

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Athlete Profile (Local)

James Gerloff
Army Combat-Wounded Veteran of Vietnam
62 years old
Rifle, Colorado

James Gerloff has been a wheelchair athlete for 14 years, and for the first time he will be able to share the National Veterans Wheelchair Games with hometown friends and family.

Gerloff served in the Army infantry during the Vietnam War and was injured when an explosive ordinance went off while he was setting it. The accident caused Gerloff to lose his left leg.

He says that the Games have taught him how to handle life's challenges every day, like navigating difficult obstacles or getting back up after a fall. Now, Gerloff looks forward to sharing the lessons he has learned with Veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games motivate Gerloff to stay active year-round by training for track, one of his favorite events.

The benefits Gerloff has gained from participating in the Games are numerous, but he says the best part is meeting so many great friends.

“The competition is getting better every year,” said Gerloff. As the Games get more publicity, more of the younger Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans are getting involved. We (older athletes) look forward to showing those young guys how to do things.”

