

JOHN H. HAMLETTE — ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR VETERANS!

In 1962, John Hamlette graduated from Hampton University and tackled a tough career in the U.S. Army. Over the next 23 years, he married, started a family, and followed Army assignments all over Europe, Korea and Vietnam. Now retired, Hamlette still travels at least once a year – to the National Veterans Golden Age Games.



He has attended the Games for the last five years, competing in golf, bowling and shuffleboard as well as his favorites, croquet and horseshoes. The first year he competed in 2002, Hamlette took home a silver medal in horseshoes, the first of two now belonging to him. Last year in Oklahoma City, he claimed the bronze medal in croquet. Hamlette keeps active during the year playing tennis with the Senior Games of Virginia, but he especially looks forward to the National Veterans Golden Age Games where he is continually impressed by the dedication and tenacity of the other veterans from across the country. He is also enthusiastic about the men and women who volunteer as coaches and officials for the various events. “These coaches strongly promote sportsmanship, and strive to make each team member feel valued,” he said.

Hamlette is honored to greet the veterans who train hard and return each year, as well as the coaches and volunteers so generous with their talent. While he is a tough competitor, equally important to Hamlette is making sure that every veteran competing enjoys the Games as much as he does. He is quick to tell you that these Games are *his* Games. “They’re mine, they’re my own,” he said. At the 2006 Games in Hampton in early May, if you see a person rolling out the red carpet for veterans, that person will undoubtedly be one very enthusiastic local veteran named John Hamlette.