

# Gateway Gazette

September/October 2018     Volume 51 Number 5

## MISSOURI



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Gateway Chapter



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

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## PVA National Liaison VP

Charles Brown



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Gateway Chapter

## *Time to update your address or email?*

Please email us at [info@gatewaypva.org](mailto:info@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

We are offering the option to receive our Chapter's newsletter by email. Members taking advantage of electronic delivery will help to reduce the cost of printing and postage. In turn, this will allow the Chapter to put more funds toward our members and member programs. If you have not done so already, please contact Administrative Assistant Amber Lee at [amber@gatewaypva.org](mailto:amber@gatewaypva.org), or Executive Director Chris Blanchard at [chris@gatewaypva.org](mailto:chris@gatewaypva.org), if you would like to start receiving your newsletter electronically.



# President's Message

by Stanley D. Brown

● September 18, 2018 - 23rd Annual Jack Buck/Gateway PVA Golf Tournament

■ Participation from Other Members Needed

\* Be Thankful for Our National Service Officers (NSOs)

+ Miscellaneous

● **Tuesday, September 18 will be our annual charity golf tournament which is our biggest fundraiser of the year.** Each year we put this tournament on with a collection of community volunteers and their friends and friends of theirs, and business associates of everyone. Our golf committee has met monthly since May. We desperately need members to come to the golf tournament between 10 AM and at least 1 PM on that day to be "seen and heard" by the golfers, who are paying \$200 to play 18 holes as well as being harassed to spend further money on auction items, and volunteers who worked on the committee. **Your attendance at this fundraiser is worth 20 participation points** which usually transfers to \$200 possible reimbursement for trips and events. The golf course is the same as last year: Spirit at Landings Golf Course located at 180 North Eatherton Road in Chesterfield, MO 63005. Prior to the tournament we need member help in collecting bottles of alcohol/wine to include with our wheelbarrows that we will be raffling off at the golf tournament. We also still need gift certificates from area merchants and restaurants. The dollar amounts

on those certificates count as participation points. Call the office for details as well as directions. Our Gateway bus will be running that day.●

■ **A**t the PVA Annual Convention in May, we grappled with a proposed budget deficit of \$6 million. Some board members/delegates like myself endeavored to reduce that deficit by cutting budget expenditures. One such reduction was on funding PVA's one-year-old Fellows Program. The program had 25 "fellows" (both male and female but mostly young) who were given \$500 a month to represent PVA at events. One of the justifications of the program was that PVA could not find existing chapters and officers, for sufficient representatives to make those appearances. Another justification, which gets me to my point, was that **there was a belief that out in the chapters there were several newer members, not part of the old boys club running the chapter, who wanted to be involved on the local level but were being stifled and kept out of leadership positions.** When I spoke in favor of dropping the Fellows Program and paying individuals \$500 a month, I said

at least at the Gateway Chapter, I wasn't aware of people wanting to get involved and being excluded. I also said that if there were such individuals in our membership area that wanted to apply to be a FELLOW a year ago, I would have questioned why they didn't approach the chapter previously as a volunteer. **To sum up my soapbox speech here, we really need "new blood" for our future.** Contact me if you're interested and we will get you involved. I have been told, but I don't believe it, the Gateway President is getting older. ■

\*I often hear from my counterparts in other chapters, their problems working with their PVA service officers. Complaints range from NSO's not responding to chapter requests to chapter officers/individuals trying to usurp NSO responsibilities and doing a terrible job. These problems seem more common than I would've believed, so much so that at times I see resolutions at conventions trying to clearly mark the boundaries between these two PVA areas (service officers and chapter individuals/officers). My comments during those meetings are always that I don't understand the problems because of

**Continued on Page 11**





# Sports Report

*by Mike Norris, Sports Director*

**T**he 38th National Wheelchair Games (NVWG) were held in Orlando, Florida with over six hundred Veteran Athletes competing in eighteen separate sports. Team St. Louis sent seventeen athletes and two coaches. Our coaches were our Recreational Therapist, Charley Wright, and the Gateway PVA Executive Director, Chris Blanchard. This was Chris' first NVWG but he seemed to be an old pro. Everywhere I went I saw Chris cheering on our teammates, taking pictures, and calmly fixing any problems that popped up. We owe both Charley and Chris a big thank you.

For me the Games are a chance to renew old friendships, make new friends and of course compete in the sports and games that are offered there. I always talk about the friends I meet at the Games and my friends on Team St. Louis, but do not mistake friendship for competition. We compete to win. Our motto is "NO MERCY," we do not ask for mercy and we do not give mercy.

The seventeen members of Team St. Louis won a total of 24 medals. 13 gold, 9 silver and 2 bronze. We play to win! The Gateway PVA Athlete of the 38th NVWG is Rose Ganz. Rose won a total of 7 medals, 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze. She earned the most individual medals awarded to a member of the St. Louis/ Gateway team. Rose is a true competitor. She may look sweet

and motherly but when it comes to competition she has a cold stainless steel heart. Rose will beat you and brag about it later. She is the kind of teammate that pushes herself to be better and she encourages everyone on the team to work harder and to the best at their sport. I am proud to say Rose is my friend and my teammate. We need more like her.

I hope to see more of our Gateway members at the 39th NVWG in Louisville, Kentucky. Come be a part of this amazing event. Gateway PVA and friends of the PVA are raising money and preparing for next year. We want you to be part of all of the events from fund raisers to the monthly luncheons. To me, our St. Louis/ Gateway Team is a family and we want to grow. As a great Army poster once said: "We want you!"

The NVWG and the Gateway PVA Sports program are one of the biggest expenditures that the Gateway Board of Directors has to deal with each year, however it is money well spent. Our Mission Statement in part says: "Living Life to the Fullest..." and we want to help you get started.

A great and special thank you to the people who really make this happen, the coaches, volunteers, and attendants. And the Gateway PVA, without you, the games would not happen.







# SEE WHAT YOUR STATE HAS TO OFFER

*by Jeremy Lile, National Service Officer*

Aside from the common VA benefits, each U.S. state offers additional veteran benefits. Most state benefits range from free college and employment resources, to free hunting and fishing licenses. Some states also offer tax breaks for their veterans and specialized license plates, and then others even provide their veterans with cash bonuses just for serving in the military. Veteran benefits are always changing, therefore it is important to try and stay updated.

The state of Missouri provides several veteran benefits. First of all, Missouri has seven veterans homes located in Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mexico, Mt. Vernon, St. James, St. Louis, and Warrensburg. To be eligible for admission, a veteran must have lived in Missouri for 180 days and require skilled nursing care. In regards to financial benefits, Missouri offers property tax credits for eligible veterans. The Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim gives credit to some 100% VA disabled veterans for a portion of the real estate taxes or rent paid for the year. The maximum credit is \$750 for renters and \$1,100 for homeowners. The actual credit is based on the amount of real estate taxes or rent paid and total household income (taxable and nontaxable). If you're looking to go hunting or fishing in Missouri, there are available benefits to help

you get started. Any honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected disability of 60% or more can fish or hunt without permit. You must have proof of eligibility on your person, some trout or turkey tags may be required. Lastly, there are five State Veterans Cemeteries, one in Springfield, Higginsville, Bloomfield, Fort Leonard Wood, and Jacksonville. There is no charge for any of the services provided. Eligibility is the same as a federal cemetery and there is no residency requirement. Spouses and dependent children may also be eligible for burial.

The State of Illinois runs four Veterans homes in Anna, LaSalle, Manteno, and Quincy. The homes are open to Illinois veterans with military service of one day or more, Veterans who served during a period of war are given precedence in admission, though peacetime veterans, spouses, surviving spouses and Gold Star parents are also eligible. Then Illinois offers bonus payments for veterans who served in World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and the Global War on Terrorism efforts. For an example, there is the Vietnam Veteran Survivors Compensation. Survivors are entitled to a payment of \$1,000 if veteran's death is service-connected or is the direct result of service-connected disabilities incurred in

the period specified. There is also a Specially Adapted Housing Tax Exemption. No property tax is due on a home that was purchased with the Specially Adapted Housing Grant for as long as the veteran, spouse, or unmarried surviving spouse live there. Mobile homes purchased with the Specially Adapted Housing Grant are also exempt from county mobile home tax. Then there is the Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption. A reduction in the assessed value of the home of a veteran with a service-connected disability. For veterans with a disability between 30% - 50%, the exemption is \$2,500; for veterans with a 50% - 70% disability, the exemption is \$5,000; veterans with a service-connected disability of at least 70% are exempt from property taxes on their primary residence. The State of Illinois also offers recreational benefits such as assistance with Camping and Admission Fees as well as Hunting and Fishing Licenses.

There are many other Missouri and Illinois benefits not mentioned in this article. For a complete list of available benefits by state, be sure to visit the following website: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html>



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# GATEWAY GI

## General Information



**Sept 2018**

**Sept 11-**

BOD Meeting  
11:30am @ GPVA Office  
15 pts for non-BOD mbrs

**Sept 13 to Sept 16-**

Y6 Trout Lodge @ YMCA,  
Potosi, MO

**Sept 18 -**

Golf Tournament Fundraiser  
10am @ The Landings  
20 pts for members

**Sept 20 -**

JB Luncheon  
12pm @ JB, Building 52  
5 pts for members

**Sept 20 -**

Qtrly Membership Meeting  
after Luncheon  
@ JB, Building 52  
15 pts for members



**Oct 2018**

**Oct 9 -**

BOD Meeting  
4pm @ GPVA Office  
15 pts for non-BOD mbrs

**Oct 16 -**

Membership Picnic  
11am @ Des Peres Park

**Oct 18 -**

JB Luncheon  
12pm @ JB, Building 52  
5 pts for members

**Oct 18 to Oct 20 -**

2nd Annual PVA Boccia @  
Lemay, MO

**Oct 23 -**

"Shoot for the Gold"  
Trapshoot 9am-12pm  
@ Gateway Gun Club

**Gateway Office will be closed on  
Monday, September 3**

### **23rd Annual Jack Buck / Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America Golf Tournament**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018

**Location:** Landings at Spirit Golf Club –  
Chesterfield, MO 63005

**Time:**

**10:00 a.m.** Registration/Lunch/  
Putting Contest

**12:00 p.m.** Shotgun Start

**"19th Hole"** Open Bar; Music Provided  
by DJ; Silent Auction

**5:30 p.m.** Awards Dinner, Program &  
Live Auction

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## Welcome to Our New Members

Austin Burchard • James Helton • Michael Meyer

## 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 call us, write to us, or e-mail us if you know where they are! Our contact info is inside the front cover.

Thomas Dooley • Nicholas Hendrickson • Edward Williams

## In Memory Of

Betty Anderson of St. Johnsbury, VT	12/26/16
Russell Taylor of Platte City, MO	11/16/17
Richard Llewellyn of Cottage Hills, IL	03/01/18
Gail Koenke of Bates City, MO	03/05/18
Daniel Rodriguez of Topeka, KS	04/13/18
John Dickson of St. Ann, MO	05/2018
Greg Starman of Valrico, FL	07/02/18
Mitchell Harris of Belleville, IL	08/14/18

## 2nd Annual PVA Bocchia Nationals

The PVA Bocchia Nationals will be on October 18, 2018 to October 20, 2018, and is open to veterans and civilians with spinal cord injuries, amputations, poly-trauma, multiple sclerosis, or other neurological conditions. Veterans must also be eligible to receive care at a VA medical facility. No previous victories or tournament championships are required. Play is required in a wheelchair. Registration is limited to 50 athletes, and registration forms are due by September 28, 2018 with a \$50 registration fee. Please contact the Gateway office for further information and/or to obtain a registration form.

## Congrats Educational Scholarship Award Winners

The National PVA Scholarship Committee met in July and awarded in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$500 to eleven deserving individuals. Two of these individuals are children of Gateway members. We would like to recognize and congratulate Savannah Glaves, daughter of Julie Glaves, and Aaron Kilgore, son of Cynthia Kilgore! We wish you the best in your future educational endeavors!



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### 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. If your current mobility vehicle is over 2 years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion.

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the working relationship we (Gateway) have with Rodney Harris and Jeremy Lile in St. Louis and Brent Follas in Kansas City. *We couldn't ask for a more dedicated and professional team that is always responsive to our members and veterans in general. Thank you fellows.\**

+ Gateway's Executive Director and I will be coming to the Kansas City VA for a meeting and lunch with area members on Friday,

November 9, 2018, for the monthly meeting of the SCI support group. Please contact me or SCI Social Worker Kristi Sawyer for details.

Congratulations to all participants and the medal winners at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Orlando in August. I understand our own *VP Rose Ganz was the biggest winner and was heard saying she*

*did it all in hopes of winning Gateway's prestigious Joey Award.*

Gateway purchased Kansas City Chiefs season football tickets again. We have purchased the home games (8) again this year with one accessible wheelchair spot/space and one regular foldout chair. These are great seats on a lower level on about the 40 yard line. Please see the announcement below for details to enter the lottery for the seats. +

**Please contact, by phone call or email, the Gateway Chapter by September 14th end of business 5 pm**



## Kansas City Chiefs Giveaway Games 2018

**Sep 23 | 49ers @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 12:00 PM**

**Oct 07 | Jaguars @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 12:00 PM**

**Oct 21 | Bengals @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 12:00 PM**

**Oct 28 | Broncos @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 12:00 PM**

**Nov 11 | Cardinals @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 12:00 PM**

**Dec 09 | Ravens @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 12:00 PM**

**Dec 13 | Chargers @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 7:20 PM**

**Dec 30 | Raiders @ Chiefs | Arrowhead Stadium | 12:00 PM**





**Paralyzed Veterans  
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Gateway Chapter

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