



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Competitor Profile (Local)

Leon Robles – Even Hurricanes Don't Get in His Way

As a volunteer van driver for the Beaumont VA Outpatient Clinic, Leon Robles places his fellow veterans first in his list of priorities. In 2005, when Hurricane Rita hit the Gulf Coast and left the Beaumont area without power, water, sanitation or transportation, Robles was the first driver to call and ask if he could "get back about the business of taking veterans to their appointments at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston."

Robles, who lives in Beaumont and turned 76 in April, served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War as a third class petty officer. At the start of the war, he was stationed aboard a ship at Inchon, Korea, working as the ship's barber. He also opened a ship's store offering cigarettes, candy, soap, shaving gear and other personal items to fellow sailors.

A cancer survivor, Robles did not let the disease take him away from his volunteer commitments. During his 42 treatments, he still managed to drive the van to and from Houston and the Beaumont Clinic almost every day. That stamina should serve him well at the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

An avid bowler with a high game of 297, Robles has been looking forward to competing at this year's Golden Age Games in Houston, his first time participating in the annual event. Last year, his local bowling team, "The Rollin Five," won the Star Bowl Championship in Beaumont. In addition to bowling, Robles will also compete in nine-ball and horseshoes at the event this August. "This is my first time in Golden Age Games competition, but I think that all vets, if they are able, should try to compete," Robles says. "It makes you feel good and it gets your blood pumping. At the Games in Houston, I will let them know that I'm there to win!"

