

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY DANCE DIVISION

Walkin' to New Orleans

ERNEST CABALLERO

RODOLFO CAMACHO

**Martinez Outpatient Clinic and Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care
Martinez, California**

Army veterans Ernest Caballero, 57, and Rodolfo (Rudy) Camacho, 44, met one another at the VA facility in Martinez, California where they were receiving care. Both veterans have undergone leg amputations and wear prostheses. When recreation therapist Darlyn Phillips first informed them about the National Veterans Creative Arts competition, they expressed an interest in doing what they could to serve as an inspiration to fellow veterans who were facing similar physical challenges.

With the assistance of rehabilitation therapists, the duo prepared and rehearsed their dance routine and entered it into the National Veterans Creative Arts competition. They chose the song *Walkin' to New Orleans* as a dedication to their brothers and sisters surviving Hurricane Katrina, with the message to keep their spirit of determination strong. The entry took first place in the Special Recognition category of the dance division, and very clearly demonstrates the concept of ability winning over adversity.

