



Department of
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Largest Annual Wheelchair Sports Event in the World Coming to Philadelphia

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) announced the 2014 National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in Philadelphia, Pa. from August 12 -17, 2014.

The Games, presented by VA and PVA, are open to all U.S. military Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments. 2014 marks the 34th year of the event, which will be hosted by the Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

Competitive events will take place in and around Philadelphia, and will feature 18 medaled events including swimming, basketball, quad rugby, handcycling and wheelchair slalom, which is a timed obstacle course. The athletes compete in all events against others with similar athletic ability, competitive experience or age.

In addition to the competitions and the opening and closing ceremonies, the Games will include a "Kids Day at the Games" where local children with disabilities will have the opportunity to interact with the athletes, participate in sporting events, and watch the Veterans compete.

More information is available at www.wheelchairgames.va.gov. The public is invited to attend any of the sports competitions throughout the week of the Games, and admission is free.

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VA's Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events is the recognized world leader in rehabilitative and recreational therapies for disabled Veterans. VA promotes the rehabilitation of body and spirit by operating adaptive sports clinics and competitions around the nation. Learn more about VA's adaptive sports programs at www.va.gov/adaptivesports.

Paralyzed Veterans of America was founded by a group of seriously injured American heroes from the “Greatest Generation” of World War II. They created a nonprofit organization to meet the challenges that they faced back in the 1940s—from a medical community not ready to treat them to an inaccessible world. For more than 66 years, Paralyzed Veterans’ national office and its 34 chapters across the nation have been making America a better place for all veterans and people with disabilities. (www.pva.org)

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