March / April 2020

Back Talk

Scott Miller - IPVA Sports Director
U.S. Senator Joni Ernst
Kenny Lloyd - IPVA Vice President and PVA National Director.

Scott Miller - IPVA Sports Director
U.S. Congressman Dave Loebsack
Kenny Lloyd - IPVA Vice President and PVA National Director.

Scott Miller - IPVA Sports Director
U.S. Congresswoman - Cindy Axne
Melanee Sickels - IPVA Associate Member
Kenny Lloyd - IPVA Vice President and PVA National Director.

Kenny Lloyd - IPVA Vice President and PVA National Director,
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Scott Miller - IPVA Sports Director
**A Message From The President**

**Jon R. Schneider**

*This News Release came out on April 29, 2020. I thought it was a “breath of fresh air” with all the other news and events happening. Hoping all have health and safety in these unprecedented days.*

*Warm Regards,*

*JRS*

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**VA establishes the department’s first history office**

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established the VA History Office (VAHO), April 10, to formally collect and preserve the department’s history.

The VAHO will consist of the VA History Program (VAHP) and National VA History Center (NVAHC) and serve as the principal VA-wide management office for centralized VA historical initiatives.

The mission of the VAHO is to develop an overarching program to collect, preserve and provide access to VA’s relevant historical records and artifacts to tell a comprehensive story of VA and its predecessor organizations.

“VA is one of the few cabinet-level agencies without an official history office, “ said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The new office will allow the department to document the special relationship between the nation and our Veterans.”

The vision is to promote understanding and study of the unique relationship between the United States and its Veterans through the lens of the VA experience—the care of wounds, the benefits bestowed, the contributions of Veterans to society after serving, and the honors provided at their passing.

When fully functional, VAHP will research and respond to inquiries regarding VA history and support VA leaders in their decision-making process by providing ready access to department experiences from the past. The program will also manage historical publication projects and establish an oral history program to capture the experiences of senior officials and long-tenured employees to be included in department archives.

NVAHC will be located in Dayton, Ohio on the campus of the historic VA Medical Center that originally served as a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers following the Civil War. Two historic buildings on the campus were previously identified for use as a centralized museum and archive for VA. The department is partnering with the VA History Center Foundation to fund renovations for the historic buildings.

The National VA History Center is tentatively forecasted for a 2025 opening based on public funding availability and private fundraising. For more information contact VAHistoryOffice@va.gov.
2020 Legislation Advocacy Seminar

This year, the Iowa Chapter sent Scott Miller, his fiancée Melanie Sickles, my wife Pauline and I to Washington DC to the PVA 2020 Legislation Advocacy Seminar in early March. Scott went with me to learn the process of setting up meetings and talking to our legislators. The first two days we went over the material of what the Paralyzed Veterans of America’s issues are for our members. The next two days we were at the Capitol talking with our legislators from Iowa.

Protecting Access to VA’s Specialized Services is a priority issue for our members in PVA. We need to make sure we can get the health care at our Spinal Cord Centers or Clinics. Staffing is one of the biggest problems at our Centers and Clinics. The pay at the VA’s are lower than most hospitals and it takes longer for the VA to hire people. Even hiring qualified housekeepers are a problem for the Centers and Clinics.

Another issue is improving Access to Adapted Vehicles. Right now, 100% service-connected veterans can get one adapted vehicle. There is a bill in the house (HR5761) which would give the veteran the right to purchase an adapted vehicle every ten years. Right now, a non-service-connected veteran can only get a lowered floor and a ramp for access in and out of the vehicle. This is not in the bill, but PVA supports non-service-connected veterans to have the same option as 100% service-connected veterans of buying an adaptive vehicle.

Improving the Specially Adapted Housing Program is another top priority for PVA. An amended bill HR3504 has passed in the House of Representatives and is waiting for the Senate to pass this bill. This would allow our veterans with ALS to get help with modifying their houses. This would also better match the rising cost of construction costs.

I think I say this every year. Even though Scott and I were physically in Washington DC lobbying for these issues doesn’t mean you shouldn’t pick up the phone or send an email to let our legislators know what is important to you. Let them know if you would hope they would pass a bill to help support you and other veterans that deserve better benefits.

We were able to see all of our legislators but one. The staffers are the ones that keep their representative informed of the bills that are on the floor. On page 16 you can see the bills PVA supports and one bill PVA does not support. Please read through these bills and if you have any questions, you can call me at 515-570-1402.

Photo to left: Cally -beloved service dog, Kenny Lloyd and Scott Miller.

Photo to right: Melanee Sickels, Pauline Lloyd, Kenny Lloyd.
From the Desk of Kim Gould

COVID-19

I know everyone (including me) is weary of this COVID-19 virus nightmare. The last thing I wanted to do was write an article about it but unfortunately, it seems to have all of the power at this time in our lives.

I have not been advised that any of our Iowa PVA members have fallen victim to the virus. Great news there! I am sorry to say our event schedule has not been as fortunate. So far the following have been cancelled:

- IVH Spring Carnival
- PVA Awareness at the Des Moines VA
- VAVS meetings at the IVH, Des Moines VA and Iowa City VA
- National Veterans Wheelchair Games - Portland, OR
- Winter Sports Clinic - Snow Mass, CO
- Castaway Disabilities Fishing Event - Lake Rathbun (Postponed)
- Iowa PVA Turkey Hunt - Lloyd Family Farm Union, IA
- Iowa PVA Pistol/Trapshoot Event - Cedar Rapids
- Fish Fry Fundraiser for the Midwest PVA Fishing Event - Tipton, IA - **Rescheduled from March 21 to June 13**
- PVA National Convention - Dallas, TX (Will be conducted on ZOOM for the National Directors)

At this time, we are still planning and accepting applications for the Midwest PVA Fishing Event scheduled for August 23 - 29, 2020 at Veterans on the Lake Resort in Ely, MN.

Through it all, the Iowa Chapter is still functioning and available to serve our members. Office Manager, Gretchen Baldwin, is physically in the office for at least four hours per day. The office is NOT open to foot traffic for her protection and the protection of visitors. The phones continue to forward calls to my cell phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I will help you in any way I can. I am working from home and monitor my email seven days a week also. Jon Schneider and Kenny Lloyd are also working from home. We continue to be here for our members!

We have had to modify many of the ways we do business due to the restrictions imposed to keep us all safe and healthy. We normally host Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC, but with the visitor restrictions, Bingo goes on by having VA staff call the Bingo and Iowa PVA provides the prize money. We have donated snacks to the IVH to assist in bringing some much needed treats for those shut in. We are holding our Board of Directors meeting on Zoom. Caregivers meetings were done by conference call but will be using Zoom. National PVA has extended their existing FY 2020 Budget until December. (The FY 2021 Budget would have normally been discussed and approved at the PVA National Convention and in effect July 1, 2020.)

Financially we are hanging on by a thread. We experienced significant losses in our investment portfolio just as the rest of America. We will continue to look for ways to reduce costs and hope those who are able will continue to donate to our cause.

There are significant amounts of information being provided. **PLEASE** monitor our Facebook and Web Page for updates. Please stay healthy and safe. Contact us if we can help.

Kim

**Have you considered including Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America in your will or trust?**

*“It takes a notable person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade for someone he may never meet”*

This type of donation will serve as an investment in our organization that will reap our members benefits for many years to come.
What is Champ VA and Do I Qualify?
By Gus Gonzalez NSO

The Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a health benefits program where the VA pays part of the cost of certain health care services and supplies. This provides coverage to the spouse, widow, or widower and to their children. Also known as the Civilian Health and Medical Program.

CHAMPVA Eligibility
To be eligible for this benefit, the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who at the time of the veteran’s death was rated permanently and totally disabled due his or her service connection disabilities rated by the Veteran’s Benefit Administration.

Medical Benefits
CHAMPVA offers medical care comparable to other insurance programs. It also, covers vision benefits for diabetes veterans only. Dental care benefits are on limited bases.

The following will be covered, including medical screening, mental health, emergency room, hospital stay, ambulance, vaccinations, office visits, etc.

What benefits do I get with CHAMPVA?
- Ambulance service
- Ambulatory surgery
- Durable medical equipment (DME)
- Family planning and maternity
- Hospice
- Inpatient services
- Mental health services
- Outpatient services

If you’re the surviving widow of a qualifying CHAMPVA sponsor and you remarry before age 55, you no longer qualify for CHAMPVA benefit on the date of your remarriage.

If you happen to remarry on or after your 55th birthday, you are still eligible for CHAMPVA benefits.

CHAMPVA is always the second payer to Medicare. Here are some requirements you need to know:

If you’re under 65 years old, you’re eligible for CHAMPVA if you meet both of the requirements below. Both of these must be true. You: Must have both Medicare Parts A and B, or you are otherwise eligible for CHAMPVA.

If you’re 65 years old or older, you’re eligible for CHAMPVA if you’re eligible for Medicare. If you turned 65 before June 5, 2001, and you’re entitled to either Medicare Part A or B, you’ll also need to enroll in Medicare Part B to be eligible for CHAMPVA.

Note: You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part D to qualify for CHAMPVA.

If you’re 65 years old or older and happened not to qualify for Medicare, you’ll want to send us documentation from the Social Security Administration that confirms you do not qualify for Medicare benefits under anyone’s Social Security number.

Having CHAMPVA coverage does satisfies the requirement to have health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

How to Apply for CHAMPVA
For detailed information on CHAMPVA eligibility and for instructions on how to apply for CHAMPVA, please visit VA's CHAMPVA website. Application for CHAMPVA Benefits VA Form 10-10, and Other Health Insurance Certification VA Form 10-7959c

If any questions arise regarding Champ VA benefits, please contact Gus Gonzalez, NSO @ 515-323-7544, or @GustavoG@PVA.gov.
Elections for the Board of Directors and Officers of Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America will be held in September for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

If you are a member in good standing, would like to be considered for a position on the Board of Directors and wish to be included on the ballot, please contact Kim Gould at 515-669-8746 or Gretchen Baldwin at 515-277-4782. You can also email your request to iowapvakim@yahoo.com or iowapvagretchen1@yahoo.com by June 30, 2020.

Per Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America Election Policy and Procedures, ballots will be sent out to all members no later than August 10, 2020, along with a biography of all of the candidates and optional campaign letters. (Campaign letters will be limited to one page subject to appropriate editing by the Newsletter Editor and/or Election Committee Chair). Ballots must be returned by a mid-September date and counted prior to the September Board of Directors Meeting.

NEW VETERAN’S TELEPHONE SUPPORT GROUP
Available every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1:00 p.m. CST. (Until further notice)
These will be led by our VA Central Iowa’s Peer Support Specialists
Call: 1-800-767-1750 Access Code: 56999#

SUPPORT THE IOWA PVA
Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa 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:
Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter
7025 Hickman Rd, Suite #1, Urbandale, IA 50322

How do I find activities for Enrolled Outpatient Veterans?

- Go to www.centralliowa.va.gov (In the lower right hand column, click on “Recreation & Music Therapy Calendar”
- Go to the VA Central Iowa Health Care System Facebook page (www.facebook.com/VACentralIowa)

Please feel free to contact us by mail, telephone or email...
Iowa PVA, 7025 Hickman Rd., Suite #1, Urbandale, IA 50322
515-277-4782 or 1-888-909-4782
iowapval@yahoo.com, iowapvakim@yahoo.com, or iowapvagretchen1@yahoo.com
Pushing Access Forward 2020  
By: Scott Miller

Going to Washington DC for the legislative seminar was a lot of firsts for me. It was the first time in DC for my fiancée Melanee and myself. It was also my first time since high school that I paid much attention to the government, how it works, and how things can change. When initially asked to go and represent the Iowa Chapter I was very hesitant to accept the responsibility. Ultimately, I’m glad that I accepted the challenge and learned a lot through this experience.

The first two days of the trip were information overload. All of the PVA’s issues were discussed and explained with extra emphasis on the years top priorities. We were able to hear from multiple guest speakers and PVA members alike to answer questions and prepare everyone for their trip to the hill. The second day more attention was given to focusing on the top priorities and the limited amount of time you may have to get our issues heard and hopefully supported.

We were lucky enough to meet with two out of the three Iowa Representatives our first day on the hill and both Iowa Senators the second day. Though time was always short with a busy schedule for the representatives, each of them gave us the time they could and had great staffers that listened to our priorities and took note of our issues. To help with the limited time available we were provided with a great booklet to leave with each office that further explained our needs. It includes everything from transportation issues such as access to air travel and adapted automobiles, improving access to long term care and specialized services, increasing compliance with the ADA, and preserving and strengthening social security.

Overall it was a great week of learning and advocating! Being asked to go and help support the needs of our great country’s disabled veterans was an honor and a pleasure. Thank you to the Iowa PVA for another opportunity to give back and help others, while growing and learning in the process.
Getting Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again with Indego®

New VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® Exoskeleton at no cost.

What is Indego?

A robotic device that enables veterans to walk again.

Indego is an FDA-approved exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

Indego can currently be used with spinal cord injury levels of T3 to L5 in community or home settings. The device offers:

- Lightweight, modular design
- Slim profile compatible with most wheelchairs
- Rapid setup and breakdown for easy transportation
- Can be used with forearm crutches or walker

Contact us today to find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton.

Email: support.indego@parker.com
Phone: 844-846-3346

Watch Marine Veteran Steve Holbert’s story at www.indego.com/veterans
Phone Resources

During this stressful time, the Central Iowa Caregiver Support Program wants to remind you that we are here for you. Below is a list of resources that are available from the comfort and safety of your home. Please contact any of the Central Iowa Caregiver Support Program team members with any questions or for help in getting enrolled.


**Weekday Mindfulness Meditation Call**: No enrollment needed to join in the call.
*Weekdays from 10:30-10:45am*  *Call: 1-800-767-1750*  *Code: 21110*
Mindfulness is an evidence-based, mind-body technique that helps you face the challenges and stressors of everyday life. Mindfulness teaches acceptance and awareness of what's going on around you as well as what's going on inside you. Take a Break and Join the Phone-Based Mindfulness Call!

**Weekly Caregiver Support Group Call**: No enrollment needed to join in the call.
*Tuesdays from 12:00-1:00pm*  *Call: 1-800-767-1750*  *Code: 69342*
The Caregiver Support Group is a weekly group where Caregivers can connect with each other, gain support around caregiving, and learn about ways to care for yourself while caring for your Veteran.

**Monthly Caregiver Support Education Calls**
Monthly educational calls focus on helping the Caregiver to develop strategies to enhance resilience.

- **Babies on the Homefront: Caregiving While Caring for Your Young Child**
  Are you the caregiver of a Veteran and the parent of a young child? Join us as we hear from guest presenters from ZERO TO THREE. ZERO TO THREE will provide tools to support parents of babies and toddlers and will help you understand the importance of self-care. They will teach mindfulness skills which can be used to help you calm your emotions and skills to help calm your child’s emotions.
  - Tuesday April 7th at 9:00am CST
  - Wednesday April 15th at 6:00pm CST
  - Wednesday April 22nd at 2:00pm CST

- **Empowering Caregivers: Your Health Belongs to You**
  Who is looking out for the caregiver's health? Caregivers can neglect their own health needs when they focus on caring for another. Caregivers have a higher risk of health problems due to self-neglect and caregiver strain. This group will empower caregivers to turn their attention on themselves. You will learn skills that support your whole health and wellbeing.
  - Tuesday May 5th at 9:00am CST
  - Wednesday May 13th at 6:00pm CST
  - Wednesday May 20th at 2:00pm CST

**Mental Health Counseling for Caregivers**
Mental Health Counseling is provided by a licensed professional through telehealth or via phone. Counseling assists caregivers in coping with the stress of caring for a Veteran.

**Annie Self-Care Text Messages**
Annie is a text messaging service that helps to promote self-care for Caregivers. Annie will send you a text messages 3 times a week to provide education, motivation, and stress management techniques.

**Caregiver Support Line**: 1-855-260-3274
The Caregiver Support Line is answered by caring, licensed professionals that are available to support you with resources, tools, answers, and a listening ear. The Support Line is answered 24/7.
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

5/6 National PVA COVID-19 webinar on Zoom—1:00 (See Facebook for details)
5/8-10 Music Therapy of the Rockies—Postponed
5/10 Happy Mother’s Day
5/12 Re-Walk Webinar 1:00pm (SEE PAGE 20)
5/21 Quarterly SCI/D Meeting on Zoom—10:00 am
5/21 BOD/Membership Meeting on Zoom—1:00 pm
5/21 Caregiver Support Meeting on Zoom—3:00 pm
5/25 Memorial Day—Office Closed
5/26-29 PVA National Convention on Zoom

6/12-14 National PVA Pistol and Trapshoot Event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa—Cancelled
6/13 Midwest PVA Fish Fry Fundraiser in Tipton, Iowa
6/25 Caregiver Support Meeting on Zoom—11:00 am
6/25 BOD/Membership Meeting on Zoom—1:00 pm

7/3-7/8 National Veterans Wheelchair Games—Cancelled
7/3 Office Closed for holiday
7/4 Happy 4th of July
7/23 Caregiver Support Meeting on Zoom—11:00 am
7/23 BOD/Membership Meeting on Zoom—1:00 pm
8/23-8/29 Midwest PVA Fishing Event in Ely, MN
The Mission Statement of Paralyzed Veterans of America

*The Paralyzed Veterans of America*, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members—veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for:

- Quality health care for our members,
- Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction,
- Benefits available as a result of our members’ military service,
- Civil rights and opportunities which maximize the independence of our members.

To enable PVA to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for PVA to achieve its mission.
ATTENTION

Please check out our webpage! [www.iowapva.org] Many items of interest will be posted frequently. This will bring you news about the chapter between newsletters. It is a work in progress, but you will find it very interesting and informative. You can also check us out on Facebook!

Please provide us with your email address. We would like to provide you your newsletter and other information electronically. This will make it easier for you and less expensive for us.
Rollx Vans is the only van manufacturer that delivers minivans and full-sized vans directly to your doorstep. Our mission is to listen to you to serve your needs and give you the freedom and mobility that you deserve.

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• At-Home Delivery
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• Customized Just for You

We take great pride in serving those who served our country.

It’s why we work with the Veterans Administration to make the process as simple as possible for you. This includes bringing the vehicle to the VA for inspection, taking care of all VA paperwork, and delivering the vehicle to your home once it’s ready.

Veterans get $1,000 off the purchase of your first Rollx van today!

Call 800-956-6668 or visit us at rollxvans.com.
MANY THANKS to the people and/or organizations who have donated directly to IPVA
March 1, 2020 — April 30, 2020

Alberts, Dan (monthly)
Baldwin, Gretchen
Ballard, Oscar
Burghorn, John and Amelia
Carlson, Daniel
Delany, James (monthly)
Essick LaRose, Debbie
Gould, Kim
Graves, Steven
Hartford Sportsmen Club of Hartford Iowa (monthly)
Hy-Vee Giving Tag Program (Urbandale)
Iowa One Gift Donation (monthly)
Leary, Timothy & Laura (monthly)
Logan, Jerry & Sharon
Morrison, Heidi (monthly)
O’Brien, Carol (monthly)
Personal Training (monthly)
Simons, Tish (monthly)
Swietlik, Steven and Sandra

**Please see additional donations made towards Robert “Bob” Barnard’s Memorial Fund on page 19**

THANK YOU—THANK YOU
To the people and/or organizations who have donated directly to the Midwest PVA Fishing Event from March 1, 2020—April 30, 2020

All Hands on Deck
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort LLC

THANK YOU to our Yearly Advertisers!!
ReWalk (Page 9)
Rolix (Page 14)
Siebert Mobility (Page 17)
## BILL POSITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill#</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VETERANS LEGISLATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 3504/S. 2022</td>
<td>Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019/Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019</td>
<td>Prioritizes specially adaptive housing claims for veterans with terminal illnesses such as ALS and improves the benefit by increasing the amount of the grant and the number of uses.</td>
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<td>H.R. 5761</td>
<td>AUTO (Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities) for Veterans Act</td>
<td>Authorizes additional VA Automobile Grants to eligible veterans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 955/S. 319</td>
<td>Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2019</td>
<td>Makes IVF a permanent VA medical service and allows the use of donated genetic material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 2216</td>
<td>TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act</td>
<td>Establishes a process to ensure intake, downgrade, or discharge actions by VA as part of the comprehensive family caregiver program are conducted in a fair and impartial manner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4451</td>
<td>S.O.S. Veterans Caregivers Act</td>
<td>Expands eligibility for VA's comprehensive family caregiver program to veterans with service-connected, catastrophic illnesses (e.g., ALS).</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 5701</td>
<td>Care for the Veteran Caregiver Act</td>
<td>Makes needed improvements to VA’s comprehensive family caregiver program to eliminate unnecessary evaluations, extend stipend payments to caregivers for a transition period following the veteran's death, and standardize the eligibility process.</td>
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<td><strong>DISABILITY LEGISLATION</strong></td>
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<td>H.R. 1549/S. 669</td>
<td>Air Carrier Access Amendments Act</td>
<td>Improves access to air travel for people with disabilities.</td>
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<td>H.R. 3992/S. 255</td>
<td>Disability Employment Incentive Act</td>
<td>Expands tax credits and deductions for businesses to hire and retain employees with disabilities and make their businesses more accessible, including websites.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4045/S. 2290</td>
<td>Disabled Access Credit Expansion Act</td>
<td>Increases tax incentives that help businesses with ADA compliance and funding for the U.S. Department of Justice's ADA mediation program.</td>
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<td>H.R. 5412</td>
<td>Travel and Tourism for All Act</td>
<td>Directs the National Council on Disability to conduct a review of the implementation of the ADA in the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4099</td>
<td>ACCESS Act</td>
<td>Requires notification of ADA violations prior to seeking legal action; thus, removing the incentive for businesses to proactively comply with the law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 860</td>
<td>Social Security 2100 Act</td>
<td>Ensures Social Security beneficiaries will not see cuts in their benefits and makes other important improvements.</td>
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Con’t from page 3. 2020 Advocacy Legislation Seminar. Bill Positions supported and not supported by PVA.
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Email rods@iowamobility.com
In March, Scott Miller—IPVA's Sport's Director and his fiancé Melanee visited and spoke at Southeast Polk Junior High for Diversity Day. Below is a portion of an email received. The email also contained a document titled “Student Reflections”. The document was three pages of students comments about this experience and what they learned from Scott. Only SOME of the comments are stated below.

**************************************************************************************************************

Dear Scott and Melanee,

Thank you for visiting our school and talking with almost 270 eighth grade students! We are honored to continue our partnership with Iowa PVA for over a decade.

Scott, our junior high students held onto every word. They were engaged. You inspired all of us with your honesty, resiliency, problem-solving skills, advocacy, and adventurous spirit.....

We greatly appreciate your time and generosity. This was a very positive and memorable experience.

We hope you are both doing well during this unprecedented time. Take care.

Sincerely,

Leslie DeBrower
Amanda Ragan
Bre Schroder

8th grade teachers
Southeast Polk Junior High

**I would like them to know about all the sports he plays like baseball. The takeaway form this should be to never give up and keep persevering. He said that he is also flying an airplane.

**When he was talking about building controls for his car he said he kept failing but eventually he got it. He succeeded through trial and error.

**A good “take away” would be that you never give up. There was a quote by MLKJ, “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.” That is what I thought of when Scott spoke.

**He’s pursuing his dreams by wanting to become a pilot. He served our country and is a military veteran. He was a great speaker and made a big impact on me by wanting to do things and wanting to experience new things. He likes to challenge himself.

**He talked about how he kept positive after he was paralyzed and made life easier and more accessible by making his own car clutch. I would like someone to know that he still accomplished his goals and went to the wheelchair Olympics.

**He was nice and it was pretty cool of him to let some kids use his old wheelchairs to play basketball. That he is a very nice guy and he doesn’t feel sorry for himself and he said, “our questions can’t offend him.” That was pretty cool as well.

**I think anyone who didn’t hear Scott speak should know that being in a wheelchair doesn’t stop him from being who he is and doing what he loves.
Bob Barnard was drafted into the U.S. Army during his senior year in college and entered the service in February 1968. He completed Basic Training at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, followed by on-the-job training at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. In November 1968, Bob was deployed to Vietnam and assigned to the Surgeon General’s Office at U.S. Army Headquarters at Long Binh as an administrative assistant. After attaining the rank of E-5 Specialist, Bob supervised a group of 20 men in his barracks and was in charge of a reactionary force on base. Bob was discharged from the Army in October 1969 and returned to complete his college education at the University of Iowa. Unlike many of Bob’s friends and acquaintances, he was spared from infantry combat during his tour of duty in Vietnam. However, he became one of the large and growing number of Vietnam veterans whose exposure to Agent Orange contributed to debilitating illnesses diagnosed decades after their service. Bob’s cancer diagnosed in 2014, resulted in spinal cord injury and paralysis in his legs. Bob was thankful to the VA Health System for their skills and unending care and compassion. Bob was proud to serve with his fellow spinal cord injury veterans as a Board Member of the Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America.
IPVA was recently contacted by Zachary Waugh, a Physical Therapist, with ReWalk Robotics. (See information regarding ReWalk Exoskeleton on Page 9)

Zachary has scheduled a webinar on May 12th at 1:00 pm for anyone who wants to learn more!! The webinar will discuss the eligibility requirements to utilize and acquire these devices. (There are stringent requirements both physically and categorically)

Access to exoskeleton devices is an example of a benefit available to some paralyzed veterans and is important for all to be aware of what services you may be eligible. For veterans or family members looking for assistance with learning about or applying for VA benefits contact your National Service Office.

There is a link for the webinar on our Facebook page. Or, feel free to contact us and we can forward the information directly to an email.

Please register and join us! It will be held on Zoom.

https://youtu.be/gGTYXxc7aVA will take you to a hot off the press video ReWalker and Paralyzed US Veteran Gene L. This video discusses his experience with the ReWalk Exoskeleton.

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 515-277-4782 or 1-888-909-4782