

## Governor Manchin challenges local senior athletes to “bring home the gold” in Prague

**Institute, WV** – Governor Joe Manchin III, First Lady Gayle Manchin, and Senator Truman Chafin will be honored guests at the West Virginia Geri Olympics’ “Bring Home the Gold” reception Thursday, May 29, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Shawnee Park Clubhouse in Institute.

Recently celebrating its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the West Virginia Geri Olympics brings senior athletes from all over the state to compete in fun, safe sporting events that make everyone a winner.

Thanks to a partnership with Charles University in Prague, the event has evolved into an international version hosted each fall. A team from the United States, made up of local resident athletes, has been invited to attend the Prague event and is currently raising funds to pay travel expenses. Gov. Manchin recently challenged the team to travel to Prague and “bring home the gold for West Virginia.”

If Team USA, as the group is called, succeeds in raising the needed funding, this will mark the first time an American team has participated in the international version of the event.

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these athletes to represent West Virginia and the entire U.S. at this esteemed event,” said Dr. Ted Muilenburg, Director of the WV Geri Olympics. “It is a true demonstration of life and the benefits of staying active.”

Partners in the WV Geri Olympics include West Virginia State University Extension Service, West Virginia On the Move Inc., West Virginia Dreamers, Step by Step, West Virginia Health Care Association, West Virginia Rehabilitation Services, WalkItUp!, Charles University, WV Bureau of Senior Services, WVSU Health and Human Performance, WV Activity Professional Association, WVSU Foundation Inc., and Nella’s Inc.

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