



HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA

America 250: Honoring 250 Years of Freedom and the Veterans Who Defend It

As our nation celebrates America's 250th Birthday, we proudly reflect on two and a half centuries of freedom, resilience, and unity. This historic milestone is more than a celebration of our country's founding—it is a tribute to the generations of brave men and women who have answered the call to serve.

To our veterans, thank you for your courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to protecting the freedoms we enjoy every day. Your service has strengthened our nation and inspired future generations to uphold the values of honor, duty, and patriotism.

As we commemorate 250 years of American history, let us also celebrate the enduring spirit of our veterans, whose dedication continues to make a lasting difference in our communities. Together, we honor the past, embrace the present, and look forward to a future built on service, compassion, and hope.

Happy 250th Birthday, America—and heartfelt thanks to all who have worn the uniform in service to our nation.





Message from the PVACC President

Members,

As we reflect on our country's 250 year history and I will include PVA's 80th anniversary as well. While both have had imperfections, I have chosen to list some highlights and encourage all of you to study and reflect on both.

America's founding fathers were far from perfect but the constitution and individual rights we have are still the envy of the world and something we should be grateful for during turbulent times and elite leaders telling countrymen what they will do with little or no regard for their individual rights or concerns.

It is impossible to cover everything in our country's 250 year history but I have listed what stands out for me:

- Defeated British imperialism and created the ability to self rule
- Establishing our constitution and individual rights
- Survived a civil war and ended slavery
- Established Strongest Military to protect our country to date
- Established 50 self governing states and many territories
- Fought in two world wars and many conflicts and battles around the world to save not only our country's freedom but that of the western world
- Created an Industrial Revolution
- Ratified and guaranteed freed slaves and women the right to vote
- Created the auto world we continue to define today
- Created NASA and Space technology
- Established Ai
- Many more things to come

PVA's 80 year history highlights:

- Convention in Chicago to establish a Veteran Service Organization focusing on SCI/D
- Established chapter offices throughout the country that currently number 33
- Worked with the VA to establish 25 SCI centers throughout the country
- With the VA established 2 MS Centers of Excellence and outpatients centers/clinics throughout the country
- Have started to put more focus on ALS members
- Established programs for members focusing on benefits, employment, health, sports, education, advocacy, legislation and research
- Established the Anita Bloom committee to help serve female member needs and improve programs
- Established a Education and Research Foundation to improve lives of veterans and citizens of the world with SCI/D
- Created with the VA, the largest annual veteran and world wheelchair games

I know I have missed highlights, but wanted to give you all something to reflect on in our country's 250th and PVA's 80 year histories. Please feel free to explore and learn more on your own, and hopefully together we can continue to create more impactful history for both our Country and PVA.



DAVID ZURFLUH
PRESIDENT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPORTS DIRECTOR OF PVA- CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

GREAT DAY OF FISHING ABOARD THE MONTE CARLO AT 22ND STREET LANDING

We had an amazing day of fishing aboard the Monte Carlo out of 22nd Street Landing! With over 25 fishermen on board, everyone enjoyed great weather, calm waters, and plenty of action.

The rockfish, especially sculpin, were biting, and the boat brought in a great catch throughout the trip. From experienced anglers to first-time fishermen, everyone had a fantastic time enjoying the excitement of reeling in fish and spending the day on the water.

A big thank you to the Monte Carlo Staff and most of we couldn't do with you our volunteers who help those who was in need of assistance you were on deck to assistance. for their hard work and making the trip enjoyable for everyone. It was a memorable day filled with great fishing, good company, and lots of laughs.

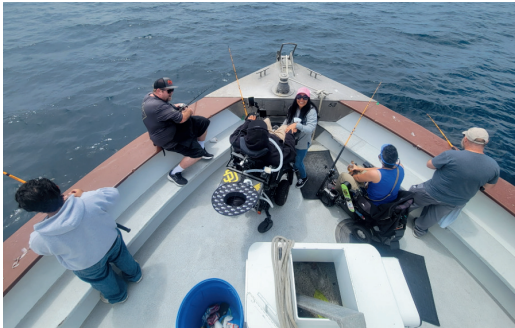
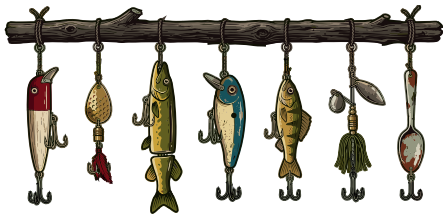
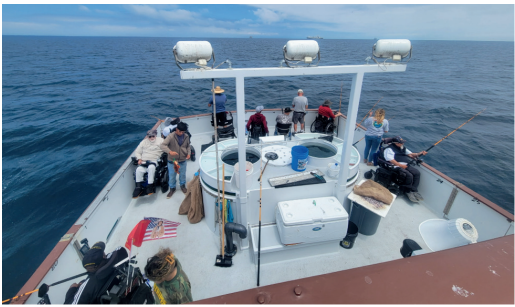
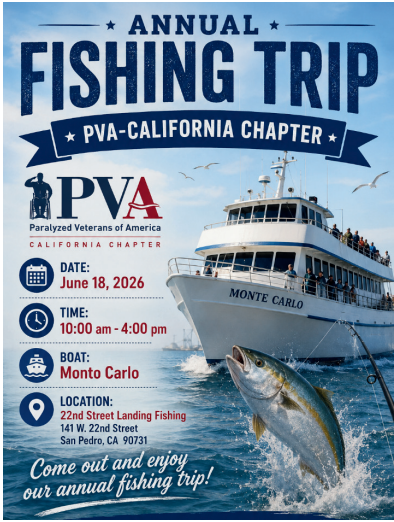
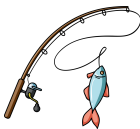
We're already planning another fishing trip soon, and we can't wait to get back out there. Tight lines and see you on the next adventure!

Make sure your information is update to date with the chapter to ensure you are getting all of our latest news and upcoming events.

Sports Director
Cal Garcia



PVA- California Chapter Fisihing Trip June 2026



BIG THANKS TO THE ANGELS FOR THE DONATION FOR OUR VETERANS





**Stronger Together.
BETTER TOGETHER.**

MEMBER'S MEETING

PVA – CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

**THURSDAY
JUNE 25, 2026 | 11:30 AM**

THIS IS A HYBRID MEETING
Join us in person or virtually – your voice matters!

Lunch will be provided!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR LEADERS!

Our Chapter is only as strong as the members who step up to lead. If you're passionate about serving veterans with spinal cord injury or disease and want to make a difference, **WE WANT YOU!**

JOIN THE MEETING

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, KINDLY WRITE A BIOGRAPHY ABOUT YOURSELF.

- Tell us about your background, experience, and skills.
- Share your passion for serving our veteran community.
- Let us know how you can help lead our Chapter forward.

CLICK THE BUTTON TO JOIN
We look forward to seeing you there!

PVA – CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
160 S. Grand Ave., Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90017

562-826-5713 | info@pvacc.org | pvacc.org

PVA- California Chapter June Meeting

WORDS OF HOPE AND STRENGTH



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

To anyone living with a spinal cord injury, a life-changing disease such as MS (Multiple Sclerosis), or any other life-changing condition:

Your journey may look different than the one you once imagined, but your story is still full of meaning, purpose, and possibility. Every day you continue forward—through challenges, adjustments, and victories—is a reflection of your resilience and inner strength.

You are not defined by your injury or diagnosis. You are defined by your courage, your character, your persistence, and the way you continue to show up for yourself and your life.

There may be difficult moments, but you are never walking this path alone. You are surrounded by a community of support—family, friends, caregivers, and fellow individuals who understand the strength it takes to keep moving forward.

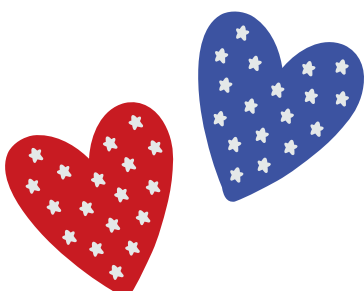
Your voice matters. Your presence matters. You matter.

Take pride in how far you have come. Celebrate every step, every milestone, and every small victory along the way. Progress is progress, no matter the pace.

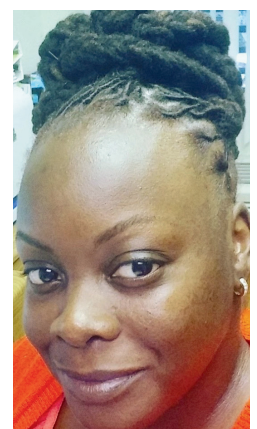
You are resilient. You are valued. You are enough.

Keep believing in your future, even when the road feels uncertain. There is still so much ahead for you—new experiences, new joy, and new strength you have not yet discovered.

Keep going. Your life continues to make a difference in ways seen and unseen.



REMINDER :
FROM OFFICE MANAGER
ANITA GRAVES





ANCILLARY VETERANS BENEFITS

VA disability compensation (pay) offers a monthly tax-free payment to Veterans who got sick or injured while serving in the military and to Veterans whose service made an existing condition worse. You may qualify for VA disability benefits for physical conditions (like a chronic illness or injury) and mental health conditions (like PTSD) that developed before, during, or after service.

The VA also issues addition (ancillary) benefits to service connected veterans. These benefits are automatically granted upon service connection but you must contact the VA for a letter verifying the specific benefit you wish to use.

Non-Compensable 0 percent disability rating:

*Note: In some instances there are individuals who have separate and more than two zero percent service connected disabilities who are paid at the minimum 10 percent. (38 CFR 3.324)

- 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring
- No cost health care and prescription drugs for service connected disabilities(if income limits are met)
- Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Service connected disability rated at 10%

- No cost health care and prescription medications for service-connected disabilities
- Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA-authorized health care facility
- Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan
- 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- (with a serious employment handicap)
- Burial and plot allowance
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Service-connected disability rating at 20%

- No-cost health care and prescription medications for service-connected disabilities
- Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA-authorized health care facility
- Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan
- 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Burial and plot allowance
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Service-connected disability rating at 30 - 40%

- No-cost health care and prescription medications for service-connected disabilities
- Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA-authorized health care facility
- Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan
- 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring
- Direct hire authority
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Additional compensation for eligible dependents
- (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouse)
- Burial and plot allowance
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Service connected disability rating at 50%

- No-cost health care and prescription medications
- Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA-authorized health care facility
- Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan
- 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring
- Direct hire authority
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Additional compensation for eligible dependents
- (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses)
- Concurrent receipt of military retired pay
- Burial and plot allowance
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Service-connected disability rating at 60 - 90%

- No-cost health care and prescription medications
- Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or a VA-authorized health care facility
- Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan
- 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring
- Direct hire authority
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Additional compensation for eligible dependents
- (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses)
- Concurrent receipt of military retired pay
- Individual Unemployability
- (must be unemployable due to service-connected disabilities)
- Dependents Educational Assistance
- (unemployable condition must be considered permanent)
- Special restorative training
- CHAMPVA–Civilian Health and Medical Program
- (unemployable condition must be considered permanent)
- Dental care
- (if rated unemployable)
- Burial and plot allowance
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Service-connected disability rating at 100%

- No-cost health care and prescription medications
- Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or a VA-authorized health care facility
- No-cost dental care
- Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan
- 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring
- Direct hire authority
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses)
- Concurrent receipt of military retired pay
- Dependents Education Assistance (must be considered permanent.)
- Special restorative training
- CHAMPVA–Civilian Health and Medical Program (must be considered permanent)
- Burial and plot allowance
- Uniformed Services ID card

Service-connected disability rating at 100% with an additional separate 60 percent service-connected disability rating

- Statutory Housebound
- Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

There are state-issued ancillary benefits also. Such as property tax exemption, vehicle registration fee exemption, college tuition waivers and more. Check with your states department of veterans affairs to find out more.

There are state issued ancillary benefits also. Such as property tax exemption, vehicle registration fee exemption, college tuition waivers and more. Check with your states department of veterans affairs to find out more.

VA benefits for spouses, dependents, survivors, and family caregivers

As the spouse or dependent child of a Veteran or service member, you may qualify for certain benefits, like health care, life insurance, or money to help pay for school or training. As the survivor of a Veteran or service member, you may qualify for added benefits, including help with burial costs and survivor compensation.

If you're caring for a Veteran, you may also be eligible for support to help you better care for the Veteran—and for yourself.

To find out more contact the VA or your PVA representative.

1Source: https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp

2Source: <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/>



Allen Williams
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BUILDING OUR PEER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

We are excited to continue growing a strong and supportive peer community within PVACC. Our Peer Support Network is forming to provide encouragement, shared experience, and connection among members who understand the journey we share.

We are pleased to recognize the following members who have expressed interest in participating so far as June 25, 2026:

**Artis Flanagan
Joe Means
Michael Lackey
Scoba Rhodes
David. Mason**

Thank you to each of you for stepping forward to help strengthen our community. Your willingness to support others makes a meaningful difference and helps build a space of understanding, respect, and hope for all members.

**We look forward to continuing to grow this network together.
You could reach out to the chapter via email info@pvacc.org or 562-826-5713.**





If you are interested in joining any other committees, please let us know. We welcome your participation and value the skills, ideas, and support you bring to our chapter.

We also encourage all members to attend our upcoming meeting to stay informed and receive updates on what's new within the chapter. Your voice and involvement help us continue building a strong and connected community.

Email: info@pvacc.org
Phone: 562-826-5713



Celebrating Our May HEROES!

This month, we proudly celebrate the birthdays of our members here at the California Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America.

May your birthday be filled with joy, appreciation, and the recognition you truly deserve. Each of you brings strength, resilience, and heart to our community, and we are grateful to have you as part of our family.

As you celebrate another year, we wish you continued health, happiness, and success in all that you do. May this new chapter bring new opportunities, meaningful moments, and plenty of reasons to smile.

Thank you for being an important part of our community—today, we celebrate YOU! 🎂 🎈

Happy Birthday and best wishes for a wonderful year ahead!

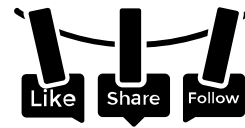
HYBRID CHAPTER MEMBER'S MEETING

ZOOM
MEETING ID: 609 221 6677
Passcode: pvacc



TBA
@ 11:30 AM
LOCATION: BUILDING 150
RM- U-200
LUNCH PROVIDED

CONTACT PLATFORMS



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PVACCLB



WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/PVACCLB



WWW.TIKTOK.COM/@PVACCLB



WWW.TWITTER.COM/PVACCLB



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



WWW.PVACC.ORG

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



We're calling on compassionate community members to join us in making a difference for our veterans at the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Center in Long Beach. Your time and support can bring comfort, companionship, and encouragement to those who have served our nation. Whether it's lending a hand with daily activities, sharing stories, or simply being present, your involvement helps create a stronger, more caring community. Come be part of something meaningful—because our veterans deserve the very best.

If your interested email info@pvacc.org and put in the subject line: Volunteer

MEMBERS NEWS



Dear Members,

To stay connected and receive updates from PVA-California, please ensure your contact information is current. Email info@pvacc.org or call 562-826-5713 to update your records. Keeping your information up to date helps us provide you with timely news, programs, and benefits.

Thank you,
PVA -California Chapter





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QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:



Do you have a question, concern, or need assistance with anything? Our team is here to help! Please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We want to make sure you stay informed, supported, and connected with all the latest news and updates.

“WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!”



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DONE DIFFERENTLY WITHIN OUR CHAPTER? ARE THERE PROGRAMS, EVENTS, OR RESOURCES YOU'D LIKE MORE OF? YOUR SUGGESTIONS HELP US GROW AND BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBERS—LET US KNOW!



Interim Board of Directors for PVA- California Chapter

- David Zurfluh - President
- Anne Robinson - National Vice President
- Marcus Murray - National Vice President
- Tom Wheaton - National Treasurer
- Anita Graves - Office Manager