



art • music • dance • creative writing

## PARTICIPANT PROFILE

### Christine Pointer – A Lesson in Overcoming

Christine Pointer is a dynamic talent, this year winning three gold medals and one bronze medal at the National Veterans Creative Arts competition. From Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Pointer is a 44-year-old Army veteran who receives care at the Miami VA Healthcare System and VA's Oakland Park outpatient clinic. During this year's stage show, she will perform a piece titled "Homeward Bound" with her vocal group.

Pointer joined the Army in February 1982, after recruiters visited her high school. "I wanted to get away from home and see the world," she recalls. "My family struggled for so long and I didn't see a way out of the projects." Serving ten years in the Army, Pointer met her goal of seeing the world while stationed in Virginia, Germany, Texas and South Carolina. Pointer worked as a supply sergeant and unit armorer during her military career.

For many, the Festival provides a means of healing, both in the physical and emotional sense. For a time, Pointer herself experienced anxiety, flashbacks and depression from some significant traumas she had experienced during her military service. "I tried to handle the situation on my own but was unsuccessful," she remembers. "I was thrilled to learn much later about a program that could build self-esteem, confidence and promote healing – and that program was the Creative Arts Festival. Art is a good form of therapy because it opens the door for healing to begin through expression. I have been competing since 2003 and I am always amazed at the talented veterans I have had the opportunity to bond with. It is both an honor and a privilege to be onstage with these servicemen and women, sharing our challenges and our passion in the creative arts."

Although Pointer will sing at this year's event, she has also performed her dancing pieces at past Festivals, including one memorable piece where she took on the role of portraying the American flag. "Dancing is another way I can communicate," she says. "I love the way dancing makes me feel, interpretive dance especially. I'm able to freely express those thoughts and words through body movement, enabling me to tell a story and express many emotions."

Whether it is singing, dancing, writing monologues or maybe someday the visual arts, Christine Pointer is victorious every time she is under the spotlight and takes her bow center stage.

