



# Games' Oldest Participant Aims for History



A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, Jack Faust is the oldest competitor in this year's games.

Jack Faust has lived and witnessed plenty of history. The former sailor fought in World War II in the South Pacific. As a youth, he remembers the end of World War I, marked by a victory parade down Main Street of Elwood, Ind., with a replica dummy of defeated German leader Kaiser Wilhelm dragging behind a shiny Ford truck.

This week, Faust is making his own bit of history. At 96, he is the oldest veteran competing in this year's National Veterans Golden Age Games. He is also one of the oldest ever to compete in the 21

year history of the Games. Faust, however, isn't looking to make his mark simply by showing up.

"I'm going to try my best to win a gold medal," says Faust, a resident of the nursing home care unit in California's VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

He hopes that practicing on his thrust will pay off in the shuffle board competition. He is little more confident in his other event, croquet. "We used to play that all the

time at my grandmother's house," he says.

It was only recently that Faust decided to participate in the Golden Age Games. "He turned me down at first," remembers Kathy Kelley, a recreation therapist and team coordinator for the Palo Alto medical center. "I bugged the heck out of him."

Faust is one of 32 veterans from the Palo Alto team competing in

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## There's a New Co-Sponsor in Town

In a ceremony at VA headquarters, Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) presented Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson with a check for \$200,000 to become the newest co sponsor of the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

"VA is proud to welcome HHV to help bring this important event to our nation's veterans," said Nicholson. "These national games highlight VA's world class health care system and encourage veterans to pursue physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle."

A health and welfare organization, HHV joins the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a co-sponsor



Secretary Nicholson left receives 200,000 check from HHV executive director Mike Lynch for Vets Golden Age Games

for one of the top adaptive rehabilitative senior sports programs in the world. As an event sponsor, HHV shares the responsibility to provide a quality program for America's aging veteran population.

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A heartfelt thank you to



all of our Co-Sponsors!

## From a Competitor

*Submitted by Margarita Dozier,  
Army Veteran, San Diego,  
California.*

From City to City,  
From State to State

From all across our great Nation  
Veterans gather in Houston  
to celebrate

Celebrate with pride in these  
Our sweet Golden Years  
Competing in a variety of games  
The warm reception through-  
out Houston

Let us know people still care  
Be it Army, Navy, Air Force or  
Forever the Marines  
Hundreds of Heroes gather  
in Houston

A glorious sight all should  
have seen

Some came proudly stepping  
Others sat with head held high  
Cruisin' in their wheelchairs  
Friend, family, coaches alike  
All cheering our Golden Years  
Some came the gold medal to win  
Be it for bowling, swimming,  
even dominoes

Still others came to share  
the memory

With their Golden Age Hero  
Heroes from World War One  
And from World War Two  
Korean War to Vietnam  
Proudly they served  
Such sacrifice we shall never forget  
So we honor our Heroes in Houston  
We Salute You  
Our Golden Age Vets!!!

*—Thank you Margarita!*



## Competitor to Out Throw First Pitch

George Gangi Award Winner Charles Wynder, named as the 2006 National Veterans Golden Age Games “Most Inspirational” competitor, will throw the first

pitch at tonight’s Houston Astros–St. Louis Cardinals baseball game. Wynder, from Williamsburg, Va., will compete in bicycling and swimming events this week in Houston.

## Oldest Participant

*continued from front page*



*Jack shows Cristina Terrill of KHOU CBS channel 11 the finer points of shuffleboard.*

this year’s event. “We emphasize building team focus,” said Kelley, who has been coaching the local participants for more than 15 years. “The veterans bond together. They stick together. They care about each other.” Faust agrees, saying, “They’re all a bunch of good guys.”

A retired painter who once worked for the Worker Project Administration during the Great Depression, Faust credits his well-being and longevity to his active involvement in his community, including volunteer clown performances, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. “I never smoked or drank,” he says. For Jack Faust, that good health prescription has clearly worked. ★

## Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project (VHP) honors our nation’s veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Regardless of branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, VHP needs your story. VHP interviews will be conducted by appointment only, Tuesday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Interviews will be held in the Ebony Room, near the elevators on the fourth floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. For more information, visit [www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/) ★

Come try your luck at table games and slot machines at Casino Night, Wednesday, August 29 beginning at 9 p.m., in the George R. Brown Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B. Competitors must wear bibs to participate in casino games. This event is sponsored by the Veterans Canteen Service.

# Calling All Future Senior Olympians



From left, David Krueger, National Veterans Golden Age Games Meet Director; Games Competitor Marilyn Hilliard of Butler, Pa., proudly displaying her silver medal; and Dewayne C. Vaughan, National Veterans Golden Age Games Director.

Veterans who compete this week in Houston are not only competing for gold, silver and bronze medals, but in some events are also competing to qualify for the National Senior Games. The National Veterans Golden Age Games serve as an associate member of the National Senior Games, taking place next August in San Francisco, Calif.

The National Senior Games are a non-for-profit member of the United States Olympic Committee, dedicated to motivating senior men and women to lead a healthy lifestyle through the senior sports movement.

This week in Houston, competitors who place first, second, third or fourth in horseshoes, shuffle board, swimming, table tennis, golf, shot put and discus will automatically qualify for the National Senior Games also known as the Senior Olympics! This marks the third time the Golden Age Games have been a qualifier for the event.

Because the caliber and intensity of the competition at the Golden

Age Games are so great, veterans are allowed to skip the qualification meets at the state level with their medal winning performances here in Houston.

The partnership between the two organizations began in 2003. "Our veterans came to us for several years asking to compete at a higher level," said Dewayne Vaughan, the Games' director. "The National Senior Games seemed like a logical choice, and we approached the organization to form this fantastic partnership."

This year, a ten-member team (out of the fifty who qualified) attended the event in Louisville, Ky. "Our veterans are competitive in the national arena," said Vaughan. "This year we had our first medalist and we're so proud of her great accomplishment."

Marilyn Hilliard, 75, an Army veteran from Butler, Pa., won a silver medal in horseshoes, in the age 75-79 bracket. "I'm so elated," she said. "I was just like a kid again when I got my medal. I've been training so hard for two years and I wanted to win and test myself. To win a medal on

## Services and Room Locations

**Wheelchair Repair** is located in room 3029.

**Medical Assistance** is located in room 3031.

### Second Level of Hyatt:

- Cyber Café: *Arboretum 2*
- Hospitality: *Arboretum 3*
- Recreation: *Arboretum 4 & 5*
- Support Group Meetings (AA): *Arboretum 1*

### Third Level of Hyatt:

- Administration: *Mesquite*
- Awards Ceremony (Tuesday through Thursday 3 - 5 p.m.): *Westside of Imperial Ballroom*
- Command Center: *Cottonwood A/B*
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner: *Imperial Ballroom*
- Media Center: *Dogwood A/B*

## Happy Birthday!

If you have the opportunity to meet the following competitors today, please wish them an extra special happy birthday! Those of you celebrating birthdays this week are invited to stop by the Media Center to pick up a special gift. Happy birthday to:

*Donald C. Houser*  
*Alexander J. Patrick*

the Olympic level, where there are 12,000 competitors, makes it even more special."

Hilliard believes that if you have the desire to compete, you should aim to qualify for the National Senior Games because competing at such a high level only makes you stronger.

Good luck to all of the competitors this year as they try to earn a spot on the National Veterans Golden Age Games team at the next National Senior Games in 2009, San Diego.

# Photo Scrapbook

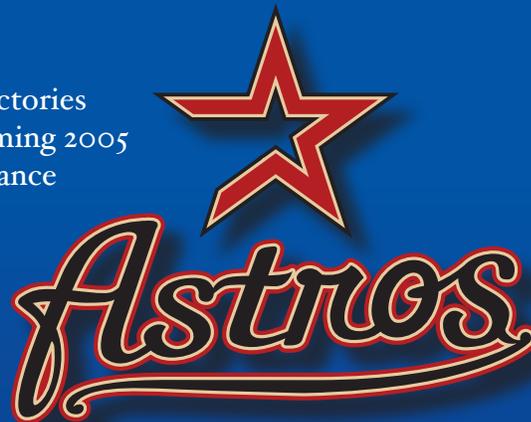


## Information on Today's Tours and Activities

### Houston Astros vs. St. Louis Cardinals Baseball Game

([www.astros.com](http://www.astros.com))

The Houston Astros led their city to National League Wild Card victories in 2004 and 2005, and continued on to the World Series after becoming 2005 National League champions. Hometown heroes Craig Biggio and Lance Berkman, along with a stellar lineup of ballplayers, fill the stands at Minute Maid Park. Minute Maid Park, completed in 2000, is the Houston Astros' downtown home. Minute Maid Park's retractable roof technology brought open-air baseball to Houston for the first time in 35 years, and the natural grass surface and classic architecture provide Minute Maid Park the atmosphere of the great ballparks of baseball's golden age.



### Kemah Boardwalk

([www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com))

The Kemah Boardwalk is an amusement area located in Kemah, Texas. Modeled after the seashore boardwalks common in the north east beach towns, the main attractions of the 35-acre complex are its many restaurants overlooking Galveston Bay, recreational sailing, and rides for the whole family. Activities include shopping and midway games, as well as a miniature train that traverses the entire area. Additional attractions include a 36-foot carousel and a 65-foot Ferris wheel.

### Houston Texans NFL Tour

([www.houstontexans.com](http://www.houstontexans.com))

Want to see how an NFL star trains in state of the art facilities and also see a beautiful stadium that hosted the 2004 Super Bowl? On this tour, you will have a chance to see most of the Reliant Park campus, plus the first class training equipment and facilities, press box areas, and various other parts of the infrastructure you don't get to see during the Sunday broadcasts.



### Moody Gardens

Water your imagination and travel the oceans of the world at the Aquarium Pyramid®. Step into the Rainforest Pyramid® with thousands of tropical plants, exotic fish and birds. Explore the mysteries of science at the Discovery Pyramid®, and take a rocking and rolling ride through the universe at the Ridefilm Theater. Get in the middle of the action at the 4D Special FX Theater®. See spectacular images leap from the screen of our six-story IMAX®3D Theater. For more information, visit [www.moodygardens.com](http://www.moodygardens.com).

## A Warm Welcome from the Director



*Dewayne C. Vaughan, Director, National Veterans Golden Age Games welcomes the competitors.*

**H**owdy and welcome to the 21st National Veterans Golden Age Games! Despite the serious concerns that Texas faced with last week's severe storms, I know you share our relief that this area was spared and we did not have to cancel or postpone any scheduled activities. As a fellow Texan, you can be sure that the last thing I wanted to do was to delay the National Veterans Golden Age Games because of the weather!

Your hosts at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center have

been hard at work for more than a year making sure everything was just right for your competition and your adventures here in Houston.

This year marks an especially proud one for this event as one of our very own, Marilyn Hilliard, has won the first medal of any qualified Games competitor at the National Senior Games, which were held in Louisville this past June and July. Winning a silver medal in horse shoes, we congratulate Marilyn and the other 16 veterans who qualified to take their competition to the elite level by participating in the National Senior Games competition.

We are proud of each and every one of you who have chosen to make positive changes in your health and fitness by participating in the National Veterans Golden Age Games. You set the example for thousands of fellow veterans who have not yet made the decision to reclaim their physical and mental fitness by challenging themselves at events like this, as well as the National Senior Games.

Whether this is your first time at the Games or you are a long time competitor, I know you are sure to enjoy this year's fierce competition and friendly camaraderie.

It is truly our honor to welcome you to Texas and to thank our co-sponsors, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Cauteen Service and Help Hospitalized Veterans, for bringing you this week the very best of the best! 🌟

### Show Your Pride!

**F**or 230 years our country has flown the flag as a symbol of our nation's freedom, strength and unity. The colors red, white and blue did not originally have a symbolic meaning when the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act in 1777; however, today the colors are considered to represent qualities respected by Americans: Red, to signify valor and bravery; white signifies purity and innocence; and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. Please wear red, white and blue on Tuesday in acknowledgement of your service and patriotism.

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## There's a New Co-Sponsor in Town *continued from front page*

"The National Veterans Golden Age Games provide another innovative and marvelous program that gives America's veterans the opportunity to participate in challenging events that not only test their abilities but enhance their spirit," said Mike Lynch, Executive Director of HHV. "We look forward to our sponsorship to help bring this wonderful program to the veteran community for years to come."

It was 1970 and Roger Chapin, founder of an organization which had sent 600,000 Gift Pacs to G.I.s in Vietnam, was visiting wounded Marines at the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. Because time seemed to weigh very heavily on

these men, Roger asked if there was anything he could do for them. One marine replied "give me something to do with my hands." Another told Roger that the seemingly endless hours of recuperation were often harder to take than combat itself.

After many surveys and discussions with numerous hospital staff members and patients alike, Help Hospitalized Veterans was born - and the first Arts and Crafts Kits were delivered.

Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) was established for the purpose of distributing therapeutic arts and crafts kits free of charge to our nation's veterans and active duty military personnel receiving medi-

cal treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Military Hospitals and State Veterans Nursing Homes. Hospitals and patients pay nothing for this generous service made possible by thousands of caring contributors that want to express their love and appreciation to America's Heroes.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston is hosting this year's event from August 27-31. The games are the only national multi event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for older veterans, including those with a wide range of disabilities. 🌟



## Today's Weather

Low **74°** High **91°**



Wednesday

Low: 75°  
High: 88°



Thursday

Low: 75°  
High: 87°



## Important Info

### Today's Menu

All meals are served in the Hyatt Imperial Ballroom located on the 3rd level of the hotel.

#### Breakfast Buffet, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

Assorted Chilled Juices  
Fruit, Danish, Muffins, Cake  
Scrambled Eggs, Grits, Biscuits and Gravy, Sausage  
Starbucks Coffee and Herbal Teas

#### Lunch Buffet, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mixed Greens and Romaine Lettuce with assorted Dressings  
Chicken Parmesan  
Penne and Bowtie Pastas with Alfredo and Marinara Sauce  
Fresh Vegetables, Garlic Bread  
Tiramisu and various Italian Cookies

#### Dinner Buffet, 5 to 7 p.m.

Mixed Greens and Romaine Lettuce with assorted Dressings  
Roasted Pork Loin with Braised Apples  
Chicken Forestière with Mushroom Sauce  
Wild Rice Blend, Summer Vegetables, Rolls  
Assorted Desserts

### Transportation Information

Coach America provides bus service from the Hyatt Regency Hotel to and from all events and activities from the Dallas and Louisiana Street entrance. Riders should be at the pick-up point 90 minutes before the start time of the competitive event, and 60 minutes before the departure time of alternate activities.

Volunteer parking at the Toyota Center's Tundra Garage corner of Bell and La Branch, at 1515 Jackson Street), is free on



## Today's Schedule

Tuesday, August 28

8 am	<b>Checkers:</b> 55-59; 65-69 8am Regency Ballroom	<b>Bicycling</b> ¼ Mile 8am ½ Mile 9:30am Reliant Park	<b>Golf:</b> All Ages 8am-12pm Memorial Park Golf Course	<b>Moody Gardens Tour</b> 8am-4:30pm	<b>Houston Texans NFL Tour</b> 8am-12:30pm
9	<b>Checkers:</b> 80-84; 85+ 10am Regency Ballroom				
10					
11					
12					
1	<b>Checkers:</b> 60-64; 75-79 1pm Regency Ballroom		<b>Kemah Boardwalk Tour</b> 12:30-6pm		
2					
3	<b>Checkers:</b> 70-74 3pm Regency Ballroom				
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
pm				<b>Baseball Game</b> Houston Astros vs. St. Louis Cardinals 5:45-10pm <i>* All participants that registered can begin picking up their tickets in the dining area after lunch. Tickets will be distributed by the first letter of your last name.</i>	

the 4th, 5th and 6th levels. Shuttle pick-up is on Bell Street, under the skybridge. Shuttle and bus stops at the George R. Brown Convention Center are posted. VA shuttle service from the MEDVAMC run every two hours from the West entrance ((Transitional Care Center), daily through Friday.

### Durable Medical Equipment

Some durable medical equipment items will be available for use by veterans at the Hyatt Regency Hotel during the Games, including shower chairs, tub benches, and raised toilet seats. Veterans in need of emergent items such as crutches, canes, manual wheelchairs and other miscellaneous items will be evaluated by the medical staff and items will be issued on an as needed basis.

### Wheelchair Repair

Wheelchair Repair is available 24/7 from local vendors. Medical staff will be available to contact the vendors from any venue. Veterans can contact the medical staff directly at extension 3030 or 3031 to request repair services while at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

### Medical & Emergency Information

Medical staff are available 24 hours a day in Room 3030. Medical staff are also on-site at all venues in bright red shirts. If you experience a medical emergency, please do not wait to find a medical team member. Call 55 within the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Give the nature and exact location of the accident or medical emergency. To prevent further injury, do not move the injured/ill unless necessary.