



Mid-Atlantic Chapter

SPRING 2026

# THE BULLETIN

Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Mid-Atlantic Chapter



**POWER OF PVA**  
**80 YEARS STRONG**

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Mid-Atlantic Chapter



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## OUR PRESIDENT'S WORDS

# Jimmy May



80 years ago. That is when PVA got its start. Veterans returning from World War II with spinal cord injuries who unified to start an organization that they could call their own. As we celebrate this milestone 80th anniversary, we can all take pride in that same feeling of ownership. Throughout these 8 decades, the growth, exposure, advocacy and impact of PVA has been immeasurable. I know what it has meant to me. Always remember that we remain the only congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization in the country.

And speaking of charters, did you know that our Mid-Atlantic Chapter is one of the 6 original PVA chapters, incorporated in 1947? PVA has grown to include 33 chapters, of which we are the second largest, with more than 850 members.

Overall, PVA has almost 16,000 members nationwide. Not to get caught-up in numbers, but in my eyes here are a couple of figures which may be the most striking: More than half of those 16,000 members are over the age of 65. We may be aging gracefully, but as an organization we sure are aging.

Back to our chapter, and this is a good thing - we continue to add new members, and many are skewing younger. We have more than 200 members who are under 50, and quite a few are women Veterans.

My thinking is this: While our chapter is pushing 80, none of us are getting any younger. If our hope is for the chapter to continue to flourish and grow, let's all be better ambassadors of what PVA represents. Let's wear it on sleeves, spread the word, and share what PVA and our Mid-Atlantic Chapter have personally meant to each of us.

When you are at the hospital waiting endlessly for those appointments, spark up a conversation with another Vet in a chair. Odds are, he or she may already be a member, but you never know. Share your pride in being a member and explain the benefits that we offer. Encourage them to reach-out and learn how simple it is to apply for membership, which of course, doesn't cost them a penny.

I keep talking about age, but here's a simple solution - Let's keep each other young by being engaged with our chapter and participating in our many events and functions. Who knows how many birthdays we have left, so together, let's stay active and make the most of each day.

In the meantime, please join me in wishing a very Happy 80th to PVA!

Respectfully,

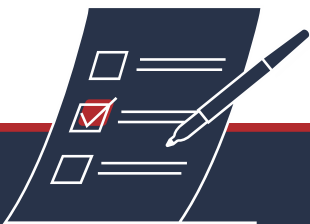
Jimmy May  
President  
PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR  
80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATIVE LOGO



# Upcoming Events

- APRIL 25** BOCCIA BLAST
- MAY 21** MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS - AMELIA VETERANS CEMETERY
- MAY 12 - 23** ROLLING WITH RANDALL '26
- JUNE 1** SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DEADLINE
- JUNE 9 - 11** ADVOCACY & LEGISLATION WEEK
- JUNE 12** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- JUNE 12** BOD NOMINATIONS OPEN
- JUNE 12** NVWG SEND-OFF BANQUET
- JUNE 13** OLD DOMINION BRAWL FISHING TOURNAMENT
- JULY 9 - 14** NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
- AUG. 5** SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET



## Fiscal Years '27 & '28 Board of Directors Election Timeline

- June 12** Nomination period opens at Membership Meeting
- July 1** Deadline for submitting nominations
- July 2-3** Election Committee contacts nominees
- July 15** Election ballots mailed to members
- August 15** Deadline for chapter to receive ballots
- August 16 - 17** Ballots tabulated
- August 17** Fiscal Years '27 & '28 Board of Directors is announced
- September 2** Newly elected Directors sworn in at Board of Directors meeting
- October 1** Newly elected Directors officially take office





# OLD DOMINION BRAWL BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026



**Hopewell Marina  
1051 Riverside Ave.  
Hopewell, VA 23860**

**Whether you're an experienced angler or just getting started, make plans to join us!**

- 🎣 Spend the day on a bass boat or fishing off the bank.
- 🎣 Thousands of dollars in cash prizes, weigh-in awards, and a dinner feast.
- 🎣 Most of all, a day on the water spending time with friends and other Veterans.

**PARTNER PAIRING RECEPTION - Friday evening June 12th.**

For more information call (804) 378-0017 or email [vapva.ivan@gmail.com](mailto:vapva.ivan@gmail.com).



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO ATTENDED THE BASS  
BARGAIN BAZAAR**

A day of stocking up on fishing tackle during the winter allows the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter to turn the Old Dominion Brawl Bass Fishing Tournament into a truly first class event.

## PVA Mid-Atlantic Scholarship

APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1, 2026

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.

Visit [pvamidatlantic.org/scholarship](http://pvamidatlantic.org/scholarship) for more information and to download the application. Completed applications can be mailed to:

PVA Mid-Atlantic Headquarters  
11620 Busy Street - No. Chesterfield, VA 23236



### George Holscher

JOINS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Longstanding member of the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Mr. George Holscher, was sworn-in as the newest member of the Board of Directors on January 8, 2026.



### Ukrainian Visit

ADAPTIVE SPORTS

Our chapter members were honored to participate in a roundtable with newly injured Ukrainian soldiers at the Virginia War Memorial. The Ukrainian soldiers' strongest interest is adaptive sports, as a way to stay active.

PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Members had the wonderful opportunity to share their experiences in adaptive sports and living a full and active life.

### Advocacy & Legislation Week

JUNE 9 - 11, 2026

Representatives from the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter will be traveling to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress to advocate for Veterans with SCI/D. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter will continue its amazing partnership with Roanoke College's Disabilities Studies Program. Students will assist our advocacy group as they meet with representatives from Virginia and North Carolina.

## A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FOR CAPABLE HEROES

### Board of Directors

Jimmy May - President  
Johnny Holland - Vice President  
Amy McKee - Secretary  
Jeffrey Dolezal - Treasurer  
Takeyla Adams - Director  
Arnold Beard - Director  
Matthew Cole - Director  
Rich Goebel - Director  
Mark Hartney - Director  
George Holscher - Director

### Staff

Executive Director - Ivan Schwartz  
Bookkeeper - Regina Watson-Fields  
Communications & Events Coordinator - Julianne Hart

### National Service Officers

Sarah Pettit, Richmond  
(804) 675-5316  
Nikki Owens and Zack Halgren, Roanoke  
(540) 897-1707  
Mark Antonitis and Matthew Parker, Winston-Salem  
(336) 251-0836



## BCA President's Award

### JEFFREY DOLEZAL

The Billiard Congress of America (BCA) is proud to announce that Jeffrey Dolezal, a longtime contributor and driving force in the National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association (NWPA), was named the recipient of the 2025 BCA President's Award.

At the BCA General Membership Meeting, Board Chairperson Jacklyn Ady, presented the President's Award to Jeff in recognition of his dedication and impactful contributions to the sport and industry of billiards, as well as the NWPA.

"Jeff was an obvious choice for the President's Award. I have been seeing him assist and play at BCA events since my election to the board. Once I learned about his contributions to cue sports and promotion of the game, there was no doubt that Jeffrey Dolezal represents the values inherent in our most distinguished award. His selflessness, integrity and commitment to advancing cue sports as a rehabilitative, community building exercise is admirable. The results of Jeff's efforts are visible at pool rooms and competitive events every day."

When the BCA announced that Dolezal would receive this year's President's Award, it marked a rare moment of personal recognition for a man who has spent decades deflecting attention away from himself. "It's funny because I never do things for personal recognition," Dolezal said. "I just do things to get them done."

For nearly 20 years, Dolezal has been instrumental in the NWPA, building tournament structures, securing partnerships, mentoring players and, when necessary, quietly filling financial gaps out of his own pocket. The award, he insists, is not about him. For Dolezal, wheelchair billiards is not just competition, it is rehabilitation, reintegration and confidence.

From a warped basement table to international podiums and national leadership, his journey traces resilience and service. The President's Award may carry his name, but the legacy belongs to the community he built.



## On Her Experience with PVA

### TAKEYLA ADAMS

PVA Mid-Atlantic Board Member Takeyla Adams talks about the opportunities she has to participate in adaptive sports thanks to the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter and the Independence Fund.



SCAN TO WATCH  
THE INTERVIEW

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**SAVE THE DATE**



## NVWG SEND-OFF BANQUET

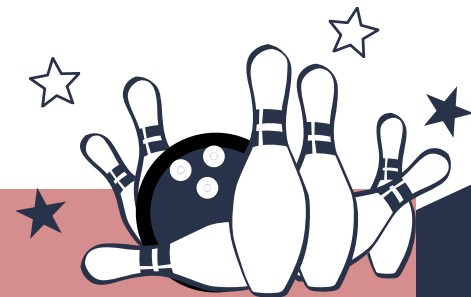
Friday, June 12 at 1:00 PM

Celebrating our athletes heading to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games! Mid-Atlantic athletes will receive their team gear and lunch will be served. DON'T MISS THE BIG REVEAL OF THIS YEAR'S TEAM JERSEY!

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, June 12 at 12:00 PM

All Mid-Atlantic Chapter Members are encouraged to attend the annual membership meeting. This is a chance to catch up on all chapter news and events. Nominations for the Board of Directors will open at this meeting.



**10th ANNUAL PVA  
MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL**  
September 2026  
(Date and Location TBA)



Scan to stay up-to-date with all of our events or visit [pvamidatlantic.org](http://pvamidatlantic.org)



# 10th Annual Charles “Chuck” Willis Memorial Wheelchair 9-Ball Championship

## Main Event

<b>1st</b>	Chris Billings
<b>2nd</b>	Mike Chenail
<b>3rd-4th</b>	Bobby Dinsmoor
<b>3rd-4th</b>	Jeff Dolezal
<b>5th</b>	Tom Davis
<b>5th</b>	Dan Hall
<b>5th</b>	Lee Sexton
<b>5th</b>	Joe Wheeler

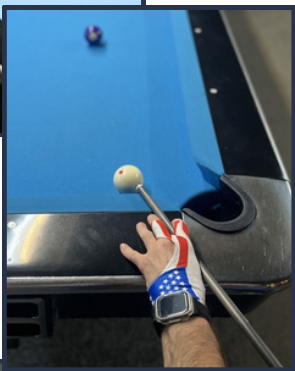
## Second Flight

<b>1st</b>	Daniel Henson
<b>2nd</b>	Anthony Ringenberg
<b>3rd-4th</b>	Bobby Fecteau
<b>3rd-4th</b>	Chuck Interrante
<b>5-6th</b>	Bob Barnaby
<b>5-6th</b>	George Holscher

## Third Flight

<b>1st</b>	Dalton Carter
<b>2nd</b>	Jimmy May
<b>3rd-4th</b>	Jim Lewis
<b>3rd-4th</b>	Takeyla Adams
<b>5-6th</b>	Brent Patterson
<b>5-6th</b>	Rich Goebel
<b>7-8th</b>	Johnny Holland
<b>7-8th</b>	Cayd Cottrill





**VIEW ALBUM**

A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the page, next to the text "VIEW ALBUM".



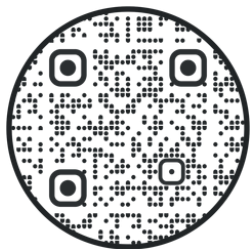
# Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again

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.\*\*

- Walk at home and in your community
- Improve your cardio & bone density

Enjoy eye-level conversations again



Contact us to find out if you are eligible to receive an Ekso Indego at NO COST!

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



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\* For full indications for use, visit: [www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/](http://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

## Jackie Jones, Jr.



It was a spinal stroke 7 years ago that changed his life. Since then, Jackie Jones, Jr. has made it his mission to change the lives of others.

“During my rehab, I remember being introduced to PVA. It’s meant so much to me,” he says, “so I want to share my experiences with other newly injured Vets.”

Mr. Jones regularly mentors SCI patients in both Richmond and his hometown of Winston-Salem. His message revolves around staying active and finding an adaptive sport that is comfortable and can assist with recovery and growth. He calls it the power of movement.

As an athlete himself, finding just one sport has evolved into an immense collection of sporting memories. From basketball, softball and sled hockey to tennis, pickleball and skiing, Mr. Jones is non-stop - but his true passion remains on the trails, as a member of the PVA High Performance Cycling Team.

How strong is that passion? Just ask Mid-Atlantic Chapter Vice President Johnny Holland, a longtime friend and colleague on the chapter Advocacy & Legislation Team. “The days are exhausting when we’re on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress,” says Mr. Holland. “I thought Jackie was crazy when he pulled out his handcycle one afternoon and started rolling through the streets of D.C. He didn’t want to miss a day of training for the chance to earn a spot on the U.S. Paralympic Team.”

With a love for adaptive athletics, it is no wonder that Mr. Jones remains a longstanding member of our Mid-Atlantic Chapter Sports & Recreation Committee. “It’s just one way that I can help spread the word,” he says. “It’s really satisfying to see so many of our chapter members competing at the Wheelchair Games and encouraging each other to be the best they can be.”

Off the court, the field, the trails and the slopes, Mr. Jones enjoys spending time with his wife of 27 years, Lori, their 3 daughters and 7 grandkids. But, he also cherishes many other relationships that have been cultivated throughout the last 7 years.

“Jackie is one of the most supportive guys I know,” says Mr. Holland. “He has never met a stranger.”



# Rolling with Randall



## ROLLING ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA



### SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Visit [pvamidatlantic.org/rollingwithrandall](http://pvamidatlantic.org/rollingwithrandall) to donate and to shop the Rolling With Randall store to show your support.

“I’ve had one bad day in my life - when I was diagnosed with MS. Everything since then has been filled with good things.”

Randall Pope, U.S. Army Veteran



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 Rolling with Randall

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AJ Walker, ARC<sup>EX</sup> User,  
US Navy Veteran

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with ARC<sup>EX</sup> or email [support@onwd.com](mailto:support@onwd.com)



The ARC<sup>EX</sup> System is intended to deliver programmed transcutaneous electrical spinal cord stimulation in conjunction with functional task practice in the clinic and with take-home exercises in the home to improve hand sensation and strength in individuals between 18 and 75 years old that present with a chronic, non-progressive neurological deficit resulting from an incomplete spinal cord injury (C2-C8 inclusive).  
The ARC<sup>EX</sup> System is intended to be operated in medical centers by Rehabilitation Professionals and at home by Patients and Persons Providing Assistance to the Patient as needed.  
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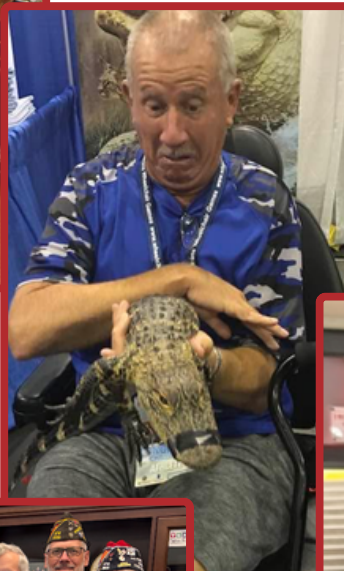
# ARC<sup>EX</sup>

[onwd.com](https://onwd.com)





# Out and About Mid-Atlantic Style



# YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN

## WELCOME SARAH PETTIT

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER  
RICHMOND VA MEDICAL CENTER



After 4 years serving as an aviation specialist in the U.S. Marine Corps, Sarah Pettit knew her future calling and knew where it would take her. Her passion has always been helping people and the Richmond area has always been home.

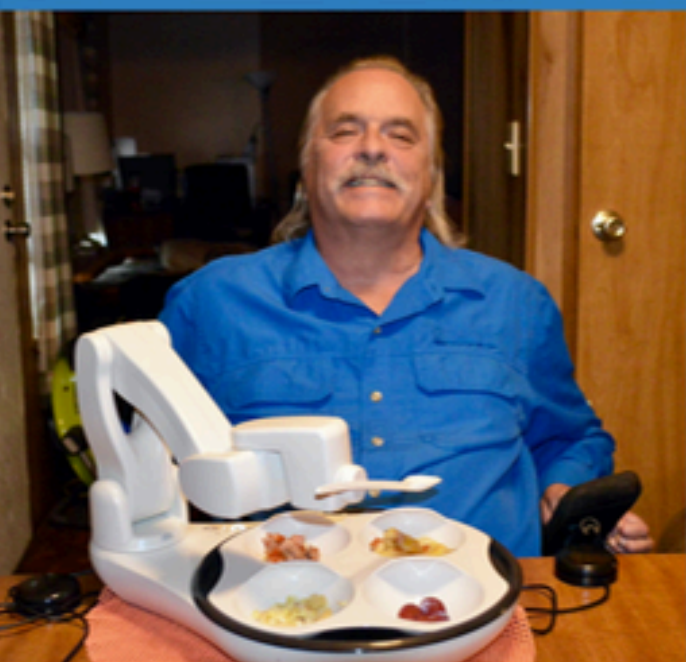
Ms. Pettit's strong desire to help others propelled her to a career in nursing, achieving RN certification and working for multiple hospital systems in central Virginia – but something was missing.

“I felt pulled in the direction of advocating for Veterans,” said Ms. Pettit. “My military background and nursing experience gives me an understanding of what these men and women are going through. I really hope to be a difference maker in the lives of our Veterans and their families.”

When it was time to make the career jump, Ms. Pettit did her homework. It did not take long for the Paralyzed Veterans of America to surge into the forefront as a desired destination. “What PVA stands for is what I stand for.” She adds, “Believing that Veterans should not be defined by a piece of paper and that their lives are more than merely a diagnosis is a powerful mission.”

Ms. Pettit grew up in suburban Chesterfield County, just miles from our PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter headquarters. Her family still lives in the area and it is where she is raising her 6-year-old daughter, Scarlett. When they are not together at soccer practice or taking road trips across Virginia, Ms. Pettit spends time volunteering and supporting a childhood cancer organization, Connor's Heroes.

As her onboarding and training continue, Ms. Pettit has an invitation to all of our members: “Come see me, my door is always open. For me to the best I can be, we need to get to know each other.” Her goal may be best reflected in these few words. “I want all of our Veterans to feel valued and comfortable, and to be heard.”



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# NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

**Going to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games?**  
Reserve **Friday, June 12** for our NVWG Send- Off Banquet  
to receive your Mid-Atlantic team gear.