

The

# ARTSGRAM

NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

October 8, 2012



**MISSION  
RE  
DEFINED**

[WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS](http://WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS)

### U. S. Marine Corps Veteran Loren (John) Prather of Draper Utah

John was a vocal soloist and a member of the "Salty Dogs," a vocal group of Veterans from the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System that has performed in several NVCAF stage shows. We were saddened to learn that John passed away this year and appreciate his service to our country and his many contributions to the NVCAF

The Veterans gathered here this week in Quincy and Boston, Massachusetts are all national competition medal-winners from over 50 VA facilities nationwide. They are part of a total of 3,725 Veterans from 130 VA facilities who originally entered categories within the divisions of art, creative writing, dance, drama and music during the local level competition phase this past winter. Following the local judging, their entries advanced to the national level where they achieved medal status in their specific category. These Veterans have definitely experienced a remarkable journey to the Festival, which continues as we come together in Quincy and Boston.

The week ahead will be filled with rehearsals, workshops and alternate activities. It's a wonderful time to get to know people from around the country who all share a love for the arts. It's also a chance to

# WELCOME

from Program Director  
**Elizabeth Mackey**



demonstrate to the Boston community and beyond, the depth of artistic talent and skill that our nation's Veterans possess, and how artistic expression promotes healing and enhances

quality of life.

Great appreciation is extended to the staff and volunteers of the VA Boston Healthcare System and the surrounding community for your warm hospitality. And special thanks to our presenting sponsor, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). Be sure to get to know and express your gratitude to the ALA members as well as to the other gracious sponsors who will be joining us later in the week.

Congratulations to the Veterans! We are here because of you, and we thank you for allowing us to share this part of your journey. You represent all of the Veterans who participated in the 2012 competition and are extremely worthy of the recognition you are receiving this week. Best wishes for a rewarding and artistically-inspiring experience in the days ahead.



## Welcome to Boston!

The upcoming week will be filled with interesting things to do,

wonderful things to see, and great friends to make. VA Boston Healthcare System is honored to be the host facility for this remarkable festival. We have been preparing for this event since we returned from Fayetteville in 2011 and we promise you a week you will never forget.

We are proud and honored to be hosting such an inspirational event. For more than a year we have been preparing for the Festival ensuring that this will be an event you will not soon forget. The camaraderie among the vet-

eran artists, the stunningly beautiful art on display, the world class performances all combine to produce a week that inspires all of us and reminds us of the healing power of artistry.

The staff of VA Boston Healthcare System welcomes everyone, and stands ready to assist you in any way we can. Enjoy the festival, enjoy the sites, and welcome to Beantown!

*Michael M. Lawson*  
*Director, VA Boston*

# MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

## Artists and Performers

Please check with your team leader and/or the posted schedule in the Ballroom Foyer for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.



### Artists

#### ALL DAY ARRIVALS

10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

**Hospitality Room Open**

Suite 230 Quincy Marriott

12 - 6 p.m.

**Festival Registration: Ballroom Foyer**

5:30 p.m.

**All team leaders and team support meeting: Salons 6, 7 & 8**

6:30 p.m.

**Pre-Dinner Music: Salons 1-5**

7 p.m.

**Opening Banquet and Ceremonies: Salons 1-5**

8:30 p.m.

**Team Meetings: Team leaders, Team support & Veterans**

### Performers

#### ALL DAY ARRIVALS

10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

**Hospitality Room Open**

Suite 230 Quincy Marriott

12 - 6 p.m.

**Festival Registration: Ballroom Foyer**

5 p.m.

**Performing Artist team leader and team support meeting: Salons 6, 7 & 8**

5:30 p.m.

**All team leaders and team support meeting: Salons 6, 7 & 8**

6:30 p.m.

**Pre-Dinner Music: Salons 1-5**

7 p.m.

**Opening Banquet and Ceremonies: Salons 1-5**

8:30 p.m.

**Team Meetings: Team leaders, Team support & Veterans**

# FESTIVAL SNAPSHOT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS VISIT [WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS](http://WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS)





**This page, clockwise:**

Shelley Galant

Dennis Linn

Julia McGuire, Marc Hansen,  
& Christine Pointer

**Foreground:**

Dan Krehbiel

**Opposite page, clockwise:**

Charles Marshall

Jessie Frank

Edsel Duty

Filmer Kewanyama



# Welcome to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

## HERE ARE THE ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS.

### Where am I?

Quincy Marriott Hotel  
1000 Marriott Drive  
Quincy, MA 02169  
Phone: (617) 472-1000

### What if I need Festival information?

For any Festival information, including transportation information, schedules, late registration, or questions and/or concerns, see Ralph Marche, Rick Leeman or Andrew Holloway. The Headquarters Room is located in the Sylvanus Thayer Boardroom on the first floor of the Quincy Marriott Hotel.

Unless otherwise indicated, the Headquarters Room will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from October 8 through October 14 and from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on October 15.

### What if I need medical attention?

The Medical Room is located in Suite 330 on the 3rd floor of the Quincy Marriott Hotel.

Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Medical Room phone number inside Quincy Marriott Hotel is: 7330

Outside of the Quincy Marriott Hotel: (617) 472-1000 – ask for suite 330

After 11:00 p.m., call 617-913-7637 for emergencies.

Participants should inform their team leader(s) of medical concerns and the team leaders will then assist with contacting the Medical Room. Medical personnel will be wearing bright yellow shirts with “Medical Staff” monogramming. They will accompany Veterans and support personnel on all trips away from the hotel.

### Do I need tickets for the stage show or art exhibit?

Tickets are not required for the art exhibit, but tickets are required for the stage show. Tickets for the stage show are complimentary.

The stage show performance will be held on Sunday, October 14. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Cutler Majestic Theatre in downtown Boston.

The art exhibit will be on display and open to the public on Friday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Great Hall, Massachusetts State House. The artists will be near their artwork from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Artists and their guests, as well as guests of performers, will be seated in a special reserved section of the theatre. Tickets will be distributed via the team leaders, to the participants on Friday morning during team meetings, unless other arrangements have been made.

Participants should inform their team leaders of the number of tickets they will need for the Sunday afternoon stage show performance. Andy Holloway, Ralph Marche and Rick Leeman in the Headquarters Room (Sylvanus Thayer Boardroom, first floor of the Quincy Marriott Hotel) will be able to answer additional questions about tickets such as will-call arrangements.

### Where are rehearsals for performers?

The main rehearsal room for the performers is the Salons 5-8 on the main floor of the Quincy Marriott Hotel. In addition, small group chorus number rehearsals will be held in Blue Hills and Dorothy Quincy Ballroom at the Quincy Marriott.

### What is on the artists' agenda?

The artists have a separate schedule that consists of workshops, tours, alternate activities, and art exhibits. Their award-winning artwork will be exhibited to the public in the Dorothy Quincy Ballroom, main floor of the Quincy Marriott Hotel, on Tuesday, October 9 and on Friday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Massachusetts State House.

Team leaders will meet with the artists from their team each morning, most often at 8:30 a.m. (check daily schedule for meeting times) in order to brief them on the day's activities and events.

# Five-Time Champ Rocks Again



## “I got a woman, a head like a rock”

is far from what John Barrett would use to describe the love of his life, Veronica, his wife of 10 years. It's the latter part of the verse that's more fitting.

**“If she ever went away, I'd cry around the clock.”**

The lyrics are from Elvis Presley's *Hard Headed Woman*. Barrett has performed the song on a number of occasions, but in his usual humble nature, he said no one can do it quite like The King.

Barrett sings the song in its original tempo, but added a few dynamics to “help listeners distinguish between me and Elvis,” he said with a smile. Barrett chose to enter the song in VA's National Creative Arts Competition because of its snappy tune and the message that comes from the lyrics. “I think it's about couples in general,” he said. “I like to sing songs audiences can relate to.”

Barrett's creativity, candor and own ear for great sound must be the reason why he was invited to perform again at the Creative Arts Festival.

This is not his first journey to the festival. As a fifth time invitee, Barrett is no stranger to the stage. He's performed a solo on four occasions and once at the dignitaries show. His accomplishments include four gold medals for first place and one second-place silver medal this year.

**“I enjoy coming to the Festival,” Barrett said. “It gives me an opportunity to not only share my talent with other Veterans, but to also experience their work.”**

As a Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran, Barrett knows and understands the importance of camaraderie and support from fellow Veterans.

Barrett was in the Marines for six years. Two years after enlisting, he went to Vietnam. Soon after arriving in Vietnam, Barrett was hit by a 90 mm mortar and sustained shrapnel injuries in his chest

and side. He was evacuated immediately after the hit and had surgery in the Philippines before arriving at The Great Lakes Naval Training Center for recovery. It was during that crucial moment in Barrett's life when he learned a lot about the strength of optimism and his own character.

**“Although I was hurt badly, I never wanted to give up.”**

Barrett wanted to return to the battlefield with the rest of the men. “I was young so I felt like I recovered quickly and was strong enough to withstand and return to duty.” But he didn't. After his recovery, Barrett went back on active duty to Quantico, Virginia, where he performed temporary additional duty with the Army in jump school learning to parachute.

The battle wasn't over. To him, it seemed like the struggle came long after the injury. He recalls many days and nights in pain with the feeling of not knowing whether he would live or die. Yet, he was still able to find hope. Upon his discharge from the Corps, it was his family who helped him through.

**“I'm not fully recovered and probably never will be, but I owe my strength to carry on to my brothers and sisters who helped me at the beginning of my recovery.”**

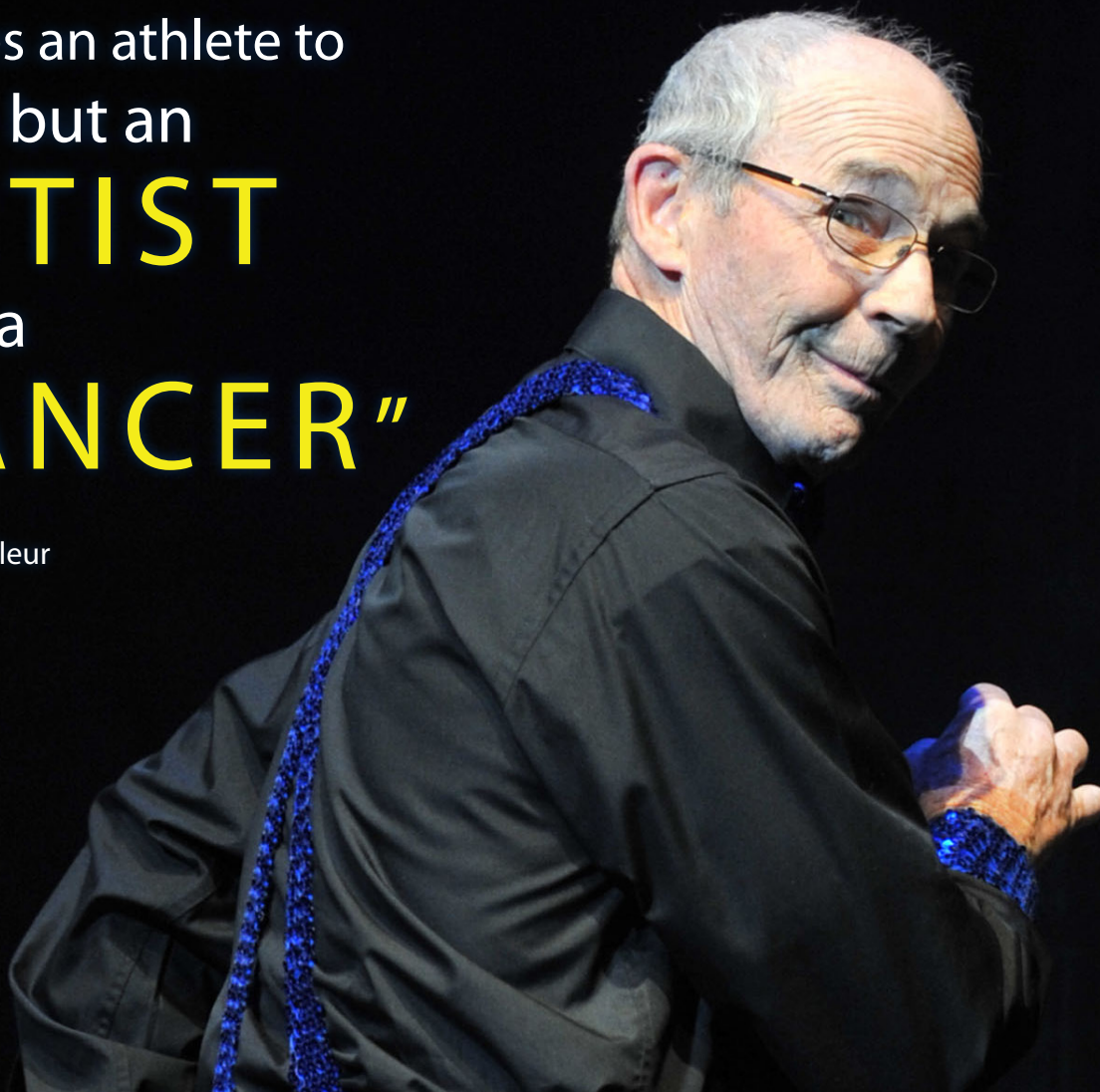
These days it's his children and grandchildren who give him a reason to carry on.

It's been an uphill battle for Barrett. These days he enjoys baseball, football, golf and of course singing. Whether it's in nursing homes, retirement centers or anywhere he's invited, Barrett enjoys singing for anyone who will listen.

Story by  
Erikka Neroes

“It takes an athlete to  
dance, but an  
**ARTIST**  
to be a  
**DANCER”**

- Shanna LaFleur



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