



North Central Chapter

**A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America
Chartered by the Congress of the United States**

North Central Chapter

209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104
1-605-336-0494 * 1-800-505-4782
Email: info@ncpva.org Website: www.ncpva.org
National PVA Website: www.pva.org



Volume 359

June/July 2022

Upcoming Events June/July 2022

May 30 . . . Memorial Day Programs (see Page 11)

June 3-5 . . . Vaughan Trapshoot, Elburn, IL

June 6 . . . D-Day (1944)

June 9 . . . Membership Meeting, Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon and 1:00 PM Meeting (Election of Officers)

June 9-10 . . . Prairie Dog Hunt, Chamberlain, SD

June 10-12 . . . Wisconsin Trapshoot, Green Bay, WI

June 14 . . . Flag Day

June 17-19, Iowa Trapshoot, Cedar Rapids, IA

June 19 . . . Father's Day

June 21 . . . First day of Summer

June 22 . . . Annual Chapter Picnic, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

June 23 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Building, 7:00 PM

July 1 & 4 . . . Holiday, Ofc closed

July 7-12 . . . 41st National Veterans Games, Tempe, AZ

July 14 . . . Membership Meeting, Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon and 1:00 PM Meeting

July 18-23 . . . National Veterans Golden Age Games, Sioux Falls

July 20 . . . SD Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Building, 9:00 AM

July 28 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Building, 7 PM

Notice of PVA North Central Chapter Election

Election Timeline

April 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.**

April 30

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 9

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:

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



Friday, July 1 & Monday, July 5
Office will be closed.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

OFFICERS

President, Chuck Doom
Vice President, Vacant
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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 - 4

Sioux Falls VA Health Care SCI Coordinator

Melissa Suter, 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

Amber Jones, SCI Coordinator

605-347-2511 ext. 17003

— 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 166 members and 86 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 253 hours for the month of April. Scott Bentz and Perry Grimme were Apr/May 2022 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

Changes to VA Automotive Adaptive Equipment Program

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System has notified SDDVA that there has been a significant change nationally to the VA Automotive Adaptive Equipment Program.

The VA form 4502 will no longer be sufficient justification for Automotive Adaptive Equipment approval.

Each time a veteran is requesting a new vehicle be added to their record for standard equipment, a modification to a vehicle be done, or a repair to a supported vehicle be completed, a VA Form 10-1394 – **Part II will need to be completed by VBA prior to any work by a dealer!**

A member of the VBA team will need to complete Boxes 15, 16, and 17. In box 15 check “Other” and at Specify insert “See attached Rating Code Sheet.” The most recent Rating Code Sheet will indicate whether the veteran is still eligible to receive the Automobile Allowance & AAE benefits.

VHA is responsible for completing Part III.

If, Part II cannot be verified by VBA or the veteran is “ineligible”, PSAS should not complete Part III of the Form 10-1394. The AAE modifier/dealer should not begin adaptations, repairs, or modifications to a vehicle without Parts I, II, or III being completed on the 10-1394.

The VA cannot be held responsible for payment if a vehicle is released without the completed 10-1394. Veterans should start the process of getting an approved 10-1394 by contacting the prosthetics department. The prosthetics department will fill out Part 1 of the 10-1394 and send to the VBA for verification. After this is completed, Prosthetics will contact veterans by phone and mail with their eligibility status.

This change is effective immediately. If there are any questions please contact:

Brian Kaiser, Chief, Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Services 605-336-3230 X6393

Brian Schwartz, Assistant Chief, Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Services 605-336-3230 X6905.



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**VA establishes Presumptive Service Connection for Rare Respiratory Cancers for Certain Veterans**

WASHINGTON (4-25-2022) - As part of [President Biden's Unity Agenda](#) commitment to support the nation's Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs is adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter.

The following list of rare respiratory cancers have been added to [VA's regulations through an Interim Final Rule](#) published in the Federal Register on April 26, 2022:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biological plausibility between airborne hazards and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract — and the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

The rarity and severity of these illnesses and the reality these conditions present, is a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence, prompted VA to take this action.

"Last year we made promises to fundamentally change and improve how we establish and expedite presumptions — now we're keeping them," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We are taking a new approach to presumptives that takes all available science into account, with one goal in mind — getting today's Veterans — and Vets in the decades ahead — the benefits they deserve as fast as possible."

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VA will begin processing disability compensation claims for Veterans who served any amount of time in the [Southwest Asia theater of operations](#) beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present.

Any Veteran who has or had one of the listed cancers at any time during or after separation from military service may be eligible for disability compensation benefits. VA will contact impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply.

Veterans, survivors or dependents who had claims previously denied for any of these respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a [supplemental claim](#) for benefits. If you are a Veteran, survivor or dependent applying for the first time, you have to file a new claim. To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#).

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**

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.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Johnson Named Superintendent for State Veterans

Home

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Greg Whitlock announced that Chuck Johnson will be serving as the new superintendent of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

“Chuck has a strong healthcare administration background and will help us in succeeding in our mission and vision at the Home,” said Secretary Whitlock. “He has served as the administrator for the Bethel Lutheran Home in Madison and the Care and Rehab Center in Arlington. In addition to these attributes, Chuck has also served as director of numerous rehab facilities in South Dakota and Iowa.”

Johnson is licensed as a nursing home administrator and a physical therapist assistant. He obtained degrees in health management and business management from the University of Minnesota and a physical therapy assistant degree from Indian Hills Community College in Iowa.

“Taking care of veterans is not new for Chuck,” said Whitlock. “He has over 22 years of military service between serving in the U.S. Army and the Iowa National Guard. He served one combat tour in Afghanistan. During his National Guard service, he supervised ground ambulance platoons, trained medics, and conducted live ground to air evac operations.”

“We are beyond excited to have Chuck join the Department of Veterans Affairs,” said Whitlock. “His years of excellence and hard work are a great inspiration to us. His passion for his job and compassion for his residents is inspiring.”

02170

Honor Guards Recognized

Eight South Dakota Military Funeral Honor Guards were presented with the South Dakota Hall of Fame “Acts of Excellence” award last Friday. The SDHF award was presented in recognition of the military funeral honors conducted for veterans at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Presenting the awards on behalf of the SDHF were: Miles Beacom, Greta Chapman, and Stacy Wrightsman.

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Honor guards recognized were:

- American Legion Post 15 – Sioux Falls
- American Legion Post 23 – Garretson
- American Legion Post 65 – Dell Rapids
- American Legion Post 118 – Hartford
- American Legion Post 45 – Harrisburg
- American Legion Post 13 – Wakonda
- VFW Post 628 – Sioux Falls
- Marine Corps League – Sioux Falls

Providing military funeral honors is our nation’s way of showing gratitude and paying final tribute to a veteran’s honorable military service.

Our sincerest thank you to the SD Hall of Fame for recognizing this group of distinguished men and women and to the honor guards that continue to support our mission at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

USS Iowa Veterans Association to Gather in South Dakota

Each year, the USS Iowa Veterans Association hosts a reunion, allowing former shipmates of all generations to get together, renew past friendships, make new friendships, learn from each other, share experiences, and swap sea stories.

The 2022 Reunion site is at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Rapid City and will be held August 19-23, 2022.

If interested in attending, you can register at::

[2022 reunion registration form rapid city.docx](#)
(ussiwavetassn.com)

To learn more about the USS Iowa Veterans Association, visit:

[Veterans Association, USS Iowa Veterans Association](#) (ussiwavetassn.com)

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

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC

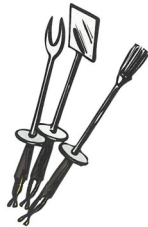
North Central Chapter

Save the date!!**Annual Chapter Picnic****Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

11:45 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

PVA North Central Chapter OfficeHamburgers, brats, salad, chips, &
refreshments will be served.

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, June 17th.

Come join us for great food & great
friends!209 North Garfield Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 336-0494

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Upcoming Event!**Prairie Dog Hunt****June 9-10****Chamberlain, SD****Upcoming Trapshoots in June 2022**

Vaughan Trapshoot, Elburn, IL

June 3-5, 2022

Wisconsin Trapshoot, Green Bay, WI

June 10-12, 2022

Iowa Trapshoot, Cedar Rapids, IA

June 17-19, 2022

For more information,
contact the Chapter Office.
(605) 336-0494

The PVA North Central Chapter
will be hosting a special fundraising event on
Friday, October 21, 2022, at
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.
(1600 W. Russell Ave, Sioux Falls)

featuring the

Dueling Pianos International!

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for social hour, appetiz-
ers will be provided along with a cash bar that will be
open throughout the evening. **Entertainment will
start at 7:00 p.m. sharp!**

Tickets are available at \$30.00 per person or a table
sponsor (8 people) \$350 or Supreme table sponsor (8
people) for \$500 .

Proceeds from the event will help support our pro-
grams and services we provide to our Veterans and
other individuals with disabilities.

Dueling Pianos International is America's premier
source for top-line sing-along entertainment. For 19
years, Dueling Pianos International has specialized in
top-flight dueling piano entertainment, and has devel-
oped a national reputation as the source for polished,
professional artists who never fail to get audiences
singing, cheering, and calling for more.

Please join us for a fun filled evening! If you have
any questions or want to purchase tickets, please call
the Chapter Office at 605-336-0494 or email in-
fo@ncpva.org.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!!**Bring your family and friends!****Upcoming Event**

Sept 9-11 . . . NCPVA Trapshoot, Crooks Gun Club

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

Qualified**Charitable****Distributions**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 first allowed taxpayers age 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRAs. Technically, these taxpayers were allowed to exclude from gross income otherwise taxable distributions from their IRA ("qualified charitable distributions," or QCDs), up to \$100,000, that were paid directly to a qualified charity.

These gifts are also known as "Charitable IRA rollovers." The law was originally scheduled to expire in 2007, but was extended periodically through 2014 by subsequent legislation, and finally made permanent by the Protect Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015.

Newsletter Booster Program

Thank you for your support!

Ronald and Darla Shelburg
Alan & Kathryn Gobczynski
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**Get the Most out of Your MyHealth Account**

A My HealtheVet Premium account provides you with more tools and information for managing your health care. Visit [here to learn more about upgrading your account: https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/my-healthvet-offers-three-account-types](https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/my-healthvet-offers-three-account-types).

Premium accounts allow you to access more VA health records and information, communicate with your care team and VA staff, and manage your appointments.

My HealtheVet Premium accounts are free, and getting a Premium account is a simple process. Use the step-by-step guide to upgrade your account to the Premium level.

Here are five reasons to get a My HealtheVet Premium account.

1. Access More of Your Health Records

As a Premium user, you can view key portions of your VA electronic health records, use the VA Blue Button feature to access your **VA Health Summary**, and view **VA Medical Images and Reports**.

2. Send Secure Messages to Your VA Care Team

With My HealtheVet **Secure Messaging**, you can send secure messages to your VA care team members and other VA staff. You can ask non-urgent health-related questions, update them on your condition, request referrals, medication renewals, and check on appointments.

3. Manage Your VA Appointments

You can view and cancel upcoming appointments, request new appointments, join video appointments, and look up appointments from the past two years using your MyHealthVet Premium account.

4. View Your Military Service Information

You can use the VA Blue Button feature to view your U.S. Department of Defense **Military Service Information**. This includes service and deployment dates, military occupational specialty codes, and pay and retirement information.

5. Protect Your Account with More Security

With a Premium account, you can manage your care using the full suite of tools and services available on MyHealthVet. Get a MyHealthVet Premium account today and access more information about your health.

Disability Housing Grants for Veterans

The VA offers housing grants for Veterans and service members with certain service-connected disabilities so they can buy or change a home to meet their needs and live more independently. Changing a home might involve installing ramps or widening doorways. Find out if you are eligible for a disability housing - and how to apply.

Can I get a Specially Adapted Housing Grant?

You may be able to get an SAH grant if you are using the grant money to buy, build, or change your permanent home (a home you plan to live in for a long time) and you meet both of these requirements.

Both of these must be true: You own or will own the home, **and** You have a qualifying service-connected disability.

Qualifying Service-Connected Disabilities include:

- The loss or loss of use of more than one limb
- The loss or loss of use of a lower leg along with the residuals (lasting effects) of an organic (natural) disease or injury
- Blindness in both eyes (with 20/200 visual acuity or less)
- Certain severe burns
- The loss, or loss of use, of one lower extremity (foot or leg) after September 11, 2001, which makes it so you can't balance or walk without the help of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair

Note: Only 120 Veterans and service members each fiscal year (FY) can qualify for a grant based on the loss of one extremity after September 11, 2001, as set by Congress. A fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. If you qualify for, but don't receive, a grant in the current fiscal year because the cap has already been reached, you may be able to use this benefit in future years.

How much funding does an SAH grant offer?

If you qualify for an SAH grant, you can get up to **\$101,754** for FY 2022. This is the current total maximum amount allowed for SAH grants.

Can I get a Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant?

You may be able to get an SHA grant if you are using the grant money to buy, build, or change your permanent home.

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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN

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nent home (a home you plan to live in for a long time) and you meet both of these requirements.

Both of these must be true: You or a family member own or will own the home, **and** You have a qualifying service-connected disability.

Qualifying service-connected disabilities include: The loss or loss of use of both hands, Certain severe burns, and Certain respiratory or breathing injuries.

How much funding does an SHA offer?

If you qualify for an SHA grant, you can get up to **\$20,387** for FY 2022. This is the current total maximum amount allowed for SHA grants.

Do I have to use the total grant amount this year?

No, if you are eligible for an SAH or SHA grant, you can use money from your grant up to 6 different times over your lifetime. Depending on the adaptations you need, and the bid from your builder, you can use as much or as little of your grant as you need this year. If you don't use the full amount, you can use more money from the grant in future years. We may adjust the total maximum amount each year based on the cost of construction. You may receive up to the current total maximum amount for the last year you use the grant

Grant Eligibility for a Temporary Home**Can I get money to change a family member's home where I am living:**

You may be able to get a Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grant if you meet both of these requirements

Both of these must be true: You qualify for an SAH or SHA grant (see above), **and** You are living temporarily in a family member's home that needs changes to meet your needs. (To use a TRA grant, you don't have to own the house).

How much funding does a TRA grant offer?

If you qualify for an SAH grant, you can get up to **\$40,983** through the TRA grant program for FY 2022

If you qualify for an SHA grant, you can get up to **\$7,318** through the TRA grant program for FY 2022.

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How to apply for a disability housing grant: You can apply online right now by going to our eBenefits website: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/about/feature?feature=sah-grant>. You'll need to sign in to eBenefits with your **DS Logon** basic or premium account. If you don't have a **DS Logon** account, you can register for one on the site.

National Military Appreciation Month

Governor Kristi Noem, in coordination with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, has proclaimed May as "National Military Appreciation Month," a time for all to honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate those who have served in the past and those now serving, as well as their families. "The vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of this great nation," Governor Noem said in her proclamation. "Our Armed Forces depend on the dedicated service of its members and their families."

National Military Appreciation Month includes Loyalty Day on May 1st, Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 6th, Victory in Europe Day on May 8th, Armed Forces Day on May 21st, and Memorial Day on May 30th. May is also Gold Star Awareness Month and provides us the opportunity to pay tribute to the families of our fallen heroes. "The month of May provides an opportunity to appreciate those who serve and have served," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "These men and women continue to play a major role in the development of our country documented through a history of uncompromising honor, dedication to duty, and genuine love of country."

For generations, brave Americans have stepped forward and answered our country's call to serve in our Armed Forces. With honor and distinction, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen fight to defend the principles upon which our country was founded. Behind these courageous Americans stand spouses, children, and parents who give up precious time with their loved ones, bearing the burden of long deployments and difficult moves, and oftentimes putting their careers on hold. During National Military Appreciation Month, we salute the families of those who proudly are a part of our Nation's unbroken chain of patriots for their unwavering devotion, and we renew our sacred vow to uphold our promise to our troops, our veterans, and their families.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

MS Views and News invites you to

COMPASS TO MS CARE
REACHING RURAL AMERICA & BEYOND**MS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

The wearing of a facemask is at the discretion of the person attending

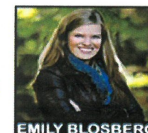
Guest Speaker: Jonathan C. Calkwood – MS Neurologist
Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology, Ltd. - Golden Valley**Topics:**

- Shared Decision Making / communicating with your healthcare team
- Understanding new MS treatments including biosimilars
- Access to MS care and resources
- Learning about Visual Disturbances in MS (Optic Neuritis, Double-vision & Nystagmus)

a 50 minute discussion + 45 mins of Q&A

PLUS: Guest Speaker Emily Blossberg, Executive Director, Mr Oscar MonkeyOn November 18, 2011, in 9th Grade, Emily was diagnosed with MS.

Meeting other teenagers her age living with MS, became important to Emily. This is why at the age of 18 Emily created Oscar the MS Monkey, a nonprofit organization supporting the pediatric MS community. Let's listen to Emily's story and why she became a courageous patient advocate



a 30 minute discussion plus 10 minutes of Q&A

Program Date: Saturday, August 27th, 2022

Check-in: 10:40am CT – Program begins at 11:30am CT

With Complimentary Lunch**Location: Hilton Garden Inn Sioux Falls South**

5300 S GRAND CIRCLE - SIOUX FALLS, SD. 57108

PLEASE Register (RSVP) Online: www.events.msvn.org

After the website opens, please select the program location to RSVP

If you do not have internet, please call (888) 871-1664 - Ext 105

Program limited to The MS Patient plus (1) Guest

No Walk-ins will be permitted

This program is supported by:

(Please click on BMS and Sanofi logos)

Exhibitors:

Program provided by MS Views and News, a 501C3 not for profit organization

MS Views and News is MAKING an IMPACT on those affected by Multiple Sclerosis

Updated 05.07.22

Program to end at approx 2:30pm

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**4th Annual Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat****JW Marriott Resort, San Antonio, Texas****September 24-27, 2022**

Join us for PVA's 4th Annual Women Veteran Empowerment Retreat. Come enjoy three days in beautiful San Antonio with other women member of PVA. This event is limited to 40 attendees so be sure to register ASAP!

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS***AUGUST 1, 2022******Registration Link: <https://event.me/mM9BMX>***

Participants will enjoy an inclusive, supportive environment with other women Veterans with sessions that focus on: 1) VA Benefits and Services, 2) Self-Advocacy, 3) Leadership Skills, 4) Resilience, and 5) Empowerment.

A few thing you can expect if you attend the Women Veteran Empowerment Retreat: 1) Three days of education, opportunities, and camaraderie, 2) Interact and learn from experts, and 3) Meeting other women members.

PVA and our sponsors are proud to cover all expenses related to travel, hotel accommodation, meals, and programming. Additionally, we will have several fun activities that will be no cost to any of our attendees.

Caregivers Welcome!***For additional information contact: WVER@PVA.org*****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

Two Memorial Day Programs

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will host two Memorial Day programs this year. Both events will be held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30.

In western South Dakota, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home will host the Memorial Day program on their campus (2500 Minnekahta Avenue) in Hot Springs. The program will begin at 10:00 AM (MT). Immediately following the program, a lunch will be served by the Custer VFW Auxiliary. If inclement weather occurs, the program will be held at the Mueller Center (801 S. 6th Street) in Hot Springs.

In eastern South Dakota, the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery will host a Memorial Day program, in partnership with the Sioux Falls Veterans Council. The program will begin at 10:00 AM (CT) and will be held at the SD Veterans Cemetery (25965 477th Avenue) in Sioux Falls. River Cities Public Transit will be providing transportation to and from the program. Bus rides to the event will originate at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street) starting at 8:30 AM and will return attendees to the Alliance following the ceremony. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs with them.

00746

VA Caregiver Support

With VA's Caregiver Support Line, assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you are in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.
- Just listen, if that is what you need right now.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**From the Office of Brad Friez****National Service Officer**

On April 25, 2022 the VA announced that nine respiratory cancers from exposure to airborne hazards and burn pit exposure are now considered presumptive service connected disabilities for those Veterans who served in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan from September 19, 2001 to present or the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990 to present. The conditions are: squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx and of the trachea, adenocarcinoma of the trachea, salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea and of the lung, adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung, large cell carcinoma of the lung, sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung, and typical/atypical carcinoid of the lung. These cancers were added to the previous presumptive conditions of asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis. On both occasions it appears that the current VA Secretary has not waited for Congress to act and has announced these presumptive conditions in a proactive manner.

This brings us to the next part of our article for the North Central Chapter's newsletter. We had the extremely rare privilege of sitting in on a meeting with the current VA Secretary, the Honorable Denis McDonough, who is the eleventh secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This occurred as a part of a roundtable discussion on Wednesday, May 18 at the VA in Sioux Falls. We happened to be selected to sit in on this meeting as our Chapter's Executive Director and Government Relations Director both had conflicts that day.

Those in attendance included the VA Secretary, one of his high ranking supportive staff, the VISN 23 Director, the South Dakota Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Acting Chief of Staff of the Sioux Falls VA, representatives from Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Congressman Johnson, the State Adjutant and past National Commander of the DAV, the State Adjutant of the American Legion, the State Commander of the Order of the Purple Heart, six selected Veterans who are all enrolled into the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, and myself representing the North Central Chapter of the PVA.

Secretary McDonough began the time together by announcing that up until a couple of years ago the Sioux Falls VA had the highest level of customer service in the entire VA Health Care System but currently that is not the case. He was in Sioux Falls because of some concerns brought to his attention.

In my opinion the most telling part of the meeting was hearing from the six Veterans who told of their experiences with the Sioux Falls VA. Some of the comments were positive and others were not.

One male Veteran commented that his most recent Care in the Community experience was not as positive as it had been in the past..

A female Veteran spoke very passionately about her positive experiences at the Sioux Falls VA as both her husband and father were treated at the Sioux Falls VA. (contd in next column)

(continued from first column)

A second female Veteran had concerns about the restricted amount of care that female Veterans have at the Sioux Falls VA. Because of unscheduled trips to the VA she had to utilize the ER Department and has heard this might be on the chopping block which was a concern.

A second male Veteran served in Afghanistan was very concerned about the elimination of the Caregiver Support Program for he and other Veterans who count on this financial support to make ends meet financially. He gave out praise to the local adaptive sports program that prevented him from going down a dark path.

A third male Veteran who served in Vietnam was concerned for the most recent combat Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and is hoping that the VA does not delay in their treatment of conditions caused by IED's and the exposure from hazards in the air. He remembers the long delays before VA acted on conditions from exposure to Agent Orange.

The third female Veteran expressed thanks for the CPT therapy and for mileage payments when she travels to the VA for her care.

Other concerns expressed were the lack of an open door and partnership with the Sioux Falls VA; the backlog of scanned records; the elimination of many legacy participants on the Caregiver Support Program; continued funding of rural transportation of Veterans to the VA; bridging the financial gap for those who need assisted living care vs. nursing home care and the impact from the recommendations to the AIRS Commission for the closing of facilities and eliminating services.

We also heard glowing remarks about the Sioux Falls Vet Center and the need to expand their locations around the state of South Dakota.

The VA Secretary responded to many of the concerns and promised to provide the resources needed to fix these problems. He pointed out that congress just passed a very large omnibus budget for the VA. Secretary McDonough also expressed concern that 90% of those legacy participants currently on the Caregiver Support Program had been sent letters discharging them from the program. He will be personally involved in studying this program and wants to specifically look at the narrow scope of the ADL's (activities of daily living). The Legacy participants on the Caregiver Support Program are to remain until April of 2023.

I personally was impressed with the tone of the meeting and the humility of the VA Secretary. He is someone who acts in a proactive manner when possible (IE the many presumptive conditions from airborne hazards and burn pit exposure) even before Congress acts on these health issues. Lastly, I want to thank Senator Rounds and Congressman Johnson and their staffs for pushing the concerns of our local Veterans.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Habitat's Homeownership Program**

Don't miss your opportunity to become a homeowner! Partner with Habitat for Humanity to build and purchase an affordable home in Sioux Falls.

Learn more at: siouxfallshabitat.org/apply or call (605) 274-6290.

APPLY IN JUNE 2022

Application Opens: June 1, 2022

Application Deadline: June 30, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Register on our Website: siouxfallshabitat.org

Cindy Erlandson

Community Engagement Director

Habitat for Humanity of Great Sioux Falls

721 East Amidon Street

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Telephone: (605) 274-6291

~~~~~

Help individuals and families achieve **STRENGTH, STABILITY AND SELF-RELIANCE** through **SHELTER.**

**Bladder Cancer and Veterans: What you need to Know**

Bladder cancer is the 4<sup>th</sup> most diagnosed cancer in VA. Approximately 3,200 Veterans are diagnosed with bladder cancer every year. [Bladder cancer](#) happens when the cells in the bladder start to grow out of control. Most tumors develop on the inner layer of the bladder. As the cancer grows into deeper layers, it becomes more difficult to treat.

Since early diagnosis is critical to successful treatment and recovery, VA encourages Veterans to talk to their health care provider about the signs and symptoms of bladder cancer.

**Signs and symptoms**

Signs of bladder cancer can be embarrassing to discuss, but it's important to talk with your provider as soon as possible if you have any of the following symptoms: (continued on Page 14)

**Volunteers needed for 2022 National Veterans Golden Age Games**

Volunteers donating their time and talents are essential to the success of the National Veterans Golden Age Games. The Sioux Falls VA is looking for volunteers to serve in various roles in support of the 2022 NVGAG to be held in Sioux Falls, SD July 18-23. (See above flyer).

Please follow the link to register as a volunteer and support our nation's senior Veterans as they model "Fitness for Life" during our multi-sport competition this summer. The deadline to register as a volunteer is July 1, 2022.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact [NVGAGVolunteers@va.gov](mailto:NVGAGVolunteers@va.gov). <https://36thnvgag.my-trs.com/>

[#sports4vets](#) [#GoldenAgeGames](#) [#ExperienceSiouxFalls](#)

## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

### PVA North Central Chapter

#### "Darrell Jepsen Memorial

#### Scholar" 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 2022-2023. 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

### Granite - SHINE Scholarships Now Available

Granite Threshing Association along with SHINE outreach group is excited to announce we have **two \$1000.00 scholarships available!** One in the **medical field** of study and one in the **agricultural field** of study. These are for **returning college students**, not first year students.

Please spread the word and pass along to any college student or anyone that can help us get this out to the public. We are excited to be able to offer this and see how this first year goes and the ability to give back and help students achieve their goals. Please let Heather know with any question. Cell 605-212-5779 / [heathers@voyagefcu.org](mailto:heathers@voyagefcu.org).



Support Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter by shopping at AmazonSmile.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your **eligible** AmazonSmile purchases to **North Central Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America Inc** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-03030359947e>

(continued from Page 12 - Bladder Cancer)

- Blood in the urine; painful or urgent urination; inability to urinate.
- Abdominal pain; lower back pain.
- Fatigue.
- Appetite or weight loss.

Identifying bladder cancer early is important for successful treatment and recovery. Don't wait to discuss these symptoms with your provider.

### **Exposure risks for Veterans: Agent Orange, PFAS and Camp LeJeune**

Smoking is the most common risk factor for bladder cancer. In addition, some Veterans may be at higher risk of developing bladder cancer than the general population due to their exposure to certain chemicals during their military service. If you have been exposed to any of the following, be aware that you may be at higher risk of developing this type of cancer:

- [Agent Orange](#), an herbicide used during the Vietnam War to break up vegetation. Bladder cancer is a presumption for Veterans who meet eligibility requirements. To learn more about Agent Orange presumptive conditions, visit [Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange – Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).
- [PFAS](#), a manmade chemical used in many products, including military firefighting foams and which may have contaminated the ground water at military bases. The evidence for these chemicals and a potential link to bladder cancer is not definitive, but VA and the Department of Defense are tracking the research and its outcomes carefully.
- [Camp Lejeune's contaminated drinking water](#) for Veterans who spent more than 30 days on base between August 1953 and December 1987. To learn more, visit [Camp Lejeune: Past Water Contamination – Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

If you're not sure what environmental exposures you may have experienced during your time in the military, there are dedicated VA resources available to help you. Talk to your VA health care provider or contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#).

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - June/July 2022**

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| 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 |
| Cameron Hoverson     | June 12 |
| Duane Biesboer       | June 15 |
| William Deknikker    | June 15 |
| Dennis Elfring       | June 15 |
| John K. Myers        | June 15 |
| Dean Wilson          | June 19 |
| Steven Wagner        | June 20 |
| Troy Metzinger       | June 21 |
| David Wren           | June 21 |
| James Arneson        | June 24 |
| Kerry Parker         | June 27 |
| Norwood Baybridge    | July 01 |
| Stephen Bruggeman    | July 01 |
| Brian Wallin         | July 01 |
| Marvin 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 |

**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.

**Mobile App for 2022 National Veteran Wheelchair****Games**

The app for the 2022 National Veteran Wheelchair Games is currently for download on your Android or iOS device.

Download the app or log in online to access information about the games, medical forms, notifications and more! You can search the app store for *NVWG* or *National Veterans Wheelchair Games*.

Use the link below to access the web version of the app or download the app to your mobile device.

Web Version: <https://crowd.cc/41nwg>

App Version: <https://crowd.cc/s/43PRv>

If you have any questions regarding the online or mobile app, contact Jennifer Blyther at [jenniferm@pva.org](mailto:jenniferm@pva.org).

Jennifer Blyther

Meetings Project Coordinator

Paralyzed Veterans of America

801 18th Street NW

Washington, DC 20006

[JenniferM@pva.org](mailto:JenniferM@pva.org)

**South Dakota Veterans Council**

The South Dakota Veterans Council will hold their next meeting on **Wednesday, July 20, 2022**, at Military Heritage Alliance Building, Spirit of America Room, starting at 9:00 AM.



*You are welcome  
to attend!*



## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER



# Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton\*

**Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?**

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:  
[rewalk.com/contact](https://rewalk.com/contact) or  
508.251.1154 option 2**

\*Chun A, et al. Changes in bowel function following exoskeletal-assisted walking in persons with spinal cord injury: an observational pilot study. Spinal Cord. 2020;58(4):459-466.



**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****2022 ADA Picnic**

Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD

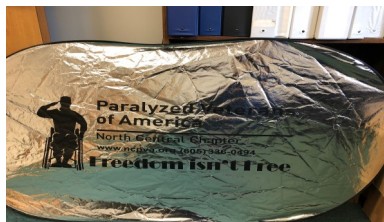
**July 26, 2022 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM***Help Us Raise Awareness for ADA!*

Rapid City's Disability Awareness and Accessibility Committee (previously The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities) is proud to support the **Americans with Disabilities Act's (ADA) 32nd Anniversary on July 26th with our annual ADA picnic.** We are seeking vendors of products and services that serve the disabled community in Rapid City.

Booth Space: Each booth is \$110.00.

Booth includes a covered canopy, 8 foot table, and two chairs included in the price.

To reserve your booth, please email [disabilityaac@regov.org](mailto:disabilityaac@regov.org) by June 1st. Booth space is limited.

**Car Sunshades for Sale**

Proceeds will benefit the Chapter's programs and services!  
Contact the Chapter Ofc  
(605) 336-0494.

**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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Hot Springs, SD 57747

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

For Admissions information, please contact Lisa Woepffel 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

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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”***



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—President Lyndon B. Johnson*





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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.**