

# WHEELS IN MOTION

*September 2023*

Election Results Page 3  
On The Warter Page 8



**Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Central Florida Chapter  
2711 S. Design Ct.  
Sanford, FL 32773-8120  
Phone (407) 328-7041  
Fax: (407) 328-7139**

September Board Meeting is a **Zoom/Hybrid** - September 14th 10:30 AM

**Chapter Officers 2021-2023**

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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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**National Service Officers:**

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David Ray (407) 631-1835

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Cover Picture Jill Burrow

**Table of Contents**

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Election Results .....       | 3  |
| President.....               | 4  |
| Executive Director.....      | 5  |
| On The Water .....           | 8  |
| Holiday Party .....          | 9  |
| N.S.O. ....                  | 12 |
| Washington Update .....      | 14 |
| Sports .....                 | 15 |
| Origins Of Old Sayings ..... | 18 |



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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.***

**E**

**Steve Kirk - President**



**L**

**Roger Sack - Vice-President**



**E**

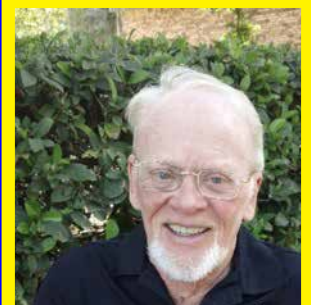
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**C**

**T**

**Brian Terwilliger - Treasurer**



**I**

**Craig Enebach - Board Member**



**O**

**N**

**Tim Wolfe - Board Member**





# *Chapter President*

## *Steve Kirk*

I am going to repeat myself in the category of September of last year, but it bares repeating. We want our members to be informed and safe. Although hurricanes strike Florida with alarming regularity, some cause less destruction than others. For Florida citizens, Hurricane Jeanne or Hurricane Wilma are often frequent conversation fillers. Or, if you are new to the state, you hear horror stories of the terrible storms that have affected your adopted home. Native Floridian or recent transplant, here is a look at the true data behind some of the worse to affect Florida.

**Key West** – Key West was hit on September 10, 1919 with a storm that left more than 800 dead. **Miami** – In 1926, one of the most destructive hurricanes in history struck Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Hallandale, and Dania. It left between 325 and 800 dead and caused more property damage than any previous hurricane.

**Okeechobee** – The 125 mph winds did not cause quite so much damage to the residents of Palm Beach when it struck on September 16, 1928. However, 40 miles away, Lake Okeechobee flooded and the dikes broke, causing a major flood that killed at least 2,000 people.

**The Florida Keys Labor Day** – In 1935, a Category 5 storm stuck on Labor Day, killing 408 people. Witnesses reported that the wind was so strong that blowing sand literally shredded the clothes from their bodies.

**Hurricane Donna** – This 1960 storm still holds the record for sustaining hurricane force winds through Florida, the Mid-Atlantic, and New England. It caused 13-foot surges in the Keys and 11-foot surges along the southwest coast.

**Hurricane Cleo** – In 1964, Cleo struck the Miami area, cutting power and causing at least 24 separate fires. It destroyed one quarter of the grapefruit crop, delayed the opening of Florida Atlantic University, and caused

the Fort Lauderdale News to miss publication for the only time in its history.

**Hurricane Andrew** – This 1992 storm is the second costliest storm in U.S. history. It killed 23 people and caused \$25 billion in damages.

**Hurricane Charley** – When this Category 4 storm struck in 2004, this hurricane was the strongest to hit Florida since the legendary Hurricane Andrew. Meteorologists originally thought it would strike Tampa, but instead it hit Northwest Florida near Port Charlotte, catching many residents off guard. The hurricane killed 10 people and caused \$13 billion in damage across the state.

**Hurricane Frances** – Just three weeks after Charley, Frances ripped through the state. Though it caused much less damage than its predecessor, Frances was legendary for its size – it covered the entire state.

**Hurricane Wilma** – This major hurricane struck in 2005, causing \$16.8 billion in damages. The storm particularly impacted Broward and Palm Beach Counties and did significant damage to the Broward County Courthouse, the School Board Building, and taller downtown office buildings.

**Hurricane Ian** – Ian hit the Ft. Myers area last year with ferocious fury. Hurricane Ian was a deadly and extremely destructive Category 5 Atlantic hurricane, which was the third-costliest weather disaster on record, the deadliest hurricane to strike the state of Florida since the 1935 Labor Day hurricane.

Being prepared and using good sense when making decisions, during the hurricane season, goes a long way in being safe. Look at our Executive Director's article for information on what you can do and where you can go during an emergency this hurricane season.



# *Executive Director*

## *John DeMauro*

It is that time of the year when we realize that hurricanes are a reality for Central Florida. Most of the time these storms are not serious enough for people to be concerned about leaving their homes and seeking shelter. However, every now and then a threatening storm rolls in that would, at the very least, require you to have a plan for seeking shelter and each county in Florida is required to provide shelter for those with special needs in emergency situations. It is the law!

A Special Needs Shelter (SpNS) is for “someone who during periods of evacuation or emergency, requires sheltering assistance, due to physical impairment, mental impairment, cognitive impairment or sensory disabilities”. The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Preparedness and Response, created the Guidelines for Special Needs Shelters which has been incorporated by rule (Chapter 64-3, [Florida Administrative Code](#)). Local emergency management agencies are responsible for the designation and operation of special needs shelters during times of emergency or disaster and the closure of the facilities following an emergency or disaster. Special Needs Shelters are designed to meet the needs of persons who require assistance that exceeds services provided at a general population shelter. A SpNS is a place to go when there is no other sheltering option. Shelters may be activated during an emergency event to provide mass care for people who cannot safely remain in their home. Special Needs Shelters are intended to provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain an individual’s level of health.

If a person is medically stable but needs help with basic tasks or uses an electronic medical device and has no other evacuation options,

they should pre-register for a SpNS. Go to this link to pre-register <https://snr.flhealthresponse.com>

Who qualifies for a Special Needs Shelter?

- People with special medical needs
- People whose care exceeds the basic first aid provided at general population shelters
- People with impairments or disabilities who are medically stable and do not require medical care
- People with disabilities are not required to go to a Special Needs Shelter. Some people with disabilities can be safely accommodated in a general population shelter.

The capabilities of each SpNS varies based upon a community’s needs and available resources. Go to this link to learn about local services in your area <https://www.floridadisaster.org/counties/>

Remember;

- SpNS are often setup in public facilities
- Food and water is available, but shelters may not be able to accommodate special dietary needs
- Shelter staff only offer basic medical assistance and monitoring
- Complex medical equipment or care is not available
- Clients and their caregivers will have a small sleeping area
- Back-up electricity for light and essential medical equipment will be available

When it comes to living in Florida and living with the threat of severe weather, it is always best to be prepared. Stay safe this hurricane season.

*John DeMauro*



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A Day on the Water with Capt. Ronan

for a day once a quarter. The person can bring a friend or if they need help in or around the boat they can bring an extra person. Capt. Ronan's boat is a 22' center console which makes it a lot easier on a disabled person. He is aware of and understanding of people's disabilities and can also help you around the boat.

I was lucky enough to be invited to spend a day bass

We are in the summer months, and it may be way too hot to be on the water after the morning hours. So, he is happy to postpone and double up any "Summer" quarterly trips when it starts to cool down if that is what people want to do or, alternatively, he is willing to do more half

day morning trips. He said he just wants people to have an enjoyable experience and is willing to accommodate us and whatever we want.

If you have any questions about the trip or the

fishing on a private lake in the Orlando area with Capt. Ronan. Ronan is the owner of Invictus Outdoors. He has volunteered his time and equipment the last two years as a boat captain for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Citrus Slam held on Lake Toho in Kissimmee,

Fl. Our chapter has been lucky enough to be paired with him those two years. He graciously gave two fully guided bass fishing trips to be auctioned off at the Central Florida Chapters annual Jerry Dugan golf tournament fund raiser with all proceeds going to the chapter.

Capt. Ronan has offered to take one member, staff member or volunteer of the Central Florida Chapter out bass fishing on a guided charter trip



equipment, feel free to contact me at [EddieH@pvacf.org](mailto:EddieH@pvacf.org)





# Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 16, 2023

11:30 am until 4:00 pm

1501 International Parkway,

Lake Mary, Florida, 32746

Hold the date for our Holiday party, 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.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER



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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.

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# *National Service Officer*

## *David Ray*

I'm in the office every day. On the occasion that I am off I can still be reached by cell phone. My number is 407-819-5057.

Viera:

SCI Coordinator in Viera is back from her leave of absence. No other changes to report from Viera.

Orlando.

SCI Clinic- The SCI Clinic is primarily doing Teleconferences with veterans. They are seeing veterans in the clinic as walk ins as necessary. For emergent concerns we can still go to the ER.

SCI Coordinator. No issues reported with SCI Coordinator

SCI Nurse- No problems have been reported with or from the SCI Nurse at this time.

Prosthetics- No issues to report from Prosthetics at this time.

Construction- I haven't reported on the expansion of the Emergency Department. But the Orlando VAMC is expanding the waiting area for the ED. There are a few other expansion projects in the works but they haven't started them yet. As those projects come closer I will update the Board.

Management Assistance Council meetings. The Orlando VAMC is moving back to the in person MAC meetings. The meeting is once a quarter. I think it would be good for the Chapter to have someone attend these meetings when they come up. If you would like to send someone then let me know and I'll get the information to the organizers to facilitate that.

CLC- No new SCI vet in the CLC and none has been discharged. There are currently 5 SCI vets in the CLC. Of the SCI vets remaining 3 are members of the Central Florida chapter and 2 that are non-members. If there are any vets you know interested in potential placement please have them contact the National Service Office.

The CLC has opened up visiting to outside parties. Visiting hours are between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM. Visitors must sign in at the entrance to the CLC and

have their temperature checked. Masking is required in all areas of the CLC. They are also resuming recreation activities that were going on prior to the pandemic. If our organization would like to host an event such as Bingo that has to be coordinated through voluntary services and Recreational Therapy. I have resumed my weekly visits to the CLC. There are no outstanding issues to report at this time.

General:

I've been thinking about the Florida Vet Council meetings at the American Legion. I haven't attended since COVID. I am going to reach out to them to see if they're still doing the meeting and to discuss getting back involved and I will update the Board when I get any updated information.

Clothing Allowance applications for all eligible veterans who do not have a recurring status and for those that wish to file for multiple clothing Allowances is August 1. So if there are any veterans who wish to file multiple clothing allowances or want to ensure their clothing allowance is filed please have them contact their National Service Office.

Auto Grant- In a previous Board Meeting I gave you inaccurate information. I advised the Board that everyone who had reached 30 years when the law went into effect would be eligible and everyone else had to wait 10 years to file for the second grant as that was how I interpreted what I read. I was incorrect in that interpretation. Everyone who reaches 30 years between the time the law went into effect in January of 2023 who reaches their 30 years prior to January of 2033 will be eligible to file once they've reached their 30 years in between Auto grants. In January of 2033 everyone who has greater than 10 years since using the grant will be eligible for the second auto grant and will be eligible every 10 years thereafter.

Garage Signs- The Orlando VAMC has put up guide signs in the parking garages. I have attached the sheet with the signs to this report.

PACT Act claims: The deadline to initiate claims under the PACT Act was suppose to be yesterday. However, that date has been extended until Monday. May not affect the Board but if you get any calls regarding this direct them to the NSO.





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# Washington Update

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE MOVES ELIZABETH DOLE HOME CARE ACT FORWARD**

In the final days before August recess, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee marked up one of PVA's top priorities for 2023. Action on the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act (H.R. 542) had been delayed since last Congress because of a very high price tag placed on it by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concerning the cap on VA purchased home care. Under current law, VA is prohibited from spending on home care more than 65 percent of what it would cost if the veteran was provided nursing home care. When VA reaches this cap, the only alternatives are to place the veteran into a VA or community care facility or rely on the veteran's caregivers, often family, to bear the extra burden.

PVA urged the Veterans' Affairs committees in the House and Senate to work with VA to provide accurate data to CBO as we believed the score was incorrect. After a bipartisan, bicameral effort, CBO adjusted the cost of the provision. This allowed the bill to move forward. If passed, the bill would take the cap from 65 percent to 100 percent of the cost of nursing home care. It would also allow the VA Secretary to go above 100 percent of the cost of such care for veterans with ALS, spinal cord injuries, and other similar conditions. The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act would also expand VA's home and community-based programs, including the Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program. It would further require VA to allow catastrophically disabled caregivers in the VDC program to pay their caregiver when hospitalized. Although PVA was able to get VA to move forward and implement this provision without legislative action, we want to ensure the requirement is in law.

The next step is for the bill to pass both the House and Senate. We will be working with Congress to ensure that this legislation continues to move forward.

## **PARTICIPATES IN VSO ROUNDTABLE WITH HOUSE MINORITY LEADERS**

On July 17, PVA attended a veterans organization roundtable hosted by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano (D-CA). Much of the conversation focused on the PACT Act (P.L. 117-168), which expanded VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. PVA's Chief Policy Officer

Heather Ansley urged the Minority Leader to place emphasis on passing the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, which greatly expands access to VA's home and community-based services and increases other long-term care options for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders. Independent Budget partner VFW expressed the need to invest in VA infrastructure. This is also a top priority for PVA as we seek to protect access to VA specialty health care.

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE SCRUTINIZES VA DISABILITY EXAMS PROCESS**

PVA was invited to submit its views for a July 27 House Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing looking at VA's disability exams process. Our statement for the record highlighted a noticeable difference in quality and accuracy between disability exams conducted by VA's specialty providers and those conducted by VA's contracted claims vendors.

When a veteran with MS or ALS receives a VA conducted exam, they are normally evaluated by a neurologist, a doctor who specializes in treating diseases of the nervous system. From our experience, this greatly enhances the likelihood of getting a proper exam, and significantly decreases the chance of errors. However, in the case of VA contracted exams, a veteran with MS may be examined by a family practitioner, pediatrician, obstetrician, or other provider who may have little to no expertise with the disease. These inadequate contractor exams can result in lengthy claim processing times, VA Rating Decisions that provide a lesser degree of benefits, and necessitate the need for lengthy appeals.

We expressed our belief that disability claims examinations for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders and other complex disabilities should only be conducted by VA providers specializing in the field of medicine for the disability being claimed. In the instances where they are not, a veteran should have the right, and VA contractors should have the ability, to schedule them with a provider actually practicing in the field of medicine for the condition under consideration.



# *Sports Director*

## *Roger Sack*



We finished well at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games with 3 athletes in attendance.

Jimmy Green, Eddie Hawks and Ray “Buddy” Reynolds competed this year.

After all of the Air Rifle training.

Buddy pulled Gold in SH2, along with Eddie getting Silver in their divisions.

Congratulations to Eddie and Jimmy on making the National NVWG Softball team.

Jimmy medaled in Softball, Basketball, Discus, Javelin and Shot. Eddie, and Buddy also participated in Field events.

Jimmy and Eddie competed in Disc Golf. Eddie won Gold in bowling, doing well above his average.

Buddy and Eddie got eliminated in Boccia on the first round, but did well.

Air Rifle is going on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays with a 60 shot match. Please sign up for your slot either 10am or 1p during those days.

Bowling League information is going to start September 8<sup>th</sup> at Boardwalk Bowl.

Interested, contact Roger at [rogers@pvacf.org](mailto:rogers@pvacf.org) for more information.

This will be a sanctioned league for 10 weeks, veterans, caregivers and family may participate.

Flyer coming out next week on our website.

Boccia is every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 1-3p at the chapter.

Those interested in cycling, skiing, diving, fishing, hunting, archery or any other sport interests; please contact Roger at [rogers@pvacf.org](mailto:rogers@pvacf.org) or call 407-792-8388 to sign up.

We are looking for Sport Coordinators, who have special passion and interest in their sport to help us build our athletic programs. If you are interested, please contact Roger Sack at [rogers@pvacf.org](mailto:rogers@pvacf.org) or call 407-792-8388.



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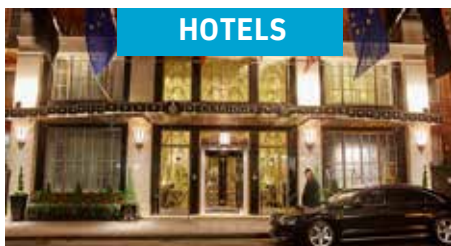
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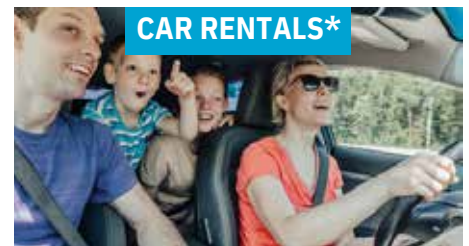
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# ***Origins Of Old Sayings***

## **ON YOUR BEAM ENDS**

On a ship, the beams are horizontal timbers that stretch across the ship and support the decks. If you are on your beam-ends your ship is leaning at a dangerous angle. In other words, you are in a precarious situation.

## **BEELINE**

In the past, people believed that bees flew in a straight line to their hive. So if you made a beeline for something you went straight for it.

## **BITE THE BULLET**

This old saying means to grin and bear a painful situation. It comes from the days before anesthetics. A soldier about to undergo an operation was given a bullet to bite.

## **BITTER END**

Anchor cable was wrapped around posts called bitts. The last piece of cable was called the bitter end. If you let out the cable to the bitter end there was nothing else you could do, you had reached the end of your resources.

## **BLUE-BLOOD**

This means aristocratic. For centuries the Arabs occupied Spain but they were gradually forced out during the Middle Ages. The upper class in Spain had paler skin than most of the population as their ancestors had not intermarried with the Arabs. As they had pale skin the 'blue' blood running through their veins was more visible. (Of course, all blood is red but it sometimes looks blue when running through veins). So blue-blooded came to mean upper class.

## **TO BOOT**

If you get something to boot it means you get it extra. However, it has nothing to do with the boots you wear on your feet. It is a corruption of the old word bot, which meant profit or advantage.

## **CUT AND RUN**

In an emergency rather than haul up an anchor the sailors would cut the anchor cable and then run with the wind.

## **DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH**

This old saying means don't examine a gift too closely! You can tell a horse's age by looking at its teeth, which is why people 'looked a horse in the mouth'.

## **DOUBTING THOMAS**

This phrase comes from John 20: 24-27. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples. However, one of them, named Thomas, was absent. When the others told him that Jesus was alive Thomas said he would not believe it until he saw the marks on Jesus' hands and the wound on his side caused by a Roman spear. Jesus appeared again and told Thomas Stop doubting and believe!

## **DOWN AT HEEL**

If the heels of your shoes were worn down you had a shabby appearance.

## **ESCAPED BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH**

This phrase comes from the Bible, from Job 19:20.

## **FEET OF CLAY**

If a person we admire has a fatal weakness we say they have feet of clay. This phrase comes from the Bible. King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a statue. It had a head of gold, arms, chest of silver, belly, and thighs of bronze and its legs were of iron. However, its feet were made of a mixture of iron and clay. A rock hit the statue's feet and the whole statue was broken. Daniel interpreted the dream to be about a series of empires, all of which would eventually be destroyed. (Daniel 2:27-44).

## **FIDDLE WHILE ROME BURNS**

There is a legend that when Rome burned in 64 AD Emperor Nero played the *lyre* (not the fiddle!). Historians are skeptical about the story.

## **FLASH IN THE PAN**

Muskets had a priming pan, which was filled with gunpowder. When flint hit steel it ignited the powder in the pan, which in turn ignited the main charge of gunpowder and fired the musket ball. However, sometimes the powder in the pan failed to light the main charge. In that case, you had a flash in the pan.



On National Nonprofit Day, fight for those that fought for you. Our members receive the benefits and services they need when you donate your gently used clothes and household goods. To donate, visit: [https://secure.pva.org/default.aspx?tsid=9491&donationAmount=other&mSource=WEQYYDFW2GPG&\\_ga=2.1705649.1607860698.1552920854-258990882.1542139382](https://secure.pva.org/default.aspx?tsid=9491&donationAmount=other&mSource=WEQYYDFW2GPG&_ga=2.1705649.1607860698.1552920854-258990882.1542139382)

Be kind to humankind! You can #GIVE back to PVA members by donating your gently used clothes and household goods. Your donation can help a paralyzed #veteran today. To learn more and donate: [https://secure.pva.org/default.aspx?tsid=9491&donationAmount=other&mSource=WEQYYDFW2GPG&\\_ga=2.1705649.1607860698.1552920854-258990882.1542139382](https://secure.pva.org/default.aspx?tsid=9491&donationAmount=other&mSource=WEQYYDFW2GPG&_ga=2.1705649.1607860698.1552920854-258990882.1542139382)



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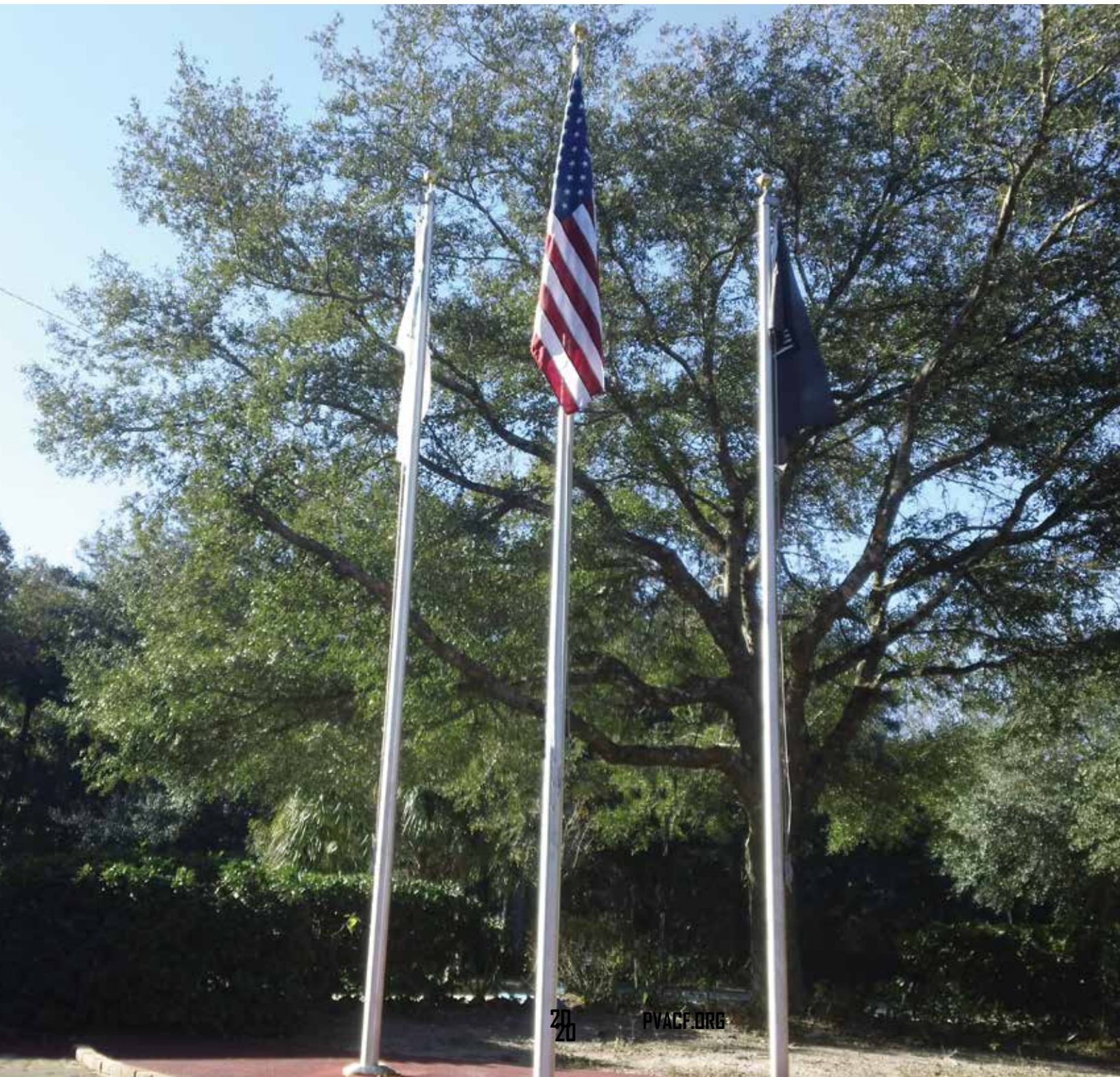


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