This year marks the 75th anniversary of Paralyzed Veterans of America. Since 1946, PVA has been a leading advocate for quality health care, spinal cord research and education, veterans benefits, and civil rights for veterans and all people with disabilities.

The above shows the new Iowa Chapter PVA logo which will be used over the next year to celebrate this achievement. See Kenny Lloyd’s article on page 3 to learn more.
A Message From The President
Jon R. Schneider

Happy 2021 to everyone! Thought many of you would be interested in a recent U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs News Release.

Enjoy!
JRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb 5, 2021

VA advances medical research for minority Veterans
with new genomic tool

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched a new genomic research
tool designed to help VA researchers learn more about how conditions such as cancer, diabetes and
heart disease affect Veterans from minority backgrounds.

Debuting in January, the laboratory tool, known as the Ethnic Focused genotyping array or DNA
chip, will test more than 750,000 genetic variants, including over 300,000 that are more common
in minority populations.

The tool was custom-built for VA’s Million Veterans Program (MVP) which studies how genes
affect health.

“This is potentially a game changer in medical research for Black and Hispanic Veterans and other
members of minority ethnic and racial groups,” said Acting VA Under Secretary for Health
Richard A Stone, M.D. “Thanks to MVP, VA is leading the way in health research that will benefit
communities that have traditionally been underserved by the health care system and
underrepresented in medical research.”

A genotyping chip is a piece of glass about the size of a postage stamp containing hundreds of
thousands of tiny bits of synthetic DNA. The DNA probes allow researchers to identify genetic
variants in the DNA of research volunteers.

The probes also associate certain health traits—like increased risk for a disease or unfavorable
reactions to a drug with specific genetic patterns. This can lead to new treatment approaches for
patients with those gene profiles.

With more than 830,000 Veteran volunteers currently enrolled, MVP is one of the largest health
and genetic databases in the world and has generated dozens of influential scientific publications.

Currently, over 30 ongoing studies based on MVP data are examining conditions ranging from
heart disease and diabetes to post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia and suicide risk. In
recent months, researchers have begun using MVP data to study the impacts of COVID-19 on
Veterans.

MVP is also one of the world’s most diverse genomic databases, with about a quarter of enrollees
belonging to minority groups. MVP has been successful in engaging Veterans from minority
communities in part thanks to VA’s Center for Minority Veterans. The two plan to collaborate this
year and beyond, to further boost the involvement of Black, Hispanic and other minority Veterans
in the landmark genomic research program.
From the Desk of the National Director

Kenny Lloyd

PVA Midwinter Board Meeting

Our National PVA Board meeting has usually been a teleconference with one topic which lasted for about a half hour. Now that we can meet by Zoom and have a more controlled meeting, we can focus on more topics. We had three especially important business dealings to discuss this year and we went over each topic a day at a time over Zoom.

Our first day we went over DRTV which is direct response advertising. We heard information from our Director of Communications, Liz Deakin, about the benefits of advertising on TV and the length of time it takes for the organization to start making money. I know some of you may have seen some commercials of PVA but those are PSA’s (Public Service Announcements). The difference between the two (PSA’s vs DRTV’s) is that we had no control when the PSA’s would air. With DRTV we do have control and can choose specific times. Also, PSA’s did not cost us but using DRTV will. After much debate, the Board of Directors voted to approve using DRTV.

The second day we discussed the sale of our National PVA building in Washington DC. I have been to our National office several times and it is in a good location but the building is deteriorating. Before the pandemic, there were two floors not being used. Since the pandemic, most of the staff have been working from home causing even more free space. We heard information from a broker company as to our pros and cons of selling and/or keeping the building. After much debate, the Board decided to sell the building. The broker told us that it would probably take up to eighteen months before the building would be sold. As of right now, the Board is thinking we will have a small office in the Washington DC area and the rest of the offices will probably be located in Virginia.

The third day we went over our logo. I realize many of you are thinking, “didn't we just change our logo a few years ago.” And, you would be correct. Our Communications Director, Liz, sent out a survey all over the country asking questions of our current logo and the new one being proposed. The survey was sent out to different age groups. Most of the people favored the new proposed logo over the current one. Survey results showed our current logo looked too similar to the DAV, the Wounded Warriors or with the VA. The Board approved the new logo hoping it will not confuse the public and will help our organization stand out. Since this is PVA’s 75th year anniversary, we have rolled out a new logo celebrating these 75 years. (See below and front page of this newsletter.) This logo will be used this year but starting next year you will probably see the new logo.
From the Desk of Kim Gould

COVID 19 VACCINES FOR CAREGIVERS/CONGRESSWOMAN CINDY AXNE

On January 12, 2021, Kenny Lloyd and I had the privilege of sitting in on a VERY small town hall meeting with Congresswoman Cindy Axne. The topic was COVID-19 and she wanted to hear from us on what she could do to help our membership and the veterans of the state of Iowa. Kenny Lloyd immediately brought up our concerns regarding the provision of the vaccine to not only our SCI/D veterans but the need to provide this vaccine to our family caregivers. Congresswoman Axne was very interested in this and whether it was coincidence or not, WITHIN 2 DAYS, we received notice that those caregivers that had qualified and were accepted into the Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program, would be receiving their vaccines.

Unfortunately, this did not assist the vast majority of family caregivers. In follow-up, we contacted Congresswoman Axne’s office. This contact in part stated, “Please convey our gratitude to Congresswoman Axne for her assistance with the caregivers receiving the COVID-19 vaccinations. We are very appreciative. I am writing to ask that Congresswoman Axne take it one step further. The COVID-19 vaccines are being made available to only caregivers who have been accepted into the Comprehensive Caregiver Program. This program requires application submission/acceptance to caregivers of veterans who are rated with a minimum of 70% service connected disability. This requirement leaves MANY caregivers out of the COVID-19 vaccination accessibility. MANY if not MOST of our nations veterans who are catastrophically disabled and rely on family caregivers do not fit into the 70% service connection category. Incapacitation of these family caregivers of non-service connected veterans by COVID-19 would require nursing care for these catastrophically disabled veterans (whether it be in-home or at a facility). This would not only be physically and emotionally detrimental to these veterans and their families, but it would far exceed the financial cost of simply providing the vaccine to these caregivers. In short, the vaccine needs to be offered to ALL family caregivers of disabled veterans regardless of the veteran’s percentage rating and regardless if the veterans disability is service connected or not.

Congresswoman Axne heard our concerns and did not let us down. Below is a portion of the letter she and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (NE) wrote to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough.

Dear Secretary McDonough:

We are requesting you provide a path forward for caregivers of disabled veterans to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of the veteran’s service-connected disability rating. Caregivers to our veterans likely pose the highest risk of being a COVID-19 carrier that could expose veterans to this pandemic. Unfortunately, vaccines for caregivers of veterans is limited in scope.

We are grateful for the efforts that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has already taken in combating the spread of COVID-19, including the VA January 15th, 2021 decision to provide vaccines to caregivers of veterans in the Comprehensive Caregiver Program. Caregivers play a critical role in caring for some of our most vulnerable veterans. However, the current policy limits vaccine distribution to only the caregivers who care for a veteran with a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of 70% or higher.

Currently, the Comprehensive Caregiver Program is open to those providing long-term care to a veteran with a 70% or higher service-connected disability rating. In 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released a report that found that 4.7 million veterans, or 25% of the veteran population, had a service-connected disability, and, surveys show over half of these veterans require some amount of help from a caregiver regardless of their service-connected disability. Fewer than 40,000 caregivers are enrolled in the Comprehensive Caregiver Program, meaning the majority of veterans caregivers are not eligible to receive a vaccine through this program.

With COVID-19 continuing to spread rapidly across the country, many veterans remain at high risk of infection. While these veterans will likely qualify for early vaccination at the VA, their caregivers will not. This is why we are requesting the VA expand vaccine distribution to all family caregivers of disabled veterans - regardless of the veteran’s services connected disability.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

Regardless of anyone’s political stance, this politician has been in our corner on MANY occasions and we are grateful!
MANY THANKS to the people and/or organizations who have donated directly to IPVA from......December 21, 2020—February 24, 2021

Alberts, Dan and Becky (monthly)  
Affinity Credit Union  
Baldwin, Gretchen  
Bettis, Russell  
Beyer, Paul  
Caliger, Wes  
Cover, Kelly  
Crowl, Kathryn  
DeCarlo, Edward  
DeLany, James (monthly)  
Estate of James Michael Mayer  
Frideres, Duane and Beverly (monthly)  
Gould, Kimberly  
Graves, Steve & Lynn  
Hartford Sportsmen Club of Hartford Iowa (monthly)  
Harvey, Keith & Becky  
Iowa One Gift Donation (monthly)  
Kolnes, Elmer (Elmer Kolnes Revocable Trust)  
Leary, Timothy & Laura (monthly)  
Mayne, Kai  
McAtee, Duane (In Memory of Anna McAtee)  
Morrison, Heidi (monthly)  
Mulford, Jenna May  
O’Brien, Carol (monthly)  
PDM (Des Moines, Iowa)  
Pella Rolscreen Foundation  
Personal Training (monthly)  
Pfizer (Matching Gift from Tentinger)  
Simons, Tish (monthly)  
Lori Strottman  
Tentinger, Julia  
Tish, Marilyn  
United Way of Central Iowa  
United Way of Central Ohio  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
Wilson, Thomas

THANK YOU to our Yearly Advertisers!!

Indego  (Page 9)
Rolix  (Page 14)
Siebert Mobility  (Page 8)
DID YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER THROUGH THE MAIL AND THERE IS NO COLOR?

Would you like to receive this newsletter in COLOR ???

Please contact us with your email address and we will email it directly to you….
plus you will be saving us postage!
515-277-4782 or iowapvagretchen1@yahoo.com

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.centrailowa.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
iowapva1@yahoo.com,
iowapvakim@yahoo.com,
or iowapvagretchen1@yahoo.com
VA Community Emergency Care Information for Veterans

In most instances, Veterans are eligible to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-authorized emergency care at an in-network facility if VA is notified of the emergent event within 72 hours. The VA medical center (VAMC) nearest to a Veteran’s emergent event can identify in-network emergency care providers.

Veterans do not need to check with VA before going to an emergency department in the community or calling an ambulance. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay.

To simplify and streamline the emergency care notification process, VA established a national emergency care contact center.

The Emergency Care Centralized Notification Center allows community providers to report instances of a Veteran presenting to a community emergency department. It offers simplified access to VA for care coordination, eligibility determination, and payment authorization information. Centralized notification standardizes communication, documentation, and collaboration between VA and community providers.

### General Information

VA should be notified within 72 hours of the start of an emergent event, via phone or encrypted email, that a Veteran has sought emergency care at an in-network facility. This notification ensures VA can authorize the care. This step also assists VA in coordinating the Veteran’s transfer to a VAMC and additional care, and ensures that the requirements for VA to pay for the care are met. Care coordination and patient transfer activity should be conducted directly between the local VA medical center and the community emergency department. Local VAMC staff are responsible for care coordination and transfer activity when notified of a Veteran receiving treatment at a community emergency department.

During the notification process for each emergent episode of care, treating community providers will receive authorization decision information and, if applicable, directions on how to submit claims. Failure to notify VA of care rendered through an in-network community facility prevents VA from authorizing the emergency treatment and prevents claims and payments from being made through one of VA’s third-party administrators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veteran Information</th>
<th>Treating Facility Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>National Provider Identifier (NPI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security Number</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Point of Contact (POC) Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Presenting to Facility</td>
<td>POC Phone#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Discharge</td>
<td>POC Email Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted? (YES/NO)</td>
<td>Note: POC will receive VA authorization decision info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Complaint/Admission DX and/or Discharge DX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notification Requirements

The person notifying VA should be prepared to supply case-specific information, as soon below.

This information is explained in VA Form 10-10143g, Non-VA Hospital Emergency Notification, available online at [https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_fill.pdf](https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_fill.pdf).

Case-specific details are necessary for care coordination and eligibility determination. If the person notifying VA is unable to supply all necessary information, VA will contact the appropriate parties to collect the information.

Providers should use one of the following centralized options to notify VA with details about Veterans receiving emergent care in the community:

1. Email: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov
2. Phone: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)

Providers should encrypt all emails to VA containing patient information. If a provider is unable to utilize email encryption requirements, they should notify VA by calling 844-72HRVHA.

If notification is made to a local VA medical facility the notification will be referred to the Emergency Care Centralized Notification Center for action.

For information about care coordination, documentation submission, eligibility, claims and payment go to: [https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info_EmergencyCare.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info_EmergencyCare.asp)
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Email rods@iowamobility.com

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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.

Free Indego Webinars
During the first Thursday of every month you can join a free live webinar to learn more about the Indego and hear from a veteran who owns a device already.

Contact us today to reserve your spot or find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton at no cost.

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

Watch Marine Veteran Steve Holbert’s story at www.indego.com/veterans
A Message from the PVA Sports Team:

After careful consideration, due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, our sports and recreation team, following the guidance of our Executive committee, has decided to cancel the remaining sports and recreation events from FY 2020. This will cover events that were scheduled to take place through December 31st. We are saddened to cancel these events, but the safety and health of our members and all participants are our first priority.

We encourage you to check out our Virtual Events (https://www.pva.org/adaptive-sports/special-events/) page for a variety of current activities you can participate in from the comfort of your home.

(Check out website to watch sample classes of Air Rifle Instruction, Adaptive Yoga, Boccia, Nutrition Classes, Wheelchair Dance and Adaptive Fitness and MORE!)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard A Tracy</td>
<td>George P Barber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Beth Mayne</td>
<td>Dennis H Beal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garry S Barry</td>
<td>James T Knudsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon R Schneider</td>
<td>Bryce W Cherryholmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith E Harvey</td>
<td>Clifford L Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter L Coffelt</td>
<td>Becky S Elliott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oscar J Ballard</td>
<td>William T Purcell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole M Beckford</td>
<td>Daniel D Scholtes</td>
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<td>Jerry D Nash</td>
<td>Lawrence D Francek</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ann M Dehli</td>
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<td>Terry M Lipovac</td>
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<td>Vincil E DeLay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nancy E Collins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John W Jones</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/1 - 5</td>
<td>Advocacy Legislative Seminar (Virtual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC—6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Daylight Savings Time Starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Happy St Patrick’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Caregiver Support Meeting on Zoom—11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>BOD/Membership meeting on Zoom—1:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Easter</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC—6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Caregiver Support Meeting on Zoom—11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>BOD/Membership meeting on Zoom—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1—2</td>
<td>Turkey Hunt (See Page 15 for details)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC—6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/17 –21</td>
<td>PVA National Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/27</td>
<td>Caregiver Support Meeting on Zoom—11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/27</td>
<td>BOD/Membership meeting on Zoom—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/31</td>
<td>Memorial Day—Office Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/11 - 13</td>
<td>National PVA Pistol and Trapshoot Event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/8 - 13</td>
<td>National Veterans Wheelchair Games (See Page 16 for details)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/22 - 28</td>
<td>Midwest PVA Fishing Event in Ely, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

BACK TALK

NOTICE REGARDING DONATIONS MADE DIRECTLY TO THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – IOWA CHAPTER

- 85% OF EVERY DONATION MADE DIRECTLY TO THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – IOWA CHAPTER GOES DIRECTLY TO THE EIGHT DESIGNATED PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA - IOWA CHAPTER.

- THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA - IOWA CHAPTER RELIES SOLELY ON DONATIONS AND GRANTS AND RECEIVES NO GOVERNMENTAL FUNDING. ADDITIONALLY, THE IOWA CHAPTER DOES NOT UTILIZE TELEMARKETING OR DIRECT MAIL SOLICITATION OF DONATED FUNDS.

- ALL DONATIONS MADE DIRECTLY TO THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA - IOWA CHAPTER SUPPORTS LOCAL VETERANS AND IOWA CHAPTER MEMBERS.

- YOUR DONATIONS SUPPORT BOTH SERVICE CONNECTED AND NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS.


IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT KIMBERLY GOULD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT 515-277-4782 ANY TIME DAY OR NIGHT.
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.
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We take great pride in serving those who served our country.

Veterans get up to $3000 off the purchase of your Rollx Van!
Call 800-956-6668 or visit us at rollxvans.com
Are you a Veteran and in need of a generator? We have been contacted by a friend of IPVA who would like to donate his. FREE but needs to be picked up from their residence. It is currently not working….owner believes it needs a tune up.
- 5000 rated watts with 8500 surge watts.
- Measurement is 29” in length.
- 24” outside of wheels
- 25.5 height not including handle which is another 14.5”
Contact the IPVA at 515-277-4782 for info.

2021 IPVA Turkey Hunt

The IPVA Turkey Hunt will be held May 1st and 2nd in the Hardin County area. Lunches will be provided as well as coffee and donuts to start the day.

**There will be a volunteer for each hunter.

**Action Track chairs on site for use by wheelchair hunters!**

If you are interested in participating in the MayTurkey Hunt, please contact Kenny Lloyd at 515-570-1402.

Deadline for signup is Saturday, April 17th!

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.

Welcome!

Our New Iowa PVA Members are...

Ricky J Spack
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