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2009 Summer National Senior Games End with Pride

Celebration of Sport, Vitality and Aging with Competitive Zeal Moves on to Houston

Palo Alto, CA (August 15, 2009) The largest multi-sport athletic event in Bay Area history ends today. Led by a world record in the women's pole vault, fully 50 track and field records and 85 swimming records were set at the 2009 Summer National Senior Games presented by Humana. With an uplifting Celebration of Athletes Ceremony on Saturday, August 8, the Games were embraced and made possible with the assistance of more than 2,000 dedicated volunteers, who worked more than 5,700 shifts over the two-week period of the event.

“For two wonderful weeks here in the San Francisco Bay Area, our athletes have fulfilled their dreams enjoyed the venues, the competition and the many activities of the San Francisco peninsula. More importantly they showed the world what can happen when you take charge of your life and exercise on a regular basis,” said Phil Godfrey, President and CEO of the National Senior Games Association. “Now we look ahead to the 2011 Games in Houston, where we will carry on with our important mission.”

For athletes age 50 and over, the 2009 Summer National Senior Games attracted some 20,000 total visitors with a \$35 million economic impact for the region. 10,000 athletes registered for the Games to participate in their respective sports.

“I’m very pleased that we delivered on our promise to put the athletes first with terrific venues and an outstanding team of volunteers to welcome them,” said Local Organizing Committee President and CEO Anne Warner Cribbs. “I’m proud of all our



partners who worked so hard over the past five years to make these Games happen.” Cribbs added.

Running from August 1 – August 15, the biennial event held medal competition in 18 sports, plus tournaments and contests in four (4) demonstration sports. At the heart and center of the Games, Stanford University showcased 17 sports including swimming, tennis, soccer, track and field, basketball, table tennis, water polo and volleyball. On August 5, Flo Meiler 75, from Shelburne, Vermont, set a world record in the pole vault (women 75 – 79) at 6 feet, 6 inches (2.01 meters), on the Cobb Track & Angell Field at Stanford.

“The Senior Games have been a wonderful event here at Stanford,” said Deputy Director of Athletics Ray Purpur. “The athletes were as dedicated and competitive in their play as our own collegiate players are. The Senior Games will take a rightful place among historic contests held at Stanford, including the 1962 USA vs. USSR Track and Field meet, 1984 Olympic Soccer, 1994 World Cup and 1999 Women’s World Cup.”

The Celebration of Athletes was held Saturday evening, August 8, before a near capacity crowd in Maples Pavilion at Stanford University. Athletes were lauded with comments from NFL Hall of Fame member and Super Bowl champion quarterback Steve Young, and Olympian and Stanford basketball star Jennifer Azzi. A highlight was the Athlete’s Oath, administered by Alex Tarics, at 95 the world’s oldest living Olympian. Tarics was a member of the 1936 Berlin gold medal Hungarian water polo team. Mickey Thomas of Starship fame performed a song written especially for the Games – *Long Live the Challenge* – that is also the slogan for the event.

Attendance at all events and contests was free to the public. In addition to Humana, official sponsors of the 2009 National Senior Games include AstraZeneca, CHW-Catholic Healthcare West, Stanford Hospital and Clinics, Verizon Wireless, City of Palo Alto, Euflexxa, Continental Airlines, CVS Pharmacy, and Menlo Medical Clinic.

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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, the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors, and other national senior athletic events. It is an umbrella for member state organizations across the United States 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 2009 Senior Games Local Organizing Committee (LOC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, with a Board of Directors that is independent of the NSGA Board. The 2009 Senior Games were successfully bid for and awarded to the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC), which led domestic Olympic Bid efforts for the 1996 and 2012 Games.