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NEWS RELEASE

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Martinsburg VAMC announces Veterans Creative Arts Festival winners

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) held its Veterans Creative Arts Festival Thursday, March 6.

The Veterans Creative Arts Festival is just one way the medical center incorporates creative arts into its recreation therapy program to enhance the rehabilitative environment for both inpatients and outpatients.

Veterans entered in categories, such as painting, photography, drama, creative writing and dance, for a chance to compete with Veterans nationwide at the 2014 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival to be held in Milwaukee, Wis., from Oct. 27 to Nov. 2. The first-place winners of the local Festival will move on to compete with other Veterans from VA medical centers across the country. The national judges will then select finalists for each of the 53 categories who will move on to compete in the national competition.

Most of this year's entries, created at the medical center's hobby shop, can be purchased during the hobby shop sales. "Our Veterans work very hard on their projects at the hobby shop," said Dawn Johns, recreation therapy assistant and hobby shop supervisor. "We have many tools, crafts, kits and supplies available for Veterans that are replenished from the proceeds we receive from our hobby shop sales and donations."

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222 - Veterans Creative Arts Festival winners

For more information about the Martinsburg VAMC's hobby shop or the hobby shop sales, contact Dawn Johns at 304-263-0811, ext. 4594. To view the photo album from the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, visit www.Facebook.com/MartinsburgVAMC. To learn more about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival visit www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov.

The winners of the 2014 Veterans Creative Arts Festival placed in the following categories:

BEST OF SHOW

Kenneth Peiffer

ACRYLIC PAINTING

1st Robert Weasenforth

2nd Chuck Steigleman

3rd Robert Stanton

OIL PAINTING

1st and 3rd Kenneth Peiffer

2nd Mike Smith

ORIGINAL DESIGN IN PYROGRAPHY

1st Chuck Steigleman

MONOCHROMATIC DRAWING

1st and 3rd Joseph Willis

2nd Robert Weasenforth

COLORED DRAWING

1st and 3rd Michael Byrn

2nd Joseph Willis

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

1st and 3rd Preston Brown

2nd Su Carroll

FINE ART, MIXED MEDIA

1st Chuck Steigleman

GLAZED CERAMICS

1st and 2nd Robert Weasenforth

PAINTED CERAMICS

1st Lawrence Crabbe

2nd Chris Fleming

3rd Preston Brown

-more-

333 - Veterans Creative Arts Festival winners

WOODWORKING

1st, 2nd and 3rd Gary Clevenger

CARVING

1st Robert Stanton

CROCHETING/KNITTING

1st Su Carroll

ASSEMBLAGE

1st John Eisel

2nd Chuck Steigleman

3rd Su Carroll

ORIGINAL DESIGN IN FIBER ARTS

1st and 2nd Mary Ruffin

KNOTTING

1st Charles Marshall

BEADWORK

1st, 2nd and 3rd Donald Henson

APPLIED ART, MIXED MEDIA

1st Robert Lanham

2nd Chuck Steigleman

3rd Jimmy Reed

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

1st Chuck Steigleman

LEATHER KIT

1st, 2nd and 3rd Earl Caniford

WOOD BUILDING KIT

1st Robert Lanham

PAINT BY NUMBERS

1st James Gray

SUNCATCHER ART

1st Sheree Kern

-more-

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SHORT, SHORT STORY- PATRIOTIC

1st Walter Tomlin

SHORT, SHORT STORY - HUMOROUS

1st Walter Tomlin

POETRY - INSPIRATIONAL

1st Walter Tomlin

VOCAL SOLO BROADWAY

1st Pam Heydt

VOCAL SOLO ROCK

1st The All Veteran Band (Frank Hilliard, Charles Brooks, Jeff McGeehan)

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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 five VA-staffed Outpatient Clinics in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Fort Detrick, Md.; Stephens City, Va.; and Petersburg, W.Va., and two contract clinics in Franklin, W.Va., and Harrisonburg, Va.



Photo 1 Caption: (from left) Veteran Kenneth Peiffer was presented with the “best of show” award by Acting Medical Center Director Bryan C. Matthews. Peiffer created his oil painting in the likeness of fellow Veteran, Preston Brown.