



Nevada Chapter

1st Quarter 2023
Volume 1 Issue 1

In Memoriam

It is with deep sorrow that we say goodbye to founding member and President, Dan Kaminski. Dan will not only be missed by all of us at Nevada PVA but by every person whose life he touched. Rest in Peace. We will carry on your legacy and make you proud.



Paralyzed Veterans of America, Nevada Chapter

www.nevadapva.org

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Mission Statement

The mission of Nevada PVA is to improve the quality of life of U.S. military veterans and others who have spinal cord dysfunction through the use of adaptive sports, recreation, wellness programs, outreach, education, research and support.

Disclaimer

The Nevada Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America is a non-profit organization. We do not ask for or receive any money from any federal or state agencies. All of our funds are received mainly from donations. All members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America have sustained a spinal cord injury or disease. This newsletter is a publication of the Nevada chapter and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disabled community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Nevada PVA, its officers, board members, the editor or production staff.

Executive Director's Report

by Julie Johnson



The passing of our Chapter President & National Director, Dan Kaminski, has been a lot to process this new year. Dan was a founding member of the Nevada PVA chapter and has been the chapter president for the past 10 years and National Director for 4 Years.

As a founding member of the Nevada PVA Board of Directors, and a member of the PVA for over 24 years, Dan had a great interest and concern about the process and administration benefiting our membership; having learned many ways over the years to help veterans and non-veterans with disabilities. Dan continued to help make NVPVA a major contributor in the cause of veterans with disabilities, benefits, and quality of life issues.

Dan was born in 1956 and raised in Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school in 1974, he joined the US Navy. After an accident cut short his Naval career in 1980, he was retired as a non-commissioned officer, he understood what the job of a chapter president & national director was and worked hard to get it done. As a member of the Nevada PVA Board of Directors, he never gave up on what needed to be done to benefit membership.

The riches he found came in his many lifelong friendships and in helping others. Dan was very fortunate in his working relationships to get things done to benefit others. Dan was very active with wheelchair sports in the Las Vegas community, working with the Las Vegas Adaptive Sports Department and Nevada PVA. One of his most treasured times was the Kids Paralympic Sports Activity Nights. Our chapter sponsors many BBQ's and Holiday parties for the children with special needs and he just loved handing out candy canes, chips and making the kids laugh. Oh, let's not forget all his photo bombing.

Dan made sure to keep the members informed and contributed to the planning of events and get together that bond members together, which was one of his ongoing goals.

I will miss all of these things about you and so much more — your not politically correct statements, quirkiness, unique take on life, get on my nerves banter, I think I mentioned photo-bombing above, kindness, co-partner, someone to help me to take a step back before responding, think out of the box, giving, outgoing personality with a slight, very slight hint of shyness, up for anything, veterans first, love of reality tv, love of family & friends, and most of all what you brought to the table to make this world a better place to live.

We will continue to make Nevada PVA a strong leader in our community. Rest In Peace My Friend. Vaya Con Dios Boss Man (even though he knew I was the real boss, as he would say, lol)! Forever Remembered.

Service Officer's Report

by Jason McDonald, NSO

Automotive and Adaptive Equipment Grant

Over the course of my career as a National Service Officer for PVA there has been many questions regarding the Automotive and Adaptive Equipment Grant and who is eligible and who is not. The Automotive and Adaptive Equipment Grant is considered an ancillary or secondary benefit based off of a grant of service connection for eligible disabilities. In accordance with Title 38 CFR § 3.808 service connection for one of the following disabilities will grant entitlement to the Automotive and Adaptive Equipment Grant:

- ◆ Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet;
- ◆ Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands;
- ◆ Permanent impairment of vision of both eyes: Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20° in the better eye.
- ◆ Severe burn injury: Deep partial thickness or full thickness burns resulting in scar formation that cause contractures and limit motion of one or more extremities or the trunk and preclude effective operation of an automobile.
- ◆ Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

If you do not have any of the above conditions you would be considered a non-service connected Veteran and you could still be eligible to obtain vehicle modifications only if you meet one of the following conditions:

- ◆ Be enrolled in VHA's healthcare system (Vehicle modifications can be provided as medical services).
- ◆ Not eligible for the Automotive and Adaptive Equipment program.

Vehicle modifications include non-operational equipment such as wheelchair tie downs, vehicle lifts and items to assist with entering (ingress) and exiting (egress) the vehicle. Vehicle modifications exclude operational equipment such as power brakes and power steering. It also excludes benefits greater than those eligible for the Automotive and Adaptive Equipment program.

Before you can proceed with either the Automotive and Adaptive Equipment Grant or the Non-service connected vehicle modifications you must get authorization before making any purchases. Please contact your local PVA National Service Officer for questions concerning your specific situation and for assistance with the processing of your claim.

News from City of Henderson Parks & Recreation

Weekly Open Gym will be returning to Downtown Recreation Center on Wednesdays starting on February 8th, 2023 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. We have limited amount of sport chairs at first come first serve basis.

Please remember you must have participant ID card to participate. You can sign up for a ID card. See Annual pricing below.

Participation Card:	Annual Adult	\$25	\$28.75
	Youth/Teen	\$ 5	\$ 5.75
	Senior (60+)/Military	Free	Free

Address:

Downtown Recreation Center
50 E. Van Wagenen St. Henderson, NV 89015

Washington Update



PVA RELEASES 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

The 118th Congress officially began on January 3, 2023. With the end of the 117th Congress, all legislation that did not pass must be reintroduced. We are working with our champions on reintroducing bills and meeting with members of Congress to find support for new priorities.

Our priorities for this year are as follows:

Protect Access to VA's Specialized Health Care Services

Expand Access to VA Long-Term Services and Supports

Improve VA Benefits and Health Care Services for Paralyzed Veterans and their Survivors

Protect the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

Improve Access to Social Security Benefits

Increase Employment Prospects for Veterans with Disabilities

On January 5, the President signed into law H.R. 7939, the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022, as amended. This law paves the way for VA to provide an additional automobile allowance and prompts a number of important changes with the department's various education programs.

Specifically, the law allows the VA to provide an additional automobile allowance to eligible veterans if 30 years have passed since the date they received their first grant. Starting 10 years after the law was signed, the timeframe will decrease and eligible veterans would be able to receive an additional grant if 10 years have passed since their first grant. The law also changes the definition of "medical services" to include certain vehicle modifications (e.g., van lifts) offered through VA's Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) program. This latter provision helps ensure the VA's current support through the AAE program to veterans with non-service-connected illnesses and injuries remains available. Finally, a newly added provision allows VA to provide nonarticulating trailers designed to transport powered wheelchairs, powered scooters, or other similar mobility devices as adaptive equipment.

For more information on these topics and more, visit our website at www.nevadapva.org



Registration Opens February 1st and runs through April 5th.

It's that time of year to remind all of our members about a couple of our ongoing programs that you can take advantage of.

Step Outside Program

The Chapter will fund the member and one (1) guest for participation in or attending Basketball, Soccer, Bowling etc., events or will reimburse the member and one (1) guest to attend shows, movies, plays or lunch/dinner, in a sit-down "full service" restaurant.

The amount of the funding will be capped at **\$100.00 per quarter, per member.**

In order to have access to these funds, the member **must** submit receipts **and** a short review of the event attended, which will be placed in the newsletter. Receipts and the review **must be** submitted within three (3) weeks of having attended the event in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

This program is designed to get our members out and about in a social setting.

ADDEENDUM: You do not need to spend \$100.00 on any one event, the money is \$100.00 **per quarter** so if you pay \$10.00 ten times for movies you still get the funding. However, you must submit the receipt and the **write up** within three weeks of the event. **DO NOT SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS UNTIL YOU ACCUMULATE \$100.00, NEVADA PVA WILL KEEP TRACK OF THE FUNDS.**

Adopt-A-Vet Program

This is a monthly program where we deliver a bag of groceries and a hygiene kit to your home. Those living outside of the Clark County, Nevada delivery area, we will send you a gift card for groceries. Please give us a call or send us an email and we will get you started.

Upcoming Events

Corrections Academy Graduation—March 16th 9 am at The Orleans Hotel and Casino
Nevada PVA Trapshoot—March 31-April 2, Clark County Shooting Park
Walk, Run and Roll 5K—April 15 9am at Bunker Park. 7351 W Alexander Rd, Las Vegas
PVA Public Awareness Month—April 1-30

Bowling Tournament



Paralympic Kids
Christmas Party



PVA Christmas Party



January

Derek Curtis
Joseph Cypher
Lauretta Graham
David Gray
Samuel Hagaman

Ali Jahanfard
Julie Johnson
Mervyn Kaya
Robert Nolan
Francisco Novero

Tx.P. Vogler
Samuel Whitt
Paul Winter
Norman Woods

February

Jaime Anderson-Perelman
Billy Andre
Melinda Brooks
Eric Cagle
Lloyd Eggstaff
William Frankel
Armando Guajardo

Darwin Holmes
Anita Lawson-McGlynn
Kamron Lopez
James McCollem
Michael McDonald
Randall McKee
Linda Mitchell

Samuel Owens
David Schneider
Michael Schulz
Randall Schwartz
Roland Teal
James Troy
James Washington
Cheryl Yorkey

March

Jerry Bench
William Burns
RC Christensen
Marc Fenn
Jose Gonzalez

Keith Hansen
Tyler Jefferies
Robert (Wes) Jensen
Ben Keechler
Alan Marsh

Darrin Newland
Josephine Owens
Timothy Prophet
Michael Romanowski

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Enterprise Holdings	James Salata
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Gentlemen's League	Donald Schwartz
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Daniel Kelley	Stout Foundation
Kendra Scott LLC	The Links for Life Foundation
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City of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation
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The Siegel Group
SIOR
Smith's
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The NV Energy Foundation
Total Wine and More
United Way of Southern Nevada
Vegas Golden Knights

Help support veterans Make a donation today!

Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.
Tax ID #31-1647467. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Donations can be made in any amount. They will accumulate from January 1—December 31. Donors will be printed in our monthly newsletter unless otherwise requested. To make a donation go online to www.nevadapva.org or call 702-646-0040.

Separating from the Military?



It is critical to file a VA Disability Claim while on active duty. This is your best opportunity to maximize your VA Disability Rating.

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Resources related to Afghanistan

Veterans who served in Afghanistan may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions related to the U.S. withdrawal from the country and the events unfolding now. Veterans who served during other conflicts may also be feeling strong emotions as they may be reminded of their own deployment experiences.

Here is a list of available resources, call center information, peer support, and other community services:

NVDS - [Local Vet Center groups](#)

Vet Centers – *Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. 70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans. Call [1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)*

Veterans Crisis Line – *If you are having thoughts of suicide, call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255), then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>*

For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to [your local VA medical center](#) 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.

VA Women Veterans Call Center – Call or text [1-855-829-6636](tel:1-855-829-6636) (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 6:30PM ET)

VA Caregiver Support Line – Call [1-855-260-3274](tel:1-855-260-3274) (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 5PM ET)

Download VA's self-help apps – Tools to help deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.

VA Mental Health Services Guide – *This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.*

MakeTheConnection.net – *information, resources, and Veteran to Veteran videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.*

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) – [Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors \(TAPS\) Is Here For You!](#) or call [800-959-TAPS \(8277\)](tel:800-959-TAPS)

If you are struggling, the worst thing you can do is nothing. Don't be afraid to lean on your Veteran community and please consider reaching out to VA if you would like to learn more about what is available.



Las Vegas VA Medical Center Locations

Mailing Address: VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, 6900 North Pecos Road, North Las Vegas, NV 89086

Main Number: 702-791-9000 **Toll-Free Phone:** 1-888-633-7554 **VA Pharmacy:** 702-791-9076

Toll-Free Nurse Advice Line: 1-877-252-4866

	Northeast Primary Care Clinic 4461 East Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89104	702-791-9050
	Northwest Primary Care Clinic 3968 North Rancho Drive North Las Vegas, NV 89130	702-791-9020
	Pahrump Community Based Outpatient Clinic 2100 East Calvada Boulevard Pahrump, NV 89048	775-727-7535
	Southeast Primary Care Clinic 1020 South Boulder Highway Henderson, NV 89015	702-791-9030
	Southwest Primary Care Clinic 7235 South Buffalo Drive Las Vegas, NV 89113	702-791-9040
	Community Resource and Referral Center 926 West Owens Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89106	702-791-9077
	Mike O'Callaghan Federal Medical Center 4700 North Las Vegas Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89115	702-653-2227 EMERGENCY CARE ONLY
	Psychosocial Rehab Recovery Center 3525 W. Cheyenne Avenue North Las Vegas, NV 89032	702-791-9060
	Vet Center - Las Vegas 1919 South Jones Boulevard, Suite A Las Vegas, NV 89146	702-251-7873
	Vet Center - Henderson 400 North Stephanie Street, Suite 180 Henderson, NV 89014	702-791-9100
	Women's Health Center Temporarily at Northeast PCC 4461 East Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89104	702-791-9050

Veterans Transportation Service (VTS)

Veterans can schedule transportation through their VA primary Care Provider or by calling the VTS office at 1/844-859-5074. Please schedule transportation ahead of

NATIONAL CRISIS HOTLINE

Dial 988 Press 1

or

Text 838255

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4

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