



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

National Competitor Profile

August Gonsoulin — Sportsmanship, Camaraderie and Character Makes this Veteran a Winner!

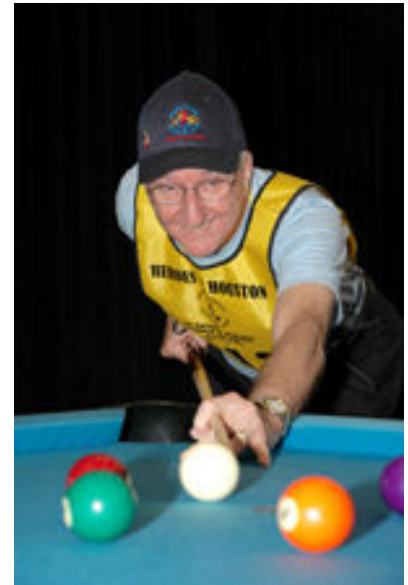
When Air Force veteran August Gonsoulin decided to compete in the National Veterans Golden Age Games last year near his hometown of Beaumont, Texas, he had no idea what was in store for him at the Closing Ceremony.

“I read about the National Veterans Golden Age Games in the local medical center newspaper and decided to try it,” he said. As a long-time volunteer, he is no stranger to the founder of the Games, the Department of Veterans Affairs. He drives the van bringing the veterans to the medical center from Beaumont for their health care appointments. Although Gonsoulin developed lung cancer about six years ago and lost half of his left lung, he knows the importance of keeping active and aspires to some day participate in the Senior Olympics.

It is this enduring spirit and enthusiasm that earned him the 2007 Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) Challenge Award. The VCS Challenge Award has been given to one National Veterans Golden Age Games competitor since 2004. The award recognizes a first-time competitor who demonstrates the fundamental nature of the Games, exemplifying good sportsmanship, camaraderie with the other veterans and strength of character. All these characteristics made Gonsoulin an obvious choice.

After his military service, he spent 35 years in the architectural business and was involved in inspecting buildings for handicapped accessibility. Today, he spends his spare time bowling and showing classic cars. What really keeps his engine running is showing off his pride and joy, a 1975 Cadillac.

August Gonsoulin considers himself quiet and reserved. When asked about his philosophy of life, he said, “I live day by day.” That may be true, but watch for him to compete again with elevated enthusiasm and vigor at the 22nd National Veterans Golden Age Games this August in Indianapolis, Ind. As a veteran, a volunteer, a competitor and a comrade, Gonsoulin truly exemplifies what the Golden Age Games are all about!



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