



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

North Central Chapter

A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of  
America

## North Central Chapter

209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
1-605-336-0494 \* 1-800-505-4782  
Email: [info@ncpva.org](mailto:info@ncpva.org) Website: [www.ncpva.org](http://www.ncpva.org)  
National PVA Website: [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)



North Central Chapter

June/July 2021

### Upcoming Events June/July 2021

May 31 . . . SD State Veterans Cemetery Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 2:00 PM

June 6 . . . D-Day (1944)

June 10 . . . Membership Meeting, Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon and 1:00 PM Meeting (Elections)

June 10/11 . . . Prairie Dog Hunt, Chamberlain

June 10/13 . . . Iowa PVA Shoot

June 12/13 . . . 2021 Match Pointe Wheelchair Tennis Showcase, SF

June 14 . . . Flag Day

June 18/20 . . . WI Trapshoot

June 20 . . . Father's Day

June 21 . . . First Day of Summer

June 24 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Military Heritage Alliance Building, 7:00 PM

July 2 & July 5 . . . Holiday, Office closed

July 8 . . . Membership Meeting, Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon and 1:00 PM Meeting

July 21 . . . SD Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Building, 9 AM

July 22 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Military Heritage Alliance Building, 7:00 PM

### Additional Upcoming Events

Aug 14 - Poker Run, Alliance

Sept 10-12 - Trapshoot, Crooks Gun Club

### Notice of PVA North Central Chapter Election

#### Election Timeline

#### February 1

Nominations Open. Nominations may be made in person or by any other electronic means. Submit bio/photo and why you would be a good candidate by March 19th.

#### April 20

Nominations Closed.

#### May 1

Ballots will be mailed out with a self-addressed return envelope. Ballots must be returned in the envelope in a timely manner.

#### June 10

Election results will be reported at the Annual Membership Meeting.

#### October 1

New term of office begins

In accordance with Chapter bylaws, election of Officers will be held annually, and the Officers will serve a one (1) year term. Officers include: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. At the Annual June Chapter Membership Meeting, the Election Committee will report the election results.

**Certification of Membership** - If a write-in candidate be elected, he or she shall have thirty (30) days to successfully complete the certification process, if not previously certified. If you have any questions on the election procedure, contact the Chapter Office.

### SD State Veterans Cemetery

#### Endowment Fund

With the passing of SB 91, the South Dakota Veterans Council has established an Endowment Fund with the South Dakota Community Foundation. This fund will be used for the maintenance and operations of the veterans cemetery.

The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery will be located at the 1-90/I-229 area in Sioux Falls, SD and will encompass up to 50 acres of land donated by the City of Sioux Falls.

All federally defined veterans, spouses, and dependent children are eligible for burial in the State Veterans Cemetery.

We are proud to be able to give our veterans their final resting place on the eastside and keep them close to their families.

If you would like to contribute to the Endowment Fund, please click on the following link. Our goal is to raise \$3,000,000.00 by 2023.

<https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-veterans-cemetery-fund/>



Friday, July 2 & Monday, July 5

Office will be closed

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****North Central Chapter  
Paralyzed Veterans of America****OFFICERS**

President, Casey Davidson  
 Vice President, Chuck Doom  
 Secretary, Greg Brandner  
 Treasurer, Gene Murphy

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Duane Biesboer  
 Rodney Melcher Harlan Schmidt

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS**

Chapter Hospital Liaison: Chuck Doom  
 Legislation Director: Terry Paulsen/Gene Murphy  
 Volunteer Coordinator: Charles Doom  
 VAVS: Lisa Cummings/Sheri Kloes  
 Membership Officer: Duane Biesboer  
 Newsletter Editor: Barbara Priesz  
 Sports Director: Mike Olson/Charles Doom

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Michael Olson

**NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER**

Brad Friez  
 VA Dakota Regional Office  
 2501 West 22nd Street, Room 100  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
 605-333-6801  
 800-795-3632

**OFFICE STAFF**

Lisa Cummings, Executive Director  
 Terry Paulsen, Government Relations Director  
 Barbara Priesz, Administrative Assistant

*Temporary COVID-19 Office Hours are Monday  
 through Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM*

**Sioux Falls VA Health Care SCI Coordinator**

Rachel Gangle, Social Worker  
 605-336-3230 ext. 7898

**Fargo VA Health Care SCI Coordinator**

Tracy Lamont, SCI Coordinator  
 701-239-3765

**Black Hills VA Health Care SCI Coordinator**

Michelle Hough, SCI Coordinator  
 605-720-7003

**— Attention Members —**

If you are receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to receive this via email, please contact me at the Chapter Office  
 (LisaC@ncpva.org/605-336-0494) with your email address. This will help save the Chapter on postage and printing costs.



<http://www.facebook.com/ncpva>

**Disclaimer:** The North Central Chapter PVA newsletter is published six times a year. It serves its members and interested parties by informing them about chapter activities, veterans' issues, SCI related matters, advocacy and legislative developments and other relevant issues concerning disabilities and the disabled community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the North Central Chapter, its Officers, Board Members or the Editor. Similarly, appearance of advertising herein does not constitute an endorsement of their products or services. The editor has the right to edit all articles.

## **PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

### **Membership-Duane Biesboer**

The Chapter currently has a total of 173 members and 83 Associate Members.

**Regular membership is FREE!** If you know of anyone who has a spinal cord injury or disease please have the Veteran contact the Chapter office.

***Beginning October 1st, all Associate Members will be invoiced for Annual Dues. Annual dues are \$30 per year and Life Dues are \$200.00.***

***Thank you to those who have sent in their dues!!***

Please notify the Chapter when you have  
a change of address.

### **Volunteer Program-Charles Doom**

The Chapter had 183 hours for the month of April; YTD 885. Jack Gill and Perry Grimme were April/May 2021 Volunteers of the Month. Remember to look for your volunteer number in the newsletter and win a \$25 Gift Card! If you see your number, call the Chapter Office!



### **“Friends Aiming High”**

**by John Green**

Framed and Matted - \$275

Print Only - \$75

To order your print, please contact the  
Chapter Office at (605) 336-0494

### **SD Veterans Council**



The South Dakota Veterans Council  
will hold their meeting on

**Wednesday, July 21, 2021**

at the SD Military Heritage Alliance Building  
1600 West Russell Street, Sioux Falls,  
starting at 9:00 AM

*You are welcome to attend!*



### **PVA North Central Chapter**

### **“Darrell Jepsen Memorial Scholarship” Program**

The PVA North Central Chapter has established a scholarship program to provide financial assistance for PVA members and their families so that they may achieve their goals in the academic arena. Scholarships will vary according to the number and merit of applications received and the total funds available. At no time will a grant exceed \$1,000 per academic year.

Applications are now available for 2021-2022. Please contact the Chapter Office for an application or you can download it at [www.ncpva.org](http://www.ncpva.org).

Applications must be postmarked by **July 1st**, no exceptions.



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### **Upcoming Event!**

**Prairie Dog Hunt**

**June 10-11**

**Chamberlain, SD**



**1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1**



**Online**  
My Health, My Care: 24/7 Access to VA

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Financial Assistance**

This OCHCO Bulletin serves as a notification of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) COVID-19 funeral financial assistance.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA is providing financial assistance for coronavirus (COVID-19) related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020, to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic.

This is not a VA-administered program. A VA Medical Center cannot be an applicant for these funds; it must be an individual as described in FEMA's policy.

**Eligibility for COVID-19 funeral assistance:**

- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020, for a death attributed to COVID-19. If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they must register with FEMA under the same application as the applicant and co-applicant.
- An applicant may apply for the funeral expenses of multiple deceased individuals.
- The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the U.S., including the U.S. territories, or the District of Columbia.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.
- This assistance is limited to a maximum amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application per state, territory, or the District of Columbia.
- Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

**How to apply:**

To submit an application, call the toll free COVID-19 Funeral Assistance line number 844-684-6333/TTY: 800-462-7585 to speak with a FEMA representative, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time.

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**Documentation required:**

- An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows the death occurred in the U.S. The death certificate must indicate the death "may have been caused by" or "was likely the result of" COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms.
- Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant's name, the deceased individual's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and dates the funeral expenses were incurred after January 20, 2020.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

To learn more about FEMA's funeral financial assistance visit: [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/covid-19-funeral-assistance). Issued by: VA/OCHCO/Worklife and Benefits Service

**VA.gov Site Becomes Central Login for Accessing Benefits**

**WASHINGTON** — Veterans and their families may begin accessing their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services on the new and user-friendly [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) website starting April 30.

Users will be able to access information about VA benefits and services through a single site rather than through multiple locations.

All benefits-related features previously located in the [eBenefits](https://www.eBenefits.va.gov) web portal will be available on [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov). Veterans are encouraged to start logging into the site using their current Digital Service (DS) Logon or creating a new account using ID.me.

"VA.gov offers Veterans an enhanced site in terms of usability and security with the implementation of two-factor authentication," said Acting VA Under

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**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

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Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy. “The most frequently used features are now readily accessible on one website to include the ability to file a disability claim, check the status of a claim or change direct deposit and payment history.”

The eBenefits site will remain functional through March 31, 2022, to give Veterans an opportunity to complete claims started on the platform. Thereafter, VA.gov becomes the single source solution to access VA benefit and service information online.

U.S. Digital Service worked with thousands of Veterans to test the new and improved VA.gov. The department wanted to ensure Veterans deemed the site functional before migrating Veterans’ data.

Learn more about [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).

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VA will determine if benefits for qualifying disabilities can now be paid retroactively to the date of previously denied claims. The court’s decision requires automatic readjudication in such cases without requiring a new claim, and potentially paying benefits to the survivors or estates of deceased beneficiaries.

More information is available regarding VA disability benefits based on [Agent Orange exposure](#).

**Blue Water Navy - Nehmer**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will readjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This review is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration’s implementation of the November 5, 2020, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decision to readjudicate previously denied claims as applied in *Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*.

Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims readjudicated.

Readjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more herbicide related conditions on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. This review will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans. VA is dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

VA ensures that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of the Veteran community. Eligible survivors of deceased Veterans may also benefit from the policy and may be eligible for benefits based on the Veterans’ service.

Veterans who have a condition caused by herbicide exposure during military service can learn more about Agent Orange exposure at this [web-site](#).

**VA to Readjudicate Veteran and Survivor Claims for possible Herbicide Exposure**

**WASHINGTON** — Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an [herbicide related presumptive condition](#) due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will have their claims automatically readjudicated by VA.

The department began readjudicating claims in April for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War but were denied for one or more herbicide related conditions, on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways.

“Readjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection benefits,” said Acting VA Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy. “We have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Veteran community and will ensure all eligible Veterans’ and their survivors’ claims are examined thoroughly and fairly.”

The review also applies to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam-era Veterans and is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration’s implementation of the Nov. 5, 2020, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California order in [Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#), requiring VA to readjudicate previously denied claims.

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## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC



**Great Speaker.**

**Great Coaches.**

# 2021 Match Pointe Wheelchair Tennis Showcase

Saturday 6/12 and  
Sunday 6/13

**For Weekend Itinerary & To Register  
For Free: [www.PlayThePointe.com](http://www.PlayThePointe.com)**

**For More Info: Lisa Marie Johnson at  
[lisamarie@playthepointe.com](mailto:lisamarie@playthepointe.com)  
or 605-338-4036**

**Great People.**

Whether it's old friends or new faces, come join us for a great weekend of fun on and off the courts!



Sponsored by Huether Family Match Pointe Adaptive Program,  
USTA Northern, Ms. Wheelchair America

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, FUNDRAISING**

We're proud to be a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization. Through the Thrivent programs, we are eligible to receive grant dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects.

To learn more about Thrivent's membership benefits and generosity programs visit [thrivent.com/generosity](https://thrivent.com/generosity)



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### Newsletter Booster Program Thank you for your support!

Ronald and Darla Shelburg  
Alan & Kathryn Gobiczynski  
Paul Hanson  
Dennis Hahnemann  
Paul Haggar

## Please support your local Chapter!

### Newsletter Booster Program

The North Central Chapter PVA publishes the newsletter 6 times per year. We would like to invite our PVA members, Associate Members, and business associates to help support the Newsletter Booster Program. Your name will be published in each newsletter (unless otherwise specified) for only \$10.00. Please help defray the cost of publishing by supporting **YOUR** Chapter. Thank you!

### I wish to make the following donation to the Newsletter Booster Program:

Newsletter  
Booster  
Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send all remittance payable to:

PVA North Central Chapter, 209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104



**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN****UPDATE ON VA COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY CAREGIVER  
EXPANSION**

The rollout of the expansion of VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) began on October 1, 2020. As of April 2021, VA reports having received over 70,000 applications. VA has acted on over 40,000 of those applications and 30,000 were pending further action. Of those reviewed, VA has approved 5,000 applicants and denied 38,000.

VA has provided several reasons for the denials. Some of the reasons given for denials at the time of intake are listed below:

- 7,500 applications or 19 percent were denied because they did not have a singular or combined VA disability rating of 70 percent or greater.
- 5,800 applications or 15 percent were denied because their serious injury was not within the current eligibility dates (on or before May 7, 1975, and on or after September 11, 2001).
- 400 applications or one percent were denied because the individual does not receive care at home or will not do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.

VA provided some of the following reasons for denying applications based on assessment of the veteran by VA's Centralized Eligibility and Appeals Team (CEAT):

- 12,100 applications or 31 percent were denied because the veteran did not require personal services for six months due to activities of daily living or supervision, protection or instruction needs.
- 2,900 applications or seven percent were denied because participation in the PCAFC was deemed not in the veteran's best interest.
- 1,800 applications or four percent were denied because the veteran did not require personal care services that would be provided by the Family Caregiver or such services would be simultaneously and regularly provided by or through others.
- 60 applications or one percent were denied because the caregiver was assessed to be not capable nor willing to provide the personal care services.

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We will continue to closely follow the implementation of the expansion of VA's PCAFC. If you have specific questions about your application, please contact your National Service Officer for assistance.

**GAO RELEASES REPORT ON AIRPORT ACCESSIBILITY**

Air travel for people with disabilities can be very challenging for a variety of reasons, including access problems at airports. In our nation's airports, people with disabilities can face infrastructure, information, and customer service barriers. For example, complex terminal layouts and long distances between gates can be hard to navigate. Additionally, travel information is not always available in a format that is accessible to all.

According to stakeholders, while no solution meets all needs, a number of practices can help reduce or eliminate some of these barriers to equal access at airports. For example, some selected airports use external disability community and passenger groups to proactively engage in identifying barriers and developing solutions. Other airports have implemented technology-based solutions, such as mobile phone applications to make airport navigation easier.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 included a requirement for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review leading airport accessibility practices for passengers with disabilities, as well as required training for airline and contract service personnel who assist these passengers throughout the airport. Earlier this month, GAO released the report, [Passengers with Disabilities: Airport Accessibility Barriers and Practices and DOT's Oversight of Airlines' Disability-Related Training](#). The report includes an examination of stakeholder-identified barriers that passengers with disabilities face when accessing airport facilities, accessibility practices to assist passengers with disabilities, and the efficacy of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) oversight of airlines' disability-related training.

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**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN**

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As part of its review, GAO examined relevant federal laws, regulations, DOT documents, literature, as well as information describing disability training provided by selected airlines and contractors. GAO also interviewed a sample of stakeholders, including those at 16 U.S. airports selected based on size and geography, eight large and low-cost domestic airlines selected based on the greatest number of disability-related passenger complaints and enplanements, and six aviation service contractors working for those airlines. GAO also conducted interviews with DOT officials and 10 disability advocacy organizations, including PVA.

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encouraging our guests to utilize transportation to and from the cemetery that will be provided by River Cities Public Transit. Bus rides to the event will originate at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street) starting at noon and will run until 1:45 pm. Immediately following the ceremony, busses will begin transportation back to the Alliance Building.

Upon your arrival at the Alliance, we encourage you to join us as our celebration continues with a free meal and free entertainment. The dinner will be provided from our partners with Keystone Treatment Centers and entertainment will be courtesy of the El Riad Shrine Chanters.

We hope you can join us for the Memorial Day Program as we dedicate South Dakota's Veterans Cemetery.

**South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting their first Memorial Day Program and ribbon cutting ceremony at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. It's history in the making!

The event will be held on Monday, May 31, at 2:00 pm (CT) at the site (25965 477th Avenue) in Sioux Falls. Together, we have enabled this ground to serve as a shrine dedicated to the memories of the men and women to whom we all owe a great debt.

South Dakota has been blessed with an abundance of such men and women – whose collective courage and commitment have allowed us to flourish as a nation and as a people united. It is most fitting we should spend this Memorial Day dedicating the newest resting place for our veterans here in South Dakota.

With all the earthwork and landscaping that has been done, parking is very limited at the Cemetery. We are

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**Midwest Honor Flight Update**

The Honor Flight Network has released a statement that will be of interest to veterans and guardians on Midwest Honor Flight waitlist, as well as to the volunteers. While 2021 Honor Flights remain postponed nationwide until at least August 15, the Honor Flight Network has announced that, once it has been determined that it is safe to resume flights, proof of full vaccination will be required for veterans and their guardians who take an Honor Flight in 2021.

Mandatory vaccination will be just one of the safety measures that will be implemented. Veterans who choose not to be vaccinated (or who are not able to be vaccinated) will remain on the "fly list" until the Honor Flight Network removes this mandatory safety measure and will then be added to flights in the order that their applications were received (as usual). Guardians and volunteers who travel with veterans will also be required to present proof of vaccination before flight day and bring their vaccination proof along on flight day for any flights that take place in

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2021. The Honor Flight Network stated that there will be no exceptions to this rule.

While we do not yet have information about when or how the proof of vaccination will need to be submitted or presented, we wanted the veterans and guardians on the fly list to know about this requirement with plenty of time to plan for compliance. "Fully vaccinated" is defined by the Honor Flight Network as having received the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least two weeks prior to the flight date or the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine 28 days prior to the flight. There is no information yet about "boosters" or whether or not those might be required in the future.

"Our first priority on every Midwest Honor Flight Mission is the safety of our veterans, guardians, and crew," says Aaron Van Beek, the President of Midwest Honor Flight. "Should we have the chance to fly this fall, we will be implementing these precautions alongside the Honor Flight Network so we can continue to carry out our Mission without forcing veterans to choose between their health and this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The Honor Flight Network's Board of Directors and Midwest Honor Flight's Board of Directors will continue to consult public health guidance before officially resuming trips and announcing final protocols.

**National Nurses Week****May 6th to May 12th****Nurses Rock!**

On May 10, 2021, the PVA and DAV sponsored a pizza luncheon for the nurses at the Sioux Falls VA, Spirit Lake, IA CBOC, Sioux City CBOC, Watertown and Aberdeen CBOC's. On behalf of all of us at the PVA and DAV we thank you for your sacrifice, dedication of your time to make sure our Veterans receive the best care!



The Alliance/Toby Keith/HS Precision/Friends of the Alliance ... Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue.

What a fantastic night!

A couple of Toby's team toured the Alliance (Toby wanted to come over, but due to his team's COVID restrictions for traveling from state to state was unable to).

At the Alliance, Toby was presented with a custom-made H-S Precision Rifle- engraved with the names of 50 Purple Heart recipients from South Dakota

Club Lobo was packed to capacity for pre-concert fun.

The concert was one of the first in the country and at the Premier Center.





**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****First Honor Ride!**

**Sunday, June 13, 2021**  
**at 12:30 PM CDT – 5 PM CDT**

Remember your loved ones while honoring all Veterans, past, present, and future. Participants are encouraged to take along a picture of a Veteran they wish to honor during our ceremony to ride along with them.

Registration begins at 12:30 PM at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance.

**Save the Date 2021 Freedom Hunt September 25**

Good Morning Everyone! I hope you are all well and enjoying spring. We want to let you know we plan on holding our annual Freedom Hunt on Saturday September 25!

I can also let you know that we will be hosting the NWTF Wheelchair Sportsman hunt again on September 18. You will be hearing more from NWTF down the line. After missing last year we are looking forward seeing you all again! Buy ammo early. It's hard to find!

I heard from Bob Uecker about an upcoming event some of you might be interested in. The Huether Family Match Pointe Wheelchair Tennis Showcase will be held on June 12-13 in Sioux Falls. It looks like a great event with many national speakers. You can find more info at....[playthepointe.com](http://playthepointe.com) (and on Page 6 of this newsletter). I will touch base with you all later this summer. Stay Well! Tad Jacobs

**From the Office of Brad Friez****National Service Officer**

The VA Regional Office in Sioux Falls continues to be open from 7:30am to 5pm each business day except for Federal Holidays. Public contact at the Sioux Falls VA Regional Office is open from 8am to 4:30pm. If an individual is fully vaccinated they are not required to wear a mask. Masks for those vaccinated are thus optional. But on the Hospital side of the Sioux Falls VA campus masks are still required.

The Fargo, ND VA Regional Office is open currently from 8am to 1:30pm each business day. However on June 1<sup>st</sup> those hours will expand to 8am to 4pm.

All three of the VA Hospitals in North and South Dakota (Black Hills SD VA, Fargo ND VA, and the Sioux Falls SD VA) are still not accepting outside referrals to their respective CLC Units and thus not allowing any respite care as well. We encourage Veterans to reach out to their local VA facility to see if they have contracted for respite care in their local community.

Just another reminder but please keep us informed of your current address, phone numbers and email address (if you have one). Further, please set up your voice mail box on your telephone lines and please keep them emptied out as much as possible. And please do not file claims on your own as that is one of the main functions of our office when we represent you.

In a recent Stakeholder's call with the Black Hills VA we were notified that Sandra Horsman, the Director will be retiring in October of 2021 and that Teresa Forbes will be jumping to another position other than the Public Affairs Officer. Teresa is now the Chief Experience Officer. We want to wish Ms. Horsman all the best in her upcoming retirement from the VA and to Ms. Forbes in her new position as well.

The VA is sending out Nehmer letters to Vietnam Veterans and to family members of those Vietnam Veterans who have passed away regarding the potential for additional benefits. You do not necessarily need to respond to those letters. Also, they are sending out clothing allowance reminders to those Veterans who receive that benefit on an annual basis. We will be sending out those clothing allowance forms very shortly. Lastly, we encourage you to be mindful of the ultimate sacrifice many of our Service Members and Veterans have made for our great country as we approach Memorial Day.

14960

## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER



# Career Support for ALL Veterans

## With Paralyzed Veterans of America's Veterans Career Program,

### You Will:

- Receive carefully tailored **one-on-one support** from a career expert team member.
- Set goals to achieve your career objective.
- Learn how to craft an effective resume and cover letter specific to your career interests.
- Develop effective interview and communication skills so you are confident in interviews.
- Craft job search strategies to meet your employment goals.
- Create an effective LinkedIn profile.
- Identify and engage in networking opportunities.
- Build confidence in your career pursuits.
- And much more!



### We Will:

- Provide one-on-one guidance to help you find **meaningful employment, education and volunteer opportunities**.
- Assess your current abilities, training, and experience and help you identify career goals.
- Guide you through development and enhancement of your resume and cover letter.
- Teach you how to build an effective LinkedIn profile page.
- Practice mock interviews to hone your skills before you interact with employers.
- Regularly communicate with you to track progress and identify other resources to assist in the job search process.
- Be a **Partner for Life** to assist you for the duration of your career.



**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

## Fast Facts

- PVA's Veterans Career Program has helped more than 5,000 veterans, military spouses and caregivers find meaningful work.
- Recent data shows that **more than 80%** of our clients stay in their position for more than a year.
- We work with more than 1,200 nationwide employer and community partners to engage and employ our clients.
- The Veterans Career Program's vocational rehabilitation counselors are experts in assisting people with with barriers to employment.
- The Veterans Career Program provides a Partner for Life Guarantee. We are always available to help you reach your next career goal!

“ Without [PVA's Veterans Career Program] I don't know if I would've had that confidence to go after the current job I have, whereas I might've settled for something less just because of the stigma that surrounds disabled employment. ”

— **Bobby Fecteau**  
U.S. Army Veteran, PVA member



“ The Veterans Career Program literally saved my life. They came into my life when I was about to lose everything. I was working part-time, but I was not able to make ends meet. The paid training program led to a full-time position and ultimately to the position I have now. ”

— **Edna Jackson-Jones**  
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran



### Regional Offices

Visit [PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram](http://PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram) to find out more about regional contacts.

POWERED BY:



## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

# Veterans Resources

### Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

1-800-316-8387 or 605-336-3230

Follow us on Social Media for the most up to date information

@VASiouxFalls

[www.sioxfalls.va.gov](http://www.sioxfalls.va.gov)

### Care in the Community

Sioux Falls VA CITC Scheduling

1-605-333-6800

CITC 72 Hour ER Notification

1-844-724-7842

CITC Billing

1-877-881-7618



### Travel

Travel Pay

1-605-373-4196

Beneficiary Travel Help Desk

1-855-574-7292

[www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay](http://www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay)

### To Request a Ride Veteran's Transportation

1-605-977-4400

DAV

1-605-336-3230 x6551

### VA Billing

Services rendered at the VA

1-866-347-2352



VA Caregiver Support

Questions or to Apply

1-800-316-8387 x5080

or

605-336-3230 x5080



Help Desk

1-877-327-0022

To Enroll

1-605-336-3230 x7839

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Veterans Health Administration



**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - June/July 2021**

Charles Doom	June 01
Alan Hughart	June 01
Eileen White	June 03
Raymond Durband	June 06
Brian Nelson	June 06
Kelly Eszlinger	June 10
Eugene Murphy	June 10
Joseph Snyder	June 10
Fidell Wadsworth	June 11
Duane Biesboer	June 15
William Deknikker	June 15
Dennis Elfring	June 15
John Myers	June 15
Steven Wagner	June 20
Troy Metzinger	June 21
David Wren	June 21
James Arneson	June 24
Kerry Parker	June 27
Norwood Baybridge	July 01
Brian Wallin	July 01
Maurice Kruger	July 02
Gregory Brandner	July 08
Russ Stapert	July 12
Richard Doppelhammer	July 13
Daniel Stapleton	July 21
Lisa Cummings	July 27
Arlind Williams	July 30

**Veterans Honored Interment "A Final Tribute"**

**1705 South Andrew Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD  
57106**

The Veteran Honored Interment (VHI) program is comprised of volunteer veterans that handcraft each vessel with respect in honor to their fellow veteran.

Founder Paul Redfield, conceived this program in 1990. His vision was to provide honorable and dignified burial vessels for fellow veterans and their spouses. Mr. Redfield wanted to guarantee that all veterans, regardless of their financial circumstances, had a dignified burial vessel.

For more information, (West River) call Joe at 605-535-2214; Darrell at 605-890-6256, or SDSVH at 605-754-5127. (East River) call Steve at 605-553-1370 or Roger at 605-941-5251.

You can order a vessel, learn more or donate by going to VHI's website [www.Veterans-Honored.org](http://www.Veterans-Honored.org)

**Wills for Heroes**

Wills for Heroes is a free monthly legal clinic for veterans and their spouses to receive simple wills and powers of attorney. This clinic is for income-qualifying individuals and by APPOINTMENT ONLY.

You must call and schedule an appointment to meet with an attorney on the day of the clinic. Call East River Legal Services (605-336-9230) for the next scheduled time.

**Vet Centers Up Date**

During this pandemic, please remember the Sioux Falls and Rapid City Vet Centers are remaining open and continue to provide the following services:

Individual Counseling (face-to-face, telehealth and phone visits)

Group Counseling (telehealth)

Marital and Family Counseling

Military Sexual Trauma

**Please give them a call to schedule an appointment!**

- Sioux Falls Vet Center (605) 330-4552
- Rapid City Vet Center (605) 348-0077

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****Extensions to Temporary Policies initiated in April 2020**

In February, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced a set of extensions to temporary policies initiated in April 2020 and aimed at providing veterans continued financial relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By way of an executive order from the White House, the moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, as well as VA loan forbearance requests, has been extended to June 30, while the pause of all veteran benefit overpayments and medical copayment debts has been extended through Sept. 30.

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“Veterans can sometimes face unexpected debt collection from the VA, some of which is due to overpayments that weren’t even their fault,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Randy Reese. “Extending this pause on debt collections, in addition to the pause on evictions and home foreclosures, will give veterans in need much-needed financial relief while navigating the trying times of COVID-19.”

**Call for more information**

- VA borrowers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19: 1-877-827-3702.
- VA Debt Management Center (for veterans and beneficiaries with questions regarding benefit overpayments): 1-800-827-0648.
- Health Resource Center (for health care copayment debts): 1-866-400-1238.

**CAREGIVER  
SUPPORT LINE**  
1-855-260-3274



Wherever we are,  
we can change the world together.

Join the CFC community to help those in need. As a federal employee, you can give to the charities you care about through payroll deduction, sign up to volunteer, and Be the Face of Change.



Show Some Love at [GiveCFC.org](http://GiveCFC.org)

If you are a federal government employee or your employer offers a charitable giving campaign through United Way, you can help us to continue our programs and services we offer to our members, veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

**CONTRIBUTION CODE:**  
**54682**



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

North Central Chapter

**SUPPORT THE PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER!**  
**CODE #54682**

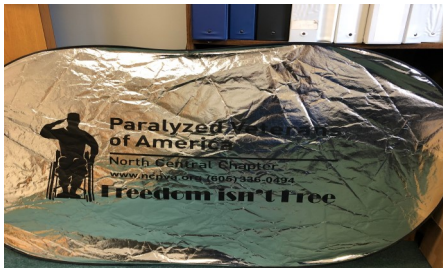


**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****For Sale**

2016 Nissan Rouge SUV, less than 22000 miles. Remote start, fully loaded all wheel drive. Extra clean, no pets and non smoking.. Asking \$18,900 or best offer.

2009 Harley Davidson deluxe. Stereo system and 2020 carry on trailer with a back door ramp with side door. With cabinets in the trailer and extras. \$18,200 or best offer.

Please call Randal at 605 212 0062.

**Car Sunshades for Sale - \$10.00**

Proceeds will benefit the Chapter's programs and services! Contact the Chapter office (605-336-0494) for further information.

**SUPPORT PVA****NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter relies solely on private donations and receives NO government funding! Your contribution is 100% tax deductible, as we are a 501(c) (3) corporation. Support by individual donors and businesses enable us to make our services FREE to members.

Please support our mission through a direct donation to:

PVA North Central Chapter  
209 North Garfield Avenue,  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**QUESTION:****HAVE YOU CONSIDERED INCLUDING  
PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER IN  
YOUR WILL OR TRUST?**

This type of donation will serve as an investment in our organization that will reap our members benefits for many years to come.

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2500 Minnekahta Avenue  
Hot Springs, SD 57747

[vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranshome](http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranshome)

For Admissions information, please contact Lisa Woepfel at 605-745-5127 Ext 1500115

**How to Donate Property**

Please donate that Auto, Boat, Yacht, Truck or RV that's no longer needed to NCPVA! Receive the maximum legal tax deductions and possibly a partial cash payment.

For more information about car, boat, RV and other property donations or to receive a "no obligation" evaluation of your potential vehicle or other property donation, please call toll free: (866) 2-GIVING or (866) 244-8464.

We pick up anywhere in the U.S.A.



### ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR YOUR  
VOLUNTEER NUMBER OR VAVS  
VOLUNTEER NAME SOMEWHERE  
IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND CON-  
TACT THE CHAPTER OFFICE IF  
YOUR NAME OR NUMBER IS  
LISTED.

CHUCK DOOM  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

(605) 332-6866 / Fax: (605) 338-5489

National Service Office: (605) 333-6896    NSO Email: [www.dav.vbasux@va.gov](mailto:www.dav.vbasux@va.gov)  
[www.davsd.org](http://www.davsd.org)    [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

***“DISABLED VETERANS HELPING DISABLED VETERANS”***



## JOIN THE DAV

*“Our government and our people have no greater obligation than to assure that those who  
have served their country and the cause of freedom will never be forgotten or neglected”  
—President Lyndon B. Johnson*





## Get around *safely* and *confidently*

### **Do You...**

- ☐ Have trouble getting in and out of your vehicle?
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# Connect With What Matters



## Being there makes a difference

It could be a simple trip to the mall, a ride to the movies or just a visit to friend's home. The little things in life can make a big difference. It's why MobilityWorks® has been helping veterans connect with who and what matters most since 1997. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together to find the best solution.

MobilityWorks considers it a privilege to help our nation's veterans. Every day we work with local VISNs and service organizations to make the process of securing accessible vehicles, lifts and driving equipment for veterans as easy as possible.

MobilityWorks has more than 90 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

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- Daily, weekly and long term rental vans
- Financing options to fit your personal needs
- 24-hour roadside assistance with wheelchair transportation

MobilityWorks is committed to serving you. Contact us today so we can evaluate your needs and find a solution that best fits your lifestyle.



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Scooter lifts, turning seats, and driving accessories

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605-305-9855  
[www.mobilityworks.com](http://www.mobilityworks.com)





Paralyzed Veterans of America  
North Central Chapter  
209 N. Garfield Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **VA Health Care Systems Contact Information**

#### **Sioux Falls VA Health Care System**

2501 West 22nd Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
Phone: (605) 336-3230 or (800) 316-8387  
Fax: (605) 333-6878

#### **VA Black Hills Health Care System - Fort Meade Campus**

113 Comanche Road  
Fort Meade, SD 57741  
Phone: (605) 347-2511 or (800) 743-1070  
Fax: (605) 720-7171

#### **VA Black Hills Health Care System**

500 North 5th Street  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
Phone: 605-745-2000  
Fax: 605-745-2091

#### **Minneapolis VA Health Care System**

One Veterans Drive  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
Phone: (612) 725-2000 or 866-414-5058  
Fax: (612) 725-2049

#### **Fargo VA Health Care System**

2101 Elm Street  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Phone: (701) 232-3241  
Fax: (701) 239-3705

#### **VA Montana Health Care System**

1892 Williams Street  
Fort Harrison, MT 59636  
Phone: (406) 442-6410  
Fax: (406) 447-7916

#### **Cheyenne VA Health Care System**

2360 E. Pershing Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
Phone: (307) 778-7550  
Fax: (307) 778-7336

#### **Sheridan VA Health Care System**

1898 Fort Road  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
Phone: (307) 672-3473 or (866) 822-6714  
Fax: (307) 672-1900

**The PVA North Central Chapter proudly serves the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Southwest Minnesota, and portions of Montana and Wyoming.**