

2008 NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL STARRING OUR NATION'S VETERANS



More than twenty years ago, veterans from all over the United States showed off their artistic abilities at the first-ever National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Now in its 27th year, the Festival showcases more than 120 veterans selected from VA medical facilities across the nation. With more than 3,000 veterans vying for a spot in this exclusive event, only the finest performers and artists will display their talents at the annual week-long program. Every veteran invited is a selected winner of year-long, national fine arts talent competitions across the United States. The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is the celebration and grand stage finale and art show featuring music, drama, dance, art and creative writing. This event presents opportunities for media stories about the artists, the performers, creative arts therapy and the event itself.

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. The annual Creative Arts 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 Festival offers 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. It is hosted this year by the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System in Riverside, California.

Hosted by
VA Loma Linda Healthcare System
in Riverside, California
October 20-26, 2008

STORY IDEAS

Creative Arts

- 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

- Veterans from across the nation
- Vietnam veterans stay active through the arts
- Women veterans at the Festival
- Military heroes and the arts
- War-injured artists

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; Bo Derek to Emcee the Stage Performance

Presented by



Department of
Veterans Affairs



Help Hospitalized
Veterans



American Legion
Auxiliary

