



# The Daily Navigator

13th National Veterans Golden Age Games

Thursday, August 12, 1999

## Time to Celebrate, Look Ahead to Next Year

By Anita Healy

VA Maryland Health Care System

**I**t's time. Time to compete in your final event, board a bus for your last sightseeing trip, exchange addresses with all of your new friends, write postcards to the folks back home, and take that very last photo.

It's time to say thanks — to your coaches and teammates for cheering, whether you won a medal or not. To VA, the VFW and all of the sponsors who donated money and services to make this event possible. To the countless volunteers who worked so hard to host this year's Games. And most of all, it's time to say thanks to you — the participants — for inspiring everyone here with your courage and your spirit.

It's time to celebrate. Celebrate our week-long “voyage of competition, camaraderie and companionship.” Celebrate the joy of sports and your commitment to do your very best. Celebrate the true spirit of the Games.

We'll also celebrate that spirit tonight, when we gather as a group one last time. During the closing ceremony, we'll relive some of those special moments that defined this year's Games. No film or video could ever capture all of those moments — every super-human effort, every act of kindness, every instance of heroism, on and off the playing field.

Our closing ceremony recalls other memories too, of past Games and the people who made them so special. Athletes like George Gangi, after whom the Most Inspirational Athlete Award is named. Tonight we'll honor the memory of long-time National Meet Director Bill Givens, who died last January.

A former recreation therapist, Givens knew the value of life-long exercise and its link to physical and

emotional health. He dedicated himself personally and professionally to helping veterans stay active and remain physically fit. He played a key role both in creating the National Veterans Golden Age Games and helping the event evolve.

Dewayne Vaughan, national coordinator of the National Veterans Golden Age Games and long-time friend and colleague of Givens, said of him: “Wherever he went, he made a positive difference in the lives of others. And perhaps that's the greatest thing you can say about anybody.” Givens' expertise, experience and enthusiasm played a key role in the selection of his home station in Topeka, Kan., as the host for the 2000 National Veterans Golden Age Games. The VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System will host the Games over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3–7, 2000.

Tonight's closing ceremony marks the official passing of the torch to the 2000 host site, but planning for the 2000 Games has been underway for at least two years already. The Topeka VA Medical Center sent ten employees to this year's Games to “learn the ropes” and see first-hand what it takes to host this event. They return to Kansas thankful to the staff from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and the Upstate New York VA Healthcare Network for sharing so generously their time, experiences and advice. “We couldn't have had better teachers,” said Karen Glotzbach, local coordinator for the 2000 Golden Age Games.

VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System Director Edgar L. Tucker spoke of the pride his employees feel about hosting next year's Games. “It's such an honor to be selected as a site for this national event. Being here and spending so much time with the athletes has made us even more enthusiastic. We're going home to Kansas determined to make the 2000

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## Attention Athletes

**ALL WHEELCHAIR ATHLETES:** Please try to arrive at the Scandling dining hall **15 minutes early** for lunch and dinner (10:45 a.m. for lunch, and 4:45 p.m. for dinner) each day. Arriving early will help everyone get faster and smoother service at lunch and dinner.

**LAUNDRY SERVICE:** If you are staying on campus, you can leave your used washcloths and towels on the floor outside your room by 8:30 a.m. each morning. They will be picked up, laundered and delivered back to your room in the afternoon.

**MEDICATIONS:** If you find or lose any medications, please report to the Hubbs Health Center on St. Clair Street. Also, if you have asked for prescriptions to be filled, please pick them up at the Hubbs Medical Center. No medications can be delivered.

**UNCLAIMED MEDALS:** You can pick up any unclaimed medals at the Command Center.

## Closing Ceremonies Scheduled for Tonight

Closing ceremonies for the 13<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Golden Age Games will begin at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Bristol Field House. Former Los Angeles Dodger Maury Wills will address athletes, their families and friends during tonight's program.

Wills is a frequent visitor to hospitalized veterans at VA medical centers in California. He heard about the Games from a personal friend who works for VA, and wanted to be a part of it. Prior to the closing ceremony, Wills will present medals at today's medal ceremony at 4:00 p.m.

Wills, 66, played shortstop and third base for the L.A. Dodgers in the 1950s and 1960s. He hit .357 in six All-Star Games, set Dodger single-season records in games, at-bats, runs and singles, and is still the Dodgers' all-time stolen base champ.

Closing ceremonies also will include the announcement of the winner of the coveted George Gangi Most Inspirational Athlete Award, a special video featuring highlights of the week's activities, and fireworks. The late Bill Givens, former national meet coordinator for the Games, also will be honored when his wife, Lorraine, presents the first Bill Givens Memorial Award. This new award will be presented annually to the local meet coordinator for the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

## Important Departure Information



*For those of you who are flying home tomorrow:*

Volunteers will assist you in carrying your baggage from your dorm room to a designated location in each dorm. Federal regulations require that your baggage not leave your sight prior to check-in at the airport. You will board the shuttle bus with your luggage.

Volunteers will staff a desk in Rees Lounge for the Jackson/Rees and Potter dorms, the lounge in Comstock for the Comstock dorm, the lounges of Hale, Bartlett and Durfee for those dorms, and in front of section 15 for O'Dells.

Your key should be returned to the volunteers at the desk. After you return your key(s), the volunteers will assist you in boarding a shuttle bus to take you to the airport for your scheduled flight. You will be at the airport at least an hour before your scheduled departure time.

The transportation schedule for each departing flight will be posted on the front doors of the Scandling dining hall and at the entrance to your dorm. Copies also will be available in the dining hall and the dorms.



## Shuttle Schedule

- Buses going on the Niagara Falls trip today will begin boarding at 6:30 a.m. Wheelchair riders will board in front of the Scandling Center Dining Hall, and ambulatory riders will board in the Medberry Parking Lot. A continental breakfast will be served in the dining hall from 6:00-6:30 a.m. for those going on the Niagara Falls trip. Regular breakfast service will be available for everyone else during the usual hours, 6:30-8:30 a.m.
- Buses to the Golf Course will leave from the parking lot behind the Scandling Dining Hall at 6:30 a.m. this morning. *You must have your golf clubs with you.*

# Schedule of Events

## Today

7:00 a.m.	Golf	Seneca Lake Country Club
7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Niagara Falls Trip	Niagara Falls
9:00 a.m.	Swimming (Wheelchair)	Bristol Swimming Pool
10:00 a.m.	Swimming (Ambulatory)	Bristol Swimming Pool
2:00 p.m.	Bocce Exhibition	William Smith Green
4:00 p.m.	Daily Medal Ceremony	Smith Library Patio
7:30 p.m.	Closing Ceremony, Reception and Entertainment	Bristol Field House

## Friday, August 13

All Day	Athletes Depart	Rochester/Syracuse Airports
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## Celebrate (cont.)

Games the best ever!” Athletes from Topeka echo that goal, saying they’ll also help to make that happen.

Francis Coon, 69, says he’s looking forward to recruiting other athletes and showing them his hometown. A Korean War veteran, Coon knows what exercise and physical therapy can accomplish. He credits therapy with getting him out of a wheelchair and on his feet again. Now walking with a cane, he wants to preach the message of wellness to other veterans.

Just three months ago, WW II veteran Jim Chaffee, 83, enrolled for VA care for the first time. He credits VA staff with saving his leg — and his life — and wants to give something back. He plans to start volunteering at his VA medical center as a shuttle driver when he returns home.

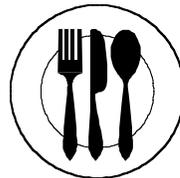
He plans to volunteer to help with the 2000 Games in Topeka as well. When asked if he’ll be driving a shuttle then, he says, “I’ll work wherever I’m needed.” And with a wink and a grin, he adds, “and I imagine they’ll need plenty!”

Make plans now to join Chaffee, Coon and hundreds of other participants for the 2000 National Veterans Golden Age Games in Topeka. Organizers promise lots of Midwestern hospitality and memories that will last a lifetime. Hope to see you there!

### **Fascinating Fact!**

Update: so far this week, there are 1,219 volunteer assignments at the 13th National Veterans Golden Age Games, totaling 17,835 volunteer hours!

**AA MEETINGS:** An AA meeting is being held daily at 12:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Scandling Center.



## On the Menu...

**Lunch (11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.):** Shepherd’s Pie/Gravy; Julienne Salad in Pita With or Without Meat; Vegetarian Mex Salad; Deli Tuna Salad; Asparagus Tips

**Dinner (5:00-7:00 p.m.):** Roast Turkey and Dressing; Beef Stew with Biscuits; Vegetarian Quiche; Mashed Potatoes with Gravy; Cranberry Sauce; California Mixed Vegetables

**Standard Daily Breakfast Offerings:** Egg Whites/Beaters; Hot Cereal/Fruits; Pastries/Cereals; Yogurt (*breakfast is served from 6:30-8:30 a.m. every morning*)

**Standard Daily Lunch Offerings:** Full Deli/Salad Bar; Hot Soup/Cereals; Fresh Fruits; Desserts/Ice Cream

**Standard Daily Dinner Offerings:** Baked Potato; Hot Soup/Cereals; Full Salad Bar; Desserts/Ice Cream

**Standard Daily Lunch & Dinner Offerings:** Pizzas; Pastas; Vegetarian; Firehouse Grill; Vegetables

## Quotables...

“I had a great time at my first Games last year. The camaraderie was worth it all, and I’m thrilled to be able to participate again and renew old friendships. The Golden Age Games are indeed a golden moment in my life, and bringing wonderful memories.”

- *Gladys Hungling, Sebring, Fla.*

“I feel the Golden Age Games are good for us veterans because, not only do they allow us to meet and greet other veterans, but they allow us to feel useful again by competing with each other. It teaches us that it’s okay to lose, as long as we’ve done our very best and can feel good about it.”

- *George Potzernitz, Fresno, Calif.*

“The Golden Age Games shows that we are still capable of performing as long as we feel young, and the Games help to keep us healthy and active. We don’t need to sit in the rocking chair. We are happy that we can still be productive and participate in sports. I want to thank all the people involved who made it possible for us senior veterans to participate in the Golden Age Games.”

- *Connie Gilbert, Northbeach, Md.*

“I feel very lucky to be able to be an athlete at this time in my life.”

- *John Mishow, Los Angeles, Calif.*

### Lost Glasses

Athlete Sanford Pecherski has lost his brown glasses and brown glasses case. If found, please return to Pecherski in Room 104, Durfee Hall, or to the Information Center in the Scandling Center.

### Medical Assistance

The Hubbs Health Center is located on St. Clair Street. There is support on duty 24 hours a day.

There is also be a mobile medical unit located on campus next to Hubbs Health Center on St. Clair Street, open from 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

## Happy Birthday!

Several athletes are celebrating their birthdays this week at the 13th National Veterans Golden Age Games: on Saturday, **Haskell Johnston** and **John Pastor**. On Tuesday, **Adrienne Mohamed**, **Jackie Gober** and **Salvatore Badolato**. On Wednesday, **Tom Thomas** and **Joe Lenski**. And today, **Gordon Trotter** and **Walter Holmes**. Happy Birthday to all of you!

## Odds & Ends

**NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES WEB SITE:** Don’t miss the opportunity to check out the first-ever Golden Age Games Web site.

You’ll find daily news, **event results**, a Games schedule, athlete profiles, a photo gallery and more. Get connected to the site at the Scandling Center’s Web Challenge computers outside the dining hall. The Web address is: [www.va.gov/vetevent/gag](http://www.va.gov/vetevent/gag).

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:** Emergency calls should be directed to the Command Center at (315) 781-4351. Non-emergency phone calls can be received in the Information Center at the Scandling Center at (315) 781-3512.

**WHEELCHAIR REPAIR:** The wheelchair repair room is located in Hale Hall, Room 104.

**LOST & FOUND:** Open 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. in the Information Center at the Scandling Center.

**MEDAL PRESENTATION CEREMONIES:** The final medal award ceremony will take place at 4:00 p.m. today outside the south entrance to the Warren Hunting Smith Library. If it is raining, the presentations will take place in the Library Atrium. Medals will be presented today for bowling, croquet, golf and swimming.

**METEOR SHOWER:** If you are up late tonight, or wake up very early on Friday morning, you may want to try to catch the annual Perseid meteor shower. Thanks to a new moon, visual conditions couldn’t be better for viewing the shower, as long as the weather is clear. Look for it late tonight and the early morning hours (around 1:00 a.m.) on Friday, when a secondary peak is expected to occur.