



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Texas Chapter

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SPEEDY GAZETTE SUMMARY NEWSLETTER

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

A note from the President:

Hello TPVA members,

I hope this finds everyone doing okay after the extensive rains and hail in Houston and San Antonio. If you need emergency assistance because of the flooding or the hail, PVA National offers a disaster relief assistance program. Please contact the chapter office if you find yourself in need.

As we wrap up PVA Awareness Month, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the events and made them very successful. We started the Vietnam veteran recognition this month and will continue it throughout the year, making sure that everyone receives their lapel pin and letter.

We have a busy spring and summer coming up, lots of events and opportunities to volunteer. The election ballots will be mailed out to members on May 12, please send them back to the office as soon as you can. The family fishing weekend in Port Aransas is the 6th & 7th of May, we have a baseball game in San Antonio, Galveston fishing trip, and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games are in Utah June 27-July 2. In between we have a few trap shoots, an archery competition and fundraiser, as well as the Texas regional games. Make sure you get out and have some fun.

Anne Robinson

Dear Cici,

I attended the ceremony at Audie Murphy in San Antonio honoring the Vietnam veteran's earlier this month. I was surprised to hear of the treatment some of our veteran's received when they returned from that war. As I heard some of their stories and as I looked around the room, I saw service members who had given their all (including broken bodies and missing limbs) to serve for this country's honor and protection. How could people be so uncaring as to denigrate their service and their dignity?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

Research shows that the phrase "Some gave all; all gave some" originated before the Vietnam War, but it was set to music by Billy Ray Cyrus after Vietnam. It refers to this and other wars the U.S. has been involved in, and it is certainly appropriate for anyone who has served their country. That is most assuredly true of those who went to Vietnam and fought and died for the honor of this country and its citizens.

Another phrase representative of the mentality of some of our citizens during that time might be "All must suffer for the sins of a few." There were atrocities committed in that war on both sides that many citizens could not stomach as representative of America's philosophy of treating people humanely. Many of our citizens protested against those returning because it was the closest individual they could attack for those atrocities — not that it was the right thing to do. Consider why we take our frustrations out on a clerk for a rule made by corporate headquarters when the clerk is simply following the orders of the boss.

The real question is Can we make it right? The answer is a resounding "YES!!" It is never too late to right an injustice. We can honor Vietnam vets (see related article) and all veterans by affirming the value and honor of their service. A simple "Thank you for serving" when you see a veteran will extend appreciation and gratitude and serves to restore the dignity that is rightly theirs.

Cici

UPCOMING TPVA EVENTS—Volunteers please contact the Chapter Office, 800-933-4261

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

National Veterans Wheelchair Games—June 26-July 3 Salt Lake City, UT

Membership Events

- 5/5 **San Antonio Satellite Membership Forum** Dinner 5pm, Forum 6pm
- 5/5 **Houston Cinco de Mayo** MEDVAMC Day Room 12 pm
- 5/6 & 5/7 **Family Fishing** Island Queen Port Aransas (Friday 5 pm—9 pm & Saturday 8 am—12 pm) Lunch @ 2pm
- 5/12 **Skeet Shoot** Hotwells, Cypress, TX (pending)
- 5/13 **Shoot for the Troops** Pearland, TX POC Alvin Guerrero
- 5/23 **Galveston Bay Fishing** Galveston Party Boats, Galveston Island 8 am—12 pm (time may change)
- 5/25 **Houston Membership Forum** 12 pm w/ mtg to follow
- 5/28 & 5/29 **Wheelchair Wind-Up Softball Tournament** 5200 Burke Rd, Pasadena, TX (contact JeMarques for more info)
- 5/30 **Memorial Day Ceremony** Houston National Cemetery 9:30 am

Ongoing Sports – San Antonio Area

Sunday

SA Spur's Wheelchair Basketball Team Training – 0900-1200, 8/23/2015 – 4/3/2016 Morgan's Wonderland Event Center (STRAPS)

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

Monday

Archery – 10:00am—12 pm Oasis for Warriors POC Matt Bourbon

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

Wheelchair Soccer – 6:00-7:30pm (Jr & Recreational) 7:00-9:00pm (Open Play), 7/13/2015 – 2/29/2016, MWL Event Center, POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

Wheelchair Softball – 3/14/2016 – 6/27/2016 6:00-8:30pm, MWL Event Center (Bad weather practice moves inside) POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

Tuesday

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 Weatherford Cooper

BAMC Wheelchair Basketball – 1300 at METC Fitness Center Gym, Ft. Sam, POC Troy Hopkins or Abdul Brown

Goalball – 10/6/2015 – 3/2016 6:30-8:30pm, MWL Event Center, POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

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

Wednesday

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

Archery – 0800-1000, Ft. Sam Houston Riding Stables, POC Jeremy Valez/Brad Bowen ****Must Contact** 24 hour advance notice for equipment

Air Guns – 1300 -1500 Central Catholic High School POC Jennifer Cooper/Jose Laguna

Operation Comfort Adapted Cycling – 9:30-11:30am Locations change, contact Janis to get on email list

Operation Comfort Automation – 1300-150018811 FM2252, San Antonio, TX 78266 POC Brad Bowen/Chris Leverkus

Wheelchair Football – 3/30/16-6/16 5:00-7:00pm MWL Parking lot, POC Brooke Matula(STRAPS)

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

Thursday

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 Weatherford 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 or Abdul Brown

Kayak – 1300 Olympic Outdoor Center, San Marcos, POC Ben Kvanli Boccia – 6:00-7:30pm, 10/22/15-6/16 Morgan's Wonderland Event Center POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Operation Comfort Cycling – Locations change, contact Janis to get on email list

San Antonio Sled Rampage, Ice & Golf Center at Northwoods, POC Chris Leverkusn or www.operationcomfort.org

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

Ongoing Sports Austin Area

Sled Hockey – Austin Blades, www.AustinBlades.org, POC frank@starskaters.org

Ongoing Sports Houston Area

Archery—2nd & 4th Wed, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. Chapter Office, confirm 800-933-4261 x0

Bowling—2nd & 4th Tues each month The Bowl of Bellaire, 4191 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77025

Air Guns 1st & 3rd Wed each month West Gray Adaptive Rec Center, 1475 W Gray St, Houston, TX 77019

9 Ball & Boccia every Thurs MEDVAMC Day Room POC JeMarques

TIRR Memorial Hermann Adult & Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation at the Kirby Glen Center 2455 S Braeswood Houston, TX 77030 (713) 383-5642—TBI Support Group, 3rd Saturday of every month, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Classroom B

SCI Support Group, Meet Second Wednesdays, 3:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Staff Lounge, **Chair Yoga**, Meets every Monday & Wednesday

5:30p.m. - 6:30p.m. Staff Lounge, **Amputee Support Group**, 2nd Wednesday of every month, 6 p.m. Board Room

TIRR Memorial Hermann Hosp - The Woodlands—Outpatient Therapy, 920 Medical Plaza Dr, 77380, 713 897-2863

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group, 2nd Thurs of each mo, 4:30-6:30p., **TBI Support Group**, 2nd Saturday each mo 10:00–11:00 a

Pearland Adaptive Rec—lfrench@pearlandtx.gov, **Adaptive Yoga**, Sat. 1/16 – 4/23 10-12p, Westside Event Ctr, 713-526-8967

Pasadena Adaptive Recreation—Multipurpose Rec Ctr, 5200 Burke Rd., 77504, Facility is open until 9 p. M – F, 281-487-1755, **Wheelchair Basketball**, Wed 6-8:30p, **Power Wheelchair Soccer**, Thurs 6–8:30p