

Victory Lane

RACING FOR THE GOLD

INDIANAPOLIS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 2008 NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

WELCOME TO INDY



From the National Director

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 22nd National Veterans Golden Age Games! The next four days are sure to bring out the best in each and every one of you as you commit yourself to "Racing for the Gold!"

What better city than Indianapolis, the racing and amateur sports capitol of the world, to host the most progressive and adaptive rehabilitation senior sports program in the world! Whether this is your
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Dewayne Vaughn, National Director for the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

From the Medical Center

On behalf of the Roudebush VA Medical Center it is my honor to welcome you to the 22nd National Veterans Golden Age Games in Indianapolis. We are thrilled to have our nation's veteran athletes competing in our city, which has long been known as the amateur sports capital of the U.S.

While you have been preparing for these games, our staff and volunteers have also been busy preparing for your visit. We are extremely excited about the events and activities we have planned for you. A barbeque at the Indianapolis Zoo and a trip to the world famous Indianapolis 500 Motor Speedway are just a few of the activities we are pleased to be able to invite you to attend.

You will find that Indianapolis is a vital and exciting city with a small town feel. Many superb restaurants, cultural and music venues and world-class attractions are within walking distance of your hotel.

The 22nd National Veterans Golden Age Games sponsors are the Department
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WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 20, 2008

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WEATHER

TODAY



Rain and Storms

High:

78°

Low:

63°

TOMORROW



Partly Sunny

High:

81°

Low:

62°

Thank you to our co-sponsors!



Technology Changes the Battlefield

From carrier pigeons in WW I to the Internet and e-mail during Operation Iraqi Freedom, technology has changed the way war is carried out. The communication capabilities available today allow for immediate interaction to occur. Devices such as precision-guided missiles, night vision instruments, and infrared navigation systems, along with advances in aircraft and weaponry, has allowed for more troops to do their jobs from a distance.

Each war had technology that was considered new in its day. During WW I, planes and submarines were employed, thus changing how war was fought forever. Tanks were used for the first time ever. Nerve toxins became a real threat and soldiers learned to deal with explosives. The draft was active and women were not allowed in battle. In WW II and the Korean War, troops were more experienced with the new equipment and tactics caught up with technology. Advancements in aircraft, flying bombs and weaponry continued. Threats from chemicals like mustard gas were still prominent.

The Vietnam era introduced helicopters to the warzone, and televisions in homes allowed the public to view war happenings right from their own living rooms. The United States used laser and television-guided bombs to hit difficult targets. Seismic sensors were developed that allowed for tracking the movement of enemy troops. Agent Orange was used to kill crops and had an adverse result on soldiers. The draft was still in effect.

Not all technology lived up to expectations, though. Wes Anderson, a combat-wounded Army veteran of Vietnam, remembers something that turned out to be not very useful. “I think it was called the FADAC and stood for Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer. As far as I was concerned, it was a complete failure,” he said. “It couldn’t withstand the humidity and went down constantly. Before long, we packed it up, put it in the corner and resumed manual computation.” However, technology that didn’t pan out was sure to pave the way for future gadgets.

During the Gulf War, the most significant advances came in the form of information technologies, like night vision and infrared navigation systems. The threat of chemical and biological warfare was inherent, even on the homefront. It was also the dawning of the Internet age, but online capabilities were not available in most homes. The Selective Service System was active. Also, the United States began to think of a two-war capability concept.

Kathie Lowery, a retired Navy veteran who joined as a Hospital Corpsman in 1980 and retired in 2002, remembers the changes in medical technology during her years of service. “Technology has drastically changed in the medical field since 1980. I received a lot of excellent training as



By the Vietnam War, televisions were common in American homes, and they brought the war directly into the living room. War was no longer an abstract concept for American citizens!

equipment and procedures changed,” she says. “I was fortunate to be able to work in a hospital and instruct the new sailors on medical administration and techniques for three years, and, last but not least, I spent six years updating and writing curriculum for medical courses. Today’s medical corps has some of the best equipment and training available in hospitals, ships, and field hospitals. I am proud to have been a part of that process.”

By the start of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the Internet was in nearly every American home and wireless communication outlets were everywhere. After the unforgivable incursion on 9/11, the reality of another attack on American soil kept the nation on guard, and continues to do so. Technology changes at a stunning pace, ensuring that the soldiers of the tomorrow will be even better equipped than today. Uniforms worn today were developed in the 1960s and are made of strong woven fabrics. Some are designed to allow for ceramic plates, called small arms protective inserts (SAPI), to be inserted for added safety. Many new technologies are on the way.

Science fiction has proved to be a nesting ground for ideas. In the near future, we may look to the use of liquid body armor, as well as nanomachines and exoskeletons. This new technology will allow for soldiers to be protected by impenetrable suits that are sheathed with fibers that act as super-strength human muscles. With this new design, weapons can be attached directly to the uniform without encumbering its wearer. Mini computers attached to the backside of the uniform will enable medics to monitor vital signs. This is better than reruns of Star Trek—this is reality.

From carrier pigeons to exoskeletons, from WWI to Iraq, two things remain constant: the enduring spirit and patriotism of the American soldier and the ever-evolving use of technology to revolutionize how war is fought. ❖

VISA Meal Cards

All athletes will receive VISA meal cards at their respective hotels on Tuesday, August 19, from 2 p.m. - 10 p.m., and Wednesday August 20, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. Participants arriving past 1 p.m. on Wednesday can pick up their VISA meal cards at the convention center.

Each hotel will have a room set aside for meal card pick-up. There will be signs directing you to the VISA meal card room at each hotel lobby. The hotel employees at the check in desk will also be able to direct you to the room.

Please ensure that you have a proper photo ID (driver's license, VIC CARD, etc.) for validation purposes. These VISA cards are the equivalent of cash, therefore, they are to be treated as such and are restricted to meal purchases only. All participants will be responsible for knowing their balance at all times.

Volunteers will be available

throughout the week to assist you with any problems or difficulties you may have. A hotline number to call will be available when you receive your VISA meal card.

Your VISA meal cards will allow you up to \$225 for your entire stay at the Games. Breakfast and lunch has been added for your Monday, August 25 departure. Dinner will be furnished for all participants on Saturday at the Zoo and Sunday, August 24 at the closing ceremonies.

Many of the restaurants we have surveyed offer special dietary meals for those participants with special needs. A detailed list of restaurants based on price, type of menu, dietary needs, etc. will be furnished with your VISA meal card.

Coaches and officials are reminded that they are on per diem, and should use their government travel card. Bon Appétit! ❖

Free Chair Massage

The Disabled Veteran Massage Foundation will be providing free chair massages to competitors outside of room 120-124 in the Indianapolis Convention Center from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. There will be several chairs available, so come on down for a relaxing 20-minute massage! ❖

NFL Themed Dance

Immediately following Opening Ceremonies tonight, enjoy the music of DJ Brad Gillum at the NFL Themed Dance. The dance will be held in the 500 Ballroom on the first floor of the Indianapolis Convention Center until 11 p.m. Come and meet the Indianapolis Cheerleaders! Don't forget to bring your cameras so you can have your picture taken with them. ❖

Opening Ceremonies

Like moths to a flame, or in this case, "athletes to a torch" the Opening Ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, August 20th from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Sagemore Ballroom at the Indianapolis Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium. Competitors and coaches will have assigned seating by state. Doors will open at 6 p.m. so be sure to get your seat! The Emcee for the evening will be Kevin Freeman, co-host on WFMS FM, our local country music station. Speakers will include the Roudebush VA Medical Center Director, Mr. Thomas Mattice, Brigadier General J. Stewart Goodwin, USAF, Executive Director of the Indiana War Memorial, and Mayor Gregory A. Ballard, LTC (Retired) USMC.

The Opening Ceremonies are always an exciting event, and we look forward to seeing you there! ❖

National Director

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first time at the Games or you are a long-time competitor, I know you are sure to enjoy this year's fierce competition and friendly camaraderie.

Your hosts at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center have been hard at work for more than a year making sure everything will be just right for your competition and your adventures here in Indianapolis.

We are proud of each and every one of you who have chosen to make positive changes in your health and fitness by participating in these Games. You set the example for thousands of fellow veterans who have not yet made the decision to reclaim their physical and mental fitness by challenging themselves at events like this.

Again, it is truly an honor to welcome you to Indiana and to thank our co-sponsors, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Canteen Service and Help Hospitalized Veterans, for bringing you this week! ❖

Medical Center

(continued from front page)



Roudebush VA Medical Center Director Tom Mattice welcomes you to Indianapolis.

of Veterans Affairs, Help Hospitalized Veterans, the Veterans Canteen Service, and Lilly Endowment Inc. They have generously provided to make your experience here in Indianapolis rewarding and exciting. We thank them for all of their generous support.

Please enjoy your visit and "Go for the Gold" at Indy! ❖

Schedule of Events



Medical Equipment & Wheelchair Repair

Prosthetics will be available at the Convention Center room #123 beginning at noon on the 19th of August. Staff will be on site at the Convention Center from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily to meet your needs for Wheelchair repair or prosthetic related equipment.

- Shower chairs and elevated toilet seats will be delivered to the participant's hotel room before their arrival for those participants who requested items ahead of time.
- Extra shower chairs, canes, walkers, elevated toilet seats available at the convention center and will be delivered upon request.
- We will be able to contact vendors for motorized wheelchair issues should the need arise and will have non-motorized wheelchairs for loan to the participant while repairs are completed.

For any other prosthetic or wheelchair issues, please contact Steven Frank or Maura DiMeo at (317) 509-5614 or pager (317) 310-4390.

Places to Know

The below list is comprised of locations that you should know during your time at the Games. All rooms are located in the Indianapolis Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium.

- Administrative: *Room 120*
- Command Center: *Room 121*
- Cyber Café: *Room 120*
- Media Center: *Room 124*
- Medical Assistance: *Room 123*
- Veterans' History Project: *West Lobby Chamber*
- Volunteers: *Room 122*

Medical Help

There will be a triage center (or nursing support center) located at the Hilton hotel. This will be for non-urgent needs for participating veterans that may occur during the National Veterans Golden Age Games. The Prosthetics Department will be working with Medical Team to meet any needs that may arise during your stay.

If you are not staying at the Hilton, you may call the triage center if you have any questions or concerns. Make sure to look for contact information as well as more detailed information at the upon arrival to the Games as well as in the daily newsletter.

Bus and Shuttle Service

Throughout the week continuous shuttle service to the Indianapolis Convention Center will begin early each day. Buses for events and scheduled activities held at venues away from downtown will board in front of the Indianapolis Convention Center. Please pay close attention throughout the day to posted bus departure times as they may change due to unforeseen circumstances. To meet everyone's needs and to ensure timely arrivals, buses will depart promptly as posted.

Service for Wednesday, August 20th

Shuttles run 7 a.m. through midnight. For the rest of the week, shuttles will begin service at 5:30 a.m. daily.

- **South Loop** is to/from Hampton Inn, Crowne Plaza, Omni Severin and the convention center.
- **North Loop** is to/from Hilton, Hilton Garden Inn and Embassy Suites (see below) and the convention center.
- All stops will be at the front of the convention center and each hotel, with the exception of the Embassy Suites. Participants staying at the Embassy Suites can pick up the shuttle at the corner of Washington and Illinois.