



The Pacesetter

14th National Veterans Golden Age Games

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Brothers in Arms

Oliver Harris, of Kiethville, La., dropped out of high school in 1944 when he was just 17 years old to join the U.S. Navy. "I was the oldest son and often filled in as the head of the family," he recalled. "So when I found out that I could get in the Navy and send home a subsistence allowance that was much more than I could make at home and see the world at the same time, I thought, 'why not?' That's why I joined." He did get to see some of the world, perhaps more than he anticipated.

73-year-old Harris helped retake the Philippines in World War II and participated in the 13th assault wave on Iwo Jima. "We lost 14 landing craft to enemy fire there ... we took some pretty heavy fire." His ship was the first to enter Tokyo Harbor behind the USS Missouri, and he witnessed the signing of the peace treaty that ended the war. By 1946, Harris was out of the Navy and returned to Louisiana. He was just 19 years old. His younger brother, Clyde, was graduating from high school.

"Oliver had just gotten out of the Navy and he came back and bought me my class ring," his brother Clyde Harris of Ft. Worth, Texas said. "I



Clyde Harris (left) and Oliver Harris (right) are ready to take on the competition together.

thought that was pretty good, so I went out and joined the Army Air Corps. I did it partly because my brother was in the service, but also because it was good to have three meals a day, a roof over your head and some money to send home." He served in the Azores, off the coast of Spain, and later returned to Louisiana where he re-enlisted. "It was 1950 and they sent me to Korea for 13 months. I was in Pusan and then Seoul, and the Chinese troops were just across the Hun River." Following his tour in Korea, Clyde decided to end his military career and returned to his family in Louisiana.

Nearly 50 years later, Oliver

and his kid brother Clyde are together again at the 14th National Veterans Golden Age Games. Oliver attended the Games for the first time in 1999 in Geneva, N.Y., and when he went home, encouraged his younger brother to give it a try. "When I got back from the Games, I told Clyde what a great time it was and said that I thought he'd enjoy it." And enjoy it he has.

"It's doubled all of what Oliver said," Clyde admits. "It's kind of like a sunset. You just can't find the words to describe

it—you need to see it with your own eyes." The two won't be competing against each other this year. Oliver tried his hand at shuffleboard, croquet and will compete in dominoes today, while Clyde tested his horseshoe skills on Tuesday and competes in golf today.

The two hope to return again next year and bring along their youngest brother, Theodore, who served two tours with the U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam. "We're going to try to get him out here," says Clyde. "I'm sure he'd enjoy it also." Keep your eyes out for the Harris brothers and look for all three to be together next year in Dallas.

On The Menu...

for Thursday, September 7

BREAKFAST

6:30 to 8:30 am in both hotels

- Scrambled Eggs with Cheese
- Breakfast Potatoes
- Bacon
- Biscuits and Sausage Gravy
- Cold Cereal
- Donuts
- Fresh Fruit
- Beverages

Please note: A continental breakfast will be served tomorrow, Friday, September 8.

LUNCH

11 am to 1:30 pm

- Mixed Greens with Dressing
- Four Bean Salad
- Traditional Lasagna
- Chicken Fried Steak
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Corn and Peas
- Rolls and Butter
- Desserts/Ice Cream
- Beverages

DINNER

4:30 - 6:30 pm

- Garden Greens with Dressing
- Jello Salad
- Roast Beef
- Slow Roasted Turkey
- Corn Bread Stuffing
- Parsley New Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Mixed Vegetables
- Rolls and Butter
- Desserts/Ice cream
- Beverages

Today's Schedule

8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	Noon	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM
		Golf All Ages • Lake Shawnee Golf Course Bus departs Ramada at 9 am, bus departs Capitol Plaza at 9:20 am All golfers must be at golf course no later than 10 am.							
	Dominoes 75-79, 80+ Maner Conf. Ctr., Shawnee Rm		Dominoes 60-64, 70-74 Maner Conf. Ctr., Shawnee Rm			Dominoes 55-59, 65-69 Maner Conf. Ctr., Shawnee Rm			

Tomorrow's Schedule

8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	Noon	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM
Depart for home. See you at National Veterans Golden Age Games 2001 in Duncanville, Texas, June 9-15!									

X V D J F Q M T B X
 B S E A A A G O L D
 N M Y T A A A P H S
 I H K H E A A E J W
 N I X Z B R A K P D
 E A M A M A A A K V
 B S W I M M I N G N
 A P K C U Q C K O E
 L F Z B I C Y C L E
 L P A A A A A A F I

Word Find

You've tested your physical abilities, now flex your mind! Find the words below in the box of letters on the left.

- Swimming
- Topeka
- Bicycle
- Gold
- Nine Ball
- Golf
- Veteran

Cyclists Battle Heavy Winds

Competitors struggled against a stiff breeze yesterday in the quarter- and half-mile bicycle races held on the grounds of the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center.

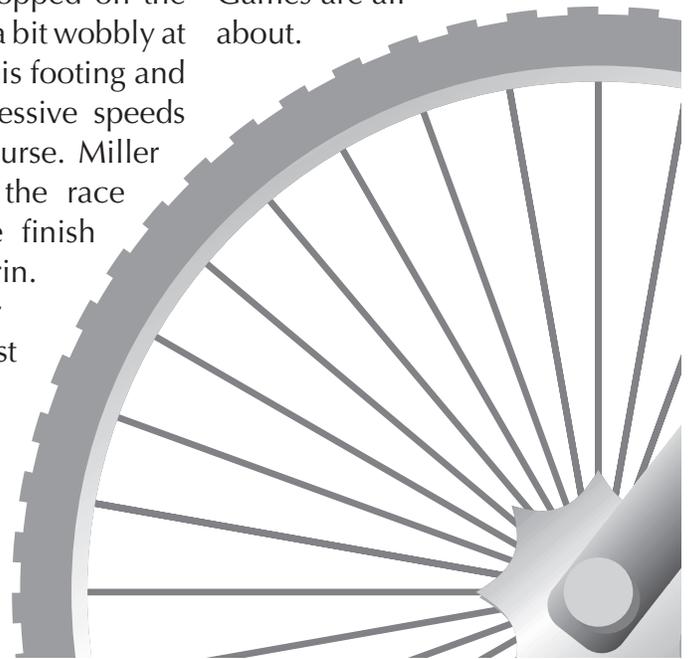
Former Marine Paul Zsidisin, of Bayonne, N.J., decked out in his team colors, a bright orange shirt with matching cap and socks—colors of the East Orange, N.J., VA Medical Center—looked just like the swift lightning bolt displayed on his outfit as he cruised the quarter mile. “I was working with Julius on the wellness program back at the VA,” he explained. “And after that, this was a piece of cake! I’m going to continue my physical training from now on, three, maybe five days a week,” he said, barely winded. His coach, looking on, smiled and suggested,

“Lets just stick to three days for now, Paul.”

Army vet Melvin Miller, of Dallas, Texas, also took on the challenge of the quarter-mile bicycle race. He hopped on the bicycle and, though a bit wobbly at first, quickly found his footing and reached some impressive speeds as he raced up the course. Miller gave it his all on the race course, and hit the finish line sporting a big grin.

“You just do your best and may the best man win,” he said between breaths after the race. “Just being here, we’re all winners!” Miller, who also competed in

billiards, horseshoes and bowling, added, “Age is just a number, and being here really lets out the kid in you—it’s like you’re young again!” That’s precisely what the Games are all about.



Did You Know?

More fun facts about U.S. Presidents from Army vet Andy Onifer.

William Henry Harrison, our ninth U.S. President, and Benjamin Harrison, our 18th U.S. President, were the only grandfather and grandson Presidents.

The youngest U.S. President was Teddy Roosevelt. He was 10 months younger than John F. Kennedy when he took the oath of office.

John Tyler, our 11th President, had 15 biological children. He had eight children by his first wife, and after she died, he remarried and had seven more biological children.

The only U.S. President that took the oath of office by his own father was Calvin Coolidge. The Constitution of the United States stipulates that when our country has an emergency, any judge can swear in the next President. When President Harding died in California, our country went for one hour without a President until Vice President Calvin Coolidge was sworn in by his father, who was a village judge in Vermont.

Alternate Events

- **Salina Day Trip**
9:45 am - 3 pm
Bus leaves at 8 am
- **Kansas National Guard Museum and Combat Air Museum**
9 - 11 am
Bus leaves at 8:30 am
- **Kansas Museum of History**
1- 3 pm
Bus leaves at 12:30 pm
- **Topeka Trolley Tour**
1- 3 pm
Bus leaves at 12:45 pm

Golden Moments

"I've been looking forward to my first Golden Age Games for the socialization with fellow veterans, the excitement of the competition, and the opportunity to become aware of my own capabilities. I'm hoping to find out that I'm still not that old! But win or lose, the memories made will warm my remaining years."

-Joseph Mattei

"The Golden Age Games is important to me because it makes me feel that my life can go on despite my disability. It's great to spend time with other veterans and to feel I'm not alone to cope with my disability."

-Samuel Marabottini

"Since getting involved with the Golden Age Games seven years ago, my life has completely turned around. I stay in better shape, and my mental attitude is much better. Seeing my friends from other VA hospitals is like having a family reunion each year. I wouldn't miss this for the world."

-John Rader

"The Golden Ages Games are very important to me. I've made friends and looked forward to making new ones this year. I love the Golden Age Games. It's great therapy for an old lady like me!"

-Maria Nelson

"Win or lose, the Golden Age Games has enabled me to compete, physically and mentally, with my fellow comrades. This is a victory in itself!"

-Richard Steger

Tonight's Awards

Athletes take note; tonight's award ceremony will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the Expocentre/Shawnee Room. There was a rumor that they might be moved up an hour, but that is not the case. Colonel Percival G. Pasqua, M.D., Kansas State Air Surgeon for the Kansas Air National Guard and a bronze medallist in swimming at the 1956 Olympic Games, has presented winners with their medals all week and will be there again tonight.

Closing Ceremony

The 14th National Veterans Golden Age Games are slowly winding down, but there is one more event you don't want to miss—the closing ceremony. Hear remarks from VA and VFW officials, look for your face on the video of this year's Games (a copy of the video will be distributed following the ceremony), and find out who will be named this year's George Gangi Most Inspirational Athlete. Watch the Topeka VA Staff pass the torch to staff from the Dallas VA Medical Center, host of next year's Games. The Topeka VA staff want to make this year's closing one to remember, and are planning a special surprise at the ceremony that is sure to please. Also, don't forget to pick up your certificate of participation, press release, and see if you have any pictures in your packet at the Public Affairs table.

Departure Info

If you have any questions about hotel check-out, departure times, or need help with your baggage, just check with your team coach. Coaches—the staff at both hotels are prepared to pick-up veterans. Luggage from their rooms, take it downstairs to the front of the hotel, and load it on the bus. You can call the front desk to confirm luggage pick up times for your team. If you have any questions about transportation, stop by the Command Center and ask Transportation Coordinator Gregory J. McCrimmon, or call 350-4546.

Remember, it's two-hour ride to the Kansas City International Airport and you need to be there an hour before your plane takes off, so make sure you're ready to go when your bus is. If your bus leaves the hotel before 7:00 a.m., you can grab a breakfast bag as you board the bus. If your bus is leaving after 7:00 a.m., get down to the chow hall and get some grub before you hit the road. The last bus to leave the hotel for the airport will depart at or around noon.

Weather

