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April Goodwin – Living her dream!

In speaking about her singing career, April Goodwin of Clinton, Md., is quick to tell you that she started with nothing but a good voice and a dream. That dream endures as she performs in her fifth National Veterans Creative Arts Festival this year in St. Louis, Mo., entertaining the audience as part of the chorus in several all-cast production numbers.

Goodwin, a 47-year-old Army veteran, actually wanted to be a veterinarian as a young child but in grade school she traded that dream for another after she started singing in the chorus. She has past wins at the Festival in the national music, dance and drama competitions, and continues to share her talents with friends and the community. This year she won first, second and third place in the national music competition. "Winning is always great, but winning because I accomplished something makes it sweeter," Goodwin says. "I really used to think that art was just one thing and could only be seen as that. Now, I know that art is what you make it and how you feel it to be. Being able to do something I love with other people is a very soothing thing."



Not limited to the performing arts, Goodwin also enjoys creative visual artwork. Recently, she began making roses and jewelry from clay that she makes herself, using slices of bread, and also crafts wearable rings out of bar soap. "One day I began to create and I have never stopped," she says. "I feel honored to be able to participate in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. I love learning from the other veterans and instructors and making my own attempts at other arts."

One of Goodwin's fondest entertainment memories include her most recent performance with a live musical ensemble in a play called, "Love, Relationships and Drama." She has performed as a member of an honors choir at the famous John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and has also been part of a 300-member choir celebrating the Christmas story.

Although April Goodwin has great interest in delving into all types of art media, she is also quick to add, "I am living my dream – and singing every chance I can get!"