

Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Texas Chapter

6418 FM 2100 Road
Crosby, Texas 77532
Phone: 713-520-8782
Toll Free: 800-993-4261
Fax: 713-520-8217
Email: info@texaspva.org
www.texaspva.org

February 2016

Volume 35, Issue 4



OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 11, 2016



**Paralyzed Veterans of America
TEXAS CHAPTER**

6418 FM 2100 Road
Crosby, TX 77532

Tel: (713) 520-8782 / (800) 933-4261

Fax: (713) 520-8217

Email: info@texaspva.org

Officers – Board of Directors

- President..... Anne Robinson
- Immediate Past President..... David Fowler
- Vice President..... Tammy Jones
- Secretary..... Matthew Bourbon
- Treasurer..... Darrell Wilson
- Board Member #1..... David Bradshaw
- Board Member #2..... Alvin Guerrero
- Board Member #3..... Frank Ellis

Program Directors

- National Director..... Darrell Wilson
- South TX Satellite Director..... John Taylor
- Austin Satellite Director..... Vacant
- Houston Satellite Director..... Frank Ellis
- San Antonio Satellite Director.... Ben Reynaga
- Legislative Director..... Matthew Bourbon
- Government Relations Director .. Kerry Reyna
- Advocacy Director Derrick Perkins
- Sports and Recreation..... Tammy Jones
- Outdoor Sports..... Alvin Guerrero
- Service..... Vacant
- Membership..... Anne Robinson
- MS Director..... David Conerly
- Volunteer Services..... Sherry Kirkpatrick
- San Antonio HLO Anne Robinson
- Michael E. DeBakey HLO Carlton Tucker
- Chaplain..... Charlie Gant

TPVA Chapter Staff

- Executive Director..... Amanda Saunders
- Administrative Assistant/Editor... Sherry Kirkpatrick
- Bookkeeper..... Jill Blankenship

The SPEEDY GAZETTE is published approximately once a month by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Texas Chapter, in the interest of Chapter members. Subscriptions are free to members of TPVA. Send address changes to the TPVA Chapter address.



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
Donating Sponsorship Other

**Please cut out, and mail back to the Chapter Office at:

6418 FM 2100 Road
Crosby, TX 77532



SPEEDY GAZETTE

*Available via email, send us your email
address to info@texaspva.org or visit us to read your*

***SPEEDY GAZETTE
ON-LINE***

www.texaspva.org

PVA National www.pva.org



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

Paul R. Colyer

Danixa X. Vessels

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



Hello TPVA members & friends,

I hope this finds everyone doing well and enjoying the new year. We have started the year off big with the grand opening of the new chapter office in Crosby, as well as launching the new TPVA website. Please take a few minutes and look over the website, you can find it at www.texaspva.org. It has tons of new features, especially our calendar of events and our resource links. This is our best communication tool to let members know what we've got going on, so take a look at and let us know what you think. Speaking of communication, we are going through our database to update contact information, such as phone numbers and email addresses so that when we have special events, tickets to give away, and the gift cards at Christmas to send out, we want to get it to the right folks. The easiest way to update your information is either to call Sherry at the office or send a quick email to info@texaspva.org.

We will be sending a team to Washington DC next month to attend the Advocacy and legislative seminar hosted by the national organization. Darrell, Matthew, and Kerry will have the opportunity to meet with the Congressional and Senate members that represent the member population of TPVA. If there is anything that you would like them to specifically address, please send it to the office via email as soon as you can.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are coming upon us quickly. Please make sure you get your packets completed as soon as possible, as the slots for each event fill quickly.

Derrick and Frank are in the process of getting an archery range set up at the new office location, one target is up and the others are on their way. It looks like it'll be a terrific place to practice, as there are several options for distance and it is all protected by the 8 foot fence.

We still have rodeo tickets available for both San Antonio and Houston, please call the office if you would be interested.

If you live in the San Antonio area and would be interested in a recliner that helps lift you up into the standing position, please let me know, as we have donated to us a couple of weeks ago. It is blue cloth material.

Anne Robinson



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

Improving our spirituality can be as simple as A-B-C! All of us remember reciting words and phrases in order to learn important facts and principles like the alphabet, The Pledge of Allegiance, and the Army's Three General Orders. Singing them helped all the more to lock them in our heads and hearts. I encourage you to continue that valuable exercise to help your spiritual health. Try this: when you feel anxious or unable to sleep, list names of your Higher Power beginning with A and ending with Z. For me and some others it might be, "Almighty, Beautiful, Creator, Deity, Everlasting, Faithful, God..."

It beats counting sheep, twiddling thumbs, and watching the clock. And when we can't go for a walk, pace the floor or even march in place, our options for calming down are limited, especially when we're alone or lonely. I and those with whom I've shared this palliative pain management method have enjoyed less distress in our hospital beds, during MRIs, and even while driving in hectic traffic. It works if you work it!

Making a meaningful connection with Something or Someone Higher when you need courage or peace is pretty much the center of all religions and brands of spirituality. We each have otherwise untouchable ailments. Physical and psychological medicine and therapies are important and improving all the time, but sickness of the soul needs soul food. On my menu is "God's Names A through Z." It's like a buttery bowl of Alphabet Noodles (a childhood favorite of mine, and something I make for my grandsons and me these days) – it's comfort food and good for the soul.

Hungry? This healthy spiritual "snack" can stave doubts and fears, grief, frustration, even physical pain. Higher Power brand ABCs, taken as needed, will strengthen you like nothing else. So, eat up!

Secretary By Matthew Bourbon



Like a shining star sitting atop our Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America recreational rooms Winter Holidays tree, our chapter soared high and lit up many lives this holiday season. As our sport season wrapped up, our need to celebrate an awesome year was very apparent in our community and member out reach.

I know I am going to talk about Thanksgiving, but we started with our beautiful Hope in the San Antonio area decorating 10 food baskets full of everything a family could need for their Thanksgiving dinner. From there we found individuals and families in desperate need of food and children's presents during the winter holiday month. Our chapter gave away hundreds of presents and had the honor and pleasure to fill some fridges and freezers, with the help of our Sports Director Tammy, Alvin, Bradshaw, and all our vet hunters and the meat gathered through last year's many hunts.

Our San Antonio Winter Holiday party was absolutely beautiful. It was held at the Hyatt Resort, where the atmosphere was a true Texas Christmas setting. Our live oaks were decorated in lights and Christmas attire was hung and standing everywhere. The banquet room was festive and the food was outstanding. Everyone greatly enjoyed themselves, and we had a great gift giver named Monika that ran nonstop table to table giving them their presents. It was an awesome time, and I for one used this party to celebrate my Christmas Day. A big thanks to our President, Anne Robinson, our Vice President, Tammy Jones and our great TX PVA staff.

If you have not heard yet about our Houston office moving from an old business building in Houston to a large beautiful house (changed to an office) just east of Houston to Crosby, Texas. We are moved in and in full operation with our eyes on our grand opening in the next few months. Our first board meeting was held for the first time in our new board room this past month, and all board members are in awe of our new home. A real must see.

Just a quick note to my San Antonio archers: We will continue archery practice 18th January 2016, at Harlendale Memorial Stadium, 4002 Roosevelt Ave, San Antonio Texas. The range is behind the stadium right in front of the concession stands on the east side. Archery will be every Monday at 10 a.m. unless weather or activities cancel it. We invite beginners, bow hunters, and competitive archers.

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 our 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 a.m. - 2 p.m. 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 the singing group 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 homes, come on out and have a great time with your fellow Chapter members.

Vice President By Tammy Jones



Hi Y'all,

Fun, Enthusiastic, Exciting

These are the words that we should want associated with Texas Chapter, when folks hear, "Texas Chapter" excitement should be stirred.

We need to bring our new members out and get them involved. So to all you new members. Bring us your ideas for events, your issues, your likes. As times change we should evolve as well.

My email is tammyjtpvasports@gmail.com—Together we are TPVA —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2016



Contact: Lani Poblete
202-416-7667

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Mourns the Loss of

National Past President and Former Executive Director Homer S. Townsend, Jr.

WASHINGTON, DC—Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) is mourning the loss of past national president and former executive director Homer S. Townsend, Jr. Mr. Townsend, Jr. passed away peacefully on February 20, 2016. He was 63.

In a statement released on Saturday, Paralyzed Veterans National President Al Kovach, Jr. stated: “The passing of Homer S. Townsend, Jr. is a tremendous loss for Paralyzed Veterans of America, and for every veteran and person with disability for whom he dedicated his life and career to defending. In addition to his military service to this country, he was a staunch advocate of civil rights and veterans benefits. He leaves an unmatched legacy. We are deeply saddened by his passing, and add our own sincere condolences to those being sent from around the country by friends, family, and colleagues.”

Townsend, Jr. dedicated 41 years of his life to Paralyzed Veterans, serving the organization in many capacities, from the chapter level to national, including as the organization’s 31st national president from October 1998 to September 2000. Since his passing, many leaders in the veteran community who have worked with Townsend, Jr. throughout the years have offered their condolences and remembered Mr. Townsend’s long career serving veterans and all people with disabilities.

“Homer was always a strong advocate for Paralyzed Veterans of America, and all Veterans, but he always advocated in a constructive and positive way, focused on better outcomes for Veterans rather than his own standing. It was never about Homer. It was always about the Veterans he served,” said Robert McDonald, U.S. Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. “Homer epitomized the best of America. His service to PVA and our nation’s veterans was extraordinary. He will be missed,” said former VA Secretary Anthony Principi. “Homer Townsend, Jr. demonstrated the true meaning of lifelong service. His years of honorable service in the U.S. Marine Corps, tenure as Paralyzed Veterans President, and term as Paralyzed Veterans Executive Director distinguish him as one of our most highly regarded champions. His intellect, inimitable style, and political savvy made him a one-of-a-kind mentor to me. He left his mark on all of us, particularly those charged with carrying the organization forward, and the arc of our potential is directly attributed to his leadership. While he will be missed in body, his presence and influence will be deeply embedded in our organizational character as we look ahead,” said Paralyzed Veterans Acting Executive Director Sherman Gillums, Jr.

Mr. Townsend, Jr. first volunteered as acting executive director of Paralyzed Veterans in 2006. That same year he was awarded Paralyzed Veterans’ Speedy Award, the organization’s highest honor, in recognition of his significant contributions to improving the lives of America’s paralyzed veterans. He remained executive director, after being officially appointed to the position in 2008, until his recent retirement this past January. He also served as the first Chairman of the Paralyzed Veterans’ Field Advisory Committee, advocating for the VA Spinal Cord Injury/Disease (SCI/D) system of care.

A disability rights champion, early in his career, while serving as Arizona chapter executive vice president, he was responsible for bringing the Access to the Skies Conference out of Washington, DC to Phoenix, AZ where thanks to his hard work advocacy it grew from 40 attendees to more than 200, bringing light to the access problems individuals with disabilities face when traveling.

In addition to his work with Paralyzed Veterans, Townsend, Jr. also served as a member of the President’s Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities, the Arizona Governor’s Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities (1992-1996), and the Mesa Mayor’s Committee on Handicap Awareness for six years, two of which he served as chair of the committee. He was presented the key to the city by the mayor for his dedicated service.

Originally from Woodland, Maine, Townsend, Jr. joined the U.S. Marine Corps in November 1969, where he served as an aircraft electrician for 5 ½ years. He sustained a spinal cord injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident in 1974, and was medically retired from the Marine Corps in 1975 at the rank of staff sergeant.

Mr. Townsend, Jr. is survived by his son Dale and his three grandchildren, as well as his brother Harold Townsend and sister Terry Townsend.

A viewing for Mr. Townsend, Jr. will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, from 6-9 p.m. at Murphy Funeral Home (4510 Wilson Blvd in Arlington, VA). The memorial service will take place on Friday, March 4, 2016 at 9 a.m. at Murphy Funeral Home, followed by the interment at Quantico National Cemetery at 1 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Murphy Funeral Home to arrive on Wednesday, March 2. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Paralyzed Veterans of America, 801 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. — ENDS — **About Paralyzed Veterans of America:** [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#) is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of veterans with [spinal cord injury](#) or [disease](#). For nearly 70 years, we have ensured that veterans have received the [benefits](#) earned through their service to our nation; monitored their care in VA spinal cord injury units; and funded [research and education](#) in the search for a cure and improved care for individuals with paralysis. As a partner for life, Paralyzed Veterans also develops training and career services, works to ensure [accessibility](#) in public buildings and spaces, provides health and rehabilitation opportunities through sports and recreation and advocates for veterans and all people with disabilities. With more than 70 offices and 34 [chapters](#), Paralyzed Veterans serves veterans, their families and their [caregivers](#) in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. ([www.pva.org](#))

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 Leverkuhn 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, POC 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, www.starskaters.org

POC Information

Tammy Jones – tammyjtpvasports@gmail.com

Alvin Guerrero – alvin-guerrero@att.net

David Bradshaw – dbradshaw1@sbcglobal.net

Matthew Bourbon – matthew_bourbon@yahoo.com

Frank Ellis – hotwheels0114@gmail.com

Jose Laguna – jose.laguna@va.gov

Barry Muth – bmuth@satx.rr.com

Gabe Diaz de Leon – diazlions@msn.com

Jennifer Cooper Weatherford – 830-377-1238,

jcooper@afsc.com

Brooke Matula – 210-336-4135,

brooke@strapssports.com

Brad Bowen – 512-988-7711, bbowen@afsc.com

Todd Erickson – 210-379-5170, ticoachtodd@att.net

Chuck French – 713-562-4089,

Charles.french@houstontx.gov

Troy Hopkins-210-872-7120,

troy.hopkins1@us.army.mil

Abdul Brown-240-338-5717, ab-

dul.r.brown.civ.mail.mil

Chris Leverkuhn-210-913-8869,

c.leverkuhn@hotmail.com

Janis-201-826-0500, jroz814@operationcomfort.org

Ben Kvanli 512-203-0083, ben@kayakinstruction.org

www.texasva.gov

www.texasregionalparalymphicsport.org

www.sanantoniosports.org

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

6/27 – 7/2/016, **National Veterans Wheelchair Games**—Salt Lake City, **Deadline 31 March 2016** to Chapter

Membership Events-February

- 24 **Houston Satellite Member Forum, MED VA SCI Day Rm, 12 noon lunch, 1 p meeting, Frank Ellis, Director**
- 25 **So. Texas Satellite, Corpus Christi Membership Forum, contact Chapter office for time & place**
- 26-28 **STRAPS Winter Classic, WC Soccer & Power Soccer Tournaments, Morgan's Wonderland Gym, Brooke Matula**
- 26-28 **RISE 7th Annual Quad Rugby Tournament, Irving, TX more info contact Tammy**

Membership Events-March

- 3 **SAS Membership Forum, ALM SCIC Rec room Dinner 5:00pm Forum 6:00pm**
- 9 **Archery at 1 p at the Chapter office, 6418 FM 2100 Rd, Crosby, TX 77532**
- 10 **ALM SCIC Women w/SCI Support Group**
- 12 **Kill N Clays Sporting Clays Tournament, National Shooting Complex, Roft Rd, San Antonio**
- 30 **Houston Satellite Member Forum, MED VA SCI Day Rm, 12 noon lunch, 1 p meeting, Frank Ellis, Director**
- 31 **So. Texas Satellite, Corpus Christi Membership Forum, contact Chapter office for time & place**
- 31 **“PASABILITIES” 4 – 7pm Pasadena Convention Center**
- 31 **Deadline for NVWG Packets in the Chapter Office**



IN MEMORIUM



Dario Aguilar
Petro Aguilera
Samuel Calamaco
Jack Calvert
William Cibosky
John Johnson
John Lee

Hector Marin
James Martin
Ronald Maxon
Sean Michaud
Andy Roca
Adolfo Trevino



February 18, 2016

Volume 22, No. 2

Administration Releases FY 2017 Budget Request, Includes Inadequate Advance Appropriations for FY 2018—PVA, along with our partners in *The Independent Budget*, believe that the FY 2017, VA Budget Request is a generally good budget. The Administration's budget request is \$78.7 billion in total discretionary spending for FY 2017. When considering the additional \$5.7 billion that the Administration projects spending from the Choice Act, the total projected expenditure from VA in FY 2017 is approximately \$84.2 billion. *The Independent Budget* veterans' service organizations (IBVSOs) recommend \$84.4 billion in total funding for the VA.

PVA believes that significant attention must be placed on ensuring adequate resources are provided through the Medical Services account to ensure timely delivery of high quality health care. We are generally pleased with the Administration's revised overall medical care funding level for FY 2017, and overall discretionary funding level, but believe the advance appropriations recommendation for Medical Services in FY 2018, approximately \$54.3 billion, is woefully inadequate to meet continually growing demand for health care services. The Administration appears to have punted responsibility for properly addressing the funding question for VA medical care to a new Administration following this fall's election. This is an unacceptable proposition. For FY 2018, the IBVSOs recommend approximately \$64 billion in advance appropriations for Medical Services.

Similarly, PVA has serious concerns about the massive growth in expenditures in community care spending in FY 2017, totaling \$12.2 billion. While we understand the need for leveraging community care to expand access to health care for many veterans, as discussed in *The Independent Budget* framework, we are troubled by the rapid growth in this area of health care spending. Congress and the Administration must ensure that it devotes critical resources to expand capacity and increase staffing of the existing health care system, particularly for specialized services such as spinal cord injury or disease, not just punts this responsibility into the private sector. Simply outsourcing more care to the community will ultimately undermine the larger health care system which many veterans with the most catastrophic disabilities rely upon.

Contact the Chapter Office to read the entire article

DEAR CICI-a Caregivers Column—this column is designed to be interactive. Caregivers please send us your input to info@texaspva.org or fax 713-520-8217. Call 800-933-4261 x0 if you have any questions.

Dear Cici,

My spouse's recent accident has caused him to become an incomplete quad. Although he is upbeat most of the time and manages to do a lot for himself, he still needs help with many daily personal tasks.

I have been suffering with severe joint pains and I sometimes lose my balance. I have taken a few spills in the past, but I've always managed to get on my feet again. In the past, my husband has been there for me whenever I needed help. My biggest fear now, is that if something happens to me or if we have a fire in the house, how will I be able to get us both out of the house safely, or even call for help if we need it?

We recently moved into a new neighborhood, so I don't know many people. I feel so helpless. What can I do?

Worried in S.A.

Dear Worried,

Although most of our fears are never realized, you do have some legitimate concerns. So, now, it's time for both you and your spouse to think them through and make some decisions about what to do in emergencies. Have a plan. Then get busy on the things you can do.

Speak to your doctor about your own health and what you can expect as you go forward. There are medic-alert devices you can use to get help in emergencies. Get to know your neighbors. Once you get to know them, you'll likely find that they are willing to help you and will check on you and look out for you.

Prof. L Single, a nursing professor at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, offers this sound advice: Find out where your local fire department is and visit the people there. Give them the specifics of your circumstances along with your names and address. (It's good to bring along some goodies on that first visit.) Ask if there is any kind of decal you can place on the window to let them know where you and your husband typically are. If there is no decal, you can make one yourself and provide a copy for them. (The handicap accessibility decal — available online — can be used or a simple circle with a large red check mark that will guide them to the right room once inside.)

Get to know them by taking treats for special occasions and participate in any drives they might sponsor. Our fire department has an annual pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for indigent families and children in crisis. You might want to think about getting a specially trained dog. Talk with other people who are in the same situation.

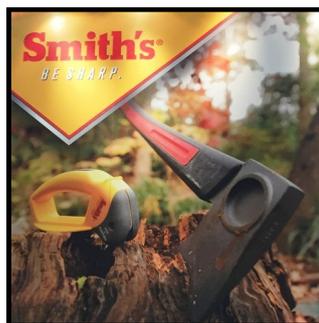
These are just a few suggestions. You must decide on the things that will work for you. It is far better to have a plan of action than it is to worry about the "what ifs."

Cici

Outdoor Sports Report By Alvin Guerrero



SHOT SHOW SUCCESS IN LAS VEGAS



San Antonio Satellite Director By Ben Reynaga MD



San Antonio Satellite: We had a fun year with many great events, good times & opportunities to try new things to make our quality of life a little better along with helping with things on the SCI ward for our vets & staff which has been a priority of the TPVA members & volunteers. The Winter Sports Clinic, & Wheelchair Games were very successful in helping everyone experience how we are capable of doing more than we may have thought. I want to give the caregivers and our families a special thanks and a special thanks to our Board Members to help make things possible for our members. Many of our members got to try new events from shooting clays to hunting events. We enjoyed the ice cream socials and the holiday dinners. Most of all we enjoyed spending many good times together as an extended family. I see a bright future for this new year as we continue building our programs to new heights. I welcome new ideas that can help making a better quality of life for our members so we can present it to our board members to help make your ideas and dreams possible.



WEST COAST TRAVELS—Hi all, my name is Marco DeLaRosa and I would like to tell you of my recent travels to the west. As some of you may know I've been an active shooter, thanks to the TPVA shooting program and Jose Laguna our recreational therapist, I have made it all the way to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. I've also have gone to San Diego for my first competition of the year and placed first in pistol and second in off hand air rifle.

I was asked once "How I can perform and not feel pressured?" the answer left the person with a confused look. Wherever I go shoot I always picture myself in the VA surrounded by my fellow veterans and our recreational therapist. Yes, I know it is weird but in all honesty it calms me down and I shoot well. The laughter and all the wild conversations we have keeps me grounded. Those who attend every Friday know what I am talking about.

As for the West, I would like to thank Cal Diego PVA for the invitation and hospitality. There were three of us invited, ranging from as far as Pennsylvania and Chicago. We all went to Point Loma Naval Submarine Base to shoot, it was held in a small arms shooting facility and ran in a very professional manner. There were a total of 10 to 12 shooters, we all shot air rifle and air pistol. We had coaches there looking over us helping to get us ready for the competition. Once the competition started, silence took over and all that could be heard were the shots and reloading of the pellets. A little after an hour, we finished and they had a huge feast waiting for us. The laughing and sharing of old military life on base took over. The weather was fantastic and we all enjoyed watching the naval ships sail by. To hear the waves crash made us all relaxed and wanting to find a spot to sleep. For me all of this was possible due to the programs and equipment TPVA provides. I invite the veterans who want to learn more about shooting, archery, pool, table tennis, boccia or any other programs that TPVA offers to come out and join us.

The Olympic Training Center (OTC) is a huge facility that provides a place to learn and improve. I had three coaches helping me improve my shooting. The rooms are like dorms and the chow hall has to be easily compared to the air force chow halls. Great food with healthy choices. Every athlete I met there had this motivation to represent our nation. All I could whisper to myself is one day I too will wear USA and remember how I started and make San Antonio proud.

Voting in the March Primaries

The CTD Messenger e-Newsletter
February 17, 2016



Early voting in the March 2016 **Primary election began yesterday and runs through February 26**. This is where voters select the candidate in each party that will run for President in November (when we get to vote again!). *Above: CTD member Rege Westbrook demos the use of an accessible voting machine.*

Some people write off voting in the primaries, or voting in general, but there are a few reasons to consider doing so. Don't worry, "the joy of civic engagement" isn't among them!

1. This year, Texas is an **early primary state**. This means that what voters determine here could have a major effect on the pool of presidential candidates in both parties. [The Texas Tribune's analysis looks at how our state's large population and the timing of our primaries figure into the national election.](#)

2. While presidential candidates are a big draw, candidates in other **national and local elections** will also be on your ballot. Much of the policy that has a direct impact on our lives happens at the local level; don't miss this opportunity to select who represents you! To see whose running for office locally, we suggest www.vote411.org. Simply enter your address to get personalized information on candidates in your area in English and Spanish. Learn where they stand on issues and compare candidates side-by-side.

3. In some state races, a party is **running uncontested**; for example, only Republicans and no Democrats may be running for a particular office. This means that whoever wins the primary wins the election. In these cases, don't wait for November to vote for your candidate!

4. Once elected, representatives may refer to **your voting record** (whether you voted in a given election, not who or what you voted for). At our Houston Policy Roundtable last fall, Rep. Sarah Davis said that when constituents approach her with concerns, one of the first things she does is check to see if they vote. In other words, your elected officials pay attention to whether you regularly participate in the democratic process. This could give you a little boost any time you contact your legislators about making a change or issues that matter to you.

Not only are there reasons to participate in the primaries; there are more **resources** than ever to help you select a candidate and vote on Election Day (or during Early Voting). *Right: CTD member Juan Mimosz demos the use of an accessible voting machine.* Photo credit: Natalie Krebs.



Here are some of our favorites:

- + Video: [Disability Rights Texas reviews your rights as a voter with a disability.](#)
- + The [League of Women Voters Texas Voters](#)

[Guide](#) is nonpartisan & unbiased and lists candidates in contested races who are on the March 1, 2016, Primary Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund.

+ [VerifiedVoting.org](#) provides a [map showing which accessible voting machines you'll find in each Texas county](#), with detailed information on each machine. Look up which machine is used in your county, then view the corresponding video below about its use.

- [Hart Intercivic E-Slate](#)
- [ES&S AutoMARK](#)
- [ES&S iVotronic](#)
- [Accuvote TSX](#)

+ Join fellow activists with the [REV UP Campaign](#) to ignite the disability vote. For our members in the Houston area, the [Rally to REV UP America](#) is taking place next week! + Finally, don't forget the following **key dates**

- Early voting: February 16-26, 2016
- Last day for precincts to receive your Ballot by Mail: March 1, 2016
- Election Day: March 1, 2016



Guest Blog: Texas-bred Election System Allows Private, Independent Voting for All

By Eddie Perez. As we approach the March primaries, CTD partner Hart InterCivic checks in with accessible voting in some Texas counties.

[TXDisabilities.org](#) goes mobile! Been to our website lately? You may notice things look a little different. That's because we've updated our site to be **mobile responsive**, optimized for viewing on any device- not just desktop computers, but also smart phones and tablets! Thanks to [Trademark Media](#) for the upgrade!

[TXDisabilities.org](#)

Upcoming Webinar: Building Relationships in the Texas Legislature

Now is the perfect time to prepare for the 2017 Legislative Session. If you've never spoken with a legislator on state budget and tax issues or would simply like some additional pointers, join Texas Forward for a special webinar during your lunch break on **Thursday, February 18**. [Full Details & RSVP >>](#)

Now Accepting Entries: Cinema Touching Disability Short Film Competition

One of the most popular elements of our annual Film Festival, the short film competition is your opportunity to share your view of disability on the big screen. Enter in either the documentary or non-documentary division. **Deadline Friday, August 26. Full Details >>**

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
316 W. 12th St., Ste. 405
Austin, TX 78758
(512) 478-3366
filmfest@txdisabilities.org
www.TXDisabilities.org

Connect with Us

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Advocacy Director by Derrick Perkins



Just an advocacy reminder from the PVA.ORG:

Veterans with spinal cord injury and disease, as well as other veterans needing assistance with VA benefits, entitlements, medical care and other benefits, often rely on Paralyzed Veterans of America's Veterans Benefits Department (VBD).

Veterans Benefits Department (VBD) makes up the largest department in Paralyzed Veterans of America dedicated to serving paralyzed veterans. They provide free, comprehensive benefits assistance and advocacy. The VBD staff works through a national network of National Service Offices to provide services to paralyzed veterans, their families, and disabled veterans. These services range from bedside visits to guidance in the VA claims process to legal representation for appealing denied claims.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the PVA Texas Chapter office or call your local service officers.

PVA Service Officers:

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

Houston Satellite Director by Frank Ellis



License to Carry permit info (formally Concealed Handgun License) This class is open to all our members, associate members, spouses, family members, care givers, basically anyone we would like to bring that is legally able to apply for the license to carry permit. The class room instruction and hands-on qualification/training is being provided free of charge. The passport size photo and state licensing fees are not included; those must be provided by the applicant. All applicants must register online at the website:

www.rmtexaschl.com.

Class dates are:

San Antonio area- Saturday, 2/27 (the actual venue to be determined soon)

Houston area- Sat, 3/19 @ Texas Premier Sporting Arms, 7311 Hwy 36 S. Sealy, TX 77474

We have an additional class set up for anyone unable to make the above dates.

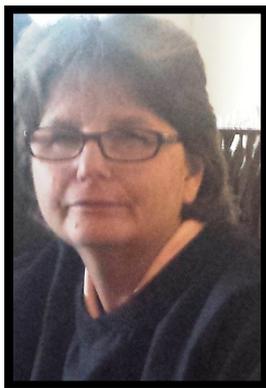
Kingsland, TX, 4/2

Go to the above website, click on “upcoming classes”, scroll to the date you wish to attend, and click to register. Fill out the entire form and submit, the redirection will bypass the payment page and you will be registered. You should also receive a conformation e-mail shortly after registering.

Houston Rodeo is right around the corner and after that, warmer weather and more outdoor activities. We hope to use the office for more of them in the future. If any member has an idea for a new event or sport for our area, please let us know so we can make arrangements.

As always, please feel free to contact me or the office with any question, comment, or concern.

Government Relations Report By Kerry Reyna



Did you know Paralyzed Veterans of America pioneered wheelchair basketball in the 1940's? I didn't and glad to know that great moment in PVA history.

I was on the PVA site the other day and scholarship applications will open up in April to be sent National. I encourage our membership with college bound students to apply.

On my way to Sacramento,CA wearing my new PVA Texas jacket and normally a very quiet person on a trip. On both segments of the trip people noticed the logo and wanted to chat. Must admit I was proud to tell the Texas PVA chapter good news story today and everyday.

In two weeks Darrell, Bourbon and I are heading to 2016 Advocacy/Legislation Seminar in Washington, DC to lobby legislators on issues pertaining to PVA such as Expand Eligibility for VA Comprehensive Caregiver Program and Air Carrier Access Act to name a few.

To our female veterans who answered our electronic survey here are some of the results:

1. If you have used the VA for women's health, did the services offered meet your needs? If not, please explain what was lacking. Analysis: 40% of the respondents answered "No" and 50% of the respondents answer "Yes" with one respondent answering N/A
2. If enrolling in the VA healthcare system for your spinal cord injury, have you used the VA for women's healthcare issues (i.e. mammograms, annuals, birth control)? 70% of the respondents answered "yes" and 30% of the respondents answered "other"
3. Where have you received treatment for women's health issues: in the SCI outpatient clinic, the VA women's center, or non VA care in the private sector? 50% selected the "SCI Outpatient Clinic", 10% answered "VA Medical Center", 10% answered "Non VA Care" and 30% responded "other".
4. Do you have any suggestions that would help the overall women's healthcare programs for women with a spinal cord injury? There were great responses and to summarize all of them the VA has to do a better job regarding women's health.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU IN February It is never our intention to leave anyone out

Martin Aguilar
Seth W. Aho
Sterling Armstead, Jr.
Kord M. Beckerdite
Robert S. Bishop
Harry Boucher
Herman H. Bragg
Donald W. Carter
Barry F. Coats
Dennis D. Compton
William M. Coppedge
Brandon C. Cortez
James F. Driggers, Jr.
Billy F. Easterling
Regina B. Escaliente
John L. Fuller, III
Chanda L. Gaeth

Charles L. Gant
Randi M. Guerrero
Bob Alan Kafka
Kelly W. Keyworth
Willie L. Kuykendall
Ricardo Laurel
Tanoa Leiato, Jr.
Robert H. Lindsay
Jose Luis M. Martinez
Justin T. Martwick
George A. McEntyre
Sammy A. McRae
James G. Milliff
Lester R. Misner
Carl E. Mitchell
Fredrick J. Nash
Jerry M. Opperman

Stuart D. Parselle
Edwin A. Patterson
Brandie C. Peterson
James D. Poindexter
James D. Porter
Hector L. Quinones
Benny E. Reynaga
Emmitt T. Richardson
Herbert R. Richmond
Silviano Rivera
Justin D. Roberson
Richard T. Roberts
Misael Rodriguez
Jose I. Romero
Ronald C. Rone
Juan V. Rymers
Raol Salinas

John D. Schessler
Marvin Seabright
Michael J. Sutton
Mason N. Symons
James M. Trahan
Wyatt L. Turk
Richard R. Vigil
Randy L. Walker
Glenn A. Welsch
Charles L. Williams
Lewis H. Williams

Legislative Director By Matthew Bourbon



Being active in the legislative side of things this past year, with Texas Legislature in session in February, 2015, we scoured Austin's Capitol Hill to have our representatives hear our needs in state level government.

We were also present during the National PVA Annual Advocacy meeting. The major issues of disabled veterans and civilians were analyzed, plotted and executed; again TPVA sought our state representatives at the federal level to hear and understand our plight. We plan on attending all levels of government meetings, being active from

PLEASE NOMINATE AND VOTE FOR YOUR TPVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016 Elections for President, Secretary & Board Member #1

FROM THE TPVA SRC Elections: The President, Secretary and #1 Position Board Director election shall be held in even numbered years and terms shall start on October 1st for a period of two [2] years.

The Vice President, Treasurer, #2 Position and #3 Position Board Director election shall be in odd numbered years, and terms shall start on October 1st for a period of two [2] years. Nominations will open after the October Board of Directors Meeting and will close at the end of the April Board of Directors Meeting. The Nomination Committee will prepare announcements for the Chapter Newsletter soliciting potential candidates with the requirements for nomination.

The nominations shall be submitted in writing to the nomination committee and include the date of the nomination, name of nominee, the position nominated for and the individual doing the nomination. Nominations may be mailed, faxed, emailed or delivered in person. Incumbents shall have to be nominated within the guidelines of the SRC.

Nomination Committee is: Tammy Jones, Chairman; Alvin Guerrero, Derrick Perkins, and Frank Ellis. Send your nominations for President, Secretary & #1 Position Board Director to any

Montgomery County 4H Club says “THANKS” to Veterans By Greg Joyce

Last year, the local Montgomery County 4H Club, Fur and Feathers of Conroe, worked on a project to say “THANKS” to our veterans in the Houston area. The kids prepared cards and had them delivered to the Houston VAMC where the cards were handed out to the in-patient and other veterans in the hospital. The kids enjoyed working on the cards so much they wanted to do it again this year. Spearheaded by Gabby Pena of the 4H Fur and Feathers group, they again prepared more cards and each one contained a personal note thanking our veterans for their sacrifices. We made sure to hand deliver each card during our Thanksgiving luncheon to veterans in the Houston VAMC and also reached out to the veterans in the San Antonio VAMC, thanks to our Chapter President Anne Robinson who brought some cards back to San Antonio.

Once again, this was a great community project that serves to thank our veterans and we certainly appreciate the thoughts and comments from the kids. Thanks to the 4H Fur and Feathers of Conroe for taking time over Veterans Day to reach out to our veterans!





Paralyzed Veterans of America

YOUR FUTURE AWAITS

Paralyzed Veterans' scholarship program now accepting applications

Paralyzed Veterans of America invests in our members and their families. Our Educational Scholarship Program assists members and their immediate family members by providing scholarship funds to help with a post-secondary education. We will award scholarships in the amount of **\$1,000** to full-time students and **\$500** to part-time students for an academic year.

APPLICANT MUST BE:

- A Paralyzed Veterans of America member, spouse of a member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support
- A United States citizen
- Accepted and enrolled as a full- or part-time student in an accredited U.S. college or university

Previous award recipients may apply.

Download an application at pva.org, or for more information contact Christi Hillman at 800.424.8200, ext. 776; ChristiH@pva.org. Applications must be completed in full and postmarked no later than June 17, 2016.

Executive Director Report By Amanda Saunders



I hope all of you are doing well this month. We've just wrapped up our audit and have mailed the Annual Report. I'm extremely happy to tell you that for fiscal year 2015, 78% of all funds spent were spent on our Membership Programs! This percentage continues to increase each year, which means we are doing more and more for our membership.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games applications are available online. If the NVWG's is not your cup of tea, then perhaps you might want to utilize our Sports

Alternative program. This allows you to use 75 volunteer points for \$1,500 in funding for the sport of your choice. You can do this twice per year. Points do not apply for Novices. Some of our folks use this for shooting sports, hunting trips, horseback riding and bowling. One member took advantage of this program and used the funding to attend the National Wheelchair Bowling Tournament in Las Vegas!

Also, just a reminder if anyone is interested in Track Chairs, Stand Up Wheelchairs or any chair that would allow you to do other activities than your regular wheelchair, please visit www.independencefund.org. They have warehouses full of these chairs and are ready to give them away. Non-service connected veterans should contact Kelly Brush Foundation at www.kellybrushfoundation.org, Travis Roy Foundation at www.travisroyfoundation.org or Challenged Athletes at www.challengedathletes.org. We have a generous donor who has contributed funds so that members who receive the chairs can purchase a trailer hitch and trailer so that you can get your chair where you want to take it. Several members have already received chairs and are extremely pleased with them.

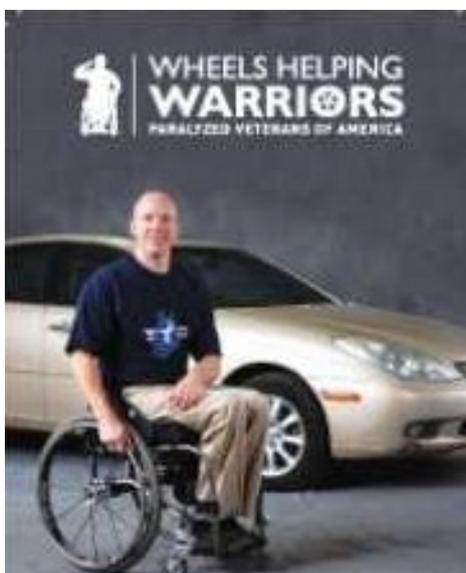
A note from PVA: PVA launched www.AirAccess30.org. The purpose of this website is to collect stories from PVA members and the disability community about their air travel experiences. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA). As you know, PVA played a leading role in the passage of the ACAA. Now, we are working with the broader disability community to bring attention to the successes and failures in air travel for passengers with disabilities. The National Advocacy Program will be leading an initiative, in concert with our partners in the disability community, to reopen the ACAA and amend the law to improve the air travel experience for people with disabilities and to provide for recourse when our members and all people with disabilities have negative experiences in the course of that travel.

We are calling on all PVA members to actively engage with us in this effort. Please share this website-www.AirAccess30.org -widely to ensure all PVA members are aware and encourage them to provide us with their stories. We will be using these stories to increase advocacy around the ACAA and improve air travel for all people with disabilities.

To learn more about this initiative, please visit:

<http://www.pva.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=ajIRK9NJLcJ2E&b=6350111&ct=14816355>.

We have several different kinds of frozen deer meat in the Chapter Office freezer. Please contact the Chapter office at info@texaspva.org or 800-933-4261 x0.



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



One Car One Difference is IAA's public awareness campaign promoting the benefits of vehicle donation.
© 2013 Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc. All rights reserved.

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-xYLO>

CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Affiliate Program (All Markets)

Save money and support a worthy cause every month.

is holding a fundraising drive, but we're not selling anything you don't need. In fact, you can help our cause by saving money on something you already use! We will help you save on electricity or gas by switching your service to Ambit Energy, our partner in this fundraising effort.

Why Switch to Ambit?

Great Savings — Our rates are among the most competitive and there's no cost to switch

Green Plans — Our green plans are 100% renewable wind energy and are Green-e Energy™ Certified

Great Rewards

- Enjoy two nights of hotel accommodations at one of more than 25 destinations as a welcome gift
- Accumulate points for Travel Rewards based on the energy you use each month
- Earn additional Travel Rewards by referring Customers

Satisfaction Guarantee

We are so certain your service will not be interrupted during your switch, Ambit will pay your first bill if we disconnect you.



Contact your Ambit Independent Consultant for the details and enroll today!

Contact me: Amanda Saunders / Elaine Young

Online: www.texaschapterpva.joinambit.com

Email: www.texaschapterpva.energy526.com

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



©2012 Ambit Energy All rights reserved. Licensed in CT, DC, IL, IA, MD, NJ, NY, PA, & TX. DC #EATN-8-6, IA #E3-545, MD #E1-1992, MD #E1-1993, NJ #E3L-0103, NJ #E3L-0101, TX #101017

RAIL PADS
FOR HOSPITAL BEDS
P.O. BOX 741, DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539-6203

RAIL PADS, an innovative way to provide additional patient comfort and protection, are available in custom sizes.

Fax/Phone: (281) 337-5698
Email: railpads@yahoo.com
Web: railpads pockets.com

HUB CERTIFIED #1454495740400 DUNS #022572577

RAIL PADS
FOR HOSPITAL BEDS
P.O. BOX 741, DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539-6203
RailPads (50) 100-000 Email: railpads@yahoo.com Web: railpads pockets.com Phone: (281) 337-5698

Features:
Soft cotton and fleece covers that slip over any wheelchair or scooter
Arms+Back+Seat
The pads are comfortable on skin and washable

RailPads Pockets are available for all wheelchair types.

Foldable scooter featuring railpads pockets

We pad Wheelchairs, Scooters+Bed rails with RailPad Pockets to make your personal items more hands on accessible reach! (keys, cell phone, water bottles, eyeglasses, wallets...etc)

Massey Firearms
Licensed Federal Firearms Dealer
Joe Massey - Owner 281-996-0197 or 281-782-0007

- * Gun Repair
- * Rifles & Scopes
- * Pistols & Revolvers
- Shotguns & Ammo

I am a proud PVA Life Member and NRA Life Member.
"I provide dependable, honest, and quality business for all of your shooting and hunting adventures!"

Custom Crafted Stationary Sports Wheelchair Trainers
Hand built by
Paralyzed Veteran in Austin.
US Patent # 7,604,572
Contact Christopher Stanford
(512) 567-2066 www.trekease.com

One on One Transportation
Marcus Ellison
Manager
Specializing in non-emergency transportation

- Phone: (832) 731-8104
- Fax: (281) 852-6901
- By appointment
- Oneon1transportation@yahoo.com

One on One Transportation

JOHN MURRAY TAX SERVICE
107 CABALLO DRIVE DEL RIO, TX 78840
HOME OF NO WAIT
ELECTRONIC FILING RAPID REFUNDS
PH: (830) 774-8058 FAX: (830) 768-2223
8 YEARS EXPERIENCE SCI; LIFETIME
VIETNAM PVA MEMBER

RAMPS AND OTHER THINGS—Our veteran friend, Carmen Gonzalez, works with the Boy Scouts. To help the boys earn their Eagle Scout status, they will build things like ramps at no cost other than the material. He said they will build portable or stationary ramps and other small projects. This is their community work they have to do. Contact Carmen by calling the Chapter Office 800-933-4261.

OFFER OF LAWN CARE-Houston area
Name: Casey Norris—My husband and I would like to offer free lawn care to wounded veterans in the Houston metro area as a thank you for all they've done, and a way to relieve some pressure from their families. If you have any information that can help us accomplish this, we would greatly appreciate it. We have at least one full day open per week to dedicate to this. Thank you!
email: Caseynorris90@gmail.com phone: 918-407-5476



SEEKING PEN PALS
Connie Conway
1421 Haythorne
Terre Haute, IN 47805

CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS



Austin
239 Commercial Dr
Buda, TX 78610

Visit our new location!

Dallas
3029-A2 East Meadows Blvd
Mesquite, TX 75150

Ft Worth
2110 N. Beach
Ft Worth, TX 76111

Advanced Mobility is North Texas' largest mobility dealer. We offer a full range of mobility products. With 25 years of experience, we strive to deliver the perfect solution to keep you mobile. Call us today at 1-866-211-8267!



Service & Rentals

- Van Conversions
- Transfer Seats
- Hand Controls
- Stair & Personal Lifts
- Wheelchair & Scooter Lifts
- Home and Pool Modifications



1-866-211-8267

www.advancedmobility.net

UnitedAccess.com



United Access®

Mobility for Living, Service for Life®

Your Austin, Texas Location:

15301 N. Interstate Highway 35
Suite A
Pflugerville, TX 78660
512-436-0820



- Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles
- Lifts and Seats
- Driving Controls

Call Toll Free: 877-607-5676

CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Texas **Premier** Handicap Van and Mobility Equipment Dealer



Exclusive authorized **BraunAbility** conversion dealer for the Greater Houston area, Corpus Christi and McAllen | Authorized conversion dealer for VMI, Tuscany, El Dorado and **Mobility SVM** | Side and Rear Entry Lowered floor Minivans | Wheelchair Lifts/ Restraints | High-Tech Driving Systems | Raised Roofs & Doors | Rental Vans | **Bruno & Harmar** Scooter Lifts | Power Transfer/Lift-up Seats | Hand Controls & Steering Devices



Largest inventory of new and pre-owned modified vans in Texas!

Pasadena Houston Corpus Christi McAllen

www.adaptivedriving.com | 1.888.553.6003

CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enjoy
both hands on the wheel !



DARIOS
by KEMPF

Digital Accelerator Ring
optimized for speed

DARIOS is VA accepted.
KEMPF features nationwide free at-home pick-up
and delivery and at-home service.

KEMPF is a NMEDA member.



Visit: www.kempf-usa.com to find videos and comments from users and to request a quotation.

Call Toll-free: **1-888-4-KEMPF-US** (453-6738) for a free DVD and free brochure.



CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Family owned and operated,
proudly serving Houston and
surrounding area since 1987.*



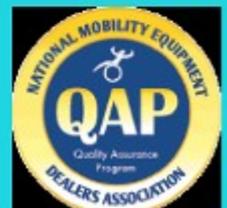
Be a part of the Mobility Plus family. It's nice knowing someone
"in the business".



*Wheelchair Lifts and Ramps
Lowered Floor Mini Vans
Adaptive Driving Equipment
Rental Vans and Equipment
Stair Lifts
Scooters
Manual and Power Wheelchairs*



Visit us at our facility M-F 7 am til 4 pm or at our website - MobilityPlusTX.com
1789 Upland Drive | Houston, TX 77043 | 713 468 4683 phone
713 468 2230 fax | email info@mobilityplustx.com



CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALAMO MOBILITY, INC. - Our goal is simple, to help you reach yours!

www.alamomobility.com



Alamo Mobility, Inc.
 6473 De Zavala Rd.
 San Antonio, Texas 78249
 (210) 697-8884

Full Size Vans
 Transit Vans
 Pre-Owned Vehicles
 Securement



Minivans
 Buses
 Hand Controls
 Wheelchair Lifts
 Service

Scooter broken? Need new batteries?

We repair all scooters and power chairs, car lifts and lift chairs, --- in your home!

The VA pays for most repairs if it provided the equipment to you.

Call for details.

830-626-0051



Serving San Antonio, Waco, New Braunfels and surrounding areas
830-626-0051
www.restoringmob.com



Lizzie B's Auction House

**IF THE BID FITS... SELL IT
 COL "COOP"**

Auctioneer Lizzie B's Auction House
www.lizziebauctions.com

Offered by COL "COOP"



Charles Cooper, TX LIC#17412



Become A Donor

Annual contributions for 2015-2016 will be as follows:		Silver Donor	\$100 – \$249
Platinum Donor	\$1,000 or more	Bronze Donor	\$50 – \$99
Titanium Donor	\$500 – \$999	Brass Donor	\$25 – \$49
Gold Donor	\$250 – \$499	Supporter	\$5 – \$24

2015-2016 DONOR CLUB as of October 1, 2015

PLATINUM	- Robert Kelley (Kelley Facility Services), John Stacy Kemp III & Louise, Excel Modular Scaffold, Brandon Munn, Scott McLendon, Joyce G. Barnard, Gary Munn, Brian Gallager, Rosalinda Babin, Marlon M. Punch
TITANIUM	- Steven Mafrige, Canasta Club (Rita Schwarzenbach), Donald Burton (TDVA), TK Holdings, Inc (Scott Caudill), Mike Lewis
GOLD	- Warren Production Svcs (Warren Shirley), Pelican (Nora Wainwright) , Ken Rucker (Speedbump Stockworks), Akzo Nobel (Robert Alsbury, Texas State Rifle Association, East & West Slator Ranches (Mitch Hoke), Johnson Glass & Mirror (Linda Johnson), Aderbad Tamboli, Ed Ruppert, Miguel Quinones, Robin Allshouse, Technical Coatings Svcs, Inc. (Hilary Plauche'), Stephanie Young w/Buck Knives, Inc., Howard Kelley w/Ancira-Winton, Barbara Allen
SILVER	- Jose Aguilar, Tonya & Terry Dobson, Clay Shooters Supply & CZ USA (John Harris), John P. Ramagli (Kolar), Briley Manufacturing, James Roesch; Decot Hy-Wyd (Sam Cherry), JB & Kelly Kolodzey, Gene Williams, Sandra Randolph, John Rodak, Judy Withers, Woodco USA, Deacon Richard Phillips, Jim Kimmel w/Gerber Gear/Fiskars Outdoor Americas, ACF Awards & Ad Specialties, Richard Cain, Cheryl Trott w/Smith Consumer Productes, Matt Cooper w/Havalon Knives, Don Langford, Sherry & Rene w/Woodmen Life, Edna Harris w/Harris Engineering, Inc.
BRONZE	- Sabrina & Leroy Robinson, Betty & Martin Ellyn, Gail Evans, Mark Joye, Dennis Selfridge, James Ignatovich, Bonnied Donaho, John Millett, James Nelson, Mary A. Ruth; Robert Giles, Gary Broach w/Rhodes Bros. Taxidermy & Game Processing
BRASS	- Home Away from Home Exclusive Pet Sitting, Sapporo (Kasey Lee), Darlene Byler, Hussein Nijim, Barbara Zavala, Robert or Teresa Ochoa in loving memory of Pete Aguilera, Perry Richter
SUPPORTER	- Nina Dennis, Cory Job, Nina Dennis, Paul & Imogene Yozzo, Pam Langenbahn

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA. TEXAS CHAPTER DISCLAIMER

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
1/2 Page	\$55	\$330 less 10% = \$297
Full Page	\$125	\$750 less 10% = \$675

Call 800-933-4261 or 713-520-8782, ext 4 to place a display advertisement or classified advertisement.

PVA Service Officers

Houston	San Antonio	Waco
<p>Gregory Treacy, SNSO (800) 795-3571, (713) 383-2727/2723 (713) 799-1335 FAX</p> <p>Houston VA Regional Office 6900 Alameda Rd., Room 1028 Houston, Texas 77030-4200 Olga Fernandez, Sr Secretary</p>	<p>Armando De La Rosa, SNSO (800) 795-3572, (210) 617-5300 ext. 1-6819 (800) 795-3572, (210) 617-5300 ext. 1-5275 (210) 949-9757 FAX</p> <p>Audie Murphy VAMC 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., Rm. C-014 San Antonio, Texas 78229 Patricia Phelps, Sr Secretary</p>	<p>Dan Meckel, NSO II (800) 795-3573 (254) 299-9944/9942/9941/9940 (254) 299-9943 FAX</p> <p>Waco Regional Office One Veterans Plaza 701 Clay Avenue, Room 115 Waco, Texas 76799 Rhonda Broughton, Sr Secretary</p>
<p>Kimberly Springfield, Benefits Advocate (713) 794-7993 (713) 794-7525 FAX</p> <p>Houston Michael E. DeBakey VAMC 2002 Holcombe Blvd, Room 1-B-164 Houston, Texas 77030 Angel Chapa, Secretary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Temple</p> <p>PVA VLO Jack Soto 254-743-1686 SCI Clinic (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays Only 8:30 - 2:30) SCI Physician, Dr. Idowu 800-423-2111, then dial the extension #44528 SCI Coord Derrick Matthews x 41769 SCI RN Karen Page ext 43042 or 43043</p>	
<p>Shawn Smith Voc. Rehabilitation Counselor Work: 713-791-1414 x 3659 Fax: 713-794-7865 Cell: 832-589-2621 shaun.smith @ va.gov</p>	<p>Susan Sprayberry, M.Ed, CRC Paralyzed Veterans of America Vocational Rehab Counselor 7400 Merton Minter Blvd, Room C-012.1 San Antonio, TX 78229 Office: 210-617-5300 x 10148 Fax: 210-949-3620, susans@pva.org www.OperationPave.org</p>	

**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
TEXAS CHAPTER
6418 FM 2100 Road
Houston, TX 77532**