

SUMMER 2025

THE BULLETIN

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mid-Atlantic Chapter



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

SUMMERTIME FUN

- OLD DOMINION BRAWL BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT
- NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
- COMING SOON! PVA MID-ATLANTIC GEAR
- PVA MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

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Mid-Atlantic Chapter



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OUR PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Jimmy May

“Our members can confidently face tasks in front of them with strong encouragement and support from their fellow Veterans, from our team, and from our dedicated volunteers and community partners.” This is just a portion of the defined mission crafted years ago by the leadership of our PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

It stands the test of time and rings true to this day!

In reading those words, it makes me reflect on how grateful we are as a chapter to have such terrific folks in our corner – our volunteers and community partners.

A perfect example is an event like our Old Dominion Brawl fishing tournament which would never be the same without the passionate support of so many volunteers – from before dawn until late in the day, making things safe, comfortable and fun for our members.

Most of our community partners don't ever ask for recognition or attention, but it is their loyal support that helps fund our initiatives, allowing us to provide first-class events, tournaments and functions for each of you.

It may be hard to imagine the energy, effort and time that goes into planning and executing an event, but please remember that the pieces of the puzzle wouldn't fall into place so smoothly without the dedication of so many.

This issue of our newsletter is the perfect illustration of just that, showcasing the things we have accomplished in only a few short months.

We do it all based on our mission, but whenever you have the opportunity, I encourage you to show your thanks and appreciation to those who make it happen – your fellow Vets, our Mid-Atlantic Team, and our incredible volunteers and community partners.

They do it all for you, and we could not do it without them!

Respectfully,

Jimmy May
President
PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter



Advocacy & Legislation Week

JUNE 10-12, 2025

Representatives from the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter traveled to Capitol Hill and met with members of Congress to advocate for Veterans with SCI/D. This year the Mid-Atlantic Chapter continued its amazing partnership with Roanoke College's Disabilities Studies Program. The students assisted our advocacy group as they met with representatives from Virginia and North Carolina.

A special thanks to our Chair of the Advocacy & Legislation Committee, Terence Smith, for his leadership and thank you to Johnny Holland, Jackie Jones Jr., Amy McKee, and Mark Hartney for being A VOICE FOR VETERANS!



A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FOR CAPABLE HEROES

Board of Directors

Jimmy May - President
Johnny Holland - Vice President
Amy McKee - Secretary
Jeffrey Dolezal - Treasurer
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Paul Austin - Director
Arnold Beard - Director
Matthew Cole - Director
Rich Goebel - Director
Mark Hartney - Director

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(540) 897-1707

Mark Antonitis and Matthew Parker, Winston-Salem

(336) 251-0836

COMING
SOON

PVA MID-ATLANTIC GEAR



You will be able to shop chapter gear online and have it conveniently delivered right to your door!



Congratulations 2025 Scholarship Recipients

BEULAH AYAMGA

Upper Marlboro, MD

Coppin State University

MAYA IVORY

Upper Marlboro, MD

Maryland Institute College of Art

CHARIS OVERSTREET

Mineral, VA

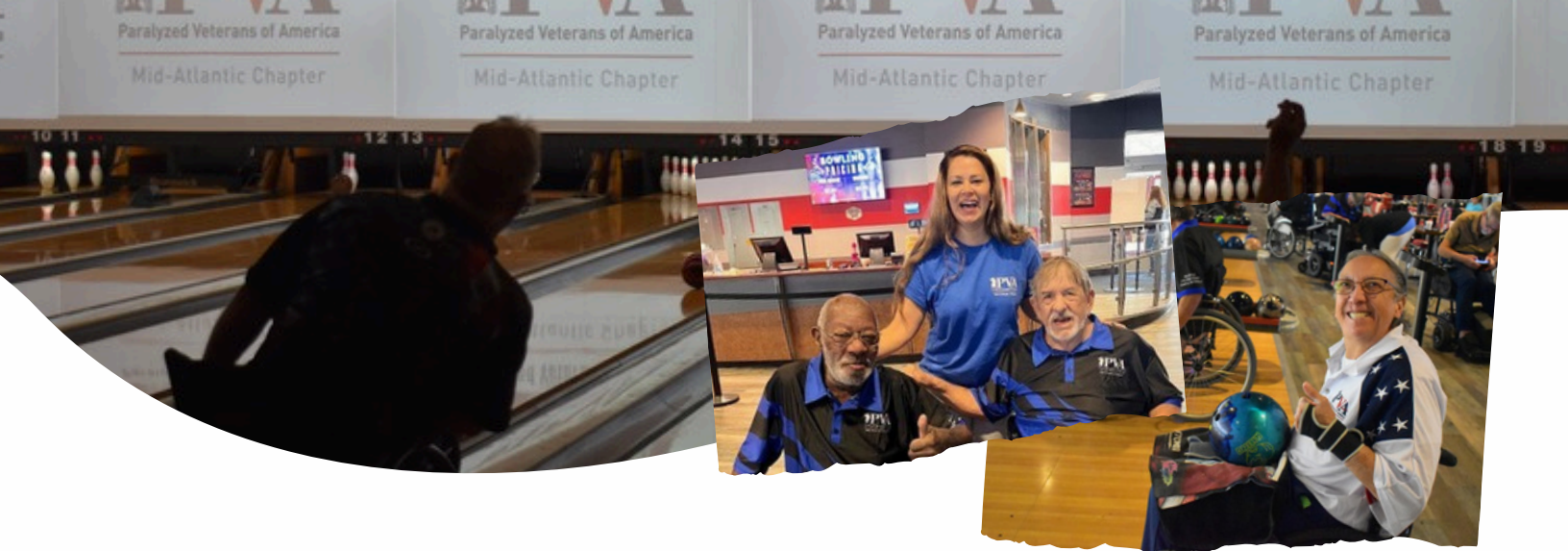
Regent University

ANYIA WOODS

Suffolk, VA

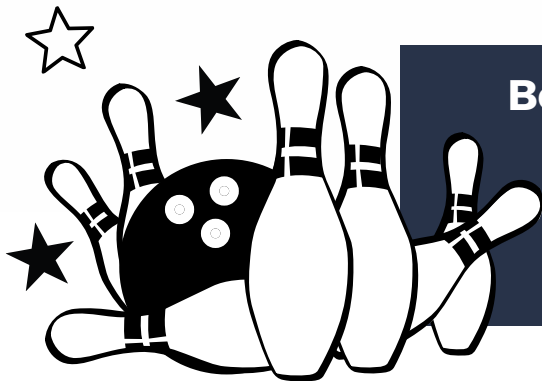
University of Iowa

The mission of the Paralyzed Veterans of America 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 a total of \$5,000 in scholarships to selected applicants who fulfill each of the established guidelines and criteria.



9TH ANNUAL PVA MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025



Bowl America - Short Pump
4400 Pouncey Tract Rd
Glen Allen, VA
23060

On behalf of the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter, please accept our invitation for the 9th Annual PVA Mid-Atlantic Invitational –Sanctioned by AWBA. Every year, our tournament committee takes great pride in providing our bowlers, their families and caregivers with a first-class experience.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS AUGUST 30

SCAN TO REGISTER

or visit pvamidatlantic.org/bowling-tournament



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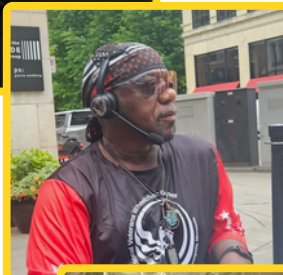
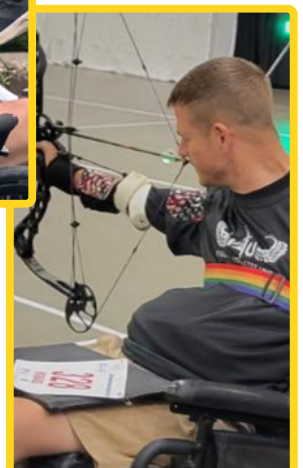
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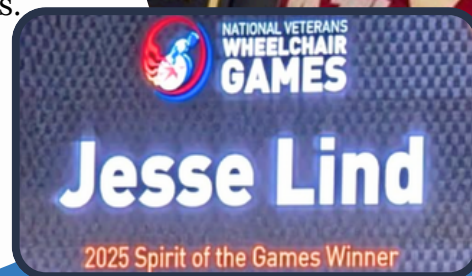


2025 Spirit of the Games

Jesse Lind

With more than 500 athletes in Minneapolis for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, our own Jesse Lind was honored as the 2025 Spirit of the Games recipient!

His energy, enthusiasm and passion is contagious.
Mid-Atlantic Pride at its finest!



Family and Friends at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games





Memorial Day Flag Placement at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery

Volunteers placed flags at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery ahead of Memorial Day weekend. The next volunteer opportunity to place flags will be the week before Veterans Day.



Richmond VA Hospital





Old Dominion Brawl Bass Fishing Tournament

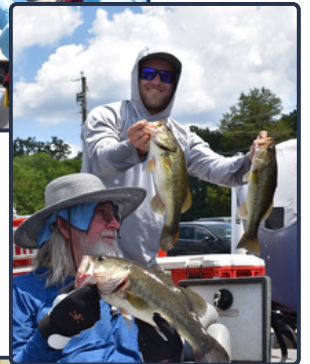
OPEN DIVISION

	Veteran	Boat Captain
1st	Jim Sutton	Hayden Bell
2nd	Rich Goebel	Randy Gillespie
3rd	Brian Bean	T.J. Melton
4-5th	Tony Choe	Brandon Casey
4-5th	Stephen Lewis	Josh Wagy
6th	Welton Locklear	Cody Casey
7th	David Bean	Josh Morris
8th	Rickey Wood	Morris Beard
9-10th	Ralph Perpignan	Donnie Bell
9-10th	Charles Powell	Blake Miles
BIG BASS	Welton Locklear	Cody Casey

BANK DIVISION

	Veteran
1st	Jimmy May
2nd	Paul Austin
3rd	Johnny Holland
4th	Preston Curry
5th	Aaron Ruffin
6th	Aarol Clinton
7th	Ron Christian
8th	Coreen Broomfield
BIG FISH	Jimmy May





VIEW ALBUM





Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again

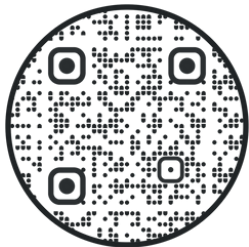
Eligible veterans can receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at NO COST!



Ekso Indego Personal

What is Ekso Indego?

Ekso Indego is an FDA-cleared, powered exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries (level T3-L5)* to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.



Scan with your phone for more information on how you could receive your own Ekso Indego Personal.

Getting Veterans with SCI Back on Their Feet

A recently revised VA policy allows Ekso Indego to be issued to qualified veterans at no cost.**

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An evaluation by your provider at a SCI/D center is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device

* For full indications for use, visit: www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/

** A screening process through the VA is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Amy McKee



It's the smile that never seems to leave her face. Coupled with a never-say-no positive attitude and an unwavering passion to help her fellow Veterans and chapter members, Amy McKee is a bright light in the success and growth of our Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Mid-way through her second term on the Board of Directors, Ms. McKee serves as Chapter Secretary, with many organizational responsibilities which keep the chapter running smoothly on a daily basis.

"It's a commitment that I'm really proud of, and it's a humbling experience and an honor to be elected to the board by our members," she says. "I don't take that responsibility and their trust in me lightly."

The pride she takes in her chapter leadership role is only overshadowed by her true calling – a couple of teenagers who call her "mom".

Ms. McKee's daughter Amber is majoring in neuroscience and physics at Virginia Tech, and her son Paul is a junior in high school.

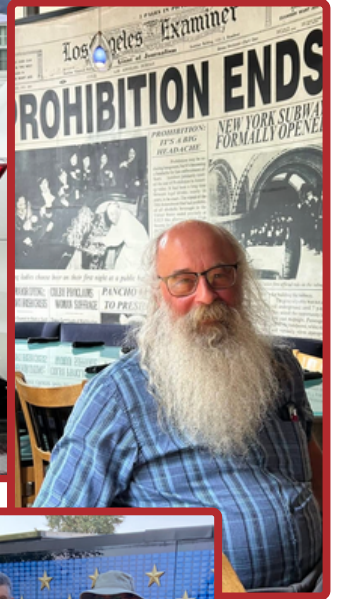
Since her accident in 2006, the strength and closeness of her family have made an incredible impact. "We have all grown together in our new life," says Ms. McKee. "It hit everyone hard, especially the kids, but I wanted them to know right away that it may slow me down a bit, but in no way was it going to shut me down."

Along with her sister Tiffany, Ms. McKee's kids are regulars at Mid-Atlantic Chapter events and functions. Tiffany joined Ms. McKee at the NVWG and assisted our Advocacy & Legislation Team on Capitol Hill this year. "It's great to have them with me at PVA events to see all the work we do and the fun we have," she says. "Being in Washington is something very special for me. Not many people get to meet with members of Congress face to face, and it's meaningful to be a difference-maker for our members, all Veterans, and those with disabilities."

A lifetime U.S. Marine, Ms. McKee was on active duty for 13 years as an aviation electronics specialist. With deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and Qatar, her primary responsibility was the EA-6B Prowler and other electronic warfare aircraft, being one of few women in that role.

She says that it is important to see women Veterans rally around each other, and that it is especially gratifying to be a leader of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter Women's Council. "We deal with many of the same things as the men who served," she says. "We just have to deal with some of those things a little differently." Ms. McKee is proud of the Women's Council and its influence on the development of a stand-alone Women's Clinic at the Richmond VAMC. "It's good to know that there is a place for us that is adapted to our specific needs."

In between her work with the chapter, family obligations and chasing her 3 dogs, Ms. McKee wants everyone to know that she is always there for our members – so please feel free to reach out. Be assured that you will be greeted by the one-in-a-million Amy McKee smile!



Out and About Mid-Atlantic Style





A MESSAGE FROM OUR RICHMOND & HAMPTON

National Service Officer

Hello PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Members,
I hope this message finds you enjoying a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved summer. Whether taking time to travel, recharge, or simply enjoying a slower pace with family & friends, I hope this is a season of renewal, meaningful connection and continued health for you & your loved ones.

Save the Date: Richmond Veterans Benefits & Hiring Fair – Week of August 21

Hosted by Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development, the Richmond Veterans Benefits & Hiring Fair is coming to Richmond VAMC the week of August 21.

This event will feature a variety of offerings and resources for veterans, military families, job seekers, and community partners alike. This week of events will include a Benefits Fair, Hiring Fair including local, state, and federal partners, including up to 25 Veteran-friendly and V3-certified employers, and a Claims Clinic hosted by VA's Roanoke Regional Office. The event will also include Stakeholder Roundtables focused on key veteran issues, with insights from subject matter experts from across the state.

Attendees can look forward to a range of impactful workshops, including a resume-building session and on-site resources from Virginia Department of Veteran Services with a keynote address from Commission Chuck Zingler, "Boots to Business" entrepreneurial trainings led by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act Briefing with the Department of Labor, and a fraud prevention seminar by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to highlight a few.

More details confirming dates/times for this week's events will be announced soon, but this is an excellent opportunity for resources and networking and I hope to see you there!

SCI General Precautions

As a friendly reminder, when visiting Richmond VAMC, specifically the SCI Center, please exercise caution as various illnesses are circulating more frequently. I trust you all have sound judgement and know how to protect yourselves, but I would be remiss not to address this growing concern. There are mask & sanitizing stations throughout the hospital and I strongly encourage taking these extra measures to protect yourself and your loved ones, especially if immunocompromised.

On a final note, as we move ahead in this year, let's continue to uplift one another, stay connected, and remain committed to the values that bring us together. Whether you're lending support, seeking new opportunities, or simply staying informed, know that your presence and participation make a lasting impact.

As always, if you need assistance, please reach out to our offices and we'll be happy to help however we can as we continue PVA's mission to empower our brave men and women to regain what they fought for: their freedom and independence.

Respectfully,

Chris Custer

Chris Custer | NSO III

PVA Richmond Office



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**Randall Pope completed a 270 mile journey in his
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**Scan to watch Randall complete
his journey at The Pentagon.**

