

National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival

Creative Writing division- Local winners

VA New Jersey Health Care System

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
New Jersey Health Care System

Category 1: Poetry- Rhyming

1st Place: Roots by Darrin Mayers

2nd Place: Meds by Paul Sasso

3rd Place: Black Gold by Lewis Cole

Category 2: Poetry- Non-Rhyming

1st Place: Quest for Identity by Charles Kasbarian

2nd Place: Regrets by Darrin Mayers

3rd Place: Inner Reasons by Darrin Mayers

Category 3: Personal Essay

1st Place: Overqualified by Stella Okigbo

Category 4: Humor

1st Place: The Pygmy Rattlesnake by Richard Baduini

Category 5: Short, Short Story

1st Place: Heroine by Julian Morales

2nd Place: All Things Considered by Conor Murtagh

3rd Place: What do you Believe in? by L. Jordan James

Category 6: Short Script

1st Place: Where are you from? By Stella Okigbo

2nd Place: Vaccine Cashout by Stella Okigbo

Category 8: Military Experience

1st Place: The Leave Taking by Jerry Tutak

2nd Place: Lost in the Woods by Stella Okigbo

3rd Place: It Don't Mean Nothin' by Joseph De Frank

NJ Veteran Participants

- Charles Kasbarian
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: Quest for Identity
- Conor Murtagh
 - Short, Short Story: All Things Considered
- Darrin Mayers
 - Poetry Rhyming: Roots
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: Regrets, Inner Reasons
- Jerry Tutak
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: Interstate Haiku
 - Military Experience: The Leave Taking
- Joseph De Frank
 - Military Experience: It Don't Mean Nothin'
- Julian Morales
 - Short, Short Story: Heroine
- L. Jordan James
 - Short, Short Story: What do you Believe in?
 - Short, Short Story: A United Life
- Lewis Cole
 - Poetry Rhyming: Black Gold
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: The Drum Shout
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: King Cotton

NJ Veteran Participants

- Paul Sasso

- Poetry Rhyming: Meds

- Richard Baduini

- Humor: The Pygmy Rattlesnake
- Military Experience: Veteran's Day

- William Wilks

- Military Experience: The Evolution of Brotherhood

- Stella Okigbo

- Poetry Non-Rhyming: My Father's Rain
- Personal Essay: Overqualified
- Short Script: Where are you from?
- Short Script: Vaccine Cashout
- Short, Short Story: Vacant Chairs
- Military Experience: Lost in the Woods

Thank you to all our New Jersey participants!

Our 1st place winners have been sent off for judging at the National level to compete against all 50 states within their divisions.

We hold the National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival annually and are always looking forward to reaching new Veteran's for participation!

If you have any questions about the NVCAF, please contact me at melanie.snider@va.gov

