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MEDIA ALERT

Valor Games Southeast Celebrates ‘10 Years Strong’

10th annual adapted sports event for Veterans with disabilities hosted by non-profit Bridge II Sports and supported by presenting sponsor MetLife kicks off May 24.

DURHAM, N.C. —May 17, 2022 —

Bridge II Sports is honored to bring the spirit of [Valor Games Southeast](#) (VGSE) to the Triangle for the 10th year in 2022 with the continued support of presenting sponsor MetLife.

Since 2013, VGSE has engaged over 1,200 Veterans with disabilities through the power of adapted sports competition and camaraderie. In the midst of the pandemic in 2020, Bridge II Sports was proud to pivot to [Virtual Valor Games Southeast](#) and create the ongoing Fitbit® [Veteran Fitness Challenge](#) to keep Veteran athletes active and engaged from afar. This past year in 2021, the games shifted to four smaller one-day events throughout the summer instead of the usual one three-day event to allow more athletes to participate safely within Covid-19 precautions.

For 2022, VGSE is excited to be closer to returning to its traditional multi-day event. Athletes will be back to competing at Cameron Indoor Stadium at Duke University for the first time since 2019. This year's games will consist of a two-day event in May with seven competition sports plus wheelchair basketball and golf tournaments in August. With continued vigilance of Covid-19, each event is limited to 60 Veteran athletes with disabilities with all in attendance required to have proof of Covid vaccination.

“I have been proud of our team at Bridge II Sports for finding creative ways to engage with our Veteran athletes over these past difficult years, keeping them active, connected and engaged in life,” says Ashley Thomas, Founder and CEO of Bridge II Sports and Developer of Valor Games SE. “I have also been equally proud of our community and sponsors that have stood by our side in belief and action giving hope of life after injury to men and women who have served our country with honor and commitment. This is a special anniversary for me knowing what it took to get this event started 10 years ago and to see the impact it has made over this decade.”

This life-changing event is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and support from several community and corporate partners. For the eighth year running, MetLife is serving as a presenting sponsor of VGSE. Beyond providing generous financial support, MetLife has engaged a strong core team of employees, predominantly Veterans, who have risen in volunteer leadership roles to assist with planning and support of this large-scale event.

“MetLife is a long-time supporter of military veterans, who bring unique skills and diverse perspectives to the workplace and society,” said MetLife Chief Financial Officer John McCallion, who also serves as executive sponsor of the company's Veterans Initiative. “We are proud to once again sponsor the Valor

Games and share in its mission of empowering veterans to make a positive impact in the communities where they live and work.”

For more information on Valor Games Southeast 2022, visit www.bridge2sports.org/valorgamesse

Valor Games Southeast 2022 Schedule:

MAY EVENT

Thursday May 24

Athlete Check-in and Opening Ceremony 6:00pm

DoubleTree Hotel RTP

Wednesday May 25

Athlete Competition 8:30am — 4:00pm

Powerlifting (am), Indoor Rowing (am), Sitting Volleyball (pm), Table Tennis (pm)

Duke University — Cameron Indoor Arena, Wilson Gym, K-Ville

Thursday May 26

Athlete Competition 8:00am — 3:00pm

Kayaking, Cycling, Archery

Lake Crabtree County Park

Note: all media interested in covering this event will need to be in the park by 7:15am and will be unable to leave until approximately 12:00pm due to closure of the road for the cycling race.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday August 6, 9:00 am — 4:00pm

3-on-3 tournament run by Dave Kiley voted best wheelchair basketball player in the history of the sport
Rocky Mount Event Center, Rocky Mount

ADAPTED GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday August 22, 8:00 am — 12:00pm

9-Hole Scramble

Hillandale Golf Course, Durham

IMPORTANT: MEDIA COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

Due to COVID-19 Restrictions and the safety of ALL

Media interested in covering the event(s) are REQUIRED to:

--RSVP with a *proposed time and duration of visit* to Brad Rosell, Marketing Manager – Bridge II Sports
bradr@bridge2sports.org or 919-907-1532

--Provide proof of vaccination

NO WALK UPS ALLOWED. BIIS will send confirmation to you.

--Limit attendance to a maximum of 2 individuals

--Follow all COVID-19 precautions while on-site including temperature check and maintaining social distance.

-- Review and sign [Bridge II Sports Media Policy](#) and check in for credentials on-site.

About Bridge II Sport

Bridge II Sports is a North Carolina non-profit organization dedicated to developing and implementing opportunities for youth, adults, and Veterans with physical disabilities to realize their potential through sports participation.

Through sports programming, special events, awareness initiatives and team development, Bridge II Sports empowers persons with physical disabilities to “Find the Player Within” and challenge perceptions of disability. It is the power of adapted sports that builds healthy bodies, minds, impacting the community with strength. For more information on Bridge II Sports visit www.bridge2sports.org

About MetLife

MetLife, Inc. (NYSE: MET), through its subsidiaries and affiliates (“MetLife”), is one of the world’s leading financial services companies, providing insurance, annuities, employee benefits and asset management to help individual and institutional customers build a more confident future. Founded in 1868, MetLife has operations in more than 40 markets globally and holds leading positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. For more information, www.metlife.com.

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