



# Out Front

Michael G. Negrete, Chapter President

As you've no doubtfully seen from this issue's cover image, I had the privileged and honored opportunity to represent PVA at some of the Veterans Day events in Washington, DC. Of all the activities, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by far was the most evocative considering its representation of the countless service members who gave their lives in service to our Nation, but remain "Unknown But To God". 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of this memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. It also marks the first time in 100years the general public was able to approach the memorial at this close range. Another interesting fact is although commonly referred to as the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier", the monument actually has no officially designated name.

On Veterans Day, along with PVA National Vice President Tammy Jones, I attended a luncheon at the Womens Military Memorial for the Veterans Service Organizations who laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Veterans Day being the day after the Marine Corps birthday, was please to have had the opportunity to meet the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League [Johnny Baker](#).

I am proud to have served in both the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, and honored to continue serving my fellow Veterans through the important work of Paralyzed Veterans of America; ensuring each of our members receives the benefits they have earned through their service in our Nation's Armed Forces. It can be very demanding, time consuming and challenging at times, but I'm glad to have the abilities and resources to do so, with the simple goal of ensuring we are always here to make a positive difference in the lives our Veterans with spinal cord injuries and disease.

Speaking of membership, our 75th Annual Membership Gala has been rescheduled to **June 26, 2022**. This was necessitated due to COVID restrictions limiting attendance for the majority of our members and invited guests from the local VA facilities. The Gala will still be held at the elegant [Lakeview Pavilion](#) located in Foxborough, MA. Please mark the date on your calendars and keep an eye out for further updates. The Gala is still being planned be as an exclusive "Black Tie & White Tablecloth" event with a Special Guest speaker, awards and live Band! We are encouraging every Veteran to proudly wear any medals and decoration they have earned.

As you can see from the opposing page, the Chapter has hired a new Executive Director, Steve Robinson. Steve started on October 25th and brings a wealth of experience, skills and ideas to help the Chapter grow and serve our membership. To learn more about Steve, please read the Chapter's press release of his hiring on [page 19](#).

As the holidays start drawing nearer, keep in touch with each other, family, friends and the like, as this can unknowingly be a difficult time for some of us. A simple call or letter just to say "Hi" may go further than you can image to someone in need. For those who are in need, whether that be food insecurity, living expenses, assistance with your VA benefits or anything otherwise, please feel free to give the Chapter office a call anytime at 800-660-1181. You can reach most anybody through their direct extensions. We are all here to help you however we can.

Finally, as the New Year is just on horizon, take a minute to ponder these words and consider the future that lies ahead in 202.

*"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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Negrete". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael G. Negrete  
PVA National Vice President and  
New England Chapter President

