



# The Daily Navigator

13th National Veterans Golden Age Games

Tuesday, August 10, 1999

## ***Peter Cassullo: Ninety-two and Still Roaring***

*By Lori Nuce*

“Roaring Lions,” the team from the Lyons, N.J., VA Medical Center, is competing for the first time in this year’s Games, and they brought with them Peter Cassullo, 92 — the oldest participant at the 13<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Golden Age Games.

Born in Costeggio, Italy, Cassullo considers himself to be an American-Italian. He traveled to the United States in 1910 with his family, aboard the *Kanopic* (the *Kanopic* was a ship of the White Star Line, which is infamous for the *Titanic*). Cassullo’s father was a miller in Italy until the town’s river overflowed and destroyed his father’s mill.

The family then came to America to buy a mill, with plans to soon return to Italy. The family even left Cassullo’s oldest sister in Italy to attend to the family’s affairs. Unfortunately, WWI began and the family did not return. In fact, Cassullo only saw his sister once after the family left.

Unable to return to their homeland, the Cassullo family settled in Westside, N.Y. Cassullo worked in an office for a few years, and then on a dairy and grain farm for five years in Pittstown, N.J. He was drafted into the Army in 1942, and trained with the 36<sup>th</sup> Division at Ft. McClellan, Alabama.

He recalled that he was drafted in September of that year, when he was 36 years old. However, he turned 37 in December, making him too old for combat duty, so he was reclassified as limited service. This allowed him to be transferred to the 112<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in England as a driver for the motor pool. Even though Cassullo was unable to be part of a combat unit, he was wounded in the service nonetheless — his right leg was injured when an ambulance hit him and he had to spend three months in the hospital. As a driver, he transported several Colonels while in the Army, but one in particular stands out in

his memory. “There was one that liked to make speeches,” said Cassullo. “I’d listen to him and when he would raise his voice, I’d go out to the car and come back [when he was done] and tell him how great his speech was.”

After his time in the Army, Cassullo married Kay Johnson and spent the next 25 years as a longshoreman. His wife has since passed away, but the twinkle is still in his eye when he speaks of the woman he loved for so many years. Cassullo also has fond memories of his older brother and how he trained horses for the Cavalry in WWI.

Cassullo has been a patient at the Lyons VAMC for almost three years. He goes to therapy three times a week and rides the bicycle, among other things, to keep in shape. When asked how he maintains his youthful appearance, he said with a laugh, “I’m just lucky.” He does like to keep his mind active by playing Scrabble with his fellow veterans at the VA medical center.

Assisting Cassullo and the seven other veterans that comprise the “Roaring Lions” are coaches Judi Panzano, Toni Ann Pattman, Angie Freeman-Talmadge and John Santello. Cassullo said that the coaches “do a very good job and work hard.” Panzano said that the veterans have been training for the Games once a week since April.

When asked his impressions about the Golden Age Games, Cassullo said, “They are taking good care of us here and we are honored.” He hopes to be able to come back again next year.

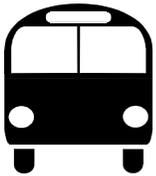
He has been unable to locate any of his buddies from the 112<sup>th</sup> General Hospital from England. If anyone was assigned to this hospital from 1942 to 1945, stop by and meet with Cassullo. He has a wonderful sense of humor, and always has a smile on his face. You’ll be amazed that this gentleman is 92 years young!

## 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.



## Shuttle Schedule

Transportation is available not only to get you around the Hobart Campus, but also to other locations such as a local supermarket and plaza to pick up forgotten items, or to a movie theater to see a show. Shuttles will run continuously from **6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

All shuttle service buses will cover the same route. Those displaying a **red** color-coded sign in the front window will provide transportation for wheelchair and some ambulatory participants. Buses with **blue** color-coded signs will transport ambulatory (those who do not require a wheelchair) participants. These shuttles will stop at, or near, each on-campus event site.

Transportation information and loading times for all alternate activities and off-campus events is available in all dorms and in the Scandling Center. All alternate activities trips, Golf and Bowling (ambulatory) will depart from Pulteney Street in front of the Scandling Center. Wheelchairs for those events will load from Hale/Bartlett/Durfee and Medbery Visitor parking lot, across from the Scandling Center.

### **Fascinating Fact!**

Update: 864 volunteers have now donated a total of 11,322 hours of their time in support of the 13th National Veterans Golden Age Games. Good job!

## Important Departure Information



If you will be flying home after the Games, don't forget that you will need to get the following information to the Information Center at the Scandling Center **by noon today:**

- Your Name
- Airline
- Flight number, date and time of departure
- Airport location (Rochester/Syracuse).

You **must** stay with your luggage on departure day. Information on pick-up times and locations for departures will be provided later in the week.

## Take the Web Challenge

Take the Golden Age Games Web Challenge, an Internet scavenger hunt based on the VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York's award-winning Web site. Learn valuable Internet skills such as navigation and information searching, while you expand your knowledge through a wealth of veteran-related resources.



Web Challenge is available throughout each day in the Scandling Center, just outside the dining hall. Participation is free and open to all. Beat the heat, and exercise your mind, at Web Challenge!

And while you're there, check out the first-ever Golden Age Games Web site. Know someone who's not at this year's Games? Visit with them over the Internet on this new site. You'll find daily news, a Games schedule, event results, athlete profiles, a photo gallery and more. Coverage is provided daily throughout the Games, so visit each day for something new. Get connected to the site at the Scandling Center's Web Challenge computers. The Golden Age Games Web site address is: [www.va.gov/vetevent/gag](http://www.va.gov/vetevent/gag).

# Schedule of Events

## Wednesday, August 11

9:00 a.m.	Bowling (Ambulatory)	Roseland Bowl
9:00 a.m.	Croquet (60-64 and 80+)	Hobart Quad
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	Museum Trip	National War Plane Museum
1:00 p.m.	Bowling (Wheelchair Manual; Wheelchair Adaptive; and Visually Impaired)	Roseland Bowl
1:00 p.m.	Croquet (55-59 and 70-74)	Hobart Quad
3:00 p.m.	Croquet (65-69 and 75-79)	Hobart Quad
4:00 p.m.	Daily Medal Ceremony	Smith Library Patio
7:30 p.m.	Evening Entertainment Program	Hobart Quad

## Evening Activity

*Tonight: City Limits  
7:30 p.m. in the Quad*

*(In case of rain, Scandling Center Dining Hall)*

This is C-O-U-N-T-R-Y, everything from the older tunes to the modern top 40 country – with a few rock numbers from the 1950s and 1960s thrown in for good measure. Get ready to get down and Boot, Scoot ‘n Boogie with this talented group of local musicians! All the band members have other day jobs, so it goes without saying they must love what they’re doing playing and singing country!

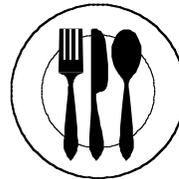
Country music is alive and well in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. Cowboy hats and boots are welcome, but please, no horses on the Quad!



## 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.



## On the Menu...

**Lunch (11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.):** Baked Macaroni & Cheese; Italian Sausage Sub with peppers & onions; Deli Chicken Salad; Stewed Tomatoes

**Dinner (5:00-7:00 p.m.):** Baked Meat Loaf with gravy; Chicken Pot Pie; Vegetable Pot Pie; Mashed Potatoes with gravy; Buttered & Plain Corn

**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; Pasta; Vegetarian; Firehouse Grill; Vegetables

### Daily AA Meeting

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

## Quotables...

You've heard from the novices, now let's hear from athletes who have participated in the Games for at least five years. We asked some of them, "What is your favorite memory from the Golden Age Games?" And this is what they had to say:

"The Golden Age Games have helped me get my life together. I came to the VA homeless, and now I have my own apartment. The Games helped me change my attitude toward life. Now, I volunteer daily in a nursing home. I love all the Games but especially the one in Lyle, Illinois, in 1994. It was my second Games—the fellowship and participation was just great."

- *James Tyree, 61, Martinsburg, WV.*

"It was the opportunity of a lifetime and one of my greatest experiences...being able to participate in the pentathlon at the Games in Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1993. The excitement was so great when I won a Gold medal for five events!"

- *Houston Brumit, 77, Denison, Texas*

"We were in Lyle, Illinois, in 1994. This was the first and only time Archery was offered as an event in the Golden Age Games competition. I won the gold medal and got a two-foot-high trophy. I lit up like a Christmas Tree!"

- *Lawrence Tate, 67, South Holland, Ill.*

"I have been to ten Games in a row. The one in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1991 is where I met my buddy Lawrence Tate, and we have been friends ever since. Thirty-one veterans from 31 states sent me Christmas cards this past year. That's the type of camaraderie that we end up with after the events. We become a family; we have a lot in common."

- *Clair "Scotty" Otis, 66, Pentwater, Mich.*

"In 1992, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was my first and most memorable Golden Age Games. I was so impressed when I saw the people performing to the best of their limits. It became an incentive to me to do well, since I was only 55 years old at the time. It is a very gratifying experience. I intend to do the Games until I die. VA ALL THE WAY!"

- *Ed Quinn, 64, West Islip, N.Y.*

## Educational Sessions

All participants, coaches, volunteers and support staff are invited to attend any of the educational sessions offered. Certificates of Training, which identify the number of contact hours for each session, will be given upon completion. If you are interested in attending any of the following sessions, please register with the Information Center in the Scandling Center.

**Today (10:00-11:00 a.m.):** Nutrition, Wellness and Aging Diet: Developing Intelligent Eating Techniques, presented by Cindy Dahl in the Sanford Classroom at the Warren Hunting Smith Library.

**Today (2:00-3:00 p.m.):** Self Defense for Seniors, presented by Steve Mumby in the Sanford Classroom at the Warren Hunting Smith Library.

**Wednesday (11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.):** Understanding Vision Loss, presented by Dan Bence in the Sanford Classroom of the Warren Hunting Smith Library.

**Wednesday (3:00-5:00 p.m.):** The Benefits of Aquatic Exercise, presented by Nancy Alexander and Maryane Times at the Bristol Gym Pool.

## Odds & Ends

**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:** All medal award ceremonies will take place at 4:00 p.m. every day 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 shuffleboard, horseshoes and dominoes.