



Special Edition, October 26, 2008

From Backstage to the Spotlight

J. Sheppard Crumrine

*Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center
2008 Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award Recipient*

With so many expressive words that could be used to describe this year's Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award recipient, his job title, "music therapist," just doesn't say enough. As a strong supporter of the healing power of the arts, J. Sheppard Crumrine (known fondly by family and friends simply as "Shep") is the 2008 Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award winner.

In alphabetical fashion, let's begin his description with the letter "A" for accommodating and advocating. Whether he's at home in Milwaukee or on the road with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF), this laudable VA employee is all about adjusting his schedule and skills to help veterans reach their goals.

"Shep is very personable and so easy going," said Bert Berger, Ph.D., a VA psychologist and Crumrine's supervisor at Milwaukee's Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. "He is able to handle all kinds of clinical situations and the veterans really like him."

Back home, Crumrine coordinates a monthly activity called "the coffeehouse program," in which veterans prepare and present a stage show to other veterans, family and VA staff. The show is complete with live performances, lights and sound, plus coffee is made available by local service organizations. He also facilitates a popular music program for veterans called, "The VA Jam Band," which travels around the city performing a variety of musical genres. The band gives veterans the opportunity to develop musical skills and to learn to play a variety of instruments. The "VA Jam Band" complements the coffeehouse program by lending musical talent to the shows. Combined, these outlets provide veterans with yearlong practice for the VA Medical Center's local creative arts competition each year.

"Shep is very active in the music recreational therapy community," said Berger. "In addition to his work at VA, he has appeared on television to talk about benefits associated with this type of therapy. He continues to conduct research on the recovery aspect attributed to music therapy as it pertains to persons with mental illness."

Music therapy is more than a job to Crumrine, it's his passion. His curriculum vita is ample with education and employment pertaining to this cause, but it's what is listed under the heading "Organization Involvement" that tells it all. Crumrine lists membership with 15 different music organizations, including the Knox-Galesburg Symphony, Peoria Opera Co.,



J. Sheppard "Shep" Crumrine, the 2008 Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award Recipient



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Shep Crumrine monitors the sound board at rehearsals during the Festival week.

Illinois State University Symphony, and Holy Rosary Choir. He is also the director of the local VA Choir and a member of “Staff Infection,” a VA staff band.

Since 1998, Crumrine has performed backstage duties as the assistant stage manager for the sound crew at the NVCAF. He has also served on the National Committee for the Festival since 1998.

“His commitment to veterans is evidenced by his caring attitude toward them, and the way he spends time getting to know them,” said Elizabeth Mackey, NVCAF Director who has worked with him at the national event for many years. “He strives to make their lives better through his own musical talents and music therapy, and by assisting them in any way possible.”

According to Mackey, Crumrine takes great care in preparing the practice CDs each year for the chorus members of the stage show and contributes a lot of his own time to veteran-related events.

Although he holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry/pre-med from Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., Crumrine’s educational background is diverse. He also studied music education and achieved his Music Therapy Equivalency from Illinois State University in Normal, Ill. Other institutions he attended include the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and Colorado State University.

We are glad this special therapist has shared his talents and warm, giving spirit with us here at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival for the past ten years, and are pleased he is recognized by his peers as an ideal recipient of the Shirley Jefferies Award. “Shep has such a big heart,” said Mackey. “The work he does for the Creative Arts Festival is evident in the successes shared by the veterans who participate.”

Congratulations, Shep—and thank you for your commitment to the arts and to our nation’s veterans!

The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award

Shirley Jefferies was a recreation therapist and former chief of recreation therapy service at the Knoxville, Iowa VA Medical Center. She served as Advisor to the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival until her death in 1994. Jefferies was a vital influence to the beginning of the program and the drive behind many of its changes and growth. With a heartfelt love for the arts and their therapeutic value in life, Jefferies made a lasting impact on many veterans as well as staff members who became involved with the event.

The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award began in 1994. Each year, it is presented to an individual who demonstrates true dedication to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, its goals and philosophy. By recognizing an individual who has displayed such dedication, we are able to pay tribute to Shirley Jefferies each year, while carrying on the therapeutic message she wished to convey.

Past Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award recipients include:	
1994	Don Ziska, former Director, VA Medical Center Knoxville, Iowa
1995	Jennifer Lewis, Music Therapist, Temple, Texas
1996	Leah Givler, Music Therapist, Coatesville, Pa.
1997	Linda Colletti, NVCAF Art Exhibit Coordinator, San Diego, Calif.
1998	Katharina “Katie” Ryan, Recreation Therapist, Minneapolis, Minn.
1999	Bill Haworth, NVCAF Music Director, San Diego, Calif.
2000	Elizabeth Nealy, Recreation Therapist, Houston, Texas
2001	Jessie Herndon, Music Therapist, Chicago, Ill.
2002	Jean Calhoun, Music Therapist, Tomah, Wis.
2003	Suzanne Anderson, Music Therapist, Knoxville, Iowa
2004	Paula Moran, Recreation Therapist, Prescott, Ariz.
2005	Mia Leber, HHV Craft Care Specialist, Chicago, Ill.
2006	Maureen Harvey, Recreation Therapist, Oklahoma City, Okla.
2007	Gary Johnson, Music Therapist, Topeka, Kan.
2008	J. Sheppard Crumrine, Music Therapist, Milwaukee, Wis.



Come to San Antonio in 2009



Next year's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will take place deep in the heart of Texas – San Antonio - where you will find so many fun things to do you will want to come back again and again! The South Texas Veterans Health Care System will host the event October 5 – 11, 2009. The historic Sheraton Gunter Hotel, the Alamo, the famous River Walk and the Municipal Auditorium will all provide inspiring backdrops.

The 2009 Festival will showcase the artistic achievements of veterans from across the nation. The South Texas Veterans Health Care System local planning committee has been actively involved in the onsite logistics for this year's Festival and is looking forward to having you visit their city next year in 2009.

San Antonio is a world-class tourist destination offering a rich history of Texas and Mexican cultures. Historic sites and shopping are sure to make your week a memorable one.

Goodbye and Good Luck - from the 2008 Media Center Crew!

It is hard to believe, but the art exhibit and stage show are over and now we can relax and enjoy our last night in Riverside. There is a special dinner and wonderful closing ceremony program prepared for this evening, so relax and enjoy it!

The media center staff thoroughly enjoyed our time with you. What an inspiration all of the participants have been! We did not get a chance to meet everyone or hear every story, but those we did hear and those we reported have truly changed our lives. Thank you for sharing them with us.

We also want to thank the staff from the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System who supported the whole event this week, and throughout the past year. They provided much needed assistance to accomplish our tasks for the week and we wouldn't have made it without them. Thank you!

Remember, when you get home and start thinking about the week and all the special people you met here in Riverside, you can log on to the Festival Web site at: www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov and see all your friends again. The participants who requested a news release will be able to download their release and picture, which are already posted on the site for use by media in their hometown. (Of course, all of this week's ArtsGram newsletters are available there, too!)

Please be safe, everyone, as you travel home tomorrow. We encourage you all to continue pursuing your wonderful talents and look forward to hearing you have entered the Creative Arts Festival once again in 2009. Hope to see you in San Antonio next October!

Sincerely,

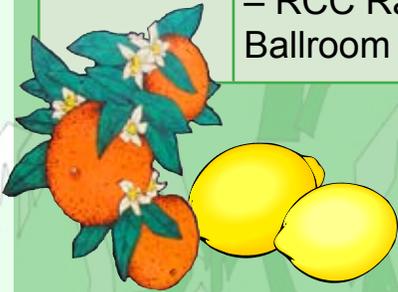
THE 2008 PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM



Monday, October 27

All Day Departures

6 – 9 a.m. Breakfast
– RCC Raincross Ballroom



DAILY MENU

Monday, October 27, 2008

Meals will be served in Raincross Ballroom in the RCC unless otherwise designated.
Brunch: 8 - 11 a.m.



Breakfast - Sunrise Buffet

Fluffy Scrambled Eggs; Sliced Fresh Fruit Tray; French Toast with Maple Syrup, Butter and Powdered Sugar; Bacon and Sausages; Breakfast Potatoes; Oatmeal & Dry Cereal; Orange Juice, Apple Juice & Tomato Juice; Milk (Soy Milk is available upon request); Coffee, Hot Tea



Just 4 Grins



Monday Transportation Details . . .



ATTENTION... Here is the schedule for transportation departures Monday morning.

Buses depart from in front of the Marriott.

Departure	Flight Time
4:15 a.m.	6 to 7:59 a.m.
6 a.m.	for those riding the Metro
6:15 a.m.	8 to 9:59 a.m.
7:45 a.m.	10 to 11:59 a.m.
10 a.m.	12 to 1:59 p.m.
2 p.m.	Last bus for the airport

*** If your flight departure time has changed since you completed your registration form, please stop by the headquarters room on the second floor of the convention center and give them your new information.

NVCAF WEB SITE

www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov

Be sure to check out the Creative Arts Festival Web site when you get home to remember this year's Festival. You'll find pictures galore along with your hometown news release. Look for copies of the competition and souvenir booklets. Be sure to show the *ARTSGRAM* to your friends and family. It's a great way to share your experience with others. A full photo gallery will be posted on the site in the next few weeks.

Hospitality Suite

Enjoy the hospitality of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) for one last time Sunday night in the Hospitality Suite (Marriott Suite 1228). Hours are from 10 p.m. until Midnight. Thanks ladies for all your smiles, tasty treats and words of encouragement this week!



Monday's Weather
Low - 53°
High - 93°
Sunny and bright!