Happy Valentines Day!

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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.
It happened in February. The first recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War II was Alexander Nininger. Nicknamed “Sandy”, he was born in Gainesville, Georgia in 1918. He attended the United States Military Academy and graduated in May 1941. After being commissioned a Second Lieutenant, he was sent to the Philippines and was attached to the 57th Infantry Regiment (United States) of the Philippine Scouts. After entering active service, according to Malcolm Gladwell, Nininger “wrote a friend to say that he had no feelings of hate, and did not think he could ever kill anyone out of hatred. He had none of the swagger of the natural warrior. He worked hard and had a strong sense of duty.” Nininger loved to draw pictures.

During the first month of the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, Nininger’s unit helped prepare American defenses in Bataan. After the Japanese launched their assault on Bataan, Nininger voluntarily joined another company because his unit was not yet engaged in combat. Nininger was killed in action near Abucay, Bataan on January 12, 1942. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for leading an assault on Japanese positions. He was the first American army soldier to be so honored in the Second World War. Nininger graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point with the Class of 1941. At the Academy, he was involved in track, the debating society, and was chairman of the lecture committee. He was part of the Academy’s 3rd Battalion “L” Company, in which he served as a Cadet Sergeant. “Sandy” Nininger’s Yearbook biography is as follows: “...it’s not what man does which exalts him, but what man would do!” It was Sandy’s good fortune to be provided with the means and the background necessary to know and appreciate the many arts. His interest in the theatre, a devotion to books and music, and a love for painting made him an excellent conversationalist. Could it be these artistic inclinations that have so often prompted “Is she pro?” Proof enough isn’t it, that Sandy was one of us?”

The West Point Class of 1941 Yearbook also lists Nininger’s hometown as Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Citation:
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Abucay, Bataan, Philippine Islands, on 12 January 1942. This officer, though assigned to another company not then engaged in combat, voluntarily attached himself to Company K, same regiment, while that unit was being attacked by enemy force superior in firepower. Enemy snipers in trees and foxholes had stopped a counterattack to regain part of position. In hand-to-hand fighting which followed, 2d Lt. Nininger repeatedly forced his way to and into the hostile position. Though exposed to heavy enemy fire, he continued to attack with rifle and hand grenades and succeeded in destroying several enemy groups in foxholes and enemy snipers. Although wounded 3 times, he continued his attacks until he was killed after pushing alone far within the enemy position. When his body was found after recapture of the position, 1 enemy officer and 2 enemy soldiers lay dead around him.

The First Division of Cadet Barracks at West Point is named in his honor. In 2006 an award was created in his honor by the Association of Graduates of the US Military Academy: The Alexander R. Nininger Award for Valor at Arms. It is given to West Point graduates who have displayed courage in combat and upheld the values of West Point. The first awardee was Major Ryan L. Worthan. Two transport ships were named in honor of Nininger: T-APC-117 was launched as Alexander R. Nininger, Jr., (but ultimately renamed for another Medal of Honor recipient). The second was a Victory ship that was named USAT Lt. Alexander R. Nininger. His home town of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida also erected a statue in his honor. Alexander “Sandy” Nininger State Veterans’ Nursing Home is in Pembroke Pines, Florida, near Ft. Lauderdale. A rifle range at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia “Nininger Range” is named in remembrance of Alexander Nininger.

Thanks to Wikipedia for this data.
The Chapter has been working hard to try to put together programs and events for our membership to get involved. To do so effectively, we need to know who we are and what the interests of the membership are. In looking at the demographics of the Central Florida Chapter, I have found of the 353 members of the Central Florida Chapter, 319 are male and 34 are female. Our membership, broken down by age is; 25-34 years old (6), 35-44 years old (16), 45-54 years old (52), 55-64 years old (87), 65-74 years old (114), 75-84 years old (57), 85-94 years old (20) and 95 or over (1). As you can see by these numbers, 54% of our membership is 65 years old or older and nearly 80% of our members are 55 years old or older. Recognizing these facts will help us in directing programs to the right age group. An example of this is sled hockey. Although there may be a member over the age of 65 who would want to participate in sled hockey, most people over 65 years old probably would not. Golf, on the other hand, could appeal to people of all age groups. So, by offering both opportunities we feel comfortable we are giving a good option to our membership. In the area of recreation, a cooking class or bingo might appeal to one age group, where karaoke and miniature golf might appeal to another age group.

The primary purpose of the chapter is to advocate for the veterans we represent and to offer resources to assist them in their everyday life. These resources can be anything from connecting them with their National Service Officer, who can help them navigate VA’s web of paperwork in order for them to get the medical equipment or supplies they need, to offering them opportunities in sports and recreation. Communication is important to our chapter and our members because that is the only way you can know what the chapter is doing in these areas and we can know what we need to do differently. We attempt to communicate in three ways. We produce and send to every member a monthly newsletter. We have a web page found at www.pvacf.org (where we try to update members with information) and we send out email messages to the 208 members of whom we have email addresses (as you can see, there are 145 members or 41% of our members of whom we do not have email addresses). If you haven’t been receiving emails from us, then you are one of those we don’t have that information on and it would be helpful if you would send me an email (johnd@pvacf.org) asking me to add you to our list. Because we really do not know what each of our members interests are, we do our best by randomly offering different opportunities. Equally, our sports program offers what we know interests some of our members. We realize that participation is not possible for everyone in every opportunity but if you have an interest and let us know, we will do our best to find a way for you to participate. An example is bowling. If you are not able to come to the facility where we offer bowling (in Sanford, Florida), you can go to a bowling establishment close to you and bowl and then send us a receipt for reimbursement and your bowling scores. We hope to establish a chapter Up and Down Bowling League, which would consist of both those in wheelchairs and those not in wheelchairs bowling together on a team. If you live a long distance from Sanford, you can put a team together, submit your team scores, and participate in the league that way. Simply contact the chapter Sports Director, Roger Sack at rogers@pvacf.org. Roger will help you with bowling and any other sport you would like to be involved.

We are looking at our web page and will be updating it by March 1st. It will have a calendar of events on the homepage and all other areas will be updated with current information. We have tried reaching out to each of our members with a survey but response was minimal. We may consider trying a different method in the future. Moving forward, we have a Recreation Director (David Rountree) who is going to work on offering a variety of recreation events and experiences. Most of these will be local to the Orlando area but if we have enough interest outside the Orlando area, we will arrange for events in other locations as well. In all cases, we need to hear from you so that we can do a better job with working with and for our members.

John DeMauro

Executive Director
Getting Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again with Indego®

New VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® Exoskeleton at no cost.

What is Indego?
A robotic device that enables veterans to walk again.

Indego is an FDA-approved exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

Indego can currently be used with spinal cord injury levels of T3 to L5 in community or home settings.

Free Indego Webinars
During the first Thursday of every month you can join a free live webinar to learn more about the Indego and hear from a veteran who owns a device already.

Contact us today to reserve your spot or find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton at no cost.

Email: support.indego@parker.com
Phone: 844-846-3346

Watch Marine Veteran Steve Holbert’s story at www.indego.com/veterans
Did You Know That Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible For a ReWalk Exoskeleton?
Contact ReWalk for More Information
rewalk.com/contact or 508.251.1154 Option 2

What is Your Mission?
Whether your goals include experiencing the proven health-related benefits of exoskeleton assisted walking, standing to hug a loved one or completing an entire marathon, ReWalk can you help you achieve them.

Retired Army Sergeant Terry Vernline crosses the finish line of the 2019 New York City Marathon after walking 26.2 miles in her ReWalk Exoskeleton. She received this device in 2014 and has used it to take nearly 1,000,000 steps in the past five years.

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SAFE. CONVENIENT. TRUSTED.

For nearly 50 years Rollx Vans has been providing Veterans Nationwide the safest most convenient way to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle. We take great pride in serving those who served our country.

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Call 800-956-6668 or visit us at rollxvans.com

Search Inventory
Shop online from home

Finalize Details
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Free Delivery
Touchless home delivery

Enjoy Your Freedom
100% Satisfaction Guarantee!
February - Karaoke

Have you always wanted to perform but did not have a place to showcase your skills? Our Chapter will provide a place for you to take the stage, if you dare.

Do you sing or like attending concerts? If your answer is yes to the questions, join us for karaoke. Wednesday, February 9, 2022, beginning at 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Chapter. We are transforming the Chapter into our local theater.

Our stage will have a large flatscreen TV, dual microphones, and a collection of songs. Whether you are a soloist or want to be part of a group, come, and get your sing on! Explore the JMCINTEMIX karaoke songbook with 3,500 songs and find the song that fits your taste and style.

Pizza and wings will be provided. And for your hydration, water and soda will be available. All you need to do is contact Joanne and let her know you are interested in attending, then show up at the Chapter on Wednesday, February 9 anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for some fun.

March 20, 2022 – Caregiver Day Out

Cooking with a Chef. A hands-on cooking class and cooking demonstration. We invite our Caregivers to join us for a unique cooking experience in a friendly and fun environment.

Please contact Joanne and express your interest.

March - Taste of Lake Mary

The PVACF is a sponsor for the 15th Annual Taste of Lake Mary. It is held in the beautiful courtyard between the Marriott Lake Mary and the Park Place at Heathrow. The event will take place on Monday March 28th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending contact Joanne for tickets.

April 9, Saturday – Fun Fest

Are you ready for some outdoor fun? Join us for the PVACF Annual Spring Festival. This year we are having a car show. Come see some cool vehicles. Come bring the family and immerse yourself in all things fun in our All-Things Mobile Venue. Make spring memories to last a lifetime with your loved ones. From photos to laughter, the experience you and your family will get from attending will be second to none. What better way to bond with those you love than to share in outdoor activities? We are planning to deliver a fun fest for all to enjoy.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Joanne at (407) 328-7041.
Tiff’s Place is located near Orlando – the only vacation destination in America built and fully equipped to safely support those who are differently abled due to neuromuscular disease or impairment. We welcome and encourage veterans to enjoy the lodging and grounds! To learn more or to book your stay, call us at (407) 562-1860 or email info@tiffsplace.org.

Tiff’s Place

WE KNOW WHAT IT’S LIKE FOR YOU TO TRAVEL — AND WE SAY WELCOME TO YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

Tiff’s Place is located near Orlando – the only vacation destination in America built and fully equipped to safely support those who are differently abled due to neuromuscular disease or impairment. We welcome and encourage veterans to enjoy the lodging and grounds! To learn more or to book your stay, call us at (407) 562-1860 or email info@tiffsplace.org.

A.T.A.P. COMPANIES

MARK 9:23 – “IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM WHO BELIEVETH”

A.T.A.P. Universe Learning Centers, Inc | A.T.A.P. Financial Services

Dr. Joyce “Jo” Hewell, CEO | R.E. “Buddy” Hewell, CFO

PREPARING
Prepare to
LIVE LONG and PROSPER
ACCUMULATE
APPRECIATING ASSETS
Save today to
SECURE your tomorrows

CARING
The mission of
A.T.A.P. COMPANIES is to
“Help people to live life and to live it more abundantly”

SHARING
Help to prevent disease;
Cure the sick;
Comfort the afflicted;
Feed the hungry
Clothe and shelter
those in need

GOD, Grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change.
Courage to change the things I can and the WISDOM to know the difference.

HAPPINESS is thinking of others first, yourself last and GOD always.
All a person is remembered for is what they did for others.

As mankind thinketh in their minds... so they are.

Adversity is Inevitable ***** Stress is OPTIONAL.

Anything that your mind can DREAM and you BELIEVE, you can ACHIEVE.
GOD created you to be SUCCESSFUL and HAPPY.

REGRET looks back, FEAR looks around... FAITH looks UP.

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Schafer, Tschopp, Whitcomb, Mitchell & Sheridan, LL
Tax Services • Audit & Accounting • Business Advisory
The PVACF Board of Directors approved the PVACF Chapter Member Accessible Vehicle Grant Program a couple of months ago, to be implemented in 2022. This program is now available to the membership of the chapter based upon the criteria described below. Please note that an individual applying for this grant must have been a member of the PVA Central Florida Chapter for at least one year before making application. Applications must be requested by sending an email to johnd@pvacf.org. All completed applications and required documents must be submitted via email to johnd@pvacf.org.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Central Florida Chapter Membership, approved by both the Chapter and the National PVA office, will determine eligibility for any Central Florida Chapter grant. A new or transferring member must sustain membership for 1 year before receiving any Central Florida Chapter grants.

- In most cases, the vendor will be paid directly after work is completed and member satisfaction has been confirmed.
- Receipts for work completed must be submitted before grants for repairs are distributed, if work is done prior to grant being awarded.
- Photos of work before and after must be submitted to the Chapter by either the member or the vendor.
- Lien waivers must also be submitted to the Chapter.
- PVA must have POA of all grant recipients.
- All grants awarded must be for the veteran’s primary vehicle.
- Exceptions will be made by PVACF Board of Directors in emergency cases only.

**Hand Controls Grants:**

A motion was passed by the PVACF Board of Directors for the chapter to provide $1,000 grants for hand control installations. The $1,000 grant will be sent directly to the vendor, upon installation, with receipt and pictures of work performed or the $1,000 grant will be sent to the grant recipient upon proof (receipt and pictures) of installation and completion of the work. This would benefit 10 veterans per year. The local PVA NSO will help determine that a non-service-connected veteran is not eligible for hand controls through the VA, or a letter from the VA, regardless of service connection, must be submitted with the grant application showing the veteran was denied or determined to not be eligible for hand controls/installation. Grant recipients can only reapply for this grant every 5 years. Every year, on or around July 1st, the PVACF Board of Directors will determine the amount available for these grants for the following year based upon the financial condition of the chapter.

- Applicants, after exhausting any eligible modifications through the VA, may receive up to a $1,000 grant towards obtaining and having hand controls installed.
- Applicants must obtain bid/quote from a reputable source to obtain and have the necessary equipment installed for hand controls to drive the vehicle.
- Bids and Grant Applications will be presented at an upcoming Central Florida Chapter Board of Directors meeting for approval.
- Applicants must provide proof of completed hand control training.
- Applicants must have and show proof of a valid Florida driver’s license.
- In most cases, the Central Florida Chapter will pay the vendors directly after the work is successfully completed.
- Applicants should be sure to NOT have the work done prior to the Board approval. Grant recipients will not be reimbursed without Central Florida Chapter Board approval prior to the work being done.

- Grant recipients can only reapply for this grant every 5 years.

**Accessible Vehicle Grants:**

A motion was passed by the PVACF Board of Directors for the chapter to provide auto grants of up to $10,000 to eligible members, per request, for repairs to or the purchase of a new or used primary vehicle after all VA avenues have been exhausted. Grant recipients cannot reapply once awarded a total of $10,000. Recipients will be selected at random, based upon the number of applicants and number of available grants, at the October board meeting. Every year, on or around July 1st, the PVACF Board of Directors will determine the number of grants available and amount available for these grants, for the following year, based upon the financial position of the chapter.

- Grant recipients must have and show proof of a valid Florida driver’s license.
- These grants will be used for cost over and above any VA funds.
- Each year, if numerous applications are received that exceed the number of available grants, once eligibility is determined awardees will be randomly selected and notified.
- Grants given annually will be dependent upon the financial status of the Chapter each year.
- Payments will be made directly to the lien holder of the vehicle or to the vendor from whom the vehicle is purchased. (Exceptions will be made by PVACF Board of Directors in emergency cases).
- Vehicles must be purchased in the fiscal year in which the grant is awarded. (Exceptions will be made by PVACF Board of Directors in emergency cases only).
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for the 2022 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, AZ OPENS February 1, 2022 and CLOSES April 4, 2022.

We are providing you with the General Medical and Physical (2 pages) forms in advance so you can schedule your appointment with your provider. We will only accept the official NVWG Medical and Physical forms for clearance to participate in the Wheelchair Games.

Complete applications (medical clearance PLUS liability, waivers etc.) will ONLY be accepted AFTER February 1, 2022. The additional registration documents will be available on this day. Please DO NOT mail your General Medical and Physical Forms until February 1.

HOW TO GET STARTED:

STEP 1: LET Your Chapter Sports Director and let him know of Your interest, (The PVACF Sports Team will help you with the process, PVACF Sports/ Funding Policies and available training to you)

STEP 2: GO to wheelchairgames.org and download the NVWG Medical Forms

STEP 3: HAVE YOUR Primary Care Physician and Care Team Fill out your Medical Forms Please DO NOT mail your General Medical and Physical Forms until February 1

STEP 4: MAIL YOUR ALL OF YOUR FORMS (AFTER FEBRUARY 1)

STEP 5: BEGIN YOUR REGISTRATION (Starts FEBRUARY 1 and Ends April 4)

STEP 6: Attend Mandatory Team Meeting on February 10th at 2pm in person at the PVACF Office or via ZOOM.

Any questions, feel free to contact me at rogers@pvacf.org.

Upcoming Sporting events:

FEBRUARY:

Air Rifle: Wed Feb 9 and 23 10:30a-12p; 1p-2:30p PVACF OFFICE please register for a time slot

Boccia: Thur Feb 3, 17 1p-4p at the PVACF OFFICE

Bowling: Fri Feb 4, 11,18,25 1p-4p at Airport Lanes in Sanford

For all other sports, please check out our website www.pvacf.org.

A black and silver bowling ball rolling down the laneCOME BOWL WITH US…

Exciting News: We are starting a Sanctioned “Up and Down Bowling League” the end of February. This league will be for 10 weeks, date and time to be determined. If you have a bowling alley near you, you may bowl there and turn in your scores.

If you are interested, contact Steve Kirk at the PVACF chapter or come out on Fridays and join the fun.