State of the Science Symposia Series:
The role of Not-For-Profit Organization in the care of Wounded, Injured and Ill Veterans
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Paralyzed Veterans of America Mission: ABLE

• Helps veterans with job training and career opportunities.
• Helps our nation's paralyzed veterans rebuild their lives and receive the care, benefits and job services they need and deserve, working to ensure they are:

Able to receive the benefits they've earned
Able to access the quality of care they need to live a full life
Able to get the job training and opportunities for new careers
Able to enjoy competition and camaraderie through sports
PARTNERING TO ADVANCE BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH

• Working to find cures for pain, paralysis and spasticity
  • 25 year partnership with Yale Center for Neuroscience and Regeneration to turn "impossibilities" into achievable goals
  • Raised more than $6.4 million to date

• Awarding grants to scientists and clinicians to make clinical improvements and develop equipment
  • $60 million provided to PVA Research & Education Foundations
Advocacy for Paralyzed Veterans

• Continuing to advocate for sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for VA benefits and healthcare
• Supporting family caregivers of non OEF-OIF veterans through S. 851 Caregiver Expansion and Improvement Act
• Seeking enactment of a bipartisan bill that would secure veteran funding through H.R. 813 Putting Veterans First Act
Sports and recreation provides platforms for a whole healthy life program

Held 33rd Annual Wheelchair Games in Tampa in July
  - Over 600 athletes participated in 17 different sporting events
  - Supported by over 23 sponsors & 30 exhibitors
33rd annual WheelChair Games
BETTER ACCESS VIA ARCHITECTURAL EXPERTISE & ADVOCACY

- Serves as only VSO with a staff of licensed architects
- Act as champions of non-institutional design—advocate for warm, welcoming “neighborhoods” inside facilities
- Helping design five long-term care centers for spinal cord injury veterans in Massachusetts, New York, Texas, and California
Operation PAVE

Helps Vets by:

• Placing Veterans in jobs, internships, volunteer positions and educational training programs.

• Assists with Career Planning
  - Employability Assessments
  - Interview Skill building

• These free, one-on-one services are provided by Masters Certified, PVA-trained vocational rehabilitation counselors.
Operation PAVE

PAVE Helps Employers by:
• We streamline the HR process by sharing screened job candidates that match your needs.

• We stay available as a post-employment resource for employers and the employee.

• We help employers access state and federal government resources available for workplace adaptations.
Contacts

Veterans - Send Email: GetHired@PVA.org

Employers - Email: HirePAVE@PVA.org

Contact Employer Network Coordinator
Shelly Edwards @ (570)798-7283
HELPING VETERANS SECURE VA BENEFITS

• Responsible for a total of 1 billion in initial and ongoing VA benefit awards in FY13 for thousands of deserving veterans.
• Free support to veterans to navigate complex landscape and secure paperwork for claims processing
• Assisting 35,499 veterans who have given PVA powers of attorney to represent them
• Co-authored the Independent Budget, a policy analysis that congressional leaders use as a guide in setting reliable funding for VA healthcare
The VA Benefits Claims Process

VA Transformation Process

Fully developed Claims

Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ)

VA Exams
VA IS RULES BASED
Factors in evaluating evidence

• Credibility

• Probative value
Time Factors

• Final decision
• Reopened Claim
• New and Material evidence
Medical Opinions

• Defining the question
• Separating medical and legal issues
It's QUESTION TIME!!