

Volume 3, Issue 8

August 2008

# The Advocacy Bulletin

A publication of the Mtn. States Chapter  
Paralyzed Veterans of America

## Inside this issue:

- VA Appropriations Bill
- PVA Holds National Convention
- Local Organization Receives National PVA Award
- MSCPVA Hosts Annual Bowling Tournament

Lost Lake, Colorado

**UPCOMING EVENTS...**

*You're Invited to Join Us!*

Friday, September 19, 2008 - 6:00 PM  
for MSCPVA's

***Annual Membership & Sponsors Appreciation Banquet***

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## NATIONAL UPDATE

### **Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill**

Prior to the August recess, the House of Representatives completed work on H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs appropriations bill. Its commendable the House leadership made it a priority to complete work on this critically important funding bill prior to the August recess, but final passage for this legislation remains uncertain.



The Administration has previously indicated that it opposed the fact that the bill exceeds the budgetary recommendations that was submitted back in February for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill provides \$2.9 billion more than the President's Budget Request. In fact, The Independent Budget for FY 2009—co-authored by AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans for Foreign Wars—concluded that the Administration's request for VA is approximately \$3 billion short of the resources needed to fully fund the VA.

Given the recent budgetary history of the VA, Paralyzed Veterans are astounded that the Administration continues to insist that the VA has been given sufficient funding to meet the health-care and benefits needs of veterans. In fact, this Administration has requested and received several emergency supplemental appropriations primarily to shore up budget crises with regularity in the VA health-care system over a period of several years.

### **Paralyzed Veterans Hold 62nd Annual Convention**

In mid-August, the Paralyzed Veterans of America held its 62nd annual convention in Portland, Oregon. More than 100 representatives from Paralyzed Veterans' 34 chapters came together to discuss the business of the organization, as well as elect new officers. Special guests included Deputy U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon Mansfield, who delivered the keynote speech. Annual chapter awards were also given out, as well as acknowledging individuals and corporations who have contributed greatly to the quality of paralyzed veterans' lives.



Paralyzed Veterans' is the only congressional chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of individuals with spinal cord injury or disease. The organization was founded by a band of spinal cord injured service members who returned home from World War II 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, dedicated to veterans' service, medical research, and civil rights for people with disabilities.

And for 62 years Paralyzed Veterans and its chapters have been working to create an America where all veterans and people with disabilities, and their families, have everything they need to thrive. We represent thousands of veterans in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

*\*Disclaimer:*

*All information contained in this bulletin is taken from publicly available media and information sources.*

## **REGIONAL UPDATE**

### **Denver Based Organization Received a National PVA Award**

MSCPVA was pleased to nominate this year's *Schweikert Disability Awareness Award* recipient, the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) for their tremendous and comprehensive adaptive sports programs, in which many PVA members participate in annually. NSCD is arguably the number-one competition center in North America for disabled ski racers. Their continued contributions to and awareness of the disability community made them a clear choice for this award. The therapeutic recreational programs offered in both the winter and summer seasons benefit people with disabilities in a profound way and helps them to gain confidence, self-esteem and self-determination. MSCPVA would like to applaud Mr. Craig Pollitt and his team at the National Sports Center for the Disabled for their extraordinary contributions and achievements in the adaptive sports industry.



### **MSCPVA Hosted its 4th Annual Invitational Wheelchair Bowling Tournament**



Over Labor Day weekend, the MSCPVA hosted its 4th Annual Invitational Wheelchair Bowling Tournament in Colorado Springs. There were over 25 wheelchair athletes who competed in the four day tournament, and over 90 bowlers who participated in the popular Up/Down tournament. MSCPVA



maintains an active sports and recreation program for our members and people with disabilities in our region. Our programs provide tangible health benefits, support, opportunity and camaraderie for all who are involved. This bowling tournament is one of many sporting activities the Chapter hosts each year.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE: Paralyzed Veterans is a Non-Partisan Organization**

As we find ourselves in the midst of a heated election, it is important to reiterate that MSCPVA does not affiliate itself with a particular political party and/or candidate. The Paralyzed Veterans of America is a congressionally chartered veterans service organization that specializes in assisting and promoting a full lifestyle for veterans affected by spinal cord injury and disease. The Chapter's advocacy outreach efforts are accomplished by working with state legislators, as well as the Congressional delegations in the mountain states of Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.



If you would like additional information on issues presented in this Bulletin, please contact me at [lhoman@mscpva.org](mailto:lhoman@mscpva.org). This bulletin is also available on the Advocacy page of our website at [www.mscpva.org](http://www.mscpva.org).

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*The Mtn. States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (MSCPVA) is a Congressionally chartered, veterans' service organization specializing in assisting and promoting a full life-style for veterans affected by spinal cord injury or dysfunction. The Paralyzed Veterans of America was formed in 1946. MSCPVA is one of 34 chapters, which received its charter in 1955, and has continuously strived to serve its members located in the Rocky Mtn. region of Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.*

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