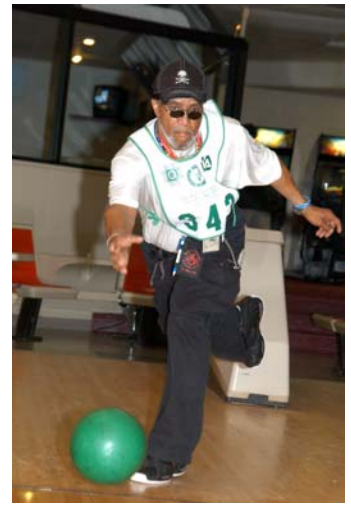


THOMAS W. HOFLER — GET INTO THE GAMES!

“Bring it on!” That’s the challenge set forth by Marine Corps veteran Thomas W. Hofler, 60, of Tyner, N.C. Competing in the National Veterans Golden Age Games for the past five years, Hofler won a silver medal in bowling in 2001 and a bronze in 2005.



Although bowling is his specialty, Hofler also competes in shuffleboard, nine-ball and croquet. This year, he is adding air rifles to his list of competitions.

Hofler served in Vietnam, a member of the same unit as the late Jesse Brown, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Despite the shrapnel injuries to his hip and knee resulting from his combat experience, Hofler remains a tenacious competitor who loves a challenge.

He is also devoted to helping his fellow veterans, traveling from his home in North Carolina to volunteer at the Hampton VA Medical Center’s nursing home in Virginia. He is the vice commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post VA-05 and also serves on the Veterans Coalition of Norfolk, Va. In addition, he is a U.S. Bowling Congress Level I certified coach.

Hofler speaks with enthusiasm about past Games and the memories he has made over the years. To him, like many competitors, the best part of the Games is the close camaraderie that develops each year among veterans from all over the country. After training hard all year, they look forward to seeing each other at the next location.

This year, Hofler will compete in the 60-65 age category for the first time. He encourages all veterans his age or older to “get into the game.” He tells them, “This time you have come to *my* house to bowl...but we will keep the gold in Hampton!”