

NORTHWEST

OUTPOST

October/November 2019

Northwest Chapter

Volume XLIII Issue 1

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From the Desk of the

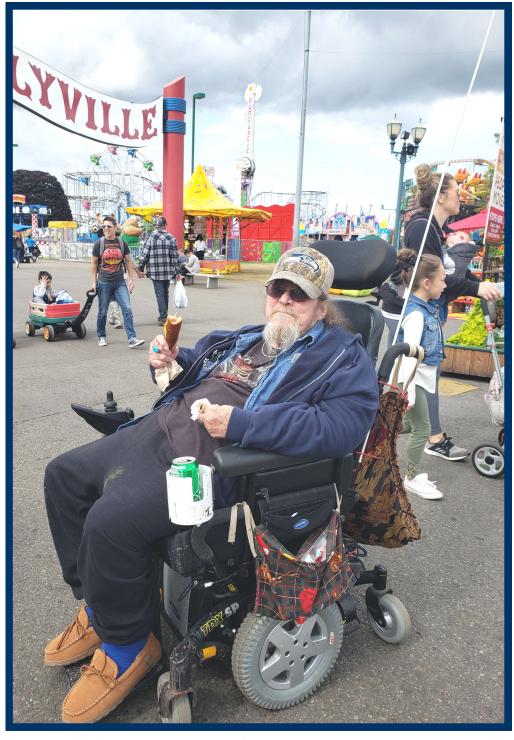
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President-Robert Brush
Vice President-Matthew Mickunas
Secretary-Skip Dreps
Treasurer-Aaron Hastings
National Director-Michael Partridge

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Terry Chenoweth, Weldon Lee,
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Thomas Bungert

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Membership & Advocacy DirectorThomas Bungert

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Outpost Editor-Lisa Lawrence
Legislative & Government Relations
Director-Mike Partridge
Seattle VA Hospital LiaisonSkip Dreps

Staff

Executive Director-Brent King Office Manager-Lisa Lawrence

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.

Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

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President's Column Page 3

Robert Brush

NWPVA Moving Forward



e've venturing into a new fiscal year at the chapter. We've had our chapter elections with a great group of officers and board of di-

rectors to keep us moving forward in a positive direction.

The site review team from Washington DC was just here and we hope to get some improvements done at the SCI Unit from their recommendations. We had many members show up at the chapter to give their input on the SCI Unit and other PVA programs. This is one of the ways we

pass on our concerns to make things better for our membership.

We have the Auburn Veterans Day Parade coming up where we will have our donated Lemay car out and rolling down the parade route for the first time. If you'd like to participate or come watch, let us know. The parade is on Saturday, November 9th at 11:00 AM. It is the biggest Veterans Day Parade this side of the Mississippi.

We welcome any member to come to our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 PM. There is a pizza party in the SCI Unit Day Room at 5:00 PM following each meeting.

NWPVA Election Results

Officers

President: Robert Brush

Vice President: Matthew Mickunas

Secretary: Skip Dreps Treasurer: Aaron Hastings

Board of Directors

Andrew Bechtle
Thomas Bungert
Terry Chenoweth
Robert Clinton
Weldon Lee
Fred Margiotta
Russ Norris
Michael Partridge
Joe Sapienza



Brent King Salmon for Soldiers



e had five Veterans from Spokane make the trek to the Port of Everett to attend the Salmon for Soldiers event. If you haven't

given this a try, it's an absolute blast! There is no cost to the Veteran. You are provided a sacked snack bag, free fishing and a huge BBQ lunch, along with a Salmon for Soldiers t-shirt. There were over 100 volunteer boats and over 300 Veterans this year.

This year was fun, because it may be the last time Skyler, my son can go with me. He'll be off to college somewhere next year. We each caught our two salmon limits. We gave one up to a blind Vet on our boat that didn't catch any. We saw the largest catch of the day. It weighed in at

9.22 pounds after being cleaned. One salmon was stolen by a sneaky thief. A sea lion jumped up at the dock and grabbed a Veterans salmon while it was being cleaned.

The prizes are abundant after the fishing ends. Salmon for Soldiers gives away turkey hunts, many many other prizes and wraps it off with giving a 17K fishing boat and trailer away to one of the Vets that participated in the event. Unfortunately, Board of Director Fred Margiotta got skunked fishing, but he won an amazing patriotic quilt.

If you enjoy fishing, mark the second Saturday of September on your calendar and watch the newsletter for the application. We'll put it up on the new website too.



Brent King with His Catch.



Fred Margiotta and His New Quilt.

From the Vice President Page 5

Doing The Puyallup Fair By: Matthew Mickunas

ad another great day on September 16th spending time with Veterans from Orting Soldier's Home. We loaded up two buses and a transport truck, and headed to the Washington State Fair. We all poked around at all the shops & vendor's at the fairgrounds, and ate some overpriced food. The Veteran &

community volunteers were amazing, they helped push wheelchairs, chase around those in power chairs, as they kept each resident safe though out the day



Veterans and Volunteers from the Orting Soldier's Home.

Garden of Remembrance Page 6

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE-MEMORIAL DAY

2019 By: Weldon Lee

here is a place in downtown Seattle that very few people frequent. Unless you are one of the family members associated with the names on this wall or you are just a passerby, you cannot avoid the name on the building as Benaroya Hall. It sits quietly between 2nd and 3rd Avenue and between Union and University Streets. The building is also known as the home of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra and other performing arts.

However along 2nd Avenue between those cross-streets sits a wall that was erected to serve as a solemn place for quiet reflection. It comes to life with onlookers and family once or twice a year on Memorial Day or Veterans Day. This area is called the *Garden of Remembrance*.

The Garden of Remembrance is an official state memorial that honors the Washington citizens killed in action while serving our country during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenade, and the Persian Gulf. The half-acre, L-shaped garden was dedicated on July 4, 1998. The reflecting pools honor those missing in action, a fountain honors those who died in peacetime and other national

service, and the golden oak tree that centers the Garden symbolizes remembrance of the cycle of life and honors the fallen and their families.

In past years, we have had a 4-piece musical instrument quartet providing the outdoor ambiance preceding and following the ceremony. A 4-6 person honor guard presents the colors, followed by the pledge of allegiance and prayer is given at the annual event. As recently deceased veterans are recognized, an accompanying bell is rung to honor his/her ultimate sacrifice to our nation.

The designer and architect, Robert Murase, a thirdgeneration Japanese American landscape architect became well known for his designs found in Japanese gardens. Spending years in Kyoto Japan, he became well versed and very accomplished in "stone" architecture.

"What attracts me to Japanese gardens lies in the essence of quietness which they express; their meditative emptiness, the illusion of nature, the effects of shadow and filtered light, and their stark simplicity. These gardens provide a sense of "wabi," the absence of any ostentatious element, and a sense of humility and melancholy.

Many visitors create "rubbings" of the names with pencil and paper. The garden is open year around and can be visited anytime. This place is a "must visit" especially on a nice day. Across the street is the Museum of Art which is another must see if you have a creative or artistic spirit. Enjoy everyone!



Weldon Lee and The University of Washington Color Guard at The Garden of Remembrance.



Northwest Paralyzed Veterans of America (NWPVA)

42nd ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET September 15, 2019 By: Weldon Lee

ver 65 guests attended the 42nd Annual Awards banquet at the Embassy Suites by Hilton on September 15, 2019. Attending this annual event were the management and staff of the **Veterans Administration Puget** Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS), Washington Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA), Veteran Service Organizations, City of Burien leaders and merchants, and our Chapter officers and board of directors.

The opening ceremony began with the posting of the colors by the King County Sheriff's Department color guard. We were then honored to have Major General (Ret.) James Collins Jr., the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Washington State lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was a pleasure and honor to greet all the guests, with the limited time I had available. For those that I did not meet and greet, I extend my personal apologies for allowing this opportunity to prevail. Of special note, I was really moved by

meeting the vivacious Ms. Rhonda Brown, the surviving spouse of the late Toby Olson. He contributed enormously to furthering the advocacy for the handicapped, whether spearheading policy or the writing of State laws, wheelchair bound and NWPVA veterans. Also, it was wonderful to greet the VFW State Commander and his wife (Mr. and Mrs. John Rust) and the department representatives of two other Veteran Service Organizations - the American Legion (Mr. and Mrs. Loren Sperry) and AMVETS (Messrs. P. Fredericksen and Earl Schafer).

As dinner began being served, the POW/MIA ceremony was presented by the Master of Ceremony. At the end of dinner, the awards ceremony commenced with those individuals who have consistently and self-lessly contributed to the advocacy of disabled/paralyzed veterans and NWPVA.

This year, two non-recurring awards were presented to two deserving individuals for their magnanimous contributions to the NWPVA - the Glenn Galbreath Legislative and the Brent Gardenia Awards.

Messrs. Skip Dreps and Terry Chenoweth presented the awards respectively.

- * Individual Lifetime Veteran Service Award – Ms. Heidi Audette, WDVA
- * Corporate Lifetime Veteran Service Award – Absolute Mobility
- * Toby Olson Advocacy Award Director "Alfie" Alvarado-Ramos, WDVA
- * Glenn Galbreath Legislative Award – Mayor Jimmy Matta, City of Burien
- * Brent Gardenia Volunteer Award – Mr. Skyler King, NWPVA
- * Speedy Non-Member Award
- Dr. Ileana Howard, VA PSHCS
- * Speedy Member Award Mr. Fred Mariorita. NWPVA
- * Presidents Award Mr. Matthew Mickunas, NWPVA

The Speedy Non-Member award was made by Mr. Michael Killen with Mr. Brent King presenting the Speedy Member award. Due to a family medical issue, our Chapter President could not attend. Therefore, our Chapter Secretary, Mr. Skip Dreps, presented the President's Award plaque in his absence.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

In the next edition of our Northwest Outpost, we shall elaborate on the Chapter Awards that have been given out to very deserving members of our communities, both government and civilian, as well as those in our chapter membership and family. Finally, we thank the Embassy Suites by Hilton's catering staff, banquet captains and servers for their attention to details, impeccable service, and superb coordination. It was a memorable experience for everyone who attended. For those who sent "regrets",

we look forward to having you and everyone back again next year!

To the readership. I apologize for not having more pictures available from the banquet due to a malfunction with the I-Pad.



Amanda & Eddie Riviera, Skip Dreps



Rhonda Brown



Skip Dreps & Matthew Mickunas



Heidi Audette



Terry Chenoweth & Skyler King



Weldon Lee & Dr. Charles Maynard



From Left:
Sandy & Terry Chenoweth,
Skip Dreps,
Dr. Burgess with her husband
John

Highly Sophisticated Scam Targeting Veterans

By: Michael Killen

he scam uses sophisticated telephonic technology that imitates VA operating signatures, thus, giving the impression via caller ID that the veteran is receiving a telephone call from the VA. Most veterans will see the following on their call ID system: "Department of Veterans Affairs, 1-800-827-1000." The second part of the scam involves the scam artists pretending to be VA personnel. The scam artists are using scripted material to mimic the culture of VA personnel by implementing processes that would be used when a veteran contacts the VA. Most veterans are getting the following:

Scam artists: "Hello, Mr. Smith, this is John from the VA, I'm contacting you because the VA is reaching out to veterans to ensure the accuracy of their records with us. Do you have a minute to go over your records at the VA?

Veteran: Yes!

Scam artists: "Before I get started, thank you for your service."

Veteran: "No problem."

Scam artists: "Mr. Smith, can you verify what branch of the military you served?"

Veteran: "The Army."

Scam artists: "Ok. Thank you. Can you verify your current address?"

Veteran: "555 Main St., Topeka, Kansas."

Scam artists: "Ok. Great! Can you verify your birthday?"

Veteran: "July 10, 1947."

Scam artists: "Please verify your last compensation payment amount."

At this point, if the veteran provides information and gives an amount, the scam artists are using another script that eventually leads to asking the veteran to verify their social security number. If the veteran refuses to give information, the scam artists inform the veteran that he/she needs to be transferred to the Finance department. Then, the scam continues as:

(Continued from page 10)

Scam artists: "This is Mike in the Finance department. How are you Mr. Smith?"

Veteran: "I'm ok."

Scam artists: "As John mentioned to you, we [VA] are reaching out to veterans to ensure the accuracy of their information on file with the VA. We want to make sure nothing happens to your current or future payments from the VA. Is that ok with you Mr. Smith?"

Veteran: "Sure."

Scam artists: "Mr. Smith can you verify your social security number on file with the VA?"

Veteran: 123-12-1234

Scam artists: "Great! Thank you. Also, can you verify the credit card we have on file for you?" Veteran: "I don't have a credit card on file with the VA. Do I need to have a credit card on file?"

Scam artists: "Yes! To make sure any incidentals are covered. In 99.9% of the cases, the credit card is never used, and if the credit card is used it will never exceed \$10. Public law, and VA policy makes it necessary we have a credit card on file just in case something comes up that is not covered by the VA. So, what card would you like to keep on file? We take Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. Which would you like to use?"

If you get a call from the "VA" and the scenario resembles anything close to the narrative above, terminate the telephone call. It is likely you are being scammed. Remember, the VA will never ask you for personally identifiable information over the phone. Never!

Source: http://www.veteranprograms.com/scams5.html

VA Flu Shots

ith flu season approaching, Veterans have two options through VA for getting a no-cost flu vaccination nationwide. Like previous years, free flu shots will be given at all VA Medical Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics. A Veteran simply needs to visit any VA medical facility and ask for a vaccination or ask their primary care physician for a flu shot during an appointment. Veterans can also receive a no-cost vaccination is through the VA-Walgreens partnership. There are 9,600 Walgreens pharmacies nationally. The Veteran simply needs to visit a Walgreens pharmacy and present their Veterans Health Identification Card and one other form of photo ID to receive a vaccination.



Annual Picnic Page 12

Annual NWPVA Picnic By: Robert Clinton

he Annual NWPVA summer picnic was held on August 21st at Riverview Park in Renton, Washington, and was attended by over 30 NWPVA members and guests. The day started in typical Northwest fashion with light rain and clouds, but our members "soldiered" on and by the 12:00 PM start time some sun was breaking through and the rain had become only an intermittent mist.

Riverview Park is situated by the Cedar River, a lovely clear river flowing lazily under an easily accessible pedestrian bridge and path leading up to the picnic area where everyone was served a delicious lunch of fried chicken, barbeque pork and beans, finished with decadent chocolate brownies for desert. The only complaint-not enough for seconds.

As always, the high point of the picnic was the chance to see old and new friends, share experiences with other veterans who share many of the challenges of living with spinal cord injury and disease. Thanks to Lisa for all of her hard work and to the folks who chipped in to police the area afterward.



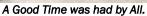














Sports Page 13

iFly Indoor Skydiving By: Brent King

f you're looking for a bit of adventure and a smidgen of risk try indoor skydiving! My son and I gave this indoor a sport a second look a few weeks ago. The staff at iFly is very open minded to figuring out what works for each person's disability and abilities. They have had two spotters in with me to make sure I didn't turn out like a bug on a windshield.

We have had two great experiences at the iFly indoor skydiv-

ing facility in Tukwila, WA. You sign in and sign your waivers. They then took us into a safety briefing, showing us the various hand signals, they would use to communicate with us in the very loud vertical wind tunnel. We were issued skydiving suits, helmets and ear plugs.

When it was time our group filed into the seating area to take our turns floating in midair. I hopped out of my wheel-chair and gently slid/hopped into the same area. I watched many float around before me. It was finally my turn. I had paid

for 5 minutes and loved every second of it. We split the fly times in half to not wear us out as fast. It was great to see my son Skyler take his turns too.

The manager of the facility said he'd love to book a slot of time with the NWPVA members. There will be weight restrictions along with reasonable functional abilities too. So, if you're interested, please contact Brent King at 509-939-4878.



Sports Page 14

Adaptive Curling Clinic for Local Veterans

ecently, Granite Curling Club of Seattle volunteers hosted seven VA Puget Sound Health Care System Veterans for a first-hand opportunity to experience the Medieval Scottish sport of Curling.

The adaptive curling clinic for patients of both Spinal Cord Injury and Rehabilitation Care Services was held to give interested Veterans an introduction to another healthy sport option. U.S. Paralympics Wheelchair Curling Team Assistant Coach, Rusty Schieber, provided both education about the sport & recommendations on various techniques. Everyone involved, from the VA Rec Therapists, to the Granite Curling Club & Coach Schieber, focused on making a successful first-time experience for the participants.

"Participating in sports of this kind contributes to increased health, physical activity and socialization all of which are the foundation to the overall quality of life that our Veterans have earned," said VA Puget Sound Recreation Therapist Vance Pease, coordinator of the event.

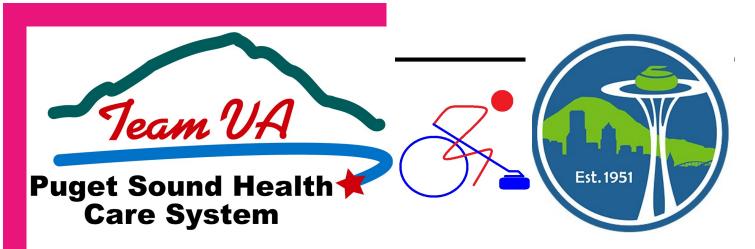
"Once Rec Therapy solved the individual physical adaptations necessary to grip the curling stick, to maintain balance on the ice, & for posture, then the curling experts worked with them on what they could do to improve their technique and skill level," said Pease.

Granite Curling Club volunteers worked with participants on the technique and skills to successfully throw/push the 42 pound curling stone approximately 100 feet to make it into the target area, and the "art" of putting a spin, or "curl" on the stone. The curl gives the participant the ability to circumvent other stones in the direct path and rest the stones behind one another in a better position for scoring.

"This was a great partnership between the Seattle VA & a community organization to put on a successful opportunity for the benefit of our Veterans. One of the participants just participated in the National Disabled Veterans Wheelchair Curling Camp in Denver, CO in April, put on by the United States Olympic Committee. We wish him the best & look forward to future local opportunities with the Granite Curling Club!"



Veteran Bruce Guertin tries his hand at the ancient sport of curling, assisted by King Francisco, VA SCI RN.



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Join VA Recreation Therapy & the Granite Curling Club

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Registration through RT is Required

Registration through RT is Required
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If interested, contact
Vance Pease:
vance.pease@va.gov
or 206-277-1648
Availability is Limited

Events Calendar Page 16

October

14th Columbus Day

16th Chapter Membership/BOD Meeting

12:00 Noon Chapter Office SCI Ward Pizza Party 5:00 PM

26th BOO in Burien

12:00 Noon-4:00 PM

31st Happy Halloween!



November

3rd Daylight Saving Time Ends

9th Auburn Day Parade, 11 AM Auburn, WA

11th Veterans Day

20th Chapter Membership/BOD Meeting

12:00 Noon Chapter Office SCI Ward Pizza Party 5:00 PM

28th Happy Thanksgiving!



Work vs. Golf

n 1923, these men were considered some of the world's most successful of their days. Now, 95 years later do you know what ultimately became of them?

- 1. President of the largest steel company? Charles Schwab, Great story died a pauper.
- 2. President of the largest gas company? Edward Hopson, went insane.
- 3. President of the New York stock Exchange? Richard Whitney, released from prison to die at home.
- 4. Greatest wheat speculator? Arthur Cooger, died abroad, penniless.
- 5. President of the Bank of International Settlement? Shot himself.
- 6. Great Bear of Wall Street? Cosabee Livermore, also committed suicide

However, in that same year, 1923, the PGA Champion and the winner of the most important golf tournament, the US Open, was Gene Sarazen. What became of him? He played golf until he was 92, died in 1999 at the age of 95, financially secure. The Moral: Teach your children, grand-children, and great grandchildren to Skip Work and Play Golf.





FREE

The Chapter accepts donations of used durable medical equipment and distributes it to people in need (veterans and

non veterans). If you have equipment to donate, please call the Chapter office at 206-241-1843. If you know someone who needs equipment, please call to see what items we have available.

Free Items Available Now:

Walkers
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- ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET MORE ACTIVE?
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS AS YOURSELF?
- DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN GIVING BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

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Sign up for our newsletter to find out about monthly sports clinics and happenings with our members. Just send us an email to be added or go to our website.



Seattle Adaptive Sports

1111 E Madison #137 Seattle, WA 98122 (253) 297-5389 www.seattleadaptivesports of

www.seattleadaptivesports.org info@seattleadaptivesports.org

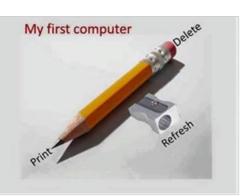
Someday us old folks will use cursive writing as a secret code.







THE OLD ONES ARE
STILL THE BEST.
OLD JEANS, OLD
BOOTS, OLD FRIENDS,
OLD MOVIES, OLD
TUNES, AND OLD TIMES.



Birthdays Page 18

Happy Birthday!

October

James Bledsoe......

Salvador Montoya3rd
Henry Burton4th
Louis Perkins5th
Fred Margiotta6th
Victor Searles6th
Peter Laserinko7th
John Gallaher10th
Thomas Bungert10th
Donald Jacobs12th
Matthew Harbin12th
Brent King12th
Anthony Chiodo13th

James Bledsoe	14th
Owen Day	16th
George Lantz	19th
Anton Riksem	20th
Larry Howard	21st
Harry Hansen	21s
Duane Caseday	21st
Ellis McVea, Jr	22nd
Kevin McMains	24th
Ranulf Muir	26th
Harry Blackburn	29th
John Parker	30th

November

William Lambirth2nd
Thomas Myers4th
Anthony Popp4th
Robert Owens4th
Pat Bean5th
Hank Hom5th
Rafael Ramirez5th
Daniel Schultz5th
Ernest Hume8th
Frederick Morris8th
Charles Salley, Jr9th
Juliana Schroeder9th
Fredrick Brooking10th
Anthony Orofino11th
Steven Larsen11th
Chris Hansen15th
Cassandra Anctil15th

Caesar Fittante	17th
Glenn Haley	17th
Robert Royal	17th
Jacob Lietz	18th
Charles Ingalls	19th
Glen Foster	21st
Stephen Morris	21st
Kenneth Hartz	22nd
Dale Schinman	22nd
Brett Hilke	22nd
Jon Rubin	24th
Sean Halsted	24th
Patrick Ball	27th
Andrew Bechtle	27th
John Bannecker	28th
Lora Sprague	28th
Michael Hunter	29th



Considering a new car, throwing in the towel on an old motorcycle that won't run or looking to get rid of an ATV? In all situations, Paralyzed Veterans of America's Wheels Helping Warriors Vehicle Donation program is a perfect outlet for your generosity. It's easy to donate. Be sure your title is on hand, fill out the online form at www.wheelshelpingwarriors.org or call (855) 744-0782. We will schedule the pickup free of charge and donors receive a tax deduction for the donation.



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