

Buckeye Banner

Fall 2025



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Buckeye Chapter



President's Report	3
Executive Director's Report	4
Senior Benefits Advocate	5
BPVA Membership	9
Sports & Recreation	12
Caregivers Program	15
Veterans Affairs Program	16
Members' Birthdays	19
Advertise With Us	20
Emergency Assistance	21

OUR MISSION

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter strives to improve the quality of life of honorably discharged Veterans who have spinal cord injury, dysfunction or illness including but not limited to multiple sclerosis and ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) through advocacy, medical research, sports and recreation, education and communication.

UPCOMING DATES

- October 13th:** Indigenous Peoples' Day
- November 11th:** Veterans Day
- November 14th-15th:** Billiards Tournament
- November 27th:** Thanksgiving

Chain of Command

BPVA Officers

Milton Young, President	miltony@buckeyepva.org
Larry Bostic, Vice President	larryb@buckeyepva.org
Holly Koester, Secretary	hollyk@buckeyepva.org
Lucas Meyer, Treasurer	lucasm@buckeyepva.org

Board of Directors

Douglas Beckley, Board Member	dougb@buckeyepva.org
Robert Morris, Board Member	robertm@buckeyepva.org
Tiffany Davison, Board Member	tiffaneyd@buckeyepva.org
Paul Mann, Board Member	paulm@buckeyepva.org
Chadwick Watiker, Board Member	chadwickw@buckeyepva.org

National Director

Douglas Beckley	dougb@buckeyepva.org
-----------------	----------------------

Membership Director

Larry Bostic	larryb@buckeyepva.org
--------------	-----------------------

Sports Director

Paul Mann	paulm@buckeyepva.org
-----------	----------------------

Executive Director

Betsey Kamm	betseyk@buckeyepva.org
-------------	------------------------

Associate Executive Director

Sarah Hoffman	sarahh@buckeyepva.org
---------------	-----------------------

Senior Benefits Advocates

Aaron Stevens, Cleveland	aarsons@pva.org
Michael Yaskowiak, Cleveland	michaely@pva.org

DISCLAIMER

The Buckeye Banner is a publication of the Buckeye Chapter, PVA, and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disability community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of BPVA, its Officers, Board Members, the Editor, or production staff.

PARALYZED VETERANS
OF AMERICA
BUCKEYE CHAPTER

2775 Bishop Road, Suite B,
Willoughby Hills OH 44092

(216) 731-1017 - (800) 248-2548

**FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL
MEDIA**



KEEP UP WITH OUR LATEST UPDATES!



@BuckeyePVA



Paralyzed Veterans of
America, Buckeye Chapter



Paralyzed Veterans of
America -- Buckeye Chapter



@buckeyePVA

President's Report



At the Buckeye PVA, we typically mark the transition from summer to fall with our annual golf outing. This year is no different. As this newsletter goes to press, registration and sponsorship for the 14th annual have been robust and we thank everyone who is supporting us this year whether by playing, sponsoring or volunteering. Your support directly helps us to carry out our mission.

For me this has been an eventful year, assuming the chapter presidency last October after many years of involvement. The chapter has successfully steadied its financial ship. At the same time, we have worked to move the needle on raising our public profile to make sure that we are known and seen by prospective members and supporters alike. This process is more of a marathon than a sprint. In a world full of terrific nonprofits and other causes competing for everyone's attention, we must continue not only to continually share our message but also to diversify the ways we get our message out. You can expect to see some new and exciting ways we will be doing that in the coming months.

As we go to press, we have some sad news to share. Our longtime member and former Board President, Carl Harris, passed away on September 3. Carl was dedicated to the Buckeye Chapter and diligently oversaw its operations, becoming President of the Board of Directors in 2008, in which role he served until 2024. Carl brought many members into the organization and was an active presence at the chapter's many sporting, social and fundraising events. He has had and will have a lasting positive impact on our chapter. Please keep Carl's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Until next time, God bless and be safe,

Milton Young

Milton Young, President

Executive Director Report

Top Ten Ways You can Support Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter

10. Follow our social media accounts and like and share our posts
9. Read the Buckeye Banner.
8. If you are a member, attend the quarterly general membership meetings in person or via Zoom
7. Sign up for activities hosted by the chapter.
6. Become an ambassador. Share information about the chapter with other people. If you know someone who would benefit from membership, tell them and/ or tell us and we will reach out.
5. If you are a member, learn about and take advantage of the resources the chapter has to offer.
4. Be a connector. Connect the chapter with organizations and businesses you think might support Buckeye PVA.
3. Be PVA Proud. Wear your PVA apparel and swag.
2. Get involved. Join a committee.
1. Tell others how we have helped. Share your experiences with our events, adaptive athletics or other programs.

Betsey Kamm



Executive Director

betseyk@buckeyepva.org

216-731-1017

Benefits Update

VA Dental Treatment

Michael Yaskowiak, Sr. National Service Officer

VA dental treatment is not authorized for all veterans. The Veteran's Health Administration breaks it down into classes. This is by statute and regulations under Title 38.

- Class I – Veterans that have a compensable service-connected dental disability or condition. These veterans are eligible for any dental reasonably necessary to maintain oral health.
- Class II – Veterans having a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability shown to have been in existence at time of discharge or release from active service, which took place after September 30, 1981, may be authorized any treatment indicated as reasonably necessary for the one-time correction of the service-connected noncompensable condition.
 - Veterans cannot have a dishonorable discharge.
 - These veterans must have served 180 days; unless they served in the Persian Gulf War, then the requirement is 90 days.
 - Veterans must apply for the treatment within 180 days from discharge or release from service.
 - They are not eligible if their discharge shows they were afforded a dental exam (including X-rays) within 90 days prior to discharge from service.
- Class II (a.) – Veterans with a noncompensable dental condition or disability that is due to combat wounds or service trauma for the correction of such service-connected noncompensable condition or disability.
- Class II (b.) - Certain homeless and other enrolled veterans eligible for a one-time course of dental care.
- Class II (c.) – Veterans who were POWs are eligible for any dental treatment.
- Class III – Veterans having a dental condition that is aggravating a service-connected disability. (Only for that condition)
- Class IV – Veterans 100% service connected or receiving Individual Unemployability (IU).
- Class V – Veterans participating in VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment VR&E) Program.
- Class VI - Any veterans that are inpatient may receive outpatient dental care, which is medically necessary, i.e., is for dental conditions clinically determined to be complicating a medical condition currently under treatment.

continued..

Benefits Update cont.

VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)

For those veterans that may not meet the above requirements, or certain family members, VA also offers the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP).

VADIP offers **discounted private dental insurance** for Veterans and family members who meet certain requirements.

One of these must be true:

- You are a Veteran who's enrolled in VA health care, or
- You are the current or surviving spouse or dependent child of a Veteran or service member, and you are enrolled in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA)

Notes

- Insurance carriers may offer separate coverage options for dependents who are not CHAMPVA beneficiaries.
- The costs for your coverage will depend on the insurance company and plan you choose.

How do I enroll in a VADIP plan?

Once you have chosen a Delta Dental or MetLife VADIP plan, you can enroll online:

[Enroll in Delta Dental plan](#) or

[Enroll in MetLife plan](#)

After you enroll, you can also use your insurance provider's website to manage your plan and benefits online.

For questions about Delta Dental, call [855-370-3303](tel:855-370-3303).

For questions about MetLife, call [888-310-1681](tel:888-310-1681).

Eligibility for VA dental treatment has many requirements and can be confusing to decipher all the laws and regulations. If you have any questions on eligibility, please reach out to your PVA National Service Officer, Michael Yaskowiak at michaely@pva.org.

Constant Contact Sign Up



By using this QR Code, you can get sign up for our mailing list! You'll get updates about any news or updates going on at the BPVA!

About George Music Company

Welcome to Akron's finest entertainment company. We are a locally owned family operated company serving the Northeast Ohio area since 1933. We offer the absolute finest, most up-to-date equipment available along with providing a strong dedication to the success of our customers. Our State of the art entertainment solutions are specifically tailored to meet our customers' individual needs.



George Music Company provides the latest in digital internet jukeboxes, NGX Jukeboxes, Touch Tunes Jukeboxes, skill games and amusement machines to bars, taverns, pubs, restaurants, bowling alleys, universities, and social clubs. We install and service Internet Jukeboxes in Bars, Taverns, Fraternal Organizations, anywhere. Delivery and setup is also available (call for details). George Music Company only provides service on what we sell. We also sell used coin-operated machines for the home.

As you can see, we are the premier amusement supplier in the Akron and surrounding area. To increase revenue and keep your customers entertained and satisfied, call George Music Company and find out how you can add excellent entertainment equipment to your establishment.

Call (330) 923-9868 or
toll free at 1-800-492-9507



ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR PEAK PERFORMANCE

SPIRE FIT

SPIRE FIT is a community fitness and aquatics center open to everyone. FIT offers a variety of family, individual, military and senior memberships for those who desire a 'best in class' workout environment. Health, wellness and exercise are at the center of the SPIRE vision and FIT promotes the values of these components for all members.



- > **FIT MEMBERSHIP**
Family, individual, military
- > **SENIOR MEMBERSHIP**
Silver Sneakers, Renew Active
- > **PICKLEBALL**
Member discounted rates
- > **LEAGUES**
Adult and youth - member discounted rates
- > **ADRENALINE MONKEY**
Member discounted rates

BPVA Membership By Larry Bostic

As we finished the National Veteran Wheelchair Games for 2025 at Minneapolis, MN, I wanted to congratulate all those that went and even some that stayed at home and participated. But since we have a Sports Director for the BPVA, I will let him discuss all the accolades due to our participants and staff. I want to take this time to talk about being a member of the BPVA. I hear many ask why become a member?

We have a membership that is aging, and the lifeblood of any organization is bringing in the new members that have unfortunately contracted a spinal cord injury or disease. I would encourage each member of the BPVA to try to remember what our PVA does and consider our membership when we find an person with a Spinal Disorder, to live with their new normal.

As a reminder, to join the BPVA one must: **(1)** Have been on Active Duty or be a Veteran with at least an “other than dishonorable” discharge; and provide their DD 214 showing their character of discharge; **(2)** Have proof of US Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport;) **(3)** Provide medical evidence on a Physician’s Statement of your Spinal injury or disease (form obtained from a BPVA Representative) that includes a confirmation of your Spinal Cord Injury or Disease. The PVA has a National Service Officer, Aaron Stevens, that can help assist with applying for service-connected benefits and compensation when identifying service-connected injuries or diseases.

With all that said, why should someone become a member of the PVA or BPVA? The most important thing I can say is to help you learning your “new normal”, and remind you that you are still a living, vibrant person that can participate in life events and activities that the PVA or Veterans Administration can help provide. In addition to the PVA, there are many organizations that provide Disabled Veterans with a Spinal Disability opportunities to excel including these as an example:

1. Veterans Administration Recreation Therapy Department, Louis Stokes, Cleveland, Ohio. (See Aubrey Lash, Nicole Fear or Patty Whitecotton)
2. THRIVE Foundation: FREE Pickleball and Tennis on Wednesdays from 10:30 – 12:00 at the Center Court Tennis Club, located in Broadview Heights; Pickleball and Tennis is for beginners as well as seasoned players. Thrive also includes: Parkinsons Program, Adaptive Tennis and Fitness, and Homeschool Tennis. (440) 838-5600; <https://www.centercourttennisclub.com/pages/index.cfm?siteid=22333>;
3. Adaptive Sports Ohio: Wooster, Ohio; Adaptive Sports Ohio has a multitude of programs including: wheelchair basketball, football, rugby, and sled hockey, (330) 601-1400, <https://adaptivesportsohio.org/>.
4. Adaptive Sports Connection: Powell, Ohio (near Columbus); Adaptive Sports Connection have programs such as: hand cycling, kayaking, snow skiing, and soccer; (614) 389-3921; <https://adaptivesportsconnection.org/>.

The BPVA has programs that help with: Veterans Benefits; Wheelchair Sports and Recreation; Local and National Advocacy for Spinal Cord Research, home architectural barriers, civil rights protections, automobile grants and adaptation; assistive devices, housing, employment and transportation referrals. BPVA also can provide you with subject matter and help you find and write your congress representatives to promote our Veteran and Spinal Cord needs.

We also have volunteer programs for virtually everyone. We pass out hotdogs to the SCI Veterans on the 6th floor and Cares Tower at the Cleveland, VA. There are multiple committees that the BPVA has that you need not be on the Board to participate in, like the Sports and Recreation, Social, Donor, and Emergency Assistance to mention a few.

BPVA Membership cont.

In closing, I would encourage everyone to first become a member if you aren't. Next, find a friend to join the BPVA; third, assess your condition to see if you need your benefits reviewed, and last: get involved in volunteering with the BPVA, writing your Congressional Representatives or get with me to volunteer passing out hotdogs to the inpatient Veterans on one Saturday each month at: info@BuckeyePVA.org or Larryb@BuckeyePVA.org.

larryb@buckeyeepva.org'."/>

BPVA
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Buckeye Chapter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Seeking Hot Dog Day Volunteers

Join us at Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland to help make and serve hot dogs, pop and chips to inpatient folks on the SCI unit and those in long term care
No special skills required.

Hot dog day is held one Saturday per month at either lunchtime or mid afternoon. You don't need to commit to doing it every month but we would like to have a roster of volunteers available to ensure a consistent presence. Teens accompanied by adults are welcome.

If interested, please contact Larry Bostic at 330-417-7058 or email larryb@buckeyeepva.org

BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT

Open for
Registration



NOVEMBER
14 & 15

 **CUSHIONS BILLIARDS HALL**
5986 WESTERVILLE RD, WESTERVILLE, OH 43081

TO SPONSOR OR LEARN MORE CALL
(216) 731-1017 | 

Full members living outside of a 50 mile radius will have their hotel room paid for

NVWG

Hello Buckeye PVA members, today I'm going to tell you about the National Veterans Wheelchair games. They were held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from July 17th until the 22nd this year. I actually was selected to compete in the mini BASS tournament they had a couple days before hand on Lake Minnetonka. The city of Minnesota was very clean and accepting for us. Since I was there early I went out to explore the city a little when I got back from fishing. I got to see some beautiful murals of Prince. They had a map of the murals throughout the city, but I only got to see a couple of them. The next day, athletes started to arrive joining the 30 of us that were there from fishing. We had members competing in all types of events. There was table tennis, cornhole, and team sports like rugby and basketball. I competed in three field events, weightlifting, fishing, softball, rugby, and pickle ball. I had received a last-minute phone call asking me to play pickleball. I also was selected to be a mentor at kids day. Kids day is my favorite event at the games each year. The PVA selects children from the area that are wheelchair users to come in and experience a sampling of the events that we participate in. They get to play events like corn hole, and slalom. There is a different theme each year. This year it was Frozen; Olaf even made an appearance. We had good weather throughout the week. It wasn't too hot, and mostly



clear days. Participating in two teams that went to the Championships in both sports didn't leave me much time to watch all of the events. I did watch other members compete in billiards, bocchia, slalom, cross fit, and many other events. I enjoyed watching our buckeye members, and talking and hanging out with other veterans. Some were old friends, and some I had just met. At the end of the day, if I didn't have any events, we got to have dinner at the local attractions. This year I

had dinner with other members at Hells Kitchen. I also had dinner at the Rainforest Café inside the Mall of America! We didn't have much time to explore the mall. The mall did have an amusement park inside. It was a long week, but the Buckeye PVA did well as a team winning over 80 medals! If you're interested in attending these games reach out to your therapists at the VA. They will help you find events and apply. I hope to see you in Detroit next year!

Hope you're having a wonderful day,

Paul Mann

Paul Mann, Sports Director
and Board Member



Bass Tournament

Hello Buckeye PVA members, I wanted to tell you about the bass tournament at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games this year in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Before I start my story, I am happy to announce that the Buckeye PVA will be hosting a bass tournament of its own! It will be May 29th-31st. Registration is



now open at <https://tinyurl.com/29298pw5>. Now for my story... I was selected with 30 other veterans to participate. This is a scaled down version of the series, where it is usually a two day tournament. This tournament was only one day. We met for dinner the evening after of our arrival. We teamed up with our boat captains, and drew numbers to decide the launching order of our boats for the next morning. The next morning, at 5 AM we headed to Lake Minnetonka. We had a small breakfast before getting on the boat. We were given a lunch for the day on the water, launched our boats, and waited. The sun was rising on the water, the beautiful houses surrounding the lake; it was beautiful. There we were. The 30 boats loaded with the boat captains, and veterans ready to seize the day. We fished until three in the afternoon. You were able to keep the five biggest bass for your total weight. We spent the morning trying a couple

different baits and catching fish and some spots we had scouted. I caught a huge Bluegill, and pulled in a 2 1/2 pound bass! That's a pretty good size fish! We caught some decent sized fish, and enjoyed each other's company. Later we found the spot! It was a group of lily pads, with a about a 5 foot stretch of moss and a small opening in the middle of it. My boat captain Robert Beaman used a frog lure to "skip" across the moss. I used a "Wopper Plopper" lure off of the other side. First throw in we caught a 2 1/2 pound bass. Robert's frog was bringing them in left and right on the other side. When the frog went across the moss, I watched the fish jump out of the water. It was as much as three times a cast, but by the third bite, Robert was pulling the line in with the fish on it. By the end of the day we had caught over 30 fish. We were routinely putting 2 1/2 pound bass back in the water. With our five fish we ended up with over 15 pounds. Our biggest fish being over 4 pounds. Our smallest being almost 3 pounds. We did not catch the biggest fish, but we won the gold medal for the most weight. I had so much fun fishing that day. I had as much fun as I had as a kid fishing with my dad.



Dad and I were never that successful, but I was just a small boy fishing at a farm pond. It doesn't get much better than that, no matter how many fish I've caught. I have done this mini tournament for the last two years at the Vet games. Our staff and the board members are excited for this opportunity! And I hope you will be too! You have the rest of the summer to practice for next year.

Hope to see you all soon,

Paul Mann

Paul Mann, Sports Director
and Board Member

BPVA Golf Outing

The Buckeye PVA held its 14th annual golf outing on Monday, September 8, 2025 at Bunker Hill Golf Course. We were joined by 116 golfers and were fortunate to have perfect weather. The Cleveland Bakers' Local 19 CER Fund provided fabulous, cozy sweatshirts which were a perfect antidote to the early morning chill. As usual, Bunker Hill Golf Course did an amazing job with the golf, amenities and food. The event space has been renovated and looks terrific with a ton of natural light. We had a terrific team of volunteers including: Cristy and Larry Bostic, Patti-Jo Burtnett, India Johnson, Samuel "Wheelz" Johnson, Holly Koester, Paul Mann, Joanne Piotrowski, Brandon Scott and Chuck Scott.

The event raised \$20,000 which is due to the generosity of the sponsors below, supplemented by the generosity of golfers who helped us have great results with on course and dinner sales including a number of them who donated prizes back to the cause.

HOLE SPONSORS

American Legion Post #91 - Berea
 Douglas Beckley
 Col. JM Chambers
 The John F. Gallegher Co.
 Kyle & Mark Holtz-
 In Memory of Kenneth Holtz USN
 Kathy & Mark Holtz-
 In Memory of George Spear USAF
 Betsey & Stephen Kamm
 Eleanor Peterman
 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union -
 Local #94
 Riveon Mental Health & Recovery - 988 Services (2)
 Rotary Club of Willoughby
 Tom and Judy Tulisak
 Vector Screenprinting & Embroidery
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 of Ohio Charities
 VFW Post #3638 - Sciotoville
 VFW Post #5563 - Valley City
 VFW Post #9340 - Columbia Station

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Fraternal Order of Eagles #2282 - Berea
 PARTNER SPONSOR
 George Music Company
 Ross Environmental/ Neil Gorman
 FRIEND OF PVA SPONSOR
 A & H Parts Sale
 American Legion Post #407 - Doylestown
 Cleveland Bakers' Local 19 CER Fund
 Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #2224 - Medina
 KC Koester
 Health Aid of Ohio
 VFW Post #5101 - Lexington
 CUSTOM GOLF BALL SPONSOR
 KC Koester
 PUTTING CONTEST SPONSOR
 VFW Post #9340 - Columbia Station
 GOLF CART SPONSOR
 VFW Post #4044 - Columbus
 VFW Post #2898 - Toldeo
 George Music Company

RAFFLE BASKETS DONORS

Akron Rubber Ducks	Fat Head's Brewery
Jim & Prudence Aylsworth	Oak Ridge Farm
CJ Barnes	Panera/Covelli Enterprises
Chipotle	Petitti Garden Centers
Cleveland Browns	Play It Again Sports
Cleveland Cavaliers	SGT Clean
Cleveland Guardians	SGT GRIT
Cooper's Hawk/Nick Pakosz	Strongsville Browns Backers/Patti-Jo Burtnett
	Top Golf

THANK YOU!

Caregivers



Elizabeth Dole Foundation

CARING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The 2024 RAND Corporation study unveiled new research on military and veteran caregivers. According to the findings, more than fourteen million caregivers are providing care for wounded, injured, and ill service members and veterans. The study highlighted the burdens they experience including elevated levels of stress and depression. As many as three-quarters are caring for a care recipient over the age of sixty. The National Institute of Health (NIH) measured caregiver burden from a mental health wellness standpoint, and in their findings, discovered similar themes of emotional distress, physical stress, and depression.

Melissa is a caregiver who is well-acquainted with the statistics derived from the RAND and NIH studies. The research personifies her life challenges and circumstances. She is a wife, mother, combat veteran, and mechanic of Black Hawk helicopters who served two deployments to Iraq. She has become accustomed to wearing many hats; the most recent one is becoming a caregiver to her father.

Melissa joined the caregiving ranks out of desperation and necessity. She felt her father, a disabled veteran, was being deprived of his basic needs by unreliable people who often did not show up for work, leaving him stuck in bed, unshowered, and unable to carry out his daily routine. Melissa realized his situation was dire; therefore, she decided to become his caregiver to allow him to pursue a better quality of life, which is nothing less than he would have done for her.

Melissa believes that her deployments to combat zones in Iraq were less taxing on her mentally, emotionally, and physically than her caregiving duties. Melissa underestimated the challenges of caregiving. She did not realize the demands that caregivers encountered, providing care around the clock. This baffled her when she compared her active-duty lifestyle to caregiving. Upon reflecting on her time in Iraq, she realized that although she worked twelve-hour days, seven days a week, those hours were undisturbed; she could use them as she pleased. With caregiving, she must be available twenty-four hours a day. In Iraq, she had downtime to go to the gym, and there was no one waiting for her when she returned. With caregiving for her father, her schedule must align with his needs. Melissa's most challenging days are when she is sick or tired. On those days, she has learned to push through to maintain her caregiving routine.

Caregivers



Elizabeth Dole Foundation

CARING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Melissa has learned the importance of self-care. She takes time early in the morning when her father is asleep to take care of her personal needs. She does what brings her happiness, spending time in the calming presence of her horses. Melissa views horses as mirrors: they reflect emotions. If she is having a difficult day, her horses will as well because they sense anxiety, stress, and moods. They are therapeutic, and she credits them for keeping her mentally and emotionally centered.

Throughout her experience as a caregiver, Melissa has learned how to do things in a unique way that benefits both her father's life and her own mental well-being. Her father leads a relatively good life, attending his appointments and occasionally participating in community events. She sees the benefits of her caregiving. She has learned the strengths and challenges of caring for her father and has embarked on a remarkable journey with him. Melissa is one of our Hidden Heroes who has chosen to reach beyond her life and transform her father's outlook on life.

Be well,

Jennette Ezell

Ohio Dole Caregiver Fellow

Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Eligibility Criteria Fact Sheet



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans.



Veteran Eligibility Requirements:

A Veteran or Service member may be eligible for a Family Caregiver if all of the following requirements are met:

- 1** The individual is either:
 - A Veteran; or
 - A member of the Armed Forces undergoing a medical discharge from the Armed Forces.
- 2** The individual has a serious injury (including serious illness) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service.
 - For purposes of PCAFC, serious injury means any service-connected disability that: (1) Is rated at 70 percent or more by VA; or (2) Is combined with any other service-connected disability or disabilities, and a combined rating of 70 percent or more is assigned by VA.
- 3** The individual is in need of in-person personal care services for a minimum of six (6) continuous months based on any one of the following:
 - An inability to perform an activity of daily living;
 - A need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or
 - A need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the Veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired.
- 4** It is in the best interest of the individual to participate in the program.
- 5** Personal care services that would be provided by the Family Caregiver will not be simultaneously and regularly provided by or through another individual or entity.
- 6** The individual receives care at home or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.
- 7** The individual receives ongoing care from a Primary Care Team or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.



To apply online, visit

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Family Caregiver Eligibility Requirements

A Family Caregiver must:

- 1 Be at least 18 years of age.
- 2 Be either:
 - The eligible Veteran's spouse, son, daughter, parent, stepfamily member, or extended family member; or
 - Someone who lives with the eligible Veteran full-time or will do so if designated as a Family Caregiver.
- 3 Be initially assessed by VA as being able to complete caregiver education and training.
- 4 Complete caregiver training and demonstrate the ability to carry out the specific personal care services, core competencies, and additional care requirements.

In addition, there must be no determination by VA of abuse or neglect of the eligible Veteran by the caregiver.



Stipend Levels:

The amount of the monthly stipend the Primary Family Caregiver is eligible to receive, is determined based on information gathered during VA's evaluation of the Veteran's personal care needs.

Level One: The Primary Family Caregiver's monthly stipend is calculated by multiplying the monthly stipend rate [Office of Personnel Management (OPM) General Schedule (GS) Annual Rate for grade 4, step 1, based on the locality pay area in which the eligible Veteran resides] divided by 12 multiplied by 0.625.

- For example, the GS rate at grade 4, step 1, in Dallas, Texas, for 2022 was \$34,916 annually.
- Thus, the monthly stipend amount for a Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran in Dallas, Texas, at this rate (\$34,916, divided by 12 multiplied by 0.625) was approximately \$1,818.54 in 2022.

Level Two: If VA determines the eligible Veteran meets the definition of "unable to self-sustain in the community" for the purposes of PCAFC, the designated Primary Family Caregiver's monthly stipend is calculated by multiplying the monthly stipend rate (OPM GS Annual Rate for grade 4, step 1, based on the locality pay area in which the eligible Veteran resides) divided by 12 multiplied by 1.00.

- For example, the GS rate at grade 4, step 1, in Dallas, Texas, for 2022 was \$34,916 annually.
- The 2022 monthly stipend amount for a Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran in Dallas, Texas, at this rate (\$34,916, divided by 12 multiplied by 1.00) was approximately \$2,909.67

Veterans and caregivers can find their local CSP Team by:



Calling the VA Caregiver Support Line **1-855-260-3274**
(Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm ET) Toll free



Using the CSP Teams locator at
www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp

To apply online, visit

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

September

Thomas Schmitt Vernon Monroe **Tracy Neu**
 David Hopson **Paul Mann** Thomas Hornecker
Julie Charette David Prestegaard **Robert Young**
 William Larson **William Dailey** Emmett Pyle **Luther Preston**
Daniel Brown Patrick Sullivan **Brian Johnson** Paul Cook
 Robert Bush **Anthony Nickolite** Kenneth Kessler **Dwight Adams**
Joseph Kerns Robert Redden **Timothy Osborne**
 Walter Pruitt **Bryan Hibinger** Claude Owens
Lauren Friedman Richard Zielinski **Chadwick Watiker**
 Harvey Coleman **Destiny Gray Brown**

October

Lamont Brinson **Patrick Harris** Wondle Dinguss
Daniel Crawford Michael Cornwell **Robert Sanders**
 Donald Roberts **Christopher Dowell** John Sarosy
Charles Hake Bobby Click **Thomas Fisher** James Amis
 William Drake **William Beckham** Wandlyn Handy
Lucas Meyer Ronald Hudson **Eddie Dixon** David Yocom
 Brian Malbrough **Sarah Holley** Narciso Amesquita **Kenneth Melesky**
Brian Moore Paul Kovars **Melvin Appell** Lorenzo Perdue
 Tiffany Davison **Thomas Barnes** Leroy Baker **John Davis**
Robert Morris James Brown **Terry Smeal** Lary York
 Eric Wright **Shawn Ritchhart** Glenn Miller

November

Charles McGugan Mark Forsyth **Charles Edwards**
 Miller Mangham **Frank Sears** Kevin Samuels
John Green Sheila Azbell **James Robinson**
 Daniel Marzullo **Randy Hendricks** John Polewchak
Charles Stillwell Terry Rock **Darrell Bogan**
 Deborah McCreath **Richard Might** Lee Blake
Michael Reynolds Sunny Yang **Edward Keating** Joel Reese
 Barry Steinnecker **Ashley Buschur** Stevie Stiggers
Robert Kemper James Bartholomew **Warren Spaulding**
 Paul Sanderson **James O'Harra** Gregory Weaver
Patti Pleasant-Ross Michael Fumarola **Jeffery Roseman**
 Bryan Page **William Cooper** Sean Couch
William Phillips Roderick Wright **Robert Rich**

ADVERTISE WITH BUCKEYE PVA

Looking to get your information out to the Paralyzed Veteran Community? Look no further than advertising with Buckeye PVA in the Buckeye Banner! The Buckeye Banner is published quarterly and is filled with event updates, special offers for our Paralyzed Veterans, and even ads for companies and products built to improve the lives of our members! If you would like to advertise in the Buckeye Banner, ads must be purchased by September 30, 2025! Artwork for ads must be submitted to the Buckeye Banner Editor, Sarah Hoffman 1 month prior to publishing date of each newsletter. If you do not have the artwork for your ad, artwork can be created by Editor for an additional charge.

Advertising Rates for the Buckeye Banner:

1 Full Page Color for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues).....	\$3,500
1 Full Page B/W for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues).....	\$3,000
1 Half Page Color for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues).....	\$2,000
1 Half Page B/W for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues).....	\$1,500
1 Quarter Page Color for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues).....	\$1,000
1 Quarter Page B/W for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues).....	\$750

1 Full page Color for 1 quarterly issue**.....	\$1,000
1 Full page B/W for 1 quarterly issue**.....	\$850
1 Half page Color for 1 quarterly issue**.....	\$600
1 Half page B/W for 1 quarterly issue**.....	\$475
1 Quarter page Color for 1 quarterly issue**.....	\$400
1 Quarter page B/W for 1 quarterly issue**.....	\$300

***Ads purchased for an entire fiscal year are up for renewal on September 30th. Ads can be updated throughout the year and issues are released the first week of December, March, June and November**

****Ads purchased for 1 quarterly issue must be submitted 30 days prior to release dates**

Please contact Sarah at sarahh@buckeyepva.org or by telephone at 216-731-1017 to advertise with Buckeye PVA today!

Emergency Assistance Program

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter has available an Emergency Assistance Program.

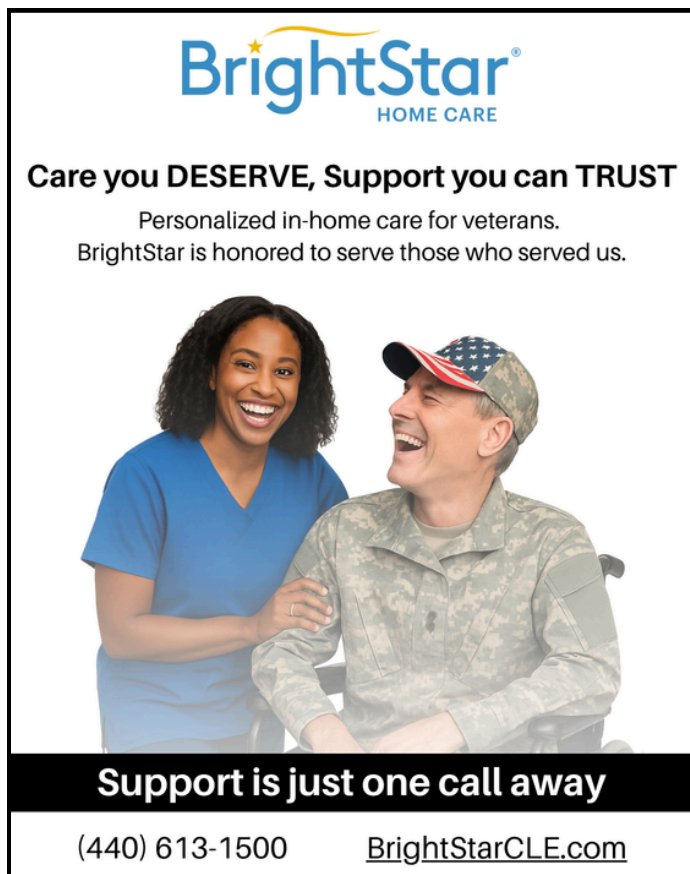
This program helps members of the Buckeye Chapter who may find themselves in financial distress causing possible eviction from their homes, disconnection of utilities or the inability to pay for their food.

Members must be in good standing for a minimum of 90 days prior to qualifying for consideration. Application for help is limited to twice yearly or up to a maximum of \$500 per year. This is a confidential process. Payments must be made directly to the vendor. Please contact the Chapter office for more details. (800) 248-2548 or (216) 731-1017

VA Emergency Care

For more information please visit:
https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non_VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf

For more information about care coordination, documentation submission, eligibility, claims and payments visit:
https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/infor_EmergencyCare.asp



BrightStar
HOME CARE

Care you DESERVE, Support you can TRUST

Personalized in-home care for veterans.
BrightStar is honored to serve those who served us.

Support is just one call away

(440) 613-1500 BrightStarCLE.com



Whether you're new to paddle sports, or an experienced player, we welcome you to join us!

THRIVE
Through Tennis

SIGN UP TODAY!
440-838-5600
or email info@thrivetennis.org

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS & PICKLEBALL

WEDNESDAYS
10:30am-12:00pm
FREE PROGRAM
no equipment needed

THRIVE Through Tennis at Center Court Tennis Club
1 Eagle Valley Court, Broadview Hts, Ohio 44147
www.thrivotennis.org



HOME | FAQ | CONTACT | CALL US 877-900-VETS (877-900-8387)

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

To Help Support Paralyzed Veterans of America

GIVE TODAY

EASY PROCESS

FREE TOWING

TAX BENEFITS

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

Since 1946, Paralyzed Veterans of America has been on a mission to change lives and build brighter futures for our seriously injured heroes. We've had a single-minded mission—to empower our brave men and women to regain what they fought for: their freedom and independence.

They returned to a grateful nation, but also to a world with few solutions to the challenges they faced. They made a decision not just to live, but to live with dignity as contributors to society. They created Paralyzed Veterans of America, an organization dedicated to veterans service, medical research and civil rights for people with disabilities.

Have an old car taking up space in your driveway? Donate it to Paralyzed Veterans of America!

HOW IT WORKS

1.



Call or complete the online donation form. Our helpful Donor Support Team is available 7 days a week.

2.



Schedule your free and convenient pick-up. In most cases, your vehicle can be picked up just about anywhere in the U.S. within 72 hours of completing the donation form.

3.



Receive a donation receipt. That's it! Vehicle donations are tax-deductible. You'll receive a donation receipt within 30 days of the sale of the vehicle.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Who is eligible to participate in the program?

Must be a BPVA Member in good standing for a minimum of 90 days to participate. The Committee has the option to make exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

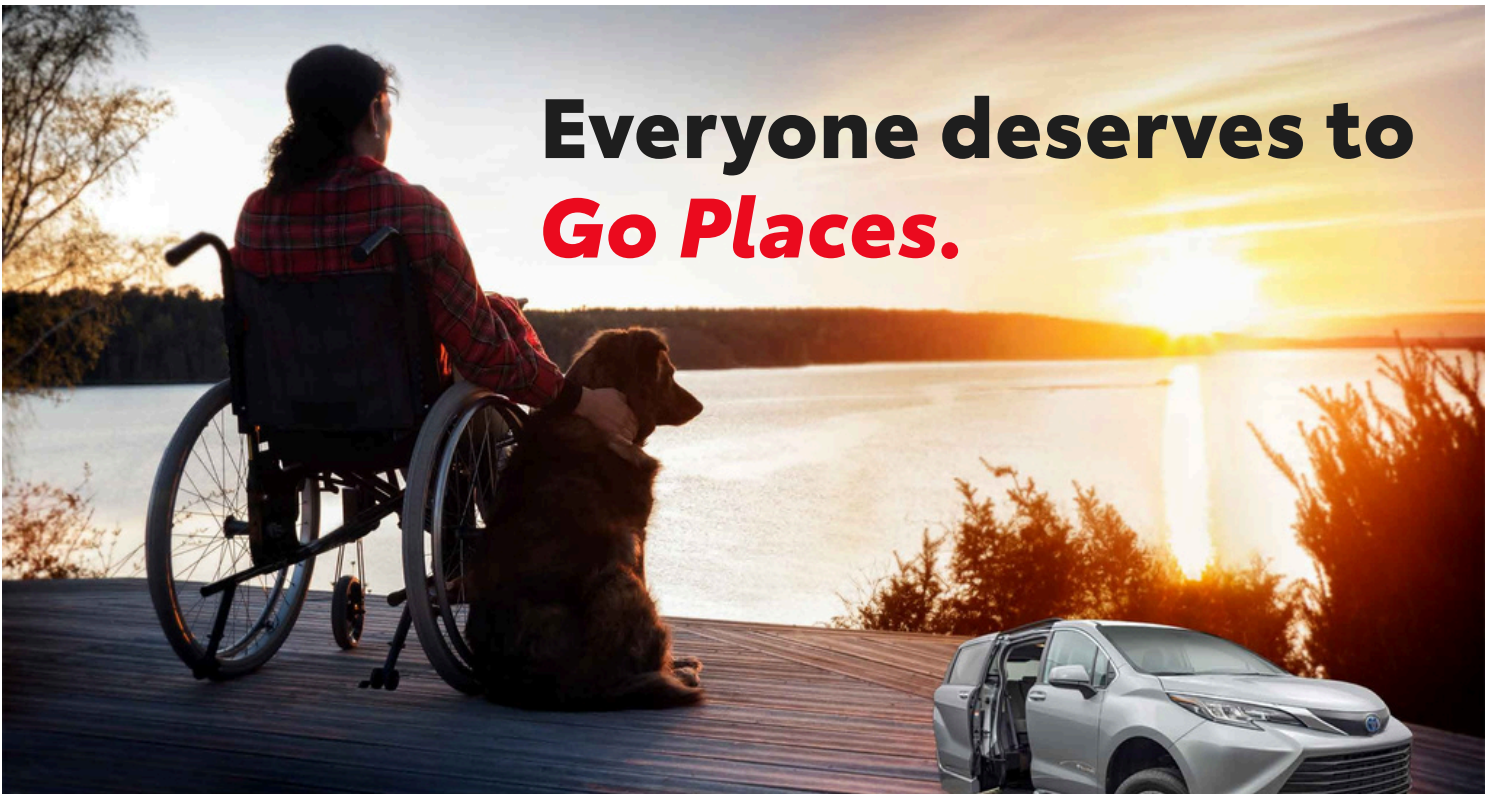
What is the acceptable time period before the program becomes available for use?

The BPVA member must be hospitalized for a minimum of one week.

What is the acceptable distance for mileage reimbursement?

The mileage reimbursement will be given to visitors for travel to a VA hospital in the State of Ohio for the well-being of members who are hospitalized. Beginning and ending travel must be in the State of Ohio.

Call the office at (216) 731-1017 to find out more



**Everyone deserves to
Go Places.**



**(740) 654-3943 1903 Riverway Dr. Lancaster, Ohio
mybuckeyetoyota.com**

**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
BUCKEYE CHAPTER**

2775 Bishop Road - Suite B
Willoughby Hills, OH 44092

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit 4318

Help Us Serve America's Veterans



buckeyepva.org

Health Care Access, Benefits, Advocacy, Sports, Recreation, Education are just a few of the programs your tax-deductible contributions help support.

For more information, call (800) 248-2548

Or visit www.buckeyepva.org

