

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Athlete Profile (Local)

Robert (Bob) Lee – Never Lost that Competitive Spirit!

This father of three, grandfather of eleven and great-grandfather of three, will be making his wheelchair sports debut at the National Wheelchair Games in his hometown of Omaha this July. Bob Lee, 65, is an Army veteran who served in Germany as a power generator specialist. After his military career, he worked for Omaha Public Power District and now hopes to generate some power of his own when he competes this summer in weightlifting, 9-ball and softball.

Lee, who lives in Omaha, endured severe vascular disease for many years but its effects eventually led to the amputation of his left leg in 2000. Further weakened from three heart attacks, he is now technically classified a paraplegic. "My life has changed drastically," Lee said. "I went into the hospital walking and came out in a wheelchair."

After his injury, Lee discovered an organization that gave great support to him and other area veterans with disabilities. He is now a proud member of the Board of Directors for the Great Plains Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Lee says, "This group has helped me tremendously," and he credits the organization with letting him know about the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The Great Plains Chapter is co-hosting the 2008 event with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in Omaha, and both organizations have been working hard to bring the annual event to the Omaha area and host a successful week. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are now in their 28th year.

To stay fit, Lee works out twice each week lifting weights and believes it will be "a healthy experience for me to compete in that event at the Wheelchair Games." He also enjoys shooting pool and playing softball, but acknowledges needing "a little more practice" to get ready for those competitions. Like many of the experienced athletes at the Wheelchair Games, Lee knows that participating is not all about winning. He warns us though, "I am competitive and plan to go for those medals because you never lose your competitive spirit!" Clearly, Bob Lee's strong spirit of competition has remained intact.

