

15th National Veterans Golden Age Games



Daily Champion

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These Athletes Are Advocates Too



Lloyd Wilbanks and F.E. Stuart compete in horseshoes.

*By Shirley Campbell
VA North Texas Health Care System*

It has been a hot time in Texas, and some may have been singing that old song, "It's Too Darn Hot," but by now you should have experienced some of the best Texas has to offer, including Texas-style barbecue.

F.E. Stuart and Lloyd Wilbanks have had some experience with hot times. They were both patients in the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) at the Dallas VA Medical Center when Stuart saw another patient catch on fire from a cigarette the man was smoking.

In spite of having third-degree burns on the bottoms of his feet, Stuart leapt out of his chair to put out the fire and call for help. Wilbanks also helped put out that fire. Stuart and Wilbanks are both here competing this week, and on Tuesday, they won the bronze and gold medals, respectively, in the wheelchair division of the horseshoes competition.

No one on the TCU unit was surprised by

Stuart's and Wilbanks' heroic actions during the fire. They both served as president of the TCU Resident Council during their stays.

As a result of the fire experience, Stuart suggested that a buddy system be instituted, so that ambulatory residents could help non-ambulatory, and experienced residents could help new residents. He described it as being "like the buddy system in the service when they looked out for each other."

A Navy veteran from Dallas, Stuart is competing in nine-ball, table tennis, dominoes, and horseshoes (wheelchair). This is his third Golden Age Games. "I like to compete and I enjoy seeing everyone," Stuart said. He added that it is "always in the back of my mind" that he might meet one of his shipmates from the SS Jupiter.

This is Wilbanks' first time at the Games. An Air Force veteran from Palestine, Texas, he is competing in nine-ball, bowling, dominoes and horseshoes. Although Wilbanks once stayed in the TCU, he is now a resident of the Nursing Home at the Central Texas VA Health Care System.

Like Stuart, Wilbanks too was an advocate for the residents, according to then-TCU nurse manager Chrystyna Reymann. He helped re-establish a nurse appreciation program that had languished at the TCU. She also said that Wilbanks received a Certificate of Appreciation from the residents before he left. Wilbanks has continued the tradition of advocacy he began in Dallas, by currently serving as president of the Resident Council in Temple.

The VA North Texas Health Care System has been delighted to host the 15th National Veterans Golden Age Games, and we hope you will come see us again!

Help Spread the News of Your Achievements

As many of you know, the Public Affairs team usually sends information and photos about your participation in the Games to your hometown newspapers. But this year, because of some computer problems, we need your help to accomplish this.

We will be giving you a news release about the week's activities, along with photos of you competing, and ask that you

deliver them as soon as possible to your local newspapers. If you have won a medal this week, that information should also be given to the local newspapers with the news release and photos.

Envelopes containing the news release, photos, and a letter explaining in more detail what we'd like you to do, will be available for you to pick up after the Closing Ceremony tonight. You can pick up your envelope

at tables near the exit of the auditorium.

The envelopes will be arranged in alphabetical order. Please look for the table that has the first letter of your last name. These envelopes will not be available for pick-up until after the Closing Ceremony. We apologize for the problem, but we hope you will help us share your accomplishments this week with your community.

Closing Ceremony

Believe it or not, the week is coming to an end. The Closing Ceremony is scheduled for tonight at 7:00 in the Duncanville High School Auditorium #11. Senior VA and VFW leaders will be there to help celebrate your achievements this week.

The torch will be passed to the host of the 2002 National

Veterans Golden Age Games, the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Also on the program is the presentation of the 2001 "George Gangi Inspiration Award" to the athlete who best personifies the spirit of these Games. The event will conclude with a special video presentation of highlights from the past week.

Announcements

Oops! We mistakenly left New Jersey off the list published in yesterday's *Daily Champion* of states represented here this week. There are 16 athletes here from the Garden State.

AA/NA meetings are being held daily from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Room 1020, Building #10.

How did you do? Results from the events are being posted in the cafeteria. This is the only place where results will be posted.

Check your e-mail Laptop computers with Internet access are available in Room 908 of Building #9. The room is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for athletes and staff to check messages and communicate with family and friends back home.

Fond Farewell

My Fellow Golden Agers:

As we prepare to depart the 15th National Veterans Golden Age Games, let's always remember what Andrew Carnegie would tell his workers. He said, "If the mind can conceive it, and the heart will believe it, then we can achieve it."

In talking to a lot of the athletes here, we feel it's nice to win medals, but the camaraderie is nicer. And as President Lyndon Johnson once said, "Wherever you go, the American flag goes with you." As we depart Duncanville, let's have a safe and harmonious trip back home. God bless you all, and see you next year in Los Angeles.

Andy Onifer
Bonham, Texas

• Today's Schedule •

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Dominoes (75-79; 80+; 60-64; 70-74)	<i>DHS* High Hat Gym</i>
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Dominoes (55-59; 65-69)	<i>High Hat Gym</i>
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Bicycling (1/4 mile)	<i>Reed Middle School Track</i>
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Bicycling (1/2 mile) (Open time for rainouts)	
7:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	<i>DHS Auditorium #11</i>

**Duncanville High School*

Medal presentation ceremony daily at 4:30 p.m. in DHS Auditorium #11

Golden Age Games Word Search

Find the words on the right hidden below. The words are forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonal.

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

AIRGUN
BANQUET
BARBQ
BASKETBALL
BICYCLING
BILLIARDS
BILLY BOB'S
BLUE
BOWLING
CASINO
CHECKERS
COACHES
CRAGIN
CROCQUET
DALLAS
DANCE
DELGADO
DISCUS
DOMINOS
DUNCANVILLE
FIREWORKS
FUN
GARTHWAITE
GOLD
GOLDEN AGE GAMES
GOLF
GWIZDAK
HARPER
HOCKEY
HORSESHOES
KICKLIGHTER
MACKAY
MEDALS
PENTATHLON
PHILLIPS
PRINCIPI
PVA
RED
REPP
RODEO
SHOTPUT
SHUFFLEBOARD
SMITH
SOFTBALL
STOCKYARDS
SWIMMING
TABLE TENNIS
TARA
TEXAS
THOMPSON
TORCH
USA
VFW
WHITE

Golden Age Games on the Web: www.va.gov/vetevent/gag/2001

Golden Quotables...

“This is my twelfth year in the Games. From these Games I have a large extended family. There is no way that I can describe the camaraderie, concern, and love in meeting old and new friends. I could never repay what many of these vets have given to me. Thanks.”

—*Clair “Scottie” Otis, Pentwater, Mich.*

“Participating in the Games makes me feel young again. I love meeting friends from last year. I also like winning, but if I don’t come in first, I am still a winner. It’s not whether I win or lose, but how I enjoy the Games.”

—*Clarence Quinton, Waco, Texas*

“This is my first time at the Games. Since my heart attack I have not been as active as I used to be. I would love to get active and make the most out of life, and these Games can get me started.”

—*George Young, Thackerville, Okla.*

“The Golden Age Games have meant a lot to me. I have competed for the last ten years, and they have been the best years of my life. Coming to the Games is good therapy for all VA patients.”

—*R.H. Matthews, Bonham, Texas*

“Participating in the Games gives us the opportunity to meet and compete with others who have shared in the unique lifestyle and experiences found only in military service.”

—*Edmond L. Melton, Kerman, Calif.*

“I have been looking forward to participating in the Games. I’m thankful to the VA recreation therapy staff for all their help and encouragement. It feels good to know that my efforts to achieve fitness have brought me to this wonderful time of my life.”

—*Bill Seidel, Hawthorne, Fla.*

“The Golden Age Games keep me fit and help me get along more physically at my age. I enjoy competing and I exercise more because of the Games.”

—*Jacob Goldstein, Baltimore, Md.*

“I’ve won four gold medals! This is my second year at the Games, and I won two last time. It’s an exhilarating feeling to win four gold, but it’s really the people you meet who make the whole week worth it.”

—*Sal Sibug, Sparks, Nev.*

Medical Assistance



The medical suite in the east cafeteria (Building #10) is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For overnight medical needs, a medical suite at the Ramada Inn in Duncanville is staffed from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Nurses are available for overnight medical assistance at the Motel 6 in Duncanville and the Quality Inn & Suites in Grand Prairie.

On the Menu...



Breakfast (6:30-9:00 a.m.):

Frittata, Breakfast Casseroles, Omelets; Cereal, Oatmeal; Pancakes, French Toast; Breakfast Breads; Assorted Fruits; Beverages

Lunch (11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) & Dinner (4:00-6:30 p.m.):

Assorted Salads; Cream of Potato & Asparagus Soup; Grilled Fish Fillet on Kaiser Roll, Panther Burger, Fajita Hovan Roll-Up with Pico de Gallo; Vegetarian Salad Plate (Fruit and Vegetables); Chicken Cordon Bleu, Crab Stuffed Grouper; Duncanville High Taco Salad; Cantonese Stir Fry Station; Greek Pasta Station; Assorted Vegetables; Breads and Rolls; Desserts; Beverages