



Community Affairs Service (COMM)

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA Black Hills Health Care System to Host 2006 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Veterans from across the country have been invited to attend the 2006 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival taking place in Rapid City, South Dakota this October.

The Festival is the culmination of a year-long fine arts and talent competition open to all veterans receiving care at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. More than 2800 veterans nationwide entered local competitions hoping to receive an invitation to this annual event.

The Festival takes place October 16 – 22, is co-sponsored by VA, Help Hospitalized Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary. The 2006 Festival will be hosted this year by the VA Black Hills Health Care System. It is the first time the national event has been held in South Dakota.

"Our medical center staff and volunteers are ready to provide Festival participants with a very memorable experience," said Peter Henry, Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System. "At VA facilities nationwide, the creative arts are incorporated into rehabilitative treatment programs to help veterans recover from physical and emotional challenges. The Festival is an excellent way to recognize and celebrate the progress and recovery of our nation's heroes."

During the Festival week veterans will participate in a number of rehearsals and workshops. The week culminates with a visual art exhibit and a gala variety stage show at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Fine Arts Theatre and Lobby on Sunday, October 22. The art exhibit begins at 12:30 p.m. with the stage show 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. To reserve tickets free of charge, contact the ticket information office at (605)720-7100.

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

For further information about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival contact
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www.creativeartsfestival.org.

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