



Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Summer 2021

# THE BULLETIN

Mid-Atlantic Chapter - Paralyzed Veterans of America

## TURNING A NEW LEAF

With a new Executive Director and Administrative Coordinator, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter is making some positive changes to better assist our members.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Paralyzed Veterans of America celebrates its 75th anniversary by launching the Honor the Spot campaign in hopes of making the world more accessible for those with disabilities.

## ELECTIONS

It is that time of year again to elect a new board of directors.

With ever-changing technological advances, elections will provide more options this year.





## A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FOR CAPABLE HEROES

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North Chesterfield, VA 23236  
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Toll Free. 1-800-852-7639  
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### Board of Directors

Jimmy May - President  
Paul Austin - Vice President  
Jeffrey Dolezal - Treasurer  
Terence Smith - Secretary  
Johnny Holland - Sports Director  
Arnold Beard - Director  
Jessie Oliff - Director  
Melvin Washington - Director  
Rickey Wood - Director

### Staff

Executive Director - Ivan Schwartz  
Administrative Coordinator - Sarah Lake  
Bookkeeper - Regina Watson-Fields

### National Service Officers

Mike Keba, Roanoke 1-540-897-1707  
Chester Purvis, Richmond 1-804-675-5316  
William Pack, Winston-Salem 1-336-251-0834  
Levi Koepp, Hampton 1-757-722-9961 Ext. 2943

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# Turning the Page...

## A New Chapter for YOUR Chapter

**Ivan Schwartz**  
**Executive Director**

My name may be new to many of you, but that is just the start of the “new”. While PVA and our chapter have a defined mission of serving each and every one of you, a new piece of our Mid-Atlantic mission will be to strengthen our member engagement. That means communication – and we want it to be a two-way street.

Along with our new Administrative Coordinator, Ms. Sarah Lake, our team, your team, will dedicate ourselves to being informative, inquisitive and interested. We will regularly inform you of the comings-and-goings of our chapter. We will listen to you and ask the right questions. Most of all, we will be passionate in showing a strong interest in each of our members. We encourage you to reach out and tell us about your world. Tell us about the exciting things you have done or have planned. Any big events in your life? We want to hear about them and we want to take pride in sharing them.

One of the most important parts of strong engagement and powerful communication is knowing exactly how to reach each other. It has been quite some time since our membership roster and contact information has been updated. That being said, many of you may have felt distanced from our chapter. We understand, and with your help, we hope this will no longer be the case. Please contact us with any changes, such as your home address, phone number or e-mail address. Being a two-way street, here is how you can reach us:

Ivan Schwartz  
Executive Director  
(804) 378-0017  
vapva.ivan@gmail.com

Sarah Lake  
Administrative Coordinator  
(804) 378-0017  
vapva.sarah@gmail.com

It has been a whirlwind first few months for me as your Executive Director. Through it all, I continue to learn, continue to listen and continue to leverage relationships in our communities which will ultimately benefit our members and strengthen the exposure and impact of PVA Mid-Atlantic. The page is turning, and it is indeed a new chapter.



# Our President's Words

## Jimmy May

While our nation took a hard hit and continues to get back on track, our Mid-Atlantic Chapter is moving forward to do its best in fulfilling our mission of serving the needs of our members. It has not been an easy task, but through this time of change, we have witnessed our Chapter grow even stronger.

With decades of service to PVA under my belt, I remain honored to serve as your Chapter President. With an effective, passionate Board of Directors in place, coupled with the energy and creativity of our new Executive Director and Administrative Coordinator, plus a National Director who provides many years of PVA experience and insight, we are well on our way to strengthening our Chapter. Together, as we work through our new sense of “normal”, we will continue to step-up and serve our membership, with a few specific goals in mind.

First, we want to learn as much as we can about our members and their specific needs. This will be achieved

through a greater level of interactive communication. In other words, we want to hear from you, because we are here for you.

Additionally, we intend on working very hard to expand our network of community partners. Again, we encourage you to communicate with us if there are any contacts in your area that may be willing to offer their support, either as volunteers or through a contribution.

Not unlike other PVA Chapters across the country, we were unfortunately forced to cancel many of our events for more than a year. With the safety and well-being of our members, volunteers and staff being crucial, we are cautiously working towards scheduling future events. We are also looking forward to removing the word “Zoom” from every scheduled meeting and have already resumed in-person Board of Directors meetings.

Speaking on behalf of our Board, we appreciate the patience of each and every one of our members, and at the same time want to show our appreciation to all of our partners throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Your support of our mission is what allows us to flourish and improve the lives of our almost 850 members – as we have done for 75 years, as one of PVA’s six original Chapters.

Our future is bright, and I am proud to assist in leading us to greater heights.



Respectfully,

Jimmy May

President

PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter





# HONOR THE SPOT

**In honor of the 75th anniversary, PVA is launching the Honor the Spot campaign to raise awareness for the accessibility issues our veterans, and all those with disabilities, face in their day-to-day lives.**

A PVA survey last year found that parking was one of the biggest issues facing our members. According to a similar survey by the Accessible Parking Coalition:

- ▶ **96%** say parking availability is important to leading an independent life
- ▶ **69%** have trouble finding parking in their communities
- ▶ Over **50%** have decided **not to make a trip because of concerns about finding parking**



**Don't let our veterans miss out on life due to inaccessible parking!**

Take the pledge to Honor the Spot at <https://www.pva.org/get-involved/honor-the-spot/>



**I HONOR**  
**★ THE SPOT ★**



# Upcoming Events



## Board of Directors Meeting

### The First Wednesday of Every Month

Our Board of Directors meets every month to discuss chapter matters and help us to progress forward as a chapter.

## National Veterans Wheelchair Games

August 7 - 14

The NVWG will be held in New York City and there will be both in person and virtual events. Let's cheer on our Mid-Atlantic members participating this year!



## Healthcare Summit & Expo

August 29 - September 1

The summit will be held in Dallas, Texas and will consist of learning and sharing the most updated SCI/D information.



## Kayak Event

September 1 - 2

MAPVA is partnering with Sportable and Virginia Commonwealth University for adaptive kayaking on the James River.



## 9/11 Heroes Run

September 12

Hosted by T-Force Freight and the Travis Manion Foundation at 1000 Semmes Ave, Richmond, VA, this 5K honors the heroes of 9/11.



## MAPVA/AWBA Invitational Bowling Tournament

September 24 - 26

Held at Bowl America in Short Pump, the tournament will include three days of competition, plus a bowling clinic!



## ITAC Golf Tournament

October 7

ITAC will be hosting a charitable golf tournament and partnering with MAPVA to benefit our chapter!



## Board of Directors Election Timeline

June 14

Letters sent to all members soliciting nominations

August 13

Deadline that ballots must be received

July 7

Deadline that nominations must be received

August 16

Fiscal Year 2022 BOD to be announced

July 8-9

Nominees will be contacted to confirm acceptance and informed of BOD responsibilities and expectations

September 1

Newly elected Directors to attend Board Meeting

July 13

Election ballots with the nominees will be mailed to members

October 1

Newly elected Directors formally assume office



# 75th Annual National Convention

## Jeffrey A. Dolezal

### Mid-Atlantic PVA National Director



In May, PVA held its 75th Annual Convention at the Golden Nugget Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was a privilege to attend this milestone event as a delegate representing our Mid-Atlantic PVA Chapter, which is one of the 6 original chapters of PVA. Historically, our chapter hosted PVA's second national convention in Richmond, VA back in 1947.

This year's convention was the first face-to-face board of directors meeting held by PVA since the onset of the pandemic, and of course there were COVID related protocols in place throughout the week. Having in-person interaction with others while addressing the important business of PVA was refreshing, meaningful and a sight to behold. I attended the convention as the National Director of our chapter and was joined by Ivan Schwartz, who began as our new Executive Director in January of this year. For the first time, Ivan was able to meet and engage with PVA's national leaders, key PVA department heads and managers, as well as the executive directors of the other 32 PVA chapters.

During the business session of the convention, we received updates on PVA's current financial position, which is the strongest it has been in several years. This is the result of improved fundraising practices, reduction of program expenses secondary to the pandemic, investment portfolio gains, and the receipt of several large donations through PVA's legacy program. The board of directors reviewed the draft of the budget for fiscal year 2022, and the balanced budget was approved as proposed. Another important resolution which was approved will replace the required chapter health care monitor program with a peer mentoring program.

One of the highlights of the convention was the announcement of two \$750,000 grants to the Yale Neuroscience and Regeneration Research Center and the Human Engineering Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Steven Waxman (Yale) and Dr. Rory Cooper (Pitt) discussed their research programs and the impact they will have on those with spinal cord injuries and disorders. They expressed their thanks for this type of donation which allows the laboratories to directly use the funds where they are most needed and in a timely manner. More than \$600,000 was raised through chapter donations for PVA's Spinal Cord Research Foundation, Education Foundation, and Clinical Practice Guidelines. Ivan and I were honored to present our Mid-Atlantic Chapter donation of \$22,500 during the check presentation ceremony.

The final business of the convention was to elect new officers and leaders for the coming year. Charles Brown was elected as the new President of PVA, having served as Senior National Vice President for the last 4 years. Robert Thomas was elected as Senior National Vice President, while Tammi Jones and Hack Albertson were re-elected to their roles as National Vice Presidents. Josue Cordova and Michael Negrete were elected to their first terms as National Vice Presidents. Tom Wheaton, National Treasurer, and Marcus Murray, National Secretary, were also re-elected. Following his four terms as National President, David Zurfluh will replace Al Kovach, Jr. as Immediate Past President.

There were many awards and accolades given out throughout the week. More important though, it was a time for us to reunite and address the issues and challenges our members face every day. We are grateful to those veterans who served before us and showed us the path – enabling us to do the same for those that follow.

Good day and go make a difference!





NATIONAL VETERANS  
**WHEELCHAIR  
GAMES**

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**•  
NYC  
•**

**AUG 7-14  
2021**



**WheelchairGames.org**





# Career Support for ALL Veterans

With Paralyzed Veterans of America's Veterans Career Program,

## You Will:

- Receive carefully tailored **one-on-one support** from a career expert team member.
- Set goals to achieve your career objective.
- Learn how to craft an effective resume and cover letter specific to your career interests.
- Develop effective interview and communication skills so you are confident in interviews.
- Craft job search strategies to meet your employment goals.
- Create an effective LinkedIn profile.
- Identify and engage in networking opportunities.
- Build confidence in your career pursuits.
- And much more!



## We Will:

- Provide one-on-one guidance to help you find **meaningful employment, education and volunteer opportunities**.
- Assess your current abilities, training, and experience and help you identify career goals.
- Guide you through development and enhancement of your resume and cover letter.
- Teach you how to build an effective LinkedIn profile page.
- Practice mock interviews to hone your skills before you interact with employers.
- Regularly communicate with you to track progress and identify other resources to assist in the job search process.
- Be a **Partner for Life** to assist you for the duration of your career.



2021 PVA MID-ATLANTIC

# Old Dominion Brawl Bass Fishing Tournament

After having to cancel the 2020 Old Dominion Brawl due to the pandemic, our anglers were rearing to get back onto the water at this year's tournament to compete and enjoy. With a new location, the Hopewell Marina, we were able to finally gather safely to enjoy the wonderful weather and the friendly competition. This year's tournament could not have been as enjoyable and successful without the help of our tournament director, Calvin "Catfish" Hunter, our volunteer coordinator, Sabine Coiner, T-Force Freight, the Hopewell Fire Department, and all our volunteers and partners. Congratulations to this year's winners and thanks to all of our participants for making the weekend one for the books. See you next year!







Open Division Angler				
Place	Angler	Boat Partner	# of Fish	Weight
1	Teresa Brown	Chris Daves	5	14.58 lbs.
2	James Byrd	Dave Faison	5	13.72 lbs.
3	Rickey Wood	Brian Brooks	5	11.46 lbs
4	Gary Barile	Wade Rook	5	10.71 lbs.
5	Daryl Newton	Mark Wagy	5	10.54 lbs.

Big Bass: James Byrd with a catch weighing 4.36 lbs.



Open Division Team				
Place	Angler	Boat Partner	# of Fish	Weight
1	Teresa Brown	Chris Daves	5	15.60 lbs.
2	Rickey Wood	Brian Brooks	5	15.13 lbs.
3	Brian Bean	Cody Casey	5	15.10 lbs.
4	Jacqueline Walton	Donnie Bell	5	14.18 lbs.
5	Millicent Smith	Cullen Hoover	5	13.16 lbs.

Big Bass: Teresa Brown with a catch weighing 4.61 lbs.



Saturday Bank Division		
Place	Angler	Weight
1	Jimmy May	2.88 lbs.
2	Donna Hendrickson	1.71 lbs.
3	Chris Bacon	1.2 lbs.

Big Fish: Jimmy May with a catch weighing 1.44 lbs.

Sunday Bank Division		
Place	Angler	Weights
1	Johnny Holland	3.10 lbs.
2	Justin Spurlock	0.94 lbs.
3	Michael P. Murphy	0.24 lbs.

Big Fish: Johnny Holland with a catch weighing 1.68 lbs.





# Spotlights



## The Pinnacle Group

### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

*Community is what puts food on the table and roofs over heads.* This is the charitable principle of spirit, cooperation and teamwork which has guided Tony Bradshaw and Charlie Brown since they founded The Pinnacle Group in 2019. Both military veterans, Tony and Charlie have already watched their Richmond area roofing company land them the honor of *GAF Master Elite Certification*, while continuing to grow a strong reputation in Central Virginia for quality craftsmanship and personalized customer service. Along with being successful business owners, Tony and Charlie served our country in the U.S. Army. Tony served 12 years and was deployed twice, with Charlie being deployed multiple times while serving four years active duty and another three years in the National Guard. After serving, Tony and Charlie, along with their entire team at The Pinnacle Group, remain passionate about giving back to their community. In addition to their newly developed partnership with our Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Tony and Charlie have worked with The Salvation Army and participated in a local *Coats for Kids* program. As both returned home with service related injuries of their own, they have grown to appreciate the work that PVA Mid-Atlantic is doing for veterans in the region.

The Pinnacle Group has graciously pledged a sizeable donation to our Chapter reflecting the proceeds from each project they complete in 2021. As their business continues to grow, Tony and Charlie soon hope to give back even more by providing a free roof to a veteran once a year. Please join PVA Mid-Atlantic in thanking Tony and Charlie for their service, and for joining us as community partners with the mission of proudly benefiting our members.



## Catfish and Delores Hunter

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Calvin "Catfish" and Delores Hunter are the embodiment of southern hospitality. Whenever the need arises, they are the first to step up and help. Because of their bright and magnetic personalities, if they cannot help, they almost always know someone who can. After spending a weekend with the Hunters, you are guaranteed to have sore abs from laughing so hard, and be prepared to pick up on some amusing southern sayings. The Hunters have been involved in the PVA Bass Tour for years, but since 2017, they have helped organize Mid-Atlantic's Old Dominion Brawl Bass Fishing Tournament by securing boat captains and other volunteers, as well as fishing with our members during the tournament. In 2021, Catfish became the tournament director, volunteering his time and resources into making the tournament a huge success. The work that PVA does hits Catfish close to home. He joined the Navy right out of high school because "that line was the shortest" and then served in Vietnam for two tours. The Hunters' true dedication along with everything they do for our members comes from their deep respect for veterans and our members. Their passion becomes contagious, as Catfish's daughter, Dee, is also a regular at the ODB tournament, sharing her own broad smile, and willingness to help wherever she can. Aside from being incredible ambassadors of the PVA mission, Catfish and Delores are also well-known bass anglers, regularly competing in many tournaments throughout the region. Catfish has secured a coveted position on the Virginia State Bass Team and notched a win in the Real American Heroes Foundation Tournament. The Hunters never look at time they dedicate to the ODB Bass Fishing Tournament as volunteer work. They passionately care about our members, have become close friends with many, and Catfish cherishes his time in the woods and on the river taking our members hunting and fishing. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Hunter for helping to guide our PVA ship – We appreciate having captains like you on board.



TO ALL OUR MEMBERS  
WITH JULY, AUGUST, AND  
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS,  
WE WISH YOU A VERY  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

LET'S CELEBRATE YOU!

HAVE AN UPCOMING ANNIVERSARY?  
GRADUATION? MILESTONE? WE WANT  
TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU. EMAIL  
VAPVA.SARAH@GMAIL.COM WITH YOUR  
SPECIAL EVENT AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT  
IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

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Choose how you want to shop and complete as many or as few steps as you want online. We can even bring the car to your home for you.



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#### AT HOME

McGeorge At Home is a program that lets you buy a car from the comfort of your own home or office. We'll come to you to make it all as easy as possible!



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## PROUD SUPPORTER OF PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA.

We believe a big part of being a good company is taking care of the community we live in. That's why for over 50 years we've supported charities that make life better for our neighbors, veterans, law enforcement and next generation of leaders.

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# Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

PVA Mid-Atlantic honors the memory of our members that have passed since April of 2020.

Theodore Abbott

Samuel Bond

Loyd Boyce

James Brown

McClure Galloway

Richard Glascoe

Jeremy Goodman

Jonathan Hewitt

Aaron Hinton

George Hutnan

James Jefferson

Wayne Kraus

James McCloud

Kevin McGovern

Edward Narcross

Perry Park

David Riggs

Paul Sandridge

Danny Sikes

Eugene Williams

Floyd Wilson





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Castaway Sporting Goods  
J. Spurlock Designs



For almost a decade, Mr. Wayne Poteat has volunteered his time as our Mid-Atlantic Chapter photographer, using his keen eye to beautifully display each of our events. It is his unwavering dedication and support of our mission that is the true snapshot of Mr. Poteat. Thank you for all you do, sir.



**Dance's Sporting Goods**

**Thank You For  
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Dance's Family!**

**C'MON GETCHA  
SOME!**





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of America**

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

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**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

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