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**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Texas Chapter

*2656 South Loop W., Ste. 130, Houston, TX 77054-2207*

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*www.texaspva.org / info@texaspva.org*

# **Speedy Gazette**

*“Improving Lives...Building Futures...”*

**Veterans thank you for your service to  
our country**

We hope to see you all participate in  
Veterans Day Events  
**on Wednesday, November 11th**



**Paralyzed Veterans of America  
TEXAS CHAPTER**

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Houston, TX 77054  
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[bbbhouston.org](http://bbbhouston.org)

Please contact me with more information about volunteer opportunities and other ways I can help TPVA!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: (Circle all that Apply) Membership /Volunteering  
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***SPEEDY GAZETTE***

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***SPEEDY GAZETTE  
ON-LINE***

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

***PVA National [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)***



**We would like to welcome the following new members**

- |                 |                    |                  |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| George Galan    | Evangeline Johnson | James Robertson  |
| Isville Jackson | Eric Lindsay       | Misael Rodriguez |
| Jeff Jackson    | Wallace Maynard    | Gregory Rosales  |
| Jessie James    | William Miller     | Ronald Sigur     |
| Joe James       | James Porter       | Edmund Zaitz     |
|                 | Richard Pulliam    |                  |
|                 | Irvington Ray      |                  |

**PVA Service Officers-see p 27 for detailed contact info**

- Houston-Greg Treacy, SNSO—800-795-3571/713-383-2727  
Houston-Kimberly Springfield, BA—713-794-7993  
San Antonio-Armando De la Rosa, SNSO—800-795-3572/210-617-5300 x 1-6819  
Temple-Jack Soto, VLO—254-743-1686  
Waco -Dan Meckel, NSO II—254-299-9944, 800-795-3573

## *President's Report By Anne Robinson*



Happy Fall TPVA members,

We have finally come to the end of another very hot South Texas summer and we can all finally get outdoors and have some fun. This time of year is very busy for us, as we come to the end of the fiscal year, we have many plans for the upcoming year. The annual Jack Sanders banquet will be held Friday, October 9 in San Antonio, please make sure you RSVP to Sherry as soon as possible. We will be presenting several awards to members and volunteers, as well as the swearing-in of the new Board of Directors. We will have a board meeting on Saturday, the 10th starting at 10 am. If you are available, please attend as we love to have members involved in the meetings.

We are looking for members in the Austin/Georgetown and the Killeen/Temple area who would like to take on the role as Satellite Director. The primary responsibility would be to host a membership meeting once a month and perhaps one event per month, such as a bowling tournament. If you are interested, please contact myself or the office and let us know. We have quite a few members in these areas and we would like to provide the opportunity for social activities and peer support.

I had an opportunity to take a look at the progress of the remodeling of the new office last week and it is looking awesome! I'm very excited for the Houston membership who'll be able to take advantage of the back area and use it as an archery and air rifle range, as well as anything else Frank and Carlton can come up with. As soon as we have a solid date for the grand opening, everyone is invited. We're looking for Texas memorabilia to decorate our new office. Old maps, old flags, anything TEXAS. Please contact the Chapter office to donate 800-933-4261 x4 or [info@texaspva.org](mailto:info@texaspva.org). September 22nd is National Voters Registration day, as well as the kickoff of the Texas Disability voter registration campaign. Look for more information to come.



### **Let's Hear It for Body, Mind, Spirit!** by Roger Rahill

Two young ladies at Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital Spinal Cord Injury Center asked me to write about the common SCI issues of depression and anxiety. One added, "Write about God's healing some but not others." Wow, that's a tall order!

First, depression as a mental health disorder is better left to psychologists and psychiatrists. The Bible offers voiced/sung lament – crying out to God and meditating on how much He loves us.

Second, anxiety. Again, I go to The Book: Psalm 94: 19 (*When anxiety was great within me, [God's] consolation was with me.*); Philippians 4:6-8 (*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*) God's word is my foundation. What's yours? Confidence that I'm loved and offered a heavenly future helps me trust, and so I feel less anxious. But I have to focus. I have to believe. I have to purpose at being non-anxious. I pray you tend to your anxiety with commitment to a relationship of trust with your Higher Power.

Third and last, from my biblical worldview, God is foremost Sovereign - his wisdom, will and ways unfathomable. Some reasons I know of why He heals some people are *His* response to individuals' faith, *His* deep love and compassion, *His* awesome power, and *His* purpose to glorify Himself and to defeat evil. So, it's more about *Him* than us. There's much and varied advice and encouragement available from a multitude of spiritual sources. Please reflect on yours.

I sign off as did the host of a favorite TV show of mine (think 1960): "Well, young ladies at Audie Murphy VA Hospital, you asked for it!"

**Roger Rahill, M.Div., BCC**, Staff Chaplain, South Texas Veterans Health Care System

Polytrauma, Spinal Cord Injury, Bone Marrow Transplant

Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital

7400 Merton Minter/San Antonio, TX 78229/Phone: 210-617-5300, x13764/Fax: 210-949-3048/Roger.Rahill@va.gov

## *Secretary By Matthew Bourbon*



Greetings my fellow warriors. Your Paralyzed Veterans of America, Texas Chapter has been rocking this September 2015. If we are not shooting clays, we are hunting, fishing, shooting, competing, or something. We have been so busy the bees and ants look on in amazement at us. The forecast for the next couple months will be just as busy. So, my brothers and sisters please get informed and lets get rolling.

The major event that took place this past month was the Valor Games. How awesome is it that the great city of San Antonio is host to these regional games every year? Our chapter literally melted our competition. With temperatures in the high 90's, our northern brethren could not take the heat. Our chapter was so hot at the games, that every member that competed, medaled in one or more events. Outstanding athletes train hard, compete hard, and are well deserved.

I actually lived in Buda, Texas for 10 years. Three of which were in the chair, and not one event was close to me. Now I have moved to San Antonio and Alvin and David, and all our fantastically awesome sponsors have put on once again the Buda Opening Season Dove Hunt. With two ranches to hunt on, and organization being perfect, it was the most beautiful day of hunting that could ever be asked for. Not to forget the generous lunch that the senior's facility placed in front of us. To make everything better some of our state elected officials joined us, like State Representative Jason Isaac. This excursion was even bigger and better this year. Good work guys and gals.

Your San Antonio archery program is stringing right along at Harlandale Memorial Stadium located at S. Military Drive on Mondays (unless otherwise posted) 10am-12pm. There are restrooms available and a huge shade tree that never leaves us in the sun. We cater to beginners to the highest levels of competition under advisement of Coach Dwight Hayes, "parolympian" archery athlete and soon to be level 3 archery coach. We have the equipment, if you have the time. There is not a week day or weekend that your local Chapter is not having something for you to do. Please review your calendar of events and get active. If we don't have participants, programs can be cut. Even if you're a little interested or just want to hang out with your buddies, come to as many events as you can. Did you know that Thursdays 10-2 pm is our coffee and games time? Our superstar Hope and her helpers put out coffee and treats for us, and at that time, pool, 9 ball, ping pong, and singing groups are practicing. Plus this a great way to meet others just like you and make some long term friendships. There is no reason to sit miserable in our houses, come on out and have a great time with your fellow Chapter members. POC: TXPVA Secretary Bourbon, Matthew 210-970-9702

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## *Vice President By Tammy Jones*



Hello All,

As we head into our new year, we have a lot going on. We had a good showing at the Valor Games in San Antonio last month. Thank you to Alvin and Bradshaw for kicking off our hunting season spectacularly. Our Parliamentarian, Garland Jennings, had what looked like a great hunt at the Flying A Ranch. The appreciation Jayne posted on Facebook, along with pictures is why we offer our members & their family the chance to make these memories.

Thank you again Alvin & Bradshaw and our Staff for making these things happen.

Let's keep up the good work and make this year a year to remember. Thank you all very much for your hard work! We have a lot to be proud of! Chatatchasoon, Tammy Jones

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JACK SANDERS BANQUET AWARDEES

**ANTONIO SILLER-EMPLOYEE OF THE YR-SAN ANTONIO**—A San Antonio native, joined the Boy Scouts, became an Eagle Scout. Joined the Army in '76 becoming a Tactical Control Asst in charge of a missile site guarding the "Fulda Gap" in the European Theater. After a military tour, was a tech at Randolph AFB & worked his way through Ft. Sam Houston in IT data/telecommunication networks. Utilizing his military experience & college education, Antonio transitioned into the corp sector. The next 20 yrs worked up to VP/Operations of one of the largest banks in the US. In '08, he made his way back to civil service & joined the VA Prosthetic Services.

**CAROL OLIVER—EMPLOYEE OF THE YR MED VA**—began in '80, as a Certified OT Asst, graduating from St. Philips College, San Antonio. She worked for San Antonio St Sch for 7 yrs, then moved on to Warm Springs Rehab Hosp in Gonzales. This was where she received her exposure to patients with SCI, under the tutelage of OT Guru, Esther Bell. She & others encouraged her to continue her education to become registered. She earned her degree from UT Health Science Ctr at San Antonio & returned to Warm Springs. She decided to travel, working in NY, TN, & SC, as a traveling OT. She returned to st svc in Brenham, then decided to travel again, working in FL & CA. Carol entered fed svc in '10 at MED VA & is serving her country, as a civilian.

**ANDY ROCA—JACK SANDERS AWARD**-started volunteering in 2000 at Alamo PC. He taught "Intro to Computers." In Dec 2001, he got his service dog, Jake. Since they were now a team, they unofficially volunteered their time visiting SCI patients. In late '03, Andy became a member of Vol Svc (VAVS.) In '04, at 5 years old, Jake became a full fledged volunteer on the national VAVS rolls. Throughout the years, Andy & Jake have worked in a number of areas. When needed, they become tour guides for groups that wish to visit patients. Throughout the years, he continued to teach the "Intro" course to senior citizens.

**JB & KELLY KOLODZEY-EXCELLENCE AWARD**-In the past, they could only imagine what they would want to do for others, but they knew they wanted to do something more personal than their money & time allowed. Anxious to be able to put into practice some of their goals & dreams to give back to others. Then JB met Alvin. In short, that changed everything. Now they are happy to be a part of what has become the Annual Veterans Hill Country Dove Hunt. By including their community, friends, relatives & organizations they are members of, they have been able to offer TPVA a place to hunt on opening day of dove season Central Zone.

**J.R. TINSETH—SPIRIT OF THE GAMES**-served in the Navy '75-78 until injured from a falling accident off a ship. After my recovery, I was blessed to get a job in Civil Service working for Defense Automation & Printing Dept at Ft. Sam Houston, Kelly AFB & finally, Lackland AFB & was there 24 yrs before retiring for medical reasons. In San Antonio for 37 yrs, I am married to my beautiful bride of 17 yrs & we are blessed to have a beautiful teenage daughter. It wasn't until '05 that I starting participating in the sports & rec programs. I give thanks & praise to Jose Laguna, Sports & Rec therapist, for encouraging me to participate.

**GLEN & SHARON PROPES—HOUSTON VOLUNTEER OF THE YR**-It has been OUR honor to have had the opportunity to know all of you & to be a part of this wonderful group of people & TPVA. We have been married for 42 yrs & we have 2 sons, Travis & Daniel. We both were born in N. Houston but never met. Our families moved out to the Cypress area about the same time & we started at Cypress-Fairbanks HS & still didn't meet. Her mother's cousin introduced us and our first date was at the VFW hall on bingo night; 44 yrs. later here we are. Travis, our oldest is currently a Captain in the Army, stationed at Ft Hood. Daniel is working at Lone Star College & still pursuing a degree in engineering.

**ED EVANS-SAN ANTONIO VOLUNTEER OF THE YR**- native of & tutored in the New Orleans Pub Sch Sys, grad 1964 & enlisted in '65 in the Air Force. Was a graphics spec & site elec eng support spec through '69 with an honorable discharge. I was employed with P&E Corp as an eng data repro oper. I graduated from Delgado Jr College in '73 then employed with the State of LA, Civil Svc @ LA Superdome ('76-'89) later employed state of LA Civil Svc @ LA St Univ Med Ctr, until '95. Employment terminated with the onset of Hurricane Katrina-Aug '05 & after being a FEMA evacuee through 3 states 1-1/2 yrs, arrived in San Antonio in '07 & was a semi-evacuee then became one of "nameless & homeless." During the interim of registering for & being certified for social security & veterans pension benefit, I had to partake in the community & state housing assistance prog. I became an applicant with the Salvation Army & church-based group limited housing arrangements. Daily existence becomes your central concern. Will I stay healthy & sane enough to get through the ongoing week to obtain overnight housing, partial meal, & adequate hygiene with satisfactory personal security? You are cast back on the street to repeatedly. I began to visit the VA for treatment & other outreach. During one of the misadventures at one of the male residential sys, another vet travelling the circuit informed me of other activities taking place at Audie Murphy besides healthcare. In '10, I visited the rec rm, 1<sup>st</sup> flr, rear of Murphy. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time I encountered the Sr Vol, Sister Hope Cooper. In 2011, she brought me down to SCIC areas & introduced me to Mr. Jose Laguna & other staff. From this time on, I was taken aback.

**FRED HERNANDEZ-SAN ANTONIO VOLUNTEER OF THE YR**- Life resident in San Antonio, employed at Borden's, grad hs in Tacoma, WA in '75. Enlisted in Army, served 2+ yrs, separated in '76. Reenlisted in TX Natl Guard 1988-03. College course work at Ft. Lewis, WA '75 & Phillips Jr College in San Antonio, obtaining a Liberal Arts & Voc Tech/Assoc Arts Degree (part-time) GI Bill. Course study at San Antonio College 1990-93. Vol Svc SCI 2010-15.

**JOHN TAYLOR—PRESIDENT'S AWARD**-Born in Indiana in '42/Grad HS 1960/ Joined the Navy '60/Retired USN CPO in '88, credited with over 24 yrs/Injured Nov '88. Joined TX Chapter in '94, helped to reinstate So. TX Subchapter & served as Secretary, the VP, then President. Continuously served on the Chapter board & have served as the VP & most committees.

**UPCOMING EVENTS (cont'd on p. 7)—pls contact Chapter Office (800-933-4261) to volunteer**

**Ongoing Sports – San Antonio Area**

**Sundays**

SA Spur's Wheelchair Basketball Team Trng –9-12, 8/23–4/3/2016 Morgan's Wonderland Event Cntr (STRAPS)

Adult Wheelchair Basketball– 9-12, 4/23–8/2016, open gym Morgan's Wonderland Event Center (STRAPS)

Power Wheelchair Soccer–5:00-7:00pm, MWL Event Center, POC Jennifer Weatherford Cooper (STRAPS)

**Mondays**

Archery – 10:00am Harlandale Memorial Stadium POC Matt Bourbon

Operation Comfort Swimming & Aquatic PT -8:00-9:30, Ft. Sam Houston Outdoor Pool POC Todd Erickson

Air Guns – 12:00 –3:00, \*\*24 hr advance notice to Jennifer for location & equipment

Wheelchair Soccer–6:00-7:30pm (Jr & Rec) 7-9p (Open Play), 7/13–2/29/2016, MWL Event Cntr, POC Brooke (STRAPS)

Wheelchair Softball–3/14–6/27/2016 6-8:30p, MWL Event Cntr (Bad weather practice moves inside) POC Brooke (STRAPS)

**Tuesdays**

Boccia – 12:00-3:00pm ALM SCIC Rec Room POC Jose Laguna

YOGA (PIYO) – high impact, 11:30am Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Ft. Sam Houston POC Jennifer Cooper

Air Guns – 1200 -1500, \*\*24 hr advance notice to Jennifer for location & equipment

BAMC W/C Basketball–1p METC Fitness Ctr Gym, Ft. Sam, POC Troy Hopkins (210-872-7120 troy.hopkins1@us.army.mil) or Abdul Brown(240-338-5717/abdul.r.brown.civ@mail.mil)

Goalball – 10/6/2015 – 3/2016 6:30-8:30pm, Kick off clinic-10/24-25/2015 MWL Event Center, POC Brooke (STRAPS)

Track & Field Practices – 2/2016-6/2016 POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

**Wednesdays**

Bowling – 9:30-11:30am Oak Hills Bowling Lanes, POC Jose Laguna

Archery – 7:30-10:00, Ft. Sam Houston Outdoor Archery Range, POC Jennifer \*\*PLS 24 hour advance notice Jennifer for equip

Air Guns – 12:00-3, \*\*24 hr advance notice to Jennifer for location & equipment

Operation Comfort Cycling – Locations chng, POC Janis (210-826-0500/jroz814@operationcomfort.org) to get on email list

Wheelchair Football – 9/30-10/31/6-8p, 11/1-11/18 & 3/30-/6/16- 5-7p MWL Parking lot, POC Brooke (STRAPS)

Skeet Shooting – Evening, Bandera Gun Club, POC David Bradshaw

**Thursdays**

Wheelchair Rugby – 6:30–9:30pm, San Antonio FIRE Center, POC Gabe Diaz de Leon/Barry Muth

Shooting Sports – National Shooting Sports Complex, Time TBD, POC Jose Laguna/Alvin G

YOGA (PIYO)– high impact, 11:30am Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Ft. Sam Houston POC Jennifer Cooper

Air Guns – 1200 -1500, \*\*24 hr advance notice to Jennifer for location & equipment

BAMC Wheelchair Basketball – 1300 at METC Fitness Center Gym, Ft. Sam, POC Troy Hopkins (210-872-7120 troy.hopkins1@us.army.mil) or Abdul Brown(240-338-5717/abdul.r.brown.civ@mail.mil)

Kayak – 1300 Olympic Outdoor Center, San Marcos, POC Ben Kvanli (512-203-0093/ben@kayakinstruction.org)

Boccia – 6:00-7:30pm, 10/22/15-6/16 Morgan's Wonderland Event Center POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

**Fridays**

Air Rifles - 10:00am-12:00pm ALM SCIC Rec Room POC Jose Laguna

Karate – 0900-1100 at Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Ft. Sam Houston POC Brad Bowen

Operation Comfort Swimming & Aquatic PT - 0800-0930, Ft. Sam Houston Outdoor Pool POC Todd Erickson

**Saturdays**

Wheelchair Rugby – 10:00am–1:00pm Thousand Oaks YMCA, POC Gabe Diaz de Leon/Barry Muth

Operation Comfort Cycling – Locations chg, POC Janis (210-826-0500/jroz814@operationcomfort.org) to get on email list

San Antonio Sled Rampage, Ice & Golf Center at Northwoods, POC Chris Leverkusn 210-913-8869/  
c.leverkuhn@hotmail.com or www.operationcomfort.org

Table Tennis – San Antonio Table Tennis Center, www.satabletennis.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS (also see p. 6)—pls contact Chapter Office (800-933-4261) to volunteer

### Ongoing Sports – Austin Area

Sled Hockey – Austin Blades, [www.AustinBlades.org](http://www.AustinBlades.org), POC [frank@starskaters.org](mailto:frank@starskaters.org)

### Ongoing Sports – Houston Area

Mondays

Tuesdays

Boccia – 12:00-3:00pm Stude Park, POC Chuck French

Wednesdays

Air Rifles (1st & 3rd) at West Gray Facility POC Chuck French

Archery – (2nd & 4th) 2:00pm at Bass Pro Shop Archery Range POC Frank Ellis

Thursdays

Fridays

Saturdays

10:00am Team Texas Sled Hockey at Ice Skate USA, Memorial City Mall POC [skate@starskaters.org](mailto:skate@starskaters.org), [www.starskaters.org](http://www.starskaters.org)

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### POC Information

Tammy Jones – [tammyjtpvasports@gmail.com](mailto:tammyjtpvasports@gmail.com)

Alvin Guerrero – [alvin-guerrero@att.net](mailto:alvin-guerrero@att.net)

David Bradshaw – [dbradshaw1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbradshaw1@sbcglobal.net)

Matthew Bourbon – [matthew\\_bourbon@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew_bourbon@yahoo.com)

Frank Ellis – [hotwheels0114@gmail.com](mailto:hotwheels0114@gmail.com)

Jose Laguna – [jose.laguna@va.gov](mailto:jose.laguna@va.gov)

Barry Muth – [bmuth@satx.rr.com](mailto:bmuth@satx.rr.com)

Gabe Diaz de Leon – [diazlions@msn.com](mailto:diazlions@msn.com)

Jennifer Cooper Weatherford – 830-377-1238, [jcooper@afsc.com](mailto:jcooper@afsc.com)

Brooke Matula – 210-336-4135, [brooke@strapssports.com](mailto:brooke@strapssports.com)

Brad Bowen – 512-988-7711, [bbowen@afsc.com](mailto:bbowen@afsc.com)

Todd Erickson – 210-379-5170, [ticoachtodd@att.net](mailto:ticoachtodd@att.net)

Chuck French – 713-562-4089, [Charles.french@houstontx.gov](mailto:Charles.french@houstontx.gov)

### UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

April 2-9, 2016 **30th Annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic**. Snowmass Village, CO applications due to the Chapter office by November 13th



**NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES**

June 27 – July 2, 2016, **National Veterans Wheelchair Games**—Salt Lake City, Utah  
Deadline 31 March 2016 to Chapter

### Membership Events

- 10/9 San Antonio Mixed Abilities Bowling Tournament, Oak Hills Lanes, 10:30 a.m.
- 10/9 Jack Sanders Banquet, Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, RSVP 800-933-4261 [info@texaspva.org](mailto:info@texaspva.org)
- 10/10 TPVA Board of Directors Meeting, members are welcome, 10 a. Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort
- 10/17–25 Sporting Clays Nationals, NSSC on Culebra (SA), Volunteers needed
- 10/17-19 Larry Turner Classic, wheelchair basketball, TSU (Jowers Ctr) San Marcos, POC Allie T 281-750-9454 [athomas@txstate.edu](mailto:athomas@txstate.edu)
- 10/23-25 Riverwalk Wheelchair Basketball Invitational, Mission Concepcion SA, POC Willie J 210-843-6336 [wreckersinc@hotmail.com](mailto:wreckersinc@hotmail.com)
- 10/27 OKTOBERFEST at MED VA SCI Day room & Houston Satellite Membership Forum, 12:00pm lunch, then mtg **\*\*note\*\*** this meeting takes the place of the 10/28 meeting in Houston
- 10/29 9-Ball Tournament, Fast Eddies @Braun & 1604 Costumes Encouraged!!!
- 10/29 So. TX Satellite-Corpus Christi Membership Forum, contact Chapter office for time & place

## *Treasurer By Darrell Wilson*



Choice Improvement Act,” approved just prior to the August recess, is a provision that requires the VA to present a plan to Congress by November 1st, that outlines a plan to consolidate the various community care programs into a single program that is based on the current “Choice” program. Currently, the VA contracts for health care services in the community when appropriate through a number of different programs to include: Non-VA Purchased Care, Patient-Centered Coordinated Care (PC3), Project Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH), and the Choice program. PVA has been involved in a number of meetings with VA staff to develop the principles and mechanisms that will lead to this single coordinated program.

In hearings during the summer, VA leadership expressed a desire to eliminate much of the confusion that exists when seeking community care as a result of the various programs with different eligibility criteria and administration protocols. House and Senate VA Committee members all support the need to consolidate these programs into a single construct. Many of the members also believe that the Choice program should be the central concept of this program. PVA also supports the effort to consolidate the various community care programs into a single program. We continue to emphasize the need for the VA to be responsible for coordinating the care and to ensure that veterans are able to access the most appropriate care in the most convenient fashion possible. However, we also believe that VA and Congress need to remain committed to expanding the capacity of VA to provide health care services within the system, particularly with regards to specialized services, such as spinal cord injury.

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## *National Director By Darrell Wilson*



VA has issued a final rule that expands access for service animals on VA facilities. The rule goes into effect on September 16. The rule provides a level of access for service animals to VA facilities similar to that provided under the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to VA, the rule applies to anyone seeking access for a service animal on VA property, including employees.

In the final rule, VA addressed areas of concern PVA submitted through comments filed by the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Veterans and Military Families Task Force. Specifically, VA modified the definition of service animal to clarify that a service animal must be trained to do work or perform tasks, not both. As defined by the final rule, a service animal is “any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.”

VA also modified the proposed rule to remove the requirement that a service animal be under the control of the individual with a disability. Instead, the final rule requires that the service animal be under the control of either the individual with a disability or an alternate handler. VA also modified its requirements regarding control of the animal to allow a service animal to be controlled by voice, signal, or other effective means if required by the individual’s disability or the nature of the work or task the animal is performing.

In the proposed rule, VA had restricted access for service animals in areas such as locked mental health units and patient rooms or treatment areas where another patient has a fear of animals or allergies. VA’s final rule allows access to acute inpatient hospital settings where the service animal is part of the treatment plan. VA also removed the prohibition against service animals due to fear of animals or allergies. In this case, CCD had argued that in many cases it would be possible to accommodate the individual with a disability who uses a service animal and a patient with fear or allergy concerns without prohibiting access.

NOVEMBER 7th, 2015—The **Wallis Independence Ride**—go to [www.wallisride.com](http://www.wallisride.com) provides you with the official registration information, ride distances etc. and if you scroll down a bit, videos, interviews and ride reports for this event. They do supply hand cycles, if needed.



**DEAR CICI-a Caregivers Column—this column is designed to be interactive. Caregivers please send us your input to [info@texaspva.org](mailto:info@texaspva.org) or fax 713-520-8217. Call 800-933-4261 x4 if you have any questions.**

**Dear Cici,**

Since he's been in a wheelchair for nearly six years, my husband has noticed that wheelchair bound people are treated like they don't exist. He called my attention to it on more than one occasion, and he is absolutely correct. I noticed that one day when we were at the bank. The person behind the desk kept looking at me whenever there was a question to be answered. I deferred the questions to my husband each time a question was asked, but it seemed as if the bank employee wasn't even aware of what I was doing. I made a vow to never let that happen again. The next time it happened, I was prepared. We were taking care of some legal business, and the clerk looked at me and asked for my husband's birthdate. Instead of answering for my husband, I simply turned and look at him. It's amazing how fast the offending party caught on. The wheelchair may have taken away some of my husband's abilities, but I refuse to let it take away his dignity as a human beng. I just wanted to share that with other readers who might be experiencing the same thing.

This doesn't happen at the VA facilities, but it happens all too often out there in the rest of the world.

Thanks for letting me vent.

Married to a Man Not a Child

Dear Married,

Actions speak louder than words, don't they? The way you chose to handle the situation is admirable, which some would consider less than what the questioner deserved. You turned a poor customer service situation into a teachable moment.

The ADA does not consider the psychological effects of thoughtlessness on people with disabilities. It's unfortunate that there are no classes that teach customer service for all people, not just those who are not physically challenged. Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us.

Cici

Tip: Know the signs of autonomic dysreflexia. Ask the SCIC nurse for information on it if you are not aware of the symptoms.

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## IN MEMORIUM

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Henry Ackerman

Gary Lehe

Alaina O'Quinn

James R. Agruso

Louis Lynn

Paul Reed

Lee Brown Jr

Hector Marin

Benjamin Russell

Con Cherry

George Martinez

Clifford Shamburger

Larry Collier

Warren McDonald

Lloyd Simon

Frank Homesley

Melvin Moore

Eric Simpson

Oliver Kuykendall

Paul Nicholas

Gerald Wahl

John Lee

William Patricelli

David E. Williams



# Outdoor Sports Report By Alvin Guerrero



David got two animals using his volunteer points for a hunt at Flying A Ranch in Bandera, TX

Flying A Hunt -Alvin's sika deer



Flying A Hunt – Josue's deer

## *San Antonio Satellite Director By Ben Reynaga MD*



By Dan Castillo, the mtg held on 9/3 began with the Invocation given by Mr. Everett Fey. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joel Caltrider. Pat presented a report and handouts about PVA Holiday Card design looking for veteran artist talent to design the artwork for the PVA Annual Holiday Cards. The Venado Macho, Inc. a 501©(3) Public Charity is offering assistance to wounded warriors wanting to participate in hunting events.

VA RT Joel Caltrider announced the deadline for the 30th National Winter Sports Clinic 2016. Applications are due by 13 Nov to the TPVA office for funding consideration. See p. 7 for sports events. I announced a collaboration with TPVA & several other local sports organizations to set up a Sports Training Clinic with the Victoria, TX Bad News Chair Sports Program by providing Coaches and athletes to train Victoria athletes in various sports and also a joint Bowling Event with Rolling Inspirations a 501©(3) nonprofit organization that assists disabled citizens throughout the city of San Antonio. Bourbon spoke about the ongoing Archery Program and practices will go back to Mondays in preparation for the upcoming 2015 Valor Games.

Anne's update: September is SCI Awareness Month, a Reverse Education Class is being organized for October where SCI outpatients share their life healthcare experiences with VA SCI nursing staff. A survey is being distributed out to SCI female outpatients to assess the needs of females in the VA healthcare system. All SCI patients currently on the bowel and bladder care program must be evaluated by the SCI Outpatient Clinic before the end of September in order to receive bowel and bladder compensation. The VA has set up a new website Varatings.com that gives veterans the opportunity to sign in and rate their doctors and staff for each clinic in order to monitor VA medical quality of healthcare. Pennzoil at Jiffy Lube is a major PVA financial sponsor and anyone needing an oil change is encouraged to do business with Pennzoil. Hope spoke about the Volunteer Services "Adopt a Veteran Food Basket" program for needy veterans which will feed up to 5 people and PVA will donate 10 baskets containing nonperishable food items and gift cards. Hope also announced that the Good, Bad & Ugly Bowling Team will begin practicing on Wednesdays for 26 weeks and the cost is \$13 a week with the USBC enrollment. PVA will sponsor those who cannot afford the cost and Hope said that she would be the point of contact for details.



**Captain Dave is inviting you to go sailing!** I wish to invite you and those in

**your PVA organization to come sailing with us. We have many large boats to accommodate you guys! Have a glorious day, Capt. Dave, Captain Dave McCabe, Founder and Executive Director**

**Sailing Angels Foundation, Serving Special Needs - 281-507-1867c—**

**davemccabe@SailingAngels.org—www.SailingAngels.org—Facebook: Sailing Angels Foundation**

**Office Address: 1714 Festival Drive, Houston, TX 77062— Marina Address: Portofino Harbour Marina, 1 Portofino Plaza, Kemah, TX 77565**

**WE HAVE TWO JAZZY MOTORIZED CHAIRS AND A LIFT  
TO GIVE AWAY. Please contact the Chapter office at  
info@texaspva.org or 800-933-4261 x4 to claim them.**

**DIAMOND L-STORY BY STEVE HOLBERT**—On the hunt for the elusive wild hog at Diamond L Ranch located in Montgomery County TX, here I am sitting in a small wooden box disguised as a hunting blind. A little wooden box that has baked in the 95 degree Texas sun all day long. Not only stuffed in a hot wooden box but also included is the not so pleasant aroma of a dead mouse. My son was greeted with the pungent smell when he first opened the door of the blind. A quick search revealed the culprit and he tossed the rotting mouse out into the woods but the smell still lingers. So a hunt is hardly the best word to describe one's patience as you try to quietly wait in hiding for a wild pig to find its way to the bait feeder.

My 17 year old son accompanied me to this TPVA event. I haven't ever tried hunting wild hogs before so it sounded like something fun to try out. We arrived early afternoon on Friday and met up with Alvin, Coe, Ray and Martha and the ranch owner Ronnie. It's a small hunting ranch located next to the National Forest. To prevent suspicion of the hogs we had to quietly position ourselves in individual blinds about 5:15 in the afternoon. We get delivered by an off road type of golf cart making it's way along a narrow path in the forest to the blinds. Before getting into my blind I relieve myself of excess body fluid into the woods. Next I try and position my wheelchair as near to the narrow doorway as possible as my skinny wheelchair tires burrow themselves into the soft dry sandy Texas soil. I make an awkward looking transfer through the narrow doorway into the old office chair on wheels inside the blind. I instinctively reach for hand rims to move the chair but there are none. So I have to use other methods to try and roll the chair far enough back away from the doorway so that my son can take my wheelchair apart, stuff it through the doorway and then reassemble it again. In the confined space I make another awkward transfer back into the wheelchair, get my rifle out and quietly load a round into the chamber, gently place the rifle out of the rifle slot and check my positioning. With my limited trunk control, once positioned, I'm there to stay. I sight through the scope to check my field of fire. My wheelchair positioning seems to be pretty good. Now just wait. It's 6:00 now. The game feeder emits a series of tones and spits out a couple of seconds worth of grain. So far a couple of squirrels are running up and down the trees near the feeder. A cotton tail rabbit made a brief appearance about two thirds the way down the clearing towards the feeder. About the same spot he spent all of last night too. Only today he ran off rather quickly. Maybe a good sign for tonight. He was there the whole time last night and I never saw a single pig. A little bit windier today too. Hopefully another positive change from yesterday. A strange clicking sound now from the feeder area. A couple of birds flutter in and out. The three black birds that were there earlier are gone. The rabbit returns. I try to memorize the area better due to last night when it got dark and my mind started playing tricks on my vision. I wanted to see a pig so badly every dark shape seemed to possibly resemble a pig. Although I could detect no movement or even see a remotely reliable shape. Only the game of patience again now. Last night I wore ear plugs the whole time. Fearful of the possible hearing damage of a gun shot report inside such a small confined space. Tonight I take the chance of getting the ear plugs in after the arrival of the elusive wild hog. 6:30. I thought I saw a shape run through the trees behind the feeder. A light brown color. I slowly slip my ear plugs in. Quietly position the rifle, sight through the scope. I see nothing. Maybe it was one of the squirrels that caught my attention. Maybe it was wishful vision again. The sun just about to set now. Again a squirrel jumping on a tree grabs my attention and makes my heart race momentarily. Just a few minutes now from the time a gunshot report was heard last night. Time to start focusing on the kill zone. 6:38 I hear a gun report in the far distance. A couple of times now I could hear the sound of twigs breaking off to my right. Once it even sounded like a pig snort. Then silence again. Was a pig there or wishful hearing? 7:00 now and still no sight of anything. Birds now making a ferocious racket off to my left somewhere. Rustling in the brush to my right again. Is it light rustling in the brush nearby or heavy rustling far off?

7:30 still sticky hot in the box. Mosquitoes buzzing around my head. Luckily only my head and neck sweat so those are the only areas with goeey sticky sweaty skin and a sticky shirt. Starting to get a bit dark now. Probably have to give up the reporting now to help save my night vision. Hopefully the final report will be a successful report. Nothing but dark blackness now behind the feeder. The rabbit is still out there at about 40 yards. I can make out the area between me and the feeder but not much else. Tonight they have a green light attached to the bottom of the feeder. With the small amount of light it is just enough to be able to see through the scope and detect an animal if one should appear. Still too dark to see the cross hairs of the scope. So it will be a whole lot of guess work and luck to place a good shot if one does show up. I keep my ears cocked trying to detect any sound at all down range. Another shot rings out loudly. Somebody is lucky. My eye gets tired of struggling to make out anything through the scope. 8:45 I hear noise behind me. Then a faint flicker of light. It's the retrieval crew. The light gets stronger as it flickers through the trees as the gold cart makes it's way down the trail. Yep, the retrieval crew arrives. I use the reverse method of getting into the blind as getting out of the blind and back into my wheelchair. Then with a boost up into the golf cart and back to camp after we pick up another shooter from his blind. Back in camp we are greeted with fried catfish fresh out of the fryer. The fish is from the small pond on the ranch that we fished at earlier today. The biggest I caught was 5lbs or better. Alvin got close to a ten pounder! Not sure how many I caught but it was several. So it was a catfish dinner tonight followed by yesterday's grilled steak and baked potatoes. Oh yea, a large breakfast at Denny's this morning before leaving the motel for the drive to the ranch. We had a lunch time snack of armadillo eggs; even without bagging a wild hog, the vittles were great. We're the last to leave as my son Tommy helps to clean up and retrieve gear from the blinds and game feeders. I finish the night by enjoying the silence and darkness of the forest and jot down notes for my story. (pictures on p. 13)

# DIAMOND L



## *Houston Satellite Director by Frank Ellis*



The 9/30 meeting & lunch was attended by Sherry, Frank, Steve Holbert, Lloyd Ford, Norris Honeycutt, & Derrick. Sherry discussed the Houston Veterans Day Parade. Frank & Derrick talked to Lloyd & Norris about archery as they are both interested in getting involved. Frank told them that the Diamond L Ranch is available to reserve by calling Ray Lofton. TPVA catered lunch. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 10/27 instead of Wednesday since we'll be there to celebrate OKTOBERFEST on the 27th.



## *Legislative Director By Darrell Wilson*



In 2011, the Texas Legislature passed SB 14 creating a new requirement for voters to show photo identification when voting in person. *By-mail voting requirements were not changed.* The new law will apply to ALL elections in Texas. The law became effective on June 25, 2013. You may have heard that people with disabilities were exempt from the voter ID requirement. The answer to this question is yes and no with the following explanation. Voters with a disability may apply with the county registrar for a permanent exemption from

the ID law. The application for exemption must contain written documentation from:

- 1) US Social Security Administration saying you have a disability;
- 2) US Department of Veterans Affairs saying you have a disability rating of at least 50 percent.

In addition you must state that you have no valid form of photo ID. You then can vote if you have this voter registration certificate saying you have the exemption. You have the right to vote whether you have a disability or not, as long as you are registered to vote in Texas. If your voting rights are violated because of a disability, contact Disability Rights Texas.

Some of your specific rights include:

**Accessibility:** State law requires that all polling places meet strict accessibility standards including the following criteria: The voting area must be: (1) on the ground floor, meaning it can be entered from the street; or (2) accessible by an elevator with doors that open at least 36 inches wide; Entrance and exit doors must be at least 32 inches wide; Any curb next to the main entrance to the polling place must have curb-cuts, or temporary non-slip ramps; Any stairs necessary to enter or leave the polling place must have handrails on each side of the stairs, and also have a non-slip ramp; The polling place may not have any barriers that impede that path of a voter with a physical disability, such as gravel, automatically closing gates, closed doors without lever-type handles, etc.

**Private Ballot:** It is your right to cast a ballot privately and independently.

⇒ **Special Voting Devices**—Beginning January 1, 2006, every polling place used in Texas elections must have at least one Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting device which is designed to assist voters mark their ballot in a private and independent manner. This applies to early voting places, too. DRE's come with assistive attachments that allow voters with disabilities to vote independently. For example a person with a visual impairment can use headphones in order to hear the ballot read to them and a person with quadriplegia can ask for the sip and puff attachment which will allow them to select their candidates in a private manner.

⇒ **Voting Assistance**—If you need help in reading or marking your ballot, you can ask a friend to help you vote, or you can ask the election officials to help you. You can choose anyone you want to help you, except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union.

You are entitled to receive assistance if you cannot read or write, or if you have a physical disability that prevents you from reading or marking the ballot. You do not have to provide proof of your disability.

If you ask the workers at the polling place to help you, you will be assisted by two election workers on Election Day, or one election worker during early voting.

The person helping you must read you the entire ballot, unless you ask to have only parts of the ballot read. The person helping you must also take an oath that he or she will not try to influence your vote, and will mark your ballot as you tell them to. Continued on p. 15

Continued from p. 14—Legislative article from Darrell:

If you choose to be assisted by polling place officials, poll watchers and/or state and federal election inspectors present in the polling place may observe the voting process to be sure that the ballot has been marked as you requested. If you ask to be assisted by a person of your choosing, no one else may watch you vote.

It is illegal for a person assisting you to, try to influence your vote, to mark your ballot in a way other than the way you have asked, or to tell anyone how you voted.

Interpreters: If you do not understand the language being spoken in the polling place or you do not understand the language that the ballot is written in, you have the right to an interpreter.

- ⇒ If you cannot speak English, or if you communicate only with sign language, you may use an interpreter to help you communicate with election officials. You can select any registered voter from your county to be your interpreter.
- ⇒ If you cannot read the languages on the ballot, your interpreter can translate the ballot for you in the voting booth.
- ⇒ If you are deaf and cannot bring someone to interpret for you, see if your county provides an interpreter at any of the polling places during Early Voting or request Alternative Voting Methods: You may find it easier to use one of the following alternative voting methods.

⇒ Curbside Voting—Curbside voting is available during early voting and on Election Day. If you are physically unable to enter the polling place, you may ask that an election officer bring a ballot to you at the entrance of the polling place or to a car at curbside. After you mark the ballot, give it to the election officer who will put it in the ballot box. Or, at your request, a companion may hand you a ballot and deposit it for you.

⇒ Early Voting—if you find it difficult to vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day, you may choose to vote at a more convenient time and location by voting early. You can vote early in person during the early voting period, which begins 17 days before Election Day and ends four (4) days before Election Day.

You vote at any early polling place in your county.

⇒ Vote-by-Mail - Vote-by-Mail is a method of conducting elections. Instead of using traditional polling places where voters go to cast ballots on Election Day, you can have a ballot mailed to you if you are registered voter. You then mark the ballot, and mail it back to the county clerk to be counted.

Provisional Ballots: You have the right to complete a provisional ballot if there is any question about your eligibility. Voters whose eligibility is in question will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot that will be counted once election officials determine the voter is eligible.

Voter Registration: People with disabilities have the right to register to vote. Many people who have limited guardianships still have the right to vote. They have that right unless a judge specifically orders that they cannot vote.

Under the Motor Voter Act, you have the right to register to vote at any state agency that provide you public assistance, and at all offices that provide state-funded programs designed to help persons with disabilities. This includes, for example, Department of State Health Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Department of Transportation.



**09/11/15 Fishing in Lake Conroe**—I thought I'd send along a picture from fishing on Lake Conroe. Plus just a note to say thanks again for having the event. Both my wife and I had a great time. Well probably me more than her since I caught a bunch of fish and she only caught one. It just goes to show you that you can't just listen to the weather man to plan your day. Sometimes you just have to go no matter what. Take your chances. Things might turn out good. That sure was the case for us fishing on Friday. I suppose that could be the case for many events without even taking the weather in as a factor. I get to thinking sometimes that something might be too tough to go try. But if I actually go do it, I find out it wasn't as bad as I thought it might be and usually turns out to be a lot of fun.

That was the case for me on Saturday also. I went to the Disabled Aquatics Festival at Moody Gardens. I tried out the water skiing. That was a blast. It was difficult, but still was a lot of fun. I had a huge grin on my face. The grin probably lasted all day too. Sometimes it's hard to convey the amount of thanks I have for all the volunteers and donors that provide their time and resources to provide these events. I know it makes me feel better and look forward to the next one. So thanks again for all you do for us. Steve Holbert



**September 15, 2015**

**Volume 21, No. 9**

### **Much Work Remains to Be Done as Congress Returns to Session**

As Congress returns from the August recess, a number of important issues remain that could have an impact on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Foremost is the passage of the FY 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act that will fund the department. The bill provides funding for the VA beginning with the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. This bill has historically been bipartisan. In fact, the House passed its bill in April and the Senate began work on the bill in May. Unfortunately, it appears that Congress will once again pass a long-term Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government due to political wrangling over hot issues such as funding for Planned Parenthood and the Affordable Care Act. If Congress fails to approve a CR, or any appropriations bills, by September 30, the federal government will face a shutdown similar to what occurred two years ago.

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Contact the Chapter Office to read the entire article



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Texas Chapter

**Paralyzed Veterans of America—  
Texas Chapter**

**2nd Annual Freedom Shoot**

**November 7th, 2015**

**Mail checks to: PVA, TEXAS CHAPTER  
2656 S. Loop W., Ste. 130, Houston, TX 77054**

**OPEN TO ALL SHOOTERS – Novices AND Experienced**  
 HELD AT CLAY MOUND SPORTING CENTER | 2001 TEXACO RD. LIBERTY, TX 77575  
 For directions, please go to [www.claymoundsporting.com](http://www.claymoundsporting.com)  
**Registration is on [www.iclays.com](http://www.iclays.com)**  
 Go to Upcoming Tournaments and go down to November, then click Register  
 Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. | Score cards in by 2:00 p.m.

European Rotation  
 || Team AND Individual Scoring ||  
 4 man teams  
 If you have a team, in the notes section please list your team members.  
 On the day of the event, make sure to let the office know of any changes & your team name.

**Mulligans available | 4 max per person | \$5 per mulligan**

**Golf carts available by reservation only**  
 If reservation is not made 3 days in advance, golf cart availability is not guaranteed  
**Bringing your own UTV, ATV or golf cart is allowed**

For more information, please go to: [www.texaspva.org](http://www.texaspva.org)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>MAIN EVENT</b><br/>         100 bird sporting clay course<br/>         \$100 entry   \$400 entry per team</p> <p><b>FUN EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>Target of Terror</b><br/>         \$10 per attempt</p> <p><b>Wascally Wabbit</b><br/>         \$15 per attempt</p> <p>For any questions on these events or registration, please contact us at:<br/> <a href="mailto:questions@claymoundsporting.com">questions@claymoundsporting.com</a><br/>         (936) 334-9200</p> | <p><b>Sponsorship Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Veteran Team Sponsor - \$400</b><br/>         Includes one 4 man team, name on banner and lunch for each</p> <p><b>Station Sponsor - \$100</b><br/>         Includes 1 station sign at 1 out of the 10 stations</p> <p><b>Bronze Sponsor - \$1000</b><br/>         Includes one 4 man team, lunch for each &amp; name on banner</p> <p><b>Silver Sponsor - \$1,500</b><br/>         Includes two 4 man teams, lunch for each shooter, company name on banner &amp; sponsor board, as well as 1 sign on course</p> <p><b>Gold Sponsor - \$2,000</b><br/>         Includes three 4 man teams, 1 sign on course, company logo on banner, company name on all printed materials, company name on sponsor board &amp; sponsor recognition at opening/closing ceremonies</p> <p><b>PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA SAUNDERS</b><br/>         (713) 520-8782 ext. 2   <a href="mailto:amandas@texaspva.org">amandas@texaspva.org</a></p> |
|---|---|

***Executive Director Report By Amanda Saunders***



Hello Texas Chapter Members,

I hope this note finds everyone doing well. It's been a busy summer around the Chapter and I don't see things slowing down for the fall. There are several events coming up, so we'd love to see you out and about. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio for our Jack Sanders Banquet on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

There's still plenty of room on the boat if you'd like to join us in Galveston for bay fishing on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. We haven't caught a lot of fish on any of these trips, but they sure are fun. I'm confident we'll all max out soon!

We have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Freedom Shoot on November 7<sup>th</sup> in Liberty, TX. Please let me know if you'd like to participate or volunteer. It will be a fun day and there will be a chance to win several different guns. One of which is a custom built AR 15 made entirely by disabled veterans!

If you are in the area, please, please join us for the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Houston on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The MED VA MC in-patients will be rolling with us and we'd like to have as many as possible in our group. Last year there was some confusion on where to meet and how to get there. We will have our parade # and meeting spot a few weeks before the parade. Contact the Chapter for more info.

Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be allowed one caregiver/spouse/guest to travel with you to the WSC or the NVWG's. The guest's travel will be covered by the Chapter until budgeted funds have been exhausted. The Board is trying to encourage members to participate, who might not feel comfortable travelling alone. Currently the Chapter only covers someone to travel with you if you truly require an attendant.

Take care and I hope to see you soon.

Amanda



**Galveston Bay Fishing**  
**October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 9 am to 2 pm**  
**Pier 19, Galveston, TX 77550**  
**409-763-5423**

# *Houston VAVS & Advocacy Report By Director Derrick Perkins*



Give A Little to Help A Lot—Derrick Perkins, PVAT VAVS Representative

As the newly appointed VA Volunteer Services representative I would like to encourage our Houston area members to volunteer some of your time to help your fellow veterans. The easiest way is to take a moment to chat with someone on the SCIU when you are passing through. You'd be surprised to see how you can encourage someone or answer a question that may be a great help. They may even encourage you. That's what it's all about...veterans helping veterans. And remember, if you plan on participating in the VA Winter Sports clinic and/or the Summer Wheelchair games you will be required to earn 75 volunteer points in order to receive PVA Texas sponsorship. You can even earn sponsorship for participating in another sport of your choosing. I have been sponsored as a US Para Equestrian and now as an Archer. Contact the PVA Texas office or visit the hospital Volunteer Services office on the second floor for a variety of fun, interesting, and helpful volunteer opportunities.

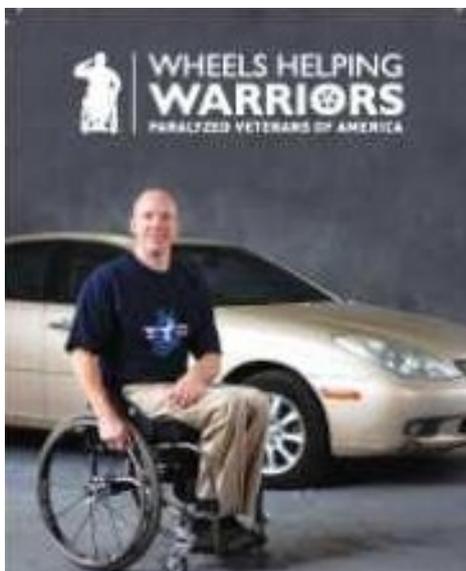
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER** It is never our intention to leave anyone out

Gilbert Acosta  
 Pedro Aguilera  
 Mary Ann Alexander  
 Willie Arch Jr.  
 Mark Ascher  
 Armando Atkinson  
 Alan Babin Jr.  
 Jerry Baker  
 Christian Barthol  
 Alan Beaty  
 Albert Blackmon  
 Marianne Bogel  
 Matthew Bourbon  
 Peter Brower  
 Ronald Bruellisauer  
 Maurice Brunot  
 Samuel Calamaco  
 Federico Cantu Jr.  
 Ismaro Cardenas Sr.  
 Rolando Carrizales  
 Daniel Castillo  
 Miguel Castillo  
 Dallas Chambless  
 Mack Cole Jr.  
 David Cooper  
 David Cromwell  
 Conrad Crump  
 Joseph Cueva  
 David Cuevas  
 James Czarnecki  
 Selby Daigle  
 Daniel Decker

Efren Diaz  
 William Dietz  
 David Dotson  
 Franklynn Ellis Jr.  
 Gregory Estes  
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 Edward Fattig  
 Steven Fenton  
 Gerald Fesenmeyer  
 Fred Flores  
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 Benjamin Garza  
 Joseph Gibson  
 Warrent Goins  
 Nathan Gonzalez  
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 Sidney Hogue  
 Jose Ibarra  
 Chris Ison  
 Craig James  
 Leah Jasik  
 Jimmy Jenkins  
 Kendrick Kahler  
 Michael Keiser

Johnny Kelm  
 Dee Kilpatrick  
 Mitzi King  
 Kirby King  
 David King  
 Bruce Kuker  
 Veronica Kuras  
 Stanley Lambert  
 James Landreneau  
 David Learned  
 Dianna Lopez  
 Robert Lucente  
 Steven Lynn  
 James Maddox Jr.  
 Khalid Mahdi  
 Hector Marin  
 Nicholas Martin  
 Arcenio Martinez  
 Billy McCrary  
 David Meador  
 Oscar Moore  
 Bradford Morgan  
 Gilbert Morgan Jr.  
 Hunter Morris  
 Richard Moskal  
 Charles Mouton  
 Ivan Moya  
 Janet Neel  
 Rojelio Nunez  
 Macario Olmos III  
 Dwight Pennington  
 Randy Pike

Chris Post  
 Courtney Prater  
 Thomas Price  
 Raul Rivas  
 Ris Rollins  
 Ralph Rollins  
 Charles Sadvary  
 Waldo Schroeder  
 Steven Schulz  
 Lawrence Sciba  
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 Stanford Slaton  
 Alaric Solomon  
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 Ralph Stewart  
 Rodney Taylor  
 John Taylor  
 Charles Todd  
 Don Townsend  
 Jimmy Tucker  
 Valarie Valentine  
 Clint Washington III  
 Jay Watlington  
 Jerry Webb  
 Juan Webber  
 Russell Williams  
 Thomas Winand  
 Robert Wolf  
 Riley Woods



## How Your Vehicle Can Help Veterans

Every vehicle has value, whether it runs like the day you drove it off the lot or doesn't start at all. Regardless of the condition, it will sell at auction. In return, donors receive a tax deduction, and the proceeds of the sale help provide rehabilitation services, job training, quality healthcare, benefits, and funding for education and research for veterans living with spinal cord injury/dysfunction.

It's simple: Be sure the vehicle title is on hand, fill out the online form or call a Wheels Helping Warriors representative, and schedule a pickup free of charge. Paralyzed Veterans of America's Wheels Helping Warriors Vehicle Donation Program accepts a variety of vehicles:

- Airplanes
- Boats
- Farm/construction equipment
- Horse trailers
- Motorcycles
- Motorized wheelchairs
- RVs/campers
- Semi-tractors
- Trucks/SUVs

Any of these vehicles can become a new beginning for a paralyzed veteran. Be a hero to a hero today and consider vehicle donation to help someone who has served and sacrificed.

## Donate Today!

Call or visit us online to donate your vehicle today:

855-744-0782

[wheelshelpingwarriors.org](http://wheelshelpingwarriors.org)



One Car One Difference is IAA's public awareness campaign promoting the benefits of vehicle donation.  
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In addition, feel free to use the following Wheels Helping Warriors you tube ad on your website and through social media.

:30 spot <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCn255-xYL0>

# CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Contact me: Amanda Saunders / Elaine Young

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Telephone: (800) 933-4261 / (713) 520-8782 / (516) 316-3534 (Elaine)



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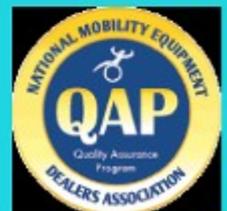
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We are a chartered chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. This newsletter is a publication of the PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, TEXAS CHAPTER, Houston, Texas. It is designed to serve its members and interested parties by keeping them informed of Chapter activities, Veterans Issues, SCI related items, Legislative and Advocacy Issues, Veterans Benefits, Development, and other issues concerning the disabled community.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Chapter, Board of Directors, Officers, or the Editor. Similarly, any appearance of advertising, or mention of products, does **NOT** constitute an endorsement of products or services.

# ***CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS***

## ***ADVERTISE WITH THE SPEEDY GAZETTE!***

All submissions for the classified section of the **SPEEDY GAZETTE** must be in the TPVA office no later than the 1st of the month. The charge is \$15.00 for 15 words (each additional word is \$.25). Payment must accompany the ad. If you are a member in good standing of TPVA, you may place a 15 word ad for FREE. An incentive 10% discount applies on ANNUAL commitments.

**Display Advertisements:** to offset some of the cost of printing and mailing the **SPEEDY GAZETTE**, the following ad rates apply:

| <u>SIZE</u>   | <u>MONTHLY</u> | <u>ANNUAL (approximately six issues a year)</u> |
|---------------|----------------|---|
| Business Card | \$20           | \$120 less 10% = \$108                          |
| 1/4 Page      | \$30           | \$180 less 10% = \$162                          |
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| <p>Shawn Smith<br/>Voc. Rehabilitation Counselor<br/>Work: 713-791-1414 x 3659<br/>Fax: 713-794-7865<br/>Cell: 832-589-2621<br/>shaun.smith @ va.gov</p>   | <p>Susan Sprayberry, M.Ed, CRC<br/>Paralyzed Veterans of America<br/>Vocational Rehab Counselor<br/>7400 Merton Minter Blvd, Room C-012.1<br/>San Antonio, TX 78229<br/>Office: 210-617-5300 x 10148<br/>Fax: 210-949-3620, susans@pva.org<br/>www.OperationPave.org</p>   |  |

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