



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Central Florida Chapter

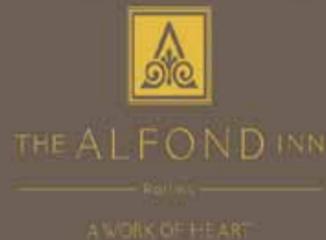
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June 2019





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- President Steve Kirk
- Vice President Sean Gibbs
- Treasurer Brian Terwilliger
- Secretary Jimmy Green
- National Director Craig Enenbach
- Executive Director John DeMauro

Elected Board Members

- Ken Weas Class of 2019
- Craig Enenbach Class of 2020
- Tim Wolfe Class of 2021
- Dan Guppenberger Class of 2021

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Appointees

- Editor Steve Kirk
- Membership/Vol Coordinator Brenda Ciccarello
- Office Manager Joanne Poretti

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- Earnest Hill (386) 755-3016
- David Ray (407) 631-1000 Ext. 11859



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Mission Statement

Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida, a congressionally chartered veteran's service organization that provides a platform of advocacy, education and research, communication, adaptive sports and recreation for veterans paralyzed as a result of spinal cord injury or dysfunction, in an effort to afford them with the highest quality of healthcare and life experiences.



President



Continuing the theme of the upcoming wheelchair games, "Off to the races". Audie Murphy was born in June. He bred quarter horses in California and Arizona, and became a regular participant in horse racing. More importantly, he was one of the most decorated American combat soldiers of World War II. He received every military combat award for valor available from the U.S. Army, as well as French and Belgian

awards for heroism.

Murphy received the Medal of Honor for valor that he demonstrated at the age of 19 for single-handedly holding off an entire company of German soldiers for an hour at the Colmar Pocket in France in January 1945, then leading a successful counterattack while wounded and out of ammunition. When asked after the war why he had seized the machine gun and taken on an entire company of German infantry, he replied, "They were killing my friends."

Murphy was born into a large family of sharecroppers in Hunt County, Texas. His father abandoned them, and his mother died when he was a teenager. Murphy left school in fifth grade to pick cotton and find other work to help support his family; his skill with a hunting rifle helped feed his family.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Murphy's older sister helped him to falsify documentation about his birthdate in order to meet the minimum-age requirement for enlisting in the military. Turned down by the Navy and the Marine Corps, he enlisted in the Army. He first saw action in the 1943 Allied invasion of Sicily; then in 1944 he participated in the Battle of Anzio, the liberation of Rome, and the invasion of southern France. Murphy fought at Montélimar and led his men on a successful assault at the L'Omet quarry near Cleurie in northeastern France in October.

After the war, Murphy embarked on a 21-year acting career. He played himself in the 1955 autobiographical film *To Hell and Back*, based on his 1949 memoirs of the same name, but most of his roles were in westerns. He made guest appearances on celebrity television shows and starred in the series *Whispering Smith*.

Murphy was a fairly accomplished songwriter, suffering from what would today be described as

post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Since his military service, Murphy had been plagued with insomnia and bouts of depression, and he slept with a loaded pistol under his pillow. A post-service medical examination on 17 June 1947 revealed symptoms of headaches, vomiting, and nightmares about the war. His medical records indicated that he took sleeping pills to help prevent nightmares. During the mid-1960s, he recognized his dependence on Placidy, and locked himself alone in a hotel room for a week to successfully break the addiction. Post-traumatic stress levels exacerbated his innate moodiness, and surfaced in episodes that friends and professional colleagues found alarming. His first wife, Dixie Wanda Hendrix, claimed he once held her at gunpoint. She witnessed her husband being guilt-ridden and tearful over newsreel footage of German war orphans. Murphy briefly found a creative stress outlet in writing poetry after his Army discharge. His poem "The Crosses Grow on Anzio" appeared in his book *To Hell and Back*, but was attributed to the fictitious character Kerrigan.



Murphy slept with a loaded handgun under his pillow. He looked for solace in addictive sleeping pills. In his last few years, he was plagued by money problems but refused offers to appear in alcohol and cigarette commercials because he did not want to set a bad example.

In an effort to draw attention to the problems of returning Korean War and Vietnam War veterans, Murphy spoke out candidly about his own problems with post traumatic stress disorder. It was known during Murphy's lifetime as "battle fatigue" and "shell shock", terminology that dated back to World War I. He called on the government to give increased consideration and study to the

emotional impact of combat experiences, and to extend health care benefits to war veterans.

As a result of legislation introduced by U.S. Congressman Olin Teague five months after Murphy's death in 1971, the Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital in San Antonio, now a part of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, was dedicated in 1973.

Murphy died in a plane crash in Virginia in 1971, shortly before his 46th birthday. He was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, where his grave is one of the most visited.

Steve Kirk



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On June 6th, 75 years ago, the largest amphibious landing in history began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along France and the Low Countries.

American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches. By the end of the day, 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Code named Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring, the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

After World War II began, Germany invaded and occupied northwestern France beginning in May 1940. The Americans entered the war in December 1941, and by 1942 they and the British were considering the possibility of a major Allied invasion across the English Channel. The following year, Allied plans for a cross-Channel invasion began to ramp up. In November 1943, Hitler, who was aware of the threat of an invasion along France's northern coast, put Erwin Rommel in charge of spearheading defense operations in the region, even though the Germans did not know exactly where the Allies would strike. Hitler charged Rommel with finishing the Atlantic Wall, a 2,400-mile fortification of bunkers, land mines and beach and water obstacles.

In January 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower was appointed commander of Operation Overlord. In the months and weeks before D-Day, the Allies carried out a massive deception operation intended to make the Germans think the main invasion target was Pas-de-Calais (the narrowest

point between Britain and France) rather than Normandy. In addition, they led the Germans to believe that Norway and other locations were also potential invasion targets. Many tactics were used to carry out the deception, including fake equipment; a phantom army commanded by George Patton and supposedly based in England, across from Pas-de-Calais; double agents; and fraudulent radio transmissions.

Eisenhower selected June 5, 1944, as the date for the invasion; however, bad weather on the days leading up to the operation caused it to be delayed for 24 hours. On the morning of June 5, after his meteorologist predicted improved conditions for the following day, Eisenhower gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord. He told the troops: "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you." Later that day, more than 5,000 ships and landing craft carrying troops and supplies left England for the trip across the Channel to France, while more than 11,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion. Less than a week later, on June 11, the beaches were fully secured and over 326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had landed at Normandy.

For their part, the Germans suffered from confusion in the ranks and the absence of celebrated commander Rommel, who was away on leave. At first, Hitler, believing the invasion was designed to distract the Germans from a coming attack north of the Seine River, refused to release nearby divisions to join the counterattack. Reinforcements had to be called from further afield, causing delays. He also hesitated in calling for armored divisions to help in the defense. Moreover, the Germans were hampered by effective Allied air support, which took out many key bridges and forced the Germans to take long detours, as well as efficient Allied naval support, which helped protect advancing Allied troops.

In the ensuing weeks, the Allies fought their way across the Normandy countryside in the face of determined German resistance, as well as a dense landscape of marshes and hedgerows. By the end of June, the Allies had seized the vital port of Cherbourg, landed approximately 850,000 men and 150,000 vehicles in Normandy, and were poised to continue their march across France.

The Normandy invasion began to turn the tide against the Nazis. A significant psychological blow, it also prevented Hitler from sending troops from France to build up his Eastern Front against the advancing Soviets. The following spring, on May 8, 1945, the Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Hitler had committed suicide a week earlier, on April 30.

John DeMauro



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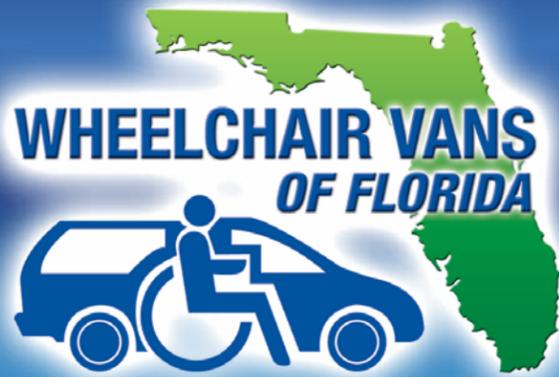
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Board Elections

It is that time of the year again! Time to nominate and elect officers and board members for the coming PVACF Year. We have two open board positions, Ken Weas will be rotating off the board. However, he can be nominated for re-election and can serve again, if elected. The board positions are for three years (2020-2022). Nominees must be certified members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida Chapter. Nominations will be received in June and July by email, calling the office or at a board meeting. Only chapter members can make nominations. Ballots will be mailed in August and an ad hoc committee will count returned ballots in early September. Those newly elected will be inducted at the September board meeting and will take office October 1, 2019. Please note the requirements for nominations for board membership as per the Policies and Procedures of the PVA Central Florida Chapter;

“Any voting member running for Chapter Office must be certified through the National PVA Secretary prior

to being placed on the official ballot. The certification process includes proof of citizenship, proof of Active Duty Service in the Armed Forces and Character of Discharge other than Dishonorable (DD 214), and medical proof of Spinal Cord Injury or Disease. Documents are to be submitted to the CFPVA Secretary for review and examination before they are forwarded to the National PVA Secretary for member certification. Any prospective Board Member or Officer is required to attend six (6) meetings prior to submitting his/her name to run for a potential Board membership or officer position. A prospective Board Member/Officer may excuse themselves from two (2) meetings due to serious medical complications. These conditions will apply for each fiscal year. Those desiring office should have a working understanding of the Chapter’s Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and the eight mandated programs required by National. The materials will be made available.”



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

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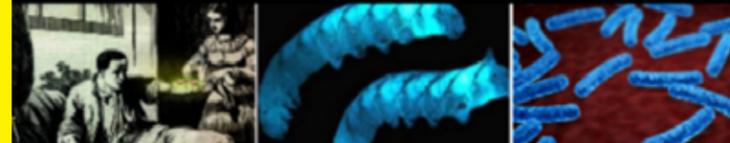


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did you know?

After the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, many Civil War soldiers' lives were saved by a phenomenon called 'Angel's Glow.' The soldiers, who lay in the mud for two rainy days, had wounds that began to glow in the dark and heal unusually fast. In 2001, 2 teens won an international science fair by discovering the soldiers had been so cold that their bodies created the perfect conditions for growing a bioluminescent bacteria, which ultimately destroyed the bad bacteria that could've killed them.



did you know?

Crows love to pull tails. It's a strategy they use to distract an animal from eating so they can steal its food, but they've also been known to do it just for fun.



Did You Know?

did you know?

The Pet Alliance of Orlando animal shelter sorts its dogs into Hogwarts houses. Happy, friendly dogs are placed in Hufflepuff, brave and easygoing dogs go to Gryffindor, puzzle-solving pups are in Ravenclaw, and ambitious, determined dogs land in Slytherin. Once sorted, they get a house banner over their kennel and a profile on social media. So far, the shelter hasn't bothered sorting the cats.



did you know?

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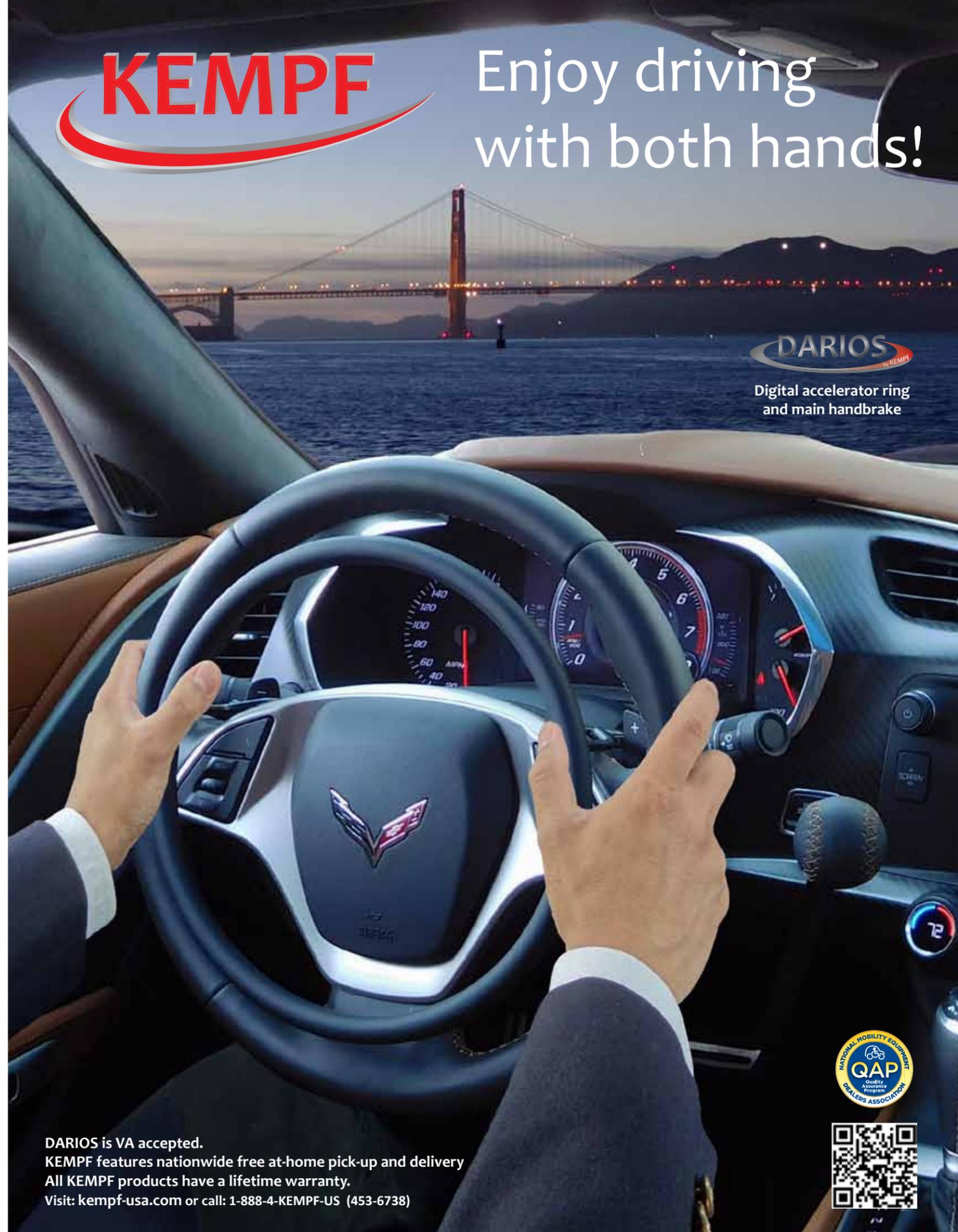
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