

GATEWAY GAZETTE

The Official Publication of the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America



Lonnie Crider, a member of the SL Veterans Wheel Chair team going to participate in the 2006 Wheelchair Games at Anchorage Alaska in July with one of the guest clowns at the recent 2006 Local Wheelchair Games on Friday May 11 at JBVAMC.

Representative Joe Smith Creates Medallion Program to Honor Vietnam War Veterans

Jefferson City – Missourians who valiantly served their country in the Vietnam War will soon receive recognition through a program created through legislation sponsored by Rep. Joe Smith, (R-Weldon Spring). The legislation, passed on the final day of the legislative session, creates the Vietnam War Medallion Program.

House Bill 978 ensures every veteran who honorably served during the Vietnam War is entitled to receive a Vietnam War medallion, medal, and a certificate of appreciation as long as the veteran is or was a legal resident of Missouri when he or she entered or was discharged from military service or at the time of his or her death. Any spouse or eldest living survivor of a deceased veteran who is entitled to the medallion may receive it on behalf of the deceased veteran.

“So many men and women braved the horrors of war on foreign soil and today their contributions are too often overlooked or forgotten,” said Rep. Smith. “We want our veterans and their families to feel appreciated each and every day and not just on holidays such as Veterans Day. The medallions are a lasting token of our appreciation for all that they have done and all they have sacrificed.”

From column 1

The bill also creates the Vietnam War Veterans' Recognition Award Fund. The fund will consist of gifts, donations, and funds transferred to the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund from any remaining balances in the World War II Veterans Recognition Award Fund and the Korean Conflict Veterans Recognition Award Fund. The accumulated funds will be used to solicit designs and to manufacture and distribute the medallions.

The Adjutant General will administer all aspects of the program. Applications for the medallion can be filed with the Office of the Adjutant General at any time after January 1, 2007. Medallions will be awarded until the supply is exhausted.

Inside...

From the Editor
President's Report
Sports Director's Report

D. Durrwachter
Stan Brown
Joe Avellone

Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Has your address changed? Please inform us by email to: sgokenbach@gatewaypva.org, or writing or calling using the below information :

Gateway PVA
9040 Lackland road
St. Louis, MO. 63114
(314) 427-0393 (800) 426-4058
FAX (314) 427-4183

From the Editor

By the time you receive this newsletter our PVA chapter will have relocated to a new address in Overland Missouri. We are located very close to our old address. I would describe it as "Just down the street." The only part of the address that changed is the street number. We were at 9040 Lackland and now we are at 9738 Lackland. Come by and check us out. Sit in on a board meeting. Join us for a cold refreshment at the next door establishment after the meeting.

Several issues ago I asked for members to send in articles for the newsletter. I've yet to receive any articles so I'm asking again. We need fresh ideas. Our regular contributors are running out of material to write about. If you don't like to write you can at least give us ideas of what you would like to read about. Send something in!

It's getting close to board election time again. There is a nomination ballot included in this issue for you to fill out and send in. Nominate yourself or someone else to run for the BOD. You don't have to give your name. This is your chance to introduce change. I'm told that incumbents are usually re-elected but that is not necessarily the case and besides, I don't believe all current Board members will run for office again. If you are dissatisfied with our current BOD (myself included) or if you just want to be a part of what we do, put your name in the hat. Please give it some thought. The board can always use someone who wants to get in and roll up their sleeves and help out.

Lastly, do any of you have web site development experience? We would like to update our web site and be able to keep it current with monthly calendars and events including pictures and other pertinent information. (This would be a volunteered effort.) I'd like to do it myself but that reminds me of what my co-worker's wife once said when he told her he wanted to build furniture for their house. She said "You don't have the time and it would look like ####." Do you get my point? If you think you can help us out get in touch with me at ddurrwachter@gatewaypva.org.

Thanks, and wish us good fortune in our new location and if you are going to enter into our Free Lasik Procedure drawing, good luck to you (see page 5 for details).

Air Conditioning Service

I would like to offer a Free Air Conditioning service for the Paralyzed Veterans in the local St. Louis Area. I am a Air force veteran that owns a Heating and Cooling Business.

Call Jim at Complete Comfort 314-631-8762

The material contained herein expresses the opinions of the writer and not necessarily the opinions of the editor or the Gateway Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America. All material in the *Gazette* may be reprinted unless specifically prohibited. Readers are encouraged to submit their articles or rebuttals to:

ddurrwachter@gatewaypva.org or in the US mail at address shown to the left and mark with attention to the editor.

President's Report

By Stan Brown



By the time you read this article we should have moved our offices to 9732, 9734, and 9738 Lackland, about three blocks just west of the current location. We will be renting office space in three offices that we are renovating with adjoining doors and minor changes in office dimensions. Our savings will be over \$1000 per month for rent versus the old mortgage and hopefully we will enjoy considerable utility savings in our much smaller location. Our long-term plans are to lease for three years, continue to save, and look to purchase property again. We continue to operate profitably and are investing our gains in a money market fund. At our June board meeting we voted to allocate \$8,100 for members for the Alaska Wheelchair Games based upon their accumulated participation points. We also approved purchasing two tickets (wheelchair accessible) to three Rams football games to be distributed to inpatients based upon their longevity in the hospital and their program participation. Our van transportation services continue two days per week, transporting six outpatients in total; we need a volunteer to drive one additional day per week. All this I believe is good news, especially in comparison with our downward spiral last year.

Respect for the paralyzed veteran in the political arena is a shameful picture. The wheelchair lift in downtown St. Louis at the Soldiers Memorial remains broken for over two years. Wheelchair users could not access the Memorial this Memorial Day while the adjacent Rib America festivities charged admission and had record crowds. The City of St. Louis continues to boast of its revitalized downtown through incentive tax breaks to business and developers but cannot find funds to make the Soldiers Memorial accessible for veterans in wheelchairs. Representative Lacy Clay sponsored a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives to make the Memorial a Federal landmark; the bill passed the House. Senator Jim Talent submitted the same bill in the Senate but the bill remains stuck in a committee with little hope of being voted out to the full Senate. If the Memorial were a Federal landmark it would be properly maintained and funded.

Everyone by now should have received a letter from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs concerning the theft of veterans' records that had been taken home by a VA employee. We are informed of the "potential risk" and told there is no evidence to date of any misuse of the protected data. You are invited to go to the www.firstgov.gov web site for more information and direction to one-time free credit checks. That potential problem is less troublesome to me than an ongoing *Veterans Disability Benefits Commission* that has been tasked with doing a study for the "evaluation and assessment of benefits provided under current federal laws to compensate veterans and their survivors for disability or death attributable to military service." Their web site is www.vetscommission.org; I would encourage every veteran to visit that web site. Congress has asked the commission for the study as they face shortfalls in the federal budget and specifically notice the rise in the dollar amount of VA disability payments. Specific topics include comparing Social Security disability payments with VA disability payments, consideration of the age, earning capacity, and military rank of the injured veteran at the time of their injury, changing the definition of the line of duty determination to actually require injuries to be while performing duties, eliminating the federal government obligation to assist veterans file and prosecute their disability claims, and considering where a person lives in determining their compensation levels. There are other areas of study that may interest you that I didn't mention. I testified at a hearing of the commission on May 10 in St. Louis but would urge you to go to the web site, e-mail or write your response, and contact your congressional and senatorial representatives.

This newsletter has an insert for nominations for our Chapter Board of Directors. If you're interested, nominate yourself. As always, we can use all the help we can get. Don't be alarmed but in closing I would direct you to a New Testament verse: 1 Peter 4:10.

Have a great summer!
Stan

If you think you are a victim of identity theft contact the fraud department of one of the three major credit bureaus listed below and then close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Equifax
P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

1-800-525-6285
www.equifax.com

Experian
P.O. Box 9532
Allen, Texas 75013
Fullerton, CA 92834-6790
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com

TransUnion
Fraud Victim Assistance
P.O. Box 6790

1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com

Families USA

Families USA is part of a large national coalition that will soon launch the **Campaign for Children's Health Care**: A national campaign to educate the public, opinion leaders, and decision-makers about the need to expand health insurance coverage to all children. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, **more than nine million children in the United States** have no health insurance. These children are at risk of experiencing irreparable health and developmental problems that could diminish their educational opportunities.

As part of this effort, we are collecting stories of uninsured children. As you may know, we maintain a database of health care stories from all over the country. This story bank is often used by reporters, policymakers, and others to help put a human face on complicated health policy issues and news stories.

We are interested in hearing from families:

- Who can't afford health insurance for their children
- Whose children face serious health consequences because they are uninsured
- Who have seen their children's academic achievement compromised because they are uninsured
- Who experience difficulties providing insurance for their children due to financial hardships

If you or anyone you know would like to share a story, please contact **Aman Gohal, Communications Associate, toll-free at 1-800-593-5041 ext. 3621**. Health care consumers may also share their story online via this link. Stories can also be e-mailed to storybank@familiesusa.org.

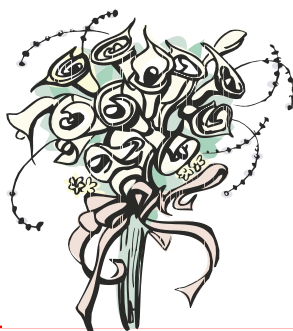
Families USA respects the privacy of consumers and asks for their permission before sharing their stories with anyone.

To learn more or to distribute information about our story bank, please view our brochure. Health care consumers can fax the story form on the last page of the brochure to **202-347-2417**. www.familiesusa.org

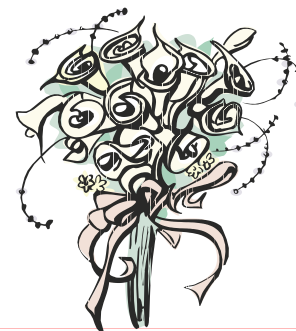
We appreciate your assistance in helping us put a human face on the many uninsured children in our health care system.

Luis Hestres

In memory of....



Correll, William H	Robinson, IL	12/01/2005
Moore, Earnest L	Middlebrook, MO	12/24/2005
Jakowski, Leslie J	Bella Vista, AR	12/31/2005
Pugh, Joe	Lexington, MO	12/31/2005
Eyre, Carey	O'fallon, IL	01/27/2006
Davis, Frank L	St Louis, MO	01/30/2005
Price, Earl D	MO Veterans Home	01/31/2006
Biggs, Kenneth L	Benton, IL	03/15/2006
Jackson, Harold S	Alton, IL	04/05/2006
Lawrance, Clark M	Columbus, NE	04/06/2006
Martinez, Joseph V	Granite City, IL	05/10/2006



Sports Report

By Joey Avellone



We've wrapped up another Sports Calendar Year and I thought it would be appropriate to once again publish the Points system that we use in determining who gets funded to attend wheelchair athletic events. The slate has been wiped clean and all points earned from this time forward to mid June of 2007 count for next seasons events. The Winter Sports Clinic is next years first major event and will be held March 31 through April 7. See the list below to determine how you can build points to secure funding for this and other events. Please keep this copy for future reference so that we don't have to continually include it in subsequent newsletters.

Point Categories

- 1 Attend a chapter function (JB monthly lunch, other activities such as Lone Elk Park outing, etc. 10 pts
- 2 Attend a community function as a chapter representative 10 pts
- 3 Attend a quarterly membership meeting as a non-board voting member or affiliate member 15 pts
- 4 Attend monthly BOD meeting as a non-board member. 10 pts
- 5 Chair an active committee of the GPVA 25 pts
- 6 Actively serve on an active committee of the Gateway Chapter PVA. (As determined by committee Chair) 15 pts
- 7 Published original submission to the bi-monthly newsletter (1 per year for Pres and VP) 15 pts
- 8 Sign up a new voting Gateway PVA member 25 pts
- 9 Volunteer in the chapter office by calling members working on the newsletter or other in-office tasks 15 pts
- 10 Attend a Gateway PVA Sports Fundraiser 10 pts
- 11 Direct fundraising efforts (sales): receive points for every \$50 raised 5 pts
- 12 *Authenticated* Peer Counseling 5 pts/hour

Hardship (awarded double points) categories are as follows:

- A Illness: Member (active and affiliate) health significantly affected ability to earn points
- B Distance: At least 100 miles one-way from both Chapter office and Jefferson Barracks (#1 Jefferson Barracks Drive St. Louis, Mo. 63125-4199)
- C Transportation: Lack of transportation resources
- D Employment: Many activities fall within normal working hours of employed member

Good luck in the upcoming year and try to attend as many PVA events as you can.

Semper Fi,

Joey Avellone, Sports Director

Drawing for a Free Lasik Procedure

Clarkson Eyecare Center in Ellisville Missouri is going to donate a free Lasik procedure to one of our GPVA members. One of our telemarketers called them and instead of buying any of our office products they offered to donate a Lasik procedure to one of our members. All you have to do to be considered for the free Lasik procedure is to write us a letter stating that you want to be entered into a drawing for the procedure. Three names will be drawn with the winner having the first chance. The winner must be examined by Clarkson Eyecare Center at their office to see if they are a candidate for the procedure. If that person is not a acceptable candidate then the second person will go for testing. In the rare event that the first two people are not candidates the third person will go for testing. All testing is free. You must provide your own transportation. Send your entry to the office address shown at the bottom of page 2 and mark it Attn: Lasik Drawing. Make sure to provide a telephone number you can be reached at. All entries must be received by the close of business at the chapter office on July 21. The drawing date will be determined by the time this newsletter is delivered. To verify the receipt of your entry and find out when the drawing will occur you can call or e-mail the office using the information shown on page 2. Winner need not be present.

MIA

Have you seen or know the where these members are? They are in danger of being dropped from the PVA Roster. Please call us, write to us or Email us if you know where any of these members are! Contact info is on page 2.

Conner, George Cox, Steve D Kocina, Chad B Miller, Ronald L Ohen, RobertL Onstott, Dawn L



Family Motorcycle Rally in support of the Gateway Chapter

The weekend of June 2, 3, and 4 Missouri chapters of Star Touring and Riding held its first Show-Me Star Rally with proceeds going to our Gateway Chapter. This first event raised \$3314, which was directly attributable to two individuals, Robert and Leslie Fitzgerald, from the Central Missouri Chapter (Warrensburg). Last fall after reading the newspaper accounts of our difficulties, Leslie contacted us and wanted to help. Robert is retired Army whose last duty station was Fort Leonard Wood. Members from Star Touring chapters throughout the state came to the Lake of the Ozarks the June 3 weekend. Proceeds from contests, skill riding events, and auctions all were donated to our organization. Ruth Kult, James Williams, Bobby Jackson, Bob Larkin, and Stan Brown attended the event to show support. On July 8 at 1 p.m. a formal presentation of the donation will be made by a motorcycle cavalcade at building 52 of Jefferson Barracks. Please plan to attend!

Water Ski Clinic to be held at Creve Coeur Park in Maryland Heights Missouri on Saturday and Sunday July 21-22. 8:00AM to 5:00PM . Hosted by St. Louis Wheelchair Athletic Association. Call 314-775-2512 for more information.

Elks Pool Tournament

The High Ridge Elks lodge 2455 hosted their 6th annual Armed Forces Day Wheelchair Veterans Nine Ball Pool Tournament Saturday, May 20, 2006. Trophies were awarded for 1st (Dave Seemayer), 2nd (PVA member Harry Brown) and 3rd place (Denise Seemayer). Other PVA participants included Rich Wiegand and Dennis Durrwachter. Thanks go out to Amy Will and Becky Ballard for bringing in-house patients from JB to join in on the festivities. The Elks went out of their way to provide us with great food and drinks and a good time. Our thanks once again go out to Ken and Jan DeClue and all the participating Elks for the continued support they provide for GPVA and JBVAMC. Hope to see you at the tournament next year!





Volunteers barbecuing



Bowling Alley Volunteers



Rams Cheerleaders and some of our guests



Christine Buck of Channel 11 TV and Matt Luitjohan



Mike Norris rolling through door in the Slalom event



Gurney race



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Use of this product outside of labeling may result in personal injury.

Caution: Federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a licensed healthcare practitioner.



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS BORN IN JULY AND AUGUST !

Michael S. Caron	July 01
Thomas H. Fowler	July 01
William T. Lacey	July 01
James Sampson	July 02
Jack L. Bayley	July 04
David G. Jefferson	July 04
Frank R. Pearce	July 04
Ishmael J. Ramirez	July 04
Richard P. Pierce	July 06
Robert J. Piofcyk	July 07
Dennis W. Hanks	July 08
Alan L. Johnson	July 08
W. Michael Kearney	July 08
James Lewis	July 08
Larry Mosby	July 08
Barton C. Rupert	July 08
Neal P. Barnes	July 09
Alvin H. Miller	July 10
Thomas H. Nasso	July 10
Gary R. O'Steen	July 10
Gary R. Osteen	July 10
Dale A. Salyer	July 10
Mark M. Beel	July 12
Russell Engler	July 12
Jerold L. Reynolds	July 12
Milton Stuckmeyer	July 12
Eldon M. Young	July 12
James L. Holland	July 13
Allen W. Morehouse	July 13
Bryan P. Castillo	July 14
Gerald Rav	July 14
Flanagan Chapman	July 15
Thomas M. Campbell	July 16
George Conner	July 16
Calvin D. Taber	July 16
Willie S. Harrell	July 17
Jason W. Austin	July 18
Eddie W. Dillard	July 20
Lorain C. Bennett	July 21
Charles T. Lauderdale	July 21
Marshall Chiasson	July 22
Danny C. Hawthorne	July 22
Edward A. Reeve	July 22
William Hurt	July 23
Charles L. Diel	July 24
Samuel S. Hall	July 25
James M. Monahan	July 25
Harold B. Brakefield	July 27
David A. Williams	July 27
Raymond A. Stark	July 30
Kent D. Bell	July 31
Patrick F. Crane	July 31
Bret L. Davenport	July 31



Kelly J. Wilson	July 31
Dennis D. Collins	August 01
John E. Turner	August 02
Roger G. Selander	August 04
Everett Alfrey	August 05
Kenneth R. Hale	August 05
Edward C. King	August 05
Michael D. Elzey	August 06
Perry W. Gilliard	August 06
Florida Needham	August 06
Michael D. White	August 06
Robert C. Norgaard	August 07
Charles A. Geyser	August 08
Bobby Gene McCoy	August 08
Stephen M. Stratmann	August 08
Robert L. Simpson	August 09
Troy L. Bucklew	August 10
Bernard Carr	August 10
Kenneth E. Frye	August 11
William B. Johnson	August 11
Robert W. Nibarger	August 12
Eric D. White	August 12
Wayne A. Webster	August 13
Bonnie G. Hilburn	August 14
Ron Hill	August 14
Richard T. Lipps	August 14
Gregory H. Graves	August 15
James Jacobs	August 15
Richard D. Mentel	August 16
Kenneth R. Payne	August 17
Joseph T. Roberts	August 17
Ann R. Malburg	August 18
Susan M. Prichard	August 18
Lowell A. Tarver	August 19
Kenneth D. Bearden	August 21
Charles Crews	August 21
Randall W. Lewis	August 21
Clayton E. Wilson	August 21
Verlin E. Wright	August 22
Greg O. Starman	August 24
Bobby J. Jackson	August 25
Gerald A. LeGrand	August 25
John Neill	August 25
William D. Peden	August 25
Steve W. Spurgeon	August 25
Michael L. Chaney	August 27
Otis Fowler	August 27
Hal L. Provance	August 29
Mark K. Simmons	August 29
Kevin M. Bratten	August 30
Donald L. Olmsted	August 30

<i>July 2006</i>						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2	3 Summer Games begin at Anchorage AK—Office Closed	4 Independence Day Office closed	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 BOD Meeting Overland 11:30	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Trap Shoot 10:00 am SLWAA Ski Clinic 8:00AM to 5:00PM at Creve Coeur Park	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

<i>August 2006</i>						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 BOD Meeting Overland 11:30	9	10	11 Newsletter Articles due	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Trap Shoot 10:00 am	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Address Service Requested

Gateway Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America
9738 Lackland Road
St. Louis, MO 63114