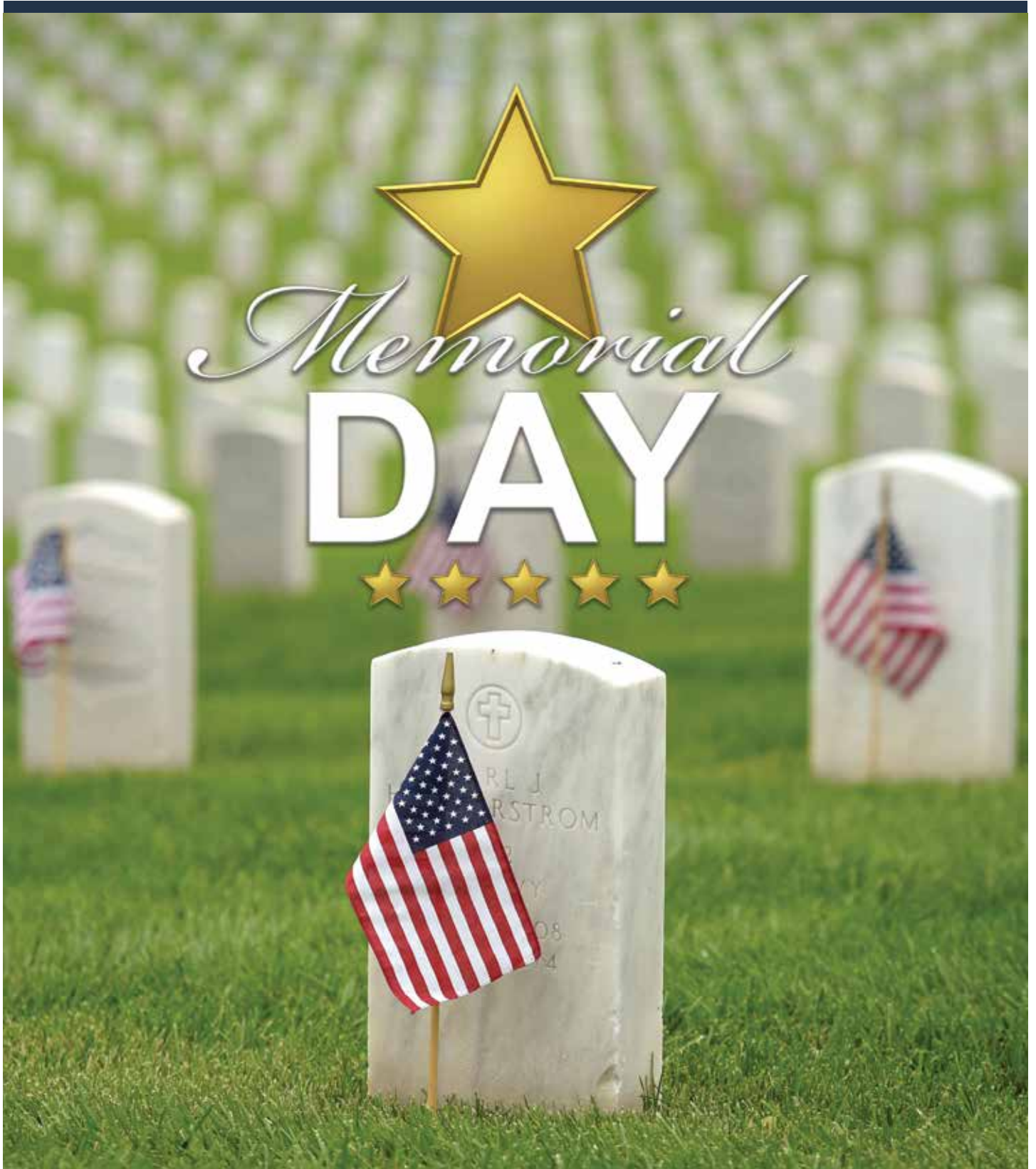


May 2025

# The SUNSHINE

The Official Publication of The Paralyzed Veterans of America • Florida Chapter



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## ATTENTION FLORIDA CHAPTER WOMEN MEMBERS!

**September 27-29 2025**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

If you have never been before, please think about attending, it's a life-changing event. Anyone interested in going, please let the office know. We will try to send someone who has never been before 1st, and then go down the list. All-expenses-paid.



### Florida Chapter

#### **Paralyzed Veterans of America Florida Chapter**

3799 North Andrews Avenue  
Oakland Park, Florida 33309

Phone: 954-565-8885 or 800-683-2001

FAX: 954-565-8843

Email: PVAf@aol.com

WEB: pvaflorida.org

*Have you moved or are you planning a move? If you are reading this Newsletter and it was not mailed to you, please call us or e-mail your updated address and contact information:  
(954) 565-8885 pvafl@aol.com*

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Vice-President..... Josue Cordova  
Secretary ..... Marcus Murray  
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Director ..... Tammy Jones  
Director ..... Anne Robinson

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Research & Education .....  
Sports .....  
VAVAS, Miami.....  
Volunteer Coordinator ..... Veronica Pereira

## SUNSHINE STAFF

Office Manager ..... Veronica Pereira

## PVAF FLORIDA CHAPTER SUB OFFICE

### MIAMI VA HEALTH CARE CENTER

1201 North West 16th Street, Room 1C-134  
Miami, Florida 33125  
Telephone/Fax 305-575-3304

### SCI HOTLINE NUMBERS

S.C.I. Outpatient Clinic Practitioner  
Direct: 888-276-1785 ext.14520  
Appt. Only: 888-274-1785  
ext. 13587 or 13588

### PVA SERVICE OFFICE

Raul Acosta, NSO  
Miami VA Health Care Center  
1201 North West 16th Street, Room 1C-139  
Miami, Florida 33125  
305-575-7180 or 800-795-3591  
Fax: 305-575-7181

### PVA SERVICE OFFICE

VA Regional Office  
P.O. Box 1437  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33731-9968  
727-319-7470 or 800-795-3594

# President's Message

David Zurfluh

PVA Past President

Members,

Again, I say to you hurricane season is here please put a plan in place if you have not already... As Memorial Day approaches and you enjoy time with family and friends and BBQs, please do not forget and respect those who paid the ultimate price and died while serving on active duty, combat and war. I lost a cousin during WWI and another who as a navy pilot was testing fighter aircraft before the planes saw service during the Vietnam War. (His plane crashed between Hawaii and Alaska, body not recovered) I will attend memorials and services that day and week to remember and honor our fallen. If you can, I ask you to please consider attending an event or memorial in your area.

Below is a list of items the committee has completed and items/areas on which we are focusing on:

## **Completed:**

Staff continued to make welfare calls

Assisted members to the DAV Winter Sports Clinic

Transferred funds to new bank account

Met with new Bookkeeper

Registered, funded, assisted members to the Nat. Veteran Wheelchair Games

Developed/Met with new Rec. Therapist on the Miami SCI Unit

Funded members to attend Boccia event in Puerto Rico

Inventory list done

## **Focusing on:**

Hiring new office assistant (lost new employee to a new job opportunity)

Golf tournament, donors, corporate donors to play, silent auction items (do you members have items to donate, ideas...)

Working on applying for a corporate grant from a chapter donor

May Membership Meeting

Still a work in progress,

Chapter Governing Documents & SOPs

Committees

Website

Wishing you all and your loved ones a safe start to the approaching summer season.

PVA Oversight Committee Chair

PVA Past National President

David L. Zurfluh

## Calendar of Events 2025

### May 2025

**05/01/2025**

PIZZA DAY

Miami VA Hospital

**05/12/2025**

Nurse's Month

MIAMI, VA SCI

**05/14/2025**

2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Austin, Texas

**05/26/2025**

MEMORIAL DAY

PVA FLORIDA Office Closed

**05/26/2025**

MEMORIAL Luncheon

MIAMI, VA Patio

Visit us on the web at [pvaflorida.org](http://pvaflorida.org)



**PVAFloridaChapter1956**

### Membership Report

As of April 30, 2025 PVA Florida Chapter membership consists of 352 regular Members & 122 Associates Members:

PVA Florida Chapter welcomes new member:

**The Sunshine**

**Wants to know what's on Your Mind?**

**Call or e-mail us with Your ideas, suggestions.**

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## VA Facilities

### Veterans Health Administration

Toll-Free Hotline (medical care)

1-877-222-8387

### VA Regional Office, St. Petersburg

PO Box 1437

St. Petersburg, FL 33731

1-800-827-1000

### Regional Processing Office

Atlanta, GA (educational claims)

PO Box 54346

Atlanta, GA 30308

1-888-442-4551

### VA Insurance Center

(VA Insurance)

PO Box 42954

Philadelphia, PA 19101

1-800-669-8477

### VA Health Administrative Center:

(CHAMPVA and Spina Bida health care)

CHAMPVA inquiries:

PO Box 65023, Denver, CO 80206-5023

CHAMPVA claims:

PO Box 65024, Denver, CO 80206-5024

Spina Bida inquiries and claims:

PO Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-5025

1-800-733-8387

### VA Loan Guaranty Eligibility Center

(Certificates of eligibility)

PO Box 20729

Winston Salem, NC 27120

1-888-244-6711

### National Cemetery Administration

Office of Memorial Programs:

(Headstones & markers)

810 Vermont Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20420

1-800-697-6947

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) Unit

Chicago VA Regional Office

1-800-829-4833

### Miami VA Health Care Medical Center:

1201 NW 16 Street

Miami, FL 33125

1-888-276-1785

### VA Outpatient Clinic

9800 West Commercial Blvd.

Sunrise, FL 33351

Phone: (954) 475-5500

### VA Medical Center

7305 N Military Trail

West Palm Beach, FL 33410-6400

1-800-972-8262

# The Essential Guide to Hurricane Preparedness

Each year hurricane season begins on June 1st and lasts 5 months, with storms typically peaking in August and September. As with every hurricane season regardless of forecast, knowing the essentials of how to prepare could truly be a life saver.

## Hurricane Knowledge

First, know your hurricane facts and understand common terms used during hurricane forecasts. Storm conditions can vary on the intensity, size and even the angle which the tropical cyclone approaches your area, so it is vital you understand what the forecasters and news reporters are telling you.

Tropical Depressions are cyclones with winds of 38 mph. Tropical Storms vary in wind speeds from 39-73 mph while Hurricanes have winds 74 mph and greater. Typically the upper right quadrant of the storm (the center wrapping around the eye) is the most intense portion of the storm. The greatest threats are damaging winds, storm surge and flooding. This is in part why Hurricane Katrina was so catastrophic when bringing up to 28 foot storm surges onto the Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines.

Here are some important terms you may hear:

- Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.
  - Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible in the area.
- Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

- Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.
- Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the area.

Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds.

- Eye: Clear, sometimes well-defined center of the storm with calmer conditions.
- Eye Wall: Surrounding the eye, contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.
- Rain Bands: Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind and tornadoes.
- Storm Surge: An often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling as a result of a landfalling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

During a watch, prepare your home and evacuation plan in case a warning is issued. During a warning, carefully follow the directions of officials, and immediately leave the area if they advise it. In the event of an Extreme Wind Warning/ Advisory, which means that extreme sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected to begin within an hour, immediately take shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

## Hurricane Forecasts

Predicting a tropical cyclone's path can be challenging; there are many global and local factors that come into play. The storm's size and path can directly influence what sort of wind patterns guide, enhance or hinder its growth, and vice versa! Forecasters have computers that take huge amounts of data and try to predict where the storm will go and usually can calculate 2-3 days out fairly accurately. This is where you hear the terms computer models and spaghetti models being used. Generally the forecast track or path is given with the average consensus of these models. The National Hurricane Center has the most up-to-date information on tropical cyclone developments, forecasts and weather alerts, discussions analyzing the data and more. <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

## Hurricane Names

Hurricane names are picked randomly, then rotated and recycled every 6 years. If a hurricane was catastrophic or severely deadly and costly (i.e. Charlie, Katrina, Irene) it is officially retired since use is not appropriate and can be confusing when naming current storms. To view the current list of tropical cyclone names click here: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnames.shtml>



## Hurricane Kits

It is important to create a kit of supplies that you could take with you if you are forced to evacuate. This kit will also be useful if you are able to stay in your home, but are still affected by the storm, such as through the loss of power. One common trend seen when hurricanes are approaching is a wide-spread panic. When this happens, people rush in large numbers to get all the supplies they think they need. However, if you prepare your kit ahead of time, you can alleviate a lot of the potential stress of a very chaotic situation. You should create your kit in a bag that you can easily take with you. Some recommended items to include are:

- Non-perishable food (enough to last at least 3 days)
- Water (enough to last at least 3 days)
- First-aid kit (include any prescription medication you may need)
- Personal hygiene items and sanitation items
- Flashlights (have extra batteries on hand)
- Battery operated radio (again, have extra batteries)
- Waterproof container with cash and important documents
- Manual can opener
- Lighter or matches
- Books, magazines, games for recreation
- Special needs items: pet supplies and baby supplies if applicable
- Cooler and ice packs
- A plan for evacuation and for if family members are separated

## Securing Your Home

Know how to secure your home in the event of damaging winds, storm surge and flooding.

Cover all of your windows, either with hurricane shutters or wood.

Although tape can prevent glass from shattering everywhere, be warned that tape does not prevent the window from breaking.

If possible, secure straps or clips to securely fasten your roof to the structure of your home.

Make sure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and clear rain gutters.

Reinforce your garage doors.

Bring in all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down.

If winds become strong, stay away from windows and doors and close, secure and brace internal doors.

## Power Outages

In the event a storm should leave you without power, there are a few things to consider and help you be ready and stay safe outside of your normal hurricane preparedness.

- Gas: Make sure your tank is full far in advance of an approaching storm. Most people wait until the last minute, rush to get extra gas for cars and generators, and subsequently gas stations can run out early.
- ATMS: Have extra cash on hand in the event no ATMS in your area are accessible or working.
- Cell Phones: Charge your cell phone and limit use after power is out.
- A/C: This can be the most uncomfortable side effect of losing power during a storm. Try to prevent as much light from entering and warming the house by covering up your windows on the inside. If you have back-up or battery operated fans, don't run them unless you are in the room. Fans create a difference in perceived temperature but do not cool the room; instead they create a cooling effect by dispersing the heat off your skin. It is said they can actually add heat to a room just by running.
- Water: Fill bathtub and large containers with water for washing and flushing only.
- Food: Turn your fridge temperature down and/or freeze any food or drinking water that can be frozen if you expect a power outage. Here is a guide on freezing food: Freezing and Food Safety. Have a cooler with ice packs prepared to cool your drinks and snacks after power has been out for more than 4 hours. And importantly, check out this food safety guide for when to discard your perishable food: <https://www.foodsafety.gov/food-safety-charts/food-safety-during-power-outage>
- Health/Safety: The CDC has a great guide on how to stay safe in the event of a power outage: Power Outages

Remember, any severe storm can be deadly and destructive. If you've survived a landfalling cyclone, you know the inconvenience and distress it can cause. One of the best tips to be prepared is knowing the cycle of a cyclone - Approach, Arrival & Aftermath. Prepare ahead of time and listen to the directions of officials for the approach. Secure your home, or find a safe shelter for its arrival, and know how to proceed safely during the aftermath.

# Sports Report

Charles Corley

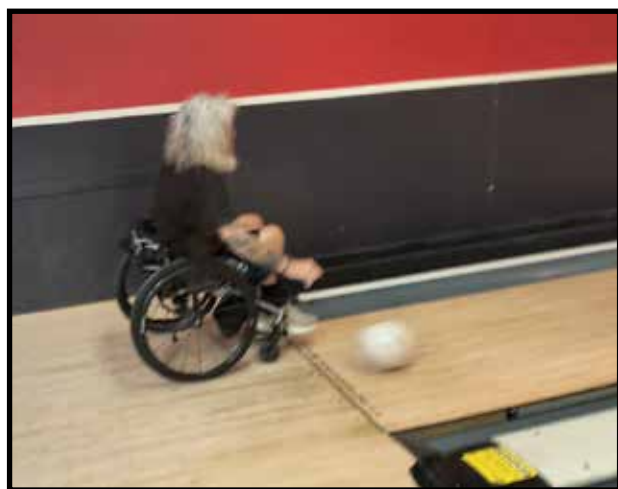
The PVA members have just returned from the Winter Ski Clinic in Colorado. They had a wonderful time skiing and doing other activities in the winter wonder land of snow.

The next sporting event will be in Puerto Rico from May 2 thru May 5, 2025. We will be attending the Boccia Tournament and our team is ready. Also, the Wheelchair Games will be held in July and we are facilitating air fare and hotel reservations. All attendees will please submit your shirts sizes to the Sports Director and I will schedule a meeting to make sure everyone is ready to go with all their gear. Christina will inform everyone about the Crates for sports equipment.

The Victor Sports Calendar has been sent out by Christina and all events will be posted. All other coming events will be announced in the coming weeks.

Respectfully- Charles S Corley

Sports Director -PVA Florida Chapter





## PVA Florida Clubhouse Birthdays

PVAF, Improving the Lives of Those with Spinal Cord Injury and Disease

### May Birthday

Leo L. Maniace .....May 03  
 Carlos Perez .....May 03  
 Roberta J. Unzicker .....May 03  
 Neil F. Bernard .....May 04  
 Charles Holt .....May 04  
 Johnnie Shinhoster .....May 06  
 Joseph A. Del Vecchio May 07  
 Gregory D. Leathers .....May 08  
 Alan F. Troop .....May 08  
 Claude Williams .....May 08  
 Robert D. Luiz .....May 09  
 Ian Vaquero .....May 09

Robert L. DeLong .....May 10  
 William L. Rambo .....May 10  
 Maria R. Perez .....May 12  
 Juan C. Zambrana .....May 13  
 Nury Carvajal .....May 14  
 Juanita E. Doering .....May 15  
 James P. Weist .....May 15  
 Howard Axler .....May 16  
 Larry L. Moreland .....May 16  
 John D. Anderson .....May 18  
 Robert G. Robles .....May 19  
 Troy D. Conquest .....May 20  
 Gerald D. Ellis .....May 20

James Kirkland .....May 20  
 Hector D. Pagan .....May 20  
 John D. DelColle .....May 21  
 Frederick V. Pearce .....May 21  
 Steven E. Rothstein .....May 23  
 John B. Glass .....May 24  
 Gary M. Pearce .....May 25  
 Gary David .....May 26  
 Alfred J. Papineau .....May 28  
 Bridget M. Roberts .....May 28  
 Juan P. Soto .....May 30







# On Location

Florida Chapter

## TEAM MIAMI VA WENT FROM SAND TO SNOW AND SURVIVED



# News Round-Up

*Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.*

*Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department*

## **HOUSE PASSES SEVEN VETERAN-RELATED BILLS**

Before leaving for a two-week recess, the House passed seven veteran-related bills. One of the House-passed bills, the Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act (H.R. 1039), directs the VA to enter into an agreement with a federally-funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the VA sends to claimants. PVA believes the VA should place greater emphasis on simplifying communications with veterans, and focus less on legalese. Therefore, we appreciate and strongly support efforts like this to help demystify the VA claims process. Meanwhile, the Deliver for Veterans Act (H.R. 877), would modify the VA's Adaptive Vehicle Grant Program to cover shipping costs for adaptive vehicles. This will help ensure that more veterans with service-related disabilities can access adaptive vehicles, regardless of their location or financial situation.

A third bill, the Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2025 (H.R. 970), requires the VA to periodically review and report on the maximum coverage available under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs. The bill would ensure that life insurance packages for servicemembers and veterans adjust for increases in cost of living and inflation.

Finally, the Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act (H.R. 1228) aims to clarify the organization of the VA's Office of Survivors Assistance. Specifically, it seeks to elevate the Office of Survivors Assistance within the VA by placing it directly under the Office of the VA Secretary.

The three remaining bills were the VETT Act (H.R. 981), the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2025 (H.R. 983), and the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act (H.R. 586, as amended). A press release about these bills passing can be viewed [here](#).

## **EO SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS MARKUP**

On April 9, the Economic Opportunity (EO) Subcommittee for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a markup on several pieces of legislation that PVA offered feedback on in a previous hearing.

The bills mainly focused on VA education benefits, such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill and the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. PVA provided extensive feedback on H.R. 1793, the Veterans Readiness and Employment Transparency Act of 2025, which would codify the outreach done by the VR&E program, as well as authorize VR&E experts to provide feedback through the Education Call Center, an existing help line that is available for student veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Currently, VR&E participants have no direct line to ask questions of VA when they encounter issues, and this bill seeks to solve that problem. The bill also establishes requirements for the VR&E program to offer information sessions to covered institutions of higher learning, as well as for school certifying officials. Several recommendations provided by PVA were incorporated into the legislation that we believe will strengthen the bill while avoiding unrealistic expectations of VR&E counselors.

Another bill PVA supported is H.R. 1458, the Veterans Education and Technical Skills (VETS) Opportunity Act of 2025. This bill will authorize certain independent study programs approved by VA to allow for increased hybrid delivery models. The legislation would require hybrid programs to have "regular and substantive interaction between students and instructors," which should help protect veterans from predatory schools and allow VA to disapprove programs that serve no benefit to veterans. This is important for SCI/D veterans who may prefer online education which can be more accessible for them.

Finally, the subcommittee also passed an amended version of the Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation (ASSIST) Act (H.R. 1364). The ASSIST Act would clarify the equipment that can be provided to disabled veterans as part of the medical benefits package to adapt their vehicles by providing greater flexibility regarding what can be classified as "adaptive equipment." Passage of this legislation is a priority for PVA. Please send a message to your members of Congress [here](#).



# Classified Ads

Spokesman classified section is provided at no cost to PVA Florida Chapter members. Please call Juan Perez by the first of the month prior to publication if you would like to advertise with us: (954) 565-8885.

If you are interested in ensuring quality health care, wheelchair sports, recreation, advocacy, ADA education and helping to improve the lives of those with SCI/D call today to Become a PVA Florida Chapter Associate Member! (954) 565-8885



Florida Chapter

## STAY INFORMED

Email is the fastest way for Paralyzed Veterans to communicate with its members.

### DON'T MISS:

Latest News • Event Calendars • Special Offers • More

**NEW!** Make sure your contact information is current, so you receive the new monthly membership e-newsletter. You'll be the first to hear about events and other updates relevant to our members.

To Update Your Information:  
800-435-2900, ext. 775 or 776  
memberupdate@pva.org

For Information:  
Omita Iltis  
202-410-7776  
chris@pva.org

ParalyzePVA  
PVA1348

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# News Round-Up

*Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.  
Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department*

## FULL HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARING FOCUSING ON BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION AT VA

On April 1, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing titled, "Harnessing Biomedical Innovation: Modernizing VA Healthcare for the Future." The committee invited several companies to share how they contribute to medical advances and support for veterans.

Participants represented at the hearing were Boston Scientific, Podometrics, Philips North America, and the University of Arizona Health Sciences Department. The witnesses represented experts in the field of diabetes and sleep apnea, as well as representatives for medical technology companies that include radiology equipment and other critical pieces of care delivery.

The hearing was unexpectedly contentious along party lines where members of the majority praised the witnesses and their medical contributions to the VA and minority members stressed the need for staff and funding that allows for appropriate delivery of care to implement the new technologies.

You can watch the hearing [here](#).

## SENATE INTRODUCES COMPANION BILL TO IMPROVE VETERANS' ACCESSIBILITY AT VA

The Veterans Accessibility Act (S. 1383) has been reintroduced in the Senate by Senators Rick Scott (R-FL), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Jerry Moran (R-KS), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT). The Veterans Accessibility Act is the companion bill for the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act (H.R. 1147), which was introduced earlier this year by Representatives David Valadao (R-CA) and Morgan McGarvey (D-KY).

The two bills have small differences, but the intent is the same, to create a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) focused on accessibility across the VA, ensuring that it is in full compliance with federal disability laws and offering guidance on ways to improve programs, facilities, and delivery of care. The FAC will be comprised of 15-members ranging from veterans service organizations focused on various disabilities, accessibility experts currently working for the VA, and outside stakeholders with an expertise in disability access.

Last Congress, the House bill cleared the chamber but not the Senate. We want to see the bill signed into law. You can help by sending your members of Congress a message urging their support for the legislation. You can find our PVAAction Force campaign [here](#).

## SENATOR BLUMENTHAL REINTRODUCES BILL TO IMPROVE CLAIMS PROCESS FOR ASSAULT SURVIVORS

The Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), has reintroduced S. 1245, the Servicemember and Veteran Empowerment and Support (SAVES) Act. The SAVES Act has been a priority piece of legislation that expands authorized evidence for survivors of military sexual trauma (MST). The bill would also authorize mental health conditions related to MST such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. The legislation seeks to improve the benefits process for survivors by allowing veterans to have their compensation and pension exam done by the VA or a contracted provider. Lastly, it would allow former guard and/or reservists to access mental health counseling provided by the VA.

Please send a message of support or thanks to your Senators through our PVAAction Force campaign.

## NEWS OF NOTE

### PVA SERVES AS PANELIST AT THE PTE WORLD AIR TRAVEL CONFERENCE

On April 9, Chief Policy Officer Heather Ansley was asked to present as part of a panel of experts on accessibility and air travel at PTE (Passenger Terminal Expo) World in Madrid, Spain. PTE World is the leading international airport conference and exhibition. The panel discussion titled, "From Raising Awareness to Taking Action to Making Progress," featured speakers from the UK, USA, and Switzerland. Discussions included advocating to increase disability access in air travel, steps that airlines and airports can take to improve the travel process, and the future of accessible air travel.



# News Round-Up

*Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.  
Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department*

## **HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS DAMA SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS MARKUP**

On April 9, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) conducted a markup on six bills, including H.R. 1286, Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act, and H.R. 2303, Board of Veterans' Appeals Attorney Retention and Backlog Reduction Act. PVA previously submitted testimony for a hearing that discussed all of the pending bills. To read our testimony on the bills, [click here](#). To view the markup, [click here](#).

## **WORK ON SECTION 107 OF THE SENATOR ELIZABETH DOLE ACT BEGINS**

A provision in the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (P.L. 118-210) requires the VA to establish a working group that would guide the department's implementation of bill section 107. Specifically, the section requires the VA Secretary to develop a strategic plan to implement value-based care in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Among other things, the strategic plan must include the current state of VHA, an assessment of the current model of health care delivery used by the department in its medical facilities, and an assessment of VHA's future capacity needs over a five-year period, beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act. Additionally, within 180 days after the VA submits the strategic plan to Congress, the Secretary, coordinating through the Center for Innovation for Care and Payment, will commence a three-year pilot program implementing the strategic plan for the delivery of primary care, inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment, inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment, spinal cord injury and disorder care, and polytrauma care. PVA was one of the groups chosen to serve on the working group and we intend to update you on its efforts as we are able. You can view a section by section of the Senator Elizabeth Dole Act, including section 107, by [clicking here](#).

## **HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS DAMA SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING**

On April 9, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) conducted an oversight hearing titled, "Examining VA Efforts to Decrease Delays in Veterans' Disability Compensation Claims." Representatives from the VA included the Assistant Deputy Undersecretary, Field Operations Mr. Kenneth Smith; Executive Director Benefits and Memorial Services Mr. Robert Orifici; and from the American Federation of Government Employees, President James Swartz. PVA submitted a statement for the record. To watch the hearing, [click here](#).

## **WEBINARS, PVACTION FORCE, & COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

### **STORYTELLING WEBINAR RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE**

The recording for PVA's April 3 advocacy storytelling webinar is now available on our website. We were honored to have Maureen Elias, in partnership with Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP), teach us how to advocate through telling our story. As part of the webinar, we created a worksheet to help you guide and craft your story. Let's get ready to own our stories and help guide legislation in the process. Watch the webinar by [clicking here](#). Make sure you use the worksheet located [here](#). And a copy of the PowerPoint slides are located [here](#).

### **PVA NEEDS YOU - SIGN TODAY!**

Over the last couple of years, we have seen VA health care staffing shortages, a lack of investment in infrastructure, and an overall growing trend towards care in the community. In light of our ongoing concerns about changes at the VA, we created an online petition to quantify the need to improve funding and support of the VA's spinal cord injuries and disorders system of care. Over 2,700 individuals have already signed the petition. [Click here](#) to sign your name and show your support. We need veterans, caregivers, and supporters to sign!

Please also take a look at our 2025 PVA Policy Priorities and the issues important to our members. If you are interested in more ways to extend your advocacy efforts, [click here](#) to view our current campaigns on bills we support on our advocacy platform, PVACTION Force. We continue to add more campaigns as additional bills are introduced.

## **VETERANS' COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Please visit the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee webpages for information on previous and upcoming hearings and markups.

# Memorial Day

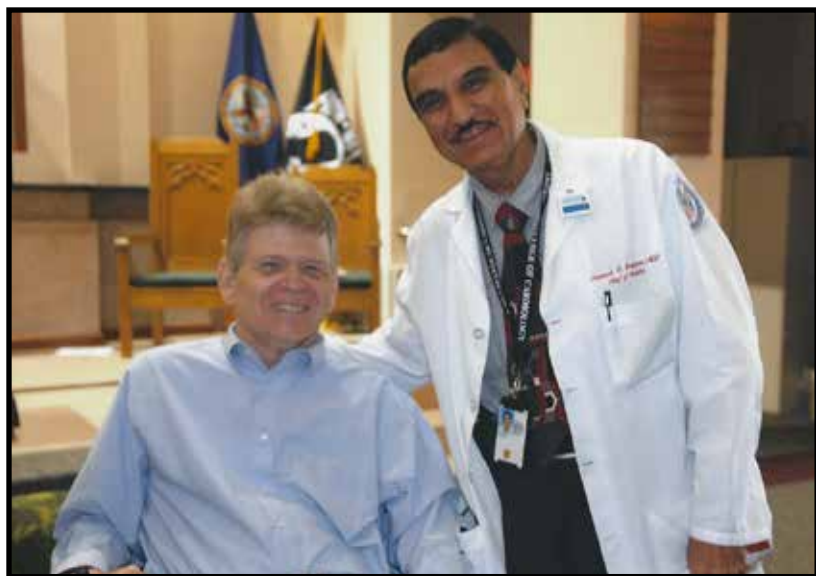
## Honoring Tom Corey

May Marks an important month for the military veterans of the United States. This is the month we honor those that have passed before us on Memorial Day. This makes it an appropriate moment to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a true hero, Thomas H Corey.

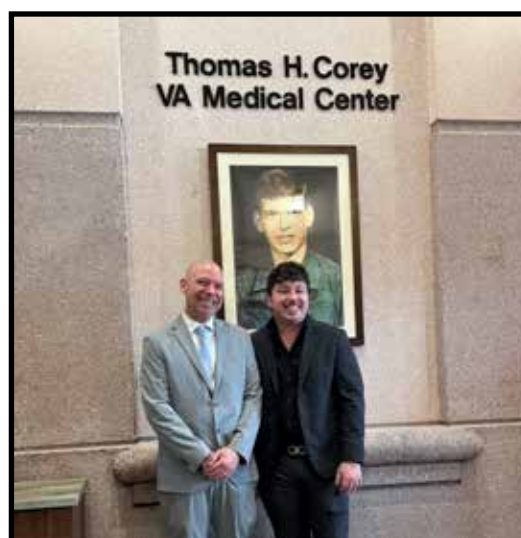
Tom was born on December 24, 1944 in Detroit Michigan. He was drafted into the US Army in December 1966. By May 1967 he was serving in Vietnam as a combat infantryman and squad leader with the First cavalry, first battalion, 12th cavalry. On January 31, 1968 during the Tet offensive Thomas was struck by enemy fire in Quang Tri province, resulting in a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed and a quadriplegic. After his injury he returned to Detroit for rehabilitation and in 1972 he relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida, where he immersed himself in community affairs and became a passionate advocate for veterans. His Personal experience fueled his determination to improve the lives of his fellow service men and women. Mr. Corey founded the local Vietnam veterans of America chapter 25. He also served with the Florida chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and was a strong advocate everywhere he went. He led delegations to Vietnam 16 times working on the fullest possible accounting of those still missing in action. Mr. Corey's relentless efforts earned him a nomination for the Nobel peace prize. He dedicated over 15 years as an ombudsman and program specialist at his home VA the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. His unwavering commitment to veterans rights and well-being left an indelible mark on the community and in the nation. He served as a key member on the Fisher house board and always focused on caring for those who served and continue to serve our great nation. The West Palm Beach VA Medical Center is now named the Thomas H Corey VA. Medical Center, This is more than a tribute to Tom, It is a commitment to honor his life's work.



## Memorial Day Continued



From left, Pedro DeArmas, football star and actor Dick Butkus, and Tom Corey.





## MISSION STATEMENT

PVA Florida is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of veterans with a spinal cord injury or dysfunction (SCI/D) and other persons with disabilities to achieve maximum health, productivity and self-esteem in their daily lives.

### COME JOIN US!

Get a foursome together or just come out on your own. Either way you won't want to miss out on a fun day of golf for such a terrific cause. Thank you for your support.

WOODMONT COUNTRY CLUB  
7801 N.W. 80th Avenue  
Tamarac, Florida  
954-722-4300



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## CHARITY EVENT



Florida Chapter

PRESENTS OUR 2025

## GOLF TOURNAMENT



SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 04, 2025

Shotgun Start - 1:00 PM



Support Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Florida Chapter in improving the lives of  
those with a spinal cord injury or dysfunction

## SPONSORSHIP

### 2025 PVA Florida Chapter Golf Tournament

#### TITLE SPONSOR - \$5,000

Eight Tournament Entries with Dinner  
Eight Additional Guest Dinners  
Eight Deluxe Gift Bags  
Two Hole Sponsorships  
Recognition on Website/News Releases  
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Full Page Ad in the Event Program

#### VETERANS SPONSOR - \$3,000

Four Tournament Entries with Dinner  
Four Additional Guest Dinners  
Four Gift Bags  
One Hole Sponsorship  
Recognition on Website  
Half Page Ad in the Event Program

#### AMERICA SPONSOR - \$1,500

Four Tournament Entries with Dinner  
Two Additional Guest Dinners  
Four Gift Bags  
One Hole Sponsorship  
Quarter Page Ad in the Event Program

#### GOLF SPONSOR - \$625

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Four Gift Bags  
One Hole Sponsorship

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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\$3,000

GOLF T-SHIRT SPONSOR  
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\$750

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\$750

DRINK STATION SPONSOR  
\$250

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\$100

INDIVIDUAL GOLFER \$150  
(Includes Dinner and Gift bag)

FOURSOME \$540  
(Includes Dinner and Gift bag)



## REGISTRATION

\$150 Individual Golfers or  
\$540 for a Golf Foursome

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sponsorship Package

☐ Foursome

☐ Individual Golfers

☐ Dinner Only - \$50 - Non-Golfers

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner starts at approximately 5:30 pm

### PAYMENT

Make all checks payable to PVA Florida Chapter and mail to:  
PVA Florida Golf Tournament  
c/o Linda Brown-Doriot, 781 W. Camino Real, Boca Raton, FL 33486  
Call 954.288.7201 or register on-line at: [www.pvaflorida.org](http://www.pvaflorida.org)

Photo ready material needed by  
September 1. Final sponsor/player  
payments are due no later than September 21.  
Pay by PayPal to: [pvafl@aol.com](mailto:pvafl@aol.com) or online at: [www.pvaflorida.org](http://www.pvaflorida.org)

### GOLFER REGISTRATION

Name, Email & Phone (Print clearly, must provide email for all golfers)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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If you are interested in participating, please get registered and let the Florida Chapter Office know as soon as possible.



**44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**NATIONAL VETERANS  
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GAMES**

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STRONG**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
JULY 17-22, 2025**

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CO-PRESENTED BY:

**VA**  **U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**  **PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America



Florida Chapter

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