

# Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



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## November - December 2025





Texas Chapter

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Chaplain	<i>Open</i>

### TPVA Staff

Executive Director .... Amanda Saunders  
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Accountant .... Jinu Jose  
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### National Service Officers

Gregory Treacy, SNSO Houston VARO, 202-416-1011/1012 [GregoryT@pva.org](mailto:GregoryT@pva.org)  
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Joel Hoot, Veterans Career Program, 210-617-5300 x 10148 [JoelH@pva.org](mailto:JoelH@pva.org)



Hello Texas Chapter Members and Friends,

I hope you are well and your new year is off to a great start. We participated in the Houston Veterans Day Parade and we hosted our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons at Houston and San Antonio SCI units. We were able to do some very nice Christmas gifts for the in-patients at both VA locations. I hope to do even more in 2026. We are still hearing how much they enjoyed receiving them! We can always use volunteer help with the luncheons and gift shopping.

On December 18th & 19th our National Vice President Liaison Marcus Murray was in the office for our chapter visit.

It's recently been suggested that we do more membership group activities/outings such as attend professional sports events, comedy shows, the zoo, museums, etc. What activities would you attend if they were offered?

Please see flyer below for our 18th Annual Kill'n Clays Classic Charity Tournament on Saturday, March 28th. I hope to see you there. If you know of a company who would like to sponsor or some folks who would like to shoot, please send them our way! We can always use more volunteers.

Please reach out if I can be of any assistance.

Amanda



## What Adaptive Sports Can I Do As A Quadriplegic?

Each year, the VA, PVA, and DAV host the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass Village, Colorado during the first week in April. This year's Clinic will be April 4th-11th as the 40th year. Quad snow skiers are fitted with a special sit-ski as seen in this picture. Please contact Jose Laguna, PVA sports coach or Joel Coltrider VA Rec therapist for additional information at the Audie L. Murphy VAMC. Enjoy the freedom of downhill snow skiing and many other activities at this incredible event set in the Colorado Rocky



Mountains.

If you plan to attend the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, there are several adaptive wheelchair sports for Quadriplegics with limited to no hand use. The most popular is Ramp Bowling. TPVA hosts practices every morning on Thursdays at Oak Hills Bowling Center on Callaghan Road. It is a great way to pass time, or get competitive with your friends and family! TPVA recently purchased several new ramps available at the bowling



alley.

Another sport available at the NVWGs in field events is Club Throwing. This event allows quadriplegics to use a club held between their fingers with grip spray that is used on baseball bats. For more information contact Coach Joel Coltrider. This highly competitive sport requires a lot of practice and physical finesse to throw the club within



boundaries.



Motorized Slalom is one of the biggest and most entertaining events at the Games! It is extremely challenging navigating a course of cones, doorways, ramps, and wooden

boards with a quad's limited range in movement. It all comes down to speed going through the course and avoiding obstacles on your way. If you feel confident in handling your chair and have great spacial awareness, this is the event for you!

Other sports include Power Soccer, Boccia Ramp, Archery, Air Rifle, several other Field events (Biscus, Javilen, Shock Put), 9-Ball Pool, Table Tennis, Swimming, Hand Cycling, Indoor Frisbee Goal, Quad Rugby, Basketball, Water Skiing, Surfing, Curling, Bass Fishing, Billiards, Motorized Rally, Wheelchair Softball, Wheelchair Hockey, Fencing, Sailing, Golf, Hunting, Skeet Shooting, Horseback Riding, Scuba Diving, Sled Hockey, Video Gaming, Volleyball, Pickleball, and Cornhole. Remember, you set your own limits, but try to be limitless.

Written by: Daniel Castillo

## **Subject: HAVA write up**

I had an unforgettable experience at the HAVA event on 11-15-2025, and it was extra special because it was my daughter's and my very first time attending. From the moment we arrived, the accessibility of the entire setup made everything easy and enjoyable. We got to spend the day shooting an incredible variety of firearms—handguns with red dots, rifles of different calibers, lever actions, and revolvers—and we even tried out the archery station. Our favorite station by far was the cowboy shoot; we must have talked about it the whole ride home. The SAPD took great care of everyone, serving delicious hamburgers for lunch and amazing BBQ for dinner. Between the great food, the welcoming atmosphere, and meeting and connecting with other veterans, the whole day felt meaningful, exciting, and genuinely uplifting for both of us.

I do not get many photos as I was having too much fun

Author: James Shamp

# More Than Just Pie

By Steve Holbert



Your local Texas PVA Chapter provided far more than pie to the inpatients and staff of the Houston Michael DeBakey VA Spinal Cord Injury Unit during both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Along with dessert, everyone enjoyed a full hot holiday meal from Luby's Cafeteria. Each SCI inpatient also received a large gift bag, as well as a generous supply of non-perishable food items donated by another Houston-area charitable organization.

While eating my Christmas meal, I spoke with one of the VA nurses who has spent many years working in the spinal cord unit. As we talked about the PVA, he became visibly emotional while trying to explain how grateful he is for everything our chapter does—meals, support, programs, and simple acts of kindness that remind patients they haven't been forgotten. He told me how deeply these efforts impact the men and women under his care. Hearing that from someone who sees the struggles of SCI patients every single day was profoundly humbling.

Those of us who aren't confined to a hospital bed—or who have fortunately never experienced that reality—can easily lose sight of how isolating and overwhelming it can be. For SCI patients, even small gestures can make a meaningful difference in their mental and emotional well-being. Our presence and support matter more than we often realize.

As the photo shows, we had a solid group of PVA members, chapter staff, and additional volunteers helping deliver meals and gifts. The effort was successful—but for a chapter with nearly 600 members, the number of active volunteers is still far too small. If we want our chapter not just to survive, but to thrive, we need many more members to step forward. The strength of this organization has always depended on members giving their time, energy, and compassion.

Finally, a sincere thank-you to the VA hospital staff. Their tireless work, professionalism, and unwavering compassion for our fellow veterans deserve our deepest appreciation. They walk alongside these patients every day, and their dedication makes a tremendous difference.



If you live more than 100 miles away, the chapter will reimburse you for a 1-night hotel stay up to \$130. Let us know by March 20th if you plan to get a hotel room. This is a fun day of competition!!

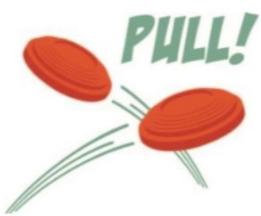
# Veterans Sportsman Challenge



**Start time:** 9am SHARP

**Date:** April 11, 2026

RAIN OR SHINE



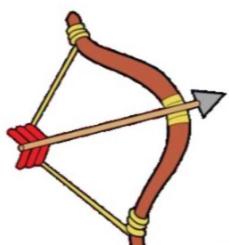
**Place:** Diamond L Ranch  
18025 Osburn Rd.  
Montgomery, Texas



**Turkey Shoot:**

*Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun*

**Clays**



**Archery**



**Tomahawk**



**Raffle and Door Prize**

*Call Ron Lofton for details:*

*Cell: 936-661-7634*





# 2025 PROSPECTUS

Service Dogs, Inc.

Est. 1988

[www.ServiceDogs.org](http://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.

Veterans Day holds a deep significance for many Americans, serving as a time to honor and recognize the sacrifices made by those who have served in the military. On November 11, 2025, Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America (Texas PVA), active and associate members, their families, sponsors, and volunteers, came together for a unique celebration—a mixed bird hunt in Live Oak County, Texas. This event wasn't just an outing; it was a heartfelt tribute to the veterans, particularly those who are paralyzed or wounded.

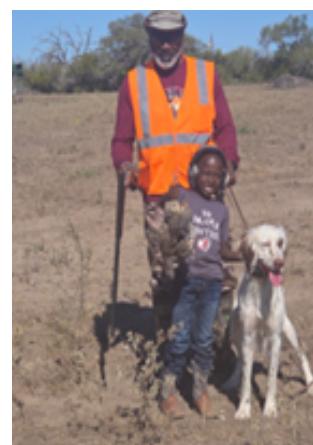
The celebration kicked off on a beautiful South Texas morning, with crisp air and clear blue skies setting the stage at the Davis Ranch in Beeville. The owners and ranch hands had worked diligently all year, preparing the expansive field for this special event. Excitement filled the air as paralyzed veterans and disabled heroes gathered, ready to embark on this memorable hunting experience. This event was made possible through the collective efforts of everyone involved, who generously contributed to ensure the day's success. Notably, the Alamo Retriever Club brought along their skilled K9 companions to assist, further enhancing the experience for all participants.

As we formed squads of six hunters, accompanied by four skilled bird dogs and their handlers, the camaraderie among us was palpable. Everyone shared stories and tips, creating a supportive atmosphere that only seasoned hunters can appreciate. These dogs, trained to perfection, were as much a part of the team as the hunters themselves. Their sharp instincts and playful spirits added an element of joy that could hardly be contained as we prepared to embark on our adventure. As the dogs were released, they sprang into action, noses to the ground in search of Bobwhite quail. It wasn't long before the dogs spotted their first covey, anticipating the flush command. With a swift shout, the handler urged the dog to flush. In an instant, a flurry of feathers erupted from the ground, and adrenaline coursed through the hunters' veins. Veteran hunters raised their shotguns, taking aim with practiced precision. The sound of shots rang out, echoing across the field, followed by the delighted yelps of the dogs as they sprinted to retrieve the fallen birds.

Throughout the morning, multiple coveys presented themselves, and each successful retrieval by the dogs showcased the remarkable teamwork between human and canine. After several hours of exhilarating hunting, the group took a break for a well-deserved lunch. The culinary highlight was provided by a local BBQ champion, whose blue ribbon pork spare ribs were nothing short of extraordinary. Falling effortlessly off the bone, these ribs, along with venison sausage, creamy potato salad, and savory BBQ beans, created the perfect meal to replenish energy and foster camaraderie among participants. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and storytelling, bridging connections and creating memories that would last a lifetime.

The afternoon brought the excitement of the driven hunt, where pheasants and chukars were sent flying toward the line of eager hunters. The unpredictability of the birds added an exhilarating twist to this part of the event. By the end of the day, the group had successfully harvested 14 pheasants, 5 chukars, and 30 quail. The effort didn't end at the hunt; participants joined forces to clean up the area, ensuring it remained pristine for future events. Each hunter left with fresh game to share with their families, making the day even more fulfilling.

Submitted by Alvin Guerrero



## 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!



ONWARD MEDICAL

AJ Walker, ARC EX User, US Navy Veteran

## Every Gain Counts

ARC EX® is the first FDA-cleared, non-invasive spinal cord stimulation therapy designed to improve hand strength and sensation in people with chronic, incomplete cervical spinal cord injury (SCI).

Scan the QR code to start your journey with ARC EX or email [support@onwd.com](mailto:support@onwd.com)



ARC EX

The ARC EX System is intended to deliver programmed transcutaneous electrical spinal cord stimulation in conjunction with functional task practice in the clinic and with take-home exercises in the home to improve hand sensation and strength in individuals between 18 and 75 years old that present with a chronic, non-progressive neurological deficit resulting from an incomplete spinal cord injury (C2-C8 inclusive).

The ARC EX System is intended to be operated in medical centers by Rehabilitation Professionals and at home by Patients and Persons Providing Assistance to the Patient as needed.

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[onwd.com](http://onwd.com)

## USPSA Veterans Task Force

Many Veterans have participated in Power Soccer through the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The sport is growing and developing, and now veterans have an opportunity to learn more about the game and play at a higher level through a program that the newly installed USPSA Veterans Task Force is aiming to create. The United States Power Soccer Association has launched a new USPSA Veterans Task Force to develop a pathway for veterans to participate in the adaptive sport, Power Soccer. This program is in the process of designing and recommending a framework for a sustainable Veterans Program within USPSA that identifies, recruits, and supports veterans with disabilities to participate in Power Soccer. The pathway will include strategies for awareness with clinics, demo days, and peer-to-peer invitations.

For those who are interested in knowing more about the Power Soccer scene in San Antonio, here is some information on acquiring equipment, travel, and awareness. Our local team is the STRAPS Scorpions, based out of Morgan's Sports in San Antonio, under Coach Jennifer Cooper Weatherford. Currently, the STRAPS Scorpions have 3 veterans on the team and are always seeking more veterans to engage and actively participate in Power Soccer. The Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center Recreational Therapy can provide a Power Soccer Strike Force Wheelchair if a veteran meets criteria, such as consistently attending practices and acquiring a letter from their local team. The USPSA is hosting a clinic at the annual Metal and Muscle tournament at the George Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas December 5th-7th. The clinic will be led by Team USA for athletes at any skill level. If you are interested in becoming a referee, there will also be referee training.

For additional inquiries, contact Coach Jennifer at her email, [jenn@texasparasport.org](mailto:jenn@texasparasport.org), Dano Castillo at [texmexdano@yahoo.com](mailto:texmexdano@yahoo.com) or (210)748-7524, and/or Brett Passmore, the Vice President of USPSA and Director of the USPSA Veterans Task Force, at [vp@powersoccerusa.org](mailto:vp@powersoccerusa.org).



# WELCOME

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jerry Jackson  
Gilbert Muro  
Federico Alvarenga  
Raul Juarez  
Raymond Knowles  
Edward Cole  
Jimmy McDonald  
Brodrick Punch  
David Nealy  
Mark Diedrich



## REST IN PEACE

Thomas Sleeper  
Bob Alan Kafka

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with towels or  
flowers to  
accent any  
room  
\$15.00 ea.



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with 3 to 6  
items  
from \$10 - \$20



**Military  
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given with  
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purchase**

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# ANNOUNCING

## Calling All Caregivers:

Spouses

-Adult Children

-Siblings

-Relatives

Drop-In respite care is a service provided to give caregivers a much needed break; allowing caregivers to rest, do personal errands, travel or just spend time with family and friends.

Respite is available for a few hours (4 hr. minimum)  
on an as needed bases.

Privately owned and operated by License CNA in a beautiful ranch style home located in La Vernia, TX.

## Kaylyn's Care Drop-In Respite Care

kaylynnscare4all@yahoo.com

(830) 415-6285

**Services:**  
Assistance with ADL  
Mobility Assistance  
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Assistance with Bowel &  
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Medication Reminders  
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Respectful Communication  
with all clients  
&  
Their Love Ones

Nominations are open until April 14th for the following positions:

President, Secretary and Board Member # 1

The term will be 10/01/2026 - 09/30/2028

Please submit your nominations to info@texaspva.org or P.O. Box 989, Crosby, TX 77532



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- ✓ Power Transfer & Lift Up Seats
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of America**



# Rise Up with Ekso Indego®

Eligible veterans may receive an Ekso Indego Personal exoskeleton at NO COST!

- Enjoy eye-level conversations
- Community walking speeds
- Lightest weight exoskeleton
- Modular design for easy transport



## Ekso Indego Gets You Walking Again



Ekso Indego enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries (level T3-L5)\* to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

An evaluation by your providers at an SCI/D center is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego device.

Contact us for more information  
[www.eksobionics.com/veterans](http://www.eksobionics.com/veterans)  
or call (510) 984-1761 option 1



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

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



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

PN#:044-028-001 Rev. C

**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.



## National Veterans Golden Age Games

June 27 – July 2, 2026

Tampa, FL

Jan. 28, 2026 : Registration opens 10 a.m. ET for the Visually Impaired and Wheelchair Divisions.

Jan. 29, 2026: Registration opens 2 p.m. ET for all other eligible participants.

Director: Brittany Hook, CTRS

GoldenAgeGames@va.gov

[www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov](http://www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov)



## National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic

TBD

TBD

Director: Dave Tostenrude

David.Tostenrude@va.gov

[www.summersportsclinic.va.gov](http://www.summersportsclinic.va.gov)



## National Veterans Wheelchair Games

July 9 – 14, 2026

Detroit, MI

Registration opens February 2, 2026 – via [www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org)

Director: Dave Tostenrude

NVWGInfo@va.gov  
[www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org)



## National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic

Sept. 13 – 18, 2026

Iowa City, IA

The application window for the 2026 clinic is January 26 – March 20

Director: Nick Beelner

(319) 358-5963

nicholas.beelner@va.gov

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

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. Registration for NVWG opens on February 2nd

The poster features a female athlete in a wheelchair basketball uniform, number 4, in a dynamic pose. She is wearing a blue tank top with the "National Veterans Wheelchair Games" logo and a white headband. The background is a large, stylized gear with a splash of white and blue paint. The text "45th" is in the top left corner. At the bottom, there is a logo for the "National Veterans WHEELCHAIR GAMES" with a stylized figure in a wheelchair, and text for "CO-PRESENTED BY" VA and PVA. The event details "DETROIT 2026" and "JULY 9-14" are on the right, along with a QR code.

**45<sup>th</sup>**

NATIONAL VETERANS  
**WHEELCHAIR  
GAMES**

CO-PRESENTED BY:

**VA** | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America

DETROIT 2026

JULY 9-14

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:  
[WHEELCHAIRGAMES.ORG](http://WHEELCHAIRGAMES.ORG)

Facebook Instagram Twitter #WHEELCHAIRGAMES



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](mailto: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 12 pm

# November & December Birthdays

Raymond Doherty  
Garland Alderman  
Derrick Bess  
Robert Brantley Jr.  
Matthew Rowland  
Glen Baker  
Walter Ely  
Michael Bucannon  
David DeKerlegand  
Elvin Jones  
Bobby O'Mealey  
Jimmy Solis  
Aaron Hunt  
Samuel Hudson  
Jeffrey Bowerman  
William Watson  
Joseph Massey  
Philip Clausen  
Paul Kellum  
Jose Mendiola  
Rose Weidner  
Thomas Bates  
Richard Jean  
Marco DeLaRosa  
Anne Robinson  
Juan Vargas  
Dalbert Rozzlle  
Arturo Vasquez  
Timothy Jones  
Donald Durkee Jr.  
Alexander Lukats  
Ricardo Perez  
Marcus Sims  
Timmy Morgan  
Dorian Leon  
Patrick Pennington  
Charles Cooper  
Todd Croft  
Michael McAuliffe  
Roger Martin  
Roger Martin  
Christopher Montera  
Eric Lindsay  
Philipp Schweizer  
Steven Wardlow  
Roberto Ybarra  
Tyler Roberts  
George Georges  
Tonya Cueva Leon-Cole  
Jose Fuentes  
Conrad Breaux  
Bradley Hoover  
Nichole Thomas  
Jon Russell  
Scott Vetter  
Robert Thompson  
Norman Jones  
Clifford Harrison  
Armando Rodriguez  
Kevin Wagner  
Monica Davis  
Doug Siemonsma  
Rudy Juarez Jr.  
Tyler Gleaves  
Howard Walther  
Regina Augustine  
Kevin Corcoran  
Freda Sherrill  
Mitch Damm  
Randy Zapata  
Richard Thompson  
Esteban Montes  
Robert Preston  
Elizabeth Duncan  
James Shelton  
Frederica Miller  
William Adams  
Theodore Weaver Jr.  
Will Matay  
Bradly Bevel  
Jeremie Thiers  
Jose Liquez  
Jeremecia Perry  
Ronald Emory  
Stephen Dawson  
Nicolas Contero  
Rosendo Scott  
Isville Jackson  
Rodger Woods  
Ryan Snowden  
Lee Perry  
Roberto Elizondo Jr.  
Kevin Figueroa  
Trent Cryer  
Daniel Wallace  
Ronald McAnally  
June Pugh  
Welton Gossett  
Ken Taylor  
Winfred Stevenson  
Roderick Miller  
Melvin Blake  
Steve Smith  
Christopher Stanford Sr.  
Mylerrie Thomas  
Jeffrey Brackett  
Billy Wilson  
Willie Davis Jr.

## November Birthday Winners:

Derrick Bess  
Jose Mendiola  
Marco DeLaRosa  
Conrad Breaux  
Howard Walther

## December Birthday Winners:

Esteban Montes  
Bradly Bevel  
Isville Jackson  
Rodger Woods  
Christopher Stanford Sr.

## 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](mailto:info@texas.pva.org)

Bruce Kuker 210-632-0495 [bwkuker@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

# PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR...

## Research study on the health and safety of people with SCI

This study seeks to understand the impact of difficult and/or abusive relationships on the health of people with SCI.

You do not need to have experienced difficult relationships or abuse to participate.

You will be invited to complete a short phone screening to see if you are eligible.

Eligible participants will be asked to complete a one-time survey (online or via U.S. Mail).

Participants will receive a small payment for completing the survey.

### You may be eligible if you...

- Have had a traumatic spinal cord injury (e.g., injury due to a car accident, fall)
- Have had your injury for at least 1 year
- Are at least 21 years of age
- Are able to communicate and answer questions in English
- Live in the U.S.

### For more information and to find out if you are eligible, contact:

**Jessica Rodriguez**

**Phone: 713-797-7245**

**Scan the QR code or**

**Email: [SCIPSstudy@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:SCIPSstudy@uth.tmc.edu)**



Recruiting  
through  
Spring  
2026

The study is funded by the Department of Defense (DOD) Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP). The study is conducted by TIRR-Memorial Hermann's Spinal Cord Injury and Disability Research Center (SCIDR) in Houston, Texas in collaboration with investigators affiliated with the University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center and the University of Montana.



This is not VA research, will not be conducted by VA, has not been reviewed by VA's Institutional Review Board, and it is not endorsed by VA. VA is not responsible for any costs incurred by a Veteran if the Veteran enters the study as a research subject. The announcement is being provided for information only.

# 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

## *Become A Donor*

*Annual contributions for 2026-2027 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



## **2026-2027-DONOR CLUB as of January 2026**

**Platinum:** Greater Houston Community Foundation, Ameriprise Financial, Amazon Transportation, CFC TASC, Scott E & Elisa Caudill, Heritage Linehaul & Trucking Inc, Jim Baccus, Maxwell Medical Services Inc, Patricia Buckley, & Christopher Greenwood.

**Titanium:** Rachel, Exo Bionics, Barbara Slaughter, & Jason Bussin.

**Gold:** Lone Star Chapter PVA, Alvin Guerrero, Jose G Laguna, True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, Timothy Crank, Frank R Daebelliehn, Onward Medical, Zach Jones, Chuck Poole, Michael Del Soldato, Morgan Stanley, Gary P Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Philip B Green, Judy J. Walker, & American Endowment Foundation.

**Silver:** Summer Chesson, Thomas Thrash, William Davis, Gary Standley, David Hall, Tym & Gerry Kelley Charitable Fund, Steve Lambert, Daniel & Kristi Montague, Ms. Marion Bell, John Branum, Benjamin Arreguin, Gabriel Fernandez, Suzanne Gates, Charles Poole, Mark A Hancock, Joe Joseph, Joan R Isaac, Philip Tereskiewicz, Michael & Laurel M Crump, Rick & Anna Trish McDaniel Fund, Mattar Family, Maciej Kafel, & Ty Tillman.

**Bronze:** Robin Allshouse, Brandy Sausse, Nishidha Kumareshan, Barbara McDonald, Lisa Clark, BBGF-Wells Fargo Payments, Ms. Hartle, Brian & Druann Bosien, Christopher Hagelin, David N Shirey, Sharon Harris, Judith A Oliver, Bruce & Becky Brown, Jesse Aldridge, Juana Pagel, Richa Devlugt, Jeanne Phelps, Community Marketing Partnership, Bryan Dyck, D.J. Byler & K.L. Byler, Manuel Fustes, Sandra Vasek, Susan E Lambert, PNC Bank, Hashinto Takeshi, Elizabeth Pena, Lee Boone Design, & UK Online Giving Foundation.



# 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](http://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



FEBRUARY 13-15, 2025 WIMBERLEY, TEXAS



Shannon Utley      Erica Wheeler

## 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



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



★★★  
WILSON COUNTY  
GOT YOUR SIX  
WILCOGY6  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

*Grant*

SCAN HERE TO APPLY



For more information contact us at  
(830)391-3844 or [WilCoGY6@wilsoncountytx.gov](mailto:WilCoGY6@wilsoncountytx.gov)



This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission *Fund for Veterans' Assistance*. The *Fund for Veterans' Assistance* provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. For more information, visit [www.TVC.Texas.gov](http://www.TVC.Texas.gov).

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.



**DISCOVER OUR UNDERWATER WORLD**  
**RECOVER THROUGH ADVENTURE**  
**REBUILD FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS**

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



## 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](http://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.

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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



# FREE CMA

**Curious about what your home is really worth?**

We offer a free, no-obligation home valuation report to help you determine your home's current market value. Whether you're thinking about selling or just want to know where you stand let us help you make informed decisions with confidence!



**lpt realty**  
REAL ESTATE PRIMARINER

## PLEASE CONTACT US

P: 210.577.3253      E: [Armando78dlr@gmail.com](mailto:Armando78dlr@gmail.com)

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](http://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
- Utilities/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](mailto: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



## 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.

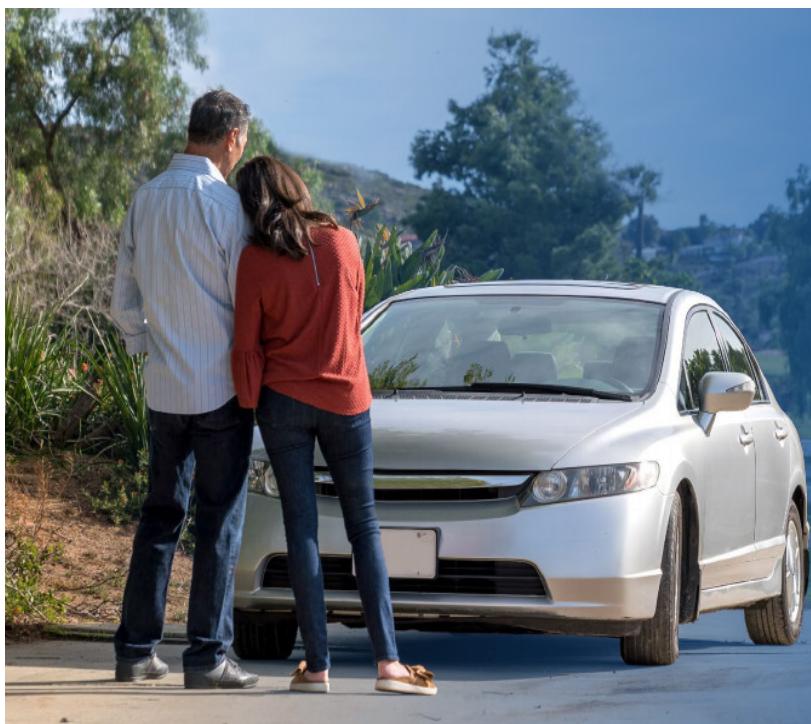
Gregory T. Treacy  
Senior National Service Officer  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
6900 Almeda Rd. Room 1028  
Houston, TX 77030  
RingCentral Phone/Fax/Text: 202.416.1011

Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Texas Chapter  
P.O. Box 989  
Crosby, TX 77532

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Permit # 4



99476

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.

 Paralyzed Veterans  
of America  
Vehicle Donation Program

**Turn Your Used Vehicle Into Support  
for Paralyzed Veterans of America**

We'll use the proceeds from the sale of your car,  
truck, RV or boat to change lives and build brighter  
futures for our seriously injured heroes.

To learn more, call or visit us online:  
**877-900-VETS** | [pva.careeasy.org](http://pva.careeasy.org)