



## Athlete Profile (Local)

**Dan Spotts**  
**Army Veteran of Vietnam**  
**61 years old**  
**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

Army Veteran and Colorado native, Dan Spotts, has been competing in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for somewhere around 25 years, almost as long as the event has existed.

Over time, Spotts has earned several medals in multiple events including wheelchair slalom, swimming and several others, but the sport he truly loves is bowling. Spotts took the skills he learned at the Games, and used them to win the national wheelchair bowling championship for his division in 2004.

Spotts served as a pilot in the Army for 13 years. He was injured in a plane crash while flying a small airplane for recreation. After his accident, Spotts spent a lot of time wondering how he was going to manage. It wasn't until he competed in the Wheelchair Games that he learned he could still do all the things he did before, just differently.

Ironically, several years after Spotts was injured, his younger brother Dave was injured in a car accident. Now, both Dan and Dave compete together in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, and it's the inspiration they gain from one another that helps keep them both going strong.

**“It's the competition that motivates me to compete every year,” said Spotts. “It's also the camaraderie and the opportunity to meet new people, because what I really love is helping the newly injured guys the same way I was helped.”**

