



Out Front

Michael G. Negrete, Chapter President

What an exciting time it was at this year's Annual PVA Convention. The New England Chapter's hard work and dedication was recognized and rewarded by PVA. The Chapter received the following awards, which can be seen on [page 11](#):

- Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award (Last received 17 years ago in 2004)
- Most Outstanding Website (Last received 17 years ago in 2004)
- John M. Price "Most Improved" Chapter Award (Last received 15 years ago in 2006)
- Richard Fuller "Outstanding Achievement in Government Relations" Award (Never received before)

It has been almost 20 years since the New England Chapter has been recognized nationally by PVA in these categories, and the Chapter has never been recognized in the area of Government Relations. Its been through a lot of hard, dedicated and tireless work that has borne the fruit of these rewards. The recognition is humbling among comparison of so many other deserving Chapters. More important than receiving the awards and recognition, is the service to our Chapter members these awards represent.

In taking a brief moment to reflect on these awards, we should each strive continue these efforts, not necessarily for the recognition, but to continuously improve upon the services needed to meet the needs of our Chapter members. The ability to meet their needs not only today, but tomorrow, is the true measure of our success or failure.

Among other New England awards, I was honored and humbled to receive the Dwain Taylor award from National President David Zurfluh for the Voluntary Service program in recognition of volunteer hours and exceptional contributions to PVA during the 2020 fiscal year. Its simply a privilege to serve and give back to an organization that has given me so much.

To read and see more about PVA's 75th Anniversary Convention start by reading the message from President Joe Biden on [page 8](#) and continue with PN Online's story about our new National President Charles Brown.

I want to remind everyone of our Inaugural [New England PVA Charity Golf Classic](#) being held at the Falmouth Country Club on Cape Cod next Friday June 11th. You can find more information and register on our website here: www.newenglandpva.org/golfclassic. I encourage any of our Chapter members to attend this event to share your story and experiences with our supporters. There is also an awards dinner at end of the day where members are welcome to join the day's golfers and supporters at no charge.

Finally, I hope this past Memorial Day each of you were able to take a moment to remember and honor those men and women who gave their lives in service to our country preserving our freedom and liberties. President Ronald Reagan stated it best during his 1981 Inauguration speech:

"Today, the United States stands as a beacon of liberty and democratic strength before the community of nations. We are resolved to stand firm against those who would destroy the freedoms we cherish. We are determined to achieve an enduring peace—a peace with liberty and with honor. This determination, this resolve, is the highest tribute we can pay to the many who have fallen in the service of our Nation."

With all the turmoil, partisanship and inequities are Nation is faced with, we should heed Reagan's words, taking them to heart, that we might pay an honorable tribute to those who gave up their tomorrows for our todays.

To apply Reagan's words to ourselves, recall my quote of Leon Brown last month, *"Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow."*

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

