

# GATEWAY GAZETTE

*The Official Publication of the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America  
A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America*

## The 16th Annual Gateway PVA/Jack Buck Golf Tournament “The Best Yet”



Gateway members and Fredbird® (mascot of the 2011 World Champion Cardinals?) in attendance at the shotgun start.



Longtime supporter and auctioneer Jerry Hollingsworth holds the microphone for GPVA President Stan Brown.  
“Short and Sweet Remarks”



### *Inside—Important Upcoming Events & More...*

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GRD Report .....Jessica Dunsmore

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My Opinion .....Bob Larkin

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

## Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

<http://www.gatewaypva.org>

### GPVA Officers

President	Stanley Brown
Vice President	Rose Ganz
Treasurer	Dennis Durrwachter
Secretary	Jim Spencer

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Bobby Jackson	Mike Norris
Ruth Kult	

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Bob Larkin—Kansas City
W. “Rusty” Montague—Columbia

**National Director** Stanley Brown

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**Has your address changed? Please inform us by email: [susanlyle@gatewaypva.org](mailto:susanlyle@gatewaypva.org), or you may write or call us at the following:**

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



### Veterans Day Parade

Downtown St. Louis  
Meet at 15th & Olive at 11:30 am  
The Parade begins at 12 pm  
Participation is worth 10 points!

### Talking Book Service

These services are available in Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. To sign up for this free service, please visit one of the websites listed below for the state in which you live. On each website there is an application form available for you to download.

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#### Kansas

[www.kslib.info/talking/index.html](http://www.kslib.info/talking/index.html)  
Please note the mailing address at the bottom of this web page. The application form should be mailed to this address.  
To have an application mailed to you, or for further assistance, call 1-800-362-0699.



**Gateway Chapter  
Paralyzed Veterans of  
America**

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## President's Message

By Stanley D. Brown



### *Recent Gateway Election*

We have just finished our election for 2011-2012 and basically have the same slate of officers and board members on our Board of Directors. Dr. Robert Huskey was re-elected Vice President, but stepped down immediately and Rose Ganz was appointed. Rusty Montague was elected secretary, but because of his new full-time employment, will resign in order for Jim Spencer to be appointed. Both Bob and Rusty will remain as Gateway board members, but not officers. Our Board of Directors still has an opening for appointment of another long-distance (over 100 miles from the office) member who believes they can attend our monthly meetings which alternate between 11:30 AM and 4 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Long-distance members are reimbursed for their mileage. We especially would like representation from the southern part of the state. Please contact me if you would be interested.

### *Incredibly Successful Golf Tournament*

Last month on September 13 we held our 16th Annual Gateway PVA/Jack Buck Golf Tournament. It was the very best out of the 16 years we've been putting on this fundraising event. We have the most successful golf tournament of all the 34 PVA chapters across the country. We do not use any paid fundraisers. We instead rely solely on volunteers. Five years ago at one of our tournaments I was bemoaning to one of the players that Gateway was struggling as a chapter as well as making money on our golf tournaments. That individual was Mr. Bob Rives and the rest of the story was, as they say, history. Bob brought on board a plethora of friends to include Jerry Hollingsworth and Fred Waelter, who in turn brought their friends. Along the way Bob and the group also secured very generous corporate sponsorships from Emerson, Anheuser-Busch, and Boeing. Our monthly luncheons, holiday dinners, and running our new bus to transport area members (both Missouri and Illinois) with today's gas prices, is all made possible with this golf tournament. A special thanks also to Christine Buck who graciously continues to serve as emcee for this event. Christine gladly assumed that role after the passing of her father, Jack Buck, who was a veteran himself and a longtime regular at the Jefferson Barracks SCI unit where he visited with the patients. This newsletter contains front page pictures of the tournament. I must admit, Fredbird® drove me nuts messing with my baseball cap!

### *Member Participation*

My thanks to all those members who showed up at "zero dark 30" (early in the morning for you Air Force people) to participate with Gateway in the Labor Day parade last month. It was also great to see so many people at our annual fall picnic at Lone Elk Park in southwest St. Louis County on Friday, September 30. The annual St. Louis Veterans Day parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 5. We will again be "rolling" in that procession accompanied by cadets from the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Gateway Tech High School. If you are unable to push your manual chair the distance (about a mile and a half), cadets will be available to push. Likewise, if you are a quad and your arm gives out (happens to me every year) during the trek, there will be cadets accompanying us. This is really a great event and we all get together for lunch afterwards! Call the office for details; we meet at 15th and Olive streets downtown between 11 and 11:30 AM.

### *Denis Canoy Memorial Golf Tournament*

Last week Mr. Jim Canoy delivered a nice donation check on behalf of his deceased uncle. The proceeds are from a memorial fundraising golf tournament the Canoy's sponsor. Denis was a longtime board member of Gateway and passed away May 12, 2008. Denis greatly enjoyed participating in the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games and as such, his nephew Jim has requested the memorial tournament proceeds go to the Gateway sports account and only be used for the wheelchair games or winter sports clinic. Thanks to Jim and all the Canoy family for hosting this event at the Lake of the Ozarks each year in memory of Denis.

### *Preliminary Gateway Disability Air Travel Survey Results*

Thanks to Jessica Dunsmore's (our GRD) technical savvy and work, we have an online air travel survey for persons with mobility disabilities. Out of 108 people thus far completing the survey, 32% used power wheelchairs and 55% used manual wheelchairs. Over one-third (38%) responded that their flight experience was not "acceptable." A total of 61% responded that their wheelchair was not repaired or replaced in a timely fashion. We are working with national PVA to present our survey results and discuss the unacceptable nature of air travel to airline representatives and their service providers at a meeting early next year. Please contact Jessica if you have not gone online to complete the survey.

## National Director's Report

By Stanley D. Brown

The 65th PVA Annual Convention was held August 23-27, 2011, in The Woodlands, Texas. The Woodlands is a suburb of Houston and a planned community with man-made waterways, sleek high-rises, an overall Disney theme park appearance and ambience. By the week's end several other national directors and I were "walking" around with congested heads from the hotel's exaggerated air-conditioned settings contrasted with the 107° temperature outside. But enough complaining, here are highlights of what happened...

1. Passed on the consent agenda was a resolution for the PVA President to appoint a committee (s) to address our declining nationwide PVA membership effect on the following: 1) impact on influencing congressional and VA decision-making; 2) PVA leadership/governance on both the national and local level; 3) impact on fundraising; and 4) groups of veterans who are underserved which may align with PVA's mission. This resolution, and the committee's direction, is something I wholeheartedly agree needs to be done. The average age of our membership is now over 60 years old and continuing to increase. There may be a "natural" fit and need for us to expand our membership eligibility to possibly amputees, traumatic brain injuries, or PTSD veterans.
2. Gateway's resolution to discontinue PVA funding/investing in NASCAR events failed by a vote of 22-11. I have opposed this investment/fundraising venture since its inception in 2007 and have unsuccessfully tried to remove it from our national PVA budget each year.
3. A Hearing Panel submitted its recommendations concerning the status of the Vaughan Chapter which had previously been on monitoring and subject to having its charter revoked. The Vaughan Chapter basically covers Illinois and is headquartered in Chicago. By vote of the national PVA Board, the chapter's charter was not exactly revoked. The local governing structure was, however, dissolved, officers removed, to include independent financial authority, and the Vaughan Chapter temporarily replaced with an interim governing structure from PVA central office.
4. The national PVA Board of Directors passed a resolution to go back to having four National Vice Presidents (previously three) who act as liaisons to the chapters and serve as head of various PVA committees.
5. The national PVA officers were all returned to office: Bill Lawson-President, Al Kovach-Vice President, Craig Enenbach-Treasurer, and Frank Rigo-Secretary. The National Vice Presidents are Eduardo Oyola-Rivera, Ken Weas, David Fowler (new), and David Zurfluh (new). My congratulations to all those elected.

### Donated Van Available to Gateway Member

We have a nearby Illinois individual willing to donate his accessible van to one of our members in need. It is a 1994 Dodge Ram B250 Conversion Van with a V8 engine. It has 150,000 miles and a side-entry wheelchair lift that has a weight limit of about 300 lbs., which means it would have to be converted to handle power wheelchair users.

If you are a non-service connected member, please contact (call or email) the office by 5 pm, November 11, 2011. We will then hold a drawing to select a recipient. The winner will accept the van "as is" and be required to sign a liability waiver for the van, ensuring the donor is not subject to any later claims for the van or lift system.



## Government Relations Director's Report

By Jessica Dunsmore



### News and Notes

#### Update on TSA's Military Severely Injured Program

PVA's national office is currently in contact with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) regarding the parameters of the Military Severely Injured Program (MSIP). The program is intended to facilitate the security screening process at airports for active duty and veterans with injuries or special needs. Nonetheless, PVA members from across the country have reported varied experiences with the program (some have been told they were not eligible, while others have had great experiences). PVA is currently in discussions with the MSIP director in an attempt to clarify the program rules and to minimize future problems. During this time, PVA members are encouraged to continue trying to use the service. (Call 1-888-262-2396 to speak with a TSA liaison at least 24 hours before your flight. Be sure to mention PVA membership along with flight details.)

#### Gateway and PVA National Administer Air Travel Survey for Individuals with Mobility Disabilities

If you've encountered any recent issues with air travel (*not* with TSA or the airport itself), please consider taking our online survey. You can fill it out anonymously, or provide contact information if you so wish. Upon conclusion of the survey, findings may be presented to the Department of Transportation and lawmakers. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GPVAairtravelsurvey>

#### Funding for Missouri Veterans Homes

I attended the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) meeting in Jefferson City in mid-September, and at the forefront of discussion was the future of funding sources for Missouri Veterans Homes. Current estimates show that the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund, which funds the homes and other veterans' services, may be depleted by late 2012. A current proposal would designate \$1 in additional gaming fees for entrance to Missouri Gaming Boats solely to the trust fund. Gateway will work closely with our legislators during the next session in January to ensure a sufficient funding source is implemented. Says Chris Kelly, Chairman of the House committee that oversees the budget for the state veterans' commission, "There's such a huge commitment in the legislature, and in the executive, to solving the problem. I think we're going to find the solution." Please contact me if you need assistance in sending a letter to your local legislator voicing your concern over this issue.

#### Discounts and Freebies this Veteran's Day (and throughout the year)!

Several nationwide restaurants and retailers offer discounts, free meals and other services to veterans on and around Veteran's Day. A short list includes: Applebee's, McCormick & Schmick's, Golden Corral, Chili's, Hy-Vee Kitchen, Subway, Home Depot and Lowe's. (Home Depot and Lowe's offer a 10% discount everyday if your VIC says "Service Connected.") For a list of free carwashes in your area on Veteran's Day, visit <http://graceforvets.org>. Please have proper ID, **and be sure to call ahead to confirm with your local retailer/restaurant that they are offering this service.**

### Legislative News

**Congress**-The budget talks continue as the 12-member, bi-partisan "Super Committee" strategizes on a debt reduction plan before the Nov. 23 deadline. One notable member of that group (and also its co-chair), is Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Super Committee can consider any method of deficit reduction including tax reform, cuts to discretionary spending (including VA), and cuts/reforms to entitlement programs (Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and possibly VA benefits). These recommendations are to be presented to Congress for a vote by December 23. If a consensus is not reached, or the House and Senate don't approve the proposal, an automatic \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts will be triggered (all VA programs are presumably excluded from automatic cuts, in addition to Social Security, Medicaid, and most of Medicare).

As of early October, **the Missouri General Assembly's** special legislative session continues as the Missouri House and Senate are still in negotiations on legislation dealing with tax credit reform, economic development and job creation. **The Illinois General Assembly** meets October 25-27 and again from November 8-10 for a special legislative veto session.



## Attaboy

By Ruth Kult



Hello everyone! Sorry, not a single Attaboy, but a huge one passed out to many individuals. It's time to pass on gratitude to everyone who volunteered, worked and attended this year's golf tournament. Actually, this tournament was a financial success for the PVA. The tournaments several years ago were only netting 10,000-20,000 maybe a few hundred more, if we were lucky. Now since a man by the name of Mr. Bob Rives and his golf crew, our knights in shining armor came along and jumped on our sinking ship it's nothing but extraordinary. This year was the best so far.

Another thing that was extremely outstanding is the fact that we had Jackie and Jessica out driving a golf cart around doing a great job. Unfortunately Mrs. Susan was on the disabled list. Mrs. Susan just had her ankle operated on. She had to sit and watch others do most of the work. I'm sure this was hard because she is a go-getter and would rather be doing instead of watching. Jackie and Jessica did an awesome job. They braved the heat and were out in a golf cart driving around snapping pictures of the golfers.

The weather was a little warm, but it was a beautiful day. Last year at this time I mentioned I pretty much come from a golf-crazed family. This year it showed. Well, a few of my immediate family members and two of my cousins made the Kult team. My team tied for first. When this happens they do something called a score card play-off. Here the most difficult hole is chosen. Whichever team does best on that particular hole wins first place. My team got second on that hole. With a game like golf every team is a winner in my opinion. It takes skill, hard work and patience. Patience is NOT my best virtue.

If it seems like I'm bragging a little, well, maybe I am. Let me explain. When your high school, favorite sports team or in this case, the team I sponsored, wins even though you aren't playing, you kind of feel a sense a pride or something like that. This is how I feel. Knowing how successful this tournament was makes it even better.

Golfers, well especially the contributors, love to see the members out there. Surely the golfers like to see who they're supporting and where and what their money is being spent on. Understanding quite a few receivers of some of the funds can't make it out, but the ones that do is a great thing.

Just showing your face there makes it nice.

Thanks for reading.



Ruth's Team stops for a quick picture. From Left to Right: Brent Holmes, Larry Kult, Ruth Kult, Laurie Robertson, Matt Holmes, Michael Johnson, Jr.



## Overview of Changes Made to the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010

By National Service Officer, Bonnie Hilburn



Some very exciting changes to Public Law 111-275 have occurred that I'm sure will impact many Veterans and their families.

Under Title V, Sec. 501 there will be an increase in certain burial and funeral benefits, as well as plot allowances. Section 2303(a) amended an increase of the burial allowance from \$300 to \$700 for veterans who die while properly hospitalized by VA. Sec. 2303(b) is amended to increase the plot allowances for all veterans from \$300 to \$700. In addition this amendment provides for an annual increase in the burial and plot allowances beginning in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the proceeding 12-month period. This will apply to deaths occurring on or after October 1, 2011. The first opportunity for an annual increase is October 1, 2012.

Title VI, Sec. 601 provides enhancement of the Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for certain disabled veterans with difficulties using prostheses and disabled veterans in need of regular aid and attendance for residuals of traumatic brain injury. It removes the current statutory language that bases SMC on the location (or site) of the amputation or complications from such amputation. Instead, if other requirements are satisfied, the statute will now allow SMC rates at the (m), (n), and (o) levels to be paid based on factors that prevent natural elbows or knee action with prostheses in place or use of prosthetic appliances.

Sec. 1114 amended to add a new subsection 1114(t) which will pay SMC at the R2 rate for Veterans who, because of traumatic brain injury residuals, are in need of aid and attendance, and in absence of such aid and attendance would require hospitalization, nursing home care, or other residential institutional care.

Sec. 602 amends for a cost of living increase for the temporary Dependency and Indemnity Compensation with Dependent Children under the age of 18. The cost of living increases are tied to the percentage increase to benefit amounts under Title II of the Social Security Act. Unfortunately, there is no cost of living increase for fiscal year 2011.

Sec. 603 allows payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to Survivors of former Prisoners of War who died on or before September 30, 1999. Currently, survivors are only eligible for DIC under section 1318 if the Veteran died after September 30, 1999.

Sec. 604 amends to authorize VA to exclude up to \$5,000 of income from a state or municipality that is paid to the Veteran due to injury or disease when determining annual income for calendar years beginning after October 1, 2011.

Sec. 605 will allow VA to begin paying Veterans who have retired or separated from active duty due to a catastrophic disability from the date of the VA award (instead of the first day of the calendar month following the effective date of the award).

Sec. 606 applies to the limitation of pension payable to certain children of Veterans from a period of war. It provides for VA to apply the \$90 Medicaid rule for Veterans, to include the child of a Veteran who receives Medicaid-covered nursing home care. This is an increase from \$30 a month to \$90.

Sec. 607 is an extension of the amendment for VA to apply the \$90 nursing home rule for Veterans, Surviving Spouses and Children with no dependents through May 31, 2015.

Sec. 608 simply amends no change in pension rates for Veterans, Surviving Spouses and Children.

Under Title VII, Sec. 803 will now provide automobile and adaptive equipment assistance to disabled Service members and Veterans with severe burn injury.

Also, Sec. 804 now increases the automobile allowance from \$11,000 to \$18,900. The effective date of this amendment is October 1, 2011.

Sec. 805 and Sec. 806 are basically directing a national academies review of best treatments for chronic multi-symptom illness in Persian Gulf War Veterans and Post 9/11 Global Operations.

Sec. 807 designates for VA to operate a regional office in the Philippines.

Sec. 808 extends VA's obligation to provide Congress an annual report regarding the disposition of each case recommended to the Secretary for equitable relief during the preceding year through December 31, 2014.

All in all, these are very impressive changes. If you have any questions or need to file a claim for these and/or any other VA benefits, please contact your local PVA Service Office. (Please see page 2 for contact information.)



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## My Opinion

By Bob Larkin

Recently leaders called for Congress to raise taxes and cut Social Security and Medicare before cutting the Pentagon's budget beyond cuts already called for in the debt-ceiling deal. I do not understand what makes up discretionary spending. Is it Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and military salaries? Where does the money come from for the wars in Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, and having our military in at least 100 other countries?



Working people have had money taken from paychecks for Social Security and Medicare. The government has no legal right to default in paying back to the people what they earned plus interest. Before they restructure Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid the government should consider: getting out of the UN, getting out of Libya, getting out of Iraq and Afghanistan, and getting our military out of other countries. What is the use?

We must work toward living below our means, and other countries need to be responsible for their own lives. Our military does need to be modern and mobile, but we cannot continue to head toward bankruptcy. The United States is a rich and prosperous nation; we must not continue to borrow from nations that don't like America. Social Security must not continue to be looted.

Our government collects these funds as a separate line item from our paychecks for a good reason: Social Security. Yet, this fully funded program is being robbed to pay for non-Social Security spending. It was never meant to pay for decades of war and military adventures. Who gave the government the right to steal from our retirement accounts? Even worse, why are they considering cutting Social Security instead of cutting the expensive and counter-productive wars? Social Security is the most effective poverty prevention program in history. It is not a cookie jar for the anti-terrorism industrial complex to loot.

# Thank You to Our Veterans



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*In memory of...*

Billy Groom      Independence, MO      08/26/11

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

Are you looking for a pen pal?

The person below is looking for someone to correspond with through the mail.

Mary Parsons  
1511 215th St.  
Fort Scott, KS 66701



**Gateway Chapter PVA  
Wishes to Welcome  
Our New Members**

**Anthony Bankston.....St. Louis, MO**

**Nicholas Cornwell .....St. Louis, MO**

**Thomas Edwards.....Grafton, IL**

**James Minton .....Maysville, MO**

**Marlott Rhoades ..... Ballwin, MO**

**MIA**



*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  
any of these members are! Our contact info is inside the  
front cover.*

**Mark Beel  
Paula Lemon  
Alfred Ross**

**James Sullivan-McGuire  
Rick Taylor**



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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>November</u></h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 <b>Veterans Day Parade</b> Noon 10 pts.
6	7	8 BOD Meeting 11:30 am 15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.	9	10	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> Office Closed	12
13	14	15	16	17 Member/Patient Luncheon at JB Noon 5 pts.	18	19
20	21	22	23	24  <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	25 <b>Office Closed 24-25</b>	26
27	28	29	30			

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">   <h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>December</u></h1>   </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Newsletter Articles Due	8	9	10
11	12	13 BOD Meeting 4 pm 15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.	14	15 Member/Patient Luncheon/Qtr. Mbr. Mtg. at JB @ Noon 5 pts./15 pts.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26 <b>Office Closed 12/26-12/27</b>	27	28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>



Address Service Requested

Gateway Chapter  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center  
St. Louis, MO 63132



## 2011 Membership Picnic Lone Elk Park



Top Left-

Our members having fun in the park!

Bottom Left-

Bobby Jackson, SBA Fred Bradley, Jackie Wetteroff,  
and Lanna Brickhaus

Bottom Right-

Bill Skiles and our driver, John Vasel



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