Paralyzed Veterans of America
Vaughan Chapter

the Wheel

The Newsletter of the Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

November 2018

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Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Office announce 'Honor 200' Recipients

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Office announced the recipients of **Bicentennial HONOR 200** today, honoring the work of 200 veterans who continue to make extraordinary contributions to the people of Illinois.

"America is the greatest nation on earth because of the sacrifice of our veterans," said Governor Bruce Rauner. "We are proud to honor these 200 men and women as part of our Bicentennial celebration. Their service didn't stop when they took off their uniforms. They continue to be heroes among us by going above and beyond the call of duty to take care of the people in their communities."

"The Bicentennial HONOR 200 campaign is one of the most important commemorations of the yearlong Bicentennial Celebration," said Stuart Layne, Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission. "These 200 Illinois veterans truly make us Illinois Proud."
All the Honor 200 recipients have been invited to attend the state's official 200th birthday celebration at the United Center in Chicago on December 3, 2018.

"Honor 200 provides us with an opportunity to showcase our veterans and the values they have when it comes to serving our communities," said IDVA Director Stephen Curda, Ph.D.

The recipients represent more than 50 counties across the state of Illinois. Nominees were evaluated based on their achievements, and on the extent to which their contributions have aided, benefited and provided inspiration to their community at large. In addition, nominees must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. military and reside in Illinois.

The IDVA and the Illinois Bicentennial Office are thankful for the support of Boeing, Walgreens, Peoples Gas and ComED, who are helping honor the 200 veterans at the Bicentennial birthday party.

Honor 200 Illinois Veterans on December 3, 2018

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!! to

Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America,

- **President Josue Cordova,**
- **National Director/Sport Director Robert Arciola,**
- **NSO Robert Statam, and**
- **SBA Winston Woodard, III**

were selected as Illinois Bicentennial Honor 200 Honoree by the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Governor's Office.

Please next time you see them take the opportunity to acknowledge them for their contributions on and off the battlefield, and service to veterans.

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Vaughan Chapter

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Last 2018 Membership Meeting

November 28th

WHERE: Hines VA Hospital; Building #128, SCI Multipurpose Room
TIME: 12:00 (noon) CST. **Lunch is provided.**
If NOT able to attend in person, you may also join via conference call by dialing in at 1800-724-2485 conference code: 456000 (State your name when joining the meeting)

Vaughan PVA Members
Call Us on your Birthday
for a FREE Gift to You
on behalf of
Vaughan Chapter PVA.
(800) 727-2234

The photo above are of Vaughan Chapter, PVA members who volunteered to get up early to go speak to high school students from RIVERSIDE/BROOKFIELD the Friday before Veterans Day. This is just one example of how members can volunteer to support our Chapter. We appreciate the following members who spoke to the students they are (left to right) Anthony Powell, VPVA Vice President, Ricky Facen behind Mr. Powell, Daniel James, Nathan Terry (volunteer), Ricky Tavitas, Raymond Shepack, Patrick Brock, (volunteer), Suzie Archie, Dennis Scanlan (not on picture) and Adam Ferrett. Let this be an incentive to other VPVA members to volunteer for activities such as this. Support your Chapter. Thank you for your service and for being veterans.

VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez
Executive Director

Greetings, Vaughan Chapter Members;

This is the last Chapter Newsletter for 2018, and I want to thank every member for contributing to a successful year. As we all know, this was a challenging year for everyone involved with Vaughan, and because of all the hard work and dedication from many of you, the Vaughan Chapter made history and was reinstated at the 72nd Annual Convention 2018! We need to keep 'the ball rolling' and have ALL members become active in whatever way you are capable of! Mailings, phone calls, whatever might 'pop up' that would require assistance from membership. Get involved! This is YOUR Chapter again!

I strongly believe that without your voluntarism and hard work, it would not have been possible. On a personal level, I know that without God's grace, I would not have made it either. We have completed another Fiscal Year 2017/2018, and we all should be proud of it. It has been a year of learning experiences; busy weeks and months and lots of fun and excitement. I am excited to see that our new Officers and Board of Directors are eager to start fresh in 2019 with many ideas and projects that will show National PVA that we are serious in moving our chapter forward.

I am excited to see that our new Officers and Board of Directors are eager to start fresh in 2019 with many ideas and projects that will show National PVA that we are serious in moving our chapter forward.

Vaughan Chapter's office remains open to any member who would like to serve on the Board of Directors and contribute to the future of this chapter. The Board of Directors meets once a month to plan and approve any motions to benefit our members. I also would like to inform you that for 2019 the Membership Meetings will be held bimonthly instead of monthly. A new calendar of meeting dates will be issued at the very beginning of the year. Our first meeting in 2019 will be on Wednesday, January 23rd in the Hines VA Hospital, SCI Building #128 Multipurpose Room. Mark your 2019 calendars and come on out.

Stay tuned for upcoming fundraising projects we are currently reviewing to get the necessary funds to help finance our different events, outings and membership sponsorships. We will need your assistance throughout the year. Call the office at (708) 947-9790 and let us know what you are willing to help with. We will be happy to talk to you all and explain what is needed.

To all our outside volunteers, thank you for your assistance in all the areas you volunteered in, and for your loyalty to our Vaughan Chapter veterans. Volunteers are a great asset to our mission and believe me, without your support, we would not be able to get a lot of things accomplished. Thank you to our sponsors and donors for supporting our

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THANK YOU

Once again, Vaughan Chapter wants to acknowledge UroPartners Staff; Westchester office for the generous donation of 40 male and 10 female Hygiene Kits along with the wonderful Water Bottles included in the string bags that were given to our members attending the Vaughan Chapter annual picnic at Brookfield Zoo. it's nice to have such wonderful and caring companies such as UroPartners that take the time to give back to the spinal cord injured veterans who gave so much for our country, we so appreciate your kindness and generosity.

National Director's Report

November 2018

This is to provide you a very brief report on the PVA mid year board meeting in Orlando, FL October 1-3, 2018. As your new National Director, I'm pleased to report to you some of the activities at our meeting. The board adopted the 72nd Annual Convention minutes from May.

I'm please to report that overall, the PVA Executive Committee (EC) is working together along with PVA staff to ensure our organization remains influential, effective, viable, valuable and a much more resourceful organization to all veterans facing paralysis and other disabilities. PVA remains focused making ongoing changes in its structure and strategy to make PVA brighter, better, stronger and more stable. In nearly 30 years as member, I've never been more proud of our work and accomplishments. But, there yet remains so much more for us all to accomplish. Your individual involvement in chapters is always necessary! All nine EC members have furnished comprehensive reports outlining their business activities, travels and committee work they're assigned to. The following PVA committee reports were furnished: Field Advisory; Resolutions; VP Admin.; Planned Giving; Audit; Research and Education Foundations; Judicial; PVA Publications and PN. In addition, PVA Executive Director, Carl Blake gave an extensive Semi Annual report along with staff from each department with a Q&A session that followed. Did you know PVA has about 11 different departments? In addition to us national directors, Past Presidents, chapter presidents and executive directors were on hand guests and provided opportunity to be recognized, listen, ask questions or make comments during certain sessions.

In nearly 30 years as a member, I've never been more proud of our work and accomplishments.

There were two PVA Speedy award nominations to recognize PVA members. Finally, we held executive session, discussed chapter issues and new business resolutions. The resolutions, which passed, will be printed in our governing documents and inserted for the record.

Accordingly, approved minutes are kept on file in our office as per policy. We generally assemble by 9am each day and often convene till 5pm each meeting day. National Directors had over 400 pages of material to review, prepare questions and debate before our meeting started. Even if you're a reader, that's always lot of reading! You'll be pleased to know as we go through change, our members remain as the focus and forefront of whom we all serve together! If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to ask! Serving all members of PVA is a distinct honor and pleasure, which we all take very seriously.

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)

President's Report

By Josue Cordova, Vaughan Chapter President

Blessings and greetings to all the Vaughan chapter members and volunteers this fall and holiday season. 2018 has come and gone so quickly. It's incredible that 2019 is less than two months away. Our Vaughan chapter has had an incredible transformation, beginning in 2018 under Monitoring by our national headquarters, to now having full control of our own chapter. It's been an amazing year!

Our annual Vaughan Chapter picnic took place this year on September 15th at Brookfield Zoo. It was an enjoyable time with our members, families and volunteers. We enjoyed delicious food, raffles, prizes, entertainment and fellowship. To top it off, we had the fantastic Brookfield zoo to visit! Those that did not attend missed a phenomenal time. Make it your priority to attend 2019's Vaughan Chapter picnic. You'll have an awesome time, I promise!

On September 17, 2018 our BOD Officers had the opportunity to go to Peoria, Illinois to have a membership meeting, with our members in that area. We had a chance to talk about exciting new things happening for our Vaughan Chapter members right now, and coming up in the near future.

Thanksgiving is upon us, as well as Christmas. In the coming weeks and months, our chapter has wonderful events planned for our members and volunteers. Keep a lookout on our up and coming emails, newsletter and bulletin board posts for the exciting things we have planned this coming new year. There are things such as sporting events, fundraisers and great opportunities which involve us working around our community in the Chicagoland area. We need your help to make it successful.

If there are any concerns or issues regarding clinic appointments, wheelchair repairs or caregiver issues, please reach out to our chapter office so that we can help you by answering questions and trying to solve these dilemmas. We have remarkable resources through our chapter office, National Service Officers and National Headquarters. We are here to serve.

VPVA members at our annual chapter picnic.

From me and my family, I want to wish you and your home a wonderful and blessed Christmas and holiday season. I wish you all the joy and happiness this coming new year.

Thank you and God Bless,

Josue E. Cordova
President
Vaughan Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Ex. Director's Report

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cause and our mission and for continuing to serve our disabled veterans.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving Day, Happy Holidays and a successful New Year 2019!

Thank you,

Maria Hernandez

Sports & Recreation

by Robert Arciola, Sports Director

This month activities have revolved around our 21st Land of Lincoln Bass Tournament held at Rend Lake in Whittington, IL held on October 5-7th. Most preparations are made in advance; however, obtaining and registering disabled anglers, boaters and partners went on till registration evening! We needed to extend our registration period to accommodate a few individuals, but it was well worth it because we ended up with more registrants than last year!

There's always a lot of work preparing for this event each year. Some of the activities include recruiting and registering disabled anglers and boaters to partners. Ensuring we have enough is the most important facet. Without enough participants, the costs to put on such a large event simply can't be spent. Fortunately, this year we were able to pull off hosting this wonderful event after having heavy recruiting efforts all across the state and nation! I'm pleased to report that we actually beat our disabled participant numbers from last year. Here's a brief breakdown: Bank Division 12 total: Texas 6, Illinois 3, Arkansas 1, Oklahoma 1, and Kentucky 1 Open Division 46 Total: Boaters and Partners in Open Division-Illinois 26, Oklahoma, 1, and Indiana 1 Disabled Open Division Anglers only-Illinois 6, Texas 6, Indiana 3, Kentucky 3, Pennsylvania 2, Oklahoma 2, Mississippi 2, Florida 1, Georgia 1, Tennessee 1, and Virginia 1 Total Participants: 68 Number of different states recognized at the event 11. Total number of Illinois residents participating 35. Total number of nonresidents participants 33. 17 of 40 disabled participants were PVA Members.

On Friday night, we conducted an anglers meeting, served dinner and a enjoyed a social hour, paired partners, covered tournament rules, provided safety information and a fishery update, issued partner packets and provided essential and emergency information, conducted raffles and took partner photos.

Saturday was filled with Bank Division and Open Division fishing beginning with volunteer check-in at 5am. Individual Bank Division winners were 1st-Donna Hendrickson of Garlnd, TX 5.38 Lbs.(also Big Fish 2.67 Lbs,) , 2nd-Kevin Teeman Fort Smith, AK 3.59 Lbs., 3rd-Terry Bowers Rochelle, IL 2.92 Lbs. The Individual Open Division winners included: 1st-Jeff Thompson Camby, IN 3 fish 5.62 Lbs., 2nd-Jason Swanson Plano, TX 3 fish 4.84 Lbs., 3rd-Dale Lunsford Morehead, KY 2 fish 4.80 Lbs. (also Lunker Award 3.49 Lbs.) Even though the bite was tough, we all managed to eat a wonderful Partner dinner including barbeque pork chops and fixings!

Disabled veterans and boat captains at the 2018 LOL Bass Tournament.

TOURNAMENT STATS

Open Division - 46 Total Boaters and Partners

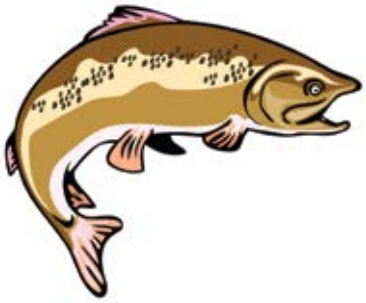
Disabled Open Division Anglers - 28

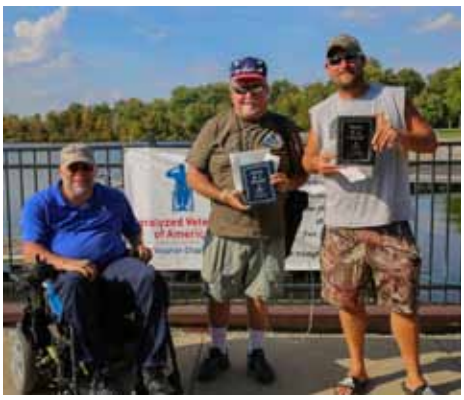
Bank Division - 12 Anglers

11 States Represented

17 of 40 disabled participants were PVA Members

On Sunday, anglers in both divisions paired as teams and the winners for the Team Bank Division included: 1st-Gary Holland Oklahoma City, OK and Terry Bowers Rochelle, IL 09.22 Lbs. 2nd-Donna Hendrickson Garland, TX and Steven Ray Mesquite, TX 07.97 Lbs. 3rd-Michael Murphy Shelbyville, KY 04.83 Lbs. Charlotte Clark Balch Springs, TX. Terry Bowers also Big Fish 3.92 Lbs. The Team Open Division winners included: 1st-Charlie Johnson Elmhurst, IL and Brad Schoenrock Opeyke, IL 5 fish 11.08 Lbs., 2nd-Ted Liefer Wittington, IL and Bill Newbury Opdyke, IL 5 fish 08.92 Lbs., 3rd-Arthur Hunt Harrisburg , IL and Bill Thomas Indianapolis, IN 4 fish 08.06 Lbs. Cleveland Short won Lunker Award 3.85 Lbs. After photos and awards, we all ate grilled sandwiches and sides and said thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible.





Congratulations to all winners at our recent 2018 LOL Bass Tournament.

Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Camp Pendleton Air Gun Tournament
December 5-6, 2018
Oceanside, CA

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
January 28-29, 2019
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 6-7, 2019
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 30-31, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament*
April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
April 26-27, 2019
Geneva, OH

indicates combined events

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Trapshoot
September 8-9, 2018
Sioux Falls, SD

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament and Handgun Shoot
November 9-11, 2018
Charles City, VA

Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament
February 8-10, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
March 29-31, 2019
Redlands, CA
Pistol Shoot - March 29, 2019
Lytle Creek, CA

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
May 17-19, 2019
Rifle/Pistol Shoot - May 17, 2019
Green Bay, WI

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
May 31-June 2, 2019
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
June 14-16, 2019
Pistol Event - June 14, 2019
Cedar Rapids, IA

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 21-23, 2019
Waxahachie, TX

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament
September 21-23, 2018
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament
October 5-7, 2018
Whittington, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
March 29-31, 2019
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament
May 3-5, 2019
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 7-9, 2019
Henrico, VA

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
October 12-13, 2018
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach
November 16-18, 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem
March 22-24, 2019
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 5-7, 2019
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament
June 14-15, 2019
Wickliffe, OH

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 21-22, 2019
Fountain, CO

BOCCIA

Gateway Boccia Tournament
October 18-20, 2018
St. Louis, MO

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament
January 12-13, 2019
Richmond, VA

Bayou Boccia Tournament
February 1-2, 2019
Gulfport, MS

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament
February 19-20, 2019
San Diego, CA

Arizona Boccia Tournament
April 6-7, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament
April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
July 12-15, 2018
Council Bluffs, IA

Mountain States Bowling Tournament
August 15-18, 2018
Colorado Springs, CO

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
September 28-30, 2018
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament
November 29-Dec 2, 2018
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
February 21-24, 2019
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 12-14, 2019
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
June 27-30, 2019
Romeoville, IL

HANDCYCLING RACING

Museum of Aviation Marathon
January 12, 2019
Warner Robins, GA

PVA Racing High Performance Camp
January 26-February 1, 2019
Brooksville, FL

Top End Euro-American HC Championships
February 2-3, 2019
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun
February 16-18, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon
March 2, 2019
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo
April 19-21, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

PVA Learn to Race Camp
April 23-26 , 2019
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray Half Marathon and Criterium
April 27-28 , 2019
Gettysburg, PA

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports

Travelers with Disabilities

By: Robert Statam, NSO III

Many of us have endured the burden of traveling to and from various designations, through our busy O'Hare International – Midway Airports. The preparation and readiness is frustrating enough, and not to take into account someone living with a disability. There are a number of laws that cover the rights and responsibilities for air carriers regarding people with disabilities. On October 5, 2018, the President signed into law the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018.

...we will continue to support efforts to prohibit discrimination based on disability in air travel, whether that's on Capitol Hill or in the courts.

PVA's President, David Zurfluh

It was back in May of this year, when PVA's, Acting Associate Director, for Government Relations, Heather Ansley, was among those who sat in talks with the standards committees concerning important subject matters surrounding the passenger and the airlines communications. PVA was an intermit part of this newly signed bill, whereas, their role in the inclusion of several disability-related provisions, many of which are similar to those found in the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (H.R. 5004/S. 1318). We are fortunate to have a voice on Capitol Hill, to address matters of tremendous importance to us. Through our representatives and others this new legislation introduces a closer look at how the air travel for people with disabilities can be improved. Matters such as;

- The training for Transportation Security Officers on screening people with disabilities.
- TSA must work in consultation with disability and veterans organizations to revise their training requirements.
- A study of airport accessibility and airline training policies, including any best practices that go beyond the requirements of current civil rights laws.
- A determination of whether in-cabin wheelchair restraint systems to allow passengers to fly while seated in their wheelchairs are feasible.
- A requirement for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to work with stakeholders to develop an airline passenger with disabilities bill of rights.

These are just a few of the topics of importance, while I am sure we all can reflect on one or more horror stories regarding our air traveling experiences. As PVA's President, David Zurfluh stated, "We applaud the bipartisan passage of this bill. This is truly a move in the right direction and we will continue to support efforts to prohibit discrimination based on

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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).

That stuff that you keep telling yourself "someday I might wear that again."

The back of your closet can do something remarkable for injured veterans everywhere.
Your generous donations of clothes and other common household goods help improve the lives of severely injured veterans and strengthen the fabric of our community.

PICKUPS ONLY AVAILABLE IN THESE ZIP CODES:

60502	60007	60538	60169	60516	60563	60108	60189
60503	60043	60103	60173	60517	60564	60139	60022
60504	60056	60107	60192	60090	60565	60172	60091
60505	60093	60133	60193	60062	60076	60188	60143
60506	60053	60174	60194	60025	60077	60008	60191
60542	60068	60181	60195	60026	60201	60016	
60137	60101	60102	60514	60532	60202	60018	
60148	60126	60110	60515	60540	60203	60187	

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To learn more, call 773-394-7474 or go to **pva.org/givegoods**

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Goods **I**nspiring **V**eterans **E**verywhere
Vaughan Chapter

Paid for by Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation

Thank you, Vaughan Chapter PVA from the bottom of my heart!!

I'm not sure if you understand what these games did for me!!! I only went because I wanted to golf, and when I missed that event I figured, what the heck I can do some of these other things, so let's give it a try. My only goal was not to embarrass myself. Well I succeeded, to say the least!!!!!!! I won Gold in Discus, Silver in Javelin, missed gold by .5, and a bronze in Shot Putt, missing gold there by only .8!!! I came in 6th out 50 in Air Rifle, and that's never shooting before, and missed a medal by one round in boccia.

Medals are all well and good and an accomplishment no one can ever take away from me, but the lifesaving experience I had will live on!! I have been suffering from extreme depression over the last several months. I have been fighting for the last 3 years to walk again, be more normal.

I can never thank you enough for renewing my life, my sense of purpose and honestly giving my FAMILY a sense of joy that has been lacking for some time!!!

Here is a recent post I put on Facebook. "Let me preface this with I have a strong belief in God my father, the saving Grace of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirt.

I went to the National Wheelchair Veterans Games not knowing what to expect. As you know I medaled in 3 events. That's all great, but the purpose of the games had a far more reaching effect on my life!! I got to see veterans who have sacrificed so much more than me, LIVING life, not sitting on a couch wondering where life went wrong, why me and is today the day? All Things I've thought.....

Getting involved in the Paralyzed Veterans of America has given me a sense of purpose, a sense of camaraderie and brotherhood that I have longed for since I got out in 1992. Living a life in pain makes it very hard to even put one foot in front of the other some days, and sometimes that was enough. My friend, Nathan Watson, shared a speech with me one day by Admiral McRaven. This was the first in many changes. Because now, if nothing else, I made the bed every morning!!!

I now see a life worth living. After moving to Georgia and getting paralyzed 3 weeks later, I was introduced to David Windsor, William Cudmore, Michael Beale, Mark Mosley and Jamie Srubas-Sapp. These men took a not so simple game of golf and took the time to share it with a guy in a wheelchair. Who would forever thought golf from a wheelchair, right!?!? But what this simple act of compassion and encouragement has led to is a lifelong friendship and kicking open the door of opportunities to an unknown world of adaptive sports, because it was golf that led me to Florida and the #NVWG.

Military motto (not just for Marines) is adapt and overcome. Well that's what the world of adaptive sports has taught me. To ADAPT AND OVERCOME!!!

There's nothing I can't do, if I don't try!! Don't let people tell you, you can't, you shouldn't. You must ADAPT to your circumstances and OVERCOME the obstacle placed before you. Sure I'll never walk or run the same or at all..... BUT I can still throw a javelin, discus, shot put, play basketball, softball (yes!!), ride a bike (all though it may be different than yours) and even swim (even backwards, it's funny).

But there is life after.....

Thanks for taking a minute to read this, may you be Blessed by it and have a better understanding of what goes on inside the mind of a Disabled Vet. Feel free to share it with someone who might need a lift. There is hope!!!!!

Together these two verses have guided me.
Isaiah 40:31 says that I will run and not grow weary and walk and not grow faint and Philippians 4:13 says that I can do ALL THINGS through Christ who strengthens me.

PLACE your trust in God, He IS FAITHFUL!

I am joining the Shepherd Wheelchair basketball team in 3 weeks and next summer I will be playing softball for them as well!!! I have a hand cycle that I'm riding now, and all this because you, the Vaughan PVA took a chance on a 50-year-old novice and sent him to compete and experience the 38th National Veterans Wheelchair Games!!!!

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Rollx VANS

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Follow us on:

facingdisability.com
for families facing spinal cord injuries

We need you!

Now Filming Video Interviews for FacingDisability.com for Families Facing Spinal Cord Injury

Share your experience with spinal cord injury with others in your situation! We're in the process of arranging on-camera interviews of veterans with spinal cord injuries and the members of their families, in cooperation with The Vaughan PVA Chapter. We hope that you, and some of the members of your family, will be willing to be interviewed for FacingDisability.com.

The FacingDisability.com website, launched in 2011, currently contains more than 2,000 high-quality HD videos of family members answering real-life questions on how they cope, as well as interviews with top spinal cord injury experts. These personal experience videos contain straightforward, candid answers to questions about all aspects of life after a spinal cord injury.

But we don't have any veterans to share their experiences. Not yet.

Sharing what you've learned is important. Connecting with the life experiences of others often helps people find their own strength and support.

You may be glad to know that we do not focus on re-telling the story of the injury or ask questions designed to bring back painful memories. Instead, we ask about what you've learned, what you've done and what you now know from your own experience. We are not looking for inspirational stories; we are asking that you share the judgments you've made and the wisdom you've gained in an effort to help someone who is newly injured and the people who share their lives.

Now is your chance to help others in your situation. Call or write for more information and to schedule a time to be interviewed:

Stephanie Lollino 312-315-8337
Slollino@FacingDisability.com

Prosthetic Services at Home

Please follow the instructions below; to get your prosthetic services done at home. You may obtain your service card from prosthetic department at Hines VA Hospital.

1. **Sign prosthetic service card**
2. **Call one of the vendors on the bottom of this sheet for repairs**
3. **Make appointment with vendor**
4. **Give vendor prosthetic service card**

*** NOTE ***
Please make sure vendor takes prosthetic service card, to prevent any charge to you.

VENDOR LIST

National Seating and Mobility
(Repairs all power wheelchairs)
5444 East Ave Unit A
Countryside, IL 60525
844-744-8348 x 3044
Sue.adema@nsm-seating.com

Good Health Medical
(Repairs all Quantum or Pride devices)
14848 S. Drexel Ave
Dolton, IL 60419
708-841-1700
Danny.dingle@googlehealthmed.com

If you have any questions, please contact Prosthetics at 708-202-8387 x 21277 or 21193.

Vaughan Chapter, PVA Funding Sponsorship Policy

A member can request up to three (3) funding requests in a Fiscal Year. The member may be considered if they volunteered with the Chapter and have a recorded minimum of ten (10) hours for each of their funding requests.

1. Members First Time (Novice) participants attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) require no volunteer hours and will be funded 100% with a maximum funding of $3000.
2. Members (non-Novice) 1st request with ten (10) hours of documented chapter volunteer hours may be funded at 100% with a maximum funding of $3000 for the entire Fiscal Year.
3. Members 2nd request with documented minimum of 10 hours volunteerism @ 50%
4. Members 3rd request with documented minimum 10 hours volunteerism @ 50%.

Requests submitted by members using this system, is based on volunteer hours submitted on a monthly basis. If a member has a request and doesn't have the minimum 10-hours recorded, the member's sponsorship request will not be considered.

The submission of volunteer hours is a practical solution to helping both the chapter prove it's accomplishing things; that more members are involved in program operations; that members are again taking responsibility for the governance and accomplishing its program and chapter overall mission. All "Members and Associate Member" Funding Sponsorship requests must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing, by the individual requesting funding, with estimates of expenses, prior to a Board of Directors meeting prior to the event. Associate Members are required to meet the same eligibility requirements for sponsorship funding as voting members and membership dues must be up to date prior to submission of any requests. Approval will be at the sole discretion of the Vaughan Board of Directors. Business Expense Reports must be submitted by the member requesting funding, with receipts within fifteen (15) business days for reimbursement.

Volunteer Activity Forms are available at the office as well as Volunteer Time Sheets for members to submit no later than the 10th of each month. Your funding sponsorship requests may be sent to the office via email, fax or by regular mail.

vpva@vaughanpva.org, FAX to (708) 947-9755, Address: Vaughan PVA, 2235 Enterprise Drive – Suite 3501, Westchester, IL 60154.

Requests should be received in our chapter office by the 5th of each month or will not be documented for consideration of the Board.

Approved by B.O.D 09/24/2018

Service Officer

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disability in air travel, whether that's on Capitol Hill or in the courts." We all know that there is much more work to be done, we should be thankful for every effort.

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

Site: May, and October 2018, PVA Washington Update, Volume 24, Numbers 6 & 10.

Thank You, VPVA

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I can never thank you enough for renewing my life, my sense of purpose and honestly giving my FAMILY a sense of joy that has been lacking for some time!!! I know my wife sent you a thank you card as well, explaining how much the games impacted her and our relationship. For that, I AGAIN, THANK YOU!!!!! THANK YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!!!

In Christ,
Jim Beilfuss II
USAF Med Retired

Proud to have Served

Welcome Back to our series Spokes on the Wheel

This November I'm excited and honored to introduce Edna Richardson our longest serving volunteer, whose commitment of service to our chapter stretches over 60 years!

Edna where are you from?

I was born in July 14, 1919 in the City of Chicago. I've lived 99 years of my life in the city of Chicago, in three different neighborhoods. I first lived in Bucktown. From the 50s to 1973, I lived in Logan Square, then in Edison Park. I recently moved to the Chicago suburb, Mount Prospect, IL. I live with my daughter and son in law.

How did your first begin volunteering for the Vaughan Chapter?

During WWII my 1st husband, Sylvester Jendrzejczak, was serving in US Army in Europe and I was at home with my young baby daughter. In 1944, I received the telegram telling me that my husband, Sylvester was killed during the Battle of the Bulge, in Belgium. Shortly after receiving that telegram, in 1946 I went to New York and became a Gold Star Wife. Soon after, I received a letter asking me if I would like to volunteer at Hines VA Hospital for the injured veterans there. I began to volunteer once a month, rain snow or shine! At the time, hundreds of paralyzed and injured veterans were put in tents, on the Hines VA grounds. These tents were used until the 1950s, when buildings were built to accommodate them.

How long did you serve as a volunteer for the Vaughan chapter?

I began serving in 1946, and served until 2013, when my knees went out and I was no longer able to walk.

Do you have any favorite hobbies or foods that you enjoy?

I enjoy playing pinochle, going to the theater, and baking. My favorite cake is angel food cake with strawberries. My favorite meal is porkchops with potato dumplings.

What are some of the events you assisted with volunteering for the Vaughan Chapter?

Some of the events we as volunteers helped facilitate were bingo, picnics, Chapter meetings and lunches we also celebrated holidays with the veterans.

What was your favorite part about volunteering for the Vaughan chapter?

My favorite part was talking to the veterans and listening to their stories, so that they had someone to tell their stories to. Many veterans were from out of state and had no family around.

Edna's commitment and dedication to the Vaughan Chapter became a family affair. Her daughter, Peggy and Edna's grandchildren All became volunteers for the PVA.

There are no words to express our gratitude for all the years that you served selflessly. Your commitment to the Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans America is exceptional. I can only try to thank you by saying that you are a beacon to all as an example to others how to give without wavering. You have been kind and compassionate, by giving the broken veterans your ears to listen and by letting them know there is value in their stories. Your sincere, warm smile proves there is still kindness in the world.

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

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

800-727-2234

Join Us!!!

Vaughan PVA
Cordially invites its members

Join us, at our Annual CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 19th
@
Hines VAH Auditorium
Bldg #9
Noon—3:00pm
(1) Guest per Member

Mandatory RSVP by:
December 12th by calling at 708-947-9790
or by email at vpva@vaughanpva.org or
dpettiford@vaughanpva.org