

MOMENTUM!!

California Chapter





National Veterans Wheelchair Games

TEMPE, ARIZONA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRES. UPDATE	.4
NATIONAL DIREC-	
TOR	.4
BIRTHDAYS	.18
GRANT SPORLIGHT	.13
NVWG	Q



Executive Director pg. 6



Government Relations Director Pg.7

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National Service Officers

ERNES BORS M.D. SCI CENTER

NSO: Enrique Chavez Secretary: Bertha Smith

Phone: (562) 826-8000 ext. 3774

Paralyzed Veterans of America specializes in providing services for veterans and service members who are severely injured or suffer disabling diseases. Services are free of charge and are offered from the time of disability to end of life.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL OFFICE

NSO: Allen Williams NSO: Joseph Phillipe

Secretary: Sharon Patterson

Phone: (310) 235-7796

ready to assist. National Service Officers are accredited experts in VA benefits and legally represent veterans, dependents, and survivors before the VA and Board of Veterans Appeals.

about or applying for VA benefits, a local National Service Officer stands

For veterans or family members looking for assistance with learning

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL OFFICE

NSO: Robert Kamei NSO: Eric Meekins

Secretary: Samantha Galliher

Phone: (619) 400-5320

Contact the nearest Paralyzed Veterans of America National Service Office to learn more or file a VA claim. If any one of Paralyzed Veterans' 72 National Service Offices are not in your area, contact the Veterans Benefits Department for help.

Honorably discharged military veterans with paralysis due to a dysfunction of the spinal cord should contact the Paralyzed Veterans National Office or the local chapter to determine eligibility.

A BOUT OUR NEWSLETTER:

MOMENTUM!! is published Tri Monthly. Please read more on www.pvacc.org

FREE DODGER TICKETS

Please send an email to tickets@pvacc.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Martha Varela

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> Michael Nguyen Michael @pvacc.org

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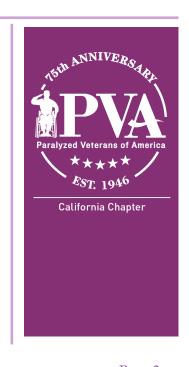
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President's Update

As the heat keeps intensifying on our California shores, we started finding ways to cool down not only ourselves but also our members. The California Chapter has started to partner up with other organizations such as American Legion that will allow our members to ride out in the beautiful California waves, a "Day at the Bay at Newport Beach" and allow us to get a private dock so we can easily transfer our members. Who wouldn't want to go out surfing, kayaking, paddle boarding or any other water related sport events right? Especially with the heat that has risen over 3 digits this past week, spending some time getting some fresh salty water couldn't hurt.

We are fortunate that we have numerous beaches and with it, many people that would love to help disabled veterans get out and get some sun and possibly ride the waves. Oh yeah, there are groups out there that would love to take a disabled veteran out surfing and get the feel of the waves as I know firsthand, it was a great experience being back in the water riding that surfboard and feeling the waves crashing down as you go along for the ride. I mean, what better therapy than to be out in the water with the California sun shining bright down on you? Also having great company with you and the exciting camaraderie felt from meeting new people. For those that have never done any water sporting events or have never been in the water, it's never too late to try something new or to check a line off your bucket list right?!

This is and will be one of many events that we are introducing to our members. So not only can our members say they went out and about but went out with a purpose and achieved something they never thought possible in their condition and to see the smiles on their faces. There is possibly no better outcome than when you see your members and their family enjoying an event that they finish off with a huge smile and say they can't wait to try it again. The goal will be to have as many summer-related events available for our members, if the climate will allow us to participate. Although granted California rarely has any crazy weather, every now and then it does tend to give us some unpredicted weather. All in all, we are in a perfect location to enjoy what Long Beach, California has to offer, and we will take advantage of this to achieve the best possible outcome for our members and their families, in a safe and reasonable manner. We are looking forward to planning more events like this for our members!

Jose Reynoso, President & National Director



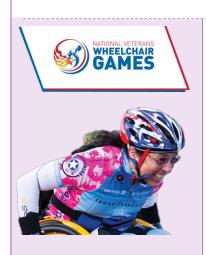
Vice President's Update

We are still social distancing, warring N95/Surgical face mask getting tested for any cold systems. SCI has authorized booster shots for Veterans and their caregivers. Get your shots and stay safe. We are still not back in our office yet and this COVID Virus has the Long Beach VA Healthcare center in yellow post phase. You can visit

an inpatient by making an appointment. Is this our new way of life dealing with air born viruses? Nevertheless, I think this is going to be a Great year

The 41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe Arizona was VERY HOT 116 degrees!! Our 4-chapter athletes won 5 Gold, 1 Silver and 4

National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Tempe Arizona



National Veterans Wheelchair Games

National Veterans Wheel-chair Games athletes come from nearly every generation of veterans, from World War II to the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. From newly injured first-time competitors to Paralympic athletes, each veteran brings his or her own unique story of recovery through strength and perseverance.

Bronze medals. GREAT JOB!!!! Looking forward to the 42nd NVWG's in Portland Oregon next year.

The Long Beach Healthcare Center and Spinal Cord Injury and /Disorder (SCI/D) Center have done an Excellent job keep veteran safe in southern California while keeping the virus away. I kind of like the video teleconferencing and working from home, but I do miss seeing my brother, sisters and family in person. Long Beach VA construction of the new in-patient and outpatient mental health facilities and the 120 bed Community Living Center are over 50% complete. There's even talk about a new SCI/D center to be completed in time for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Guess who will be the hosting

chapter?

It's an Honor and Privilege to work under the newly elected PVA Executive Leaders with Mr. Charles Brown at the helm. I have already seen the wheels of change turning in the right direction. Looking forward to partiscipate to make our country a better place for the disabled population. California Chapter will continue to make lives better for Paralyzed Veterans and their families wherever and however we can virtually or in person.

Your Humble Servant, Elmer Jacobs Jr, Vice President

Paralyzed Veterans of America California Chapter

Executive Director Update



Martha Varela

Executive Director

I joined PVACC in April and what an adventure it has been! Amongst the challenges I have faced, I am happy to report that we have successfully accomplished some very big tasks in the first five months. First, we successfully brought in a financial consultant to help us get a handle on our finances. Secondly, we successfully voted in a new treasurer and a strong finance committee who voted on a workable budget for the new fiscal year.

Fiscal year 2022 will also incorporate ongoing board development training to help build up the important role our Board Members play in the organizational development of the California Chapter. I am also excited for the recent board leadership changes and the incorporation of several new board members. There is a new excitement in the air, from both new and veteran board members. We have also held off the sale of our apartment building Casa Colinas, or more commonly known as Casa Corazon, and have become more informed and more involved with the operational functions of Casa Corazon and will be forming a separate Board of Directors to oversee the very important housing Casa Corazon provides in the City of Long Beach.

In the next 3-6 months I will be focusing my attention on the important tasks of fundraising, grant writing and rebuilding important community bridges. As an US Army Veteran, it is important for us to connect and partner with other Veteran serving agencies in Southern California to increase our exposure and involvement in key veteran issues like benefit assistance, and access to key community resources needed to strengthen the membership of PVACC. We will be looking for creative new ways to restructure our current program models. Building community partnerships will help create new ways to provide meaningful social recreation activities for many of our members who have been isolated due the pandemic. More volunteer recruitment from large corporations, more community involvement from local veteran supportive businesses and connections to local government officials will be the key to making our fundraising efforts successful.

Although I have my work cut out for me, I am up to the challenge and have the support from ten solid military veterans on my team. I have a newfound passion for the work I do and have been in awe at the motivation and appreciation for life that the PVACC members have and am extremely happy to be leading the charge toward a bigger and better California Chapter. I am also equally committed to increasing the involvement of our female veterans and prioritizing the diversity, equity and inclusion of our membership as we charter the ship forward. Although we have not been able to get back into our offices just, yet we are looking at ways to address our impatient members needs as well as our membership at large. Your feedback would be welcomed, and I look forward to getting to know more of our members. Call me or email me anytime. My door is always open.

In service,

Martha Varela, MPA

Martha Varela

Army Veteran

PVACC Community Events



Mike Nguyen

Government Relations Director and Special Events Coordinator

The chapter has been strategizing to reach out to new mem-

bers and enhance outreach the surrounding community.

Since April PVACC has been working to get back into the community outreach. The chapter's presence is now well established in the Veteran Communities, and we are rebuilding our volunteer.

PVACC was invited to be a participant in the Veterans Resource Fair in April at Century Villages of Cabrillo's "Spring Fling" in Long Beach. Century Villages or CVC serves as steward, manager, and coordinator for the 27-acre campus community. CVC creates the physical and social conditions where collaborating programs can succeed in overcoming homelessness. As a social enterprise, CVC engages in property management, real estate development, and community development activities, all uniformly geared around the vision of breaking the cycle of homelessness. CVC is located at the former Long Beach Naval Station Base housing.

PVACC was also invited to participate in the Orange Coast College's Veterans Resource Fair. This event was a great opportunity to meet other Veterans Resource Providers and talk to OCC students about volunteer opportunities with the chapter. The Orange Coast College's Student Veterans office is primarily purpose is to assist with acquiring and using VA education benefits additional guidance or resources.

All the hard work that went to outreach paid off when the chapter was invited to participate in The Frank Clark Football Camp Saturday June 25th, at Lynwood High School. Operation Confidence, a grassroots 501CS in the San Fernando Valley, in collaboration with Paralyzed Veterans of America California Chapter and ProCamp provided local kids a free football camp that included honoring America's Veterans for the first time ever! Frank Clark and his coaches, some of who were veterans offered tips and hands on instruction, fundamental football skills stations, and non-contact games in a high energy,

fun, and positive environment which also included some skills and drills for PVACC Veterans.

Future Events in the planning stages:

City of Paramount Veterans Day Event. We are currently working with the City of Paramount's Parks and Recreation Department to host our chapter at the City's Veterans Day Celebration. More details to follow!

BBQ for SCI in-patients. We are planning a BBQ for the in -patient members at the SCI building in time for the holidays. We are in the initial planning stages with NuVision Credit Union to get volunteers and help with cooking.

JFTB Los Alamitos Base Tours for PVACC members.

The chapter staff is in the initial planning stages with JFTB Los Alamitos' Public Affairs office to provide a private tour of the base. We are currently surveying the base to ensure that every participant can enjoy this special event. The base tour is planned to provide the following:

Windshield Tour of the flight line UH-60 Blackhawk crew briefing Tour and familiarization on Engagement Skills

Trainer



41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) in Tempe Arizona By: Elmer Jacobs Jr.

Arrival at Airport, greeting and luggage assistance and transportation by VA & Tempe School District daily temperature in Tempe Arizona was 116 Degrees.











Day 1 at The 41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games kicked off today in Tempe, Arizona!



A pickleball exhibition helped kick off the first day of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, Arizona. #pno2022 #NVWG2022

Day 2 of c the 41st National Veterans Wheelwqqwwwwwqwe've25th chair Games has kicked off! Archery has started at Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center in Phoenix, and table tennis is in action at the Sun

Devil Fitness Center in Tempe!



#NVWG Cheering on Jerry at the air pistol comp

Veterans get excited for Day 2 of the 2022 National Veterans Wheelchair Games taking place this week in Tempe, Ariz. #pno2022 #NVWG2022

Powerlifting just finished up at the 41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games at the Arizona State University Sun Devil Fitness Complex in Tempe, Arizona!



The 41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games is at AMF Tempe Village Lanes in Tempe, Arizona, for bowling today!



Shoutout to Vitalant for sponsoring our #AdaptiveTableTennis event at our National

Veterans Wheelchair

Games, co-presented by PVA, Adaptive Sports and Arts - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and 2022 local host Phoenix VA Health Care System, at the Sun Devil Fitness! We are overwhelmed by your support for our #Veteran #AdaptiveAthletes, #AdaptiveSports, and the 2022 #WheelchairGames.



Learn More: wheelchairgames.org.

More Photos: flic.kr/s/aHBqjzTE2M.

Thank you, Deloitte, for sponsoring #AdaptivePowerlifting at our National Veterans Wheelchair Games at Sun Devil Fitness! We are so grateful that #DeloitteSupports our nation's #Veteran #AdaptiveAthletes and #AdaptiveSports.

Read more about the 2022 #WheelchairGames, copresented by PVA and Adaptive Sports and Arts - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and local host Phoenix VA Health Care System: wheelchairgames.org.

More Photos: flic.kr/s/aHBqjzTBFC.









More wheelchair basketball at the 41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games at the Arizona State University Fitness Complex in Tempe, Arizona!1

Wheelchair softball and field events (shot put, discus and javelin) kick off this morning's National Veterans Wheelchair Games at Bell Bank Park in Mesa, Ariz. #wheelchairgames #pno2022





All good things must come to an end but not without some Para Disc Golf. Veterans enjoyed the closing day of the 2022 National Veterans Wheelchair Games competing in disc golf before making their way back to their home states. #pno2022 #NVWG2022 Read the full story here -

Our #Veteran #AdaptiveAtheltes played such ☐ FIRE☐ #WheelchairBasketba ll at Sun Devil Fitness that they raised the temperature in Tempe, Arizona!



Thank you, The Boeing Company, for sponsoring #WheelchairBasketball at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. We are so grateful that #BoeingInspires our PVA, Adaptive Sports and Arts - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Phoenix VA Health Care System athletes to compete fiercely at the #WheelchairGames.

Click Here for More Information on #AdaptiveSports: wheel-chairgames.org.

More Photos: flic.kr/s/aHBqjzTDWX.

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Click Here for More Information on #AdaptiveSports: wheelchairgames.org.

More Photos: flic.kr/s/aHBqjzTDWX.

Thank you so much to Prudential for powering 9-ball at our 2022 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, co-presented by PVA, Adaptive Sports and Arts - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and local host Phoenix VA Health Care System. We are grateful you sponsored this #AdaptiveSports event at the Sun Devil Fitness

and support our #Veteran #AdaptiveAthletes at the #WheelchairGames.Read More: wheelchair-

games.org.











At the 2022 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, Arizona, our #Veteran #AdaptiveAthletes eagerly competed in #AdaptiveBoccia at Sun Devil Fitness. Thank you, Manheim Phoenix, for sponsoring this #AdaptiveSport and your commitment to "#OurMissionIsYours."



2022 #WheelchairGames, copresented by PVA and Adaptive Sports and Arts - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. with local host Phoenix

Tempe Arizona

Learn more about the

VA Health Care System: wheelchairgames.org



WASHINGTON WHELEVALLY WASHINGTON WASHINGTON WHELEVALLY WASHINGTON WASHINGTON



The Medal count was California Chapter athletes won 5 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.

Mohan Vallabhapurapu

Dear Martha, Elmer and BOD, I want to take this opportunity to Thank You and BOD for approving the Joe Fox Funding for the item 1 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, and for Item 2. Funding for Fiscal Year 2022-2023











LET'S BOWL!!!

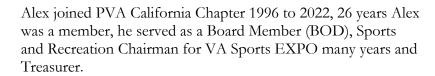
PVACC Bowling League

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, California Chapter Bowling League is an eight months event Sep-May, held at Bowlero, 1501 S. Lemon St. Fullerton, CA 92832. Each game consists of three divisions based on handicapped bowling scores. Each division competes for cash prices. Typically, on Thursday nights the bowling participants are paired with able-bodied partners to compete in an up down competition.

If you would like more information please email Linda Pratt at Prattlinda54@yahoo.com



Alejandro (Alex) Calvo Guerrero 7/20/1969 - 6/22/2022



Some might remember Angela Madsen our Marine member, US Olympian who through the Javelin 2016 and won a Bronze in Discus in 2012, played wheelchair basketball and was trying to accomplish a world record rowing across the atlantic ocean from US to Hawaii last year when she passed away in June 22, 2021. June 22 will be a day to remember our Brother & Sister. RIH!! Angles from the East & West!!

"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure."

Alex my dear brother the celebration of you will continue in all of those that knew and loved you. I will never forget the life lessons you shared and I will always remember "The Shit you did" — and check my excuses at the door. Thank you for being you.

We are all here for Julie And Ryder Calvo - we have your six. Rest easy my dear friend

Alex's Celebration of Life is was Saturday July 16, 2022. I wanted to share some more information for those attending.

The Atlanta Braves will be playing the Nationals and we'll have the game streaming. Feel free to wear the Braves team colors for their number one fan! Julie has created a great playlist and ordered some Puerto Rican and Cuban food to honor Alex . If you'd like to bring a salad, dessert or drinks to share, feel free... but please, no obligations.

Julie, Ryder and additional family are looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing happy memories.











Las Vegas Nevada is not the only lights, machines and show in town. There is another strip in town as well!

If you're looking for a fun spot, vacation or entertainment, the Las Vegas Speedway drag strip is just 15 miles north east of the city and is packed with excitement and is very accessible to anyone in a wheelchair.

If you like cars, speed, drag racing, classic car shows, outside music entertainment, car-parts-swap-meet, tailgating and not to mention low flying Air Force fighter jets from Nellis Air Base; It all together provides for a pretty exciting day at the races for the whole family.

The speedway has two different race tracks for drag racing and oval track racing. I attended the drag races.

Thanks To The Paralyzed Veterans Association Scholarship program, I was able to take it all in, close and upfront on 17-20 March at the Las Vegas Speedway.

It was the greatest time of entertainment I'd had in a long while, and to all my fellow veterans I encourage you to take an opportunity to go to the races if you've never been.

I had a special invitation to hang out with the pit crew of Sammy Maloof Racing Engines.

Sammy, whose father was a Seabee in the Navy has a real heart for our veterans and is a Hollywood stunt car driver, racing engine shop owner in San Gabriel and also conducts a mentoring program for kids and young adults.

His daughter is also a race car and stunt car driver, and is known as Hot Rod Hanna on the drag racing circuit.

The entire speedway venue is extremely accessible and the grandstands are right on top of all the action to make it exciting.

All the squealing tires and smoke at the starting line is also pretty exciting.

During the event, Nellis Air Base jets flew so low you could wave to the pilots. It was fun to watch them practice banking, landing and taking off.

The jets weren't the only military display. There were also dragster cars sponsored by the Marines, Navy, Air Force; alone with several more show cars with military themes.

It was a great atmosphere for families. Definitely fun for everybody. The sounds of the cars are exhilarating but not overwhelming for those who can't tolerate the sounds.





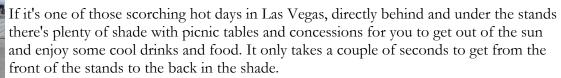
Depending on which race you attend on the calendar, there will be plenty to do.

There is plenty of nice smooth pavement for any wheelchair to maneuver on.

Getting in the stands is super simple. You can drive your van and unload directly behind the grandstands. There is a short 30 yards or so to go through a short tunnel where you can sit in your wheelchair right up to the guardrail in front of the drag strip in front of the stands.

Your view of all the action will be just as good as anyone else's.

And if you just want to roll around, there are different advantage points to watch the race so you can see the burnouts, starting line and much farther down the track.



If you happen to take in a race during the week days, you'll probably get a chance to see fighter jets from the air base and their roaring engines are just as loud as the dragsters going down the strip. They fly low and do a lot of banking as they come towards their landing area. It's quite a big display.

There are plenty of large accessible bathrooms for any oversized wheelchairs.

As far as hotel accommodations there is only one Motel 6 available across the street from the racetracks. If you don't reserve a room ahead of time it will likely be booked already. You'll have to get a room in Vegas and take the 15 miles to the track. But it's an easy and fast ride down the 15 Freeway.

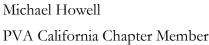
when you exit the freeway on I-15, make a right turn, drive straight until you see parking lot #13. Park there, walk across the street, purchase your ticket, get back in your car and then drive through the gate towards the drag race grandstand.

Also a tip for those of you who use a Hoyer lifter; most hotels have the beds blocked underneath preventing you from using your lifter. If they don't have a workable bed, ask the hotel if they have a ROLL AWAY BED for your lifter legs to go under and a BIGGER room.

I took advantage of that at the Renaissance hotel for no extra charge. However, if you stay there be aware that getting into the parking area is a bit tricky. It's a steep upcline that requires stopping, punching a parking ticket and breaking simultaneously while on a steep upcline.

If you have an RV you can even camp at the track. You can check the web site for prices.

I want to thank again the Paralyzed Veterans Association for helping make this an exciting and enjoyable journey and experience.













Allen Williams, NSO, PVA, Los Angeles Regional Office 8/17/2022

New Law Makes Long Sought Claims for Exposure Now Presumptive Claims

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans — and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposure

It also requires the Veterans Administration to expand health care to veterans exposed to toxic chemicals during service in Vietnam, the Gulf War and global war on terrorism.

Burn Pit Exposure

Located near military bases, some of these pits were nearly as large as three city blocks and were <u>used by the military to incinerate</u> chemical weapons, computer hardware, human remains, medical waste, asbestos, pesticides, paint cans, fuels, rubber and other materials.

"Toxic smoke, thick with poison spreading through the air and into the lungs of our troops," <u>Biden said after signing the bill</u>. "When they came home, many of the fittest and best warriors that we sent to war were not the same. Headaches, numbness, dizziness, cancer."

Most important, the PACT Act removes the burden of proof and gives veterans the benefit of doubt at a time of desperate need.

Serviceman have long been denied benefits for burn pit exposure-related diseases by the Veterans Administration. Between 2007 and 2020, <u>nearly 80%</u> of those claims were denied. Of the 12,582 claims for these benefits during that time period, only 2,828 were approved, <u>according to the Veterans Administration</u>.

The Pact Act is officially called "The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022,". Named after a 39 year old vet who was exposed to burn pits during his duty in 2006 Iraq. In May 2020, Robinson died from his illness, leaving behind a widow and an 8-year-old daughter.

Gulf War Era & Post 9/11

Burn Pit and Toxic Exposure Now Presumptive

Added more than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions based on the PACT Act. This change expands benefits for Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veterans.

These cancers are now presumptive:

♦ Brain cancer

- → Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- **→** Glioblastoma
- ✦ Head cancer of any type
- ★ Kidney cancer
- → Lymphatic cancer of any type
- → Lymphoma of any type
- **→** Melanoma
- ♦ Neck cancer
- → Pancreatic cancer
- → Reproductive cancer of any type

Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

These illnesses are now presumptive:

- → Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- **♦** Chronic bronchitis
- → Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- **♦** Chronic rhinitis
- **♦** Chronic sinusitis
- → Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- **→** Emphysema
- → Granulomatous disease

- → Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- **♦** Pleuritis
- **→** Pulmonary fibrosis

Sarcoidosis

Viet Nam Era Conditions Now Presumptive

Agent Orange Presumptives

Based on the PACT Act, added 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- High blood pressure (also called hypertension)
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

If you think you're eligible for VA health care and benefits, we encourage you to apply now.

Viet Nam Locations

Added these 5 new locations to the list of presumptive locations:

- → Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
- → Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969

Robert Grant

James Patton

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN...

Members who we have recently learned of their passing.

James Miller Lloyd Broyles

James Ller Robert Hampton

William Baker William Craig Lee Wilkins

Pepito Eclarinal Ronald Hayward John Gatlin

William Giles David Anderson Joe Borland

Jesus Garcia Robin Rustan Landis Berthiaume

Daniel Stansell John Carter Louis Smith
Alejandro Calvo Benjamin Vinuya

Kurt Phillips

Manuel Alonso William Owens

Page 16

George Gibson

- → Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
- → Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980
- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977

If you served on active duty in any of these locations, we'll automatically assume (or "presume") that you had exposure to Agent Orange.

Radiation Presumptive Locations

Added these 3 new response efforts to the list of presumptive locations:

- → Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, from January 1, 1977, through December 31, 1980
- → Cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of **Palomares, Spain**, from January 17, 1966, through March 31, 1967
- Response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons near **Thule Air Force Base in Greenland** from January 21, 1968, to September 25, 1968

If you took part in any of these efforts, the VA will automatically assume (or "presume") that you had exposure to radiation.

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits. Contact your local VA or your Veterans Service Organization for assistance. You can also get more information at https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/.

Welcome to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, California Chapter

New Members

Eduardo Rodriguez Ronnie White

Vivian Murray Eric Reyes

Gary Crabtrey Billy Bollinger

Benjamin Castro

Matthew Blakeman



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

May

Jeff Hider

Glendon Laningham

Dwaine Zanders

Edward Axton

Robert Graham

Kareen Harmon

William Gladney

Melvin King

Alvin Uttecht

Phillip Kazanjian

Timothy Cassidy

Rocco Paniccia

Matthew Zwirn

John Hammond

James McGilberry

Frank Bishop

Isabelle McBeth

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Page 18

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