

IN LOVING
Memory



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Gateway
azette



Gateway Chapter

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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.

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

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Rose Ganz, President
Steve McIntosh, Vice President
Don Feldott, Treasurer
Bram Lucieer, Secretary

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Harry Brown
Chad Buder
Doug Conklin
Bonnie Hilburn
Robert Huskey, PhD
Ruth Kult
Lou Monken
Matt Schneider
Erin Slawinski

APPOINTMENTS

VAVS Representative JB - Rose Ganz
Membership Officer - Chris Blanchard
Government Relations Officer - Vacant
Sports Director - Lou Monken
National Director - Don Feldott
Hospital Liaison - Harry Brown

GPVA Staff

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

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Lena Oliver, Secretary II

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Susan White, Accredited Administrator

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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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rose Ganz

INTRODUCTION

I met Stan Brown at a Quarterly membership meeting in 2004. I had never met a better example of a compassionate, caring, mission oriented selfless advocate for the disabled population. I had the opportunity to go to National Executive Meetings with Stan and watch him pull apart by-laws, addendums and resolutions, and then put them back together in a way that better served our members and the organization as a whole.

I was already an active volunteer at the VA when Stan asked me if I would be interested in serving on the Gateway Board of Directors. I said yes. I started on the Gateway Accessible Housing Board, then took over as our Chapter Representative to the St Louis Veterans Administration Volunteer Service Quarterly Meetings. I became Vice President in 2010, and quickly learned that GPVA is a Veterans first organization. I promise to continue to hold myself to the same high standards that we have grown accustomed to under Stan's leadership. The Chapter's mission will remain the same providing programs and services directly to members. The funding requirements for automobile grants, generator grants, automobile hand

controls and home accessibility grants will remain the same as in the past and are still available to our members meeting the eligibility requirements.

On a personal note, I served in the Air Force from 1979 - 1995 as an Education Specialist. I am active in local and national wheelchair sports; like Boccia and handcycling. I also compete in adaptive Cross-fit and also enjoy scuba diving. As a PVA member I have served as VAVS Liaison, been a member of National PVA 'S Sports Committee, National PVA Field Advisory Committee and served on the National PVA Anita Bloom Women's Committee.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 GATEWAY CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year that members can nominate themselves or other certified Gateway members to put their name on the ballot (will be included in the May/June Gazette) for Fiscal Year 2023.

All Officer positions are open for nominations - President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Additionally there are seven open position on the Board of Directors as well. The President's position

is a three year term, and all other Officer and Board positions are one year terms.

There is no nomination form. Simply contact Amber or Chris at the Chapter office with nominations via email at info@gatewaypva.org or mail a nomination letter to the office at 1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center, St. Louis, MO 63132. Nominations close at 3pm on April 22, 2022.

DONATED ACCESSIBLE VAN

It will come as no surprise that Stan Brown has donated his accessible van to the Gateway Chapter to use as a giveaway to one lucky member. As we have done in the past with donated vehicles, a winner will be drawn by a lottery method. If you are interested in putting your name in for the accessible van, please fill out our "Accessible Vehicle Grant Application" that can be found on our website (www.gatewaypva.org) under the 'Forms' page. Please complete and turn into our office by Friday, May 6, 2022.

Vehicle details are:

2014 Dodge Caravan
Passenger Side EZ Lock and Ramp
82,085 miles

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

Chris Blanchard

Stan Brown, Gateway... Three simple words, right? Nothing to be concerned about if it were you or me. But, if you were a member of any National committee including but not limited to the Budget Committee, the Audit Committee, the Judicial Committee and sometimes even if you were a National Board member, those three words could cause a certain amount of anxiety. Stan felt that his responsibilities to the National Organization were paramount to the organization's continuing success. He often offered counterpoints to issues that were not shared by all, but once people got to know Stan, they came to understand that he had given considerable thought to the comments that he offered at Conventions or Committee meetings and they came to realize that his best interests lay with advocating for disabled veterans' access and civil rights.

Stan would spend days before an upcoming National Convention pouring over resolutions that were submitted by himself or by others, reviewing and tweaking the language in each of those resolutions. Stan did much the same with the National budgets each year. I cannot tell you how many calculators that I wore out running budget numbers with him over and over and over again, but that's who Stan was.

He was meticulous and insightful in all of his responsibilities. He was a veteran dedicated to improving the lives of other veterans and the disabled community as a whole.

When Stan became President of the Gateway Chapter in 2004, 18 years ago, the Chapter was financially in trouble. In fact, the Chapter was about 3 months away from becoming insolvent. To put it in the words of a past president, "The Chapter needed a lot of attention." Stan immediately got to work. He eliminated unnecessary costs and focused his attention on fundraising in order to continue providing the vital programs that our paralyzed veterans earned and needed. He began to recruit members of the Gateway Chapter to serve as energetic Officers and Directors of our Board and appointed other

members to lead important committees. It took a few years, but the Chapter began to turn a corner where Stan didn't have to watch every dime that was spent. Although he continued to do so.

All 33 chapters of the Paralyzed Veterans of America are mandated to provide eight programs to their veteran members. Under Stan's steadfast leadership and guidance, the Gateway Chapter is now one of the most successful Chapters and operates those eight programs as well as five additional programs to provide funding for Accessible Home Modifications, Automobile Hand Controls, Accessible Vehicles, In-home Generator Installations and monthly catered luncheons serving inpatients, outpatients and the medical staff at Building 52 at Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center. Stan also worked with the directors and medical staff of the SCI/D Unit at Jefferson Barracks Hospital, making sure all paralyzed veterans received the best possible care. Stan also made it a priority to make the Veterans Memorial in St. Louis accessible to all people. He worked with airlines and airports to make travel easier for individuals traveling in a wheelchair.

While Stan was leading the Chapter, he began to focus on winning the many awards that the National Organization provided to chapters on an annual basis. During his tenure as President the Chapter, to Stan's delight, received the following awards:

- 4 Most Outstanding Chapter awards for seven areas of exceptional performance by a chapter
- 2 Excellence in Newsletter awards

Stan personally received:

- 7 volunteer awards for providing in excess of 15,000 hours of peer mentoring to other paralyzed veterans over the years.
- 1 Disability Awareness award for personally promoting positive awareness of disability
- 1 President's award for implementing a new and innovative program at the

Chapter level

- 1 Speedy award – PVA's highest award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of paraplegia

I am sure that I am leaving out several of Stan's other accomplishments leading the Gateway Chapter, but I wanted to touch on our personal relationship.

When I interviewed for my job, Stan had a commanding presence that made me a little nervous. I felt like I was standing in front of my commanding officer, explaining why I had failed the mission. But then, it occurred to me that Stan was not interviewing me about my past experience, but rather he was asking me why I deserved to be in a position working to support disabled veterans. It seems apparent that I must have met his standards because one year later during my first annual review, he gave me high marks in every area and a recommendation for typing lessons to correct my "unconventional typing method."

During my first year with Gateway, I would make extensive lists of questions concerning PVA and VA processes and issues as they came up. Stan was always patient and answered my questions to help me understand the extent of my role, and Gateway's mission as a whole. Over the years, our relationship changed from employer/employee, mentor/mentee to partners ensuring the continuing success of the Gateway Chapter.

Stan cared deeply for the people around him, especially PVA members, and often took the time to inquire about their families and their well-being. He spent countless hours on the phone assisting members and guiding them to the resources that they needed. That caring extended to the staff of the Gateway Chapter. Stan's influence in the St. Louis Community touched many people.

Stan was my mentor and he was my friend. I will miss him more than I can say.



Military Environment Exposure

by Brent Follas, Senior National Service Officer

As part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) six-month campaign on Military Environmental Exposure, they are gearing up to raise awareness and encourage Veterans of all eras to file compensation claims if they believe they were exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military.

The campaign includes one 30-second television (TV) spot and one 30-second radio Public Service Announcement that will begin airing in late January through national and local outlets across the country.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of P.L. 116-283, the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange for Vietnam Veterans.

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/agent-orange/agent-orange-2021/presumptions.asp>

Just a few months later, VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a

presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and other areas.

<https://www.va.gov/durham-health-care/news-releases/disability-claims-for-asthma-sinusitis-rhinitis-for-veterans-who-served-in-southwest-asia/>

With the addition of six exposure-related presumptive conditions over the course of the last year, VBA believes campaigns like this are critical to inform Veterans of the benefits available to them and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) supports this. Therefore, we encourage to share this information and the link to watch the Public Service Announcement. The Public Service Announcement can be found and distributed by using this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhCi8QKb_EU.

Feel free to review the above links for Agent Orange and Southwest-Asia Exposures and contact your local National Service Office for any questions.

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 is more than two years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion.

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



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**



Jacqueline Black, PT, ATP

Did you know that February was National Recreation Therapy month? I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight our amazing Recreation Therapists at the St. Louis SCI/D Center.

First- what is Recreational Therapy? It's awesome, we know! It is also known as Therapeutic Recreation, and it is a systematic process that utilizes recreation and other activity-based interventions to address the assessed needs of individuals with illness and/or disabling conditions, as a means to psychological and physical health, recovery, and well-being. We are so grateful that that VA Healthcare System values Recreation Therapy as an integral part of our healthcare system.

The VA St Louis Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders (SCI/D) Recreation Therapy Department is a vital component of the life-long continuum of services for veterans with SCI/D. St. Louis SCI/D Center serves veterans located primarily in 6 states throughout all of VISN 15 and portions on VISN 9. Our 2 SCI/D Recreation therapists, Matt Luitjohan and Charley Wright, provide an exceptional array of services to our expansive geographic region, including SCI/D Spoke Outreach/ Adaptive Sport Days. Our SCI/D Rec

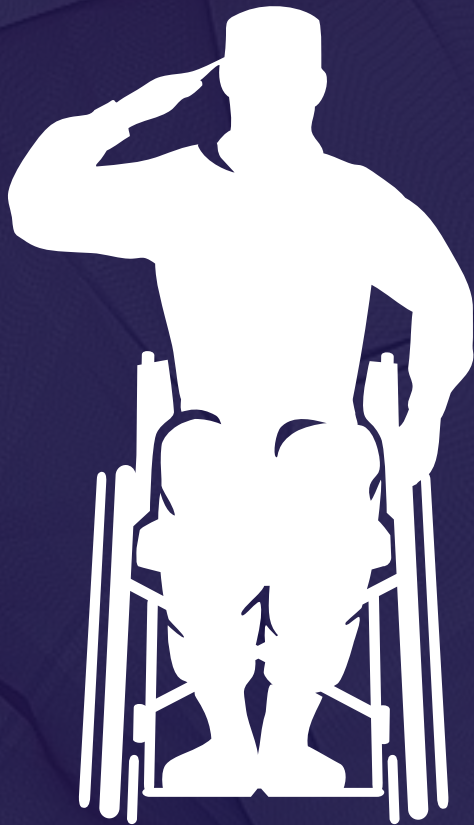
Therapists are constantly implementing innovating programming into our SCI/D Department- including creation of a Smart room for veterans to trial low cost adaptive technology options for environmental and computer access; developing an online VVC-based SCI/D Wellness Classes, which was instrumental in boosting St Louis SCI to #1 in telehealth encounters across the country; and they were among the first to introduce Virtual Reality into the VA Healthcare system.

Matt and Charley have numerous nationally recognized programs, including Adaptive SCUBA and the Outdoor Adventure Program at Trout Lodge. The treatment modalities are expansive and include adaptive sport training sessions in a variety of sports, aquatic programming, e-gaming, flight simulation training, golf simulation training, photography and video editing courses, podcasts courses, and therapeutic community reentry outings - including a regular airport outing with Southwest Airlines.

As a result of their expertise, they have also presented at several National conferences. They provide SCI/D advocacy, education and community outreach by speaking to Veteran Service Organizations, non-profits, the FBI, area businesses and business organizations, and schools. We are extremely proud to have two amazing recreational therapists on our SCI/D team!

While the pandemic has been a tough time for these guys- there is no stopping their creativity to find new ways to make things happen. They cannot wait to continue to expand their inpatient and outpatient service offerings- and we cannot wait for the day when we can see more of YOU around 52, too.

If you have questions, concerns, or kudos- please contact me at Jacqueline.black@va.gov or 314-652-4100, ext 64691.



GATEWAY G.I.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey Baecht

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:

Ronnie Anderson
Steven Cathey
Lynda Hauth
Jarid Hill
Kevin Jackson
William Jacobson
Robert Melchior
Charles Packard
Laurice Sappington
Donnell Thames
Willis Walker

IN MEMORY OF

Dennis Shaw of Sterling, IL	09/08/2019
Lonnie Dean of Richland, MO	05/06/2021
Roger Harvey of Mountain Grove, MO	08/13/2021
Joseph Roberts of St. Louis, MO	09/20/2021
Richard Schmidt of Millstadt, IL	11/26/2021
Jerold Reynolds, Sr. of Kansas City, MO	12/02/2021
Michael Brooks of Leavenworth, KS	12/06/2021
James Massman of Moberly, MO	12/26/2021
Stan Brown of St. Louis, MO	01/12/2022

GENERAL INFORMATION



MARCH

MARCH 6 at 1pm
Meat Shoot
at American Legion Post 162
20 points for Gateway members

MARCH 12 to 13
LifeWaters All Womens Retreat
Atlanta, GA
Contact Charley Wright at 314.652.4100 x64590

MARCH 15 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

MARCH 17 at 1:30pm
Quarterly membership meeting
Via Zoom - contact office for link
15 points for members

MARCH 26 to APRIL 1
Winter Sports Clinic
at Snowmass, Colorado

APRIL 3 at 1pm
Meat Shoot
at American Legion Post 162
20 points for Gateway members

APRIL 12 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

APRIL





Sales, Service, Rentals, Leasing, & Financing

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE GATEWAY PVA



Braun Chevy Traverse



Braun Rear Entry Van

- New & pre-owned wheelchair accessible vans
 - Rear & side entry ramps
- BraunAbility, VMI, & ATC mobility conversions
- Wheelchair / scooter lifts
- BraunAbility Turny EVO seating
- Hand controls & more



VMI Toyota Sienna



ATC Truck

To better serve those who have served, we have locations in IL and MO. Contact us to ask a mobility specialist about VA funding options for qualified conversions and equipment.

12950 Koch Lane
Breese, IL 62230
☎ +618-526-4131

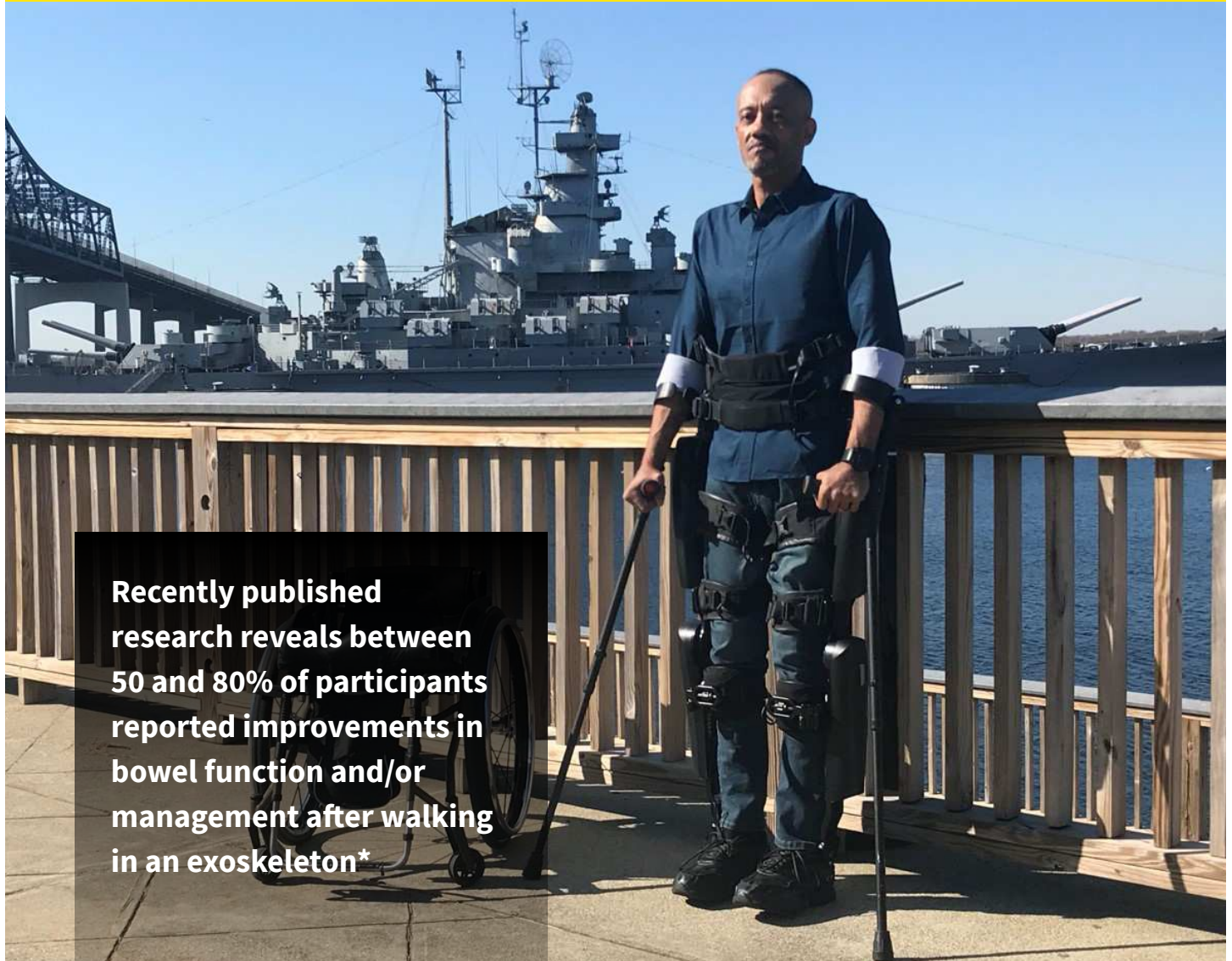
CONTACT US TODAY!



80 S Highway Drive
Valley Park, MO 63088
☎ +636-825-0700



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**

*Chun A, et al. Changes in bowel function following exoskeletal-assisted walking in persons with spinal cord injury: an observational pilot study. Spinal Cord. 2020;58(4):459-466.







Stanley Douglas Brown passed away on January 12, 2022 after a brief illness. He was 74 years old and lived in Town and Country. He was born in Los Angeles, and lived many years in Tulsa before moving to St. Louis.

After a 1996 car accident while reporting for military duty paralyzed him, Mr. Brown was medically retired and became very active in lobbying for the rights of disabled veterans. He served in various leadership roles in the Paralyzed Veterans of America organization, frequently traveling to veteran conferences and lobbying trips to Washington DC. He had several articles on legal and disability issues published in law, scholarly, and military publications. He served three years on the Missouri Governor's Council on Disability.

He earned a BA from the University of Oklahoma, a JD from Georgetown University Law Center, and an MBA from St. Louis University. As an attorney, he served in the court systems of St. Louis City and County. He served as the Circuit Court Administrator for the City of St. Louis in the 1980s. He was the Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections in the Mel Carnahan Administration.

He served in Thailand during the Vietnam Era, and later served in the U.S. Army Reserve's Judge Advocate General Corps, rising to the rank of Colonel. He was an adjunct professor of legal studies at Webster University for many years and belonged to the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church.

One of his proudest accomplishments was helping make the Soldiers Memorial building more accessible to veterans. His story is incorporated into the museum exhibit there today.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Selma (Chumly) Brown, by his sister Sharon, and by his dear cousin Nancy Theising. He is survived by his loving aunt, June George of St. Louis, his dear cousin, Susan (Tim) Andrews of Des Peres, and dear "nephews" Evan Theising, Jack Andrews, Joe Andrews, and Blake Andrews. He was our dear cousin, "uncle," comrade, and friend to many.



Getting Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again with Indego®



New VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® Exoskeleton at no cost.

What is Indego?

A robotic device that enables veterans to walk again.

Indego is an FDA-approved exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

Indego can currently be used with spinal cord injury levels of T3 to L5 in community or home settings.

Free Indego Webinars

During the first Thursday of every month you can join a free live webinar to learn more about the Indego and hear from a veteran who owns a device already.



Contact us today to reserve your spot or find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton at no cost.

Email: support.indego@parker.com

Phone: 844-846-3346



Watch Marine Veteran Steve Holbert's story at www.indego.com/veterans





1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
Saint Louis, MO 63132

Gateway Chapter

Current Resident or



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.



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548
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!**