



Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Eastern Colorado Health Care System
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER VA TO HOST 2005 NATIONAL CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

DENVER, CO – Approximately 110 veterans from across the country will be invited to attend the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, taking place in Denver this October.

The Festival is the culmination of a year-long fine arts and talent competition open to all veterans receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. There were approximately 3,000 participants nationwide vying for invitations to the annual event.

The Festival takes place October 17 - 23, and is presented by VA, the American Legion Auxiliary and Help Hospitalized Veterans. It is hosted this year by the VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System in Denver.

"Our medical center staff and volunteers are ready to provide Festival participants with a very memorable experience," said Barry Sharp, acting director, VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System. "At VA facilities nationwide, the creative arts are incorporated into rehabilitative treatment programs to help veterans recover from physical and emotional disabilities. The Festival is an excellent way of recognizing the progress and recovery of our nation's heroes."

During the week of the event, the veterans will participate in a number of rehearsals and workshops concluding with a visual art exhibit and a gala variety stage show at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Denver campus on Sunday, October 23. The art exhibit begins at 12:30 p.m., with the performance immediately following at 2:00 p.m.

Renowned actress of Hollywood's golden era, Jane Powell, will be the mistress of ceremonies for the show. In addition, Actress Bo Derek, national honorary chairperson for VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events programs, is expected to be on hand to meet and greet attendees throughout the week.

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National Veterans Creative Arts Festival 2-2-2-2

For further information about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, contact Susan Broschat, public affairs officer, 303-393-2817, susan.broschat@med.va.gov, or Jeff Luginbuel, public affairs officer, 303-914-5155, cell 303-929-4675, jeff.luginbuel@mail.va.gov. Or, visit the Festival web site at: www.creativeartsfestival.org.

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