



MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 9

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Nick Beelner

## A Message from the Acting Director

A big Iowa City welcome to the 26th Annual National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament!

We are thrilled to have you all with us and it is such an honor. The only thing we ask of you at the event, is that you let us know how we can help you enjoy your time and put you in a position to best navigate the challenging, but invigorating, week ahead. This is the time to try something new, we have a wide variety of rehabilitative activities for you to try out.

The enthusiasm that goes into the event is something special to be a part of. From our Local Organizing Committee, community volunteers and sponsors, to the Veteran participants, it is truly an honor and privilege to be a part of something so extraordinary.

We must give special thanks to our co-hosts for the event, DAV. They are such strong advocates for the Veterans, the event and truly a pleasure to work with.

Sincere thanks again to you for making the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament a one of a kind event! Please be safe while pushing your limits this week and let us know how we can help and what we can do to make this year's event a memorable one.

**Get Social** This week inspire other veterans, family, friends and people everywhere by sharing your experience through social media. Don't forget to use the hashtag **#NDVTEE** when sharing photos and videos from this week.

VA

 [facebook.com/VAAaptiveSports](https://facebook.com/VAAaptiveSports)

 [@VAAaptiveSports](https://twitter.com/VAAaptiveSports)

 [VAAaptiveSports](https://www.instagram.com/VAAaptiveSports)

DAV

 [facebook.com/dav](https://facebook.com/dav)

 [@DAVHQ](https://twitter.com/DAVHQ)

 [DAVHQ](https://www.instagram.com/DAVHQ)



Hosted by DAV (Disabled American Veterans)  
and the Department of Veterans Affairs



## Air Force Veteran finds team at TEE

By Todd Hunter

Air Force Veteran and DAV life member Jeffrey Frank began losing his vision toward the end of his 25 years of service, and it progressively deteriorated during his retirement. Now legally blind, the former flight engineer has returned to Iowa to participate in the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament for the fifth time.

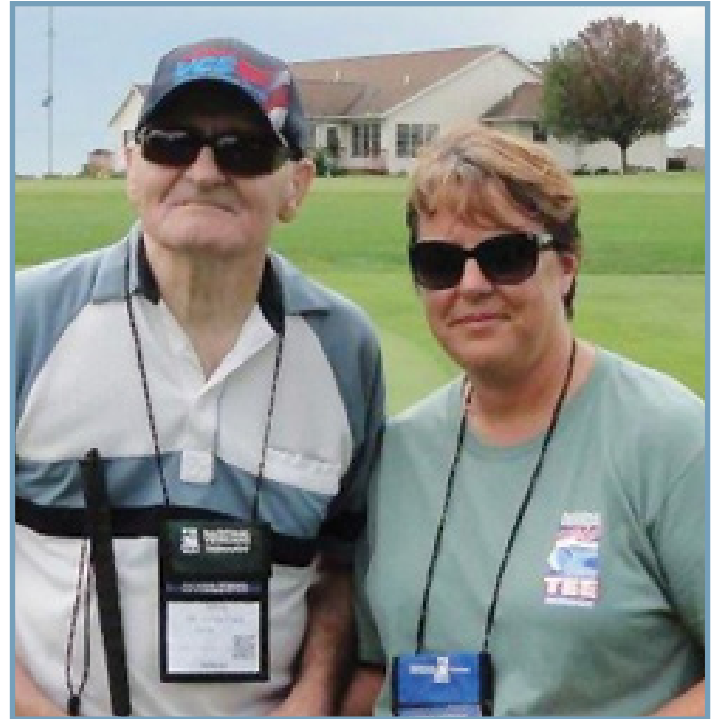
Frank, who served two tours in Vietnam, initially learned about the event while getting care at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center in South Dakota.

"I thought we were just going to go out and play golf," Frank reminisced about his first year at the tournament. "But there was more to it than that. There was horseback riding, scuba diving, bicycling, bowling, you name it."

Having enjoyed golfing before he went blind, Frank credits the TEE Tournament with rekindling his desire to hit the links.

"I realized then that some of these things I can still do as long as I put my mind to it," he said.

"That's exactly what we hope for," said DAV National Commander Stephen "Butch" Whitehead. "One



of the goals here is to introduce participants to new opportunities and give them a chance to prove to themselves that their disabilities do not have to limit their quality of life."

Frank has also used the experience to recruit other Veterans to the annual event.

"I tell people about the camaraderie and that everyone is in the same boat they're in, that they have nothing different than anybody else, and that they'll thoroughly enjoy themselves," he said.

"I have never seen anything so well coordinated as the TEE Tournament. And all the volunteers from around the community and the colleges are outstanding. My hat is off to them. They're outstanding."



## DAV BENEFITS EXPERT TO PROVIDE FREE CLAIMS HELP AT TEE TOURNAMENT

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Once again, Army veteran and professional benefits advocate Robert Peterson is attending the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament, helping participants access the benefits they earned in uniform.

Peterson is a national service officer based out of the Des Moines, Iowa, VA Regional Office and will be at the event Sept. 9 to 11. From 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, and 8 am to noon on Wednesday. He will be available to answer veterans' questions about disability claims and other earned benefits.



"DAV has long offered claims assistance at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, another adaptive sporting event co-hosted with VA," explained DAV National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst. "We offered this no-cost service here for the first time last year and it was of great benefit to participants, so we wanted to bring it back again this year."

DAV represented more than 212,000 claims for benefits in 2018 alone, helping veterans receive more than \$20 billion in benefits.

Peterson, who leads DAV's efforts in Iowa, has supported veterans as a claims specialist for over 20 years. Peterson's military service spanned from 1987 to 1997, and joined DAV following his honorable discharge. Like all DAV national service officers, Peterson is a disabled veteran himself, and has navigated the claims process.

"I know how important it is to know there is someone who cares about them and is always willing to help," said Peterson of his work. "I enjoy helping others, especially when I know what they are going through from past experiences of my own," said Peterson.

Be sure to stop by the DAV claims office if you have questions regarding your benefits. And if you don't have time for an appointment here at the TEE Tournament, you can always get complimentary assistance with your claim when you return home from Iowa. Find your nearest national service office at [www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office](http://www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office).

## Today's Schedule

6 – 7:30 a.m.	<b>BREAKFAST BUFFET</b> at your hotel
7:30 a.m.	<b>LOAD BUSES</b> (Each team has the same bus all day)
8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>GOLF INSTRUCTION</b> – Pleasant Valley, Muscatine, Blue Top and Washington
8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>COMPANION ACTIVITY</b>
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>LUNCH SERVED AT YOUR EVENT</b>
5:30 – 7 p.m.	<b>DINNER</b> – Riverside Event Center
6:30 p.m.	<b>USO SHOW “LETTERS FROM HOME”</b> – Riverside Event Center
6:45 – 8:15 p.m.	<b>EDUCATION SESSION   GOLF BUDDY</b> – Blue Top Ridge Driving Range
8 p.m.	<b>MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL PARTY</b> – Courtyard at Riverside Resort & Fairfield Inn

\*Shuttle between hotels run 8 – 11 p.m.\*  
(Shuttle pick ups on the hour)

## Reminders

- **Let's get this TEE Party Started Party in the Courtyard.** There will be games, music, food and laughter in the courtyard (pool area) this afternoon. Come meet up with old friends and make some new ones before the event even gets started!!
- **Golf Buddy Instruction:** All golf buddies, old and new, are encouraged to attend a short informational meeting on golf buddy techniques. The informational instruction will take place immediately following Opening Ceremonies in Robert Private Dining Room.
- Shuttles will be going to the Radisson at 8, 8:30, 9, and 9:30 from the Event Center tent and the 'R' at the Riverside Hotel.

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255  
**PRESS 1**

Confidential help  
for veterans and  
their families



**VeteransCrisisLine.net**

## GOLF TERMINOLOGY FOR THE DAY:

**Birdie:** One stroke under the designated par of a hole

**Bogey:** Usually one stroke over the designated par of a hole (also Humphrey Bogart's nickname)

**Divot:** Turf displaced by player's club when making a swing