BPVA Donates

At the Annual PVA Convention in May, Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter (BPVA) presented a check to the PVA Research Foundation. Dave Zurfluh accepted the $1,000 donation.

From transplanting cells to regenerating damaged nerve fibers to designing adaptive canoe seats, the Paralyzed Veterans of America Research Foundation supports innovative research and fellowships that improve the lives of those with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D). The Research Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, funds the following categories:

- Laboratory research in the basic sciences to find a cure for SCI/D
- Clinical and functional studies of the medical, psychosocial and economic effects of SCI/D, and interventions to alleviate these effects
- Design and development of assistive technology for people with SCI/D, which includes improving the identification, selection and utilization of these devices
- Fellowships for postdoctoral scientists, clinicians and engineers to encourage training and specialization in the field of spinal cord research

For more information on the PVA Research Foundation, visit: www.pva.org/research-foundation
Mission Statement
The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter strives to improve the quality of life of honorably discharged veterans who have spinal cord injury, dysfunction or illness including but not limited to multiple sclerosis and ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) through advocacy, medical research, sports and recreation, education and communication.

DISCLAIMER
The Buckeye Banner is a publication of the Buckeye Chapter, PVA and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disability community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of BPVA, its Officers, Board Members, the Editor or production staff. Rev 12/17
A heartfelt thank you goes out to SPIRE Institute, sponsors, staff, volunteers, and athletes for your support and time in making this another successful year. As always, the Buckeye Chapter greatly appreciates everyone’s generous support.

Cleveland’s SCI Center’s annual site visit is scheduled to be held June 27-29. The chapter board meets with PVA’s National site team beforehand to discuss their concerns about the SCI units. Aaron Stevens, NSO, and Milton Young, Cleveland CHL, will be present for the three-day visit with the site team as they interview VA staff including doctors, nurses and therapists. They will also interview patients on the acute care and long term care units and have an exit briefing with the hospital director. The site team will provide a written report with their recommendations to correct any issues. At that time, Aaron and Milton will address the issues with the medical center leadership.

A General Membership meeting was held June 16th to announce the nominee’s names received for the upcoming election of the chapter’s Board of Directors. As announced at the March 24th General membership meeting and posted in the last newsletter, you were to consider entering your name into nomination by notifying the office and submitting a brief biography. There are 10 members that submitted their nominations for one of the nine open chapter directors’ positions. Ballots are set to be mailed to all voting members. Read the cover letter instructions carefully and make sure you vote for no more than nine candidates, this includes any write-in candidates.

Also, a reminder to return your ballot in the provided envelope. It must be postmarked no later than August 1st. Take a few minutes to read the bios and vote. Remember this is your chapter!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the chapter’s upcoming events:

**July 30-August 4:** 38th National Veteran Wheelchair Games, in Orlando, Florida. GO TEAM, bring home the gold!

**August 27:** BPVA’s Annual Golf Scramble fundraiser will be held at Windmill Lakes Golf Course, 6544 State Route 44, Ravenna, Ohio. Golf fliers and information will be available on the chapter’s website and Facebook page. Members, please promote this event by passing on the information to all the golfers you know and come in contact with.

Your concerns, issues, or ideas are always welcome. Please either contact the chapter office, stop by the VA chapter office on the 6th floor or email me at: carlh@buckeyepva.org.
Take Action!

Please help paralyzed veterans today by urging your Senators to pass the FAA Reauthorization Act (S. 1405). This critical legislation would make air travel safer for veterans – and all people – with disabilities.

Simply use the PVA Action Center to send an email to your Senators. Visit: https://tinyurl.com/yb3jfxpa

More than 30 years ago, the Air Carrier Access Act was passed to guarantee people with disabilities consistent and nondiscriminatory treatment during air travel and require air carriers to accommodate the needs of passengers with disabilities.

All these years later, it's clear that more must be done. Paralyzed veterans and other people with disabilities have reported poorly trained airline personnel and contractors, bodily harm due to the process required to board and deplane an aircraft, and costly wheelchairs getting lost or damaged to the point they can't be used again.

Thankfully, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 4) in April. This legislation includes many amendments from the Air Carrier Access Amendment Act (H.R. 5004) as introduced by Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI).

The Senate version of this bill (S. 1405) is still pending. Once that bill passes, the two measures will be negotiated to work out the differences. The goal is to have legislation for the President's signature before the current FAA authorization expires at the end of September.

ACT NOW to send a message to your Senators on behalf of our wounded heroes. Let them know their support is needed now to pass the FAA Reauthorization Act and make air travel safer for all.

For more information and to send a message from the PVA website, visit: https://tinyurl.com/yb3jfxpa

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is co-presented between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Games serve Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury, Multiple Sclerosis, Amputations and other central neurological impairments with the goal to increase their independence, healthy activity and quality of life through wheelchair sports and recreation. Veterans are being exposed to wheelchair sports at their home VAMC or PVA Chapters as part of their rehabilitation to improve function, independence and getting them active in their home communities in sport and fitness.

The Games will celebrate their 38th year in Orlando, Florida, July 30 – Aug 4, 2018. The Games move from city to city annually to take advantage of the opportunities that educate Veterans on accessibility, travel, adaptation, etc. Additionally, moving the event annually helps introduce the program to new Veterans, sponsors and partners for the VA and PVA. Over the years we have seen the benefit of these relationships that strengthen opportunities for Veteran services but also for the greater disabled community in that area for years after ward.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games has 19 different events that Veterans can choose to participate. Events such as Wheelchair Basketball, Softball, Swimming, Cycling, Power Lifting, Trap Shooting are just a few of the events that support this dynamic competition.

For more information, visit their website at: wheelchairgames.org
Chapter Elections Coming Up

Chapter elections are coming up! Elections for the Board of Directors of Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter, Inc. (Buckeye PVA) will be held this year. All nine positions are open for election.

Any member in good standing may run for office, but you must be certified prior to appearing on the ballot. Certification is simple and mainly requires submitting your DD 214 to National PVA. Contact Doug Beckley for help (dougbe@buckeyepva.org).

Nominations are being accepted by mail this year. If you are interested in helping the chapter continue to improve our services to SCI/D veterans, please consider entering your name into nomination by notifying the office and submitting a brief biography (300 words or less). We have members all over Ohio and your bio will help them learn something about you before voting.

Director of Buckeye PVA is a volunteer position. A board member may be reimbursed for properly approved travel and expenses. There are generally twelve meetings per year and all members are expected to attend each meeting. If you live outside the Cleveland area, some of these meetings can be attended by teleconference. You will also be asked to work on various committees and chapter functions as needs arise. Access to an internet-enabled computer is necessary since the board does much of its communication by email. A BuckeyePVA.org email account will be provided to each board member. Contact any current officer or member of the board if you have questions concerning board responsibilities.

Dates to Remember for Chapter Elections:

May 7, 2018 – Deadline for submitting nominations & biographies.

June, 2018 – General Membership meeting, announcement of nominees.

Early July, 2018 – Ballots will be sent out.

August 1, 2018 – Ballot return must be postmarked by this date. No exceptions.

September, 2018 - Annual General Membership meeting to announce results.

September, 2018 – BOD meeting with old and new BOD members.

October 1, 2018 – New board takes over.
We Proudly Support the
Paralyzed Veterans of America
BUCKEYE CHAPTER

Improving the Lives of Those Who Have Protected Ours

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ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM
Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle Tournament
March 7-8, 2018
Richmond, VA
Wisconsin Air Rifle Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Milwaukee, WI
Buckeye Air Rifle Tournament
April 20-21, 2018
Geneva, OH
*Indicates combined events

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT
Florida Gulf Coast Shooting Sports Tournament
March 1-3, 2018
Odessa, FL
Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament
March 16-18, 2018
Las Vegas, NV
Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Cal-Diego Rifle/Pistol
March 23-25, 2018
Pistol & Rifle Tournament - March 23
Redlands, CA
Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Edwardsville, IL
Minnesota Shooting Sports Tournament
May 18-20, 2018
Minneapolis, MN
Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 22-24, 2018
Waxahachie, TX

Iowa Shooting
Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
June 15-17, 2018
Cedar Rapids, IA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/BASS TOUR
Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
April 6-8, 2018
Kissimmee, FL
KY-IN Bass Tournament
May 4-6, 2018
Kuttawa, KY
National Bass Tournament
June 1-3, 2018
Marbury, MD
Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 8-10, 2018
Richmond, VA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES
Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Midlothian, VA
Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Oklahoma City, OK
Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 29-30, 2018
Fountain, CO

Buckeye Billiards Tournament**
June 22-23, 2018
Wickliffe, OH
**Non-sanctioned events

BOCCIA
Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament
Feb. 22-23, 2018
San Diego, CA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES
Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
Feb. 23-25, 2018
Tampa, FL
Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 12-15, 2018
Shawnee, OK
Vaughan Bowling Tournament
May 3-6, 2018
Woodridge, IL

PARALYZED VETERANS RACING
Top End Euro-American HC Championship
Feb. 3-4, 2018
Clermont, FL
Valley of the Sun
Feb. 16-18, 2018
Phoenix, AZ
One City Marathon
March 4, 2018
Newport News, VA
Off-Road Spring Expo
April 13-15, 2018
Chesterfield, VA
Paralyzed Veterans of America Learn to Race Camp
April 17-20, 2018
Gettysburg, PA
Blue and Gray
April 21-22, 2018
Gettysburg, PA
Redlands Cycling Classic
May 2-6, 2018
Redlands, CA
Pittsburgh Marathon
May 6, 2018
Pittsburgh, PA
Clocktower Classic
May 2018
Rome, GA
Wichita Omnia
May 2018
Wichita, KS
Para-Cycling Nationals
June 13-14, 2018
Augusta, GA
Tennessee Paracycling Open
June 16-17, 2018
Knoxville, TN

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Mini-Camp
June 19-28, 2018
Delafeld, WI
Tour De Nez
June 23, 2018
Reno, NV
Tour of America’s Dairylands
June 22-24, 2018
Milwaukee, WI
Treasure Valley Grand Prix
July 7-8, 2018
Nampa, ID
National Veterans Wheelchair Games
July 30, 2018
Orlando, FL

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Hi Performance Off Road Camp
Aug. 19-24, 2018
Crested Butte, CO
Off Road Handcycling Championships
Aug. 24-26, 2018
Crested Butte, CO
Pensacola Cycling Classic
Sept. 15-16, 2018
Pensacola, FL
Air Force Marathon
Sept. 15, 2018
Dayton, OH
Off-Road Fall Expo
Sept. 29-30, 2018
Chesterfield, VA
Army Ten Miler
Oct. 7, 2018
Washington, D.C.
Marine Corps Marathon
Oct. 28, 2018
Washington, D.C.

38TH NVWG
July 30-Aug. 4, 2018
Orlando, FL

For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports
Geneva, Ohio is the location of SPIRE Institute, the Olympic/Paralympics training center which is home of the Buckeye Wheelchair Games. This year, April 19-21, we had a grand total of 95 athletes participating. Congratulations go out to Tommy Durbin, who was chosen MVP (Most Valuable Player) for his improvement in all his events and for his support of his teammates. Also, congratulations to Samuel Johnson, Michigan, a novice, for his enthusiastic cheers and encouragement to all the other athletes and his adept athletic skills. In preparation for the National Veteran Wheelchair Games the athletes and coaches used these games to work out kinks in different sports, identify areas of work, and introduce novices to the pressures of competition. Pittsburgh HERL teamed up with Marty Kilbane and other VA PT staff and designed a formidable obstacle course that challenged the obstacle courses produced by the NVWG.

Coach Aubrey Lash, Cleveland VA RT, oversaw the team and worked with all the other coaches making sure the Buckeye Wheelchair Team made it to their events and had what they needed. One of the highlights for me was the 2nd year of the Run and Roll relay. We had three teams compete where volunteer students ran a lap, followed by manual wheelchair lap, a student run lap and finished with a racing chair lap. It was a crowd pleaser where everyone got a work out whether you were on the track or in the stands cheering. Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped us succeed. Without all of you, we could not have served our athletes so well.

DAV Winter Ski Clinic pictures are seen here. Coach Nichole Zillich, Cleveland VA RT, took the Buckeye Team to Snowmass in March. See photos below.

The National Veteran Wheelchair Games are in Orlando Florida this year July 29 - August 4. Those of you that have notified the Chapter that you are driving to Orlando, must request reimbursement postmarked no later than September 5, 2018 to be eligible. Keep in mind that reimbursement will be based on originating airport to Orlando and back. The Buckeye Board will allow $.14 per mile. So, for example, Cleveland Hopkins to Orlando and back is 2,112 miles per MapQuest. At $.14 per mile, you should receive reimbursement of $295.68. We wish all of our team luck. Have a safe and positive time. Novices make sure you enjoy yourselves. This is going to be an eye opening experience you will remember for a very long time. O-H-I-O.

On a side note- I was able to compete in the Boston Marathon in April, Indy Mini Marathon in early May and I just completed my 3rd Triathlon, in Indiana. Open water swim - now that was scary. Dare2Tri had a military camp that instructed my sister, KC and I on how to complete a Triathlon.

P.J. Leek participated in the Endeavor Games.

If you participate or compete in individual events please let us know so we can motivate and inspire others to get out there and do the same!
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ANY VAN PURCHASED WE WILL MAKE A $250.00 DONATION TO THE P.V.A. BUCKEYE CHAPTER!
Mileage Reimbursement

Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter Visitor Mileage Reimbursement Program

Who is eligible to participate in the program?
Must be a BPVA Member in good standing for a minimum of 90 days to participate. The Committee has the option to make exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

What is the acceptable time period before the program becomes available for use?
The BPVA Member must be hospitalized for a minimum of one week.

What is the acceptable distance for mileage reimbursement?
The mileage reimbursement will be given to visitors for travel to a VA hospital in the State of Ohio for the wellbeing of members who are hospitalized. Beginning and ending travel must be in the State of Ohio.

How much is the reimbursement?
Reimbursement will be at a rate of .20 per mile. Mileage will be determined via MapQuest based on the submission of the visitor of the beginning and ending address. Chapter will reimburse up to 2 trips per month with a $2,000 cap per year.

Reimbursement request containing the name of the member, name and address of the visitor, the date of visitation and the origin of the trip must be submitted by the 20th of the following month, with payment at the end of month. Request for reimbursement will only be valid for one calendar month following travel.

How will reimbursement be paid?
Reimbursements will be via check.

What locations are included in the program?
Reimbursement will be for Ohio VA hospitals only.

For more information contact the Chapter Office at 800-248-2548.
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Cleveland • Columbus • Cincinnati • Dayton
June 16, 2018
General Membership Meeting

June 22 - 23, 2018
Annual 8-ball Billiards Tournament, Wickliffe Lanes in Wickliffe, OH

July 30 – August 4, 2018 -
National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Orlando, FL

August 27, 2018 -
Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser, Windmill Lakes Golf Course, Ravenna, OH

*Dates are subject to change.
Please watch the Buckeye website www.buckeyepva.org and future Banners for updates and more information.

It’s Time to Clean & Help a Worthwhile Cause!

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter is committed to making life better for veterans affected by spinal cord injury or disease. Through our efforts we have been able to make a positive impact on the lives of veterans in our community.
Your financial support can help us make a significant difference in the lives of veterans. To show our appreciation, with each $50.00 donation we will send you a package of high-quality trash bags.
Sizes available: 16, 33, 40, and 60 gallon.

To make a donation, you may call, mail a check or use our online form.
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
26250 Euclid Ave, Suite 115, Euclid, Ohio 44132
Phone: (216) 731-1017 or (800) 248-2548
www.buckeyepva.org
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Buckeye Wheelchair Games 2018
Inspired by Holly Koester

St. John’s Hardesty inspired by Koester at Leon’s Triathlon

By David P. Funk, Times Correspondent

HAMMOND, INDIANA - Everybody seemed to know Holly Koester at Leon’s Triathlon on Sunday at Wolf Lake in Indiana. Shouts of “Go Holly” and “Looking good, Holly” rang out from the roadside all morning. As she crossed the finish line, the public address announcer said, “Here comes Holly Koester. She never gives up.”

“I can hear them and I know somebody’s watching me so I better look good,” Koester said. “It definitely is motivating.”

Alicia Hardesty, a St. John resident, is chief motivator. Koester suffered a spinal injury in a car accident in 1990 and now competes as a paratriathlete. Hardesty has become a friend and guide for Koester during races. A guide runs, swims and bikes the race alongside a disabled athlete, helping change wheelchairs and providing some direction when necessary. “(Koester) is an incredible athlete. She is a beast,” Hardesty said. “She’s a very fierce competitor.”

Koester finished in an hour, 37.09 minutes in the sprint division. Erik Walter won the division in 55:15. The fastest woman was Crown Point’s Chris Wickard, who finished in 1:03:03. Tyler Woodward was the top finisher in the Olympic division (1:58.02).

Koester and Hardesty were paired together by coincidence for Leon’s Triathlon last year. They kept in touch and became good friends. They also completed the Chicago Triathlon together last August.

“It’s the most amazing experience I’ve ever had,” said Hardesty, fighting back tears. “She’s an inspirational woman. I look at myself in a whole new way. I’m way more thankful and I could never say anything negative about any kind of race I would ever do again.” Hardesty, an athlete in her own right, was a swimmer and cross country runner at Lake Central. She began pentathlon about four years ago. She was there to help Koester on Sunday. “She makes sure I have a good time,” Koester said. “She gets me ready in the morning, getting me motivated and everything. It’s the reassurance (that helps).”

The 750 meters in the water is Koester’s least favorite part. She said Hardesty’s inspiration is especially important while swimming, which Koester does on her back. “It is the most rewarding that I’ve ever done, even including myself finishing and half iron man,” Hardesty said. “Competing with her and helping her reach her goal is more rewarding than anything I’ve ever done.”

Leon’s Triathlon was founded in 1983 by Hobart native Leon Wolek. The event aims to honor members of the armed forces and markets itself as “America’s Race.” Disabled veterans from around the country participate.

Koester is a US Army veteran. She’s competed in dozens of National Veterans Wheelchair Games and completed a marathon in each state. She’s 15 races into a second round of 50 marathons.

Koester also serves on the board of the Ohio Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. “This one’s special because it’s military,” Koester said. “My brothers and sisters are here. It’s very meaningful.” Koester runs with Dare2tri Paratriathlon Club, a nonprofit out of Illinois that aids disabled triathletes.

“It’s hard to describe the sense of accomplishment (finishing a race),” Koester said. “You know you did, but once you cross it with all the wait and everything, it’s like Christmas morning over and over again.”

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Government Relations Report

The John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act

Veterans Community Care Program Supplementing, Not Supplanting VA

- Consolidates all seven VA community care programs into one VA Community Care Program.
- Provides $5.2 billion to fund the current Choice Program for one year to give time to implement the new VA Community Care Program.
- Removes arbitrary 30-day/40-mile rule to care in the community.
- Authorizes local provider agreements.
- Requires VA to establish standards for access to care in the community.
- VA will remain responsible for the coordination of veterans’ care:
  - Schedule timely appointments;
  - Ensure continuity of services; and
  - Coordinate with private sector.
- VA must utilize community partners if
  - VA does not have the necessary service for a veteran’s care;
  - If the veteran had been utilizing private care under the Choice 40-mile rule,
  - If VA cannot meet its own new access standards; or
  - If the VA clinician determines community care is in the best medical interest of the veteran.
- VA is limited to using this authority at no more than 36 service lines nationally and three service lines per facility.

Improved Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Professionals
- Increases the amount of debt reduction VA can provide through the Education Debt Reduction Program from $120,000 to $200,000 over five years and $24,000 to $40,000 annually.
- Establishes a Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program for medical residents training in specialties with shortages.

Establishment of Commission to Review VA’s Aging and Underutilized Infrastructure
- 2018-2021: VA completes local capacity and commercial market assessments of VA’s infrastructure. The assessments are to consider the unique ability of the federal health systems to retain a presence in rural areas where commercial providers may not exist or are at risk of leaving and how deficiencies may be filled by expanding VA’s internal capacity to provide care.
- 2021: VA publishes the criteria for making recommendations to modernize VA medical facilities and the President will nominate nine commissioners, three of whom must be from veterans service organizations.
- January 2022: the VA reports publicly its recommendations.
- 2022-2023: The Commission ensures the VA’s recommendations comply with established criteria, holds public hearings, and modifies VA recommendations, if necessary.
- January 2023: The Commission reports to the President and Congress on VA’s recommendations.
- February 2023: The President informs the Commission and Congress of his/her approval or disapproval of the Commission’s report on the VA’s recommendations.
- March 2023: If disapproved, the President explains his or her decision to the Commission, which then has 15 days to review and respond. If the President does not approve or disapprove by March 30th, the asset review terminates. If the President approves, and Congress does not, Congress may enact a joint resolution of disapproval, terminating the asset review.
- March 2026: VA begins implementing the Commission’s recommendations, subject to available appropriations, after providing detailed information in its budget submission regarding actions to be taken.

Timeline: Expansion of Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
1. The VA Secretary submits to Congress certification that VA has fully implemented the necessary information technology (IT) system.
2. Veterans with a serious injury incurred or aggravated in service on or before May 7, 1975, will be eligible for the Program.
3. Two years from the date of IT certification, eligibility will expand to those injured on or after May 8, 1975.
Pain Precedent Overturned

On April 4, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned a 19-year-old lower court precedent used in thousands of VA claims denials that stated veterans had to have a clear medical diagnosis of their pain in order to receive compensation for the disability.

“What this ruling means is that if a physician cannot diagnose the cause of the pain the veteran is experiencing, but the pain is related to an event, injury, or disease that occurred during the veteran’s military service, the veteran should now win disability benefits,” said Bart Stichman, executive director and co-founder of the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) and who was also one of the attorneys who represented the veteran in the case.

“Going forward, veterans who wish to apply for benefits will still need to show a nexus between their pain and their military service to be eligible. However, veterans will no longer have to have a specific diagnosis for the pain to apply for service-connected benefits. In a statement, Saunders’ lawyer, Mel Bostwick, called the court case “a significant victory for disabled veterans” and a long-overdue correction in VA policy. “Congress recognized that the nation owes these veterans for their sacrifices, and the court today vindicated the common-sense notion that this debt does not depend on whether a veteran’s disabling pain can be labeled with a specific medical diagnosis,” she said.

Emergency Assistance Program

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter has available an Emergency Assistance Program. This program helps members of the Buckeye Chapter who may find themselves in financial distress causing possible eviction from their homes, disconnection of utilities or the inability to pay for food.

Members must be in good standing for a minimum of 90 days prior to qualifying for consideration. Application for help is limited to twice yearly or up to a maximum of $500 per year. This is a confidential process.

Payments must be made directly to the vendor.

Please contact the Chapter office for more details. (800) 248-2548; (216) 731-1017.
Greater Cincinnati including Dayton, Donate Today

Greater Cincinnati including Dayton, give G.I.V.E. a try and support veterans through a donation. Through the Paralyzed Veterans of America's G.I.V.E. (Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere) clothing donation program, service never goes out of style.

Your generous donations of clothes, small appliances, and gently used household goods help improve the lives of severely injured veterans and strengthens the fabric of our community. Plus, your donations are tax deductible – a receipt will be issued upon pickup/drop off.

In Ohio, this service is only available in the Greater Cincinnati/Dayton area, but is expanding to different locations. Stay tuned for an area near you!

To donate, call (314) 416-1300 or visit the website for more information: www.pva.org/ways-to-give/give/give-clothing

Washington, DC — Paralyzed Veterans of America announced that David Zurfluh, an Air Force veteran, will serve as national president for a 2nd consecutive term. Zurfluh was re-elected by PVA’s board of directors during the organization’s 72nd Annual Convention.

The following individuals were also re-elected to their respective positions: Ken Weas, national senior vice president; Hack Albertson, national vice president; Charles Brown, national vice president; our own Robert Thomas, national vice president; Larry Dodson, national secretary; and Tom Wheaton, national treasurer. Tammy Jones, from the Texas Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America, was newly elected to the fourth vice president spot on the executive committee. With the re-election of Zurfluh, Al Kovach, Jr. will continue to serve the organization as immediate past president. The executive committee will begin its new one year term on July 1, 2018.

“I joined Paralyzed Veterans of America the same year I was injured,” said Zurfluh. “As I lay in my hospital bed after my injury, lost, broken and wondering about my future, Paralyzed Veterans of America came to my aid, gave me hope and showed me a path to succeed in life. I am honored to lead the organization and be the voice for its members and supporters for another year.”

Zurfluh is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm before being injured in a motor vehicle accident in 1995 while on active duty in Hachinohe, Japan. Following a year of inpatient rehabilitation and two years of outpatient care, he resumed life as an incomplete quadriplegic.
Connect With What Matters

**Being there makes a difference**

It could be a simple trip to the mall, a ride to the movies or just a visit to a friend’s home. The little things in life can make a big difference. It’s why MobilityWorks has been helping veterans connect with who and what matters most since 1997. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together to find the best solution.

MobilityWorks considers it a privilege to help our nation’s veterans. Every day we work with local VISNs and service organizations to make the process of securing accessible vehicles, lifts and driving equipment for veterans as easy as possible.

MobilityWorks has more than 50 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

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MobilityWorks is committed to serving you. Contact us today so we can evaluate your needs and find a solution that best fits your lifestyle.

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