

## CREATIVE ARTS

OCTOBER 2024

Veterans eligible to receive care through the Department of Veteran Affairs are enrolled at a VA Medical Center, Outpatient Clinic, or reside in a state veterans home. Having the support of loved ones help during their healing journey.

The National and Local Creative Arts Festivals showcase the artistic creations of our veterans. They inspire pride and a sense of achievement. They establish opportunities for development of new skills and recognize the progress and recoveries made through creative arts therapies.

First, Second, and Third Place winners in the Local Creative Arts Festivals are entered in the National Creative Arts Festivals. The 2024 National Creative Arts Festival was held May 11-18 in Denver, Colorado. Congratulations to the eight award winners from Arizona. Art Division: Gold – Verne Casavoy from Prescott; Silver – Henry Johnson from Prescott; Bronze – Linda Stilson and Raymond Crandall from Tucson, and Melissa Tollison from Prescott. Creative Writing Division: Silver - Peter Bourret from Tucson; Drama Division: Silver - Peter Bourret from Tucson; Music Division: Bronze – Oscar Sura from Tucson.

I attended the Prescott Arts Festival on September 6, 2024, and posted photos of the entries on Ring Your Bell. Thanks to members of Units 6, 78, and 108 members, who are dedicated volunteers and provided assistance with the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System Creative Arts Show. More information in next Bulletin.

The American Legion Auxiliary and Department of Veterans Affairs are the only two sponsors for this program. We are grateful for your Unit donations that help our Veterans receive therapy. Send your donations to Department and specify it is for your local VA festival or it will be forwarded to the National Creative Arts Festival. Poppy funds can be also used for the Creative Arts Program.

Additional information can be found at [creativeartsfestival@va.gov](mailto:creativeartsfestival@va.gov).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or a team member in your area:

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For God and Country.

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