



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

Freddie Edwards – Vietnam War Combat Veteran Seeks his first Gold Medal

Marine Corps veteran, Freddie Edwards, joins the approximate 760 veterans from across the nation at the 2008 National Veterans Golden Age Games. Edwards, a 57-year-old resident of Indianapolis, Indiana, joined the Marine Corps in 1969. A combat veteran of the Vietnam War, he was stationed at the Marine Corps base in El Toro, California, upon his return to the States. He worked as an automotive mechanic at El Toro. He retired from the Marine Corps as a Staff Sergeant in 1976 due to declining vision, which was later diagnosed as retinitis pigmentosa, a hereditary eye disease.



After leaving the service, he accepted a position with the Indianapolis public school system as the supervisor of automotive mechanics, where he worked for 16 years, until he once again had to retire due to his progressively deteriorating vision. That didn't stop him from being as productive and active with helping people as ever, though as he now works at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center as a volunteer, serving as the office manager for the Blinded Veterans Association. He says his loss of vision hasn't really stopped him from accomplishing anything he would have otherwise; it's just changed the way he gets things done. He thoroughly enjoys working at the Indianapolis VA because it enables him to assist other blinded veterans. "I love working with my veterans!" he says.

Edwards is married and his wife, Donna, will also participate in the National Veterans Golden Age Games this year. Although he has participated for the last six years in the National Blinded Veterans TEE Tournament, which is held annually in Iowa City, Iowa, this will be his first time participating in the Golden Age Games.

Since the Games are being held on his home turf of Indianapolis, he says, "I just have to represent my hospital – I'm crazy about it!" And to his fellow competitors, be forewarned - - he is competing in golf, horseshoes and shuffleboard competitions. Edwards declares, with loads of enthusiasm, that he plans to "bring home some medals!"

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