HACK ALBERTSON
National Vice President
Paralyzed Veterans of America

“Paralyzed Veterans of America has given me so much personally. I have been able to help other veterans through serving at PVA.”

There was never any doubt in Hack Albertson's mind that he would join the U.S. Marine Corps, since every generation of his family had proudly served in the military. His family friend William H. Myers was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously in Vietnam, and his award citation inspired Albertson to become a U.S. Marine.

A member of the U.S. Marine Corps from 1981 to 1985, Albertson served as a weather observer and assistant forecaster attached to Marine Aircraft Group 31 in Beaufort, South Carolina. He sustained a T-7 complete spinal cord injury in 1994.

Although told he would never sit up on his own due to his injury, Albertson worked at Kimball International in procurement for 19 years and went on to own and operate an Allstate Insurance agency. In 2008, Albertson signed up to participate in a government clinical trial for a walking with functional electrical stimulation study at the Cleveland VA Medical Center. At the Cleveland VAMC, Albertson found out about PVA, the veteran benefits that the organization could help him receive and adaptive sports. It was a life-changing moment for Albertson, and he began working to help veterans with PVA.

Albertson served on the Kentucky-Indiana Chapter of PVA’s board of directors for several years. He has also held chapter positions as vice president, treasurer, hospital liaison officer and national director.

Albertson has served PVA nationally as chairman of the Awards and Spouses Committees, vice president of the Admin and Resolution Committee, and chairman of the Field Advisory Committee overseeing the VA hospital site visits.
Albertson was re-elected National Vice President of PVA during the organization’s 74th Annual Convention, held virtually in May 2020, to begin a new, one-year term on July 1, 2020. This will be his sixth year serving on PVA’s Executive Committee.

He joined PVA because he loves helping recently injured veterans find ways to make their lives better. Albertson loves the outdoors and enjoys many outdoor hobbies. What Albertson wants the public to know about PVA is “how [PVA’s] programs help all veterans.”

“We also impact [veterans’] caregivers and children immensely,” Albertson said. “PVA is the loudest voice for the disabled community.”

Albertson is on the board of Battle Buddy 3 Gun and has served on the board of directors with the local National Wild Turkey Federation chapter and Lifewaters.org. He is also a certified advanced scuba diver and is a member of the Paralyzed and Disabled Scuba Diving Organization and the Wounded Veterans in Parks (WVIP) program.

On December 7, 2018, Albertson experienced a momentous day when he took part in a dive at the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor to finish testing several oil-resistant materials for future research, as part of the Pearl Harbor WVIP program. While there, he met members of the band The Eagles. The Eagles played a tribute video to the paralyzed veterans diving in Pearl Harbor at their concert that night in Honolulu.

In addition to scuba diving, Albertson is a class II athlete and has earned 32 medals at eight National Veterans Wheelchair Games. His awarded sports include trapshooting, softball, boccia ball, archery, swimming and billiards.

Albertson and his wife, Jill, currently reside in Campbellsburg, Indiana, where he is a member of the local First Baptist Church. They have four children, two boys and two girls. One daughter is currently serving in the U.S. Navy Reserves as a lieutenant, and her husband is serving on active duty as a lieutenant commander.