



# PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Nevada Chapter

4th Quarter 2023

Volume 1 Issue 4

## THE ELECTION ISSUE

**Ballots will be mailed in December and  
due back no later than  
January 15, 2024**

## **Paralyzed Veterans of America, Nevada Chapter**

**[www.nevadapva.org](http://www.nevadapva.org)**

704 S. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107

702/646-0040 fax: 702/646-3712 866/638-3837

### **Nevada PVA Officers**

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Jason Kelley

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Jason Kelley

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Jason Kelley

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Jason Kelley  
L.E. Curtis, Bowling Director

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### **Hospital Liaison**

Dominic Cirino

### **NSO**

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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.

## President's Report

*by Bill Burns*

It's that time of year again for one of our biggest and longest running events.

### **The Las Vegas Invitational Bowling Tournament.**

**November 30-December 3**

Sunset Station 1301 W. Sunset Rd, Henderson, NV 89014

Single Entry - Closing Date - Nov 20, 2023

Our fundraiser part of this is the UP/DOWN BOWL

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** 6:30pm

### **\$500 LANE SPONSOR**

Recognition on promotional flyer and registration materials for event

Banner with your logo above a bowling lane

Company logo placement on the website

Company name included in all press releases as a sponsor.

Post recognition on website, social media and in printed newsletter

2 complimentary bowling entries for the up/down event and 4 event raffle tickets

For more information please go to our website [www.nevadapva.org](http://www.nevadapva.org) , call our office 702/646-0040 or email us at [pvanevada@gmail.com](mailto:pvanevada@gmail.com)



## Executive Director's Report

*by Julie Johnson*

I can't believe the holidays are upon us but here we are gearing up to deliver turkeys and all the fixings to members in Southern Nevada and all our Northern Nevada members will get a gift card if they have called the office to sign up for our holiday Adopt-A-Vet program. 702-646-0040

I just returned from Fall Boards in Florida and it's always great seeing everyone. We had a very productive meeting with the Association of Chapter Executive Directors (ACED) as well as some National PVA training for Presidents and Executive Directors.

We have the following events or programs coming up and hope to see or hear from all of you.

Nov 10 – Cars & BBQ event at the VA Southern Nevada 10am-2pm stop by our booth.

Nov 11 – Veterans Day Parade – You and your family are welcome to roll or walk with us.

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – Cut Off Date for Turkey Orders. If you would like a Turkey and some fixings let us know.

Nov 30 – Up/Down Bowling FUNdraiser – Sunset Station registration 6pm

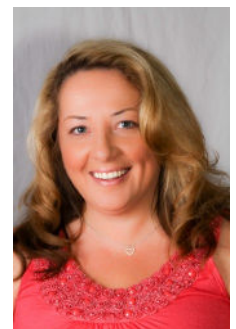
Nov 30-Dec 3 – Las Vegas Invitational Bowling Tournament – Sunset Station

Dec 9 – Nevada PVA Holiday Party – Lieburn Senior Center 6230 Garwood Ave 12pm-2pm

Dec 11 – Tropicana Hotel – Volunteer work to pack bags. 10am

Dec 13 – Kids spaghetti dinner/holiday party

If you are interested in any or all these events either call the office 702-646-0040 or email [pvanevada@gmail.com](mailto:pvanevada@gmail.com)





## Sports Report

by Jason Kelley



I would like to encourage everyone and anyone to go to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games next year in New Orleans, LA. Put it on your calendar, it's the last week of July 2024!! Also, there is a Winter Sports Clinic that will be held in Aspen, CO in April of next year. The registration deadlines, including physician's report are due by November 30, 2023. The clinic is held by the VA and is all adaptive snow fun. Here is the website to find out more information and to register: [www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org)

Currently the Raiders Wheelchair Football team is doing well for the first year of being a team. Nevada PVA currently has three members on the team, they are Le'Toi Adams, Darnell Calahan and myself.

Below is a picture of our Raiders Wheelchair Football Team.



# Service Officer's Report

by Jason McDonald, NSO



## Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)

In this article we will be taking about the PCAFC program, its benefits, requirements, and services. Veterans who served honorably are entitled to certain services if they have a medical necessity. There are certain requirements a veteran must meet in order to qualify for this program. Having a caregiver can allow a veteran to live a joyful life by providing them with assistance of daily living.

### Eligibility Criteria

The individual must be a veteran or a service member undergoing a medical discharge.

The individual must have incurred/aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty.

In regards to the PCAFC program the veteran must have one service connected injury rated at 70% or a combined total rating that equal 70% or more.

The individual must have at least 6 continuous months of in person care services.

Requires assistance with daily living. Not having assistance would result in serious impairment.

Requires supervision based on neurological or residual symptoms.

Specific services that the caregiver provides will not be provided by another person or entity.

The individual receives care at home or will receive care if the VA provides a caregiver

There are plenty of reasons why a veteran or service member would benefit from a caregiver. Understanding how a caregiver would help improve a veteran's life is critical to the veteran's wellbeing. There are a lot of veterans who require the help of a caregiver, but unfortunately their pride gets in the way. Having a caregiver is not a negative thing, it is meant to help make the veterans life positive and provide them with an easier way of life. The PCAFC offers a monthly stipend based on the current need of the veteran. Currently there are two levels of stipend payments, level one and level two.

Level one pays the GS rate of grade 4, divided by 12 and multiplied by 0.625.

The level two pays the OPM GS rate of grade 4, divided by 12, multiplied by 1.00

Level two is offered when the veteran meets the definition of "unable to self- sustain in the community" for the purposes of PCAFC. This will pay the caregiver at a higher rate.

### Family Caregiver Eligibility Requirements

There are requirements for the veteran to qualify for this program, but there are also caregiver requirements as well. All caregiver must qualify in order to care for veterans through the VA care giver support program.

Caregiver must be over the age of 18.

Must be a dependent of the veteran or someone who lives in the home of the veteran.

Must be able to complete all caregiver educational and training programs required by the VA.

Caregiver must be competent enough to demonstrate the ability to perform all specific personal care services that the veteran requires and additional care requirements as well.

In regards to the level of pay a caregiver can receive, they must meet certain requirements. Then the VA states the veteran must be unable to self-sustain in the community. They are referring to certain needs and requirements. As stated in the VA.gov website. The VA's definition of "unable to self-sustain in the community means:

Requires personal care services each time he or she completes three or more of the seven activities of daily living (ADL) listed in the definition of an inability to perform an activity of daily living in this section, and is fully dependent on a caregiver to complete such ADLs; or

Has a need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury on a continuous basis; or

Has a need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the Veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired on a continuous basis.

When the VA is stating that the veteran must have the inability to perform activity of daily living. Everyone has their own definition for this. On VA.gov The VA has their own definition and it means:

- Dressing or undressing oneself, Bathing, grooming oneself in order to keep oneself clean and presentable

Adjusting any special prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, that by reason of the particular disability cannot be done without assistance (this does not include the adjustment of appliances that nondisabled persons would be unable to adjust without aid, such as supports, belts, lacing at the back, etc.)

Toileting or attending to toileting, feeding oneself due to loss of coordination of upper extremities, extreme weakness, inability to swallow, or the need for a non-oral means of nutrition

Mobility (walking, going up stairs, transferring from bed to chair, etc.

These are the basic requirements the Veteran and caregiver must meet in order to qualify for the PCAFC program, and based on the veterans needs, will determine the pay level of the caregiver.

## **PCAFC Application Process**

Members, if you want to apply for the Comprehensive Assistance Program for Family Caregiver program, please get in touch with your local PVA National Service Officer for assistance and guidance. They will be able to advise you on how to proceed with the application and preparation process. To begin this process the Veteran must contact their local Caregiver support program team coordinator. The coordinator must go through the entire application process outlined below with the veteran and the care giver. Normally the decision process takes 90 days to complete. The steps to apply for the PCAFC are stated below.

The veteran and caregiver must both complete and submit the application for PCAFC VA form 10-10CG. They can either apply online through [https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support\\_benefits.asp](https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp). They can apply in person by filling out the form and bringing it in to their local coordinator at their nearest VA facility. Or they can mail the form to Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Health Eligibility Center, 2957 Clairmont Road NE, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

Next the local CSP coordinator conducts an application intake with the veteran and the caregiver either in person, over the phone or via video connect.

Next is the veteran assessment. This is where the coordinator assesses the veteran and determines the veterans needs. This will be done via phone, in person, or video call.

After the veteran assessment, the coordinator will conduct the caregiver assessment. This assessment will determine the caregiver's specific information. This interview will be conducted via phone, in person or video call.

A functional assessment will be conducted to determine the veteran's functional abilities and or needs. This test will be conducted in person or video call.

The centralized eligibility and appeals team will review the intake, assessments, and medical records of the veteran.

Once everything is approved the caregiver will undergo training for the veteran's specific needs. The caregiver will complete the VA's core curriculum training. This training will be conducted online or via DVD workbook.

After the caregiver completes the training, a home-care assessment will be conducted by the csp coordinator and home care team. This home assessment will determine the caregiver's competence, the wellbeing of the caregiver, and all personal care services that must be provided to the veteran in their home. This intake will be conducted in person at the veteran's house.

Finally, the application review is last. The CEAT will review and finalize their decisions based on all assessments and intakes taken by the coordinator, veteran and caregiver.

Once all documents have been turned in and the final review is completed, the veteran and their caregiver will be given a notification of approval letter.

In conclusion, there are many benefits a veteran can receive by applying for the PCAFC program. There are many veterans who need a caregiver, but are unaware they qualify for this benefit. All veterans can read the requirements on the VA.gov website to see if they qualify for this program. Having a caregiver can provide a veteran with assistance in their daily living. If you need assistance gathering information for this program or require assistance applying. You can contact your local NSO at your local VA hospital. They can walk you through the application process, guide you in the right direction, assist you with all the necessary documents that might help your application. Don't forget to explain and show your provider that you require a caregiver, and how much having a caregiver will improve your daily living.

# ***ELECTION***

## **The following are running for your Board of Directors:**

### **Dominic Cirino, running for Chapter President**

I was born in Detroit and raised in the city and enlisted in the Air Force in June of 1967. I was a Morse Intercept Operator and cross trained as a Cryptographer. I was honorably discharged in 1971. Got married in 1972 to my wife Judy and had two children. Graduated from the University of Michigan and was regional manager for a courier company. We moved to Las Vegas in 2005. I am the chapter's hospital liaison and as such serve on the Family Advisory Board at the VA striving to bring the needs of our members and their family to the attention of the VA. I also attend the monthly Commanders' Meeting.

I have been a member of the PVA Board of Director's for the past six years and have endeavored to help bring recognition of our chapter throughout the community and will continue to do so to best of my ability.

I am currently retired and my wife and I volunteer at the VA Southwest Clinic.

### **Le'Toi Adams, running for Chapter Vice President**

My name is Le'Toi Adams, I am from Los Angeles, California. After suffering a spinal cord injury, in 2011 I was paralyzed from the waist down due to non-Hodgkin's, after the process of chemotherapy, radiation and the fact that I would never walk again, I began dealing with depression and insecurities. I stayed in the house 24/7 as I was uncomfortable around other people. I was dependent on my family to get me through the day. In 2015 I joined the VA health care program. I was offered physical therapy, group therapy and individual therapy. I took advantage of these opportunities that were offered to me.

By 2016 I found the Triumph Foundation which is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help children, adults, and Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI) to triumph over their disability and to inspire them to keep moving forward with their lives by pushing themselves to get better every day. Triumph Foundation works to minimize the obstacles that one faces after suffering traumatic injury. Triumph Foundation is a family community with mobility impairments in Southern California. I found comfort in going to the support groups for people with spinal cord injuries. I could see my life slowly looking up. Through this foundation I was introduced to adaptive sports, and I quickly found a passion for wheelchair basketball.

I have attended the Veterans wheelchair games where again I found myself surrounded by disabled individuals such as myself with the same drive I have when it comes to sports. I felt at home, comfortable and more secure about myself during these events. I wanted my body to get stronger so I could continue to participate in adaptive sports. I went back to school and received my bachelor's degree in physical education, health, human performance Recreation.

I played wheelchair basketball for the University of Whitewater for four years. In Wisconsin I joined the PVA in 2020 because I felt I could bring a positive attitude and outcome to the program that has given me such much. As a board member I was able to have a cooking show on you tube called "Cooking with LeToi" the goal was to make others in a wheelchair aware that you can still can-do things you enjoy, it just may look different. I have attended the National Veterans Wheelchair games since 2016 in Salt Lake City.

I am honored to be running for Vice President as I fell that this opportunity will allow me to go grow, I am a quick learner, and I am inspired to make the best choices for the PVA Nevada Chapter. My goal is to give back to a community that has opened their arms to me.



**Lawrence Brown, running for Secretary**

I served in the Armed Forces in the Vietnam War. I'm a T3 spinal cord vet. I've been a spinal cord patient for 40 years. I've been a life member of PVA since 1982. Worked with the Texas PVA chapter for five years before I moved to Las Vegas, I was one of the founding members of the Nevada Chapter. I have degrees in Mid Management, Finance Management, Human Relations and PRN. I look forward to working with the board members as well as with the President and Vice President.

**L.E. Curtis, running for Director**

I served in the US Navy during the early stages of the Vietnam War. I was honorably discharged in 1966 as an HM2, hospital corpsman 2nd class. I studied at San Diego State University where I earned a BS in Health Science and at San Jose State University where I earned a Masters in Public Health.

From 1985-2003 I served the Bay Area and Western PVA chapter as a member of the board of directors, sports director and filled in as secretary/treasurer.

**Roger Dauffenbach, running for Director**

I became active with the PVA as a result of a cervical injury C-3 and an ambulatory member of the Nevada PVA, Reno District.

My Marine Corps career was December 3, 1963-December 1969. I was discharged from the Reserves with a rank of E4. In my past life I worked at the Palo Alto VA Hospital as a contract Perfusionist, running the heart lung machine during open heart surgery for 26 years.

After retirement I started the bank courier service for NV Security Bank in Reno. After five years, the bank decided it no longer needed my services and laid me off in March 2007. While working for the bank I took on a partner to start an engine install business for super performance cars. In August 2006, I turned the business over to my partner.

I have been on the board of NVPVA for several years now and a few years ago I was appointed the Advocacy/Legislative Director. In this capacity I travel to Capitol Hill annually to meet with Nevada representatives on issues of importance to veterans and specifically members of PVA.

**Cedric Delong, running for Treasurer**

I am a retired Navy Veteran and have been married for 33 years. I have an AS degree in psychology from Liberty University in Virginia. I am a volunteer biblical guidance counselor at LV Reach, a non-profit community outreach center and have been there for the past year. I have been a missionary/pastor for 25 years.

*Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays and  
a Very Happy New Year*



### **Tom Hudson, running for Director**

Hello, I'm Tom Hudson a 0% SC (due to Ian's past NSO efforts) SCI VA Clinic user and long time PVA member. This was a result of several [presumptive to service] medical conditions that have collided. To date I have served several terms on the Board of Directors, and with your votes would like to continue to.

My met goals to date since being elected are: expansion of the Nevada PVA definitions in the *Out and About Program* reimbursement to include all meal venues & times without them having to be part of a larger outing; getting a number of Northern NV businesses to give PVA members discounted services; insuring that these businesses receive regular recognition; worked with Ann to get a portion of the website made Reno area specific and constantly updated; continuing to act as a liaison with Reno Recreation to get word of local outdoor activities to our members; and have working relationships with Northern NV & CA Disabled Sports organizations so that other venues are reported timely so that travel, meals and accommodations can be secured by participating Nevada PVA members. Over the last ten+ years I've worked with the Reno Air Race Association and Veterans Initiative in Technology, Aerospace & Logistics (vital.org) a registered 501, C-19 non-profit, to get our members out for a free day of *all* show venue access for Air Races enjoyment. Safari Club International (safariclub.org) is due to return to Reno, if so I'll try to get passes to the displays reinstated for Veterans again.

As a paralegal, I have currently done legal research on legislative issues for the parties that are proposing legislation, and also for concerned effected users of these legislative proposals. The areas of assistance also include the Fair Housing Act issues, PTSD discrimination research, agency age exclusion issues, and Veteran's Rights, and ACAA violations.

I will continue to promote Nevada PVA's existence as much as possible and am asking for your vote to return to the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration and votes

### **Jason Kelley, running for Director**

My name is Jason Kelley and I am proud to have served in the United States Marine Corps from 1999 through 2008. I was sent overseas for September 11, 2001 and served honorably. I am most proud of opening the brand new mess hall on camp Courtney Okinawa, Japan in 2003.

Since my departure from the Marines, I have held positions for cooking and fire alarm inspector in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, Multiple Sclerosis took me away from my fire alarm career in 2017. My most important role in life is to be the best father even with my changing limitations. My wife of 20+ years and my two children, ages 18 and 12 are my world.

My latest and greatest achievement is being a part of the best organization, which is the Paralyzed Veterans of America. I am proud to be the PVA Las Vegas chapter Sports Director, National Director and MS liaison. I have so many ideas to get more Veterans involved and out in the community. I'm already a big activist for the adaptive cycling program for the City of Las Vegas and adaptive scuba diving thanks to Dive Pirates. I am also proud to say that I am part of the wheelchair football team as the Las Vegas Raiders (GO RAIDERS!!!) as part of Move United and the wheelchair football teams are associated with the NFL.

As current National Director, I am just starting to get the whole picture of what the PVA does as a whole. What a great opportunity to be apart of the positive changes for all ADA challenges! I would love the honor to stay on the board as a Director to be able to provide more to our Veterans! I feel like I am just getting my feet wet and I would appreciate to keep this up!

Thank you!

### **Mike Romanowski, running for Director**

I was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and enlisted in the Air Force in March of 1994. I was a Security Policeman and honorably discharged in 1998 after being stationed at Kadena AB in Okinawa, Japan and Hanscom AFB in Lexington, MA. I left the military with an AA Degree in Criminal Justice from the Community College of the Air Force.

After my time in the Air Force, I spent twelve years working as a Logistics Analyst at FedEx. During my time at FedEx, I earned my MBA from Northwood University. My family and I moved to Henderson, NV in 2014 where we still live today.

I have two adult children, Jordan (28) and Abigail (18) with my wife of twenty-two years, Stacy. I am currently retired, and I spend my time playing wheelchair rugby for the Las Vegas High Rollers and advocating for my Veteran brothers and sisters.

### **Michael Taday, running for Director**

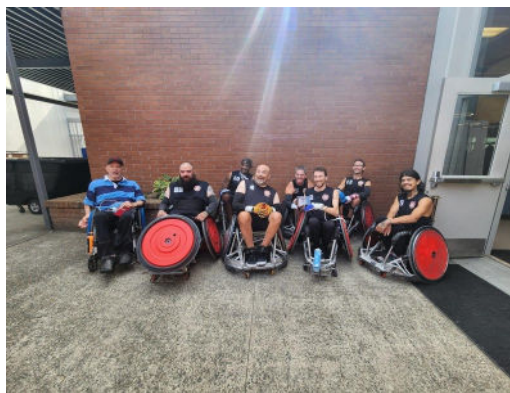
I was a US Navy Hospital Corpsman. I trained at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Camp LeJeune. I was in Vietnam with Lima 3/5 Marines. I have a BA in economics and a minor in finance which I received from Cleveland State University. I worked at Union Carbide for seven years in inventory accounting. Then as an investment analyst at Economic Plans, Inc. and Cycle-Tech where I was President. I eventually worked for the DOD in the Defense Finance Accounting Department where I eventually retired.

After retirement we moved to St. George, Utah and then finally to Mesquite, Nevada to be closer to the VA Medical Center due to my ALS diagnosis.

Las Vegas Raiders, A J Cole & Jakob Johnson showed up to the wheelchair football team's practice session



Rugby High Rollers Team 2023





## Annual General Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet



Foundation of the Year  
Honoree, Southwest Gas  
Foundation



Community Supporter  
of the Year, Elks Lodge  
#1468



Volunteers  
of the Year



Our Amazing  
PVA Volunteers

VA Staff



## Reno Event/Military Sports Camp



## Paralympic Kids Pizza Party



## Picnic in the Park







## October

Scott Alderman  
Jon Arnesen  
Arletha Carey  
Barbara Chackel  
Brian Chen  
Cedric DeLong  
Jane Diamond  
William Emery

Luther Estes  
Jeffrey Futter  
Jeffrey Gurney  
Jason Halliwell  
John Hansen  
Shawn Johnson  
Douglas Jones  
Jason Kelley

Angelina Leon  
Tamara Ramirez  
Kim Reed  
Jim Rice  
Asa Richter  
Brian Walker  
Robert Yee

## November

Jeffrey Alcorn  
Bryan Bedoy  
Linda Bennett  
Ray Berni  
Joseph Bilcharz  
Lawrence Cabrera  
Anthony Cherry  
Raymond Daigle

Elayne Elwell  
Kenneth Harrop  
Robert Hudson  
Gregory Hughes  
Frank Kennemur  
Mark Lenoir  
Robert McFalls  
Patricia Meints

James Oliver  
Ann Perelman  
Michael Perelman  
Wade Reckinger  
Jaime Segarra  
John Simmons  
Vic Skaar

## December

Judy Cirino  
Lawrence Cook  
Ina Edwards  
Dawn Eggstaff  
Pat Ellison

Rona Mae Fenn  
Tom Hudson  
Shane Irwin  
John Kennedy  
John King

Donald McCrory  
Kenneth Sandoval  
Steven Simmons  
Robert Stilz

### Follow us on:

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Twitter: [Twitter.com/PVANevada](https://twitter.com/PVANevada)

# Thank You!

## Donor List

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Mighty Cause  
Mountain View Presbyterian Church  
MZLZ Family Giving Fund  
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Victor Skaar  
Maria Smith  
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Tropicana Hotel & Casino  
Burk Injury Lawyers  
SIOR  
  
Kayo Energy  
Navy Federal Credit Union  
City of Las Vegas Parks & Recreation  
  
Bob MacElrath  
Vegas Geek

## Community Partners

Tropicana Hotel and Casino  
MGM Resorts Foundation  
Elks Lodge #1468  
Burk Injury Lawyers  
Kayo Energy  
City of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation  
Help Genesis Apartments  
Paralympic Sports Club  
Raiders Foundation  
The Siegel Group  
SIOR  
Smith's  
Southwest Gas  
The NV Energy Foundation  
Navy Federal Credit Union  
Total Wine and More  
United Way of Southern Nevada  
Vegas Golden Knights  
City of Las Vegas Parks & Recreation

**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](http://www.nevadapva.org) or call 702-646-0040.

## 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

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





# BECOME A PIRATE



**SINCE 2004,**  
**THE DIVE PIRATES FOUNDATION**  
has welcomed people with physical disabilities into the mainstream world of travel and scuba diving, especially veterans, first responders and law enforcement.

The Foundation trains, equips and conducts dive trips fostering self-worth and community.




*"I may have survived my accident, but this is living!"*  
Jared Davis

**MEMBERSHIPS -**  
Dues provide training and equipment for recipients, a lifeline to our recipients who are now empowered to try something new. Members receive initial pirate treasure on sign up and yearly booty for renewing.




**SPONSORSHIPS**  
Support an event, an individual diver's journey, and more.

**EMPLOYEE GIFT-MATCHING -**  
Maximize your efforts.

**PLAY -**  
Plan your next vacation with pirates or join us for a chapter or foundation event and share in the fun.



**APPLY • JOIN • DONATE AND MORE AT [DIVEPIRATES.ORG](http://DIVEPIRATES.ORG)**



# PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

**April 2023**

## Partner For Life



Mr. Floyd Graves III is a 51-year-old Veteran. He served as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist in the Air Force; and as a Tree Trimmer and Water Meter Worker for the City of Oceanside. Floyd has been a client of the Veterans Career Program since 2019.

In 2022, shortly after learning that his position as a Water Maintenance Worker would be ending, he contacted our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Darah Gerou, for assistance. He was looking for a new position, preferably permanent. Like many individuals, Floyd had accepted part-time or contract work to fill the gaps between permanent positions.

Floyd's main motivation for finding a position was rooted in his desire to continue helping to support his family. Before starting the job search process, Darah helped him apply for unemployment and navigate other helpful local resources. She then assisted Floyd with updating, revising and tailoring his resume. They also updated his LinkedIn profile, practiced his interview skills, and discussed the best to "sell" himself to potential employers.

Floyd went on several second-round interviews with different companies – not an uncommon situation for many job seekers. In mid-April 2023, Floyd received and accepted a job offer with Caltrans as a Tree Maintenance Worker. He began his new job the first week of May.

Congratulations Floyd!

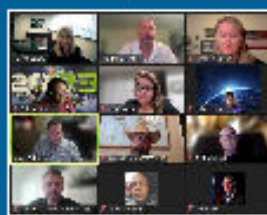
## IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

### 20 Client Placements

- 15 Paid Employment
- 5 Education/Training
  - 17 Veterans
  - 3 Family Members
  - 5 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 12 clients placed in full-time employment was \$93,923 (a record high monthly average); and the average income for the 3 clients placed in part-time work was \$11,304.



## Exploring Self-Employment



According to the National Disability Institute, 74% of people with disabilities do not participate in the labor force, but continue to turn to self-employment and small business development as a viable alternative.

On April 19th, graduates of Paralyzed Veterans of America's 8-week Disabled Veterans Self-Employment Pilot Program had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished panel of small business experts including Aaron Sharp Miranda (Wells Fargo), Tracy Cassidy (Penske Automotive Group), Laura Wages (U.S. Small Business Administration) and Meghan Ogilvie (Dog Tag Inc).

Thanks to a generous donation from the Wells Fargo Foundation, we were able to award two \$2,500 grants to help PVA Members test and launch their businesses. Congratulations to Howard Cleland (PVA Wisconsin Chapter Member) and Tiffaney Davison (PVA Buckeye Chapter Member); and congratulations to all the participants in our pilot program.



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