



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

National Competitor Profile

Staff Maurer's List of What's Important

Staff Maurer, 75, has come to appreciate the really important things in life: family and friends, community service, and a big helping of fresh-baked rigatoni. An Army veteran, Maurer continues to work full time and lead a life of service. He is an active member and former president of the local Kiwanis, and is also quite involved with the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and the American Legion in his home town of Fresno, California. Through these organizations and with the help of community sponsors, Maurer helps to raise enough money to financially assist 25 athletes, allowing them to attend and participate in the National Veterans Golden Age Games, taking place this year in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 20-24.



"I really love coming to the Games," said Maurer. "A group of us will get on a bus to start our trip... It's a lot of fun. I've been going to the Games for years with one of my best friends."

In Indianapolis, Maurer will compete in air guns, discus and shuffleboard, events he earned medals in at previous Games. This year, he is adding shot-put to his roster at the 23rd National Veterans Golden Age Games, and is looking forward to the fellowship he's grown accustomed to at the event each year.

"Our group is very supportive," Maurer said. "If one of our guys is in swimming, then we try to get over there to cheer him on. I've made a lot of friends at these Games. When I'm there, it feels like 'going home' week."

Keeping in touch with friends is very important to Maurer. In fact, he hasn't missed a single high school reunion since his graduation, and just attended his 55th class reunion earlier this year. "It's just great to see everybody," he said. Whether he's at a reunion, a Kiwanis event or the Golden Age Games, Maurer is clearly a people person. "Winning medals is nice, but the best part of the Games is the camaraderie."

All Maurer's work is a labor of love – the fundraising, the community service and the support given to fellow veterans at the Games. As Staff Maurer loads his luggage on that bus headed for Indianapolis this August, you can bet he'll be overjoyed in seeing the fruits of his labor: 25 Fresno teammates joining him on this year's journey. Staff Maurer can add his participation in this annual event to his ever-expanding list of what's really important.

