



# NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

## Competitor Profile (National)

### Houston Brumit – The Opportunity of a Lifetime!

Born in Texas in 1921, Houston Brumit has experienced a lot in his 86 years. Growing up a self described “Texas farm boy,” he is also an Army veteran of World War II, serving stateside from 1942-1946 in the 38<sup>th</sup> Service Command. After graduating from Southwestern Bible College in 1949, he went on to enjoy a multifaceted career assembling aircraft, working in the U.S. Postal Service, helping coordinate Christian education activities and eventually serving as pastor in several area churches. Along with Wanda, his wife of 65 years, he raised his family in the small Texas town of Denison. The family, who all live nearby, includes two daughters and two sons, along with nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. All take pride in Brumit’s boundless energy and spirit. It is that energy that still keeps Brumit working almost daily at a local retailer.

Active in sports all his life, Brumit played football, basketball and ran track in high school, and still enjoys bowling, swimming, horseshoes and several other activities. He credits that strong drive to stay active with helping him keep in good physical shape.

When he reached his golden years, he wasn’t ready to call it quits and in 1993, he first signed up to compete in the National Veterans Golden Age Games. He’s been a regular competitor at the annual event ever since. “That first year is one of my favorite memories of the Games,” Brumit now says. “I won gold medals in the pentathlon and also in swimming.” Since then he’s amassed many more, and adding to those he has won in the Texas Senior Games, he estimates that he now has well over 300. “The Games are terrific,” he says. “It’s an opportunity of a lifetime. I am very blessed and thankful to have the opportunity to participate.”

For serving as a role model for other seniors, Houston Brumit was selected for the *George Gangi Most Inspirational Athlete* award at the Games in 1999 and he still cherishes the memory. “What an honor it is to be a part of our great country and to compete with these veterans who gave so much to preserve our freedom,” he said at the time. “Being able to meet new friends and see old friends is a big part of this experience. Life was given to us so we could enjoy being with one another. I am very thankful and grateful that we can do that here.”

Houston Brumit’s advice to the newcomers is to pick out the toughest, most challenging event, get in shape and train for it. He will compete this year in horseshoes, swimming, golf and bowling, and hopes to add a few more medals to his collection. “Whether I bring back medals or not, I will be happy participating and being involved,” he says. Upon further reflection, he quickly added, “Of course, I still would like to win some though!”

