



## **Athlete Profile (Alaska)**

### **George Guilford – Camaraderie and Competition!**

For George Guilford, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games are about a lot more than just winning a competition. Guilford, 56, of Anchorage, Alaska, has also looked forward to seeing his friends from past sporting events and enjoying their company.

While Guilford has competed in wheelchair sports before, this marks his first time at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, an annual event for military veterans from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain. More than 560 veterans have signed up for the event, now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year. The Games have grown to become the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world.

At the 2006 Games, Guilford plans to compete in the air guns, shot-put and bowling events, and is excited about the opportunity to participate right in his home town. An Anchorage local, Guilford's family also lives in the Anchorage area and plan to cheer him on when he competes. Like many of the veterans from the Alaska home team, George Guilford welcomes to the opportunity to show off the great state of Alaska to his fellow veterans.

A combat veteran of Vietnam, Guilford's served in the Army for seven years. He is a double amputee and has used a wheelchair for nearly three years. Guilford receives care at the Alaska VA Healthcare System in Anchorage and is a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans Foreign Wars and the American Legion.