

GATEWAY GAZETTE

The Official Publication of the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America



Members of the St. Louis JB VAMC/PVA National Veterans Wheelchair Games Team taken at Anchorage Alaska in July.

NVWG Report

By Amy Will

Sixteen athletes traveled to Anchorage, Alaska in early July taking part in the largest wheelchair sporting event in the country, the 26th National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Team St. Louis was well represented with experience bringing seasoned veteran athletes such as Denis Canoy, Robert Kiger, and Charlie Winterrowd. Novice athletes this year were Aubrey Youngs and Rich Weigand. Aubrey won gold medals in both Table Tennis and Slalom. Rich brought home the gold in the Power Chair 220 and Slalom and a Silver medal in bowling. Rose Ganz and Dennis Durrwachter showed their drive and determination in the Handcycling event. Dennis ranked highly while competing with some of the fastest hand-cyclists in the country. Rose crashed her cycle on the final lap of the race which resulted in a broken arm. Rose pulled herself back on to her handcycle thus finishing the race and winning the GOLD! Ruth Kult, Bud Boyle and Joe Roberts shined during their swimming events, all receiving medals in very competitive heats. Bob Huskey and Bobby Jackson were fierce competitors in Power Soccer. Floyd Porter swung a big bat during the Softball games helping his team win the Gold and more importantly bragging rights. Doug Barnes gave his all in Slalom bringing home a Silver medal. Lonnie Crider, Robert Kiger, Denis Canoy and

Jamey Bollinger all excelled in their Bowling and Track events. All of the athletes competed in a variety of events capturing the true spirit of the Games!

The people of Alaska greeted us with open arms. One of the weeks highlights included rolling down the streets of Anchorage taking part in the city's annual Fourth of July parade. Thousands of spectators gave a standing ovation while the inspiring sight of 500 wheelchairs led the parade. Other great activities included Opening and Closing Ceremonies, a Block Party and Kid's Day.

Several members of Team St. Louis took this opportunity to explore Alaska. Tours of Denali National Park, Kenai River, Kenai Fjords, and Glacier Cruises were all part of this exciting week. An occasional spotting of a moose on the side of road was not unusual although you had to go out in the wilderness to spot a grizzly bear. The sightseeing opportunities were amazing, making the long travel times worthwhile. Overall the Games were a great success creating memories that we will cherish.

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Remembering Bill Vickers

And much more.....

Rodney Harris

Stan Brown

Matt Wilcox

Ruth Kult

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

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Thanks for the Memories

Gateway Chapter Members

It is with great sadness I am informing the members of the Gateway Chapter that I am relocating to Richmond, Virginia. On August 28th I will be leaving to start my new position as Supervisor of the Richmond PVA office located at the VAMC. I will remember fondly the times spent with the members and how they made me feel welcome and appreciated.

I would like to thank Stan Brown for his leadership and friendship while I was in training to become a National Service Officer. I would also like to thank all of the Board Members with whom I have worked to bring new, innovative solutions for our members. I appreciate the opportunity to bond with all of you at JB for our Chapter Luncheons. I will never forget the jokes that Denny Canoy and Ruth Kult always had to share while visiting the inpatients at the unit. Thanks are definitely due to the staff at the SCI unit for their help and guidance during my service here in St. Louis. To Dr. Thomas, Bob Sontag, and Virginia Wagner, who I worked with so closely, thank you for your help as well. I will miss all of you and I will always have fond memories of our times together.

I look forward to many years of service to the members of the PVA and thank all of you for being a part of my life. I know that Tony and Fred will continue to assist all of you in all matters related to VA. I thank all of you for your service to our country and may God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Rodney L. Harris
National Service Officer II

The drawing for a Free Lasik procedure that was advertised in the last edition of the Gazette was won by Joey Avellone. Only two people entered the drawing. ***If you had entered your chances of winning would have been 1 in 3.***

Air Conditioning Service

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

Call Jim at Complete Comfort 314-631-8762

The material contained herein expresses the opinions of the writer and not necessarily the opinions of the editor or the Gateway Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America. All material in the *Gazette* may be reprinted unless specifically prohibited. Readers are encouraged to submit their articles or rebuttals to: ddurrwachter@gatewaypva.org or in the US mail at address shown to the left and mark with attention to the editor.

President's Report

By Stan Brown

Not being a woman, I suspect I feel like I've just experienced a long, difficult birth. As a man I can tell you our recent office moving experience has been like receiving that baseball at a bad spot on your anatomy, the grounder coming to you in the infield changing direction after hitting a rock. We finally got moved into our new offices on July 27 and are still waiting on a final occupancy permit; we are caught between various parties on an electrical issue. Catch me some time in person and I will tell you as Paul Harvey says, the "the rest of the story." All of the turmoil and angst of the move, and other difficult life issues, I believe I and most wheelchair persons can put in perspective to the injury related issues we have faced. Once you've weaned off a respirator or spent four months in bed with a decubitus, you consider most days acceptable if you sleep through the night without breathing problems and are able to get up in your wheelchair the next day.



At the risk of being optimistic, I believe we finally have control of our financial house. This time last year we were looking at going under in four months. My predecessor, Bob Huskey, also saw the impending doom which actually began as a trend as early as 1999 when our expenses were barely covered by our revenue. From the year 2000 through the year 2005 our expenses exceeded our revenue and our net assets decreased every year but 2002 when we received some exceptional donations from deceased individuals. In the year 2000 we moved into our old 8000 square foot office and only used about 4000 square feet of it. Ideally I understand the plan was to sublease the remainder of the building but our occupancy permit with the City of Overland contained a "no sublease" clause. In November of last year the Board approved a painful but needed reorganization of how we should operate to include selling the building. It is my belief that action saved us and puts us in the cautiously optimistic position we are today. We will finish this fiscal year on a positive note for the first time in seven years and today have over \$100,000 in a money market account and over \$20,000 in checking. Our transportation program is back up and we are now looking to expand to a third day. If you know of anyone who would like to volunteer for this position please let us know. The third day of the transportation program is scheduled to specifically address hospital and patient care issues. We sponsored veterans for both the summer games and the winter sports clinic; Susan Gokenbach was able to obtain a \$1000 fishing grant from our national organization for this September's Camp Penuel. On a last positive note I want to mention that two private individuals donated their lift-equipped vans to our chapter and we in turn transferred title (donated) to non-service connected members. Things are looking better!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the extraordinary help we have received from Dave Lyle, a friend of Susan's and now mine. He has spent in excess of 50 hours helping us pack and go through miles of "stuff" we had accumulated over the years. Special thanks also to several of the guys at United Access for helping us make the move possible. To give you an idea of the beginning task, think of the desk of a disorganized employee and multiply by 100. Lastly, please take a moment and fondly remember Bill Vickers who passed away August 10, 2006; he was only 53. Bill was an avid fisherman and participated in the bass tournament we sponsored last summer; he also got to go to the 2006 winter sports clinic. His sister had pictures of Bill at both events on display at his wake in Dupo IL. He was on our Board of Directors and will be missed.

Stan

Have a great summer!

Stan

Veterans Day 2006 National Poster and Essay Contest

This Veterans Day, children across the country can express their thanks for America's 26 million veterans by entering the Paralyzed Veterans of America's (PVA) third annual National Veterans Day Poster and Essay Contest. It is a great opportunity for children to express what America's veterans mean to them. For teachers and parents it's an opportunity to teach children that veterans are friends and neighbors who are an important part of our communities, not just former soldiers. This year's competition extends the opportunity for participation to students in grades 1-8. Students in grades 1-4 may participate by creating posters, which will be separated into two categories for judging: 1st - 2nd grade and 3rd - 4th grade. The essay contest is open to students in grades 5-8 and will be separated into two categories for judging: 5th - 6th grade and 7th - 8th grade. Entries will be judged by paralyzed veterans, educators, and national leaders in Washington, DC. The final winner of the poster and essay contest will receive an all-expense paid trip for him or her and a family member to Washington, DC, for Veterans Day 2006 ceremonies. The essay contest winner will also have his or her essay published in PN, PVA's national magazine. In addition, each category winner will receive a special plaque and a \$100 gift certificate, and five finalists from each category will receive a certificate of merit and commemorative T-shirt. If you have any questions, please send e-mail to postercontest@pva.org.

Hospital Liaison's Report

By Matt Wilcox



Overall patient care at the SCI/D Center is going well. Patients will tell me some problems they have had with certain staff. When I hear this I ask if they have reported it to the Jim Weindel or anyone. They often say they have told someone but most times I find they have not. It does little or no good for me to tell Dr. Thomas or Jim **secondhand stories!** We are not trying to stir up trouble. But, if something happens it should be addressed properly. Please stay in touch!

We met with Dr. Thomas for a required quarterly PVA/SCI Center Committee. The administration has a good open door policy with the local PVA so we talk regularly. We have had a good relationship and communication with the VA administration and staff. Unlike other national SCI Centers and local chapters that are extremely confrontational! An inpatient did report his poor care at St. Louis University Medical Center. He is a quadriplegic and was there approximately 6 days for plastic surgery and post-op. He said some nurses were untrained with SCI care but tried hard to work with him. Dr. Thomas will look into this.

Fred Bradley and I attended the PVA-John Cochran Charter Group. There has not been 6 North staff going through the one-day orientation at the SCI Center. Kathy Conway (Nurse Manager 6 North) said the majority of the present staff has completed orientation and she will make arrangements for new staff to have the required training.

The VA Major Medical Equipment Committee sets guidelines for veteran's equipment. When Bob Huskey worked for the SCI Center he sat on that committee. The administration agreed to have Bob Huskey and Stan Brown involved. They went to a recent meeting and the committee *took notice!* Fred Bradley is on the committee and the therapists at the SCI Center say they are receiving most requested items.

There are a number of questions concerning Prosthetics. We will invite Bruce Nolan (Prosthetics Chief) to one of our board meetings. He would be able to explain policies and procedures to everyone.

The scheduled renovation of Building 52 is now FY-2008. As of today the VA has allocated \$3.5 million. This is about half the proposed amount. Realistically, it will be enough for renovating the 32 bed rooms. But very few needed changes for all therapies (PT, OT, and RT), all clinics (six months follow-up, wound care, urology) administrative offices and many other areas! I remember when \$3 1/2 million was a lot of money, but not in 2008!

Thanks for Reading!

Bill Vickers Remembered

By Ruth Kult

Not too many people knew a lot about Bill Vickers other than him being a BOD Member. He was the kind of person who more or less wasn't vocal about things unless he really had a point to make. I'm not sure he befriended many people. I guess I was one of the lucky ones that got to know a little about him. Actually, he was a very nice and good-hearted man once you got past his almost solemn look.

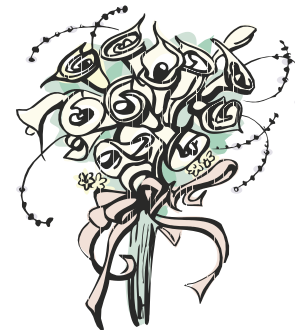
He was the kind of guy that would do just about anything for you. He really liked building things. One of the last projects he was involved with was to put siding up on his sister's home near Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee. He enjoyed the people who lived there and sat with them after working on the house in the evenings, his sister told me.

He never really got angry, unlike me, who lets my emotions out easily. Patiently he would take it all in. He seemed fairly calm and mellow until someone got under his skin. He and I use to drag to quite a few fundraisers for THE HONOR ROLL SPORT'S team. Before the wonderful Amy came along we had the amazing Jennifer as our Recreational Therapist. I recall Bill getting very teed-off at Jennifer for giving out some wrong information. Back then it wasn't as costly as it would be now with the gas prices. This was the only time I ever saw Bill upset.



In memory of....

Foster, Betty	Collinsville, IL	03/17/2006
Stevens, Donald H	St. Louis, MO	05/09/2006
Moyers, William C	Park Hills, MO	06/06/2006
Reser, Paul S	Preston, MO	07/15/2006
Vickers, William W	Dupo, IL	08/09/2006



Bob Larkin Speaks

By Bob Larkin



Has Terror Won?

Take a moment and think about some of the changes America has undergone in this post 9-11-01 time in which we live. Haven't we become suspicious of those Americans of middle eastern origins or Muslim faith? A small part of us has had our trust bruised. I don't care to be suspicious of my neighbors. Furthermore, where is the price of oil going. What a slap in the face. America uses too much oil. We were aware of this since the 70's but an act of terror has put the freedom of travel in a spot we carry all the time, our pockets. Myself, I see \$3.75 a gallon of gas. Maybe a little higher. This will also cause the cost of products to go up across the board. Prices will trickle up because of our dependence on oil. Woe is us if we have a bad winter.

Has anyone traveled lately? What has happened to my right to carry my \$125 a bottle of cologne on a trip if I fly? The security blitz that has been thrust upon those that fly is disobliging to say the least. Along with flying, if you visit a national monument be careful what you might be carrying. All government building have become fortress. So, remember the word of the day is "patience".

We can't visit the terror issue without wondering who is paying for these others actions? The American taxpayer. Each of us are footing the bill for our comfort. The phrase 'freedom isn't free' hits us hard, again in the pocket. Less in our budget to be able to appreciate our lifestyle.

Finally, most important, our sons, daughters, mothers and fathers have been put in harms way for the human rights we enjoy. They take the struggle to the front yard of the terrorist so not to have the conflict in ours. But, is the sacrifice worth the price? We have enjoyed the rewards of being blessed as Americans. The time has come we make a larger investment in the freedom of democracy. We must invest in the future. This investment will be in dollars, time, patience and lives. So, I tell you to look at the lives we enjoy. Know that each of us relish an existence of sacrifice. Now, ask yourself, have the terrorist won? I say no. As long as we are committed to freedom. Terror has changed our environment, it has changed our lives, it doesn't have to change how we live.

Communication is one key to recognize those that would do harm to Americans. Our security must have the latest accurate information to be effective. Secure our borders. Don't allow the fight to come to American soil again. Tighten your belt, dig a little deeper and we will get through this world war. Remember we each have a vote. Stay informed. We have tough decisions ahead. We must stay tough.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Larkin

Kansas City Based Focus on Independence Granted 501c3 Status

Local organization will branch out nationally to provide vision correction to paralysis victims

OVERLAND PARK, KS (Jan. 26, 2006) – Focus on Independence, Inc., a Kansas City-based organization that provides laser or surgical vision correction at no cost to individuals who have suffered spinal cord injuries resulting in the loss of upper-body movement affecting their ability to handle eyeglasses or contact lenses, was recently granted 501c3 status by the IRS and now operates as an official not-for-profit organization. Additionally, Focus on Independence will branch out nationally so that high-level paralysis victims across the country will have the chance to receive vision correction surgery free of charge. The organization is currently constructing a Web site, which will eventually act as the information center for potential program candidates, vision correction specialists who would like to become involved or persons with general interest or questions. For more information on this subject go to the following web site: <http://www.durrievision.com/index.cfm/news/501c3>

MIA

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

Childs, John	Conner, George	Cox, Steve D	Gore, Steven G	Kocina, Chad B	Miller, Ronald L
Ohen, RobertL	Schmitz, Paul T	Tuscher, Jim			





Photos taken at the 2006 NVWG in Anchorage Alaska. Special thanks to Becky Ballard and Amy Will for providing some of these photos for use in this month's newsletter. If you have photos of future events that you would like to be considered for use in the newsletter please contact Dennis Durrwachter at the address listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

An Unabashed Argument to Support Missouri's Stem Cell Initiative

By Stanley D. Brown

The opinions in this article are entirely my own and do not purport to represent any sponsor or individuals connected with this newsletter or the Gateway Chapter or the Paralyzed Veterans of America. That being said, as a paralyzed veteran and as a person who counsels newly injured spinal cord patients, I urge Missourians to vote for the Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative that will be on the November 7 ballot in Missouri as Amendment 2.



The Stem Cell Initiative does three important things. It makes it clear in the state Constitution that Missouri citizens have the right to have their diseases and injuries cured with any stem cell treatments allowed in our country and available to other Americans. It ensures that Missouri medical institutions can provide and help find new stem cell cures. And, it creates responsible ethical guidelines and boundaries for stem cell research, including a strict ban on any attempt to clone a human being.

The proposed amendment simply ensures Missouri residents have access to the research and possible treatments today authorized by federal law. The amendment is unfortunately needed because as late as 2005 legislation was introduced by politicians in Missouri to make such research and possible treatment a class B felony and in 2006 civil penalties were proposed. No state funding or tax increases are involved in the initiative. The initiative protects two types of research and Missourians' access to possible treatment from that research in this state or another state. The early embryo or blastocyst, is so small it could fit on the tip of a sewing needle. The inner cell mass from which the stem cells are derived cannot with today's science form a human being unless implanted into a woman's uterus. The initiative specifically makes it a crime to do such implantation or research and forbids the cloning of humans or research to create a human being outside the uterus of a woman.

The Missouri Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative solidifies into law these two research avenues and patient access to treatments that are authorized under federal law. The first of these two research avenues involves the use of donated in vitro fertilization clinic embryos that are destined to be destroyed. The patient's frozen embryo must be donated; the initiative forbids payment for the embryo cells. Directing the pluripotent (ability to become numerous cells) embryonic stem cell differentiation into specific cell types and tissues may provide treatment and therapies for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, juvenile diabetes, specific damaged organs, spinal cord injury, and other diseases. If one truly believes human life is formed, even if artificially outside the uterus in the beginning process (4-5 days) of in vitro fertilization, it follows logically next that in vitro fertilization clinics need to be shut down because the vast majority of those frozen embryos will eventually be discarded. Although opponents laud the promise of research on adult stem cells versus the possible use of embryonic stem cells, there is little scientific debate on the clear value of embryonic stem cells alone which have the unlimited potential (pluripotent) to grow into any of the body's more than 200 cell types present and also robustly replicate. Scientists have been working with adult stem cells since 1964 and nine treatments have been scientifically validated with their use. The Missouri initiative would ensure that research on and treatment with both type cells, now authorized under federal law, may continue without the threat of criminal prosecution.

In the second research and treatment area, a process known as somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), DNA from a patient's somatic cell (such as a skin cell) is transferred into an unfertilized, donated egg which has had its nucleus removed. The egg is then stimulated to begin dividing, and stem cells can be extracted from the resulting blastocyst a few days later. The SCNT process yields stem cells with an additional benefit—they are a genetic match to the patient and therefore will not be rejected by person's immune system. The new stem cells are pluripotent stem cells and for example can be directed to repair a damaged spinal cord or cells for a damaged heart or liver. The initiative protects this research authorized by federal law, and specifically makes it a crime to use this process for implantation in a woman or growing any "test tube baby."

In addition to ensuring Missourians have access to research and treatment allowed by federal law and actually funded in other states, the initiative requires two levels of ethical oversight of the research. The exact language of the initiative states that "no person may clone or attempt to clone a human being." In the next several weeks oppositional rhetoric will continue to spin outlandish claims on what the initiative purports to do. I would encourage voters to read the text of the ballot measure. More than 100 patient, medical, and interfaith organizations have endorsed the initiative including the Missouri State Medical Association, Washington University School of Medicine, American Diabetes Association, and the Missouri Chapter of the American Liver Foundation. Veterans and all persons with spinal cord injury or disease in Missouri should have the right to research and treatment authorized by federal law.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS BORN IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER!

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Monty R. McLaughlin	September 01
James A. Massman	September 02
Jon K. Sampson	September 02
Aaron R. Schmidt	September 03
Wilburn A. Trower	September 03
Robert H. Lane	September 04
Edgar H. McInnis	September 04
Gary M. Garland	September 05
Ernest A. Mullin	September 06
Barry D. Akers	September 07
Lynda M. Hauth	September 07
Billy J. Carter	September 08
Thomas A. Begley	September 09
Louis S. Burt	September 09
Darrell W. Williams	September 10
Carroll L. Woods	September 10
James Q. Allen	September 11
Davett N. Jones	September 11
David W. Michael	September 12
Margaret J. Schaben	September 12
Jesse H. Ontiberos	September 13
Alfred F. Ross	September 13
Mark A. Spencer	September 13
Arthur M. Vann	September 13
Robert D. Kemper	September 14
David A. Berg	September 15
Andrew P. Branch	September 16
Terry L. Cook	September 16
Eldon R. Harbord	September 17
Randy J. Rains	September 18
Max D. Starkloff	September 18
Phillip W. Horras	September 19
Fred W. Meyer	September 19
Robert D. Richardson	September 19
Joel G. Turner	September 19
Jay R. Vogt	September 20
Orville D. Franke	September 21
Phillip A. Branch	September 22
William E. Gebert	September 22
Keith R. Ingram	September 22
Timothy L. Kilcoyne	September 22
Odell Washpun	September 22
James R. Snyder	September 23
Jarrid Hill	September 24
Elmer W. Held	September 25
Shawn P. Kemp	September 26
Paul J. Rowland	September 26
Donald Saighman	September 26
John E. Reed	September 27
Everett Banks	September 29
Betty J. Bresler	September 29



Robert H. Boos	September 30
George F. McManus	September 30
Jimmy L. Smith	September 30
Richard Blake	October 01
Charles E. Grotzinger	October 03
Kathryn Reed	October 03
Gunther K. Kaletka	October 04
Thomas W. Noblin	October 04
Arthur L. Ratliff	October 04
Bill G. Baker	October 05
David L. Howard	October 05
Henry J. Thilking	October 05

Dade M. Farnham	October 06
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William E. Evans	October 09
Dennis E. Harrison	October 09
Wilbert S. White	October 09
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Teddy D. Givens	October 11
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James Williams	October 24
Gary A. Smith	October 25
Mary Martin	October 26
Michael P. McEnaney	October 26
Bryan W. Poehler	October 26
Charles R. Shriver	October 26
Edward Spearman	October 26
Donald L. Biggs	October 27
Terry A. Chrisco	October 27
Billy J. Foreman	October 27
Roger D. Wilburn	October 27
Donald Sarafian	October 29
Harold W. Vaughn	October 30
Bill F. Dombrowski	October 31
Bryan T. Edwards	October 31

<i>September 2006</i>						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6	7	8 Camp Penuel Fishing & Outing thru Sunday	9 AT Consumer Fair 11—9 Convention Center
10	11	12 PVA Golf Tournament - Land- ings at Spirit Golf Course	13 Restore Public Health Care Rally See below	14	15	16
17 Vet's Appreciation Day - High Ridge Elks At Noon	18	19 BOD Meeting Overland 11:30	20	21 Luncheon (Noon) and Membership mtg (1:00)—at JB	22 Trap shoot finals and BBQ at Olin 10:00AM	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

<i>October 2006</i>						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6 Lone Elk Park Picnic (11AM-2PM)	7
8	9 Columbus Day Office Closed	10 BOD Meeting Overland 11:30	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Newsletter Articles due	21
22 Meat Shoot High Ridge Elks At noon	23	24	25	26 Halloween Cos- tume Party and Luncheon JB at noon	27	28
29	30	31 HALLOWEEN	If you are interested in attending the RESTORE PUBLIC HEALTH RALLY on September 13th and need a ride, please contact Megan Schulz, Advocacy Coordinator at (314)289-4277. If you do not live in the St. Louis area and plan to attend, RSVP to Erin, Disability Resource Association, at 636-931-7696.			



Address Service Requested

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Paralyzed Veterans of America
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