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# ***WHEELS IN MOTION***

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*February 2025*

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**Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Central Florida Chapter  
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Phone (407) 328-7041  
Fax: (407) 328-7139**

February Board Meeting is a **Zoom** - February 13th 10:30 AM

Chapter Officers 2023-2025

President..... Steve Kirk  
 Vice President ..... Roger Sack  
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 National Director ..... Tim Wolfe  
 Executive Director                      John DeMauro  
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 Ken Weas ..... Class of 2025  
 Jimmy Green ..... Class of 2025  
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 Amy Patterson..... Class of 2026

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 Sports Director ..... Roger Sack

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

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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.***

# PVA WOMENS Coffee MeetUp

**Where:** STARBUCKS near Lake Nona VA  
12278 Narcoossee Rd  
Orlando, FL 32832  
United States

**When:** Wednesday Feb 26, 2025 @330pm

Let's get together and talk about how we can support each other as "Sisters In Service" and as PVA members. I am hoping to get to know each another, and exchange ideas and make this a BI-MONTHLY group! ALL women are welcome to join us including members, caregivers, volunteers and staff! Our amazing PVA Chapter will be glad to reimburse mileage for this event. If you could RSVP that would be helpful so we know how many to expect! Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions for future meet-ups!

See you on Feb 26!

RSVP  
Amy Patterson  
PVACF Board Member  
304 672 5402  
**asp7800@yahoo.com**





# *Chapter President*

*Steve Kirk*

Recently the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center was renamed the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center. Tom Corey was a Vietnam Veteran, a former National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, a quadriplegic and a member of PVA.

Tom Corey was drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1966 and served as a 1st Cavalry Division squad leader in Vietnam. On the first day of the 1968 Tet Offensive, January 31, Corey was shot in the neck and permanently paralyzed. Being quadriplegic didn't stop Tom from becoming a life-long veteran's advocate. Drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1966 Tom served as a 1st Cavalry Division squad leader in Vietnam. On the first day of the 1968 Tet Offensive, January 31, Corey was shot in the neck and permanently paralyzed. "Being quadriplegic didn't stop Tom from becoming a life-long veteran's advocate, and an effective and truly inspiring leader," said VVA Communications Director Mokie Porter.

Tom once said "It's important that the country takes time to recognize the sacrifices of the men and women who served our country in defending this nation. Whether they went off to war or not, they joined the military or were drafted and did their job serving their country because they cared about it," This U.S. Army veteran and a life-long advocate for his fellow veterans exemplified the greatest kind of sacrifice: fighting for others.

Tom was medically retired from the U.S. Army in May 1968. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with V device for Valor; two Purple Hearts; the Air Medal; the Army Commendation Medal; a Presidential Unit Citation; a Valorous Unit Citation; the Republic Vietnam Gallantry Cross; and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Deployed to Vietnam during the Tet Offensive, he was shot in the neck and permanently paralyzed. This injury was life-changing, but not life-defining. Instead, he dedicated his life to advocating for veterans at local, regional, and national levels.

Tom founded the Palm Beach County chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He ultimately rose to national president of the organization, showing that no injury could eclipse his mission to serve others. Despite his permanent injuries, he continued to advocate for veterans, particularly those suffering from illnesses attributed to Agent Orange exposure.

Corey worked for 15 years at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center ensuring veterans received high-quality care. He also led delegations to Vietnam 16 times, meeting with officials to locate and repatriate the remains of missing veterans.

Naming the West Palm Beach VA in his honor recognizes his unwavering commitment and passionate advocacy for veterans. His legacy should continue to inspire us all.

*Steve Kirk*



*Cares*



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# *Executive Director*

## *John DeMauro*



Recently Steve Kirk, our Chapter President, underwent stem cell therapy in an effort to speed up the healing process of some serious wounds that developed while in the VA hospital in Tampa. Stem cell therapy has emerged as a promising strategy for enhancing wound healing, utilizing cells from diverse sources such as endothelial progenitor cells, bone marrow, adipose tissue, dermal, and inducible pluripotent stem cells. Studies have shown that adipose tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cells (AD-MSCs) emerged as an optimal choice for wound healing, due to their abundant supply, easy isolation, ex vivo proliferative capacities, and pro-angiogenic factor secretion. AD-MSCs have shown efficacy in various conditions, including peripheral arterial disease, diabetic wounds, hypertensive ulcers, bullous diabeticorum, venous ulcers, and post-Mohs micrographic surgery wounds. Delivery methods vary including topical application, scaffold incorporation, combination with plasma-rich proteins, and atelocollagen administration. Integration with local wound care practices can result in reduced pain, shorter healing times, and improved cosmesis (the restoring the physical appearance of the body).

Stem cell transplantation represents a potential therapeutic avenue, as transplanted stem cells not only differentiate into diverse skin cell types but also release essential cytokines and growth factors, fostering the forming of new blood vessels from existing blood vessels.. This approach holds promise for intractable wounds, particularly chronic lower-leg wounds, and as a post-Mohs micrographic surgery intervention for healing defects through secondary intention. The potential reduction in healthcare costs and enhancement of patient quality of life further underscore the attractiveness of stem cell applications in wound care.

In the last decade, a significant rise in interest into chronic wound healing has occurred due to the increasing incidence of chronic ulcers, an aging population, the increasing incidence of diabetes, and healthcare inequalities. With an estimated six million individuals in the United States alone grappling with the consequences of non-healing wounds, the associated healthcare expenditures have surged to a staggering \$25 billion. In the light of these compelling figures, there is a critical need to explore innovative research avenues to mitigate the human suffering and economic burden imposed by chronic wounds.

Stem cells harvested from different sources can be used for wound repair and regeneration. Wound healing is a complex cascade involving the interaction of inflammatory cells, skin fibroblasts, keratinocytes, and endothelial cells in injured tissue. These cells contribute to wound healing by releasing various chemo-cytokines, growth factors that promote cell migration to the injured area and stimulate inflammation, angiogenesis, wound contraction, and remodeling, resulting in a healthy wound-healing process.

We are hoping this therapy will work for Steve and get him home soon!

*John DeMauro*



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## ***Government Relations***

***Tim Wolfe***

The President signed the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act into law. Key provisions include a pilot program for assisted living options for aging and disabled veterans. This is an authorizing bill that allows the VA to do things but does not provide funding. This presents a budget challenge and will require congress to fund the program, if it is going to be implemented. PVA has been advocating for the passage of this bill for nearly 4 years.

The Vet Safe Travel Act was passed and signed into law. Under the VETS Safe Travel Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs will be required to certify that a veteran is eligible. TSA will then process the veteran's application, granting access to TSA PreCheck at no cost provided they successfully pass the background check and interview process. There is no provision for caregivers or spouses in this legislation.

The final rule on public rights of way guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation applies to new and altered transit stops under the ADA. However, the rule only applies to transit stops, not the entire route, and the Department of Justice needs to finalize a rule to cover everything comprehensively. While the transit stops must be accessible, the entire route may not be covered by the rule. However, general ADA rules always apply.

*Tim Wolfe*



## ***Roger D. Sack*** ***VP/Sports Director***

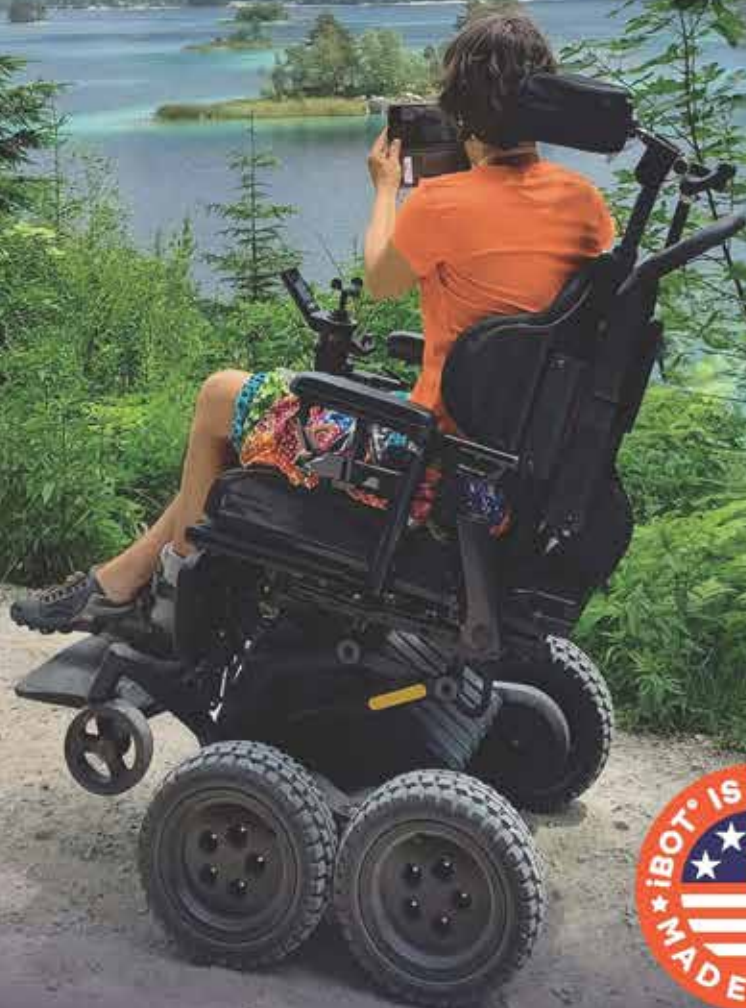
The PVACF Sports Program consists of Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Archery, Basketball, Billiards, Boccia, Bowling, E-Sports, Fishing (Fresh water and Salt), Golf, Handcycling, Hunting, Sled Hockey, Shooting Sports, Softball, Track and Field and Snow Skiing. The chapter has Sports Coordinators, who help oversee many of their various passions for sports and help to accomplish our programming services to our veterans. As Sports Director, I work alongside them, allowing them the flexibility to create new ways to build our programs with excellence. Our Sports Coordinators are Air Rifle/Air Pistol/ Shooting Sports: Tim Wolf/Roger Sack; Archery: Roger Sack; Basketball: Jimmy Green; Billiards: Amir Pishdad, Jr.; Boccia: David Rountree/Steve Kirk; Bowling: Eddie Hawks/Roger Sack; Fishing: Eddie Hawks; Handcycling: Amir Pishdad, Jr.; Hunting: Eddie Hawks/Roger Sack; Sledge Hockey: Roger Sack; Softball: Jimmy Green; NVWG Coach: Jimmy Green; Track and Field: Jimmy Green/Roger Sack; Snow Skiing: Jimmy Green/Roger Sack. The PVA Central Florida Chapter has members participating with Move United, Brooksville Rehabilitation, Orlando VA Medical Center Sports and Recreation, Heroes United Golf Scramble League, PGA Hope, PVA Bass Tour, PVA Bowling, PVA Handcycling, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Orlando Dreamplex, Florida Disabled Anglers and Bass Club Florida- Central Florida Region, Patriots 4, Tohopakeliga High School NJROTC, AGED, Florida Adaptive Sports, and Brian Roddy Golf Academy. Through these PVACF Partnerships, our members continue to participate with and build new relationships in building our Sports programs. Through our partnerships, we have been able to grow our programs with local merchants to offer Archery and Fly-fishing clinics and a Central Florida Veteran Bowling League. In addition, we have offered specialized training programs for the Orlando VA Adaptive Sport Program, through our Move United grants, to expand our Air Rifle/Air Pisto and Boccia in preparation for the Golden Age Games in 2025. Through our continued efforts, our members are continuing to have more and more opportunities to enjoy life to the fullest.

*Roger Sack*

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Courage to change the things I can and the WISDOM to know the difference.

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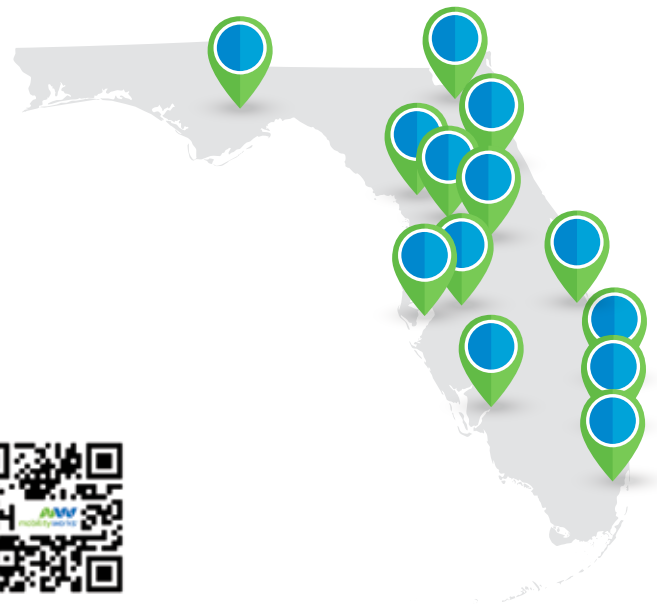


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