



# Out Front

**Michael G. Negrete, Chapter President**

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On this Veterans Day, I'd like to personally thank each of my fellow PVA and New England Chapter members for their service to our country and the sacrifices they, and their families, made to do so.

Having spent a combined 10 years in the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, Veteran's Day has a distinct meaning for me. There is no greater honor than to wear the cloth of our nation, and I am privileged and proud to now serve those who have through PVA and as your Chapter President. It's a reminder to me, to share my appreciation and gratitude with you and your families.

Veterans Day is also a reminder that our freedom isn't guaranteed. It's protected by the men and women in our Armed Services who swore an oath to put themselves in harm's way to do it. President Ronald Reagan said it best, "*Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.*"

Executive Director Mark Murphy and I attended PVA's virtual Fall Board of Director's meeting. The meeting had a lengthy agenda of items scheduled, which were all accomplished, included a unanimous approval of PVA's adjusted budget for the remainder of its fiscal year. Three resolutions of Chapter interest before the Board were voted on.

**FAILED - 20-O-07 PVA Chapter Locations.** This resolution, if passed, would require Chapters to relocate to within a VA SCI facility. There were a number of arguments pointing out potential conflicts of interest, VA oversight, control and access of the Chapter's office that led to its failure to pass.

**PASSED - 20-O-08 Chapter Fundraising through Direct Mail.** This resolution removes the Chapter's requirement to provide all mailing addresses to PVA when initiating direct mail campaign. The passage of this resolution makes it quicker and easier to submit Fundraising Request to PVA by removing the burdensome task of collating and including all of the mailing addresses for the campaign.

**PASSED - 20-O-11 Change of PVA Eight Mandated Programs.** This resolution restructured the Chapter's 8 mandated programs into 5, moving Administration, Service and Fundraising to the newly created "Support Services".

PVA's 2021 Advocacy and Legislative Seminar scheduled for March 2021 has been canceled as an in-person event and will be held virtually due to Congressional COVID-19 restrictions. The 2021 May PVA Annual Convention scheduled to be hosted in Las Vegas is still planned to occur as an in-person meeting, but naturally subject to change in response to any COVID-19 restrictions or developments.

Closing out October and moving into November was the start of the Chapter's [new website](#) project and launch on Veterans Day. This [new website](#) completely redesigns and improves the user experiences in a number of ways, but primarily in ease of information access for members, visitors, and donors, ability to [securely accept online donations](#), and most importantly all in a responsive design, which means its desktop, tablet and mobile friendly. Another new feature is the ability to view all [activities and events](#) in a variety of formats - [list](#), [day](#), [month](#) or use the search feature to view by category, state, event type or whatever you want. As with any project of this scope, we're still refining things and working out a few bugs, but please take time to visit the new website at <https://www.newenglandpva.org>. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with what you'll see, and we certainly welcome any feedback you might have to offer.

As I write this, COVID-19 is surging throughout the country with New England being no exception. If you, or you know a Chapter member, find you're having difficulty with food insecurity, purchasing PPE, keeping up with utilities, rent or other basic living expenses due to COVID-19, the [Member COVID-19 Relief Grant](#) is still available to you. Simply complete the online grant application [HERE](#).

Finally, as we start to wind down the final months of 2020, ponder these words and consider the future that lies ahead in 2021.

*"For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." - John F. Kennedy*

Michael G. Negrete  
Chapter President/PVA National Director  
and Paralyzed Veteran