

THE BULLETIN

Mid-Atlantic Chapter - Paralyzed Veterans of America



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Our President's Words

Jimmy May



It is always enjoyable and a good feeling to craft the words included in this newsletter column, sharing the successes of our chapter with each of our members, associate members, volunteers and community partners. This column may be the most gratifying yet. In just a few short months, our Mid-Atlantic Chapter has achieved so much, with so much to be proud of, and with so much more to come.

As the cover story proudly describes, our chapter rolled onto Capitol Hill as true difference makers. Our advocacy and legislation team met with members of Congress from Virginia and North Carolina, encouraging our elected officials to support PVA's core objectives – which will ultimately support each of us. I know you share in my appreciation of Mid-Atlantic Vice President Jessie Oliff, Secretary

Amy McKee, Director Johnny Holland and Jackie Jones, Jr. for their dedication, passion and hard work in advocating for our rights and needs. This is such an important part of our mission, and I encourage you to contact the chapter and join us in becoming a part of our advocacy and legislation team.

The strength of our events and programs continues to flourish and we want you to take full advantage. You and your families can benefit from our first-ever Mid-Atlantic Scholarship Program. Our Mid-Atlantic Women's Council has grown in its first year, offering outings, events and camaraderie, while learning more about the mission of our chapter. From our Super Bowl Party to the Bass Bargain Bazaar and another incredible Billiards Tournament, we are always driven to improve on the quantity and quality of our events and programs – and proudly, our improvement has been recognized.

Your Mid-Atlantic Chapter has been honored by PVA National as the recipient of the first annual Stanley D. Brown Most Improved Chapter Award. The selection committee not only recognized how much we do for our members directly, but also the behind-the-scenes administrative improvements we made which streamline day-to-day operations, allowing more energy to be focused on achieving our mission – which means being focused on you.

I hope you can share in my pride of being a part of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter and share that pride with others. When you are helping us by selling raffle tickets this spring, take an extra minute and explain to folks what we do, how we do it, and most important, who we are. We are the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter – all of us!

Jimmy May
President
PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

2023 PVA MID-ATLANTIC

7th Annual Charles "Chuck" Willis 9-Ball Classic



Main Event

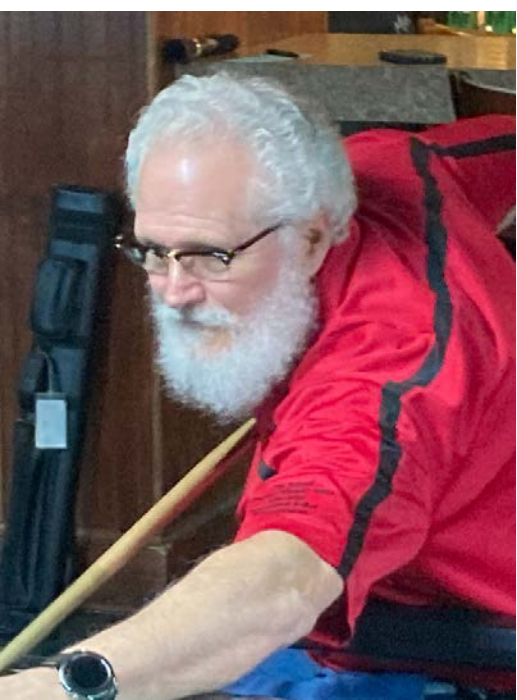
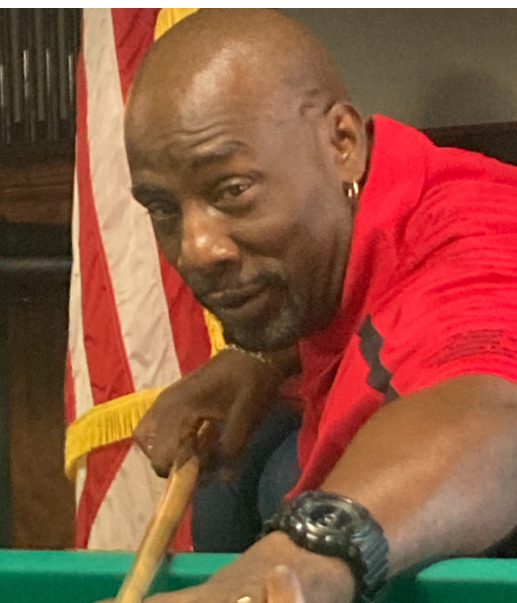
1st - Kray Mims
 2nd - Jeffrey Dolezal
 3rd - Mike Chenail
 4th - George Holscher
 5-6th - Dan Henson
 5-6th - Kevin Bullard
 7-8th - Anthony Ringenberg
 7-8th - Johnny Holland
 9th - Chuck Interrante

Second Flight

1st - Bobby Fecteau
 2nd - Bob Barnaby
 3rd - Paul Austin
 4th - Joe Wheeler
 5-6th - Jim Lewis
 5-6th - Joe Dowling
 7-8th - Jimmy May
 7-8th - Angel Torres
 9th - Preston Curry

Skills Competition

1st Advanced - Chuck Interrante
 2nd Advanced - Mike Chenail
 1st Intermediate - Dan Henson
 2nd Intermediate - Anthony Ringenberg
 1st Novice - Paul Austin
 2nd Novice - Jim Lewis





PVA MID-ATLANTIC OLD DOMINION BRAWL

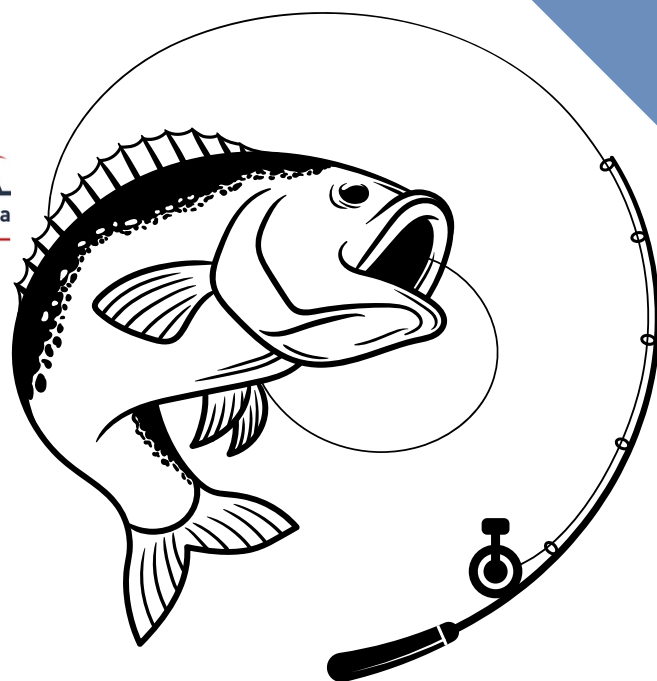
July 1, 2023

Hopewell Marina

1051 Riverside Ave
Hopewell, VA 23860



Hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, this one-day event will consist of bass fishing from a boat, or fishing from the bank. There will be food, friends, and prizes! **Please contact the chapter for registration information.**



☎ 804-378-0017

✉ vapva.ivan@gmail.com

🌐 www.pvamidatlantic.org

National Service Officer Report

Chris Custer

First and foremost, I hope this finds everyone in good health and spirits. As we move further into the year, I am pleased to report some positive developments for Richmond & Hampton VAMCs.

Due to the steady decline of community transmission rates, Richmond & Hampton VAMCs are now operating on MEDIUM health protection level. This drop from high to medium has brought some policy changes such as optional masking throughout the hospital unless you are within the SCI/D Center. Check-in for Covid screening is still in effect before entering SCI/D. In Richmond, there are floor markers and wall signs serving as reminders for people entering and walking through the halls to remain masked. Visitors are authorized, but only 2 per patient is requested due to limited space in rooms and the need to maintain social distancing. Currently, the Richmond SCI/D entrance is still closed-off, but I am keeping a pulse on this issue and will be updating everyone as soon as the entrance is reopened.

PVA Site Visits to Richmond & Hampton VAMCs were conducted in March and the overall reports for both were positive. We had many fruitful discussions regarding topics like changing COVID policies, resuming our Mid-Atlantic Chapter events, luncheons, outings, etc. within both hospitals, and the impact this pandemic has had on providers and patients. Both Richmond & Hampton staff members and veterans are excited to have Mid-Atlantic Chapter onsite again soon.

Lastly, H.R. 7939 – Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 was enacted when signed by President Biden on January 5, 2023. This law aims to provide additional benefits and support for veterans in two key areas: auto loans and education. It will expand veteran access to affordable auto loans by the Dept. of VA and make improvements to veteran education benefits. Now that this bill is law, VA is working on creating the parameters for implementing these legislative changes. I will be tracking this process and maintaining communication with the Prosthetics Departments regarding timelines. As I know more, I will keep everyone up to date.

Hope this has been a helpful update and I will be following up on these issues for you as I know more.

Wishing you all the best!

Thank you,

Chris Custer

National Service Officer II

Mid-Atlantic Women's Council



Continuing its first-year success and growth, the PVA Mid-Atlantic Women's Council is expanding its reach in our communities, while focusing on spreading the word of our mission.

Our Chapter has grown to include more than 100 female Veterans, and we encourage each of you to become a part of the Women's Council. With monthly outings, events and meetings, the Women's Council is a chance for casual camaraderie, with opportunities to share ideas and thoughts.

For more information, please reach-out to Council Chair Jessie Oliff (jesse_oliff@yahoo.com) or Co-Chair Amy McKee (22mickey@gmail.com).

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Advocacy and Legislation

OUR WEEK ON CAPITOL HILL

BY JESSIE OLIFF



Two years of Zoom is behind us and we were back in-person, and what a week it was in Washington D.C. Our Mid-Atlantic Advocacy & Legislation Team spent the first 2 days attending PVA's Legislative Seminar where our National Government Relations staff educated us on the priorities to share with our elected officials. We heard presentations from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services and the Office of Aviation Consumer Protection.

It was then time to spend 2 days at the Capitol for scheduled meetings with our members of Congress from Virginia and North Carolina. Along with Amy McKee, Johnny Holland and Jackie Jones, Jr., we represented each of you during face-to-face meetings with our legislators where we stressed many important issues facing our members, including:

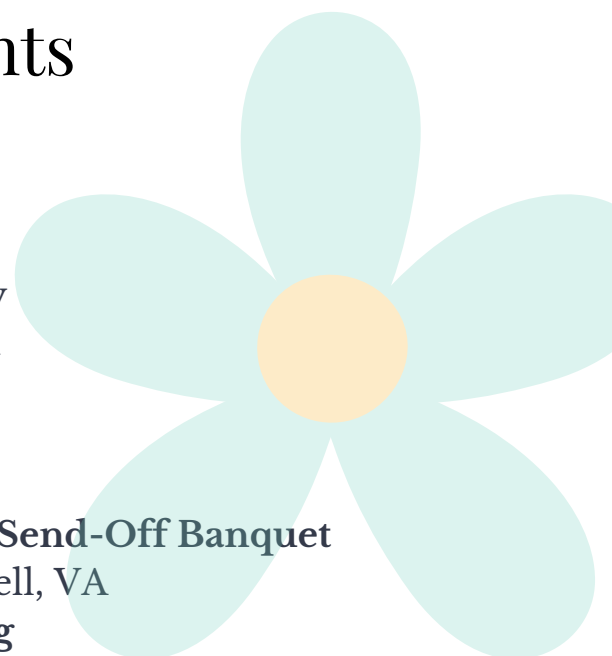
- Protecting access to VA's specialized health care services
- Expanding access to long-term health care support and services
- Improving VA benefits for our members and your families
- Protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities



PVA President Charles Brown watches as President Biden signs an Executive Order directing the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs to improve home-based care for Veterans.

Sharing personal stories and first-hand experiences is the most powerful way to get across our concerns and issues – and we shared many! Special thanks to Terence Smith, the Chair of our Mid-Atlantic Advocacy & Legislation Committee. We know that the process of drafting bills, gaining support from their colleagues and ultimately having a law passed is very time consuming. We won't know today, tomorrow or even next month if any of our agenda items become law, but I am confident in saying that our Mid-Atlantic Team did make an impact in passionately addressing the issues that all of us face. The rest is up to Congress, so stay tuned!

Upcoming Events



- May 9-13** **PVA National Convention**
Omaha, Nebraska
- May 25** **Memorial Day Flag Event**
Amelia National Veterans Cemetery
- June 1** **Mid-Atlantic Scholarship Program**
Application Deadline
- June 7** **Board of Directors Meeting**
Mid-Atlantic Chapter Headquarters
- June 30** **Membership Meeting and NVWG Send-Off Banquet**
American Legion Post 146 - Hopewell, VA
- July 1** **Old Dominion Brawl - Bass Fishing**
James and Appomattox Rivers - Hopewell, VA
- July 4-9** **National Veterans Wheelchair Games**
Portland, Oregon
- July 12** **Mid-Atlantic Chapter Tribute and Board of Directors Meeting**
Virginia War Memorial - Richmond, VA

Mid-Atlantic Scholarship Program



The mission of the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to qualified individuals pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree or attaining certification through an accredited trade school. The PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter will grant up to five (5) scholarships of \$1,000 each for selected applicants who fulfill each of the established guidelines and criteria.

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is June 1, 2023. Application information can be found at <https://www.pvamidatlantic.org/forms/>



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competing in **22 sports!**



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f t i #WheelchairGames

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Out and About - Mid-Atlantic Style



Ms. Deidre Brou of the U.S. Dept. of Justice presents to the Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors



Terrence Smith taking a break for a photo op at the PVA Rugby Championships



Josh Burch making friends at the PVA Rugby Championships



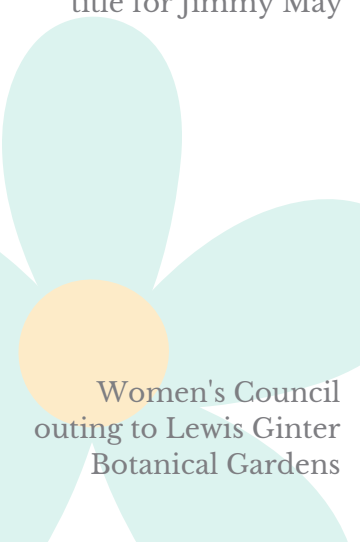
A first place Florida bowling title for Jimmy May



Danica King nails the Monument Ave. 10K



Commonwealth Cup Power Soccer Classic





Mid-Atlantic Super Bowl Party



Downhill with Glenn McClary
at the Winter Sports Clinic



Proud grandpa,
Jeff Dolezal



Mark Hartney and his
grandson at Madison
Square Garden



PVA Mid-Atlantic well represented in Aspen, Colorado



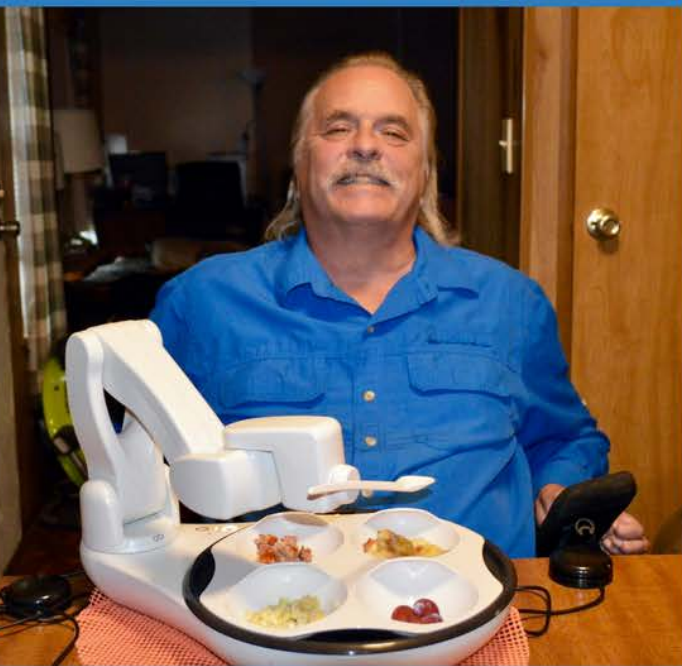
Mid-Atlantic Bass Bargain Bazaar



Rickey Wood and a chilly trout
at the Winter Sports Classic



Jackie Jones, Jr. on the
trails



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BENEFITING PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA! MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER



Join us on Friday, June 30

Membership Meeting and NVWG Send-Off Banquet



American Legion Post 146
217 E. City Point Rd.
Hopewell, VA 23860

Our Membership Meeting will begin at 12:00 Noon, led by our Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors who will share information about recent Chapter events and successes, along with an outline of our growth and expectations for the future. We will also hear from one of our dedicated National Service Officers, discussing Veterans Administration benefit changes, and how this can impact you and your families.



At 1:00 p.m. following our Membership Meeting, we encourage all chapter members to share some food and fun, cheering-on our dozens of athletes who will be heading to Portland, Oregon, representing our chapter at the NVWG.

All Mid-Atlantic Team members participating in the NVWG will be in attendance, receiving their specially designed and personalized team uniforms and chapter-sponsored travel grants. This is a day for ALL OF YOU, so please make plans to be a part of the festivities!

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Being there makes a difference

It could be a simple trip to the mall, a ride to the movies or just a visit to friend's home. The little things in life can make a big difference. It's why MobilityWorks® has been helping veterans connect with who and what matters most since 1997. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together to find the best solution.

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Mid-Atlantic Chapter

2022 - 2023

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