

Hosted
by the
Eastern
Colorado
Health
Care
System

2005 Arts gram

Monday, October 17, 2005



A DAILY PUBLICATION OF THE 2005 NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Welcome to Denver, Colorado: *The Mile High City*

Greetings from the Medical Center Director

As the newly appointed Director of the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, I join our host committee in welcoming you to the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, here in the "Mile High City." What a wonderful time to begin my assignment in Denver! We are all honored to serve as your hosts at this year's event, and it is a pleasure to celebrate the talent, dedication, passion, and patriotism of every veteran participating in this week's program.

We are sure you will have an interesting and pleasurable time, and many activities have been planned to help you discover this wonderful city. The Denver Art Museum was designed by renowned architect Daniel

Libeskind and holds many artistic treasures. On Wednesday, the Country Dinner Playhouse will provide a fun and entertaining evening of good food and camaraderie. Both the Leanin' Tree

Museum of Western Art and Sculpture Garden in Boulder, and the Cherry Creek Gallery District furnish superb shopping opportunities. The Red Rocks Park, Amphitheater and Museum, as well as the Gates Concert Hall at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts are excellent venues for artistic and creative productions.

It is our goal that each of you has a memorable experience here in Denver. Our staff and volunteers look forward to sharing that experience you. Welcome to Denver!

Lynette Roff
Director, VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System



Welcome to Denver!

The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System is honored to serve as host of the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The Rocky Mountains of Colorado inspired us to create a unique Festival experience for you. The art workshops will encourage you, the theatre will awe you, and the ceremonies will elate you.

The host site Festival team in Denver extends our hands to you. Come climb the "Mountains of Creativity" and experience the healing powers of the creative arts.

Welcome, and live your best life this week!

Donna Lonergan
2005 Host Site Coordinator



All about Denver

Want to know more about the 2005 Creative Arts Festival's host city? The following information, excerpted from an article by Dr. Thomas J. Noel, tells us all about the Mile High City's rich history and present highlights.

Denver, capital of Colorado, was founded by prospectors in 1858 after gold was discovered at nearby rivers. The area is named for James W. Denver, Governor of the Kansas Territory, of which eastern Colorado was then a part. The great Colorado gold rush sparked a mass migration, leading to the establishment of Colorado Territory in 1861.

After Denverites built a network of railroads, their town became the banking, minting, supply and processing center for Colorado and neighboring states. Soon, Denver became the second most populated city in the west, second only to San Francisco.

Founded as the main supply town for Rocky Mountain mining camps, Denver also emerged as an agricultural hub. Its breweries, bakeries, meat packing and other food-processing plants made it the regional agricultural center, as well as core manufacturing city for farm and ranch equipment.

An economic depression in 1893 abruptly ended Denver's first boom. Civic leaders began promoting economic diversity – growing wheat and sugar beets, manufacturing, tourism and service industries. The Denver Livestock Exchange and National Western Stock Show confirmed the city's role as the "cow town" of the Rockies and it began growing again after 1900.



The Denver skyline overlooks City Park and the "Purple Mountain Majesties."

Regional or national headquarters of many oil and gas firms fueled much of Denver's post-World War II growth, and the eruption of 40- and 50-story high-rise buildings downtown during the 1970s. Denver's economic base now includes skiing and tourism, electronics, computers, aviation and the nation's largest telecommunications center. Denver also boasts more federal employees than any city besides Washington, D.C.

Sited on high plains at the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, Denver has a sunny, cool, dry climate, averaging 13 inches of precipitation a year. The sun shines 300 days a year, and the usually gentle climate and nearby Rocky Mountains make tourism an economic mainstay.

Visually, Denver is notable for its many single-family houses and brick buildings. Because of its spacious, high plains location, sprawling growth is not hindered by any large body of water or geographic obstacles. It has many suburban subdivisions, shopping malls and business centers, both downtown and in outlying areas.

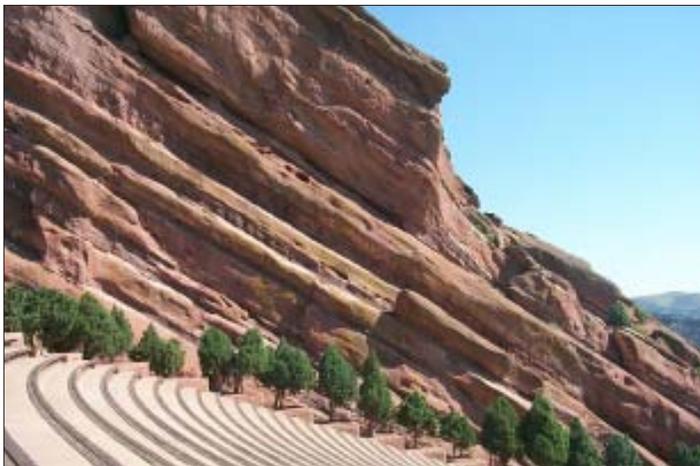
Notable Denver institutions include the Museum of Natural History, the Public Library, the Colorado History Museum, the Art Museum and the Center for the Performing Arts, as well as the U. S. Mint and major league baseball, basketball, football, hockey and soccer teams. In 1995, the city opened a new \$5 billion airport. The 53-square-mile Denver International Airport is the nation's largest.



Presidents Eisenhower, Taft and Theodore Roosevelt are just a few of the famous people who came by train into Denver's famous Union Station.

See "Denver," continued on page 3

“Denver,” continued from page 2



Sacred Stones captures the history of Colorado’s great basin of sound, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, just a few miles west of Denver.



Covering 53 square miles (137 square kilometers, twice the size of Manhattan), Denver International Airport has five full-service runways and a landing rate of 120 planes an hour.

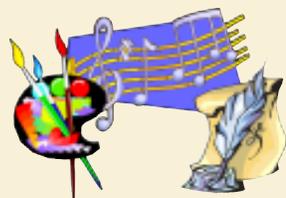
In 2000, the metro area reached a population of 2.1 million, three-fourths living in suburban counties. With the 1990s opening of Coors Baseball Field, Elitch Gardens Amusement Park, Ocean Journey Aquarium, Pepsi Athletic Center and many new housing projects, downtown Denver and its suburbs are booming in the 21st century.

Enjoy your stay in Denver this week!

Enjoy the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!

Sincerest congratulations to all of the veterans participating in this week’s Festival! The week ahead promises to be quite rewarding, and filled with inspiring moments as we gather in Denver to celebrate the artistic talents and skills of our nation’s veterans. Colorado and the Denver area provide a beautiful backdrop for us to demonstrate to the community how artistic expression promotes healing and enhances the quality of our lives.

The veterans gathered here this week represent over 100 national competition medal winners from 47 VA facilities nationwide. They are among 2,740 veterans from 101 VA facilities who originally entered categories within the five divisions of art, music, dance, drama and creative writing during the local competition phase this past winter. We are especially excited this year to introduce the new division of creative writing, with 19 new categories. One of those winning entries will be presented as part of our stage show performance on Sunday, October 23.



Please join the national steering committee members and me in expressing our deepest appreciation to the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System’s employees and volunteers, and

the community of Denver. Without their spirited commitment and dedicated willingness to extend their talents, energies and resources, we would not have this chance to experience the beauty of Colorado and all that it has to offer. A special thanks to Barry Sharp, who served as acting medical center director for much of the year, Lynette Roff, the new director, and Donna Lonergan, host site coordinator, for their warm welcome and preparations for our arrival.



Thank you, veterans, for being here and representing all of your fellow veterans who have participated in the 2005 competition. We are excited to share this time with you and will do whatever we can to serve you and make this a memorable experience, as one way of thanking all of you for your service to us.

Liz Mackey
Director, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



Welcome Artists!

We are expecting more than 40 participants at the Festival this week who won first place in an artistic category. We are glad you are here!

We have many activities scheduled for you including workshops in Chinese calligraphy, collage and caricature drawing, crafts, and other educational and interactive opportunities.

Your week's activities will also include the opening ceremonies and meeting this evening; the artist interaction session at the VA Medical Center tomorrow; touring the Denver Art Museum; attending the Country Dinner Playhouse production of "Ain't Misbehavin'"; tours of the Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art and Sculpture Garden in Boulder; and visiting the Red Rocks Park, Amphitheater and Museum; and, of course, Sunday's art exhibit at Gates Concert Hall!



Welcome, artists! We hope you all enjoy your week.

Come to the Opening Ceremonies and Meeting Tonight!

Be sure to come early for tonight's Opening Ceremonies and meeting, taking place in Ballrooms A, B, C & D at the Denver Renaissance Hotel. At 6:30 p.m. (note the new starting time) our Festival participants will be treated to a special guest performance by country music sensation Ty Nelson. Although he is still a teen, Ty shares a special place in his heart for America's veterans and we know you'll be impressed by his patriotic style of music.

Also on the tonight's agenda are welcoming remarks from our hosts and other key VA officials. Colors will be presented by the Scottish American Military Society Color Guard, and three local Festival participants will lead the Pledge of Allegiance (Larry Ashkie, Robert L. Dalton, and Ronald Tomacik). Dr. Francis M. Murphy, VA's Deputy Under Secretary for Health, for Health Policy Coordination, will also greet the audience.

During the dinner meal, music will be provided by Manuel Mares of the VA medical center in Denver. Rick Crandall, station manager at KEZW in Denver, will deliver inspirational remarks before we adjourn and join our team leaders for an introductory meeting in the same room. (For more about Crandall, see story below.) If you haven't yet registered, be sure to do so during late registration, immediately after the formal ceremony.

Meet Rick Crandall, Tonight's Inspirational Speaker

It's no accident that Rick Crandall has spent his life in and around the military. Born into an Air Force family, he spent his first 17 years as a service brat in California, Arizona, North Carolina, North Africa, Germany and Colorado. When he joined the Air Force himself, he made his radio debut on Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, before he was assigned to the Air Force Academy.

Since leaving the service, Crandall has continued to work for those who served the nation. In 2000 and 2001, he traveled to the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach in Normandy, and to Pearl Harbor to broadcast tributes to the Coloradoans who had served in WWII. In 2004, he once again broadcast from Normandy for the 60th anniversary of D-Day, a broadcast that was nominated for the prestigious Peabody Award.

In 2003, the Crandall family hosted an Easter brunch for 200 family members of Colorado servicemen deployed to Iraq, where the families were reminded that people here at home understood their sacrifice and had not forgotten. He also supports projects at the local VA



See "Crandall," continued on page 6



Welcome Performers!

This week, we expect to see more than 60 of you in Denver and we welcome you to the Festival!

Cultural expression can define a nation's image, presenting an enduring look at the spirit and creativity of its people. Who better to help define that image than you! This week is sure to be both fun and rewarding as you prepare for Sunday's stage presentation at Gates Concert Hall, at the University of Denver's Newman Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to auditions, coachings, costume fittings and rehearsals, you will also attend the Country Dinner Playhouse production of "Ain't Misbehavin'" on Wednesday, have an opportunity to go shopping at the Cherry Creek Shopping and Gallery District on Friday and enjoy a gala dinner on Saturday evening. Of course tonight you will also take part in the opening ceremonies and meeting, as well as the closing ceremonies on Sunday evening after the big show.

As you prepare for the stage show, here are a few tips to remember:

- Always be on time for your rehearsals;
- Work hard to improve by listening to critiques and suggestions;
- Practice on your own;
- Encourage other performers; and
- Keep smiling – no matter what!

We hope this week will not only help you become an even better performer, but allow you to meet many wonderful and talented people. Please get to know as many people as possible, have a fantastic week and enjoy the excitement of being part of a wonderful show! **Welcome, performers! We hope you all enjoy your week.**



The Festival's Own "American Idol"

There is no need watch for the coronation of the next "American Idol" because our own version is here in Denver! Though you won't catch him on the popular reality TV show, you'll discover his talent when he performs at the opening ceremonies tonight. With a politeness and maturity that bely his boyish good looks, Nelson's recognition of the work of the Armed Forces and gratitude to America's veterans is noteworthy.

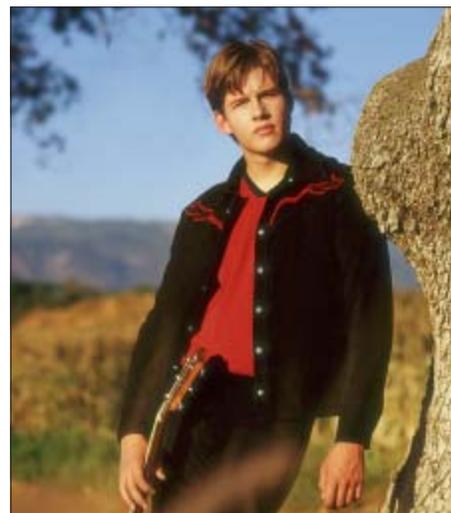
"Living in San Diego, which is a military city, allowed me to be very close to the military and feel its presence," said Nelson. "My family has friends who serve and have served. I've met brave men and women not much older than I who have committed their lives to America."



It is the connection to the military that has given Nelson a focus for some of his recent tour dates. "I made a commitment to help support the military through my music in any way I could," he said.

Nelson makes good on his promises. He personally contacted then Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi about how he could get involved with America's present and past heroes. Now, Nelson has performed at several of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events.

Nelson says he's most excited about meeting the participants face-to-face. "That will be the highlight of my time here...my personal interaction with these brave men and women. I look forward to meeting everyone at the event and to personally extend my thanks for their service to our country."



Country music artist Ty Nelson will be entertaining Festival participants at the opening ceremonies tonight.

“Crandall,” continued from page 4

medical center, the State Veterans Nursing Home and numerous American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts. He also serves as guest professor at a WWII seminar series at Regis University.

Among his many other jobs supporting veterans and veterans’ causes, Crandall serves as master of ceremonies for Denver’s Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades and many other local events. If that wasn’t enough, Crandall formed a non-profit foundation in 2001 to build a veterans memorial dedicated to the more than 6000 Coloradoans who have died in military action.

“It is a sacrifice to serve in the military,” Crandall said. “I believe we all owe a debt of gratitude to those who have served, and while I can, I’m going to do my best to see that we pay that debt.”

More Facts about the Mile High City

- √ Denver receives 300 days of sunshine a year — more annual hours of sun than San Diego or Miami Beach.
- √ Denver is the nation’s most highly educated city, with the highest percentage of high school and college graduates.
- √ Denver has the largest city park system in the nation; 205 parks in city limits and 20,000 acres of parks in the nearby mountains.
- √ Denver is the “Baby Boomer” capital of America, with the highest percentage of boomers of any major U.S. city.
- √ Denver is 20th in the U.S. in population, but has the 10th largest downtown in terms of office space and retail space.
- √ Denver has the nation’s second largest performing arts center.
- √ Denver is a mile high. There’s a spot on the steps of the State Capitol building that is exactly 5,280 feet above sea level, hence its nickname.



During the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Library of Congress invite all participants to be part of an important national project – *The Veterans History Project (VHP)*.

This historic project is meant to honor our nation’s veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Regardless of branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, all veterans are invited to share it with our VHP program staff this week at the Festival, and help make history!

As part of this project, a 45-minute interview of participating veterans will be videotaped and given to the Library of Congress, and will then become part of our Nation’s official historical records. Each participant will also receive a DVD copy of their interview during the Festival.

VHP interviews will take place beginning Tuesday, October 18, through Saturday, October 22, between the hours of 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; and on Sunday, October 23, between the hours of 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Interviews will take place in room 314 at the Renaissance Denver Hotel.

Only you can tell your story, and it’s a story worth preserving and sharing with future generations. All veterans are encouraged to be a part of this important project. For more information, visit the Veterans History Project web site:
<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>

Hometown News

Help us tell the community about your selection to attend the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival! With your permission, we will prepare an individual news release – with your photo – on the Creative Arts Web site, and will also let your local newspaper know it is there. While we can never guarantee media coverage, we will do our best to encourage the newspapers to print these releases. Even if they don’t, you can still share your story with family, friends and other veterans. The Web site address is:

www.creativeartsfestival.org. Be sure to read more about the hometown news program in tomorrow’s *ArtsGram!*



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Meet with Your Team Leader

This evening following the opening ceremonies you will have your first meeting with your team leader. After tonight, you will meet with your team leader every morning (through Friday) at 8:30 a.m. at the designated location determined at tonight's meeting. On Saturday, October 22, the team meetings will begin at 9 a.m. On Sunday, October 23, the meetings will begin at 11 a.m.



The hospitality room, staffed by gracious volunteers, offers snacks, soft drinks,

juices and coffee for all Festival participants, staff and volunteers.

Since there is only one meal being served today, drop by the hospitality room if you get hungry. Festival volunteers will be serving sandwiches this afternoon.

The room is open today from noon to 10:00 p.m., and is located on the third floor, rooms 301 and 303. Enjoy!



Your medical support team welcomes you to Denver, the "Mile High City." You can expect mild days and

cool nights, so wear layered clothing. Due to the altitude (5,280 feet) and dry climate here, you need to drink plenty of fluids and take sunburn precautions – clothing, hat and sunscreen – when you go outside. It is not unusual to experience a shortness of breath at high altitude for a day or so. It will help your body adjust if you drink plenty of fluids and get lots of rest. The medical support team will be located on the third floor, room 318, and are available at all times during the Festival week. Medical support team members will also accompany all tours away from the hotel.

If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope to make your stay here in Denver the very best.



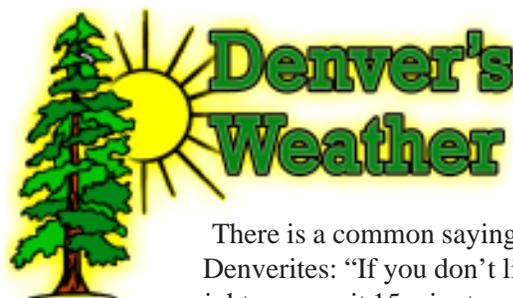
Monday, October 17, 2005

Gold Rush Buffet

Hearts of Romaine Salad
 Portabella Mushroom Tortelloni Salad
 Seasonal Fruit with Dipping Sauce
 Chicken Scallopine
 Tournedos of Beef
 Truffled Mashed Potatoes
 Stir Fried Baby Broccoli
 Ciabatta Bread & Sourdough Rolls with Butter
 Lemon Raspberry Cake
 Pecan Pie
 Coffee and Hot Tea,
 Cream and Sugar, Sugar Substitute
 Milk, Iced Tea

NVCAF WEB SITE
www.creativeartsfestival.org

Would you like your friends and family back home to be able to see what you are doing this week? Log onto the Festival Web site to check out the daily editions of the *ArtsGram* (on the main home page) as well as individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab.



There is a common saying among Denverites: "If you don't like the weather right now, wait 15 minutes and it will change." In Denver, the weather is always a topic for any conversation.

During October you can expect highs in the mid-60's and lows in the low 30s.



Schedule for Monday, October 17, 2005

ALL DAY	Arrival of participants and staff
Noon – 9 p.m.	Registration at the Renaissance Hotel – Ballroom Level
Noon – 10 p.m.	Hospitality Room, Room 301, 3 rd Floor
5:30 p.m.	Team Leaders Meeting – O’Hare Room, Ballroom Level (staff only)
6:30 p.m.	Dinner & Opening Ceremonies – Ballrooms A, B, C, D
8 p.m. (approx.)	Opening Meeting: Introductions, announcements, team meetings – Ballrooms A, B, C, D

Artists — Schedule for Tuesday, October 18, 2005 — Performers

7 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Hotel — Ballrooms C, D
8:30 a.m.	Team leaders meet with artists
8:45 a.m.	Depart for VA Medical Center
9 – 11 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open — Room 301 and 303, 3 rd Floor
9:15 a.m.	Artists Interaction Session — VA Medical Center Auditorium
11:45 a.m.	Return to hotel
12:30 p.m.	Lunch at hotel — Ballrooms C, D
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Art Workshop #1: Caricature Drawing — Stapleton Room, Atrium Level
5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner — Ballrooms C, D
7 – 9 p.m.	Caricature Drawings — Gatwick Room, Atrium Level
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Art Therapy CEU Session (staff) — Stapleton Room, Atrium Level
9:30 – 11 p.m.	Karaoke/Social Time — National Room, Atrium Level

7 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Hotel — Ballrooms C, D
8:30 a.m.	Team leaders meet with performers
9 a.m. – 12 Noon	Introductions and announce- ments for ALL stage performers and staff. Individual acts introduced and perform, in costume, in show order — Ballrooms A, B
9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open Rooms 301 and 303, 3 rd Floor
Noon	Lunch at hotel — Ballrooms C, D
1 – 4 p.m.	Rehearsal of individual acts with directors, as scheduled — Ballrooms A, B
1 – 4 p.m.	Chorus member vests, other costume fittings — LaGuardia Room, Ballroom Level
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Chorus music rehearsal with assistant directors — O’Hare Room, Ballroom Level
4 – 5 p.m.	Rehearsal and sign-up for audition solos and narrations — Ballrooms A, B, O’Hare, Orly and LaGuardia Rooms
5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner – Ballrooms C, D
7 – 9:30 p.m.	Chorus number rehearsal (All show participants) — Ballrooms A, B
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Auditions for solos and narrations — one person at a time will be called out of chorus number rehearsal — O’Hare Room, Banquet Level
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Art Therapy CEU Session (staff) — Stapleton Room, Atrium Level
9:30 – 11 p.m.	Karaoke/Social Time — National Room, Atrium Level