



Save the Date

Annual Dinner

October 11, 2026

Pheasant Hunt

November 8, 2026

IVH 9 Ball Pool Tournament

November 21, 2026

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★ ★ ★

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Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America Office

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Bethany Gridley

OFFICE MANAGER

Loree Herman

★ ★ ★

National Service Officers

Judy Keeling

515.323.7544

800.795.3602

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

Great time of year for Iowa PVA with all kinds of activities and events going on. We had great representation this year in Detroit at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games with our team bringing back many medals and great stories from their experiences. We can't wait for next year to be even bigger and better! Special thanks to the great coaches and all the caregivers that put in so much work year round to keep us healthy and prepare us for an exhausting but rewarding week of competition!

We also have had some great fundraising efforts going on in the local Iowa area as well. with ITC continuing to raise tons of funds for one or two of our lucky veterans to receive a life changing off road chair each year. We have BJL fundraising that continues to raise money to help veterans each year through their poker run and auctions. Then lastly, but surely not least, Alan Smith with Al's Bri raised a very significant amount of money for veterans as well with his great super fun event and auction out of Garwin, Iowa. We would not be able to help as many veterans as we do without the support of these great individuals and the organizations and teams that are behind them! We are so thankful!

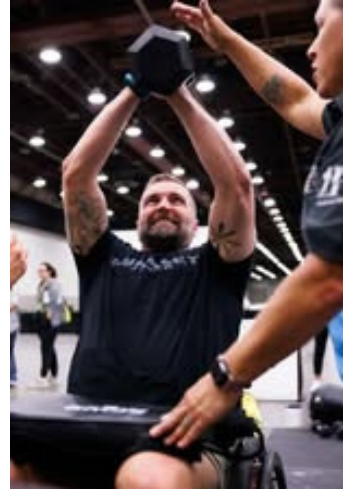
The Iowa State Fair Veterans Parade was a huge success this year with record breaking attendance and a very solid showing from our local members, families, and supporters of our Iowa PVA mission. I can't thank everyone that showed up enough! Sitting with the Iowa Commission of Veteran Affairs, I was lucky enough to see first hand all of our guys and gals at the top of the hill and get such a welcome reception! It was really moving and made me very proud of all the work our chapter does to positively affect the lives of as many SCI/D veterans as we can!

And for the hunters out there, we hope to have a great year again with even more opportunities for any member interested to get out, enjoy nature, and hunt some absolutely amazing Iowa habitat.

Whether it's our November 8th pheasant hunt, or multiple deer and turkey hunts, we will have options for everyone. If you're an experienced hunter or a first timer, we have the experts and equipment to hopefully give everyone a personalized hunt. We have a handful on the list so far, but I'd like to have many more and I know there are members out there that would really enjoy joining us! Please reach out to the office and let them know you're interested and want to be on the list, and someone will reach out and get more details about your physical and equipment needs and experience level. This will help us plan for the logistics and make sure the blinds, off road chairs, or anything else we might need are set up and ready before you arrive. I can't wait to get some new faces out there and show off some of the amazing property that we are blessed enough to be able to hunt thanks to our partnership with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation!

45th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Detroit, Michigan



The NVWGs have connected me with a community of veterans who understand my journey. Sharing ideas, encouraging on another, and celebrating what we're capable of reminds me that our greatest strength is the resilience we build together. - Justin Wolfe

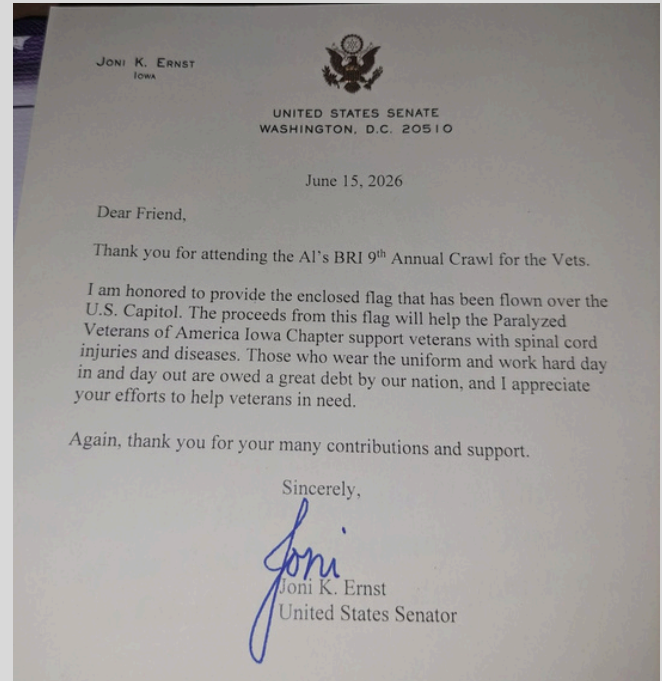


This is the first time I went to the NVWGs! I loved every minute of it. It was amazing and humbling to see all of the amazing veterans compete. Just to be around people who know and have been through what I am going through. I can't say enough about how the VA and the PVA have changed and improved my life in just a short period of time! I'm grateful for them and the Iowa Chapter for all they have done and are doing for me. My quality of life and mental health are better for it. - Marshall Dorman



9TH ANNUAL AL'S BRI

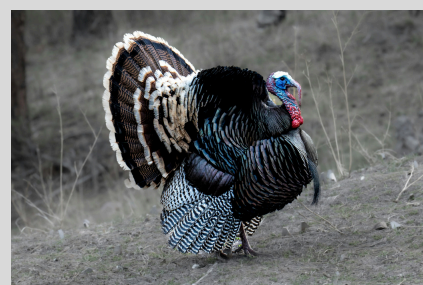
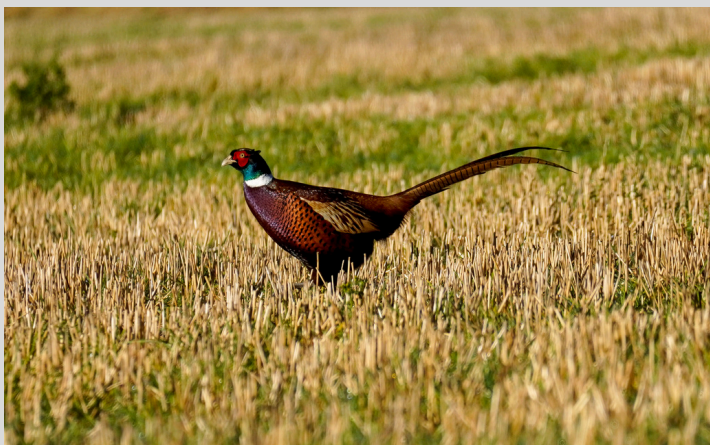
Garwin, Iowa



2026 HUNTING SEASON

Pheasant Hunt

November 8, 2026



Please contact the office at (515) 277-4782 or email at info@iowapva.org to express interest in other hunting opportunities (deer, turkey, squirrel, etc)



Caregiver Announcements

Important Update Impacting the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)

VA has published a final rule which extends the transition period of legacy participants, legacy applicants, and their Family Caregivers (the legacy cohort), through September 30, 2028.

This means legacy participants, legacy applicants, and their Family Caregivers will remain eligible for PCAFC and will not experience a decrease in the monthly stipend amount based on a reassessment for the duration of the transition period (certain exceptions apply).



The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP) offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. The program's mission is to promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our Nation's Veterans, through education, resources, support, and services.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Scan this QR code to
see our upcoming
sporting events.



September

- 9/7** Labor Day - Office Closed
- 9/10** Bingo at DSM VA
- 9/24** BOD/Member & Caregiver Mtg 11am @IPVA



October

- 10/3** IowaAbility Fair, 401 NE 66th Ave Des Moines
- 10/8** Bingo @ DSM VA
- 10/11** Annual Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn Urbandale
- 10/12** Columbus Day - Office Closed

PVA MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEER EFFORTS



Gerald Santos, a PVA volunteer with the Iowa City VA, recently helped support a collaborative effort to prepare apartments for homeless veterans in Iowa City. On July 24, he joined VA personnel and Houses into Homes, a local nonprofit, to get the units ready for future residents by assisting with light cleaning and other preparation work. Gerald enjoyed the opportunity to represent the PVA and contribute to a meaningful community initiative. The units were donated to the Iowa City VA by Johnson County, and there are plans to replicate the program in other counties across Iowa. The PVA is proud to support veterans in any way we can.



Hear Us Roar



On August 4th, LeRoy & Annie Cone, Dave & Bethany Gridley, Michael Newman, and Loree Herman attended "Hear Us Roar" at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines to raise PVA awareness. More than 1,000 Iowans came together at the zoo to celebrate Disability Pride, which highlighted individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Families had the chance to explore the zoo, and organizers said this is the largest Disability Pride celebration in the state.

Iowa PVA Members interested in
applying for a Track Chair 2027
Please contact: info@iowapva.org by
1 November



COE COLLEGE

Time:

1000 Registration (No pre-registration)
1100 Competition Begins

Prizes:

1st - 3rd: Meat Prizes TBD
Lewis Class: 2nd & 3rd Tier: Meat Prizes TBD

\$250 in meat prizes provided by Kennedy
High School Student Government

Shoot-Off for 1st Place only. Long run will
break all other ties.

Lunch:

Goodwill offering soup lunch will be
available
Lunch sponsored by Izaak Walton League of
Linn County and Coe Clay Target Team

Trapshoot Event

31 October 2026

Izaak Walton of Linn County
5401 42nd St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

Entry Fees:

\$20/person
Open to all ages
100% of entry fees go to Paralyzed
Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter

Program:

Round 1 - 16 yard trap targets
Round 2 - 22 yard trap targets



**COE
CLAY TARGET**

PRESENTED BY
Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Iowa Chapter



**9-BALL
POOL
★ TOURNAMENT ★**

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2026**

★ FROM 9AM - 3PM ★

PLEASE
SIGN UP
ON YOUR UNIT!

★ PRIZES FOR ★
1ST PLACE
2ND PLACE
3RD PLACE

★ IN THE MALLOY LRC ★

2026 Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair

July- Aug 2026



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

**thanks
for your
support**

Airey, Tammy
Aldrich, Lee Ann
Aldrich, Matt
Alberts, Dan & Becky
Ambrose, Lynda
Anonymous Donors
Anonymous - Employees of NextEra
Arroya, Esmerelda
Baldwin, Gretchen
Ballard, Oscar
Belanger, Katrina
Bowers, Diane
Broich, Karen
Bunnell, George and Deb
Cedar Rapids Eagles Club 2272
Cedar Rapids Tourism
Cedar Rapids VFW
Chick-fil-A - Merle Hay
Cory, Patrick & Stephanie
Crowl, Kathryn
DeLany, Jim
Eilders, James
Frideres, Duane & Bev
Garwin Bull LLC
Gould, Kim
Griffin, Jeff
Harvey, Keith & Rebecca
Howell, Michael
Hyvee
Iowa One Gift
Iron Gate Inc
ITC Holdings Corp - Donation PAC Match
Jacobsen, Ann
Juarez, Robert
Keefe, Dennis
Keefe O'Meara, Teresa
Kienzle, D.
Klouda, Deb
Konicek, Sherri
Kruse, Bobbi
Lasche, Chuck
Latham, Claudia
Leaders, Edward
Leary, Tim and Laura
Lindsey, Errol
Meyer, Daniel
McIntire, Bradley
Midwest Shooting Supply

Oscar Mike Apparel
Otter Creek Sportsman's Club
Nichols, Dan & Gina
Pritchard, Rod
Prull, Kelley
Raytheon Technologies - Matching Gift
Riverside Casino
RTX - matching gift
Ryan, John & Elaine
Santos, Gerald
Siebert Mobility
Sickels, Melanee
Simons, Tish
Smith, Jason
Thiele, David & Christy
Tomlinson, Kelly
Turner, Jim
Webster, Robert
Wolfe, Justin
Zajicek, Patricia

Special Gifts

Al's Bri
anonymous donation
BJL Fundraising
Britton's Cafe
Dreessen Farm Inc
Kienzle Farms
Landt, Jeffrey
Maxcare
Miller, Scott
Nekola, Wayne
Nuezil, Jerome
Smith, Alan

These gifts were received between June 2026 - Aug 2026



Gerald Santos , IPVA
Vice President &
Advocacy Director

A major veteran's legislative package has stalled in the House of Representatives. The Taking Care of America's Veterans Act, or TCAVA, H.R. 9237/S. 4744, combines more than 60 bipartisan bills addressing survivor benefits, caregiver support, and retired pay for medically retired veterans with fewer than 20 years of service. Introduced in the House by Representative Mike Bost (R-IL), the package was later postponed under House rules, according to Congress.gov. Some provisions remain contentious and do not align with what PVA and other service organizations viewed as a path to helping some veterans without reducing benefits for others. Even so, House members have indicated they plan to reintroduce the omnibus package when they next meet. In many ways, TCAVA is "too big to fail" because it affects current veterans, their loved ones, future veterans, and the benefits they may one day need. PVA members can help by contacting their members of Congress and explaining why these bills matter. Stay informed through PVA's Washington Update newsletter and visit the [PVA Action Center](#) to review current legislation, send letters, and take action.



Issue 15 • Volume 34

August 21, 2026

Washington Update

Click link below or visit our website to read the full article.

www.iowapva.org/_files/ugd/61ddaa_f35a81ded9bc487abc7a361ebac6436d.pdf

Happy Birthday to our IPVA Members and Volunteers

Daniel Allsup	Sept 5	Thomas Ostwald	Oct 5
Cathy Guy	Sept 5	Brian Ries	Oct 5
Michael Newman	Sept 5	Timothy O'Banion	Oct 11
John Cornally	Sept 6	David Baker	Oct 12
Rusty Bettcher	Sept 10	Tork Hook	Oct 30
Lana Gillaspie	Sept 10	Patricia Scholtes	Oct 31
James Cooper	Sept 12		
Drew Merrifield	Sept 12		
Scott Miller	Sept 12		
David Eddington	Sept 13		
Ronald Smith	Sept 13		
Dean Ray Blumanhourst	Sept 15		
David Johnson	Sept 18		
Jeff Cook	Sept 21		
Garry Davis	Sept 26		



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

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WHY ROLLX VANS



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On August 15, Gerald Santos, Advocacy Director for Iowa PVA, attended the 3rd Annual Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Peer Support Conference, hosted by UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids.

This free event brought together individuals living with spinal cord injuries, along with their families, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. Iowa PVA hosted an information table to share resources about our chapter, connect with attendees, and learn more about emerging developments in SCI/D research, rehabilitation, and assistive products. Led by specialists from St. Luke's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the conference featured guest speakers and presentations focused on advancements in SCI care, rehabilitation techniques, and medical treatments. Attendees also had opportunities to share personal experiences, learn from one another, build community, and strengthen support networks.

The conference reflects the ongoing work of St. Luke's dedicated Spinal Cord Injury Clinic, led by Dr. Elissa Zakrasek, which provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care for individuals with spinal cord injuries.

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.

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Paralyzed Veterans of America

Iowa Chapter

***Annual Dinner/
Awards Banquet***

Sunday, 11 October 2026 11:00 AM

Hilton Garden Inn

*8600 Northpark Dr.
Johnston, IA 50131*

RSVP @ (515) 277-4782 by 25 September

www.iowapva.org