

Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

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July 2018

★ Happy ★
Independence Day





Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

Officers - Board of Directors, Program Directors

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Vice President Tammy Jones
Secretary Robert Webb
Treasurer Alvin Guerrero
Parliamentarian and Legislative Director Eric Lindsay
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Sports & Recreation Kedgerick Smith
Outdoor Sports Josue Lopez, David Bradshaw
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MS Director Elizabeth Duncan
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VAVS Houston Derrick Perkins
Chaplain Charlie Gant
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Presidents Report by Anne Robinson



Hello TPVA Members & Friends,

The Texas summer heat is upon us, in more ways than one. Our 2018-2019 budget is seeing some drastic overhauls and unfortunately some cuts in popular things. We have to find ways to bring down costs, while boosting our fundraising to at least \$100,000, something that I put forward about four years ago. It will take new ideas and effort from everyone, but I know that it can be done.

I would like to congratulate the winners of this year's elections, I know that Derrick will do a tremendous job and I will be there to help anytime he calls as the immediate past president. We must remember that we represent the 590 members of TPVA and every decision that's made should reflect on how the members would want it to be.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are coming up quickly, and we are taking a very big team to Orlando. I just want to give our Recreational Therapists, José Laguna, Tinyada Robinson, and JaMarcus, a very big thank you on behalf of the Texas Chapter athletes. There is no way we would have excelled the way we do without the push from you all to get involved.

José and Tinyada currently have more national and international athletes, in every sport that we do competing at levels that they never dreamed would happen.

Thank you all for creating the opportunities to live life to its fullest! Let's all go bring home the Gold!

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,
Anne Robinson
President

Tellers Report - Election 2018

The following individuals were elected by the membership via ballot returns:

President - Derrick Perkins

Secretary - Robert Webb

BOD Member At Large - David Bradshaw

Thank you to everyone who participated in the elections and ensuring a strong foundation for the future of TPVA.

The Board of Directors to be sworn in at the Jack Sanders Banquet will be:

President - Derrick Perkins

Vice President - Tammy Jones

Secretary - Robert Webb

Treasurer - Alvin Guerrero

BOD Member - Josue Lopez

BOD Member - David Bradshaw

Chair Committee - Eric Lindsay

Congratulations to Derrick Perkins,
elected as new President for TPVA



Vice President Report

Tammy Jones

Hello Members,

As we are all well aware, this next fiscal year will be a tight one with changes. We can continue to work together and remember we have 8 mandated programs that we have to show the Chapter is maintaining.

Fiscal year 2018-2019 has us going to Austin for our own Advocacy/ Legislative sessions and to Washington D.C. for the Annual Session. Also, we need to grow our membership through outreach to communities throughout the state, from West Texas down to the valley over to the Louisiana Border.

We currently have members throughout the state and as we find out opportunities to outreach we can call upon those members to go and represent the Chapter, along with a Board member. One main goal is to insure there is a TPVA available future generations of service members, we can do that by growing the membership and the public awareness of who we are through outreach.

Yes, we will have to tighten our fiscal belt and not offer things we have offered in the past. Growth within an organization takes change. We are Texas PVA and we can do this for our members now and our future Team Texas.

Executive Director's Report by: Amanda Saunders

Donate your used clothing and household items to help support our chapter.

Please be sure to mention you' would like your donation to benefit the TEXAS PARALYZED VETERANS. All donations are tax deductible.

To schedule a pickup please call:

Houston & Corpus area 713-696-5500

Austin 512-443-3336

San Antonio 210-431-3726



Don't



Government Relation/Advocacy/Legislative

Wow! The end of June and beginning of July have been hot weather and legislation wise.

The upcoming National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) currently has Tricare fee's going up. While Congress passed the VA Mission Act our "mission" to lobby our Local, State and Federal legislators is ongoing to ensure Veterans Benefits are never cut.

I urge you to call your legislators and thank them for what they have done and remind them about PVA causes such as Air Transportation, housing and employment.

Stay cool and thanks for all you do!

Kerry
Government Relations

Paralympic Trap by: Steve Holbert

The US Paralympics committee hosted a paralympic trap shooting try out at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center in Kerrville, TX July 6 through July 8th. There is a push to include trap shooting in paralympic competitions but for the Olympic Committee to approve the sport there has to be the appropriate level of participation at the international level. To participate in an International meet you first must qualify with a minimum qualification score at a sanctioned event. Alvin Guerrero informed me a few weeks prior to this event and asked if I wanted to give it a try. I decided to give it a go.

Have you ever heard the saying ignorance is bliss? I don't know who came up with that but it sure, didn't seem to fit me in this scenario. I did not feel bliss! First, I'm not a competitive shooter. Yes, I have shot at the NVWG the past two years, but I only shoot a few times per year. I'm what you'd call a recreational shooter.

For paralympic trap they use the exact same course the exact same targets and the exact same rules as at an able bodied Olympic trap shooting competition. As a matter of fact, at this competition the US Army trap shooting team was there competing and yes, they are very good shooters. I had never shot at an Olympic Trap course before and here I was a 59-year-old T3 level paraplegic trying to swing a shotgun at Olympic speed targets.

Needless to say, I did not meet the minimum qualification requirements. I did hit enough targets in one round to qualify but the number I missed in the other four rounds brought my score down to about half of what is required. Congratulations go out to Alvin and the other three isabled participants who did shoot well enough to qualify. They qualified to attend the next International event in Italy if they decide to go. Good Luck!



Shell Revive The Drive Vehicle



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Texas Chapter

Dear members,

To celebrate our partner, SHELL, and their passion for performance, innovation, and mobility, SHELL has teamed up with PVA for a VIP EXPERIENCE that a member will win.

It is open to anyone 18 years or older, who is a disabled veteran of a United States military branch and needs an adaptation to their vehicle to drive.

The VIP EXPERIENCE is open from July 10, 2018. Registration will conclude July 31, 2018. Five finalists will be selected by a panel of judges based on entry submissions, with the winner determined by a panel of associates from Team Penske.

If you would like to be considered for nomination, please tell us your story, including the nature of your injury and/or disability and send it to our e-mail address info@texaspva.org. The Winner and a guest will be required to participate in the ceremony onsite and have their story documented for use. The ceremony will take place at the Verizon IndyCar Series race at Pocono Raceway on August 19, 2018.

All travel expenses will be covered by Shell.

Paralyzed Veterans of America is so excited to present this opportunity to each of our chapters. Shell has been a wonderful partner and champion for our Organization and we're honored that they want to continue this campaign to help veterans regain their sense of freedom.

Best luck to all of you!

Houston, We Have an Expo!

ABILITIES EXPO AUGUST 3 – 5

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come out and PLAY!

Play is the operative word for the upcoming Abilities Expo because not only are there exhibitors with incredible products and services to enhance the independence of the disability community, but the fun keeps on going...

You can PLAY! Oh yes, our favorite players are back so pay homage to your favorite fandom and come dressed to compete in Saturday's mock play competition.

You can PLAY an unbeatable line-up of adaptive sports...tennis, rugby, tennis, sled hockey, basketball, ride-along racing and boccia. Try one, try them all and, when you discover your new favorite pastime, find out where you can play year round.

Don't forget the brand new Adaptive PLAY area! All abilities are welcome to enjoy art activities, adaptive recreation and tons of free play.

Of course, one of our most entertaining PLAYers is Dancebassador Auti Angel. Break out your dancing wheels for some freestyling dance fun!

How about PLAYing with the latest tech? You'll learn about the many possibilities of virtual and augmented reality and how this technology is constantly transforming the accessibility space.

What would you say to the experts in accessible travel who will help you make your dream vacation actually happen? Learn about this and how to deal with practical issues stemming from SCI, medical cannabis, accessible home design, chronic pain, financial planning, pediatric therapies and accessible vehicles at the informative Abilities Expo workshop series.

The products, services and technologies are drawing attendees from all over the area—everything from hi-tech power chairs and accessible vehicles to smart therapy devices and travel emergency safeguards. And swing by the Assistive Technology Showcase to experience more cutting-edge AT hands-on.

Admission is free and you can pre-register at <https://www.abilities.com/houston/vregister.html>. See you at NRG Center, Hall E!

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – TEXAS CHAPTER ★



THE PVA, TEXAS CHAPTER
AT THE 2016 NATIONALS

A REPORT BY DANA FARRELL

Alvin Guerrero was a 19 year old United States Air Force environmental support specialist, attached to the 97th Civil Engineering Squadron, when on March 16 1984, he suffered a debilitating motorcycle accident. Guerrero's catastrophic injuries, including a broken spine, left him unable to ever walk again. The emotional shock of losing the use of his legs, for a young man in his physical prime, was needless to say, profound. "It was devastating to experience that kind of injury – especially as a

teenager," said Guerrero, now aged 52 and living in San Antonio.

Shortly after his injury, the Air Force sent Guerrero to a VA hospital in Houston to begin rehab – and that's

where he first came in direct contact with the Paralyzed Veterans of America. A service officer from the PVA showed up bedside one day to offer help in navigating the young man's benefit options. "It was one less thing I had to worry about," said Guerrero, adding, "The PVA reassured me that all I had to do was concentrate on healing and rehab. That meant a lot to me." Once on the road to recovery, the PVA introduced the 19 year old veteran, struggling to adjust to the tough realities of his new life, to various sports activities geared towards those confined to wheelchairs, and made him realize, in his own words, that, "My life was not over. To have a support system that gets you out to play basketball, gets you out to



"JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY ON VENDOR'S ROW AT THE NATIONALS IS A SPONSOR. I THINK WHEN PEOPLE ACTUALLY SAW WHERE THEIR MONEY WAS GOING, AND THE GOOD IT WAS DOING, IT BROUGHT IN OTHER SPONSORS" – ALVIN GUERRERO.

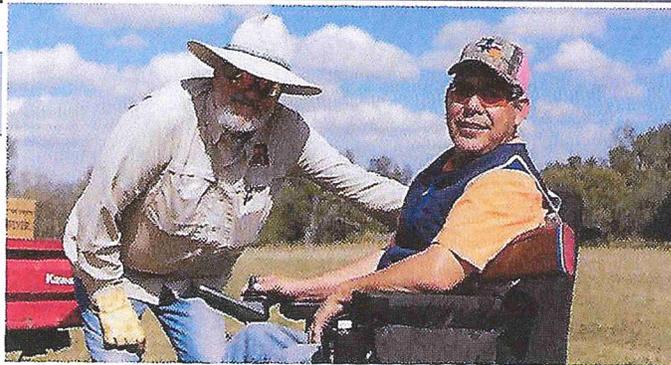
fish and hunt, really made a huge difference to my life," he said.

Guerrero married and got on with his life, becoming a successful San Antonio area business owner, with four stores scattered across the State of Texas. He was busy raising a family and running his company, when by chance one day he met another paralyzed veteran, David Bradshaw, while shopping at a Home Depot store. The two struck up a conversation, and Bradshaw, who was heavily involved with the Texas Chapter of the PVA, was looking for volunteers to help with the influx of wounded veterans who were returning home at that time from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Guerrero was at first reluctant, saying he was too busy with his family and business to volunteer, but Bradshaw was persistent, eventually convincing Guerrero to tag along on a dove hunt with some other paralyzed vets.

Monthly Range Days and Sporting Clays

Guerrero and Bradshaw began organizing monthly range days, held for paralyzed vets who could step out of their normal daily routines to shoot a variety of firearms – rifles, pistols and shotguns. The outings were therapeutic for the vets and word of the group grew fast, attracting scores of volunteers and sponsors to help the cause.

The group's clay target shooting at that time was primarily limited to trap, until one day they met Butch Roberson, owner of R&R Trap Sales and Service. Roberson suggested holding a sporting clays fundraising shoot, and Guerrero and Bradshaw were unfamiliar with the sport, so Roberson took them to the National Shooting Complex to



BUTCH ROBERSON (L) AND ALVIN GUERRERO. "IF IT WASN'T FOR BUTCH, WE WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE'RE AT TODAY," SAYS ALVIN GUERRERO.

introduce them to the game.

Meeting Roberson turned out to be a godsend. He used his influence to open doors that would otherwise be out of reach and contacted Phil Murray of White Flyer for target donations, and Patrick Thomas, with Rio at the time, for ammunition. "I told them (PVA) I would help get things going, as long as they would take the reins and drive the buggy," said Roberson. Guerrero, looking back, said, "If it wasn't for Butch, Royce and Brett, we would not be where we're at now."

Killin' Clays

The men fell in love with the sport, and with the help of Roberson, Royce Graff and Brett Moyes (who with his wife was running a trap sales and rental company at the time), the first PVA sporting clays fundraiser tournament was held in 2009. Operating on a shoestring budget that first year, all they had for prizes were donated shotgun shells, but the event steadily gained steam.

2016 marked the 9th Annual TPVA Killin' Clays Classic, held each year at the San Antonio Complex. The event has now become the organization's biggest fundraiser, with proceeds upwards of \$20,000 generated each year. This allows the organization to

sponsor 15 to 20 shooters to participate in clay shooting competitions throughout the year, including entry fees, ammunition, and hotel and travel costs. "It's a very minimal cost when you look at people's faces after they have completed an event for the first time and done something they never thought that they could do again," according to Anne Robinson, President of the Texas PVA.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, the only congressionally chartered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established in 1946 by veterans injured in World War II. The organization does not receive any monies from the government, but runs completely off of fundraising and donations. The Texas Chapter, with its 600 plus members, has only three paid employees, relying on volunteers for the bulk of the work. They pride themselves on being financially transparent and are audited annually. According to the last audit, more than 83 cents of every dollar raised went to the cause.

The group still goes to the shotgun range once each month, introducing VA hospital inpatients and outpatients alike to skeet, 5-Stand and sporting clays. They're joined by physical, occupational and recreational therapists, as well as nurses and doctors. This,

according to Guerrero, serves a couple of purposes – it helps the medical community see what's involved in the pastime, and since many newly injured shooters are not yet fully familiar with their bodies, it's a safety precaution in case someone gets overheated or has another medical situation. The outings take place at the NSCA Complex in San Antonio and sometimes at the Greater Houston Shooting Complex when working with vets based there.

Guerrero says more and more sporting clays courses are becoming ADA compliant and the NSCA has done a good job of promoting wheelchair shooting. "The NSCA has a rule that wheelchair shooters can shoot anywhere within touching distance of the stand. As long as you can touch the stand you can shoot from there," he said.

"We've got around 40 wheelchair shooters who shoot sporting clays – maybe a dozen who shoot seriously. We now have some of the world's top wheelchair division sporting clays shooters in our Texas PVA," according to Bradshaw, who is serving as the current Shooting Sports Coordinator for the TPV A. The originator of the program and a TPV A board member for the past eight years, Bradshaw says, "To show someone whose life has been turned upside down that they can go play a game like sporting clays and do everything that a person with a fully functioning body can do, maybe even better ... I don't know how to describe that feeling. Sporting clays is a sport where we can be equal – even though we're sitting down. What that does for us psychologically is incredible."

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Waco

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July Birthdays



Robert E. Bagley
Sean K. Barr
Julio R. Rodriguez
Roy B. Inks
Ralph D. Wilson
Alvin Guerrero
Talina L. Ferrell
Jerome I. Apodackis
Barry D. Smith
Michael A. Crawford
Robert M. White
Robert V. Webb
Joseph H. Bludeau
James W. Peevey
Mary V. Castro
Calvin J. Mackrill
John D. Van Walsen
Tammy L. Jones

Welcome New Members

Karlton A. Berry
Charles W. Robinson
Jose G. Ochoa

Steve W. Copsey
Randy P. Sendejo
Charles E. Comeger
David H. Metcalf
William L. Klotz
Jack E. Fenton
Lionel James
Carroll E. Roberson
Colin J. Doyle
David Luera
Glen W. Williams
Danny L. Scott
Orlando R. Cepeda
Edward A. Rebeaud
Gregory S. Clark
Robert B. Adkins
Hugh J. Patterson
Kelvin D. Wilcher
Lonnie J. Wilson

Dear Cici

Dear Cici,

We have a dilemma. My father-in-law, a retired veteran who is now wheelchair bound, lives in Fort Walton Beach, FL. He suffers with dementia, but he has many moments of clarity, and in those moments, he's made it clear that he wants to move closer to us, so he can enjoy the grandchildren on a regular basis before he dies. As a matter of fact, it would be a lot easier on everyone if that happens.

The problem is with Mom. For whatever reason, she doesn't want to leave FL. Although she pretends to want what's best for Dad, she makes no effort to make progress she has not contacted a realtor or even thought of going through the motions that make moving easier. My husband and I have made several trips to FL this year trying to convince her to make the move, but so far, we've been unsuccessful. Dad is worse each time we see him. Mom will not be able to care for Dad by herself much longer. She jokes that he has "gotten lost" in the immediate neighborhood on four separate occasions now. We are at a loss for what to do. What would you recommend?

Marcia & Bryan in TX

Dear Marcia and Bryan,

Conflict is never easy, but with patience and careful listening on both sides, things can be resolved. Have you asked your mom why she doesn't want to leave FL? Most elderly people are reluctant to leave the things and people that give them comfort and support.

They fear the unknown. It's common for everyone to feel that way, but it is especially hard for the elderly.

It's time to have a serious conference with all parties concerned. Consider getting your parents' doctors involved to persuade your mom. Another possibility is to suggest to Mom that they make an extended visit to TX to "test" the waters. In that time, the two of you could introduce them to the things she enjoys in FL. Solicit the help of your children to help make them both feel "at home" in TX.

You did not say whether they own their home or not; but if they do, you can suggest renting the property for a year. That way Mom would feel that she is not letting go of the things that are important to her. Gentle persuasion and heartfelt understanding go hand in hand. Acknowledging your mother's fears and concerns coupled with your father's needs and wishes will go a long way in convincing Mom.

Good luck to all of you.

Cici

VA and Mental Health Awareness

By: Kim Springfield, VHBS

The non-stop coverage of deaths of two high-profile people by suicide has managed to refocus the public's attention on mental health illness and how we discuss it and deal with it. Suicide is among the leading causes of death affecting military service members and in the United States. According to the government, veterans who are in their first year of civilian life commit suicide nearly twice as much as other veterans, and veterans are twice as likely to commit suicide as those who never served. Recent estimates suggest that 20 to 22 veterans may die by suicide each day. Nearly 30,000 Americans commit suicide every year and on average, 1 person commits suicide every 16.2 minutes and about 2/3 of people who complete suicide are depressed at the time of their deaths.

This May, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) emphasized the positive impact of mental health treatment through a video campaign spotlighting hundreds of Veterans who have stepped forward to combat the stigma around mental health that is still deeply entrenched in American culture, in recognition of mental health month. The video histories found on www.MakeTheConnection.net document in extraordinary detail the human spirit's ability to overcome significant trauma. The stories also aim to inspire, influence and shape communities, culture and policies for those who may be suffering from mental illness.

The VA also recently announced that the White House approved an interagency plan to implement President Trump's January 2018 executive order titled, "Supporting Our Veterans during their transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life." This order provides that VA, Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security will collaborate to provide seamless access for Veterans to mental health care and suicide prevention resources for a full year after separation from uniformed service to civilian life, regardless of verified service connection.

Overall, VA is encouraging citizens to help mobilize their communities in support of understanding that mental health treatment can work, and recovery is possible. Veterans and their family members and friends can take the first step to learn more about mental health and find local resources by visiting www.MaketheConnection.net. Make the Connection is also on VA's Facebook, Instagram and YouTube platforms.

Remember, everyone can play a positive role in suicide prevention. All communities, peers, close associates, and the media are critical in preventing death by suicide. Be mindful of risk factors such as mood and anxiety disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, prior suicide attempt, stressful situations (e.g., childhood trauma, traumatic experiences, medical issues such as treatment for depression or PTSD, relationship problems, legal issues, financial troubles), and physical health problems. If you are concerned about a friend or loved one:

- Be direct. Talk openly and matter-of-factly about suicide.
- Be willing to listen. Allow expressions of feelings. Accept the feelings.
- Be non-judgmental. Don't debate whether suicide is right or wrong, or whether feelings are good or bad. Don't lecture about the value of life.
- Get involved. Become available. Show interest and support.
- Don't dare him/her to do it.
- Don't act shocked. This will put distance between you.
- Don't be sworn to secrecy. Seek help.
- Offer hope that alternatives are available, but do not offer general reassurances such as, "it will get better" or "it could be worse."
- Get help from persons or agencies specializing in crisis intervention and suicide prevention, such as the Military Crisis Line.

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide – and those who know a Veteran in crisis – can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255.

Report by Gregory Treacy Senior National SO

RAMP continues to consume most of the manpower hours at the VA Regional Office. PVA along with the National Organization for Veterans Advocates (NOVA) and California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), have teamed up to assist the VA under BEAAM (Board Early Applicability Appeals Modernization) program in providing research to ensure the 3rd Option of the RAMP Appeals process (Direct BVA Option) is ready to go when the finalized ruling takes effect in February 2019. Between NSO Dan Meckel in Waco and I, representing PVA, we have reviewed every PVA client with an appeal pending in the State of Texas to determine if the appeal meets criteria for the research program.

Furthermore, we had to contact eligible candidates to see if they would like to become participants in the research. To date, we haven't been turned down. Most are Member or Member-Eligible and are eager to assist the VA in order to help fellow Veterans down the road.

Since my last report in April, the Houston VARO Service Office has accumulated \$149,416.00 in retros and \$615,033.00 in total benefits.

As stated in April, with the rapid progression of the electronic claim filing system and the Veteran Benefit Management System (VBMS), the office has continued to see an incredible amount of rating decisions. Where a month ago we were just under 65 active claims pending, as of Tuesday 19 June, we have 74 active claims pending.

The VA Regional Office has upgraded it's computers and software. Olga and I have had to upgrade our PIV access cards. With all the upgrades, our access to the programs have been somewhat diminished, but we're moving toward regaining full access in the weeks ahead.

As I provided in my April Report concerning the membership receiving a phone call or letter to conduct an Annual Medical Interview by PVA Administrative Assistants. They're continuing to conduct the AMIs for me until we can get a second NSO hired and up to speed in this office. If you have issues that need to be addressed by the PVA VARO NSO, make sure you let my secretary, Olga, know about them. She's an Accredited Administrative Assistant who can handle any of the housekeeping issues (ie. address changes, tax letters, DD-214 requests, etc.).

If you need to come in and see me, contact the office at least a day in advance in order for me to arrange my schedule and prevent your frustration. I have clinics to attend and hearings. Keep in mind if the issue is health care related, and your Primary Care Physician's Office is unable to resolve the issue, please contact the PVA Service Offices in the VAMCs.

I appreciate all the cooperation from the membership.



38TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

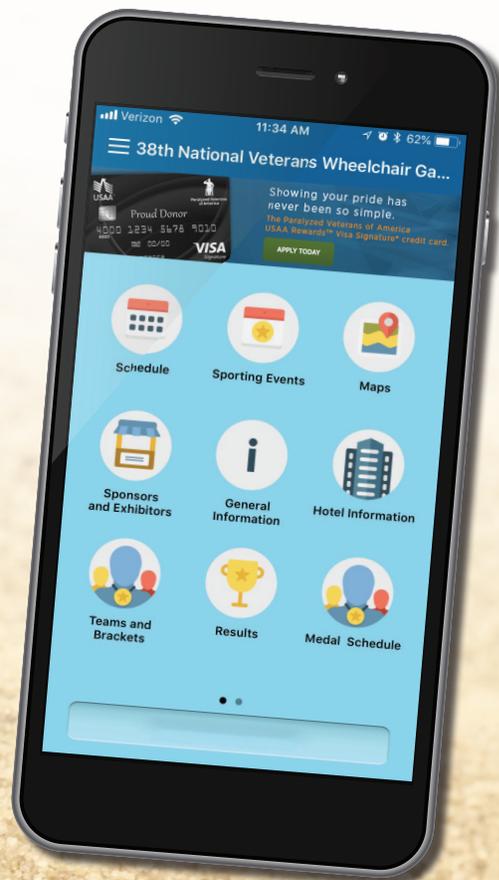
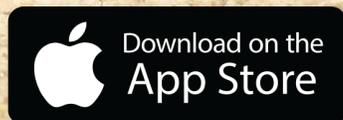
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Everything you need for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is on our mobile app. Here's three ways you can download it to your smart device:

1. Go to <https://crowd.cc/s/1qU8c> to download now.
2. Search the **App Store** for NVWG
3. Open your **NVWG app from last year**. Tap the hamburger icon, and hit the Back to All Events options to view this year's content.



CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVERTISE WITH THE SPEEDY GAZETTE!

All submissions for the Classified Section of the SPEEDY GAZETTE must be submitted to the TPVA Office no later than the 1st of the month. The charge is \$15.00 for 15 words (each additional word is \$.25 cents). Payment must accompany the ad. If you are a member in good standing with TPVA, you may place a 15-word ad for FREE! An incentive of a 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:

SIZE:	MONTHLY:	ANNUAL (Approximately 6 issues per year):
Business Card	\$20.00	\$120.00 less 10% = \$108.00
¼ Page	\$30.00	\$180.00 less 10% = \$162.00
½ Page	\$55.00	\$330.00 less 10% = \$297.00
Full Page:	\$125.00	\$750.00 less 10% = \$675.00

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Jon R. Disrud
Board Certified Family Attorney



I have been a licensed attorney for 27.5 years. I also have 27 years of military service, active and reserve as a Judge Advocate. I have a general law practice covering many areas, but I am a Family Law specialist having experience and compassion for military members going through a divorce. I also represent military members before the Formal Physical Evaluation Board regarding military medical separations.

At the Law Offices of Jon R. Disrud, our practice comprises a wide range of legal services, including:

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In Memoriam Always in our hearts



Rojelio F. Nunez

Gilbert I. Gomez

Deacon Jerry Opperman,
Navy Special Forces and Service
Dog Sugar Bear

Clothing Allowance

Dear VA Beneficiary,

Did you know that you may be eligible for an annual clothing allowance if you use a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance and/or medication for a service connected skin condition that causes permanent damage to your outer garments?

If you're eligible, and you haven't yet applied for this year, you need to act fast! If you have already submitted your application, then no further action is required on your part. Your application should be submitted on or before August 1, 2018.

To apply, submit (in person, by mail, or fax) VA Form 10-8678, Application for Annual Clothing Allowance, to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at your local VA medical center.

Additional information on this benefit is available at

https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/Clothing_Allowance.asp.



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