



Articles & Features

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Art Show Embodies Spirit of the American Veteran



2010 Creative Arts People's Choice Winner and U.S. Marine Veteran Dionte Newton with some of his award-winning artwork.

Photo: VA/Kevin McIver

By Kevin L. McIver, MVAMC Public Affairs Officer

Distinctive talents of area Veterans were displayed today during the 2010 Veterans Creative Arts Festival held at the Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Some 271 pieces of artwork by local Veterans were on public display as part of the National Creative Arts Competition.

"The courage of each Veteran is embodied in and displayed through their artwork," said Medical Center Director Ann R. Brown. "The festival also reflects highly on our creative art therapy staff and the success they enjoy in the program by assisting and guiding our Veterans through creative art."

The benefits of the program were not lost upon U.S. Marine Veteran Dionte Newton who won the People's Choice Award.

"I would recommend this to any Veteran especially because it's therapeutic," said Newton. "When you're stressed out and you have a lot of things on your mind and you go into the hobby shop, everything else stays outside the doors," said Newton. "It's just you and the paintings. That's it, nobody else. You enjoy something that can relax you. It's very therapeutic."

Competition categories included: fine art such as painting, drawing, sculpture and photography; applied art including ceramics, woodcarving, needlework and leatherwork; and craft kits such as string art, poster art and fabric art.

First place winners from the national competition will be invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival at the Tomah VA Medical Center in La Crosse, Wis., Oct. 18-25, with the art exhibit and stage show performance on Oct. 24.

"Out of any problems that you have, anything stressing you, find something that can help relieve your stress, something that can take your mind off the world going on around you to help you out and you can enjoy it," said Newton.

See Photos and Winners Below

2010 Creative Arts Festival Photographs

Photos: VA/Cali Coulthard



(See List of Winners Below)

VA Creative Arts Festival Winners

People's Choice Award

Dionte Newton

Sculpture

1st Gary Halsey
2nd Dana Humes
3rd Melody Barkkley

Photography/Black and White

1st Don Ohlsson
2nd Don Ohlsson
3rd Jennifer Barciz

Photography/Color

1st Dana Humes
2nd Jennifer Barciz
3rd Dana Humes

Beadwork

1st Freddie Riley
2nd Crow with White Feathers Smith
3rd Freddie Riley

Model Kit/Plastic

1st John Dobbins
Transfer Kit
1st Sheree Kern

Knotting

1st Wendy Haylor

Wood Building Kit

1st Paul Mauer

Combined Kit

1st Tony Wiley

Figurine Painting

1st Tony Wiley
2nd Byron Stewart
3rd Louis Bell

Leather/Tooling

1st Jesus Gonzales

Leather Kit

1st Earl Caniford
2nd Earl Caniford
3rd Jesus Gonzales

Glasswork

1st Jim Tate
2nd Jim Tate
3rd Jim Tate

Fine Art/Mixed Media

1st Jennifer Barciz
2nd Jennifer Barciz and David Dorsey
3rd Gary Elsworth

Assemblage

1st Wendy Haylor

Crocheting/Knitting

1st Twila Campbell

Collage

1st Sheree Kern
2nd David Dorsey
3rd Crow with White Feathers Smith

Group Project

1st Lawrence Crabbe, Tom Blanks,
Kes Lisickey, Robert Scott, Pierre
Lockley, Don Wilson
2nd Judy Robertson, Burt Johannes,
Ben Hause, Vince Gavin, Dave
Thompson
3rd Terri Benjamin, Charles Lilly, Gary
Halsey, Jennifer Barciz, Dana Humes

Watercolors

1st Jo Ann Nicholson
2nd JoAnn Nicholson
3rd Gary Halsey

Graphics

1st Terri Benjamin

Colored Drawing

1st Joe Willis
2nd R. Pyles
3rd David Dorsey

Pastels

1st John Holland
2nd R. West
3rd Tom Affonco

Ceramics – Painted

1st Ray Breveard
2nd Donald Henson
3rd Byron Stewart

Ceramics – Glazed

1st Gary Elswick
2nd Gary Elswick
3rd Gary Elswick

Carving

1st Gary Elswick
2nd Gary Elsworth
3rd Gary Elsworth

Mosaic Kit

1st Gary Halsey
2nd Sheree Kern

Suncatcher

1st David Hoppe
2nd Gary Halsey
3rd Gary Halsey
Woodworking
1st Don Ohlsson
2nd Jim Tate
3rd Preston Brown

Arcylic

1st Mike Smith
2nd Ray Breveard
3rd Jennifer Barciz

Military/Combat

1st Patrick Colpitts
2nd C. Dawson
3rd M Weidle

Monochromatic

1st Marino Delarose

Original Design/Fiber Arts

1st George Phillips

Poetry Humorous

1st Raymond Teneyck

Poetry Other

1st Charles Carey

Poetry Inspirational

1st Raymond Teneyck
2nd Raymond Teneyck
3rd Charles Carey

Poetry Patriotic

1st Freddie Riley
2nd Charles Carey
3rd Freddie Riley

Essay

1st Jo Ann Nicholson

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The Martinsburg VA Medical Center mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Located in West Virginia, the Medical Center offers a comprehensive range of services, including internal medicine, ambulatory surgery, audiology and speech pathology, dental, nursing home, nutrition, podiatry, prosthetics, women's health, mental health, and rehabilitation medicine. With a service area of nearly 130,000 veterans in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the Medical Center operates three VA-staffed Outpatient Clinics in Cumberland and Hagerstown, Md., and Stephens City, Va., and three contract clinics in Franklin and Petersburg, W.Va. and Harrisonburg, Va. Construction for a new clinic in Fort Detrick, Md. has started with an opening tentatively scheduled in Fall 2010.