Service Connection for Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a disease the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers a presumptive service connected disability. What does that mean to the veteran?

This means that unlike direct service connection, this disease will be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated by service even if there is no evidence of such disease during the period of service. The presumptive period for MS is seven years from the date of discharge. The veteran must have served 90 days of Active Duty military service, other than training. The disease must have become manifest to a degree of 10% within that presumptive period. This means that within seven years from the date of separation, the veteran must show that symptoms developed, manifesting to a compensable degree (10%) according to the VA schedule for rating disabilities. A diagnosis of MS is not needed within that period, only the compensable symptoms.

A firm diagnosis is needed to substantiate a claim for the disease, but it does not have to be made within seven years from separation.

The base rating for MS is 30% disability. Additional disabilities resulting from the disease will be service connected as residuals of the disease. To file a claim for compensation the veteran will need to fill out a VA Form 21-526EZ and submit supporting medical evidence showing compensable symptoms within that presumptive period, a diagnosis of MS, and discharge papers showing qualifying service.

For more information about disability compensation for veterans, please contact your local Service Officer.
BPVA Officers
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Douglas Beckley, Vice President      dougb@buckeyepva.org
Paul Sonye, Treasurer      pauls@buckeyepva.org
Carl Harris, Secretary      carlh@buckeyepva.org

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Douglas Beckley, CHL-Columbus      dougb@buckeyepva.org
Dale Spiller, CHL-Dayton      dawgromad@aol.com
Sylvester Cooper, CHL-Cincinnati

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 8/2019

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!
William Schmidlin

We’re on TWITTER!
BPVA is trying to increase our followers on Twitter.
Please follow us and spread the word!
@Buckeyepva
President’s Report

I am so proud to be on the Buckeye Wheelchair Team returning from Louisville. Congratulations to our novices—John Turchan, Larry Stief, Ashley Buschur, and Jeremy Garber. These new athletes successfully navigated through the Expo, opening ceremonies and competed for the first time! Hopefully, this experience has excited them to continue participating in these, and other events. Coach Patty said that Larry had a smile from ear to ear the entire week, earning medals in archery, field and bowling. When he came home he was still wearing that smile, and is motivated to train hard for Portland, 2020.

Our team was also seen encouraging others as Lee Harris, Milton Young, Aletha McBride, Robert Morris, Robert Thomas, Robert Burtin, Lucas Meyer, James Renzi, David North, and Sylvester Cooper mentored and reassured other veterans on their power soccer teams. Terry Rock earned his way into the Super-G again, and Dennis Brostek climbed the rock tower in the Team Competition like a seasoned Rock climber. Many, many thanks to our dedicated coaches, nurses and caregivers who let us shine!!!

I listen to 95.5 The Fish radio station while I work out in the mornings. They have many inspirational messages I would like to pass on to my fellow veterans and friends: “Don’t worry if you fall apart sometimes and make a mess, tacos fall apart and we still love them.” Also, “A river never reverses, be like a river—look ahead and make your own path forward, positively”. The reason why I bring this up is because the Board and I have been tasked with developing a CHL (Chapter Hospital Liaison) representative for all spoke sites. I have several dedicated members that have volunteered to take on this role. We hope to provide them with training once National develops the training program. While it is necessary to have one point of contact, there is no reason why every Buckeye member can’t pass information on to others. Tell them about how PVA has helped you. Or, if you see something that needs addressed, please call the office.

We also have a vacant Board position to fill. Let me echo National President Zurflu’s message from the August PN. We need to mentor others and encourage participation. I urge you to get out of your comfort zone and step up to a new challenge. Join the leadership of BPVA. We need your ideas and energy. You might surprise yourself, and I know you will find it rewarding to help others.
Executive Director Report

by Sharon Moster
Executive Director

What an incredible summer it has been. Many of you know that the Buckeye Chapter has been busy. Our billiards tournament was a great success. We had people from Cincinnati, Chicago, New York and Ohio. Everyone had food, fun and camaraderie. We had one of the biggest National Veterans Wheelchair Games teams in Louisville. More than 60 Buckeye athletes participated. Check out the pictures in this edition of the Banner.

Our Annual Golf Outing was a tremendous success. More golfers than ever. More than 115 players enjoyed a great time at Windmill Lakes Golf Course. Pictures are later in this edition of the Banner. Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor Koester, DiSalvo & Fried who signed up many of the foursomes who participated.

Congratulations to Wesley Harris, son of member Patrick Harris on his scholarship award from National PVA.

Now as summer turns to fall, we move forward with plans for so many more events through the holidays.

If I can answer any questions, please don’t hesitate to email me: sharonm@buckeyepva.org; or call: (800) 248-2548.

Sharon

Sports Directors’ Report

by Josh Maley
BPVA Associate Sports Director

And there you have it! As we wrap up another year at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the Buckeye Team finds itself with a landslide victory in the total medal count, winning by nearly 35 medals. As we walked around the convention center, it seemed as if every medal round or leader board had a Buckeye on it. From Josh Stahl and Bill Searles’ masterful gold medal power lifting performances, to Mark Perkins and Tommy Durbin gritting it out on the sun drenched golf course, the Chapter truly had an impact on every event. In addition to medal count, the chapter was also among the largest in team size, boasting 60 of the nearly 640 athletes there. Needless to say, we look forward to seeing everyone in Portland, OR next summer.

On the 5th of August, the chapter hosted its annual golf outing at Windmill Lakes Golf Course in Ravenna, OH. We had an awesome turn out with 120 people participating including Vice President Doug Beckley and myself. It was awesome to see members greeting the groups hole to hole. I encourage all of you to contact the chapter to volunteer. Also, please remember that the chapter offers the ISP to help participate in athletic competition. Scott, myself, and everyone else here on the Board truly thank you for your continued devotion to bettering yourself and the chapter both on and off the field.
2019 National Veterans’ Wheelchair Games Photos
2019 National Veterans’ Wheelchair Games Photos
2019 National Veterans’ Wheelchair Games Photos
2019 National Veterans’ Wheelchair Games

2019 Golf Outing
We Proudly Support the
Paralyzed Veterans of America
BUCKEYE CHAPTER

Improving the Lives of Those Who Have Protected Ours

13600 W. Center Street
Burton, OH 44021
440-834-9700

PRESTONSUPERSTORE.COM
2019 Golf Outing

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Buckeye Chapter

Thank you to our sponsors for their generous support of the Buckeye PVA 2019 Golf Outing

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Koester, DiSalvo & Fried

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Mobility Works
Preston Superstore
Spire Institute

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Core-Tech Enterprises Inc.
H & J Certified Public Accountants
Health Aid of Ohio
Holtz for Heroes
Keener Printing
Lake Shore Insurance Agency
2019 Golf Outing
ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
January 27-28, 2020
San Diego Naval Base
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 4-5, 2020
Colonial Shooting Academy
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 21-22, 2020
Milwaukee Area Tech College
Milwaukee, WI

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament*
April 16-18, 2020
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH

*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament
September 20-22, 2019
Lake Eufaula
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament
October 4-6, 2019
Rend Lake
Mount Vernon, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
April 3-5, 2020
Lake Harris
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament
April 24-26, 2020
Lake Barkley
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 5-7, 2020
James River
Richmond, VA

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
October 11-12, 2019
Clicks Billiards
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
March 20-22, 2020
Diamond Billiards
Miami, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 3-5, 2020
Slick Willies Pool Hall
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament
June 5-6, 2020
Wickliffe Lanes
Wickliffe, OH

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 20-21, 2020
Widefield Corner Pocket Billiards
Fountain, CO

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
August 1-4, 2019
Thunderbowl
Council Bluffs, IA

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
September 13-15, 2019
Bowling America
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament
December 5-8, 2019
Sunset Station Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 9-12, 2020
Firelake Bowling Center
Shawnee, OK

VAUGHAN BOWLING TOURNAMENT
May 21-24, 2020
Bowlero
Romeoville, IL

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Shooting Sports Tournament
September 6-8, 2019
Crooks Gun Club
Sioux Falls, SD

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament
October 25-27, 2019
Conservation Park of Virginia
Charles City, VA

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament
March 13-15, 2020
Clark County Shooting Park
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament
March 27-29, 2020
Redlands, CA

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
Desoto Gun Club
Dates TBD
Waxahachie, TX

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
June 5-7, 2020
St. Charles Sportman Club
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament
June 12-14, 2020
Otter Creek Sportman Club
Cedar Rapids, IA

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament*
June 26-28, 2020
Brown County Sportman Club
Green Bay, WI

*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

HANDCYCLING RACING

PVAR Hi Performance Off Road Camp
August 17-26, 2019
Crested Butte, CO

Off Road Handcycling Championships
August 23-25, 2019
Crested Butte, CO

Off-Road Fall Expo
October 4-6, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

ARMY TEN MILER
October 13, 2019
Washington, D.C.

CODE OF HONOR QUAD RUGBY INVITATIONAL
Dates TBD
Location TBD

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

BAYOU BOCCE TOURNAMENT
November 8-9, 2019
Harrison County Shelter
Gulfport, MS

Buckeye Boccia Tournament*
April 16-18, 2020
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament
May 6-8, 2020
Fort Monroe at Community Center
Hampton, VA

Vaughan Boccia Tournament
June 26-28, 2020
Fountain View Recreation Center
Carrol Stream, IL

PVA National Boccia Tournament
October 22-26, 2019
The Pavilion at Lamay
St. Louis, MO

For more information, visit: pva.org/sports
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:

- Minivans, full-size vans and trucks
- The latest in adaptive technology
- Complete maintenance and service
- Rental vans — veterans receive a 10% discount

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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Akron, OH 44310
330-247-6295

USA’s largest accessible van dealer!

www.mobilityworks.com
### Member Birthdays - September, October, November

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**September Birthdays:**

- William Gibson: 9/14
- William Fry: 9/14
- William Larson: 9/14
- Stephen Brandt: 9/15
- Roy Nungester: 9/17
- Mark Waites: 9/19
- Edward Dasso: 9/21
- Charles Lindner: 9/21
- David Prestegaard: 9/22
- Paul Sonye: 9/23
- Claude Owens: 9/24
- Robert Redden: 9/25
- Robert Lucas: 9/25
- David Hopson: 9/27
- Luther Preston: 9/28
- Kenneth Elick: 9/29
- Ernie Stacy: 9/29
- Walter Pruitt: 9/29
- William Dailey: 9/30
- Terry Blackstone: 9/30
- Ricky Olson: 9/30
- Julie Charette: 9/30
- Chris Fritts: 9/1
- Merlin Markland: 9/4
- Emmett Pyle: 9/5
- Thomas Schmitt: 9/5
- Paul Cook: 9/5
- David Wood: 9/5
- Paul Mann: 9/6
- Timothy Osborne: 9/7
- Robert Young: 9/7
- Gary Wallace: 9/8
- Dwight Adams: 9/10
- Bryan Hibinger: 9/10
- Joseph Kerns: 9/11
- James Letizio: 9/12
- Thomas Hornecker: 9/13
- George Tehan: 9/13
- Tracy Neu: 9/13
- Vernon Monroe: 9/14
- William Gibson: 9/14
- William Fry: 9/14
- William Larson: 9/14
- Stephen Brandt: 9/15
- Roy Nungester: 9/17
- Mark Waites: 9/19
- Edward Dasso: 9/21
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- Robert Lucas: 9/25
- David Hopson: 9/27
- Luther Preston: 9/28
- Kenneth Elick: 9/29
- Ernie Stacy: 9/29
- Walter Pruitt: 9/29
- William Dailey: 9/30
- Terry Blackstone: 9/30
- Ricky Olson: 9/30
- Julie Charette: 9/30
Buckeye PVA Events

Buckeye Cup - November, 2019

Buckeye PVA Chapter Meetings
Meetings are subject to change. Call the Chapter office to confirm.
Monthly meetings are held at the Chapter office.
General Membership meetings are held at Cleveland V.A.M.C.; Cincinnati V.A.M.C.; and Dayton V.A.M.C.

September 21, 2019 - General membership meeting.

October 17, 2019

November 16, 2019 - General Membership and Thanksgiving Meal
December 21, 2019 - Holiday meeting and dinner

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games sets aside a day for children with disabilities. Those kids are assigned an athlete for a day of mentoring and fun.

Doug Beckley, Vice President of the Buckeye Chapter volunteered to mentor a child this year in Louisville. Peter’s mom sent the following message to the Kid’s Day coordinator at PVA:

“Keith, we had an amazing time. It just feels my heart to have your organization, PVA, go above and beyond to sponsor this event. I want with Veterans daily and truly feel blessed to hear each and every story. I am a mother of an AMAZING kid. To have him experience this event is beyond words. He sees adults get around and command their worlds without limitations. Thank you. The depth of my gratitude is deep. And, Doug you are just the BOMB!!!! Thank you for sharing your time, story, and genuine passion. Peter loved the time with YOU“.

Peter’s mom (Sherri)

Hats off to Doug and all our veterans who take on the role of mentor to others with disabilities!

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

Women Veterans Call Center 855-829-6636 voice or text questions about Women’s Health Care in the VA. Also PVA National has an e-mail for Women’s Health Care questions pvawomen@pva.org
Vehicle & Adaptive Driving Equipment

Columbus Mobility can help you through the V.A. grant process, whether you are service connected or non-service connected, with both the automobile grant and vehicle modification grant. If you can’t come to us, we make house calls!

SPECIAL OFFER FOR VETERANS:

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ANY VAN PURCHASED WE WILL MAKE A $250.00 DONATION TO THE P.V.A. BUCKEYE CHAPTER!
**Washington Update**

**HOUSING ADAPTATION LEGISLATION MOVING FORWARD IN THE HOUSE**

On June 26, H.R. 3504, the “Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019” was introduced in the House. The following day a nearly identical bill, S. 2022, the “Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019” was introduced in the Senate.

PVA helped develop this legislation which increases the number of times veterans can use the Specially Adaptive Housing (SAH) grants from three to six, raises the overall amount of the Specially Adapted Housing grant to $98,492, provides a supplemental grant in certain cases where a veteran has exhausted all of his or her benefit, and allows VA to give priority to veterans who are terminally ill, to include any veteran diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC) held a legislative hearing addressing a draft of the bill on June 22.

Amendments were added to the House version of the bill prior to its approval on July 11 by HVAC. They include:

- Allowing blinded veterans who have not lost use of a leg to be eligible for the SAH grant;
- Allowing certain preparatory courses as programs of education for purposes of VA’s educational assistance program; and
- Expanding eligibility for the Fry Scholarship to children and spouses of certain deceased members of the Armed Forces.

H.R. 3504 is slated to be considered by the full House this week. In the Senate, we are working to increase sponsorship for this legislation. Additional support will increase the possibility of favorable consideration in the fall.

Prioritizing adaptive housing claims for veterans with ALS and increasing the amount and usability of the grant is one of PVA’s top policy priorities for 2019. PVA would like to thank Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Representative Mike Levin (D-CA), Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS), and Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) for introducing this legislation. Its passage will help fulfill our goal to ensure our members are able to live healthy, productive lives in homes that meet their needs in their communities.

**HOUSE VETERANS’ AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

On June 22, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee held a hearing to review several pieces of pending legislation and a pair of discussion drafts for Specially Adaptive Housing and the work-study allowance program. PVA submitted written comments on a number of the bills such as H.R. 485, the “Veterans Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Act,” which seeks to make reimbursement for emergency ambulance services consistent with how VA reimburses for other emergency medical services. PVA endorsed this legislation because we believe no eligible veteran should ever have to worry if VA is going to reimburse them for the cost of transporting them to the closest and most appropriate medical facility that is capable of treating their condition.

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Another bill of note was H.R. 712, the “VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2019.” There is a growing body of evidence that cannabinoids are effective for treating conditions like chronic pain, chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting, sleep disturbances related to obstructive sleep apnea, multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms, and fibromyalgia. H.R. 712 directs VA to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on health conditions like these as well as post-traumatic stress disorder. PVA supports evidence-based alternative treatments, including research into the efficacy of medical cannabis. A series of clinical trials on the use of medicinal cannabis would help to determine if it could provide any medical benefits for veterans.

We opposed H.R. 3083, the “AIR Acceleration Act,” which would accelerate the comprehensive review of VA capital assets directed by the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-182). The timeline established in P.L. 115-182 was carefully formulated to ensure a proper assessment of VA’s facilities and infrastructure, nomination of commission members, and consultation with veterans service organizations were completed prior to any official meetings by the commission. Speeding things up would effectively short-circuit the process and undermine its primary goals to ensure everything is conducted in a fair and impartial manner and guarantee the commission has accurate data to work with.

PVA gave its strongest endorsement to draft legislation we helped prepare that would result in major changes to VA’s Specially Adaptive Housing (SAH) Program (as discussed in the previous article). In addition to prioritizing SAH claims for veterans diagnosed with terminal illnesses like ALS, the bill would raise the overall value of the SAH grants, increase the number of times they can be accessed and even allow VA to provide a supplemental grant in certain cases where a veteran has exhausted all of his or her SAH benefit. The improvements proffered by this legislation would benefit PVA members immeasurably, and PVA is urging Congress to pass it quickly.

**Leasing Relief for Spouses of Catastrophically Disabled Servicemembers**

On June 27, the Gold Star Spouses and Spouses of Injured Servicemembers Leasing Relief Expansion Act, S. 1118, was added as an amendment to the Senate’s version of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

This legislation allows the spouse of a servicemember who sustained a catastrophic injury or illness to terminate a residential lease and a motor vehicle lease during the one-year period beginning on the date of the injury or illness of the servicemember, if that servicemember sustained the injury or illness while in military service or while performing full-time National Guard duty, active Guard and Reserve duty, or inactive-duty training. Spouses of service members who have sustained a catastrophic injury or illness should not have to worry about the costs of terminating their residential and automotive leases, but instead, should be able to focus on the care of their disabled service member. The House version of the NDAA does not contain this language, but we encourage the joint House-Senate conference to include this important provision in the final bill.

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Washington Update

VETS Safe Travel Act

On July 10, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee passed the “Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act,” S. 1881, out of Committee. The bill was introduced by Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and will allow severely injured or disabled veterans as defined by the VA Secretary to have cost-free access to the TSA PreCheck program. The eligible veterans must have had a loss, or loss of use of a limb; become paralyzed or partially paralyzed; or incurred permanent blindness to require the use of a wheelchair, prosthetic limb, or other assistive device to aid with mobility. The veteran’s disability does not have to be related to military service.

A companion measure, H.R. 3356, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ). On July 17, the bill passed out of the House Homeland Security Committee. The bill was also referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

PVA assisted with the drafting of this legislation and has been working to add co-sponsors to this fast-moving bill. We believe that this bill compliments PVA’s broader efforts to improve access to air travel.

STATUS OF BLUE WATER NAVY IMPLEMENTATION

The “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019,” H.R. 299, was signed into law on June 25. Subsequently, VA announced that it will begin processing “Blue Water Navy” claims on January 1, 2020. By placing a “stay” on these claims, VA is buying some time to develop procedures and processes needed to effectively and accurately adjudicate claims for Blue Water Navy veterans.

Many veterans service organizations have voiced their frustrations with VA for the stay noting that more veterans will suffer while procedures are being developed. During a recent meeting, VA’s executive leadership conceded that little has been done in regards to implementing policies for Blue Water claim adjudication. Furthermore, when prompted, they could offer little insight into how these claims were going to be addressed.

PVA is hopeful VA will be able to effectively adjudicate these claims while also minimizing the overall impact on all veterans filing claims for disability compensation.