



E-BRIDGE

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, INC.



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

The next 3 months are going to be filled with the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter events. Nevada and Hawaii PVA members, we will be visiting you soon. A personal letter and email will be sent to you as an invite. We encourage you to come to one or all of the events during the PVA visit because we want to see you. You are important to us, and we want to make sure we can celebrate with you.

Paralyzed Veterans of America's (PVA) primary goal has been to assist its members and their families in improving the quality of their lives. This goal has been addressed through a wide variety of activities, including support of programs designed to provide education and training. PVA established an Educational Scholarship Program to assist PVA members and their immediate families in gaining a post-secondary education. Congratulations to PVA's 2022 winner Ria Axelson (Baylor University), Daughter of Peter Axelson from the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter.

The office at VA Palo Alto Health Care System's SCI/D Center is still closed to visitors. If you need to speak with us in person, let me know and I can put you on the visitor list with approval from the SCI/D Center. Please, if you need anything, do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you, email Kory Amaral at amaral@bawpva.org or call (650) 399-5296 with any questions or concerns.

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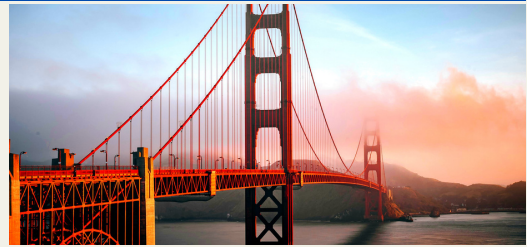
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Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, INC.



Senior National Service Officer Report

WRITTEN BY TAMI ANDERSON

Military Spouses – Resources for Going Back to School

Below are resources for military and veteran spouses to pursue postsecondary degrees and/or advancing a career goal.

Military Services Education Assistance Programs

Each branch of the military has their own programs that they offer to their service members and spouses:

- Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Supplemental Education Grants – offers financial assistance by reimbursing certain costs. <https://cgmahq.org/programs>
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Education Assistance Program – offers interest-free loans and grants ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 per academic year to active-duty and retired service members' spouses. <https://www.nmcrcs.org>
- Army Emergency Relief Spouse Education Assistance Program – is a needs-based scholarship program for a spouse's first undergraduate degree. [Army Emergency Relief - Soldiers Helping Soldiers](#)

Scholarship Programs

The following are a few of the scholarships and grants available to military spouses awarded by nonprofit and federal agencies:

- The Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program or MyCAA – is a workforce development program that provides \$4,000 in financial assistance. <https://start.amu.apus.edu/>
- ThanksUSA Special Military Spouse Scholarships – This scholarship is from Purdue University Global/ThanksUSA Scholarship awards a full tuition scholarship for an eligible military spouse for an online undergraduate degree program. <https://www.thanksusa.org/scholarships>
- Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program – Sponsored by the National Military Family Association offers grants that range from \$500 to \$1,000 to military spouses of active-duty, retired and reserve/Guard members to pursue a post-secondary or graduate degree and/or professional training programs. <https://www.militaryfamily.org/>

Veterans Affairs Programs

- The GI Bill – service members may transfer all 36 months or the portion of unused Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to a spouse or child. The caveat is it has to be done prior to leaving the military service.
- The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship – a grant available for children and spouses of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. [Fry Scholarships | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#)
- The Survivor's and Dependents' Education Assistance Program – aid to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition.

(This information was found in the U.S. Veterans Magazine, Spring 2022)

September Calendar

LABOR DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
SEPTEMBER 5

SHUFFLEBOARD CLINIC
(INPATIENTS)
SEPTEMBER 8

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
MONTHLY CHAT
SEPTEMBER 13

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
(INPATIENTS)
SEPTEMBER 15

BAWPVA RENO VISIT
SEPTEMBER 26-27

AIR RIFLE CLINIC
SEPTEMBER 30

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Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere (GIVE) Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AND THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER, INC.

The Chapter is hosting a Clothing Drive in the Palo Alto, CA Office. The Chapter is looking to the community to donate lightly used clothing and other items that will directly benefit a veteran. Through the GIVE Program, we would love to expand the program by bringing in more funds for our veterans.

Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

Car Donation Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AND THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER, INC.

Are you tired of having too many cars or is your car getting old and you are looking to donate it? The Car Donation Program is a program in which we accept vehicles and the proceeds go to our veterans. The process is very simple and veterans from Northern California will benefit from the donation.

Car Donation Program
<https://pva.careasy.org/HOME.html>

GIVE

Generosity can be found anywhere.
Even the back of your closet.

Donating clothes and other household goods can help improve the lives of injured veterans.

Give GIVE a try and schedule your **FREE** pickup today.
www.org/givegoods

Paralyzed Veterans of America VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

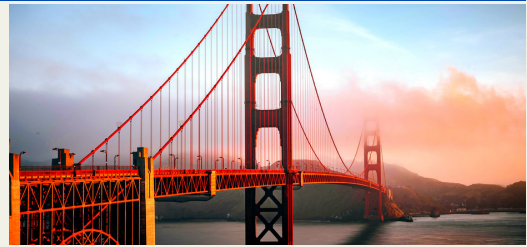
Especially now, we need your support.

Donate a car, truck or other vehicle. The process is easy, the pick-up is free, and your gift is tax-deductible.

Give Today

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National PVA's Washington Update

WRITTEN BY NATIONAL PVA'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

PACT Act Now Law

On August 2, the Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT)

Act passed the Senate and the bill was signed into law by the President on August 10 at a White House ceremony. The PACT Act is the most comprehensive toxic exposure bill for veterans in history. Ultimately, the PACT Act will expand VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act impacts both the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration. It adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions related to burn pits and broadens coverage for Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange, radiation exposure, and other toxins. Presumptive conditions are medical conditions that VA presumes to be related to military service. Some of the new presumptive conditions under the PACT Act are brain cancer, glioblastoma, gastrointestinal, lymphatic cancer, as well as several respiratory cancers. Illnesses such as chronic bronchitis, chronic rhinitis, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis have also been added to the list. You can go to this [website](#) to determine if you have a condition that is now considered to be related to military service. Additionally, the PACT Act requires VA to provide toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care.

For veterans who have not enrolled in VA health care that separated from the military before October 1, 2013, VA is offering a special enrollment period from October 1, 2022, until October 1, 2023. To be eligible for this enrollment period you must have served in a theater of combat operations on active-duty after the Persian Gulf War or during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and were discharged or released between September 11, 2002, and October 1, 2012.

If you have a claim pending with VA that concerns a condition that is now considered to be a presumptive, you do not have to do any additional paperwork but you should receive a letter from VA recognizing the presumptive status of your claim. If you need help filing a VA claim or have questions about a presumptive condition, reach out to a PVA national service officer (NSO) to assist you. You can go [here](#) to find a PVA NSO in your area.

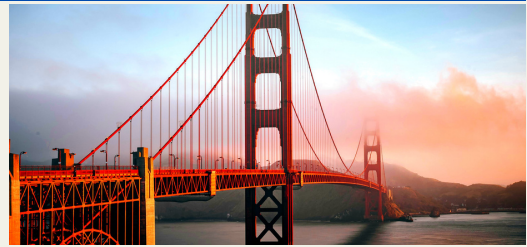
Other provisions within the PACT Act will help VA bolster its workforce and enable the department to treat newly eligible veterans. These include requiring the VA to establish standard qualifications and performance metrics for HR positions as well as developing a plan to improve hiring for those positions; expedite the hiring of recent college graduates for certain positions; enhance or create a number of special pay, incentive, bonus, award, and student loan repayment authorities department-wide; and raise pay caps on certain medical positions. Others require training for VA and civilian providers to better understand or treat veterans' exposure concerns and authorize 31 new, major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states.

In the coming weeks, VA will be hiring health professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who will specialize in conducting patient assessments regarding the health effects of military exposures. Also, by January 2023, the department expects to have a fully operational call center and network of experts to help veterans concerned about environmental exposure and provide consultative services to veterans in primary care clinics.



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Wheelchair Football

HOSTED BY MOVE UNITED USA WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL LEAGUE



LEARN TO PLAY WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL

OCTOBER 18, 2022 - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
VA Palo Alto Wellness Center - Building 530

GET IN THE GAME!

Are you an athlete who wants to learn or improve your wheelchair football skills? This clinic is for you! You'll learn all of the skills to ensure you're ready to be your best on the football field.

WHAT IS PROVIDED?

- Sports Chairs
- Footballs
- Helmets & Safety Equipment
- Lunch!!

REGISTER TODAY: moveunitedsport.org/learn-to-play-football



Important Links

[PATIENT EDUCATION](#)
[REVIEW PAST PATIENT](#)
[EDUCATION SESSIONS](#)
[AND FIND OUT HOW TO](#)
[PARTICIPATE](#)

[AIR ACCESS 30](#)
[SHARE STORIES ABOUT](#)
[YOUR AIR TRAVEL](#)
[EXPERIENCES AS A](#)
[PASSENGER WITH A](#)
[DISABILITY](#)

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[NEWSLETTERS,](#)
[ANNUAL REPORTS, PVA](#)
[PUBLICATIONS](#)

[COVID-19 RESOURCES](#)
[VIEW NATIONAL](#)
[PVA'S RESOURCES AND](#)
[UPDATES ON COVID-19](#)

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National PVA Sports

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH NATIONAL PVA'S SPORTS TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND PVA CHAPTERS



2022-2023 ANNUAL CALENDAR



PVA BASS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-America Bass Tournament
September 16-18, 2022
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament
October 7-9, 2022
Marion, IL

Southeastern Bass Tournament
September 30-October 2, 2022
Evans, GA

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
March 24-26, 2023
Kissimmee, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament
April 21-23, 2023
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 2-4, 2023
Hopewell, VA

Capital Clash Bass Tournament
June 9-11, 2023
Waldorf, MD

PVA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
October 28-29, 2022
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
March 17-19, 2023
Richmond, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
June 16-18, 2023
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Buckeye Billiards Tournament
June 24-26, 2023
Columbus, OH

AIR RIFLE & PISTOL PROGRAM

National Postal Matches
November 2022 – March 2023
In-person event dates coming soon!

PVA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
July 28-31, 2022
Council Bluffs, IA

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
September 9-11, 2022
Richmond, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament
December 2-5, 2022
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
February 23-25, 2023
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
March 31 – April 3, 2023
Oklahoma City, OK

PVA NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Trapshoot
September 9-11, 2022
Sioux Falls, SD

Oregon Trapshoot
September 24-25, 2022
Hillsboro, Oregon

Cal-Diego Trapshoot
March 18-19, 2023
Redlands, CA

Nevada Trapshoot
March 31-April 2, 2023
Las Vegas, NV

Wisconsin Trapshoot
May 19-21, 2022
Green Bay, WI

Vaughan Trapshoot
May 26-28, 2023
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Trapshoot *
June 16-18, 2023
Cedar Rapids, IA
*Year-End Tournament

BOCCIA

New England Boccia Tournament
November 5-6, 2022
West Roxbury, MA

West Virginia Boccia Tournament
December 2-3, 2022
Charleston, WV

Bayou Boccia Tournament
February 3-5, 2023
Gulfport, MS

Gateway Boccia Tournament
March 17-19, 2023
St. Louis, MO

HANDCYCLING

Echelon Racing League Virtual Paracycling Series (Online)
November 2022 - February 2023

PVA High Performance Off-Road HC Camp
August 13-18, 2022
Crested Butte, Colorado

Off-Road Handcycling Championships
August 19-21, 2022
Crested Butte, Colorado

Pocahontas Off-Road Camp
September 29 – October 2, 2022
Chesterfield, VA

Tampa VA Handcycling Clinic
January 21, 2023
Tampa, FL

PVA High Performance Camp
January 30 – February 3, 2023
Brooksville, FL

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

PVA – NWBA Lakeshore Basketball Camp
August 4-7, 2022
Birmingham, AL

Bay Area & Western Disc Golf
August 19-20, 2022
San Jose, CA

New England Disc Golf Clinic
September 10, 2022
West Roxbury, MA

PVA Rugby Clinic
September 16-18, 2022
Phoenix, AZ

New England Basketball Camp
September 23-26, 2022
New Haven, CT

PVA Wheelchair Rugby Invitational
February 23-26, 2023
Raleigh, NC

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



July 4-9, 2023
Portland, Oregon

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT: [PVA.ORG/ADAPTIVE-SPORTS](https://pva.org/adaptive-sports)

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BAWPVA Reno Visit

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC., PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA NEVADA CHAPTER AND THE CITY OF RENO


PVA
RENO Visit

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

<p>MOVIE & SNACK 11:30 AM LOCATION: CENTURY SUMMIT SIERRA 13965 SOUTH VIRGINIA STREET RENO, NV 89511</p>	<p>RENO ACES GAME 6:05 PM LOCATION: GREATER NEVADA FIELD 250 EVANS AVENUE RENO, NV 89501</p>
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

MEMBERSHIP MEETING, ADAPTIVE SPORT CLINICS (WHEELCHAIR RUGBY & BOCCIA BALL) AND LUNCH
 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
LOCATION: EVELYN MOUNT NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER
 1301 VALLEY ROAD
 RENO, NV 89512

RSVP BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
 1 (650) 399-5296 OR AMARAL@BAWPVA.ORG



Member Column

TOMASZ MODRZEJOWSKI "MOJO"
TREASURER

MR. MODRZEJOWSKI'S NAME IS NATIVE AMERICAN AND MAY BE HARD TO PRONOUNCE, SO HIS NICKNAME IS "MOJO". HE CAME TO THE US IN 1974 WITH HIS MOTHER WHEN HE WAS 11 YEARS OLD. WHEN MOJO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, HE JOINED THE NAVY. MOJO SERVED IN THE US NAVY FOR OVER 12 YEARS AS AN AVIATION ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN REPAIRING SYSTEMS ON THE P3 ORION AIRCRAFT. FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS DURING THAT TIME, HE WAS ALSO ASSIGNED TO RECRUITING DUTY. MOJO WAS DEPLOYED NUMEROUS TIMES TO PLACES LIKE ADAK ALASKA, MISAWA JAPAN, KADENA OKINAWA, DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AS WELL AS AUSTRALIA, THAILAND AND A FEW TIMES TO THE PHILIPPINES. HE WAS ALSO DEPLOYED TO THE MIDDLE EAST DURING DESERT STORM IN SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS THERE.

MOJO BECAME A MEMBER OF THE PVA IN 1993 WHEN HE WAS INJURED IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT. AT THAT TIME THE PVA CAME TO HIS RESCUE. EVER SINCE THAT TIME HE HAD WISHED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN THE FAVOR SO TO SPEAK. WELL 2 YEARS AGO HE GOT THAT OPPORTUNITY AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. SINCE THAT TIME, MOJO HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE BOARD TO HELP OUR FELLOW MEMBERS AND HE GETS A DISTINCT SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT EVERY TIME HE GETS TO DO THIS.

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About Us

THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER, INC.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) is a nonprofit, veterans service organization located in Palo Alto, CA. BAWPVA serves spinal cord injured and/or dysfunction veterans located in Northern California, Northern Nevada and the Pacific Islands. BAWPVA is one of 33 chapters of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) located across the United States. Currently, BAWPVA has approximately 500 members. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) services provide direct support to the Chapter's programs. BAWPVA sponsors various events and adaptive sports clinics at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in Palo Alto, CA, VA Northern California Health Care System, VA Central California Health Care System, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System and VA Pacific Islands Health Care System.

If you are interested in membership, volunteering, or donating please contact us today.

Our office is located at:

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