



# NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

## Local Competitor Profile

### Jim Dyess — Swims Again with Unique Prosthetic Swim Legs

Jim Dyess thought he had lost the joy of swimming when he lost his legs. Unique prosthetic stubby swim legs, made by the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, have allowed him to regain his sense of independence and freedom, while enjoying a hobby he thought he had lost.

A native of Dickinson, Texas, Dyess grew up on the Dickinson Bayou and learned to swim when he was two or three years old. "I just kept jumping into the water so it was swim or sink," said Dyess.

It only seemed fitting that he joined the Navy in 1966. As a Navy hospital corpsman, he was attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division in California until 1970 when he was discharged.

The GI Bill enabled him to study engineering after the military. He became a commissioning engineer and traveled the world for his job. "The only places I have not worked in are Russia and the Mainland of China," said Dyess. "It was always interesting and diverse."

A new member of Houston's *Silver Eagles* Golden Age Games team, Dyess is ecstatic to be able to compete again. "I have been a competitive person all my life. Just the thought of competing again is exhilarating. I hope to win every event I am involved in," he said. "I want to bring home the Gold!"

In addition to swimming, Dyess will compete in golf, air rifle, and 9-ball. Beginning in 1994, he won the Texas State 8-Ball Tournament six years straight and went on to the Nationals in Las Vegas.

