



# WHEELS IN MOTION

*December 2022*



**Speedy Award Winner!**

**Craig Enebach ND**

**Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Central Florida Chapter  
2711 S. Design Ct.  
Sanford, FL 32773-8120  
Phone (407) 328-7041  
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December Board Meeting is a **Zoom/Hybrid** - December 8th 10:30 AM

Website: [pvacf.org](http://pvacf.org)  
Email: [office@pvacf.org](mailto:office@pvacf.org)

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Vice President ..... Roger Sack  
Treasurer..... Brian Terwilliger  
Secretary ..... Eddie Hawks  
National Director ..... Craig Enenbach

Executive Director                      John DeMauro  
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Earnest Hill (386) 755-3016  
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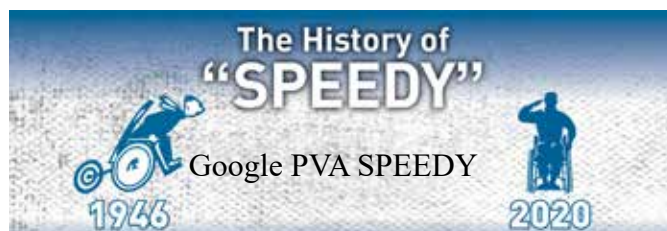
**Mission Statement**

***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.***



## **The Original Speedy**

### **PVA's Most prestigious award**



Craig is now in his 31<sup>st</sup> year serving PBA at both the chapter level and the national level. He has served as national treasurer for 10 years as well as sitting on and chairing various committees over the years. Craig currently chairs the PVA judicial committee and is also Central Florida's national director. He has served as the Great Plains national director from 1998 until 2004.

Mr. Enenbach graduated from high school in 1965 and attended the University of Nebraska from 1965 to 1966 where he admittedly had too much fun. Craig then attended the challenging career swing to a trade school of air-conditioning. At that time Craig enlisted in the Air Force in 1967, I was initially stationed at March airforce base. He married and started raising a family. He was stationed at the Strategic Air Command in Omaha NE from September 1971 to June 1976. He left the Air Force because he no longer wanted to travel the world preferring to stay at home in his hometown of Omaha. He left service as an E5 in Omaha he worked for mutual of Omaha for the next 29 years before retiring.

When he Left the Air Force in 1976 he had a VA rating of 10% service connection for an unspecified back condition. He was involved in an automobile accident in 1987 had both screws and plates inserted in the L1 and L4 he has had three subsequent spinal surgeries.

While stationed in Omaha Craig was encouraged by his wife to pursue a college education. He did so full

time during the day while working full time at night at the SAC HQ with the wife and the three-year old son at home. He received a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha 1975 majoring in accounting and minor in economics.

Craig first became involved with PVA and the Great Plains chapter in 1992 while still working a full time mutual of Omaha. In 1998, he became the Great Plains national director. His ability to work full time until his retirement in 2005 and volunteer for the PBA was because according to Craig mutual Omaha commitment to the community involvement. In 2008 Craig was appointed by the Omaha VA director as a local coordinator and begin to work for with and/or years coordinating the national veterans wheelchair games in Omaha.

In 2004, he began serving as PVA's treasurer and did so for the next 10 years. He has held many positions in the PVA. His commitment to disability issues in the community included serving on the Omaha mayors Commission for citizens with disabilities.

In 2016, he moved to Palm Harbor FL to avoid the Omaha winters and be near his son Brian. Craig became involved with the Central Florida chapter and was as he put it recruited by the chapter president to be their national director (He had Jerry Dugan's endorsement. Another Speedy Award Recipient.) Which he continues today, as well as serving as a chairman of the PVA judicial committee.

### **Civic Contributions, Omaha, Nebraska**

**Co-Founder of the City of Omaha's Handicapped Parking Patrol - 1992**

**Member of Omaha Mayor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, 1990 to 1998**

**Chair, Omaha Mayor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, 1997 to 1998**

**Board of Director, Career Solutions, 1998 to 2000**

**Recipient of the National Safety Council's Disability Awareness Award, Dallas, TX 1996**

**Member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Council, 2002 - 2004**

**Member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Parish Council, 1985 - 1987 Member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church Parish Council, 1980 - 1983 Permanent Eucharistic Minister for the Archdiocese of Omaha**

**Permanent Lector for the Archdiocese of Omaha**

**Helped form *Engaged Encounter* in the Archdiocese of Omaha**

**Received Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey's 'Hometown Hero' Award on May 13, 2004**

**Recipient of the B'nai B'rith Award for outstanding service to the community, May 2008**

**Received Nebraska Governor's *Points of Light* Award, August 2012**





# *Chapter President*

## *Steve Kirk*

The following article holds a special interest for me; I had a brother-in-law who was a triple amputee. He lived more than three decades. Coved did what a land mine couldn't. Every weekday, as the sun comes up over Morogoro, Tanzania, an elite team of land mine-detection specialists begins its training. While the breeze blows through the grassy, 60-acre training ground, the specialists weigh in (to ensure their carefully calibrated diets are on track), then set to work searching for deactivated, buried land mines. They have been trained since birth for this vital work. And for every land mine they find, during training and in the field, they're rewarded with a delectable mash of bananas and avocados, or maybe a few peanuts.

The specialists are rats. Gambian pouched rats, to be exact. The organization they work for, APOPO, has trained hundreds of them to sniff out and signal the location of buried land mines.

And they're ideal for the job. Weighing about three pounds — roughly the size of a three-month-old kitten — they're light enough not to set off the explosives. Their superb sense of smell enables them to detect the presence of as little as a billionth of a gram of explosive material. Indigenous to the sub-Saharan region where they work, they're efficient breeders, with a gestation period of about a month. They're highly intelligent and exacting, but also fun to work with — congenial, outgoing, curious.

Through the end of 2021, the rats have been responsible for finding 150,000 explosives, including land mines, that were then safely deactivated and removed from the ground. Across seven countries in Africa and Southeast Asia, they've had a hand (or paw) in returning 70 million square meters of land back to communities that need it, and "freed close to 2 million people from the terror of land mines," says Lily Shallom, APOPO's communications manager.

More recently, however, humans have turned to animal species beyond those usual suspects — for jobs that perhaps come less intuitively to those new animal partners. The US Navy, for example, trains dolphins to detect underwater explosives in its Marine Mammal Program. In other words, a dog may be a man's best friend, but humans have been busy making other friends, too. When it comes to choosing those friends, Smith considers an animal's *umwelt*, a German word that animal behaviorists use to describe the world as each organism perceives it. Though we all may share the same environment, humans perceive that environment differently than bats, which perceive it differently than rats.

Humans, for example, have excellent vision — but only during the day. At night, a bat's high-pitched screams can help it echolocate small moths from nine yards away in total darkness. An owl's dish of stiff feathers around its face funnels sound to its sensitive ears so that it, too, can track prey at night.

Might the unique strengths of each animal, developed over millennia for a specific purpose, be harnessed to fill in the gaps in humans' abilities?

Animals "can offer attributes to humans, or the possibility for partnerships where other species can do things differently, or add value to the lives of humans," Smith says.

As anyone who's tried to train a cat knows, though, a good partnership relies upon more than just dovetailing abilities. Magawa died from natural causes a few months after his eighth birthday. He found over 100 landmines and other explosives during his career in Cambodia, making him APOPO's most effective rat to date.

"When I'm thinking about animals as partners, I'm also thinking about their longevity, for example," Smith says. Golden retrievers are highly trainable and make for excellent service animals. But their lifespans, relative to their human counterparts, are short. By the time a retriever is trained to recognize its handler's low blood sugar or help its visually impaired partner navigate the city, the dog only has a few years left.

"We're talking about living animals that have their own needs and their own lives," Smith says. "I think it can be a win-win if both the human and non-human are getting something out of it" — through, say, protection from predators or a reliable source of food.

When we do find the right partnership, she notes, animals can help untangle some of the most vexing problems humans face. And the results can be lifesaving.

Land mines are one such problem. Buried during decades-old conflicts, the subterranean explosives still injure or kill thousands of people per year. The Land Mine and Cluster Munition Monitor, an independent watchdog group, estimates that millions of land mines are still buried around the world, with a particularly high concentration in southern Africa left over from colonial and post-colonial wars. Between 1961 and 1997, leftover land mines claimed the lives of 250,000 people in the region, according to a 1997 report by Human Rights Watch. That year, 133 countries signed on to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, an international agreement facilitated by the United Nations that bans the production and use

of land mines. As diplomats were meeting in Ottawa to codify the treaty, another idea was born a continent away that would also help to save lives.

Bart Weetjens, then a graduate student in product design at the University of Antwerp, was considering the problem of land mines from a different angle. A Zen Buddhist monk and entrepreneur, Weetjens kept rats as pets. He knew they were intelligent animals with superior scent-detection abilities — capabilities that would make them perfect for finding buried land mines. Weetjens and a friend — Christophe Cox, now APOPO's chief executive — teamed up in 1995 on a rat research project. Weetjens had come across some research touting gerbils' scent-detection abilities, and he wondered whether rats, which were cheaper, more widespread across the world, and more intelligent than gerbils, could do the same thing.

That research would eventually grow into APOPO, named for a Dutch acronym that translates to “Anti-Personnel Land Mines Removal Product Development” in English. The organization, founded in Belgium with an operational headquarters in Tanzania, now sends trained rats to known land mine sites around the world. Weetjens and APOPO have been recognized for humanitarian work by organizations such as the World Economic Forum, Ashoka, and the Skoll Foundation. APOPO is currently active in Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Cambodia; it has completed mine-detection missions in Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. It has also provided mine-detecting dogs to projects in South Sudan and Turkey.

APOPO's trainers use a positive-reinforcement method to train the rats from a young age to sniff out inactive TNT, gradually making it harder and harder to find as the pups grow up. Naturally curious and highly motivated by food, the rats are eager to explore their surroundings for the buried TNT (which the trainers pack into tea infusers), knowing that they'll be rewarded for their discovery with a treat from their trainer, says Shallom, the APOPO spokesperson.

Over about a year, the rats are trained to find smaller quantities of explosive material within larger plots of land. They run through training exercises until they detect 100 percent of the loaded tea infusers, and then must pass a test in which they're allowed only one false positive. Once they graduate, the rats can be deployed throughout southern Africa and Southeast Asia, where they'll sniff out land mines until they retire, Shallom says.

A single APOPO rat can have a sizable impact. In January, the organization mourned the loss of Magawa, who died from natural causes a few months after his eighth birthday. Stationed in Cambodia, Magawa found over 100 land mines and other explosives during his career, making him APOPO's most effective rat to date, Shallom says.

In recognition of his valor, the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, a charity organization, awarded Magawa its gold medal — the organization's highest honor, akin to the George Cross award given out by the British

government for “acts of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger.”

Magawa's line of work is, indeed, highly dangerous — for humans. Pressure-activated antipersonnel land mines typically require about 11 pounds of weight to detonate. This makes them a terrible threat even for children skipping across mine-infested territory.

But the rats are too small to set off a mine. Indeed, not a single APOPO-trained rat has died in the line of duty, Shallom says. Ensuring the rats' well-being throughout their entire lives is an important part of APOPO's mission, she says. “We really do think of them as our partners.”

The rats are kept in clean kennels with their siblings as young pups and are moved to their own enclosures as adults, Shallom says. They're fed a balanced diet and enjoy frequent play breaks, even during training. A veterinarian visits the site every other week to check on their health. And, when older rats start to become less enthusiastic in the morning — a sign that they're ready for retirement — they're transferred out of the workforce. At that point, the rats still receive regular health checks and stimulating playtime for the remainder of their lives, six to eight years on average, Shallom says. “We have had a few retirees who hit the ripe old age of 10,” she says.

Land mine detection is just the beginning for APOPO, Shallom says. The organization has also trained rats to sniff out tuberculosis in samples of sputum — a mix of saliva and mucus coughed up from the lungs. So far, they've screened more than 800,000 samples and found an additional 25,000 tuberculosis patients that local clinics missed, she says. The organization is also exploring whether the rats can be trained to find survivors in collapsed buildings or other catastrophes. The possibilities for human-animal partnerships may be limited only by our imagination. Consider the glowworms that helped British troops read maps at night during World War I, or the ferret-engineer who helped the US military connect new computers to its missile warning center in 1999. Perhaps there are some tasks for which other animals are simply more qualified than humans.

“In terms of animals, it's just trying to come up with innovative ways to use their skills,” Shallom says. “Rats have this amazing sense of smell; how can we use that in scenarios that would be difficult for a human? Often it comes down to getting past the barriers we've already set in our minds about how we view or think about these animals. Rats get a bad rap, but they're really spectacular little guys.”

Thanks, Mary Calloha

*Steve Kirk*





# *Executive Director*

## *John DeMauro*

Happy Holidays! I hope each of our members and their families have a great holiday this December. I hope you made plans to attend our Chapter Holiday Party on December 10<sup>th</sup>. If not, be sure to put it on your calendar for December 2023. We realize that not everyone can make it to Lake Mary, Florida. However, we are open to planning an event in your local area if we can get enough members to participate. The chapter leadership is willing to come to you with programs and events when enough members are interested. Additionally, we have various adaptive sports programs available to you both at our location in Sanford Florida as well as locations throughout Central Florida. We have air rifle shooting events every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Chapter. We help pay to get you here (14 cents per mile, up to 150 miles round trip). If you want to participate in our air rifle program and cannot get to Sanford, we will get the equipment to you for you to use in your area. All you have to do is send back your targets and scores. If that is something you have an interest in, contact our Sports Director Roger Sack at [rogers@pvacf.org](mailto:rogers@pvacf.org). We also have an annual spring event, in April, that includes our members and their families. We will be sharing more information in the months to come.

I want to take this opportunity to share some things that the Chapter Board of Directors have discussed recently and some of which they have voted to proceed. We have established a new program where the chapter will assist with funeral expenses, up to \$500, to families of chapter members who pass away. This program will help ease the burden that comes about with the loss of a loved one. The Board once again funded the Wheels on the Go Program with \$10,000. Chapter members

are encourage to be active and get out of the house. Go to a restaurant, to the movies, to a sporting event, or some other event. Go to a theme park or some other type of entertainment. When you do, send your receipts to us along with answers to questions you can find on our web page and we will refund you, up to \$500 per year, as long as the funds in the budget last. The Board increased the recreation budget by 40%. The Chapter Recreation Director is planning various events throughout the year. The intent is to provide an opportunity each month. Look to the events calendar on our web page for dates and more information. The Board increased the budget for adaptive sports by 30%. We currently have an active air rifle program, bocci ball program, bowling program, hunting program and a golf program. We collaborate with other groups in fishing, sled hockey, golf and hand cycling. We have a Chapter member who is working with National PVA in developing a program for those with MS and we have another Chapter member working with National PVA in developing a PVACF women veteran's program. Finally, the Sports Director, Recreation Director and I am interested in bringing our programs to you, if distance keeps you from coming to us. In order to do that, you have to contact us and help us make that happen. It will take an investment of your time and effort. However, if you are serious about working with us to bring PVACF programs to you and your area, contact us and we will arrange a meeting with you to get that started. As we close 2022, let us look forward to a great 2023!

Again, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*John DeMauro*



# Annual Christmas Party

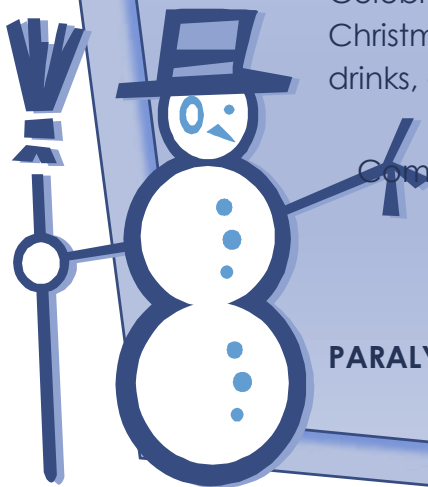
**Saturday, December 10, 2022**

Orlando Marriott  
11:30 am until 3:30 pm  
1501 International Parkway,  
Lake Mary, Florida, 32746

Hold the date for our Christmas, Volunteers, and Sponsors Celebration. Break out your holiday attire for pictures at the Christmas Tree and the photo booth. There will be lots of food, drinks, games, and our annual gift exchange.

Come and enjoy our singing and gaming surprise this year.

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# Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida

9th Annual

Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

Red Tail Golf Club Sorrento FL

# Save The Date

## May 6th 2023



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

Registration: \$150.00 per golfer (Veterans \$125) Foursomes: \$540

Cart & Green Fee, Range Balls, unlimited beer, soda and water during play

Goody Bag and Special Gift for each player Hole in One Prizes on all par 3s

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For more information call 407-328-7041 or email [joannep@pvacf.org](mailto:joannep@pvacf.org)



# National Director

## Craig Enenbach

The Paralyzed Veterans of America held its Fall Board of Directors meeting at the Rosen Centre, Orlando, Florida, from Oct 22 – 24, 2022. All chapters of PVA were represented except for Iowa and West Virginia, therefore, most votes totaled 30 votes. National Treasurer Tom Wheaton gave an enlightening presentation and provided a less than optimistic report. Major issues revolved around poor performance in direct mail and the significant decrease in value of our stock market portfolio. PVA Publications Editor-in-

Chief Tom Fjerstad gave an informative presentation regarding the status of our two publications. Craig Enenbach, Chairman of the PVA Judicial Committee, reported one complaint that had been adjudicated. Rick Eisert, Craig Enenbach and Darron Dunson were elected to three-year terms on the PVA Judicial Committee. There were 9 Resolutions submitted. The following resolutions were presented, debated and voted upon with the indicated results.

22-O-01	Expansion of Judicial Committee Membership	Judicial Committee	30-0-0	Passed	Yes
22-O-02	Clarifying Role of Parliamentarian	Executive Committee	30-0-0	Passed	Yes
22-O-03	Recusal of Judicial Committee Member	Judicial Committee	30-0-0	Passed	Yes
22-O-04	Simplify Chapter Program Expense Requirements	Executive Committee	28-2-0	Passed	Yes
22-O-05	Chapter Program Expenditure Requirements	Vaughan		Withdrawn	
22-O-06	Gordan Mansfield Award Changes	Executive Committee	30-0-0	Passed	Yes
22-O-07	Expanding Reimbursement for Laundry	Central Florida	30-0-0	Passed	Yes
22-O-08	Rescind Requirements of Placing Savings into Investments	Executive Committee	27-2-0	Passed	Yes
22-O-0-01	Extending Implementation of Grant Funding Policy	Executive Committee	26-4-0	Passed	Yes

PVA's most prestigious award, the *Speedy Award*, elections were as follows:

Craig Enenbach, Member Category, approved unanimously

Dr. Stephen Waxman, non-member Category, approved unanimously

Dr. Peter Gorman, non-member Category, approved unanimously

Fred Cowell, member posthumous Category, approved unanimously

Ken Klein, member posthumous Category, approved unanimously

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 20-549-2313 or [cfevette@gmail.com](mailto:cfevette@gmail.com)



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Cure the sick;  
Comfort the afflicted;  
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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.  
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During the period of March 5, through July 16, 2022, I entered and rode my Lasher Sport ATH-FS (All Terrain Hand-cycle with Full Suspension), 4 of the Off-Road Cycle Events hosted by the Southeast Gravel Series in the locations as indicated below. In all, I drove 4,270 miles just to get to the event sites. I competed and rode my Handcycle a total of 166 miles through some extremely rough terrain that included few hard surface roads but mainly traversed both extremely steep and and downhill treacherous gravel roads, many with steep drop offs.

While I participated in the following, I also stayed in the listed Hotel accommodations due to the distance to travel, race day and rest before returning.

The best part of participating in an event such as this, was the privilege and opportunity to compete

with other fellow PVA or disabled cyclists, while demonstrating to hundreds of able body 2- Wheel cyclists that a disability is only as limiting as ATTITUDE and DETERMINATION! Thanks to the Veteran's Administration Adaptive equipment programs assistance, and the manufacture Lasher Sport, I was equipped with one of the most efficient and strongest off-road hand-cycles. But equally important and most worthy to mention is the PVA Adaptive Programs that provide the training, safety and opportunity to learn how to operate adaptive Hand-cycles both RACING hard surface and OFF-Road programs, such as the Southeast Gravel Series and the semi annual OFF-ROAD Handcycle Expo hosted by the Virginia Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield Virginia.







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