



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Central Florida Chapter

# WHEELS IN MOTION

July 2020

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# Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida

6th Annual

## Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday September 26, 2020

MetroWest Golf Club Orlando



**Registration 8:00 AM Shot Gun Start 9:00 AM**

**Registration: \$125.00 per golfer (Veterans \$100)**

**Foursomes: \$440**

Cart & Green Fee, Range Balls, unlimited drinks during play (beer, soda & water)

Goody Bag and Special Gift for each player

**Hole in One Prizes on all par 3s**

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Send check to: PVACF 2711 South Design Court Sanford, FL 32773 or register online at pvacf.org

For more information call 407-328-7041 or email joannep@pvacf.org



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

## Central Florida Chapter

2711 S. Design Ct.

Sanford, FL 32773-8120

Phone (407) 328-7041

Fax: (407) 328-7139

July Board Meeting on zoom is July 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM.

Website: pvacf.org

Email: office@pvacf.org

Chapter Officers 2019-2021

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Vice President.....	Sean Gibbs
Treasurer.....	Brian Terwilliger
Secretary.....	Jimmy Green
National Director.....	Craig Enenbach
Chapter Hospital Liaison.....	Tim Wolfe

Executive Director	John DeMauro
Office Manager	Joanne Poretti

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Roger Sack.....	Class of 2022
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Membership/Vol Coordinator.....	Brenda Ciccarello

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Earnest Hill (386) 755-3016

David Ray (407)-631-1835

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### Mission Statement

**Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida, is 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

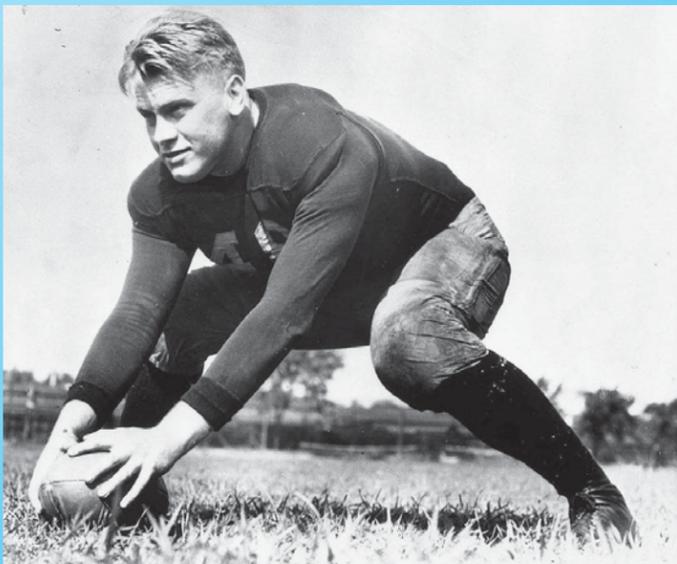


July 14th was Gerald Ford's birthday. Ford served as the 38th president of the United States from August 1974 to January 1977. Before his accession to the presidency, Ford served as the 40th vice president of the United States from December 1973 to August 1974. Ford is the only person to have served as both vice president and president without being elected to either office by the Electoral College.

When President Richard Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, Ford automatically assumed the presidency. Immediately after Ford took the oath of office in the East Room of the White House, he spoke to the assembled audience in a speech that was broadcast live to the nation. Ford noted the peculiarity of his position: "I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your president by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your president with your prayers. He went on to state: I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it.

A portion of the speech would later be memorialized with a plaque at the entrance to his presidential museum.

However, I was impressed by his athletic abilities. Ford played center, linebacker, and long snapper for his school's football team and helped the Wolverines to two undefeated seasons and national titles in 1932 and 1933. In his senior year of 1934, the team suffered a steep decline and won only one game, but Ford was still the team's star player. In one of those games, Michigan held heavily favored Minnesota—the eventual national champion—to a scoreless tie in the first half. After the game, assistant coach Bennie Oosterbaan said, "When I walked into the dressing room at halftime, I had tears in my eyes I was so proud of them. Ford and [Cedric] Sweet played their hearts out. They were everywhere on defense."



Ford later recalled, "During 25 years in the rough-and-tumble world of politics, I often thought of the experiences before, during, and after that game in 1934. Remembering them has helped me many times to face a tough situation, take action, and make every effort possible despite adverse odds." His teammates later voted Ford their most valuable player, with one assistant coach noting, "They felt Jerry was one guy who would stay and fight in a losing cause."

During Ford's senior year, a controversy developed when Georgia Tech said that it would not play a scheduled game with Michigan if a black player named Willis Ward

took the field. Students, players, and alumni protested, but university officials capitulated and kept Ward out of the game. Ford was Ward's best friend on the team, and they roomed together while on road trips. Ford reportedly threatened to quit the team in response to the university's decision, but he eventually agreed to play against Georgia Tech when Ward personally asked him to play. The East-West Shrine Game at San Francisco (a benefit for physically disabled children), played on January 1, 1935. As part of the 1935 Collegiate All-Star football team, Ford played against the Chicago Bears in the Chicago College All-Star Game at Soldier Field. In honor of his athletic accomplishments and his later political career, the University of Michigan retired Ford's No. 48 jersey in 1994. With the blessing of the Ford family, it was placed back into circulation in 2012 as part of the Michigan Football Legends program and issued to sophomore linebacker Desmond Morgan before a home game against Illinois on October 13.

Throughout life, Ford remained interested in his school and football; he occasionally attended games. Ford also visited with players and coaches during practices; at one point, he asked to join the players in the huddle. Before state events, Ford often had the Navy band play the University of Michigan fight song, *The Victors*, instead of *Hail to the Chief*...

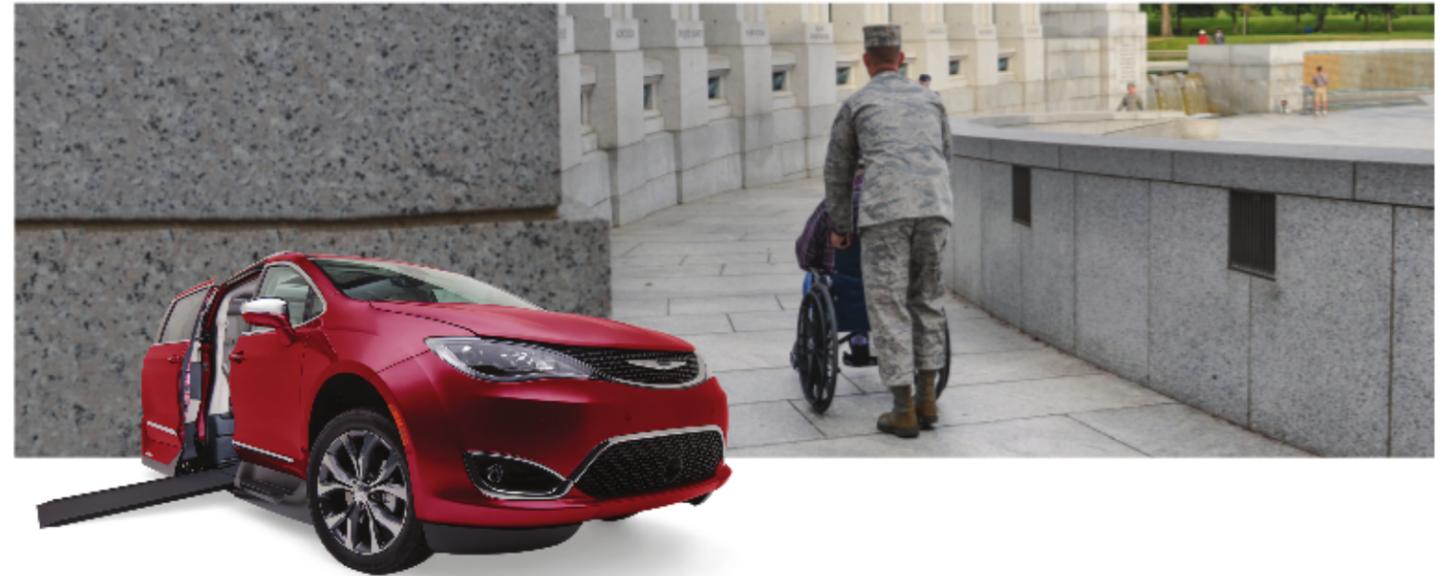
Ford graduated from Michigan in 1935 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. He turned down offers from the Detroit Lions and Green Bay Packers of the National Football League. Instead, he took a job in September 1935 as the boxing coach and assistant varsity football coach at Yale University and applied to its

law school. Following the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Ford enlisted in the navy. He received a commission as ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve on April 13, 1942. On April 20, he reported for active duty to the V-5 instructor school at Annapolis, Maryland. After one month of training, he went to Navy Preflight School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he was one of 83 instructors and taught elementary navigation skills, ordnance, gunnery, first aid, and military drill. In addition, he coached all nine sports that were offered, but mostly swimming, boxing, and football. During the year he was at the Preflight School, he was promoted to Lieutenant, Junior Grade, on June 2, 1942, and to lieutenant, in March 1943.

*Steve Kirk*



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As we celebrate our nation's independence this July, I wanted share some Tidbits of American History.

**The Boston Tea Party:** Americans bitterly objected to the Tea Act of 1773. Colonists objected because they believed that it violated their rights as Englishmen to "no taxation without representation", that is, to be taxed only by their own elected representatives and not by a British parliament in which

they were not represented. The Act was passed by the Parliament in an effort to save a economically strapped British East India Trading Company. Hearing that British ships bearing tea had arrived in the harbor 200 colonists protested to no avail. On December 16, 1773 150 Boston patriots, disguised as Indians dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor. The English Parliament responded by passing four more constraining acts in 1774 setting the stage for the Revolution that would soon after begin.

**Paul Revere ... Patriot, Horseman, Master Silversmith:** Paul Revere is best remembered for his famous ride immortalized by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem;

### "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere"

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear. Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere. On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five: Hardly a man is now alive. Who remembers that famous day and year.*

*He said to his friend, "If the British march, By land or sea from the town to-night. Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch. Of the North-Church-tower, as a signal-light,— One if by land, and two if by sea; And I on the opposite shore will be; Ready to ride and spread the alarm; Through every Middlesex village and farm. For the country-folk to be up and to arm."*

*Then he said "Good night!" and with muffled oar; Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore, Just as the moon rose over the bay; Where swinging wide at her moorings lay The Somerset, British man-of-war: A phantom ship, with each mast and spar Across the moon, like a prison-bar; And a huge black hulk, that was magnified By its own reflection in the tide.*

*Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street; Wanders and watches with eager ears, Till in the silence around him he hears; The muster of men at the barrack door, The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet. And the measured tread of the grenadiers*

*Marching down to their boats on the shore.*

*Then he climbed to the tower of the church; Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread, To the belfry-chamber overhead; And startled the pigeons from their perch On the sombre rafters, that round him made; Masses and moving shapes of shade,— By the trembling ladder, steep and tall; To the highest window in the wall, Where he paused to listen and look down; A moment on the roofs of the town, And the moonlight flowing over all.*

*Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead. In their night-encampment on the hill, Wrapped in silence so deep and still. That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,*

*The watchful night-wind, as it went, Creeping along from tent to tent. And seeming to whisper, "All is well!" A moment only he feels the spell. Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread. Of the lonely belfry and the dead; For suddenly all his thoughts are bent. On a shadowy something far away. Where the river widens to meet the bay,—A line of black, that bends and floats. On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats. Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride. Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride, On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.*

*Now he patted his horse's side, Now gazed on the landscape far and near, Then impetuous stamped the earth, And turned and tightened his saddle-girth; But mostly he watched with eager search. The belfry-tower of the old North Church, As it rose above the graves on the hill, Lonely and spectral and sombre and still. And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height, A glimmer, and then a gleam of light! He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns, But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight A second lamp in the belfry burns!*

*A hurry of hoofs in a village-street, A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark, And beneath from the pebbles, in passing, a spark. Struck out by a steed that flies fearless and fleet: That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light, The fate of a nation was riding that night; And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight, Kindled the land into flame with its heat.*

*He has left the village and mounted the steep, And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep, Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides; And under the alders, that skirt its edge, Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge, Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.*

*It was twelve by the village clock. When he crossed the bridge into Medford town. He heard the crowing of the cock, And the barking of the farmer's dog, And felt the damp of the river-fog, That rises when the sun goes down.*

*It was one by the village clock, When he galloped into Lexington. He saw the gilded weathercock. Swim in the moonlight as he passed, And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare, Gaze at him with a spectral glare, As if they already stood aghast. At the bloody work they would look upon.*

*It was two by the village clock, When he came to the bridge in Concord town. He heard the bleating of the flock, And the twitter of birds among the trees, And felt the breath of the morning breeze. Blowing over the meadows brown. And one was safe and asleep in his bed. Who at the bridge would be first to fall, Who that day would be lying dead, Pierced by a British musket-ball.*

*You know the rest. In the books you have read, How the British Regulars fired and fled,— How the farmers gave them ball for ball, From behind each fence and farmyard-wall, Chasing the red-coats down the lane, Then crossing the fields to emerge again*

*Under the trees at the turn of the road, And only pausing to fire and load.*

*So through the night rode Paul Revere; And so through the night went his cry of alarm To every Middlesex village and farm,— A cry of defiance, and not of fear, A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door, And a word that shall echo forevermore!*

*For, borne on the night-wind of the Past. Through all our history, to the last, In the hour of darkness and peril and need. The people will waken and listen to hear The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed, And the midnight message of Paul Revere.*

A devout patriot and an early participant in the struggle for independence, Revere took part in the Boston Tea Party and formed and led a patrol to watch the British in Boston. He was a Lt. Colonel of the infantry in the Massachusetts Militia. After the Revolutionary War he went back to his business as a master silversmith and eventually crafted the State Seal of Massachusetts, part of which is still in use today.

**Two Bits, Four Bits, Six Bits, A Dollar.....** After the Revolution in 1776, merchants had to cope with English money, American money and Spanish money. There were pounds, shillings, pence, copper cents, dismes (later called dimes), half dismes and other American coinage and paper money. Many Americans were suspicious of paper money and used the Spanish peso, which was a global currency: it was relatively pure silver, it was uniform in size and weight, and it had one special characteristic: it could be divided like a pie into eight equal pieces (reales).

In English, those reales became known as "bits". Two bits were a quarter of a peso. After the new American Congress based the weight of the American dollar on the peso in 1792, "two bits" also referred to a quarter of a dollar. The well known cheer though, originates with George Edmondson Jr. or "Mr. Two Bits". After serving as a Navy fighter pilot during World War II, Edmondson settled in Tampa, Florida and worked in the insurance business. The Two Bits tradition began spontaneously in 1949, when Edmondson was attending the opening game of Florida's football season against The Citadel, a school that he briefly attended before enlisting in the United States Navy during World War II. The Gators had lost five of their last six games the previous year and were not expected to do any better. When the fans booed the players and the coach even before the opening kickoff, Edmondson decided to boost their morale by leading them in a cheer about adding up bits. The Gators won the game, and fans were so enthusiastic about Edmondson's cheer that he returned the next Saturday to lead it again. Eventually, he began leaving his seat to wander throughout the stands of Florida Field, leading fans in different sections in the cheer. Edmondson continued this pattern for the rest of the 1949 season and after, leading the Two Bits cheer at almost every Gator home game.

**Black Gold:** The beginning of the Oil Industry took place on August 27, 1859 when the first drilled oil well in the world began spouting oil at the rate of 25 barrels a day in Titusville, Pennsylvania, setting off the rush for "black gold". It didn't take long for improved equipment and methods of locating oil for prospectors to move west, where wells soon began to reach for the sky in Oklahoma and Texas. Oil was what first established the United States as the world's foremost industrial giant and today rules the world because it is the main ingredient in the production of plastic. The production of plastics begins with the distillation of crude oil in an oil refinery. This separates the heavy crude oil into groups of lighter components, called fractions. Each fraction is a mixture of hydrocarbon chains (chemical compounds made up of carbon and hydrogen), which differ in terms of the size and structure of their molecules. One of these fractions, naphtha, is the crucial compound for the production of plastics.

So, there you go, a few tidbits of American history! Enjoy your July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration in whatever way you find you can celebrate during this world-wide pandemic. Stay safe and stay healthy!

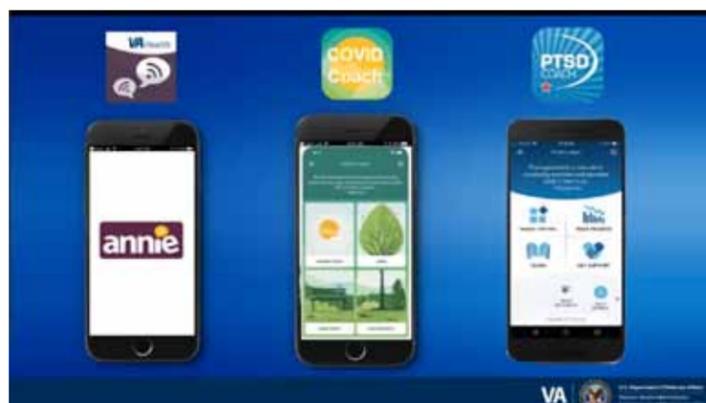
*John DeMauro*



# Connecting For Help

The new national notification phone number Veterans are to use when they have a medical emergency and must go to a community ER. Veterans are advised to contact this number within 72 hours of a visit to the ER. This will facilitate administrative action that must be taken in order for the VA to consider paying non-VA ER bills later.

**National Emergency Notification Number: 1-844-724-7842**



- ▶ Visit PVA's Covid-19 resource page for more information about managing your care and benefits during the pandemic: <https://pva.org/covid-19>.
- ▶ Complete PVA's latest member survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D378XRY>.
- ▶ Contact your NSO with any problems in accessing needed VA health care and services: 866-734-0857 or <https://pva.org/find-support/national-service-office>.



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# Something Special

From one of our members!

President Steve,

I spent 1952-53 in Korea as Platoon Leader, I & R. I was an E-5 and had the job because there weren't any Officers available to do it. After being wounded and healing up I was blessed with Multiple Sclerosis. After the initial attack it went away, for 26 years.

When it came back it really kicked my butt.

After my discharge from the Army in 1954 I signed up at the VA and it only took 40 years to finally get Service Connected for the M.S. Through the years I have belonged to several Service Organizations, American Legion, V.F.W., Amvets, DAV, Order of The Purple Heart and now PVA.

When I opened up my mail and found an Amazon Gift Card for \$100.00 I almost fell out of my wheelchair.

In the 65 years of belonging to different Service Organizations it's the first time I ever got anything from them.

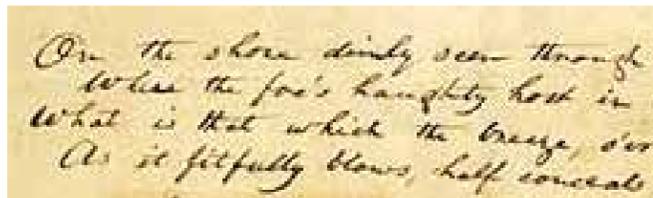
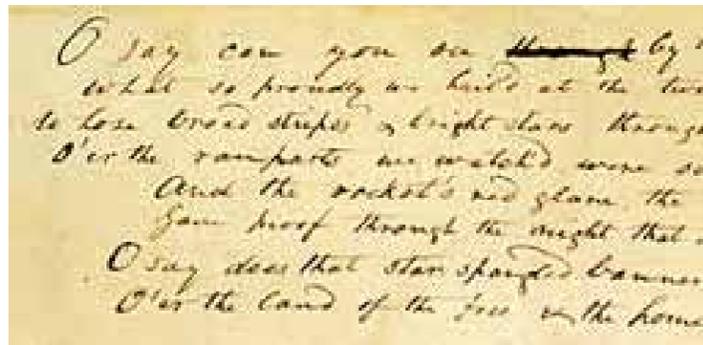
On top of that I didn't even have to pay to be a member of PVA.

To tell you the truth the first thing I did was to go on Amazon to see if it was fake.

It isn't fake.

THANK YOU!

## A Little More History



On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key pens a poem which is later set to music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The poem, originally titled "The Defence of Fort McHenry," was written after Key witnessed the Maryland fort being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812.

Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words of the "Star-Spangled Banner": "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

After one of Key's friends, Dr. William Beanes, was taken prisoner by the British, Key went to Baltimore, located the ship where Beanes was

being held and negotiated his release. However, Key and Beanes weren't allowed to leave until after the British bombardment of Fort McHenry. Key watched the bombing campaign unfold from aboard a ship located about eight miles away. After a day, the British were unable to destroy the fort and gave up. Key was relieved to see the American flag still flying over Fort McHenry and quickly penned a few lines in tribute to what he had witnessed.

The poem was printed in newspapers and eventually set to the music of a popular English drinking tune called "To Anacreon in Heaven" by composer John Stafford Smith. People began referring to the song as "The Star-Spangled Banner" and in 1916 President Woodrow Wilson announced that it should be played at all official events. It was adopted as the national anthem on March 3, 1931.



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with Dr. Kate Addis PT, DPT

## Indego Personal Exoskeleton Webinar

July 9th, 3PM EST

Hosted By  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Central Florida Chapter

On July 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm our chapter will host a live webinar about the Indego Exoskeleton and how paralyzed veterans can get their own device. This webinar will provide interested veterans information about the exoskeleton technology, health benefits, how to try the device and process required to get a personal Indego through the VA. Participants will be able to watch testimonials from veterans who share their experience of having an Indego Exoskeleton. Please register on line: [https://parker.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qZX\\_tV-MTGaINsZAHfrnxg](https://parker.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qZX_tV-MTGaINsZAHfrnxg) and learn more about this ground breaking technology and what it can do for veterans.



Watch Marine Veteran Steve Holbert's story at [www.indego.com/veterans](http://www.indego.com/veterans)





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Two Hundred and Forty Four years ago, our forefathers declared their independence from the tyranny of 38 year old King George III. On June 11, 1776, Congress appointed a “Committee of Five”, consisting of John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut, to draft a declaration. Just a few weeks later Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, written largely by Jefferson, in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. In this declaration, Jefferson stated the soon to be new nation’s grievances against the King and his oppression of the colonists. Willing to risk everything, including their very lives, those who signed this document stepped forward in the face of all possible adversity, to declare themselves and all the colonists free and independent. It would be another eleven years before Jefferson would write the Constitution of the United States of America. Perhaps you have never read the full text of this declaration or perhaps you did some time in your past. Either way, I invite you to read it again and connect with those who paved the way for this great nation. As you celebrate Independence Day this year (in the midst of a pandemic and economic hardship as a nation) consider the sacrifice it took to get where we are and think of all the challenges this declaration brought to a young nation willing to fight for its right to be free. And as you are asked now to make some sacrifices for the people of this country, that we all might be safe and secure, consider how you might have responded to what was asked of the people in this country so long ago.

## The Constitution of the United States of America

*When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to*

*secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience has shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the*

*meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands. He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers. He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation: For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us; For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should on the inhabitants of these states; For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world; For imposing taxes on us without our consent; For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury; For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses; For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies; For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments; For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation. He has*

*constrained our fellow citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions. In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress, in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends. We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.*



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

PVA is an organization founded on the brother and sisterhood of service, with a single-minded mission — to empower our brave men and women to regain what they fought for: their freedom and independence. We continue this mission today and fight for the civil rights of paralyzed veterans and all people with disabilities.

Racism, exclusion, and marginalization in any form have no place in our society. For this reason, we stand with our black members, colleagues and supporters — and all affected by senseless violence, oppression and injustice. We are an organization of catastrophically disabled veterans, founded after WWII, who have fought and continue to fight for the founding promises of our country. The broader societal changes that are needed begin with each and every one of us — and they begin by breaking the silence and speaking out. This fight is a duty that belongs to all of us. We owe it to our country.

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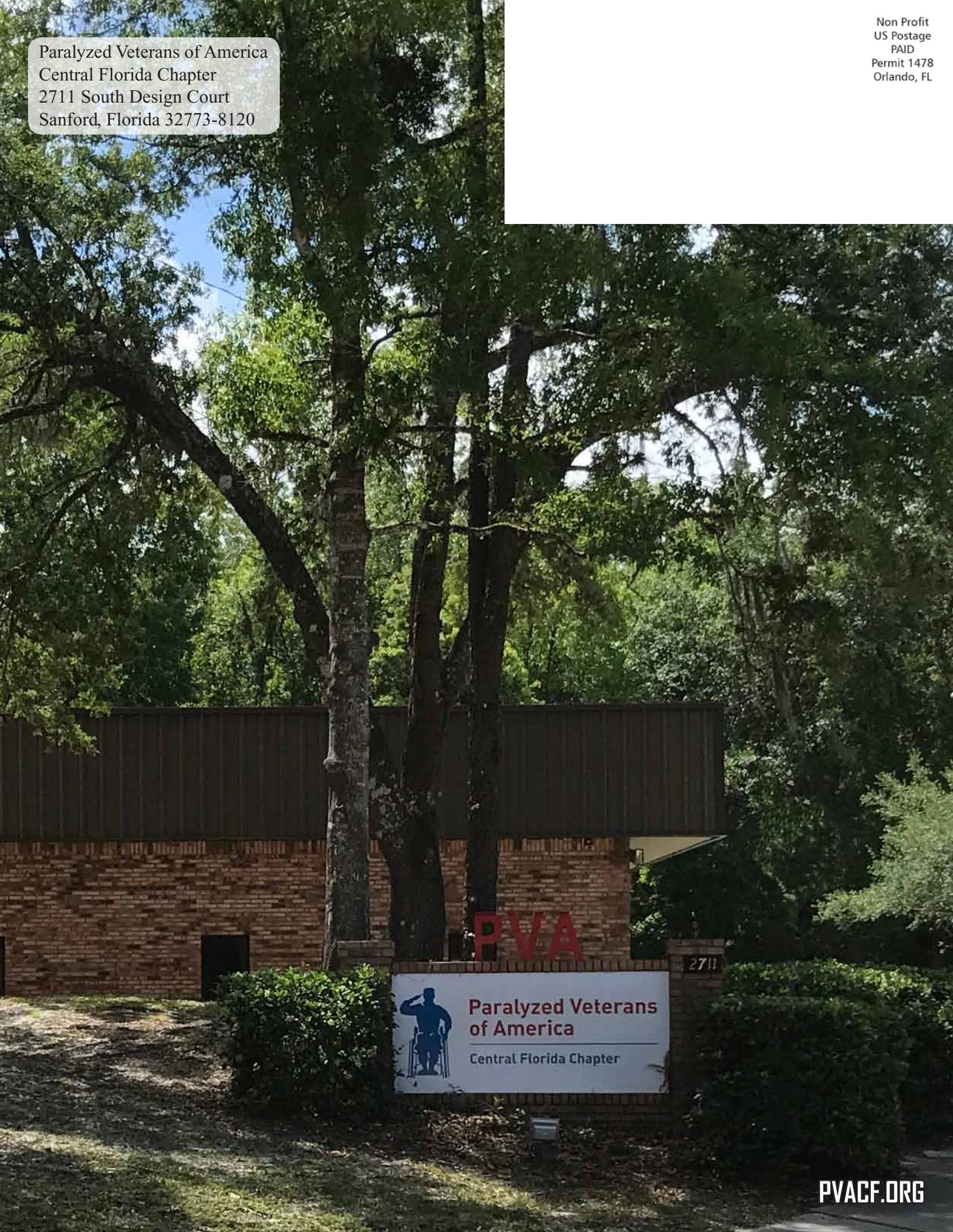
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