



**ACCESSIBLE AIRPLANE LAVATORIES ON THE
HORIZON!**



The Department of Transportation announced last week that in the coming years, all new single-aisle aircraft will be required to have a lavatory large enough to fit a passenger with a disability and their attendant. The announcement comes following an over 30-year battle to improve air travel for passengers with disabilities. PVA would like to thank everyone who signed our air travel accessibility petition and worked so hard to make this happen. Read PVA's [statement](#) on the new rule, and learn how you can get involved in continuing to improve air travel for passengers with disabilities on our [website](#).

READ PVA'S STATEMENT



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES TAKES PLACE IN PORTLAND



The 2023 National Veterans Wheelchair Games took place in Portland, OR from July 4-9, 2023. 363 athletes, including 90 novice athletes, competed in a variety of adaptive sports, including handcycling, boccia, bowling, table tennis and more. This year, swimming, bass fishing and cornhole were added as exhibition sports. Additionally, 11 children with disabilities and their families were able to participate in a superhero-themed Kid's Day for the first time since 2019, where they were matched with athletes who mentored them as they participated in a variety of adaptive sports.

See highlights of the 2023 Games on our [Flickr page](#).

VIEW GAME HIGHLIGHTS

MEET JOHNNY

**U.S. NAVY VETERAN &
2023 SPIRIT OF THE
GAMES WINNER**



U.S. Navy Veteran Johnny has been coming to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games since 2002, a year after he sustained his injury. Since then, he has made it his mission to mentor newcomers. This year, Johnny was given the 2023 Spirit of the Games Award. Wheelchair Games sponsor First Nation Group generously awarded Johnny a trip to a destination of his choice and flights and accommodations for the 2024 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Well deserved! Hear more about how competing in adaptive sports and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games changed Johnny's life in a [video](#) on our YouTube channel.

HEAR FROM JOHNNY

GET TO KNOW PVA



ROBERT THOMAS

PRESIDENT & CHAIR OF THE BOARD

This month, we spoke with PVA President and U.S. Army Veteran Robert Thomas, Jr. about what he hopes to accomplish as PVA's National President.

"As President of PVA, I'm looking to ensure that our members get the quality healthcare that they deserve, and also to push forward the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act and more legislation related to caregivers. Too many individuals are not able to access good caregivers, especially in rural communities... so I am hoping we can find the means to provide them with the best care possible."

Learn more about Robert on our [website](#).

LEARN ABOUT ROBERT THOMAS

PVA IN THE NEWS

[U.S. Moves to Improve Airplane Bathrooms for People With Disabilities](#) (New York Times)

Chief Policy Officer Heather Ansley weighs in on the importance

of the Department of Transportation's recent rule requiring accessible lavatories on new single aisle aircraft. PVA has been pushing for this rule for years.

The US is requiring more planes to have accessible restrooms, but change will take years (AP News)

Immediate Past President Charles Brown celebrates the Department of Transportation's new ruling, and the impact it will have on passengers with disabilities.

Adaptive rules disc golf (Professional Disc Golf Association)

PVA worked with the Professional Disc Golf Association to create adaptive rules for disc golf. These rules were used during the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

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