



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

Richard Johnson – Combat Vietnam Veteran Takes on the Games

When asked why he decided to enter the National Veterans Golden Age Games this year, Richard Johnson proudly points to his military service as to the impetus for him testing his mettle in most areas of his life. A 59-year-old Army veteran, Johnson learned about the Games from a poster about the event displayed at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center where he receives his care. The camaraderie with other veterans also drew Johnson into participation in the Games.



After injuries in combat in Vietnam left him with challenges in interacting with other people, he found that “doing it for yourself” is a way to take control of your life. Although a first-timer at the Games, Johnson describes his motivation to compete in the event as another way for him to do it for himself.

Johnson is a former member of the United States Volleyball Association (USVA), which makes the Games a natural fit for his desire to compete in sports again. Even though volleyball is not one of the events at the Games, Johnson is ready to take on the competition in golf, table tennis and nine-ball at the National Veterans Golden Age Games in his back yard of Indianapolis.

Waiting to cheer him on are his wife, Dana and his two children Kyle and Traci, and no doubt his friends and customers at Porter Paint Company!

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