



Save the Date

**2026 Midwest PVA
Fishing Event
August 9-15**

**Iowa State Fair Parade
August 17th**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- A Message From Our President..... Pg. 3-4
- Upcoming Events..... Pg. 7,10
- National Convention..... Pg. 9
- Donors/Supporters..... Pg.12,16,20
- Caregiver Support..... Pg. 11
- Advocacy Pg. 13
- Birthdays..... Pg. 14

★ ★ ★

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Keith Harvey

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Bethany Gridley

OFFICE MANAGER

Loree Herman

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PLEASE remember to notify your local NSO of
ANY changes to your phone number, address,
or your dependents. It is VERY important for
your NSO to be able to reach you!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

SCOTT MILLER

scott@iowapva.org

It's been a very busy few months for the Iowa PVA chapter and I can't thank our new staff enough for all of their hard work. Our executive director Bethany Gridley and office manager Loree Herman have taken on a lot in just a few months of being with us, and have really put the work in to learn IPVA. There are so many moving parts to running a successful chapter and having successful events that really bring our members together and do the most that we can for them. We appreciate all of the hard work and am looking forward to a fun filled rest of the summer! With the national veteran wheelchair games coming up very soon, and our annual Midwest PVA fishing trip up to Minnesota quickly approaching, we are keeping the pedal to the floor and trying to make the best of each opportunity to get together and keep spreading the PVA word. Participation in all of our events has increased over the last few years and we want to continue to build off of that and bring as many of our members as possible out of their routines and back out with their IPVA comrades. Thanks to all the board members, staff, and volunteers that make our chapter happen!

AMERICA 250 IA

Iowa State Fair

August 13 - 23, 2026

Iowa PVA invites you to attend the Iowa State Fair on US!!!

We are offering **FOUR FREE tickets** per family for our Family Time August Event!

We do ask that you please participate in the **Veterans Day Parade** on **August 17**.
FREE parking passes will be issued prior to the parade.

By being in the parade, you will have free admission for that day AND you can use your four FREE tickets another time! Those who participate in the parade will be the only ones eligible for any extra unclaimed tickets.

All ticket orders must be received by Thursday, July 31. For those participating in the parade, you may call the office and order any remaining tickets after August 7th.
We will give you those extra tickets when you arrive to be in the parade.

Tickets will be mailed along with details once received in our office.

Please call 515-277-4782 or email info@iowapva.org to let us know if you'll be participating in the parade by July 31!



IVH Spring Pool Tournament 31 May 2026



1st Place: Jim O'Brien

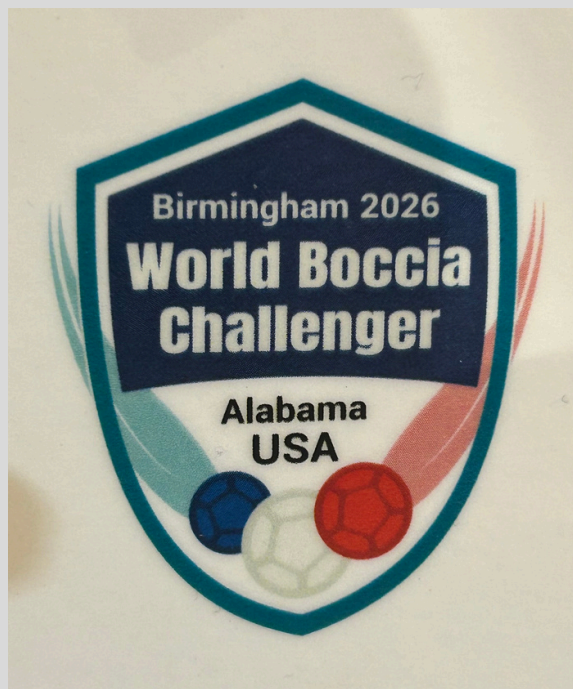


2nd Place: David Thiele



3rd Place: Justin Wolfe





The Iowa Chapters Sports Director just returned from the Lakeshore Paralympic training facility in Birmingham Alabama.

There were 10 countries including the United States that competed in the World Boccia Challenger. Teams competed in Singles, Pairs and Teams. This was the first time in 10 years that the United States hosted an International Boccia Tournament.

David (left front row) Refereed 3 matches and lined for 11 more over the 5 day event. David will also Officiate at the NVWG in Detroit and Referee Boccia Nationals in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

New IPVA Members

Troy Lockhart

Justen Cooper

Roger Denly

UPCOMING EVENTS



Scan this QR code to
see our upcoming
sporting events.



July



7/3 Office Closed
7/4 Happy Independence Day
7/9 Bingo at DSM VA
7/9-7/14 National Veterans Wheelchair Games (Detroit)
7/18 Al's Bri Garwin, IA
7/23 BOD/Member & Caregiver Mtg 11am @IPVA



August

8/9-8/15 Midwest PVA Fishing Event
8/13 Bingo @ DSM VA
8/17 Iowa State Fair Parade
8/27 BOD/Member & Caregiver Mtg 11am @IPVA

STYX Concert at Waterworks Ampitheater



STYX invited us to join them this year at their concert at the Waterworks Park Ampitheater in Des Moines. The rock band held a raffle for a guitar autographed by their members. A percentage of the proceeds went to PVA Iowa Chapter.



Dennis Dissinger won the autographed guitar



Gerald Santos, Advocacy Director for the Iowa PVA, volunteered at the VA2K Walk and Roll in Iowa City on May 20. The VA2K Walk and Roll is a nationwide U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative held each May to promote healthy, active lifestyles while supporting Veterans experiencing homelessness.



Iowa PVA National Director, Scott Miller (with Melanee Sickels) and Executive Director, Bethany Gridley attended a long but incredibly rewarding week in Las Vegas for Paralyzed Veterans of America Annual Convention. We celebrated PVA's 80th Anniversary and looked ahead to an exciting and busy year to come.

Some of the highlights included National President Robert L. Thomas discussed PVA's remarkable legacy from its founding advocacy efforts on Capital Hill to today's far-reaching achievements encompassing our mission to advocate for quality healthcare, research and education, benefits and civil rights that maximize the independence of our members. Iowa was one of 31 Chapters present and given the ability to join program leaders from other states as national professional staff of PVA present reports on the operational and financial status of the organization, introduce new programs to serve veterans, and take guidance and questions from the national directors who attend the meetings.

Our National Director Scott Miller also had the pleasure of presenting national PVA's research fund, education fund, and clinical practice guidelines with a 2,000 dollar check for each fund from the Iowa chapter towards their mission.

Sharing the accomplishments and future of PVA was truly captured in the "Power of PVA" theme and its ongoing momentum. We are grateful for the partnerships, progress, and people that continue to move our mission forward.



ALS BRI

9th Annual JULY 18TH 1:00

CRAWL FOR THE VETS

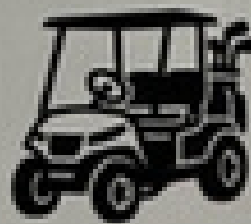
ALL PROCEEDS TO



Iowa Chapter

3.5 mile crawl, hydration and games

After party at Garwin bull food, Auction, live band



\$10 per person

follow on Facebook

641 750 3330

CAREGIVER SUPPORT MEETINGS EVERY MONTH!!!

Mia Countryman is a wellness coach, certified ThetaHealing practitioner, and Reiki Master who helps her clients create real, lasting change by working at the belief level. With a background in horticulture, she views personal growth like tending a garden—focusing on the unique 'soil' and conditions each individual needs to thrive. Mia joined us this April to honor National Stress Awareness Month; she has graciously volunteered to provide tailored information and hands-on demonstrations for each of our caregivers, ensuring those who care for others are also cared for themselves.

Reiki is a Japanese energy healing technique used to reduce stress and promote relaxation. By gently placing their hands on or near the body, a practitioner helps balance "life force energy" to support the body's natural healing process. This non-invasive, holistic practice is commonly used to improve mental clarity, emotional well-being, and physical comfort.



Caregiver Support Group: How Music Holds Us Up

On June 18, the Iowa PVA Caregiver Support Group met for an hour of connection, facilitated by Carrie England. Five caregivers—Christy, Mel, Jody, Becky, and Karen—attended the group.

We spent time exploring our personal soundtracks and talking about the role music plays in our daily lives. We also loved looking back at past concerts and sharing stories about the special moments we've shared music with others.

We talked about how you can use music to give your nervous system a much-needed rest throughout the day. Taking just a few minutes to feed your soul with a song isn't selfish—it's vital self-care.

We ended our time with a music-themed door prize. Jody won a harmonica, but since she already has one at home, she generously passed the prize along to Christy!



***We couldn't do what we do without the generosity
and support of all those who choose to give.***

**Thanks
for your
Support**

Alberts, Dan & Becky
Ambrose, Lynda
American Legion Auxiliary Dept of Iowa
Anonymous Donors
Anonymous - Employees of NextEra
Anonymous - Employees of Raytheon Technologies
Anonymous - Employees of RTX
Anonymous - Employees at T-Mobile
Anonymous - Employees of Voya Financial
Bailey, Carol
Ballard, Oscar
Barnard, Penny
Beyer, Paul
Brandt, Bailey
Brown, Tamra
Bunnell, George and Deb
Carlson, Dan
Cedar Rapids VFW
Chick-fil-A - West Des Moines
Crowl, Kathryn
DeLany, Jim
Frideres, Duane & Bev
Gaskill, Tena
Gollobit, Howard
Gould, Kim
Graves, Steven
Guzman, Luis
Hanke, Terra
Hartford Sportsmen Club of Hartford Iowa
Harvey, Jean
Hegna, William
Howell, Michael
Iowa One Gift
ITC Holdings Corp - Donation PAC Match
John Deere - Matching Gift
Juarez, Robert
Kearney, Gloria
Keefe, Dennis
Kruse, Bobbi
Kuehn, Michael & Danette
Leary, Tim and Laura
Miller, Scott
Morrison, Heidi
Neigum, Kevin

Nichols, Dan & Gina
Nuezil, Jerome
O'Brien, Carol
O'Brien, Jim
Pella Rollscreen Foundation - Employee Match
Pins, Donald
Raytheon Technologies - Matching Gift
Reamer, Charles
RTX - matching gift
Russo, Dianna & Jim
Ryan, John & Elaine
Salameh, Tracey
Santos, Gerald
Simons, Tish
Simonson, Donald & Terrill
Thankappan Pillai, Ajit
Thiele, David & Christy
Turner, Jim
Voya Financial - Matching Gift
Wiedemeier, Karen
Zajicek, Patricia

**Special Gifts
In Honor of Jerry Nail**

These gifts were received between April 2026 - June 2026



Gerald Santos , IPVA
Vice President &
Advocacy Director

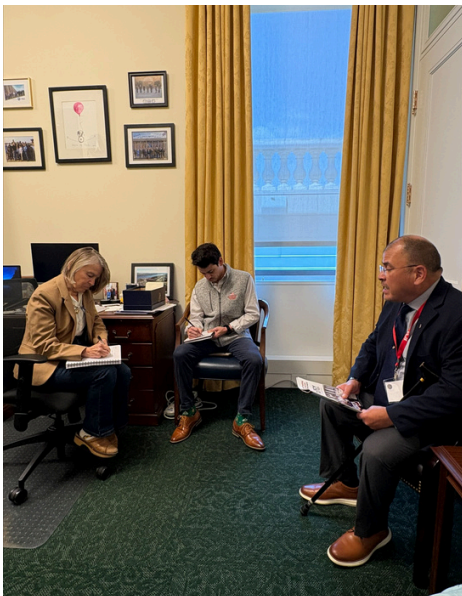
Gerald Santos, IPVA Vice President and Advocacy Director, was proud to represent Iowa at this year's annual PVA Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., held June 8–12. During the summit, Gerald met with all six members of Iowa's congressional delegation, or representatives from their offices, to share Iowa members' strong support for the VA system of care. He thanked our legislators for their continued support of veterans while also reminding them that there is still much more work to be done to support veterans living with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D).



With Legislative Assistant Lilly-
Max Cooke, for Ashley
Hinson's office



Representative Marianianette
Miller-Meeks



Speaking with Representative
Marianianette
Miller-Meeks and Senior
Legislative Assistant Blake
Dickerson



Gerald and wife Annie Santos
with Beau Solberg,
Legislative Assistant for Randy
Feenstra's office



Senator Joni Ernst

Happy Birthday to our IPVA Members

Daniel Alberts July 4
Dennis Keefe July 4
Marshall Dorman July 6
Jay Meek July 6
Randy Upton July 6
Dominic Vargas July 6
Frederick Hews July 8
David Graham July 10
Duane Frideres July 11
Loren Beasley July 18
Eve Iversen July 19
Steven Swietlik July 19
Clifford Taylor July 25
Stuart Juarez July 29
Linda Krause July 29

David Lasche August 3
William Gibbs August 6
Lonn Cunningham August 9
Katherine Hanner-Post August 9
Lynda Ambrose August 13
Bruce Hamilton August 14
Thomas Maule August 15
Lori Garetson August 16
Edward Hanson August 23
Bobbi Kruse August 28
Paul Adrian August 29
Jerome Fitzsimons August 30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The PVA Iowa Chapter donates prize money for bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC on the second Thursday of every month. This June, our Executive Director, Bethany Gridley, and member, Justin Wolfe, had the honor of volunteering to help with the evening's games. Bethany said she had such a great time, she can't wait until next month to go back!



**Plan Today.
Honor Forever.**

Many spouses of Veterans don't realize they may qualify for VA burial benefits. Eligible Veterans have earned no-cost burial benefits for themselves and their spouses at VA national cemeteries. Spouses are eligible for interment even if they pre-decease the Veteran or if the Veteran is interred in a non-VA cemetery.



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veterans.**

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FREE DELIVERY NATIONWIDE



Two Iowa veterans received new all-terrain electric wheelchairs June 26, 2026 through a partnership between ITC Midwest and the Paralyzed Veterans of America-Iowa Chapter, giving them greater mobility and access to outdoor recreation.

During a presentation at the Otter Creek Sportsman's Club in Cedar Rapids, ITC Midwest donated an Action Trackchair to Army veteran Marshall Dorman of Harcourt and a Zoom All-Terrain Wheelchair to Air Force veteran Justin Wolfe of Dawson.

The specialized recreational wheelchairs, each valued at about \$13,000, are designed to help people with mobility disabilities travel across rugged terrain and participate in outdoor activities that may otherwise be inaccessible.

The donations were funded through ITC Midwest's annual employee charity golf outing. Company employees have raised enough money through the event to provide at least one all-terrain wheelchair to an Iowa veteran each year for several years.

The recipients were selected by the Paralyzed Veterans of America-Iowa Chapter.

Our Mission Statement:

Paralyzed Veterans of America is 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 disease.

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

~Quality healthcare for our members,

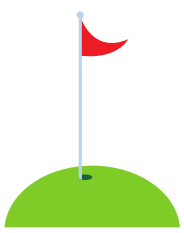
~Research and education in addressing spinal cord injury and disease

~Benefits available as a result of our members' military service

~Civil Rights and opportunities that maximize the independence of our members.

To enable Paralyzed Veterans 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 Paralyzed Veterans of America to achieve its mission.

As we move forward in advocacy together please do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts, comments, questions or concerns. Feel free to reach out to us at info@iowapva.org.



Swingin Fore Soldiers

Gowrie Municipal Golf Course

13 June 2026



2026 Pistol and Trapshoot Event



IOWA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
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URBANDALE, IA 50322
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