



Training • Exposure • Experience

Participant Profile (National)

George Pyle
Army Veteran of the Vietnam Era
74 years old
Canton, Ohio

George Pyle has been golfing at the National Veterans TEE tournament for 16 years. Pyle and his wife, Jo, look forward to the event every year. She takes part in activities planned for spouses or other companions, while he enjoys playing golf with his fellow Veterans.

Pyle served in the Army from 1958-1960, processing passengers who were coming and going through Europe at Rhien-Main Air Force Base. It was during his discharge physical in 1960 when he found out there was a problem with his retinas. By the end of 1961 at the age of 25, Pyle was legally blind. It was more than 30 years before the TEE Tournament began, but after his first year, Pyle vowed never to miss it.

When reminiscing about the past, Pyle remembers the funny moments the best. "My friend played a trick on another friend who was also blind," said Pyle. "He would drop a golf ball in the water every time he took a swing. The joke was actually on him though, because our buddy was also hard of hearing."

Pyle believes that the annual TEE Tournament does wonders for a person's self-esteem, and every year is like a big family reunion. He says that the best part is being with a group of people who are able to cope with the same challenges he faces.

"I hope that the TEE Tournament continues for a long time," said Pyle. "It's a great event and I'm glad they opened it up to other Veterans, so the program can continue to grow."

