

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

November 2016

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Volume 36, Issue 1



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
- Vice President..... Tammy Jones
- Secretary..... John Taylor
- Treasurer..... Anne Robinson
- Parliamentarian..... Eric Lindsay
- Board Member #1..... David Bradshaw
- Board Member #2..... Josue Lopez
- Board Member #3..... Derrick Perkins

Program Directors

- National Director..... Anne Robinson
- South TX Satellite Director..... John Taylor
- Austin Satellite Director..... Vacant
- Houston Satellite Director..... Frank Ellis
- San Antonio Satellite Director.... Tammy Jones
- Legislative Director..... Vacant
- Government Relations Director .. Kerry Reyna
- Advocacy Director Derrick Perkins
- Sports and Recreation..... Tammy Jones
- Outdoor Sports..... Josue Lopez
- Membership..... Anne Robinson
- MS Director..... Elizabeth Duncan
- Volunteer Services.....
- Hope Cooper, Barry Muth, John Shores, Derrick Perkins
- San Antonio HLO Anne Robinson
- Michael E. DeBakey HLO Carlton Tucker
- Chaplain..... Charlie Gant

TPVA Chapter Staff

- Executive Director..... Amanda Saunders
- Accountant..... Brian Pflug
- Administrative Assistant..... Elizabeth Arcos
- E-Mail: info@texaspva.org

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



PVA Service Officers-see p 31 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 Texas Chapter Members & Friends,

Hello Texas PVA Members

First, I hope that everyone had a wonderful Veterans Day. Secondly, November is Caregivers Awareness month. Thank you to all of the spouses, attendants, nurses, and significant others who give tirelessly of themselves to ensure we, the veterans with spinal cord injuries or diseases live life to its fullest potential.

As we move into the holiday season, there are quite a few events going on and we need volunteers to help ensure everything goes smoothly. Thanksgiving luncheon will be on November 17 at the Houston and San Antonio SCI units, please bring your spouses and come enjoy lunch with everyone. We will be Christmas shopping for the inpatients at both facilities, if you're available to go shopping, let us know. There will be Christmas parties, as well as gift distributions, decorating and caroling, a perfect opportunity to help create a warm Thanksgiving and Christmas for those who will have to stay in the hospital over the holidays. Check the calendars or give the office a call if you would like to help. Visiting the members who are hospitalized over the holidays helps combat the "blues," especially those newly injured, so if you find yourself with a couple of extra hours, patient visiting is very rewarding.

At times, we have members that are in need of particular items that we cannot help with, such as furniture, clothes, or perhaps yard equipment. If you ever find yourself with extra dressers, end tables, or other things that are in pretty good condition, let us know and we can put it out to the folks that we know are in need. Also, if you have an accessible vehicle that you or someone else is trying to sell or give away, please also let us know, as we can contact the social workers to let them know that something might be available.

The site visit for the San Antonio SCI will start December 5 at 4:30 PM with the membership meeting in the recreation room, concluding on the 7th of December. If you have any Questions, Concerns Or Feedback, please join us at the meeting so that you can talk with the site visit team. Information will be kept confidential.

The Houston SCI site visit will be the first week of February, as soon as we have meeting details, we will let everyone.

I have included an article about SCI and fertilization Educational opportunity that will be happening January 5, 2017 at the San Antonio SCI center. Dr. Nancy Brackett, the nation's leading researcher in fertility after spinal cord injuries, will be training the staff that week and has offered to talk at the membership meeting. If you would like to attend, please do so, just let us know if you're coming specifically for that so that we can have plenty of food for everyone.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas with their family and friends, as well as a blessed New Year. Harry and I will be welcoming the first grandchild on December 19, so Christmas will be extra special this year.

Anne Robinson

On January 5, 2017, at the San Antonio membership meeting, Dr. Brackett, the nation's leading researcher of fertility after a spinal cord injury, will be giving a presentation on fertility treatments. All members are welcome to come, if you have particular questions, let me know ahead of time and I can pass them onto her. Dr. Brackett is training the SCI staff in San Antonio on infertility and what treatments are available. For the membership meeting, it is being held at the SCI recreational room, dinner starts at 5 PM and the meeting starts at 6 PM.

See page 5

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



If you're not an Army Vet, or didn't know about the unit patches we soldiers wear, the one on our right sleeve shoulder indicates the unit we went to combat with. The left shoulder patch is our current unit. Sometimes, as in my case, the two are the same. Actually, since I retired, I only wear the right one, and it's the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

Last November 6th at my grandson's birthday party, I met a young man whose grandad served with my Uncle John in the newly-formed 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. That grandad's combat buddy, nicknamed "Speedy," tells his own Purple Heart story this way: "I was clearing buildings, went into a school when a stick grenade flew in. I picked it up, and took it away from the kids. I was going to throw it into a bathroom, but kids were in there, too. I broke a window to throw it outside, but there were kids in the playground. So, I stuck my arm out the window and up against the wall where the grenade exploded and took my arm. The moral of that story? 'Don't touch things that aren't yours'. [Ha ha] You gotta be able to laugh if you want to live with that."

I love combat stories because I love combat Vets. I'm writing this on November 8th, Election Day. I'm awaiting news of a winner. Neither presidential candidate is a combat Veteran, but both are signing up to be public servants and Commander-in-Chief sworn to uphold the Constitution like we did. They say they're here for us. Let's be sure to tell them our stories, so our noble American legacy of selfless service and sacrifice remains intact. *Climb to Glory!*

Roger

Roger Rahill, M.Div., BCC
Staff Chaplain (125)
Polytrauma/PTRP & Spinal Cord Injury
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
7400 Merton Minter
San Antonio, TX 78229
Phone: 210-617-5300, Ext.13764
Fax: 210-949-3048

Dr. Nancy Brackett and colleagues, Drs. Charles Lynne, Kim Anderson-Erisman, and Emad Ibrahim, were recently awarded a special grant by the Craig H. Nielsen Foundation (CHNF). One of the grant funding programs sponsored by CHNF involves quality of life Sustainable Impact Projects (SIP). To qualify as a SIP, the project must be innovative, have a high likelihood of impacting the delivery of services and care, and address an important gap in service for individuals living with SCI and their families. The project that was funded is titled "Management of Infertility in Men with SCI: An Educational Program for Practitioners and Clients".



Drs. Nancy Brackett and Charles Lynne

This is a very important topic as the majority of men with SCI are infertile, 80% of the people living with trauma-induced SCI in the United States are male, and about half of the injuries occur in people between the ages of 16 and 30 who will go on to live many years with their SCI. Hence, many of these individuals will be at or reach a period in their lives during which they want to start a family. Dr. Brackett has spent her career investigating why men with SCI are infertile and contributing factors include ejaculatory dysfunction resulting from damage to the spinal cord and abnormal semen quality. As a result of these problems, couples with a male partner with SCI who are trying to achieve pregnancy are often told that they must undergo invasive and expensive procedures such as in vitro fertilization (IVF).

This sustainable impact project will address the gap in service due to the lack of appropriate resources for the management of infertility in men with SCI. The medical and lay communities are generally unaware that enough motile sperm can often be obtained from a man with SCI in a non-invasive manner (e.g. by vibrostimulation) and that this can allow for the possibility of less invasive and less expensive methods of achieving pregnancy, such as intrauterine insemination or even intravaginal insemination at home. This project will create an educational program to train healthcare providers and educate clients in the topic of management of infertility in men with SCI. The trainees will then become the trainers of others at their institution thereby providing sustainable education. Over time, a standard of care will evolve through repeated usage of proven methods.

During the 3 years of the grant, they will go to at least 16 centers to provide hands-on training, they will host at least 20 training workshops at the Miami Project, and conduct 12-16 seminars or webinars for SCI support groups. A website will also be created with information for healthcare providers and clients.

Dr. Brackett and her team created an information guide, titled *"Male Fertility Following Spinal Cord Injury: A Guide for Patients"*, which is available in hardcopy and pdf formats on the Miami Project website. The first edition of this guide was published in 2000 and the second edition was published in 2011. They will update this booklet as part of this project.

This SIP is expected to impact the quality of life for individuals with spinal cord injury by 1) establishing a standard of care for the management of infertility in men with SCI, 2) training healthcare providers in the optimal methods of semen retrieval in men with SCI, and 3) providing SCI clients will have readily available, current information on options for fertility after SCI. 📖

It's More Than Just Hunting

It's been a busy couple of months for me attending PVA sponsored events. Dove, Duck and Deer hunts along with Sporting Clays all add up to a lot of fun experiences. The last couple of events I attended made me realize that I attend these events for a whole lot more than just to shoot a gun. Such as the Veterans deer hunt at Indian Springs Campground near Kountze, TX where I didn't even shoot a single round through a rifle. With all the vets that were there, the whole atmosphere of the place made me feel like I was attending a big family reunion at my Grandparents farm or something. There were vets there from just about every era including two that served during WW II. Sitting around the campfire listening to Arlie Ray Horn talk about his experience storming the beach at Normandy during D Day is something that I'll never forget. The great food that we had, live music plus a six shooter quick draw competition, all those things add up to such a good time that who cares if I even got to shoot at a deer or not. The friendliness the camaraderie and all the help to make it easy for a guy in a wheelchair to try and shoot a deer is almost beyond description. I had never met most of the folks there before in my life but it felt like one big extended family the whole time.

It's only been about a year and a half since I first got persuaded to try a shooting event. It's hard to comprehend all of the previous events I've missed out on just because I didn't think I was capable. So remember, it's not just about hunting or shooting, come on out and join us on the next PVA adventure and see for yourself.

Here is a picture of the top three shooters in the wheelchair division at the 3rd Annual Freedom Shoot at Clay Mounds Sporting Clays.

Josue Lopez

Steve Holbert

Norris Honeycutt





**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Texas Chapter



March 26 – April 1, 2017
Snowmass, CO
Deadline to Chapter
11/18/2016

September

Membership Events

- 1 - Opening Day Dove Hunt Buda POC Alvin
- 6 - Boccia Tournament ALM SCIC Rec room 1pm
- 7 - Austin area bowling, Mel's Lone Star Lanes 12 pm POC Chapter office or Tammy Jones
- 8 - SAS Membership Forum ALM SCIC Rec room Dinner 5:00pm Forum 6:00pm
- 8 – ALM SCIC Women w/SCI Support Group
- 8 - Patriot's Day Fishing - Lake Conroe, RSVP Chapter Office
- 9-11 Mason Dove Hunt Mason TX
- 23 - 24 DITW Anglers on Wheels II w/ Island Queen (Port Aransas) Fri- 5pm-9pm, Sat 1pm-5pm
- 25 ~10am-noon: A Day with Paralympian Amy Purdy!!(STRAPS)
- 26 - 29 - **Valor Games Southwest San Antonio - register online**
- 28 – Houston Membership Forum, MED VA SCIC Dayroom Lunch 12pm w/meeting to follow
- 29 - Corpus Christi Membership forum POC Chapter office for time & place

October

- 1 - Adapted Sailing DITW, 11am Canyon Lake POC Jennifer
- 4 - Fishing Lake Conroe POC Amanda
- 6 - SAS Membership Forum ALM SCIC Rec room Dinner 5:00pm Forum 6:00pm
- 7 - Jack Sanders Banquet, Houston, 6:30pm call Chapter office to RSVP
- 13 – ALM SCIC Women w/SCI Support Group
- 26 – Houston Membership Forum, MED VA SCIC Dayroom Lunch 12pm w/meeting
- 14 - 15 Family Fishing Port Aransas
- 21 - Morgan's Wonderland Picnic 10am-2pm
- 27 - Oktoberfest Houston VA Day Room
- 27 - Corpus Christi Membership forum POC Chapter office for time & place

November

- 3 - SAS Membership Forum ALM SCIC Rec room Dinner 5:00pm Forum 6:00pm
- 10 – ALM SCIC Women w/SCI Support Group
- 11 - Veterans Day *Volunteers needed for Parades call Chapter to be on list*
- 12 – Freedom Shoot Sporting Clays, Liberty, TX *Volunteers needed*
- 17 - ALM SCIC Thanksgiving Dinner
- 17- Thanksgiving Houston VA Day Room
- 18 - Deadline for WSC Apps to Chapter 26 - ALM SCIC Decorating

December

- 1 - SAS Membership Forum ALM SCIC Rec room Dinner 5:00pm Forum 6:00pm
- 2-4 - Metal & Muscle Sports Expo, George R. Brown Conv. Center, www.houstontx.gov/parks/adaptivesports.html
- 8 – ALM SCIC Women w/SCI Support Group 11 - DITW A Country Christmas @ Cowboys Dancehall 1-5pm POC Jennifer
- 12 - Christmas Houston VA Day Room
- 17 - SAS Christmas Party, Hyatt Hill Country, RSVP Chapter office
- 22–ALM SCIC Women w/SCI Support Group 25 - Christmas

PVA Texas Chapter Ongoing Sports/Recreation Events



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Texas Chapter

Ongoing Sports – San Antonio Area



Sunday

Power Wheelchair Soccer – September 4th, B team 5-5:30, All 5:30-6:30, A Team 6:30-7:00
MWL Event Center, POC Jennifer Weatherford (STRAPS)

Mondays

Archery – 10:00am Oasis for Wounded Warriors Hwy 46 Pipe Creek, POC Jose Laguna
Adaptive Gaming - 1-3pm ALM SCIC Rec Room POC Jose/Tinyada
Wheelchair Soccer – 6:00-8:30pm, MWL Event Center POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Bowling – 9:30-11:30am Oak Hills Bowling Lanes, POC Jose Laguna
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 - 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, POC Jose Laguna/Alvin G
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, Morgan’s Wonderland Event Center POC Brooke Matula (STRAPS)

Friday

Air Rifles - 9:30am-12:00pm ALM SCIC Rec Room POC Jose Laguna
Karate – 0900-1100 at Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Ft. Sam Houston POC Brad Bowen

Saturday

Wheelchair Rugby – 10:00am–1:00pm Thousand Oaks YMCA, POC Gabe Diaz de Leon/Barry Muth
Operation Comfort Cycling – See Wedn. San Antonio Sled Rampage, Ice & Golf Center at Northwoods, POC Chris Leverkus or www.operationcomfort.org
Table Tennis – San Antonio Table Tennis Center, www.satabletennis.org

Veteran's Day Parade 2016



Veteran's Day Parade



Veteran's Day Parade 2016



MILITARY JOB FAIR

FORT HOOD, TX

**Pre-Register Now at
CivilianJobs.com**

Where:

Phantom Warrior Center

37th Street Building 194
Fort Hood, TX 76544

When:

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

National & Regional Opportunities:

- Administrative
- Aviation
- Customer Service
- Law Enforcement
- Logistics
- Maintenance
- Management
- Medical
- Driving
- Engineering
- Sales
- *Plus Much More!*



Need More Information? Visit CivilianJobs.com or Call (757) 965-5808



3rd Annual Freedom Shoot



IN SEARCH OF PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS

HELP US FIND WWII VETERANS FROM TEXAS
WHO SERVED IN HAWAII ON DECEMBER 7, 1941



HONOR FLIGHT AUSTIN WANTS TO TAKE THEM TO A SPECIAL
EVENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON DECEMBER 6-7, 2016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TINA LEE
AT (512) 974-3306 OR contact@honorflightaustin.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Sports & Recreation

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For more information, contact:
Paralyzed Veterans Sports at
800.424.8200 or pva.org/sports

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

WISCONSIN

July 29–31, 2016
Rifle & Pistol Shoot
July 29, 2016
Green Bay, WI

NORTHWEST

August 5–7, 2016
Summer, WA

OREGON

August 19–21, 2016
Hillsboro, OR

NORTH CENTRAL

Sept. 9–11, 2016
Sioux Falls, SD

KEYSTONE

Sept. 23–25, 2016
Clairton, PA

MID-ATLANTIC

October 7–9, 2016
Richmond, VA

ARIZONA

October 28–30, 2016
Tucson, AZ

NEVADA

March 17–19, 2017
Las Vegas, NV
Pistol Shoot
March 17, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

CAL-DIEGO

March 24–26, 2017
Rifle & Pistol Shoot
March 24, 2017
Lytle Creek, CA

VAUGHAN

April 21–23, 2017
Edwardsville, IL

MINNESOTA

April 28–30, 2017
Minneapolis, MN

COLONIAL

June 2–4, 2017
Baltimore, MD

YEAR-END

June 16–18, 2017
Cedar Rapids, IA

BOCCIA CLINICS

GATEWAY

Sept. 15–17, 2016
St. Louis MO

WEST VIRGINIA

October 29–30, 2016
Charleston, WV

FIVE NEW TOURNAMENTS TO BE ADDED!

Locations and dates to be determined by bids submitted by 9/30/2016.

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & PISTOL PROGRAM

WISCONSIN

August 18–20, 2016
Milwaukee, WI

ARIZONA

August 27–28, 2016
Phoenix, AZ

CAMP PENDLETON

Sept. 8–9, 2016
Camp Pendleton, CA

CAL-DIEGO

January 30–31, 2017
San Diego, CA

MID-ATLANTIC

March 22–23, 2017
Richmond, VA

BUCKEYE

April 29–30, 2017
Geneva, OH

NEW ENGLAND

TBD

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

TBD

PARALYZED VETERANS HANDCYCLING

VIRGINIA BEACH HALF MARATHON

Sept. 4, 2016
Virginia Beach, VA

PENSACOLA CLASSIC

Sept. 10–11, 2016
Pensacola, FL

AIR FORCE MARATHON

Sept. 17, 2016
Dayton, OH

ARMY 10 MILER

October 9, 2016
Washington, DC

BLUE AND GRAY

October 22–23, 2016
Gettysburg, PA

MARINE CORPS MARATHON

October 30, 2016
Washington, DC

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

MID-AMERICA

Sept. 23–25, 2016
Eufaula, OK

SOUTHEASTERN

October 14–16, 2016
Evans, GA

VAUGHAN

October 28–30, 2016
Mt. Vernon, IL

FL. GULF COAST

March 31–April 2, 2017
Kissimmee, FL

KENTUCKY-INDIANA

May 5–7, 2017
Gilbertsville, KY

NORTH CENTRAL*

May 25–26, 2017
Chamberlain, SD

NATIONAL

June 2–4, 2017
LaPlata, MD

NEVADA*

June 3, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

MID-ATLANTIC

June 9–11, 2017
Richmond, VA

* A non-sanctioned event

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

MID-ATLANTIC

Sept. 16–18, 2016
Virginia Beach, VA

MID-SOUTH

October 14–15, 2016
Memphis, TN

MID-ATLANTIC

March 17–19, 2017
Midlothian, VA

MID-AMERICA

April 7–9, 2017
Oklahoma City, OK

MOUNTAIN STATES

April 21–23, 2017
Fountain, CO

BUCKEYE*

June 16–17, 2017
Independence, OH

KENTUCKY-INDIANA*

TBD

* A non-sanctioned event

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

MOUNTAIN STATES

August 18–21, 2016
Colorado Springs, CO

MID-ATLANTIC

Sept. 23–25, 2016
Richmond, VA

NEVADA

December 1–4, 2016
Las Vegas, NV

FLORIDA

GULF COAST
Feb. 24–26, 2017
Oldsmar, FL

MID-AMERICA

March 16–19, 2017
Shawnee, OK

KENTUCKY-INDIANA*

TBD

* A non-sanctioned event

37TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES





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

Alexander Lukats
 Thomas Bates
 Jon—Michael Adcox
 Jessie James
 Charles Cooper
 Fernando Fernandez
 William Watson
 Steven Grant
 Juan Vargas
 Donald Durkee, Jr.
 Samuel Hudson
 Aaron Hunt
 Eric Lindsay
 Jimmy Hennesy
 Cecil Heard
 Paul Striegel
 Phillip Clausen
 Jeffrey Bowerman
 Amanda Horton
 John Beers III
 Donald Saathoff
 Rose Weidner
 Marco De La Rosa
 Marcus Sims
 Thomas Sleeper
 Philip Stovall, Jr.
 Richard Jean
 Timmy Morgan
 Gayle Twiname
 Todd Russell
 Anne Robinson
 Jose Mendiola

Dalbert Rozzlle
 Roger Martin
 Michael Mcauliffe
 Ricardo Perez
 Bobby O’Mealey
 Ernest Salas
 Jimmy Solis
 Timothy Jones
 Adriana Perez—Moore
 Dorian Leon
 Carl Gustafson
 Arturo Vasquez
 Elvin Jones
 Paul Kellum
 Patrick Pennington
 John Townley, Jr.
 Joseph Massey
 John Wilborn
 Raymond Jackson

IN MEMORIUM

LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH



Executive Director Report By Amanda Saunders



Ascend Performance Materials graciously donated 11 brand new manual wheelchairs. They did this event for their Employee Team Building Day and chose Texas Chapter PVA as the recipient. They also assembled bicycles for the Boys and Girls Club of Houston. Please contact the Chapter Office if you know of anyone who needs one. Each chair comes with a bag for the back and a blanket.



Department of Transportation's final rule may relieve some air travel challenges for passengers with disabilities

Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) applauds the Department of Transportation's (DOT) final rule requiring large domestic airlines to track and report information about wheelchairs and scooters that will allow passengers with disabilities to make informed decisions about air travel.

Beginning with flights taking place on or after January 1, 2018, these airlines will be required to provide to DOT on a monthly basis, the total number of wheelchairs and scooters that are placed in aircrafts' cargo compartments. Airlines will also need to report how many of those wheelchairs and scooters were "mishandled." DOT considers a wheelchair or scooter to have been mishandled if lost, delayed, damaged, or pilfered.

"Damage to wheelchairs is a top concern for our members," said Al Kovach, Jr., national president of Paralyzed Veterans. "We hope that these metrics will provide data that will reveal specific areas in which training may be needed to reduce damage and fulfill the requirements and spirit of the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA)."

Paralyzed Veterans submitted comments in response to DOT's proposed rule in 2011. While supporting the proposed rule, Paralyzed Veterans noted that such information would provide the evidence needed to show a pattern or practice of mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, which could lead to enforcement through civil fines under the ACAA. Although not included in the final rule, Paralyzed Veterans also supported extending it to include other types of mobility devices and to cover devices stowed in the cabin.

In January, Paralyzed Veterans launched a website in honor of the 30th anniversary of the ACAA, where individuals with disabilities can share their air travel experiences, both positive and negative. These stories will help Paralyzed Veterans continue to advocate for improved access in air travel. The website can found at airaccess30.org.

National Center for Testing Treatments in Chronic Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury (NCTT)

Now enrolling participants who are:

- *At least 18 years old
- *Have a history of spinal cord and/or traumatic brain injury
- *Are able to provide authorization to share prior medical records/imaging

This is an observational **research** study and will allow participants to be entered into a database for future interventional studies.

Benefits include a no-cost examination and the information collected may help future patients who have spine or brain injury.

Risks may include minimal discomfort upon blood sample collection.

To learn more, visit our website:

<https://med.uth.edu/neurosurgery/nctt/>

Contact us:

713-704-6900

Nctt.wec@uth.tmc.edu



Mischer
Neuroscience Institute



IRB NUMBER: HSC-MS-15-0705
IRB APPROVAL DATE: 05/27/2016

Wheelchair Accessible Class A Motorhome
2005 Winnebago Itasca Meridian Model 39K
39 Foot Diesel Pusher
Like New "**CREAMPUFF**" - Less than 1,200
miles

Abilities Access Customized Features Include:

- * Braun L100 Platform Wheelchair Lift (lifts up to 750 lbs)
- * Lift Door - 42" wide Manual Swing Style with Awning
- * Switches by Lift for Front Slide-out Rooms for Wheelchair Access to Cab
- * Complete Roll-in Shower with Water Barrier Threshold
- * Reinforced Walls with 2 horizontal assist bars in Shower & Toilet Areas
- * Adjustable Height Shower Head with anti-scald valve
- * Raised Toilet - facing hallway for easier access from wheelchair
- * Swing-away grab bar between shower and toilet
- * Doors removed between bedroom and bath areas for easy wheelchair access
- * Bathroom walls cut back for extra clearance
- * Pocket Sliding Door placed between bath & kitchen areas
- * Driver's Hand-brake Controls (These controls can be removed if not needed by driver)
- * Roomy with 3 Slide-out Rooms
- * New Batteries & Transferrable Extended Warranty
- * Located in Houston, Texas area





2011 Chevrolet Silverado Truck
1500 2WD Crew Cab LT
GoShichi Driver's Side Conversion

- * Like New with **less than 7,000 miles**
- * Transferrable Extended Warranty
- * Lowered Floor Driver Position & Driver's Hand Controls
- * No Transferring, Drive from Wheelchair, Powerchair or the Original Seat
- * Retractable EZ-Slide & Lock System secures Wheelchair
- * Vortec 5.3L V8 SFI Engine, Texas Edition
- * HD Trailering Equipment Package, EZ Lift Tailgate
- * Rear Vision Camera System, Rear Park Assist
- * Bluetooth for Phone, Steering Wheel Radio Controls
- * Always garaged, Original Owner, Private Party Seller

Pictures & Info: www.wheelchair-accessible-truck-for-sale.com

Watch YouTube video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=psnvHH2pP0o&t=3s

Prefer contact via website or: WheelchairTraveler7@gmail.com



CAMP LEJEUNE: PAST WATER CONTAMINATION

From the 1950s through the 1980s, people serving or living at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals. This chemical exposure may have led to adverse health conditions.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR VA HEALTH BENEFITS IF YOU SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY (VETERANS) OR RESIDED (FAMILY MEMBERS) AT CAMP LEJEUNE FOR 30 DAYS OR MORE BETWEEN AUGUST 1, 1953 AND DECEMBER 31, 1987:

- Veterans who are determined to be eligible will be able to receive VA health care. In addition, care for qualifying health conditions is provided at no cost to the Veteran (including copayments).
- Eligible family members receive reimbursement for out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred from the treatment of qualifying health conditions after all other health insurance is applied.

QUALIFYING HEALTH CONDITIONS INCLUDE:

- Bladder cancer
- Breast cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Leukemia
- Lung cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Female infertility
- Hepatic steatosis
- Miscarriage
- Neurobehavioral effects
- Renal toxicity
- Scleroderma

VETERAN ELIGIBILITY:

- A Camp Lejeune Veteran does not need to have one of the 15 health conditions to be eligible to receive VA health care, nor do they need a service connected disability to be eligible as a Camp Lejeune Veteran for VA health care.

VETERANS

ENROLL IN VA HEALTH CARE

- Inform VA that you served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days during the covered time period.
- Already enrolled? Contact your local VA health care facility at <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/> to sign up for the Camp Lejeune Program and receive VA care.
- Not yet enrolled? Apply online at <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/> or call toll-free 1-877-222-8387.

FAMILY MEMBERS

GATHER DOCUMENTS

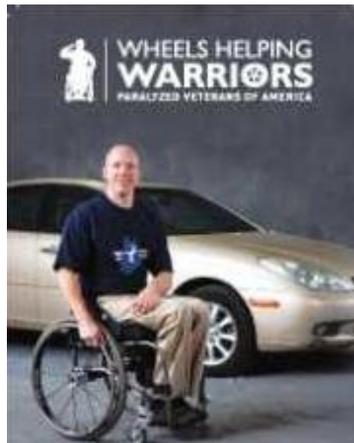
- Show your relationship to a Veteran, such as a marriage license or birth certificate.
- VA will assist you with verifying residency on Camp Lejeune during the covered timeframe.

GATHER QUALIFYING EXPENSE RECEIPTS

- By law, VA may only compensate for eligible out-of-pocket expenses after family members have received payment from all other health plans.

APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT

- Apply online at <https://www.cfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov> or call toll-free 1-866-372-1144.



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-xYL0>

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 CA, DC, IL, IA, MD, MI, NY, PA, TX, SD, WA, WI & VA. All other states and territories are available on request. See website for details.

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 #145449748400 DUNS #02372577

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

Foldable scooter featuring railpads pockets

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.

We pad Wheelchairs, Scooters and rolls with RailPad Pockets to make your personal items more handy on accessible to 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"

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

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

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



ADVANCED
Mobility Systems of Texas
"Keep Going"

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

Dear Cici,

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and I might have bitten off more than I can chew. I told my husband that it was okay for him to invite his sister and his mother to our home for Thanksgiving. They live in another city about four hours away from us, and this is the first time they'll be visiting us, so I thought it would be a good thing for them to come. BUT, now I'm feeling pressured to clean and shop for their visit. It makes me tired just thinking about it. I spend anywhere from three to five hours a day caring for my husband. Our budget will not allow us to hire someone to help with bathing, house cleaning and such. I feel guilty about the way I'm feeling. What can I do?

Tired and Guilty

Dear T&G,

The holidays can be stressful because we think we have to do so much in addition to what we already have on our plates to prepare for them. And, it's natural to feel a little nervous about first time

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

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

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
 Scooter Lifts



**Alamo Mobility, Inc.-
 Austin**

16262 IH-35 North
 Selma, TX 78154
 (210) 718-0055



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

Restoring Mobility of Texas

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



Indego Exoskeleton for United States Veterans

If you are a veteran who is interested in INDEGO, please contact your closest VA SCI Center to schedule an appointment for available screening days.



www.indego.com

Powering Veterans Forward



Indego enables veterans with spinal cord injuries to stand, walk, and gait train in therapy and personal settings.

- Rapid Set-up
- Variable Assist
- Lightweight, Slim, Modular Design
- Extended Battery Life
- Natural Human Movement
- Manage Parameters & Record Progress



Indego® is a registered trademark of Parker Hannifin Corporation

CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to announce that we are all very proud of our Veterans and we Thank You for your Service! God bless!

Team PVA competing in a tournament on Lake Conroe



Become A Donor

Annual contributions for 2013-2014 will be as follows:

Platinum Donor	\$1,000 or more
Titanium Donor	\$500 – \$999
Gold Donor	\$250 – \$499
Silver Donor	\$100 – \$249
Bronze Donor	\$50 – \$99
Brass Donor	\$25 – \$49
Supporter	\$5 – \$24

2015-2016 DONOR CLUB as of October 1, 2015

PLATINUM	- Adaptive Driving Access ; Kelley Facility Services ; Burns & McDonnel
TITANIUM	- Ladies Auxiliary
GOLD	- Michael Lewis
SILVER	- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund ; Chad Walker
BRONZE	- Combined Federal Campaign
BRASS	- Mike Stewart ; Robin Allshouse
SUPPORTER	-

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) 383-2724 FAX</p> <p>Houston VA Regional Office 6900 Almeda 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) 615-7498 FAX</p> <p>Audie Murphy VAMC 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., Rm. C-012.1 San Antonio, Texas 78229 Patricia Phelps, Sr Secretary</p>	<p>Ty McWhorter, NSO II 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>Shaun Smith Voc. Rehabilitation Counselor Work: 713-791-1414 x 3659 Fax: 713-794-7865 Cell: 832-589-2621 shaun.smith @ va.gov</p>		

**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
TEXAS CHAPTER
P.O. Box 989
Crosby, TX 77532**