



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

# the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

May 2019

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## Vaughan Chapter Awarded 2019 PVA John M. Price Most Improved Chapter Award

At this year's National PVA Convention, our Vaughan Chapter was selected for as this year's recipient of the 2019 PVA John M. Price Most Improved Chapter Award.

We are humbled and proud and cannot forget the men who helped the Vaughan Chapter achieve this prestigious award. They are the reason why we are still standing and operating as a chapter. Let's give credit to those who deserve the credit. I want to thank and acknowledge everyone that was involved for helping, believing and supporting our Vaughan Chapter when it was failing. In my opinion, the Vaughan Chapter is where it is now because of one man who believed that we could stand up on our own again. A man who was not willing to leave the first founding chapter of PVA to disappear! This man came forward with his support, guidance, mentoring and a new vision for our chapter. He took the risk of proposing to the Executive Committee permission to allow him to be the liaison to guide us, step by step to gain our charter back. All the credit for Vaughan remaining as the founding chapter in good standing here today should first be given to Homer Townsend Jr. who was the first one to step forward and take the lead when Vaughan Chapter was put on monitoring. He believed that

Vaughan Chapter would rise from the ashes and re-establish itself to be worthy of regaining our Charter back. After Mr. Townsend passed away Mr. Ken Weas and Mr. Bill Lawson stepped forward to continue Mr. Townsend, Jr's vision and mission for Vaughan Chapter to achieve this goal. Because of their knowledge, expertise, recommendations, support and guidance; Vaughan Chapter was first reinstated last May at the 72<sup>nd</sup> National PVA convention.



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Left to right standing: Anthony Powell, Vice President; Josue Cordova, Vaughan PVA President; David Zurfluh, National President; Robert Arciola, Chapter National Director



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

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Josue Cordova, President     Anthony Powell, Vice President  
Dennis Scanlan, Secretary     Gerald Brown, Treasurer

### Chapter Board of Directors

Robert Arciola, Leo Moore, Arthur H. Wolf

### National Chapter Liaison

Robert Satterwhite

### National Director

Robert A. Arciola

### Hospital Liaison

Arthur H. Wolf

### Advocacy Director

Robert A. Arciola

### Sports Director

Robert Arciola

### Fundraising Director

Anthony Powell, Benny McQueen

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*The Wheel* is published four times a year by the Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501 Westchester, IL 60154 in the interest of Chapter members. Membership in Vaughan PVA entitles you to a free subscription to *the Wheel*. Postmaster: send changes of address to Vaughan PVA, 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501 Westchester, IL 60154

## 2019 Membership Meetings

### WHERE:

Hines VA Hospital; Building #128, SCI Multipurpose Room

### TIME: 12:00 (noon) CST. Lunch is provided – FREE

If not able to attend in person, you may also join via conference call by dialing in at 1-888-537-7715 Passcode 72787546#. State your name when joining the meeting.

**May 22, July 24, September 25, November 27**



**Vaughan PVA Members**

**Call Us on your Birthday**

**for a FREE Gift to You**

**on behalf of**

**Vaughan Chapter PVA.**

**(800) 727-2234**



## 2019 Board of Directors Meetings

Vaughan Chapter, Board of Directors Meetings are held at the Chapter office on the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month. You are welcome to attend as a member (no voice and no vote) listed below are the dates of the B.O.D. meeting for 2019.

**June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18,**

**October 16, November 20, December 11**

## VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez  
Executive Director

To all of our Vaughan Chapter Membership; it is my great pleasure to share some great news from the National PVA Office in Washington, D.C.

Vaughan Chapter was selected as this year's recipient of the 2019 PVA John M. Price Most Improved Chapter Award. This outstanding award was presented to our Chapter President, Josue Cordova at the recent PVA 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention Aurora, CO. I hope you are aware that our Vaughan Chapter Officers and Board of Directors have worked hard to ensure the Chapter received reinstatement last May 2018, but we were certainly surprised and honored to receive this award. As members, you too share with our Board of Directors the joy that yes indeed -- we are moving forward and continue to serve you - our members.

Furthermore; if you didn't attend our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner I will update you on what you missed. As always, the food was just delicious and the entertainment by David Bazaar was phenomenal. It was nice to see the Kolb Family joining us again to honor their brother Paul Kolb.

We had the opportunity to recognize the following volunteers that do so much for our Vaughan Chapter at the different outings and events and to acknowledge the businesses and organizations who contribute to our chapter with donations.

- Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America honored Caring Patriots organization for the many years they have been including Vaughan Chapter PVA in their Thanksgiving Basket Donation Drive. Our members look forward to the wonderful Thanksgiving Baskets and everything that goes with it! All delivered to the members' homes by the Caring Patriots Organization. Appreciation plaque was given to Caring Patriots on behalf of Vaughan Chapter and all our disabled veterans.

- Nick Pontarelli & Randy McCallister: they both entertain our disabled veterans at our Membership Meetings at Hines VA and at our Holiday/ Christmas party. Our members certainly enjoyed both of their performances.

- Mr. Ed Millar: we can always count on Ed to show up and help at our Busse Woods one day fishing derby, Annual Picnic, Christmas luncheon and ALL membership meetings. We are so grateful for Ed; he is usually the first volunteer at each event and always one of the last to leave. His dedication to our Chapter knows no bounds.

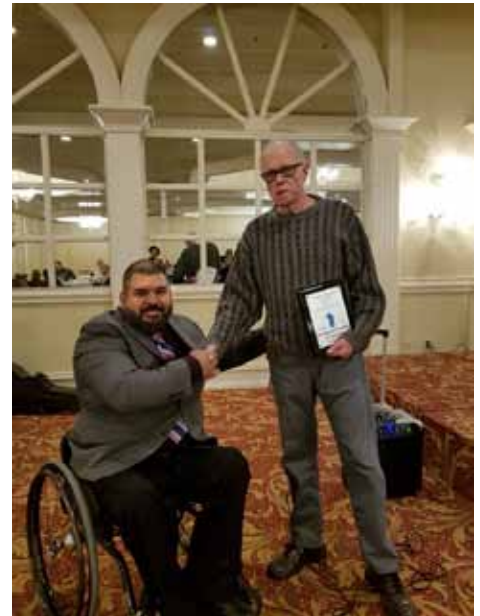
- Kathy Giblin: we can always rely on her to ask and arrange for volunteers from AAPM&R to show up and help at our events. It's nice to have such wonderful and caring people as Kathy to organize staff from AAPM&R and give back to the spinal cord injured veterans.

- AAPM&R Volunteers Group, they show up and help at our two major events, our Annual Christmas luncheon and our Annual Picnic. They come in two groups, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. They are always willing to work hard in any area they get assigned to and can be

*continued on page 10*



David Reyes



Ed Millar



## UPCOMING: Vaughan Chapter Events mark your calendar for lots of fun.



### 3rd POKER Tournament, Saturday May 18th, at 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

(fun only, no gambling) recreational event.... for our members, families and friends.

HINES VA Hospital, Building #128 SCI, Multipurpose Room.

RSVP to our office by calling 708-947-9790

Poker Dealers NEEDED to help run this fun only Poker Tournament (no gambling).

Please call Maria Hernandez to sign up to assist as a Dealer 708-947-9790.



### 2nd Annual Midwestern Invitational Bowling Tournament, May 23-26

Bowlero, 735 Center Blvd. Romeoville, IL

Special 9-Pin No Tap Up-Down Competition

Friday, May 24, 2019 at 7pm, (\$25 Entry, Same Day Payout)

6pm Pre-Registration at the Bowling Center.

For more information visit [www.AWBA.org](http://www.AWBA.org) or call (630) 204-2015



### Chicago Memorial Day Parade on State St. & Lake St. Saturday, May 25

Please sign up by Monday, May 20th, 2019 \*We need all riders to sign up to ride float. Parade begins at 12 noon. To reserve your place in the float, please call the chapter office at

708-947-9790 by Monday, May 20th, 2019



### VAUGHAN PARALYZED VETERANS TRAPSHOOT, May 31-June 2

White Gate Skeet Club, South Elgin, IL • Pheasant Run Resort St. Charles, IL

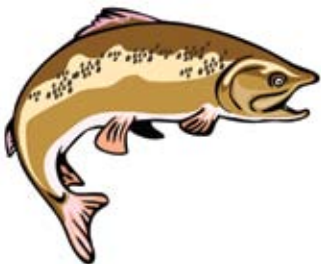
Competition open to all shooters, able-bodied or with a disability. REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

The entry fee for this event is \$180, which includes 300 targets, ammunition for competition,

two breakfasts, two lunches, and the Sunday evening awards banquet. Please send your

registration and payment to: Vaughan Paralyzed Veterans 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501

Westchester, IL 60154 [vpva@vaughanpva.org](mailto:vpva@vaughanpva.org)



### FISHING WITH PVA, Saturday June 8

Invites disabled Veterans for a one-day fishing derby. Busse Woods Forest Preserve Elk Grove Village, IL. Please call our Chapter office at 800-727-2234 with any questions.

Event from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Lunch FREE!

## President's Report

By Josue Cordova, Vaughan Chapter President

**G**reetings Vaughan Chapter members. As excited as we are to welcome the warm spring weather, we can't seem to shake all the clouds and continued rain showers that we've had almost every day. Even with all of this rain, it can't dampen the incredible year our Chapter has had thus far, or the wonderful events we have ahead of us this spring and summer.

Through the hard work of our Executive Director, Maria Hernandez, and Administrative Assistant, Donna Pettiford our chapter had the opportunity to celebrate Valentine's Day with style. They helped ensure our event was festive and fun was had by all in attendance. Maria and Donna also ensured that the 13th Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner was a success. At this dinner, we honored Paul Kolb, his family, and the members that have passed in this previous year. Both events had great meals, entertainment and comradery for all!

On March 8th, I, along with Chapter Vice President, Anthony Powell, Chapter Secretary, Dennis Scanlan, and seasoned Capitol Hill veteran, National Director, Robert Arciola, traveled to Washington DC to take part in 2019 PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar. After attending 2 days of meetings, we met with 19 members of Congress, Senate, and/or staff members to lobby on behalf of PVA members, veterans, and the disabled community as a whole. This experience has once again reminded me the value of being a voice for our organization. The organization that we know first-hand is making a difference for not only paralyzed veterans, but all veterans and disabled adults and children of our community and country.

Another important event that took place in March is the Chicago Wolves Fundraiser & Outing. On the 30th, we had an exciting night, even though the Wolves lost. Vaughan PVA was the not-for-profit of the game and was highlighted by announcements on the scoreboard. Before the game, the

chapter was able to participate in an information expo, along with other veterans' organizations.

As a fundraiser, over 70 tickets were sold.

The chapter was able to sponsor 20 chapter members, family

members, and caregivers. Everyone who participated had a great time. A special thank you to the Canaryville Veteran Motorcycle Riders Association and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association Chapter 7 for their support and help in making our fundraiser a success.

Even though it is only the beginning of May, we have already had an impactful year. We have made some strides in getting our name spreading though the community. We've also had several opportunities for involvement and participation in different events and activities for our members. This spring and summer will only yield more! The only way to make sure that these events are successful is with you. With your involvement, we will continue to grow, thrive, and make a difference, not only for our members, but for our community as well.

Thank you and God Bless.

Respectfully,

Josue E. Cordova, President

Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America



***Vaughan Chapter PVA is in need of volunteers in the following areas.***

**Sports & Recreation**

**Advocacy and**

**Fundraising.** (Training provided)

**Please call Chapter Office at**

**(708) 947-9790 or email to [vpva@vaughanpva.org](mailto:vpva@vaughanpva.org)**



## Sports & Recreation

by Robert Arciola, Sports Director

**T**he chapter is heading into the busiest time of the year with submitting bids for FY2020 and starting off with activities galore! We formally submitted a bid to host a PVA bocchia ball tournament next year, a trapshoot, bass fishing tournament and a bowling tournament.

Speaking of bowling, we are currently busy with preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mid-western Invitational Bowling Tournament May 23-25<sup>th</sup> at Bowlero Lanes 735 Center Blvd, in Romeoville, IL 60446. Volunteers are needed as are raffle items. You may register by May 17<sup>th</sup> and the big event for fundraising is there Friday night for wheelchair bowlers and all able-bodied. Please consider coming to this event and participate. We doubled the number of local bowlers and have begun a wheelchair league play in Hillside Bowl. **Any chapter member wanting to go will be funded 100 percent!**

On May 31 through June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be hosting our trapshoot. This event is at White Gate Skeet Club 7N239 IL -25, South Elgin, IL 60177 (25 and Stearns Road) **Any chapter member wanting to go will be funded 100 percent!**

The chapter also is participating in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. It lines up early, but quicks off at 12 noon. We always have a float and welcome members, family and friends to participate. We are float number 57 in the line-up.

June 8<sup>th</sup> is our annual fishing derby at Busse Woods Forrest Preserve from 10 AM to 3 PM. There's plenty of tackle rods to borrow and live bait. This is on a concrete structure and the picnic tables are in the grass under shade.

The chapter hosted a Valentine's Dinner, Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner and an upcoming Poker tournament

*There are so many ways for you to get out and have a nice evening, weekend or week-long excursion. What are you waiting for?*

on May 18<sup>th</sup>. There are so many ways for you to get out and have a nice evening, weekend or week-long excursion. What are you waiting for? If you don't like to travel or are limited, why not try and volunteer to help organize events?

Lastly, there's about 10 members heading to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games who will compete with about 600 other athletes from across the nation in Louisville, KY. These numbers are lower than times past.

## THANK YOU JACK KNIES AND FRANK KNIGHT FROM FISH TALES FISHING CLUB



for the generous donation of \$150 dollars and all the fishing supplies for our upcoming one day fishing derby on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at Busse Woods Forest Preserve in Elk Gove Village, IL. It is open to disabled veterans, free lunch.



**H**i PVA members and friends! I'd like to tell you about adaptive fishing in a tournament I just returned from. But first I want to thank the Vaughan Chapter PVA for being considerate and generous to help fund me along with a caregiver to attend. Thank you for covering all of my expenses! Sports and Recreation are critical to me and so is the comradery at each event.

One passion I always had as a child has been fishing. I never thought I'd do it or many other things again after my cervical spinal injury, but things changed after I learned about methods and devices, I can use to aid me. I use a leather butt sleeve to virtually hold my rod secure and a reel made by Diawa with a built-in trigger to help me cast. Since my learning and practice, I now have been fishing using a spinning reel in our tournament, and, I just returned from Kentucky's Lake Barkley the first weekend of May 2019. I caught one bass that was too short to keep and weigh, but my boat partner, Brady Link from nearby town of Kuttawa, KY caught a near 3-pound smallmouth bass on day two team day. Brady owns a Ranger 520 which is a 20-foot-long boat and is packed with wonderful electronics and is so smooth in the water. It took just about fifteen pounds to win first place this year. That's not a lot, but it was enough for that day!

Although both days we struggled, we talked at length about so many topics, had many laughs and come to find out he is a cousin of a popular YouTuber I watch each week! Talk about coincidence! I also want to

encourage you to try and renew the inner strength of your fishing passion again and find a caregiver to attend our chapter event this October. You'll have a lot of fun. If fishing in a boat with a stranger that might go 50 mph concerns you; there's a bank division which you can win cash and prizes, too. Bank division fishing was how I first renewed my passion.... the next year I went into a boat and have competed in one ever since! Volunteers help lift us all in and out of the boat each day. The bank division allows you to fish and weigh-in any species unlike the open (boat) division

which is restricted to large and smallmouth bass. The bank division also has an opportunity for you to fish just one day rather than two. Anyway, I just wanted to let you all know that these opportunities were created for and await you. Come join us and feel free to call me for more information. Attached is a picture of my new friend I mentioned above...Brady. Oh, I'd be remised if I didn't also thank the PVA, Kentucky-Indiana PVA. All sponsors and their host of wonderful volunteers for making the weekend a great and memorable experience!



## Hines VA 39th Annual Veterans Games

**O**n a rainy Saturday, April 27, 2019, Hines VA veterans weathered the storm and attended the 39th Annual Veterans Games with family and friends. Chief SCI Dr. Michael Richardson welcomed everyone along with Hospital Director Dr. Stephen Braverman. Our PVA volunteer Fran Jiracek gave the Invocation. Members of Vaughan Chapter PVA along with Board Members participated. Over 70 veterans enjoyed the various activities, and each were presented a medal from the Hospital Director Dr. Stephen Braverman. Vaughan Chapter PVA once again provided lunch for everyone in attendance.

## National Director Report

Once again it's time for each PVA chapter to represent and cast votes on a number of issues facing our National organization. It's hard to believe PVA will be 74 this year! Each year we meet a few times not just to decide on policy changes, but we listen to program directors when providing reports to make sure we make quality decisions about matters that will impact program and ultimately our members.

Two other important decisions we will make are deciding on our overall budget and voting on leadership. Any time these votes are made can affect many things. Each year we are faced with important information and decisions affecting our ability to continue providing unique programs benefiting

our members and local chapters. This year is no exception.

This year we will meet in Aurora, Colorado from May 13-18<sup>th</sup>. While we are there, we will celebrate the opening of the new Veterans Administration Medical Center in Denver. This facility includes a brand new Spinal Cord Center. The entire construction project has been a very controversial matter having been over budget and delayed so much; some of you may have heard about it in the news or papers, but it's finally complete and we'll all be there to celebrate its completion. It will make for an exciting way to end a long week indoors at a table, reviewing documents and hearing presentations and debate that's certain to occur!

## Implementation of New VA Community Care Program

The VA MISSION Act, which was signed into law last year, will dramatically change the way VA delivers health care. The Act's main provision makes it easier for veterans to get care outside of the VA system by streamlining the Department's seven community care programs into one called the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP). The VCCP is slated to go into effect on June 6th.

There are several ways a veteran could become eligible for the VCCP and those already in the Choice program will be grandfathered into the new program. Others may be eligible if needed services are unavailable; they reside in a state without a full-service VA medical facility; it's in their best medical interest; or, if they need a level of care from a VA medical service line that the Department knows it cannot provide in a manner that complies with VA's standards for quality. The sixth potential point of entry, known as access standards, will be based on average drive time and appointment wait times.

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## LIFE ENJOYMENT FUND

### Voting MEMBERS!

Attend a sport or recreational event such as a ball game, dinner, theatre and send in the receipt with an expense report then tell us how accessible the facility was such as parking and entrance or bathroom and counters, and if you recommend the place pointing out any problems, you'd like us to address, if needed, and get fully reimbursed up to \$150.00 per year! Yes, that's correct refunded up to \$150.00 per year! You can use the funds to cover the travel, lodging and food (NO alcohol) or event ticket/s. if you use a partial amount of the \$150.00; the remainder is available until the fiscal year ends! Call us now for ANY question/s! We're absolutely serious, so try us!



Can you believe only a few members use this fund every year? Neither can I, so let's let the cat out of the bag and go do something with our precious summertime and great weather while it lasts! (Fiscal year 10/1/2018 to 9/30/2019).



# SPOKES ON the Wheel

Carl, thank you for this opportunity to allow me to interview you for a series, Spokes on the Wheel. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I was born in 1956 and raised on the southside of Chicago. I continued to live there all the way until I join the military.

**Which branch of the military did you serve in?**

I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1974, and served through 1977. I served during the Vietnam era. After Boot Camp in California, I had the opportunity to serve in Okinawa Japan. I also served in North Carolina, until the end of my enlistment.

**What was your job while you were in the Marine Corps?**

I was a postal clerk. While I was stationed in Okinawa, I was in a jeep rollover accident that injured my back. That accident resulted in a back injury that required surgery, but I was able to recover and continue serving until the end of 1977. That was the scheduled end of my enlistment.

**What inspired you to join the Marine Corps?**

During my years in high school, I was in the ROTC. I enjoyed that very much. While I was in high school, during the Vietnam era, there was a lot of negative talk about the military. But for me, instead of feeling negative, it made me feel patriotic. That inspired me to serve my country.

**What did you do after your service in the Marine Corps?**

I worked for the United States Postal Service for many years until I was in a car accident which re-injured my spine in the area that I first injured it in Okinawa. After my second car accident, for which I underwent many more surgeries at the VA, I am now considered an incomplete quad.

**What part of your spine was injured?**

My spinal cord injury is located from C2 through C6.

**When did you join the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan chapter?**

On March 14, 1996.



**Are you still working for the post office?**

After my injury from my second car accident, I could no longer work at the post office. I was then introduced to work in the TV repair field. I was not able to lift up the televisions, but the people that I worked alongside with picked up the televisions and put it on my workbench. I was

then able to do the repairs. I am currently retired. However, I am an active member in my church. I am a deacon and I am also a part-time Sunday school teacher.

**That's wonderful! Do you have any hobbies or interests?**

I'm a big sports fan. I enjoy the Chicago Cubs, but I also like the Chicago White Sox. I am a huge Chicago Bears fan! I also really enjoyed fishing, when I have the opportunity.

Thank you, Carl, for taking the time for this interview. I am looking forward to seeing you at our chapter fishing outings and other events that we have going on throughout the year. Thank you for your service not only to our country, but thank you for being a member of the Vaughan chapter PVA!

**THANK YOU to St. Joan of Arc School in Lisle, IL** for donating \$500 to Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vaughan Chapter to fund the 39th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, in Louisville, Kentucky from July 11-16, 2019.



Robert Arciola, Sports Director and 6-year old students.

## Executive Director's Report

*continued from page 3*

counted on to assist our very disabled members by serving and carrying their dinner plates to their tables - always with a smile. We don't know what we would do without them.

- Mr. Christopher Setzler of UroPartners: for several years, UroPartners employees continue to hold Toy Drives at all of their locations. They also collect monetary contributions that our members enjoy throughout the year through our Life Enjoyment Fund; which allows each of our members the opportunity to use a set amount one time during each year as they see fit (maybe a dinner out, a gift certificate for their caregivers, etc.) they have also donated towards our Veterans Day dinner by donating gift cards to our veterans and hygiene kits at our Annual Picnics.

And Finally, Mr. David Reyes, he has been Santa's helper for so many years at our Holiday/Christmas party each year - and there he is taking photos with our members and sitting and talking to many who look forward to his visit. Once again, the invitation is open to our members to attend our upcoming events \*Poker Tournament (no gambling) at Hines VA Hospital, Multipurpose Room, \*Bowling Tournament, from May 23-26, \*Memorial Day Parade May 25, \*One day fishing derby Busse Woods June 8<sup>th</sup>. Please call our chapter office (708) 947-9790 with any questions or to RSVP to any of our events. The summer is too short --let's get out and enjoy the short months of summer, it is FREE. Please contact us with any changes on your contact information, address, email or telephone number. It is important that we have your accurate contact information for us to be able to communicate everything that is happening in our chapter.

I hope to see you all at all and each event and outing coming up in the summer! Enjoy and stay well!

Thank you,

Maria Hernandez

## Francis F. Rosin

Branch: Army of United States

Dates of Service:

February 23, 1943 – January 31, 1946

Rank: Technician Fifth Grade



### Deployment locations and dates:

January 24th, 1943 – December 31, 1944 New Guinea Campaign (Allied Forces Liberation of New Guinea)

January 9, 1945 – August 15, 1945 Luzon, Philippines (Allied Forces Liberation of Luzon Island Group)

**Biography & Job responsibilities:** My duties and occupation as a radio operator/electric motor repairman to install, inspect and repair equipment that supports combat units. In January 1943 the Americans and the Australians who had ejected the Japanese from Papua, New Guinea. Under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur, Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) commander, supported the airstrip and staging base at Buna on the north coast. This American contingent numbered five divisions (1st Cavalry, 6th 24th, 32d, and 41st) by January 31, 1944, MacArthur led three regimental combat teams (formed by attaching a field artillery battalion to the 503d Parachute Infantry, 112th Cavalry, 158th Infantry Regiments), three engineer special brigades, and five Australian infantry divisions. Served with the 1489th Engineer Maintenance company.

### Awards and Decorations:

- 2- Overseas Service Bars American Campaign Medals
- Asiatic – Pacific Theater Ribbon w/3 Bronze Battle Stars
- Philippine Liberation Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Word War Victory Medal



# Service Officer's Report

By Robert Statam, Sr. tNSO

I am sure that there are an enormous amount of veterans that are out there wondering, what is this VA Mission Act. The VA MISSION ACT is expected to be in effect starting June 6, 2019. This new laws' goal is to strengthen the VA's ability to provide veterans with the state-of-the art care and services. The goal of providing such services will start with:

1. Improved community care
2. Expand eligibility for Caregiver Support
3. Enhance VA's ability to recruit and retain top notch employees
4. Strengthen VA's building infrastructure

The VA looks forward in achieving these goals, by putting the Veteran at the center of care to coordinate their care whether it's at a VA facility or in partnership through a community provider. Improved Community Care – is a means of streamlining VA community care programs making it easier to navigate, for Veterans, their families, community providers, and VA employees. Expand Eligibility for Caregiver Support - It will now include eligible Veterans from all eras of service. The expansion will occur in two phases. The first starts with those who were injured on or before May 7, 1975. Further expansion will occur two years later. Enhance VA's ability to Recruit and Retain top notch employees - VA is focused on recruiting top notch health care experts to ensure Veterans are receiving the care they have earned. Strengthen VA's building Infrastructure - The Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) process in the MISSION ACT will provide VA the necessary flexibility to improve older buildings, bringing them in line with modern standards to help us support new and high tech equipment.

These are some key elements of what the VA Mission ACT is all about, while I strongly feel that some of these changes will still take time. The VA's focus for the future of this component, seem to have enhanced decisions to accommodate our veterans. I may be a little optimistic, but I can appreciate change for the better of veterans. The

VA Mission ACT I'm sure has some gaps and loops, in which, they will still need to work out, but the real goal is how it help the veteran. I mentioned that earlier that these important changes might take some time, while the VA plans to approach this in five phases. First, the title I, will be the Caring for Veterans, which is the largest component. Second, title II, Strengthening VA's Infrastructure, Third, title III, Strengthening VA's Work Force, Forth, title IV, Care in Underserved Areas, and Finally, title V, will cover other matters. The VA is excited about this improved access to VA's high-quality care as it reaffirms their commitment to America's Veterans. This touching briefly on the VA's Mission Act, as there will be much more material available in the coming months, while this new law is being implemented.

If you should have any questions concerning this topic, please feel free to contact Robert Statam, Sr. NSO at the Chicago Regional Office, PVA @ (312)980-4278, or Mr. Winston Woodard III, SBA, at the Hines VAMC, @ (708)202-5623.

Cite: Hines VA Medical Facility, Public Affairs Office.

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## Community Care

*continued from page 8*

PVA is still wary that VA's IT systems may not be fully ready for the VCCP's scheduled launch date of June 6th. However, we remain committed to helping VA and Congress make it work so the new program can achieve its intended goal of ensuring veterans have access to high quality health care.

If you are currently receiving a portion of your health care through a VA community health care provider (i.e., the Choice program), we would like to hear from you! Are you satisfied with that care or are you encountering any problems? Your timely responses could help PVA make recommended improvements to the VCCP, so please send them to Morgan Brown, PVA's National Legislative Director, at MorganB@pva.org.



# ReWalk®



## What is ReWalk?

ReWalk is a robotic exoskeleton that enables individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries to stand and walk, and is cleared by the FDA for home and community use.

How Do I Know If I Am a Candidate for a ReWalk?

**Contact ReWalk  
for a Free Screening**

**[www.rewalk.com/contact](http://www.rewalk.com/contact)  
or 508.251.1154 Option 2**

**Are you a Veteran with  
a service or non-service  
connected Spinal Cord Injury?**

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its national policy to expand access to ReWalk exoskeletons through a VA SCI Hub and Spoke or the VA Choice Program?



**"Using ReWalk, I have more  
energy and less pain."  
Ret. Army Specialist Gene L.**

ReWalk Robotics  
200 Donald Lynch Boulevard, Marlborough, MA 01752  
**[www.rewalk.com](http://www.rewalk.com)**





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## Vaughan Chapter, PVA Funding Sponsorship Policy IMPORTANT update for ONLY 2019.

At the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting motion was passed to waive volunteer policy hours for 2019 Vaughan PVA Sporting events, Bowling tournament, Bass Tournament and Trap shoot. This motion was approved to increase participation from our members. Reimbursement will be made at 100% to participants members when a fully completed expense report is turned in to the office for reimbursement, all receipts must be included with your report. For any questions regarding the reimbursement please feel free to contact our Maria Hernandez at the Chapter office, 708-947-9790.

### Van For Sale Fully Equipped Mobility Package



**\$42,900 - Like NEW!! 2006 CHEVROLET UPLANDER**, FWD, 3.5 Liter V6 engine, fuel injection Automatic 4 speed electronic transmission with 9700 miles. **Paratransit upgrade package for Paralyzed Individual**, front and rear air conditioning, 4 - 17" aluminum wheels, automatic level control, inflator kit, tires P225/60R17 ALS BLW, overhead rail system, Onstar, mobility prep program, mobility program, axle ratio 3.29, 3.5 liter 3500 V6 SFI. Am/FM stereo Radio, CD w/Mp3 player, modular overhead rail system, Tilt Steering wheel, PWR Windows, Power outside mirrors. Dual stage frontal air-bags, 4 wheel anti-lock brakes, daytime running lamps, child security door locks, battery run down protection. 15-21 mpg in city and 21-28 mpg on highway. Exterior is sandstone metallic. Interior cashmere base cloth. One owner, never in an accident, garage kept. If you are interested, please contact Sue @630-740-6682 or Darlene @708-476-9250.

## How Your Vehicle Can Help Veterans

Every vehicle has value, whether it runs like the day you drove it off the lot or doesn't start at all. Regardless of the condition, it will sell at auction. In return, donors receive a tax deduction, and the proceeds of the sale help provide rehabilitation services, job training, quality healthcare, benefits, and funding for education and research for veterans living with spinal cord injury/dysfunction.

It's simple: Be sure the vehicle title is on hand, fill out the online form or call a Wheels Helping Warriors representative, and schedule a pickup free of charge. Paralyzed Veterans of America's Wheels Helping Warriors Vehicle Donation Program accepts a variety of vehicles:

## Donate Today!

Call or visit us online to  
donate your vehicle today:

855-744-0782

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



One Car One Difference is IAA's public awareness campaign promoting the benefits of vehicle donation.  
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### Most outstanding

*continued from page 1*

Because of their tireless efforts and guidance to our Board of Directors, I am happy to tell you that Vaughan Chapter was selected as this year's recipient of the 2019 John M. Price Most Improved Chapter Award. On my behalf of Vaughan Chapter's Board of Directors and all our members who came forward to help when help was needed, I want to thank the National Executive Committee for this prestigious award! Please know that it is very rewarding to see all the hard work we ALL did to receive this award. We are truly grateful to have been selected and will continue to move ahead!



## Government Relations Report

**First of all we need to thank a few members for sacrificing a week attending the PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar in March with me....Chapter Members Dennis Scanlan, Josue Cordova and Anthony Powell were instrumental and assisted making all our appointments in time. Please call your representatives in the House and our two Senators about the issues we addressed last month. Chapter members who use aircraft for traveling need your help. Please send an email or letter to your representative to support the Air Carrier Amendments Access Act of 2019, which are introduced in the Senate and House. Please use the sample letter below:**

### Sample Letter

Dear Representative/Senator XXXXXXXX:

As a paralyzed veteran, I write to urge you to cosponsor the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAAA) (H.R. 1549/S. 669). This legislation would significantly improve the air travel experience for passengers with disabilities by increasing the accessibility of aircraft; strengthening enforcement of air carrier requirements; and improving the overall safety of air travel for passengers with disabilities.

The Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1986. The ACAA prohibits discrimination based on disability in air travel. Although the ACAA improved access to air travel, our members continue to encounter barriers, such as damaged assistive devices and delayed assistance, that make air travel difficult. In 2016, passengers filed 32,445 disability-related complaints. That same year, passengers also filed 862 disability-related complaints directly with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Access to air travel must improve in order to ensure that people with disabilities, including veterans with disabilities, are able to access employment, health care, and recreational opportunities in the same manner as other Americans. The ACAAA would improve access to air travel by:

Strengthening ACAA enforcement by requiring referral of certain passenger-filed complaints to the Department of Justice and establishment of a private right of action.

Ensuring new airplanes are designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities by requiring airlines to meet defined accessibility standards. These standards will address safe and effective boarding and deplaning, visually accessible announcements, seating accommodations, lavatories, and better stowage options for assistive devices.

Requiring removal of access barriers on existing airplanes to the extent that it is readily achievable – easily accomplishable and may be done without much difficulty or expense.

I'm glad to know the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) along with the PVA Vaughan Chapter strongly support this important legislation. I respectfully request that you provide it with every consideration. If I can provide you with additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Vaughan PVA  
2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501  
Westchester, IL 60154



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

**800-727-2234**

# Join Us!!!

FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCAL EVENTS

**May 18**

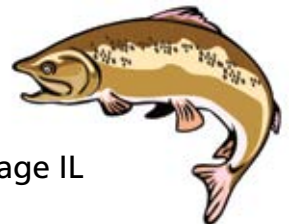
**Poker Tournament** (no gambling)  
Hines VA SCI Building #128

**May 25**

**Chicago Memorial Day Parade**

**June 8**

**VPVA Busse Woods Fishing Derby**  
Busse Woods Forest Preserve, Elk Grove Village IL  
FREE Lunch 10am – 3pm



**June 21-23**

**Abilities Expo**, Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center  
**Admission is FREE** Friday & Saturday 11am – 5pm  
Sunday 11am – 4 pm

**June 27-30**

**Vaughan Bowling Tournament**, Romeoville, IL

Download the VPVA 2019 Calendar of Events at [vaughanpva.org](http://vaughanpva.org)