



**June 24, 2010**

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## **Countdown Begins to 2011 National Senior Games in Houston** *15,000 athletes age 50 and older to compete in 18 sports at 10 area venues*

HOUSTON – Mayor Annise D. Parker today started the yearlong countdown toward the 2011 Summer National Senior Games that will take place at 10 Houston-area venues next summer.

More than 15,000 athletes age 50 and older will compete in 18 medal competitions and two demonstration sports June 16-30, 2011. The George R. Brown Convention Center will serve as the hub of activities for the Games with eight of the 18 medal events taking place inside the downtown convention center.

Humana is the presenting sponsor of the 2011 Summer National Senior Games.

The Games will be preceded with an Olympic-style torch run and flame arrival ceremony on June 15, 2011, with the flame burning for the duration of the games at a downtown location. The Celebration of Athletes event takes place June 21, 2011.

“We look forward to welcoming America’s senior athletes with open arms,” said Parker.

“Houston has been down this road before and we know how to put on major sporting events.

“In 1986, we hosted the U.S. Olympic Festival to great success. And, of course, we hosted both the Super Bowl and the Major League All-Star Game in 2004. In 2006, we hosted the NBA All-Star Game and next year we also host the NCAA Men’s Final Four.

“This is the largest multi-sport event in the world for athletes over the age of 50 and I am supremely confident that the athletes of the 2011 Summer National Senior Games will enjoy a well-run competition with a heaping helping of Houston hospitality on the side.”

All athletes will have earned the right to compete in these national games by virtue of their performance at their respective state games. With 15,000 athletes and an anticipated 30,000 spectators, the 2011 Games are estimated to create an economic impact of approximately \$50 million for the Houston region.

Parker was joined Thursday in the countdown event by Dan Wolterman, chairman of the Houston Local Organizing Committee, and Phil Godfrey, president and chief executive officer of the National Senior Games Association.

“The plans are well thought-out and the process of producing the event is well under way,” said Wolterman, CEO and president of Memorial Hermann Healthcare System.

Godfrey echoed Wolterman’s comments.

“We’re delighted with the quality of the venues our athletes will enjoy,” Godfrey said. “We’re also grateful that the Houston community has embraced the event and our mission of educating people about the benefits of exercise and active aging.”

At the heart and center of the Games, the George R. Brown will showcase eight medal sports: archery, badminton, basketball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball. The official competition schedule is posted at [www.nsga.com](http://www.nsga.com).

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The National Senior Games Association is a non-profit member of the United States Olympic Committee dedicated to motivating senior men and women to lead a healthy lifestyle through the senior games movement. The organization governs the Summer National Senior Games and is an umbrella for member state organizations across the U.S. that host State Senior Games or Senior Olympics. The NSGA supports and sanctions these member state organizations so that adults can participate in their state in events year-round.

The Houston Local Organizing Committee (HLOC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, with a Board of Directors that is independent of the NSGA Board. The 2011 Senior Games were successfully bid for and awarded to the HLOC.

NSGA thanks its corporate sponsors: Humana, AstraZeneca, Euflexxa and Memorial Hermann

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