Midwest PVA Fishing Event
Ely, Minnesota, June 23-29, 2019

Back Talk
The Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin Chapters of Paralyzed Veterans of America were pleased to sponsor the 2019 Midwest PVA Fishing Event, which was held June 23-29, 2019.

The 2019 Midwest PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America) Fishing Event was a wonderful recreation event. It provided an entire week of fishing, boating and social activities to approximately 20 paralyzed veteran heroes and their caregivers at Veterans on the Lake Resort in Ely, MN. Veterans on the Lake Resort was started for the sole purpose of creating a recreational facility for disabled veterans to enjoy and continues to be a non-profit facility. It is nestled in the Superior National Forest adjacent to Fall Lake and has over 2,700 feet of shoreline. The resort offers fishing from boats, pontoons and off the dock. (www.veteransonthelakesresort.org) Veterans on the Lake Resort has approximately 25 handicapped accessible cabins which housed our attendees. There were v-bottom boats for use by more mobile anglers and pontoon boats for use by all of our participants. Other fun activities included: Fish-fry, campfires, and access to the local attractions. This week provided participants with not only vital rehabilitation but gave them a sense of their identity before the injury or illness that changed their lives. It gave the veterans the opportunity to network with other individuals with similar challenges and share vital information and hints on "how to get by" in many cases.

Also in attendance at the event was approximately 20 volunteers who assisted with fishing, transporting to and from the dock areas, guides and boat captain services, and any recreational assistance that the veterans or caregivers needed.

Fishing gear was made available for those participants who did not have equipment. All participants were encouraged to bring their own tackle and fishing gear, including wet-weather clothing. Boats and life jackets were provided. If participants had their own boat or life jackets and wanted to bring them, we encouraged them to do so. Gas for personal boats were covered for fishing activities. Participants were responsible to get their boats to and from the resort.

The Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin Chapters made all of the arrangements at the resort for lodging and meals. PVA Members were made aware the event would be held at a resort and veterans and caregivers would be expected to room together. The Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin Chapters made every effort to provide a safe and comfortable experience for everyone.

Participation in the Midwest PVA Fishing Event was open to all PVA members in good standing. Participation acceptance was granted on a first come, first served basis. This event was offered to PVA Members and 1 adult caregiver/family member. No additional family members were accepted due to space.

One week fishing licenses were provide to ALL in attendance (including staff) by the Minnesota DNR.

All veteran participants in attendance were members of Paralyzed Veterans of America. 3 PVA Chapters, (Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin) attempted to fund this June 2019 rehabilitation event. The total bill for this event reached almost $35,000. This was all inclusive of lodging, meals, boat rental / gas, bait, and ice. A small fee was charged per person ($50) to ensure attendance. Volunteers and donations made this event possible. A relatively small group of volunteers from Iowa, local Ely businesses such as Britton's Cafe and Veterans on the Lake Resort not only raised enough money to ensure the event was funded but actually raised enough money to return the registration fees to the veteran and caregiver participants and provided swag bags as giveaways to our attendees. Many of the veterans donated the money back to the event to help fund 2020. (Please see a list of those individuals and businesses which made this event a success on pages 6-7.)

100% OF DONATIONS TO THE MIDWEST PVA FISHING EVENT WERE UTILIZED BY THE EVENT. THERE WAS (AND IS) A SEPARATE BANK ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED AND DESIGNATED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF FUNDS FOR THIS EVENT. NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE INCURRED.

The 2020 event is scheduled for 8/23-8/29/20! We hope to make it bigger and better than this year!!!
Veterans on the Lake Resort

https://www.veteransonthelakeresort.org/about-veterans-on-the-lake-resort
Sunday, June 23, 2019

Sunday consisted of checking in, cabin assignments, unpacking, supper, pledge of allegiance, invocation, gift bag distribution to each veteran by their very own volunteer for the week, info and question time and special recognition to Bonnie Jacobson and her staff for all their hard work in helping make this event possible!

Monday, June 24, 2019

Rainy Monday!! But, still lots of fishing. Bonfires were held every evening.
Beautiful Tuesday! Fishing, fishing and more fishing! Walleye, Perch, Crappie, Northern Pike, Small Mouth Bass, and others (ie: turtles) were caught.
THANK YOU to all who made this event possible!!!!

| 4imprint / One by One Grant              | CC Military Surplus (Coralville)              | Fireside Winery               |
| 7G Distributing                         | Cedar Rapids Ice Arena                        | Fleck Sales                  |
| Ace's & Eights                          | Cedar Rapids Eagles Club                      | Freddy's (BF Rd)             |
| AE Dairy                                | Cedar Rapids Kernels                          | Freddy's (Edgewood Rd)       |
| Ainsworth Community Church Youth Group  | Central States Group (Corry Walton)           | Frideres, Duane and Beverly  |
| Alberts, Dan & Becky                    | Cheddars Scratch Kitchen (Coralville)         | Frontier Garden Center       |
| All About the Stitch                    | Cherico, Frana                                | Funcrest Bait & Tackle       |
| Allen, Gerald and Nancy                 | Chesmore, Larry                               | Ganfield, Kathy              |
| All Hands on Deck                       | CJ's Sports Bar                                | Gardner's Golf Course        |
| Almost Famous Popcorn                   | Cole's Quality Foods, Inc (North Liberty)     | Gould, Kim                   |
| Americlean                              | Coops Bait & Tackle (Jason Schilling)         | Grandma's Spoons & Grandpa's Stuff |
| Ancient Mariner Reels                   | Coral Ridge Mall                              | Great Clips on Edgewood Rd   |
| Andresen, Tara                          | Cost Cutters by DQ                            |                             |
| Anonymous (NUMEROUS cash donations)     | Country Wonders                               |                             |
| Applebees                                | Crazy Good Meats                              |                             |
| Arnold Motor Supply                     | CR Eagles Club                                |                             |
| AutoZone on 16th Ave                    | Cunningham, Lonn & Phillis                    |                             |
| AutoZone-BF Rd                          | Czech Cottage Gifts, Crystal & Jewelry        |                             |
| Ayers Engraving & Design                | Daisy May Essentials                          |                             |
| Bait, Guns & More                       | Dan Clark Trucking, LLC                       |                             |
| Barb's Garden & Pantry                  | Dawley, Scott                                 |                             |
| Barger, Stacey                          | Dawn Productions                              |                             |
| Beekman, Joe and Mindy                  | Deja Vine Vineyards & Winery                  |                             |
| Beeson, Ryan M                          | Denny's Automotive & Muffler (Marion & 16th)   |                             |
| Bell, Louise and Thomas                 | Diemert, Jeffery & Mary                       |                             |
| Bell, Thomas and Teresa                 | Diesel-Turbo Services, Inc                    |                             |
| Berkenpas, Andy                         | Dittner Purcell, Anita and William            |                             |
| Berkenpas, Lara                         | DKW Art Gallery- Cindy Moss, C Sell           |                             |
| Big Discount Liquor & Tobacco           | DKW Art Gallery- Deb Weiser & Various Artists  |                             |
| Billy Simms BBQ                         | DKW Art Gallery -Don Dixon & Various Artists   |                             |
| Branded Apparel                         | DKW Art Gallery- Lori Kidd & Various Artists   |                             |
| Breakfast House Cafe                    | Doty Angus Cattle Company                     |                             |
| Brittons Cafe (Bonnie Jacobson)         | Dubuque Heritage Winery                       |                             |
| Bruseth, Tracy                          | Echo Valley Metal Works                       |                             |
| Buchanan House Winery                   | Elevate Salon                                 |                             |
| Bunnell, George and Deborah             | Ennor, Marin                                  |                             |
| Cain, Terrance                          | Faeth's Fowl Play                             |                             |
| Callan, Carrie                          | Fancy Nails                                  |                             |
| Campbell, AK                            | Farlinger, Craig and Patricia                 |                             |
| Cargill, Incorporated                   | Feathers for Freedom                         |                             |
| Cargill Animal Nutrition in West Branch | Fenel, Robert                                 |                             |
| Carl & Ernie's                          | Fin & Feather                                |                             |
| Carlos O'Kellys                         | Firehouse Subs (Edgewood Road)                |                             |
| Carol's Creations                       |                                               |                             |
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THANK YOU to all who made this event possible!!!!

Little Bohemia
Lloyd, Kenny & Pauline
Long, Bruce
Long John Silvers
Lucy’s
Luken, Sheila and Christopher
Lynch's Excavating, Inc (West Branch)
Lynch's Plumbing, Inc (West Branch)
Malloy, Sharon
Mather, Kassie Elise
Metro Harley
Midwest PVA Fishing Event Volunteers—
Riverside Casino
Miller, Mike
Miller, Scott
Minnesota DNR
Mobilia Vejtasa, Rosemarie
Monroe, Ian
Mug Shots Custom Printing
Neumiller Electric
Oakes, Dean
Oelrich, Carrie
Oh, For Craft's Sake!
Olson, Stacy & Karl
Orchestra Iowa
Panera Bread
Paramount Theatre
Pierson's Flower Shop (Blairs Ferry Road)
Pig & Porter
Pint, Richard
Pizza Ranch
Poehler, Eric
Potter's Obsession
Prayer Focus In Wood
Pro Angler Tackle
PVA—Iowa Chapter
PVA—Minnesota Chapter
PVA—Wisconsin Chapter
Rare Bird Soap Shop
Rehberg's Pork
Richards, Kristy
River Rodder Outdoors
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort
Rough Riders
RS Welding Studio
Runt's Munchies
Russo, Jim and Dianna
Sankey, Tom & Debra
Scheels
Schilling Construction LLC (Jason Schil-ling)
Scott's Family Restaurant
Sink Em Sinkers
Sky Zone
Snapper City Bait & Tackle (Kevin Slutts)
Spalted Wood Gallery
Spooktacular Pumpkins
St. Andrews Golf Course
Stiff, Jeff
Stone Cliff Winery
Storey Kenworthy/Workspace Charitable Fund
Studio Fourteen Crafts
Sykora Bakery
Tericloth
Texas Roadhouse
The Paisley Thread
Theatre Cedar Rapids
Thomas, Seth
Tommy's West Restaurant
Totally Wild
Tremain, Tammy
Veterans on the Lake Resort
Vorwald, Tyler
Walmart (Coralville)
Winnesiek Wildberry Winery
WMT 600 - Doug Wagner
Woodworking Etc
Zup's Food Market
Zup’s Resort
** All others mistakenly forgotten **

Are you interested in donating specifically to this event??

100% of your donation for the Midwest PVA Fishing Event will be utilized solely for this event. A special account has been established and all donations are deposited directly to this account. No administrative costs are incurred.

Iowa PVA relies solely on private donations and receives no governmental funding. Your contribution is tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

We are a veterans’ service organization chartered by Congress.

Iowa Chapter Contact Info: 7025 Hickman Road, Suite 1, Urbandale, Iowa 50322 // (515) 277-4782 or 1-888-909-4782

Minnesota Chapter Contact Info: 1 Veterans Dr, Minneapolis, MN 55417 // (612) 725-2263

Wisconsin Chapter Contact Info: 750 N Lincoln Memorial Drive, Ste 306, Milwaukee, WI 53202 // (414) 328-8910
After a full day of fishing, we had the evening fish fry (fish, coleslaw, beans, bread and dessert) for all. Board of Directors from Veterans on the Lake, staff of Britton’s Café and many of the local businesses which donated to the event showed up and joined us!!!!

Competition Day and Award Night. Winners of the fishing competition were: Tom Sankey (from Iowa) for biggest fish, Phyllis Cunningham (from Iowa) for most fish, Karl Olson (from Minnesota) for smallest fish AND Derrick Trentin (from Wisconsin) for first fish. Certificates of Appreciation were given to all the staff and volunteers. Plaques were given to Andy & Lara Berkenpas, Jeff Stiff and Carrie Oelrich for their extraordinary fund-raising and assistance in making this event possible. Also, each veteran received a handmade quilt by Tish Simons and each veteran and caregiver received a new rod and reel combination from Veterans on the Lake Resort. Specially made T-shirts were given to every person attending.
Friday, June 28, 2019

Group photo taken and distribution of caught and cleaned fish given to all veterans.

Saturday, June 29, 2019

Time to pack up and head back home. UNTIL NEXT YEAR!!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2nd Annual Midwest PVA Fishing Event
AUGUST 23 - 29, 2020
When the City of Iowa City’s Water Superintendent Kevin Slutts spent a week in the woods of northern Minnesota this June, it wasn’t just so he could go fishing: he and other volunteers were helping disabled veterans enjoy a fishing trip of their own. From June 23 to 29, Kevin volunteered his time and resources with the Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin Chapters of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) to help put on a week-long fishing trip for disabled veterans in Ely, Minnesota.

For his time and resources helping veterans from the three Midwestern states, Kevin was recently awarded a certificate of recognition from the PVA for his help that proved “instrumental to the success of this life-enhancing rehabilitation event.”

“IT was a privilege and a real eye opener,” Kevin said. “You’re going to take the word ‘can’t’ out of your dictionary after seeing these people work so hard to do something like fishing.”

His team, called All Hands On Deck, helped escort some of the 20 paralyzed veterans through fishing, boating, and other social and outdoor activities at the Veterans On the Lake Resort, a nonprofit organization and space specifically created for disabled veterans to enjoy outdoor activities.

For Kevin, the highlights of the trip were getting to spend time with those who served, and the veterans throwing a large fish onto the lakeshore so a nearby bald eagle could eat.

This year was the first time the PVA put on the event, and a second year is already set for August of 2020, thanks in large part to volunteers and donations to the PVA Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin chapters.

The PVA runs on donations and volunteers, so if you’re interested in helping, visit iowapva.org and click the Donate button on the right-hand side of the webpage. Please indicate you want your donation to go to the PVA Midwest Fishing Event. You can also visit pva.org for more information on the national organization.
What was the highlight of your experience this week? **Cody catching a 50 lb. Snapper by the toe.**

How would you rate the meals? **Fantastic**

(Scale of 1-10 with 1 being "awful" to 10 being "extraordinary".)

Best Volunteer (Most Notable) - Bin

All the volunteers were wonderful!

All volunteers were great!

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **Talk with people & making new friends.**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **Comradage.**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **Just being here was wonderful.**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **The opportunity to fish & meet & making and meeting new people.**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **The staff was excellent and made the trip wonderful.**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **'1st come, 1st served' Dive System worked great! Kudos!**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **Keep the fun coming!!!**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **Just being here!**

What was the highlight of your experience this week? **Sun shine & water!**

Rating: 10
Are you moving???
Don’t forget to notify the office of your new address. If you are a PVA member, we will let National PVA and PN PARAPLEGIA NEWS know where you are moving to, so you won’t miss a single issue.
Call us at 888-909-4782.