



# News

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## Art Show Embodies Spirit of the American Veteran



2010 Creative Arts Festival 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*

**D**istinctive 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

1<sup>st</sup> Gary Halsey  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dana Humes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Melody Barkkley

### Photography/Black and White

1<sup>st</sup> Don Ohlsson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Don Ohlsson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jennifer Barciz

### Photography/Color

1<sup>st</sup> Dana Humes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jennifer Barciz  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dana Humes

### Beadwork

1<sup>st</sup> Freddie Riley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Crow with White Feathers Smith  
3<sup>rd</sup> Freddie Riley

### Model Kit/Plastic

1<sup>st</sup> John Dobbins  
Transfer Kit  
1<sup>st</sup> Sheree Kern

### Knotting

1<sup>st</sup> Wendy Haylor

### Wood Building Kit

1<sup>st</sup> Paul Mauer

### Combined Kit

1<sup>st</sup> Tony Wiley

### Figurine Painting

1<sup>st</sup> Tony Wiley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Byron Stewart  
3<sup>rd</sup> Louis Bell

### Leather/Tooling

1<sup>st</sup> Jesus Gonzales

### Leather Kit

1<sup>st</sup> Earl Caniford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Caniford  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jesus Gonzales

### Glasswork

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Tate  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Tate  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Tate

### Fine Art/Mixed Media

1<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Barciz  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jennifer Barciz and David Dorsey  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Elsworth

### Assemblage

1<sup>st</sup> Wendy Haylor

### Crocheting/Knitting

1<sup>st</sup> Twila Campbell

### Collage

1<sup>st</sup> Sheree Kern  
2<sup>nd</sup> David Dorsey  
3<sup>rd</sup> Crow with White Feathers Smith

### Group Project

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

### Watercolors

1<sup>st</sup> Jo Ann Nicholson  
2<sup>nd</sup> JoAnn Nicholson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Halsey

### Graphics

1<sup>st</sup> Terri Benjamin

### Colored Drawing

1<sup>st</sup> Joe Willis  
2<sup>nd</sup> R. Pyles  
3<sup>rd</sup> David Dorsey

### Pastels

1<sup>st</sup> John Holland  
2<sup>nd</sup> R. West  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Affonco

### Ceramics – Painted

1<sup>st</sup> Ray Breveard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Donald Henson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Byron Stewart

### Ceramics – Glazed

1<sup>st</sup> Gary Elswick  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Elswick  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Elswick

### Carving

1<sup>st</sup> Gary Elswick  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Elsworth  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Elsworth

### Mosaic Kit

1<sup>st</sup> Gary Halsey  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sheree Kern

### Suncatcher

1<sup>st</sup> David Hoppe  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Halsey  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Halsey  
**Woodworking**  
1<sup>st</sup> Don Ohlsson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Tate  
3<sup>rd</sup> Preston Brown

### Arcylic

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Breveard  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jennifer Barciz

### Military/Combat

1<sup>st</sup> Patrick Colpitts  
2<sup>nd</sup> C. Dawson  
3<sup>rd</sup> M Weidle

### Monochromatic

1<sup>st</sup> Marino Delarose

### Original Design/Fiber Arts

1<sup>st</sup> George Phillips

### Poetry Humorous

1<sup>st</sup> Raymond Teneyck

### Poetry Other

1<sup>st</sup> Charles Carey

### Poetry Inspirational

1<sup>st</sup> Raymond Teneyck  
2<sup>nd</sup> Raymond Teneyck  
3<sup>rd</sup> Charles Carey

### Poetry Patriotic

1<sup>st</sup> Freddie Riley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Carey  
3<sup>rd</sup> Freddie Riley

### Essay

1<sup>st</sup> 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.