



PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter

JUL/AUG 2023

VOL.47 NO.4



VETERANS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY OR DISEASE, LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

www.gatewaypva.org
www.twitter.com/PVA_Gateway
www.facebook.com/PVAGatewayChapter

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**NEED TO UPDATE
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?**

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**DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE
YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?**

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Contact us at one of the following:

Gateway Chapter PVA
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132

314.427.0393 or 800.426.4058
Fax 314.427.4183

info@gatewaypva.org

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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 to info@gatewaypva.org or via US mail at the address shown above.

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Harry Brown, Vice President
Ken Johanning, Treasurer
Bram Lucieer, Secretary

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Doug Barnes
Chad Buder
Bonnie Hilburn
Derwin Hollis
Robert Huskey, PhD
Don Feldott
Ruth Kult
Matt Schneider

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VAVS Deputy - Ken Johanning
Membership Officer - Chris Blanchard
Acting Government Relations Director - Amber Lee
National Director - Don Feldott
Hospital Committee - Harry Brown

GPVA Staff

Chris Blanchard, Executive Director
Amber Lee, Executive Assistant
John Vasel, Transportation
Martha Rampani, Transportation

Kansas City Service Office

4801 Linwood Blvd, Rm. M1-566
Kansas City, MO 64128
(816) 922-2882 or (800) 795-3612
Fax: (816) 922-3369

Brent Follas, Senior National Service Officer

St. Louis Service Office

9700 Page Blvd. Suite 101, Room 1-114
St. Louis, MO 63132
Office: (314)253-4480 or (800)795-3614
Fax: (314) 253-4170

Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center

JB SCI, Room 2S25
#1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
St. Louis, MO 63125
Office: (314) 894-6467 or (866) 328-2670
Fax: (314) 894-6465
Rodney Harris, Senior Benefits Advocate

PVA National Liaison VP

Josue Cordova

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FY24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paralyzed Veterans of America is a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946. We have developed unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members--honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction. Gateway is one of thirty-three Chapters of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). Our local Chapter was chartered in the State of Missouri in October 1976.

We would like to congratulate and welcome the FY24 Board of Directors that will continue serving our veteran memberships' needs. The Chapter's FY24 Board of Directors and Officers can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

GOLF FUNDRAISER

October 3, 2023 @12:30pm
at Top Golf
16851 N Outer 40 Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63005

This year will be the 27th annual golf fundraiser! We have changed locations, but we still need help from our membership to make this a success!

How you can help:

- ▶ Ask your employer, friends and family to sign up for a sponsorship
- ▶ Register a team
- ▶ Attend the event
- ▶ Solicit (new) items for our auction
- ▶ Spread the word about the fundraiser

An event flyer for the golf fundraiser can be found on page 15 of this newsletter. If you would like material sent via email or USPS please contact the office.

5K RUN/WALK/ROLL FUNDRAISER

September 9, 2023 @ 9am
at Tower Grove Park - Sons of Rest Pavilion
4257 Northeast Dr, St. Louis, MO 63110

Our 5K can be completed virtually starting on August 26 through September 9 or in person on September 9 at Tower Grove Park. This will be our 5th annual 5K!

How you can help:

- ▶ Participate
- ▶ Ask friends and family to participate
- ▶ Attend the event to cheer participants on
- ▶ Spread the word about the fundraiser

We are able to do it again this year thanks to the addition of our Platinum Sponsor, Coforma. They are currently working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve the benefits and claims submission process for all veterans. You can read more about their full range of operations at coforma.io.



SPORTS POINTS GIFT CARDS

We have reached the end of the fiscal year and it is time to redeem your accumulated Sports Points for gift cards of your choosing. Gift card usage will be awarded at \$1 per point earned, up to \$300 annually and only awarded in a non-cash distribution such as gift cards or event tickets and you must have accumulated a minimum of 25 points to receive a gift card. All points to be used for gift cards must be redeemed by August 31 of this year. Please call or email Amber or Chris to determine your sports points accumulation this year and to let us know what type(s) of gift cards and the amounts to be applied to each type of card.

If you want to redeem your points for a Visa gift card, 5 points (\$5) will be deducted from you total to pay for the activation fee.

Remember that if you have used or plan to use your sports points for athletic events such as the Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Trout Lodge or any other event, you may not use your remaining sports points for gift cards.

FROM THE DESK OF GATEWAY CHAPTER'S **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Amber Lee

GENERATOR GRANT CHANGE

The Gateway Chapter has many grants available to its members that we have written about in past newsletters. As of the May 2023 Board of Directors meeting, there has been a slight change to the availability of the Generator Grant starting in FY24 (July 1, 2023).

As it was at the inception of the generator grant, this will only be available once a year and in a limited amount. Fortunately, the Chapter was able to provide this grant all year round for the last few years and in an unlimited capacity.

To stay fiscally responsible, the Chapter Board has decided to go back to opening the grant around October which will be announced in the September/October issue of the newsletter.

All other membership grants remain the same and are also listed below for reference:

- ▷Home Accessibility Grant - open year round
- ▷Hand Control Grant - open year round
- ▷Accessible Vehicle Grant - once per year, typically during summer

You can find more detailed information on our website at www.gatewaypva.org under the Membership Grants tab.

ST LOUIS BLUES

The Gateway Chapter now owns season tickets for two accessible spots for the St. Louis Blues! Our spots are located at Section 123, Row R, Seats 7-8. During our trial run last season there was a lot of interest in attending these games, therefore the Chapter decided to purchase a full season of tickets for this season. Both spots are accessible but the venue will provide a chair for any persons that request one.

As with our other ticket giveaways, we will be giving these out via lottery method. Each member is allotted up to three games total (two spots per game). If there is a specific game a member would like to attend, they may put in to purchase tickets for that game at half price (\$95). Members may put in for as many games that they are interested in, but can only be awarded three total.

St. Louis Blues tickets are ONLY available on the St. Louis Blues app for smart phones. Members interested in winning tickets MUST register an account on this app in order to receive their tickets. If you would like to be put in for St. Louis Blues tickets please proceed with the following directions:

cont. on page 14



TROUT LODGE

VETERAN OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

SEPTEMBER 14 TO 17 2023

Eligibility:

Participation in the Y9 2023 Trout Lodge Camping Weekend is open to Veterans with spinal cord injuries, amputations, poly-trauma, multiple sclerosis, or other neurological conditions, and who are eligible to receive care as a VA medical facility.

REGISTRATION:

Contact Charley Wright at charles.wright6@va.gov or the Gateway Chapter office to obtain registration paperwork. DEADLINE is August 11, 2023 - postmarked or sent through email to charles.wright6@va.gov by this date. All participants and caregivers who are VA employees must register by submitting the enclosed registration forms, postmarked on or before August 11th, 2023. All forms must be completed and submitted to the St. Louis VA SCI Recreation Therapy Department. Incomplete forms will automatically be returned if any of the following information is missing: VA ID Card, Physicians Clearance Form, Damage Provisions Signature Page, Waiver and Release of Liability.

Caregivers:

Participants needing a caregiver must arrange that support on their own. Medical Staff is not available to provide attendant support.

Mail completed packets to:(DUE BY August 11th, 2023)
VA St Louis Healthcare System
1 Jefferson Barracks Rd
Attn: SCI Recreation Therapy Dept. JB-128
St Louis, MO 63125

Completed registration forms are accepted in the order they are received

Three Night Stay: YMCA Trout Lodge
Costs: \$330.00 Per Adult All-Inclusive (Funding will be available)
Kids under 5 are free, 5-12yrs old \$29.00 per night, 13-17yrs old 79.00 per night
Limited Accessible Rooms.
Room assignments will be completed by SCI Rec Therapy prior to arrival
Volunteer(s) Cabin: \$57.00 per person per night, meals included
\$37.00 under18 per night, meals included community bunk style heated/air conditioned
Day Rate @40.00 Lunch included

We proudly support Gateway PVA



If you have a **service-connected disability**, you may qualify for VA funding assistance for wheelchair accessible vehicles or driving modifications. If your current mobility vehicle is more than two years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion. Veterans discounts available. Check out our daily rental rates!

St. Louis North

9389 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63134
Local: (314) 989-1010
Toll-Free: 877.501.8267

St. Louis South

980 S. Highway Drive
Fenton, MO 63026
Local: (314) 292-5150
Toll-Free: 877.501.8267



We're here to help!

Call us today or stop by and take a test drive.



Proud Supporters of the



If you did not get to go to the car show/100 year celebration of Jefferson Barracks, you missed out. There were different booths explaining several organizations that are available to veterans.

There were also singers and the Navy band for entertainment, plus there was a special honor group that came from Washington. They performed several different precision moves with their rifles and cadence. They also performed the duties of burial of veterans that are buried at Arlington Cemetery, where the Unknown Soldier is located.

Ruth Kult and I represented the Gateway Chapter PVA booth and were there to answer questions or inform people about the organization.

JEFFERSON BARRACKS 100 YEAR CELEBRATION by Bob Weigand



SCI Group Ride by Matt Luitjohan

Grab your bike and join in the fun while getting a little exercise with the SCI RT Department's group bike ride every other Monday at various locations throughout the area. We will plan to meet at the identified location at 9:30 and head out on the bikes at 10AM. If interested in participating or if you have any questions please call Matt Luitjohan at 314-894-6602 or email him at matthew.luitjohan@va.gov.



- 7/10/23 @ Creve Coeur Lake (Tremayne Shelter by Boat Ramp)
- 7/24/23 Matt Out of Town no group ride
- 8/7/23 @ Cliff Cave Park off of Telegraph Rd. (Lower Loop)
- 8/21/23 @ MCT Trails (Will meet at Culver's on 157 in Collinsville, IL)
- 9/4/23 Labor Day no group ride
- 9/18/23 @ Creve Coeur Lake (Tremayne Shelter by Boat Ramp)



GATEWAY G.I.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mark Cassidy
Amanda Depew
Edward Flake
Tim Galvin
Henry Garcia
Leonard Haskins
Rotan Hill
Scott Ives
Timothy Redburn
Brian Richard
Thomas Sims
Bonnie York

MISSING IN ACTION

Have you seen or know the whereabouts of these members? They are in danger of being dropped from the PVA roster. Please contact the Gateway office with current contact information for the following members:

Michael Acton
Sandra Campbell
Ronald Edwards
Dennis Hanks
Curtis Herrington
Davett Jones
Larry Rice
Curt Sidmore
Randy Streckfuss
Jeramie Talley
Wayne Webster

IN MEMORY OF

Larry Vandiver of Cape Girardeau, MO
Norman Hente of Granite City, IL

01/23/2023
05/17/2023

GENERAL INFORMATION



JULY

JULY 3 and 4
OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 4 and 9
National Veterans Wheelchair Games
@ Portland, OR

JULY 11 at 11:30am
Board of Directors meeting
Via Zoom (contact office for link) and
in person w/proof of COVID vaccination
and signed waiver
15 points for nonBOD members



AUGUST

AUGUST 8 at 11:30am
Board of Directors meeting
Via Zoom (contact office for link) and
in person w/proof of COVID vaccination
and signed waiver
15 points for nonBOD members



Sales, Service, Rentals, Leasing, & Financing

PROUD SUPPORTER OF: 



ATC Truck



Braun Chevy Traverse



Rear Entry Van



We wish you and your family a safe and Happy Fourth of July!



Products Offered:

- New & used, rear & side entry wheelchair accessible vans
- BraunAbility, VMI, & ATC Mobility conversions
- Wheelchair / scooter lifts
- BraunAbility Turny EVO seating
- Hand controls & more

Services Offered:

- Mobility equipment installation & service
- Preventative maintenance & mechanical repairs
- Tire, brake, & battery replacement
- Warranty service & more
- VA funding options for qualified conversions and equipment

SCAN TO VIEW OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Contact your Southern Bus and Mobility sales rep today!

Breese, IL
Valley Park, MO

12950 Koch Lane, Breese, IL
80 S Highway Dr., Valley Park, MO

+618-526-4131
+636-825-0700

ReWalk is Working to Put Veterans First



“It changes your whole perspective. It takes your life up a notch. I may not have everything else back, but I’ve got this part back.”

John Benner - Air Force Veteran Spinal Cord Injury in 2007 ReWalker since 2021

ReWalk is proud to work with the VA to provide Veterans with access to personal exoskeleton evaluations and training as soon as they are medically eligible and interested in the benefits of walking again.

Put Veterans First | Think ReWalk First



Contact ReWalk for more information

rewalk.com/refer-a-veteran • 508.251.1154

NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

by Don Feldott

The first day of the convention dealt with welcoming remarks by President Charles Brown. Then the Executive Director Carl Blake gave a report which was then followed by the remaining members of the executive committee. That included Secretary Marcus Murray, Treasurer Tom Wheaton, Sr Vice President Robert Thomas and Vice Presidents Tammy Jones, Hack Albertson, and Josue Cordova. Some of the highlights:

End of April National had approximately \$1,100,000 in Checking; Operating Reserve \$18,400,000 and Board of Directors Designated \$60,900,000 for a total of \$86,400,000. PVA remains solvent, but needs to make some corrections to show they are good stewards of their money.

PVA National Budget.

	FY22	FY23 (Projected)	F24
Revenue	\$111,588,054	\$94,879,567	\$88,286,974
Expenses	\$108,416,650	\$94,897,567	\$88,286,973

FY24 is going to be a rebuilding year. National PVA hired an analytic firm to conduct a study to determine what we were doing wrong, and what we were doing right, big outcome was with the Direct Mail Campaign. We were spending far too much money with a very low rate of return. More funding needs to go into Digital mail.

We were provided a chart that listed each Chapters Revenue versus Expenses. Sixteen chapters spent more than revenue received. We were in that category with \$45,437 Gateways contributions to national for PVA Research, Education, and Clinical Practice Guidelines with \$1,000 to each program. We were right in the middle. Low was \$500 to a high of \$10,000.

Several Resolutions were presented and passed. (1) Change in title of Executive Director to Chief Operating Officer (2) change title of President to Chairman of the Board, and Secretary at National Service Officer locations to Administrative Assistant. (3) Revised National take on Sexual Harassment. National is very serious on this subject and it will not be tolerated. (4) Increased Attendant Pay from \$120 to \$130 a day. (5) Stated a program for victims of National Disaster. They will issue you a grant of up to \$1,500. (6) Changed the Chapter end of year reporting requirements to a date within 135 days of the close of the Chapters Fiscal Year.

Issued (5) Speedy Awards: Member Category: Craig Enenbach; Non -Member Category: Dr Stephan Waxman, and Dr Paul Gorman. Posthumous Category: Fred Cowell and Kenneth "Ken) Klein.
In addition to the Speedy Award, these additional awards were presented to:

The Moroom Family Foundation Award to Millicent "Sue" Maroom
John M Price Most Outstanding Chapter Award Mountain States Chapter.
Stanley D Brown Most Improved Chapter Award: Mid-Atlantic Chapter
Richard Fuller Outstanding Achievement in Government Relations: Scott Willis, Mid America Chapter
Bob Webb Excellence in Newsletter Award: Colonial Chapter
Sports and Recreational Award: Buckeye Chapter
National Officers for FY24
Chairman of the Board: Robert Thomas
Sr Vice President: Hack Albertson
Treasurer: Tom Wheaton
Secretary: Marcus Murray
Vice President: Tammy Jones
Vice President: Josue Cordova
Vice President: Ann Robinson
Vice President: Ken Ness
Immediate Past President: Charles Brown

If you would like any further information, you can send me an email at don@gatewaypva.org.



PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter



55

th Annual Gateway Chapter PVA
K Walk/Run/Roll

Tower Grove Park - Sons of Rest Shelter

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 at 9am

virtually from August 26, 2023 to September 9, 2023

*download the St. Louis Blues app and follow their directions to register your new account on your smart phone

*email me at amber@gatewaypva.org with the contact information that you registered your St. Louis Blues app account with. In the same email, include the list of games you are interested in for the drawing

*winners will be contacted via email on September 13, 2023 with their drawn games - if we do not hear back from you after five business days of initial attempted contact, we will redraw for a new winner. I will transfer your tickets via the St. Louis Blues app to the account you registered, and you will receive a notification to accept the tickets

Oct. 12 at Dallas Stars - 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 vs. Seattle Kraken - 7 p.m.
Oct. 19 vs. Arizona Coyotes - 7 p.m.
Oct. 21 vs. Pittsburgh Penguins - 7 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Winnipeg Jets - 7:45 p.m.
Oct. 26 at Calgary Flames - 8 p.m.
Oct. 27 at Vancouver Canucks - 9 p.m.
Nov. 1 at Colorado Avalanche - 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 3 vs. New Jersey Devils - 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 vs. Montreal Canadiens - 6 p.m.
Nov. 7 vs. Winnipeg Jets - 7 p.m.
Nov. 9 vs. Arizona Coyotes - 7 p.m.
Nov. 11 at Colorado Avalanche - 8 p.m.
Nov. 14 vs. Tampa Bay Lightning - 7 p.m.
Nov. 16 at San Jose Sharks - 9:30 p.m.
Nov. 18 at Los Angeles Kings - 9:30 p.m.
Nov. 19 at Anaheim Ducks - 7 p.m.
Nov. 22 at Arizona Coyotes - 8 p.m.
Nov. 24 vs. Nashville Predators - 2 p.m.
Nov. 26 at Chicago Blackhawks - 1 p.m.
Nov. 28 at Minnesota Wild - 7 p.m.
Nov. 30 vs. Buffalo Sabres - 7 p.m.
Dec. 2 at Arizona Coyotes - 8 p.m.
Dec. 4 at Vegas Golden Knights - 9 p.m.
Dec. 6 vs. Vegas Golden Knights - 8 p.m.
Dec. 8 at Columbus Blue Jackets - 6 p.m.
Dec. 9 at Chicago Blackhawks - 7 p.m.
Dec. 12 vs. Detroit Red Wings - 7 p.m.
Dec. 14 vs. Ottawa Senators - 7 p.m.
Dec. 16 vs. Dallas Stars - 7 p.m.
Dec. 19 at Tampa Bay Lightning - 6 p.m.
Dec. 21 at Florida Panthers - 6 p.m.
Dec. 23 vs. Chicago Blackhawks - 7 p.m.
Dec. 27 vs. Dallas Stars - 7 p.m.
Dec. 29 vs. Colorado Avalanche - 7 p.m.
Dec. 30 at Pittsburgh Penguins - 6 p.m.
Jan. 4 vs. Vancouver Canucks - 7 p.m.
Jan. 6 at Carolina Hurricanes - 6 p.m.
Jan. 9 vs. Florida Panthers - 7 p.m.
Jan. 11 vs. New York Rangers - 7 p.m.
Jan. 13 vs. Boston Bruins - 7 p.m.
Jan. 15 vs. Philadelphia Flyers - 7 p.m.
Jan. 18 at Washington Capitals - 6 p.m.
Jan. 20 vs. Washington Capitals - 7 p.m.
Jan. 23 at Calgary Flames - 8 p.m.
Jan. 24 at Vancouver Canucks - 9 p.m.
Jan. 26 at Seattle Kraken - 9 p.m.
Jan. 28 vs. Los Angeles Kings - 1 p.m.
Jan. 30 vs. Columbus Blue Jackets - 7 p.m.
Feb. 10 at Buffalo Sabres - Noon
Feb. 11 at Montreal Canadiens - Noon
Feb. 13 at Toronto Maple Leafs - 6 p.m.
Feb. 15 vs. Edmonton Oilers - 7 p.m.
Feb. 17 vs. Nashville Predators - 4 p.m.
Feb. 19 vs. Toronto Maple Leafs - Noon
Feb. 22 vs. New York Islanders - 7 p.m.
Feb. 24 at Detroit Red Wings - 6 p.m.
Feb. 27 at Winnipeg Jets - 7 p.m.
Feb. 28 at Edmonton Oilers - 7:30 p.m.
March 2 vs. Minnesota Wild - 7 p.m.
March 4 at Philadelphia Flyers - 6 p.m.
March 5 at New York Islanders - 6:30 p.m.
March 7 at New Jersey Devils - 6 p.m.
March 9 at New York Rangers - 6:30 p.m.
March 11 at Boston Bruins - 6 p.m.
March 13 vs. Los Angeles Kings - 6:30 p.m.
March 16 vs. Minnesota Wild - 7 p.m.
March 17 vs. Anaheim Ducks - 6 p.m.
March 19 vs. Colorado Avalanche - 7 p.m.
March 21 at Ottawa Senators - 6 p.m.
March 23 at Minnesota Wild - 2 p.m.
March 25 vs. Vegas Golden Knights - 7 p.m.
March 28 vs. Calgary Flames - 7 p.m.
March 30 vs. San Jose Sharks - 7 p.m.
April 1 vs. Edmonton Oilers - 8 p.m.
April 4 at Nashville Predators - 7 p.m.
April 6 at San Jose Sharks - 5 p.m.
April 7 at Anaheim Ducks - 7 p.m.
April 10 vs. Chicago Blackhawks - 7 p.m.
April 12 vs. Carolina Hurricanes - 7 p.m.
April 14 vs. Seattle Kraken - Noon
April 17 at Dallas Stars - 8:30 p.m.



Gateway Chapter

12:45PM Registration

1:30PM - 4PM Two Rounds of Competition

food and drinks served during 3 hours of event

4PM to 5PM Awards and Silent Auction - Open Bar

27th
ANNUAL
GOLF FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

TOP GOLF

Outer 40 Road
Chesterfield, MO 63005

GOLD SPONSOR - \$10,000

Two bays (12 total players), 12 mulligans, 2 bay sponsorship signage, main bay screens and banquet hall screen time

SILVER SPONSOR - \$5,000

Two bays (12 total players), 8 mulligans, 1 bay sponsorship signage, main bay screens and banquet hall screen time

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$2,500

One bay (6 total players), 6 mulligans, 1 bay sponsorship signage, banquet hall screen time

LONGEST DRIVE SPONSOR - \$1,000 BAR SPONSOR - \$500 BAY SPONSOR - \$200



Gateway Chapter
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
Saint Louis, MO 63132



Generosity can be found anywhere.
Even the back of your closet.

Donating clothes and other household goods
can help improve the lives of injured veterans.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

**WHEELS HELPING
WARRIORS**

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too! Schedule your free, easy pickup today.



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Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere

**Give G.I.V.E. a try by visiting
pva.org/givegoods today!**