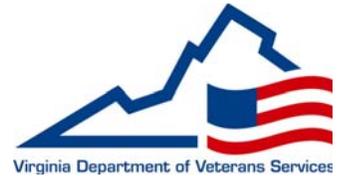


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 29, 2010

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### *Virginia receives Paralyzed Veterans Employable Award*

RICHMOND—Cmdr. Paul Galanti, (USN, retired) and Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services accepted the Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA) Veterans Employable Award on behalf of Governor Bob McDonnell at the annual American Gala held October 19, 2010.

In accepting the award, Cmdr. Galanti thanked the PVA on behalf of Governor McDonnell and the Commonwealth. He told the many disabled veterans in the audience, “We were the lucky ones, since many didn’t come home. He then quoted a fellow POW who kept his spirits alive during his “stay” at the Hanoi Hilton as a prisoner of war. Using the code developed by the POWs to communicate with each other while they were in isolation, he tapped out a toast and asked the audience to raise their water glasses in remembrance of those who didn’t return.

The PVA American Gala honors extraordinary leaders who help the nation’s paralyzed veterans and their families. The annual event highlights the vital role of PVA programs in improving the quality of life for veterans with disabilities.

Virginia was selected for its commitment to be the most veteran friendly state in the country. PVA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Rick Schissler worked hard to develop relationships with the Commonwealth and the Governor’s office. Those efforts resulted in eight disabled veterans working in the Governor’s office and others being hired by agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

Cmdr. Galanti recognized USMC LCpl Jeanette Epes, now an employee of the Virginia Department of Transportation, as an outstanding example of the skills and leadership qualities that veterans bring to the table. He concluded by thanking the PVA for recognizing Virginia’s efforts.

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*Serving those who served.*