

ROLL WITH US

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2022



The 41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) were held in Tempe, Arizona this past July. This dynamic event is co-sponsored by the Department of Veteran Affairs and PVA. 2022 NVWG had more than 300 veterans participate! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NVWG safety measures required athletes to participate in the games being split; this year, everyone was able to compete together! Additionally, all 20 events were held indoors due to the extreme, 110-plus-degree, record setting heat in Arizona. Similar to the 2021 NVWG, there were not any wheelchair track events, but the 2022 NVWG held field events (discus, javelin, and shot put).

Other events held at the 2022 NVWG were wheelchair rugby, wheelchair basketball, powerlifting, air rifle, air pistol, wheelchair curling, and adaptive pickleball.

Team Wisconsin was represented by 14 athletes from across the state. These fourteen athletes braved the hot weather of Arizona to win an array of medals across a variety of activities. PVA-WI's incredible athletes were: LeToi Adams, Terrence Green, Scott Griffith, Jim Jacobi, Danny McKnight, Pete Mittelstaedt, Ervin Mulkey, Ken Ness, Rickey Riley, Phil Rosenberg, Mike Thomas, Derrick Trentin, Angela Walker, and Rick Wicklund.

Portion of content courtesy of Paraplegia News September 2022

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Twenty-one years ago many things changed in the world forever. As September 11 has passed I want to take a moment to think remember all of the individuals who needlessly lost their lives a result of the twin towers attack - those in the building plus all of the brave souls that put forth valiant rescue attempts.

I think it is also important to remember the changes that took place post 9/11 that have affected us all on a very personal basis as veterans, and as members of VSOs, such as PVA. When I entered military service, as the tail end of the Vietnam War, the military was generally viewed very negatively by the public. Indeed, I have vivid memories of having things thrown at/on me, spit on, called a warmonger(and much worse), etc. - all for simply defending my country. With the 9/11 tragedy, public sentiment towards the military, veterans, and protecting our lives and freedoms, changed dramatically. In short order, after this singular event, our military-connected sector was belatedly now seen as "heroes", "brave", "selfless", "necessary", etc. With this change in public sentiment came a 180-degree reversal in how not only how we are now viewed, but also how we are now treated. Instead of uniformed personnel being pointed at and called names, total strangers now "thanked us for our service", ask uniform personnel to take their seats in first class or go to the front of the line, Veteran discounts were created, etc.

The changing environment also fundamentally changed the world for veteran service organizations such as PVA, and even our own individual chapter. This new appreciative environment supported the formation of a number of new veteran-oriented organizations such as Wounded Warriors, etc., it saw a number of new legislative bills and initiatives that increased military spending, it caused major improvements in VA benefits and medical care, etc. This change in the public's perception also increase the number and size of their donations and their volunteer hours. Indeed, the direct and indirect benefits that have trickled down to all of us, and our very own chapter, simply because of what happened on 9/11, have truly been astounding.

...Continued on Page 4

WHO WE ARE

Officers

President: Ken Ness
Vice President: Todd Drazy
Secretary: Derrick Trentin
Treasurer/GRD: Scott Griffith
President Emeritus: Phil Rosenberg

National Director

Ken Ness

Directors

LeToi Adams
Richard "Rick" Buth
Peter Carrao
Troy Kurczek
Ken Matthews
Michael Thomas
Gary Stott

Recreation Therapy

Erinn Kulba
Sam Gracz

Staff

Amera Schaefer: Executive Director
Tom Daily: Associate Sports Director
Grace Malkusak: Nonprofit Admin. Asst.
Darrin Ferguson Jr: PR and Media Design Specialist

National SVC Office

Brenda Stencil
Call: 414-902-5655
Toll Free: 800-795-3580

Rehab Counselor

Doug Green MS, CRC

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 to 3:00
Saturday & Sunday Closed
750 N Lincoln Memorial Drive, Suite 422
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-328-8910

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As of September of 2022, I have been honored to work as the Executive Director of PVA-WI for one year. PVA-WI board members, staff, and volunteers have worked diligently to support various new initiatives to continue pushing accessibility for all and supporting our membership. I would like to highlight the following initiatives: 1) PVA-WI's first Adaptive Sports Bootcamp; 2) Accessible Marina initiative, fully funded by the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation; and 3) Partnership with Elizabeth Dole Foundation and CareLinx to support caregiver respite.

Additionally, thank you to all the members and community members who could attend the 2022 Annual Membership Banquet and celebrate the past year's accomplishments with all of us.

PVA-WI looks forward to continuing to scale our programming to best support our members. Please watch our website, social media, and events calendar to ensure you are updated on all things PVA-WI.

If you have any questions, please contact me at aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org or call 414-328-8910.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Members: 270

New Members:

Adam R. Nierenberger, Howard P. Luxner,
Wayne C. Larson, Jerry Howell

Associate Members: 131

New Associate Members:

Peter Pitcher, Wesley Walker, Brittany Hill

Final Bugle:

Ron Chimenti, Ellen Manteau

Hello PVA-WI Members,

A donor has donated a crypt to us located at West Lawn Memorial Park in Racine, WI.

If you are interested or have any questions please email info@wisconsinpva.org or call the office at 414-328-8910.

Scholarship Opportunity

PVA-WI has a scholarship program for our members and their family. Eligibility is open to all PVA-WI members, their spouse, their children, and their grandchildren. This scholarship opportunity is not open to associate members or their dependents.

Application submission guidelines:

1. Proof of enrollment in an accredited college, university, or technical school
2. Submit an essay between 500-600 words describing how you have been impacted by a veteran living with a spinal cord injury or disease
3. Share any civic engagement activity you have performed
4. Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above, please submit your most recent transcript showing grades and GPA

The application is available on our website under policies; click on the policy titled PVA-WI Scholarship for Members/Dependents or scan QR below. These applications will be reviewed year-round on the first of every month. If you have any questions, please email.

Please see page 10 to find out more about our recent scholarship recipient



Board Election Results

Mr. Ken Ness - President/National Director
Mr. Todd Drazy - Vice President
Mr. Scott Griffith - Treasurer/Government Relations Director
Mr. Derrick Trentin - Secretary
Ms. Le Toi Adams - Board Member
Mr. Pete Carrao - Board Member
Mr. Ken Matthews - Board Member
Mr. Richard Buth - Board Member
Mr. Troy Kurczek - Board Member
Mr. Michael Thomas - Board Member
Mr. Gary Stott - Board Member
Mr. Phillip Rosenberg – President Emeritus

Presidents Report Continued...

For all of these positive changes that have come out of the unfortunate 9/11 attacks, I respectfully submit that we truly should remember those who lost their lives, and do whatever we can as individuals, and collectively within our own VSO, to honor them by advocating for the disabled and veteran communities, in an effort to improve all of their lives. We can, we should, we must!

In other news, this past month has been a busy one for our chapter. Mr. Scott Griffith recently made a trek to Madison to oversee the gifting and presentation of a new track chair to one of our members by a new private donor. Not only was this a substantial gift that can be put to good use by our fellow member and his family, but we also got a significant amount of wonderful news coverage regarding this event and our cause. We are hopeful of cultivating this new donor further for his time, talents, and possible future donations.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Todd Drazy, Mr. Scott Griffith, and I traveled to Pewaukee at the Second Annual Vets Fest sponsored by the Ellenbecker Investment Group. Not only did we generate some publicity for our organization, made some valuable connections, but we also received some donations from generous people that attended.

Last week, our Executive Director, Ms. Amera Schaefer, Mr. Scott Griffith, and I, received two extensive days of Zoom training from PVA National regarding how to better function as a chapter. This training touched on a number of subjects such as volunteers, leadership, finances, legal issues, etc. It was educational and should help us function better and more efficiently going forward. Mr. Scott Griffith attended the PVA Annual Health Summit and I traveled to DC to undergo further training and education related to how best to work with PVA National and take advantage of all of the resources it has to offer. We are all hopeful that all of this training and attendance at meetings concretely pays off in the very near future for our chapter.

PVA-WI has had a magnificent year - we have met and exceeded virtually all of our goals for the year. In addition, the future looks very promising with all of our programs and initiatives in progress, or nearing developmental completion.

#Rollwithus

Ken Ness

PVA-Wisconsin at Work

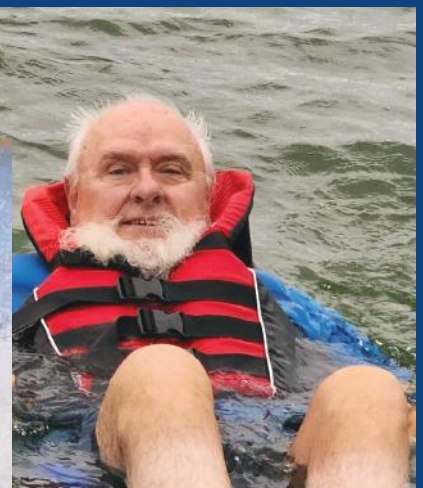


PVA-WI participated and sponsored a hole for the 19th Annual Fisher House Wisconsin Golf Outing.



Local Home Depot Store Managers supported PVA-WI Lego program by helping Jeff Haggensen and PVA-WI staff move and pack up the Legos until next year.

Thank you again Team Depot!



PVA-WI members were invited to participate in an Adaptive Water Skiing Event with Adaptive Adventures. Check out PVA-WI's events calendar on our website to see more collaborative opportunities!



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Wisconsin Chapter



National Veteran Wheelchair Games





Tempe, Arizona (July 7-12)



SALMON-A-RAMA

On Thursday, 14 July 2023 members of the Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa Chapters participated in Salmon-A-Rama at Reefpoint Marina in Racine, WI. We had 10 Charter boats ready to launch at 0630. Each boat was occupied with a combination of ambulatory and non-ambulatory veterans and volunteers. We had over 26 participants and caught over 100 fish. The fish were a variety of Salmon and Lake Trout. Salmon-A-Rama Unlimited had a team of volunteers to clean and prepare the fish filets for participants to take home and additionally provided smoked salmon. Participants enjoyed a 3-course lunch meal at Reefpoint Marina Brewhouse. Awards were presented to the top categories. This was our second year participating and we look forward to expanding this program.

Information courtesy of PN Magazine August 2022



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022 9AM

2ND ANNUAL OPERATION: RUN, WALK, & ROLL 5K

PRESENTED BY CARGILL



WAR MEMORIAL CENTER
OPERATION: RUN, WALK, & ROLL
5K
10/22/2022
PRESENTED BY CARGILL

Early Bird Registration Price: \$25.00 Race Fee + \$3.25 Sign-Up Fee
Registration: Price increases to \$30.00 after August 23, 2022 at 11:59pm CDT

For more information or to register snap the QR Code.

Join the War Memorial Center for their Annual Operation 5K: Run, Walk, & Roll on October 22, 2022. Starting and ending at the War Memorial with the majority of the route on pathways throughout Veteran's Park, this course is wheelchair accessible. We have partnered with Paralyzed Veterans of America-Wisconsin Chapter to honor the sacrifice of veterans who are now in wheelchairs and create this race on the Milwaukee lakefront. The race will begin with competitive wheelchair racers first; competitive runners will follow second with all other walkers and rollers at the rear.



The War Memorial Center is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission depends on the generosity of people like you. Please contact Vicki Chappell at vchappell@war memorialcenter.org (414) 272-5533 on how to become a sponsor.



AMVETS POST 917 9-PIN BOWLING BENEFIT

Sunday, October 9th 2022
Towne & Country Lanes, Burlington

Registration at 11:00 Bowling at 12:00

Silent Auction & Raffles

All proceeds benefit

*Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans / Wreaths
Across America / Veterans Outreach*

Lane reservations are recommended

Contact Towne & Country Lanes at 763-7333

For more information contact:

Gail Bishop 262-210-2939



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Wisconsin Chapter



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



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Wisconsin Chapter

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Where: SCI Building 144, Room 171

Please join us for good food, good times, and great comradery!
PVA - WI proudly salutes the men and women of the
Milwaukee VA, SCI Staff.

Staff members are encouraged to bring an unwrapped
children's toy in support of the USO Wisconsin toy drive.
Meals, Beverages and Desert provided by PVA-WI.

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

By Brenda Stencil, National Service Officer

I'd like to start off by introducing myself. My name is Brenda Stencil, and I'm the new National Service Officer (NSO) for Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter. I am originally from Edgar, Wisconsin and currently in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

I retired from the U.S. Navy in August 2016. I served on two Navy warships, the USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47) homeported in San Diego, California and USS ESSEX (LHD 2), homeported in Sasebo, Japan. I completed tours in Honolulu, Hawaii (Submarine Squadron 7), San Diego, California (SEAL Team FIVE), St. Louis, Missouri (Navy Recruiting District), Pensacola, Florida (Navy Advancement Center), and other staff positions in Arlington, Virginia, and San Diego, California. Previously, I worked at Milwaukee VA Regional Office as a Veterans Service Representative.

As the PVA NSO, I'm an accredited representative for VA benefits. VA benefits include but are not limited to compensation and pension, special monthly compensation and pension, aid and attendance and housebound, insurance, educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation, dependent's benefits, and burial and death benefits.

I assist veterans, surviving spouses, children and parents throughout the entire claims process, and monitor the timely progress of submitted claims. I also work closely with the staff at VAMC spinal Cord Injury/Disease Center to monitor and report health care issues to access and quality of care for all veterans with spinal cord injury or disease, ALS, and MS.

If you need assistance, you may reach me by phone, email or in person.

Office: (414) 902 - 5655

Email: brendas@pva.org

My office is located in the Milwaukee VA Regional Office (VARO) Building:

5400 W. National Avenue, Room 168

Milwaukee, WI 53214

2022 PVA-WI Family Scholarship Recipient



Dave David's daughter is junior attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington studying nursing.

PVA-WI is proud to support her dreams and career path!



THANK YOU'S

Supporting Community Partners

Dear Paralyzed Veterans of America - WI Chapter,

The planetarium was one part in a Nature Center that was absolutely gorgeous. They had a whole learning and interactive area where they had a large fish tank, frogs, turtles, gerbils, and stick bugs. They had bones and taxidermies of local animals. Outside there were fields of beautiful wild flowers and accessible paths to explore. Multiple Veterans made comments that they would like to go back and see more that is offered.

Thank you for the support - Sam Gracz CT'RS



Dear PVA-WI,

Thank you for everything. We are putting the field chair to good use!!!

Sincerely,
Dawn



NVWG & Golden Age Games Participants

I have won a gold medal in the very first medalist match for NVWG 2022 in doubles para-badminton, a silver in boccia, and a bronze in table tennis. It has been a blast out here! Thank you!!

-Ervin

I really loved the Golden Age Games, and I appreciate the support! I won so many medals and had a great time participating.

Thank you PVA-WI!!

-Angela Walker



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Annual Membership Meeting & Chapter Awards

PVA-WI Chapter's Annual Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, September 18 at Roma Lodge in Racine. We had the opportunity to celebrate PVA-WI's accomplishments over the last year with our members, funders, staff, and volunteers. PVA-WI would not have been able to execute this successful event without the help of our amazing volunteers, banquet donors, and corporate sponsors, such as Gruber Law Offices and Generac.

We would like to take the time to thank everyone that participated in the raffles and online auction! The funds generated from this event are applied to our membership programming and carry out PVA-WI's mission.

As you browse through the pictures from this dynamic event, you will see the following recognitions and awards were given during the event:

- PVA-WI Chapter recognized combat veterans through the Quilts of Valor program.

The recipients were:

- o Matthew Lemke
- o Peter Mittelstaedt
- o Ervin Mulkey

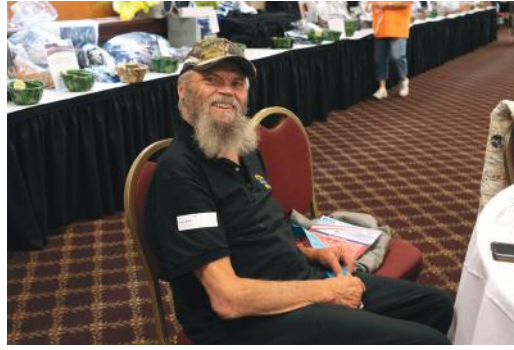
- PVA-WI's Annual Chapter Awards:

- o Donald G. "Don" Schmidt Sports of the Year Award - Ken Weigel
- o Patricia A. "Patty" Wiseman Volunteer of the Year Award - Michelle Lanouette
- o President's Award - Jeff Haagensen
- o Ron Falkner Award - Pat Horvath
- o Community Ambassador - Salmon - A - Rama





2022 PVA-WI Members Banquet





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Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, Signed into Law



The Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, known as the Honoring our PACT ACT of 2022, is an Act of Congress intended to significantly improve healthcare access and funding for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military services.

The act was first introduced on June 17, 2021, by Representative Mark Takano (D-CA). The House of Representatives passed the bill by 256-174 on March 3, 2022, [1][2] and passed the Senate by 84 - 14 on June 16, 2022. Due to a previously unnoticed technical constitutional issue with the bill, a revised version needed to pass the Senate again, but failed a cloture vote 55-42 on July 27, 2022, after 25 Republicans flipped their votes. Republicans cited a preexisting provision that made previously approved veterans' funding mandatory rather than discretionary as justification for their vote changes, while erroneously claiming the provision would increase spending authority unrelated to burn pits.

The failed cloture vote occurred immediately after the bipartisan CHIPS Act passed the Senate, after which Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin announced their agreement on the Inflation Reduction Act. The act would be approved through reconciliation, which would require only 50 votes plus Vice President Harris as the tie-breaking vote as Senate President. The failed cloture vote on the veterans' bill was widely seen from Democrats and veterans as retaliation for agreeing on the inflation bill.

Dozens of veterans, many of whom were exposed to burn pits themselves, continuously camped outside the United States Capitol in protest for five days. The bill passed the Senate by 86 - 11 on August 2, 2022, amid pressure from the veteran groups and other activists. There was no change in the funding mechanism or the bill's text between the first and the second Senate vote. On August 10, 2022, it was signed into law by President Joe Biden.

Visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/> or contact our Benefits Specialist, National Service Officer, Brenda Stencil at (414) 902-5655.



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Attention Caregivers

PVA-WI, CareLinx, & Elizabeth Dole Foundation Caregiver Respite Program

Program Overview:

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter (PVA-WI) has started a partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation (EDF) to support our families, of full members, who need additional support with caregiver respite and caregiving. The Elizabeth Dole Foundation has partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to create a brand-new program, Respite Relief for Military and Veteran Caregivers. This highly needed program provides thirtyfive hours of free care. PVA-WI has worked with EDF and CareLinx, the company providing caregiving services, to offer fifteen additional hours of care to our full members, who are eligible to participate in this program. PVA-WI will be billed for the fifteen additional hours of care. PVA-WI is excited to partner with these organizations and serves as a pilot program.

Please contact the office for further information.

Contact Information:
Amera Schaefer
Executive Director of PVA-WI
414-328-8910
aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org

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- * You must be a caregiver to a wounded, ill, or injured veteran or servicemember
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Action Track Chair Presentation

Thank you to PLS!

Madison, Wis. - A U.S. Army veteran from Union Center got a new way to move around Tuesday. Ervin Mulkey received a new mobile chair, specially designed to help him play adaptive sports, and go hunting and fishing. The chair looks similar to a standard mobile chair, but instead of wheels, it has tank-like tracks to get through rough terrain. Mulkey was surprised with the chair by the Paralyzed Veterans of America - WI Chapter at an event in Madison. He thought he would be speaking about the positive impact that adaptive sports has had on his life. "I'm still blown away," he said, "I don't know what to think." Mulkey said that, in the past, he's had to rely heavily on his son when the pair want to go hunting or fishing. Now, he won't have to worry. "Him and my daughter, they've supported me so much," he said. "More than I think I deserve." Mulkey is very familiar with the tank tracks that adorn his new chair. He served as a tanker while in the Army. He was injured during Operation Desert Storm. When that first happened, "I was in a very dark place," Mulkey said. "It was adaptive sports, and the PVA with the wheelchair games that literally saved my life." Mulkey is looking forward to spending more time hunting and fishing with his family, especially now that he'll be able to move more freely on his own with both the track chair and PVA-WI trailer.

Content courtesy of Channel 3000



**Scan Code to
Watch Video**



Activity

Veterans Day Word Search

X W X M T L Z M A Y M S O L D I E R E X Y O T D
R U I K Z P R E C I F F O Y T T E P A Q V G B R
K J P G I Z U C O M M A N D E R D E T A V I R P
R T E R R U Z A R M E D F O R C E S B L Y I T P
N C H A P L A I N A C Z Z R D A S E R G E A N T
A D Y E W S H R Q R J A Z A O V Z A N G T O N N
R E V P G X R E C I V R E S Y J M O V X M F A P
E P X P E A R Z G N M G L Q D J A I D Z M W F Z
T L D P Q V L O J E J W A K F M C M L B X J Y G
E O L O W D R F L S T W R X S T O M G I Z B V S
V Y B E K P J I U I S T I V H K F Q Z D T O A Z
V M G E N E R A L O A V M P N E C P T M S A N E
Z E N C I O O N M J M S D O K N N A Y Y Y J R M
W N T W W Q L N I N F A A S J A X L R N D V Y Y
D T M P F V M O L D F H C P B M I E I R J G Y H
B Y S Q N T M W C H R W L Z G R C I H S A L M A
U S G N I N I A R T C I S A B I F B J Q T B R R
N A Z V T N A N E T U E I L F A P X M H Z E A T
G R B E N P Q S P M I V O F I W B M T C L W D S
I N I A T P A C F C C K O V A V H C K N I U B Z
S J S T A T I O N E D Z X G M A D B N A K C Y G
N L G Q B R R L A R O P R O C W A Y A R C E L N
E M K N C B C Q S Y N A M A E S W Y R B O P M O
Q P L U F A I R F O R C E N C O A S T G U A R D

admiral	Air Force	airman	armedforces	army
barracks	basictraining	branch	camouflage	captain
chaplain	Coast Guard	colonel	commander	corporal
deployment	enlisted	ensign	general	lieutenant
major	Marines	military	navy	officer
pettyofficer	private	rank	sailor	seaman
sergeant	service	soldier	stationed	veteran

DONATE

Text: PVAWI to 88793

Supporting PVA-WI

Support Wisconsin's Paralyzed Veterans



Wisconsin Chapter

Leaving a charitable gift in your will helps fund our many programs and supports our Wisconsin Chapter Veterans for years to come.

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wisconsinpva.org/planned-giving

Support Wisconsin's Paralyzed Veterans

1%

If all of our donors left 1% of their will to the Wisconsin PVA, our mission would be protected for 200 years

We're giving our donors a free will with an option to leave a charitable gift using the link below:

Make a free will from PVA

wisconsinpva.org/planned-giving



Veterans Day November 11, 2022

A day to honor the living, for all they have given.

Wisconsin's Gun Shop Project & Safe Storage Program

"Scan code for details"



- Suicide Prevention Education
- Responsible Firearm Ownership
- Voluntary, Temporary Safe Storage of a Firearm

Veterans Crisis Line



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SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS -

What to do with guns when a person may be in crisis.

FACT: Safe storage of a firearm for a loved one is a critical way to get them safely through a crisis period and is proven to save lives.



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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.

Department / Office	Extension	Department / Office	Extension
General Information	41288	Prosthetics	42608
Triage	45845	Recreation Therapy	41256/41245/41258
SCI Clinical Appointments	41230	VA Van Travel	42057
Physical Therapy	41126/41128	Patient Advocate	42604
Occupational Therapy	41142/41143	National Service	414-902-5655
Admissions ER	41885/41886	Officer PVA	800-795-3580
Badger Team (Social Worker)	41841	Packer Team (Social Worker)	42244
Pharmacy	42085	Packer & Badger RN	41236

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

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