



Hampton, Virginia ~ May 7 - 12, 2006

Bay Reflections



A Daily Publication of the 20th National Veterans Golden Age Games

Sunday, May 7, 2006

Welcome to the 20th National Veterans Golden Age Games!

On behalf of the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Mid-Atlantic VA Health Care Network, I would like to welcome each of you to the 20th National Veterans Golden Age Games. The Hampton VA Medical Center is honored to be your host for the 2006 Games. What a thrill and a privilege it is to welcome you to Virginia and the beautiful city of Hampton!

What you see and experience this week is the culmination of many months of planning, preparation and anticipation. It is a reflection of thousands of hours of focused energy by VA staff and volunteers. There are many activities planned for you this week, all of which I am sure each of you will enjoy.

I know you will find that Virginia is a state with a rich history, vibrant culture and wonderful people. I believe you will have an inspirational and rewarding week of

sportsmanship and camaraderie. I, along with all of our medical center and Network employees, salute each of your talents and stand behind you 110 percent as you prove that you are, indeed, *“Champions by the Bay!”*

Thank you for allowing us to serve you in a very special way during the historic 20th occasion of the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Good luck, competitors!

Joseph A. Williams, Jr.
Director, Hampton VA Medical Center



**Joseph A. Williams, Jr.,
Hampton VA Medical
Center Director**

Arrive Early for Opening Ceremonies Tonight!



Hampton Roads Convention Center will be the site of tonight's Opening Ceremonies.

The Opening Ceremonies for the 20th National Veterans Golden Age Games are scheduled to begin at the Hampton Roads Convention Center promptly at 7 p.m. **All competitors need to assemble with their teams in the convention center concourse between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.**

Before the formal program begins, musical entertainment will be provided by the Continental Army Band. Tony Macrini, program director for news radio station WNIS in Norfolk and a Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam, will be our master of ceremonies for the evening. At the Parade of Flags, one veteran from each state will carry in the state flags from all 33 states represented at the Games this year. Senior Airman Shondra Mathes will sing the National Anthem, while Games competitor James Flanders from Fayetteville,

N.C., leads the Pledge of Allegiance. Other highlights of the evening include the Presentation of Colors from the Joint Services Color Guard; an introduction of sponsors and special guests; and a welcome from our local hosts, represented by Joseph A. Williams, Jr., director of the Hampton VA Medical Center, and Mid Atlantic Healthcare Network Director Dan Hoffmann. To salute the competitors and wish them well in their events, dignitaries from the three sponsors of the

See “Opening Ceremonies,” page 2

The Honorable Gordon Mansfield Attends Games

For the next two days, we will have a very special guest from Washington, D.C., Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield.

Deputy Secretary Mansfield is an Army veteran who served two tours in Vietnam as company commander with the 101st Airborne Division. He was wounded during the Tet Offensive of 1968, where he sustained a spinal cord injury. For his actions while his unit was under fire, Mansfield was decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross. He was medically retired by the U.S. Army at the rank of Captain. Mansfield's other combat decorations include the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Deputy Secretary looks forward to meeting with fellow veterans around the Games while he is here. He will also speak at tonight's Opening Ceremonies at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, beginning at 7 p.m.



Deputy Secretary
Gordon H. Mansfield



During the week of the Golden Age Games, we will be running a daily column to highlight interesting historical facts about VA, in recognition of VA's 75th anniversary this year.

Did you know that the United States leads the world in caring for its military veterans? The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers billions of dollars annually in federal benefits for military veterans and their dependents. VA operates 154 hospitals and hundreds of outpatient clinics, issues millions of checks for education, disability and pensions, and supervises 122 national cemeteries. With more than 250,000 employees, VA is second in size only to the Defense Department among federal agencies. When eligible dependents and survivors are included, about one-third of the nation is eligible for benefits and services from VA.



Spiritual Services

There will be a Protestant Service today at 10 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel, Hampton Room. A Catholic Service will follow at 11 a.m., also in the Hampton Room at the Clarion Hotel. Chaplains will be available 24 hours a day, May 7-13. Please dial (757) 722-9961 and press 0 to reach the operator to request a chaplain.

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Games will offer greetings. These include, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Deputy Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield; Veterans Canteen Service Director Jim Donahoe; and William Bradshaw, Director of National Veterans Service for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Don't miss the ceremonial lighting of the torch by 2005 George Gangi Inspiration Award winner Chester Golembiewski, of Largo, Fla.

“Let the Games Begin!”



Welcome from the Local Organizing Committee

Welcome to our nation's first – Hampton, Virginia! It was right here that the first settlers of this great nation first stepped foot on the soil that later came to be America nearly 400 years ago!

On behalf of the veterans, staff, and volunteers of the Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network and Hampton VA Medical Center, we feel privileged to host the 20th National Veterans Golden Age Games.

It is our commitment and our hope that these Games are especially memorable to you and your loved ones. The Local Organizing Committee has worked extremely hard to ensure that you have a wonderful experience, from the time you step off the plane or train until you depart next weekend. It has been a commitment of appreciation and honor to our nation's veterans that has been an integral part of our lives, understanding the tremendous sacrifice and bravery of the men and women who have served our country.



These Games are a time for celebration of your hard work preparing for your events, a fun-filled week of spirited competition and the special camaraderie that you always enjoy each year.

In addition, we welcome the local organizing committees from both Houston and Indianapolis who will host the 2007 and 2008 Games. They are here to learn from us and from you.

As you progress through the week, please know that regardless of the outcome of the individual events, each one of you have once again proven yourself to be a hero and a winner!

Thank you for being here. Our best wishes for a wonderful week in historic Hampton, Virginia!

Jenny Shafer Tankersley
Co-Chair & National
PA Coordinator, NVGAG

Sandi Dannenberg
Co-Chair, 20th
NVGAG



During the 2006 National Veterans Golden Age Games, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Library of Congress invite you to be part of an important national program – The Veterans History Project (VHP).

This project is meant to honor our nation's veterans by creating a lasting legacy of your military experience. Regardless of your branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, we need your story. By sharing it with us, you can make history come alive. Your 45-minute interview will be videotaped and given to the Library of Congress. You and your story will then become part of our Nation's official historical records. In appreciation, you will receive a VHP totebag, a VHP challenge collector's coin and a DVD copy of your interview before leaving the event.

Your VHP interview will be scheduled at your convenience through Friday afternoon. Make an interview appointment today during registration. Interviews will take place beginning tomorrow, May 8 through Thursday, May 11, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; and Friday, May 12, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Interviews will be held in the Quality Inn, Room 113. Look for the VHP signage to locate the room.

We hope you will tell your military story and be a part of the Veterans History Project. Only you can do it, and it's a story worth preserving and sharing with future generations!



Volunteers from the VFW Ladies Auxiliary are excited to share Virginia hospitality with veterans, coaches, visitors and staff attending the Games. The Hospitality Room will be located in the Holiday Inn, Jamestown Room. Snacks will be available on Sunday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.



During May, Hampton has an average high temperature of 73° F, a low of 58° F, and averages 4.03 inches of rain.



Schedule of Events

Sunday, May 7, 2006

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Registration Hampton Roads Convention Center
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Air Power Over Hampton Roads Langley Air Force Base
Afternoon	Antique Car Show Hampton Roads Convention Center
7 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies Hampton Roads Convention Center
9 p.m. – Midnight	Dance Hampton Holiday Inn Atrium



Wheelchair Repair

Wheelchair Repair will be located at the Hampton Holiday Inn, Peninsula Room, Sunday and Monday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and on Friday from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. If assistance is needed outside of the designated hours, please call (757) 254-6051 (between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.).

Durable Medical Equipment

The following items will be available as needed: crutches (forearm and underarm), canes, walkers, wheelchair gloves, disposable nebulizers, wheelchairs (manual and electric), scooters and wheelchair parts. Please stop by the Hampton Holiday Inn, Peninsula Room or call (757) 722-9961 ext. 3649 for further assistance.



Medical Assistance

The medical volunteers are committed to helping all participants maintain their optimum levels of wellness. Staff will be available to assist with urgent needs in an on-site clinic at the Holiday Inn daily starting at 8 a.m. through Saturday, May 13 at Noon. Medical suite staff will triage veterans, if needed, 24 hours a day, in Room 4109 on the first floor of the Holiday Inn. Medical and nursing staff will be on-site at all Games venues; you will recognize them by their bright red shirts. If you are having a medical emergency, please do not wait to find a medical team member. Call 911 for immediate assistance.



All meals will be served at the Hampton Holiday Inn, Regency Ballroom. Each day, breakfast will be served from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner is served from 5 to 6:30 p.m.



Bay Reflections

Want to submit a story idea for the *Bay Reflections*? The Public Affairs Team will be preparing news releases, writing articles for the daily *Bay Reflections*, and working with the news media to publicize the events of this week.

If you have ideas for news stories, photographs or something you'd like to see in the *Bay Reflections*, stop by the Media Center located at the Holiday Inn, in Hampton Rooms I and II. We'd love to hear from you!



Transportation

Transportation from the lodging sites to the Hampton Roads Convention Center will begin at 7:30 a.m. Catch the bus at the Holiday Inn. Buses will run every thirty minutes.

Transportation to the Air Power over Hampton Roads Air Show will depart from the bus pick up point at 9 a.m. A shuttle will run every hour between the hotel and Langley Air Force Base.

Transportation to and from the Opening Ceremonies at the Hampton Roads Convention Center is available from 6:15 – 9 p.m.



Look for the daily *Bay Reflections* on the Web at: www.veteransgoldenagegames.org

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