

# Skier Profile

## Joseph Hineman – Live with Purpose!

Determination, perseverance and commitment are fundamental beliefs for Joseph Hineman. At age 20, Hineman was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving for three years in the 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In October 1944, he arrived in Germany. Reflecting back, Hineman said, "I arrived before the Battle of the Bulge began and my unit was involved. It was absolutely horrific. Adding to the terror of battle, the cold was absolutely numbing. "I was lucky to have survived," he said.

Several months after that siege ended, Hineman and a fellow soldier found themselves under attack. "We had taken cover in a house when a mortar shell hit some trees nearby and shrapnel flew everywhere. I got hit in the left thigh and right calf." Medical care was administered, but the shrapnel still caused a severe infection. The infection grew worse and Hineman's life was in grave danger. In order to save him, doctors in Paris amputated his left leg above the knee in March 1945.

Honorably discharged from the Army the following year, Hineman married, raised a family and pursued an education. He earned a bachelors degree from Iowa State University, a masters degrees from both the University of Missouri and the University of Northern Colorado, and a doctorate from the University of Utah. With his doctorate in psychology, he was well qualified to work for the Knoxville VA Medical Center, where he provided psychological care for fellow veterans for the next 30 years.

At 83 years of age, Hineman will be among the oldest participants at the 20<sup>th</sup> National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. In fact, this year he will be one of nine World War II veterans attending. Being among the oldest has earned him special opportunities. In 2005, he helped lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Closing Ceremony. He also got to meet the youngest participant at the event, a 19-year-old Army veteran recently injured in Iraq. Hineman said, "The Clinic is a great way to socialize with military peers from various backgrounds and it always renews my self confidence. I love it!"

Hineman has attended the event, known as "Miracles on the Mountainside," for more than ten years. Describing the program, he says, "The Winter Sports Clinic is very well organized and provides participants with an opportunity to observe the capabilities, the possibilities and the accomplishments of other disabled veterans." Hineman enjoys participating in many of the adaptive activities offered at the Winter Sports Clinic, but his favorite is Alpine skiing on a bi-ski. Next on the list is the snowmobiling, saying, "I like speed."

When he is not at the Winter Sports Clinic, Hineman can be found volunteering at the local county jail where he provides counseling in anger management, or working as a reading mentor for fourth grade children in his community. Recently, he has taken up motorcycling on a modified Honda Goldwing and is also working to restore a 1950 Farmall "C" tractor. "Live with purpose," this 83-year-old WWII veteran says. His achievements are an inspiration to those who think that age, injury or life's uncertainties might be barriers to greatness.