

## Competitor Profile

### Roy Gantt: Korean War Combat Hero Challenges His Best!

When 71-year-old Roy Gantt competes in the National Veterans Golden Age Games in Hampton, Va., May 7-12, 2006, he plans to relish the positive memories he knows await him.



After spending two years in the Army, Gantt was discharged at 9 in the morning and then joined the Air Force by noon the same day. A Korean War veteran, he battled back from the injuries he sustained in a plane crash in 1953. The crash broke most of the bones in his body, hospitalized him for more than six years, and required that his right leg be amputated from the knee down. Now, Gantt is battling again, this time from the severe burns he sustained in a fire two years ago that put him in a coma for six weeks. Despite those challenges, Gantt, who lives in New Athens, Ill., is ready to go for the gold once again at this year's National Veterans Golden Age Games. Those efforts last year were quite successful, earning him three first place medals in the horseshoes, bowling and freestyle swimming events.

In 2004, Gantt was awarded the event's "George Gangi Most Inspirational Athlete" award for his athletic excellence, sportsmanship and spirit. For Gantt, "competition helps you feel better about yourself." The Games in Hampton will mark his eighth time competing with veterans age 55 and older. "Competing keeps us young at any age," he says.

This "can do" attitude makes him one to watch as nearly 600 senior veterans revel in their own special fountain of youth. As Roy Gantt puts it, "You're never too old to live."