



NATIONAL
VETERANS
GOLDEN AGE GAMES



SPECIAL EDITION Thursday, July 14, 2016

2016 National Veterans Golden Age Games Award Winners

With the Games coming to an end, we wanted to recognize the 2016 Award Winners. Thanks to them for their hard work and commitment, and thanks to all of the participants and staff who helped to make this week so memorable!

The William (Bill) Givens Award

The William (Bill) Givens Award is given in memory of one of the founding VA staff members and the first national Director of the National Veterans Golden Age Games, William Givens.



This year, the winner is one of the Detroit VA staff members whose outstanding commitment has been evident in so many aspects of the games, from the logistics to the set up of events, to the training of Team Motown!

The 2016 William (Bill) Givens award recipient is **Harold Nodler**.

The Marilyn Iverson Award

The Marilyn Iverson Award is given to an exceptional first time participant at the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Fellow athletes nominate participants for this award.

This Veteran was encouraged to join a Golden Age Games team by a VA staff member.

“Mr. Musick was referred to me from rehab medicine in the summer of 2015 for a fitness and aquatic fitness routine. He was still recovering from a long illness. Upon beginning his plan he became very dedicated to all trainings. I told him about the golden age games...and he worked with me and we created a year round training plan. He has really worked hard to develop a fitness plan that will not only help him prepare for the games, but also enhance his overall wellness through a healthier lifestyle.”

Christopher Musick of Martinsburg West Virginia VA, Congratulations!



The George Gangi Inspiration Award

The George Gangi Inspiration Award honors the competitor at the National Veterans Golden Age Games who exemplifies the attributes of a true champion through athletic excellence as well as personal qualities such as sportsmanship, leadership, fellowship and tenacity.

This individual has supported all team members each year and always demonstrated a positive attitude. This past year his wife passed away but he refused to miss the games in Omaha as he felt he owed it to his wife, himself and his teammates to honor his commitment and support his peers. 2015 turned out to be the year this athlete FINALLY won a medal. He was so pleased and so emotional about what he had accomplished and having honored his wife in such a positive way. There is no better example of what these games are about and who they are for than...Charles (Chuck) Ackerman of Grand Junction VA!!!



Veteran Hall of Fame



If this athlete is not competing in an event at the Games, he can be found at the other venues, cheering on his teammates! He always has an uplifting remark or sage advice and is the epitome of sportsmanship at all times! He also has mentored dozens of Veterans over the years.

He has been attending the National Veterans Golden Age Games since 1990! From the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System Sepulveda Campus...Donald Starler!



THANK YOU for visiting Detroit!

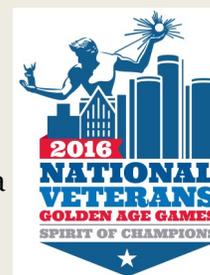
Our team is very grateful for your participation in the 2016 National Veterans Golden Age Games!

We also want to thank the incredible support of the volunteers and staff who helped make this week possible. It's been a rewarding experience for all of us!

I want to send a special thanks to the Americorps NCCC volunteers here from Iowa who worked long hours helping to set up and take down events and programs!

Safe travels and we will see you in Biloxi!

Adam Stephens, Local Coordinator, 2016 NVGAG



See you in Biloxi in '17!

With its beaches and famous lighthouse, Biloxi will welcome the Golden Age Games, May 7—11, 2017. Hosting in '17 is the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System!



Tonight, the torch was passed to this great city and we know it will be an unforgettable week! Registration for the '17 Games is set to open shortly after the New Year.

“We are honored to host the 2017 National Veterans Golden Age Games in Biloxi We are excited to share the Gulf Coast experience with all of our Veterans,” said Marcus Mitchell, LOC Coordinator for the 2017 Games.

Airport Shuttle Information

FRIDAY

Shuttles depart from hotel, 3:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every 30 minutes.

Visit the airport kiosks near the registration desk at the Marriott for flight check-in!

Please take luggage with you to the shuttles!

Photos

Award ceremony photos can be downloaded at no cost from **Shutterfly**.

<https://nvgag2016detroit.shutterfly.com/>

Official **VA flickr page:**

www.flickr.com/photos/veteransaffairs/albums