

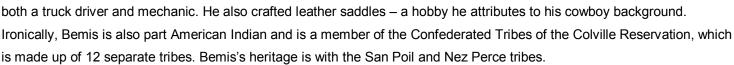
Athlete Profile (Local)

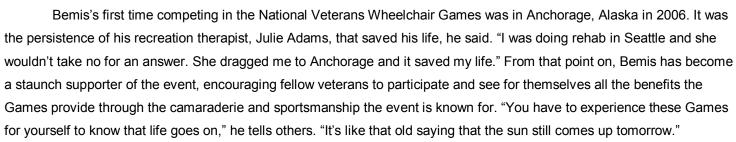
Roy "Bud" Bemis - The Games in Spokane Instill A Special Pride

To some, Roy "Bud" Bemis, 60, of Moon Lake, Washington, could still be considered a newbie when it comes to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, having participated in just the last three of the past 28 Wheelchair Games. You would never guess that, though, by the enthusiasm he exudes when asked about the annual event.

A Navy veteran who served as a cook in Vietnam, Bemis received a purple heart for injuries he received while traveling back to the base. "I was returning from R & R and caught a boat ride back to Ca Mau," Bemis explained. "The boat came under fire and I got shrapnel in my arm and a couple of other places. But it's the multiple sclerosis that put me in the wheelchair."

After serving for nine years, Bemis returned to the northwest and worked in a variety of jobs. He worked in the milling end of the magnesium mining industry as





When the Games come to Spokane, Washington in July 2009, Bemis expects to experience a lot of hometown pride. Although he now lives 40 miles north of Spokane, his loyalty to the town where he grew up and raised a family remains strong. "I'm really working toward these Games because they are in my back yard," he said. "I can finally show my family and everyone else what I've been talking about. They'll take home more inspiration in one afternoon then they could in a lifetime."

"In a sense, the 2009 National Veterans Wheelchair Games are my Games," Bemis said. "It's like I invited 600 of my favorite people over to play, and we'll go *Roll'n on the River* together."

