning was early as we had to be in Homer around 8 to board the boat to go halibut fishing. It was cool but sunny, as we headed out, the ocean was flat and what a view as you could see the snow topped mountains that surrounded us. Fishing was great I caught lots of fish, the biggest for me was around 35lbs.

Everybody caught fish and one was close to 50lbs! It was a great day.



Tuesday I got to fish on the Kenia River for King Salmon. I was able to hook up with a 25lb King and he fought pretty good. We could not keep it as the numbers of fish in the river were not high enough according to Fish & Game. That's just fine, as it was pretty nice just being on the river fishing.

Wednesday we headed for a hike up to the falls and to a fishing ladder. We hiked up 2.3 miles to the falls and what a great place to see. At the start of the ladder there were a bunch of Salmon all schooled up I couldn't believe there wasn't a bear trying

to get a free meal. Several individuals were packing just in case we ran into bears along the way.



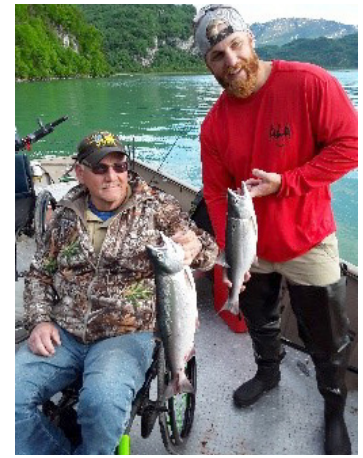
Thursday, we headed back to Homer for more Halibut fishing, it was another great day weather wise we could not have had any better weather the whole time we were there. This trip we were catching some smaller fish so the Skipper decided to go out 20 miles to a better spot. It was better we, picked up some more fish and they were bigger, I still didn't get that 100 pounder I was hoping for but smaller fish are better eating anyway.

Friday we got to get in a float plane and head for a lake that

had Sock Eye Salmon starting to run in. It was interesting getting me into the plane, I grabbed the neck of a fellow fishing partner and up the ladder we went. It was a little difficult and awkward but we made it back out of the plane and into a boat and were on our way to the fishing hole.



I caught the first fish and it was a lot of fun as these fish were fighters and would run and get airborne out of the water. We limited out by 9:30 and headed for a spot to clean them. What



fun it was, another great day fishing. The pilot took us over the mountain top and we got to see the big glacier close up, what a neat flight it was, I think it was the best day of all. We were fed great morning, noon and night. We were even treated to several meals in town, one at a great barbecue place and the second one we were treated to a Steak dinner at the Elks Club. What a great trip it was and if you like fishing and sight seeing with lots of food and other Veterans, I suggest you put in for this adventure it is worth it!



GIFT YOUR OLD WHEELS FOR GOOD.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

WHEELS HELPING 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!



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548
Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation

How to Fold The American Flag



For more than 200 years, the American flag has served as a symbol of our nation's freedom. It is a source of pride and patriotism; a beacon of unity and healing; a symbol in ceremony and celebration; and a way to honor deceased Veterans. With each of the distinctive twelve folds of the flag, we recognize the principles on which our country was founded.

Fold over, in half lengthwise evenly with tension.



Fold over, in half lengthwise evenly.

Fold it a second time to meet the open edge.



Start the first fold on the striped corner bringing it to the open edge.

The outer corner is then brought inward, parallel with the open edge to keep the triangle form.



Fold the flag 12 times, tuck the remainder of the fabric inside, underneath the union. Inspect the nose to make sure that no red shows on the top or bottom.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Curtis Ketchum	7/2	Stephen Bergseng	8/3
Michael Gardner	7/3	David Vincent	8/4
Roger Watson	7/3	Gregory Schouweiler	8/5
Kenneth Woodward	7/4	Ronald Winner	8/9
Kirk Parkhurst	7/4	Marc Stump	8/11
Daniel Gifford	7/5	Lisa Travis	8/11
Jeremy Turner	7/5	Dinah Wells	8/13
Douglas Powell	7/6	Lawrence Rathbun	8/14
Charles Younglove	7/6	John Brasch	8/15
Steven Hickam	7/11	Bob Mahler	8/16
Craig Colerick	7/12	Richard Rayas	8/16
Louis Di Croce	7/13	Gerald Caldwell	8/17
Dale Neely	7/14	Katheren Picaso	8/17
Matthew Lexow	7/17	Elmer Childress	8/18
Daniel Umbriaco	7/17	Renee Langston	8/18
Kay Workman	7/18	Leo Espinoza	8/19
Thomas Morgan	7/19	Gloria Johnson	8/20
Vern Spaur	7/20	Richard Weaver	8/21
Donald Darland	7/21	Keith Miller	8/21
Carl Griffith	7/22	Michael Hebert	8/22
Charles Wheeler	7/23	Daniel Fairchild	8/23
William R.C. Hobbs	7/24	Robert Blackman	8/24
Samuel Hennon	7/26	Diane Grady	8/25
Terry Dean	7/26	Scott Hall	8/25
Randle Reddett	7/27	Craig Ackerson	8/27
Leon Wheeldon	7/28	Troy Allender	8/27
Neal Tooze	7/29	Casey Jones	8/28
Robert La Favor	7/29	Joseph Heidrick	8/29
Virginia Facer	7/30	Hosie Stadamire	8/30
Charles Burch	7/30	Timothy Vixay	8/30
William Shields	8/1	Karl Nuse	8/31
Bruce Dunbar	8/1	Timothy Walusiak	8/31
Douglas Carr	8/2		



July

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



Office Closed



Save the Date

July 4	Volcanoes Patriotic Day	Aug 6	1st Tuesday - Sublimity
July 5	Volcanoes Care Program	Aug 6-10	Douglas County Fair
July 11-14	Marion County Fair	Aug 10	Salute to Veterans Car & Motorcycle Show
July 13	Mopar Car Show	Aug 13	Deep Sea Fishing
July 20	Members Picnic	Aug 14-17	Josephine County Fair
July 27	Show & Shine Car Show	Aug 23-Sep 2	OR State Fair
Aug 2	Flywheelers -1st Friday	Sept 6	Flywheelers -1st Friday
Aug 3	Homer Davenport Comm Festival - Silverton	Sept 11	Deep Sea Fishing



August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

BOD
10:00 a.m.



AUGUST 10, 2019 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX
873 NE 34TH AVE, HILLSBORO OR 97124

FREE SPECTATORS ADMISSION!





PVA DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHARES VIEWS ON SOCIAL SECURITY

On May 2nd, Deputy Executive Director Shaun Castle participated in a roundtable convened by House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairman John Larson (D-CT).

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for students at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government to present a proposal for ensuring the solvency of Social Security.

Present at the forum were a number of members of the Ways and Means Committee as well as former Senator Heidi Heitkamp and former National Economic Council Advisor Gary Cohn.

Chairman Larson also gathered a group of advocates so the students could learn what the legislative process is really like. In addition to Mr. Castle, representatives from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and Social Security Works took part in the discussion to offer up "real world" reflections about the impact of Social Security in the lives of everyday Americans. As a member of the millennial generation, Mr. Castle's remarks focused largely on the importance of the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program to younger Americans with disabilities and the positive difference that SSDI made in his own life.

VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM ON TRACK FOR JUNE LAUNCH

On June 6th, the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP) will go into effect. The VCCP is

the result of the VA MISSION Act that streamlined VA's seven community care programs into one. Through the VCCP, more veterans will be eligible for community care. VA is also promising that scheduling appointments will be easier and the care coordination between VA and community providers will be better. In addition, VA has developed education and training materials to help community providers understand some of the unique challenges veterans may encounter.

Although PVA has expressed concerns about the readiness of VA to roll out the program, particularly in light of the status of IT solutions that will help facilitate it, VA has asserted that it is ready for the program's rollout. VA has made some information about the program available online. In addition, veterans enrolled in VA health care will receive a letter in the mail providing details on where to go for more information. On June 4th at 3:00 pm ET, PVA will host a webinar to help members learn more about the VCCP and the status of other VA MISSION Act provisions. To register for the webinar, please visit: <https://zoom.us/webinar/register/5aa0630bf5c5a74a34538d7d4481ef37>. In the meantime, for more information the VCCP, please visit: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/Vantage/58621/new-eligibility-criteria-a-major-improvement-over-existing-rules>.

CONGRESS HOLDS HEARING ON VETERAN SUICIDE

A growing trend of veterans taking their lives on VA property prompted the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) to hold a rare nighttime hearing in late April to examine the continuing crisis. Sadly, the fourth death by suicide on VA property in the month of April occurred hours before the April 29th event which was entitled,

“Tragic Trends: Suicide Prevention Among Veterans.” Witnesses included officials from the National Institutes of Health, VA, and the Suicide Prevention Branch of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Every day 20 veterans, servicemembers, reservists, and members of the National Guard die by suicide, totaling more than 7,300 deaths per year. Despite the fact that funding for VA’s veteran suicide prevention programs has increased more than 250 percent since 2005—to \$9.4 billion—the rate of veteran suicide remains relatively unchanged. This constant seems to have VA officials stumped and lawmakers visibly frustrated.

During the hearing, Dr. Richard Stone, Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration, and Dr. Keita Franklin, VA’s National Director of Suicide Prevention, outlined a number of recent initiatives to curb suicide. They included:

- Screening every veteran who receives VA services anywhere for suicide risk;
- Training all employees to recognize veterans in crisis and get them the care they need;
- Hiring hundreds more suicide prevention coordinators; and
- Creating a system to flag veteran health records, if they are found to be a suicide risk.

Asked if more funding could help reduce veteran suicides, Dr. Stone told lawmakers, “This is not a financial problem. I can hire another 20,000 mental health providers and the people in the VA will get great care,” he said. “This is a problem with the society we live in,” adding that the social disconnection of American society is a larger obstacle to reaching veterans at risk than VA staffing or funding. “Is this about loneliness, isolation, being disconnected? The answer to all of these is yes,” Stone said.

PVA recently endorsed several pieces of legislation addressing the issue of veteran suicide and mental health care in general. There will be many more and PVA will be tracking these as well as other

efforts to combat veteran suicide. VA and HVAC have made suicide prevention their top priority and the Senate is likely to share the same view.

HEARING ON FOREVER GI BILL

On May 9th, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled, “Examining Ongoing Forever GI Bill Implementation Efforts.” Testifying at the hearing was VA’s Under Secretary for Benefits, Dr. Paul Lawrence; VA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) the Honorable Michael Missal; and Vice President, Chief Technology Officer of the MITRE Corporation, Mr. Jay Schnitzer, MD, Ph.D.

This hearing was held to determine why so many student veterans failed to receive GI Bill payments after the VA implemented the Forever GI Bill. During the implementation, sections of the legislation that specifically addressed housing payments were not correctly implemented; therefore, thousands of veterans did not receive housing payments, creating a hardship on these veterans and forcing many to drop out of school or even become homeless.

During the Fall of 2018, the VA OIG received multiple congressional requests to review VA’s actions to implement the housing allowance provisions and to investigate allegations that VA planned to withhold retroactive payments for missed or underpaid monthly housing stipends for students under the Forever GI Bill. In response to these requests, a VA OIG team began reviewing VA’s implementation of the Forever GI Bill requirements. During this review, Congress passed the Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act (Public Law 115-422) mandating that VA report to Congress within 90 days on its plan to fully implement certain sections of the Forever GI Bill.

After their review, the VA OIG found that the Veterans Benefits Administration’s (VBA)

implementation of the payment of the housing allowances under the Forever GI Bill was hampered by the same underlying issues that have negatively affected VBA's implementation of other new policies and initiatives—lack of IT system functionality and inadequate program leadership. More specifically, VA lacked a single accountable official to oversee the project which resulted in unclear communications to stakeholders and inadequately defined expectations, roles, and responsibilities of various VA business lines and contractors.

VA testified that veterans who received overpayments would not receive notices since the overpayments were VA's fault. VA also stated that any veteran who was owed money would be reimbursed. PVA is monitoring this issue very closely and will ensure VA follows through with their promises to fix the problem.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES PVA DOL VETS PROPOSAL CAREGIVER PROGRAM FUNDING

On May 8th, the House Appropriations Committee approved a proposal developed by PVA and its allies in the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Veterans Task Force to establish a Disabled Veteran Program staffer within the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS). In the report accompanying the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, the committee stated that it was including "\$300,000 within Federal Administration to establish a Disabled Veteran Program (DVP) to address the high unemployment and low labor force participation rate of veterans with service-connected and non-service-connected disabilities." The committee further stated that, "The DVP will help increase employment and advancement opportunities for veterans with disabilities by working with federal, state, and private partners to promote the hiring of veterans with disabilities, improve

coordination of available employment services and supports, and to identify and share employment best practices for hiring, retaining, and advancing veterans with disabilities in the workforce."

The overall funding level for VETS was set at \$316 million, an increase of \$16 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$10 million above the President's budget request. In addition to the DVP proposal, the bill included \$60 million for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, an increase of \$10 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$29 million for the Transition Assistance Program, an increase of \$6 million above the 2019 enacted level.

The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill also contained other provisions of importance to PVA members including support for caregiver programs. The full committee included \$5.5 million for Lifespan Respite, which is \$1.39 million above the FY 2019 level and \$200 million for the National Caregiver Support program, which is \$18.8 million above the FY 2019 level. PVA joined with 28 other national organizations in a letter to the appropriators in support of increased funding for these valuable programs.

AUTO ALLIANCE AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

On May 3rd, the Auto Alliance brought together safety advocates, policymakers, and disability advocacy organization to discuss how to make autonomous vehicles more accessible to those with disabilities and older drivers. Lee Page, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, participated on behalf of PVA. The Auto Alliance, the leading advocacy group for the auto industry, represents automakers who build 70 percent of all cars and light trucks sold in the United States. Its members include automakers BMW Group, Fiat Chrysler US LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen

Group of America, and Volvo Car USA.

Manufactures continue to move forward in developing driverless autonomous vehicles that can be used for low cost individual transportation. These vehicles must be made accessible for people with disabilities including those who use wheelchairs. The debate at the meeting on May 3rd focused on independent entry and securement for wheelchairs. A wheelchair can be secured in a vehicle by four point tie downs or other securement device and yet the wheelchair occupant is not secure.

Future workshops will explore the actual technologies that can be used for providing increased vehicle accessibility, as well as looking at the broader impacts of expanded mobility. Research shows that a majority of Americans support the use of autonomous vehicles to improve the independence and access for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

COSPONSORS NEEDED FOR AIR CARRIER ACCESS AMENDMENTS ACT (ACAAA)

On April 30th, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hosted an afterhours gathering for aviation insiders to mingle with Representatives and their staff members on a less formal basis. Heather Ansley, Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, and Lee Page, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, attended the reception for the second year in a row to get to know legislators and further explain the hardship our members face while flying on commercial airlines.

In response to the difficulties people with disabilities encounter in air travel, the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAAA) of 2019 (S.669 / HR.1549) was introduced in early March. National Advocacy staff continue to call on Representatives and Senators to gain cosponsors for this PVA

priority legislation. PVA chapters and members also need to call on their legislators to inquire about sponsorship.

The ACAAA would improve access to air travel by: 1) Strengthening ACAA enforcement by requiring referral of certain passenger-filed complaints to the Department of Justice and establishment of a private right of action; 2) Ensuring new airplanes are designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities by requiring airlines to meet defined accessibility standards; and 3) Requiring removal of access barriers on existing airplanes to the extent that it is readily achievable – easily accomplishable and may be done without much difficulty or expense.

The current Senate cosponsors are: Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) (Lead Sponsor), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Ed Markey (D-MA), and Bob Casey (D-PA).

The current House cosponsors are: Jim Langevin (D-RI) (Lead Sponsor), Dina Titus (D-NV), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Jose Serrano (D-NY), Grace Meng (D-NY), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Conor Lamb (D-PA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Chris Pappas (D-NH), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Tom Malinowski (D-NJ), and Tom Cole (R-OK).

HVAC LAUNCHES BIPARTISAN WOMEN VETERANS TASK FORCE

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) has launched a new bipartisan Women Veterans Task Force to promote equitable access to VA resources, benefits, and health care for women veterans. The Task Force will be chaired by Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA), who is also the Chairwoman of the HVAC Health Subcommittee.

Women are the fastest growing subpopulation within the military and veterans' communities presently comprising 16 percent of active-duty military forces, 19 percent of National Guard and Reserves, and about 10 percent of all veterans. Women of the newest service eras are taking on unprecedented roles in combat and other positions that expose them to the violence of war and environmental injuries which is likely to increase their utilization of VA's specialized services and rehabilitation programs such as those for post-traumatic stress and other post-deployment behavioral health conditions, traumatic brain injury and polytrauma, amputation, spinal cord injury, and blindness. VA has struggled to keep pace with the growth in women veterans' utilization of health care. The number of women veterans who relied on VA specialized services increased by 175 percent between 2000 and 2015 and last year VA treated more than a half million women (517,241).

After announcing the new Task Force, HVAC's Subcommittee on Health held a hearing focusing on women veterans' access to health care. Patricia M. Hayes, Ph.D. Chief Consultant, Women's Health Services, Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration represented VA at the hearing, speaking after a panel of select veterans organizations.

Dr. Hayes acknowledged that the increasing number of women veterans seeking VA care is placing ever-increasing demands on VA, noting they represent nearly 30 percent of new veterans enrolled in VA in recent years. According to Dr. Hayes, every VHA health care system across the United States has at least one full-time Women Veteran's Program Manager. She also spoke about a number of programs and services that VA offers and highlighted two where she believes the Committee could help. Specifically, the need for ongoing help with military sexual trauma and in vitro fertilization (IVF) for married veterans whose inability to conceive is due to a service-connected issue.

PVA was invited to submit a statement for the record and we called on Congress to improve VA's current IVF program, and most important, make it a permanent benefit. We also discussed the lack of mammography services, prosthetics, and peer-to-peer counselors for women veterans as well as the need for larger exam rooms in women health clinics and the provision of installed ceiling lifts to facilitate transfers.

This was the first of what we expect will be many hearings examining the current state of women's health care in VA. The Task Force and Subcommittee intend to work together to identify women health care needs and craft a comprehensive bill which committee leadership hopes will receive bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

NEW TEXT FEATURE AVAILABLE THROUGH VA'S WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER

VA added a text messaging feature to the Women Veterans Call Center last month. Women veterans can now send text message to 855-829-6636 to receive answers and guidance about VA services. The Women Veterans Call Center is staffed by trained, women VA employees, who can link callers to available resources, such as health care, benefits and cemetery information via phone, chat, and now text.

Since April 2013, the call center has received nearly 83,000 inbound calls and has initiated almost 1.3 million outbound calls. As the number of women veterans continues to grow, VA is expanding its outreach to ensure they receive enrollment and benefits information through means that are user-friendly and responsive. For more information about the Women Veterans Call Center, please visit: <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/programoverview/wvcc.asp>.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

May 21, 2019

Volume 25, Number 5

U.S. ACCESS BOARD WEBINAR: ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY OPEN QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION (JUNE 6TH)

Ensuring that public streets and sidewalks are accessible to people with disabilities can be a challenge, especially since accessibility guidelines for public rights-of-way have yet to be finalized. The next webinar in the U.S. Access Board's free monthly series will take place June 6th from 2:30 – 4:00 (ET) and will be devoted to answering the various questions that come up in addressing access to sidewalks and street crossings, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, roundabouts, transit stops and other components of public rights-of-way as well as shared use paths. Board Accessibility Specialists will answer questions submitted in

advance or during the live webinar and offer guidance, solutions, and best practices based on guidelines the Board proposed for public rights-of-way. Attendees are encouraged to submit their questions in advance. For more information or to register, visit www.accessibilityonline.org. Questions can be submitted in advance of the session (total limited to 25) or can be posed during the live webinar. The webinar series is hosted by the ADA National Network in cooperation with the Board. Archived copies of previous Board webinars are available on the site.



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
Government Relations Department
801 Eighteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006
(800) 424-8200 • (800) 795-4327 • www.pva.org



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**
Oregon Chapter



SHOW & SHINE
Car Show
JULY 27 2019

Location: Home Depot
3795 Hagers Grove Rd.
SE Salem, OR 97317
Show begins at 10 AM
Vehicle Raffle at 2 PM

Information: 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 Tel: 503.362.7998 • www.oregonpva.org

2019 Summer Fairs



Marion County Fair

Thu, July 11th - Sun, July 14th
Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center
2330 17th St NE, Salem, OR 97301
Price: \$5 - \$9



Douglas County Fair

Tue, August 6th - Sat, August 10th
Douglas County Fairgrounds Complex
2110 SW Frear St, Roseburg, OR 97471
Price: \$8 - \$10



Josephine County Fair

Wed, August 14th - Sun, August 17th
Josephine Co. Fairgrounds & Event Center
1451 Fairgrounds Rd, Grants Pass OR 97527



Oregon State Fair

Fri, August 23rd - Mon, September 2nd
Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center
2330 17th St NE, Salem, OR 97301
Price: \$6 - \$8. Parking: \$5 Cash only

Volunteer and Get In FREE!



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

Deep Sea



Dates & Times

Tue May 28th - 5:30 am

Tue Aug 13th - 6:00 am

Wed Sep 11th - 6:30 am

5 Hours Trip Ling Cod & Rockfish

Voting Members

FREE!

All Others \$65

Dockside Charters

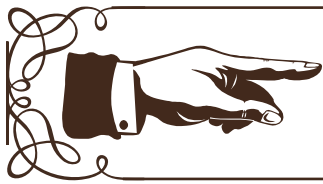
270 Coast Guard Dr, Depoe Bay, OR
(541) 765-2545

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

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
3700 Silverton Rd. NE Salem, OR 97305
Tel: 503-362-7998 | www.oregonpva.org

**Reserve your
place here**





Classified Ads

**FREE
Post**

Aluminum Wheelchair Ramp

Manufactured by EZ Access Ramps,
8 feet long,



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

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 us at 503.362.7998

Joerns Ultra Care XT Hospital Bed

Call at 503-362-7998



Carex Tub Shower Transfer Chair



Walkers Rollators Wheelchairs Power chairs

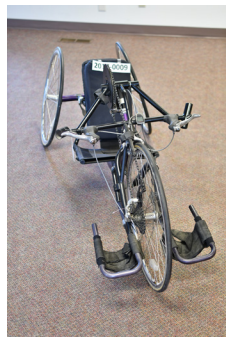
Call at 503-362-7998



Equipment For Members To Borrow

- Freedom Chairs
- Hand Cycles
- Action Trackchair
- Retractable Handle and Modify Bowling Balls

**Call OPVA for more information
503-362-7998**



Free classified ads. Submit to the office to post oregonpva@oregonpva.org • 503-362-7998



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) 202.466.6549. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305

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
- 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:** ___ / ___ / _____

COMCAST

The 8th Annual



August 10, 2019 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue Hillsboro Or 97124 (Exit 61-A off Hwy 26)



FORGOTTEN VETERANS MOTORCYCLE RUN
By Disabled Veterans Motorcycle Club



FREE Spectator Admission
All cars, trucks & motorcycles welcome!

Vehicle registration details:

<https://www.salute-to-veterans-car-motorcycle-show.com/>



Over 400 Show Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles & Military Vehicles, Huey Helicopter landing, West Coast Ravens Fly Over, Race Cars, Veterans Tribute Ceremony, Bagpipe Band, Corral Creek Bluegrass & Got Your Six R&R Bands, Classic Tracks DJ, Great Food, HUGE Raffle, 50/50 Raffle

PROCEEDS SUPPORT: Salvation Army Veterans & Family Center (temporary housing for 80 homeless veterans and their families) and the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



