The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the world’s largest annual wheelchair sports event solely for military veterans. Every year, hundreds of American heroes from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the post-9/11 era compete in this celebration of courage and camaraderie.

Our History
The Wheelchair Games launched in 1981 with 7 events and 75 athletes. Paralyzed Veterans of America joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1985 to help expand the event’s mission and reach. The Wheelchair Games have since grown to attract more than 500 participants each year.

40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games
We are excited to bring the National Veterans Wheelchair Games to New York City, August 8-13, 2021, and showcase the drive, determination and spirit of our veteran competitors. The 2021 Wheelchair Games marks the 40th anniversary of the wheelchair sports and rehabilitation event. Throughout the weeklong event we also will remember and honor those lives lost on September 11, 2001, as 2021 also marks the 20th anniversary of that tragic day. Many of the veterans who participate each year in the Wheelchair Games were inspired to join the military and serve our country because of the events of 9/11. And in many ways our veteran competitors are much like the city of New York—strong, resilient and full of perseverance.

“September 11th happened my senior year. I was 18 years old, and I knew after the towers went down and the attacks that I wanted to join. I wanted to serve my country. And it was important to me.”

Jesse Graham
U.S. Air Force Veteran

2019 ATHLETE SNAPSHOT
Ages 20 to 89
66 With Combat-Related Injury
104 Novice Athletes
546 Men
69 Women