

Gateway Gazette



Gateway Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America
<http://www.gatewaypva.org>

"Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease, Living Life to the Fullest"

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Stanley Brown

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(816) 922-2882 or (800) 795-3612
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Brent Follas, National Service Officer II

National Liaison VP

Charles Brown

Gateway Chapter PVA

Wishes to welcome our new members:

Timothy VanPatten	Raymond Vasquez	John Cowan
Eldred Hornbostel	Daniel Lesley	James Matcuk
Allen Hudgins	Martin Trim	Richard Short

Time to update your address or email?

Please email us at:
amber@gatewaypva.org
or

write or call us at the following:

Gateway Chapter PVA
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132
(314) 427-0393 or (800) 426-4058
Fax (314) 427-4183

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FUND A LIFETIME OF SUPPORT FOR SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS.






DONATE YOUR VEHICLE!



President's Message

By Stanley Brown



Gateway PVA honors Vietnam Era members

At our monthly Jefferson Barracks luncheon, April 21, 2016, we honored and recognized those Gateway members in attendance who had served during the Vietnam War era (November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975). Gateway has approximately 675 members and we were able to identify 370 of those members as having served during that era. Our Administrative Assistant, Amber Lee, spent hours on identifying the individuals and sending individual letters to each of the 370 members. The letter informed those members of our commemorative ceremony on April 21, 2016 and asked if they were able to attend. We also asked if they would tell us of any awards or declarations they had received. As you might expect, some embellished a little, but many more were too modest. Two of those modest members had received Purple Hearts while “in country” (boots on the ground in Vietnam), and one of those individuals also received a Bronze Star for valor.



We prepared a PowerPoint slide, identifying as best we could from those members who notified us they would attend, each member who had served during the era. It was a tremendous response with members bringing their families. Our luncheon spilled over from the usual lunchroom into all three day rooms. I narrated the PowerPoint presentation and as best I could, tried to explain the lack of welcome and appreciation service members experienced when coming home from Vietnam, as well as the lack of appreciation or respect for those serving stateside during the Vietnam War era. Each individual in attendance was given a commemorative lapel pin and certificate with their name. Our front cover depicts the event. In response to our original mailing, several of you have informed us they would like the pin and certificate mailed to you. If we missed you or you didn't respond, please contact the office.



As best we could tell, three of our members who qualified as having served during the era, came to the luncheon unexpectedly (I'm glad they came), so we didn't have a PowerPoint slide of them. I apologize. One of those individuals is one of my “heroes” and favorite people-James Williams. James was a longtime board member and has been our most winning trapshoot member. James's story could be made into a movie. He entered the Army in 1950 when he was only 15 by giving false information on his age. He quickly found himself in Korea and was shot in the shoulder. When he was about to be discharged because the Army found out his age (16 at that time), he

was able to enlist in the Marines and served there until 1961. In addition to the Purple Heart, James has an Army Commendation Medal and a Combat Infantryman Badge.

Continued on page 4

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Gateway PVA Accessible Vehicle Grants and Home Generator Grants Now Available

As the fiscal year closes, I believe we have sufficient funds to again disperse the grants to members for generators (\$5,500) and to upgrade or purchase accessible vehicles (\$10,000 or \$35,000). Gateway will pay a vendor directly for a generator for your home, whether portable or permanent. This grant is worth up to \$5,500. Permanent home generators will probably cost more than \$5,500, because of the required additional wiring, gas line upgrade and a new gas meter box. This grant can be awarded regardless of your service connection or your ability to pay for the generator yourself.

Members interested in the generator grant need to submit copies of two bids for a generator in writing either by email, fax, or letter. The \$5,500 amount should cover most portable generators but not a permanent home generator and installation, which may cost up to \$11,000. Gateway will directly pay the vendor of the proposal/bid up to the amount of \$5,500, once the work is completed to the veteran's satisfaction. Please submit your proposal/bids as soon as possible but no later than Thursday, June 30, 2016. Feel free to call Gateway's Executive Director with any questions. We have worked with several contractors on generator installations and can provide company information to facilitate purchase and installation.

Again this year we will have sufficient funding to provide accessible vehicle assistance. Like last year, one grant will be for \$10,000 for a member either with a currently owned accessible vehicle in need of repairs, or trade-in assistance for a vehicle with less miles. A member can trade-in their existing vehicle, receive a credit for that vehicle's value, and then add that value amount to Gateway's \$10,000 grant to purchase an accessible vehicle in better condition. Unlike the past, where Gateway purchased a low mileage accessible vehicle and then gifted it to a member chosen at random, this year we are going to offer a \$35,000 grant for a member to purchase an accessible vehicle of their choice. The grant will be paid directly to the vendor that has the vehicle that the member selects. If the vehicle costs more than the \$35,000, the member will be responsible for the residual amount. In all cases, the member will be responsible for taxes and registration to include inspections, license plates, and insurance. As in the past, members desiring either grant (\$10,000 or \$35,000) will need to submit by email, fax or letter, a statement explaining why assistance is needed in getting the vehicle and the difference it would make in their life. The Gateway Board will consider all requests at their May 10, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. We need the vehicle grant applications by the end of business on Monday, May 9, 2016. Please contact Gateway's Executive Director with any questions.

By the May 10, 2016 Board of Directors meeting, we will have a more complete view of our fiscal year finances, having completed ten months of the fiscal year. At that time we will be able to determine how many accessible vehicle grants we can award. Also as in the past, we will randomly draw names for everyone considered as eligible. Past recipients of vehicle grants should not apply again this year.

MIA

-Frederick Claxton-

-Robert A. Rosenthal-

-Christopher Keene-

-Lynn McGrane-

-Perry Burch-

Have you seen or know the whereabouts of these members? They are in danger of being dropped from the PVA roster. Please call us, write to us, or e-mail us if you know where they are! Our contact info is inside the front cover.



Save the date to donate on
May 3, 2016
between 12:01am
through 11:59 pm
 to
 Paralyzed Veterans of
 America-
 Gateway Chapter.

ATTENTION

Gateway Chapter has new social media accounts with
 Facebook and Twitter



www.facebook.com/GatewayChapterPVA



www.twitter.com/PVA_Gateway

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE & CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS AT BREESE, IL FACILITY

FRI. MAY 20th FROM 12PM-6PM / SAT MAY 21st FROM 9AM-1PM

COMPLIMENTARY FOOD & BEVERAGES /

ATTENDANCE PRIZES / DOOR PRIZES

VEHICLE & LIFT SPECIALS

Proud supporter
 of the Gateway
 PVA

- New & Pre-owned Wheelchair accessible vans:
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Rentals Available

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Alexander Beaton
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James Brumfield
L.C. Buckley
Michael Calhoun
Robert Coleman
Charles Crews
James Dawe
Barry Epley
Jerry Fraley
Joseph Frank
Steven Hanewinkel
Anthony Hasting
Dr. Jim Holland
Steven Hope

Billy Hughes
Dr. Robert Huskey
Richard Jordan
Gary Kenser
Ronald Krigbaum
Harry Kutemeier
Larry Larsen
Darryl Lee
Daniel Lesley
Kevin Lipscomb
Dave McCulley
Thomas McIntosh
LaCeon Minor
Louis Monken
Donald Otey
Frank Otterman
Dennis Paglia
Kenneth Payne

Douglas Pence
Arnold Pfannenstiel
John Reed
Michael Rendleman
Julio Rivera
Joe Sabo
Robert Saner
Dennis Shaw
LaRoy Smith
Stephen Stratmann
Dennis Torres
Will Trower
Timothy VanPatten
William Webster
Terry Whittle
James Williams
John Wood
Carroll Woods



Betty Anderson
Carl Billings
Robert Campbell
Cecil Clark
Gene Crayton
Michael Erbe
Danny Hawthorne
Gerry Klenke
Fred McKnight
Frank Mocer
Danny O'Connor
Daniel Perez
Randy Rains
Donald Walker



Everett Banks
Michael Cawvey
Chilton Christopher
John Dickson
Richard Doak
Dennis Durrwachter
Michael Hanig
Ernest Harris
Mitchell Harris
Kenneth Johanning
Richard Jones
Allen Kelley
Robert Kendall
Tom Langella
Jerold Reynolds
Marlott Rhoades
Victor Stieben



Raymond Boyer
John Bryant
Ed Burnett
Gary Byrd
Flanagan Chapman
Vernon Hammersley
David Huesing
William Ingoldsby
Elmer Kiesling
Jimmy Price
Theodore Sinker
Will Watson

Above are the names of those who contacted the office in reply to either our email or letter that was sent out to all Vietnam Era members (a veteran who served during November 1, 1955 to March 15, 1975) for the Vietnam Era Commemoration. Members listed above will receive their certificate and lapel pin in the mail, or have already received those items at our April 21, 2016 ceremony/luncheon. If you have served during the Vietnam Era and do not see your name listed above, and are interested in receiving the Vietnam Era Commemoration certificate and lapel pin, please contact the office and we will mail the items to you as soon as possible. Thank you to all of our members for your service!

St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals Giveaway

Cardinals seating includes one accessible space and companion seat per game. Royals seating includes one accessible space and one companion seat per game. Please call the office or email no later than Friday, May 20, by 5pm. Please include your current contact information and which game(s) you would like to win with your submission. Winners will be drawn and announced on Monday, May 23. Best of luck!



Sunday, June 19
versus Texas Rangers
At 1:15 pm



Sunday, August 28
versus Oakland Athletics
At 1:15 pm



Sunday, September 11
versus Milwaukee Brewers
At 1:15 pm



Monday, May 30
versus Tampa Bay Rays
At 7:15 pm



Monday, June 13
versus Cleveland Indians
At 7:15 pm



Friday, July 22
versus Texas Rangers
At 7:15 pm



Friday, August 19
versus Minnesota Twins
At 7:15 pm



Kansas City Chiefs Giveaway

Chiefs seating includes one accessible space and one companion seat each game. Please call the office or email no later than August 5, 2016 by 5pm. Please include your current contact information and which game(s) you would like to win with your submission. Winners will be drawn and announced on August 8, 2016. Good luck!



Saturday, August 13, 2016
@ 3:30pm CST
versus Seattle Seahawks



Sunday, November 6, 2016
@ 12:00pm CST
versus Jacksonville Jaguars



Sunday, September 25, 2016
@ 3:25pm CST
versus New York Jets



Sunday, November 20, 2016
@ 12:00pm CST
versus Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Legal Claim Sharks

By Brent Follas



I wanted to raise the attention and awareness of a recent event encountered in my office. A woman that was trying to help her father with VA Benefits first approached a VA Employee. She said she needed a doctor to complete a form. The VA employee asked her what it was for and she said Aid & Attendance. She told the VA Employee she needed to get it back to American Veterans Aid (AVA) so her father could benefit from increased pension due to Aid & Attendance.

The VA Employee brought this woman to my office because he knew we specialized in Special Monthly Compensation. She was unsure if anyone represented her father for prior claims. I found out she was going to be charged \$1450.00 for this service. She was simply trying to have a doctor complete a VA Form 21-2680 "EXAMINATION FOR HOUSEBOUND STATUS OR PERMANENT NEED FOR REGULAR AID AND ATTENDANCE."

She was going to get that form completed and they were going to submit it to the Pension Management Center. I almost fell out of my chair, appalled at what I had just heard. Not only were they going to charge her money for this service, she informed me on how rude they were.

She said they gave her an ultimatum because she was unable to obtain the medical evidence quick enough and they were threatening to end their services if she did not respond.

Luckily, she did not pay anything. I informed her how she could proceed with the claim and gave her all of the contact information she needed to help her father, for free.

I want to raise the awareness that even though these corporations, attorneys and other organization are legal; they charge for their services.

I urge everyone to be aware and to educate anyone they encounter that there are Veteran Service Organizations, like Paralyzed Veterans of America, that provide these services for free. The woman was grateful for the information I provided her and she was saved from paying this outrageous fee.

In memory of...



Tim Kilcoyne	Garden Grove, CA	12/1/11
George Brown	Camden, MO	11/01/15
Donald Van Merrick	Hillsboro, MO	02/01/16
Lee Ellerbroek	Osage Beach, MO	02/11/16
Gary Smith	Bridgeton, MO	02/12/16
Deron Carter	St. Louis, MO	02/27/16



Please have someone contact our Chapter in the event of a member's death so that we can update our database as well as inform other members who may wish to pay their respects to the departed.



We proudly support the PVA Gateway Chapter

Sign up for our email newsletter

You'll be entered to win a
Yeti Tundra Cooler!
Send an email with the
subject line "Gateway PVA" to
marketing@unitedaccess.com and
we'll add you to our email list.



We're here to help

If you have a **service-connected disability**, you may qualify for VA funding assistance for wheelchair accessible vehicles or driving modifications. And if your current mobility vehicle is **over 2 years old**, you may qualify for a brand new conversion.



Our mobility specialists like Alan (pictured here) are trained to educate veterans on the benefits provided by the VA!



Visit us on     UnitedAccess.com | info@unitedaccess.com | 888.939.1010



The St. Louis Wheelchair Lacrosse Clinic held at the Brentwood, Missouri Roller Rink was a great success! We thank everyone involved in the clinic.

There is a possibility of forming an official St. Louis lacrosse team! Anyone interested can contact GPVA Executive Director, Chris Blanchard by calling the office or by email at chris@gatewaypva.org.

Special thanks to:

Brentwood Parks and Recreation
 St. Louis VA SCI/D Unit
 St. Louis Health Care System
 St. Louis Kolache
 Dr. Kenneth Lee
 Wisconsin PVA
 Wisconsin Eagles Lacrosse Team
 LAX Hut Village
 Fontbonne University Lacrosse
 Webster Groves Lacrosse



Bobby Jackson
US Veteran

St Louis, MO

BC4

1st year competitor



Charles Brown
US Veteran

Loxahatchee, FL

BC4

Competing for 6yrs
Paralympic athlete



Doug Barnes
US Veteran

Belleville, IL

Superman
Classification
in process

First year
Competitor

To the left are our SCI Athletes on the USA Boccia Team at the Boccia Worlds Open in Montreal, Canada.

Competing countries include:

Russia, China, Korea,
 Australia, Great Britain,
 Japan, Canada, Argentina,
 Bermuda, Chile, Slovakia,
 USA, France, and Denmark.

Save the Date

Trout Lodge will be on
 September 15 to September 18.

Please contact Charley Wright or
 Matt Luitjohan with any
 questions.

Matt at 314-894-6602

or

Charley at 314-652-4100

extension 64590

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 give STL	4	5	6 Local Wheelchair Games	7
8 	9	10 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 11:30 am 15 pts. Non-BOD Mbr.	11	12	13	14 Italia-America Boccia Club Tournament 10am-3pm
15	16	17	18	19 Member/Patient Luncheon @ Noon 5 pts	20 	21 Kentucky Lake
22 Bass Tournament	23 	24	25	26	27 Bocchia Crestwood 12pm-4pm	28
29 Scuba Atlanta 	30 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	31				

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Newsletter Articles Due 15 pts published	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 4:00 pm 15 pts Non-BOD Mbr.	15	16 Member/Patient Luncheon @ Noon Quarterly Mbr Mtg. after Luncheon 5/15 pts	17 Marion SCI Outreach	18 Adaptive Sports Clinic
19 Happy Father's Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 	28 NATIONAL VETERANS	29 Salt Lake City, Utah WHEELCHAIR GAMES	30		



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Gateway Chapter

**1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132**

Address Service Requested

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Redeem your sports points for entertainment cards!

For those members who have not participated in sports/athletic events this year (June 2015—May 2016) your earned points can be used for other forms of entertainment (such as movies, gift cards, concert tickets, etc., not available to Associate members). This usage will be awarded at \$1 per point earned, up to \$150 annually and only awarded in a non-cash distribution such as gift cards or event tickets (minimum of 25 points). Participation points, if not used on sports or recreation, may be redeemed twice a year for entertainment. A Sports Year begins the day after the BOD (Board of Director) meeting that occurs at least 30 days prior to the start of the NVWG and ends the day of that BOD meeting (May 10, 2016).

May 10, 2016 is the end of the fiscal year for sports points. You have until June 30, 2016 to redeem your points for entertainment cards. You must contact the office and let us know what type of card you would like (i.e, Subway, AMC, etc.). Points will not be redeemed by Visa Gift Cards. Any unused points for FY16 do not carry over to points for FY17.

If you have any questions concerning your sports points total, or any other questions, please contact Chris or Amber at the GPVA office. *Sports points accumulation for FY17 begins May 11, 2016.*

“Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease, Living Life to the Fullest”