

Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



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May - June - July - 2025





Texas Chapter

Officers - Board of Directors, Program Directors

<i>President</i>	<i>Frank Daebelliehn</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>David Bradshaw</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Rhonda Winer</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Joe Bludeau</i>
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<i>Legestlative</i>	<i>Open</i>
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<i>Adaptive Sports Coach</i>	<i>Jose Laguna</i>
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<i>MS Director</i>	<i>Joe Bludeau</i>
<i>VAVS San Antonio</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>VAVS Houston</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Open</i>

TPVA Staff

Executive Director *Amanda Saunders*
Admin Assistant *Doris Bendo*
Accountant *Jinu Jose*
E-Mail info@texaspva.org

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Meckel, SNSO Waco VARO, 254-299-9944 DanM@pva.org
Joel Hoot, Veterans Career Program, 210-617-5300 x 10148 JoelH@pva.org

Message from Frank Daebelliehn, President



I think everybody ought to thank God for his safekeeping and for everything that he's provided for us. As we get ready to enter fall, please start looking at your to-do list, like winterization of your home, your vehicles, and your equipment. You might want to look at your stockpile of emergency rations and see if you can't start rebuilding those if you needed to use up some of your stockpile. Please visit the website and watch the newsletters for upcoming events. We're going to start publishing a 90-day calendar for everybody to be able to track events and get information about those events. Everyone should have received information about the Jack Sanders banquet. We need nominations for awards, so please send those in. We also need to have a headcount for those who are attending so we can make proper plans for the event. Just an FYI, as of today there are 122 days left until Christmas. Y'all have a blessed day, and I hope you all have a wonderful upcoming holiday season. Just be safe and God bless everybody.

Message from Amanda Saunders, Executive Director



Hello Texas Chapter Members and Friends,

I hope this note finds everyone healthy and well. While Texas is still recovering from the deadly and devastating Fourth of July floods, we are fortunate that none of our members who reside in the area were hurt or had their property damaged. It's a sad reminder that we all need to always be prepared for situations and weather events around us. How quickly things can change in the blink of an eye. Or in the case of the Texas Hill Country, a 26-foot rise in the river water in just 45 minutes. The devastation is truly heartbreaking. So many kids, so many families, and so many communities will never have the opportunity to recover. Please pray for those affected.

The last few months have been busy around the chapter office. As you know, in May we hosted the 79th Annual PVA Convention in Austin. Frank Daebelliehn, Frank Ellis, Kerry Reyna and I were all in attendance. National Vice President Anne Robinson and National Senior Vice President Tammy Jones were also in attendance.

This year, Texas Chapter had 24 athletes, 18 attendants and 5 coaches attend the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Minneapolis. Unfortunately, there wasn't room to add all of the pictures and articles from the games. Those will be included in our next newsletter.

On Tuesday, September 30th we will host our Annual Galveston Bay Fishing Trip. More details are on the flyer further back in the newsletter. On Sunday, October 5th we will hold our 4th Annual Fall Shoot at Moyesway Shooting Sports in Kingsbury (near Seguin). Volunteer opportunities are available. On Friday, October 10th we will host our Annual Jack Sanders Banquet in Houston at the Downtown Aquarium. Please RSVP. Even if you're not attending the banquet please submit your nominations for the awards. Those help the board select the award winners. Then on October 18-19 we will hold a PVA Pickleball Camp at Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio.

Speaking of the board, effective October 1st Frank Ellis will be our Vice President, Rebecca Johnson will be our Treasurer and David Bradshaw will be Board Member 2. If you're interested in helping the chapter we have several program director position that are vacant. We can use your help!

As always, please reach out if I can be of assistance to you.

Amanda

Submitted by Nook Gustamente

Liz Duncan, Jim Casteneda, Irma Pennington, and I did a community service boccia clinic at the Brookdale Hamilton Wolff nursing home. We demonstrated the game, and we let them compete against each other. Boy, seeing the look on their faces was rewarding to us. They are hooked because it is 90% mental and 10% physical and very therapeutic. Coach Jose Laguna was kind enough to donate a new set of boccia balls to the recreation therapist for the patients to keep.



We just wanted to send our great appreciation for this year's rodeo tickets. We had such an amazing experience, from the carnival to the arena area looking at the animals and all the amazing shops, to finally the rodeo and the great performance from Cody Jinks! Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

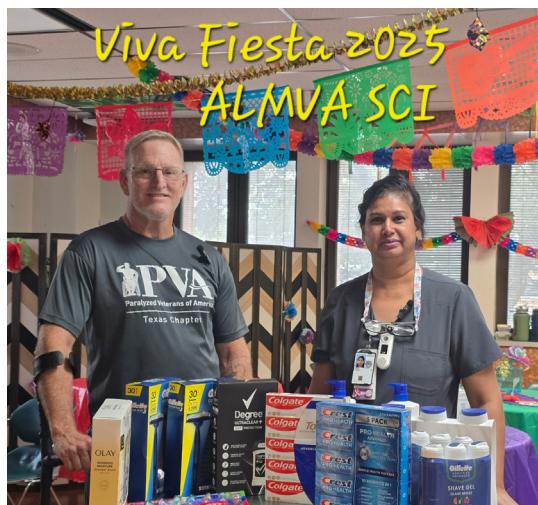
Regards,

Kris and Angela Davis



Texas PVA delivered much requested name brand personal hygiene products to the ALMVA SCI Inpatient Unit. We hope to always improve the quality of life of our inpatients, "One day at a time". Inpatient Peer Support and Volunteer opportunities are available at all VA Hospitals.

Submitted by Bruce Kuker



During the month of May, several players from the Houston Texans took their time to visit the patients here at the Micheal E DeBakey VA hospital. The patient pictured below is George Seabrook along with our SCI Unit Yoga Therapist- Darcy Robinson.

#72 Jalon Thomas



#76 Austin Deculus



#69 Ed Ingram



Career Day at Hirsch Elementary in Spring

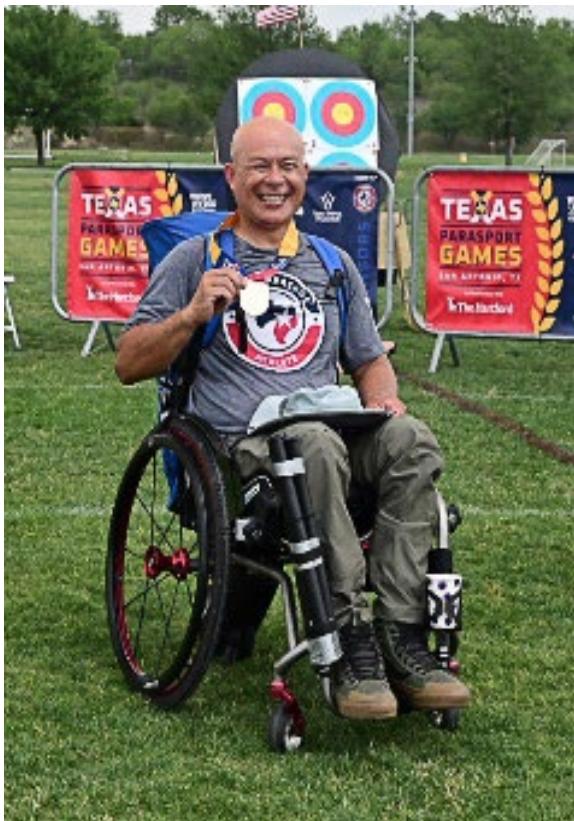


The 2025 Texas Paraspot Games, held April 24–27 in San Antonio, showcased the strength and spirit of adaptive athletes from across the state, especially during the archery competition at the STARR Soccer Complex. Sanctioned by USA Archery, the event featured a 72-arrow outdoor round with distances ranging from 20 to 70 meters, offering competition for all levels—from novice to seasoned competitors.

Texas PVA athletes made a strong showing, sweeping the podium with five members earning Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals across various divisions, including the challenging 50-yard advanced and 20-yard novice rounds. Despite the intense Texas heat and heavy humidity, competitors demonstrated incredible resilience, pushing through the conditions to deliver high-level performances. Among the medalists was myself, who proudly earned a Bronze medal in the 20-yard novice division. I used the bow I was given to from Black Rifle the day prior and was able to compete with it the next day. The determination and grit shown on the range were a testament to the unshakable spirit of our veteran community.

Events like these continue to prove that the true victory lies in showing up, pushing forward, and supporting one another. For more on the Texas Paraspot Games or to join next year's event, visit texasparaspotgames.com.





Thank you Texas
Paraspot for another
great games this year!

The 2025 Texas Paraspot Games, held from April 24–27 at Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio, featured a dynamic air gun competition that brought together athletes of all skill levels. The event included both air pistol and air rifle disciplines, with divisions for novice and advanced shooters. Competitions were conducted using electronic targets, and medals were awarded to the top three athletes in each division.

Texas PVA veterans delivered standout performances during the games, securing multiple medals across various events. Taking Gold, Silver and Bronze in both rifle and pistol. Their achievements underscore the importance of adaptive sports programs in promoting rehabilitation and community among veterans. The air gun events not only provided a platform for competition but also fostered camaraderie and showcased the resilience of these athletes. We encourage all veterans to come out and train with us weekly.

For more information on the Texas Paraspot Games and upcoming events, visit texasparaspotgames.com.





2025 PROSPECTUS

Service Dogs, Inc.

Est. 1988

www.ServiceDogs.org

TRAINING FOR LIFE



TECHNOLOGY YOU CAN HUG

For nearly 40 years, Service Dogs, Inc. has rescued unwanted dogs and transformed them into lifelines for Texans living with significant challenges.

We are unique in the industry:

- (1) We use shelter dogs.
- (2) We provide our Service Dogs free to clients.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America Texas Chapter and Alamo Retiver Club celebrated inclusion and community July 2025 by our Fighting the Blues Fishing Outing event.

A perfect day outdoors can do wonders for anyone's spirit, especially for disabled veterans. Events like these build bonds, boost confidence, and remind everyone they're part of a bigger community. On July 12,2025, the Paralyzed Veterans of America Texas Chapter teamed up with the Alamo Retriever Club to host a special fishing outing for veterans and their families. The event took place at a beautiful ranch owned by Jamie Reed, making it a day to remember for everyone involved.

The Paralyzed Veteran of America (PVA) Texas Chapter has a rich history of helping wounded veterans. Their goal is simple: improve life for those injured or paralyzed during or after service. Since its founding, the chapter has worked tirelessly to provide resources, support, and advocacy for veterans across Texas. Over the years, they've helped thousands of vets gain access to better healthcare and community programs.

For many disabled veterans, outdoor activities offer more than just fun they help heal. Fishing, hiking, hunting and spending time in nature boost mental health and reduce stress. Experts agree that recreational therapy can improve physical and emotional well-being. Events like fishing outings give veterans a chance to enjoy these benefits while connecting with others who understand their journey.

The Alamo Retriever club is a group dedicated to training and caring for bird dogs. For years, the club has organized events and competitions that bring people and dogs together. These activities are more than just fun; they build skills and foster lifelong bonds.

The club played a vital role in the outing by volunteering their time and resources. They helped with setting up equipment, providing retrievers for training demos, and offering guiding support. Their involvement made the day safe and enjoyable for all participants, including children and those with disabilities.

Our current active and associate chapter members along with guests and family cast fishing lines into the stocked pond targeting popular species like bass, crappie, bluegill and catfish. Different techniques suited beginners and seasoned anglers. Alongside fishing, there were activities for family and kids, such as corn hole. Attendees shared how special the day was saying it uplifted their spirits and strengthened community ties.

Stories flowed freely as veterans and families shared laughs and memories. One veteran said, "it's the first time in years I felt free to enjoy nature with my family."



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
1/4 Page	\$30.00	\$180.00 less 10% = \$162.00
1/2 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!

Kountze Deer Hunt

Our friends over at Indian Springs Campground and RV Park are working on their Annual Deer Hunt for Texas PVA. The hunt will take place October 31st - November 2nd. We are putting together a preliminary list of attendees. Please let us know if you would like to participate and if you will be bringing a caregiver.

There may also be an opportunity to hunt at a high fence ranch nearby.

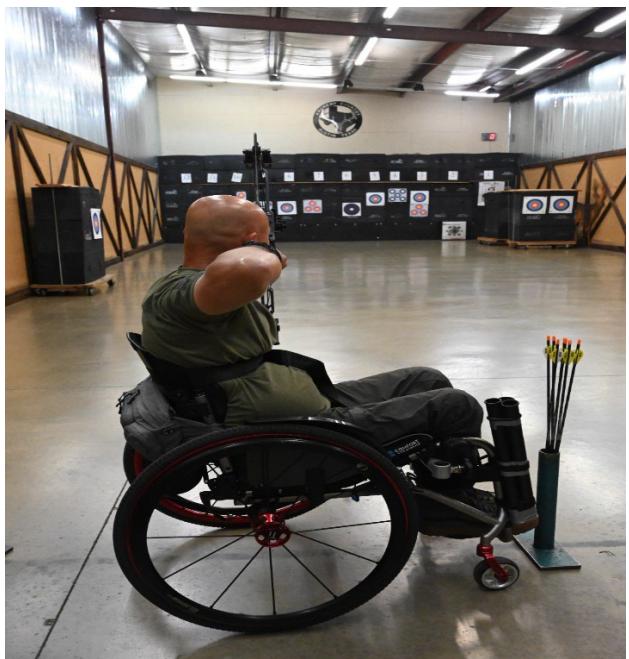
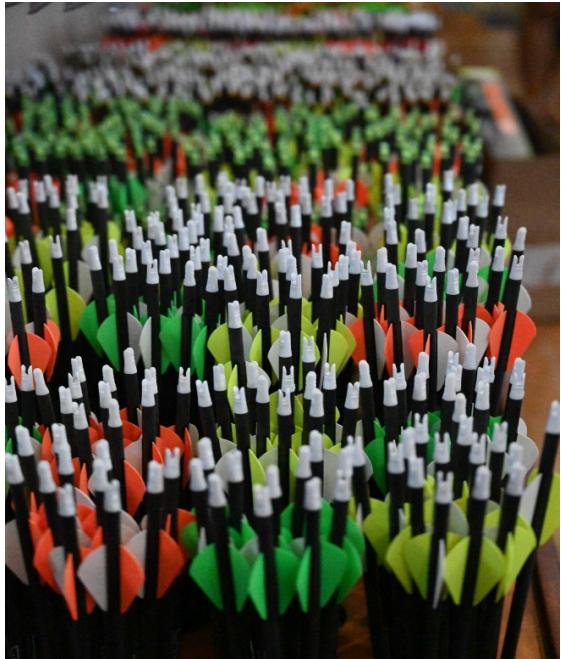
More details will be coming soon.

RSVP: 713-520-8782 or email: info@texaspva.org

From our friends over at Family Service Center of Galveston
We are now accepting mental health appointments for veterans,
their dependents, and surviving spouses. Appointments can be
made by visiting www.fscgal.org or calling 281-576-6366

2025 Veteran Adaptive Athlete Shoot (VAAS) hosted by Black Rifle Coffee Company (BRCC) took place at Staccato Ranch in Texas on April 24. This event brought together veterans and adaptive athletes for a two-day archery experience aimed at fostering community, healing, and camaraderie. We went on an obstacle course with different stuffed game animals to target and various distances.

Participants engaged in a 3D archery course, shooting at life-sized foam animal targets spread over a rugged terrain. Veterans who participated in the event were gifted a compound bow, arrows, bow case, range finder and swag from Black Rifle Coffee. The event emphasized the therapeutic benefits of archery, providing a meditative and focused activity that aids in mental and physical rehabilitation. This is an annual event to look out for next year if you're into archery.



WELCOME

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James Shamp	Allieson King
Michael Eylander Sr.	Todd Croft
Anthony Cummings	Marilyn Calloway
Roderick Miller	Geroge Seabrook
William Roberts	Summer Hambrick
Clifford Schoeffler	Roy Rangel
Melvin Blake	Rhonda Winer
Jeffrey Brackett	Robert Peck
Rufus Howard	Michael Bullitt
Akeda Jones	Cammy Allen
Edward Erconbrack	Trinity Nelson



REST IN PEACE

Isaac Torres
Charles Robinson
William Drevo
Scott Graham
John Taylor
Richard Randall
Thomas Vaiana

Memorial Day - Houston National Cemetery



Wreath Ceremony Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - Arlington National Cemetery on June 14, 2025





Has
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TO BECOME THE LARGEST MOBILITY DEALERSHIP IN TEXAS WITH 10 LOCATIONS!

Let United Access help you get on your way, because your mobility is our mission

- ✓ New & Pre-owned Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles
- ✓ Accessible SUVs, Minivans and Full Size Vehicles
- ✓ Scooter & Wheelchair Lifts
- ✓ Power Transfer & Lift Up Seats
- ✓ Hand Controls & Steering Devices
- ✓ High Tech Driving Systems
- ✓ Wheelchair Accessible Van Rentals



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Proud Supporters of the



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**





Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again

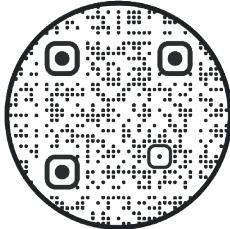
Eligible veterans can receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at NO COST!



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

* For full indications for use, visit: www.eksobionics.com/Indications-for-use/

** A screening process through the VA is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device



Proudly designed &
assembled in the USA
www.eksobionics.com

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



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.

Congratulations to Zach Jones and Bruce K on successfully competing in two days of International Trap Shooting Competition at the Annual USAS Junior State Qualifier in beautiful Kerrville, Texas.
#texaspva #pva1946 #tps #sagc #nra #usas #KerrvilleTx #paralympic/Trapshoot
Submitted by Bruce Kuker



A Big Texas Size - Thank You - to John B for the invitation & L2 Defense for Sponsoring a montley crew/team of DVs at this Years 1st Marine Div Assn - Alamo Chapter - Sporting Clay Fundraiser @ NSC, May 24, 2025. Tho we might be a bunch of "Bull Sh..ters ", we shot well enough to take home some wonderful room Art. We absolutely appreciate Ya'lls hospitality and the invitation to this years Fundraiser Shoot.

* Top Shot for our Team The "Bull Sh..ters" was Chuck Poole @ 97 of 100 targets



If you're a novice and have never attended the National Veterans Wheelchair Games or Winter Sports Clinic the chapter will provide funding for airfare and a hotel room for you and a guest to attend. Contact the chapter office for more information.

If you're not a novice, 75 volunteer points are required to qualify for funding.



40th Annual
National Disabled
Veterans Winter
Sports Clinic



Application Deadline November 30, 2025 (completed application including medical)

<http://www.wintersportsclinic.org>

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

May - June - July -Birthdays

Juan Tejada
Marylyn Harris
Adam Needham
Peter Garner
Everett Voortman
Clarence Green
John Murray
David Haslock
Frederick Garraway
Roger McDowell
Johnie Stewart
John Collins
Paul Smith
Juan Banda
Charles Garcia
Debbie Williams
Linda Neiberger
Eric Cameron
William Spivey
James Burkes
Troy Tallent
Dorothy McGary
Mario Rodriguez
Daniel Thornhill
Bruce Rodgers
Claudie White
Thomas Powell
Jennifer Sexton
Lloyd Ford
Frank Daebelliehn
Jesse Vasquez, Jr.
Edgar Machado
Clayton Monroe
Daniel Burney
George Williams
Ryan Cano
Mike Meehan
Polly Long
Juan Reyes
Kiera Chapai
Brandie Jeter

Hashinto Takeshi
Ronny Dean
Jonathon Smith
Angela Sublett
Toai Nolan
Richard Uzzel
Gary Mercer
Berry Medeiros
Jack Elson
David Vasquez
Branden Robles
Joseph Robinson
Ginger Rhodes
Johnny Carabajal
Bobby Barton
Bennie Sullivan
Diana Arias
Don Haney
Jerry Sanders
Rudy Ragland
Brent Norris
Moises Medrano Sr.
Willliam Duckworth
Kirk Black
Hugh Pitts
Warren Tinseth Jr.
Timothy Taylor
Carol Havelka
William Maier
Kedgerick Smith
Damon McDay
Jim Harris
Catherine Callahan
Jerry Hall
Dillon Cannon
Daniel Ebarb
Norris Honeycutt
Don Marshall
Roger Nelson
Roger Figg
Shelitta Breland-Ray

Victor Ventura
Willie Simmons Sr.
Leslie Hester
Charles Randolph
Patrick Moore
Kirkland David
Carlton Brooks
Charles Robinson
Carlos Nesmith
William Latham Jr.
Julio Gomez
Najla Switzer
Lyn McCalister
Daniel Hernandez Jr.
Juan Maldonado
Stephanie Flores
Christopher Raymond
Douglas Reeves
Michael Johnson
Chauncey Spencer
Leah Groggett
William Roberts
Larry Bates
Jaime Garcia
Lawrence Benefield
Raymond Burford Jr.
Mario Galvan-Castro
James Roten Jr.
Ralph Winters
Sonny-Peter Merrell
Derek LaFayette
Sean Barr
Tammy Jones
Alvin Guerrero
Edward Rebeaud
Robert Webb
Lionel James
Orlando Cepeda
Danny Scott
Steve Copsey
Mary Castro

David Metcalf
Jack Fenton
Glen Williams
Julio Rodriguez
Gary Ogburn
Talina Ferrell
Tanjaman Walker
Kristopher Davis
Randy Sendejo
Colin Doyle
Rhonda Winer
Lonnie Wilson
Gregory Clark
Joseph Bludeau
Michael Crawford
Gina Paja
John Nappi
Jerome Apodackis
Robert Bagley
Rufus Howard
James Peevey
Steven Hickam
Floyd Porter
Cynthia Hernandez
Gilbert Ozuniga
Gilberto Quinones
Steven Flemming
Rene Cardenas
William Jennings Jr
Roky Fernandez
William Luper
Arthur Kabayev
Israel Yarchun
Ralph Healan
Lucas Lamb
Trinity Nelson
Paul Kingsley
Clifford Schoeffler
Irma Pennington

May & June Birthday Winners:

Terrance Young	Juan Banda
Alex Trevino	Ryan Cano
Kristal Pinkney	Edgar Machado
David Bradshaw	Clay Monroe
Vincente Turrubiates	William Spivey

July Birthday Winners:

Steve Copsey
Mary Castro
Colin Doyle
Gregory Clark
Israel Yarchun

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 Birthday 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.

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



**STAND UP AND PLAY
FOUNDATION**

San Antonio, Texas

Adaptive Golf Clinic through the Stand Up and Play Foundation

San Antonio

This clinic is designed to get wheelchair and severely mobility challenged

Individuals standing and swing golf clubs.

All individuals, no matter what your experience with golf are
encouraged to register.

Dates and Times:

2nd Friday of the month Topgolf 10-12

5539 N Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, TX 78249

3rd Friday of the month Mac Wylie Golf Center 10-1

9701 Rochelle Road, San Antonio, TX 78240

Registration: Jeffrey Ulrich, PGA jauskigolf@yahoo.com 214-208-3040



Ongoing Sports Practices

Archery Tuesday

1pm-3pm

Archery HQ

Boccia Wednesday

1pm-3pm

SCI Rec Room

Bowling Thursday

11am-12pm

The Lanes at Oak Hills

Trap Shooting Thursday

1pm-3pm

San Antonio Gun Club

Air Guns Friday

10am-11am

SCI Rec Room

9 Ball & Table Tennis Friday

1pm-3pm

SCI Rec Room

On April 19, 2025, the Texas Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America hosted its 17th Annual Kill'n Clays Classic at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. The event kicked off early in the morning with check-in and warm-ups, followed by a spirited day of clay shooting that included sporting clays, seated trap, and a two-person flurry challenge. Teams of veterans, supporters, and sponsors came together not just to compete, but to enjoy a day of connection, purpose, and support for adaptive sports programs.

The turnout was strong, with more than 40 participants hitting the range and contributing to a powerful cause. A silent auction ran throughout the day, and the afternoon wrapped up with a lunch and awards ceremony recognizing top shooters and generous sponsors. More than just a fundraiser, the Kill'n Clays Classic served as a reminder of the resilience and strength within the veteran community, offering a space for camaraderie, healing, and shared purpose.

I took some photos at the tail end of the event, 7 of these photos will up for display at the SCI Recreation Room at Audie Murphy. If you know any of the individuals in the photo, such as the three guys from Houston. Please reach out to me, I'd like to get these to them. One individual shown was 99 years old and killing it that day. If we could all be that young!



Houston parks and recreation-adaptive division scheduled events

West Gray weekly schedule

Monday

1pm-2pm Boccia
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

Big Thicket Hogs & Strings Cook-Off and Music Festival

Join us for a day of great music, mouthwatering BBQ, and true East Texas hospitality at the annual **Hogs and Strings Festival**, held on **October 18th** at **Indian Springs Campground and RV Park**, just outside **Kountze, TX**. This one-day event isn't just about fun—it's about making a real difference.

Indian Springs Campground, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides meaningful outdoor programs that promote healing, connection, and personal growth for children, veterans, first responders, individuals with physical limitations, and underprivileged youth. There's a special focus on the **Texas Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America** and local children with special needs. **This is also where the annual disabled veterans' deer hunt takes place**—a powerful event our members are proud and fortunate to participate in.

The festival features **live music from talented artists**, a **BBQ cook-off** with some of Texas's top teams, and a variety of **pop-up booths** with local crafts and vendors. Whether you want to bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music, dig into championship-level BBQ, sip a cold beer, browse **Vendor Row**, or try your luck at the raffles—there's something for everyone.

It's the perfect way to relax, have fun, and support an incredible cause. **Visit the event website for more details—this is a day you won't want to miss!**

<https://birdease.com/hogsandstrings>

<https://www.indianspringscamp.net/adaptivewarrior.html>



Representatives and I along with our sister chapter LSPVA, Executive Director Steve Steves were in Washington, DC 9-14 June 2025 discussing the following legislative policies to discuss with Texas Congressional members.

2025 Policy Priorities

1. Protect VA's Specialized Health Care Services
2. Increase Access to Long-Term Services and Support for Veterans with SCI/D
3. Improve Veterans' Financial Security
4. Enhance Access to Health Care Services for Veterans with SCI/D
5. Defend the Freedoms of Veterans with Disabilities

Pictures from the Advocacy Seminar, Washington, DC



Kerry Reyna



Submitted by Nakia Merritte: Wheelchair Basketball! Out in the community doing my best to help other Veteran that thought they could never play sports again!!



2025 Military Champions!!! Let's Gooooo!! #15

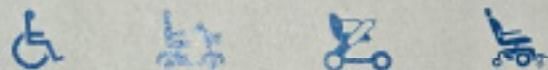


Mobility Device Repair Services for US Veterans, enrolled in VA care.

Currently offered for Veterans who receive VA Healthcare at the following facilities:

Biloxi, MS (Gulf Coast) • Fayetteville, AR (Ozarks) • Houston, TX • Jackson, MS
Little Rock, AR (Central Arkansas) • New Orleans, LA (Southeast Louisiana)
Pineville, LA (Alexandria) • Shreveport, LA

Do you have a custom manual wheelchair, powerchair, or scooter that was provided by the VA and is in need of repair?



Call: 1-888-583-VETS (8387)

"No consult or appointment required. We'll take it from here!"

Veterans Affairs has partnered with Scootaround, the nation's leading personal transportation solutions company, to provide a single point of contact for the repair of US Veterans Affairs issued wheelchairs, powerchairs, and scooters. This best-in-class repair service provides US Veterans with access to fast and efficient repairs and superior customer service.

Submit a repair request through Phone or Web:

Toll-free:
1-888-583-VETS (8387)

Online 24/7:
scootaround.com/va

Weekdays:
8am to 6pm EST & PST

Weekends & Federal Holidays:
10am – 6pm EST / 7am – 3pm PST

or

Scan QR code
with your
smartphone
camera:



Once you've submitted your repair request, Scootaround will reach out and arrange a time and location to complete the repair.



Personal
Transportation
Solutions



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Hi, I'm **Armando De La Rosa**, a licensed Realtor with **LPT Realty**, proudly serving clients in the San Antonio area and its surroundings. My mission is simple: to help individuals and families find the perfect home—one that matches their lifestyle and unique needs.

I specialize in **residential real estate** and have built strong relationships with **home builders throughout San Antonio**, particularly in facilitating **ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) modifications** for veterans and individuals with mobility challenges.

In collaboration with a trusted network of contractors, I ensure homes are not only beautiful and functional but also **accessible**. From widened doorways to roll-in showers, we focus on making your home truly work for you.

With extensive experience assisting veterans, I'm well-versed in VA programs, including:

- **Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant**
- **Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant**
- **Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant**
- **VA Home Loans**

I'm here to be your **advocate, advisor, and partner** in real estate — whether you're buying your first home, modifying an existing property, or exploring options across borders.

Let's connect and create a plan tailored to your goals and needs.

Armando De La Rosa
LPT Realty
210-577-3253/ armando78dlr@gmail.com

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!

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

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.



Texas Chapter



2025 JACK SANDERS BANQUET

The Paralyzed Veterans of America Texas Chapter would like to cordially invite you to the Downtown Aquarium Houston for our 2025 Jack Sanders Banquet! We will have dinner, as well as an Award Ceremony for swearing in of the incoming Board of Director members.

When: Friday, October 10, 2025, 6 pm. – 10 pm. with dinner being served at 7 pm and Awards Ceremony to follow.

Where: Downtown Aquarium Houston . The Nautilus Ballroom.

410 Bagby Street

Houston, TX 77002

We also ask you if you plan to attend, RSVP with the Chapter Office. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

RSVP To: Amanda or Doris by September 29, 2025

Email: info@texaspva.org

Fax: (713) 520-8217 or Call: 713-520-8782



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

2025 Nominations Award for Jack Sanders

- Jack Sanders Award: _____
(Must be a member for at least 10 years and must not have won it before)
- Volunteer of the Year -Houston: _____
- Volunteer of the Year - San Antonio: _____
- VA Employee of the Year – Houston: _____
- VA Employee of the Year - San Antonio: _____
- Excellence Award: _____
(Business or Associate member who has contribute greatly to the organization)
- Spirit of the Games _____
(Nomination to be made only from those who attended National veteran's wheelchair games and by athletes that participated.)

Please send your nominations to the office by September 15th, 2025

E-mail: info@texaspva.org

Fax (713) 520-8217

Submitted by Nook Gustamante

Morgan's Wonderland at the Texas Paraspot Boccia Ball tournament

There were only two Class Groups BC5 and Open Class BC6.

Mrs. Liz Carter won the Gold Medal in the BC5 Class. Mrs. Carter is a newcomer to the sport playing in her second tournament. She won a Gold Medal in the *2025 Paraspot Boccia Regional Tournament.

She also completed in the*2025 TPVA National Boccia Regional Tournament winning a Silver Medal.

I won the Gold in the Open Class BC6. Note this is my 3rd straight Gold medal in Two months.

*San Antonio TPVA National Boccia Regional Gold

*San Diego TPVA National Boccia Regional Gold

*Texas Paraspot Boccia Regional Tournament Gold. That's it for now.



Become A Donor

**Annual contributions for
2024-2025 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



2024-2025 DONOR CLUB as of August 2025

Platinum: Wayne & Joann Moore Charitable Foundation, Renaissance Charitable Foundation, MRL Enterprises LLC, Amazon Transportation, Graydon Strama Lucio Group, Alan T Cramer, Wounded Hero's of America, CFC TASC, Army Residence Community, SCI of San Antonio Alamo Chapter, Texas Regional Para Sports, Maxwell Medical Services Inc, Jose G Laguna, Johnny Godwin, Hillman Double Play, LLC, Michael R & Annabel C Wheeler, Bighorn Services LLC, Branding Hearts Home Health, Christopher Greenwood, United Access LLC, Summer Chesson, Bruce W Kuker, The NRA Foundation, Thomas A West, Skinner Family Charitable Fund, Mary Johnson, Paxton Arms LLC, Vayu Advanced Wound Clinic & Hyperbarics.

Titanium: Lone Star Chapter PVA, Bobby L. or Cheryt E. Lambright, Frank R Daebelliehn, Johnny & Sonnys Glass, Pedal Guerrero, F Roberson, Area Real Estate, LLC, HEAL SCI, John Lynch, Michelle Olarte, Give Lively Foundation Inc, Tym & Gerry Kelley Charitable Fund, David Laws, Ronald McAnally, Mr. & Mrs. Philip B Green, Elanore P & Daniel Decker, The Breit DAF Fund, Billie D Edwards.

Gold: Brian & Stephanie Rokyta, Charles Poole, Willard Allen, Zachary S Jones, Alvin Guerrero, Richard Carson, Mike Del Sotato, Joel Hoots, Maryann Trujillo-Hanford, Robin Allhouse, America's Charities, Kendall Stevens, True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, James Spradlin, Billy Wilson, Sandra Barrientes, Mary Slaughter, Eugene Eberth, Johnson Family Farms, LLC, Wayne Ging Plumbing, LLC, & The Roger Myers Family Fund.

Silver: ED Peacher, Diana Root, Nathan K Reed, Jeri Saulsbury, Brandy Sausse, Bruce Carter, We Buy Cars, Philip Tereskievicz, Marion Bell, Gilbert Koehler, Steve Lambert, Joan R Isaac, Bonnie Morinaga, Sherri McNeill, Diane Green, Lisa Clark, Rex Mccord, Juana Pagel, PayPal Charitable Giving Fund, Steven Harris, William Corrigan, Pablo Bonar, Brian Tomsovic, Thomas Issac, Chester Drattlo, Jim Gieptner, Martha J Trudo, Sean Mccord, Krik Kendrick, David E, Steven Mack, Suzanne Gates, Judith A Oliver, Barbara McDonald, Nishidha Kumaresan, Bryan Shaner, Gabriel Fernandez, Alicia Hudson, Jeanne Phelps, Michael & Laurel M Crump, Tom & Candy Murphy, Kerry Reyna, Cheryl Ayer, Jim Baccus, Dallas Jewish Community Foundation, Teresa Evans, Leisa Boydstun, Carole Ryan, Alice Sutton, Rita B Mattar, Rick & Anna Trish McDaniel Fund, Willis M & Mary A Gunder, Lois E Olson, Laurie Stiteler, Nancy Greenwood, Michael Stamatedes, Virginia Callanan, Dennis Brown, & Karen Ptacek.

Bronze: Richard Pekkala, BAE Systems, Lan Tran, YourCause, Elaine Posey, Marshe Hairston, Ryan Rocker, Nook & Kim Gustamante, Cindy Springer & Kathy McDaniel, Jim Presley, Joe Murphy, New York Life, Nathan Gonzalez, Rita B Mattar, Michele Skafidas, Jose G Pena, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Brian & Druann Bosien, Douglas Howell, Alliance Data Sy Corporate, Thomas H Chikes Jr. & Gaile E Chiles, Loida Casares, Marion Samson, Mary Fern Sword, Dane Breitzig, Elizabeth Pena, Robert Wenzel, Eric Espinosa, Logan Shaw, Brenda Bonnette, Tommy Jacobs, Alfonso Trevino, Wanda Threadgill, D.J. Byler & K.L. Byler, Armando Delarosa III, Tito Villanueva, Sandra Vasek, Crystal Burrow, Rudy Juarez, Daniel Blasini, Sara Garcia, Christopher Widowski, Gordon Savage, Kasey Carnes, Jodi Maner, David Bradshaw, Walter Fox, Charles Lagarde, Raymond Knight Jr., UK Online Giving Foundation, Chole Robinson, Wanda L Youpee, Gema Espinoza, Therese Cook-Bright, Moriamo Da-Costa & Noel Ocasio





Texas Chapter



We're going fishing and you're invited!

**Tuesday, Sept 30th, 8 am to 12 pm
(4 hour trip) Galveston Bay - Arrive by 7 am to load**

Food and drinks are served on the boat at no cost to you. Please RSVP by Monday, Sept 22nd and let us know if you will need hotel accommodations. Traveling from the Houston area we will cover one night hotel and those traveling from further areas can request two nights.

We hope you will join us! This is a fun fishing trip and there's plenty to see and do on Galveston Island.

RSVP: info@texaspva.org or 713-520-8782

FYI – the restrooms on the boat are not accessible

**Don't forget to take Dramamine if you are prone to motion sickness
Galveston Party Boats, 1700 Harborside Dr, Galveston 77550
Be sure to pay for parking to avoid any parking fees!!**

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/>

WAVES
PROJECT. INCORPORATED

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

QR code



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

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.



Submitted by Nakia Merritte

San Antonio Parasport Wheelchair softball took home gold this weekend in Pasadena Tx. Parasport went 6-0



Sizzle & Shoot - A Great Cause, A Greater Responsibility



The Houston Safari Club picked the perfect name for this year's annual sporting clays fundraiser, *Sizzle & Shoot*. Proceeds from the event support HSCF's outreach programs, including one that directly benefits us: a disabled veteran hunt at the Flying A, one of Texas' premier hunting ranches.

The Flying A is a 9,000-acre ranch just south of Bandera, offering Hill Country whitetail deer and a variety of exotics such as axis, fallow, sika, and red deer. Each year, through this partnership, a lucky PVA member may get one of the available slots to participate in this incredible hunt. Not only do they harvest a prized animal, but each veteran also receives a full shoulder mount—at no cost—creating a trophy and memory that lasts a lifetime. At this year's *Sizzle & Shoot*, the mounted trophies from last year's hunt were proudly presented to the veterans.



And yes—it was hot. This year's fundraiser was held earlier than usual, in the peak of summer heat. But here's the thing: the public and corporate sponsors still showed up, paid their entry fees, and made generous donations. Why? Because they believe in the cause and want to see the impact of their support.

That's where *we* come in. Too often, at Texas PVA fundraising events, only a handful of our members show up. When the public invests in our mission, they deserve to see the faces of the veterans they're supporting. Showing up—whether to participate, volunteer, or simply represent our chapter—matters.

We are a member-run organization. Without your involvement, our programs and services can't thrive. We need you to help you. So next time, don't just read about it—be there. Shake a hand. Say thank you. Show the community what their support means.

Because together, we make this mission stronger.



It has been very busy State of Texas and Congressional Legislative sessions for Government Relations. In May, I met the Chief of Staff for State Representative Philip Cortez and Chief of Staff for State Senator Donna Campbell pertaining to matters for TPVA members. I have had the pleasure of meeting with them for the past couple of sessions and they always have time to discuss and inquire how they can assist TPVA. I will be in Washington, DC 9-14 June to meet with 16 of our statewide representatives along with our sister chapter Lone Star PVA, Executive Director Steve Stevens. We will be discussing the following legislative objectives to be passed with Congress.

2025 Policy Priorities

1. Protect VA's Specialized Health Care Services
2. Increase Access to Long-Term Services and Support for Veterans with SCI/D
3. Improve Veterans' Financial Security
4. Enhance Access to Health Care Services for Veterans with SCI/D
5. Defend the Freedoms of Veterans with Disabilities

Pictures from the National Convention in Austin, Texas. Congrats to the Texas PVA staff for the fantastic convention and all your hard work.

Regards,
Kerry Reyna
Texas PVA Government Relations





State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as:
 - Limited mobility
 - Communication barriers
 - Require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
 - Require personal care assistance
- People who require transportation assistance



Register online at
Stear.tdem.texas.gov



Call 2-1-1 or use your video phone relay option of choice

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry

Please respond to VEText emergency/disaster updates, by either requesting a contact from VA Staff if needed or letting us know you are safe and do not need to be contacted. There will generally be VEText contacts before and after the natural disaster.

We encourage Veterans to respond to VEText appointment reminders. If you need to reschedule an appointment, please respond to the VEText reminder message, and/or contact the SCI Clinic at 713-794-7057. This ensures your appointment needs are met and allows other Veterans to be scheduled during all available appointment time slots.

MOBIUS MOBILITY



Qualified
Veterans can
get an iBOT®
through their
local VA!



Discuss the
iBOT® at your
next mobility
consultation at
the VA!

To learn more about the iBOT® scan the QR code
Or call us at **1-833-346-4268**

Please mention you saw this in your local PVA Chapter's Newsletter



OPEN TO ANY LEVEL OF SHOOTER
NOVICE TO EXPERIENCED -
INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**\$150 - 100 BIRD MAIN EVENT
\$60 - 50 BIRD ADDITIONAL / OPTIONAL**

4TH ANNUAL FALL SHOOT NSCA TOURNAMENT 2025

OCTOBER 5, 2025

TEAM NAME: _____ NSCA Shooter # if applicable

SHOOTER 1: _____ Male/Female NSCA Y/N # _____ WC _____
SHOOTER 2: _____ Male/Female NSCA Y/N # _____ WC _____
SHOOTER 3: _____ Male/Female NSCA Y/N # _____ WC _____
SHOOTER 4: _____ Male/Female NSCA Y/N # _____ WC _____

START 9AM

LUNCH, RAFFLE, DOOR PRIZES, & AWARDS

QUESTIONS? CALL AMANDA @ 713-520-8782

REGISTER AT ICLAYS.COM OR

EMAIL FORM TO AMANDAS@TEXASPVA.ORG OR FAX 713-520-8217



12601 FM 20
KINGSBURY, TX 78638
512-557-2050

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

TEXAS

VETERANS NETWORK

POWERED BY COMBINED ARMS

Montgomery County
foodbank

BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION
Investing in the Next Chapter for Our Veterans

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration Michael E. Debakey VA Medical Center

stellar BANK™



January - December 2024

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERAN MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Ark Church
Secondary Parking Lot
450 Humble Tank Rd,
Conroe, TX 77304

VETERANS & SERVICE MEMBERS

Join us and receive food for you and your family and
get connected to loads of resources!!

To register visit: www.combinedarms.us/mocofoodpantry

or

SCAN TO REGISTER



IN NEED OF
RESOURCES NOW
OR HAVE
QUESTIONS?
CALL US!
1-844-489-8387

These institutions are equal opportunity providers

EVERY 3RD
THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH
4p-6p

FIND SUPPORT

Benefits Helpline: 1-866-734-0857

Veterans Crisis Hotline: 988, Press 1

Women Veterans Hotline: 1-855-829-6636

Caregiver Support: 1-855-260-3274

Donor Hotline: 1-800-555-9140

PVA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization

Federal Tax ID number 13-1946868

Chartered by United States
Congress

  Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

X MENU

How We Help ▾

Signs of Crisis

Resources and Support ▾

About ▾

 Dial 988 then
Press 1

 Chat

 Text

Help Starts Here



Call  2-1-1

Free • Confidential • 24/7

Serving the following counties:

Atascosa | Bandera | Bexar | Comal
Frio | Gillespie | Guadalupe | Karnes
Kendall | Kerr | Medina | Wilson

2-1-1 Texas/United Way Help Line
is a public/private partnership between the
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
and United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

If you or someone you know needs:

- Food
- Clothing
- Health care
- Employment
- Child care
- Elder care
- Utility/rent assistance
- Counseling/mental health
- Adult literacy
- Drug treatment
- or many other services

Call 2-1-1 or 210.227.4357

Peer Partners

In order to be an SCI peer partner, you must meet the following criteria:

someone who has been living with a spinal cord injury for at least 6 months, is now reintegrated into their community, productive in their daily life, and has completed a training program preparing him/her to visit another individual facing a similar experience. A Peer Support (PS) agrees to:

- Serve as a role model
- Offer emotional support and maintain confidentiality
- Provide information about the resources available locally and nationally
- Serve as a conduit to a contact person on the Peer Support Program team at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center; this person will follow through with any needed referrals

A PS is a sensitive listener who will use their communication skills to facilitate the New SCI veteran's own recovery and self-exploration so that they may make good decisions for themselves.

If you are interested in becoming a PS, please email Sonia Suarez at Sonia.suarez@va.gov. Those interested in being a PS will have to go through an interview process with MEDVAMC SCI team, complete training through VA's Volunteer Program, and sign in and out when visiting with inpatient Veterans at the hospital.



Are You Interested?

We are in need of SCI Veterans interested in becoming
Peer Partners to our SCI Inpatient Veterans.

Please reach out to Heidi Candler for more information at
#281-513-3260

We've concluded another successful year for our air rifle and pistol program. I extend my gratitude to Marco Delarosa, John Arbino, Tom Groggett, Jennifer Weatherford, Joel Cartrider and David De La Rue. for their exceptional contributions. This year, we welcomed a diverse group of new shooters, both young and experienced, totaling 26 participants. We were particularly pleased to welcome William from Puerto Rico, a shooter I believe to be in his eighties. Witnessing John place his well-deserved novice medal around William's neck was truly heartwarming. I eagerly anticipate his return next year.

As you know, Marco Delarosa initiated this program last year with 13 participants; we've now doubled that number to 26. Marco, your efforts are commendable. While doubling our participation again next year would be ideal, program sustainability requires adequate funding. Marco has achieved this remarkable growth with only \$1500 in funding from the National PVA. To ensure continued success and bring more smiles to our veterans' faces, I propose we collectively advocate for increased funding from the National PVA, highlighting the program's expansion and its growing needs.

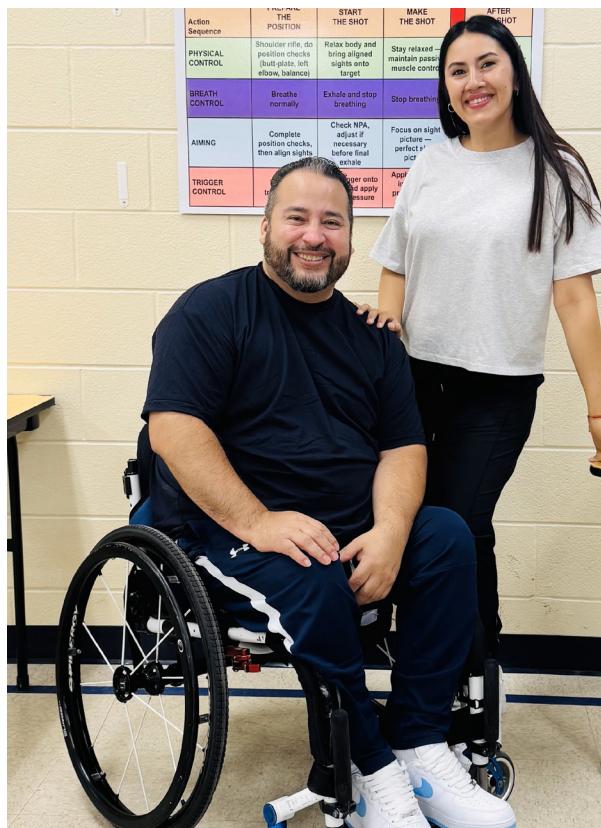
This exceptional program is ideal for shooting sports enthusiasts. To participate, contact Marco Delarosa or Joel Cartrider at the VA. Practices are held every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All necessary equipment is provided, and complimentary tacos are available.

Hope to see some new faces come and give it a go! I'm sure you won't regret it. Besides, free coffee and tacos. What do you have to lose?

Toai Nolan



Air Rifle and Pistol Program



Empowering Veterans with reduced grip strength

Carbonhand is a 3-finger glove, with state-of-the-art technology using embedded pressure sensors and artificial tendons to enhance the grip.

For veterans with grip deficiencies due to neurological or orthopedic issues.



Scan here to learn more and to see if Carbonhand can assist you

www.bioservo.com/us/carbonhand

Scan to see one Veteran's experience: What would Carbonhand® do for your daily living? "It would change my life"



Your Texas VA Contact:
info@regulusmedconsultants.com or 210-701-0844

Would like to share pertinent updates with you for wider dissemination.

1.I am reaching out for your support to help share with our SCI/D Veterans to ensure they have the most current information regarding resources. We have been receiving multiple requests and complaints about the wheelchair clinic and I continue to redirect them to the Wheelchair clinic leadership which is not under SCI/D service line, it is under a different service altogether – i.e. under PM&R Service(PM&R is parallel to SCI/D service care line).

While I am here to continue to advocate for and support our Veterans' SCI/D needs – want to ensure that everyone is aware that the wheelchair clinic is not under my purview and it belongs to PM&R. Their leadership is Acting Service Chief, Dr. Tracy Johnson and Section Chief, Rehabilitation Technology, Dr. Angela Vrooman. Thank you for your continued support!

2.I've been informed this week that there is a plan for permanent closure of STVHCS Therapy pool (located in polytrauma hallway and under PM&R service) given it has been operational 7 months in 4 years and another leak occurred in July 2024 with prolonged closure expected.

As I was not involved in this conversation until the decision had been finalized, I requested guidance on any information available regarding community/VSO/other options for aquatic therapy for SCI/D Veterans to share forward and received the following –

“ Operation Comfort has indoor and outdoor adaptive water sports programs. Details are provided on their website. The school districts also have large indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. Since they are supported by tax dollars each facility has open swim times that are available to the public.”

Happy to discuss any/all of above at your convenience and look forward to continuing to collaborate to serve our Veterans more effectively.

Divya Singhal M.D., F.A.A.N.

Professor, Departments of Neurology and PM&R, UT Health San Antonio
Service Chief, SCI/D Center (Spinal Cord Injuries & Disorder Center), South Texas VA
ABPN Board Certified in Neurology, Epilepsy & Clinical Neurophysiology
7400 Merton Minter Dr, MC 128
San Antonio, TX 78229



ALS CLINIC

The ALS Clinic is scheduled for ALS patients only, but they will do their best to help assist emergency walk-ins. They can do that through the Emergency Room, Neurology, Pulmonology, and the other discipline clinics as well.

The Clinic is held on Mondays from 1:00 - 4:00 pm in the Michael E. DeBakey VAMC SCI Ward Outpatient Clinic.

For Veterans to get on the ALS Clinic schedule, Veterans must be enrolled in VA Health Care, then contact ALS Clinic Coordinator NP Richel Aliboso 281.660.7538 or email Richel.Aliboso2@va.gov

Also, Veterans can contact me since I attend the Clinic every week.

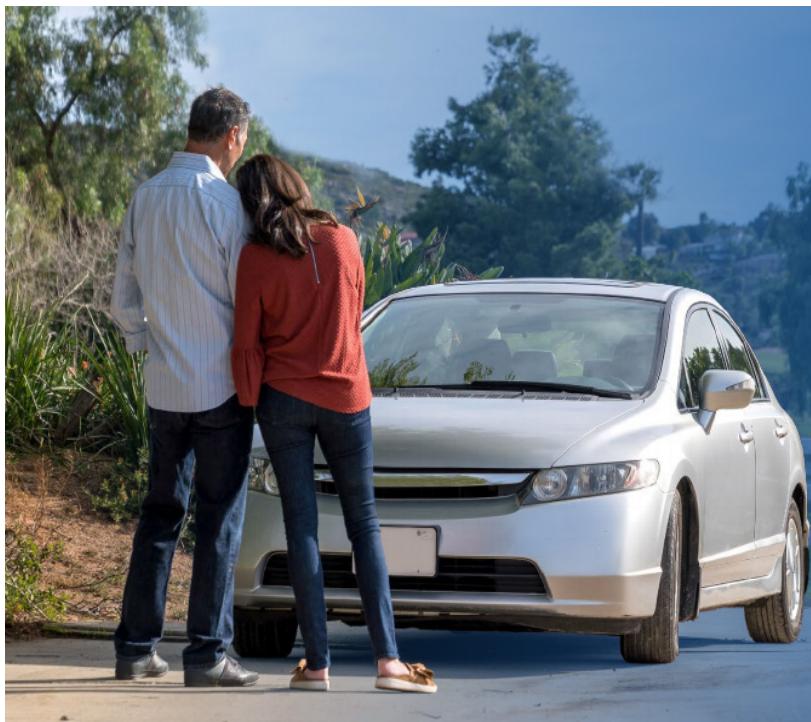
Gregory T. Treacy
Senior National Service Officer
Paralyzed Veterans of America
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A photograph of a man and a woman standing next to a white car, looking at it. They are outdoors on a paved surface with trees and hills in the background.

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