



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local Athletes Train for National Veterans Wheelchair Games Colorado Competitors Prepare to Shine in Front of Home Crowd

Denver, Colorado - Many Colorado Veterans who are wheelchair users have waited for years to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. This year, they get to compete in front of their family, friends and the people of Colorado when the Games come to Denver July 4-9, 2010.

With more than 500 Veterans competing, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the largest annual wheelchair sports competition in the world. Athletes come from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain, and include former servicemen and women who have served from World War II to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, from every branch of military service.

Local athletes from communities including Denver, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Longmont and Rifle will compete in 17 athletic events including handcycling, basketball, softball, weightlifting, track, field, swimming and quad rugby.

Colorado Springs resident and combat Army Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Robert Schuler, 28, is very excited about participating with fellow Veterans. The July event will be Schuler's second time competing in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Competing in sports with fellow injured Veterans opened his eyes to a whole new world of activity. Since his first entry into wheelchair sports, Schuler has applied the skills he learned at the Games and is now a member of the Denver Harlequins quad rugby team.

"The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are truly inspirational," said Schuler. "It is amazing to see fellow Veterans with similar injuries come out to participate – from the newly injured guys like me to those who have been doing it for 12 years or more."

Dave Wolf, an Army Veteran, started attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in the mid-1980s playing wheelchair basketball. Since that time, he has participated in a wide variety of sports and plans to compete this year in handcycling, basketball, air guns, 9-ball, and slalom. He lists handcycling as his sport of choice, though. He prepared for this year's event by completing 300 miles in the 2009 "Ride the Rockies" competition. Wolf encourages fellow Veterans to participate and see for themselves all the benefits the Games provide.

"My advice to anyone who hasn't competed before is to just do it," Wolf says. "It's the best thing to keep your mind and body on the right track."

Admission to the Games is free and the public is strongly to attend and cheer on all the local athletes.

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National Veterans Wheelchair Games



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Local Team Prepares for National Games

Events will take place at the Colorado Convention Center, City Park, Dicks Sporting Goods Park, Invesco Field at Mile High, Cherry Creek Reservoir, Apex Meyers Pool and Fishback Landing Park, where the kayaking exhibition will take place.

For a detailed schedule, or to learn more about our local athletes, visit the Games website at www.wheelchairgames.va.gov. Media interested in covering these athletes may contact Rebecca Sawyer-Smith at (303) 914-5984 or email rebecca.smith1@va.gov; or Kaitlyn O'Hara at (303) 597-0038 or kohara@mscpva.org.

A full listing of Colorado athletes signed up to compete at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games follows. For contact information, please contact Rebecca Sawyer Smith or Kaitlyn O'Hara.

The Games are copresented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System and the Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America are hosting the 2010 event.

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Area athletes among the 2010 Colorado VA Wheelchair Team Members

Veteran Competitor	Home Town
Robin Brown	Pine, Colorado
Jonathan Christopherson	Thornton, Colorado
Frederick Colson	Centennial, Colorado
Danny Cummings	Lakewood, Colorado
Cayetano De Guzman	Thornton, Colorado
Mark Drake*	Longmont, Colorado
William Emery	Arvada, Colorado
Wayne Field	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Steven Gibbs	Littleton, Colorado
James Gerloff*	Rifle, Colorado

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David Hosick	Louisville, Colorado
Gregory Jackson	Denver, Colorado
Ashley Johnson	Denver, Colorado
Marvin Lott	Denver, Colorado
Diane Marsh*	Denver, Colorado
Charles Martin	Lakewood, Colorado
Roland McCutcheon	Englewood, Colorado
Donald Mosley	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Allen Palmer	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Gary Poole	Colorado Springs, Colorado
James Ralston	Denver, Colorado
Harold Reid	Denver, Colorado
Donald Rhymes	Denver, Colorado
Robert Sanders	Denver, Colorado
Robert Schuler*	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Mark Shepherd*	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Jan Smith	Denver, Colorado
Nick Snodgrass	Denver, Colorado
Daniel Spotts*	Peyton, Colorado
David Spotts*	Aurora, Colorado
Benjamin Thomas	Colorado Springs, Colorado
David Wolf*	Highlands Ranch, Colorado
Samuel Zachariah	Longmont, Colorado

***Athlete profiles on these competitors are available on the Games web site - www.wheelchairgames.org**

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



About VA: *The Department of Veterans Affairs is a world leader in rehabilitation, with recreations therapy programs at each of its 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 Paralyzed Veterans of America: *Sixty-three years ago, Paralyzed Veterans of America was founded by a band of spinal cord injured service members who returned home from World War II to a grateful nation, but also to a world with few solutions to the challenges they faced. These Veterans from the "Greatest Generation" made a decision not just to live, but to live with dignity as contributors to society. They created an organization dedicated to Veterans' service, medical research and civil rights for people with disabilities. And, for more than six decades, Paralyzed Veterans of America and its 34 chapters have been working to create an America where all Veterans and people with disabilities, and their families, have everything they need to thrive. (www.pva.org).*