



# Arts Gram

The Official Publication of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

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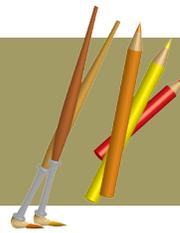
## Veterans Display Artwork



*Arts in the Ozarks* Fayetteville, Arkansas

Hosted by the Veterans Health-Care System of the Ozarks

# Artistry in Motion



## Meet a First Timer

by Darin Farr, public affairs officer, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

Sometimes hobbies lead to great things. First time National Veterans Creative Arts Festival attendee Richard Beck can attest to that. Richard is a Vietnam Veteran who originally started to draw when he was a child.

As Beck tells it, he was actually in college during the 60's and his heart really wasn't into it at the time, so he dropped out. Inevitably, as most young men discovered during that time, Beck ended up getting drafted and subsequently sent to Vietnam. It wasn't

until after his return from Vietnam and he experienced what many Veterans at that time went through; that the real ugliness of the war was the treatment our young men faced when they got home.

As a way to vent his frustration, Beck returned to his passion of drawing to express the myriad of emotions that were welling up inside him. Returning to college in the early 70's, now with the added benefit of the G.I. Bill, he began to explore more of his talent. Years later he just happened to be

at an appointment at his local VA, in Albuquerque, N.M., and spotted a poster for the local Creative Arts Festival competition. Taking the advice of his family, Beck entered some of his original work in the Military Combat Experience category and won the Gold Medal in the national competition. Be sure to meet Beck and experience his work "Slippin' into Darkness." It is a very powerful and thought provoking work of art that will hit home with Veterans of all eras.



Richard Beck with his winning artwork of "Slippin' into Darkness."

## Hollywood Heroes

How well do you know these Hollywood Heroes - James Doohan ("Scotty" on Star Trek), Donald Pleasance (The Great Escape), James Stewart, Earnest Borgnine, or Charles Bronson?

1. Was a tail gunner in the Army Air Corps, more specifically on B-29s in the 20th Air Force out of Guam, Tinian, and Saipan.
2. Was an Reserve Air Force pilot who was shot down, held prisoner and tortured by the Germans.
3. Entered the Army Air Force as a private and worked his way to the rank of Colonel. During World War II, he served as a bomber pilot, his service record crediting him with leading more than 20 missions over Germany, and taking part in hundreds of air strikes during this tour of duty.
4. Landed in Normandy with the U.S. Army on D-Day.
5. Was a U.S. Navy Gunners Mate 1935-1945.

Trivia answers on page 6.



*Joshua Moreaux, performer*

*by Diane Keefe, public affairs officer,  
VA Boston Healthcare System*

"It's a gift and it could be gone tomorrow" said Joshua Moreaux, an Air Force Veteran, of his musical talent. His beautiful voice placed him first nationally as a soloist in this year's and last year's competition.

A native of Louisiana who now resides in Massachusetts, Moreaux has been singing since the tenth grade, coaxed into it by his cousins. His talents earned him a scholarship to college, but finances prevented him from graduating and he joined the Air Force. While on active duty he auditioned for "Tops In Blue," an Air Force Vegas-style singing group, and he made it into the group. A classically trained opera singer, Joshua spent three years touring with this group expanding his musical horizons.

Upon discharge from the military, Moreaux noticed a sign for the Creative Arts Festival at his local VA, The Edith Nourse Rogers VA Medical Center in Bedford, Mass. He entered the local competition as a solo singer, and the rest as they say is history. This is Joshua's second Creative Arts Festival and he is thrilled to be here among so many talented Veterans.

"This is such an awesome opportunity. How many people ever get the opportunity to do something like this? I feel blessed." Everyone will get to hear Moreaux's fabulous voice when he performs the song "Tomorrow" at the Stage Show.

## Rock & Roll

*by Todd Greenman, public affairs officer,  
VA Medical Center, Battle Creek, Michigan*

Gary Satchell has performed in numerous bands in the Denver area for years playing lead guitar and singing vocals. He has also volunteered for a couple years in the nursing home at the Denver VA Medical Center, where his brother Charles is an employee. When asked about his musical participation at the facility he receives care at, Satchell said his brother introduced him to the program, but the timing to get involved just didn't work until this year because of all the traveling he did with the bands. "This is the first year I have performed at the Festival," said Satchell, an Air Force Veteran.

In Denver's local competition, Satchell won a gold medal in the Instrumental Rock category and a bronze medal in the Vocal Rock category. At Sunday's Stage Show, he will be the third soloist for the song "Don't Stop" and was chosen to sing in the ensemble for the final production number, "Star Spangled Banner." Being

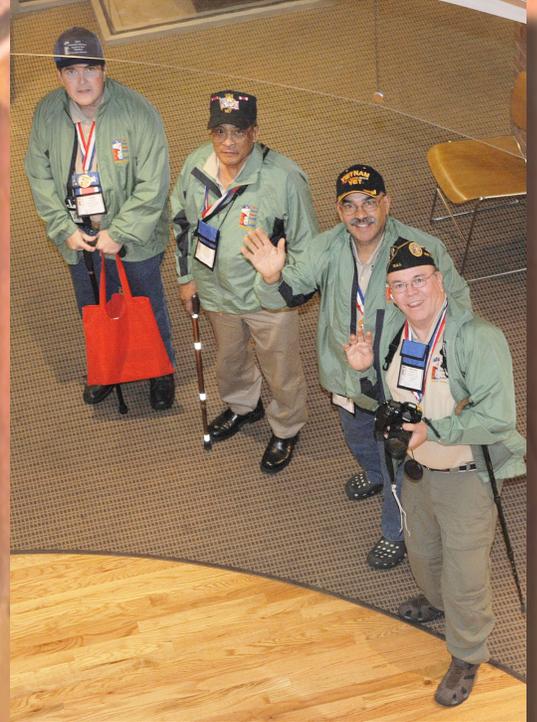


*Gary Satchell rehearsing*

involved in the Festival, Satchell said, "Is a reminder of what tremendous talent there is among Veterans."

Donna Lonergan, recreation therapist at the Denver VA Medical Center, has been involved in the National Creative Arts Festival for 19 years. She described Satchell as a "rising star" who has taught himself by participating in various workshops offered through a partnership with the Actors Equity Association in Denver and the medical center. "They provide technical support, one-on-one coaching, emotional support and prepare the Veterans for performances," said Lonergan. "Gary was very well prepared and studied for his part here...that has led to his rise!"

# Festival Photos





# Still Helping Out with Assists

by Darin Farr, public affairs officer, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

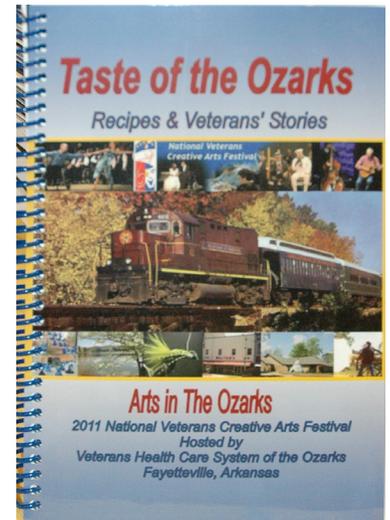
Sure, she's not sweating it out on the court, driving to the basket or aggressively rebounding anymore, but Michelle McKenzie is still a big star with the Veterans she helps. McKenzie is the lead recreation therapist at the New Mexico VA Health Care System. She is also a former college and professional basketball player!

This is McKenzie's first time attending the Festival as a staff/volunteer team leader. Life has a funny sense of timing. Much like her playing career, when a teammate gets injured and has to leave the game, sometimes you have to sub in. In this case, the teammate was a fellow recreational therapist who was scheduled to attend the Festival. As life would have it, the colleague had to withdraw five days prior to the Festival and McKenzie took her place.

"So far I've found that the Festival is extremely organized and well orchestrated," McKenzie says. "I've also had a lot of fun." She states that helping Veterans whether it is through the use of therapeutic arts or other activities is a very rewarding endeavor. Although it is her first Festival, McKenzie says that she will definitely be attending more. Like everyone else who experiences it for the first time, including this writer, she is absolutely amazed at the wealth of talent assembled here.



Michelle McKenzie



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Commemorate Cookbooks are available for sale in the Headquarters Center, Salons F/G/H. Cost is \$10 each. Sponsored by Fayetteville VA Employee Association. Proceeds benefit the Festival.

## Hollywood Heroes *Trivia answers from page 2:*

1. Charles Bronson -- 2. Donald Pleasance -- 3. James Stewart -- 4. James Doohan -- 5. Earnest Borgnine

## Question for the Day?

Every day this week, we'll go out and ask one question. Here are your responses.

If you won the lottery, what would you do with the winnings?



Carlos Robles  
West Haven, Conn.  
Navy

"Open up a community center for people to have art workshops, therapeutic gardening, poetry writing, and for teaching North America flute seminars."



Philip Bullock  
Amarillo, Texas  
Army

"I would take care of my family and their needs and go on an extended vacation to Europe."



TJ Rivera  
Bradenton, Florida  
Army

"I would like to help balance our deficit with a little honey and money."



Richard Lilliston  
Painter, Virginia  
Marine Corps

"I would set up my kids for life and travel to all the places I didn't get to when I served."



Dan Sabin  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Air Force

"Finish up my CD with the original songs I've written and start a foundation to help disabled Veterans and arts programs."

## Internet Cafe

The Hewlett Packard Internet Cafe is located in Embassy Boardroom (in the John Q. Hammons Convention Center – left hand side when you come down the stairs from the Embassy Suites Hotel).

The Internet Cafe is available:

Thursday – Saturday • 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Closed Thursday and Saturday Evenings

## Hospitality

The Hospitality Room is sponsored by the Arkansas and Missouri Chapters of the American Legion Auxiliary and is located in the Rogers Room, 2nd Floor, of the Embassy Suites. Be sure to stop by on the following days!

Thurs., October 20  
9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Fri., October 21  
9 a.m. to Midnight

## Medical Information

- The Medical Room is located in the Ambassador Suite, Room 220.
- Daily hours are from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Outside the hotel, please call (479) 254-8400 and ask for Suite 220.
- After 11 p.m., call (479) 422-3982 for medical emergencies.
- During the Festival, please let your team leader know of any medical concerns. They will help you.
- Medical personnel wearing bright blue jackets will be seen throughout the hotel and convention center.
- Medical personnel will also accompany each group on activities throughout the week.

## Today's Weather

**Sunny**

High/Low (°F) 56 / 32



# Today's Menu



Thurs., October 20th

### Breakfast Buffet

Atrium – Embassy Suites  
6 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

### Salad Bar Lunch Buffet

Grand Ballroom 6  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Chicken Wild Rice Soup  
Seasonal Mixed Greens, Romaine Lettuce, and Spinach with Assorted Toppings: Grated Cheese, Carrots, Red Onion, Tomatoes, Sunflower Seeds, Hard-Boiled Eggs, and Dried Fruits  
Chilled Grilled Chicken and Marinated Beef; 2 Dressings  
Hot Baked Potatoes with Butter, Grated Cheese, and Sour Cream  
Sliced Fresh Fruit Tray and Assorted Dessert Bars  
Coffee and Iced Tea

### Dinner Buffet

6 p.m.

Jones Center for Families  
Springdale, Arkansas  
*The Spirit of True Grit*

Bar-B-Que Beef Brisket  
Smoked Pork Loin  
with Various BBQ Sauces  
Potato Salad  
Coleslaw  
Campfire Baked Beans  
Texas Toast  
Peach Cobbler  
Fresh Sliced Fruit  
Coffee and Iced Tea



## Schedules for Thursday, October 20th



# Artists

- 6 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast: Atrium, Embassy Suites
- 8 a.m. Team leader and team support meeting with Paula Moran: Commerce Ballrooms
- 8:30 a.m. Team leader and team support meeting with artists
- 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open: Rogers Room, 2nd floor, Embassy Suites
- 9 a.m. Art Workshop #3 – Fly Tying and Casting Fly Tying: Pinnacle Ballrooms 1-5  
Casting: Grand Ballrooms 7-10
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch: Grand Ballroom 6
- 12:30 p.m. Load and depart for railroad depot in Springdale
- 2 – 5:30 p.m. Train Ride on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad
- 6 p.m. Dinner at the Jones Center
- 7 p.m. Entertainment: Still on the Hill
- 8 p.m. Depart for hotel



# Performers

- 6 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast: Atrium, Embassy Suites
- 7:30 a.m. Team leader and team support meeting with Amy Kimbler: Ambassador Ballrooms A/B
- 8 a.m. Team leader and team support meeting with performers
- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Blocking Rehearsal – ALL SHOW PARTICIPANTS NEEDED: Grand Ballrooms 1-5  
Chorus vests/costume fittings: Ambassador Ballroom E
- 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open: Rogers Room, 2nd floor, Embassy Suites
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch: Grand Ballroom 6
- 12:30 p.m. Load and depart for railroad depot in Springdale
- 2 – 5:30 p.m. Train Ride on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad
- 6 p.m. Dinner at the Jones Center
- 7 p.m. Entertainment: Still on the Hill
- 8 p.m. Depart for hotel

## Alternate Activities

Arkansas & Missouri Railroad  
Thurs., October 20 - 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Departing from Embassy Suites



The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad was established in 1986 as a Class III Railroad operating a 150-mile route from Monette, Mo., to Ft. Smith, Ark. Ride in style on a meticulously-restored antique passenger car or a first-class parlor car. Relax as you wind through the river valleys, traverse high trestles, and cut into a quarter-mile tunnel on the way to Chester, Ark.

**A Night Out!** This evening, following the train ride on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, guests will be delighted to a "True Grit," western-themed family style dinner. After the meal, participants will be delighted by the innovative musical duo, *Still on the Hill*. This band uses traditional instruments from the Ozarks region including mandolin, banjo, fiddle, guitar, harmonica and scrub board. *Still on the Hill* mixes these traditional instruments with exotic offerings creating an exciting and unique hybrid-style musical experience.



## Artists and Performers

Please check with your team leader and/or the posted schedule in the Embassy Suites breakfast area or outside of Grand Ballrooms 1-5 in the Convention Center for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.

## Newsletters

Extra copies of the Festival's newsletter are located outside the Media Center, Salon D.