



Northwest Chapter

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Winter on Puget Sound



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Our Mission

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members-veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for:

- Quality health care for our members,
- Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction,
- Benefits available as a result of our members' military service,
- Civil rights and opportunities which maximize the independence of our members.

To enable PVA to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for PVA to achieve its mission.

The Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (NWPVA) a member chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America accomplishes it's mission by coordinated efforts through programs that:

- Provide opportunities for health promotion, recreation, employment, sports and recreation, service and camaraderie for paralyzed veterans;
- Elevate society's information level about the attitudinal, physical and legal barriers that confront persons with disabilities in order to influence the removal of those barriers;
- Advocate for and monitor the delivery of high quality and appropriate health care benefits and service;
- Cooperate with and seek the support of other groups and individuals that share NWPVA's objective;
- Educate the public with the current and ongoing needs and current and past contributions of America's veterans.

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Matthew Mickunas



A S



As the last sunset in 2020 faded away we now rise in 2021 and believe that we must look back upon the journey that we just traveled and see where we really are today. Fortunately, Northwest Paralyzed Veterans of America (NWPVA) was very well positioned in many respects when the pandemic's hit locally more so then across the country last March. NWPVA program initiatives were on course and progressing nicely, we had built up our financial reserves, established strong relationships with the VA Puget Sound Health Care System; To include Seattle's SCI Unit, our Spokes throughout Washington, Alaska, Montana, Oregon, and the National PVA Team who could assist us in times of trouble, and was a great resource. Most of the past year & continuing into this year, we established many different mechanisms in direct communication between Veteran Health Services (VHS) and Veteran members and their family such as VA Video Connect Appointments, VA Phone Appointments, and when critically needed; VA Traveling Medical, Recreational, and Physical & Occupational Therapy Teams.

News about all of the Seattle SCI Unit inpatients and SCI Unit Staff have received their second series of Covid-19 vaccine, any inpatients that left after receiving their first vaccine are being recalled receiving their second. As of today, all SCI Unit Outpatients that come in for an appointment to Seattle SCI Unit from now on will receive their first round Covid-19 vaccine, and be scheduled for their second. Starting Jan 13th, 2021 until complete, the SCI Staff will be calling all local SCI Unit Outpatient Veterans in the SCI registry by medical priority (5 or more per day) to offer to receive their Covid-19 vaccine series. The Seattle SCI Unit Chief is working with Eastern Washington VA, Walla Walla VA, Portland VA, and all the spokes in Montana, Alaska, Oregon to ensure the SCI priority register is in place as SCI has been offered the next priority after Skilled Nursing Facilities. NWPVA awaits the Chief of MS and ALS Outpatients when and where to start offering Covid-19 series vaccinations. Rest assured we have NWPVA Board Members, NWPVA Members, National PVA, and Staff inside the VA system checking daily on any and all information for all our Members with MS & ALS to be offered the Covid-19 vaccine series.



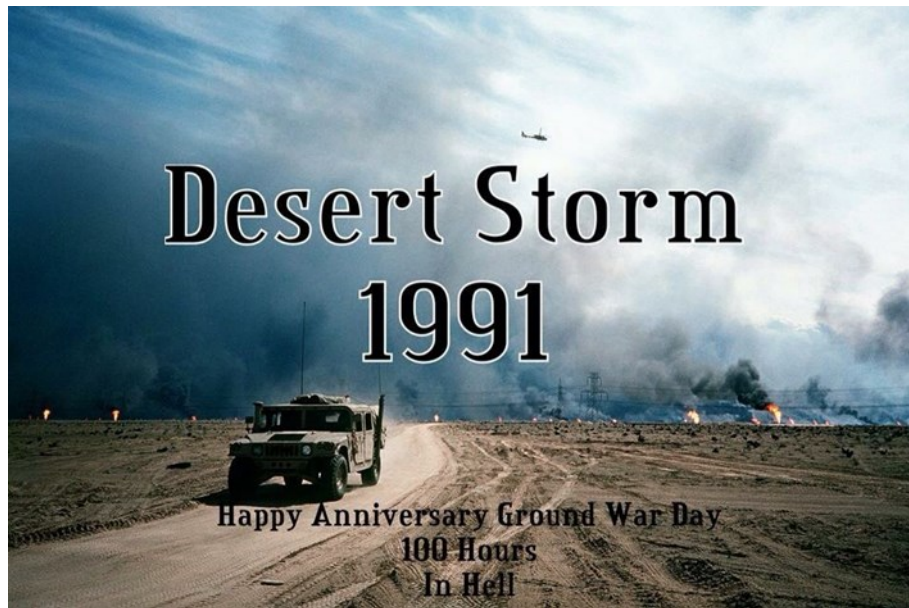
"Before Zoom...., where did you go?"



"Seattle VA Medical Center, Empty...!"

Shield & Storm: As I Lived It

By: Matthew Mickunas



The Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne were among the first soldiers deployed to Saudi Arabia following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August of 1990. Roughly six months later, the storied division would launch an unprecedented airborne assault taking them over 150 miles behind enemy lines and within 100 miles of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. In 1990, a coalition of forces from around the world, headed by the United States, gathered in Saudi Arabia "King Fuad International Airport & FOB". The task was to remove the Iraqi Army from Kuwait and protect against an expansion of Saddam Hussein's aggressiveness. Within 12 hours of the invasion of its southern neighbor, Kuwait, the Iraqi army was without any significant opposition. The world's 4th largest army at the time now had solid control of Middle East oil production and was moving troops to the border with Saudi Arabia. The coalition of forces sought a peaceful solution to the conflict and insisted that the Iraqi forces immediately vacate Kuwait. But a defiant Saddam Hussein decided to "double down" and warned of the "mother of all wars."



The 101st Airborne would set the stage for a 42-day-long aerial bombardment of Iraqi positions, defenses, and command and control facilities. As an Army Corporal my unit was on red cycle, it was my turn to maintain radio watch at the Division tent, eight Apache helicopters of the 101st Division set off on January 16, 1991 under cover of darkness with a mission to take out two Iraqi radar stations. The Apaches, using advanced equipment like new thermal imaging that penetrated into Iraq, flying only 50 feet off the deck to approach the sites undetected. Once in range, the Apaches took out the sites and auxiliary targets with extreme efficiency. Over 40 Hellfire mis-

(Continued from page 4)

siles and more than 200 Hydra 70 Flechette Rockets were fired on Iraqi targets as well as an unspecified amount of 30 mm cannon rounds. The mission opened up a 20-mile wide corridor in Iraqi airspace for coalition forces to fly through without being detected. As the Apaches from the 101st returned from their successful mission, they could hear and see the swarms of coalition aircraft starting their sorties.



Desert Storm had begun. The ground assault to push Iraqi forces out of Kuwait began on February 24th, 1991. After over a month of constant bombardment by coalition aircraft, missiles, and artillery, U.S. Marines led the attack on Iraqi positions in Kuwait. Other coalition forces would strike out into the Iraqi desert, eliminate or subdue forces encountered, and cut off the Iraqi Army from the Euphrates and Tigris River valleys. The operation was billed as “innovative” by the coalition commanders at the time but was essentially an engage and flank maneuver on a grand scale. The 101st had a special task in this “**Right Hook**” that would take them 155 miles behind enemy lines, transported there by over 400 helicopters.



“Date with Destiny” In December of 1990, when the 101st had been deployed in Saudi Arabia for a few months, questions and criticisms continued to be reported about the combat readiness and effectiveness of America’s “peacetime army.” Many reports indicated that the Apaches and other vehicles and equipment would not function properly in the desert environment. Furthermore, many critics were vocal in their lack of confidence in the U.S. soldiers’ capabilities. As Major General Robert Clark reflected later, the Soldiers of the 101st themselves were starting to suffer deterioration in their morale. He noted two specific events that lifted spirits and fired up the men in the unit. First, every member of the 101st Airborne received a card from a former member of the 101st, many of whom had served in Vietnam and WWII. The messages on the cards were varied, but a common theme existed in each: You have a date with destiny. Honor the unit, badge, and those that wore it before. Second, the division was told, “The way home is through Iraq. Time to go to work.”

(Continued from page 5)

“The Largest Air Assault of Its Kind”

The 101st Airborne set out with two early objectives in Operation Desert Storm. The first was to set up a forward base behind Iraqi lines named Cobra. Elements of my unit in the 101st set out and established this base quickly and effectively. The second early objective took large elements of the 101st Airborne even further into Iraq and to the Euphrates River. A distance of over 150 miles from their base in Saudi Arabia and less than 100 miles from Baghdad. There, the 101st took control of Highway 8, which connected the Iraqi capital with its army in the south. Now, less than two days into the ground offensive, the Iraqi army was already in full retreat from Kuwait.



At this point, the question wasn't whether the coalition forces would rid Kuwait of the Iraqi Army, but whether the U.S. led forces could close the noose on Saddam Hussein's best forces, the Iraqi Republican Guard. Around the third day of the ground offensive, the 101st set out again to establish a forward base. This time they headed east towards Basra and established Forward Base Viper. From Viper, the 101st was able to conduct operations against Iraqi forces falling back from Kuwait and Basra, helping to eliminate the ability of those forces to consolidate and reform.

Aircraft elements of the 101st Division took part extensively in the turkey shoot of retreating Iraqi forces that is most commonly referred to as the Highway of Death. The destruction and devastation along this stretch of road were complete.



“Standing Down”

With Saddam's forces in total disarray, the 101st was already preparing to go on the offensive again, heading even further north into Iraq. However, the political and strategic aims of the conflict had already been achieved, and coalition forces were ordered to cease fire. As the conflict wound down, the 101st Airborne returned to the United States with a heroes' welcome. They had achieved all their mission goals, demonstrated their abilities, and wreaked havoc on their enemy. The division sustained only five soldiers KIA in the conflict. Commanding General Norman Schwarzkopf commented during one of his press briefings how extremely fast, tough, and effective the 101st had been. He called them the “Lightning in Desert Storm.”

(Continued from page 5)



Alpha Company (ABU), 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad,
1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne

We have a rendezvous with destiny. Our strength and courage strike the spark that will always make men free. Assault right down through the skies of blue; Keep your eyes on the job to be done. We're the Soldiers of the hundred-first; we'll fight till the battle's won!



"My Combat Coin"

SUPPORT VETERANS THROUGH CLOTHING DONATION PROGRAM G.I.V.E. (Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere)

Through the Paralyzed Veterans of America's G.I.V.E. (Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere) clothing donation program, service never goes out of style. Your generous donations of clothes, small appliances, and gently used household goods help improve the lives of severely injured veterans and strengthens

the fabric of our community. Plus, your donations are tax deductible – a receipt will be issued upon pickup/drop off.

Paralyzed Veterans' G.I.V.E. clothing donation program contact: 888-253-9682. Counties of Service: King, Pierce, Snohomish & Thurston.



Robert Clinton

Rewarding Connections



I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Safe 2021. My efforts to increase reporting of Volunteer Hours hit a “speed bump” during December due to Holiday activities which is understandable as we all celebrated the 2020 the high holidays in ways like no other in our lifetime. As we move forward through January, let us all get back into the volunteer spirit of helping our fellow veterans, reporting our hours accurately, on time, and asking me early if you need help. Birthday calls are continuing, Fred Margiotta completed approximately half of his December list before being hired fulltime by Amazon and therefore could not complete his calls. I will complete those calls for him before the end of January. Mike Partridge will be making his January calls.

At the November 2020, Board of Directors Meeting, I reported on my experience in making Birthday calls to 34 PVA members whose birthday fell in November, and reported that among the many wrong numbers, hang ups, and unreturned calls, the connections I made were very rewarding, especially the call I made to Chris Hansen, who was joined on the call by his wife Francesca, both were especially upbeat and appreciative of the *Outpost* and the information it contained along with the connection it provided to PVA. So, you can imagine my shock and sadness when I received an email from Francesca informing me that Chris had died on December 24th and offering to donate his quad gaming, and sip and puff equipment to a fellow PVA member. Therefore, I thought it would be appropriate to include this short remembrance in this column.

Chris Hansen was born in Washington in 1967 and enlisted in the Navy in 1986. Stationed in the United Kingdom, he was involved in a car accident during a blinding rainstorm. The resulting crash paralyzed Chris, at age 19, from the shoulders down, leaving him with only limited use of a few fingers on his left hand. He returned to Washington, living in Cashmere, went to college, finishing when he had his received his Master's in English.

Chris was always active, he did acrylic paintings before he lost the use of his hand, he loved horror and fantasy and was a big fan of writers Clive Barker, Stephen King, and others. After he lost the use of his hand, he moved away from his love of books and painting and became a hospice volunteer, visited dementia patients, and did many wonderful things. He was totally selfless to the end, Francesca said, “I am very proud of him for many reasons, his Master's degree, his artistic talents, his writing abilities, but most of all for being a good man, a wonderful husband, brother, son, uncle and just a good soul for all he gave back before he left this world. I am fortunate that I met him and that he married me. I am proud to be his widow.”

If anyone would like a copy of Chris's artwork, please email me and I'd be happy to send them along.



Chris and Francesca



Your New Independence By: Matthew Mickunas

“How Action Trackchair started”

After 30 years of being in the Motor sports business. Tim Swenson decided to help people have the freedom of getting off the normal path. He started developing this all terrain wheelchair in 2008, it is called the Action Trackchair. Tim and his wife, Donna, have a son, Jeff, who is in a chair. They also know of other people who would love the freedom-of-mobility to go hunting, hiking, fishing, going to the beach, and much more. Now, with the Action Trackchair people are able to enjoy these types of activities.

“Independence Fund”

Founded in 2007, The Independence Fund is committed to empowering our nation’s catastrophically wounded, injured, or ill Veterans to overcome physical, mental, and emotional wounds incurred in the line of duty. Dedicated to improving the lives of both our Veterans and their families. Through Mobility, Caregiver, Adaptive Sports, Advocacy, and Family programs, The Independence Fund strives to bridge the gap of unmet needs for Veterans and their caregivers.

“The Process”

Simply go to <https://IndependenceFund.org> and apply. You will need to be able to place online your DD214, ID with photo, current VA benefits summary & disabilities with rating (You can ask your Service Officer or call VA customer service for a copies). I applied during the dreaded Covid phase, it took about two to three months waiting to get the grant approved (may be shorter wait for you), ensure your correct info was received or in order (it’s a good idea, like I did, to call after 3 weeks and ask). Then you’ll receive a call from the Independence Fund office to get some information from you on how you heard about the program, and how the Action Trackchair would change your life. Then wait approximately another month or so for the grant to be issued.

Once the grant is issued, you’ll receive a call from your distributor, there is a distributor in your area (WA, AK, ID, OR, & MT). My distributor’s is in Vancouver, WA his name is Kraig. He will ask about size of chair you need, color, all sorts of items you may want as chair accessories. Go to www.actiontrackchair.com and look through all the types of chairs and so forth to help you **“Build Your**

Chair” and have most of your decisions completed when your dealer calls to set up the chair build. I’ll tell you the chair I received was granted at full price (\$12,000, may add up to more depending on your needs), plus they allow you an additional \$750.00 for all the add on perks and extras you may want (headrest, lights, rear rack, ect).

Some good advice is not to pick the dealers Action Trackchair ramp/rack that installs to your hitch, and buy a “4-ft x 6-ft Wire Mesh Utility Trailer with Ramp Gate” from “Lowes” or elsewhere for around \$400-\$500, remember you have the \$750 allowance from the grant. You may buy it beforehand and have it refunded at delivery of your chair, or wait to receive a check from your dealer out of the grant funding and then go buy it, its up to you.

You can always send your personal dealer an email or call and ask any questions you may have. After your dealer gets your chair ordered, it takes about 3-6 weeks depending on the month ordered to complete. I ordered before Christmas, so it took till after the holidays, it’s well worth the wait. When complete, your personal dealer will then load up your new Action Trackchair and deliver it rite to your address. Each dealer will spend as long as you need them to teach, train, and explain to you all the great stuff you can do with your new Action Trackchair, as they watch you have fun with your new independence on and off the beaten path!!





Paralyzed Veterans
of America

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department

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Volume 27, Number 2

WAYS AND MEANS LEADERSHIP ISSUES POLICY FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE ACTIONS IN 117TH CONGRESS

On January 11, Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) released a legislative framework for how the Committee will “address the role that racism, ableism, and other social, structural, and political determinants have in perpetuating health and economic inequity in the United States.” As one of the major committees in Congress, Ways and Means has jurisdiction over a wide spectrum of policies ranging from workforce, business and health care tax incentives to Social Security to economic stimulus initiatives. Based on a Committee report titled “Something Must Change: Inequities in U.S. Policy and Society,” the framework lays out policy priorities to steer the Committee’s work in the 117th Congress.

While the framework by its na-

ture is broad and general in its outline of policies, it does touch on a number of issues of interest to PVA and its members. Among these are:

- Ensure technological advancements do not leave underserved communities behind by supporting efforts to
 - * revisit the role of algorithms in clinical decision tools that rely on race, ethnicity, or other non-medical factors in assessing patients and systemic bias vulnerabilities related to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health payment and delivery
 - * accommodate needs for assistive technologies and telehealth for individuals living with disabilities;
- Increase accessibility and reasonable accommodations within health care fa-

cilities so people with disabilities have better access to diagnostics, care, and treatment;

- Extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which provides financial support for businesses that hire workers who are disproportionately likely to have difficulty finding a place in the workforce;
- Provide job services and supports targeted to vulnerable populations and focused on long-term career advancement, not just employment;
- Strengthen and improve Social Security benefits, particularly for low-wage workers; and
- Protect Social Security disability benefits from harmful regulations and other attacks designed to reduce access to benefits.

CONFIRMATION HEARING HELD FOR VA SECRETARY NOMINEE

On January 27, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing to consider President Biden's nomination of Denis McDonough to be the next VA Secretary. During his confirmation hearing, McDonough, who is not a veteran, stated that he would succeed if confirmed. McDonough answered questions from Senators about topics ranging from VA's modernization efforts to preventing veteran suicide. He pledged to work with the Committee to re-

solve many of the department's enduring problems such as its burgeoning bureaucracy, lack of transparency, the claims and appeals backlogs, accessibility challenges for both education and health care, and modernizing its infrastructure. McDonough told Committee members that most of his decisions would be based on whether they increase access and improve outcomes for veterans.

Two of his responses related to PVA legislative goals. If confirmed, he promised to take

another look at VA rules for the recently expanded VA comprehensive caregiver program to see if eligibility rules are consistent with what Congress intended. He also agreed to work with the Committee to make IVF services a regular part of VA's medical services package. A strong, bipartisan tone was evident throughout the hearing, which was led by newly minted Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT). The Committee was slated to vote on the nomination February 2.



Seattle Foundation hosts more than 50 scholarship programs with \$1.5 million in funding available during this award cycle! Scholarships available for graduating HS Seniors as well as folks returning to school. Veterans encouraged to apply!

- **The Walter H. Meyer – Garry L. White Memorial Scholarship** provides \$5,000 to undergrad and grad students in their 20s and 30s
- **The Atsuhiko Tateuchi Memorial Scholarship** provides \$5,000 for students of Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry
- **The Doyne M. Green Scholarship** supports female graduate students with a \$4,000 scholarship

Dozens of opportunities are available.



SEATTLE
FOUNDATION

the heart & science of philanthropy

Remember: **application deadline** for most scholarships is March 1, 2021.

To learn more and apply, visit:
www.seattlefoundation.org/scholarships

A Soldiers Story By: Robert Clinton

Horatio Dalton came to me by way of a letter that I inherited from my mother in 1986. The letter, dated March 20, 1862, relates the experiences of a soldier marching to Alexandria and waiting to “embark and go down the Potomac.” Like many Civil War letters, it complains about the long march, the cold, and apologizes for the poor handwriting. The letter is signed, “Your soldier boy Horatio Dalton.” When assigned a research project for a Civil War history class, I decided to resurrect Horatio by finding out as much as possible about his life and wartime experiences.

Heading for the Fairfax, Virginia Public Library, knowing nothing but Dalton’s name, I started my research with the Civil War rosters organized by state. Knowing that New York State contributed many volunteers to the war effort, on a hunch, I started there. On page 20 of the first volume I opened, there he was! “Dalton, Horatio N., 98th Inf. Co. I, Sgt.”

Armed with this information, I accessed the National Parks Web site, and immediately found Dalton and the service record of the 98th Volunteer Infantry, including their battles and movements from the time they left the State of New York on March 8, 1862, to their muster out in Richmond, Virginia, on August 31, 1865. Using internet searches, I found a web site for the 98th New York Infantry. Acting on information from that lead that I headed for the Library of Congress in downtown Washington, D.C. and found Dalton’s service, medical record, and “Notes and Observations made during four years of service with the Ninety-eighth N.Y. Volunteers in the War of 1864” by Col. Kreutzer, commander of Dalton’s unit. The information contained in Col. Kreutzer’s book, gathered on two more visits to the Library, enabled me to infer much of the detail of Dalton’s wartime experience and what life was like for a Civil War Soldier:

Horatio N. Dalton arrived in Marion, New York on October 21, 1861. It was a cold, clear day, and excitement was in the air. Dalton was only 18 years old, a small young man, just 5 feet 4 1/2 inches tall, with light hair and gray eyes. He had come to Marion to enlist in the army to help President Lincoln save the Union. Dalton, like many of the other volunteers, had decided to enlist after the overwhelming Confederate victory at Bull Run, in July, just a few months earlier.

As the primary organizations were made in October and November, Dalton and his fellow volunteers received their “clothing, blankets, knapsack, subsistence and medical attendance – everything necessary to equip and make the men comfortable – [which was] supplied by the respective departments in Albany.” All about the encampment was the feeling of a country fair. Men were cheerful and excited as they contemplated their new adventure. The officers worked to turn these excited young men into soldiers as they waited for orders to move out. “Men came from miles, bringing their wives and children to see the soldiers drill.”

This routine continued as volunteers streamed in and were quickly issued their equipment and began to drill along with Dalton, and the other now more experienced soldiers. Many of Dalton’s fellow soldiers had never traveled far from home and rumors and speculation about what would happen next occupied many hours as the men sat around the campfires and visited in the tents late at night. Finally, the word came down to the men that the companies would move out for Albany and join with the other companies that would make up the 98th New York Volunteer Infantry.

It was “about the middle of February that the different companies arrived at Albany and went into barracks at Camp Rathbone.” Despite the excitement, the quarters at Camp Rathbone gave the soldiers a taste of some of

the hardships that they would face in the future. "The quarters had been occupied by thousands before; they were fearfully filthy and dirty, and 'oft in the stilling night, ere slumber's chains had bound us, we felt, oh, the cursed bite of something crawling around us'." Dalton and the others were soon anxious to leave Camp Rathbone. They had joined the Army to fight the Rebels and save the Union, but so far, they had done nothing but drill and fight the bedbugs. Dalton would not be disappointed. "The order to go was not long delayed. It was read one evening and commanded us to be ready to march at daylight." This was the order everyone had been waiting for. Finally, they would be off to fight and become real soldiers. "All night the barracks echoed with shouts and cheers. The men sang 'Uncle Ned Had No Wool on Top of His Head,' 'Carry Me Back to Ole Virginiey,' 'Way Down South in Dixie,' 'The Star-Spangled Banner,' and 'The Girl I Left Behind Me'." The next day, the 98th prepared to board the train for Washington, D.C.

As the regiment began to move, Dalton could see a "large crowd assembled at Willard's hotel and along every street" to see them pass. It was in this manner that the regiment began its march from Washington to Alexandria. The march to Alexandria, although only a few miles long, seemed to everyone to be long and hard. Despite the weeks and weeks of drilling, Dalton and his fellows had done little marching while actually carrying their equipment, and were in poor shape, making the march a real challenge for many. The regiment finally reached Alexandria "after 11:00 [p.m.], we stacked arms along the sidewalk, wrapped ourselves in our blankets and lay down on the pavement to sleep." The next morning, Dalton wrote home,

Alexandria March 20th, 1862

Dear Olive,

We are in Alexandria on the sidewalk[.] We expect to embark and go down the Potomack [sic] and we had a long march to Alexandria[.] I set on the sidewalk with my knapsack on my lap[.] my hands is so cold that I can hardly hold A pencil but the writing is horrible must you must excuse it[.] you must not think it strange if you do not get A letter very often[.] we got our pay the day we left Washington[.] we slept on the ground last night and it rained all night[.] well I must stop for I expect the drum will beat before I can get it in the post[.] I am going to give it to A little boy and trust in his honesty to put it in[.] I do think you can read this[.]

Good By
Your soldier Boy
Horatio Dalton

On April 1, 1862, the 98th boarded the steamer ELM CITY docked at Alexandria and departed for Fort Monroe on the Virginia Peninsula. Although unknown to Dalton and most of the soldiers of the 98th, the unit, part of the Army of the Potomac, was integral to General George McClellan's plan to move the army down the Chesapeake and land within striking distance of the Confederate capital at Richmond. Dalton and the other members of the 98th saw little action immediately after landing at Fort Monroe while General McClellan increased his troop strength and settled down for a siege of nearby Yorktown.

By early May, Dalton and his comrades saw their first action, attacking the Confederate defenses at Williamsburg. "[R]epeated attempts were made by the troops in front directly on the enemy's works and each advance was repelled with heavy loss. Night and the rain came on, but nothing was accomplished but the killing of our men." During the night, the enemy retired and in the morning, the 98th marched into the enemy's works and found that "his heavy guns were harmless as logs." As the 98th took up position in the abandoned works, Dalton was assigned to a "detail to pick up the enemy's wounded and bury the dead of both armies." This was the first time that Dalton had truly seen the results of war and it affected him deeply. As the detail began its grim business, Dalton and his fellows found dead and wounded everywhere, "on the brush, among the limbs, against the stumps and trunks, in the mud, in the water, on the wet ground they lay. In the road, along the

(Continued from page 13)

road, in the grass, on the leaves, in the slush, in the ditches, cold and dead they lay, a heart-rending commentary on the Nation's quarrel."

This was only the first of many times that Dalton and his comrades would be confronted by the horrors of war. Over the next three years, the 98th would participate in every battle of the Peninsular Campaign. Each battle came with its own horrors. When "our batteries opened; the air becomes full of lead and iron. High over our heads, around us, beside us, the lead is whistling and the iron is whizzing, hissing, whining. Every moment has a new terror, every instant a new horror. Our men are falling fast, we leave the dead and dying and send the wounded to the rear." After the battles, Dalton and the men sit around and with "our arms in our hands, talked the battle over ... several men [said how they] changed position or moved their heads just in time to save their lives. One had had his mouth and eyes filled with mud; another was splashed all over with water by the explosion of a shell." "The decomposing bodies of men and horses polluted the air! Oh, their offense was rank, it smelled to heaven!" "Within the limits of our camps, the dead animals, the offal, the hot weather multiplied the flies beyond credibility, they 'roosted' an inch deep along the ridge polls of our tents ... we were compelled to drive them away from every spoonful and forkful that we ate."

Despite these horrors, Dalton was still committed to the cause of saving the Union and putting down the rebellion, and so, reenlisted on January 2, 1864, at Pungo Bridge, Virginia, for three more years. As a veteran, Dalton was promoted to corporal, and received a three-hundred-dollar bounty and a thirty-day furlough.

As the war continued, Dalton and the 98th saw much more action, including the battle at Cold Harbor and experienced great hardships and saw many battle casualties. On September 30, 1864, Dalton reported sick and was sent to a field hospital, and from there to a general hospital, where he spent the months of October, November, and December 1864 recuperating from an unknown sickness. Returning to the 98th, Dalton was promoted to sergeant in December 1864 and the Regiment commenced operations at Petersburg and before Richmond.

On April 3, 1865, Dalton and the 98th New York Volunteer Infantry, in a joint operation with Ripley's brigade of Negroes, after "evacuation of the of the city [Richmond] was ascertained, the white troops being veterans, better drilled and handled took the lead marching into the city by the New Market Road and the Old Osborne Pike." As the troops marched down the road and into the city, few people could be seen, but as the troops advanced people began to spill out onto the road. Dalton saw "Negroes, poor whites, male and females come out to meet us. They waved handkerchiefs, hats and bonnets and hands in gratitude, and shouted for joy." Arriving in the city at "Rocketts, near 7 a.m. ... [the soldiers saw] part of the city between the Capital grounds was in flames; and we heard constantly the sound of falling walls and the report of exploding shells." All about the city were "the most degraded of the populace of Richmond, burned out of home and clothes and bread the night before. They struggled through the streets, collected on corners and vacant places, half clothed, wrapped in sheets, bedclothes and sacks. They carried children, bundles and every conceivable article of household kitchen furniture." Dalton was surprised that despite this destruction, "nearly everyone we saw, whether in window, door or street welcomed us with shouts and smiles as friends and deliverers." One heart-breaking incident occurred. "As we rode near the ashes of the city post-office, we saw a woman hold in her handkerchief and show to her friends all that she had saved of her burned child - a handful of hair, a few pieces of bone and a few first joints of fingers."

After Richmond was secured, it fell to elements of the 98th to act as provost marshals of the city. Dalton was assigned to this duty and it became the 98th's task "to register every living person in the 2nd district, to govern and patrol it, quell disturbances, to arrest and confine straggling soldiers and administer the oath of allegiance to such as were willing to take it."

On August 31, 1865 Sergeant Dalton was mustered out of the Army with the rest of the 98th New York Volunteer Infantry. Dalton and the rest of the "98th [were] accompanied to the boat by nearly a thousand people, male and

female, white and black, acquaintances, friends, citizens, attracted by the martial display ... The regiment had long been in the city, many men had formed strong and earnest attachments and although the band played 'Home Sweet Home,' we observed that morning as they shook hands, and said farewells, among the crowd, many sad faces and weeping eyes. The regiment landed in Baltimore and proceeded by train to New York and then up the Hudson to Albany. When the regiment arrived in Albany, each man marched up to the paymaster's tent and received his final pay.

Dalton's trail went cold after he left the army. I was not able to find any record that he filed for a pension or any other information. If I still lived on the East Coast I would travel to Albany and Brooklyn and return to the Library of Congress and see if I could write the final chapter of Sgt. Dalton's life.

Supporting Northwest PVA Veterans Through Amazon Smile

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AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

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Place: **Northwest Paralyzed Veterans of America** when you search for a charity.



February

St. Valentine's Day 14th



Presidents' Day

March

Daylight Saving Time Begins 14th

St. Patrick's Day 17th



Spring Begins 20th

2021 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the world's largest annual wheelchair sports event solely for military Veterans. Every year, hundreds of American heroes from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the post-9/11 era compete in this celebration of courage and camaraderie. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games launched in 1981 with 7 events and 75 athletes. Paralyzed Veterans of America joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1985 to help expand the event's mission and reach. The Wheelchair Games have since grown to attract more than 500 participants each year.

For the 40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, we are excited to bring the National Veterans Wheelchair Games to New York City, August 8-13, 2021, and showcase the drive, determination and spirit of our veteran competitors. The 2021 Wheelchair Games marks the 40th Anniversary of the wheelchair sports and rehabilitation event. Throughout the weeklong event we also will remember and honor those lives lost on September 11, 2001, as 2021 also marks the 20th anniversary of that tragic day. Many of the Veterans who participate each year in the Wheelchair Games were inspired to join the military and serve our country because of the events of 9/11. In many ways our Veteran competitors are much like the city of New York—Strong, Resilient and Full of Perseverance.

The Wheelchair Games moves from city to city annually to introduce new Veterans, partners, and volunteers to the event and the world of wheelchair sports. With each community we visit, we strengthen the infrastructure for adaptive sports – generating a ripple effect felt by Veterans and people of all ages living with disabilities for years to come.

National Veterans Wheelchair Games athletes come from nearly every generation of Veterans, from World War II, Korea, Vietnam War, Gulf War, to the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. From newly injured first-time competitors to Paralympic athletes, each Veteran brings his or her own unique story of recovery through strength and perseverance.

Registration Now Open Until April, 2 2021

Go to <https://wheelchairgames.org> for more information and to register. Also those wanting to be a part of Team Northwest, please call and talk to your Recreation Therapist at the Seattle SCI Clinic at (206) 277-3207 or (206) 277-1648 and (206) 390-4573 for Rehab Services at American Lake VA

NEW EVENTS FOR 2021

Disc Golf:

New event and limited to 36 Veterans total for Classes (II,III,IV,V) and 36 Veterans for Classes (1A,1B,1C). For 2021 only, this event does not count against the five-event limit.

Adaptive E-Sports:

Online gaming competition. Does not count against the five-event limit.

Sniper Competition:

In lieu of registering for the regular Air Rifle competition, we are introducing a Sniper Competition. We recommend this event for competitors with an average score of 500 or better. This event counts towards the five-event rule. Veterans cannot register for both Air Rifle and Sniper. There will be a cap on the number of Sniper competitors.

Super Q:

We are adding a competition for the top Quad Class finishers, including Motor Slalom.

DIVISION CHANGE FOR 2021 :

- Novice: Recommended for first-time Veterans to the Wheelchair Games. Novice Veterans may opt out to compete as Open, Masters, Senior, effective for all their events.
- Open: Any competitor may select to sign up as Open for all events. Age recommendation 45 and under.
- Masters: Ages 46-65
- Seniors: Ages 66 and above



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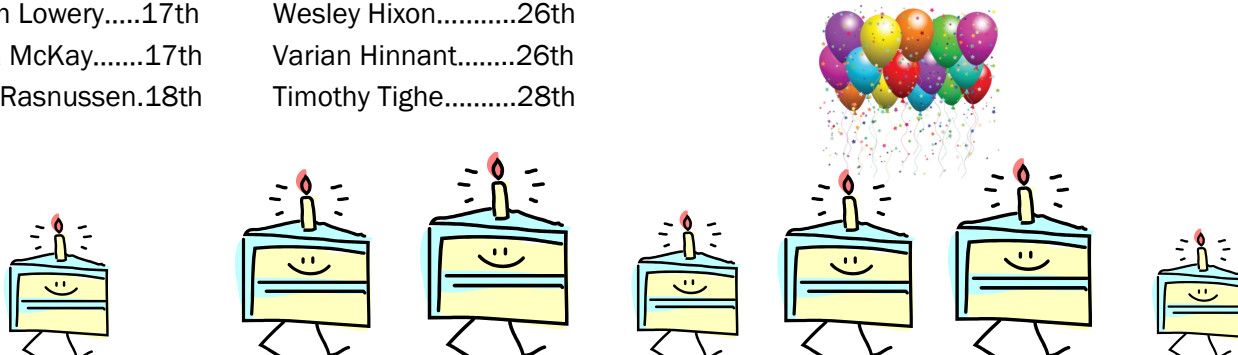
Happy Birthday!

February

Michael Zirkle.....1st	Randy Reece.....18th
Kane Basie.....3rd	Lenora Stern.....18th
Gary Humiston.....3rd	Joel Knox.....18th
M. McClanahan.....4th	Debbie Swinyer.....18th
Gary Bunch.....5th	Clifford Chamberlin.....18th
Jeffrey Brandt.....9th	Richard Grubb.....19th
Ralph Caine.....9th	Anthony Lier.....21st
Aaron Hastings.....9th	John Lind.....21st
Robert King.....10th	Patrick Tracy.....21st
Darrell Reetz.....10th	Dennis Pankonin.....22nd
Patrick Pancoast.....10th	Joe Sapienza.....23rd
Weldon Lee.....11th	Brian Boucher.....23rd
Jason Hunter.....12th	Robert Behnke.....25th
Robert Clinton.....14th	Karl Hugill.....26th
Patrick Mus.....14th	Andrew Bartkowski.....26th
Russell Elmore.....15th	William Devine.....26th
Craig Dinklage.....17th	Richard Koharian.....26th
William Lowery.....17th	Wesley Hixon.....26th
Donna McKay.....17th	Varian Hinnant.....26th
Ralph Rasnussen.....18th	Timothy Tighe.....28th

March

Donald Carr.....1st	Anthony Pasinato.....19th
Robert Cinqmars.....4th	Joseph Brownfield.....19th
Richard Gori.....5th	Dennis Levi.....20th
Rita Shirk.....5th	Joseph Garshae.....20th
Danny Porter.....6th	Vincent Weber.....22nd
Gordon Gilchrist.....7th	Paul Trumbull.....22nd
Jim Siburg.....9th	Shawn Sullivan.....22nd
Timothy Francis.....10th	George DeWolf.....24th
Richard Linderman.....10th	Brian Conrad.....25th
Jerome Piokowski.....10th	James Downer.....26th
Robbie Smith.....11th	Ignatius Stiffarm.....26th
Joe Schwab.....11th	Parvin Hallmark.....27th
William Groulx.....11th	Mark Zdeb.....27th
Eugene Powers.....12th	Benjamin Dodge.....28th
Gregorio Jimenez.....12th	P. Cunningham.....30th
Sharee Daniels.....13th	Michael Conlan.....31st
Edward Locke.....18th	Gerald Hall.....31st



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vehicle Donation Program

Paralyzed Veterans of America has been on a mission to change lives and build brighter futures for our seriously injured heroes—to empower these brave men and women build brighter futures for our seriously injured heroes—to empower these brave men and women with what they need to achieve the things they fought for: freedom and independence. They returned to a grateful nation, but also to a world with few solutions to challenges they faced. They made a decision not just to live, but to live with dignity as contributors to society. They created Paralyzed Veterans of America, an organization dedicated to veterans service, medical research and civil rights for people with disabilities.

Have an old car taking up space in your driveway? Donate it to Paralyzed Veterans of America! Call us: 877-900-8387. <https://pva.careasy.org/HOME.html>



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