



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

George Simpson– Taking the High Road

George Simpson, a 60 year-old, retired Army veteran from Indianapolis needed to make a tough decision early on in his life. He was injured during training exercises, which resulted in a paralyzing event. Simpson realized early on in his rehabilitation that it was up to him to determine the course of his life. “I saw this guy much worse off than me with a great attitude, and here I was without one. I decided then that it was up to me to accept my disability and then to choose to continue to live my life,” Simpson said. He was cared for at Hines Rehabilitation Institute in Illinois for nearly a year during 1968-1969. The Institute assisted him in obtaining the knowledge, tools and skills to be able to live independently. Simpson continues to live independently and become involved in organizations that have helped and inspired him along the way.



He currently volunteers at the Richard L. Roudebush medical center in Indianapolis, in the spinal cord injury clinic. He hopes to be able to give a little back and possibly inspire someone who has a new injury or is having difficulty accepting things. “I try to tell the guys what the options are, that if you use the resources available, keep your appointments and use the tools that the clinic knows you need, you can succeed.” Simpson continues to utilize the full spectrum of veterans’ benefits from health care to sports and recreation programs to service organization membership and involvement. He is an active member of Paralyzed Veterans of America fulfilling service work by lobbying for bills and legislature to benefit all veterans. He travels to Washington D.C. at least annually to ensure that the voice of the veteran is heard.

Simpson is not all work though; he makes time for a little recreation in his life also. He is an avid bowler who began competing nationally in the late 1970s. Simpson’s most recent achievement includes being named the 2006 National Bowling Champion for his division. He typically competes with the American wheelchair bowlers association; however, he is ready to try out his game this year in Indianapolis at the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Simpson’s enthusiasm for spreading the word about veterans benefits and participating in sports programs keep him active and engaged in the full spectrum of life.

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