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MICHAEL NEGRETE

*National Vice President
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)*

“In addition to helping me receive specialized VA healthcare and benefits, PVA has opened the door and shown me there is so much more to life than I ever thought was possible with a spinal cord injury.”

– Michael Negrete

Negrete was raised with a great respect for the Armed Forces being from a family with a long history of military service. His grandfather was a retired Army Master Sergeant and two-time Purple Heart recipient who served in Europe during WWI and WWII, his father a retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant who served in country during the Vietnam War, his stepfather an Army Sergeant who was stationed in Korea, and he has many other extended family members who also served.

Negrete initially enlisted in the Marine Corps, and subsequently in the Coast Guard collectively serving 10 years during the Cold War and Persian Gulf War eras.

In the Marine Corp Negrete, an 0351 Infantry Assaultman, served as SMAW Team Leader, as a member of the Honor Guard and earned two meritorious promotions. While in the Coast Guard Negrete served as an Electronics Technician and performed an array of duties from maritime law enforcement, including with Mississippi’s “Blue Lightning Strike Force”, search and rescue, multi-national naval operations and electronic warfare operations aboard ship. He additionally graduated from two inter-service schools, the Navy Electronic Warfare School and the Air Force NCO Academy, where he also received the Academy’s Air Force Citizenship Award for exemplary professionalism and leadership.



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In 2001, Negrete sustained a cervical injury resulting in incomplete quadriplegia. He joined Paralyzed Veterans of America in 2008. PVA's New England Chapter assisted Negrete with all the necessary paperwork to enroll and start receiving care through the VA Health Care system. Negrete said, "I couldn't be more thankful to have such a knowledgeable resource available to assist me with receiving the benefits I had earned."

Negrete believes in making a difference in the lives of veterans with spinal cord injuries. He joined the PVA New England Chapter Board of Directors in 2015 and was elected President in 2017. He serves as the Chapter's National Director to PVA, Communications Director and Editor of their newsletter. He additionally serves on PVA's National Finance and Budget Committee, and was selected by former PVA President David Zurfluh to serve on a special Chapter Hearing Panel. Negrete was elected as PVA National Vice President in May 2021 during the organization's 75th Annual Convention, to begin a new, one-year term on July 1, 2021.

When not volunteering or working, Negrete enjoys dining out with family and friends, concert going, Broadway shows in NY, and has become an avid traveler. He lives in Milford, NH with his wife Terry and their Jack Russell Terrier "Storm". He also has a grown daughter Ashley, who also lives in NH.