

Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

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October 2023





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Message from Frank Daebehelliehn, Chapter President



Hello to all my PVA brothers and sisters,

Now that hopefully our weather is trying to stabilize, we can get out and have some fun. I just ask that you be safe in all that you do this fall, but the best part is having fun.

For upcoming events we have the national sporting clays in San Antonio that will be October 21st through the 29th, Thank you Bruce for managing the team. The first week in October brings us to Dove season. The 10th anniversary of the Pat Poole Memorial Dove hunt which was started by one of our members Frank Ellis. This event has brought a lot of veterans together for the camaraderie that we all miss from when we were in service. With a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Jimmy Poole (Dad) and all the help and helpers that have come together every year for the past 10 years to make this event happen I just can't say it enough thank you. The last event on my list that I want to share with you is November 17th and 18th our BBQ cook off. This year's event is going to be held in Waller TX at the Texas Thunder saloon. If you know any BBQ teams that would love to come join us for the cook off, please put them in touch with the chapter office. I pray that everyone has a safe and joyful fall. I hope to see lots of PVA faces in all the upcoming events.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
South Texas Veterans Health Care System

SENT ON BEHALF OF JULIANNE FLYNN, MD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



When Veterans served our country overseas, many of them were exposed to toxic hazards – burn pits, Agent Orange, and other hazards – that led them to develop health conditions long after they came home. For too long, these heroes weren't able to get the benefits and health care they deserved. But now, those days are over. Thanks to a new law called the PACT Act, VA has expanded health care and benefits for millions of Veterans and their survivors – including Vietnam-era, Gulf War-era, and Post-9/11 Veterans.

The PACT Act Summer VetFest is just one component of VA's nationwide PACT Act Veteran outreach campaign, which is the largest coordinated outreach campaign in VA history. This event is a part of a nationwide VA campaign between July 1 and August 10, when VA will host more than 50 Summer VetFest events across all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico.

As a part of this campaign, South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS) will host its own Summer VetFest on Wednesday, July 19 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the San Antonio Northwest Health Care Center. At the event, VA staff will be ready to help Veterans apply for PACT Act-related benefits (or submit an intent to file), enroll in VA health care, get screened for toxic exposures, and even apply to come work at VA.

STVHCS wants to ensure that every eligible Veteran and survivor gets the PACT Act-related health care and benefits they've earned, and we won't rest until we've done exactly that. Every employee at South Texas is vital to ensuring the success of the Summer VetFest and encouraging Veterans to apply before the August 9 deadline.

What Happens if Veterans Apply After August 9

- Most Veterans who apply for PACT Act benefits by August 9 will have their benefits, if granted, backdated to August 10, 2022 – the day the bill was signed into law. That's the earliest possible effective date for any PACT Act benefits, which is why we're encouraging Vets to apply now -- so they get the most benefits possible.
- Having said that, there is no deadline for PACT Act benefits. The PACT Act is here to stay, and Veterans can and should apply anytime for the benefits they've earned.
- Additionally, Veterans who apply after August 10 of this year may still be eligible to have their benefits backdated by one year.
 - o For example, if a Veteran applied in December of 2025, they could have their benefits – if granted – backdated to December of 2024.
 - o But, in that case, they would miss out on their earliest possible effective date of August 10, 2022, meaning that they would miss out on a couple years of benefit payments.
 - o That's why we're encouraging Vets and survivors to apply now – so they get the earliest possible effective date and the most possible benefit payments.
- Bottom line: the sooner a Veteran applies, the more benefits they may be eligible for.

June 27, 2023

Veterans who apply for PACT Act benefits by August 9 – or submit their intent to file – may have their benefits, if granted, backdated to August 10, 2022

WASHINGTON — In July, VA will kick off a PACT Act Summer VetFest to inform Veterans, their families, and survivors about the PACT Act and encourage them to apply for the health care and benefits they have earned. The PACT Act, which President Biden signed into law on August 10, 2022, is the biggest expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in generations.

Throughout July, VA will host 50+ Summer VetFest events across all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico. The events will be casual summer gatherings featuring Veterans, their families, Veteran advocates, and the VA health care and benefits professionals who serve them. At the events, VA staff will be ready to help Veterans apply for PACT Act-related benefits (or submit an intent to file), enroll in VA health care, get screened for toxic exposures, and more.

VA encourages all eligible Veterans and survivors to file a claim — or submit their intent to file a claim — for PACT Act-related benefits now. Veterans who do so by August 9 may have their benefits, if granted, backdated to Aug. 10, 2022, the day that President Biden signed the bill into law.

“There are millions of Veterans and survivors across America who are eligible for new health care and benefits, and we will not rest until every one of them gets what they’ve earned,” said Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “That’s what this Summer VetFest is all about: educating Veterans, their families, and survivors – and encouraging them to apply today.”

Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, VA has delivered more than \$1.4 billion dollars in PACT Act benefits to Veterans. Additionally, more than 665,000 Veterans have applied for PACT Act-related benefits, more than 3.7 million Veterans have received the new toxic exposure screenings, and more than 287,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care (this is 40,000 more enrollments than during the same timeframe last year, and it includes 94,000 enrollees from the PACT Act target population) .

The PACT Act Summer VetFest is just one component of VA’s nationwide PACT Act Veteran outreach campaign, which is the largest coordinated outreach campaign in VA history. The campaign has one goal: ensuring that every eligible Veteran and survivor gets the PACT Act-related health care and benefits they have earned. Highlights of the campaign to date:

- **VA.gov/PACT:** Within one hour of the Senate passage of the PACT Act, VA launched VA.gov/PACT – a one-stop-shop for Veterans and survivors to learn about and apply for PACT Act-related care and benefits. Since then, the website has garnered more than 13.4 million page views from 10 million unique visitors.
- **Earned Media:** VA is executing an aggressive national and local earned media campaign, seeking to inform Veterans and survivors about the PACT Act and encourage them to apply. Between August 10, 2022, and June 9, 2023, these efforts have helped generate 30,000+ news articles and 24,000+ broadcast items about the PACT Act.
- **Paid Media:** VA is executing a nationwide, targeted advertising campaign across streaming video (Hulu, Roku, YouTube); print (Military Times, Military.com, USA Today); radio (satellite, traditional); podcasts; signage (including Times Square ads, DC Metro ads, airports, billboards, and more); sponsorships (such as Military and Armed Forces Bowls); digital advertising, including Search (Google and Bing), Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Spotify, iHeartRadio, ESPN online, RallyPoint, and more. To date, VA has spent more than \$7.5 million on PACT Act advertising, driving millions of visitors to VA.gov/PACT, and generating hundreds of millions of impressions. Through Public Service Announcement distribution along with vendor negotiations, VA has also achieved \$7.9 million in added value between October 2022 and May 2023, more than doubling the media value of PACT Act efforts. By the August 9 filing deadline, we anticipate that VA will spend more than \$11.4 million. This campaign is focused on reaching all eligible Veterans and survivors, especially those who have not previously come to VA for benefits or care.
- **Events:** Since August 10, VA has hosted hundreds of PACT Act-related events across all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico with Veterans, their families, caregivers, survivors, and Veteran advocates. This includes a PACT Act Week of Action in December, when VA hosted more than 120 events across the nation. At the events, Veterans applied for benefits, got screened for toxic exposures, enrolled in VA health care, and learned more about what the PACT Act could mean for them and their families.
- **Print, digital, and video resources:** VA has developed a library of PACT Act flyers, videos, and fact sheets to help Veterans understand what this new law means for them. The videos have been viewed more than 4 million times across platforms, and the resources have been shared directly with Veterans, VA facilities, Veterans Service Organizations, and other partners nationwide. VA has also released PACT Act flyers and information in more than 10 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- **Direct mail:** VA has sent more than 300 million PACT Act-related e-mails to Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, which were opened more than 94 million times.

VA encourages all eligible Veterans and survivors to apply for their earned PACT Act-related health care and benefits now. Veterans and survivors can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT, by calling 1-800-MYVA411, or by attending one of July’s events.

For more information about VA’s implementation of the PACT Act, visit the PACT Act Dashboard. VA is publishing this dashboard every other Friday to document the implementation of this law and showcase its impact on Veterans and survivors.

ALS Medical Research Article:

Recently the FDA approved a small molecule drug for ALS. The drug slowed functional decline by 2 pts in 6 months. On the 48-point functional scale, two points is the difference between being able to walk vs using a wheelchair, feeding or bathing yourself, or breathing without a bipap. Furthermore, when analyzing the OLE data, it improved ALS survival by an average of 10 months in comparison with placebo & natural history. In approving this new drug with just one Phase II trial, the #FDA acknowledged it would exercise the “broadest of regulatory flexibility” for the “urgent unmet need” in #ALS.

QuickSubmit

By Deontre Williams NSO

Effective June 2023, VBA has made a complete transition from the use of Direct Upload to QuickSubmit system. QuickSubmit is now the accepted way to upload correspondence directly from Veterans, claimants, and representatives, including external Veterans Service Organizations (VSO). The documents are converted and routed to the VA's Digital Mail Handling system (DMHS) work queues. The QuickSubmit application replaces Direct Upload to provide Veteran Business Partners, Veterans, Veteran Family Members, and VA Employee/Contractors, with the ability to upload Veteran evidence electronically, making it the fastest and most proficient way to submit Veteran evidence to the VBA Claims Intake Center.

QuickSubmit provides an efficient alternative to faxing or mailing documents to the Claims Intake Center. QuickSubmit also provides an audit history of all material uploaded to Digitized Mail Handling Service (DMHS) improving both Veteran and employee experiences by enabling claim evidence materials to be electronically accessible for immediate processing.

The QuickSubmit application is a modernized, flexible platform. It uses the latest technologies and human centered design to improve the user experience, facilitate the submission of Veteran evidence, reduce upload errors, and improve processing time. To access QuickSubmit go to:
<https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=quicksubmit>

NOTE: To login with external authentication, select the type of authentication applicable and follow the instructions. If you select “Sign in with ID.me” and do not have an ID.me account, the system will guide you through the process to create one. After the authentication process is complete, if you have an active QuickSubmit account, you are directed to the QuickSubmit landing page. Otherwise, you are directed to the User Registration page to select your user type and enter your registration information. As a new user, you are required to register during your first sign-on attempt. Registration is a one-time event and future logins will automatically take you to the QuickSubmit landing page. To register, select the appropriate User Type on the User Identification screen: Veteran, Veteran Family Member, VA Business Partner (e.g., officer, private attorney, or agent), or VA Employee/Contractor. The VA Employee/Contractor option is only available for a VA PIV sign in. Once you complete this step, you will have access to upload documents; also ensure that the populated information reflects your personal information. One exciting thing regarding QuickSubmit, is that your documents are uploaded immediately for processing!

As a result of 31 CFR Part 208 - Management of Federal Agency Disbursements, VA will no longer issue paper checks after October 1, 2023. Instead, VA will distribute payments through the electronic funds transfer system (EFT), as required by law.

Any caregiver receiving paper checks from VA as part of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) must enroll in direct deposit by October 1 to continue receiving stipend benefits.

Caregivers can enroll in direct deposit as a vendor through VA's Customer Engagement Portal. To complete the required form, caregivers will need their social security number, address, and bank routing and account numbers. Step-by-step instructions for enrolling can be found in the CSP Direct Deposit Enrollment User Guide.

For those without a bank, visit the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP) for options to receiving VA benefits via direct deposit without using a bank.

Primary Family Caregivers may also contact the VA Financial Service Center (FSC) Customer Care Center at 1-877-353-9791 for further assistance.



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Practice Dates/Times:

Thursday's: 7pm-9pm Sunday's: 9am-11am

Address:

1475 W Gray St. Houston, TX 77019

Contact information:

Coach Gabe

281-256-5804

Gabrieljgutierrez26@gmail.com

UHadaptiveathletics@gmail.com

- No experience needed
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- Learn how to serve, return, and play matches!



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- Prácticas gratis con entrenadores de tenis para personas en silla de ruedas
- Las prácticas están disponibles para toda clase de discapacidades
- Entrena con otros atletas
- **Por favor contacte a el Entrenador Gabe antes de asistir a su primera práctica**

Horario de las Prácticas

Jueves: 7pm-9pm Domingos: 9am-11am

Ubicación

1475 W Gray St. Houston, TX 77019

Información de Contacto

Coach Gabe

281-256-5804

Gabrieljgutierrez26@gmail.com

UHadaptiveathletics@gmail.com

- No se necesita experiencia
- Todas las edades y niveles son bienvenidos
- Aprender junto a nuestros jugadores y entrenadores!

CHAMPVA Issue Notification

VA's Integrated Veteran Care team has identified a syncing error between two systems used to process claims for the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), which resulted in incorrect calculations of annual out of pocket expenses (also known as Catastrophic Cap) for certain beneficiaries. Specifically, in the CHAMPVA program, an enrolled beneficiary can only be charged a maximum of \$3,000 dollars annually for health care costs. However, as a result of this syncing error, some beneficiaries were overcharged and others were undercharged by VA for care between October 1, 2021, and September 1, 2023.

Upon identifying an initial issue with these calculations in March 2023, VA immediately halted CHAMPVA claims processing while the issue was being investigated. Since then, we have identified the following impacts:

- Overcharges to CHAMPVA beneficiaries: Since, October 1, 2021, VA has overcharged a total of 6,144 distinct families. These families are owed a total of \$2,426,520 by VA, and we will pay them back directly by the end of this calendar year.
- Possible undercharges to CHAMPVA beneficiaries: VA is urgently working to identify the beneficiaries who may have been undercharged. We are evaluating whether any funds are owed to VA as a result of these undercharges, and if so, we will explore all options for debt relief.

We at VA deeply apologize to all impacted beneficiaries and Veteran families, and we will do everything we can to ensure that nobody is further adversely impacted by our error. VA is working as quickly as possible to identify and contact all impacted families to inform them of this issue.

VA has now fixed the issue between the systems, and we continue to test systems and validate to ensure that no future beneficiaries are impacted. We will continue to monitor closely for any follow-on systems errors to ensure that this does not happen again. The Integrated Veteran Care team is also beginning to process claims again, after having halted processing to address this issue. Since we paused CHAMPVA claims processing for several months, we now have 25,000 claims pending, which we will work through with the utmost urgency. VA has already processed the majority (approximately 750,000) of these claims.

While this issue – and other recent VA processing issues – have only impacted a small percentage of those we serve, it's unacceptable for even one Veteran or beneficiary to be impacted due to these errors. We are taking immediate steps to prevent issues like this from happening in the future, and to ensure that when issues do arise, they are identified and fixed much more quickly. We will continue to work urgently to understand this issue, address it, and – most importantly – take steps to ensure that beneficiaries are not further impacted by our errors.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Audrey Nesbitt
Jerry Bergthold
Trent Cryer
William Drevo
Shawna Jerry
Adam Darling
Walter Peterson

REST IN PEACE



Ralph Wilson
John Townley
Patrick Kotzur
John Shores
Larry Cherry
Michael Bucciero
Robert Beeney



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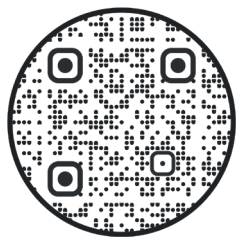
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Ekso Indego Personal

What is the Ekso Indego?

Ekso Indego is an FDA-cleared, powered exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries (level T3-L5) to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.



Scan with your phone for more information on how you could receive your own Ekso Indego Personal.

Getting Veterans with SCI Back on Their Feet

A recently revised VA policy allows Ekso Indego to be issued to qualified veterans at no cost.*

- Regain your independence
- Improve your cardio & bone density
- Enjoy eye-level conversations again



Contact us to find out if you are eligible to receive an Ekso Indego at NO COST!

www.eksobionics.com/request-information/

* A screening process through the VA is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device. For full indications for use, visit: www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/



Proudly designed & assembled in the USA

The North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium (NASCI) has developed a free online course to present information and resources necessary to understand the complexities of an SCI. This will ultimately aid individuals with SCI and caregivers to serve as research advocates, as well as allow SCI researchers and healthcare providers to effectively partner with the SCI community. We believe that your current clientele and staff would benefit from this resource.

This information is condensed and presented in video form with additional supplementary material. The topics of each module are:

- Module 1 = Introduction to Research Advocacy
- Module 2 = Understanding the Research Process and R&D Decision-Makers
- Module 3 = Addressing Historical Challenges for SCI Studies
- Module 4 = SCI Biology Part I
- Module 5 = SCI Biology Part II – Aging with a Spinal Cord Injury
- Module 6 = Neuroprotection (Acute application)
- Module 7 = Regeneration (Neurorepair)
- Module 8 = Cell Replacement (Neuroreplacement)
- Module 9 = Neuroplasticity
- Module 10 = Quality of Life
- Module 11 = SCI 101 for Researchers
- Module 12 = Getting Started!

Registration for the course is free for everyone and can be accessed on the NASCI website at:
<https://nasci.org/courses/nasci-community-engagement-program-cep/>

We also have a Course Guide that may help you navigate the website and course features:
<https://vimeo.com/825186784?share=copy>

Please let me know if you have any questions about the course. We'd also love to hear from you about feedback and how we can collaborate to disseminate this course further. Enjoy this free resource!

Donate your gently used clothing and household items to help support our chapter. Please be sure to mention you'd like your donation to benefit the TEXAS PARALYZED VETERANS. All donations are tax deductible. To schedule a pickup please call:

346-319-2222



Don't



Remove hangers, check the pockets and wash if possible. Don't forget we need shoes, purses, and accessories.

Even towels and bedding that are threadbare can have a second life as they are used for cleaning up, and recycling.



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Caregiver Webinar Series Presented by HHS Aging Services Coordination Office



**Governor's Committee on
People with Disabilities**

Office of the Texas Governor

Caregiver Webinar Series with HHS Aging Services Coordination Office Will Lead Into National Family Caregiver Month in November

The Texas Health and Human Services Aging Services Coordination Office is hosting a caregiver webinar series beginning in August with monthly lunchtime webinars and ending with a series of weekly webinars during National Family Caregivers Month in November.

The webinar series is for caregivers, people who work with caregivers and anyone interested in caregiving. Texans are diverse in their experiences caring for one another, whether it be an immediate family member, a close friend or a neighbor. Caregiver supports and resources must be as diverse as the growing range of care needs in Texas. Register to join this webinar series for a range of different caregiving topics during your Lunch Hour:

- August 16, 12:00 pm: Strengthening the care you give: An overview of caregiving in Texas and a highlight of the HHS Strengthen the Care You Give campaign. Register here.
- September 20, 12:00 pm: The importance of self-care while caregiving: How caregivers can care for their mental health as a part of their self-care. Register here.
- October 18, 12:00 pm: Caregivers in the workplace: The challenges caregivers face in the workforce, the laws protecting them and the supports available. Register here.
- November Series: To be announced soon.

For questions, please email AgeWellLiveWell@hhs.texas.gov.

The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities provides GovDelivery updates for informational purposes on a variety of disability related issues for a diverse audience. Updates may include information provided by external sources. The inclusion of this external information does not constitute an official endorsement or approval by the Committee or the Office of the Governor of any information, policy, product, or service offered by an external source.

If you would like to be removed from the Governor's Committee e-mail distribution list, click the "Unsubscribe All" link below or click the "Manage Subscriptions" link below to update your account preferences.

We continue to offer free, In Person, mental health counseling for military veterans and their families. We practice social distancing guidelines and have hand sanitizer available. We can also help with transportation needs with weekly bus passes.

Charles Jackson MA LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor
Healthy Minds, Healthy Heroes

American GI Forum – National Veterans Outreach Program
210-248-9933 Phone
cjackson@nvop-sa.org
206 San Pedro, Suite 201, San Antonio, TX 78205

Veterans when you sign up the tickets that you request will be at will call the day of event. This is all over the country and they have events like Disney on ice, monster trucks, nba, nfl, mlb, college sports, comedy shows, you name it.

Website: <https://www.vettix.org/tixer/my-account/login>

San Antonio membership forums will
take place on the 1st Thursday of each
month at 2 pm

August, September, & October Birthdays

Roy Hayes
Rashad Shahid
Joseph Cropprue
Adam Pollock
Ivan Moya
Nicholas Martin
Brandon Renfro
David Dillon
Peter Gabriel
John Rimpson
Dallas Chambless
Jason Tabansky
Albert Blackmon
Rob McMichael
Daniel Aguilar
Michael Schacherbauer
Alan Babin
Virgil Moppin
Chris Post
Irvington Ray
Nathan Gonzalez
Courtney Prater
Aimee Furr
David Dotson
Thomas Diaz
Guillermo Garcia
George Evans
Clint Washington
Macario Olmos
Warrent Goins
Riley Woods
Kevin Chandler
Raul Rivas

Ignacio Avalos
Candice Caesar
Dwight Pennington
Jeffrey Marlin
Vernon Warner
Scott Pagan
Alaric Solomon
Rolando Carrizales
James Czarnecki
Reginald Smith
Bradford Morgan
Kenneth Wells
Franklynn Ellis
Kenya Hyatt
Marcus Ellison
Samuel Natter
Joseph Gibson
Kevin Grace
Leah Jasik
Gilbert Garcia
Steven Lynn
David Cromwell
Brent Von Aschen
Peter Brower
Bruce Kuker
Jim Castaneda
Edward Mares
Quentin Miles
Audrey Nesbitt
Troyon Myree
Danixa Vessels
David Starritt
Alan Beaty

Kendrick Kahler
James Maddox
Daniel Castillo
Michael Watts
Bonnie Karl-Meacham
Kenneth Gorrell
Valarie Valentine
Nook Gustamante
Jennifer Herrera
Lloyd Gilmore
Benjamin Garza
Danny Vichensont
Craig James
Steven Holbert
David Meador
Calvin Binns
Russell Keith Williams
Charles McCausland
Robert Strambler
Veronica Kuras
Ronald Bruellisauer
Dianna Lopez
Ralph Stewart
Ray Gill
Steven Fenton
John Brannon
Hope Cooper
Michael Massey
Gilbert Morgan
Miguel Castillo
David Cooper
Greggory Dunham
Ris Rollins



John Fraser
Jose Ochoa
Mark Ascher
Roger Livingston
Robert Phillips
Daniel Decker
Raymond Fuller
Charlotte Weiss
Mary Ann Alexander
Gilbert Acosta
Jose Ibarra
Kirby King
Isaac Hearn
Efren Diaz
Clayborne Harris
Randy Pike
Bobby Daley
James Williams
Robert Jones
John Nagel
David King
Otis Robinson
Robert Wolf
Juan Webber
William Callahan
Robert Lucente
Michael Griffin
Lonnie Hunter
John Crawford
Billy McCrary
Armando Atkinson
Gregory Estes
Arthur Ricks

Mary Chandler
Vernon Spurlock
David Cuevas
Ralph Rollins
Richard Neubert
Michael Keiser
Don Brock
Willie Arch
Armando Martinez
Rene Guerrero
Nathanael Jackson
Joseph Misquez
Federico Cantu
Sidney Hogue
James Landreneau
Elizabeth Inman
Truman Fountain
John Haynes
Oscar Quincy
Julio Garcia
Jay Watlington
Fred Flores
Jimmy Tucker
John Taylor
Ray Foster
Dee Kilpatrick
Edward Bernd
Charles Todd
Carl Brookshire
David Learned
Roger Warman
Maurice Brunot
Johnny Kelm

August Birthday Raffle Winners:

Gilbert Garcia
Guillermo Garcia
Craig James
Leah Jasik
Jose Ochoa

Houston parks and recreation-adaptive division scheduled events

West Gray weekly schedule

Monday

1pm-2pm Bocchia

5pm-7pm developmental wheelchair rugby

7pm-9pm wheelchair basketball

Tuesday

1pm-2pm tabata Tuesday (adaptive fitness)

5pm-6pm beep baseball team fitness

6pm-8pm beep baseball practice

6pm-7pm prep wheelchair basketball skills and drills

7pm-9pm juniors wheelchair basketball

Wednesday

6pm-9pm wheelchair basketball

Thursday

10am-12pm cycling

1pm-2pm dance fitness

5pm-7pm VI fit

7pm-9pm wheelchair rugby

Friday

7pm-9pm wheelchair tennis

6pm-8pm wheelchair lacrosse

Saturday

9am-11am wheelchair rugby

11am-2pm power chair soccer

2pm-4pm deaf basketball

Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America

In a land far away, located in the hills of Texas, is a Ranch owned and run by Mr. Jim Pool and his daughter Tonya.

In 2013, Mr. Frank Ellis had an idea to have an annual Dove Hunt for Paralyzed Veterans and Disabled Veterans. He approached Mr. Pool and asked if he would be interested in sponsoring such an event at his ranch. The goal of the dove hunt would be to provide an opportunity for the Veterans to get together and hunt and to involve the local community for a time of fellowship and bonding.

Mr. Pool was excited and committed to make sure the annual event would be a great experience for Veterans.

The community pulled together and provided food and entertainment for the Veterans. The first hunt and the ten years following were all great success. There were annual clay shoots and birds were plentiful. Everyone went home with plenty of doves, a goodie bag and plenty of prizes. The best part was Veterans sharing their stories with fellow Veterans and the community.

The outdoors was great with some Veterans choosing to sleep in tents and setting up a camp. Each year a German Short Hair bird dog was donated by a local breeder to the event. A raffle was held and each year a Veteran went home with one of these prized dogs.

The community donated items from shotguns to quilts and so much more. They showered us with love and affection and established lifelong memories.

In closing we want to say thank for the memories, the love and most of all the healing.

TPVA.



HAVA

HONORED AMERICAN VETERANS AFIELD

14th Annual HAVA National Family Day



What:

A day of sport shooting, competition, food, prizes and fun

Who is invited:

Wounded U.S. Veterans and Active-Duty Military and immediate families. Minimum shooting age is 13 years old.



Activities:

- Shooting events with products from leading firearms manufacturers
- Live fire with a variety of both traditional and the newest guns and adaptive devices.
- Shooting Exhibition by our Cowboy Action Team from the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS)
- Child Care, air-soft and activities for kids provided
- Lunch Provided
- Evening Dinner Provided and Raffle Prizes
- Backpack provided with prizes for all pre-registered Disabled Vet participants



HAVA and SAPD look forward to sharing this special day, and celebrating 16 years of this collaboration!

📅 November 4, 2023

🕒 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Venue: San Antonio Police Training Academy

📍 Address:

12200 S. E. Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas, 78221, United States

TPVA Golf Clinic

There are several alternate activities offered in the afternoons. I did handcycling for two hours one day. Other activities offered are air rifle, bowling, kayaking, rock climbing, disc golf, chair yoga, cornhole, water aerobics and educational sessions/

The players are divided into teams of 3-4, each team starts at a different hole on the golf course. The veterans on wheelchairs did not have to travel very far because the golf course was next to the hotel. There were 5 different golf courses that were used for the clinic.

There are four full days of golfing with a break for lunch. There are golf carts provided for everybody. Those of us that have limited mobility were provided with a solo rider cart that we could drive up to the green.

I am one handed golfer; there was another member of my team also golfing with one hand. I am showing a photo where he is using the solo rider, the seat comes up, stands him and he golfs from there.

Please attend the clinic, you will be well received by all.

Irma S Pennington





Lone Star Paralysis Foundation has all kinds of great stuff going on in the Austin area! Call or email Ryan for more info.

Weekly Programs:

Archery - Mondays/Thursdays 6pm @ Austin Archery club or Hill Country Bowhunters in Liberty Hill

Wheelchair basketball w/ the Austin Rec'ers - Tuesdays

Handcycling - Wednesdays 7pm @ Austin Tennis Center

Upcoming Events:

September 8-10th - Dove Hunt in Albany, TX. Staying at Lazy Creek Lodge (one spot left as of writing this email, hurry)

December 1-3rd - Camping at Inks Lake State Park! Bring on the cold air, we'll be prepared

December 10-12th - Pheasant hunt in Perryton, TX

*Our Monday evening adaptive paddling outings will resume in the very near future and those times will be updated. We plan to have another paddling trip down the Colorado in the fall so keep a lookout for that!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns or hesitations please feel free to give me a call

Ryan Sproull

Director of Outdoor Recreation

Lone Star Paralysis Foundation

512 484 3683

doors.lonestar@gmail.com

lonestarparalysis.org

TRPS Adaptive Boxing Clinic

Led by
Eric Morante



Second Tuesday of
each month... October
10th, November 14th
and December 12th



11:30 to 12:30pm
Max of 15 people
Email Jenn at
jcweatherford10@gmail.com to
register

Randazzo Boxing Gym
12806 Nacogdoches Rd.
San Antonio, Tx 78217

Flu shots for enrolled Veterans are now available in the main lobby at **Audie L. Murphy Campus, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.** This vaccine clinic will operate every weekday through October 20, excluding holidays.



Walk-ins are welcomed for flu shots at **any Outpatient Clinic, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Drive Thru Clinics:

- **South Bexar Outpatient Clinic:** October 3, 4, 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- **San Antonio Northwest Health Care Center:** October 2 – October 20 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Each drive thru clinic will not operate on holidays and is weather permitting.

Beginning October 23 through November 9, flu shots will be available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the main lobby at Audie L. Murphy Campus.

The SCI Center is also providing the Flu Shot for Inpatient and Outpatients.

Wheelchair football will be on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 at Morgan's Wonderland Sports Complex on September 6th. This sport will be from September- December.

Wheelchair Soccer will start on 14 Aug. At Morgan's Wonderland!! Monday nights from 6-8:30

Point of contact

Merritte, Nakia
merritte101@gmail.com
931-237-2039

The PACT Act Fact Sheet

Laos from Dec. 1, 1965, through Sept. 30, 1969

Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969

Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from Jan. 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980

Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from Jan. 1, 1972, through Sept. 30, 1977

What new radiation presumptive locations were added?

VA added three new response efforts to the list of presumptive locations:

Cleanup of **Enewetak Atoll**, from Jan. 1, 1977, through Dec. 31, 1980

Cleanup of the **Air Force B-52** bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of **Palomares, Spain**, from Jan. 17, 1966, through March 31, 1967

Response to the fire onboard an **Air Force B-52** bomber carrying nuclear weapons near **Thule Air Force Base** in Greenland from Jan. 21, 1968, to Sept. 25, 1968

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

Please call 1-800-933-4261 or 713-520-8782 (EXT. 4) to place a Display Advertisement or Classified Advertisement and watch your business get noticed!

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH!

- Eliminate sleep deprivation
- Prevent pneumonia and other respiratory problems
- Prevent painful and life-threatening pressure injuries (bed sores)

**VOICE CONTROL
OPTION AVAILABLE!**

The Freedom Bed is the most advanced patient positioning system on the market, providing:

- ✓ AUTOMATED BODY ROTATION
- ✓ PROGRAMMABLE TIMES & ANGLES
- ✓ SMOOTH AND SILENT OPERATION
- ✓ UNINTERRUPTED SLEEP



HEAD & LEG ELEVATION

LATERAL ROTATION



One of our representatives will be pleased to explain the features and benefits of **THE FREEDOM BED**, our value-added programs and services offered.

VA FSS CONTRACT: #36F79720D0184

CALL TOLL FREE: 800.816.8243
EMAIL: INFO@PRO-BED.COM
WEB: WWW.PRO-BED.COM



PRO BED
Medical USA Inc.

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

By John Allen, SBA

A family caregiver is a person who provides any type of physical and/or emotional care for an ill or disabled loved one at home. Loved ones in need of care include those suffering from a physical or mental illness, disability, or other condition. In most cases, the primary caregiver is a spouse, partner, parent or adult child. Caregivers often take on the responsibilities of the patient while still providing for themselves and other family members.

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, allows Family Caregivers provide crucial support in caring for Veterans to enhance the health and well-being of veterans in a home environment.

To be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, Veterans must first be enrolled for VA health services, if not enrolled previously. The veteran must need personal care services because of an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living and/or need supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or injury, traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other mental disorder-incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. As of October 1, 2022, this program is now open to family caregivers of eligible Veterans of all eras. This includes eligible Veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before September 11, 2001. So, Family caregivers of eligible Veterans of all eras can now apply.

The Veteran can appoint 1 Primary Family Caregiver (the main caregiver), and up to 2 Secondary Family Caregivers (people who serve as backup support to the primary caregiver when needed) Eligible Primary and Secondary Family Caregivers can receive Caregiver education and training, Mental health counseling, Travel, lodging, and financial assistance when traveling with the Veteran to receive care. Eligible Primary Family Caregivers may also receive a monthly stipend (payment), Access to health care benefits through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)—if you don't already qualify for care or services under another health care plan, and Respite Care (not less than 30 days per year).

Eligibility requirements for the family caregiver:

- You must be at least 18 years old. And at least one of these must be true for you:
- You're a spouse, son, daughter, parent, stepfamily member, or extended family member of the Veteran, or
- You live full time with the Veteran, or you're willing to live full time with the Veteran if we designate you as a family caregiver

Eligibility requirements for the Veteran All of these must be true for the Veteran you're caring for:

- The Veteran has a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of 70% or higher, and
- The Veteran was discharged from the U.S. military or has a date of medical discharge, and
- The Veteran needs at least 6 months of continuous, in-person personal care services

If you think you meet the requirements for this benefit. The veteran and caregiver will need to apply together and participate in an application process to determine the Veterans eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. You'll both need to sign and date the application, and answer all questions for your role. Each time the Veteran wants to add a new family caregiver, the Veteran and the new caregiver will need to submit a new application. Remember, there can only be 1 Primary and up to 2 Secondary Family Caregivers designated at any one time. You may online or complete a VAF 10-10G and mail to Health Eligibility Center **or carry the completed form to your local VA medical center's Caregiver Support Coordinator.**

Additional application assistance can be found via phone at 1-877-222 VETS (8387).

Free Scuba Training for Service Connected Veterans

I am a 100% service-connected veteran and am 77 years old. My granddaughter (16 years old) and I are participating in the WAVES certification program for open-water scuba diving. We travel to Temecula for that program. The staff at WAVES have been highly supportive. And if my granddaughter and I can get certified, anyone can. After certification, we will have the opportunity to take other classes that lead to advanced certifications.

The WAVES Project is a 501c(3) non-profit program. The WAVES' mission is to share the benefits of scuba diving with veterans with service-connected disabilities. These disabilities include but are not limited to amputations, spinal cord injuries, neurological issues, PTSD, etc. WAVES' main office is in Temecula, California. But they have programs in Texas and Florida. They train not only the veteran but the veteran's companion as well.

There is a whole beautiful underwater world out there that is beyond belief. What an adventure for a veteran who has a service-connected disability. And there are physically therapeutic advantages to diving as well.

I am confident that many service-connected veterans need to be aware of this program. Veterans would have to travel to California, Texas, or Florida sites for training.

If you have any questions, please email Todd Thompson at todd@wavesproject.org. You may also visit <https://www.wavesproject.org/> for more information.

I have also attached some more information concerning WAVES. Please post these in your facilities.

Thank you,
Bob Young.

Robert S. Young
rsyoung8@gmail.com
360-320-5001

GRATITUDE is about the FUTURE!



OUR MISSION

Sharing the therapeutic benefits of water with veterans who have service connected injuries, such as, amputations, spinal cord, neurological & PTSD. Using the platform of SCUBA diving we provide adaptive training, associated activities and mission oriented diving opportunities that build confidence, camaraderie & purpose.

The WAVES Project is a 501c (3) Non-Profit and has been established to provide an opportunity for American Veterans with service connected injuries and their families to experience the benefits of scuba diving. Once a qualified veteran is enrolled in to our program, they're encouraged to bring along a companion, this can be any family member or friend. Our programs are offered to the veteran and their companion at no cost to them.

For more information visit: <https://www.wavesproject.org/>



HEAR WHAT OUR VETERANS ARE SAYING:

“WAVES PROJECT is the first thing I’ve been excited about since joining the service. I had no interest in life, had contemplated suicide, the only thing I had to live for was my daughters. Since WAVES, I have felt like I had a purpose.”

“Diving has been an incredible experience, and the first time in years I have felt peace. The camaraderie with other veterans gives me a sense of community I haven’t had since the military.”

“My first year with WAVES has been the best year of my life since leaving the military. I’ve had personal growth, adventure and made new friends”

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WAVES PROJECT:
PLEASE CALL 951.308.0049
OR VISIT WAVESPROJECT.ORG



WAVES PROJECT works with all types of injuries including PTSD, Anxiety, Brain Injury, Paralysis and Amputations.



DISCOVER
OUR UNDERWATER WORLD

RECOVER
THROUGH ADVENTURE

REBUILD
FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

wavesproject.org

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS BY BECOMING A:
PATRIOT PARTNER
YOUR DONATION WILL SUPPORT:

OPEN WATER DIVE TRAINING

Research shows regular diving can reduce symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress and Anxiety Disorders for up to 6 weeks. Your donation will provide dive training for our wounded veterans.



MISSION ORIENTED DIVE TRIPS

Giving our veterans a challenge helps retain their recovery by working with the National Park Service. Veterans experience great satisfaction when they take part in these public service projects.



Flying A Ranch Hunt





TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Gov. Greg Abbott signs \$18 billion tax cut package for Texas property owners

At a time when the state has some of the nation's highest property taxes, the initiative was a cornerstone of his 2022 reelection campaign.

Gov. Greg Abbott has signed an \$18 billion tax cut for Texas property owners, sending the proposals to voters for their approval later this year.

The package puts \$12.6 billion of the state's historic budget surplus toward making cuts to school taxes for all property owners, dropping property taxes an average of more than 40% for some 5.7 million Texas homeowners and offering brand-new tax savings for smaller businesses and other commercial and non homesteaded properties.

On Saturday, Abbott added his signature to Senate Bill 2, the property tax cuts bill, and Senate Bill 3, a franchise tax relief bill, which were passed by Texas lawmakers two weeks ago after months of negotiations between the state's top Republicans.

A third measure, House Joint Resolution 2, will go before voters in a constitutional election in November. Voters would need to approve the package for the cuts to take effect this year.

At a time when the state has some of the nation's highest property taxes and lawmakers face massive political pressure to ease the financial suffering of their constituents, the initiative was a cornerstone of Abbott's 2022 reelection campaign and that of most state lawmakers.

The package's marquee item is a \$5.3 billion expansion of the state's homestead exemption, the amount of a home's value that can't be taxed to pay for public schools, from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The new exemption combined with school tax cuts would save homesteaders — Texans who live in a residence they own — an average of \$1,300 a year in property taxes, said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, who sponsored the package of legislation in the Senate.

It also offers additional cuts for seniors and property owners with disabilities, averaging about \$170 more in savings per year, Bettencourt said.

The most novel part of the plan, an idea introduced publicly for the first time on Monday, is a first-ever temporary 20% cap on appraisal increases for properties valued at \$5 million or lower that aren't considered homesteads. Those would include second homes, vacation properties, rental houses or commercial retail or business properties.

Including more than \$5 billion approved four years ago, the legislation also allocates nearly \$12.6 billion to reduce the school property tax rate by 10.7 cents per \$100 valuation for all homeowners and business properties.

Those billions are being sent to school districts so they can cut their taxes for all property owners and shift a portion of their maintenance and operations costs to the state. But the package would give no new funding to schools, a sticking point with critics who note that, compared to other states' spending, Texas is ranked near the bottom in per-student funding for education.

Targeted tax relief for the state's 3.7 million renter households has been left out of proposals that have passed both chambers.

House Democrats unsuccessfully tried to push their own versions of tax relief, including a tax-cut package sponsored by Dallas state Rep. John Bryant that would've given tenants a cash refund equaling up to 10% of the rent they paid the previous year. It also would have made the homestead exemption \$200,000, doubling the exemption in the current bill, and would have included a teacher pay raise and added more school funding.

The following article is from the 5 July 2023 Texas Tribune, Jasper Craven author.

As veteran disability claims soar, unaccredited coaches profit off frustration with VA system.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2023/07/05/veterans-disability-benefits-brian-reese-va-claims-insider/>
STATEMENT FROM PRESS SECRETARY TERRENCE HAYES

On June 26, VA received a tip from an attorney that VA Claims Insider, LLC, a company not accredited by VA, had an app on our VA Resources page that, with the Veteran's permission, allowed them to access a portion of VA's system. Veterans who used this app to check on their claims may have given permission for the app to access some of their VA information. This app may have been used by the company as a workaround to the VA accreditation process. VA had sent VA Claims Insider a "cease-and-desist" letter in April, 2019, regarding their practices.

VA began the process to remove the app from the website, and it was removed on June 29. Of note, NBC reporter Lucy Bustamente raised questions about an unaccredited app in Secretary McDonough's monthly press conference on June 27. Vetting for the resource page included a review of the app itself, not the company that sponsored it. We are expanding our vetting process to include the sponsoring company. We are also scrubbing the remaining list of apps to ensure they fully meet VA standards. Most importantly, we are looking into the roughly 1,100 Veterans who may have been impacted, will notify them promptly of VA's concerns, and will take any steps that may be needed to address potential negative impacts. A business or individual who prepares, presents, or prosecutes VA benefit claims without proper accreditation by the Department is doing so contrary to law. A complete list of VA-recognized organizations and VA-accredited individuals can be found at: OGC - Accreditation Search.

FDA Approves First ALS Treatment Via Accelerated Approval ALS Association Funded Antisense Technology Behind Tofersen

Washington, D.C. (April 25, 2023) – The ALS Association commends the FDA for approving tofersen under the agency’s accelerated approval pathway for the treatment of people living with ALS connected to mutations in the SOD1 gene. This marks the first time the FDA has approved a treatment for ALS under accelerated approval and serves as a promising endorsement of the antisense technology that underlies tofersen.

“Every opportunity to make a new treatment available that can stop or slow down this disease is a win for the whole community,” said Larry Falivena, a member of The ALS Association’s Board of Trustees who is living with SOD1-ALS and who has participated in the tofersen trials.

The FDA’s Central and Peripheral Nervous System Drugs Advisory Committee voted unanimously in March to support accelerated approval of tofersen.

“The FDA’s decision marks a significant step in our effort to make ALS livable for everyone, everywhere, until we can cure it,” said Calaneet Balas, president and CEO of The ALS Association. “This is the second time in less than a year our community gets to celebrate the approval of a new drug to treat ALS and we have great hope for the future of antisense technology.”

Tofersen is the third drug approved to treat ALS in the last six years.

Balas added: “We thank the FDA and Biogen for working together to bring tofersen to people living with ALS as quickly as possible.”

Tofersen is an antisense oligonucleotide therapy, a small string of DNA letters that are designed to bind to specific molecules of RNA and stop the production of toxic proteins. Tofersen was developed to specifically target the RNA produced from mutated a SOD1 gene to stop toxic SOD1 proteins from being made.

Mutations in the SOD1 gene are found in about 10-20 percent of cases of familial ALS, as well as 1-2 percent of sporadic ALS cases.

In approving the first antisense oligonucleotide for the treatment of ALS, the FDA also created hope for other antisense therapies currently in development to treat other forms of ALS. Antisense technology stems from very long investments made by The ALS Association, the NIH, and the companies IONIS and Biogen. Tofersen is a direct result of the donations from

supporters of the ALS Association, the strong advocacy work of the ALS community, the scientists and clinicians carrying out this work, and most importantly, the many people living with ALS who volunteered to participate in this research.

Approval of tofersen also shows promise for the use of secondary, or surrogate endpoints to show effectiveness of a treatment for ALS. Tofersen effectively reduced the production of a chemical known as neurofilament light (NfL) in the blood and spinal fluid. High levels of NfL are indicators of damage to motor neurons.

The FDA's advisory committee found that the neurofilament light levels indicate a change in the course of disease for people receiving the treatment which translates into benefits such as longer life, increased muscle function and reduced disease progression -- some months after neurofilament levels go down. Tofersen is currently being tested in clinical trials to determine whether it can be effective in preventing the onset of ALS in people with SOD1 mutations.

"Tofersen could be the opportunity to break the cycle of genetic ALS for families who have been devastated by ALS for generations," Falivena said.

ABOUT ALS

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Over the course of the disease, people lose the ability to move, to speak, and eventually, to breathe. On average, it takes about a year before a final ALS diagnosis is made. The disease is always fatal, usually within five years of diagnosis. There is no cure.

ABOUT THE ALS ASSOCIATION

The ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research in the world. The Association funds global research collaborations, assists people with ALS and their families through its nationwide network of care and certified clinical care centers, and advocates for better public policies for people with ALS. The ALS Association is working to make ALS a livable disease while urgently searching for new treatments and a cure. For more information about The ALS Association, visit our website at www.als.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Brian Frederick

The ALS Association

Brian.Frederick@als.org

(202) 464-8612



www.wecareprovidersvcs.com
info@wecareprovidersvcs.com



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OUR MISSION

To provide our clients with exceptional Home care services and achieve the wellness they deserve. With us, we ensure around-the-clock services and supervision to help you achieve optimum health and wellness.

OUR STORY

We proudly provide non-medical home care services to individuals with disabilities, injuries, difficulties with mobility or illnesses.



OUR SERVICES

- Live-in Care
- Personal Hygiene
- Dementia Care
- Companionship
- Veterans Care
- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Mobility Assistance
- Daily Activities
- ALS

OUR SERVICES

- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Bathing/Dressing
- Wheelchair Transfers
- Grocery Shopping
- Errands
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminders
- Incontinence
- Toileting



PVA Basketball



Texas PVA San Antonio Members,

We've been having a delay with wheelchair evaluations here at the San Antonio VAMC. I've address this with the SCI Chief, and we've reached out the PM&R Wheelchair Clinic for assistance on the delay for evaluations. Currently, our veterans are being scheduled 3-4 months for an evaluation once their manual/ power chair has been condemned.

We were informed, the wheelchair clinic currently has one APT Therapist addressing all veterans' wheelchair consults, but to notify them if there are any veterans that have any delays.

If there are any delays with wheelchair evaluations, please send me an email and I can address with the SCI Chief and Chief of PM&R (Wheelchair Clinic).

Armando De La Rosa
Central-Central Area Manager
Sr. Benefits Advocate
O: (210) 617-5275

Are you interested in helping those new to SCI/D adjust to their new reality?

We are looking to start a pilot peer mentoring program virtually to connect new SCI/D veterans with other veterans who have personal experience with SCI/D. With Covid restrictions, it's difficult for new patients to meet others who have faced similar circumstances. Communication would be via phone, text or zoom. If interested in helping others who are adjusting, please provide your SCI/D condition, sex, age or other demographics. Your information will only be given to veterans who wish to reach out regarding your experience with SCI/D and other questions pertaining to their condition.

ARE YOU A VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY? DO YOU NEED HOME REPAIRS OR



MODIFICATIONS? SBP CAN HELP!



SBP is a disaster recovery organization that is looking for disabled veterans who need repairs or modifications to make their home more accessible.

To be eligible for our services you must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Have a DD214 or VA Card
- ✓ Income must be at or below 80% AMI
- ✓ Recipients must occupy the home as a primary residence
- ✓ Must not own multiple properties
- ✓ Be within service area
- ✓ Not located in a floodway or the 100 yr floodplain

Services provided:

- ✓ Physical handicap accessibility
- ✓ Roofing, floor, and other health safety home repairs
- ✓ Physical modifications to allow caregivers to live with veterans



(346) 570-4867
sbpusa.org

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Challenged Athletes Foundation Application Is Now Open



CAF ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM

CAF's flagship grant program aims to remove the barriers that exist between adaptive athletes and their pursuit of sport and fitness.

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals worldwide with permanent physical disabilities are eligible to apply for the CAF grant. Teams, organizations, etc. are not eligible to apply. Hearing impairments, Intellectual and developmental disabilities do not qualify for support through CAF. Medical Verification of Disability is required.

GRANT REQUEST OPTIONS

Applicants may request one of the following grant types:

- Sports Expenses Grant
- Equipment Grant

APPLICATION WINDOW

The 2023 CAF Annual Grant application opens on September 1, 2022. If you are a 2022 CAF grant recipient, [click here](#) for information about grant receipts and FAQs.

2023 ANNUAL GRANT PERIOD TIMELINE

The 2023 CAF Grant Period runs from September 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

Sept 1, 2022: 2023 Grant application opens

Nov 4, 2022: 2023 Grant Application closes

March 22-31, 2023: Grant Award notifications sent out

March 22, 2023 – May 31, 2023: Grant Award Acceptance & Distribution period

May 31, 2023: Deadline to accept the 2023 grant

January 31st, 2024: 2023 Grant Period closes. Monetary grants must be spent, and receipts uploaded



NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

www.wintersportsclinic.org

Registration deadline is November 30, 2023 (no exceptions)

If you are a novice the chapter will pay for you and 1 guest to attend the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. We will pay for the airline tickets and hotel room. Meals are included for the veterans but not for their guests.

If you are not a novice, then you will need the required 75 volunteer points to receive funding from the chapter.

Please fill out and return the Funding Request Form.

Each participant must have a physician complete and sign the enclosed General Medical/Physical Exam form. **If the General Medical/Physical Exam form is not filled out completely and properly signed, your registration will not be accepted and will be sent back to you. There will not be any exceptions to this policy. *In addition to these forms there is additional medical information that is required.***

Don't wait to get your appointment scheduled! Submit your registration early so that if there's a problem you will have time to get it corrected before the deadline.



Texas Chapter



Request for Event funding from TPVA

P.O. Box 989
Crosby, TX 77532
Fax 713-520-8217

Members name _____

Members email, phone _____

Event participating in _____

Sports participating in _____

Do you have medical clearance to participate in this event? YES NO

Are you requesting funding from Texas Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America to participate?
YES NO

Will you be flying? YES NO

Will you be driving, license plate number/state? _____

Will you be taking a caregiver or spouse/partner? YES NO

Full name on ID _____

Type of wheelchair manual or power?

Width of wheelchair. _____

When booking hotel rooms list preferences accessible room (1,2,3)

_____ Accessible room - Roll-in shower

_____ Accessible room - w/bathtub

_____ Room with extra space and bathroom door removed

_____ King Bed _____ Double Bed

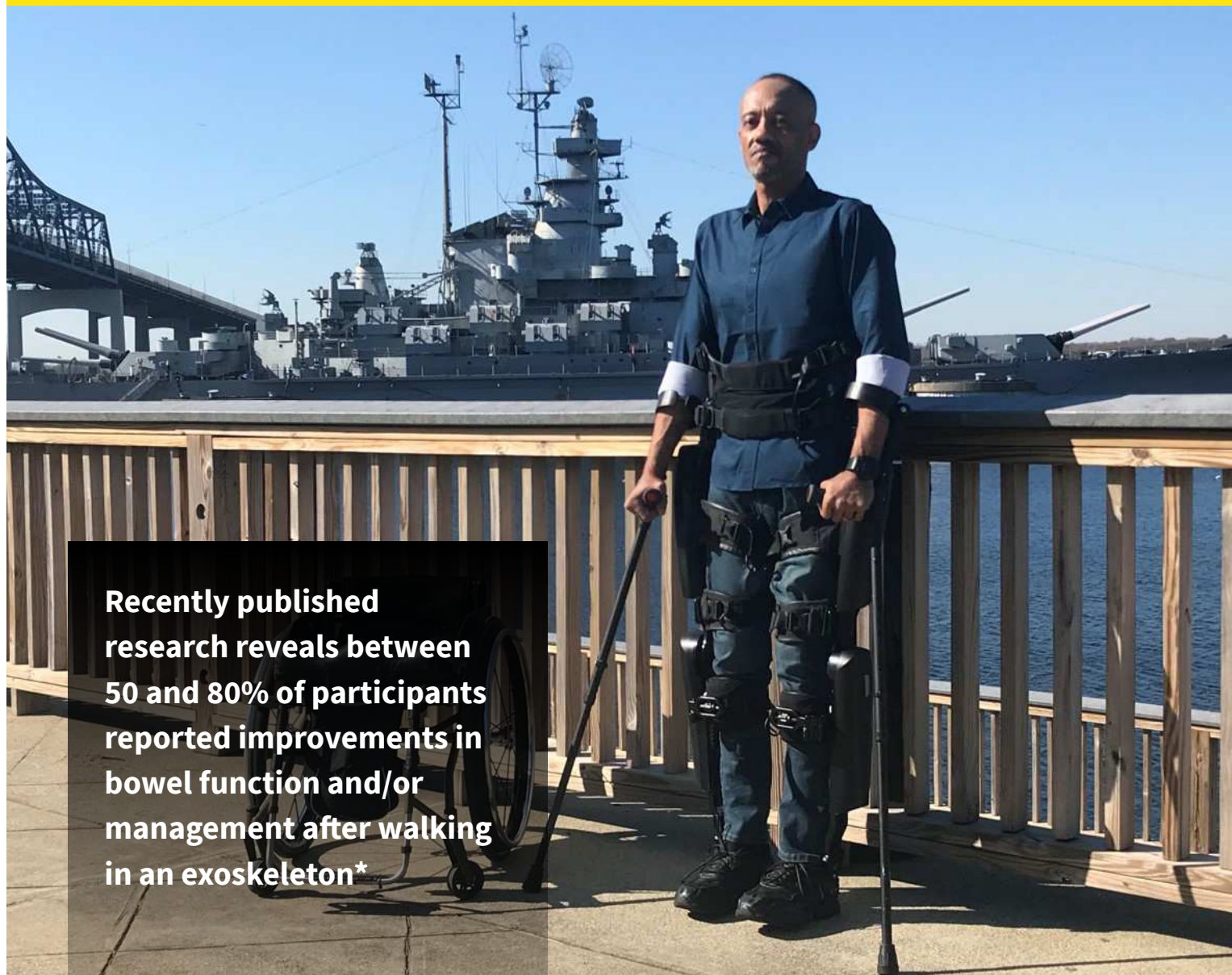
Do you need the bed raised, for lift use? YES NO

In order to receive funding from TPVA you must have 75 points accrued for the event. Points must be submitted to the Chapter office by 10th of each month. If you do not have 75 points accrued, you must submit a request to the Chapter or Sports Director to be considered for the Maginot Award. The Maginot award is a lottery drawing with all members who request it and then one (1) name is drawn.

signature

date

Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**

Membership Rewards Program

Hello Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America Members! Your BOD just implemented a new membership rewards program. It's a very simple program. **During your birth month**, just contact the Chapter Office or one of your Board of Directors and let them know you want to participate. At the end of each month a drawing will be held and five lucky members will each receive a gift card worth \$200 to spend however you wish.

As long as you're on the phone with us, let us know how you're doing. Get an update on the latest Chapter news and events. You can also make sure your phone number and address are up to date. Remember we're an organization made up of members trying to help other members. We need to know who you are, where you are and what kind of concerns or ideas you may have. Plus you may be able to volunteer some time with us.

Remember if it's your **Birth Month**, all that it takes for a chance at a \$200 Birthday gift is just a phone call. If you don't call in, you won't be entered.

Catherine Webster 713-520-8782 admin@texas.pva.org
Frank Daebelliehn 281-256-5652 frankd@texaspva.org
Bruce Kuker 210-632-0495 bwkuker@gmail.com

We have venison available for members

We have venison available in San Antonio and the Houston area for members. Please call 713-520-8782 or email info@texaspva.org to coordinate a time to pickup.

**LIVE
AUCTION**



**RAFFLES
ARIS &
CASH**

Texas Chapter



Saturday, November 18
TURN IN TIMES

noon chicken, 1:30pm pork spare ribs, 3pm brisket

Plates available to purchase for \$10

Texas Thunder Stubbys Bar & Grill

29460 FM 1488, Waller, TX

for info contact Gunner at 216-225-4978



Volunteers are needed for this event. If you are interested please contact our chapter office at #713-520-8782 or email at admin@texaspva.org.



Paralyzed Veterans of America, Texas Chapter BBQ Entry Form

SANCTIONED BY IBCA
<https://ibcabbq.org/organization-documents-2/>



Texas Chapter

Name: _____

Team Name: _____

Address: _____

City-State-Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Team Members:

FEE \$175.00 _____ Chicken, Pork Spare Ribs, Brisket

Open (No Dessert) \$25.00 _____ Margarita \$25.00 _____

Total Amount Paid: _____

Do you have an RV? Yes ___ No ___ If yes what size is it _____ Ft.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA–TEXAS CHAPTER, HAWG STOP, OR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE COOK-OFF WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT OR DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT, OR BODILY INJURY OF ANY KIND. DECISION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND JUDGES ARE FINAL. BY ENTERING THIS CONTEST, YOU AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL THE RULES. IF NOT PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – TEXAS CHAPTER AND/OR TEXAS THUNDER SALOON HAS THE RIGHT TO ASK YOU & YOUR TEAM TO LEAVE THIS COOKOFF. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR COOKING THIS COOKOFF AND SUPPORTING THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – TEXAS CHAPTER

SIGNATURE OF HEAD COOK: _____

Make Checks Payable to: Paralyzed Veterans of America – Texas Chapter

Mail to: PVA, Texas Chapter
P.O. Box 989
Crosby, TX 77532

To pay by credit card please check call 713-520-8782

Proposition Number 1

(HJR 126)

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."

Proposition Number 2

(SJR 64)

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on

the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."

Proposition Number 3

(HJR 132)

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."

Proposition Number 4

(HJR 2- Second Special Session) HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

Proposition Number 5

(HJR 3)

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for appropriation amount could not exceed beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.”

Proposition Number 6

(SJR 75)

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the

New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water in this state.”

Proposition Number 7

(SJR 93)

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region’s load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.”

Proposition Number 8

(HJR 125)

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the

Proposition Number 9

(HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.”

Proposition Number 10

(SJR 87)

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.”

Proposition Number 11

(SJR 32)

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.”

Proposition Number 12

(HJR 134)

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition Galveston County.”

Proposition Number 13

(HJR 107)

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.”

Proposition Number 14

(SJR 74)

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.”

Houston Safari Club



Galveston Fishing Trip





Jack Sanders Banquet 2023 at Moody Gardens





Paralyzed Veterans of America
Texas Chapter
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Crosby, TX 77532

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**Paralyzed Veterans
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truck, RV or boat to change lives and build brighter
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