



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Advocacy Bulletin

Project Eagle Moves Forward

In This Issue:

Project Eagle 1

Bills of Interest 2

Exploring the Causes of MS 3

Construction and design plans continue to move forward as the team focuses on staying on track and on budget. Discussions about the design of interior space are common with concerns about cost and durability both of importance. Moving into the construction phase of development takes patience and precision because carelessness could lead to costly remodeling. With the construction design documents due to be finalized in autumn, there are numerous slight modifications that will be discussed to accommodate the concerns involving such a large scale project. The Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America as well as the architectural team from PVA National will continue to closely monitor the ongoing development of the SCI / D Center.

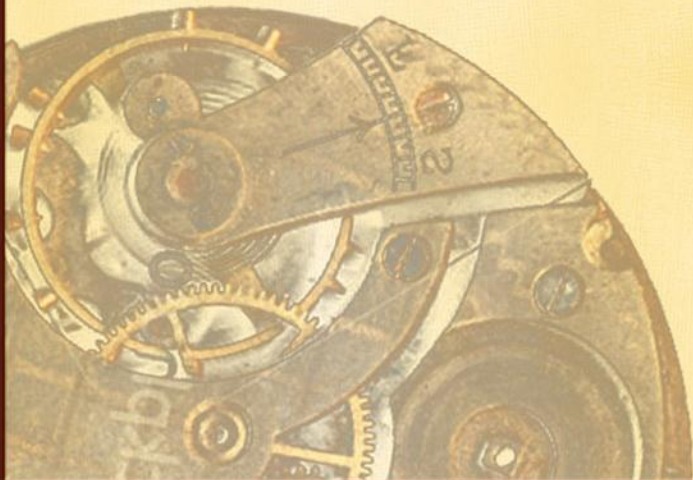


Bills of Interest

- MSCPVA laudes the Hiring Heroes Act of 2011. Senate bill S.951 and the companion House bill H.R. 1941 were introduced in May in an effort to reduce unemployment for our service men and women. The Act amends the Wounded Warriors Act to extend the time available for those in the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses to access rehabilitative services and vocational services. MSCPVA would like to thank Senator Jon Tester from Montana and Senator Michael Bennet from Colorado for supporting the Act.
- MSCPVA supports the passage of S. 490 which would increase the age under which CHAMPVA beneficiaries' children would be eligible to receive medical care. The age would be increased to 26 for eligible children. Since the Affordable Care Act was passed, CHAMPVA is the only medical coverage that doesn't provide insurance for children up to the age 26.

Defense Authorization and Appropriations Process

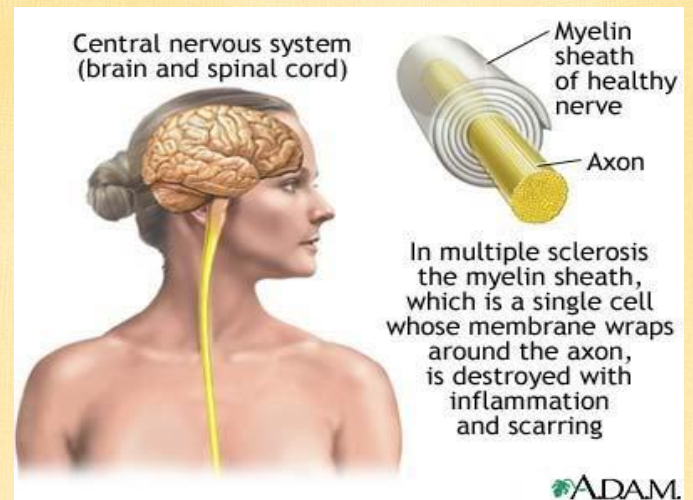
- Appropriations for the VA health care system were awarded in the *Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2011*. Appropriations are awarded for the VA health care system a year in advance assuring that veterans will receive care through FY 2012.
- The defense authorization and appropriation bills which award the VA health care system funding for FY 2013 are still in flux. However, the House Committee on Appropriations passed H.R. 2055 which awards funding at levels consistent with recommendations from the Administration's budget request.
- Of concern to PVA regarding H.R. 2055 is the lack of funding allocated to Medical and Prosthetic Research. Medical Research is essential for veterans where quality of life is concerned, especially for those who have severe injuries.
- Also of concern is the lack of funding for minor and major construction. minor and major construction projects assure the VA is able to meet the healthcare needs of veterans by maintaining up-to-date facilities.



Exploring the Causes of MS

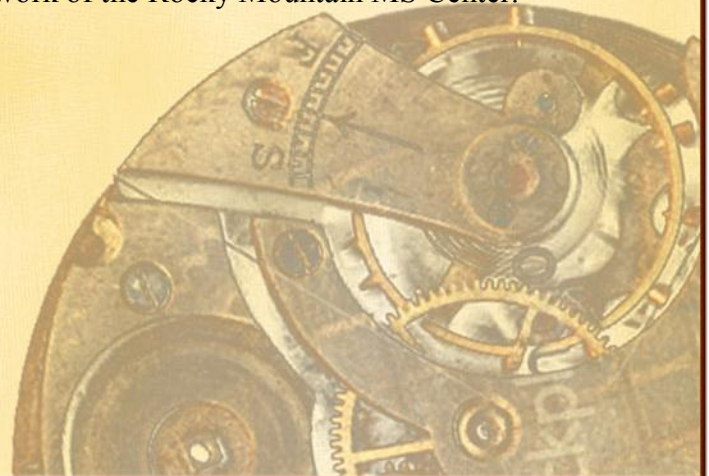
Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a disease where the immune system attacks myelin, which covers the brain and spinal cord and protects nerve fibers. The cause of the immune system's attack on myelin is still not understood by the medical community. However, there are numerous theories and investigations under way to determine the cause or causes of MS. Theories involve a wide range of possible contributing factors such as environment, genetics, and exposure to viruses. There are numerous studies that point to environmental toxins playing a role in the development of MS. Two cases where environmental toxins are considered to be possible causes of MS involve exposure from a zinc smelter plant in Illinois, and air and soil contaminated with lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium in Texas. Yet, confirming that environmental toxins cause MS can be daunting because studies that investigate environmental toxins usually involve researching clusters of people with MS. The cluster studies point to unusually high numbers of people with the disease in one geographic area. However, studying clusters of people with higher than average rates of MS is challenging because there is no central registry where all MS cases are recorded. The lack of a central registry makes it difficult to identify and monitor clusters of people and reach consensus on what environmental factors may or may not contribute to the development of MS.

Retrieved on 5/17/11 from: <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/about-multiple-sclerosis/what-we-know-about-ms/who-gets-ms/clusters/index.aspx>



Announcing a New Feature of the Advocacy Bulletin

The Mountain States Chapter PVA would like to announce a new feature of the Advocacy Bulletin. Each subsequent issue of the Advocacy Bulletin will highlight one or two organizations that work with veteran or disability communities. The Highlight will include a profile of the organization, news relating to the organization, and information about how to get involved. The next Advocacy Bulletin will highlight The Rocky Mountain MS Center. Look for the next Bulletin at the end of August to learn more about the great work of the Rocky Mountain MS Center.



Advocacy Bulletin

The Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (MSCPVA) is one of 34 chapters of Paralyzed Veterans of America and serves 700 members in the Rocky Mountain region of Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah

May, June 2011

Volume 6 Issue 3



Paralyzed Veterans of America

WWW.MSCPVA.ORG

Board of Directors, FY11

James Sack
President

Diane Marsh
Vice-President

Maureen Ludwig
Treasurer

Alan Jones
Secretary

Richard Yoder
Director

Daniel Spotts
Director

Roland
McCutcheon
Director

Dennis Gordon
Director

Mark Shepherd
Ex Officio

Administrative Staff

Mark Shepherd
Executive Director

Jessica Sweeney
Government
Relations
Director

Donna DeBaca
Program Manager

Lenna Gregory
Administrative
Assistant

Chapter Office:
12200 East Iliff
Avenue #107;
Aurora, CO 80014

Phone:
303-597-0038

Toll Free:
800-833-9400

Fax:
303-597-0039

Email:
Info@mscpva.org

National Service Office

Marco Rossi
National Service
Officer III

Joni St. Pierre
National Service
Officer

National Service Office:

155 Van Gordon
Street
Suite 356
Lakewood, CO
80228

Phone: 303.914.5590

Toll Free:
800.795.3588

Fax: 303.914.5593