



21st National Veterans Wheelchair Games

New York Minute



July 1-5, 2001 ~ New York City

W E D N E S D A Y

J u l y 4, 2 0 0 1

**Today's
Weather: 83°**

Afternoon showers and
thunderstorms.

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Note:
Results will be posted daily
outside of the Broadway
ballroom.

HAPPY "SECOND" BIRTHDAY, VETERANS!

By Terry Moakley

Besides backyard barbecues and fireworks displays, the July 4th is the birthday of the United States. The America we all cherish is 225 years old today as we celebrate our freedom and independence. But, our freedom could never have grown to this "young" age without the sacrifices made by all military veterans.

Let's declare here and now that the Fourth of July is every veterans "second" birthday. After all, the contributions which veterans have made over the years preserved the birth of this great nation, and the freedom enjoyed by every citizen. So, let's hear those "happy birthday" wishes extended to vets throughout the day.

Here's some news about two NVWG participants, a competitor and a volunteer, who are celebrating their real birthday's today.

Alice Barszcz of Manahawkin, N.J., becomes an octogenarian today, or is it tomorrow? "I was delivered by a midwife on July 4th, but the doctor who came to check on my mother forgot it was a holiday, and wrote July 5th on my birth certificate. Alice's solution to this celebratory dilemma? "I whoop it up both days."

Alice, who was a Navy nurse during World War II, hasn't missed a game since 1985. " God has

given me good health and a lot of good friends," says Alice, who now enjoys the honor of being the oldest NVWG competitor. One of Alice's secrets is that she still works out at her local gym three days a week. Are you "thirty somethings" out there paying attention?

What's it like to be throwing the shotput on your 80th birthday on the Fourth of July? "Mostly, it makes me proud to be an American," says Alice. "It's also wonderful to see the younger athletes become enthusiastic by meeting the challenge of the competition. They get inspired." Most of them, we think, get inspired by the, ever-smiling Alice Barszcz. Happy Birthday, Dear Alice!

For NVWG volunteer Joe Landsman of Poughkeepsie, New York, helping paralyzed veterans is a family tradition. Joe's mom, Martha, is a Registered Nurse who

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Alice Barszcz - Happy Birthday!

It is truly a contrast. The seasoned veteran, boasting 59 years of marriage and the first-time athlete, anxious to get married.

James Hauck, 76, of Des Moines, and the Secretary of the Iowa PVA has a long history, beginning with a stint on the USS Wainwright where he served five years and two months. There is still terror in the sailor's eyes as he talks about an attack on his ship while he stood watch – first the flares, then came the bombs. "Bombs were going up the port side and down the starboard side, while we were zigging and zagging through the water," he said. "I went down to my knees and said a prayer."

After coming home and making a life with his wife Shirley, he became disabled in 1950. Hauck credits wheelchair sports with giving him something to look forward to. "It also keeps you in shape and let's you see our country that we defended."

Hauck's ambitious schedule for these Games has him competing in slalom, air rifle, ramp bowling, 9-ball and rally, this week.

Shirley Hauck accompanies him on all his trips. "Sometimes I could stay home, but I come for him and all of these fellows," she said. "It does so much for them."

At the other end of the spectrum is the youngest athlete at these games. Reynaldo Cabanlong, just 20 years old, is experiencing wheelchair sports for the first time. Recently out of rehab, he slowly pushes his chair to his events – air guns ("I was trained on rifle's so I guess I'll do O.K. at this"), bowling, club and discus throw and table tennis.



A Philippine native, he enlisted in the Army in 1998 and was injured while on duty in 2000 when the vehicle he was driving rolled over on him. Cabanlong was planning a career in the military, but is changing his plans to meet his circumstances. "I guess things happen for a reason. I just have to go on."

He credits the friends and therapists he met in Tampa, as well as his teammates on the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital Wheelchair Sports Team and his family and friends with helping him beat depression. Now, he waits to be discharged, so he can further his education and start his new life that will include competition. "I'm going to continue with sports. It's fun and interesting."

Hauck's advice to the younger athlete is "Come back, compete and stay healthy."

Two men who come together with seemingly opposite circumstance have more in common than they realize. Both were injured in vehicle accidents and both are thankful to have the benefits that wheelchair sports and the VA offer them.

2nd BIRTHDAY

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used to work at the Castle Point (NY) VAMC Spinal Cord Injury Service. Dad "Ziggi," at one time a Prosthetics Representative also at Castle Point, now runs the Assistive Technology program for the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association.

Joe, who turns 19 today, is working for the third straight summer with his dad, but it's his first time ever as a NVWG volunteer, "It's exciting," says Joe "being right in the middle of Times Square. There's something going on all the time." Most of Joe's time at the Games has been spent getting necessary equipment to the competitors. Working during the summer in the Assistive Technology field has sparked an interest in engineering for Joe, He will begin his studies in this discipline at Dutchess County Community College in the fall,

On this Independence Day, however, volunteer Joe Landsman celebrates his birthday by helping those men and women, who fought for our freedom, continue to be independent. Good job, Joe!

21ST NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY JULY 4

<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
6:00-9:00 AM	BREAKFAST	MARRIOTT Skylobby Fl., 16, 23
8:30 AM	POWER CHAIR 220	RIVER BANK PARK
9AM	SOFTBALL, 1 VS 3	RANDALL'S ISLAND
	SOFTBALL, 4 VS 5	RANDALL'S ISLAND
	TRACK, IA-B-C	RIVER BANK PARK
	FIELD, III	RANDALL'S ISLAND
10AM	FIELD,II	RANDALL'S ISLAND
11AM	FIELD, IV	RANDALL'S ISLAND
	SOFTBALL, 4 VS 6	RANDALL'S ISLAND
	SOFTBALL, 1 VS 2	RANDALL'S ISLAND
11AM-1PM	LUNCH	MARRIOTT 37th Fl. Only
		RANDALL'S ISLAND
12Noon	FIELD, V	RANDALL'S ISLAND
2PM	TRACK, II-V	RIVER BANK PARK
	FIELD, IA-B-C	RANDALL'S ISLAND
	SOFTBALL, 2 VS 3	RANDALL'S ISLAND
	SOFTBALL, 5 VS 6	RANDALL'S ISLAND
4PM	SOFTBALL FINALS, CHAMPIONSHIP	RANDALL'S ISLAND
	SOFTBALL FINALS, 3RD-4TH PLACE	RANDALL'S ISLAND
4:30-6:30 PM	DINNER	TIMES SQUARE VOUCHER
7PM	QUAD RUGBY, GAME 1-2	MARRIOTT
8:30PM	QUAD RUGBY, FINALS	MARRIOTT

TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE

All buses depart from the 45th Street side of the Marriott

<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>DESTINATION</i>
6:30AM-5PM	POWERCHAIR 220/TRACK	RIVERBANK STATE PARK
6:30AM-8PM	SOFTBALL/FIELD EVENTS	RANDALL'S ISLAND
10AM - 2PM	RIVERBANK/RANDALL'S ISLAND	

MEDICAL HELP

Two Medical Suites, located in the 4th floor Gilbert and Odets Rooms, will be open from 7am to 11pm for treatment of minor injuries and illnesses.

Medical Staff will also be at each venue activity and at each of the three mealtime areas on a daily basis in the Marriott.

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

A physician will be on call each night by calling the hotel operator. For life-threatening emergencies, dial the hotel operator to call 911.

WHEELCHAIR HELP

Wheelchair Repairs will be provided, free of charge to veteran athletes, at each of the Games venues during scheduled events by one of the major sponsors, Invacare Corp.

The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) wheelchair repair staff will be on duty from 8:30am to 4:30pm daily in the Wilder Room. VISN 3 prosthetics will also be on hand to establish eligibility and process payment for any EPVA repairs.

RAFFLE RESULTS

Here are the winners of the most recent round of raffles. Congratulations to all the winners!

Phantom of the Opera

Bennie Wensley
Bill Hens
Craig Shera
Mike Wilhoite
Daren Heatherly
Raul Martinez

Phantom of the Opera & dinner: Delredge Bullock

\$25 Gap Gift Certificate
Roger Robinson
Judy Ross

Broadway dinner for two Matthew Kinney

\$25 TJ Maxx Gift Certificate
Mark Senders



Kevin Patton and daughter Kiara, from Sacramento, Calif., take in the sights and sounds of Times Square. "It's wild, with lots of strange people, but we like it," said Patton.

KNOW THY WHEELCHAIR

Does your wheelchair meet design standards? Did you know that a standard for wheelchairs exists? You can investigate these questions and other assistive technology issues in the Olmstead Room on the 7th Floor, where you will find staff from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Human Engineering Research

Laboratories. Fact is, this research group operates eight different laboratories which assess a broad range of rehabilitation and engineering topics, all of which can be helpful to SCI veterans. They are also looking for research subjects. Check 'em out.

TODAY'S MENU

Breakfast

6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Marriott Skylobby Flrs 16,23

- Egg, Cheese and Sausage Sandwich on English muffin
- Fruit & Nut Breads, Bagels with Cream Cheese, Butter, Margarine, and Preserves
- Assorted Beverages

Lunch

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Randall's Island

- Barbeque

Dinner

4:30pm-6:30pm

New York City

- Meal Voucher to be used at participating restaurants. Enjoy!