

ArtsGram

Monumental Expressions



A Daily Publication of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Special Edition

Helping Veterans Through Creative Arts – Maureen Harvey, Creative Arts Therapist Oklahoma City VA Medical Center 2006 Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award Recipient

What does selling swimming pool supplies, arranging display cases in clothing stores, selling sewing notions and zippers, making study furniture for mental institutions



Maureen Harvey

and working as a civilian logistician for the U.S. Air Force have in common? Simple – they are all part of Maureen Harvey’s career path prior to her 1997 decision to join VA and serve veterans. As this year’s Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award recipient, we are all glad she made that decision.

“Maureen did her internship here and fell in love with VA,” said Kristy Doyle, her supervisor

at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center where she has works as a creative arts therapist. “She developed art therapy programs with groups that include acute psychiatry, substance abuse, the day treatment center and the extended care unit. Along the way, she heard about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and started the local contest here.

According to husband Scot, “Maureen was fortunate enough to do her internship at the VA Medical Center and everything just clicked. People could sense her deep concern about the well-being of this country’s veterans and her desire to do

something about it. Her own memories of how the Vietnam War affected her friends increased her resolve to heal those around her.”

Harvey earned her fine arts degree from the University of Houston and later received her master’s from the University of Oklahoma. After attending the National Festival as a team leader for several years, she was determined the Oklahoma City facility could host the Festival, which it did successfully in 2003. According to Doyle, Harvey was the driving force behind getting the event there, serving as the host site coordinator with distinction.

Besides being active in art therapy at the VA Medical Center, Harvey is often a guest speaker at conferences and works with several special groups. Locally, she continues to plan and implement the facility’s creative arts competition and attends the National Festival as a team leader. (This week she worked with performing arts Team VI – Sturgis.) In addition, she has also represented VA’s national rehabilitation special events at two American Legion Auxiliary national conventions. Known for being an active energetic and passionate advocate for veterans and for the creative arts, Harvey’s philosophy matches that of the late Shirley Jefferies, for whom the annual memorial award is named. (See sidebar story.)

Festival Director Liz Mackey is just one member of the choir singing Harvey’s praises. “Maureen’s creative talents and warm way with people are perfectly suited for her chosen career in art therapy,” Mackey said. “Her enthusiasm, sense of humor and genuine interest in making a positive difference draw others in and make them feel right at home. The creative arts and recreation therapists who annually review the Shirley Jefferies Award candidates selected Maureen unanimously. Congratulations Maureen!”

See “Award,” continued on page 2



“Award” continued from page 1

Mike Lynch, Executive Director of Help Hospitalized Veterans, clearly agrees with the selection. “When she took on the task as the host site coordinator for the 2003 Festival, her enthusiasm and drive to ensure that every participate, staff member and guest associated with the program was comfortable was unbelievably contagious. She has been bringing that same spirit to the Festival as a team leader and member of the national staff. Organized, energetic and just filled with love for the veterans participating in the program – these are the tools and characteristics that embody the Shirley Jefferies Award. Congratulations Maureen, from all your friends at Help Hospitalized Veterans.”

Best wishes from all of us, Maureen. Although we’d certainly buy swimming pool supplies and sewing notions from you any time, we’re happy you’re now selling good health and recovery through the creative arts!



Maureen Harvey assists Domingo Rendon from Fresno, Calif. with his show costume.



The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award

Shirley Jefferies was a recreation therapist and former chief of recreation therapy service at the Knoxville, Iowa VA Medical Center. She served as Advisor to the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival until she died of cancer in 1994. Jefferies was a vital influence to the beginning of the program and the drive behind many of its changes and growth. With a heartfelt love for the arts and their therapeutic value in life, Jefferies made a lasting impact on many veterans as well as staff members who became involved with the event.

The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award began in 1994. Each year, it is presented to an individual who demonstrates true dedication to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, its goals and philosophy. By recognizing an individual who has displayed such dedication, we are able to pay tribute to Shirley Jefferies each year, while carrying on the therapeutic message she wished to convey.

Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award recipients include:

- 1994 Don Ziska, former Director, VA Medical Center Knoxville, Iowa
- 1995 Jennifer Lewis, Music Therapist, Temple, Texas
- 1996 Leah Givler, former Music Therapist, Coatesville, Penn.
- 1997 Linda Colletti, NVCAF Art Exhibit Coordinator, San Diego, Calif.
- 1998 Katy Ryan, Recreation Therapist, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 1999 Bill Haworth, NVCAF Music Director, San Diego, Calif.
- 2000 Elizabeth Nealy, Recreation Therapist, Houston, Texas
- 2001 Jessie Herndon, Music Therapist, Chicago, Ill.
- 2002 Jean Calhoun, Music Therapist, Tomah, Wis.
- 2003 Suzanne Anderson, Music Therapist, Knoxville, Iowa
- 2004 Paula Moran, Recreation Therapist, Prescott, Ariz.
- 2005 Mia Leber, HHV Craft Care Specialist, Chicago, Ill.
- 2006 Maureen Harvey, Creative Arts Therapist, Oklahoma City, Okla.





Goodbye and Good Luck from the 2006 Media Center Crew!

By the time you read this, the art exhibit and stage show will be over and you will be ready to finally relax and enjoy your last night in Rapid City. There is a special dinner and wonderful closing ceremony program prepared for you this evening, so relax and enjoy it!

Those of us who worked in the media center this week thoroughly enjoyed our time with you. What an inspiration all of the participants have been to us! We did not get a chance to meet all of you or hear every story, but those we did hear and those we reported have truly changed our lives. Thank you for sharing them with us.

We also want to thank the staff from the VA Black Hills Health Care System who supported the whole event this week, and throughout the past year. They provided much needed assistance to accomplish our tasks for the week.



Remember that when you get home and start thinking about the week and all the special people you met here in Rapid City, you can log on to the Festival Web site at: www.creativeartsfestival.org and see all your

friends again. Those of you who requested a news release will be able to download your release and see the picture posted on the site for use by media in your hometown. (Of course, all of this week's *ArtsGram* newsletters are available there, too!)



Please be safe as you travel home tomorrow. We encourage you all to continue pursuing your wonderful talents and look forward to hearing you have entered the Festival again in 2007. Hope to "See You in St. Louis" next October!

Sincerely,

The 2006 Creative Arts Festival Public Affairs Team:
Kim Byers, Bill Browning, Maura Campbell, Gene Davies, Deb Eiring, Eric Eisen, Susan Fleece, Marcena Gunter, Mark Masser, Deborah Meyer, Butch Miller, Jeanne Miserendino, Joe Nguyen, Richard Olague, Andy Ruben, Sharyl Schaepe, Dar Schroeder, Scott Seward, Lana Shuman, Jenny Tankersley Ballou, and Jeff West.

See You in St. Louis - *The Gateway to Creativity!*

Hope to meet you in St. Louis next October for the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival! We encourage all of this year's participants to begin making preparations to enter the 2007 creative arts competition, as it will lead to the Festival taking place in the city known as *the Gateway to the West*, October 22-29, 2007.

At the 2007 Festival, the artistic achievements of veterans from across the country will again be on display. The local planning committee has been on-site all this week and is dedicated to presenting a program of world class caliber. Host site director Glen Struchtemeyer said, "The staff and volunteers of the St. Louis VA Medical Center take great pride in welcoming the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival participants and their guests. The Festival provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of America's veterans to the heartland states."

While you are in St. Louis next fall, be sure to make plans to enjoy some of its fantastic sites. There is a wide variety of museums, memorials, historic buildings and tourist attractions to enjoy, and the host site is already making plans for participants to see some of these areas. You can visit the Gateway Arch and stand in awe of this 630-foot structure next to the



Mississippi River. Or, stroll thru the St. Louis Zoo, voted one of the country's top ten. You can also visit Grant's Farm, featuring the cabin of Ulysses S. Grant and the world famous Clydesdale horses. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the home of the blues, rag time bands, George Caleb Bingham and Mark Twain. You can also enjoy a walk through the Missouri Botanical Garden, one of the oldest botanical institutes in the country and a national historic landmark.

Host Site Chairperson, Becky Ballard welcomes participants to the city that hosted the first comprehensive National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1989. "We are honored to host the 2007 Festival and look forward to sharing a memorable week with you when you enter the *Gateway to Creativity* - in St. Louis!"



F-Y-I

NVCAF Web site
www.creativeartsfestival.org

Share the Festival with your friends and family back home! Tell them to log onto the Festival Web site to check out the daily editions of the *ArtsGram* and individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab.

Medical Suite

The medical team will be available today at the hotel in Room 1702 and tomorrow until noon. Thank you for letting us be a part of your lives this week!

Hospitality

Thank you for visiting the Hospitality Room this week. Be sure to stop by tomorrow for a free bag lunch before your departure.

Today's Menus

Monday, October 23, 2006

4:30 — 9 a.m. Breakfast at hotel – Rushmore Room

Breakfast

Sliced Ham, French Toast Sticks with Warm Syrup
Potato Bake, Western Scrambled Eggs with Green Peppers and Onion
Assortment of Bakery Items
Orange Juice, Apple Juice and Tomato Juice
Milk (Soy Milk Available upon request)
Oatmeal & Dry Cereal
Individual Yogurts and Fresh Fruit



Monday forecast:
High: 51° Low: 32°
SUNNY!!!!

Transportation Schedule

Monday departure information:

Please check the time of your flight home, and be ready to catch the shuttle from the hotel to the Rapid City Airport at the time indicated. **Please bring your luggage to the hotel lobby 30 minutes before the departure time to get your luggage loaded into the bus.** Safe travels home, everyone!

Flight Time:

Hotel Departure Time:

6 – 6:59 a.m.	4 a.m.
7 – 8:29 a.m.	5:30 a.m.
8:30 – 9:59 a.m.	7 a.m.
10 – 10:59 a.m.	8 a.m.
11 – 11:59 a.m.	9 a.m.
Noon – 12:50 p.m.	10 a.m.
1:44 – 2:54 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
3:35 – 4:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
5:24 p.m.	3:15 p.m.



For any other arrangements, please contact Festival Transportation at (605) 415-3446.



Monumental Expressions
Create
Exceptional Memories

