SUPPORT THE GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Join us in supporting the Golden Age Games. The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, and the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors’ competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. The VA Challenges and encourages senior Veterans to be proactive in embracing a healthier lifestyle, thus achieving the NVGAG “Fitness for Life” motto. Volunteers donating their time and talents are essential to the success of the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Several opportunities will be available to help with everything from sporting events to hospitality services. Events will take place at the Alliant Energy Center and surrounding community venues, to include the Dane County Regional Airport. Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian for the entire duration of the volunteer shift. Volunteer registration for the 2020 NVGAG will be available soon. To be added to our email group to receive updates, please email us at NVGAGVolunteers@va.gov.

Volunteer Opportunity

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Who We Are

Officers
President …….. ……..Dale Nelson
Vice President …Phillip Rosenberg
Secretary …………… Todd Drazy
Treasurer/GRD …… Scott Griffith

National Director
Derrick Trentin

Directors
Peter Carrao
Ken Matthews
Michael Thomas

Staff
Kevin Klandrud . Executive Director
Susan Gall …… Executive Admin 
& Newsletter Editor

Recreational Therapy
Joyce Casey ……………… C.T.R.S
Erinn Kulba.

National SVC Office
Eric Gonzales -Veterans Health & Benefits Specialist
Linda Roberts … Accredited Admin
Call: 414-902-5655
Toll Free: 800-795-3580

Rehab Counselor
Doug Green ……………. MS, CRC

Office Hours
Monday—Thursday 7:00-3:00
Friday 7:00-2:00
Saturday & Sunday Closed
750 N Lincoln Memorial Dr Ste 306
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-328-8910

Roll With Us Newsletter
published quarterly
Email: info@wisconsinpva.org

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www.wisconsinpva.org

Check it out! We’ve launched a new, improved and secure website. Some of the new features will include:

Fillable Forms
Secure Donation Link
Chapter Policies and Procedures
Chapter Financials
Calendar of Events
FaceBook Feed
Sponsor Links
Scrolling Donor Marquee
Navigating VA Benefits process flow charts
Legislative Office Locations by Zip Code
Grants and Scholarships

Please visit our site and email any suggestions to
info@wisconsinpva.org

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As I am preparing to write to you, it’s mid-February and yes it’s snowy and very cold outside, yet I’m starting to see a little “spring”, here in everyone’s step. The volunteers and employees here at Paralyzed Veterans of America Wisconsin Chapter are busily moving about readying themselves for the myriad of events that we have going on this spring. With one of our largest and most intensive is our Green Bay Trap Shoot (June 27\textsuperscript{th} & 28\textsuperscript{th}) which always takes the bulk of our attention at this time of the year. Please remember that there will be a pistol and rifle shoot on Friday the 26\textsuperscript{th}, this needs to be preregistered so don’t forget to do so.

I would like to focus your attention on the three health conditions that make up the very core of who we are at PVA and their importance to us all. This organization is committed to providing support for education and research as well as programs and events to help encourage participation for our members and the community at large that are afflicted with Spinal cord injury, MS or ALS. Over the next three months nation wide we will be recognizing each of these conditions or diseases. MS awareness month is in (March) PVA awareness month is in (April) and ALS awareness month is in (May). Wikipedia states that, MS is demyelinating disease that effect’s the insulating coverings of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal areas once these are damaged their ability to transmit signals is disrupted. As a result an individual may suffer physical or mental or at times psychiatric problems.

Spinal cord injury (SCI) is defined as damage to the spinal cord that results in the loss of function, such as mobility and or ones ability to have feeling. Common causes of spinal injury are car accidents or falls, gunshots or diseases such as Polio, Spina bifida, or Friedreich ataxia. PVA was established in 1946 to address the soldiers coming home from war, with our presence we lobbied for our veterans, we educated the community, we helped create the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) we lobbied for our veterans civil rights. Since our conception we have continued to grow and address the needs of our veterans thus molding us into one of the leading sources of research and information on (SCI) today.

ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Once afflicted will cause the motor neurons to gradually deteriorate and then die. Motor neurons extend from the brain to the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. When neurons are damaged they stop sending messages to the muscles, so the muscles can’t function. A person with early signs of ALS may show sign’s of tripping, dropping things, abnormal fatigue of the arms/legs, Slurred speech. Muscle cramps and twitching or may have periods of uncontrollable periods of laughing or crying.

This is my attempt to inform all of you about theses diseases and conditions our veterans and members of our communities face. Please go out in your communities and support these causes as you see fit, and encourage others to do so as well. I thank you for your continued support and for serving this great nation. Until next time stay safe and enjoy the spring weather.
Mr. Griffith Represents PVA-WI in Washington

Mr. Griffith attended the PVA National Advocacy and Legislation Seminar March 1-6, 2020 in Washington, DC. During the seminar the PVA National Government Relations staff prepared the chapter representatives to discuss the legislative priorities with their state representatives. Mr. Griffith met with Senator Baldwin and Johnson’s staff and the legislative assistants for the 8 Congressional offices.

Below are the topics that were discussed this year:

- Protect Access to VA’s Specialized Services
- Improving Access to VA’s Caregiver Supports
- Access to IVF
- Care of Women Veterans with SCI/D
- Improving Access to Adaptive Automobiles
- Increasing Access to Housing Adaptations
- Helping Surviving Spouses of ALS Veterans
- Improve Access to Air Travel for Passengers with Disabilities
- Protect and Increase Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Preserve and Strengthen Social Security Disability Insurance

APRIL IS PVA AWARENESS MONTH

Many of you receive your care at the Clement Zablocki VA Hospital and participate in programs offered by the physical therapists, and receive training from the occupational therapists, along with many other benefits.

Did you know that the Spinal Cord Injury Center in Building 144 at the Clement Zablocki VA Hospital opened on April 8th, 2011? This unit provides care to 400 veterans from 15 different states.

We celebrate the doctors, nurses and staff that care for our Paralyzed Veterans this month! We thank them for their sincere devotion and extraordinary care!

Please read the articles on our members, and how their lives have changed!
SCI REC THERAPY MEMBER OF THE MONTH CLUB

JANUARY—Rickey Riley  
Branch: Army & Air National Guard  
Years Served: 20 years  
Rickey Riley is the VA SCI Recreation Therapy Adaptive Sports Athlete of the Month! Rickey served in the Army and Air National Guard as a Sargent First Class for a total of 20 years. Some highlights from his time in the service include his three trips overseas to Germany, eating the delicious food from the Hyeve at Camp Dodge in Iowa and receiving an award for his lifesaving efforts. Rickey was able to spot a man down in a field from his vehicle and alert emergency personnel, provide life saving efforts for the man and direct others in his unit for assistance, earning him the Lifesaving Award from the National Guard. Rickey was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

Rickey currently participates in a wide variety of sports with the VA SCI Recreation Therapy Program. Depending on the season, Rickey participates in Curling, Air Rifles, Trap Shooting, Bowling, Archery, Sailing, Kayaking, Boccia, Aquatics, Cycling and is a National Veterans Wheelchair Games Athlete. If you ask Rickey, his favorite sport is sailing because, “You are just sitting in the boat, blowing in the wind.” Since becoming a participant in adaptive sports, Rickey’s favorite memory has been, “Competing in the Motorized Slalom at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games - being a bundle of nerves watching everyone go before me and then competing myself, taking 1st place in my division!” Rickey says that adaptive sports have helped him increase his overall mood and ability to do things. He also credits adaptive sports with an opportunity to get to know his fellow athletes and he has found a sense of purpose after his injury.

FEBRUARY—Randy Riek  
Branch: United States Marine Corps  
Years Served: 1980 Army Reserves, Marine Corps 1981-1984  
Randy Riek is the VA SCI Recreation Therapy Adaptive Sports Athlete of the Month! Randy served in the Marine Corps for 4 years after serving in the Army Reserves. One major highlight in service was when he was serving in Okinawa, Japan. He had the opportunity to meet a lot of locals and went to parts of the island other Marines didn’t have a chance to see!

Randy currently participates in a wide variety of sports with the VA SCI Recreation Therapy Program. Depending on the season, Randy participates in air rifles, bowling, boccia, archery, nine ball, tennis, curling and is a National Veterans Wheelchair Games Athlete.  cont’d on pg. 6
**Randy—cont’d**  If you ask Randy, his favorite sport is air rifles because he has “enjoyed it since boy scouts.” Since becoming a participant in adaptive sports, Randy’s favorite memory has been, “Competing in my first Wheelchair Games where I medaled in all the sports, I participated in.” Randy says that adaptive sports have helped him keep active. In his free time, Randy likes to make 500-1000 piece puzzles, go on date night with his wife, go to movies, and going to watch his nephew’s hockey games.

MARCH -Ed LeBlanc
Branch: Marine Corps
Years Served: 1964-1968

Ed LeBlanc is the VA SCI Recreation Therapy Adaptive Sports Athlete of the Month! Ed served in the Marine Corps from 1964-1968. Throughout his four years, Ed moved to many different places. First, he started at Paris Island and then trained as an infantry gunner serving at Camp Legume. He was then sent to New York for a short time before being deployed to the Dominican Republic. After that, Ed was onto Vietnam for a 19 month tour. Ed became a supply sergeant taking supplies to the front line after the battalion was wiped out. From Vietnam, he went back to Paris Island where he ran the PX and base restaurant before being discharged in 1968.

Ed currently participates in curling, air rifles, bowling and archery through our VA SCI Recreation Therapy Program where he has enjoyed meeting great people and trying new adventures. Outside of the VA, Ed has enjoyed golf, racket ball, swim, canoeing, biking, hiking and traveling. He spends time with his family which includes his wife, two daughters, 4 grandsons, and now 3 great grandkids! He cooks for family get-togethers and cheering on the Packers with his “goofy and fun” personality. With his family and VA support systems, Ed is always looking for his next adventure!

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**Did you know you can now text PVAWI to 88793 to donate to Wisconsin’s only 4-Star Charity Navigator rated 501(c)(3) Veteran Service Organization?**

#RollWithUs
Hunting Wisconsin

To all you outdoor hunting enthusiasts, I would like to share with you a hunt that three of PVA’s members had the great pleasure to attend this past October. Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) puts together a three-day gun deer hunt held at the Petenwell Wildlife Refuge located in Necedah WI. The hunt is designed for up to 10 disabled hunters and is offered starting on a Friday afternoon and ending on a Sunday afternoon. The three participants from Paralyzed Veterans of America Wisconsin chapter are from left to right in the photo: Dale Nelson, Buddy Krieger and Phillip Rosenberg.

The refuge is 750 acres in size and has some of the best white tail hunting Wisconsin has to offer. I’m told these lands are only hunted three days a year. That’s right, its set aside just for this hunt, so you can image how stoked I was to have been selected to participate. In fact, I’m getting excited with anticipation just thinking that I may-be selected to go once again in the future. If you would like to try to be selected just ask me how.

Ben Johnson, Manager of (WRPCO) along with the Pulaski VFW Post 9719 and their volunteers have been building totally assessable hunting stands for wheelchair hunters through out the properties and improving on them each year. Twice a day, early morning to ten thirty and then again from two until dusk (of course you can elect to stay out all day if you like) you are loaded up and transported in and out to the stands. Once you have settled in you have a chance to marvel at just how massive and spectacular the property is, and how well the hunting locations have been selected and managed. Each of the stands has its own unique attraction. Some are over food plots while others are perched high on hill sides over looking power line cuts. A little heads up to those that might wish to hunt this property. These are some of the best stands with well over two hundred yard shots possible, so you better practice up or that monster buck may get away from you, not that we would ever miss. Wink, wink.

Not only do they provide excellent hunting accommodations, but also provide lots of meals so food is the last thing you will have to worry about. Saturday and Sunday mornings there is a light breakfast with donuts coffee and juice. On Saturday following the morning hunt they provide a huge full breakfast feast and on Saturday evening they offer what has become a hunter’s camp tradition - Lasagna, created by Dave and Jackie Woodard. Let me tell ya, there’s a lot of it and it is delicious.

When I first heard that I was selected to go, I was so looking forward to an early hunt during the gun deer season. I had visions of beautiful fall days with warm sunlight filtering through the colorful leaves while watching them slowly flutter and float lazily down to the ground. I looked forward to seeing that great big Wisconsin Buck! All of this in my mind while I sat back in my early fall hunting clothes without being bundled up to the hilt with layers of insulation. I just wanted to enjoy the three days of early season hunter’s bliss. Kinda of corny sounding right, but if you have hunted in Wisconsin for any length of time you know you’re either sweating or

cont’d on page 13
DON’T FORGET
THAT GREAT DAY ON THE LAKE FOR OUR
VETS IS HERE AGAIN

The 47th Annual Disabled Vets’ Fish Outing
Will be Held June 17th, 2020

Volunteers and Donations are appreciated! They make this special event successful for those who have served for us.

Donations will be used for transportation of disabled vets and food and beverages for the day. Also one shortage we have encountered over the years is volunteers with boats. If you have or know someone with a boat, please let them know about this special cause.

If you know someone with a boat who might be willing to help, we are always looking for help here! They can contact Mary Schuknecht at 920-918-9144.

To register for this event contact Joyce at 414-384-2000 Ext 41256. Your reservation will be taken between June 1st and June 14th. You need to let them know if you are going with them or meeting them there.
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JUNE 26-28, 2020
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GREEN BAY
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PRIZES
$400 High shooter
$200 1st place per event
$100 runner up per event

PREREgISTRATION IS PREFERRED
go to www.wisconsinpva.org/forms
or call 414-328-8910
Adult Registration is $180.00, and Youth Registration is $50.00
includes lunch & Texas BBQ on Sat., ammunition,
targets, & Sunday Award Banquet @ 1:00 p.m.

PISTOL AND RIFLE SHOOT AT NICOLET GUN CLUB
WILL BE June 26th ONLY IF 12 events PRE REGISTER by JUNE 1st
TOP GUN WINS $200.00
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL
- **8th**: Board of Directors meeting at 1:00
- **10th**: Good Friday office closing at 1:00
- **12th**: Happy Easter!

### MAY
- **13th**: Board of Directors meeting at 1:00
- **22nd**: Office closing at 1:00 for Holiday
- **25th**: Memorial Day office closed

### JUNE
- **10th**: Board of Directors meeting at 1:00
- **22-27th**: Golden Age Games in Madison
- **26-28th**: Green Bay Trap Shoot

For more information about events, please see the events on our website!

[www.wisconsinpva.org/events/](http://www.wisconsinpva.org/events/)

---

**May is ALS Awareness Month**

PVA’s National Service Offices represent veterans with ALS and their dependents throughout the disease process and for life.”
ADAPTIVE GAMING

Are you interested in adaptive video gaming? Let us know! We’re looking to help procure adapted gaming systems and controllers for you to enjoy the world of video gaming. Hone your skills and get ready to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair games. There is now a medaling program for video games! Contact Mr. Klandrud at the office, (414)328-8910 or kklandrud@wisconsinpva.org

MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

As you are documenting your final wishes for your family.
Remember to have them contact PVA-WI so that we can provide the marker for your grave stone. It is shipped out free of charge upon request. Please let us know if your loved one has passed or if you are interested in receiving this gift.

ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER AND RECEIVE FREE ADVERTISING ON OUR WEBSITE

Advertise in the Roll With Us newsletter

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1200 copies are printed each quarter, electronic versions are on our website and 300 copies emailed too.

Deadlines are the 1st of the month prior to the issue—Jan-Mar, April-June, July-Sept., Oct-Dec. Payment by check or credit card.
or freezing so sitting out in the middle of October sounded like heaven to me.

Yes, I’ve been getting a little tired of being frozen while hunting at the end of November. I was looking forward to being able to move my fingers as well as being able to put my arms down for a change. I don’t think I’m alone on this issue as most hunters and our caregivers that love hunting in Wisconsin but understand that the weather can turn on you. And this last October she did. As those of you that live here will remember winter came early this year and we found ourselves in negative temperatures, high winds, freezing rain and at times snow. Let me tell you, it was not at all what I had dreamed about.

As we went through the weekend, I was very impressed with all my fellow hunters as we bucked up and dredged on. Many of the hunters were successful even with some of the worst weather this hunt has ever seen since its conception, not to mention we were in the middle of a full moon phase, which generally is not very good for big bucks as most hunters know. While we didn’t see as many big bucks as we hoped, we saw plenty of deer. There will be bigger bucks for a lucky few hunters next year.

Despite the weather, my wife Rose and I enjoyed every minute of this hunt. The staff and volunteers were the best and we could not say thank you enough. I know with out a doubt you too will have a hunt of a lifetime if you’re selected to go. I encourage you to look into this hunt and register if you can see your self out on one of Wisconsin’s best free disabled hunts offered.

Please look up this hunt at, (http://www.wisconsinriverpower.com/) the deadline for 2020 is from March 1st through June 1st.

Hope to see you there.

Safe and Happy hunting,

Dale Nelson
FACEBOOK PORTALS

Ken Matthews is setting up his new Facebook portal device provided by Paralyzed Veterans of America, Wisconsin Chapter. PVA-WI is fielding these devices to members to make video calls to family, friends and to encourage member involvement. This voice activated device uses Alexa, which allows hands free access to make a call, control smart items in the home, listen to music and more. Another fun item is the photo frame feature. When not in use, the portal can display Instagram photos or those on your Facebook account.

The office will use our Facebook account to connect with board members for our monthly meeting, giving them the opportunity to be a part of the meeting visually and audibly. This is especially important during the winter months when travel can be difficult.

For those that would like to be added to our list of recipients of a Facebook device, please contact the office at 414 328-8910 or via email at info@wisconsinpva.org.

Kevin Klandrud, Executive Director

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Members: 262
New Member: Darrell E. Ness, David H. Riley, Daniel Dugan
Associate Members: 127
New Associate Member: Edward LeBlanc

Final Bugle: Domingo M. Rivera, Ron Hagen, Kenneth Brewer, William Green, Larry Spillers, Michael Stephens, Bobby Fleener

Are you a Veteran struggling to keep your air or heat or power on?
Heat for Heroes may be able to help!
800-891-9276

Heat For Heroes
An Energy Services, Inc., and Keep Wisconsin Warm/Cool Fund Initiative
Let me introduce you to Cody Becker. Cody, a Kenosha native was only 19 when he was catastrophically injured at Fort Carson, Colorado. Please read the below narrative of Cody’s Soldier’s Medal:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier’s Medal to Private First Class Cody R. Becker, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy, while a member on Battery B, 3d Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, on 25 February 2008, while riding in a convoy en route to Fort Carson, Colorado. After his M992 Field Artillery Ammunition Supply Vehicle lost control and began to rollover, Private First Class Becker noticed that a fellow Soldier was trapped in the hatch above the crew compartment. Acting with complete disregard for his own safety, he leapt from his seat to pull the Soldier back into the vehicle, freeing him from the hatch with only moments to spare. Both Soldiers suffered devastating injuries as a result of the vehicle rollover, however Private First Class Becker continued to put the welfare of his teammates above his own until it was his turn to be medically evacuated. His truly inspirational self-sacrifice on that day undoubtedly saved the life of his fellow Soldier. Private First Class Becker's courageous actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 3d Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, and the United States Army.

Cody went through intensive rehab at Inglewood, CO, before returning back home to Wisconsin. In July of 2007 Cody married his high school sweetheart, Jackie. Cody and Jackie both desired to start a family together but due to Cody’s injuries natural procreation was not an option. They started exploring in-vitro-fertilization (IVF). The VA program at the time would only cover the IVF expenses for Cody but not Jackie. The costs associated with IVF for Jackie were very expensive. PVA advocated for the expansion of the VA IVF program and achieved a temporary expansion that benefitted the Becker family. In October of 2017 the Becker's started the IVF process.

In October of 2018, the Becker’s were informed that their IVF treatment was successful and that they were pregnant! On 3 July, 2019, Jackie gave birth to their son, Damian Ray Becker. A healthy 6 lb. 7 oz and 19 inches long baby boy!

Public Law 114-223, section 260, authorized VA to provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to veterans who have a service-connected disability that results in their inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. Currently, In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) is available through a temporary program that CONT’D on pg. 19
JULY 3-8, 2020
Portland, OR • WheelchairGames.org
AIR RIFLE PRACTICE UPDATE

If you haven’t tried air rifle, come give it a try, all are welcome!

MATC practice dates
12:00—3:00
April 7, May 7, June 11, July 14, August 6

MADISON practice dates
1:00—3:00
April 15, May 20, & June 17

Highland Manor Park, 10 Manor Drive, Madison
To reserve a spot in Madison go to www.cxcskiing.org/veterans
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De Pere, WI 54115
FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOPS

We will be rolling out a series of financial planning workshops this Spring and Summer. Watch our calendar on the website and our Facebook page for the dates. We are partnering with different financial institutions and attorneys to provide these workshops. The workshop will be presented as a lunch and learn at the Milwaukee County War Memorial. For members who are not able to attend in person, we will broadcast the workshop on Facebook live and provide a question board for members to post their questions. The 5 part series will include:

- Household budget 101
- Saving and building reserve accounts
- Investment strategies and options
- Special investment options: college 529 plans and Hope Accounts
- Life Event Planning – Wills and Trusts

DOG TAGS FOR MEMBERS

The red medical alert dog tags have arrived! Each member should have had a red dog tag that PVA-Wi had Medals of America make for us. The dog tags have the members last name, first name, ICE (in Case of Emergency) phone number and spinal cord injury code. The last line has any known allergies. These will be given to the spinal cord injury unit in the VA Milwaukee. Please ensure that you pick up your tag during your next visit. If one was not made for you please contact the office or the SCI unit to place an order.

Continued article from pg. 15—Cody Becker

must be reauthorized periodically, complicating efforts by eligible veterans to begin or extend their families. There are many limitations with the present program as well. PVA calls on Congress to pass legislation making IVF a permanent part of VA’s medical care package. Additionally, Congress must allow for further services to address the needs of women veterans whose injuries prevent a full-term pregnancy, as well as the needs of veterans whose injuries destroyed their ability to provide genetic material for IVF. PVA strongly supports the Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2019 (H.R. 955/S. 319) which would address many of these issues.
The Paralyzed Veterans of America WI Chapter is accepting nominations for the board of directors until July 31. In early August, the election ballots will be mailed out to the PVA WI Chapter voting membership for their selections. Here is a list of the current PVA WI Chapter board members and the expiration dates of their terms of office.

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Nominations are now being accepted, please contact the office with your nomination.

If you are considering running for one of these open positions, you must successfully complete the Paralyzed Veterans of America Certification Process. If the National Secretary (Mr. Larry Dodson) has not certified you, your name can be placed on the ballot, but you cannot assume an elected position until you are certified. The certification process is very simple, and the forms are available at the Chapter Office. As members, many of you are already certified.

**Certification requires three items of proof:** (here are samples of items in each category)

**Citizenship**
- Birth Certificate
- Passport
- Immigration and Naturalization Form Number

**Active Duty service in the armed forces and character of discharge other than dishonorable**
- DD-214
- Other (specify)

**Medical proof of spinal cord injury or disease**
- Medical Records
- Physician’s statement
- Other (specify)

This process does take a little time, so please get the ball rolling as soon as possible.

Questions? Please call the office at 414-328-8910.
JUNE 12, 2020
WOMEN VETERANS DAY

You are invited to reach out to the Women’s Veterans Program

They address the needs of women veterans in our state:

- Provide advocacy for women veterans
- Encourage and support recognition of women veterans’ contributions to Wisconsin and the nation.
- Provide outreach for women veterans’ programs and issues.

Contact Tiffany Koehler with any questions (608) 215-9290 or WomenVets@dva.wisconsin.gov.

WDVA GRANT AWARDED

Above is a photo of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers along with Secretary Kolar presenting Dale Nelson (President PVA-WI) a certificate commemorating the $15,000 grant in support of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

VETERANS AFIELD

2020 NEW SCHEDULE UPDATE

All trap shoots this year will be at the Waukesha Gun Club at 1:00 p.m.
- May 13th
- May 27th
- June 24th
- July 8th

Lunch will be at Point Burger @ 11:30
For more info go to Veteransafieldua.org
James Veltri started his Tuesday by brushing his teeth and saying goodbye to his adorable cat. He headed out the door for one of his weekly appointments at the Milwaukee VA.

"I'm going to do physical therapy with the exoskeleton suit, which assists me walking," Navy Veteran, James Veltri said.

While James drives his car, you would never notice he is driving without using his feet. He is actually using his hands to push the gas and the break. He must drive like this because he is in a wheelchair.

James was able to walk up until 2005, when he tried to break up a fight and was shot in the back. Since then, he has been in a wheelchair. His lifestyle changed and so did his mindset, for the worse. However, a connection with the Milwaukee VA has allowed him to get a spark back into his life.

James comes in once a week to work on walking with an exoskeleton to help improve his independence. "It feels pretty easy; I definitely don't feel as nervous as the first time. It has gotten a lot easier," Veltri said. It's hard work and he breaks a sweat, but he says it's worth it. He participates in adaptive lacrosse. He says doing this type of physical therapy and exercise has led him to be more active than he was before his accident.

Meanwhile, for his doctors, seeing his progress over the past few weeks has been inspiring. "When he first used the device it was hard to take the first step, often the first step is the hardest," Milwaukee VA Employee, Joe Berman said.

He says his first steps were hard. But now, he has taken an appreciation for this equipment that allows him to make his rounds around the hospital.

"I have seen his confidence grow with this device. He has made multiple comments saying whoa it’s so nice to be standing and upright and it's a different perspective and we have fun," Milwaukee VA Employee, Zach Hodgson said.

As he is making his way up and down the halls, many people will stop to stare and thank James for his service. He's seen as an inspiration by many and a hero to many more.

James has only taken five out of his 20 physical therapy sessions with the exoskeleton but his doctors say his progress is incredible.
Getting Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again with Indego®

New VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® Exoskeleton at no cost.

What is Indego?

A robotic device that enables veterans to walk again.

Indego is an FDA-approved exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

Indego can currently be used with spinal cord injury levels of T3 to L5 in community or home settings. The device offers:

- Lightweight, modular design
- Slim profile compatible with most wheelchairs
- Rapid setup and breakdown for easy transportation
- Can be used with forearm crutches or walker

Contact us today to find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton.

Email: support.indego@parker.com
Phone: 844-846-3346

Watch Marine Veteran Steve Holbert's story at www.indego.com/veterans
**SPINAL CORD INJURY SERVICE INFORMATION**

These resources are available statewide, to all qualified Wisconsin residents. Please call 414-384-2000 or 888-469-6614 and the extension listed below for services.

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<td>Officer PVA</td>
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**Wisconsin VAMC**

- *Iron Mountain*: Debra Pate, 906-774-3300 ext. 31378
- *Madison*: Kurt Brunner, 608-256-1901 ext. 11960
- *Tomah*: Kristin Holloway, 608-372-3971 ext. 61548

Published by American Litho, 530 N 22nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233, 414-342-5050
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