2008 NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

STARRING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

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

Presented by

Department of Veterans Affairs

Help Hospitalized Veterans

American Legion Auxiliary

2008

★★★

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

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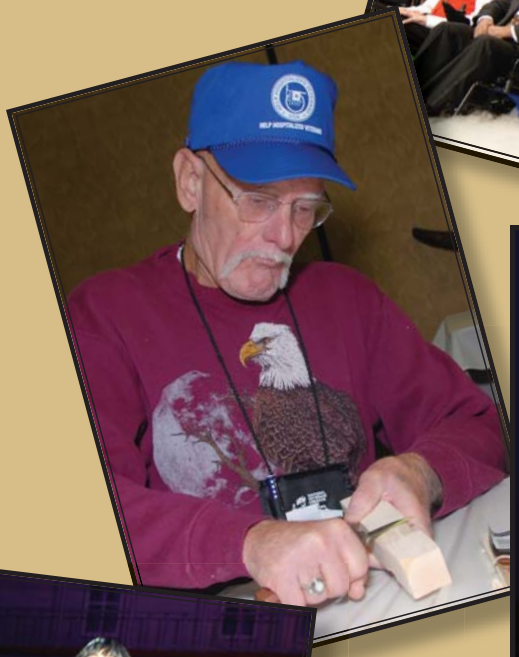
With special thanks to all of our sponsors and contributors.



EXIT

James B. Peake, M.D.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), I extend a warm welcome to everyone gathered in Loma Linda, California to participate in the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

This Festival is the culmination of a year of outstanding achievement for veteran participants. Having engaged in competition at both the local and national levels, the veterans invited to the Festival represent the most talented artists and performers from VA medical facilities across the nation. Art therapy often plays an important role in the recovery and rehabilitation of those who are dealing with physical or emotional illness. For many, the Festival has proven to be a stepping stone for future rehabilitative and artistic success.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our national co-sponsors, the American Legion Auxiliary and Help Hospitalized Veterans, for assisting VA in making this year's Festival a reality. I also extend my thanks to this year's host site, the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, as well as VA employees, volunteers, and the many corporate sponsors who contribute so much to making this event successful. Your teamwork and dedication have helped make the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival a hallmark of excellence in art expression and rehabilitation.

Best wishes to all for a memorable week!

James B. Peake, M.D.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor of California

2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Greetings to everyone gathered for the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and welcome to California.

I thank all of the veterans participating in this event for your outstanding service to our nation. Your courage and commitment to liberty have secured the freedom of generations of Americans, and I salute each of you for being an inspiration to our country.

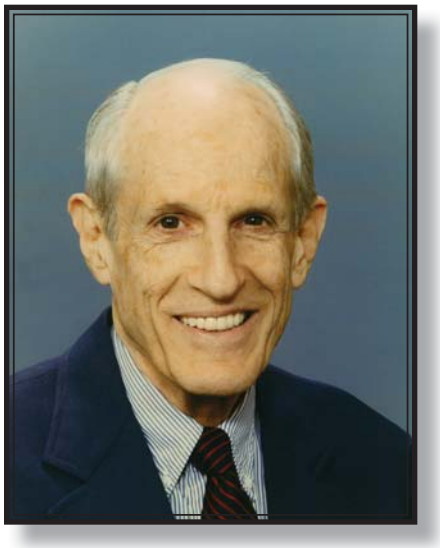
My gratitude also goes to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and all those who made this terrific gathering possible. I commend your efforts to acknowledge our veterans, not only for their dedication to protecting our freedom, but also for their creative and artistic talents.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and every future success.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Roger Chapin

Founder and President
Help Hospitalized Veterans



Help Hospitalized Veterans

36585 Penfield Lane
Winchester, California 92596
(951) 926-4500 · Fax (951) 926-3569
www.hhv.org

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the hundreds of thousands of donors who support Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV), I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to the performers, families, friends, volunteers and the incredible VA staff for attending the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

As a longtime national presenter of this annual event, we again look forward to a program that has proven to inspire all who witness the wonderful talents of you, America's veterans, who remain active regardless of disability. By your example, you also demonstrate to the young people of our nation what it means to be a proud American through your courage, patriotism and military service.

Help Hospitalized Veterans will continue to work hard to educate our citizens about the continued need to support veterans, the active duty military and your families. For the past 37 years, HHV's Board has made its primary mission to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs through our contributions of products and services that will enhance the quality of life for America's veterans.

HHV is very proud to join VA and the American Legion Auxiliary in presenting this annual Festival. We congratulate the hundreds of hardworking community volunteers as well as our businesses and corporate donors who help make this event such a memorable experience for the veteran participants. Please know that programs like this Festival are a true labor of love from your VA therapists at your VA medical centers and all who support them.

We wish you the very best this week as you enjoy our local community. We know that this will be an exciting experience not only to you, but to all of us who will be here to marvel at your wonderful talents.

God Bless you all,

Roger Chapin

ROGER CHAPIN
Founder and President
Help Hospitalized Veterans

Desireé A. Stoy

National President
American Legion Auxiliary

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Empowering Women, Inspiring Communities

Dear Participants and Guests,

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, I pass along warm greetings to everyone attending the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

As a national co-sponsor, the Auxiliary is incredibly proud to support rehabilitation efforts of veterans through this Festival. All 900,000 members of our organization fully understand the commitment veterans and their families have made for our country, and we support them wholeheartedly.

The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. All of us congratulate the men and women selected to perform and display their works of art at this week's show here in the beautiful state of California.

If you have any questions during your visit to the Festival, please feel free to ask one of the several Auxiliary volunteers on hand. Whether it's needing directions, program information or even inquiring about becoming a member of the Auxiliary, we're here to help. We look forward to assisting you.

We wish all participants and guests the very best this week as tremendous talent and artistic gifts are shared.

Sincerely,

Desireé A. Stoy
National President
American Legion Auxiliary

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420

It is a great pleasure to welcome artists, performers, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and special guests to the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The employees of VA's Loma Linda Healthcare System have worked very hard to ensure that the 2008 Festival provides a fantastic experience for all who attend.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is a celebration of achievement. The Festival recognizes the ability of our Nation's veterans to overcome adversity and challenges in their lives. The Festival participants conquer their emotional and physical challenges through the therapeutic benefits of the arts. Each participant has demonstrated exceptional talent in music, drama, dance, art, or creative writing, and has incorporated that talent into his or her treatment and recovery.

Each of us, as leaders of VA's three administrations, is committed to providing veterans with the best care and services available. All of VA's national rehabilitation events are true celebrations of life, hope, and achievement.

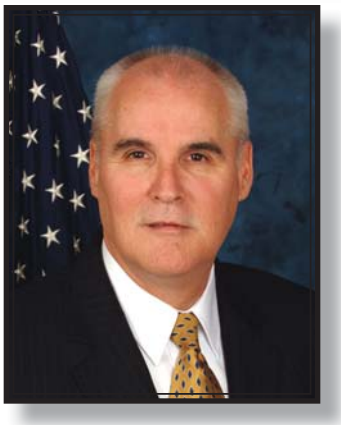
We thank all of the civic and community sponsors who support this event with their resources, especially our two co-sponsors: Help Hospitalized Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary. Their unwavering commitment to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival has made this special week possible.

To this year's participants, congratulations! We hope you will enjoy the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and will have a wonderful week in Riverside, California.

Michael J. Kussman
MD, MS, MACP
Under Secretary
for Health

P.W. Dunne
Acting Under Secretary
for Benefits

William F. Tuerk
Under Secretary
for Memorial Affairs



Ronald B. Norby

Network Director

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network

Greetings:

I would like to offer a heartfelt welcome to all veterans, families and friends to southern California and the VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network. It is an honor and privilege to have you visit and share your talents with us at the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

The host facility for this year's Festival is the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center located in Loma Linda, California. This is a state-of-the-art facility with an exceptionally dedicated staff serving veterans in eastern Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System is one of five major VA Healthcare Systems (along with Las Vegas, Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Diego) that comprise the VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network, serving veterans in southern California and Nevada.

The nearly 12,000 physicians, nurses and staff employed within the VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network have dedicated themselves to providing the "best care anywhere" and care that is truly patient centered. We sincerely hope that you have no medical issues arise while you are here, but should you need any of our services, we are ready and very willing to meet any need.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is a celebration and an opportunity for veterans to express themselves through their artistic talents that also have therapeutic benefits. We are most impressed with the multitude of creativity that you are sharing with us and the southern California community. We are truly enriched by your presence.

Let us know if there is any way that we can make your stay more enjoyable; whether it is restaurant recommendations, directions to our many landmarks and attractions or simply touring the area. We are justifiably proud to live in southern California and we want to do everything possible to assure that you leave with great memories.

Thank you for your service to our nation and best wishes for a successful event.

Ronald B. Norby
Network Director

Maria Favale

Acting Medical Center Director

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Loma Linda Healthcare System

Dear Festival Guest:

It is an honor to welcome each and every one of you to Riverside, California for the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The staff and volunteers of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System have been working hard over the past three years to make this event special and unique for each of you.

Hosting the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is one more opportunity for our medical center to serve you. We know that the Festival activities taking place this week and *Starring our Nation's Veterans*, will inspire each one of us. Your many artistic achievements and talents are sure to challenge us all, and encourage us to become more active in our own creative endeavors.

On behalf of all of us here at the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, I thank you for your dedication and sacrifice for our country.

Sincerely,

Maria Favale, Pharm.D., FACHE
Acting Medical Center Director

Ronald O. Loveridge

Mayor of Riverside

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to welcome the participants of the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival to Riverside and the Inland Empire. We are honored that Riverside is the site of this year's celebration. We hope that you take advantage of your stay in our area by visiting local attractions including a few military memorials.

Riverside has had a long-standing relationship with the military, working with and supporting the March Air Field Base since 1918. We salute the men and women who have devoted their lives to protect our nation through all branches of the military.

We look forward to seeing your creative talents at the Festival. We hope this Festival provides our country's veterans an opportunity to renew acquaintances, exchange ideas, and exhibit their exceptional work.

Thank you for your service to our country. Best wishes for a successful and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Ronald O. Loveridge
Mayor

Stan Brauer

Mayor of Loma Linda

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF LOMA LINDA

On behalf of the City Council and the entire city of Loma Linda, I am honored to welcome our nation's veterans, families and friends to the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and to the Inland Empire.

Loma Linda is proud to have the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center as part of its medical community. In partnership with Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Health Care, the dedicated staff and volunteers serve over 57,000 veterans who entrust their healthcare needs to the VA.

We salute the many brave men and women who have dedicated their lives serving this great nation. Please enjoy the exhibits of artwork and musical, dance, dramatic and original writing selections of more than 120 participating military service veterans. In addition, southern California offers many recreational and educational opportunities, from the desert to the mountains to the beautiful beaches, for your enjoyment during your stay.

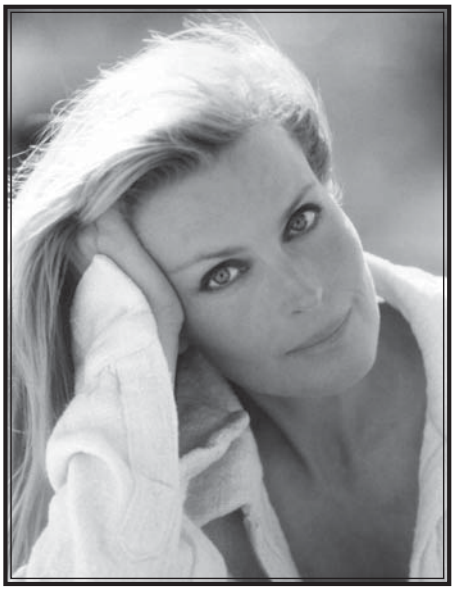
I extend my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Stan Brauer
Mayor

National Honorary Chairperson

Bo Derek
2008 Mistress of Ceremonies



This year, we are honored to welcome Hollywood and TV star, published author and true humanitarian Bo Derek, as Mistress of Ceremonies for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival stage show. No stranger to the event, Derek has attended the Festival many times in the past, enjoying the artistic talents of both our visual and performing artists.

Running on the beach in the 1979 smash hit "10," Bo Derek entered American pop culture and became the standard for the "perfect 10 beauty." Nearly 30 years later, she proves that real beauty goes even deeper, devoting her time to caring for other people and animals alike.

Her concern for animals led Derek to create *Bless the Beasts*, a line of pet products sold in stores nationwide. She donates a portion of all sales to *Canine Companions for Independence*, a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing them with highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support.

Her strong compassion for people with disabilities goes even further. For eight years, Derek has served as the national honorary chairperson for the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Rehabilitation Special Events. These annual therapeutic and rehabilitative events are designed to help veterans overcome their disabilities through competition. They are the hallmark of rehabilitation programs in the nation.

Born Mary Cathleen Collins in Long Beach, Calif., Bo Derek is no stranger to veterans. Her father, Paul Collins, was a radio operator during the Korean War. Both her stepfather and her late husband, John Derek, were also veterans. It is this love for the armed forces that has inspired her to meet and encourage America's veterans one by one.

In 2002, Derek was bestowed by the Special Forces Association with the distinction of honorary Green Beret, joining only four other Americans who have been so honored. She was recognized for her efforts on behalf of America's men and women in uniform and our military veterans. She participates in USO tours, entertaining U.S. military personnel serving abroad.

More recently, she was appointed as Special Envoy of the Secretary of State for Wildlife Trafficking, working to create awareness of the dangers of wildlife trafficking. Along with her love of animals and devotion to veterans, Derek is also a patron of the arts. In 2002, President George W. Bush appointed her to the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees. In 2006, she starred on My Network TV's breakthrough drama, *Fashion House*.

A published author, Derek poured into *Riding Lessons: Everything That Matters in Life I Learned from Horses* the essence of her beauty – a radiance that comes from her caring heart and bright mind. Despite the years that have passed since she first seared the American consciousness with her image, Bo Derek is as captivating and as ravishingly beautiful as ever – both inside and out. It is our great pleasure to welcome her as Mistress of Ceremonies at this year's event.

A Special Tribute

Jane Powell
2008 Diamond Award Recipient

Jane Powell served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival stage show a total of nine times. In 1991, she graciously accepted the role of emcee and returned nearly every year from 1999 through 2007. Over the years, her enthusiastic willingness to lend her time and talents has contributed greatly toward increasing public awareness and success of the Creative Arts Festival.

Powell's strong volunteer spirit and the love for veterans she has shown through the years made her an ideal candidate for the prestigious Secretary's Diamond Award. This special award acknowledges her outstanding contribution to veterans and was presented to her in October 2008 by the Honorable James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

At the young age of 14, Jane Powell came to Hollywood from Portland, Oregon, where she had her own radio shows and served as the Oregon Victory Girl, selling war bonds during World War II. After winning a talent contest, she was given an MGM contract and starred in 20 major musicals including *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Royal Wedding*, co-starring Fred Astaire. Many of the songs she introduced became industry standards.

Starring in every entertainment medium, Powell has appeared on Broadway in *Irene* and repeatedly set attendance records in dozens of touring productions including *My Fair Lady, Peter Pan* and *The Sound of Music*. She has demonstrated an extraordinary flair for comedy in such non-musical successes as *Chapter Two, Marriage-Go-Round*, and *Same Time, Next Year*, for which she won a Drama-Logue Award. In 2000, she won considerable acclaim for her performance in the New York production of *Avow*, was featured in a Showtime original TV movie, *The Sandy Bottom Orchestra*, and won acclaim for her portrayal of an Alzheimer's victim in *Law and Order*, *SVU*. More recently, she co-starred in the Stephen Sondheim musical, *Bounce*.

Television audiences have seen Jane Powell in guest-starring roles in leading variety shows, popular series and numerous Academy Awards and television specials. She appeared regularly in the TV series *Growing Pains*, and in several daytime dramas. She has performed for five U.S. Presidents as well as the Queen of England.

Powell's autobiography, *The Girl Next Door and How She Grew*, was published by William Morrow and (in paperback) by Berkley. Her exercise video, *Fight Back with Fitness*, designed to help people with arthritis, was produced in conjunction with The Arthritis Foundation. On the lecture circuit, her subjects include fitness, renewal and growth in the golden years, and her life in Hollywood.

Powell lives in Connecticut with her husband Dick Moore, and enjoys gardening and cooking. She has three grown children and two granddaughters.

History of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival originated as two separate competitions. Muriel Barbour, then chief of recreation therapy at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va., created the visual arts competition, VET ARTS, in 1981, as an observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Shirley Jefferies, a recreation therapist at the Waco, Texas, VA Medical Center, initiated the performing arts competition, The National Music Competition for Veterans, in 1981. The premier live winners' stage show was held in 1981 at the VA Medical Center in Tuskegee, Ala. The second show was staged in 1982 at the Coatesville, Pa., VA Medical Center.

In 1984, the live stage show was presented in Washington, D.C., and the music competition was renamed "The Music Festival." The following year, the stage show took place in historic Constitution Hall.

The Music Festival and VET ARTS merged and drama and dance divisions were added, to create the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1989. Designed to spotlight the four creative arts therapies of art, music, dance and drama, this landmark Festival was performed to an audience of 4,000 in the Fox Theater in St. Louis, Mo. In 2005, a fifth creative arts division, creative writing, was added to the Festival roster.

Previous National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Sites

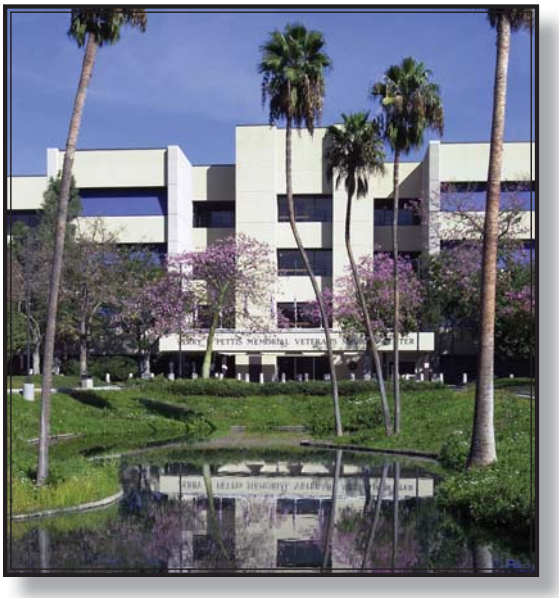
2007	St. Louis, Missouri
2006	Rapid City, South Dakota
2005	Denver, Colorado
2004	Salt Lake City, Utah
2003	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
2002	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2001	Prescott, Arizona
2000	Washington, D.C.
1999	Grand Junction, Colorado
1998	Houston, Texas
1997	Tomah, Wisconsin
1996	Louisville, Kentucky
1995	Coatesville, Pennsylvania
1994	Knoxville, Iowa
1993	St. Cloud, Minnesota
1992	Richmond, Virginia
1991	Knoxville, Iowa
1990	San Diego, California
1989	St. Louis, Missouri

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival continues to evolve each year as it showcases the artistic achievements of veterans from across the country in each of the five artistic divisions. Each Festival features an art exhibit showing the first place artwork from 52 categories. A live stage show, complete with orchestral accompaniment generously provided by the Music Performance Fund, is performed by veterans who have achieved medal-winning status in a variety of categories from the performing arts divisions of music, drama and dance, as well as creative writing. Workshops are offered during the Festival week for participants and staff, educating them in a variety of artistic modalities by utilizing the talents of local community artists. There is no competition at the Festival itself, as it is a showcase for previously judged medal winners.

In 2008, more than 3000 veterans from 113 VA medical facilities entered the art, music, drama, dance and creative writing competitions. Of those, approximately 140 medal-winning veterans earned an invitation to participate in the 2008 Festival. This year, the event takes place October 20-26 in Riverside, California, hosted by the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. The art exhibit and stage show performance will be held at the Riverside Convention Center on Sunday, October 26, 2008.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Help Hospitalized Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary present the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and it is also supported by many other organizations both locally and nationally. The staff and volunteers of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System take great pride in welcoming the 2008 Festival participants and their guests.

2008 Festival Host: VA Loma Linda Healthcare System



The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System (VALLHCS) is one of the top 50 employers in the Inland Empire, with 2,268 employees and 1,257 volunteers serving the 59,000 area veterans who entrust their health care needs to VA. In 2007, the medical center served 5,137 women veterans, and had a total of 510,640 outpatient visits and 8,559 inpatient stays.

The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System includes the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center, which opened in 1977 and is located in Loma Linda, California. The medical center is named in memory of Congressman Jerry L. Pettis, who worked diligently to locate the facility in Loma Linda. The major bed services include medicine, surgery, behavioral medicine and neurology. The facility has 142 hospital beds and a 108 bed community living center.

Enhancing access to VA care, the medical center also operates five community clinics, in partnership with its affiliate, Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Health Care. The clinics are located in Corona, Palm Desert, Sun City, Upland and Victorville.

The medical center is teamed up with 71 other education institutions and provides training for a variety of allied health specialists. The facility also operates an active research program, with 64 principle investigators who support more than 148 research projects in all major areas of medicine and surgery, particularly musculoskeletal disease, molecular genetics, chronic heart failure, molecular cytology and connective tissue disease.

The staff and volunteers of the VALLHCS are proud to serve the men and women of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. A special team of individuals at the medical center assists those veterans in the transition from military to civilian life. To date, the team has proudly seen more than 4,000 recently discharged combat veterans.

VALLHCS is part of the VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network. Each of the network's five facilities has adopted the Planetree Model offering cultural transformation in the health care setting. With Planetree, an environment is created that cultivates healing of the mind, body and spirit. It is patient-directed, value-based, holistic and supports the safety of patients through active involvement in their own care. The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System is beginning this transition by enhancing its community living center, to provide the veteran residents with a more welcoming and homelike environment.

2008 Festival Host City: About the Area

Welcome to California, the Golden State! The natural beauty, exciting theme parks, spectacular weather, diverse population and vast array of outdoor sports are a trademark of this beautiful state. California's natural features include beaches, deserts, forests and mountains, all reachable within a short drive. The center of California is dominated by the central valley, one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world.

California's history is one full of dreams. The journey to California to chase those dreams landed in mixed results at times, but many have made their dreams come true here. One of those dreams was the California Gold Rush. It began in January 1848, when a work crew camped on the American River at Coloma near Sacramento and discovered a few tiny gold nuggets. Thus began one of the largest human migrations in history as a half-million people from around the world descended upon California in search of instant wealth. The Gold Rush led to the development of railroads and a mining industry that continued for more than one hundred years.

Of course there is also the common dream of becoming a true Hollywood star. As early as the 1900s, young men and women sought their fame and fortune in Hollywood's movie industry. As filmmaking took off, Hollywood hosted the first Academy Awards Ceremony in 1929, celebrating the industry's accomplishments. In 1958, the Hollywood Walk of Fame was created as a tribute to artists working in the entertainment industry. Today, being a Hollywood star is still the dream of many people across the nation – and the world – and entertainment continues to be a thriving industry for California.

Calling California Home

California is home to a variety of sports teams consisting of three national football teams, four national basketball teams, three national hockey teams, five major league baseball teams and three major league soccer teams. It also has the honor of having hosted three Olympic Games.

In addition, California is the home to the main therapeutic arts distribution center for Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV). The organization's headquarters are located in Winchester, where HHV employees package and distribute art and craft kits for veterans to use in their rehabilitation treatment at VA and military hospitals worldwide. Since 1991, HHV has been a proud sponsor of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

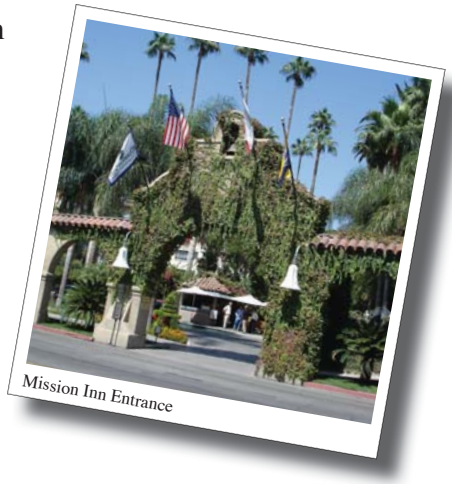
Help Hospitalized Veterans Headquarters in Winchester, California

2008 Festival Host City: About the Area

Riverside, California

The city is named for the nearby Santa Ana River and is the birthplace of the California citrus industry. Postcards of lush orange groves, swimming pools and magnificent homes have attracted vacationers and entrepreneurs throughout the years. Many have relocated to the warm, dry climate for reasons of health and to escape the harsh winters elsewhere.

The first orange trees of Riverside were planted in 1871. The trees thrived in the southern California climate and the navel orange industry grew rapidly, leading to a California Gold Rush of a different kind – the establishment of the citrus industry. By 1882, there were more than half a million citrus trees in California, almost half located in Riverside. Today, the remembrance of the orange industry is strong but most of the trees have disappeared with continuing economic change.


Mission Inn Entrance

Riverside Plaza

As the city prospered, a small guest hotel designed in the popular Mission revival style and known as the Glenwood Tavern, grew to eventually become the world famous Mission Inn. The Inn was favored by presidents, royalty and movie stars, including Ronald and Nancy Reagan who honeymooned there and Richard and Pat Nixon, who were married on its grounds. Teddy Roosevelt planted a tree in its courtyard and the Mission Inn still owns a special chair built for President William Howard Taft when he visited there.

Historic Mission Inn

Riverside Convention Center

Riverside citizens are proud of their city's unique character, born from a tradition of careful planning – from its carefully laid out historic Mile Square to its 1924 Civic Center. The City's Office of Historic Preservation is committed to preserving the past as a firm foundation for the future. More than one hundred city landmarks, 20 national historic register sites and two national landmarks have been designated by the City Council, all offering enjoyment and education to city residents and visitors alike.

Welcome to Riverside, California, named as one of America's most livable communities. We are glad you're here!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY

PHYSICAL DISABILITY ART DIVISION

A Band of Brothers

CHARLES MARSHALL
MARTINSBURG VA MEDICAL CENTER
MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA

In 1998, Charles Marshall, a Vietnam era veteran, had an accident that caused a massive head injury. It paralyzed him for two years. He began using his artistic ability as a means of physical rehabilitation of his legs, arms and hands, and as a form of expression that helped him cope with the psychological effects of his injuries.

After discharge from the Martinsburg VA Medical Center, Marshall joined the Ebenezer Baptist Church, also in Martinsburg. In the winter of 2006, the church broke ground for a new sanctuary. As part of the renovation project, an old walnut tree was being removed and, believing that the tree had a story to tell, Marshall asked if he could be given the tree's center. Wanting to strengthen his lower back, he then started to carve. "I knew that the heart of this tree was going to challenge me, and greatly test my faith and ability to put my mind to work," he said. "After deep prayer, I thought about what God had laid in my heart. I knew that the title would be, *A Band of Brothers*."

After a year of painstaking work, the sculpture was completed. Marshall describes what the faces in his project represent. "The praying man depicts that it was only through prayer and hard work that I have come this far. Going through life blindly, we need the spirit of God to lead and guide us and that is what the blind man represents. The wise man epitomizes that only the word of God can make us wise, and the fisherman shows us that God wants us all to be fishers of men."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES ART DIVISION

Passages: Time to Break Free from PTSD

PAMELA "JADE" SCOTT
VA EASTERN COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
DENVER, COLORADO

Creating a work of art is a journey toward healing for Army veteran Pamela "Jade" Scott. Faced with the challenges of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), she discovered through art an avenue to redirect her feelings toward peace of mind. According to Scott, her most recent creation, *Passages: Time to Break Free from PTSD* represents "my deepest desire to live a normal life despite the effects of PTSD."

Scott has discovered that working predominately with clay to create masks reflects "an evolution in transformation." Another of her creations, entitled *Celtic Warrior - The Power of the Mask*, won first place in the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition.

Scott says, "My passage may not be complete, but it truly is my time to break free from PTSD."

MILITARY COMBAT EXPERIENCE

View from a Tree Line

DAVID GJERDINGEN
VA MEDICAL CENTER
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

David Gjerdingen devoted nine years of his life to serving his country during the Vietnam War. Serving as an Army operating room technician at an evacuation hospital, he witnessed significant injuries and loss of life from both sides. For Gjerdingen, the emotional and mental toll was devastating.

He says, "For the past several years, I have tried to use the VA art contest as a way to express deep feelings about my experiences. It has been a wonderful outlet for letting my artistic adventures give a face and a form to my fears and challenges."

View from a Tree Line, the digital computer graphic artwork he created, represents that expression of feelings. Gjerdingen felt compelled to write a piece to accompany it.

I am a tree line veteran
I have twice attempted to visit the Vietnam Memorial
I have twice failed
Dozens of us stand in the shadows
100 yards from the dark black stone
We stand apart from each other
Some frightened, some guilty, all silent
Frightened to confront our demons
Guilty that we survived
Silent in our grief
In the tree line

BEST OF SHOW

BEST OF SHOW

Day in the Life of Will.i.am
Colored Drawing

R. S. Johnson
CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI VA MEDICAL CENTER
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Gold Medal Winners

Golden Girl
David Bonello
People/Portraits/Sports Photography
St. Cloud, Minn., VA Medical Center

Get Out Of The Box
Jacqueline Bowens
String Art Kit
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago

On Watch
Jerry Bradshaw
Paint by Number Kit
Battle Creek, Mich., VA Medical Center

1940 Ford and Truck
James Braun
Plastic Model Building Kit
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, Bay Pines, Fla.

Solitude
Carlous Chambers
Black & White Photography
Louisville, Ky., VA Medical Center

Virgin Mary
Verne Chapman
Metalwork
VA Central California Health Care System, Fresno

Gold Medal Winners

Let There Be Creative Force
Herbert Christopher
Fine Art, Mixed Media
William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center
Columbia, S.C.

The Guardian
Leilani Corley
Needlework Kit
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Prescott, Ariz.

Beaded Red and Black Basket
Linda DuMoulin
Original Design in Fiber Arts
New Mexico VA Health Care System, Albuquerque, N.M.

Carry-On Bag
Sean Connolly
Leather Carving/Tooling
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
American Lake Division, Tacoma, Wash.

1950 Bat Mobile
Robert Dalton
Metal Model Building Kit
VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System,
Denver, Colo.

Full House
Edsel Duty
Original Design in Pyrography
Chillicothe, Ohio VA Medical Center

Gold Medal Winners

Traditional Dancer
Allen Eckman
Sculpture
VA Black Hills Health Care System, Fort Meade, S.D.

Setesdal Sweater
Michael Galante
Crocheting/Knitting
Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office, Anchorage

Collateral Damage
William Gass
Graphics
VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, Honolulu, Hawaii

Above the Storm
Arnold Huffstutler
Mosaic
Cincinnati VA Medical Center

The Brilliance of Christ
Phillip Hughes
Knotting
Syracuse, N.Y., VA Medical Center

Floral Treasure
Ray Jacobsen
Latch Hook Kit
Minneapolis VA Medical Center

Gold Medal Winners

Beauty
Robert Jaramillo
Collage
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

Proud as a Peacock
Sheree Kern
Suncatcher or Sand Art Kit
VA Maryland Health Care System, Perry Point

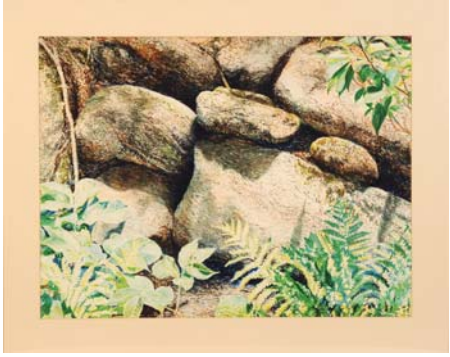
Reddish Egrets at the Pond
Donald Kotraba
Carving
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Prescott, Ariz.

Iwo Jima
Robert Lewis
Assemblage
VA San Diego Healthcare System

Fancy Pants and Spurs
Robert Lewis
Leather Stamping
VA San Diego Healthcare System

Into the West
Dennis Linn
Oil Painting
VA Black Hills Health Care System,
Fort Meade, S.D.

Gold Medal Winners



Mending Wall
Dennis Linn
Watercolor
VA Black Hills Health Care System, Fort Meade, S.D.

Koi
Dennis Linn
Pastels
VA Black Hills Health Care System, Fort Meade, S.D.

These Times are Past
Steven Litzkow
Transfer/Engraving Art Kit
Minneapolis VA Medical Center

Spirit Shirt Set
Fred Loftin
Applied Art, Mixed Media
VA San Diego Healthcare System

Conversations With Picasso
Mark Lubich
Glasswork
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
American Lake Division, Tacoma, Wash.

Putting Johnny Back Together
Johnny Trueman-Madriaga
Glazed Ceramics
VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, Honolulu, Hawaii

Gold Medal Winners

The Dance
Carlos Marez
Scroll Saw/Fretwork
New Mexico VA Health Care System,
Albuquerque, N.M.

Purse Set
Edmond Melton
Leather Kit
VA Central California Health Care System, Fresno

City Fantasy 2
Andrew Miller
Acrylic Painting
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, Bay Pines, Fla.

Dragon's Den
Juan Miranda
Stained or Painted Ceramics
Oklahoma City VA Medical Center

Last Supper
Eugene Oldaker
Craft Coloring Kit
Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center, Clarksburg, W.Va.

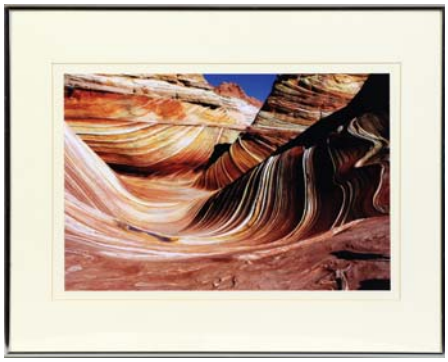
Cruising
Douglas Oldfield
Animals/Wildlife Photography
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Prescott, Ariz.

Gold Medal Winners

Lady and an Apple
James Palmore
Digital Art
Battle Creek, Mich., VA Medical Center

The Coachman
Terry Parsley
Figurine Painting Kit
Sheridan, Wyo., VA Medical Center

All Silver
Bill Plaster
Jewelry
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Prescott, Ariz.



The Wave
David Primrose
Landscape/Elements of Design/Architecture
Photography
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System,
Prescott, Ariz.

Tiger
Gretchen Rieck
Beadwork
New Mexico VA Health Care System,
Albuquerque, N.M.

Dulcimer
Claude Shelton
Wood Building Kit
Mountain Home, Tenn., VA Medical Center

Terk's Road King
Sheryl Terkildsen
Original Design in Needlework
VA Loma Linda, Calif., Healthcare System

George Hechmeh
Karnig Thomasian
Monochromatic Drawing
VA New Jersey Health Care System, Lyons

Jim's Le Femme #2
Percy Trudeau
Woodworking
Cheyenne, Wyo., VA Medical Center

Captain Jack
Karl Wachs
Wood Model Building Kit
Central Texas Veterans Health Care System, Waco

Black Champagne
Chequita Williams
Fabric Art Kit
Oklahoma City VA Medical Center

Shirakiku
Brian Yee
Pottery
VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, Honolulu, Hawaii

ART DIVISION
Silver Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Acrylic Painting	Gregory Shryock, Prescott, Ariz.
Oil Painting	Michael Joseph, Palo Alto, Calif.
Watercolor	Tommy Ketron, Durham, N.C.
Sculpture	Erik Lilleeng, Honolulu, Hawaii
Original Design in Pyrography	William Botsford, Minneapolis, Minn.
Monochromatic Drawing	Mark Westberg, Minneapolis, Minn.
Colored Drawing	Sherman Watkins, Hampton, Va.
Pastels	Gordon Olinger, Denver, Colo.
Graphics	Bruce Carter, Syracuse, N.Y.
Pottery	Kenny Wayne, Prescott, Ariz.
Photography, Black and White	Ron Samuels, Loma Linda, Calif.
Landscape/Elements of Design/Architecture Photography	Brent Michael, Louisville, Ky.
People/Portraits/Sports Photography	Lani Aughenbaugh, Northport, N.Y.
Animals/Wildlife Photography	John Berry, Seattle, Wash.
Digital Art	Dan Siculan, North Chicago, Ill.
Fine Art, Mixed Media	Don Hyslop, San Diego, Calif.
Military Combat Experience	Frank Fister, St. Louis, Mo.
Special Recognition, Physical Disability	Leayle Todman, Bronx, N.Y.
Special Recognition, Mental Health Challenges	Michael Rogan, Palo Alto, Calif.
Glazed Ceramics	Michael Cruse, Sr., Fayetteville, Ark.
Stained or Painted Ceramics	Kenneth Levels, San Diego, Calif.
Woodworking	Tony Kobylski, Fayetteville, Ark.
Carving	Arman Barajas, Albuquerque, N.M.
Jewelry	Yesenia Rodriguez, Long Beach, Calif.
Crocheting/Knitting	Lynn Lowder, Tampa, Fla.
Mosaic	Robert Keller, Bay Pines, Fla.
Collage	Roger Brockway, Albuquerque, N.M.
Assemblage	Robert Hammer, Tomah, Wis.
Original Design in Needlework	Maureen Howell, Tomah, Wis.
Original Design in Fiber Arts	Joseph Sagataw, Tomah, Wis.
Knotting	Lynn Tharp, Tomah, Wis,
Leather Stamping	Edmond Melton, Fresno, Calif.
Leather Carving/Tooling	Michael North, Syracuse, N.Y.
Metalwork	Verne Lucero, Albuquerque, N.M.
Glasswork	Raymond Rurey, Syracuse, N.Y.
Beadwork	Charles Anderson, Jr., Perry Point, Md.
Scroll Saw/Fretwork	Robert Hammer, Tomah, Wis.
Applied Art, Mixed Media	Larry Koch, Minneapolis, Minn.
Leather Kit	Daniel Strong, Topeka, Kan.
Wood Building Kit	James Shriver, Fresno, Calif.
Plastic Model Building Kit	Durant Mathis, Cincinnati, Ohio
Wood Model Building Kit	Werdon Morris, Detroit, Mich.
Metal Model Building Kit	Clyde Ruble, Grand Junction, Colo.
String Art Kit	Kevin Lent, Syracuse, N.Y.
Latch Hook Kit	Judith Oberdorfer, Long Beach, Calif.
Craft Coloring Kit	Spruce Lynch, Anchorage, Alaska
Figurine Painting Kit	Dale Ashford, Detroit, Mich.
Paint by Number Kit	Marcia Stile, Brecksville, Ohio
Suncatcher or Sand Art Kit	Gina Vaughn, San Diego, Calif.
Fabric Art Kit	Julian O'Kelley, North Little Rock, Ark.
Needlework Kit	Billy Hulse, Fayetteville, Ark.
Transfer/Engraving Art Kit	Gene Hollingsworth II, Des Moines, Iowa

ART DIVISION
Bronze Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Acrylic Painting	David Smith, Fresno, Calif.
Oil Painting	Ben Snider, Grand Junction, Colo.
Watercolor	Tim Flamboe, Bay Pines, Fla.
Sculpture	Mark Downing, Grand Junction, Colo.
Original Design in Pyrography	Rick Jones, Louisville, Ky.
Monochromatic Drawing	Joseph Fleming, Bronx, N.Y.
Colored Drawing	Otis Wilson, Battle Creek, Mich.
Pastels	Jess Zepeda, San Francisco, Calif.
Graphics	Patrick Haskett, Tacoma, Wash.
Photography, Black and White	Lani Aughenbaugh, Northport, N.Y.
Landscape/Elements of Design/Architecture Photography	Richard Raines, St. Cloud, Minn.
People/Portraits/Sports Photography	Terri Fuda, St. Louis, Mo.
Animals/Wildlife Photography	Cheryl Vatcher-Martin, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Digital Art	Suzanne High, Portland, Ore.
Fine Art, Mixed Media	Gloria Gregory, Sheridan, Wyo.
Military Combat Experience	Larry Ashkie, Albuquerque, N.M.
Special Recognition, Physical Disability	Gordon Olinger, Denver, Colo.
Special Recognition, Mental Health Challenges	Catherine McLeod, West Haven, Conn.
Stained or Painted Ceramics	Lenny Eisenreich, Hastings, Minn.
Woodworking	Ben Lentini, Albany, N.Y.
Carving	John Machen, Bay Pines, Fla.
Jewelry	Jackie Drennan, Jackson, Miss.
Crocheting/Knitting	Lawrence Teed, Canandaigua, N.Y.
Mosaic	Dorothy Johnson, Albuquerque, N.M.
Collage	Dona Zandt, Milwaukee, Wis.
Assemblage	Jerry Holtzapple, Prescott, Ariz.
Original Design in Needlework	Elner Jean Kumler, Cincinnati, Ohio
Original Design in Fiber Arts	John Marshall, Topeka, Kan.
Knotting	Edward Donlin, Fresno, Calif.
Leather Stamping	William Allen, Prescott, Ariz.
Leather Carving/Tooling	Kevin Fister, St. Louis, Mo.
Metalwork	Lee Washington, Jackson, Miss.
Glasswork	Alan Vassh, Buffalo, N.Y.
Beadwork	Julie Cole, St. Cloud, Minn.
Scroll Saw/Fretwork	Edward Butler, Fort Meade, S.D.
Applied Art, Mixed Media	Joe Birge, Denver, Colo.
Leather Kit	Holsey Knowlton, West Los Angeles, Calif.
Wood Building Kit	Stephen Troutner, Prescott, Ariz.
Plastic Model Building Kit	Steve Jackson, Loma Linda, Calif.
Wood Model Building Kit	Jerry Bradshaw, Battle Creek, Mich.
String Art Kit	Dorothea Sontag, San Diego, Calif.
Latch Hook Kit	Sandra Burkey, Seattle, Wash.
Figurine Painting Kit	Jeffrey Delozier, San Diego, Calif.
Paint by Number Kit	Toney Jacobs, Bay Pines, Fla.
Suncatcher or Sand Art Kit	Juan Ponce, Waco, Texas
Fabric Art Kit	Rickey Jensen, Hastings, Minn.
Needlework Kit	Sophia Mandjikov, Oklahoma City, Okla.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY
CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

Red Rain

MICHELLE MORINE

VA MEDICAL CENTER
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Michelle Morine is an Air Force veteran who served from 1997 to 2001. She credits her military service for inspiring and providing the discipline for her to write. "*Red Rain* is about overcoming life's challenges as they come at you," Morine said. "It is about being in a very dark place but still being able to see a light at the end of the tunnel."

Morine also takes pride in working on visual art projects such as drawing and painting. Sarah Krohn, a social worker at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center says, "One of Michelle's main goals that she identified in our work together is reintegrating art back into her life. She missed the emotional and cognitive satisfaction that she gained from it."

Through writing and creating artwork, Morine demonstrates that the most difficult emotions can be expressed through the avenue of the arts – in a healthy and safe way.

CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION
Gold Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Humorous Poetry	David Epstein, Albuquerque, N.M.
Inspirational Poetry	Daniel McDowell, Salisbury, N.C.
Patriotic Poetry	Connie Joe Lockwood, Muskogee, Okla.
Poetry (other)	Ellen Davis, St. Louis, Mo.
Humorous Essay	Donald Montgomery, Minneapolis, Minn.
Inspirational Essay	Penny Chase, Fayetteville, Ark.
Patriotic Essay	John Amiott, Minneapolis, Minn.
Essay (other)	Linda Ysewyn, Washington, D.C.
Humorous Personal Experience	Leland Dunnagan, Grand Junction, Colo.
Inspirational Personal Experience	Stu Carlson, Salt Lake City, Utah
Patriotic Personal Experience	Larry Chaston, Salt Lake City, Utah
Personal Experience (other)	John Fliss, North Chicago, Ill.
Humorous Short Story	George Peterson, Grand Junction, Colo.
Inspirational Short Story	Abbella Di'Noto, Minneapolis, Minn.
Patriotic Short Story	Peter Falcione, West Haven, Conn.
Short Story (other)	Spruce Lynch, Anchorage, Alaska
Monologue/Duologue	Jim Magner, Washington D.C.
Group Creative Writing	Albert Gray Eagle & Matt Hamilton, Oklahoma City, Okla.

CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION
Silver Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Humorous Poetry	James Jester, Fayetteville, Ark.
Inspirational Poetry	Thomas Greene, Canandaigua, N.Y.
Patriotic Poetry	Russell Telander, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Poetry (other)	Terri Dubinski, Columbia, Mo.
Humorous Essay	James Grey, Northport, N.Y.
Inspirational Essay	Mel Brinkley, Tomah, Wis.
Patriotic Essay	Michael Whitworth, Salt Lake City, Utah
Essay (other)	James Jester, Fayetteville, Ark.
Humorous Personal Experience	Timothy Daubert, Fresno, Calif.
Inspirational Personal Experience	Gay Leigh Mundy, Milwaukee, Wis.
Patriotic Personal Experience	Gay Leigh Mundy, Milwaukee, Wis.
Personal Experience (other)	Barry Stevens, Denver, Colo.
Humorous Short Story	Joseph Yenkosky, Minneapolis, Minn.
Inspirational Short Story	Tom Cochran, Fayetteville, Ark.
Patriotic Short Story	Rick Butler, Minneapolis, Minn.
Short Story (other)	Elliott Storm, West Haven, Conn.
Monologue/Duologue	Donald Montgomery, Minneapolis, Minn.
Special Recognition	Steven Bates, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Group Creative Writing	Anthony Saraniero, Jim Buckman & Michael Carucci Northport, N.Y.

CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION
Bronze Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Humorous Poetry	Melvin Taylor, Chillicothe, Ohio
Inspirational Poetry	Mark Lampe, Seattle, Wash.
Patriotic Poetry	Gerald Brown, Bronx, N.Y.
Poetry (other)	James Littlepage, Fayetteville, Ark.
Humorous Essay	Susan Bower, Long Beach, Calif.
Inspirational Essay	Lynn Valerio, Fresno, Calif.
Patriotic Essay	Blue Sky Holquin, Los Angeles, Calif.
Essay (other)	Laura Combs, West Haven, Conn.
Humorous Personal Experience	Donald French, Knoxville, Iowa
Inspirational Personal Experience	Karnig Thomasian, Lyons, N.Y.
Patriotic Personal Experience	Jacqulyn Marie Irons, Syracuse, N.Y.
Personal Experience (other) (tie)	Kenneth Kalish, Minneapolis, Minn.
Personal Experience (other) (tie)	Mike Bayless, Anchorage, Alaska
Inspirational Short Story	Lansing Dowdell, West Haven, Conn.
Short Story (other)	James Wilkins, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Monologue/Duologue	Michael Stofira, Loma Linda, Calif.
Group Creative Writing	Aretha Nesmith, Ramona Maassen & Michael Whitworth Salt Lake City, Utah

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY
DANCE DIVISION

Ragg Mopp
THE KNOXVILLE DANCING VETS
VA CENTRAL IOWA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, KNOXVILLE

One to three times each week at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Knoxville, four veterans gather to participate in the music therapy program. There are various physical and mental health challenges that exist among the group members, and treatment goals are carefully addressed to meet the needs of each individual.

During the sessions, the veterans work on bell ringing and function as a bell choir, but more recently they expressed an interest in becoming more physically active as a group. Music therapist Suzanne Anderson suggested they try dancing, and work on developing a routine that could be entered into the National Veterans Creative Arts competition. The veterans enthusiastically agreed and set out to develop a dance routine to the spirited song, *Ragg Mopp*, using mops as props for purposes of entertainment as well as to assist with physical balance. Wheelchairs and scooters were abandoned in order to challenge themselves in new and mobility-creative ways.

The outcomes for the veterans known as *The Knoxville Dancing Vets* have been only positive. They have experienced a sense of satisfaction at the accomplishment they have achieved, and have re-established a feeling of cohesiveness within the group. Challenged in a different way, they look forward to continuing to develop more dance routines that reinforce their desire to maintain and improve their physical health and mental well-being.

The Knoxville Dancing Vets
Pictured top row (l to r) Gilbert Coe and Ray Carlson.
Bottom row (l to r) Bill Kizer and Lana Gillaspie.

DANCE DIVISION
Gold Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Group Interpretive Movement, Wheelchair	April Goodwin & Carl Howard, Washington, D.C.
Solo Structured Ballroom	James Basino, Albuquerque, N.M.
Solo Tap, Jazz, or Ballet	Nick Strom, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Solo Folk/Ethnic/Cultural	Christine Pointer, Miami, Fla.
Group Folk/Ethnic/Cultural	Wind of Mother Earth, Fresno, Calif.
Solo Novelty	Nick Strom, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Freestyle	Nadine Lewis, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Line Dance	Shufflers, Memphis, Tenn.
Interpretive Movement Solo	Orlinda Marquez, Denver, Colo.
Interpretive Movement Group	God's Property, Washington, D.C.
Liturgical Dance	Millicent Ceaser, El Paso, Texas
Patriotic Dance	Rosie and the Rivets, Martinez, Calif.
Senior Ambulatory Solo	Herbert Juettner, San Diego, Calif.

DANCE DIVISION
Silver Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Solo Structured Ballroom	Gerald Hubbard, Salt Lake City, Utah
Solo Tap, Jazz, or Ballet	David Kennedy, Hampton, Va.
Solo Folk/Ethnic/Cultural	Dorothea Sontag, San Diego, Calif.
Solo Novelty	Damian Hood, Dallas, Texas
Freestyle	Connie Karg, Minneapolis, Minn.
Interpretive Movement Solo	Carolyn Andrews, Grand Junction, Colo.
Liturgical Dance	April Goodwin, Washington, D.C.
Senior Ambulatory Solo	Cecil Parsons, Sheridan, Wyo.
Special Recognition	Rudy Camacho, Martinez, Calif.

DANCE DIVISION
Bronze Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Solo Novelty	Jacqulyn Marie Irons, Syracuse, N.Y.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY
DRAMA DIVISION

Have a Happy
ORLINDA MARQUEZ
VA EASTERN COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, DENVER

The use of a puppet for therapeutic purpose is something that Orlinda Marquez does not consider unusual. This Army veteran experiences social anxiety related to Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). A hand puppet known as Henry accompanies Marquez at social gatherings and unfamiliar or crowded places.

Marquez describes how she uses Henry as an alternative therapy, saying, "As I learned more about therapy animals, I discovered that much of what these animals offer to their owners, I get from Henry. In order to cope in crowds I often have to retreat into my own little bubble and ignore my surroundings. When Henry is with me, I'm better able to survive. He is a curiosity and people are drawn to him. He opens up the conversation with a greeting and will converse with people. Eventually, I'll get into the conversation myself and before I know it, I am coping in the crowd and I am no longer among strangers."

Linda Hauck, a social worker who has seen firsthand how Henry has reduced Marquez's anxiety in social situations says, "Henry helps Orlinda deal with her anxiety. He provides some distraction for her as she places the attention on Henry. Her performances always include humor and speak to her creativeness as an artist, while benefitting therapeutically at the same time."

A lifelong Elvis Presley fan, Marquez's performance of *Have a Happy* was inspired by a song from an Elvis Presley film.

Who's Army?
DONALD FRENCH
VA CENTRAL IOWA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, KNOXVILLE

Army veteran Donald French has always loved to write stories and interesting anecdotes. He has taken writing classes and has had some of his stories published in his hometown newspaper. An original composition entitled, *Who's Army?* describes a humorous incident that occurred while he was stationed in Germany in 1991. Upon reading his name tag, a civilian mistook him for a French soldier. French's account of the experience received first place in the special recognition category of the 2008 drama division competition.

Writing original compositions has also brought about other benefits. French has difficulty speaking and often stutters when conversing with others, stumbling with words and sentences and feeling anxious. When he reads his compositions aloud though, he stutters very little if at all. He is able to add expression to the stories and gains an unmistakable sense of self-confidence and control.

French's writing and effortless reading of his stories clearly exemplify the therapeutic influence of the arts.

DRAMA DIVISION
Gold Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Solo Dramatic Prose	John Hooks, Albany, N.Y.
Group Dramatic Prose	Mike McCann & Clarence Hatcherson, Long Beach, Calif.
Solo Patriotic Prose	Patrick Metoyer, Grand Junction, Colo.
Solo Religious Prose	Nina Mincarelli, Salt Lake City, Utah
Solo Comedy	Nicholas Barbera, Albany, N.Y.
Group Comedy	Mike McCann & Jeffrey Wright, Long Beach, Calif.
Solo Dramatic Poetry	Spruce Lynch, Anchorage, Alaska
Solo Patriotic Poetry	George Farr, Minneapolis, Minn.
Solo Religious Poetry	April Goodwin, Washington, D.C.
Solo Comedy Poetry	Layne Ah Leong, Honolulu, Hawaii
Solo Dramatic Interpretive Performance	Carla Renée, Washington, D.C.
Group Dramatic Interpretive Performance	Gathering Shells Cast, West Haven, Conn.
Solo Comedy Interpretive Performance	Laura Jansen, Battle Creek, Mich.
Group Comedy Interpretive Performance	Isaac's Crew, Lyons, N.J.
Mime	Charles Anderson, Perry Point, Md.
Juggling	Dean Bunn, Minneapolis, Minn.
Magic	Dean Bunn, Minneapolis, Minn.
Multimedia Video	Rickey Townsell, Milwaukee, Wis.
Senior Drama Solo	Donald Jacobson, Minneapolis, Minn.

DRAMA DIVISION
Silver Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Solo Dramatic Prose	George Farr, Minneapolis, Minn.
Group Dramatic Prose	Knoxville Players, Knoxville, Iowa
Solo Patriotic Prose (tie)	Bonne Bryson, Denver, Colo.
Solo Patriotic Prose (tie)	Maurice Bickford, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Solo Religious Prose	John Breeskin, Washington, D.C.
Solo Comedy	April Goodwin, Washington, D.C.
Group Comedy	Loreen Zerby & Leslie Strome, Miami, Fla.
Solo Dramatic Poetry	Rhonda Seward, Iowa City, Iowa
Solo Patriotic Poetry	Mike McCann, Long Beach, Calif.
Solo Religious Poetry	Chris "Brother" Blanks, North Chicago, Ill.
Solo Dramatic Interpretive Performance	Joseph "Pepé" Mendoza, Tucson, Ariz.
Group Comedy Interpretive Performance	Knoxville Players, Knoxville, Iowa
Mime	Spruce Lynch, Anchorage, Alaska
Magic	Michael Galloway, Hines, Ill.
Multimedia Video	Voice of Veterans, North Chicago, Ill.
Senior Drama Solo	Dallas Lee, Topeka, Kan.

DRAMA DIVISION
Bronze Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Solo Dramatic Prose (tie)	Darlene Self, Cincinnati, Ohio
Solo Dramatic Prose (tie)	Ed O'Donnell, Hampton, Va.
Solo Patriotic Prose	Laura Jansen, Battle Creek, Mich.
Solo Religious Prose	Charles Costello, Sr., St. Louis, Mo.
Solo Comedy	Keith Godwin, Northport, N.Y.
Group Comedy	Nut n' Honey, Washington, D.C.
Solo Dramatic Poetry	Chris "Brother" Blanks, North Chicago, Ill.
Solo Patriotic Poetry	Robert Clark, Fresno, Calif.
Solo Religious Poetry	Linda Thompson, Milwaukee, Wis.
Solo Dramatic Interpretive Performance	A. Gordon Long, Jr., Cheyenne, Wyo.
Multimedia Video	Khalil, Lyons, N.J.
Senior Drama Solo	John Breeskin, Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY - SOLO
MUSIC DIVISION

Love Is a Many Splendored Thing

PAUL AARONBERG
VA MEDICAL CENTER
NORTHPORT, NEW YORK

Paul Aaronberg is an Army veteran who served in combat in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. Before entering the service, he sang in a choir at his synagogue and was also hired to sing at local functions. He continued singing after his time in the military, mainly songs by Frank Sinatra and Perry Como.

Though he is now diagnosed with dementia and experiences confusion and difficulty with memory, singing is one thing Aaronberg continues to enjoy. He actively attends music therapy groups one to two times weekly, recalling the lyrics and melodies of songs with little or no cueing. During music therapy sessions, his mood brightens and he becomes interactive and supportive of the other group members.

Through music therapy, Aaronberg benefits from successful treatment outcomes that include memory stimulation and improvement in cognitive functioning, as well as social interaction. In the words of Northport VA music therapist Tracey Enright, “Mr. Aaronberg transcends the disease of dementia when he sings, and during that time he is able to make a positive connection with those around him.”

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORY - GROUP
MUSIC DIVISION

Kansas City
BAND OF BROTHERS
VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC AND CENTER FOR REHABILITATION AND EXTENDED CARE
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA

Three veterans from very different walks of life met while receiving care at the VA Outpatient Clinic and Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care in Martinez, California. Each was undergoing treatment for a variety of health issues but they had one thing in common – a desire to connect with others. They did this through music.

Virgil Icban, a Navy veteran of the Vietnam era, was undergoing rehabilitation for bilateral amputation. He had dedicated his personal and professional life to helping the people of his community, by serving as a family support counselor and basketball coach. His point of view is, "Remain strong in your determination and let others know you can achieve your dreams and goals."

George Rowan Jr., (known as "Jack London George"), who served in the Army National Guard from 1962 to 1968, was recovering from a major heart attack and also dealing with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. While volunteering as a pianist at hospital and community events, Rowan also found time to work on community restoration projects. "I wanted to give back somehow," he said.

The third member of the group is Leo Bailey, a World War II Navy veteran. Bailey lost the fingers of his right hand in a skill saw accident and underwent extensive surgeries to replace his fingers. Despite his physical challenges, Bailey served as a great inspiration to other veterans with his musical talents on the keyboard, harmonica and guitar.

Over the course of the rehabilitation period of these three veterans, recreation therapist Darlyn Phillips observed that they shared a love for music and a strong sense of duty to others. She introduced them and asked if they would like to join together as a musical trio. As a result, *The Band of Brothers* was formed.

Their toe-tapping rendition of the song *Kansas City*, which they entered in the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts competition, received first place in the special recognition category of the music division, and represents their unique and spirited style.

Band of Brothers
Pictured (l to r) top row, Virgil Icban and George Rowan, Jr.
Seated: Joseph "Leo" Bailey

MUSIC DIVISION
Gold Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Vocal Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Philip Bullock, Milwaukee, Wis.
Vocal Solo Pop	Philip Bullock, Milwaukee, Wis.
Vocal Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Dezire Lauture, Temple, Texas
Vocal Solo Classical	Loren J. Prather, Salt Lake City, Utah
Vocal Solo Broadway	Marc Hansen, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Solo Rock	Michael Holmes, Northport, N.Y.
Vocal Solo Comedy	Dan Krehbiel, Tomah, Wis.
Vocal Solo Patriotic	Rebecca Heissler, Tampa, Fla.
Vocal Solo Religious	James Lee, Salt Lake City, Utah
Vocal Solo Song with Dance	Christine Pointer, Miami, Fla.
Original Vocal	Scott McKee, Battle Creek, Mich.
Vocal Group Country/Folk/Bluegrass	John Jordan & Rick Stang, St. Cloud, Minn.
Vocal Group Pop	Temple VA Singers, Temple, Texas
Vocal Group Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	The Bachelors, Minneapolis, Minn.
Vocal Group Classical	Christine Pointer & Julia McGuire, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Group Broadway	Highly Favored, Fresno, Calif.
Vocal Group Rock	Billy Whinery & Brad Brackin, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Vocal Group Comedy	Salty Dogs, Salt Lake City, Utah
Vocal Group Patriotic	Voices from Home, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Group Religious	Heavenly Harmonizers, Chicago, Ill.
Vocal Group Song with Dance	Christine Pointer & Julia McGuire, Miami, Fla.
Senior Vocal Solo	Oran “Bill” Bailey, Albuquerque, N.M.
Instrumental Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass	John Bultman, Battle Creek, Mich.
Instrumental Solo Pop	Lansing Dowdell, West Haven, Conn.
Instrumental Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Jim Kunstman, Milwaukee, Wis.
Instrumental Solo Classical	Martha Gross, Lake City, Fla.
Instrumental Solo Broadway	Joe Capetz, Minneapolis, Minn.
Instrumental Solo Rock	Michael Layden, Albuquerque, N.M.
Instrumental Solo Patriotic	Dover Cooper, Battle Creek, Mich.
Instrumental Solo Religious	Gregory Morris, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Instrumental Solo Drums/Percussion	Bryan Richards, San Diego, Calif.
Original Instrumental	Benny Hoover, Bonham, Texas
Instrumental Group Country/Folk	VA Volunteers, Albuquerque, N.M.
Instrumental Group Pop	Herman, Don, & Dennis, Albuquerque, N.M.
Instrumental Group Handbells/Handchimes	Knoxville Ringers, Knoxville, Iowa
Senior Instrumental Solo	Anthony Ciampa, Chicago, Ill.
Senior Instrumental Group	Gemtones, West Haven, Conn.

MUSIC DIVISION
Silver Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Vocal Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Evangeline Cruz, Cincinnati, Ohio
Vocal Solo Pop	Marc Hansen, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Denise Morgan, Iowa City, Iowa
Vocal Solo Classical	Julia McGuire, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Solo Broadway	Emma Jones, Fresno, Calif.
Vocal Solo Rock (tie)	Donald Hyman, Albany, N.Y.
Vocal Solo Rock (tie)	Dezire Lauture, Temple, Texas
Vocal Solo Comedy	Lawrence Humphries, West Haven, Conn.
Vocal Solo Patriotic	Dan Krehbiel, Tomah, Wis.
Vocal Solo Religious	Philip Bullock, Milwaukee, Wis.
Vocal Solo Song with Dance	Ernest T. Knox, Temple, Texas
Original Vocal	R. Eric Croft, Bay Pines, Fla.
Vocal Group Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Voices from Home, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Group Pop (tie)	The Bachelors, Minneapolis, Minn.
Vocal Group Pop (tie)	Salty Dogs, Salt Lake City, Utah
Vocal Group Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Jesse Brown Balladeers, Chicago, Ill.
Vocal Group Classical	PTSD Male Chorus, Palo Alto, Calif.
Vocal Group Broadway	Stu Carlson & Heidi Carlson, Salt Lake City, Utah
Vocal Group Rock	Z. Jam Band Singers, Milwaukee, Wis.
Vocal Group Comedy	Knoxville Singers, Knoxville, Iowa
Vocal Group Patriotic	CT Veterans' Home Choir, Rocky Hill, Conn.
Vocal Group Religious	John Jordan & Rick Stang, St. Cloud, Minn.
Vocal Group Song with Dance	Vets of Albany Choir, Albany, N.Y.
Senior Vocal Solo	Alfred Sciacqua, Fresno, Calif.
Special Recognition Solo	Ed Hayden, Knoxville, Iowa
Special Recognition Group	A Country Time Combo, St. Cloud, Minn.
Instrumental Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Francisco Mendiola, Honolulu, Hawaii
Instrumental Solo Pop	Robert Dalton, Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Dover Cooper, Battle Creek, Mich.
Instrumental Solo Classical	Jerry Smith, Fresno, Calif.
Instrumental Solo Broadway	Don Laughlin, Iowa Veterans Home, Marshalltown
Instrumental Solo Rock	Rodney Sleeth, Knoxville, Iowa
Instrumental Solo Patriotic	James Vandervort, Perry Point, Md.
Instrumental Solo Religious	Robert Dalton, Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Solo Drums/Percussion	Melvin Stratton, Fresno, Calif.
Original Instrumental	Willie Thompson, Bay Pines, Fla.
Instrumental Group Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	The Uptowners, Augusta, Ga.
Instrumental Group Religious	Smoother View, Battle Creek, Mich.
Instrumental Group Handbells/Handchimes	BHRC Stratton Bell Choir, Albany, N.Y.
Senior Instrumental Solo	Oran (Bill) Bailey, Albuquerque, N.M.
Senior Instrumental Group	Dueting Harmonicas, Bay Pines, Fla.

MUSIC DIVISION
Bronze Medal Winners

Category	Veteran and VA Facility Location
Vocal Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Rocky Kekipi, Honolulu, Hawaii
Vocal Solo Pop	James Sterrett-Bryant, Sepulveda, Calif.
Vocal Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Alvin White, Memphis, Tenn.
Vocal Solo Classical	Lionel Marcoux, Iowa City, Iowa
Vocal Solo Broadway	Ed O'Donnell, Hampton, Va.
Vocal Solo Rock	Billy Whinery, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Vocal Solo Comedy	Phil Bowers, Hines, Ill.
Vocal Solo Patriotic	Marc Hansen, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Solo Religious	Rebecca Heissler, Tampa, Fla.
Vocal Solo Song with Dance	Donald Hyman, Albany, N.Y.
Original Vocal	Paul Boruff, Salt Lake City, Utah
Vocal Group Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Na Koa 'O Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii
Vocal Group Pop	NNG, Honolulu, Hawaii
Vocal Group Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Los Caribenos, Tampa, Fla.
Vocal Group Rock	Leslie Strome & Loreen Zerby, Miami, Fla.
Vocal Group Comedy	IVH Hee Haw Boys, Iowa Veterans Home, Marshalltown
Vocal Group Patriotic	PTSD Male Chorus, Palo Alto, Calif.
Vocal Group Religious	Worthy, Tomah, Wis.
Senior Vocal Solo	Cornelius Jackson, Rocky Hill, Conn.
Special Recognition Solo (tie)	Gary Bender, Jackson, Miss.
Special Recognition Solo (tie)	Glenn Seever, Topeka, Kan.
Special Recognition Group (tie)	Drumming Circle, Oakland, Calif.
Special Recognition Group (tie)	Brain Injury Rehab Group, Rapid City, S.D.
Instrumental Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass	Keith McKnight, Tucson, Ariz.
Instrumental Solo Pop	Anthony Savala, Dallas, Texas
Instrumental Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues	Ron Tomocik, Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Solo Classical	Ron Tomocik, Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Solo Broadway	Joseph Schifano, Tucson, Ariz.
Instrumental Solo Rock	David Haugen, Minneapolis, Minn.
Instrumental Solo Patriotic	Roy Erbele, Minneapolis, Minn.
Instrumental Solo Religious	Anthony Savala, Dallas, Texas
Instrumental Solo Drums/Percussion	Aldo Vennari, Northport, N.Y.
Original Instrumental	Danny Brehm, Prescott, Ariz.
Instrumental Group Folk (tie)	Swinging Valley Vets, Fresno, Calif.
Instrumental Group Folk (tie)	Stomach Steinway Three, Tucson, Ariz. & Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Group Broadway	Stomach Steinway Three, Tucson, Ariz. & Denver, Colo.
Instrumental Group Handbells/Handchimes	Steps of Life Bell Ringers, Bay Pines, Fla.
Senior Instrumental Solo (tie)	Chet Lovgren, Fresno, Calif.
Senior Instrumental Solo (tie)	Donald Fischer, Syracuse, N.Y.

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The Alamo in San Antonio, Texas *Photo provided by Terry Carr, U.S. Army veteran*

Think Ahead!

The National Veterans Creative Arts Competition for next year begins in January, 2009.

If you are invited to attend next year's Festival, it will be held in San Antonio, Texas October 5-11, 2009.

Thank you for supporting the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!