



## Athlete Profile (National)

**George Norton**  
**Combat Army Veteran of the Vietnam War**  
**65 years old**  
**Fairhaven, Massachusetts**

At the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, George Norton is sometimes known as “one of the old guys.” He still plays wheelchair basketball though with the same toughness he did 22 years ago, the first time he attended the annual event for military Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition.

Norton is quite the athlete and sports enthusiast. He plays for the Boston Red Sox wheelchair basketball team, and sports their logo on his prosthetic leg. He was injured from a gunshot wound during combat in Vietnam,

For someone who has always been an athlete, dealing with the loss of his leg was difficult to get over. He says it was wheelchair basketball the really helped turn his life around. That’s why Norton is a great example of how the Games can give someone a new lease on life.

After 20 years of competing in the Games, Norton says that while he still loves basketball, being a mentor and teacher to the younger Veterans is what he lives for the most. Norton takes that attitude home with him when he goes to different schools to educate children about being in a wheelchair for the “What’s It Like” program in his hometown near Boston.

This will be Norton’s 22<sup>nd</sup> year attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. In 2009, he was honored with the “Spirit of the Games” award, which recognizes one single athlete who demonstrates athleticism, sportsmanship and strong character. This year, his goal is to continue living up to those standards.

**“The excitement you feel throughout the year is with you every day,” said Norton. “It keeps me motivated, and the anticipation leading up the Games is almost as exciting as the event itself.”**

