

2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



St. Louis, Missouri
October 22 - 28



Now in its 19th year, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is the celebration and grand finale stage and art show which is the culmination of talent competitions in music, drama, dance, art, and creative writing for veterans treated in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care facilities across the country. The event presents opportunities for media stories about the artists, the performers, creative arts therapy and the event itself. This year, more than 120 veterans will exhibit their artwork or perform musical, dance or drama selections in a gala variety show. A professional orchestra will accompany the performance. All veterans invited to participate are selected winners of year-long, national fine arts talent competitions in which nearly 3,000 veterans entered, from VA medical facilities across the United States. Nationwide, VA medical centers use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. This annual Festival recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability or life crisis. The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is a week of learning, exploring, fellowship, and celebration of the healing power of the arts. It is presented each year by VA, Help Hospitalized Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary.



STORY IDEAS

Art

- ★ Veterans Display Talents in:
Art * Music * Dance * Drama * Creative Writing
- ★ Special Recognition Winners
- ★ "Best of Show" interviews
- ★ Meet the local artists and performers

Military/Patriotism

- ★ Vietnam veterans stay active through the arts
- ★ Women veterans at the Festival
- ★ Military heroes and the arts
- ★ War-injured artists
- ★ Veterans of different eras

Health

- ★ Creative Arts as therapy
- ★ Overcoming emotional issues through the arts
- ★ Using the arts to combat PTSD
- ★ Physical rehabilitation through the arts
- ★ Interviews with art/music therapists

Special events

- ★ Artist Interaction Session
- ★ Art Exhibition
- ★ Stage Show Rehearsals and Performance
- ★ Celebrity interviews

