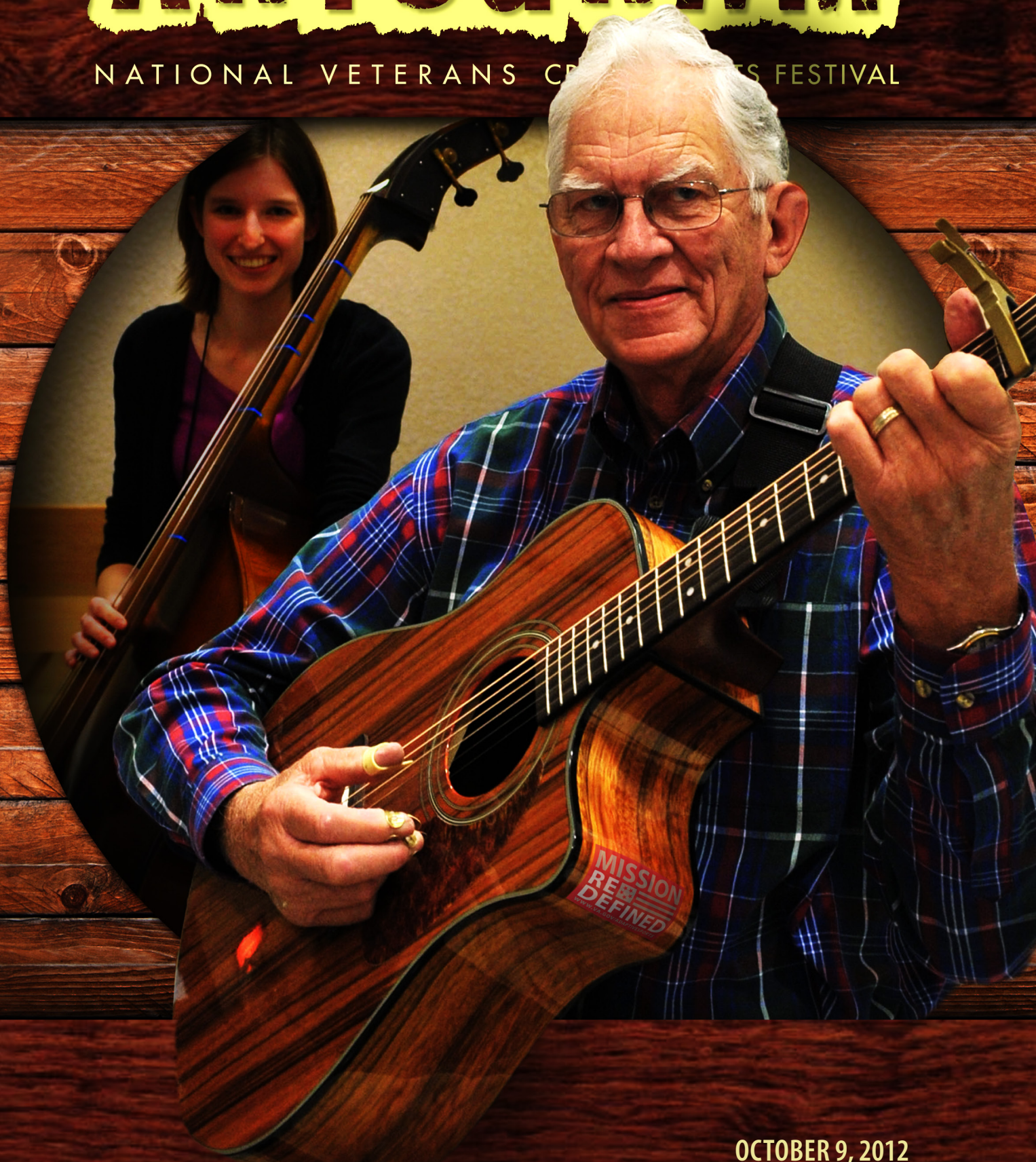


The

# ARTSGRAM

NATIONAL VETERANS CRAFTS FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 9, 2012



# The Therapeutic Arts Scholarship

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS VISIT WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS



The Therapeutic Arts Scholarship is a recently-added opportunity for Veterans who enter the creative arts competition. During the local competition phase (January 1 - April 1), VA staff have the opportunity to nominate one Veteran from their facility for consideration to attend the Festival based on a therapeutic objective.

A narrative explaining the therapeutic benefits that he or she will receive from attending the Festival must accompany the Veteran's entry. The Veteran must be entered in at least one category in any of the five divisions. Nominations are open to first-time participants at the Festival, but not necessarily first time participants in the creative arts competition.

A panel, made up of national committee members, review each of the nominations and select the individuals who will benefit most from participation in this year's Festival. The scholarship allows the recipients to participate in the Festival with all lodging and meal expenses paid. Five scholarship recipients were selected this year - two visual artists and three performing artists.

Congratulations visual arts recipients: **John "Jack" Lee** from Lyons, N.J.; and **Booker Williams** from Birmingham, Ala.

Congratulations performing arts recipients: **George Knauer** from Albany, N.Y.; **Kerry Blackie** from Battle Creek, Mich.; and **Jorge Rivas** from Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

All staff members are encouraged to consider nominating a Veteran from your facility for the 2013 scholarships. The Festival provides great therapeutic benefits and rehabilitation for our nation's heroes.

## 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.

## Performers

- 6:30 - 8 a.m. **BREAKFAST:** Salon 4
- 7 - 8:30 a.m. **LATE REGISTRATION:** Ballroom Foyer
- 7:45 a.m. **TEAM LEADER AND TEAM SUPPORT MEETING**  
with Amy Kimbler: Blue Hills
- 8 a.m. **ALL PARTICIPANTS CHECK-IN FOR REHEARSAL:**  
Salons 5-8
- 8:10 a.m. - 12 p.m. **INTRODUCTIONS AND ACT 1 REHEARSAL**  
All Veterans and stage/sound crews needed:  
Salons 5-8
- 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. **CHORUS VESTS/COSTUME FITTINGS:**  
Wollaston Room
- 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. **LUNCH:** Salon 4
- 1 - 4 p.m. **ACT 2 REHEARSAL:** Salons 5-8
- 1 - 4 p.m. **CHORUS REHEARSAL WITH CHORUS LEADERS**  
(& sectional assistants if necessary): Blue Hills,  
other locations TBD
- 1 - 5 p.m. **CHORUS VESTS/COSTUME FITTINGS:**  
Wollaston Room
- 4-5:30 pm **RCTV VIDEOTAPE INTERVIEWS:** Location TBD
- 4 - 5:30 p.m. **AUDITIONS** for Star Spangled Banner  
small ensemble, Ballad of the Green Berets harmony  
singers and What a Wonderful World soloists:  
Salons 5-8
- 4 - 5:30 p.m. **REHEARSAL AND SIGN UP FOR AUDITION**  
solos and narrations as scheduled. Blue Hills,  
other locations TBD
- 4:10-4:30 **AUDITION FOR STAR SPANGLED BANNER**  
small ensemble: Salons 5-8
- 4:30-5:15 **AUDITION FOR BALAD OF THE GREEN BERETS**  
harmony singers: Salons 5-8
- 5:15 pm until finished **AUDITION FOR WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD**  
solos: Salons 5-8
- 5:30 - 7 p.m. **DINNER:** Salons 2-4
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **ALL SOLO & GROUP ACTS HAVE PICTURES**  
taken IN COSTUMES: Salons 5-8



- 7 - 9 p.m. **CHORUS NUMBER REHEARSAL WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
(All show participants): Salons 5-8
- 7 - 9 p.m. **CHORUS VESTS/COSTUME FITTINGS:**  
Wollaston Room
- 7:30 p.m. **AUDITIONS FOR SOLOS & NARRATIONS:** Blue Hills
- 9 - 11 p.m. **KARAOKE & SOCIAL TIME:** Salons 1 & 2

## Artists

- 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST:** Salon 4
- 7 - 8:30 a.m. **LATE REGISTRATION:** Ballroom Foyer
- 8:15 a.m. **TEAMS 1,2,3**  
report to Dorothy Quincy Ballroom for photos
- 9:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. **ARTIST INTERACTION SESSION:** Salons 1, 2 & 3
- 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. **LUNCH:**  
Hancock's Restaurant at the Quincy Marriott Hotel
- 1:45 p.m. **TEAMS 1,2,3**  
load and depart for Tour of John Adam's/  
John Quincy Adam's home and library:  
Adams National Historical Park
- 2 p.m. **TEAMS 4,5,6**  
report to Dorothy Quincy Ballroom for photos
- 2:45 p.m. **TEAMS 4,5,6**  
load and depart for Tour of John Adam's/  
John Quincy Adam's home and library:  
Adams National Historical Park
- 5:30 - 7 p.m. **DINNER:** Salons 2-4
- 7 - 8 p.m. **RCTV VIDEOTAPE INTERVIEWS:** Location TBD
- 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. **CARICATURIST:** Ballroom Foyer
- 9 - 11 p.m. **KARAOKE & SOCIAL TIME:** Salons 1 & 2



# WELCOME TO BOSTON

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







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*Dolores Day, Navy Veteran and first place winner in the Vocal Solo Broadway category, takes time to practice with Jillian Thompson, Music Therapist, in the chapel of the Durham VA Medical Center. Ms. Day will perform Millwork, a song written by James Taylor, from the musical Working.*

## HEALING SONG through MUSIC

When Navy Veteran and talented musician Dolores Day takes the stage at the Creative Arts Festival, she hopes the performance gives the audience a powerful feeling of recovery that she gets when delivering a heartfelt performance. Taking first place in the Vocal Solo Broadway category, Day will pour her soul into making sure that Millwork, a song written by James Taylor, is an inspiring performance for all the Veterans in the audience.

When Dolores thinks of how music has helped her move forward in her therapy, she smiles.

**“It gives me the opportunity to release, to reach inside my soul and allows me to express myself. It allows the spirit to be free so it can heal,”** she said.

She would know. Day spent time in various hospitals both while serving in the personnel department of the Navy and as a volunteer Ombudsman after her 1972 discharge.

She was often seen playing guitar in order to help patients with their healing process. On one occasion, she visited children that had been badly burned by napalm. She didn’t just bring music to them; she brought comfort to their suffering and smiles to their sorrow.

**“It gave them something to think about other than their pain. Music heals,”** she offered.

There is a difference between music as entertainment and music as therapy, and Day prefers the latter. In fact, she strives for “relaxing, empowering music that helps people. Only music has that

power, it is the language of healing,” she said.

After her military discharge, Day studied music at Dowling College in New York. She graduated in 1983 with a bachelor of arts in music. She can play about a dozen instruments. Most of them you have never heard of or would not recognize. In fact, very few people know how to play the historical instruments she has come to know very well over the years. Day worked as a Historical Research Interpreter, a job that allowed her to conduct research and deliver believable character performances. These skills have allowed her to be a better, more confident, musical performer.

She chose to perform Millwork simply because it made her laugh. She was considering an Irish song, but after learning the Creative Arts Festival would be in Boston this year, thought Millwork was more appropriate because of the reference to Massachusetts in the lyrics. “Took up with a no good millworking man from Massachusetts.” More persuasive to her were the other parts of the song, which give her warm thoughts about her dad and grandpa.

This competition and her love of music provide the “opportunity to feel the healing power someone else is experiencing at that time,” she reports. On Saturday night, this Veteran from the Durham VA Medical Center will do just that.



Story by Pete Tillman  
Durham VA Medical Center  
Public Affairs Officer



# COPPER CREATIONS

## Who knows better than a **COMBAT VETERAN** that your whole life can change in a **LITERAL FLASH?**

Victor Mora-Loza is one of those Veterans. Mora-Loza has had no formal training in his craft of copper, and yet his interpretation of a rhododendron was recently awarded the first place prize in the 2012 Annual National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Mora-Loza, now 62-years old, was born in Mexico but his family moved to Colorado when he was just six years old and one of five brothers. When he was old enough, he joined the U.S. Army and was a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Three of the brothers served in the 173rd, one in the 101st and the other brother served in the Navy.

### **“Four of us made it back,”**

he remembers. Mora-Loza tells his story in a quiet, but earnest voice. The jobs he has held, his wounding in Vietnam, the number of operations he has undergone and the way he uses his art to deal with his physical and mental wounds are all told in a calm manner that many people might find difficult to duplicate if they had to endure what he has.

The 173rd was based at a place called Landing Zone English. Mora-Loza was on his last day of duty in Vietnam. His little brother was flying in to replace him. It was May 16, 1970. He tripped a booby trap at a spot on the post that he had passed about one hour before without incident. His wounds were extensive and serious and now scars from the grenade shrapnel that hit him cover his legs and arms.

Since 1970 he has had both knees replaced, at the Charles George VA Medical Center, and both of his shoulders have been surgically repaired here as well.

### **“They are getting ready to work on my arms next,”**

Mora-Loza said. “The care has been great. They’ve done a first class job working on me. This is a great hospital.”



Mora-Loza found an outlet for his energies by working with copper. “I’ve had no formal lessons. Everything is trial and error. I make all my own chisels and hammers, but I buy the metal shears I need.

“I had good years before I taught myself to do this, but working with copper helps me relax. It’s mind over body. It takes my mind off the pain and the thunder at night that brings back memories of the war,” Mora-Loza said. His home and 600 sq. ft. studio are in Franklin, NC.

How does he account for his success even though he’s had no training?

### **“Because I’m a beginner I put no limits on my art,”**

Mora-Loza said. “All my art is custom-ordered work. I do small stuff like roses, wall art and fountains. I’ve also done nature and yard pieces. I’ve been approached by a gallery to display my work, but I donate a lot of my work to fundraisers.”

Mora-Loza has one large piece that he is particularly proud of. It’s an eagle with a wingspan that is 42 inches wide. The eagle is holding an

American flag. He hopes that he can sell it and donate the proceeds.

His donations to charity are not the only way he gives back to the community. He has also mentored high school students. Mora-Loza worked with boys and girls in a program that took them through 20 hours of instruction in metal work. He helped them develop plans and see a project through to its end.

Mora-Loza’s life will undergo another major change next spring. He will be marrying Janell Garner after 26 years of bachelor life. Unlike that day in Vietnam, some changes do not happen in a flash.

Story by:

Dennis Mehring  
Ashville VAMC Public Affairs

*Coppersmith and Army Veteran Victor Mora-Loza, who took a first place award in metal working category with his “Rhododendron” piece, is one of the many talented artists harnessing the immense power of art as therapy.*





**"MUSIC**  
is the medicine  
of the **MIND."**

- Gen. John A. Logan



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