

NATIONAL VETERANS



TEE

TOURNAMENT
WWW.TEE.VA.GOV

Thursday
September 13, 2012



FINDING INDEPENDENCE

SURROUNDED BY INSPIRATION



*Jack Rupert takes a practice swing.
Photo and Story by Shane Suzuki*

When Air Force Veteran Jack Rupert arrived in Iowa City for the National Veterans TEE Tournament, he wasn't sure what to expect.

"I've played golf off and on for 25 years, but this was my first time coming here," the Minnesota native said. "Let me tell you something, it's wonderful." More than 240 Veterans, many of whom are visually impaired like Rupert, took to Iowa City for a week of golf, horseback riding, kayaking, horse-shoes and most important – camaraderie.

"Back home, we don't have many opportunities for blind golfers," he said.

"I'm lucky that I have a friend that will help me out. I get out a few times each summer, but a lot of people don't have that chance. It's something that we are trying to get going back home; to give more people the chance to get out golfing."

The independence of playing an individual sport such as golf appealed to Rupert, who despite being deemed legally blind in 2009, maintains a very active life balancing golf, wood working and leather working.

"Golf gives people a great sense of accomplishment and sense of self, so it's

perfect for people who are trying to get out and be independent," he said. "It gets me out of the house, gets me some exercise and gives me the chance to visit with people I wouldn't get the chance too otherwise."

Being at the TEE tournament was also an inspiration for Rupert, who saw and met a number of Veterans overcoming a wide range of medical conditions.

"Events like this provide a lot of inspiration; to see other Veterans who are worse off than I am competing and being active. I figure if they can do it then I can do it," he said.

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TOURNAMENT DAY

6 - 7:30 am Breakfast Buffet
7:30 am Load Buses (Each team has the same bus all day)
8 - 3:30 pm ALL TEAMS GOLF

RED	GREEN	YELLOW	BLUE	PURPLE	BLACK
Bonnie Whitson Lake McBride	Bob Neff West Liberty	Mike Owen Quail Creek	Eric Ringena Blue Top	Kate Beardsley ELKS	Joe Padilla Blue Top

11 am - 12:30 pm Lunch served at your event
4:30 - 6:30 pm
6:30 - 9 pm Dinner & Awards Banquet at the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort Convention Center
Entertainment following banquet

COMPANIONS

9:30 am Companion Activity - Load bus - Antique Archaeology (American Pickers Shop), Le Claire, IA
11:30 am Companion Lunch at Crane & Pelican
12:30 - 3:30 pm Companion Activity - Buffalo Bill Museum

Friday, September 14, 2012

6:30 - 8 am Breakfast
7 - 11 am Check-out & Farewells!
7 am - 3 pm Rides to Airport and Bus Depot



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