

NATIONAL VETERANS



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BRINGING FOCUS



*Jim Hyler sends one down the green.
Photo By: Shane Suzuki*

“The ability to focus on a goal... is the most important thing.”

Millions of people have their own reasons for playing golf. Some enjoy the challenge, others enjoy the opportunity to spend a couple of hours out in nature. Many Veterans though pick up the game as part of their journey back to health – both physically and emotionally. When Jim Hyler, a Columbus, Ohio native, began losing his vision five years ago, his VA VIST coordinator asked if he played golf. “I played a lot when I was a kid, but I hadn’t picked up a club in nearly 40 years,” said the Army Veteran. “But I figured it could help, so I gave it a shot.” Five years later, he is playing 2-3 times

a week and even got his wife playing the game. He considers golf not only a fun sport, but an important part of his therapeutic rehabilitation. “For someone who is sighted, focusing on a golf ball is no big deal,” he explained. “But for someone like



Jim Hyler

me, who has some peripheral vision but little else, that ability to focus-in becomes really difficult. I think learning the ability to focus on a goal, and most importantly ac-

complish that goal, is the most important thing that golf has helped me learn. It’s the reason I keep coming back.” The camaraderie that comes with golf is also important. One of the groups Hyler played with at the tournament was comprised of golfers of all levels of skill – but were all Veterans. For some Veterans, having that military bond is all it takes to bring them out of their shell. “I’ve seen golf help some guys with a lot of aggression and give them a place to focus it,” he said. “They have to learn to manage that aggression on the golf course, just like in their normal life.”

OPORDER

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The Mess Hall

LUNCH:

Ham & Swiss or Turkey & Cheddar
Croissants
Chips and Fresh Fruit
Cookies
Water & Assorted Soft Drinks

DINNER:

Buffet with Lone Tree
American Legion

BBQ Pork on a Bun
Dill Pickles & Condiments
Baked Macaroni and Cheese
Baked Beans
Black Forest Brownie with Whipped
Topping
Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade

SHARE YOUR STORY!

EVERYONE HAS ONE. WHAT'S YOURS?

As we continue to increase the adaptive sports opportunities for disabled Veterans around the country, we want to hear from you. If you're a competitor here, you know that it's not really about the golf, and this is no vacation. This is serious fun, and serious rehabilitation. How do you use adaptive sports as part of your rehabilitation? How do you take what you learn here and apply it in your life the rest of the year?

Share your story with us on Twitter at @VAAdaptivesport or via email to Jordan Schupbach at jordan.schupbach@va.gov

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