

Phoenix Veterans Creative Arts Festival is Feb. 9

The Phoenix Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF) is 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 650 E. Indian School Road.

Participants will not only experience the artistic talent of Phoenix area veterans, they will also have the opportunity to meet the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) national president, Mary E. Davis.

Ms. Davis was elected to the world's largest women's patriotic service organization during the organization's 96th National Convention in Cincinnati this past August. A 40-year ALA member, Ms. Davis has been an accredited service officer through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for 20 years.

"The power of expression and healing through art can be a beautiful and therapeutic journey for those who create, and I am lucky to bear witness to these veterans' talent," said Ms. Davis, who added that she is looking forward to her time in Arizona.



Last year's Creative Arts Festival.

The Veterans Creative Arts Festival, which features more than 150 categories in art, music, dance, drama and creative writing, is sponsored across the country by local Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers and the American Legion Auxiliary. The competition is part of the VA's recreation therapy program designed to further rehabilitate both inpatients and outpatients. VCAF recognizes the progress and recovery made through art therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of the nation's veterans after disease, dis-

ability or life crisis.

Any veteran who is enrolled at the Phoenix VA Medical Center or outpatient clinic is eligible to enter their art in the festival. Applications, available through the VA's occupational or recreational therapy department, are due Jan. 26. Call 602-255-3373.

The public is invited to view the veterans' talent and vote for the "People's Choice" award at the event held Feb. 9.

Visit www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov.