



2008 Games Race into Indianapolis



The 22nd National Veterans Golden Age Games will take place August 20-24, 2008 in Indianapolis, Indiana. As host of next year's Games, the staff of the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, located on the campus of Indiana's largest healthcare complex near downtown Indianapolis, is already busy preparing to give you a memorable experience.

"Indianapolis is a unique and special place to host the Games because it captures the excitement of racing with its wide variety of popular sports activities, blend of vibrant cultures, dynamic business and

medical community, and many great local restaurants and attractions," said Susan P. Bowers, Director of the medical center.

Indianapolis is known for its affinity for the military and veterans. Many monuments and museums there are dedicated to military service. The beautiful American Legion Mall and the city's center point, the Soldier and Sailor's Monument, provide a fitting backdrop for the Golden Age Games. A visit to the NCAA Hall of Champions showcases many exciting exhibits

and celebrates the diverse history of college athletics. Next door is the Indiana State Museum, an ever-changing adventure that shares Indiana history, culture and science. Both are part of the great White River State Park, connecting visitors to the Indianapolis Zoo, IMAX Theater and the unique Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. All of these attractions and more are connected by picturesque walking, biking and running trails.

A visit to Indianapolis would not be complete without a tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home

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A heartfelt thank you to



all of our Co-Sponsors!

Blind Golf Competitor Feels He Has The Advantage

Raymond Trevino, from Hollister, Calif., is the only blind veteran competing in both bowling and golf at this year's National Veterans Golden Age Games. A 69 year old Army veteran who saw duty in Korea and Japan, Trevino now receives medical care at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. In addition to golf and bowling, Trevino also competed in 9 ball and dominoes this week in Houston.

When it comes to golf, Trevino believes that he has a major advantage over other competitors—he just doesn't get nervous about his game because he can't see the water hazards or the sand traps. Since he can't see how difficult the shot may be, he doesn't experience the stress that sighted golfers can feel.

Seven years ago, a retinal detachment from diabetes caused most of Trevino's loss of vision. Now, he functions with severely limited tunnel vision. Trevino speaks highly of the comfort and care he found from other blind veterans at the Western Blind Center in Palo Alto, where he stayed for four months. While there, he learned from his instructors and caregivers, who encouraged him to not be afraid to ask for help. Now, in his spare time Trevino volunteers as a cook at the Western Blind Center.

An unknown donor provided 68,000 to care for and train Trevino's service dog, Thorn. He says that Thorn has been a great companion to him for several years, and has been even more helpful to him since his wife passed away in January. Thorn's understanding of commands such as "bank," allow the dog to gauge traffic at intersections en route to the bank, so he and Trevi



Trevino, with his service dog, Thorn, enjoys bowling, golf, nine ball, and dominoes at the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

no can safely navigate the streets while running errands.

Trevino believes that the Golden Age Games are a wonderful experience, and that the camaraderie among his fellow veterans is absolutely unbelievable. "With 600 of us here, we can make 599 friends," he says. Trevino credits his coach, recreation therapist Kathy Kelley, for sparking his interest in the Games. He hopes that his participation this year will inspire fellow blind veterans to participate in coming years.

"Preparing for the National Veterans Golden Age Games has taught me that there are still things that I can do," Trevino said. "I like getting involved with a team that focuses on working together. I love to travel and my blindness does not stop me from competing. I am really excited that my best friend and guide dog, Thorn has been right by my side all week long." ☆

Heart of Texas Goes to Competitors

Showing that the heart of Texas extends to out of towners in a big way, a local police officer came to the rescue of two National Veterans Golden Age Games competitors. The two Army veterans from Bedford, Mass., Wayne Petrucci and John Murray, were on Interstate 45 when one of their tires blew out. In short time, Sgt. Ruben Trejo, one of Houston's finest Eastside Patrol policemen came along. Not only did the officer assist in calling the car rental company but he went beyond the call of duty by driving the competitors back to the hotel. An official National Veterans Golden Age Games salute to Sgt. Trejo! ☆

Saturday Airport Shuttle Departure Schedule

On Saturday, September 1, Coach America shuttle buses will load on Dallas Street. Please be ready to board 45 minutes prior to the shuttle departure time.

Games participants who are able to bring their own luggage to the departure area are encouraged to do so, due to limited hotel staff availability.

Veterans traveling today should contact Transportation staff in the 3rd floor Command Center to confirm their departure times. ✪

To George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) Airport

Flight Time	Shuttle Time
6 to 6:50 a.m.	3:30 a.m.
7 to 7:50 a.m.	4:30 a.m.
8 to 9:55 a.m.	6 a.m.
10 to 10:55 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
11 to 11:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
11:35 a.m. to 12 Noon	9 a.m.
12:25 p.m. to 1 p.m.	9:30 a.m.
2 to 2:45 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
4 to 5:10 p.m.	1:45 p.m.
5:50 to 6 p.m.	2:25 p.m.
6:50 to 7:10 p.m.	3:25 p.m.
10 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

To William P. Hobby (HOU) Airport

Flight Time	Shuttle Time
6 to 7:50 a.m.	3 a.m.
9 to 10 a.m.	6:30 a.m.
11:30 to 11:45 a.m.	9 a.m.
1 to 4:50 p.m.	10:45 a.m.



Celebrate at Tonight's Closing Ceremonies

Tonight, a special celebration of friendship, fun and recognition will conclude this week's activities for more the 622 Heroes in Houston who competed in the 21st National Veterans Golden Age Games.

Festivities begin at 7 p.m. in Exhibit Hall A of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Be sure to arrive early so you can get a good seat with your team.

The evening begins with a musical prelude by the University of Houston Band, followed by Edgar L. Tucker, Director of the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, welcoming the audience. Vicente Arenas, an anchor on Houston KHOU TV, serves as Master of Ceremonies. Houston competitor Hillery Williams will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Air Force veteran Jeff Triebel will sing the National Anthem, accompanied by Army vet Gerrado Morales on the saxophone, both local VA employees. Special guests include William F. Tuerk, VA's Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Help Hospitalized Veterans HHV Executive Director Mike Lynch; and Director of the Veterans Canteen Service VCS Marilyn Iverson.

Several special award presentations will also highlight the evening. These include HHV's Volunteer and Coach of the Year Awards; the VCS Challenge Award; the Secretary's Award to the local host site; and the Bill Givens Award to a local staff member. Since 1990, one competitor has been selected for the George Gangi Inspiration Award, which recognizes athletic excellence, sportsmanship and strength of character demonstrated during the Games. That very special recipient will also be named this evening.

As the flame of this year's Games is extinguished, it will be time to pass the torch to the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, host of the 2008 Games. Concluding the evening's celebration, an inspiring video will be shown that captures special moments and highlights of the past week's activities in Houston.

Following the formal program, a special, final night Hawaii Luau celebration is planned *see right*. See you at the George R. Brown Convention Center this evening. ✪

Aloha!

Say "Aloha" to the 2007 National Veterans Golden Age Games at the Hawaiian Luau tonight, immediately following the Closing Ceremonies. Imagine you are on the sandy beaches of Kauai as you listen to the "Drums of the Pacific Productions," the most exciting Hawaiian/Polynesian show in Texas. Hawaiian musicians and exotic dancers will bring you the magic and mystery of the islands as you escape the Texas heat and humidity. Dine on islands foods, and imagine the soothing sound of ocean waves in the distance. Don't get too comfortable though – the fire dance will heat up the night with excitement and flare. Tonight's Hawaiian luau is a must for your book of memories of the 2007 Games. See you there! ✪



Photo Scrapbook



Hyatt Regency Remembers the Early Birds

A special “Early Bird” continental breakfast is being made by the hotel available for travelers who are scheduled to leave before the regular Saturday morning breakfast buffet. Early travelers may pick up a boxed continental breakfast and coffee in the Hyatt’s Decafe coffee shop before 6 a.m. The staff at the Hyatt Regency hopes you enjoyed the Games, and your stay.



Services and Room Locations

Wheelchair Repair is

located in room 3029.

Medical Assistance is

located in room 3030.

Second Level of Hyatt:

- Cyber Café: *Arboretum 2*
- Hospitality: *Arboretum 3*
- Recreation: *Arboretum 4 & 5*
- Support Group Meetings AA : *Arboretum 1*

Third Level of Hyatt:

- Administration: *Mesquite*
- Awards Ceremony Tuesday through Thursday 3 - 5 p.m. : *Westside of Imperial Ballroom*
- Command Center: *Cottonwood A/B*
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner: *Imperial Ballroom*
- Media Center: *Dogwood A/B*

Happy Birthday!

If you have the opportunity to meet the following competitors today, please wish them an extra special happy birthday! Those of you celebrating birthdays this week are invited to stop by the Media Center to pick up a special gift. Happy birthday to:

Alfred Gonzales
Lester J. Miller

2008 in Indianapolis

continued from front page

of the “Greatest Spectacle in Racing,” the Indianapolis 500. Be sure to ride the famous oval track and visit the Hall of Fame while you are there.

Indianapolis is a city specifically designed for visitors. Downtown skywalks connect restaurants, shopping and hotels, so you can easily get just about anywhere, rain or shine. Indy is an energetic city that’s easy to access and navigate.

The hotels selected for the event are all located in the downtown entertainment district, a safe, fun walkable neighborhood featuring more than 50 clubs and restaurants. Of special interest to next year’s athletes is the unique Veterans Memorial Walk, just minutes from any hotel, which features eight impressively designed memorials dedicated to veterans and their past sacrifices.

“The opportunity to provide an exciting atmosphere for veterans to compete and enjoy the camaraderie gained throughout the week is what we’re looking forward to most,” said Bowers. “This is just another chance for us to give back to our Nation’s veterans for all that they have given.”

Check the Golden Age Games Web site for next year’s registration form. It should be available in early January, at www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov. ⚡

TSA Travel Advisories

Most attendees will be flying home over the Labor Day holiday weekend. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials will be providing some extra special services to attendees.

TSA representatives will be available in the hotel lobby from noon till 6 p.m. today to answer travelers’ questions regarding security screening measures, and how to make the trip home as smooth as possible.

Additionally, TSA officials will be available at both George Bush Intercontinental and William P. Hobby airports to assist veterans with a rapid check in process during what is expected to be a very hectic and busy holiday weekend.

TSA’s web site www.tsa.gov reminds travelers to use 3 1 1 for carry-ons that means a 3 ounce bottle or less; 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; and 1 bag per passenger placed in the screening bin. The one quart bag limits the total liquid volume that each traveler can bring. The 3 ounce container size is a security measure. Consolidate bottles into one bag and x ray separately to speed screening.

Be prepared. Each time TSA searches a bag it slows the line. Practicing 3 1 1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience.

Come early and be patient. Heavy travel volumes and enhanced security mean longer lines.

Disability related items permitted through the security checkpoint include: wheelchairs/scooters, walking aids, prosthetics, casts, support braces, service animals, orthopedic shoes, exterior medical devices, assistive/adaptive equipment, augmentation devices, ostomy supplies, hearing aids, personal oxygen, and any other disability related equipment and supplies. Please be sure to talk to TSA officials today if you have any questions. ⚡

Thanks from Your Public Affairs Teams



From all of us working in the 21st National Veterans Golden Age Games media center, thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with you this week. Because of your willingness to share your stories, not only with us but also with the local and national communities, we have had some outstanding results this week.

Newsletter

Our star newsletter team produced six editions of the daily newsletter, hopefully providing you with interesting reading and important information each morning. Thank you so much for your wonderful interviews and inspiring stories. All editions of this week's "Heroes in Houston" and much more are available on the web site: www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov.

Hometown News and Web Site

This week, our terrific hometown news team prepared nearly 450 individual news releases on the participants who requested one, an amazing accomplishment. They also made hundreds of phone calls and sent numerous e-mails to media outlets across the country letting them know about the Games. All of your news releases were posted on the Games web

site on Wednesday by our talented on site web team, along with your event results and photos.

Photography

Speaking of photos, our dedicated team of photographers took more than 10,000 action photos of the participants this week, all of which were cropped by our team of Photoshop staff, who worked from dawn until way beyond dusk to get the job done.

Media Support

Our media support team has been pitching the Games to local and national media since mid July, and their efforts multiplied significantly this week. Because of their hard work, more than 150 confirmed media placements have appeared in newspapers and on TV and radio outlets nationwide. In collaboration with the hometown news program, we expect the number of media placements to continue to increase over the next several weeks.

Again, thank you all for making our jobs at the Games so successful and so much fun. We are excited about the 2008 Games coming up in Indianapolis next August, and look forward to seeing you there.

Safe travels home, everyone! 🌟

Information on Today's Activities

Kemah Boardwalk

Modeled after the seashore boardwalks common in the northeast beach towns, the main attractions of the 35 acre Kemah Boardwalk are its many restaurants overlooking Galveston Bay, recreational sailing, and rides for the whole family. Activities include shopping and midway games, as well as a miniature train that traverses the entire area. Additional attractions include a 36 foot carousel and a 65 foot Ferris wheel.

Downtown Aquarium

Houston's first public aquarium was designed to entertain the masses. The 38 million world class complex, perched on the redeveloped 400 block of Bagby, boasts 500,000 gallons of visible underwater tanks with more than 200 species of marine life. At this classy carnival, expect rides and amusements for the entire family. The Shark Voyage is a highlight. Ride the 100 foot Diving Bell Ferris wheel for an incredible view of the city, or the aquatic carousel if you'd rather be grounded. See educational exhibits of themed underwater environments. Quell your hunger at the Marina Matinee café or Aquarium restaurant; then quench your thirst at the Dive Lounge.

Gettin' Chilly With It

To offset the Houston heat, the Houston Aeros hockey team's mascot "Chilly" will attend the tonight's Closing Ceremonies with members of the Aero Dynamics performance team. Angela Neal, who is Mrs. Houston 2007, and Bobbi Jo Compton, Mrs. Bayou City America 2007, will also be on hand to join in the festivities.

Remember, Closing Ceremonies are from 7-9 p.m. tonight in Exhibit Hall A at the George R. Brown Convention Center. 🌟



Today's Weather

Low **73°** High **92°**

Saturday Low: 73° High: 89°

Sunday Low: 73° High: 89°

Important Info

Today's Menu

All meals are served in the Hyatt Imperial Ballroom located on the 3rd level of the hotel.

Breakfast Buffet, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

Assorted Chilled Juices
Fruit, Danish, Muffins, Coffee Cake
Scrambled Eggs, Oatmeal
Biscuits and Gravy, Sausage Patties
Starbucks Coffee and Herbal Teas

Lunch Buffet, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mixed Greens with various Dressings
Pasta Salad
Hot Roast Beef or Turkey Sandwiches
Grilled Onions and Peppers, Cheese and other accompaniments
Lemon Bars, Assorted Cookies and Brownies

Dinner Buffet, 5 to 7 p.m.

Mixed Greens and Romaine Lettuce with assorted Dressings
Steamship Round, Chicken Marsala
Baked Potatoes and accompaniments
Summer Vegetables
Rolls
Assorted Desserts

Saturday Morning's Menu

Served in the Hyatt Imperial Ballroom located on the 3rd level of the hotel. Early travelers should see the "Early Bird" article on page XX.

Breakfast Buffet, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

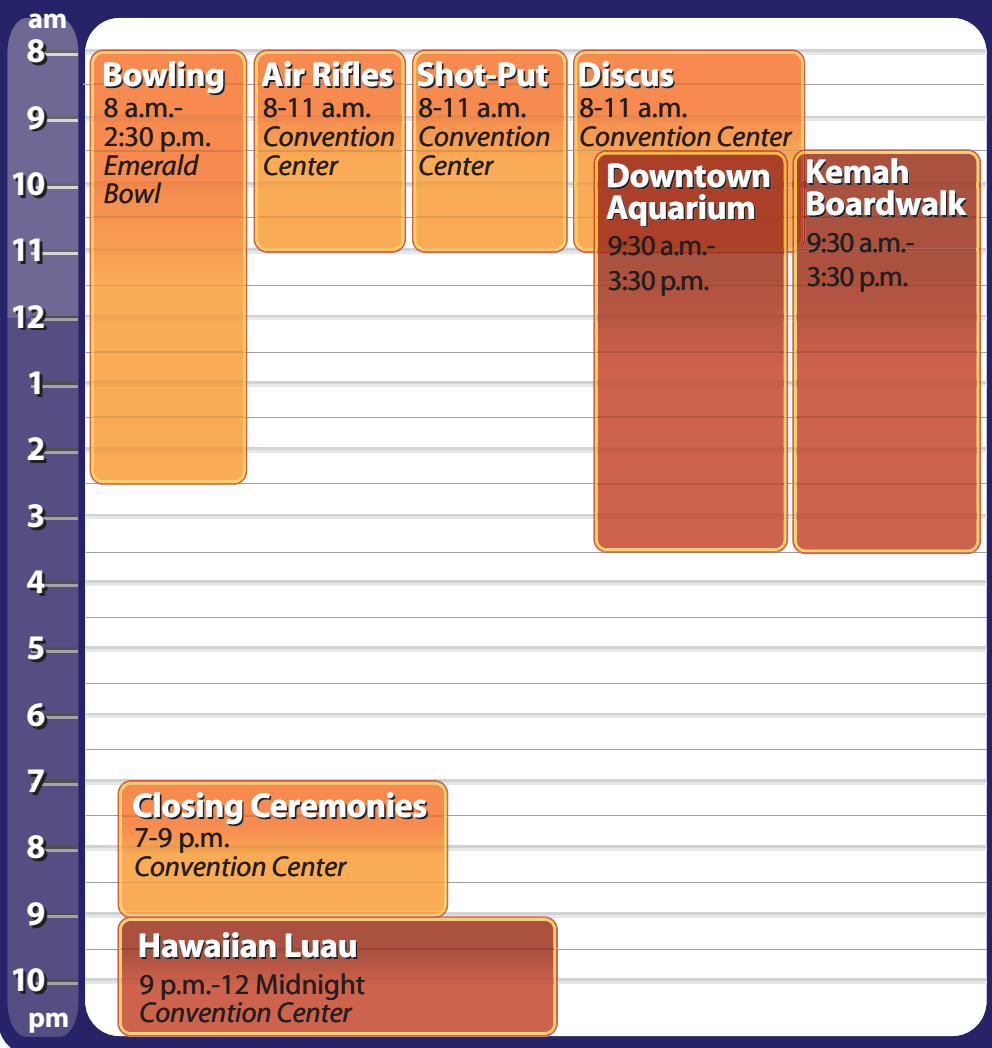
Assorted Chilled Juices
Fruit, Danish, Muffins, Coffee Cake
Scrambled Eggs, Grits, Breakfast Potatoes, Bacon, Flour Tortillas, Cheese, Picante Sauce
Starbucks Coffee and Herbal Teas

Be advised no lunch or dinner will be provided on Saturday.



Today's Schedule

Friday, August 31



Transportation Information

Bus service to and from all final events continues from the Dallas and Louisiana Street entrance. Be at the pick up point 90 minutes before the start time of competition, and 60 minutes before the departure time of alternate activities. Shuttle and bus stops at the convention center are posted.

Durable Medical Equipment and Wheelchair Repair

Veterans with medical equipment loaned during the games should contact the Medical Suite regarding returning the items.

Wheelchair Repair remains available from local vendors. Medical staff are available to contact the vendors from any venue. Veterans

can contact the medical staff directly at extension 3030 or 3031 to request repair services while at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Medical & Emergency Information

Medical staff remain available in Room 3030 and are also on site at all venues in bright red shirts. If you experience a medical emergency, please do not wait to find a medical team member. Call 55 within the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Give the nature and exact location of the accident or medical emergency. To prevent further injury, do not move the injured/ill unless necessary.