



2007 NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Art Dance Creative Writing Music Drama



2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Hosted by: St. Louis VA Medical Center

Date: Sunday, October 28, 2007

Gateway to Creativity

Presented by



Department of
Veterans Affairs



American Legion
Auxiliary



Help Hospitalized
Veterans



2007



**National
Veterans
Creative
Arts
Festival**

**Hosted by the St. Louis VA Medical Center
in St. Louis, Missouri
October 22-28, 2007**

Presented by



Department of Veterans Affairs



American Legion Auxiliary

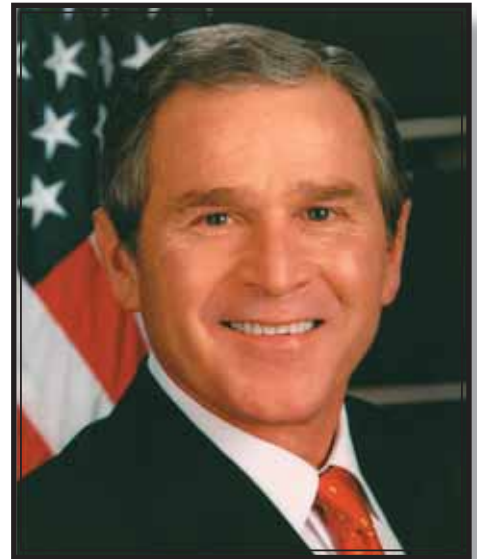


Help Hospitalized Veterans

With special thanks to all of our sponsors and contributors.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

George W. Bush
President of the United States



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 2007

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in St. Louis, Missouri.

In every generation, members of our Armed Forces have answered the call of service in America's hour of need. Today, the members of our Armed Forces follow in a proud tradition handed down to them by the heroes that served before them. These brave men and women are selfless, tireless, and unrelenting in the face of danger. They have brought honor to the uniform and proudly stepped forward to carry out liberty's urgent and noble mission.

This festival is an opportunity for veterans to display their artistic skill and creativity, and I salute all the veterans participating in this year's event. I also appreciate the Department of Veterans Affairs, Help Hospitalized Veterans, and the American Legion Auxiliary for supporting our country's veterans. Your good work helps improve the lives of our Nation's heroes and demonstrates the great compassion of America.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, may God bless our veterans, and may God bless America.

A large, stylized black ink signature of George W. Bush, written in a cursive script.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gordon H. Mansfield
Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), I extend a warm welcome to everyone who has come to St. Louis, Missouri, to participate in the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

I offer a special welcome, and thank you, to this year's artists and performers. Their hard work, perseverance and creativity have culminated in unique performances and works of art. Having competed in a year-long creative arts competition, these veterans represent the most talented artists and performers from VA medical centers across the nation.

As medal winners in the categories of art, music, dance, drama and creative writing, these talented veterans earned an invitation to explore and develop their talents even further at this year's National Festival. In the medical setting, VA employees witness the tremendous breakthroughs that veterans achieve using creative arts therapy in this prospering form of rehabilitation.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our national co-sponsors, the American Legion Auxiliary and Help Hospitalized Veterans, and our 2007 host, the St. Louis VA Medical Center. I also offer sincere thanks to the many corporate sponsors, VA employees and volunteers who contribute so much to making this annual event possible. Your teamwork has made the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival an enormous success.

Best wishes to all for a memorable and exciting week!

Gordon H. Mansfield

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Matt Blunt
Governor of Missouri



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
(573) 751-3222

October 22, 2007

2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
October 22-28, 2007
Saint Louis VA Medical Center
Saint Louis, Missouri

Fellow Veterans:

Welcome to the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. It is my privilege to welcome you to Saint Louis, Missouri for this occasion.

Thank you for your service and commitment to your family, friends and country. Your service and sacrifice have not only kept America free and secure in the past, but have also provided an example for those who serve today. Congratulations on being honored for your significant artistic and creative talents and thank you for promoting the arts in your local communities.

During your stay in Saint Louis, I encourage you to explore the many different attractions of this historic and diverse city. Again, thank you for your service and congratulations. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Matt Blunt

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan

National President

American Legion Auxiliary



Dear Participants and Guests,

As a national co-sponsor, the American Legion Auxiliary is incredibly proud to support rehabilitation efforts of veterans through the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Auxiliary members fully understand the commitment veterans have made for our country and support them whole-heartedly.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is just one way the Auxiliary supports veterans. Our members volunteer hundreds of thousands of hours at local VA hospitals, provide assistance to families of the deployed and returning service members, offer military children scholarships, and so much more.

On behalf of the entire American Legion Auxiliary and its 900,000 members, I congratulate the men and women selected to perform and display their works of art at the grand stage and art show in St. Louis. It is an honor to be here with all of you who have worked hard and demonstrated dedication for this celebration.

We hope you celebrate each and every artist at this festival. Enjoy all of their talent and appreciate what they have sacrificed. The Auxiliary recognizes that sacrifices are still being made for this country by our proud veterans and service members.

We wish all participants and guests the very best this week, as tremendous talent and artistic gifts are shared.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

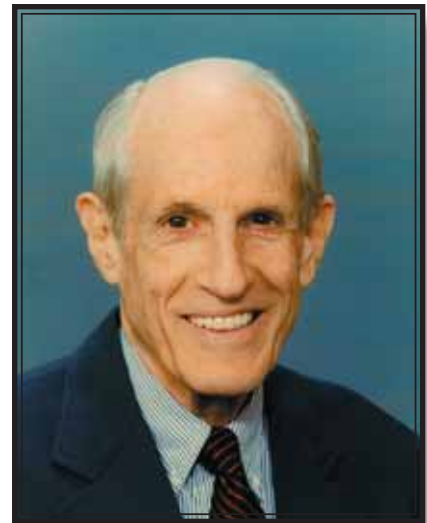
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan

National President

American Legion Auxiliary

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Roger Chapin
Founder and President
Help Hospitalized Veterans



Help Hospitalized Veterans

36585 Penfield Lane
Winchester, California 92596
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www.hhv.org

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the hundreds of thousands of donors who support Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV), I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to the performers, families, friends, volunteers and the incredible VA staff attending the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

As a longtime national co-sponsor of this annual event, we have again looked forward to a program that has proven to inspire all those who witness the wonderful talents of America's veterans, as they remain active and productive regardless of disability. By their own example, they demonstrate to our nation's young people what it means to be a proud American – through their courage, patriotism and military service.

HHV will continue to work hard to educate our citizens about the continued need to support veterans, the active duty military, and their families. For the past 36 years, HHV's Board has made its mission to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) through our contributions of products and services that will enhance the quality of life for America's veterans.

HHV is also very proud to join VA and the American Legion Auxiliary as co-sponsors of this Festival. We congratulate the hundreds of hardworking community volunteers, businesses and corporate donors who all help make this event such a memorable experience for the veteran participants. Please know that programs like this Festival are a true labor of love for your VA medical centers, your therapists, and everyone who supports them.

We certainly wish you the very best this week, as this will not only be an exciting experience for you, but for all of us who will marvel at your wonderful talents.

God Bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Chapin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ROGER CHAPIN
Founder and President
Help Hospitalized Veterans

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420

As Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under Secretaries, it gives us great pleasure to congratulate and welcome all who are gathered in St. Louis, Missouri to participate in the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

We also welcome the families, friends, sponsors, and volunteers who are here this week to help make this event possible. We are extremely proud of the dedication shown by the employees of the St. Louis VA Medical Center. They have worked for many months to ensure that the 2007 Festival is a memorable experience for all who attend.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is an annual celebration of talent and a showcase for VA's arts therapy programs. It is a celebration of the achievements and abilities of our Nation's veterans who have overcome adversity and challenges in their lives. Each participant has created an exceptional piece or performance that has earned them a place among the best.

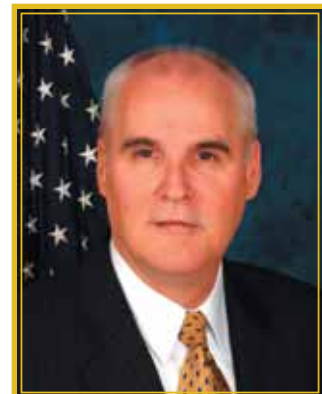
We offer our gratitude to Help Hospitalized Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary, our co-presenters again this year, and to all of the community and corporate sponsors who have once again contributed to this outstanding program. Above all, we offer best wishes to each of the veteran artists for their creative spirit and continuing pursuit of good health.

Please enjoy another outstanding week at this year's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!

Michael J. Kussman
MD, MS, MACP
Under Secretary
for Health

Daniel L. Cooper
Under Secretary
for Benefits

William F. Tuerk
Under Secretary
for Memorial Affairs



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Peter L. Almenoff
Network Director



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Heartland Network

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to welcome all the veterans, families, and friends to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and the VA Heartland Network. This event is the celebration and grand finale stage and art show of talented veterans who are treated in the Department of Veterans Affairs national health care system.

This is an exciting time for the more than 120 veterans from across the nation and their families and friends who are here in St. Louis for a week of competition, camaraderie and personal growth. The Department of Veterans Affairs, Help Hospitalized Veterans, and the American Legion Auxiliary are the presenters of this annual event, with the St. Louis VA Medical Center hosting the Festival this year.

The VA Heartland Network is proud to welcome you to this Festival. This celebration is the culmination of talent competitions in music, drama, dance, creative writing, and art throughout the nation.

As St. Louis served as the gateway to the west in our nation's early history, these veterans have served and sacrificed for each of us to live in a land of freedom. We are extremely proud to serve the medical needs of veterans in the VA Heartland Network and to participate in this exciting event.

Thank you for sharing your talents and creativity at this Festival, but more than that, thank you for your service to our country. Best wishes for a successful and memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Almenoff". The signature is fluid and cursive.

PETER L. ALMENOFF, MD, FCCP
Director, VA Heartland Network

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Glen E. Struchtemeyer
Director



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
#1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
St. Louis, MO 63125-4199

October 28th 2007


Dear Festival Guest,

It is with great pride and pleasure that I extend to each of you a warm Midwest welcome to St. Louis. It has been our privilege to be chosen to host this year's event, "Gateway to Creativity." The dedicated staff and volunteers at the St. Louis VA Medical Center have been honored to be a part of the celebration of your artistic expression and talents. We are committed to veterans, and believe that healing takes place not only through medical advances but through providing a holistic approach to wellness as well.

St. Louis has a rich history of musical, artistic and literary talents. Sharing this culture with you and your guests this week is our delight. We are most impressed with the multitude of talents you are sharing with us and the St. Louis community, which is enriched by your presence, overwhelmed with your talents, and grateful for your service.

On behalf of the St. Louis VA Medical Center, I salute you and thank you for the many ways that you have enhanced our lives.

Sincerely,



Glen E. Struchtemeyer

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Francis G. Slay
Mayor of St. Louis



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI

FRANCIS G. SLAY
MAYOR

CITY HALL - ROOM 200
1200 MARKET STREET
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2877
(314) 622-3201
FAX: (314) 622-4061

October 22, 2007

2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
St. Louis, Missouri

Greetings:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone attending the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

We are extremely pleased that St. Louis was chosen as the site for this event. While you are here, I invite you to take advantage of all the exciting attractions that St. Louis has to offer.

St. Louis has many exciting places for everyone to enjoy, such as the Gateway Arch, the Science Center, Forest Park, the Art Museum, our world-famous St. Louis Zoo, the breathtaking Missouri Botanical Garden, and so much more.

The City of St. Louis salutes the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our great Nation and the liberties of all Americans, and we hope that this festival provides our country's most talented veterans with an opportunity to renew acquaintances, exchange ideas and exhibit their outstanding work.

I extend my best wishes to you for a successful and enjoyable festival and a pleasant stay in St. Louis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis G. Slay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Francis G. Slay
Mayor, City of St. Louis

National Honorary Chairperson

Bo Derek

Running on the beach in the 1979 smash hit “10,” Bo Derek entered American pop culture and became the standard for the “perfect 10 beauty.” Nearly 30 years later, she has proven that beauty goes even deeper, devoting her time to caring for other people and animals alike.

Her concern for animals led Derek to create *Bless the Beasts*, a line of pet products sold in stores nationwide. A true humanitarian, she donates a portion of all sales to *Canine Companions for Independence*, a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing them with highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support.

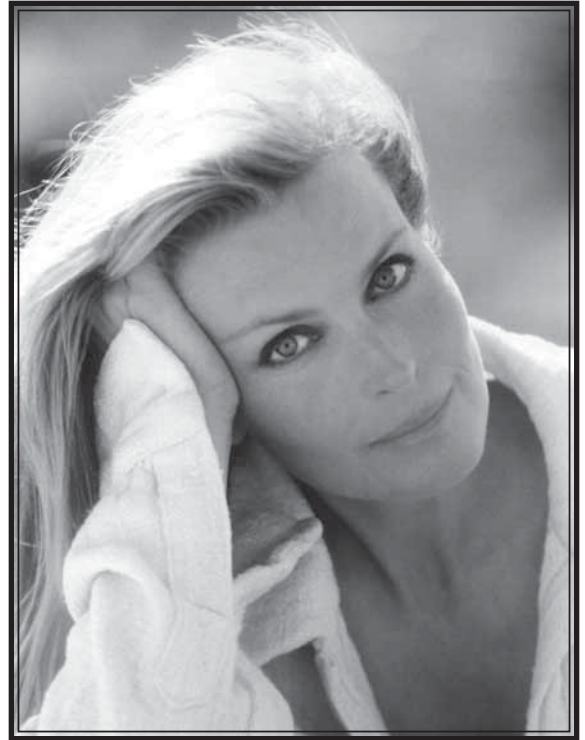
Her strong compassion for people with disabilities goes even further. For seven years, Derek has also served as the national honorary chairperson for the Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Rehabilitation Special Events. These four annual therapeutic and rehabilitative events are designed to help veterans overcome their disabilities through competition. They are the hallmark of rehabilitation programs in the nation.

Born Mary Cathleen Collins in Long Beach, Calif., Bo Derek is no stranger to veterans. Her father, Paul Collins, was a radio operator during the Korean War. Both her stepfather and her late husband, John Derek, were also veterans. It is this love for the armed forces that has inspired her to perform her duties as national honorary chairperson with passion and ease, taking the time to meet and encourage America’s veterans one by one.

In 2002, Derek was bestowed by the Special Forces Association with the distinction of honorary Green Beret, joining only four other Americans who have been so honored. She was recognized for her efforts on behalf of America’s men and women in uniform and our military veterans. She participates in USO tours, entertaining U.S. military personnel serving abroad.

More recently, she was appointed as Special Envoy of the Secretary of State for Wildlife Trafficking, working to create awareness of the dangers of wildlife trafficking. Along with her love of animals and devotion to veterans, Derek is also a patron of the arts. In 2002, President George W. Bush appointed her to the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees. In 2006, she starred on My Network TV’s breakthrough drama *Fashion House*.

A published author, Derek poured into *Riding Lessons: Everything That Matters in Life I Learned from Horses* the essence of her beauty – a radiance that comes from her caring heart and bright mind. Despite the years that have passed since she first seared the American consciousness with her image, Bo Derek is as captivating and as ravishingly beautiful as ever – both inside and out.



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Mistress of Ceremonies

Jane Powell

Mistress of Ceremonies

Jane Powell came to Hollywood at the age of 14 from Portland, Oregon, where she had her own radio shows. She starred in 20 major MGM musicals including *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Royal Wedding*, co-starring Fred Astaire. Many of the songs she introduced became industry standards.

Starring in every entertainment medium, Powell has appeared on Broadway in *Irene* and repeatedly set attendance records in dozens of touring productions including *My Fair Lady*, *Peter Pan* and *The Sound of Music*. She has demonstrated an extraordinary flair for comedy in such non-musical successes as *Chapter Two*, *Marriage-Go-Round*, and *Same Time, Next Year*, for which she won a Drama-Logue Award. In 2000, she won considerable acclaim for her performance in the New York production of *Avow*, was featured in a Showtime original TV movie, *The Sandy Bottom Orchestra*, and won acclaim for her portrayal of an Alzheimer's victim in *Law and Order: SVU*. More recently, she co-starred in the Stephen Sondheim musical, *Bounce*.



Television audiences have seen Jane Powell in guest-starring roles in leading variety shows, popular series and numerous Academy Awards and television specials. She appeared regularly in the TV series *Growing Pains*, and in several daytime dramas. She has performed for five U.S. Presidents as well as the Queen of England.

Powell's autobiography, *The Girl Next Door and How She Grew*, was published by William Morrow and (in paperback) by Berkley. Her exercise video, *Fight Back with Fitness*, designed to help people with arthritis, was produced in conjunction with The Arthritis Foundation. On the lecture circuit, her subjects include fitness, renewal and growth in the golden years, and her life in Hollywood.

Powell lives in Connecticut with her husband Dick Moore, and enjoys gardening and cooking. She has three grown children and one granddaughter. She has served as Mistress of Ceremonies of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1991, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006. It is an honor and a privilege to again welcome her in this role at the 2007 Festival in St. Louis, Missouri.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

History of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival originated as two separate competitions. Muriel Barbour, then chief of recreation therapy at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va., created the visual arts competition, VET ARTS, in 1981, as an observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Shirley Jefferies, a recreation therapist at the Waco, Texas, VA Medical Center, initiated the performing arts competition, The National Music Competition for Veterans, in 1982. The premier live winners' stage show was held in 1981 at the VA Medical Center in Tuskegee, Ala. The second show was staged at the Coatesville, Pa., VA Medical Center in 1982.

In 1984, the live stage show was presented in Washington, D.C., and the music competition was renamed "The Music Festival." The following year, the stage show took place in historic Constitution Hall.

The Music Festival and VET ARTS merged and drama and dance divisions were added, to create the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1989. Designed to spotlight the four creative arts therapies of art, music, dance and drama, this landmark Festival was performed to an audience of 4,000 in the Fox Theater in St. Louis, Mo. In 2005, a fifth creative arts division, creative writing, was added to the Festival roster.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival continues to evolve each year as it showcases the artistic achievements of veterans from across the country in each of the five artistic divisions. Each Festival features an art exhibit showing the first place artwork from 50 categories. A live stage show, complete with orchestral accompaniment generously provided by the Music Performance Fund, is performed by veterans who have achieved medal-winning status in a variety of categories from the performing arts divisions of music, drama and dance, as well as creative writing. Workshops are offered during the Festival week for participants and staff, educating them in a variety of artistic modalities by utilizing the talents of local community artists. There is no competition at the Festival itself, as it is a showcase for previously judged medal winners.

In 2007, 2,839 veterans from nearly 100 VA medical facilities entered the art, music, drama, dance and creative writing competitions. Of those, more than 120 medal-winning veterans will participate in the 2007 Festival. This year the event returns to St. Louis, with the art exhibit and stage show performance taking place October 28, 2007 at the beautiful Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Legion Auxiliary and Help Hospitalized Veterans present the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and it is also supported by many other organizations both locally and nationally. The staff and volunteers of the St. Louis VA Medical Center all take great pride in welcoming the 2007 Festival participants and their guests.

Previous National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Sites

2006	Rapid City, South Dakota
2005	Denver, Colorado
2004	Salt Lake City, Utah
2003	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
2002	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2001	Prescott, Arizona
2000	Washington, D.C.
1999	Grand Junction, Colorado
1998	Houston, Texas
1997	Tomah, Wisconsin
1996	Louisville, Kentucky
1995	Coatesville, Pennsylvania
1994	Knoxville, Iowa
1993	St. Cloud, Minnesota
1992	Richmond, Virginia
1991	Knoxville, Iowa
1990	San Diego, California
1989	St. Louis, Missouri



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

2007 Festival Host: The St. Louis VA Medical Center

The **St. Louis VA Medical Center** has a long history of proudly serving veterans. A full-service health care facility, the medical center provides inpatient and ambulatory care in medicine, surgery, psychiatry, neurology and rehabilitation, as well as more than 65 subspecialty areas. The St. Louis VA Medical Center includes two inpatient facilities serving over 45,000 veterans and their families in east central Missouri and southwestern Illinois.

Originally the site of an old military post, **Jefferson Barracks** sits on 170 acres overlooking the Mississippi River. Named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson, it was first established in 1826. Famous members of history such as Lincoln, Grant and Lee were stationed there at various points in their military careers. In 1922, President Warren G. Harding signed an Executive Order assigning the 170

acres to the Veterans Bureau for construction of a hospital for the “treatment of wounded and invalid soldiers.” The initial buildings were completed and opened in March 1923. Currently, Jefferson Barracks provides care and treatment in mental health services, regional spinal cord injury treatment, extended care and rehabilitation services, geriatric health care, poly-trauma services and a rehabilitation domiciliary program for homeless veterans.



Jefferson Barracks Division



John Cochran Division

The **John Cochran Division**, named after the late Missouri congressman John J. Cochran, was built in 1954 and is located in midtown St. Louis, in close proximity to its affiliated medical schools – Saint Louis University and Washington University. It has all of the medical center’s operative and surgical capabilities, a major ambulatory care unit, and a six-story clinical addition that includes surgical facilities, intensive care units, outpatient psychiatry clinics and an expanded laboratory. As an inner city hospital, it plays an integral role in the St. Louis health care community. The John Cochran Division houses acute medical and surgical programs with complete state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities, and an emergency department staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The staff at the St. Louis VA Medical Center is looking ahead to meet the needs of the Operation Iraqi/Enduring Freedom veterans and service members as they return from military service. St. Louis was selected to be the Poly-Trauma Network Site for VA’s Heartland Network (VISN 15), serving veterans in the Kansas, Missouri and southern Illinois area. Additional mental health services and support will be available through a new recovery center, slated to open in midtown this year. The medical center is also expanding pain management services by opening a multidisciplinary pain clinic at the Jefferson Barracks division, to help meet the needs of veterans with chronic pain issues. In addition, the St. Louis Foundation is raising funds for the construction of a new Fisher House, to be located on the Jefferson Barracks campus. Groundbreaking for its construction will begin in 2008.

The St. Louis VA Medical Center is associated with Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Belleville, Illinois; St. Charles, Missouri; and the Missouri Veterans Home in north St. Louis. Additional CBOCs are jointly operated with other VA facilities in both Effingham and Springfield, Illinois.

The St. Louis VA Medical Center has the distinction of being the first VA medical center to host the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1989, where beloved Cardinals baseball announcer Jack Buck drew the largest crowd in the Festival’s history. In 2004, it was the facility’s privilege to host the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, welcoming more than 500 veterans to St. Louis. The St. Louis VA Medical Center employees and volunteers have continued to demonstrate, through their time and efforts, their heartfelt commitment and dedication to serving the veterans who have served our country so well.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

2007 Festival Host City: About the Area

Missouri

Welcome to Missouri, the Show-Me state! Purchased from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase, Missouri was admitted to the union in 1821, when it became the 24th state. Missouri's beautiful rivers and streams and rich history of the westward expansion make it a great place to visit and live. You can expect to enjoy warm hospitality in this Midwestern state, where you will also experience the impressive talent of its local artisans.

St. Louis

St. Louis was founded by French fur traders in 1764. Since it was strategically located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, St. Louis was known as the "Gateway to the West," and served as an important departure point for settlers. The most famous of those starting their expedition here was Lewis & Clark. Permanent exhibits for Lewis & Clark can be found throughout the St. Louis area and include the Museum of Westward Expansion under the Arch, the Old Courthouse, the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site and the Black World History Museum. You can also visit William Clark's grave at Bellefontaine Cemetery.

In 1904, the city hosted the World's Fair and the Olympics, becoming the first English-speaking country to host the Olympic Games. Forest Park, site of the World's Fair, still houses many of St. Louis's most notable attractions such as the St. Louis Zoo, The Jewel Box, Missouri History Museum/Jefferson Memorial, The Muny (the largest and oldest outdoor musical theater in the U.S.), the Art Museum, and the Science Center and Planetarium. The city is also home for the world-renowned St. Louis Symphony, and has long been associated with great ragtime, jazz and blues music. Many well-known businesses call St. Louis home, such as Anheuser-Busch, A.G. Edwards, Edward Jones, Energizer, Boeing and Monsanto. Finally, the city is known for its enthusiastic and knowledgeable sports fans that support the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals, Blues Hockey and Rams Football.



The Old Courthouse

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

2007 Festival Host City: About the Area



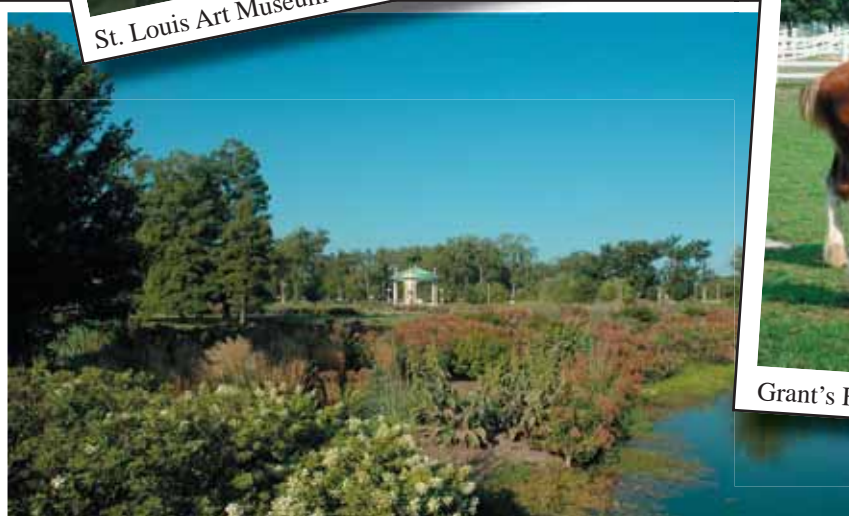
The Missouri Botanical Garden



St. Louis Union Station



St. Louis Art Museum



St. Louis Forest Park



Grant's Farm

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY

PHYSICAL DISABILITY ART DIVISION

In the Army

LEAYLE TODMAN
JAMES J. PETERS VA MEDICAL CENTER
BRONX, NEW YORK

At the age of 43, Army veteran Leayle Todman had a stroke that left him paralyzed on the right side of his body. Previously right-hand dominant, the stroke caused him to permanently lose all functional use of his right arm as well as the ability to walk. Although Todman could understand spoken words, he had great difficulty writing and speaking, thereby living with limited abilities to communicate.

Through therapy, perseverance and patience, Todman, who is now 60, met the challenges he faced and worked toward recovery. He gradually developed the ability to ambulate with the aid of a right leg brace and a four-pronged cane. He attended art therapy sessions at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, and began the arduous task of retraining his left arm to do what his right arm no longer could. With extraordinary patience and determination, he learned to handle a palette knife, mix his own colors, blend, shade, and attend to very fine detail in his artistic endeavors.

In the Army, an acrylic painting, is a strong example of Todman's incredible achievements in rehabilitation. The painting depicts another veteran from the art therapy group at the time he was serving in the Army in 1953. Working from a photograph that the veteran had given him, Todman initially drew the image in pencil, and then painted and completed it.

Todman continues to attend art therapy sessions, striving to further improve and develop strength, coordination and skill in his non-dominant left hand. His motivation and positive perspective are an inspiration to others faced with similar challenges.



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES ART DIVISION

Celtic Warrior – The Power of the Mask

**PAMELA “JADE” SCOTT
VA EASTERN COLORADO
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
DENVER, COLORADO**

Faced with the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, 55-year-old Army veteran Pamela “Jade” Scott looked for an outlet for her feelings and an avenue toward peace of mind. She discovered that working with clay is an answer to her search, and creates masks that in her words reflect “an evolution in transformation.”

“I have watched myself move from a dark abyss using dark pigments, to transmuting into colors and textures,” Scott says. “Oftentimes, being isolated from human contact through feelings of rage, depression, hopelessness and fear, working on the masks has helped me to transcend the difficulties of living and empower myself.”

Though she still struggles with the effects of her disorder, Scott is proud of her accomplishments. She hopes that her efforts will assist others in their healing process and in finding continual harmony with all things. She says, “I hope that my art will reflect that we are all connected through a spirit of oneness.”



MILITARY COMBAT EXPERIENCE

Not on My Watch

ALLEN ECKMAN
VA BLACK HILLS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
FORT MEADE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Allen Eckman served in the Marine Corps as a field radio operator in Vietnam in the mid to late 1960s. One of his most important responsibilities was to care for the casualties. “We never left a man on the battlefield,” Eckman says. “Not on my watch. Sometimes I helped carry them out of harm’s way myself and put out the first call for aid. I stayed with them until the chopper carried them away.”

When Eckman returned from combat, he faced the challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder. Part of his therapy has been to create cast paper sculptures, one of which was titled *Marking the LZ*, which won first place in the 2006 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition. The sculpture was a self portrait mounted in an acrylic case accompanied by original photos, insignias, badges and other military artifacts that he collected during his time in Vietnam. “Creating this has made it possible for me to deal with some of the very hard stuff in a very small way,” Eckman said.



Eckman, who is now 60, received first place in the 2007 competition with a paper sculpture he named, *Not on My Watch*, which represents this vital part of his military combat experience in Vietnam. “In combat, we protected and fought for one another, and when we needed help we got it,” he says. “Thanks to VA [the Department of Veterans Affairs], we still do.”

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

BEST OF SHOW



Arthur
Oil Painting

Gary Ibson

VA Central Iowa Health Care System, Des Moines Division

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gold Medal Winners



Concerto
Acrylic Painting
Gary Wedin
Minneapolis VA Medical Center



Oops
Digital Photography
Arthur Uebele
Wilmington, Del., VA Medical Center



New England Lighthouse
Craft Coloring Kit
Kevin Lent
Syracuse, N.Y., VA Medical Center



Arc de Matatula
Digital Art
Smith Iuli
VA San Diego Healthcare System



I Am
Collage
John Chiuchiolo
Northport, N.Y., VA Medical Center



Unity
Colored Drawing
Robert Cason
G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center, Jackson, Miss.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gold Medal Winners



Memory of the Hunt

Beadwork
Raymond Ayers
VA Loma Linda, Calif., Healthcare System



Swedish Woodspirit

Carving
Anthony Izzo
Iron Mountain, Mich., VA Medical Center



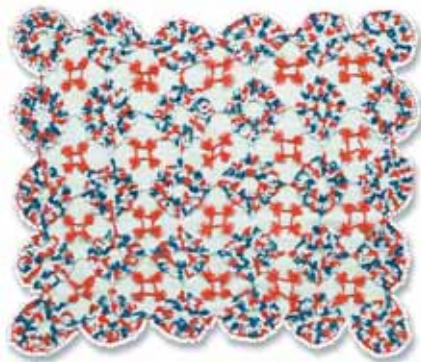
American Beauty Shawl

Crocheting/Knitting
Michael Galante
Alaska VA Healthcare System
and Regional Office, Anchorage



Never to be Forgotten

Fabric Art Kit
Marilyn Adamitis
Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center,
Milwaukee, Wis.



American Legion

Knotting
Marilyn Adamitis
Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center,
Milwaukee, Wis.

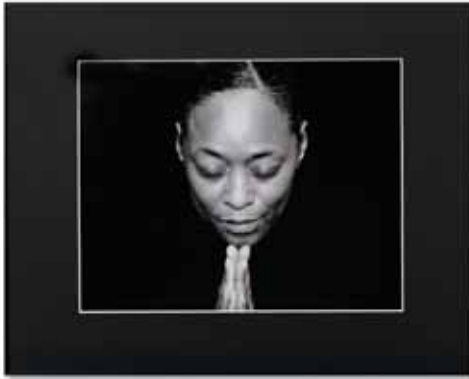


Iris In Bloom

Glasswork
Ray Williams
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System,
Prescott, Ariz.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gold Medal Winners



Sister
Photography, Black and White
Carlous Chambers
Louisville, Ky., VA Medical Center



Fly Fishing in the Marsh
Graphics
Patrick Haskett
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
American Lake Division, Tacoma, Wash.



B.B. King and Lucille
Photography, Color
Terry Carr
Memphis, Tenn., VA Medical Center



Toilers by the Sea
Paint by Number Kit
Mack Southers
VA New Jersey Health Care System,
Lyons Campus



Preoccupied
Watercolor
Francis Mascenic
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago



Pathway to Serenity
Transfer/Engraving Art Kit
Ruth Livingston
Oklahoma City VA Medical Center

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gold Medal Winners



Alpaca Huck Throw
Original Design in Fiber Arts
Kristina Harsha
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System,
Prescott, Ariz.



**Women of Grace and Charm,
the Star in the Window Quilt**
Original Design in Needlework
Rachael Booth
VA Salt Lake City Health Care System



Old Sailing Ship
Latch Hook Kit
Sandra Burkey
VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle, Wash.



The Last Supper
Mosaic
Arnold Huffstutler
Cincinnati VA Medical Center



Acoustic Bass Guitar
Woodworking
Donald Ohlsson
Martinsburg, W.Va., VA Medical Center



Paratrooper's First Jump
Monochromatic Drawing
Laurence Fleming
James J. Peters VA Medical Center,
Bronx, N.Y.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gold Medal Winners



Ship's Log
Leather Stamping
Edmond Melton
VA Central California Healthcare System, Fresno



Light of the World
Scrollsaw/Fretwork
Carlos Marez
New Mexico VA Health Care System,
Albuquerque, N.M.



HMS Bounty
Wood Model Building Kit
Frank Russell
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Prescott, Ariz.



White Tail Fawn
Original Design in Pyrography
Edsel Duty
Chillicothe, Ohio VA Medical Center



Peacock
String Art Kit
Jacqueline Bowens
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago



Keeping the Light On
Suncatcher or Sand Art Kit
Donald Dickinson
Sheridan, Wyo., VA Medical Center

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gold Medal Winners



Walking to a Dream

Leather Kit
Darlene Self
Cincinnati VA Medical Center



Big Bear

Jewelry
William "Clay" Denny
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
American Lake Division, Tacoma, Wash.



Red

Leather Carving/Tooling
Edmond Melton
VA Central California Healthcare System, Fresno



Father Toys

Fine Art, Mixed Media
Arman Barajas
New Mexico VA Health Care System, Albuquerque, N.M.



Saddle

Applied Art, Mixed Media
Dave Blair
VA Central California Healthcare System, Fresno



Dragon Landing

Glazed Ceramics
Robert G. Treanor
Minnesota Veterans Home, Hastings

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Gold Medal Winners



Gift of the Eagle Feather
Needlework Kit
Leilani Corley
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System,
Prescott, Ariz.



Kissing Birds
Pastels
Randy Johnson
Sheridan, Wyo., VA Medical Center



Music Box
Wood Building Kit
Cheryl Ann Bulak
New Mexico VA Health Care System,
Albuquerque, N.M.



Sagger Fired Container
Pottery
Kenny Wayne
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System,
Prescott, Ariz.



Fishes
Figurine Painting Kit
Valerie Sholes
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
American Lake Division, Tacoma, Wash.



Pirate Ship
Plastic Model Building Kit
Robert Sontag
VA San Diego Healthcare System

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



Self Opening Door
Sculpture
John Folse, Jr.
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System,
Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center



Iron Butterfly
Metalwork
Larry Beauford
Oklahoma City VA Medical Center



Marine Corps Band
Applied Art, Mixed Media
Robert Lewis
VA San Diego Healthcare System



Jet Bike
Metal Model Building Kit
Daniel Lasher
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
American Lake Division, Tacoma, Wash.



The Hurd
Stained or Painted Ceramics
Barbara Saunders
South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

ART DIVISION Silver Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Acrylic Painting	Don Thompson, Honolulu, Hawaii
Oil Painting	James Wempe, Louisville, Ky.
Watercolor	Tim Flamboe, Bay Pines, Fla.
Sculpture	Robert Buono, Hines, Ill.
Carving	Michael Aschenbrenner, Tomah, Wis.
Original Design in Pyrography	William Botsford, Minneapolis, Minn.
Monochromatic Drawing	Karnig Thomasian, East Orange & Lyons, N.J.
Colored Drawing	George Peterson, Grand Junction, Colo.
Pastels	John Huff, Prescott, Ariz.
Graphics	Robert Reed II, Minneapolis, Minn.
Pottery	Jeanne Rogers, Loma Linda, Calif.
Black and White Photography	Jennifer McFarlane, Topeka, Kan.
Color Photography	Edwin Carlson, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Digital Photography	Michael Thompson, Salt Lake City, Utah
Digital Art	Anthony Iverson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Fine Art Mixed Media	Peter Trujillo, Grand Junction, Colo.
Military Combat Experience	Robert Monize, West Haven, Conn.
Special Recognition, Physical Disability	Donald Gibby, Salt Lake City, Utah
Special Recognition, Mental Health Challenges	Arlene Wells-Currier, Sheridan, Wyo.
Glazed Ceramics	John Troutman, Milwaukee, Wis.
Stained or Painted Ceramics	Don Donithan, Sandusky, Ohio
Woodworking	Daniel Keierleber, Fort Meade, S.D.
Jewelry	Wilborn D. Plaster, Prescott, Ariz.
Crocheting/Knitting	Lawrence Teed, Canandaigua, N.Y.
Mosaic	Charles C. Craig, Grand Junction, Colo.
Collage	Gay Leigh Mundy, Milwaukee, Wis.
Original Design in Needlework	Pete Hernandez, Phoenix, Ariz.
Original Design in Fiber Arts	Ben Shinos, Iron Mountain, Mich.
Knotting	Edward Tisnado, San Diego, Calif.
Leather Stamping	Edwin Thompkins, Augusta, Ga.
Leather Carving/Tooling	Larry Gliszinski, Milwaukee, Wis.
Metalwork	Terry Whitman, Albuquerque, N.M.
Glasswork	Michael Farruggia, Boise, Idaho
Beadwork	Jack Deal, Topeka, Kan.
Scroll Saw/Fretwork	Richard Frano, West Haven, Conn.
Applied Arts Mixed Media	Larry Beauford, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Leather Kit	Ronald Miller, San Diego, Calif.
Wood Building Kit	Stan Parker, Phoenix, Ariz.
Plastic Model Building Kit	Lee Bill, Prescott, Ariz.
Wood Model Building Kit	Donald Kowalski, Milwaukee, Wis.
Metal Model Building Kit	Douglas Galinat, Dallas, Texas
String Art Kit	Kathy Gerrald-Riojas, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Latch Hook Kit	Anthony Covone, Montrose, N.Y.
Craft Coloring Kit	Douglas Heatherly, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Figurine Painting Kit	Betty Womack, Fayetteville, Ark.
Paint by Number Kit	Raymond Smalls, Canandaigua, N.Y.
Suncatcher or Sand Art Kit	Bobby Gentry, Jr., Fresno, Calif.
Fabric Art Kit	Maureen Howell, Tomah, Wis.
Needlework Kit	Melina Rurey, Syracuse, N.Y.
Transfer/Engraving Art Kit	Michael Mills, Temple, Texas

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

ART DIVISION Bronze Medal Winners

Category

Acrylic Painting
Oil Painting
Watercolor
Sculpture
Carving
Original Design in Pyrography
Monochromatic Drawing
Colored Drawing
Pastels
Graphics
Pottery
Black and White Photography
Color Photography
Digital Photography
Digital Art
Fine Art Mixed Media
Military Combat Experience
Special Recognition, Physical Disability
Special Recognition, Mental Health Challenges
Glazed Ceramics
Stained or Painted Ceramics
Woodworking
Jewelry
Crocheting/Knitting
Mosaic
Collage
Original Design in Needlework
Original Design in Fiber Arts
Leather Carving/Tooling
Metalwork
Glasswork
Beadwork
Scroll Saw/Fretwork
Leather Kit
Wood Building Kit
Wood Model Building Kit
Metal Model Building Kit
String Art Kit
Latch Hook Kit
Craft Coloring Kit
Figurine Painting Kit
Paint by Number Kit
Suncatcher or Sand Art Kit
Fabric Art Kit
Needlework Kit
Transfer/Engraving Art Kit

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Aydene Militello, Hines, Ill.
Douglas Miley, Prescott, Ariz.
Robert Flori, Hines, Ill.
David Hanson, Prescott, Ariz.
Virginia Backus, Canandaigua, N.Y.
Samuel Eggert, Tomah, Wis.
Alvin Williams, Dallas, Texas
Michael Hawkins, Dallas, Texas
Lawrence Harvey, Minneapolis, Minn.
Kimo Tuivaiti, Honolulu, Hawaii
Christopher Lipski, Northport, N.Y.
Sandy Deakins, Prescott, Ariz.
Roy Olaveson, Sheridan, Wyo.
Edward Kay, Prescott, Ariz.
Jon Jenkins, Loma Linda, Calif.
Don Hummel, Anchorage, Alaska
Norma Jean Randazzo, Detroit, Mich.
Joseph Shelleman, Grand Junction, Colo.
Mark Peterson, Milwaukee, Wis.
Sammy Samra, Loma Linda, Calif.
Leonard Eisenreich, Hastings, Minn.
Frank Erpelding-Chacón, Albuquerque, N.M.
Jeanne Rogers, Loma Linda, Calif.
Sheryl Stock, Seattle, Wash.
George Gustafson, Chicago, Ill.
Anthony LaMore, Tomah, Wis.
Thomas King, Bay Pines, Fla.
Rosemary Heinsohn, Marion, Ill.
Jimmy Fino, Temple, Texas
Kenneth Skaggs, Fort Meade, S.D.
Douglas Little, Grand Junction, Colo.
Larry Ashkie, Albuquerque, N.M.
Tim Peterson, Tacoma, Wash.
James Taylor, Boise, Idaho
Laura Kingston, Jackson, Miss.
John Velazquez, Long Beach, Calif.
James Jenkins, Chillicothe, Ohio
Pstanwa Rainwater, Tomah, Wis.
Willie Conway, Waco, Texas
Glen Iorio, Canandaigua, N.Y.
Donald Gibson, Chicago, Ill.
Ronald Miller, San Diego, Calif.
Steve Morrell, Tomah, Wis.
April Bullock, Durham, N.C.
Sheryl Stock, Seattle, Wash.
Claysong Harris, Tacoma, Wash.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

Sound of Thunder

TONY PAREDES

VA Medical Center
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Tony Paredes is a 48-year-old veteran of the Army *and* the Navy. All totaled, he served from 1976 to 1982, earning two honorable discharges. While serving in the Army, he wrote the poem, *Sound of Thunder* to reflect the sound of explosions and shootings that surrounded him. It helped him deal with the traumatic events he faced during his time in the service. Paredes says, "Putting my thoughts and feelings down on paper helps me cope with negative feelings and stress."

For the past three years, Paredes has been working on a book, and he also writes poems and stories. He actively participates in the Help Hospitalized Veterans' craft kit program at the VA Medical Center in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he receives care. He hopes that through his writings, he is able to speak on behalf of others experiencing similar challenges. He says, "I hope others can read my writings and feel a connection to the emotions involved."



CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION Gold Medal Winners

Category

Humorous Poetry
Inspirational Poetry
Patriotic Poetry
Poetry (other)
Humorous Essay
Inspirational Essay
Patriotic Essay
Essay (other)
Humorous Personal Experience
Inspirational Personal Experience
Patriotic Personal Experience
Personal Experience (other)
Humorous Short, Short Story
Inspirational Short, Short Story
Patriotic Short, Short Story
Short, Short Story (other)
Monologue/Duologue

Veteran and VA Facility Location

George Farr, Minneapolis, Minn.
Philip Cunningham, Minneapolis, Minn.
Kenneth Kalish, Minneapolis, Minn.
Lloyd Young, Minneapolis, Minn.
Carol Faye Smith, Milwaukee, Wis.
Carl Clegg, Columbia, S.C.
Clarence Hatcherson, Long Beach, Calif.
David E. Hawkins, Minneapolis, Minn.
Orlinda Marquez, Denver, Colo.
David E. Hawkins, Minneapolis, Minn.
Michael Uthe, San Antonio, Texas
Linda Ysewyn, Washington, D.C.
Louis Ross, Scranton, Pa.
Ronald E. "Doc" Ross, Grand Junction, Colo.
April Goodwin, Washington, D.C.
Gay Leigh Mundy, Milwaukee, Wis.
Chris Mandia, Long Beach, Calif.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

Silver Medal Winners

Category

Humorous Poetry
Inspirational Poetry
Patriotic Poetry
Poetry (other)
Inspirational Essay
Patriotic Essay
Essay (other)
Humorous Personal Experience
Inspirational Personal Experience
Patriotic Personal Experience
Personal Experience (other)
Humorous Short, Short Story
Inspirational Short, Short Story
Patriotic Short, Short Story
Short, Short Story (other)
Monologue/Duologue

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Russell Telander, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Gregory Cooper, Canandaigua, N.Y.
David McCurley, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Richard Reedy, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Eddie Regains, Los Angeles, Calif.
Becky James, Sepulveda, Calif.
Jim Magner, Washington, D.C.
George Peterson, Grand Junction, Colo.
Linda Ysewyn, Washington, D.C.
Lucy Wong Leonard, Prescott, Ariz.
Tom Hollingsworth, Salt Lake City, Utah
Spruce Lynch, Anchorage, Alaska
Jim Magner, Washington, D.C.
David Mancini, Canandaigua, N.Y.
Joseph Yenkosky, Minneapolis, Minn.
Don Szurek, Bay Pines, Fla.

CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

Bronze Medal Winners

Category

Humorous Poetry
Inspirational Poetry
Patriotic Poetry
Poetry (other)
Inspirational Essay
Patriotic Essay
Essay (other)
Humorous Personal Experience
Inspirational Personal Experience
Patriotic Personal Experience
Personal Experience (other)
Humorous Short, Short Story
Inspirational Short, Short Story
Patriotic Short, Short Story
Short, Short Story (other)

Veteran and VA Facility Location

L.E. "Curly" Dunnagan, Grand Junction, Colo.
Rickey Townsell, Milwaukee, Wis.
William Keigan, St. Cloud, Minn.
Susan Bower, Long Beach, Calif.
April Goodwin, Washington, D.C.
Carl Clegg, Columbia, S.C.
Clarence Hatcherson, Long Beach, Calif.
Timothy Daubert, Fresno, Calif.
Lana Gillaspie, Knoxville, Iowa
William White, Tucson, Ariz.
Mark Brack, Bedford, Mass.
Butch Carr, Sheridan, Wyo.
Butch Carr, Sheridan, Wyo.
Jim Stodolka, Minneapolis, Minn.
J.B. Hogan, Fayetteville, Ark.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY DANCE DIVISION

Walkin' to New Orleans

ERNEST CABALLERO

RODOLFO CAMACHO

**Martinez Outpatient Clinic and Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care
Martinez, California**

Army veterans Ernest Caballero, 57, and Rodolfo (Rudy) Camacho, 44, met one another at the VA facility in Martinez, California where they were receiving care. Both veterans have undergone leg amputations and wear prostheses. When recreation therapist Darlyn Phillips first informed them about the National Veterans Creative Arts competition, they expressed an interest in doing what they could to serve as an inspiration to fellow veterans who were facing similar physical challenges.

With the assistance of rehabilitation therapists, the duo prepared and rehearsed their dance routine and entered it into the National Veterans Creative Arts competition. They chose the song *Walkin' to New Orleans* as a dedication to their brothers and sisters surviving Hurricane Katrina, with the message to keep their spirit of determination strong. The entry took first place in the Special Recognition category of the dance division, and very clearly demonstrates the concept of ability winning over adversity.



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

DANCE DIVISION Gold Medal Winners

Category

Solo Structured, Wheelchair
Group Novelty, Wheelchair
Liturgical Dance, Wheelchair
Solo Structured, Ballroom
Solo, Tap, Jazz or Ballet
Solo, Country or Western
Solo, Folk/Ethnic/Cultural
Group, Folk/Ethnic/Cultural
Solo, Novelty
Freestyle
Solo, Interpretive Movement
Liturgical Dance
Patriotic Dance
Senior Ambulatory Solo

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Dwayne Scheuneman, Tampa, Fla.
Knoxville Surfers, Knoxville, Iowa
Spokes 'n Folks, Washington, D.C.
Wilfredo Camacho, Chicago, Ill.
Richard McGuire, Prescott, Ariz.
Randy Forrester, Albuquerque, N.M.
Robert Sandoval, Fresno, Calif.
Kamalu O Ka Aina, Honolulu, Hawaii
Nathan "Nick" Strom, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Stephen O'Malley, Northport, N.Y.
Wayne Kimber, Milwaukee, Wis.
Alberto Andrews, San Antonio, Texas
Millicent Ceaser, El Paso, Texas
Helen Fitzgerald, Albany, N.Y.

DANCE DIVISION Silver Medal Winners

Category

Special Recognition
Solo Structured, Ballroom
Solo, Country or Western
Solo, Folk/Ethnic/Cultural
Solo, Novelty
Freestyle
Solo, Interpretive Movement
Liturgical Dance
Patriotic Dance
Senior Ambulatory Solo

Veteran and VA Facility Location

101C Creative Movers, Knoxville, Iowa
Jose Henriquez, Prescott, Ariz.
Irving Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Jose Henriquez, Prescott, Ariz.
Christine Pointer, Miami, Fla.
Ray Nicholas, Syracuse, N.Y.
Melvin Miller, Dallas, Texas
April Goodwin, Washington, D.C.
April Goodwin, Washington, D.C.
Ephraim Gibbons, Northport, N.Y.

DANCE DIVISION Bronze Medal Winners

Category

Special Recognition
Solo Structured Ballroom
Solo Folk/Ethnic/Cultural
Solo Novelty
Liturgical Dance
Senior Ambulatory Solo

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Donato Grippo, Northport, N.Y.
Irving Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Harvey Rinehart, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Dorothea Sontag, San Deigo, Calif.
Theadore Jones, Martinsburg, W.Va.
Cecil Parsons, Sheridan, Wyo.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY DRAMA DIVISION

Woman

CHARLES SHIRLEY
VA MEDICAL CENTER
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

Eighty-five-year-old Charles Shirley recites poems and sings along to the familiar songs that were an important part of his youth. The words that Shirley is able to recite through these works provide an important link to his past. Diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Shirley, who resides at the VA Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Ala., can tell things to others about himself through his singing, story telling and poem recitations.

One of Shirley's poems, entitled *Woman*, received first place in the Special Recognition category of the Drama division. With a little bit of coaxing, Charles Shirley will recite this whimsical poem, along with several others that he recalls from his childhood. When he does this, the positive social recognition he receives from his peers and from VA staff members brings him joy and a feeling of connection with others.

DRAMA DIVISION Gold Medal Winners

Category

Solo Dramatic Prose
Group Dramatic Prose
Solo Patriotic Prose
Solo Religious Prose
Solo Comedy
Group Comedy
Solo Dramatic Poetry
Solo Patriotic Poetry
Solo Religious Poetry
Solo Comedy Poetry
Group Poetry
Solo Dramatic Interpretive Performance
Solo Comedy Interpretive Performance
Group Comedy Interpretive Performance
Puppetry/Ventriloquism
Multimedia Video
Senior Drama Solo

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Lana Gillaspie, Knoxville, Iowa
Mike McCann and Chris Mandia, Long Beach, Calif.
Helen Glass, Tucson, Ariz.
Houston Lewis, Memphis, Tenn.
Mike McCann, Long Beach, Calif.
The Sensations, Chicago, Ill.
Carla Renee, Washington, D.C.
Melvin Bjugstad, Minneapolis, Minn.
Rand Fullmer, Salt Lake City, Utah
Barbara Chaney, Temple, Texas
Bickfords, Sioux Falls, S.D.
William M. Droz, Sepulveda, Calif.
Alary Ben, Battle Creek, Mich.
The Knoxville Players, Knoxville, Iowa
Orlinda Marquez, Denver, Colo.
Voices from Home, Miami, Fla.
Dallas Lee, Topeka, Kan.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

DRAMA DIVISION Silver Medal Winners

Category

Solo Dramatic Prose
Solo Patriotic Prose
Solo Religious Prose
Solo Comedy
Group Comedy
Solo Dramatic Poetry
Solo Patriotic Poetry
Solo Religious Poetry (tie)
Solo Religious Poetry (tie)
Solo Comedy Poetry
Group Poetry
Solo Dramatic Interpretive Performance
Group Comedy Interpretive Performance
Multimedia Video

Senior Drama Solo

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Ta-Keia Floyd-Patrick, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Dawn Olson, Knoxville, Iowa
Jim Magner, Washington, D.C.
Richard "Rick" Lesch, Minneapolis, Minn.
Her 'n Cane, Washington, D.C.
Spruce Lynch, Anchorage, Alaska
Andrew P. Mix, Battle Creek, Mich.
Carl Smith, Temple, Texas
Dawn Olson, Knoxville, Iowa
Russell Sweezo, Minneapolis, Minn.
The Knoxville Players, Knoxville, Iowa
Carla Renee, Washington, D.C.
Lighter Side of Music, Dallas, Texas
Leland Parker and Albert Gray Eagle,
Oklahoma City, Okla.
George Barner, Albany, N.Y.

DRAMA DIVISION Bronze Medal Winners

Category

Solo Dramatic Prose
Solo Patriotic Prose
Solo Religious Prose
Solo Comedy
Solo Dramatic Poetry
Solo Patriotic Poetry
Solo Religious Poetry
Solo Comedy Poetry
Solo Dramatic Interpretive Performance
Multimedia Video
Senior Drama Solo (tie)
Senior Drama Solo (tie)

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Lee Williams, Martinez, Calif.
Clarence Hatcherson, Long Beach, Calif.
Bobby Lee Elliott, Jr., Martinez, Calif.
Jeffery Rinehart, St. Louis, Mo.
Glen Winkworth, Salt Lake City, Utah
Melvin Miller, Dallas, Texas
William Quinion, Albany, N.Y.
John A. Spraker, Washington, D.C.
George Farr, Minneapolis, Minn.
David L. Johnson, Durham, N.C.
Russell Sweezo, Minneapolis, Minn.
Sam "Smitty" Daniels, Miami, Fla.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY - VOCAL MUSIC DIVISION

The Ballad of Ira Hayes

STEVE MCGINNIS

VA CENTRAL IOWA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
KNOXVILLE, IOWA

Steve McGinnis is a 37-year-old Army veteran of the Gulf War. He chose to enter the song, *Ballad of Ira Hayes* into the creative arts competition as a dedication to fellow veterans and to draw attention to the sacrifices made by Ira Hayes, the first Native American to serve in war.

Entering this song was a therapeutic process for McGinnis. The challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety disorder have been a part of his life for several years. Nevertheless, he felt strongly about presenting this particular song at the VA medical facility in Knoxville, saying, "Once I stopped shaking when the song was over, I felt pretty good about the performance!"

By accomplishing the goal of preparing and performing a song that is dear to his heart, Steve McGinnis has developed an increase in his self-esteem. That success is motivating him to face other life challenges in the future.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY - INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DIVISION

Tennessee Waltz

J.C. LEWIS, JR.

VA MEDICAL CENTER
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

Eighty-year-old Army veteran J.C. Lewis, Jr., has always been involved with music. He has mastered many instruments throughout his life including piano, guitar, accordion and harmonica, and learned to play these instruments with no formal instruction. Diagnosed with dementia, he now resides at the VA Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Claude Norton, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, says, "When he first was admitted to the dementia program, J.C. tended to isolate himself. One day, a group of young people gave a performance with violins and J.C. began to play *Tennessee Waltz* on his harmonica. He received so much positive feedback from others, that he now attends small groups and initiates conversations."

The response of J.C. Lewis demonstrates the therapeutic influence of music and its positive effect on quality of life.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY - GROUP MUSIC DIVISION

The Rebrainer Therapy Group

VA BLACK HILLS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
FORT MEADE, SOUTH DAKOTA

On Wednesday mornings, a group of veterans comes together at the VA facility in Rapid City, South Dakota to participate in a session focusing on such areas as improving their attention, memory, problem-solving and emotional adjustment. The group calls itself *The Rebrainer Therapy Group*. All of its members have experienced a brain injury, stroke, or other neuropsychiatric illness or injury. Many have experienced physical accidents that also left visible evidence, and others have unseen scars that restrict living a normal life.

During the sessions, there is a check-in period where each group member relays how he or she is doing and personal issues are discussed. Education and training topics such as communication, dealing with depression and social skills are explored, and drumming exercises and songs reinforce the goals of the group.

Dr. James Gardiner, a neuropsychologist who works with the group says, “This group process has made improvements in the veterans’ quality of life. A bond of deep loyalty and devout dedication has grown among these men and women, as demonstrated by their regular attendance at the group and their active support for each other – both in and outside of the scheduled sessions.”



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

MUSIC DIVISION Gold Medal Winners

Category

Vocal Solo, Country/Folk/Bluegrass (tie)
Vocal Solo, Country/Folk/Bluegrass (tie)
Vocal Solo, Pop
Vocal Solo, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues
Vocal Solo, Classical
Vocal Solo, Broadway
Vocal Solo, Rock
Vocal Solo, Comedy
Vocal Solo, Patriotic (tie)
Vocal Solo, Patriotic (tie)
Vocal Solo, Religious
Vocal Solo, Song with Dance
Original Vocal
Vocal Group, Country/Folk/Bluegrass
Vocal Group, Pop
Vocal Group, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues
Vocal Group, Broadway
Vocal Group, Rock
Vocal Group, Comedy
Vocal Group, Patriotic (tie)
Vocal Group, Patriotic (tie)
Vocal Group, Religious (tie)
Vocal Group, Religious (tie)
Vocal Group, Song with Dance
Senior Vocal Solo
Senior Vocal Group
Instrumental Solo, Country/Folk/Bluegrass
Instrumental Solo, Pop
Instrumental Solo, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues
Instrumental Solo, Classical
Instrumental Solo, Broadway
Instrumental Solo, Rock
Instrumental Solo, Comedy
Instrumental Solo, Patriotic
Instrumental Solo, Religious
Instrumental Solo or Group, Drums/Percussion
Original Instrumental (tie)
Original Instrumental (tie)
Instrumental Group, Jazz
Instrumental Group, Pop
Instrumental Comedy, Group
Instrumental Group, Handbells/Handchimes
Senior Instrumental Solo
Senior Instrumental Group

Veteran and VA Facility Location

Richard Stang, St. Cloud, Minn.
Paul Boruff, Salt Lake City, Utah
James Sterrett-Bryant, Sepulveda, Calif.
Julia Dean McGuire, Miami, Fla.
Loren J. Prather, Salt Lake City, Utah
James Sterrett-Bryant, Sepulveda, Calif.
Les Langen, Minneapolis, Minn.
Eddie Szymborski, Northport, N.Y.
Brenda Harris, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Joseph Lamb, Tomah, Wis.
Carl Smith, Temple, Texas
Donald Hyman, Albany, N.Y.
Steve Crawford, Grand Junction, Colo.
Veterans Homefront Band, West Haven, Conn.
Salty Dogs, Salt Lake City, Utah
Allan, Young & Boruff, Salt Lake City, Utah
The Sensations, Chicago, Ill.
Black-n-Blues, Canandaigua, N.Y.
VA Too Cool Blues Brothers, West Haven, Conn.
Voices from Home, Miami, Fla.
Temple VA Singers, Temple, Texas
Highly Favored, Fresno, Calif.
Salty Dogs, Salt Lake City, Utah
Jesse Brown Veterans Chorus, Chicago, Ill.
Al Sciacqua, Fresno, Calif.
Veterans Home Choir, Rocky Hill, Conn.
John Bigham, Coatesville, Pa.
Lansing Dowdell, West Haven, Conn.
Les Langen, Minneapolis, Minn.
Ingrid de Baintner, Brockton, Mass.
Ron Tomocik, Denver, Colo.
James Mott, Sheridan, Wyo.
Lynn Valerio, Fresno, Calif.
William Brown, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Lansing Dowdell, West Haven, Conn.
Bryan Richards, San Diego, Calif.
Wayne Valentine, St. Louis, Mo.
Ira Brandt, West Haven, Conn.
Swinging Valley Vets, Fresno, Calif.
Jesse Brown Duo, Chicago, Ill.
Knoxville Kitchen Band, Knoxville, Iowa
Stratton BHRC Bell Choir, Albany, N.Y.
George Karl, Iowa City, Iowa
Swinging Valley Vets, Fresno, Calif.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

MUSIC DIVISION Silver Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Vocal Solo, Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Vi Luu, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Vocal Solo, Pop	Larry Roddy, Minneapolis, Minn.
Vocal Solo, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues	Marvin Hooper, Temple, Texas
Vocal Solo, Classical	Julia Dean McGuire, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Solo, Broadway (tie)	Lionel Marcoux, Iowa City, Iowa
Vocal Solo, Broadway (tie)	Frank Ross, San Diego, Calif.
Vocal Solo, Rock	Willie Glenn, Augusta, Ga.
Vocal Solo, Comedy	Carl Burnett, Albuquerque, N.M.
Vocal Solo, Patriotic	Eddie Szymborski, Northport, N.Y.
Vocal Solo, Religious	Joseph Lamb, Tomah, Wis.
Vocal Solo, Song with Dance	Suede Davenport, Hines, Ill.
Original Vocal	Rickie White, Augusta, Ga.
Vocal Group, Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Salty Dogs, Salt Lake City, Utah
Vocal Group, Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Bruce Curtis Band, San Antonio, Texas
Vocal Group, Pop	VA Movers, Waco, Texas
Vocal Group, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues	Temple T's, Temple, Texas
Vocal Group, Rock	Bone Marrow Transplant Survivors, Bay Pines, Fla.
Vocal Group, Comedy	Vets of Albany Choir, Albany, N.Y.
Vocal Group, Patriotic	Veterans Home Choir, Rocky Hill, Conn.
Vocal Group, Religious	Bruce Curtis Band, San Antonio, Texas
Senior Vocal Solo	Norbert McCrady, Minneapolis, Minn.
Senior Vocal Group	Gino Merli Singers, Scranton, Pa.
Special Recognition Solo (tie)	Melvin Thomas, Danville, Ill.
Special Recognition Solo (tie)	Donald Van Gieson, Honolulu, Hawaii
Special Recognition Group	The Singing Elvis's, Knoxville, Iowa
Instrumental Solo, Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Ron Tomocik, Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Solo, Pop	Hager Garriott, Louisville, Ky.
Instrumental Solo, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues	John Bigham, Coatesville, Pa.
Instrumental Solo, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues	Lansing Dowdell, West Haven, Conn.
Instrumental Solo, Classical	Martha Gross, Lake City, Fla.
Instrumental Solo, Broadway	Edward Lee, Fresno, Calif.
Instrumental Solo, Rock	Wayne Parker, Tomah, Wis.
Instrumental Solo, Patriotic	Donald Jacobson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Instrumental Solo, Religious	Anthony Savala, Dallas, Texas
Instrumental Solo or Group, Drums/Percussion	The Uptowners, Augusta, Ga.
Original Instrumental	Bart Allan, Salt Lake City, Utah
Instrumental Group, Jazz	Ed Hall & Marvin Hooper, Temple, Texas
Instrumental Group, Classical March	Swinging Valley Vets, Fresno, Calif.
Instrumental Group, Handbells/Handchimes	Knoxville Ringers, Knoxville, Iowa
Senior Instrumental Solo (tie)	Donald Jacobson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Senior Instrumental Solo (tie)	Joe Vento, Sepulveda, Calif.
Senior Instrumental Group	Louis Wilson & Joseph Lyman, Richmond, Va.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

MUSIC DIVISION Bronze Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Vocal Solo, Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Steve Crawford, Grand Junction, Colo.
Vocal Solo, Pop	George Staly, San Antonio, Texas
Vocal Solo, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues	Don Dorff, Milwaukee, Wis.
Vocal Solo, Classical	Lionel Marcoux, Iowa City, Iowa
Vocal Solo, Broadway	Raymond Klem, Chicago, Ill.
Vocal Solo, Rock	Eddie Szymborski, Northport, N.Y.
Vocal Solo, Comedy	Russell Sweezo, Minneapolis, Minn.
Vocal Solo, Patriotic	Mike Hills, Prescott, Ariz.
Vocal Solo, Religious	John C. Matthews, East Orange & Lyons, N.J.
Vocal Solo, Song with Dance	Ernest T. Knox, Temple, Texas
Original Vocal	John H. Williams, Fayetteville, Ark.
Vocal Group, Country/Folk/Bluegrass (tie)	Jimmy Dorman & Karl Dorman, Martinsburg, W.Va.
Vocal Group, Country/Folk/Bluegrass (tie)	James Schmitt & Jeff Eichhorn, St. Louis, Mo.
Vocal Group, Pop	The Connected, Martinsburg, W.Va.
Vocal Group, Jazz/Rhythm and Blues	VA Movers, Waco, Texas
Vocal Group, Comedy	Knoxville Stinkers, Knoxville, Iowa
Vocal Group, Patriotic	Vets of Albany Choir, Albany, N.Y.
Vocal Group, Religious	Gino Merli Singers, Scranton, Pa.
Senior Vocal Solo	Dallas Lee, Topeka, Kan.
Special Recognition Solo (tie)	Freeman Simmons, Augusta, Ga.
Special Recognition Solo (tie)	Robert Paredes, Sheridan, Wyo.
Special Recognition Group	Louis Wilson & David Wilson, Richmond, Va.
Instrumental Solo, Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Marvin Wharton, Prescott, Ariz.
Instrumental Solo, Pop	Willie Thompson, Bay Pines, Fla.
Instrumental Solo, Jazz/R&B (tie)	Willie Thompson, Bay Pines, Fla.
Instrumental Solo, Jazz/R&B (tie)	Wayne King, Prescott, Ariz.
Instrumental Solo, Classical	Ron Tomocik, Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Solo, Broadway	George Haltaufderhyde, Salt Lake City, Utah
Instrumental Solo, Rock	Robert Wilson, Coatesville, Pa.
Instrumental Solo, Patriotic	Ernie Minchella, Tucson, Ariz.
Instrumental Solo, Religious	Roy Erbele, Minneapolis, Minn.
Instrumental Group, Drums/Percussion	Drum Circle, Martinsburg, W.Va.
Original Instrumental	Matt Vorderbruggen, Minneapolis, Minn.
Instrumental Group, Rhythm & Blues	The Uptowners, Augusta, Ga.
Instrumental Group, Broadway	Stratton BHRC Bell Choir, Albany, N.Y.
Instrumental Group, Handbells/Handchimes	DTC Ringers, Dallas, Texas
Senior Instrumental Solo	Byron Cochran, Bay Pines, Fla.
Senior Instrumental Group	Harmonizing Harmonicas, Bay Pines, Fla.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Steering Committee

Elizabeth Mackey, MT-BC	Director, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, St. Cloud, Minn.
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Elby Schneidman	Music Consultant, Music Performance Fund, New York, N.Y.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival VA Heartland Network - St. Louis, Missouri

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Director, VA Heartland Network, VISN 15

Glen E. Struchtemeyer
St. Louis VA Medical Center Director

Nathan Ravi, MD
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Rebecca Ballard
2007 NVCAF Host Site Coordinator

Lindell Carr
Administrative Assistant to the Host Site Coordinator

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James Rocky Buchanan
Maura Campbell
Marcena Gunter
Megan Tooley
Carole Wagner
Karen Wait
Jackie Wolz

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National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

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National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



Think Ahead!

The National Veterans Creative Arts competition for next year begins in January 2008.

If you are invited to attend next year's Festival, it will be held in Riverside, California, October 20-26, 2008.

Thank you for supporting the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Notes and Autographs

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