

# Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



# PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

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[www.texaspva.org](http://www.texaspva.org)

## January 2024



# 2024

*happy new year*



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Hello Texas Chapter Members and Friends

I hope you are doing well and your 2024 is off to a great start! We had a nice break for the holidays but things are back in full swing at the chapter.

We have rodeo tickets available for Houston and San Antonio rodeos. Please contact the chapter office as soon as possible if you would like to request some tickets. The San Antonio rodeo is rapidly approaching and begins on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Houston rodeo begins on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

We are wrapping up our audit and will be sending out our Annual Report once it's complete. You should receive that in February. We are gearing up for our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Kill'n Clays Classic on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. We need help on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> as well as Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you're available to help.

Registration for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is open February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>. <https://wheelchairgames.org> Please be sure to send in your funding request form if you plan to attend.

Check our calendar of events to see the current sports practice events. Some of the other chapters are having a lot of fun playing golf at Top Golf. Please let me know if you'd be interested and I'll get it set up.

Please reach out anytime if you need anything.

Amanda

Pat Phelps retired after almost 34 years of service!





# Washington Update

Check out the [PVAction Force](#) page to view alerts and a list of key legislation.

## PVA RELEASES 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

The second session of the 118th Congress is officially underway. This year, we will continue to work with our champions on pushing forward legislation and regulations that support our priorities. Congress will be in session fewer days this year than last year because of the pending November elections. Regardless, we will work to push access forward this year and believe we will see some of our key priorities over the finish line.

Our priorities for this year are as follows:

- Protect Access to VA's Specialized Health Care Services
- Expand Access to VA Long-Term Services and Supports
- Improve VA Benefits and Health Care Services for Paralyzed Veterans and their Survivors
- Protect the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities
- Improve Access to Social Security Benefits
- Increase Employment Prospects for Veterans with Disabilities

For more details on each of the priorities, please [click here](#).

## CONGRESS PASSES CR TO FUND GOVERNMENT THROUGH MARCH

This week, Congress approved another two-tiered, continuing resolution (CR) that keeps the federal government running into early March. The first-tier funds the departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Energy, Veterans Affairs, and Agriculture through March 1. The second-tier funds all remaining government agencies through March 8. It cleared both chambers in a bipartisan manner.

## CONGRESS MAKING PROGRESS ON A VETERANS PACKAGE

Congress is making progress on an omnibus package for veterans that was intended to be an end of year package. Leaders of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees and their staff have been working for months on a baseline package which is currently in its first draft.

The final version of the bill is likely to differ from the draft due to cost and other barriers. The full details of the current package are unknown but we understand it will include several different pieces of legislation that cover an array of issue areas that are important to PVA members. Areas likely to be addressed include improving access to VA provided home and community-base.





based services and additional supports for caregivers, as well as provisions around education, and other benefits.

PVA is actively working with other veterans organizations and the committees to keep the package moving forward. As more progress is made on these efforts, we will keep you informed.

### **DOJ PUBLISHES PROPOSED ADA REGULATION TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO MDE**

On January 12, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to update the regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to improve access to medical diagnostic equipment (MDE) for people with disabilities. MDE includes weight scales, exam tables and chairs, x-ray machines, and mammography equipment. PVA has been urging DOJ to move forward with the proposed rule for a number of years.

The proposed regulation would adopt technical standards that clarify how public entities that use MDE, such as hospitals and health care clinics operated by state or local governments, can meet their existing obligations under the ADA. For a high-level summary of the NPRM and information on how to submit comments, [read the fact sheet](#). PVA will be submitting comments and will work with other disability community stakeholders to evaluate the proposal.

### **DOT EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR RFI ON TRANSIT FACILITY ACCESS, COVERING VERTICAL ACCESS**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a [request for information](#) (RFI) for comments on whether to change the accessibility requirements for transportation facilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The DOT is specifically looking at changing requirements for vertical access, like elevators and long ramps between platforms; communications, such as in how people who are deaf and/or blind can receive information about upcoming trains; and

wayfinding, considering how people can use technology to navigate transit stations. Questions on vertical access seek comment on unreliable and frequently out of order elevators, potential requirement for facilities to have two elevators, and using ramps for accessible paths of travel. DOT will also accept comments on any other standards that govern rails stations, bus stops, and transfer stations, such as parking lots, fare vending machines, and accessible paths of travel. Comments can be submitted [online](#). The deadline was extended until February 20.

### **IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY STUDENT LOAN DISCHARGE**

The U.S. Department of Education has been making improvements to the Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) Discharge of people with student loans and they want to get the word out to all eligible veterans. Several steps in the forgiveness process have now been streamlined to increase engagement.

There are three ways student loans can be discharged by the Department of Education due to TPD: through the VA, the Social Security Administration, or by a medical professional. For more information on eligibility for TPD forgiveness, you can review the criteria [here](#).

The Department of Education and VA have systems that communicate with one another so veterans rated 100 percent service connected should have seen an automatic discharge of their loans already. If you are rated at 100 percent and have not seen your federal student loans forgiven, or if you are a veteran that has seen your loans discharged, please reach out to Julie Howell, PVA's Associate Legislative Director, at [JulieH@PVA.org](mailto:JulieH@PVA.org).

### **NEWS OF NOTE**

#### **PVA Joins SVA National Convention**

During the first week of January, PVA was invited to participate in the National Convention (NatCon) for Student Veterans of America (SVA), the largest veteran

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**@ParalyzedVeterans**

**in Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**🐦 @PVA1946**

**📷 @PVA1946**



service organization focused on student veterans, in Nashville, TN. PVA participated in several panel discussions including an education session on various veterans service organizations and their missions, as well as a policy think tank discussion where students were given the chance to think of creative solutions to issues they face. The event was a great opportunity to get the word out about PVA and the services we offer the veteran community.

### **CFPB Wins Settlement for Some Veterans**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) recently sent \$6 million to veterans who were harmed by illegal lending practices. In a press release, CFPB noted that five companies “misled veterans and other consumers into selling their pension and disability payments, which is illegal under federal law.” You can read the press release [here](#). As a reminder, as fraud increases around veterans and service members, always research the financial companies you work with. You can use the CFPB website as a resource.

### **IRS Piloting Service for Free E-Filing**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is piloting in 13 states the opportunity to use their free e-file system. This system is intended to make sure that taxpayers are taking advantage of the tax credits, including the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#), and deductions available to them and receiving the fullest tax refund possible. More information, including which states are participating in the pilot, can be found [here](#).

## **WEBINARS, ACTION ALERTS, & HEARINGS**

### **Advocacy Webinar on Adaptive Housing Now Available**

On December 14, we hosted a webinar, “Adaptive Housing: Various Resources for an Adaptive Home and an Independent Life,” focusing in on the many resources available to disabled veterans across the country. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, was joined by PVA’s Architecture Department, the VA, and Habitat for Humanity to talk about resources and programs around

adaptive housing.

A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#) and the slides can be [viewed](#) on PVA’s webinar page.

### **PVAction Force: Support HISA Improvements**

Did you know that VA’s Home and Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant rates have not changed since Congress last adjusted them in 2010? Meanwhile, due to inflation the cost of home modifications and labor has risen nearly 50 percent during the same timeframe. This is the only VA housing modification program available to veterans with non-service-connected disabilities. [Reach out to your members of Congress](#) and let them know they must pass the **Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act (H.R. 2818/S. 3290)**, which would raise the HISA rates to appropriate levels and tie them to a formula that raises rates annually.

### **Upcoming Veterans’ Committee Activities**

Please visit the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Veterans’ Affairs Committee webpages for information on upcoming hearings and markups.

**PVA.org**

**@ParalyzedVeterans**

**in Paralyzed Veterans of America**

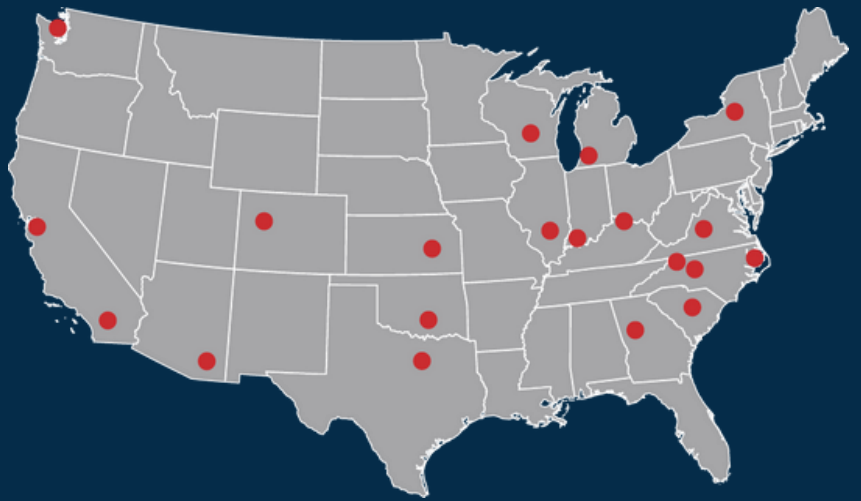
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# SUMMER CAMP 2024



**Applications open  
January 17th!**

**Camp Corral offers Summer Camp opportunities to children of wounded, ill, and fallen military and veterans.**

**Kids will find adventure, build confidence, challenge their fears, and make life-long friends.**

**Open to children ages 8-15, this incredible week of adventure is offered at no cost to the family.**

**Mark your calendar for  
12:00 noon!**

**Spots are available on a first come/first serve basis.  
(Eastern Time)**

Triangle Y Ranch Camp	Oracle	AZ	June 9-14
Collin County Adventure Camp	Anna	TX	June 16-22
YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin	Middleville	MI	June 30-July 5
Eastern 4-H Center	Columbia	NC	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Hanes	King	NC	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Carson	Princeton	IN	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Loma Mar	Loma Mar	CA	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Gorham	Eagle Bay	NY	June 30-July 6
YMCA Camp Wood	Elmdale	KS	June 30-July 6
Camp Lakotah	Wautoma	WI	July 7-13
4-H Memorial Camp	Monticello	IL	July 14-19
Camp Southern Ground	Fayetteville	GA	July 21-26
YMCA Camp Seymour	Gig Harbor	WA	July 21-26
Camp Cole	Eastover	SC	July 21-26
YMCA Camp Classen	Davis	OK	July 21-27
YMCA Camp Shady Brook	Deckers	CO	July 28-August 2
Camp Holiday Trails	Charlottesville	VA	July 28-August 2
YMCA Camp Weaver	Greensboro	NC	August 4-9
YMCA Camp Marston	Julian	CA	August 4-9
YMCA Camp Ernst	Burlington	KY	August 4-10



**APPLY ON JANUARY 17TH!**

[campcorral.org](http://campcorral.org)

# PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

December 2023

## OPTIONS FOR RETRAINING



Rose Lopez is an Army veteran. She contacted the Veterans Career Program after a Veterans Career Live session on Federal hiring procedures. Her degrees and experience were in IT, but she didn't know if that was the field she wanted to be in as a career. Rose and Jim Arndt, our counselor in Minneapolis,

MN, began exploring alternative careers while continuing to consider IT positions.

Rose continued to participate in our weekly career webinars; and one session that turned her career outlook around was with the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM). ATDM is a Department of Defense program designed to quickly train qualified candidates in essential manufacturing skills and trades to establish a steady and sustainable flow of qualified workers for the naval shipbuilding and repair sector of the submarine industrial base (<https://atdm.org/>). Rose applied for and was accepted into the program in late 2023. She will relocate to Virginia for training, and will be assisted with finding a career after the program is completed.

*From Rose: "Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) has profoundly impacted my life. Their exceptional vocational rehabilitation counseling and unwavering commitment to empowering disabled veterans is unparalleled. Thanks to their support and dedication, I discovered the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) program, paving my way toward a fulfilling career as a CNC machinist in defense manufacturing. I am deeply grateful for PVA and ATDM's support, confident that their guidance will help me achieve my goals and make a meaningful impact in the industry."*

## MONTHLY IMPACT

### 11 Client Placements

- 6 Paid Employment
- 2 Education/Training
- 3 Volunteer
  - 10 Veterans
  - 1 Family Member
  - 1 Caregiver
  - 1 PVA Member
- The average salary for the 6 clients in full time employment was \$69,600.



## 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT

It was another busy year for the Veterans Career Program staff as we assisted transitioning service members, veterans of all eras, their families and caregivers with finding meaningful careers.

In 2023, the Veterans Career Program placed 223 clients: 209 veterans, 14 family members, and 4 caregivers. The average salary for clients in full-time employment was \$71,062 (40% higher than the national average for veteran employment).

Our counselors maintained an active client list of 550+ veterans, military family members and caregivers; including 360 new clients.

Also in 2023, we held 88 Veterans Career Lives sessions covering Career Skills (43), Employer Sessions (20), Education (11), Small Business (10), Health & Wellness (3) and Financial Planning (1).

And lastly, we launched our Disabled Veterans Self-Employment program with the goal of offering training and counseling to PVA members and spouses interested in self-employment/small business start-up. We hosted two 10-week sessions for 30 PVA members and spouses (111 applications). We awarded \$10,000 in start-up grants (thanks to the Wells Fargo Foundation) to four participants as part of "Pitch Night" competitions.



# Sportsman Challenge



**Start time:** 9am SHARP

**Date:** April 6, 2024



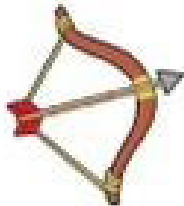
**Place:** Diamond L Ranch  
18025 Osburn Rd.  
Montgomery, Texas



**Turkey Shoot:**  
*Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun*



**Clays**  
**Archery**  
**Tomahawk**



**Raffle and Door Prize**



*Call Ron Lofton for details:*  
Cell: 936-661-7634



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Arnold Lyle  
Decker Goss  
Julio Gomez  
June Pugh  
Maurice (Mike) Meehan  
Najla Switzer  
Thomas Vaiana  
Welton Gossett  
Ralph Healan  
Danny Fleener  
Roky Fernandez  
Conrad Breaux  
Stephen Braccini

## REST IN PEACE



Bonnie Echols  
Candor Tovar  
Carl Butler





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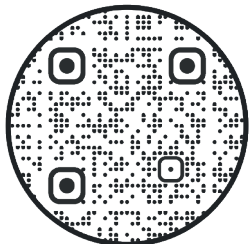
# Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again

Eligible veterans can receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at NO COST!

## Ekso Indego Personal

### What is 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.\*\*

- Walk at home and in your community
- 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!

An evaluation by your provider at a SCI/D center is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device



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[www.eksobionics.com](http://www.eksobionics.com)

\* For full indications for use, visit: [www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/](http://www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/)

**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 in the SCI Rec. Room

# Febuary & March Birthdays

James Milliff  
Charles Williams  
Glenn Welsch  
John Fuller  
Harry Boucher  
Bob Alan Kafka  
Tanoa Leiato  
James Rector  
Raol Salinas  
James Poindexter  
Richard Roberts  
Stuart Parselle  
Richard Vigil  
Benny Reynaga  
Regina Escaliente  
Franklin Tyler  
Lewis Williams  
Jerry Bergthold  
Barry Coats  
Fredrick Nash  
Jose Luis Martinez  
Hector Quinones  
James Byrne  
Kelly Keyworth  
James Driggers  
Michael Sutton  
Ronald Rone  
Kord Beckerdite  
Misael Rodriguez  
Randi Guerrero  
Ricardo Laurel  
Chanda Gaeth  
Edwin Patterson  
George McEntyre  
John Sanchez  
Morris Alvarado  
Larry White  
Brandie Peterson

Nakia Merritte  
Brandon Cortez  
Robert Bishop  
Jose Romero  
Luis Lopez  
Seth Aho  
Adam Darling  
Brian Pruett  
Marissa Hernandez  
Silviano Rivera  
Wendi Evans  
Wyatt Turk  
Joe James  
Michael Levine  
Paul Stanford  
Luther Sanders  
Sylvester Barner  
Arthur Henderson  
Paul Martinez  
Jerry Turner  
Hugh Morgan  
Robert Poffinbarger  
Ulysses Wicker  
Marshall Hicks  
Tedd Shelton  
Sammie King  
Steven Hoffman  
William Chavez  
Carlos Ramos-Moll  
Gregory Rosales  
Calvin Lambert  
Harold Brown  
Alex Williams  
Donald Howard  
Lorinda Carr  
Albert Ellis  
Ernest Henderson  
Johnny Treadwell



# December Birthday Raffle Winners:

1. Willie Davis
2. Isville Jackson
3. Christopher Stanford
4. Jose Liquez
5. Elizabeth Duncan

## January 2024

Houston Parks and Recreation – Adaptive Programs

Metropolitan Multi Service Center (West Gray) 1475 West Gray, Houston TX 77019

### Monday –

9am-10am Water Fitness Class  
12pm – 1pm Line Dancing  
1pm - 2pm Boccia  
3pm-4pm Air Rifle  
6pm - 9pm Wheelchair Basketball Open Gym



### Tuesday –

1pm – 2pm Tabata Tuesday  
6pm - 7:30pm – Youth Wheelchair Basketball  
7:30pm - 9pm Goalball



### Wednesday –

9am-10am Water Fitness Class  
1pm – 2pm Racquet Sports  
2pm-3pm – Powerlifting (17<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>)  
4pm – 5pm Wheelchair Soccer  
6pm – 9pm Wheelchair Basketball

### Thursday –

1pm – 2pm Dance Fit  
6pm – 8pm Wheelchair Rugby  
7pm - 9pm Wheelchair Tennis

### Friday –

9am-10am Water Fitness Class  
12pm - 2pm Pool Volleyball  
1pm - 2pm Uno Crew  
6pm – 8pm Wheelchair Lacrosse  
7pm - 9pm Wheelchair Tennis

### Saturday –

9am-11am Wheelchair Rugby  
11am - 2pm Powerchair Soccer  
2pm - 4pm Deaf Basketball  
6pm – 8pm Wheelchair Tennis

### Sunday –

9am – 11am Wheelchair Tennis  
(Facility Closed)



**Chuck French** | Administration Manager

Front desk 832-395-7333

[charles.french@houstontx.gov](mailto:charles.french@houstontx.gov)

**Hannah Walker** | Recreation Facility Manager

**Nolan Griffin** | Recreation Therapist

[hannah.walker@houstontx.gov](mailto:hannah.walker@houstontx.gov) [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org)



## San Antonio Sports Practice:

Air Guns- Fridays at 10am in the SCI Rec. Room

Bowling- Thursdays at 11am at the Lanes at Oak Hills

Boccia- Wednesdays at 1pm in the SCI Rec. Room

Trap/Sporting Clays- Thursdays at 1pm (Membership Meeting Days) at San Antonio Gun Club



# Member Spotlight:

Member Toai Nolan and his wife Adessa participated in the Disney half ride. Due to the weather they were only to ride 7 miles. They were able to ride with all the other disabled veterans and they all rode and finished together.





# Inpatients Christmas at ALMVA SCI Clinic in San Antonio

PVA Texas Chapter provided a catered prime rib meal with all the fixings plus 3 choices of pie to our Inpatients & Staff in San Antonio (13) and Houston (33).

Members & Volunteers shopped, wrapped, and stuffed Christmas Bags early to ensure every Inpatient received something special this year.

Thank you to PVAT, Luby's, Walmart and all that helped make this "Holiday Gift" possible for our brothers and sisters.









# Joshua Creek Ranch Annual Duck & Pheasant Hunt

It was a crisp winter morning on January 6, 2024 when 10 military veterans and several volunteers meet up at Joshua Creek Ranch, known for the best wing shooting resort in Texas, this was our 10th annual duck and pheasant hunt. First, we rushed into the pro shop registered and purchased some souvenirs, afterwards we loaded up onto a flatbed trailer that was used to transport us around the ranch. After a short drive we arrived at the first location. It was a pond with six duck blinds located on it and we immediately noticed several ducks swimming.

Our Guide JZ gave a safety speech then instructed everyone to which blind they were assigned. Shortly after the birds began flying from every direction the shooting was nonstop, we couldn't reload fast enough. Thirty minutes later we ceased fire in order to take a break and grab more ammo. After about 15 minutes we resumed hunting the action was nonstop what a haul of mallards it was a pile. The dogs were still retrieving after the shooting stopped.

We then grabbed our gear, loaded back up to proceed to our next hunting adventure. First, we stopped for a break by Joshua Creek to enjoy the scenery of the beautiful Texas hill country and talk about the awesome experience that just happened, then off to the next location.

Time for part two of this great morning the pheasant hunt. We arrived at the hunting spot just a short distance away from the creek. A flat field nested against a wooded cliff what a site to see. Again, JZ gave a short speech about safety then we lined up for the driven pheasant hunt. Just as we all got situated the roosters began flying towards us you could hear them crowing as they came towards us, and the fun started again. We could not shoot and reload fast enough, they just kept coming. Let me tell you it was raining pheasants; the dogs were going nuts running around retrieving birds. This is not a bird hunt I've been on plenty of those this was a bird shoot they just keep coming what an experience. After about an hour and a ton of birds on the ground the hunt was over, and we headed back to the club house.

Upon arriving at headquarters, we were treated to a fabulous lunch turkey and all the trimmings. Then we said goodbye to all the staff, thanked them for their support and parted ways with great memories for years to come. Thank you TPVA for helping organize this event and to the Caudill family along with Tim Crank who volunteered and donated to this wonderful event.

Article by,  
Alvin Guerrero





# National Veterans Wheelchair Games

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

2024 Registration will be open from February 1st to April 5th, 2024.

<https://wheelchairgames.org/athletes/registration/>



## 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



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**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.

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*Annual contributions for  
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**Gold Donor** \$250 - \$499  
**Silver Donor** \$100 - \$249  
**Bronze Donor** \$5 - \$99



## **2023-2024 DONOR CLUB as of January 2024**

**Platinum:** Jacqueline Hehli, Mobius Mobility LLC, Kevin E Corcoran, CFC TASC, Scott E & Elisa Caudill, Heritage Linehaul & Trucking Inc, Johnny Godwin, GMP Developers LLC, Steven Wardlow, & AOG Foundation.

**Titanium:** Thomas Nate Turner, John P Kimble, Daniel Rich, Charles Poole, Zachary S Jones, URO Development LLC, Mr. & Mrs. Philip B Green, John E Jones Jr., & Peggy L Marler.

**Gold:** F & Pamela Roberson, Jonathan Devlin, Richard Carson, Joel Hoots, Michael Del Soldato, Jesus Yanez, Alvin Guerrero, John Branum, True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, Steven Pamplin, Frank R Daebelliehn, Robert Patterson, Toai Nolan, TTY Holdings Magnolia LLC, Morgan Stanley, & Linda G Patrick.

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**April 25-28, 2024**



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

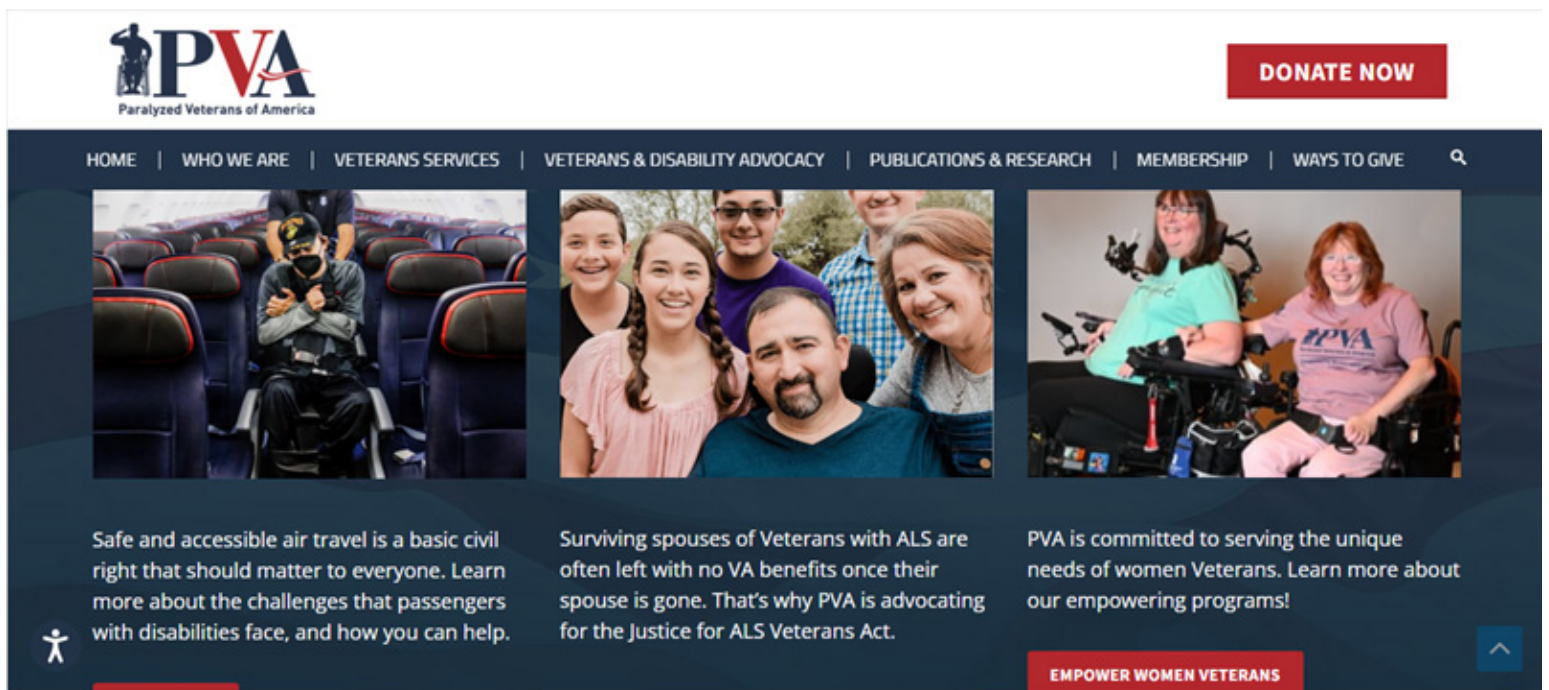
Kerry Reyna

TPVA Government Relations


PVA Anita Bloom Committee

Texas Chapter's newest board member and ALS Program Director Juan Reyes has made the PVA National website. PVA not only supports Veterans with spinal cord injury, but also many spinal cord diseases such as: ALS and MS. Please check out the link below for more information. Congratulations Juan!


<https://www.votervoice.net/PVA/Campaigns/101474/Respond>




**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America


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[DONATE NOW](#)




Safe and accessible air travel is a basic civil right that should matter to everyone. Learn more about the challenges that passengers with disabilities face, and how you can help.






Surviving spouses of Veterans with ALS are often left with no VA benefits once their spouse is gone. That's why PVA is advocating for the Justice for ALS Veterans Act.



PVA is committed to serving the unique needs of women Veterans. Learn more about our empowering programs!

[EMPOWER WOMEN VETERANS](#)





# **MAY 8, 2024**

# **BOWLING**

# **TOURNAMENT**

## **Proposed Schedule:**

**10:00 AM Registration**

**10:00 AM Flag and Allegiance**

**10:15 AM Warm Up**

**10:30 AM Tournament Starts**

**12:30 PM Lunch/Scoring**

**1:30 PM Awards Ceremony**

**2:30 PM Cleanup**

The venue is located 3 miles from the VA's SCI center and 7 miles from the San Antonio International airport. The Drury Inn San Antonio Northwest Medical Center, Courtyard by Marriott Medical Center, and Spring Hill Suites Marriott San Antonio Medical Center are all within a 5 miles radius. They all have ADA rooms available.



Texas Chapter

**Register online at  
PVA.org, Bookabl  
App or Onsite**

**Please arrive by  
10am.**

**POC: Amanda Saunders:**

**amandas@texaspva.org**

**Bruce Kuker:**

**brucek@texaspva.org**

**Awards:**

**Wheelchair &  
Ramp Divisions**

**If you are flying in for the  
event:**

**San Antonio Airport  
Address**

**9800 Airport Blvd.**

**San Antonio, TX 78216**

**The Lanes at Oak Hills**

**7330 Callaghan Rd.**

**San Antonio, TX 78229**





## 16TH ANNUAL KILL'N CLAYS CLASSIC



### Saturday, February 24, 2024

National Shooting Complex- 5931 Roft Rd, San Antonio, TX 78253

**Registration:** Please make your check payable to PVA, Texas Chapter and mail it along with this registration form  
PVA, Texas Chapter  
P.O. Box 989  
Crosby, Texas 77532

[www.texaspva.org](http://www.texaspva.org) / [amandas@texaspva.org](mailto:amandas@texaspva.org)

If you have any questions or want to use a credit card, call  
PVA, Texas Chapter 1-800-933-4261

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

TPVA Member: yes or no (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee: \$150 \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Dinner tickets \$10 available day of tournament

Special Event—\$20 per person \_\_\_\_\_

1) Shooter—TEAM CAPTAIN-Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female (circle one) NSCA # \_\_\_\_\_

wheelchair shooter: yes or no Youth: yes or no (circle one)

Phone & Email \_\_\_\_\_

2) Shooter—Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female (circle one) NSCA # \_\_\_\_\_

wheelchair shooter: yes or no Youth: yes or no (circle one)

Phone & Email \_\_\_\_\_

3) Shooter—Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female (circle one) NSCA # \_\_\_\_\_

wheelchair shooter: yes or no Youth: yes or no (circle one)

Phone & Email \_\_\_\_\_

4) Shooter—Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female (circle one) NSCA # \_\_\_\_\_

wheelchair shooter: yes or no Youth: yes or no (circle one)

Phone & Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsorship Opportunities

#### **Gold Sponsor---\$2,500**

Includes three 4-man teams, name on banner and lunch for each, company name on banner & sponsor board as well as on course

#### **Silver Sponsor---\$1,700**

Includes two 4-man teams, name on banner & lunch, company name on banner & sponsor board as well as on course

#### **Bronze Sponsor---\$1,000**

Includes one 4-man team, name on banner & lunch, company name on banner & sponsor board as well as on course

#### **Veteran Team Sponsor---\$600**

Sponsor one 4-man veteran team, name on banner & lunch, company name on banner & sponsor board as well as on course

#### **Station Sponsor---\$100**

Includes one station sign at 1 out of the 10 stations

#### **Lunch Sponsor---\$1,000**

Premier recognition of company at event – name on banner and sponsor board

Post recognition on Texas PVA website and in printed newsletter

#### **Award Sponsor---\$1,000**

Premier recognition of company at event – name on banner and sponsor board

Post recognition on Texas PVA website and in printed newsletter

Golf carts make own reservations through the National Shooting Complex

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Feb 24, 2024—San Antonio**

**8:00 a.m.** —Registration  
**9:00 a.m.** —Sporting Clays Start Time  
**ALL DAY** —Other Shooting events  
**12:00 p.m.** —Awards Dinner

**Silent Auction All Day**



Sherry Ann Davis  
September 13, 1939 - January 22, 2024

Celebration of Life:  
January 28, 2024 | 2pm

The Center for Glenwood at Glenwood Cemetery  
2525 Washington Ave Houston, TX 77007

A private family viewing will be held at Heights  
Funeral Home

Obituary can be found at [heightsfuneralhome.com](https://heightsfuneralhome.com)

Sherry Ann Davis, a beloved matriarch and cherished soul, passed away on January 22, 2024. Born on September 13, 1939, in Houston, TX, she spent her entire life in the Houston Heights, where she left a lasting mark on the community she called home.

Sherry's life story is woven into the fabric of family, love, community, and a remarkable spirit of adventure. She attended Immanuel Lutheran School and Reagan High School, proudly serving as a "Reagan Red Coat" and laying the foundation for her strong sense of community spirit.

Sherry's journey of love began when she met Robert at her father's gas station, the "Schauer Service Station." Introduced by her father, Fred, their connection blossomed into a beautiful love story, and they were soon married. Together, they worked side by side at their family business, Davis Hardware, where their shared endeavor and fruition showcased their commitment to both family and enterprise.

As partners in life and business, Sherry and Robert raised three wonderful children: Kevin, Karry, and Twyla. Their family life was a source of joy and fulfillment, creating a nurturing environment filled with love, laughter, and shared experiences. Sherry's dedication to her family was unwavering, and her role as a loving wife and mother defined the essence of her being.

Beyond the family, Sherry's interests extended to her community and beyond. She was a passionate genealogist, preserving the stories of her family's past. As a member of the UDC (United Daughters of the Confederacy), she contributed to the preservation of history. Sherry also held a special place in her heart for veterans, acknowledging their sacrifices and expressing gratitude for their service.

Sherry's love of travel was a defining aspect of her adventurous spirit. She explored 33 countries, and her suitcase was always packed, ready for the next exciting journey. Her travel experiences were a source of inspiration for those around her, including riding camels in Egypt, participating in the trooping of the colors with the Queen of England, riding elephants in Thailand, marveling at the sand dunes in Dubai, traveling through Europe by train, cruising through the Caribbean, swimming with dolphins in the Bahamas and playing the slot machines at the casino. Each adventure added a new chapter to the rich tapestry of her life, leaving indelible memories for herself and those fortunate enough to share in her experiences.

In addition to her passion for travel, Sherry found solace and inspiration in the delicate beauty of butterflies. She often expressed that her love of butterflies gave her life and inspiration, creating a connection to the transformative power of these gentle creatures.

Her love for exploration, antiques and butterflies enriched the tapestry of her days. Sherry's legacy lives on in the hearts of her five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, who will forever carry the warmth of her embrace and the wisdom she shared.

Sherry was preceded in death by her husband, Robert G Davis; her daughter, Twyla Davis; her brother, Fred (Bubba) Schauer; and her parents, Fred and Hazel Schauer. As we bid farewell to Sherry, let us remember the vibrant soul who touched our lives with grace, compassion, and an enduring love for family, community, and the beautiful journey of life. May her memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing her.



Air Force - Always Aim High !!

Air Force Veteran Ed Caldwell (PVAT) completed this Black Hawk model while an In-Patient in the Veterans Affairs hospital along with the assistance of the SCI Recreational department. By earning 1st Place, Ed proved that Family and Team Work are essential to proper rehabilitation.

Thank you to all the staff within the ALMVA SCI Departments, especially Joel and the Staff @ SCI REC Therapy

REF: Va.gov, PVA & PVA Texas, DAV, VA SCI Peer Support, NVWG 2024



San Antonio Para Sports Spurs took 1st place in their tournament this past weekend in Oklahoma! Out of the 9 players on our wheelchair basketball team 5 are Veterans!!

Thanks adapted sports!! It helps us a lot especially dealing with PTSD and other injuries Thank you PVAT for sponsoring me!

-Nakia Merritte





## Free Breakfast & Lunch

Frost invites public to free chuck wagon breakfast, lunch events in February (msn.com)

Frost is celebrating the return of the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo with several community chuck wagon breakfast and lunch events.

The seven events are free and open to the public on four dates. Each will have a fiddler performing live music. Chuck wagon breakfasts are an annual tradition at Frost, according to a company press release.

Here is information on each of the events:

### Chuck wagon breakfasts

Free chuck wagon breakfast with eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits & gravy, peach cobbler and coffee

Thursday, Feb. 8 from 7:30 -9:30 a.m.

- - o Schertz Financial Center at 16895 Interstate 35 North in Schertz
  - o WW White Financial Center at 17396 S. WW White
- Friday, Feb. 9 from 7:30 -9:30 a.m.

- - o Citizens Financial Center at 3803 NW Loop 410
- Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 7:30 -9:30 a.m.

- - o North Frost Financial Center at 1155 NE Loop 410
- Friday, Feb. 16 from 7:30 -9:30 a.m.

- 
- o South Central Financial Center at 515 SW Military Drive
- o Tech Port at 3331 General Hudnell Drive

### Chuck wagon lunches

Free chuck wagon lunch includes barbecue brisket, beans, potato salad, peach cobbler, tea, and water

Friday, Feb. 9 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- 281 North Financial Center at 16500 San Pedro Ave.



# PVA Trapp/Sporting Clays Practice

The restart of PVAT Trapp/Sporting Clays Practice at the San Antonio Gun Club is a success. Jan 11th 2024 marked the restart of practice of this very popular Texas Sport and pastime. \*Dates, times and locations have been set up by our PVAT Adaptive Sports Coach, ALMVA REC Dept, SA Satellite Director and Sport & Rec Director to provide this unique type of therapy for our In Patents, Novice and existing members to enjoy. \*Our goal is to set up practice within the Houston/Corpus Christi area in the near future. Interested Houston/Corpus Christi area Members should contact Bruce S&R Director, [brucek@texaspva.org](mailto:brucek@texaspva.org).

Since this was Joey's first time shooting a shotgun, it proved to be a very special day for this Devil Dog. He was quick to learn how to mount the gun, hold steady, aim and fire. With minimum adjustment Joey was soon knocking down clay targets at every station. Members know that practice makes perfect thus we expect to see (Lord willing Hit) NLT 25-100 Targets weekly. \*These are practice targets and DO NOT replace your Required Yearly Registered targets for your NSCA Membership. We encourage our Members to try this sport and show up to practice. However, there are multiple Trapp/Sporting Clay Ranges and/or Shooting opportunity within the Great State of Texas that our members can utilize. Remember Safety First !!

\*prescribed guidelines must be followed

THANK YOU SPONSORS: San Antonio Gun Club, USA Shooting, PVA Trapshooting, [Texaspva.org](http://Texaspva.org), [pva.org](http://pva.org), Academy Sports, NSCA





# 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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