



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

George Vernon – Vietnam War Veteran Gears up for Bicycling Competition

Serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War was a “quick and crazy” time for George Vernon. Initially stationed at Travis Air Force Base in California, he later went to Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico. He trained as an aircraft and power mechanic, but had many other experiences as well including a few fly-overs in Vietnam.

Probably the most memorable event of his military service was a visit from President Richard M. Nixon. Vernon was assigned to drive one of the President’s press crew. The photographer wanted to go outside of the base and Vernon told him it was against orders and he could not do it. “Yes you can,” was the response and the press representative made a call. The clear order from the other end of the phone was to take the photographer wherever he wanted to go.

Currently, 61-year-old Vernon enjoys fishing on the lake where he lives in Speedway, Indiana. He is a member of the American Legion Post 500 and is employed at the VA Medical Center in Indianapolis. His job title is plasterer, but versatility and flexibility are important in his department. He may be given a half-dozen jobs to complete in one day or be on one project for days on end, but he gets the job done with a quiet sense of accomplishment.

He will be taking those qualities with him for his first time in the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Vernon will participate in the bicycling and golfing competitions. “I’m really looking forward to cycling in the Velodrome and am looking forward to meeting other veterans from across the country,” said Vernon. “I don’t have any lofty goals toward winning, I just want to have a good time and meet some good guys who also served in the military.”

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