

Tuesday, August 12, 2003

There's Gold In California

See you next year!



18th National Veterans Golden Age Games' Host Hotel: Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Downtown Fresno, Calif.

Hosted by the
Togus VA Medical/Regional
Office Center

Co-sponsored by the:



Veterans of Foreign Wars



Department of Veterans Affairs

Raisin' Gold in Fresno

by: David Phillips
VAMC Fresno, California

The 18th National Veterans Golden Age Games will be held July 17–24, 2004, in the heartland of the beautiful and bountiful San Joaquin Valley of central California. Those new to California will quickly discover the warmth of its people and the best in nature's splendor, as Sierra Nevada's awe inspiring National Parks and picturesque coastlines of Carmel and Monterey are only a short drive away.

We are sure the athletes will be delighted with the fabulous facilities arranged for their competitions. The new exhibit hall is perfect for hosting the indoor events. For outdoor competitions, athletes will be able to perform at their best at the Central Valley's premiere high school sports complex.

Trips are being planned to visit the Legion of Valor

Military Museum, sporting events, casino gambling and much more.

As your host facility for the 2004 Games, 1600 employees and volunteers of VA Central California Health Care System are committed to excellence and will be working closely with the local steering committee, you met this week, to increase your chances for *Raisin' Gold in Fresno*.

Please visit us frequently at the Golden Age Games web site for 2004 updates and related links at www.va.gov/opa/speceven/index.htm.



Yosemite National Park

VFW “Mainely” Awesome

by: Annie Tuttle

VAMC Loma Linda, California

The Golden Age Games are proud to have the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) co-sponsor the Games. With the strength of over two million members, the VFW is involved in the planning, fundraising and execution of the Games.

The VFW is the oldest veterans organization, with its roots going back to 1898. Their members are overseas combat veterans. During the week, many of VFW’s top national and state officers visited and assisted veterans. On Sunday, August 10, local VFW and auxiliary members swarmed a number of event sites to provide volunteer support for the day.

VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, John Furgess, has never had the opportunity to attend the Games and was anxious to observe the competitions. “I am convinced that through the generations, when GIs are deployed overseas, it has been sports that provided a touch of home,” said Furgess. Making his home in Nashville, Tenn., Furgess also recognizes the importance of music’s role to those who were serving so far away from home.

“It is almost a natural for the VFW to be involved in the Games, as many participants served overseas and will recall the feeling of home (brought by sports and music),” said Furgess, a Vietnam veteran. “There is long-term commitment and support from the current and future VFW leadership for the event.”



L-R: Gladys Hungling, Bay Pines, and Rosemarie Lane, VFW Commander, State of Maine

A Surprise Visit to the Games

by: Ozzie Garza

Director, Dallas Office of Public Affairs

Games participant Carter Stone received an unexpected surprise Saturday after defeating his opponent in nine-ball.

Unbeknownst to Carter, his family was there to see him compete. They had driven all night from Philadelphia to see him win the match.

“This is a pleasant surprise,” said the 82-year-old World War II Army veteran, as he hugged his son Kenny Stone and his grandson Kenneth Stone, Jr. “I had no idea they were here,” the senior Carter said, as he proudly introduced his family to fellow participants. “Their being here means a lot to me.”

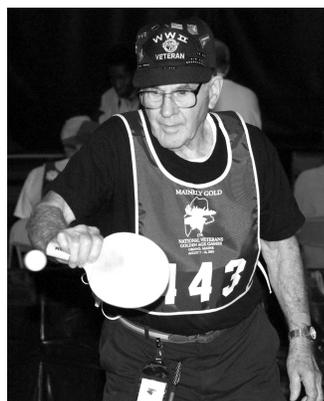
Carter first competed in the Games last year in Los Angeles and won the Bronze medal in nine-ball. He also took part in table tennis and horseshoes, but “the muscles aren’t like they used to be,” he said. Now he concentrates on nine-ball.

Son Kenny, who retired from the Navy last year, said he and his son are here to cheer their father on. “We want him to know that he has our total backing. He’s a winner,” the younger Carter said, who acknowledged that his father’s competitiveness is what draws him to the Games.



Carter Stone

Giving Their All



Thank You

To Our Hosts

Please accept our sincerest thanks and heartiest congratulations on conducting an outstanding event this past week.

The 2003 National Veterans Golden Age Games will be remembered not only for the serious heat of competition, but more importantly, for the genuine warmth of the people of Maine, Togus, Orono, and the University of Maine.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the commitment, dedication and continuous effort of the national and local organizing committees, the Togus VA Medical and Regional Office Center, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the state and local members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the hundreds of volunteers who saw to our every need with a smile!

In addition to the well-run competitive events, the assortment of trips, tours and entertainment have been exceptional and allowed many of us to gain a fuller, richer Maine experience in this beautiful state.

A special "thank you" goes to each veteran who chose to attend. Without you, there would be no competition, no camaraderie, no shared experience and perhaps no place like this to come. We veterans enjoy a unique bond that will last as long as we continue to share our lives as well as our service to our country.

"Mainely Gold" has earned a Gold medal of its own and our proudest salute!

Sincerely, The Veterans of the 2003 National Gold Age Games

Today's Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Dominoes (60-64 & 70-74)	Memorial Union
10:00 a.m.	Dominoes (65-69)	Memorial Union
11:00 a.m.	Swimming (55-59, 75-79 & 80+)	Field House
1:00 p.m.	Dominoes (55-59 & 80+)	Memorial Union
	Swimming (60-64, 65-69, & 70-74)	Field House
2:30 p.m.	Dominoes (75-79)	Memorial Union
7:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	Under the Tent
9:00 p.m.	Disco	Under the Tent

Alternate Activities



Puffin-Whale Watch

Buses leave from the Orchard Parking Lot at 6:00 a.m., returning at 2:00 p.m.

Acadia National Park

Buses leave from the Orchard Parking Lot at 8:00 a.m., returning at 4:00 p.m.

Meals/Hilltop Commons

Breakfast: 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Scrambled Eggs, Cholesterol-free Eggs, Cheese Medley Omelet, Texas French Toast, Home Fries and Bacon.

Lunch: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuscan Minestrone, Baked Ziti, Buddah's Feast, Turkey BLT Wrap, Grilled Cheese, Green Beans, White Rice, Fries, Bread and Dessert.

Dinner: 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

BBQ Pork Chops, Herb-Crusted Salmon, Penne Broccoli Alfredo, Long Grain & Wild Rice, Baby Carrots, Vegetable, Bread and Dessert.

Today's Weather

Cloudy/Humid/Chance of Showers or T-storms
Low 62° High 78°



Bus Schedule To Airports on Wednesday, August 13

Departure for Portland

Buses will leave from **Long Road** (between Oxford Hall and Patch Hall) and the **Orchard Parking Lot** at the following times. Allow **30 minutes** to load.

<u>Flight Departure Times</u>	<u>Bus Departure</u>
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	5:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	6:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m.

NOTE: Participants, please remember that you will be traveling for many hours. Plan for your food needs accordingly.

Departure for Bangor

Buses will leave from **Long Road** (between Oxford Hall and Patch Hall) and the **Orchard Parking Lot** at the following times. Allow **30 minutes** to load.

<u>Flight Departure Times</u>	<u>Bus Departure</u>
5:15 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	3:30 a.m.
6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.	4:00 a.m.
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	5:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	6:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	7:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.