

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Athlete Profile: David Rountree

David Rountree, age 63
Veteran, U.S. Army & U.S. Navy
Orlando, Florida

Helicopter repairman, aviation structural mechanic, military intelligence specialist. David Rountree enlisted right out of high school and served a combined 20 years in the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy before finally retiring from the Army in 1995.

In 2009, the then 53-year-old Veteran was severely injured in a motorcycle accident that left him paralyzed. In a split second, his life changed forever.

"I have always been a pretty active guy and the injury slowed me down quite a bit at first," the Orlando Fla., resident says.

Today, Rountree is looking forward to participating in the 38th National Veteran Wheelchair Games being held in Orlando, Fla., July 30th to August 4th. This will be his first experience with the Games and adaptive sports, which provide the opportunity for disabled Veterans like David to get involved and push themselves further than they thought possible. Over the years, the Games have produced a number of national and world-class champions. However, typically, one quarter of the competitors are new to the Games.

"I will be competing in air rifle, 9-ball, bocce ball, and the 200-yard dash – in my wheelchair of course," he explains. Rountree's wife Rosa will be cheering her husband on from the sidelines. She is one of thousands of volunteers who help put on the Games.

"For myself and others, the Games bring with them the understanding that even though you are disabled, you can still get out there and be active. I'm looking forward to the Orlando Games –They're going to be a lot of fun."

