

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



News Release

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Milwaukee selected as site of 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Milwaukee, WI – “The gathering place by the waters,” as named by Native Americans and today known as Milwaukee, will be the site of the 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games in 2007. More than 500 veterans will meet to compete in the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world, June 19-23, 2007.

The Games, presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs to compete in sports due to spinal cord injuries, neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments.

The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America are hosting the 27th annual Games.

Events will take place at different venues in and around Milwaukee. The event will have an estimated economic impact of \$2.8 million to the Milwaukee area, with the participation of more than 2,000 people including athletes, coaches, sports officials, support staff and volunteers.

The staffs of the Zablocki VA Medical Center and the Wisconsin PVA have been working

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with Visit Milwaukee for several months to bring the Games to Milwaukee.

In 2005 the National Veterans Wheelchair Games were held in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Anchorage, Alaska in 2006.

Milwaukee was chosen as the host city because the Zablocki VA Medical Center employees have a long standing tradition of care for spinal cord injured veterans and the strong support of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Milwaukee also demonstrated it has the venues and facilities needed to host an event of this magnitude.

Wheelchair sports promote rehabilitation and wellness through rigorous sports competition. For many newly injured veterans, this event is their first exposure to wheelchair sports. The Wheelchair Games offer that veteran an opportunity to meet and learn from more experienced wheelchair athletes. Many say that the camaraderie of fellow veterans sharing their experiences is as valuable to them as the competition.

Veterans will compete in 16 competitive events including track and field, swimming, basketball, weightlifting, softball, air guns, quad rugby, nine ball, bowling, table tennis, archery, wheelchair slalom, power soccer, motorized rally and handcycling. Several exhibition sports will also be offered.

The Games were last hosted in Milwaukee in 1982.

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About VA: The Department of Veterans Affairs is a world leader in rehabilitation, with rehabilitation therapy programs at each of its 163 medical facilities. VA's goal is to provide excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction. VA employees continue to offer their dedication and commitment to help veterans get the services they have earned. To learn about VA and programs for veterans, visit VA's web site at www.va.gov

About PVA: Founded in 1946, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of individuals with spinal cord injury or disease. PVA is dynamic, broad-based organization with more than 21,000 members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. To learn more about PVA, visit its web site at www.pva.org