

Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

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December 2023





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Santa Bob Ranch

There are plenty of large Catfish in those Schulenburg Holes.

September 2023, PVAT Members were treated to another successful and beautiful day of fishing at Santa Bobs Ranch in Schulenburg Texas. Approx 15 Members and/or Family did not hesitate to drive out and cast their fishing lines into Santa Bobs' Magic pond. One after another Large Catfish were being pulled out onto the Banks. Just about 100 Fish were caught and harvested, thus our coolers were soon packed with Ice and Fish. Santa Bob and Family were glad that they could offer this yearly event free for our PVAT Members. He only has a few Rules - "Enjoy yourself and if you Hook it, you keep it". For more fishing opportunities keep checking your PVAT emails and search corresponding web Sites.

Adaptive Fishing resources: PVA B.A.S.S. Club and Tournaments @ pva.org; Texaspva.org



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.

PVAT Chapter Member wins the NOV 2023 Shoot to Walk Sporting Clays

PVA Texas Members were invited to the Semi-Annual November Shoot to Walk Sporting Clays Fundraiser at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio Tx. PVAT Members Alvin, Zach, Bruce and Joel all shot their best to represent the PVAT Trapp/Sporting Clay Shooting program. This year's competition and event grew to new heights but that did not stop Alvin, who took 1st Place in the W/C Division. Being together with so many seasoned shooters the PVAT Members took the opportunity to promote our own "PVAT Killing Clays Fundraiser" in FEB 2024.



BBQ Cookoff November 2023





Bio for New SCI/D Family Medicine physician



Blessing Amune, M.D. is a primary care attending physician joining the South Texas Veterans Administration in the Spinal Cord Injury department. Growing up in Houston, Texas led her to attend Baylor University in nearby Waco, Texas for her bachelor's degree with honors in biology and double minors in chemistry and philosophy. She earned her medical degree here in the beautiful city of San Antonio at the University of Texas Long School of Medicine. She completed her medical training with the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. With a multidisciplinary team of volunteer health care students and professionals, Dr. Blessing has travelled to various medically underserved cities in South Texas and along the border to provide health screenings, vaccinations and health education. She has also authored papers published in prominent medical publications and presented research posters for her projects in both institutional and national conference settings. Dr. Blessing was recognized as a Bellue Holly Primary Care award winner and received the award for the Long School of Medicine Excellence in Admissions and Outreach. She is looking forward to serving our nation's heroes by providing competent, compassionate, and comprehensive primary care. One of her hobbies include traveling, especially to the Gulf Coast beaches or river floating in central Texas. She also enjoys recreational sports, going to brunch, watching movies and crime documentaries, attending comedy shows, and various musical or theatrical performances around the city."



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nichole Thomas
Armando Gonzales
Kristopher Davis

REST IN PEACE



Peter Brower
Michael Read
James Cox
Albert Morales



Has
Joined



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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.



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www.eksobionics.com/request-information/

*A waiting period through the VA is required to receive a gift by law of the Ekso Indego Personal device. For full details on VA use, visit: www.eksobionics.com/request-information/

PKM-1-02-00 Rev. A



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.

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

November, December, & January Birthdays

Jose Fuentes
Tyler Roberts
Michael Mcauliffe
Nichole Thomas
Dorian Leon
Armando Rodriguez
Timothy Jones
Ricardo Perez
Patrick Pennington
Christopher Montero
Marcus Sims
Scott Vetter
Marco De La Rosa
Eric Lindsay
Anne Robinson
Philipp Schweizer
Charles Cooper
Aaron Hunt
Bradley Hoover
Timmy Morgan
Kevin Wagner
Joseph Massey
William Watson
Jimmy Solis
Rose Weidner
Paul Kellum
Richard Jean
Steven Wardlow
Thomas Bates
Samuel Hudson
Roger Martin
Thomas Sleeper
Jon Russell
Jimmy Hennesy
Donald Durkee
Roberto Ybarra
Elvin Jones

Clifford Harrison
Dalbert Rozzlle
Jeffrey Bowerman
Fred King
George Georges
Alexander Lukats
Jose Mendiola
Robert Thompson
Philip Clausen
Arturo Vasquez
Stanley Craig
Juan Vargas
Raymond Jackson
Bobby O'Mealey
Martez Davis
Augustine Pena
Richard Carson
Phuc Nguyen
Nicholas Mateo
Trent Cryer
Lance Brune
Ryan Snowden
Roberto Elizondo
Bradly Bevel
Richard Thompson
Jeremecia Perry
Jeremie Thiers
Willie Davis
Kimberly Henderson
Derrick Bryant
Todd Taylor
Will Matay
James Madison
Roger Smith
Edward Caldwell
Stephen Dawson
Lisa Coryell
Patrick Norvell
John Bemben
Edward Miley
Ernie Sandidge
Eugene Hernandez
Isville Jackson
Candor Tovar
Robert Preston
Charley Cole

Mark Hamman
Derrick Perkins
Mylerrie Thomas
Michelle Bush
Rodger Woods
Theodore Weaver
Pablo Collazo
Jimmy Harris
Donald Burton
Willard Allen
Edward Alderete
Steve Smith
Charlie Parra
Ronald McAnally
Christopher Stanford
Cornelio Ochoa
Nicolas Contero
Ronald Emory
Leon Toulson
Michael Robertson
Frederick Melvin
Leroy Clement
Frederica Miller
Elizabeth Duncan
Earnest McGrue
Billy Wilson
Dennis Brooks
Michael Stewart
Charles Mitchell
Roy Brown
Esteban Montes
Michael Noyce
Jose Liquez
Felipe Garcia
William Adams
Stephen Scott
Dwight Hayes
Edwin Simmons
Walter Peterson
Michael Read
Rosendo Scott
John Toledo
Raymond Harris
Manuel Riojas
Earl Conner
James Shelton
Willie Jones
Willis Taylor



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

2023 October Sporting Clays Fundraiser & National Sporting Clays Championship

OCT 1st 2023 PVA Sporting Clays Fundraiser at Moyesway Shooting Sports in Kingsbury Tx. marked one of the last chances for (NSCA Members) shooters to acquire registered targets before the 2023 OCT National Sporting Clays Championships. For this reason, we almost tripled our attendance this year. WINNERS: TEAM = Butch Robinson's Team. INDV - 1st Bill Etheridge, 2nd Butch Roberson, 3rd Try Miller. Amanda, her Mom and Jason prepared the wonderful and flavorful Texas BBQ. They really did a masterful job and it was hard to tell which of the two made the best BBQ .

PVA Texas Chapter showed up in force at the National Shooting Complex (NSC) to participate in the 2023 OCT National Sporting Clays Championship in San Antonio Texas. With the help of Score Chasers and the staff at NSC we were able to secure and ultimately fill 3 Squads of 4 shooters. The Main Event is 300 Targets broken down over 4 days. With over 2,500 entries, competitors from across the country and Mexico aimed high to break some clays under the South Texas sky. PVAT Members Alvin, Wilard, Josue, Zach, Jason, Edgar and David filled the W/C Division with Alvin earning top shot on our Team and 3rd over all. While Eric, Joel, Chuck, and Bruce represented Disabled Veterans. New Asst Member and "Rookie" Richard Guerrero (retired SA Police) out shot most competitors and absolutely fell in love with the Sporting Clay Sport.

Thankfully we missed this year's heavy downpours and the endless mud that consumed all of the Shooting Complex. However, our Shooters along with Amanda braved the muck to visit Vender Row to promote the Chapter and the Trapp/Sporting Clay Program. PVAT and its programs were highly represented throughout the complex and its participants. We encourage all of our Members to participate/ subport our next Fundraiser, aka Killing Clays FEB 24 2024 at the NSC in San Antonio.

A big Thank You goes out to our Asst Members Joel, Chuck, Richard and Scott for the helping Hands and corrective coaching.

Thank you to our Sponsors: OCT 1st = Moyesway Shooting Sports, Excel Modular Scaffold, Burns & McDonnell, Alamo Chocolate Factory,
NATIONALS= NSCA, NSC, Coles, Midwest Helice, USA Shooting, PVA Trapshooting, Academy Sports store # 250, Monarch Ammo, VA, PVA Texas Chapter





2023 Adaptive Cycling

PVAT members prove that there is more than one way to “Keep it Rolling”. Members also know that Husbands and Wives can join together and become perfect Cycling partners.

New PVAT Member Gene dominated the Hand Cycle Division with his 1st Place finish at the OCT 2023 Army 10 Miler securing his own special piece of DC merchandise!! When he is not Cycling, you can find Gene at the local Bowling Alley. Thus, He is going to be a great fit within our PVAT Chapter.

Toai and Adessa continue to travel across the Country to participate in numerous Marathons. This dynamic dual Married, moved to San Antonio TX, started training together in Air Rifle/Pistol, Archery and Hand Cycling. All their hard work has paid off with Adessa placing 3rd at the 2023 US Marine Corp Marathon and 1st at the 2023 Detroit Marathon just missing the Female H/C Record by only 2 minutes. They also teamed up and completed a Cycling Challenge around the Island of Puerto Rico, USA.

Bruce and Susan attended this year’s MS 150 in New Braunfels, TX. Bruce stayed motivated by his choice to “Ride for the US Vets with MS” during the long two-day event. While Susan helped as an official Volunteer and always a strong supporter of the Team. They also enjoy weekly recreational rides together on their recumbent trikes. On Nov. 10th 2023 along most of the cloudy SA Greenway, Bruce completed the WWP Devil Dog Century (100mile) Ride in honor of the US Marine Corp Birthday.

Gill and Caroline continuously enjoy time together cycling throughout the Kerrville and San Antonio Trail systems. There is nothing better than riding outdoors with the ones that you love. It’s important to note: we all ride with local Adaptive Cycling (support) Groups in order to stay safe, motivated and connected. Cycling is a solo sport operated within a dynamic group to form a Team. We encourage you to look up local Adaptive Cycling programs, pump up your tires, strap on a Helmet and join us for a Ride. Contact your local VA SCI Rec Therapist in Houston or San Antonio for more information about other Adaptive Cycling opportunities available locally throughout Texas.

AN EXAMPLE: A new Texas Cycling event is the 2024 Texas Senior Games and registration is now Open. They encourage Hand Cycles and Recumbent Trikes (no power asst), DATE for Cycling is March 3rd, Bend Park, Travis County. Registration and Event Fees required see [Txseniorgames.org](https://txseniorgames.org) for more details.

SEEK OUT THESE ADAPTIVE CYCLIST SPONSORS: PVA Adaptive Sports/Para Cycling - peterp@pva.org; Operation Comfort Cycling, cycling@operationcomfort.com; Texas Regional Para Sports, jcweatherford10@gmail.com; Ride MS150, CAF Cycling, Operation Rebound, Adaptive Adventures, info@adaptiveadventures.org; Move United, WWP Cycling, Pedal Guerrero Trike Shop, Carbon Bikes- USA, Lasher, Top End, Cat Trike, VA Adaptive Sports Program, 2024 NVWG.org; San Antonio and Houston Parks and Recreation.





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

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WEB: WWW.PRO-BED.COM



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**Annual contributions for
2023-2024 will be as follows:**

Platinum Donor	\$1,000 or more
Titanium Donor	\$500 - \$999
Gold Donor	\$250 - \$499
Silver Donor	\$100 - \$249
Bronze Donor	\$5 - \$99



2023-2024 DONOR CLUB as of December 2023

Platinum: *Jacqueline Hahli, Mobius Mobility LLC, Kevin E Corcoran, CFC TASC, Scott E & Eliza Caudill, Heritage Livestock & Trucking Inc, Johnny Godwin, GMP Developers LLC, Steven Wardlaw, & AOG Foundation.*

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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/>

SCI Christmas Luncheon



Texas PVA Women Veterans,

I am a committee member of the Anita Bloom Women's Committee at the National level. PVA's ties to women Veterans date back to its first meeting in 1946 with the arrival of its first female Veteran member, Anita Bloom (affectionately known as "Nita"), who fought to ensure women Veterans' health-care needs were properly met. PVA continues Nita's legacy to this day as part of its Women Veterans Initiative. From the development of its Anita Bloom Committee and creation of its Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat to its advocacy efforts and informative webinars, PVA serves as the nation's leader in securing safe, equal, and accessible health and wellness services that are at least equal to what they had prior to joining the service and suffering a disability. The Women's Veterans Empowerment Retreat (WVER) meets annually with the purpose for women veterans from around the country meet to discern over women's issues and discuss a way forward.

Our chapter is represented by Tammy Jones, Chair who is also a former TPVA President and PVA National Vice President along with Co-Chair Anne Robinson who is also a former TPVA President, former PVA National Board of Directors and currently PVA National Vice President. And myself appointed for another 3-year term as a Committee Member and serve as a TPVA Government Relations representative.

With TPVA President Frank Daebelliehn's support I would like to convene a meeting via zoom to discuss the formation of the TPVA Women Veteran's Group in the February 2024 timeframe.

I look forward to meeting you all.

All the best,

Kerry

Kerry Reyna

TPVA Government Relations

PVA Anita Bloom Committee

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.

ABOUT WONDERS & WORRIES:

Wonders & Worries is a nonprofit that provides free, professional support to children and teens throughout a parent or direct caregiver's life-changing illness or injury (cancer, stroke, heart condition, TBI, lupus, etc.). Wonders & Worries' team of Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS)—pediatric clinicians trained in the developmental impact of illness and injury—lead children and teens through our clinically-backed and copyrighted Six-Session Illness Education and Coping Curriculum. We also provide support to parents through consultations and many resources designed to help them connect and communicate with their children while navigating their own illness/injury. Since 2001, we have served over 15,500 children and parents.

Services are free to families and offered in English and Spanish in person at several locations in Central and South Texas. Virtual sessions are available in 31 counties in the Greater Austin, San Antonio, and Houston areas. Families living outside of Wonders & Worries core service area, can connect and receive help through a variety of national services and resources.

HEAR FROM OUR FAMILIES:

Neff Family

Dacres-Green Family

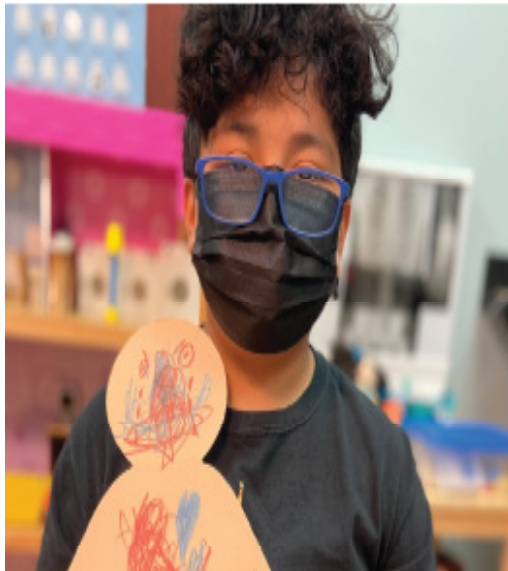
Harris Family

HOW TO REFER A FAMILY:

- Submit a secured online form. All patient information is protected under HIPAA.
- download a referral form (PDF) --can be emailed or faxed
- You may also contact us at info@wondersandworries.org or 512-329-5757

NATIONAL SUPPORT OPTIONS:

- Wonders & Worries Helpline 1-844-WE-WONDER (1-844-939-6633)—families or professionals can call to speak with one of our CCLS's for a free consultation on how to talk with and support kids impacted by adult illness.
- For Parents tab at www.wondersandworries.org for illness discussion tip sheets, general communication tips, child development information, parent videos, activity ideas, a parent podcast, recommended reading, and more!



Contact Us

SERVICE AREAS

Greater Austin
512-329-5757

Greater Houston
713-324-8956

Greater San Antonio
210-307-4853

Please visit www.wondersandworries.org/contact
for additional location information

National Helpline

1-844-WE-WONDER (1-844-939-6633)
helpline@wondersandworries.org

Request an information call today!



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We will, together.

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FAMILY SUPPORT — through — PARENTAL & ILLNESS & INJURY



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through a parent's illness.

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Contáctenos

ÁREAS DE SERVICIO

Área mayor de Austin
512-329-5757

Área mayor de Houston
713-324-8956

Área mayor de San Antonio
210-307-4853

VISITE

www.wondersandworries.org/contact
para más información

APOYO FAMILIA a través de la ENFERMEDAD O LESIÓN — de un — PADRE



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FAMILY support

— THROUGH —

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Professional consultations focused on
talking with and supporting children and
teens during a parent's illness or injury.

Parent & Professional calls welcome

WONDERS & WORRIES RESOURCES

WonderChat

WonderChat is a podcast that provides support & tools for parents navigating chronic illness.

WONDERS Mobile App for Parents

WONDERS for parents provides information and strategies that maximize family communication and coping during a parent's illness.

WonderChats for Parents

WonderChats for Parents are regularly provided webinars that focus on ideas and strategies to support parenting throughout an illness.

WONDERS Mobile App for Professionals

WONDERS for professionals provides clinicians with information to further guide and empower their work. Topics focus on strategies to optimize family communication and coping.

Continuing Education for Professionals

Robust continuing education opportunities are available via webinars and online courses to supplement your therapeutic work. This includes the comprehensive Registered Wonders & Worries Provider training and support program.

Therapeutic Resources

A growing catalog of therapeutic resources are available to support families and professionals as they navigate parental illness.



Wonders & Worries

Professional support for children
through www.wondersandworries.org.



Scan the QR code or visit
www.wondersandworries.org to learn
more about our National Program!

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 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



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