

DAVID L. KELLEY — IT'S ALL ABOUT CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER!

David Kelley's goal for the 20th National Veterans Golden Age Games is to bring home a medal for all those veterans who might not win one. Such concern reflects the life of service Kelly has chosen.

He entered the U.S. Air Force in Newport News, Va., where he was born, raised and still lives. After 25 years of service (and a plan to retire in New Mexico) Kelly discovered that home is truly where the heart is, and his family loved their home town best. Returning to Newport News, Kelly went to work at the Hampton VA Medical Center for 12 years. After a second retirement, he learned about the Golden Age Games from his friends.

Soon after his first event, Kelley became a dedicated contender in several competitions including shot-put, discus, bowling, air rifles, the pentathlon and golf, which remains his favorite. He won a gold medal in his age group at the Games last year in Oklahoma City, and now he is working toward an even better showing in 2006.

Although he is "retired," Kelley maintains a busy schedule training for his events and volunteering wherever he sees a need. Currently, he is involved in the seniors programs at American Legion Post #368 and is helping plan the Post's dedication program. He also gives generously of his time at the MacArthur Center nursing home, where he is well known to both patients and staff, making shopping trips with the patients, helping them with their purchases and enjoying the opportunity to socialize.

Kelley is energized by the courage and determination of the veterans he meets, both as a volunteer and at the Games. Regardless of their disabilities, they just won't give up on themselves or their veteran comrades. "This is a lesson we all can learn. At the end of the day, what's important is caring for one another," Kelley said.

