



21st National Veterans Wheelchair Games

# New York Minute



July 1-5, 2001 ~ New York City

July 1,  
2001

*Today's weather: High 89. A mix of clouds and hazy sunshine before afternoon showers and thunderstorms.*

Sunday

## Welcome to the Wheelchair Games in the Big Apple

*By Maryann Musumeci, Director,  
Bronx VA Medical Center*

The staff and volunteers of the Bronx VA, NY/NJ VA Healthcare Network and the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) send a "Big Apple" welcome to participants in the 21st Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New York City.

To the unsung heroes -- the families and those attending the athletes -- we pay especial homage. Your spirit is truly "the wind beneath our wings" in so many ways and we exalt in this spirit.

These are technically the first Games of the new millennium. The Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America together with our partner and local co-host, the EPVA, have secured an array of venues sure to be memorable by any standard.

As Jim Peters, Executive Director, EPVA, has said, "We promised a New York experience and we've left no stone unturned to set the table for a festival of activities for the athletes and their families, from dusk to dawn."

The Games Command Center and central hub of activity is at the Marriott Marquis in the heart of the Times Square Theater District. Transportation for athletes to and from the sporting venues and the airports has been secured in cooperation with the MTA New York City Transit. The New York Police Department, "New York's Finest," will provide security and escort details. Thank you to both.

And, what about the Park? Not just any park, Central Park, home to Shakespeare in the Park, the Wohlman Rink, Tavern on the Green and Strawberry Fields -- and now the 21st National

Veterans Wheelchair Games 5K Road Race and the Motor Rally. Historically, it's where many of us New Yorkers had our first carousel ride. No one should miss a visit to this park.

Then there's Randall's Island, former home of the World Professional Soccer Champions, NY Cosmos. Think Pele, Giorgio and Beckenbauer. Now, replace that thought with NVWG Archery and Field Events on the same grounds.

An urban state park is an oxymoron. Riverbank State Park, however, is the flagship of the much envied New York State Parks system, and yes -- in Manhattan -- site of the Games hoops and aquatic events.

Minnesota Fats once said that "you can't get rich playing pool in New York but if you win a buck in the Big Show, it'll feel like you won 10 grand anywhere else." Well, our athletes will be "shooting pool" at Corner Billiards in Greenwich Village, a stone's throw from where Bob Dylan strummed and sang the prophetic verse, "...the times they are a changin'..."

And then there's Chelsea Piers, a real live adult "playstation" if there ever was one: the Bowling venue and site of the first NVWG exhibition of Sled Hockey.

There will be many snafus to be sure. But you will find out that New Yorkers, like most Americans, have hearts of gold. Just say "Hi!" "Howdy!" or "Whatssup, Yo!" and your smile will be returned twice as bright.

In a New York state of mind, James J. Farsetta, Director, VA NY/NJ Healthcare System, said it all: "At no risk of hyperbole, just think, you'll be able to say you went to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games on Broadway!"



Prosthetics will store, issue, and when necessary deliver to the athletes rooms the durable medical equipment requested in their Games application.

## Wheelchair Repair

During the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, wheelchair repairs will be provided at each of the Games venues by one of the major sponsors, Invacare Corp. Invacare will have repair staff on hand with a full range of Invacare wheelchair parts, and they will provide service free of charge to any veteran athlete requiring it. Invacare staff will be at all Games venues whenever events are in progress.

Additionally, The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) will have their wheelchair repair staff on duty at the Marriott from 8:30am to 4:30pm daily. EPVA will be located in the Wilder Room on the 4th Floor. A staffmember from VISN 3 Prosthetics will be on duty in the Wilder Room in order to establish eligibility and process payment for any EPVA repairs.

Immediately adjacent to the Wilder Room, in the Hart Room, VISN 3

## Medical Assistance

Two medical suites, located in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Gilbert and Odette Rooms, will be fully operational at the hotel from Saturday, June 30 through Friday, July 6 until noon. The rooms will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. for treatment of minor injuries and illnesses. Look for signage to direct you to the medical suite, or call the hospitality desk for directions.

Medical Staff will also be available at each Marriott venue and mealtime areas each day.

All other venue sites will also have Medical Support provided for the entire time the activities are in progress.

After hours, a Games physician will be on call, and can be reached by calling the hotel operator. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, dial the hotel operator to call 911.

## Don't get mugged by the heat

This week, temperatures will range from a low of 68 degrees at night to a high of 92 degrees by mid-afternoon.

Sounds nice, but don't let that fool you. The combination of humidity, tall buildings above, subways below and millions of people on the street, makes for two or three t-shirt changes a day.

Additionally, the heat index expects to top 100. It can get very "muggy" in the City that never sleeps.

If your venue is outside or you are going outside for extended periods:

- \* Wear loose, light-colored, cotton clothing and a cap or wide brimmed hat
- \* Protect your skin with plenty of sunscreen lotion, SPF 20 or more
- \* Use sunglasses to reduce glare or protect your eyes, and apply lip balm often and generously
- \* Use a spray bottle or wet towel to cool yourself down, or come inside for awhile
- \* Drink plenty of fluids. If you feel thirsty, you are already one quart of fluid behind your normal requirements
- \* Avoid alcoholic beverages and minimize coffee and tea intake, they can dehydrate you further
- \* Most of your liquid intake should be water.



### Games get a Jumbo boost

National media attention for the Games started early. On Saturday morning, veterans Laura Schwanger and Billy Hannigan along with Roxanne Fischetti, special events public affairs director for VA, appeared live on **Weekend Today** and on the Jumbotron in Times Square, to talk about the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New York City!

HESS@

**See exhibition  
Sled Hockey at  
Chelsea Pier on  
Mon., July 2 at  
6:30 p.m.**

## Pat Sapp — Sled Hockey is just another challenge!

As a youth growing up in Ohio, Robert “Pat” Sapp loved playing sports, especially ice hockey. But his passion for the game was forced into a deep freeze when he was paralyzed in a parachuting accident at age 19, while serving as a Marine during the Vietnam era.

Now 47, Sapp may finally fulfill his boyhood dream by playing goalie for the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team. Last year, the team competed at the World Cup in Salt Lake City where they came in fifth. A member of the Disabled Sports Hall of Fame, this is only the latest athletic achievement for Sapp.

Since his accident, Sapp feels that he’s been reborn through sports and physical fitness. In addition to playing sled hockey, he swims, skis, lifts weights, plays basketball, and competes in 5K and 10K road races.

For Sapp, like many disabled people, achieving renewed fitness hasn’t always been easy. For five or six years after his injury, he describes his life as being “in limbo.” One day, on one of his many visits to a VA hospital, he saw another veteran who had lost both arms and legs. At that point, Sapp realized that he didn’t have it so bad after all. “It turned my life around,” he says now. Soon after, he got a job with the U.S. Postal Service in Wisconsin, starting as a postal clerk and rising to postal inspector. He loved his job, but health problems forced him to retire after 18 years. Again, he felt despair and self-pity.

Then another paralyzed vet urged him to try the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. “That changed my life. We were competing in sports that I’d always loved. I came away from that experience with a whole new perspective.” Two years later, he attended the Winter Sports Clinic, learned to ski, and was immediately hooked. A few months later, he sold his house in Wisconsin and moved to Oregon, so he could ski more often.

Sapp continued to attend the Winter Sports Clinic, going on to become a certified instructor. But skiing was not the only thing he fell in love with there – it’s where he met his wife, Trish, an Army veteran who also is a paraplegic. After a year in Oregon, the couple relocated to Rockwall, Texas, Trish’s hometown.

Sapp threw himself into sports in Texas and he was part of the effort to organize a sled hockey team. The National Hockey League’s Dallas Stars donated \$10,000 and equipment for the team. When the Dallas Stars sled hockey team played an exhibition game against the U.S. Paralympians, it led to Sapp’s invitation to compete for the national team.

Anyone who knows Sapp from previous Games won’t be surprised by his latest sports accomplishments. It’s what you come to expect from a “Spirit of the Games” winner. Sapp earned that honor in San Diego in 1997.

# Schedule of Events

# NVWG

		ARRIVALS AIRPORT		
<b>SUNDAY JULY 1</b>	9:00- 4:00 9:00- 4:00 2:00- 3:00 6:30- 7:30 7:30- 9:30	CHECK IN GAMES REGISTRATION EXPO COACHES MEETING OPENING CEREMONIES WELCOME RECEPTION	MARRIOTT MARRIOTT MARRIOTT MARRIOTT MARRIOTT	
<b>MONDAY JULY 2</b>	6:00-9:00 AM 7:30- 8:30 AM 9:00 AM  10:00 AM 11:00-1:00  1:00 PM  3:00 PM 4:30-6:30 PM  6:30 PM  7:00 PM 8:00 PM	BREAKFAST LATE REGISTRATION SLALOM BOWLING 9 BALL AIR GUNS LUNCH  AIR GUNS BOWLING 9 BALL SLALOM AIR GUNS DINNER  BOWLING SLED HOCKEY BASKETBALL AIR GUNS BASKETBALL	IA-B-C IV-V II-III  II-III IV-V MOTOR  IA-IB-IC, STK., HDL. (EXHIBITION) GAME 1-2-3  GAME 4-7	MARRIOTT MARRIOTT MARRIOTT CHELSEA PIER CORNER BILLIARDS MARRIOTT <b>MARRIOTT</b> <b>CHELSEA PIER</b> <b>CORNER BILLIARDS</b> MARRIOTT CHELSEA PIER CORNER BILLIARDS MARRIOTT <b>MARRIOTT</b> <b>CHELSEA PIER</b> CHELSEA PIER CHELSEA PIER RIVER BANK PARK MARRIOTT RIVER BANK PARK
<b>TUESDAY JULY 3</b>	6:00-9:00 AM 8:00 AM  9:00 AM  10:00 AM  11:00-1:00  11:30 AM 1:00 PM  1:00-4:00 PM 3:00 PM  4:30-6:30 PM 6:30 PM  7:00 PM 8:00 PM	BREAKFAST AIR GUNS SLALOM BOWLING ARCHERY AIR GUNS SLALOM LUNCH  SLALOM SUPER "G" (BY INVITATION) AIR GUNS 9 BALL TT WEIGHTLIFTING WEIGH-IN TT AIR GUNS DINNER BASKETBALL TT AIR GUNS BASKETBALL	(EXHIBITION)  IA-B-C II-III IV-V  IA-B-C II-III IV-V  GAME 5-6-8 IA-B-C GAME 9-10	MARRIOTT MARRIOTT MARRIOTT CHELSEA PIER RANDALL'S ISLAND MARRIOTT MARRIOTT <b>MARRIOTT</b> <b>CHELSEA PIER</b> <b>RANDALLS ISLAND</b> MARRIOTT MARRIOTT CORNER BILLIARDS MARRIOTT MARRIOTT MARRIOTT MARRIOTT RIVER BANK PARK MARRIOTT MARRIOTT RIVER BANK PARK
<b>WEDNESDAY JULY 4</b>	6:00-9:00 AM 8:30 AM 9:00 AM  10:00 AM 11:00 AM  11:00-1:00  12:00 N 2:00 PM  4:00 PM  4:30-6:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:30PM	BREAKFAST POWER CHAIR 220 SOFTBALL SOFTBALL TRACK FIELD FIELD FIELD SOFTBALL SOFTBALL LUNCH  FIELD TRACK FIELD SOFTBALL SOFTBALL SOFTBALL SOFTBALL FINALS SOFTBALL FINALS DINNER QUAD RUGBY QUAD RUGBY	1 VS 3 4 VS 5 IA-B-C III II IV 4 VS 6 1 VS 2  V II-V IA-B-C 2 VS 3 5 VS 6 CHAMPIONSHIP 3RD-4TH PLACE GAME 1-2 FINALS	MARRIOTT RIVER BANK PARK RANDALLS ISLAND RANDALLS ISLAND RIVER BANK PARK RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND <b>MARRIOTT</b> <b>RANDALL'S ISLAND</b> RANDALLS ISLAND RIVER BANK PARK RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND RANDALL'S ISLAND <b>TIMES SQUARE VOUCHER</b> MARRIOTT MARRIOTT
<b>THURSDAY JULY 5</b>	6:00-9:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:00 AM  11:00-1:00  1:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	BREAKFAST WEIGHTLIFTING SWIM MOTOR RALLY 5K ROAD RACE LUNCH  BASKETBALL FINALS BASKETBALL FINALS CLOSING	GAME 11 CHAMPIONSHIP	MARRIOTT MARRIOTT RIVER BANK PARK CENTRAL PARK CENTRAL PARK <b>MARRIOTT</b> <b>CENTRAL PARK</b> <b>RIVER BANK PARK</b> RIVER BANK PARK RIVER BANK PARK <b>MARRIOTT</b>
<b>FRIDAY JULY 6</b>		DEPARTURES AIRPORT		HOTELS



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