Paralyzed Veterans of America

Enjoy Your Monthly *PVA Post* Newsletter!

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FEATURED HERO STORY

MEET MARIA

U.S ARMY VETERAN



Despite the barriers she faced, Maria was determined to serve her country. West Point did not accept female applicants, so she joined the Women's Army Corps, where she started her career as one of the first two women trained in aerial surveillance. Even after a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis brought her Army career to an end, she continued to find other ways to serve her community and now is a volunteer and advocate for her fellow Veterans. Learn more about Maria's story on our **website**.

READ HER STORY

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



Did you know that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month? At PVA, we are committed to helping Veterans find meaningful post-military careers. Our Veterans Career Program Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors have specific expertise in helping Veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases (SCI/D) find good jobs and advocate for accommodations if necessary. Learn more about what PVA does to help disabled Veterans on our **website**.

VISIT THE VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM WEBPAGE

WOMEN VETERANS EMPOWERMENT RETREAT



PVA hosted another successful Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat September 29- October 3 in Orlando, FL. The event featured three days of wellness activities, workshops, and camaraderie. Check out photos from this year's retreat on our **Flickr**.

VIEW RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS



DANIELLE HETU

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

My personal journey with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), spanning over two decades, initially brought fear and uncertainty into my life, making me question how it might impact my career, family, and overall well-being. While MS was not welcome or wanted, it has become part of who I am. I've gained a deeper understanding of the emotional and practical challenges that individuals with disabilities encounter.

Being a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with MS has reinforced my belief in the importance of resilience, adaptability, and the power of a supportive community. When I interact with clients, I prioritize creating a collaborative and individualized experience that fosters a place for people to have a safe place to discuss their concerns, fears, dreams, and aspirations openly. I strive to foster hope and motivation, emphasizing that a disability does not define one's capabilities or limit their potential.

PVA IN THE NEWS

Wheelchair Users Seek Friendlier Skies in FAA Bill, Toilet Rule (Bloomberg Government)

Bloomberg Government follows PVA National Treasurer Tom Wheaton as he uses air travel. Chief Policy Officer Heather Ansley weighs in on efforts to improve air travel for passengers with disabilities.

United Airlines Will Make Changes for People With Wheelchairs After a Government Investigation (WTTW)

PVA and other disability rights organization demand accountability following the death of disability rights activist Engracia Figueroa. After her custom wheelchair was damaged during air travel, Figueroa was forced to use an ill-fitting wheelchair, which resulted in pressure sores and other complications leading to her death.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

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