



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

Don Bosworth – Loses Leg, But Determined to Walk Again

Don Bosworth, a 79-year-old United States Navy veteran of WWII and the Korean War who lives in Houston, did not become an amputee from these wars, but through another enemy, staphylococcus (commonly known as “staph”). Staphylococcus is a group of bacteria causing skin infections, pneumonia, food poisoning and blood poisoning.

After developing the staph infection, from knee replacement surgery in 2000, Bosworth was given antibiotics and pain medication. The pain in his right leg was just too severe to bear and his body had become immune to the medications. His doctors soon advised him there was no cure for his infection. After careful thought, he made the life-altering decision to have his leg amputated.

“I was worried about the amputation and it was much more dramatic than I thought it would be. But I had no choice, the pain was just unbearable,” said Bosworth. He then turned to the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) in Houston for help.

On December 11, 2006, surgeons at the MEDVAMC amputated Bosworth’s leg above the knee. Prior to the amputation, he received six months of counseling about the procedure and its possible effects. He diligently followed his MEDVAMC health care providers’ instructions to better assist with the healing process. While recuperating, he began to think about walking again.

Staff members in the MEDVAMC Rehabilitation Care Line are teaching Bosworth to walk again by practicing special exercises that strengthen the muscles used to move his prosthesis.

Bosworth is very optimistic about his future and the Games. He plans to compete in checkers, dominoes and shuffleboard as a new member of Houston’s *Silver Eagles* Golden Age Games team.

